



Or Zarua Hebrew School

Devoted to
instilling a
lifelong love of
Judaism
and Israel.

*“At Or Zarua’s
Hebrew School, the
children not only learn
facts, **they learn how
to think and analyze.**”*

Bob Lawrence with
daughter Judy

PHOTOS BY RACHEL FEIERMAN



*“When I think about the Hebrew School
here, my first thought is how different this is
from the school I attended. Ilana has developed
**curriculum rich with history, culture and
current events. At the same time, the
children learn to read and write Hebrew,
study the prophets and learn prayers.**
This school is a wonderful, vibrant place
that my children enjoy coming to, which has
helped solidify their Jewish identity.”*

Barbara Scott Bromberg with sons Elliot and Tobin

PHOTOS BY RACHEL FEIERMAN



We emphasize learning,
explore our rich Jewish
heritage and make Hebrew
School a meaningful, joyous
part of your child's life.



Our Children Love Learning at Our Hebrew School!

We teach Hebrew, Jewish culture, history and religion, and inspire a love of Judaism and Israel in small, friendly classes held at convenient times. There's a joy of discovery and learning in the air at Or Zarua's Hebrew School. We're dedicated to that goal—and you can see it in our children's faces.

- Or Zarua's mission is to enrich the unique spirit and individuality of each student.
- We're committed to inspiring a deep and vibrant awareness of our treasured heritage.
- Learning is not just memorizing, but also questioning and analyzing.
- A low student/teacher ratio ensures individual attention.
- Jewish values and mitzvot are taught in a positive and warm environment.
- Our Hebrew School has a track record of keeping students engaged and involved in learning well beyond Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

Special Youth Programming

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Toddler Fridays <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Morning class● Songs and prayers for Shabbat and holidays● Introduction to Torah through stories, discussion and art	Tot Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Shabbat classes● Special programs for holidays● High Holy Days services	Youth Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Kadima: socializing with other Jewish middle school students● USY events for high school students● Junior Congregation● Teen-led services

Or Zarua Students: Caring Citizens Involved in School, Community and Our World



Radio Days: Students participated in the recording of "Rabbi Wechsler Teaches" on Sirius XM Radio

Twenty-four Congregation Or Zarua Hebrew School students traveled to the radio studios of Sirius XM Satellite Radio, accompanied by school principal Ilana Burgess and music teacher Rob Silverbush. They met with Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Danny Labin, executive producer of Shalom Sesame, the Israeli version of Sesame Street, to participate in the weekly Sunday broadcast of "Rabbi Wechsler Teaches." During the program, Rabbi Wechsler interviewed Mr. Labin, exploring his thoughts on education. Rob led the student group in Hebrew songs and the youngsters posed questions to Rabbi Wechsler during a round of "Ask The Rabbi." Ilana discussed the unique role played by Hebrew School education in the life of Jewish children. She told the story of Oscar Wilde's "The Selfish Giant," a giant who banished the neighborhood children from his beautiful garden. The children were compelled to obey his cruel edict, and all the plants and flowers withered and died. Rabbi Wechsler asked the students what the story meant to them, and Or Zarua's young people reflected on how kids bring things to life because children are the future, and children give happiness to the world.



Or Zarua on Parade: Students, parents, Ilana Burgess and Rabbi Wechsler march in support of Israel during the annual Fifth Avenue Israel Day Parade

Children and parents celebrate Purim with a festive program of singing, decorating Purim masks and the presentation of a first grade students' version of The Megillah, the Scroll of Esther.



The Whole Megillah: Displayed by first graders for their Mini-Spiel



Once a month our older students bring food to a location that regularly feeds the homeless. Seen here with teacher Jenny Wallner, the teens cook, set the table and serve the meal.

Bridging the Gap: Students visit and bring friendship and gifts of food to the homeless

Beyond the Classroom

- A wonderful Sukkah experience.** During the Sukkah sleepover, children decorate the sukkah, eat dinner, listen to guest speakers and engage in a discussion of how we light the Hanukkah candles and what makes a sukkah kosher.
- Honoring the Sabbath.** Separate programs for toddlers and children from age six to pre-bar and bat mitzvah. The focus is on the portion of the week, services led by children, Kiddush and a Shabbat story.
- Reaching beyond our community.** On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, students put on a talent show and raise money for children at a school in Sderot, Israel.
- Helping at Ronald McDonald House.** USY high school students prepare sandwiches for visitors at Ronald McDonald House.
- Collecting for Jewish Family Services.** As Hanukkah approaches, students collect toys and books for the Jewish Family Services to assist Jewish children who would otherwise not receive a gift for the holiday.
- Green letters.** Students write letters to the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel asking them to help preserve the environment.
- Participating at holocaust memorial service.** Teens participate in reading, singing and playing music along with adults for the holocaust memorial service.

*“My daughter learns about many things at Hebrew School. She also has a great time there – which fosters in her **an enthusiasm for Jewish education and pride in her Jewish identity.**”*

Caroline Fox



PHOTO BY RACHEL FEIERMAN

*“Or Zarua’s Hebrew School is **creating analytical minds**—not just throwing information at our students.”*

Adrian Langer

*“I love reconnecting with the shul that Bat Mitzvahed me and made me an adult—and being able to give knowledge to others. **I also love what the students teach me.** There’s a real sense of connection.”*

Ilana Rayport, teaching assistant

Is it your goal to see your children enthusiastic and enlightened by their Hebrew School experience? A wonderfully rewarding and gratifying path to Jewish learning and understanding awaits. For more information or to register for the next semester visit www.orzarua.org or call Ilana Burgess, principal, at 212-452-2310 ext. 15.

We take teaching seriously. And make learning a joy.

Congregation

127 East 82 Street, New York

 **Or Zarua**

A TRADITIONAL, EGALITARIAN, AND PARTICIPATORY CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE