Songs of My Father's



Songs by Samuel Schuman

Compiled by Sandor Schuman www,tothestory.com

Vol. VIII.

S. SCHUMAN No. 29 2559-41 ST.

BULLETIN

— of —

Congregation Beth-El

of Astoria

30-85 35TH STREET, LONG ISLAND CITY, N. Y.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1944

ADAR 29, 5704

VICTORY VARIETIES OF 1944

THE SHOW OF SHOWS

SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 2, 1944

8:30 SHARP

In Our Social Hall

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00

LIGHTING OF THE SABBATH CANDLES, 6:59 P. M.

KABALATH SHABBATH SERVICE, 7:15 SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE, 8:45

SONGS OF MY FATHER'S

Songs by Samuel Schuman z"l

All songs Copyright Samuel Schuman, © 2005 Sandor Schuman

BULLETIN OF CONGREGATION BETH-EL OF ASTORIA

Published weekly from September to July by Congregation Beth-El of Astoria, 30-85 35th Strost, Long Island City, N. Y. Annual subscription \$.50. Single copy 5c. Entered as second-class matter, November 19, 1936, at the Post Office at Long Island City, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879.

THE SHOW OF SHOWS

Our Victory Varieties of 1944 promises to be the show of shows. Since the early days of shows there never was a show like this show. Because this show has everything. It has glamour, class, style, originality, genius. It has everything one can possibly think of, and more.

For example, here are some of the Hit Songs specially written (music and lyrics) for this occasion. The titles of the songs in themselves suggest originality. They are: "Say Tihlim," "On the Spiritual Side," "Belle of Beth-El," and "When Will Our Dream Come True?" (dedicated to the Zionist District of Astoria). Those of us who remember last year's show will recall only two song hits written for that occasion. This year the number has been more than doubled. Because of the wide popular demand the two hits of last year will be repeated. They are, "Adon Olam Past, Present and Future" and "I Worship You."

On the program are also included a variety of novelty dances, comedies and dramas and, believe it or not, a chorus of our Sisterhood women.

When we call this show Victory Varieties of 1944 we mean just that. We mean, first, that we hope this show will have taken place in the year of victory for the United Nations. Secondly, we mean varieties, varieties, and more varieties. Every act is something new, something different. Each act is crammed with fun, gaiety, laughter and, in order to make it really Jewish, even tears.

The price for a show of this magnitude is really amazingly low. Yes, you guessed it, just \$1.00. All tickets are in the charge of Esther Gershon. The committee selling tickets will account to Mrs. Gershon for all tickets sold. She may be reached on the telephone by calling Ravenswood 8-4488.

Rehearsals are taking place every Thursday evening at 8 oʻclock. All those participating in the show are asked to attend faithfully and on time.

HELEN EDLES
ESTHER GERSHON
MAE SCHIFFMAN
SAM SCHUMAN
Committee on Arrangements



This Too Shall Pass Press Albany, New York

SONGS OF MY FATHER'S

Songs by Samuel Schuman z"I

Introduction	ii
Adon Olam: Past-Present-Future	1
Say Tehillim	4
When Will Our Dream Come True?	7
On the Spiritual Side	9
When We March into Palestina	11
Was the World Worthwhile?	13
How are Things in Monticella?	15
Join the Z.O.A.	16
The Shul Belongs to Everyone	18
I Worship You	19
You Gotta Give it That Extra Push	22

INTRODUCTION

My father, Samuel Schuman *z*"l, wrote many songs. We have the sheet music, lyrics, or copyright records for 78 of them. Ten have Jewish themes; some incorporate Yiddish or Hebrew lyrics. Most of these were written for "Victory Varieties," home-grown variety shows presented in 1943 and 1944 at Congregation Beth El of Astoria, New York, where he was an active member. (The announcement for the 1944 show is shown on the inside front cover.) While song writing was his life-long aspiration, he made his living as an electrician. Although he made several attempts, none of his songs were ever published commercially.

I grew up in the 1950s listening to his songs. He would be asked to sing them at family gatherings and social events. They were part of our family and community heritage.

This collection contains his Jewish-themed songs.

Sandor Schuman Albany, New York June, 2015

www.tothestory.com sschuman@exedes.com 518-229-8345

ADON OLAM: PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE

Traditional melodies in an arrangement with words and incidental music by Samuel Schuman, 1943

When I was small I went to *shul* And every Friday night as a rule Before going home we'd sing and hum That sweet melody *Adon Olam*.

It used to lift my spirits high
My childhood cares and troubles would fly.
When things would go wrong I could find
some

Renewed spirit in Adon Olam.

The years flew by as years will fly
That sentimental kid became a hard-boiled
guy

And one day when I went to shul
It seemed that somehow they had changed
the rule.

Adon Olam was not the same
At first I thought it was a shame
The words remained just as before
But now it had a snappy and a modern
score.

It took no time and pretty soon
In fact before I knew it I could sing the tune.

Adon Olam was still OK
Although they sang it in a different way.

The rhythm and the lively swing
It was indeed a thrill to sing
I liked it in the modern way
And really I believed that it was here to stay.

Adon Olam asher malach B'terem kol y'tzir nivrah L'ayt na'ahsah v'kheftzo kol Ahzai melech sh'mo nikrah

(The following Yiddish verses may be omitted; continue with "Another tune that's new to me...")

Nu vie fiel niggun darfen mir? Vos vil men hobben yetst fon dir Adon Olam?

Der chazen zingt a posik und tzvey Der oylom muz shveigen, vos denken zei? A voch noch a voch der niggun is nei Vie fiel is der shir, mir hobben shein drei! Another tune that's new to me I think by 2023 ...

We'll be goin' some
When we sing Adon Olam
Its a sign of Kingdom Come.
It's the song of Israel on a plaintive chord.
The ancient glory of Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Praise the
Lord

When we sing Adon Olam
Its a sign of Kingdom Come.
It's a major story on a minor chord.
The modern glory of Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Praise the
Lord

So we sing Adon Olam
And we pray for Kingdom Come.
With a pen that's mightier than every sword
And children learning to Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Praise the
Lord

