

InsideOUT

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TWO THINGS YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT AT DINNER

*TWO THINGS YOU DON'T
TALK ABOUT AT DINNER*
by Lisa Loomer
Directed by Wendy C. Goldberg



2011/12
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InsideOUT

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Synopsis

GINNY: Never talk about religion or politics at the dinner table.

—*Two Things You Don't Talk About At Dinner*

Myriam has prepared her annual Passover Seder with all the traditional foods (including her delicious beef brisket). She has invited family (Jack, her husband and Nikki, her daughter) as well as a multicultural list of friends. The Seder is progressing smoothly until each person is asked about present day bondages. Amidst the matzoh, the marijuana puffs and the meal, we find out what happens when friends let religion and politics come between them. ■

THE PLAYWRIGHT

LISA LOOMER

Lisa Loomer is a playwright and screenwriter. She is known for many works, but her play *The Waiting Room* (1994) won her the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award and took her to London for a special commendation from the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize.

Her plays, which have been produced in New York and in major regional theaters throughout the U.S., as well as in Germany, Mexico, Israel and Egypt, include *Birds*, *Bocon*, *Looking For Angels*, *Accelerando*, *Expecting Isabel*, *Broken Hearts*, *Distracted*, and *Living Out*, which the Denver Center produced in 2006. Her other awards are the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays, a Back Stage West Garland Award, the Imagen Award for positive portrayals of Latinos in all media, a Lurie Foundation Award, and the American Theatre Critics Association award, twice.

Her screen credits include *Girl Interrupted*, and she was sent to Cuba by Sundance for their first co-lab with the Latin American Film Institute. She is also an alum of New Dramatists. Loomer is married to composer Joe Romano and they have a son, Marcello, born in 1997. ■

TIMELINE OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

8000 BCE Hybrid wheat grown in Jericho, making it one of the oldest sites of agricultural activity in the world.

2000 BCE Amorites, Canaanites and other Semitic peoples enter the region, which becomes known as the Land of Canaan.

1800-1500 BCE A Semitic people called Hebrews (Hapiru) leave Mesopotamia and settle in Canaan.

1000 BCE City of Jerusalem founded.

722 – 200 BCE Palestine conquered by the Assyrians (722 BCE), the Babylonians (586 BCE), the Persians (530 BCE), and the Seleucids (200 BCE).

167 BCE Jews revolt under the leadership of the Maccabeans, drive out the Seleucids, and form a capital in Jerusalem.

63 BCE Roman troops under Pompey invade Judea and sack Jerusalem.

133 CE Romans destroy Jerusalem and name the area “Palestina” and govern until the fourth century.

300s CE Byzantines rule Palestine.

600s Muslim armies move north from Arabia to conquer most of the Middle East including Palestine.

Jerusalem becomes sacred to Muslims as the site where, according to tradition, Muhammad ascended to heaven after a miraculous overnight ride on his horse. Al-Aqsa Mosque built on the site that Muslims call the “Noble Sanctuary” and that historians regard as the Jewish Temple Mount.

1000s Christian Crusaders from Europe invade Palestine and hold Jerusalem until 1187.

mid 1200s Mamelukes establish empire in Palestine.

1517 Ottoman Empire of Turkey defeats the Mamelukes, making Palestine part of their empire.

1798 Napoleon invades.

1897 World Zionist Organization founded.

1911 Muslim intellectuals and politicians from throughout the Levant formed al-Fatat (“the Young Arab Society”), a small Arab nationalist club in Paris.

1917 Balfour Declaration: British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour sends a letter to Lord Rothschild, President of the Zionist Federation, declaring his government would “view with favour the

establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.”

1919 British are granted control of Palestine by the Versailles Conference.

The King-Crane Commission, an official U.S. investigation concerning the disposition of non-Turkish areas within the former Ottoman Empire, concludes that the erection of a Jewish State could not be accomplished “without the gravest trespass upon the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.”

1920 Two large Arab nationalist demonstrations in Jerusalem.

Jewish settlements in the Upper Galilee attacked by Arab forces.

Faisal proclaimed king of Greater Syria.

Four-day riot against the Jews in Jerusalem’s Old City. The riots prompt the establishment of Haganah—a Jewish military force.

1921 Jaffa riots.

Mohammad Amin al-Husayni becomes the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem.

1922 A delegation of Arab leaders informs the British Colonial Office that they cannot accept the Mandate or the Balfour Declaration and demand their national independence.

The United States Senate and House of Representatives adopt a joint resolution favoring “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.”

1929 Riots erupt due to a dispute between Muslims and Jews over access to the Western Wall.

1936 The Arab leadership, led by Amin al-Husayni, declares a general strike which develops into a violent rebellion, known as the Arab Revolt, that would last for three years.

1937 The mainstream Jewish paramilitary organization, the Haganah, maintains a policy of restraint, but the smaller Irgun (also called Etzel) group splits up and adopts a policy of retaliation and revenge.

1939 The St. James Conference ends without making any progress.

The White Paper of 1939 calls for the creation of a unified Palestinian state.

The Second World War erupts.

1940 Lehi (also known as the Stern Gang), the most radical Jewish paramilitary organization, splits from Irgun.

1942 British form the Palestine Regiment, consisted of 3 Jewish and 1 Arab battalions, which assist the British forces in North Africa against the Axis. Another larger unit would be formed in

1944 enlisting Jews alone—the Jewish Brigade.

1946 The King David Hotel in Jerusalem, which housed the central offices of the British Mandate, is bombed by the militant underground organization Irgun. 91 people of various nationalities are killed and 46 injured.

1947 With a two-thirds majority international vote, the UN General Assembly passes a Partition Plan dividing the British Mandate of Palestine into two states.

1948 Lehi forces attack the village of Deir Yassin. In the aftermath between 100 and 254 Palestinians were killed, including women and children.

Israel declares Independence from British rule.

Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Transjordan, Holy War Army, Arab Liberation Army, and local Arabs attack the new Jewish state. The resulting war lasts for 13 months.

Violent confrontation between the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) under the command of David Ben-Gurion, and the paramilitary Jewish group Irgun results in the dismantlement of the Irgun, Lehi, and all Israeli paramilitary organizations operating outside the IDF.

Israel concludes Armistice Agreements with neighboring countries. The territory of the British Mandate of Palestine is divided between the State of Israel, the Kingdom of Jordan and Egypt. Before, during and after the war about 700,000 Palestinian Arabs become refugees.

U.N. General Assembly passes a resolution stating that Palestinian refugees who wish to return to their homes should be permitted to do so.

1956 Israel invades Egypt's Sinai Peninsula with covert assent from France and Britain.

1957 Israel withdraws its forces from the Sinai Peninsula, ending the Suez Crisis.

1964 The Palestine Liberation Organization is founded in Cairo by the Arab League with Ahmad Shuqayri as its leader.

1967 The Six-Day War. Israel launches a strike on the Egyptian Air Force, following Egyptian naval blockade of the Straits of Tiran and Egyptian military buildup in the Sinai Peninsula. The attack quickly turns into a regional war, in which Israel defeats the combined forces of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and their supporters. Israel captures Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt, East Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria.

Israel begins building settlements on occupied territory, activity that has been viewed as illegal by the International Court of Justice and the international community.

1969 Yasser Arafat, head of the Fatah party, is appointed chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization after Fatah becomes the dominant force in the PLO.

1972 Black September, a Palestinian militant group, kills 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team in Munich.

1973 Syria and Egypt surprise-attack Israeli forces in the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula on Yom Kippur. Jordan, Iraq, and other Arab nations support the Arab war effort.

1974 The Arab League recognizes the PLO as sole representative of the Palestinians. Yasser Arafat addresses the UN General Assembly.

1976 Israeli commandos rescue 98 Israeli and Jewish hostages in Entebbe, Uganda, held by Palestinian terrorists who had hijacked an Air France Airbus.

1978 Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat sign the Camp David Accord, with Israel agreeing to withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula in exchange for peace and a framework for future negotiation over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

1979 Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty. Egypt becomes the first Arab country to officially recognize Israel.

1982 Hundreds of Palestinians killed in refugee camps in Lebanon.

1983 The Israeli Army withdraws from most of Lebanon.

1985 Sana'a Mouhadly of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party detonates herself in an explosive-laden vehicle in Lebanon, killing two Israeli soldiers and injuring two more, becoming the first reported female suicide bomber.

The Palestine Liberation Front hijacks the Achille Lauro, redirecting the cruise ship to Syria and holding its passengers and crew hostage, demanding the release of 50 Palestinians in Israeli prisons. Leon Klinghoffer, a Jewish American, is murdered.

1987 First Intifada begins. General strikes and civil disobedience campaigns by Palestinians spread across the West Bank and Gaza Strip accompanied by some rioting and violence. Israeli forces respond with tear gas, plastic bullets, and live ammunition.

After the outbreak of the First Intifada, Shaikh Ahmed Yassin creates Hamas from the Gaza wing of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood.

An estimated 1,100 Palestinians and 164 Israelis are killed over the five year duration of the First Intifada.

1988 King Hussein of Jordan abandons its claim for the West Bank to the PLO.

An independent State of Palestine is proclaimed by the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers.

1989 First Palestinian suicide attack inside Israel's borders.

1992 Yitzhak Rabin of the Labour Party elected Prime Minister.

1993 Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin sign the Declaration of

Principles on Interim Self-Government in Oslo. This event is also seen by many people as the definitive end to the First Intifada.

1994 Israeli Baruch Goldstein opens fire on a group of Palestinian Muslims worshipping at a mosque.

Israeli forces withdraw from Jericho and Gaza City in compliance with the Oslo accords.

Yasser Arafat returns from exile to head Palestinian National Authority.

Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat are awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1995 Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated in Tel Aviv by Jewish extremist Yigal Amir. Shimon Peres assumes the position of acting Prime Minister.

1996 Benjamin Netanyahu of Likud is elected Israel's Prime Minister.

1998 Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat sign the Wye River Memorandum at a summit in Maryland hosted by Bill Clinton.

1999 Ehud Barak of the Israeli Labor Party is elected Prime Minister.

2000 The Camp David Summit between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat aimed at reaching a "final status" agreement collapses.

The Second Intifada begins after Ariel Sharon visits the Temple Mount in Jerusalem with 1000 police officers.

Prime Minister of Israel, Ehud Barak, resigns.

2001 Mitchell Commission calls for an immediate ceasefire, to be followed by confidence building measures and ultimately renewed peace negotiations. Mitchell also calls for a freeze on expansion of Jewish settlements in occupied territories.

2002 Arab Peace Initiative proposed at the Beirut Summit of the Arab League.

Israeli forces continue the raid on Ramallah and other West Bank towns.

Israeli forces begin Operation Defensive Shield, Israel's largest military operation in the West Bank since the 1967 Six-Day War.

Israel begins construction of the West Bank Wall.

US President George W. Bush calls for an independent Palestinian state living in peace with Israel. Bush states that Palestinian leaders must take steps to produce democratic reforms and fiscal accountability in order to improve negotiations with Israel. He also states that as Palestinians must show control over terrorism, Israel must end operations in the West Bank, and in areas which it entered under Operation Defensive Shield.

An Israeli warplane fires a missile at an apartment in Gaza City, killing the top of their most wanted list, Salah Shehadeh, top commander of Hamas' military wing, the Izzadine el-Qassam. The apartment building is flattened and 14 civilians are killed (including nine children).

2003 Rachel Corrie, an American member of the International Solidarity Movement is crushed by an IDF bulldozer. Members of the group who witnessed her death allege murder, while Israel calls it a “regrettable accident.”

Mahmoud Abbas appointed Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority.

An illegal Israeli settlement near the city of Hebron is peacefully dismantled by the IDF.

The Quartet on the Middle East announces the Road Map for Peace.

Ariel Sharon states that the “occupation” of Palestinian territories “can’t continue endlessly.”

A two-day summit is held in Egypt. Arab leaders announce their support for the Road Map and promise to work on cutting off funding to terrorist groups.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah agree to a three-month cease-fire.

Mahmoud Abbas resigns from the post of Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority.

The International Court of Justice rules in a non-binding advisory opinion that the Israeli West Bank barrier is illegal under international law. The United Nations has also condemned the construction of the wall as “an unlawful act of annexation.”

2004 Yasser Arafat dies at the age of 75 in a hospital near Paris, after undergoing urgent medical treatment.

2005 Mahmoud Abbas is elected President of the Palestinian Authority.

Israel removes all Jewish settlements, many Bedouin communities, and military equipment from the Gaza Strip. Although there is no permanent Israeli presence or jurisdiction in Gaza anymore, Israel retains control of certain elements (such as airspace, borders and ports), leading to an ongoing dispute as to whether or not Gaza is “occupied” or not.

2006 In the Palestine legislative election, Hamas wins the majority of seats by a landslide, after which Israel imposes a blockade on the Gaza Strip.

Violence erupts between Fatah and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. President Mahmoud Abbas tries to prevent civil war, advocating a Palestinian state alongside Israel, while Prime Minister Ismail Haniya and his Islamist party reject Israel’s right to exist.

A UN study declares the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip “intolerable,” with 75% of the population dependent on food aid, and an estimated 80% of the population living below the poverty line. The Palestinian economy had largely relied on Western aid and revenues, which have been frozen since Hamas’s victory.

Brokered by Egyptian mediators, Fatah reaches a deal to end fighting between the Hamas and Fatah factions. Both groups agree

to refrain from acts that raise tensions and commit themselves to dialogue to resolve differences.

2007 Battle of Gaza begins, resulting in Hamas taking control of the Gaza Strip from Fatah.

Negotiations in Mecca produced agreement on a Palestinian national unity government signed by Abbas on behalf of Fatah and Khaled Mashal on behalf of Hamas.

At the Annapolis peace conference, a two-state solution was articulated as the mutually agreed-upon outline for addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The conference ended with the issuing of a joint statement from all parties.

2009 Benjamin Netanyahu assumes office as Prime Minister of Israel.

2010 U.S. launches direct negotiations between Israel and The Palestinian Authority in Washington D.C. A second round of Middle East peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority concludes in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

Israeli commandos battle with an aid flotilla sailing to thwart the Gaza blockade, clashing with pro-Palestinian activists on the lead ship, killing least nine passengers.

2011 The Palestine Authority moves a resolution in UN for recognition of Palestine statehood.

As of 2011, approximately 540,000 Israelis live in the settlements in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

THE PASSOVER SEDER

The Passover Seder is a Jewish ritual feast that marks the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover. The Seder involves a retelling of the story of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. The Seder is a time when the entire family comes together; many generations should be represented. It is customary to invite others who have no Seder for themselves, particularly the poor in the community.

What is needed for the Seder:

1. Haggadahs—(the telling) – booklets which contain instructions for the Seder, blessings and the Passover story
2. Seder plate with all of its ingredients which include:
 - A hard-boiled egg
 - A roasted lamb bone
 - Salt water—for dipping the greens
 - Greens—parsley or celery for all
 - Bitter herbs—horseradish for all
 - Haroset—a special fruit, nut, and wine mixture for all
3. Matzoh and a special three-layer matzoh cover or plate
4. Wine
5. A cup for Elijah

The order of the Seder

1. Kadish (sanctification)—Each participant’s cup is filled with wine or grape juice. The Kiddush is recited aloud; then everyone takes a drink from his or her cup.
2. Urchatz (handwashing)—A pitcher is used to pour water over the right hand and then the left.
3. Karpas—Everyone eats the greens dipped in salt water. The green is symbolic of spring; the salt water is symbolic of the tears the Hebrew ancestors shed during their time of enslavement.
4. Yahatz (breaking the matzoh)—The Seder leader takes a piece of matzoh from the middle of the plate and breaks it in half. The smaller piece is put back. The larger piece becomes the “afikomen” (that which comes after), which is hidden somewhere for the children to find.
5. Maggid (telling the Passover story of the Exodus)—The youngest person asks the four questions; each one is a variation of “Why is this night different from all other nights?” Participants answer the questions by reading from the Haggadah. The second cup of wine is poured. As each of the Ten Plagues is read aloud, participants dip a finger into

the wine and splash a drop on their plates.

The Ten Plagues—When Pharaoh refused to let the Hebrews leave Egypt, the plagues were a divine demonstration of power and displeasure.

1. Water to blood
 2. Frogs
 3. Gnats or lice
 4. Flies
 5. Diseased livestock
 6. Boils
 7. Thunder and hail
 8. Locusts
 9. Darkness
 10. Death of the firstborn
6. Rachtzah—more handwashing.
 7. Motzi (blessing for the Matzoh)—“Baruch atah Adonai, Elohaynu, me-lech ha-olam ha motzi lechim min ha-aretz.”
In English: “Praised are you Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.”
 8. Matzoh—Everyone eats the matzoh (unleavened bread).
 9. Maror—Everyone eats the bitter herbs (horseradish) on a piece of Matzoh.
 10. Korech (Hillel sandwich)—Everyone puts maror and charoset between two pieces of matzoh and eats it.
 11. Shulchan Orech (dinner)—Passover Seder staples include matzoh ball soup, hard boiled eggs, brisket. Dessert is often a flourless cake.
 12. Tzafan—Eat the afikomen which has been found by one of the children.
 13. Barech (blessing)—Everyone drinks more wine and a cup of wine is poured for Elijah. A door is opened so he can enter. Elijah is supposed to come and announce the coming of the Messiah.
 14. Hallel (songs of praise)—The door is closed and everyone sings and drinks more wine.
 15. Nirtzah (conclusion)—The Seder is over but most homes say a final blessing: “Next year in Jerusalem!” ■

Siegel, Richard; Strassfeld, Michael and Strassfeld, Sharon. *The Jewish Catalog*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America.

GINNY'S VIEW ON ISRAEL

GINNY: However it got there—Israel has got to exist! It's prophesied in the Bible,
Matthew 23! Without Israel—how will the Messiah return?
—*Two Things You Don't Talk About At Dinner*

Ginny's view is that of many Protestant fundamentalists; the modern state of Israel is the fulfillment of a Biblical prophecy and deserves political, financial and religious support. The prophecy has its roots in Jewish apocalyptic thought that believes Jesus will return to earth before he establishes a millennial kingdom under his rule. Thus, for these Christians, the modern state of Israel is regarded as a necessary stage prior to the second coming of Christ. ■

www.informationlearninghouse

ANTI-SEMITIC POLITICAL PARTIES, 1800s

In 1878, the Social Democratic Party in Germany was outlawed, and democratic efforts were stifled. In the 1890s, political democracy was blocked by the rising power of German industrialists and diverted by imperialist expansion. This period also coincided with a new cycle of anti-Semitism, with Jews being blamed for manipulating peasants and small businessmen into resisting the traditional social and economic order. Jews were blamed for the severe economic depression of 1873. In the same year, Wilhelm Marr, a journalist who coined the term “anti-Semitism,” wrote a pamphlet, “The Victory of Jewry over Germandom.” It was very successful, going through 12 editions in six years. Using ideas of race and Völkisch (popular) nationalism, Marr argued that Jews had become the “first major power in the West” in the 19th century. He accused the Jews of being liberals, a people without roots who had Judaized the Germans “beyond salvation.” In 1879, he founded the League for Anti-Semitism.

In the late 19th century, political parties in Europe, especially in Germany, used anti-Semitism in their party platforms. The first was the Christian Socialist Workers Party, founded in 1878 by Adolf Stricker, a chaplain of the imperial court. Stricker blamed Jews for business failures, domination of liberal political movements, and for being “a foreign drop of blood in the German body, one with destructive power!” He appealed to many Germans in the lower economic and social classes the same groups to whom Hitler appealed who yearned for status and a strong state. In 1879, Stricker joined Marr in founding the League for Anti-Semitism. ■

<http://www.usmmm.org>

<http://www.bollyn.com/europeanhistory>

THE HOLOCAUST

The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews and millions of others by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. Holocaust is a word of Greek origin meaning “sacrifice by fire.” The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in January 1933, believed that Germans were “racially superior” and that the Jews, deemed “inferior,” were an alien threat to the so-called German racial purity and community.

During the era of the Holocaust, German authorities also targeted other groups because of their perceived “racial inferiority:” Roma (Gypsies), the disabled, and some of the Slavic peoples (Poles, Russians, and others). Other groups were persecuted on political, ideological, and behavioral grounds, among them Communists, Socialists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and homosexuals. ■

<http://history1900s>

THE MASSACRE AT DEIR YASSIN

The massacre of up to 130 civilian residents of the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin on April 9, 1948, stands in Palestinian memory as an emblem of disproportionate Jewish aggression and forced displacement. Following the massacre thousands of Palestinians, until then less inclined to leave their homes and properties, fled Palestine, never to return.

The massacre was the work of two illegal, terrorist Jewish organizations – Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Lehi (Stern) Gang – and the Jewish Agency Executive sent a formal letter of apology to King Abdullah immediately after the massacre.

On March 31, 1948, Jewish forces led by David Ben-Gurion had decided that Jewish Jerusalem, which held one-sixth of the Jewish population in Palestine, could not, for symbolic and strategic reasons, be lost to Palestinian and Arab forces. Operation Nahshon was launched as a result, entailing the mobilization of some 1,500 troops in an attempt to take control of the road to Jerusalem. Deir Yassin, a village of roughly 600 people, was a quiet agrarian community. Its inhabitants had pledged to remain neutral. ■

<http://www.deiryassin.org>

BUDDHISM

CHRISTOPHER: Another thing Buddhism is about? Loving kindness.
Like you sharing a joint with me.
—*Two Things You Don't Talk About At Dinner*

Buddhism is both a religion and a philosophy encompassing a variety of traditions, beliefs and practices based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama. He lived from roughly 566 to 480 BCE. The young man led an extravagant life style through early adulthood, but he grew bored of the indulgences and wandered the world in search of understanding.

The foundation of Buddhist tradition and practices are the Three Jewels: the Buddha, the Dharma (teachings) and the Sanga (the community). Other practices may include renouncing conventional living, development of mindfulness, cultivation of higher wisdom and meditation.

According to early Buddhist thought, the Four Noble Truths were the first teaching of Buddha after attaining Nirvana. They are:

1. Life as we know it ultimately leads to suffering in one way or another.
2. Suffering is caused by craving, expressed “as a deluded clinging to a certain sense of existence.”¹
3. Suffering ends when craving ends.
4. Reaching this liberated state is achieved by following the path laid out by Buddha.

The Three Trainings or Practices of Buddhism consist of:

1. Sila—virtue, good conduct, morality based upon the principles of equality and reciprocity.
2. Samadhi—concentration, meditation, mental development.
3. Prajna—discernment, insight, wisdom and enlightenment. ■

1. en. Wikipedia

www.religioustolerance.org

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism

Cooper, Alice. Facts about Buddhism. New York: Rosen Central, 2011.

AGEISM

MYRIAM: I know I'm supposed to be gratified for the grey hair
'cause it means I didn't die at 40 of breast cancer....

ALICE: Yeah, well, I don't buy into ageism.
—*Two Things You Don't Talk About At Dinner*

In his book, *Growing Old in America*, Andrew W. Achenbaum writes that a positive view of aging existed for nearly 200 years in pre-industrial United States. Older people held an honored position in the community and were examples for the younger generation. Our ancestors even tried to look older by powdering their wigs to make them look gray and cutting their clothes to imitate the sloping shoulders of the elderly.

This positive outlook on aging continued for many years because the nation's economy was based on agriculture, and since older Americans owned the family farm, they were respected as the decision-makers and supervisors of the rest of the family.

Acceptance of the aged began to change in the 1800s when a popular evangelical form of Protestantism began to preach about salvation and the duty of sinners to repent. Preachers addressed the young because they had lots of time to reform their ways while the old were seen as long past redemption. Ageism became more entrenched in the 1800s with the advent of the Industrial Revolution. When industry replaced agriculture as the economic base, factories began hiring younger workers because they could perform physically demanding jobs.

Abolishing ageism in our society will necessitate a new mindset. Older Americans are a valuable resource, and, in these challenging times, can offer knowledge and skills borne out of experience. ■

[www. a touch of grey.com](http://www.a touch of grey.com)

Nelson, Todd D. *Ageism: Stereotyping and Prejudice Against Older Persons*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2002.

BLACK POWER

The Black Power movement grew out of the Civil Rights Movement that had steadily gained momentum through the 1950s and 1960s. Although not a formal movement, the Black Power movement marked a turning point in black-white relations in the United States and also in how blacks saw themselves. The movement was hailed by some as a positive and proactive force aimed at helping blacks achieve full equality with whites, but it was reviled by others as a militant, sometimes violent faction whose primary goal was to drive a wedge between whites and blacks. In truth, the Black Power movement was a complex event that took place at a time when society and culture were being transformed throughout the United States, and its legacy reflects that complexity.

Not all blacks had been equally impressed with the civil rights movement. Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam, for example, felt that racial self-determination was a critical and neglected element of true equality. By the mid-1960s, dissatisfaction with the pace of change was growing among blacks. The term “black power” had been around since the 1950s, but it was Stokely Carmichael, head of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), who popularized the term in 1966.

Carmichael led a push to transform SNCC from a multiracial community activist organization into an all-black social change organization. Late in 1966, two young men, Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, formed the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense (BPP), initially as a group to track incidents of police violence. Within a short time groups such as SNCC and BPP gained momentum, and by the late 1960s the Black Power movement had made a definite mark on American culture and society.

Now it was time for blacks to set their own agenda, putting their needs and aspirations first. An early step, in fact, was the replacement of the word “Negro” (a word associated with the years of slavery) with “black.” ■

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk>

THE CRUSADES

In 1095, the Pope called on Europeans to go on a crusade to liberate Jerusalem from its Muslim rulers. “The first and second wave of Crusaders murdered, raped and plundered their way up the Rhine and down the Danube as they headed for Jerusalem.” The “army” was primarily composed of untrained peasants with their families, with a core of trained soldiers. On the way to the Middle East, they decided that only one of their goals was to wrest control of Jerusalem from the Muslims.

A secondary task was to rid the world of as many non-Christians as possible, both Muslims and Jews. Twelve thousand Jews in the Rhine Valley alone were killed as the first Crusade passed through. Some Jewish writers refer to these events as the “first holocaust.” Once the army reached Jerusalem and broke through the city walls, they slaughtered all the inhabitants that they could find (men, women, children, newborns). After locating about 6,000 Jews holed up in the synagogue, they set the building on fire; the Jews were burned alive. The Crusaders found that about 30,000 Muslims had fled to the Al Aqsa Mosque. Muslims were also slaughtered without mercy. ■

<http://www.middle-ages.org.uk>

THE INQUISITION

The Inquisition was a Roman Catholic tribunal for discovery and punishment of heresy, which was marked by the severity of questioning and punishment and lack of rights afforded to the accused. While many people associate the Inquisition with Spain and Portugal, it was actually instituted by Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) in Rome. A later pope, Pope Gregory IX extended the Inquisition, in 1233, to combat the heresy of the Abilgenses, a religious sect in France. By 1255, the Inquisition was imposed throughout Central and Western Europe (although it was never instituted in England or Scandinavia).

Initially a tribunal would open at a location and an edict of grace would be published calling upon those conscious of heresy to confess; after a period of grace, the tribunal officers could make accusations. Those accused of heresy were sentenced at an auto de fe, (act of faith) or punishment which included confinement to dungeons, physical abuse and torture. Those who reconciled with the church were still punished and many had their property confiscated, and were banished from public life. Those who never confessed were burned at the stake without strangulation; those who did confess were strangled first.

In the beginning, the Inquisition dealt only with Christian heretics and did not interfere with the affairs of Jews. However, disputes about Maimonides' books (which addressed the synthesis of Judaism and other cultures) provided a pretext for harassing the Jews and, in 1242, the Inquisition condemned the Talmud and burned thousands of volumes. In 1288, the first mass burning of Jews at the stake took place in France.

In 1481 the Inquisition started in Spain. Conversos (Secret Jews) and New Christians were targeted because of their close relations to the Jewish community, many of whom were Jews in all but their name. ■

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org>

CIVIL DISCOURSE

Although rarely exhibited by the characters in the play, civil discourse is engagement in conversation intended to enhance understanding. Kenneth J. Gergen in his book *Social Construction in Context* describes civil discourse as “the language of dispassionate objectivity.”¹ In engaging in civil discourse, certain guidelines should be followed. They are:

1. Recognize a person’s right to advocate ideas that are different from your own.
2. Discuss policies, politics, issues and ideas, not people.
3. Disagree without being disagreeable.
4. Use civil and helpful, not hurtful language.
5. Respectfully respond to differing points of view.
6. When unsure of what another person means by what they have written or said, ask for clarification.
7. Realize that what you say and what people understand you have said may be different. Be patient and explain yourself again if others misinterpret your meaning.
8. Recognize that sometimes people can and must agree to disagree.
9. If you are not sure what you are about to say is civil, find another way to say it or let it go.
10. Avoid reliance on labels for groups of people. They rarely add to the quality of any discussion.²

Despite the frequent inability of the Israeli and Palestinian governments to engage in civil discourse, attempts are occurring in both communities to engage in common sense communication.

- The Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI) which is a “joint institution of Israelis and Palestinians dedicated to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”³ IPCRI recognizes the two state solution as the ultimate fulfillment of the national strategic and security interests of both groups. IPCRI was founded in 1988 to promote civil discourse between Israeli and Palestinian peoples to search for solutions to the issues. Its members are intellectuals, academics, professionals and politicians from both sides.

- Peace Research Institute in the Middle East (PRIME) is a non-governmental organization established by Palestinian and Israeli researchers in 1998. PRIME’s purpose is to pursue mutual coexistence and peace building through joint research and outreach activities. Some of PRIME’s objectives are: to build an intellectual infrastructure of peace; to influence the public agenda in Israel and Palestine; to offer ideas to peace-building; to train a new generation of leaders committed to peaceful coexistence and cooperation and to serve as a reference center for cooperative activities.

• Sikkuy is The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality; “Sikkuy” means “chance” or “opportunity” in Hebrew. It is a non-partisan non-governmental organization that develops and implements projects to advance equality between Arab and Jewish individuals in government budgets, resource allocation, employment policy, land usage and access to government services. Its actions are motivated by the right of every citizen to influence government decisions and policies and advance complete equality between Arabs and Jews. It is jointly governed by Arab and Jewish co-chairs and staffed by Arabs and Jews. ■

1. En. wikipedia
2. groups.msn.com/whatsnews
3. www.brown.edu

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil-discourse.
www.groups.msn.com/WhatsNews/civildiscourse
www.brown.edu/Departments/Judaic-Studies

GLOSSARY FOR *TWO THINGS YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT AT DINNER*

(These terms are listed in the order in which they appear in the play.)

Édith Piaf—(born Dec. 19, 1915, Paris, France—died Oct. 11, 1963, Paris) French singer and actress whose interpretation of the chanson, or French ballad, made her internationally famous. Among her trademark songs were “Non, je ne regrette rien” (“No, I Don’t Regret Anything”) and “La vie en rose” (literally “Life in Pink,” i.e., seen through “rose-colored glasses” or from an optimistic point of view). She wrote her signature song, “La vie en rose,” in the middle of the German occupation in World War II. During this time, she was in great demand and very successful. Singing for high-ranking Germans at the One Two Two Club earned Piaf the right to pose for photos with French prisoners of war, ostensibly as a morale-boosting exercise. Once in possession of their celebrity photos, prisoners were able to cut out their own images and use them in forged papers as part of escape plans. In this clever way, Piaf assisted the French Resistance in liberating French prisoners.

French Resistance—The surrender of France to the Germans in June 1940 was a major blow to the pride of most French citizens. Many believed that the government had let the people down. The creation of a Nazi-approved government in Vichy was, in the minds of many, further proof that politicians had let France down. The Resistance movement developed to provide the Allies with intelligence, to attack the Germans when possible and to assist the escape of Allied airmen. The French Resistance movement was an umbrella term that covered numerous anti-German movements within French borders. By 1944, it is estimated that there were 100,000 members of the various resistance movements in France. Just one year earlier, there were only 40,000 members. By the spring of 1944, there were 60 intelligence cells whose sole task was to collect intelligence as opposed to carrying out acts of sabotage. In the build up to D-Day, the intelligence they gathered was vital.

Master Cleanse—The Lemonade Diet, also known as the Master Cleanse, was developed by the late Stanley Burroughs as a detoxification and fasting program. Originally intended to rid the body of toxins and internal wastes brought on by “improper diet, lack of exercise and negative mental attitude,” It is now also touted as a quick weight loss plan.

Lemonade Diet—No solid foods are allowed, nor are any supplements. You consume only the Master Cleanse elixir to keep you hydrated.

The plan calls for you to drink 6 or more servings daily of the lemonade drink for 4-14 days. The only other options are a “salt water flush” of 2 teaspoons salt mixed in a quart of water in the morning, and an herbal laxative tea at night, if needed.

Wellbutrin—Wellbutrin (bupropion) is an antidepressant medication. It works in the brain to treat depression.

Billie Holiday—Legendary singer Billie Holiday was a true artist of her day and rose to fame as a social phenomenon in the 1940s and 1950s. Her soulful, unique singing voice and her ability to boldly turn any material into her own made her a superstar. Her songs are as well-known today as they were decades ago and her poignant voice remains one of the great jazz voices of all time.

Pesadicke—Eastern European Jewish term for anything made for Passover.

Nader, Gore, Bush—Nader, a third-party candidate, ran in the 2000 Presidential election. Some who wanted Gore (Democrat) to win over Bush (Republican) blame Nader for earning the votes of progressive voters who might have voted for Gore (Democrat), costing Gore the win.

The 405—Interstate 405 (I-405, and colloquially referred to as “the 405.” It is a major north/south Interstate in Southern California, a bypass of the I-5, running along the western areas of Greater Los Angeles from Irvine to the San Fernando Valley. Heavily traveled by commuters and freight haulers, it has earned its place as the busiest and most congested freeway in the nation.

Secular Humanism—A philosophy and world view that centers on human concerns employing rational thinking and scientific methodology. While at odds with faith-based religious systems on many issues, it is dedicated to the fulfillment of the individual and humankind in general. To accomplish this, secular humanism encourages a commitment to principles that promote the development of tolerance and compassion and an understanding of the methods of science, critical analysis and philosophical reflection.

“Stop hocking my tchainik” comes from the Yiddish “hoch mir kein chinik,” which means “stop hitting me with a teapot.” It means “stop nagging me” as if one’s tormenter is banging on a teapot with a spoon.

Abilify — Abilify (aripiprazole) is an antipsychotic medication. It works by changing the actions of chemicals in the brain. Abilify is used to treat symptoms of psychotic conditions such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder (manic depression). It also is used together with other medications to treat major depressive disorder in adults.

The Ten Plagues — The ten calamities imposed upon Egypt by God (see the Book of Exodus) to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go.

1. Water to Blood

7:19 “And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.”

2. Frogs

8:2 “And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs: 8:3 And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneading troughs: 8:4 And the frogs shall come up both on thee, and upon thy people, and upon all thy servants.”

3. Gnats or Lice

8:16 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.”

4. Flies

8:21 “Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are.”

5. Livestock Diseased

9:3 “Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain.”

6. Boils

9:8 “And the LORD said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. 9:9 And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.”

7. Thunder and Hail

9:18 “Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now.”

8. Locusts

10:4 “Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, tomorrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast: 10:5 And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth:

and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped, which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which groweth for you out of the field.”

9. Darkness

10:21 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. 10:22 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.”

10. Death of the Firstborn

11:4 “And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: 11:5 And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the first born of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts.”

Dolphin Slaughter in Japan — During the hunting season, pods of small whales and dolphins are herded into a tiny cove in Taiji, Japan by fishermen in small boats and then are brutally slashed and killed with lances and knives. More than 20,000 of these animals are being slaughtered each year and their meat sold as food in Japan. A few are kept alive to be sold into the captive whale and dolphin industry.

The Taiji whale and dolphin hunts continue because the fishermen receive immense profits. Whales and dolphins slaughtered for meat may reach as much as 9000 US dollars each at market. However, scouts from international aquariums and captive dolphin programs are now using the event to procure live dolphins, which trade at upwards of 100,000 US dollars each.

The Blood of Christ — Catholics believe that wine is transformed into the blood of Christ during the Eucharist, the part of a Mass that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus before he was killed.

Jewish Ghettos — The concept of separating the living quarters of Jews from that of the rest of the population originated in the early middle ages. It was based upon a form of theological and economic anti-Semitism that attempted to restrict contact between Jews and Christians.

The first ghettos appeared in Germany, Spain and Portugal in the 13th century. The 16th century Venice Ghetto was situated in part of the city that had previously been an iron foundry (getto in Italian). Other sources of the word “ghetto” have been suggested: “Ghetonia,” a Griko word for neighborhood (Griko is a Greek dialect spoken in the Grecia Salentina area of Apulia in Southern Italy); “borghetto,” which means “small neighborhood” in Italian.

The Age of Enlightenment and the social transformations that followed the French Revolution saw the gradual abolition of the ghettos, until their re-introduction as part of the Nazis “New Order” in Europe.

Japanese internment camps — Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which permitted the military to circumvent the constitutional safeguards of American citizens in the name of national defense. The order set into motion the exclusion from certain areas, and the evacuation and mass incarceration of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast, most of whom were U.S. citizens or legal permanent resident aliens.

These Japanese Americans, half of whom were children, were incarcerated for up to 4 years, without due process of law or any factual basis, in bleak, remote camps surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards. They were forced to evacuate their homes and leave their jobs; in some cases family members were separated and put into different camps. President Roosevelt himself called the 10 facilities “concentration camps.” Some Japanese Americans died in the camps due to inadequate medical care and the emotional stresses they encountered. Several were killed by their military guards for allegedly resisting orders.

Sadam Hussein and the Kurds — The two dominant ethnicities of Iraq have traditionally been Arabs in south and central Iraq, and Kurds in the north and northeast, particularly along the Iranian border. Hussein long viewed ethnic Kurds as a long-term threat to Iraq’s survival, and the oppression and extermination of the Kurds was one of his administration’s highest priorities.

Nuclear Power and Israel — Israel has two nuclear reactors, including the Dimona facility which is said to have produced nuclear weapons. Israel neither confirms nor denies having nuclear weapons under its policy of “ambiguity.” The other facility is a research reactor near Tel Aviv, which is open to international inspections. Israel is not a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) designed to curb the spread of nuclear technologies with bomb-making potential.

Hamas — Since its founding in 1987 in Gaza by Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, Hamas—an Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement meaning “zeal”—has been committed to destroying the Jewish state and replacing it with an Islamic state in all of Palestine.

American Girl in Palestine — This is a reference to Rachel Corrie. The play, based on her diaries and emails, is called *My Name Is Rachel Corrie* and was edited by Alan Rickman, who directed it, and journalist Katharine Viner. Rachel Aliene Corrie (April 10, 1979 — March 16, 2003) was an American Evergreen State College student and member of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) who traveled to the Gaza Strip during the Second Intifada. She was killed by a Caterpillar D9R armored bulldozer operated by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) during a protest

against the destruction of Palestinian homes by the IDF in the Gaza Strip. The details of the events surrounding Corrie’s death, as she stood between an Israeli bulldozer and a Palestinian home, are disputed. While an Israeli military investigation ruled the death at its own hands to be “an accident,” eyewitnesses maintain that Corrie was run over deliberately.

The Tea Party — The Tea Party movement is an intransigent American populist political movement generally recognized as conservative and libertarian. It has sponsored protests and supported political candidates since 2009. It endorses reduced government spending, opposition to taxation in varying degrees, reduction of the national debt and federal budget deficit, and adherence to an originalist interpretation of the United States Constitution. The name “Tea Party” is a reference to the Boston Tea Party, a protest by American colonists who objected to a British tax on tea in 1773 and demonstrated by dumping British tea taken from docked ships into the harbor.

Auschwitz — The Auschwitz concentration camp complex was the largest of its kind established by the Nazi régime. It included three main camps, all of which deployed incarcerated prisoners at forced labor. One of them also functioned for an extended period as a killing center. The camps were located approximately 37 miles west of Krakow, near the prewar German-Polish border in Upper Silesia, an area that Nazi Germany annexed in 1939 after invading and conquering Poland. The SS authorities established three main camps near the Polish city of Oswiecim: Auschwitz I in May 1940; Auschwitz II (also called Auschwitz-Birkenau) in early 1942; and Auschwitz III (also called Auschwitz-Monowitz) in October 1942.