So through the years by old and young This ancient song will always be sung. *Adon Olam* will still go on When all tyrants of the world are gone.

~~~~~~~~~~~

#### Yiddish Translation

So how many melodies do we need? What do they want from you now *Adon Olam?* 

The cantor sings a line or two, The people keep quiet, but what are they thinking? Week after week it's a new tune; How many do we need, we already have three!





#### SAY TEHILLIM

#### Words and music by Samuel Schuman, 1944

The old time Jews used to get the blues Even as you and I. They had no pills to cure their ills Or cigarettes that satisfy.

Once I asked an old man what To do when things are not so hot. He stroked his beard, he said, "*Nu! Nu!* Why don't you do what we do?"

Say *Tehillim* when you're feeling sad Say *Tehillim* when you're luck is bad If you're blue you'll be glad when you Say *Tehillim*.

Say *Tehillim* and the Lord will bless Each undertaking with success Make a wish with *Ashrei ho-ish*, Say *Tehillim*.

Little David when he wrote the Psalms He was well aware of whom to sing to Never followed any false alarms That baby knew whom to cling to.

Say *Tehillim* when you've got the blues Say *Tehillim* when you hear bad news Lose your care in a little prayer, Say *Tehillim*.

Say *Tehillim* when your hope is gone Say *Tehillim* and you'll carry on It's a cinch when you're in a pinch, Say *Tehillim*.

Say *Tehillim* when the road is long Say *Tehillim* and you can't go wrong When you're weak and you must be strong, Say *Tehillim*.

There is still another cure besides Sulfanilamides and penicillin You can find a greater peace of mind Wrapped in your *tallis* and *tefillin*.

Your ship is just about to sail Some journey where you mustn't fail All is set but you need the gale, Say *Tehillim*.

Tu on dos hittle; zug a kapitel; Tehillim!

-----

Tehillim: Praises. Sefer Tehillim (Book of Praises) is the Hebrew name of the Book of Psalms.

Nu: "Well?" or "so?" (Yiddish exclamation)

Ashrei ho-ish: Happy is the man. These are the first words of Psalm 1.

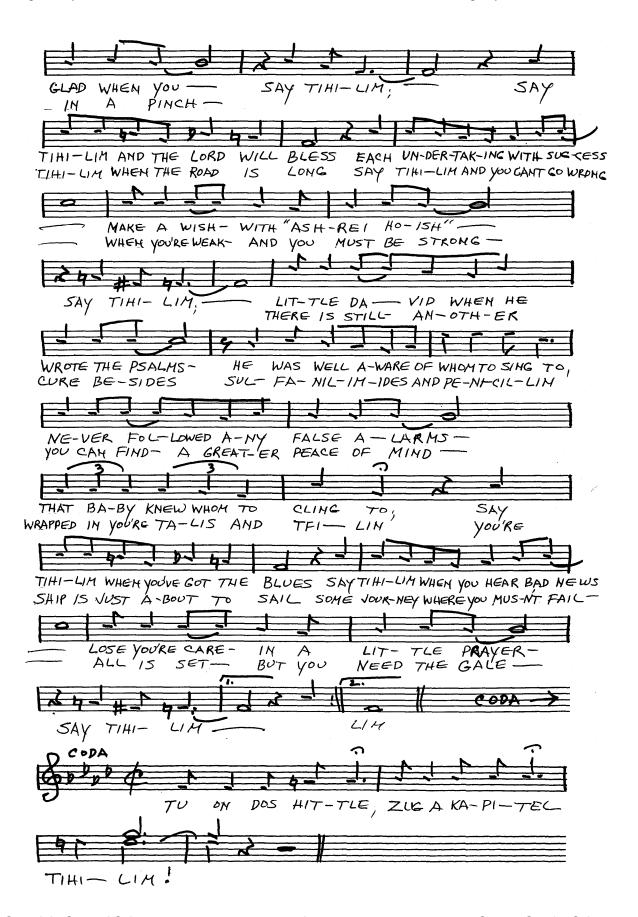
Penicillin and sulfanilamides are "wonder drugs" that came into use in the 1940s.

Tallis: Prayer shawl.

Tefillin: Phylacteries. A set of two small leather boxes containing verses from the Torah.

Tu on dos hittle, zug a kapitel: Put on your hat, open a page/ say a prayer.





#### WHEN WILL OUR DREAM COME TRUE?

Words by Samuel Schuman, 1944 Music by Edvard Grieg: *Solveg's Song* from the *Peer Gynt Suite* 

When I was a kid in the *cheder* where I went We all sat around one day.
We talked of *Moshiach*, the Rabbi listened in And we heard one fellow say, "*Moshiach* is a hoax,
One of those Jewish jokes,"
The Rabbi said "No! No! *Moshiach* is a dream,
For centuries the dream supreme,
The dream that must come true -- "

Oy! Ribono Shel Olam
When will our dream come true?
Let that Shofar blow, let your people know
Their destiny;
Take your children by the hand
Give your firm command
And lead us into the Promised Land.

I wish I could see my old Rabbi once again Though he must be old and gray
I wonder if he has that *cheder* as of yore
And the *Talmud* who would say
"*Moshiach* is a hoax
One of those Jewish jokes,"
My Rabbi still says "No!"
Moshiach will yet come
We'll pray and pray for G-d's Kingdom
Moshiach will yet come --

Oy! Ribono Shel Olam
When will our dream come true?
Holy Father please make hostilities
Forever cease;
May the Biblical Shalom
Finally come home
And let the nations all live in Peace.
Peace!

Original 1944 final chorus:

Oy! Ribono Shel Olam
When will our dream come true?
Let the British wake
Let them not forsake us
Hear my plea!
Tell them not to hesitate
Open wide the gate
And lead us into a land that's free.
Free!



#### ON THE SPIRITUAL SIDE

Words by Samuel Schuman, Music by Anthony J. Messina and Dan Franklin, 1944

When life begins to bore you Let heaven be your guide You'll find a new horizon On the Spritual Side.

And should success evade you Although you know you've tried You'll find new inspiration On the Spritual Side.

Shake your self away form sorrow, care, and fear. Learn to understand the brand of happines here.

If love (luck) has seemed to pass you Your golden dreams (wishes all) denied You'll find the love light shining (feel new hope arising) On the Spritual Side.

On the Spritual Side.

On the Spiritual Side



#### WHEN WE MARCH INTO PALESTINA

Words by Samuel Schuman, 1948(?)
Originally written to the tune of *Victory Polka*, by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne, 1943
Original music by Sandor Schuman, 1998

We're gonna sing a hearty "Mazel Tov!" After we regain the land we love And the skies will all be blue above When we march into Pa-les-ti-na.

We're gonna give that land a brand new birth, Cultivate the soil and plow the earth And we'll make it bloom for all its worth When we march into Pa-les-ti-na.

Centuries it has been written Sons of Israel return And when we get rid of Britain Our eternal light will burn.

There'll be a streak of blue across the sky With the Star of David flying high And the Jewish faith will never die When we march into Pa-les-ti-na. Amen!

#### A note about this song

Years after he died, I was surprised to find there was yet another Jewish-themed song he had written but that I had never heard. When Sheila, eldest of my three sisters, sang it for me it became clear why I had never heard it. As the youngest of the family I had arrived too late! It was too topical; bound to its time. Like another song that I similarly discovered, "Join the ZOA," it was a Zionist song; it foreshadowed the formation of the Jewish homeland. Once the State of Israel came into being it was no longer timely and he dropped it from his repertoire.

When We March Into Palestina was written by my father in 1944 with the tune of the Victory Polka, written by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne in 1943 and recorded by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters. In 1998, I entered it into a Jewish songwriting contest but, since the words and music had to be original, I wrote a new melody for it.

My sister, Sheila, told me the following true story.

The day – or maybe it was the day after – Israel was declared a state, I came home from school, and the first thing I always did when I came home was I turned on the radio. And just as I turned it on the news announcer said, "The sky was streaked with blue today as the Star of David flew high over the newly declared State of Israel." So his words came true, word for word.

# When We March into Palestina

Words: Samuel Schuman; Music: Sandor Schuman











Copyright 1944 Samuel Schuman Copyright 1998 Sandor Schuman

#### WAS THE WORLD WORTHWHILE?

Words and adaptation of traditional melody by Samuel Schuman, 1960 Traditional melody: Blessing before reading the Haftarah

There once was a prophet Who predicted in his writings That the world would go under.

Creation, he stated, Was a great celestial blunder And mankind would be destroyed Within the wrath of its own lightning and thunder.

Still as we silently pray
With the birth of each day
And we ponder the sunrise
The early dawn that comes creeping
The glory of a curly head sleeping.

We then remember that the word was worthwhile.

Copyright 1960 by Samuel Schuman



#### HOW ARE THINGS IN MONTICELLA?

#### Words by Samuel Schuman

Written to How Are Things in Glocca Morra? Words by E. Y. Harburg, music by Burton Lane, 1946