Chumash — The Torah, sacred Jewish text

Chad Gaya — A traditional Passover song (meaning “little goat”); “zuzim” refers to an old Jewish coin

Tikun Olam — A Hebrew phrase that means “repairing the world.”

Shiksa — A non-Jewish woman (sometimes pejorative)

Muslims in Europe — The population of Muslims in selected European countries:

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Muslim pop.</u> | <u>Percentage of total population</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Belgium | 281,000 | 3% |
| Denmark | 88,000 | 2% |
| France | 3,554,000 | 6% |
| Germany | 4,026,000 | 4% |
| Switzerland | 323,000 | 4.3% |
| Sweden | 149,000 | 2% |

CONNECT

A series of free discussions providing a catalyst for discussion, learning and appreciation of the productions

Perspectives - Denver Center theatre Company's own "Creative Team" and community experts host interactive, topical discussions with attendees that provide a unique perspective on the production. This provides an in-depth connection that makes the stage experience even more rewarding.

1/20, 6pm, Jones Theatre

Theatre & Theology - In our continued partnership with Pastor Dan Bollman with the Rocky Mountain Evangelical Lutheran Synod and cast members, this discussion examines the relevant connections to the productions through a theological lens.

2/7, Post-show

Talkbacks - Perhaps the best way to fully appreciate a production is by engaging in a stimulating dialogue with your fellow audience members and the actors who bring it to life.

2/12, Post-show

Higher Education Advisory Discussions - Audience members gain scholarly insight into the productions through discussions, facilitated by faculty members from regional colleges and universities.

2/19, Post-show

IN CONVERSATION

Saturday, Feb 4, 11am
Conservatory Theatre
(Newman Building, 1101 13th St., 3rd floor)

Engage, Experience, Reflect

- Engage in a pre-show dialogue with local and regional authorities about the themes and issues of the current production
- Share in the experience of watching the matinee performance
- Reflect upon the performance, sharing your perspective, in a post-show setting

Somehow, we have lost the art of civil discourse. It is easier to name call, bully and shout down anyone who may have a differing opinion rather than allowing for multiple perspectives, finding areas of commonality and agreeing to disagree upon the things where we cannot. How did we lose the ability to engage in a civil conversation about complex and convoluted issues? How can we use an issue as challenging as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to change the tenor of the conversation; returning back to a time of more reasoned, purposeful and thought-provoking dialogue?

Use promo code CONVERSATION to purchase tickets to this matinee. Participation in the pre and post show dialogues is free.

QUESTIONS

PRE-PERFORMANCE QUESTIONS

1. Which conversation topics are taboo at the dinner table? Why are they taboo? Why do these topics still come up at the table?
2. What would you consider to be your personal oppressions? What would it take to expel these from your life?
3. When you have polar opposite views on an issue, is it possible to preserve a friendship? If the friendship is broken, what can be done to restore or repair the relationship?

POST-PERFORMANCE QUESTIONS

1. What do the costumes say about the characters? How do the clothes they wear inform who they are?
2. What are some of the modern plagues that people brought up at the Seder? Do you agree or disagree with some of the modern plagues that are mentioned? Are there any other modern plagues that you would like to add to the list?
3. How would you describe the relationship between Myriam and Sam? How has the relationship changed over the years? Where do you think their relationship is going after the play?
4. What are some of the arguments that Sam raises about the Palestinian struggle in Israel? Do you agree with the analogy that is given by Sam? What are the arguments given by the other dinner guests?
5. How does Nikki feel about being Jewish? Does she hold the same beliefs about Israel as her mother?
6. What secret did Nikki and Sam keep from Myriam? Why did they keep this secret?
7. What does it mean to convert to another religion? Why does Ginny discount conversion?
8. How does Christopher's Buddhism affect his relationship with his mother and the other dinner guests? What values from Buddhism does he hold? Do you agree with his reasoning?
9. How does the character Lupe fit into the play? What do you think happens to her after the play is over?

MIZEL MUSEUM'S NEW EXHIBITS ADD SPARKLE TO DENVER'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The Mizel Museum is a portal to the contemporary Jewish experience. Rooted in Jewish values, the Museum's exhibits, events and educational programs inspire visitors of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate diversity and honor the journeys of all people. We employ a full spectrum of expression, including fine art, film, literature and drama, to offer interactive and memorable experiences that promote community and the dynamic ways that each of our journeys interweave.

The Passover display presented at the Denver Center for Performing Arts focuses primarily on the seder, or ordered ritual feast, that today defines Passover. Featured in the display are images from the Passover section of Mizel Museum's 4,000 Year Road Trip: Gathering Sparks exhibit. After viewing the DCPA display, come for a tour of 4,000 Year Road Trip: Gathering Sparks, to learn about other Jewish holidays and rituals, including the High Holidays, Chanukah, Purim and Shabbat.

The museum's new permanent exhibit, 4,000 Year Road Trip: Gathering Sparks, which opened in February 2011, started a new era for the 30-year-old Denver museum by reshaping and reinvigorating the museum's image, putting it on Denver's map of cultural attractions and generating national awareness. 4,000 Year Road Trip: Gathering Sparks is an interactive journey through art, artifacts and digital media that narrates and celebrates Jewish life, culture and history. The overarching theme is *tikkun olam*, which in Hebrew means "repair the world." Based on this theme, the museum's programs and events encourage the discovery of paths that tie our world together through respect and understanding.

Mizel Museum educators offer guided tours for classes and groups, along with tour enhancement programs that delve deeper into exhibit topics, including immigration, Holocaust awareness,

and intercultural education. See the 2011-2012 Education brochure in the "For Teachers" section of our website.

We are conveniently located in Denver's South Hilltop neighborhood at 400 South Kearney Street, one block south of Alameda and four blocks west of Monaco Parkway. For hours and admission visit www.mizelmuseum.org or call (303) 394-9993. ■



Noah's Ark Installation by Scott Lyon