How are things in Monticella?

In that lovely summer rendezvous

Where the city folks come out to play, you hear them say,

Siz a Gan Eden du (This is the Garden of Eden/ Paradise).

How are things in Monticella?

Is that dining room still standing there?

Does the waiter with the greedy eyes still swat the flies,

And does he ever care if they get in a

Bowl of smetina (sour cream).

Do the wives all tell their husbands what they did throughout the week

When the boys come out for weekends, Tooralay.

How are things in Monticella this fine day?

How are things in Monticella?

Is that small casino still so gay?

Do they feed the folks who stay awake some tea and cake

Before they hit the hay?

How are things in Monticella

In that puddle that they call a lake?

Do the bathing beauties by the beach stay out of reach

And do the boys and girls sing *Hatikvah* there,

By that *mikvah* (ritual bath) there?

Do the good girls sit around while all the bad girls go to town

While the old folks shake their heads and sigh "Oy vey." (Woe is me)

How are things in Monticella this fine day.

How are things in Monticella?

Is the little place alive or dead?

Do they pack them in each weekend so you never know

Who's sleeping in your bed.

How are things in Monticella?

Is that dinner menu still the same?

And for breakfast if you come in late, they say you ate

And do the fill you up 'till you sicken there

From boiled chicken there.

Do the wives all make their husbands shell out lots of extra dough

Then they lose it playing poker thru the day

How are things in Monticella this fine day?

How are things in Monticella?

Where the hotel owner is no fool.

In September for the Holy Days he knows it pays

Converting to a shul (synagogue).

How are things in Monticella?

In that modern sportsman's paradise

Where they tell you they have every sort of outdoor sport

But should you dare to ask for the handball court

Then they cut you short.

So you give them your opinion and prepare to go away

But they need you for the *minyan* (prayer quorum) so you stay.

How are things in Monticella this fine day?

#### JOIN THE Z.O.A.

#### Words and music by Samuel Schuman, 1944

Join the Z. O. A. Join the Z. O. A. Carry out your obligation. Join the Z. O. A. Join the Z. O. A. Help us build a mighty nation. Join the Z. O. A.

Tell you wife there's room for her with such a lovely view, We've an active and attractive Hadassah too. So hurry don't delay, join with us today. And we'll have another brother. Join the Z. O. A.

Join the Z. O. A. Join the Z. O. A. Get to be another booster. Join the Z. O. A. Join the Z. O. A. Join the Z. O. A. Ev'ry grocer, Schneider Schuster. Join the Z. O. A.

What the heck'll we get if you join us you may ask, Ev'ry *shekel* (coin) we get helps us complete the task. So hurry don't delay, join with us today. Serve yourself a dish of *yishuv*, join the Z. O. A.

Join the Z. O. A. Join the Z. O. A. Ev'ry member get a member. Join the Z. O. A. Join the Z. O. A. Join the Z. O. A. January thru December. Join the Z. O. A.

Let us try, solidify our forces more and more, And with pride we'll open wider that open door. So hurry don't delay, join with us today. Now the dream of Israel is real. Join the Z. O. A.



#### THE SHUL BELONGS TO EVERYONE

Words by Samuel Schuman, 1948

Written to *The Best Things in Life are Free*. Words by Buddy DeSylva and Lew Brown, music by Ray Henderson, 1927

The shul belongs to everyone
The best things in life are free.
The social hall, the kiddush room
Belong both to you and me.
The gabbai, the shul
The rabbi the school
The sforim (books) divine, they're yours, they're mine.
We also have a sisterhood
The best things in live are free!

The shul belongs to everyone
The best things in life are free.
The kitchen and the boiler room
Belong both to you and me.
Those sweet melodies,
Our choir so fine.
The Board of Trustees!!!
They're yours – they're mine.
But for this Diamond Jubilee
You just had to pay the fee!

#### I WORSHIP YOU

#### Words and music by Samuel Schuman, 1943

Boy In Hebrew School I was such a fool

I didn't know aleph from baze.

 $\label{eq:Girl} \hbox{Girl } \quad \hbox{The girls all knew I was stuck on you}$ 

And I spent my time in a daze.

Boy Through the years it still appears that you are my devotion

So I wrote this song to help along in showing my emotion.

Boy Every time I pray I always say

My dreams will soon come true;

You're my Chumash, my Rasha, so frayg nicht kein kashe (don't ask any questions),

I Worship You.

Every time I look into a book

Your face comes into view;

You're Tanach, you're Gemorrah, the Queen of the Borah (Borough),

I Worship You

You're my Shacharis, my Musaf, my Mincha, my Ma'ariv and more

My Krishma, my Benchin, do I have to mention

You're what I'm praying for, so

Never worry dear, and never fear

That I may be untrue;

You'll be cute as a vible (little wife), you're my Holy Bible,

I Worship You

Girl Every time I pray I always say

My dreams will soon come true;

You posses *alle myles* (all the good traits)

So frayg nicht kein shyles (don't ask any questions),

I Worship You

Every time I cook, or bake a cake

Your face comes into view;

You're the leffel (spoon), the teller (plate), I'm tellin' you feller,

I Worship You

You're my simcha (gladness), my naches (satisfaction/ proud enjoyment),

My glory, my tachles (purpose/ reason for being) and more

My glick (happiness) and my frayden (joy), my dream of Gan Aden (Paradise)

You're what I'm praying for, so

I should worry dear and I should fear

Until this draft is through,

For a Cohen or Levi can still join the Navy,

I Worship You

Together, facing the audience

Thanks for coming here, you've been so dear

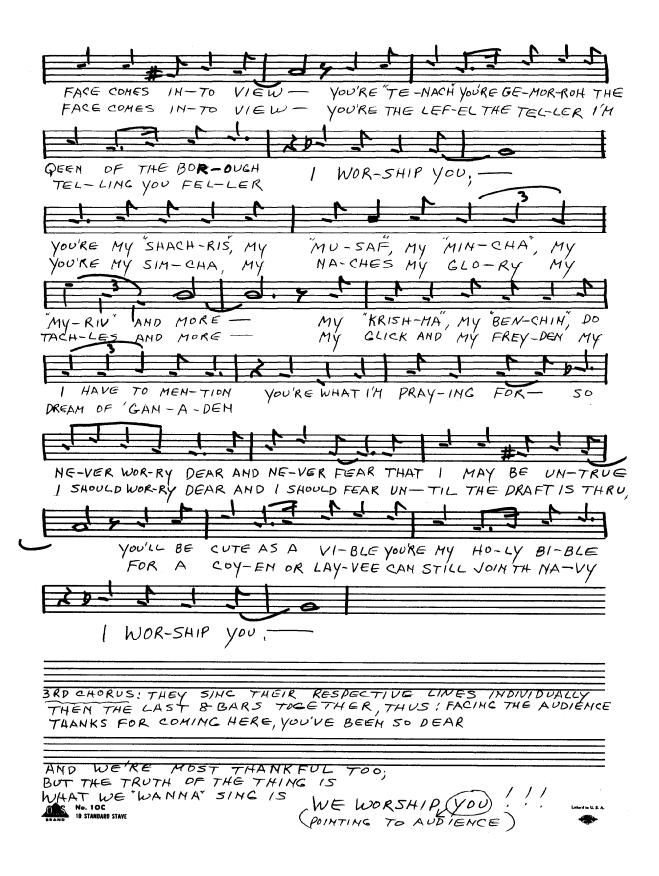
And we're most thankful too

But the truth of the thing is, what we "wanna" sing is

We Worship You!

#### Copyright 1963 Samuel Schuman





#### YOU GOTTA GIVE IT THAT EXTRA PUSH

#### Words and Music by Samuel Schuman

#### Chorus:

A little girl was in a swing She tried to go up high Her playmate shouted from below You can make it if you try.

A certain item wouldn't sell The firm was in the red The boss called all the salesmen in Here's exactly what he said.

The crowd got in the crowded bus The rain came down like sin A fat man tried to get inside But he only got half way in.

The dentist has to pull your tooth No longer can it thrive The needle goes five inches in But the nerve is still alive.

I know a guy who's six foot six At football he's a cinch He ran for touchdown 90 yards And he missed it by an inch.

The juke box simply wouldn't play Went dead without a doubt The serviceman said "can't you see That the plug is half way out!" You gotta give it that extra push You gotta give it that extra push You gotta give it that extra, Give it that extra Give it that extra push.

You try to take a hill in high You nearly reach the top And when you think you've made the grade Then the car decides to stop.

The hall was full of people who Were in no mood for jest The elevator wouldn't come 'Cause the button wasn't pressed.

The tuba player in a band
Was very good no doubt
He pressed the valve, he blew and blew
But the note would not come out.

Two men were moving one piano You should hear them shout They jammed it in between two doors And it wouldn't move in or out.

Contractions coming faster now Delivery soon with luck But labor turns night into day Could it be this baby's stuck?

