

# Congregation OR ZARUA

NEWSLETTER / VOLUME 17:3

TEVET / SHEVAT / ADAR I 5765

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2005

## OR ZARUA CELEBRATES ITS SWEET 16 AND 350 YEARS OF JEWS IN AMERICA

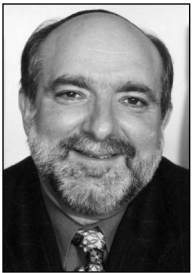
Congregation Or Zarua is celebrating its Sweet 16 and the 350th anniversary of the first Jewish settlers' arrival in America. Our January and February 2005 programs include:

- The "Our Precious Legacies" exhibition in the social hall displaying treasured objects from our own families' histories.
- A Shabbat Lunch on January 15 with Congregant Barry Feldman speaking on "Jews in Colonial New York:

From Recife to the Revolution."

- Or Zarua's Sweet 16 on February 2 with Rabbi David Ellenson speaking on "After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to Modernity" for the annual Lucy Dawidowicz Lecture.
- A Shabbat Dinner on February 11 with Dr. Hasia Diner speaking on "A History of Their Own: Jewish Women in America."

### *Lucy Dawidowicz Lecture by Rabbi David Ellenson*



On February 2 at 8:00 p.m., Rabbi David Ellenson, President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), will deliver the Lucy

Dawidowicz Lecture on the occasion of Congregation Or Zarua's 16th birthday.

His topic will be "After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to Modernity."

An HUC-JIR faculty member since 1979, Rabbi Ellenson currently holds the Gus Waterman Herrman Presidential Chair and is the I.H. and Anna Grancell Professor of Jewish Religious Thought at HUC-JIR, Los Angeles. He is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Ordained in 1977, Rabbi Ellenson

holds a doctorate from Columbia University and master's degrees from Columbia, HUC-JIR, and the University of Virginia. He is a fellow at the Sholom Hartman Institute of Jerusalem and a fellow and lecturer at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Hebrew University. He has been a visiting professor of history at the Jewish Theological Seminary and is a

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### *Shabbat Lunch, January 15* **Barry Feldman**

The history of early New York Jewry will be the topic of discussion at our Shabbat Lunch on January 15 following services. OZ member and native New Yorker Barry Feldman will speak on "Jews in Colonial New York: From Recife to the Revolution."

Barry Feldman is currently a museum educator at the New York Historical Society, a volunteer docent at the Eldridge Street Project and a licensed New York City tour guide and lecturer specializing in Family Heritage Tours. His presentations examine how early New York Jews adapted to the general culture  
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### *Shabbat Dinner, February 11* **Hasia Diner**

Our guest speaker at the Or Zarua Shabbat Dinner on Friday, February 11 will be Hasia Diner, the Paul and Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History and Director of the Goldstein-Goren Center for American Jewish History at New York University. The topic of Dr. Diner's talk will be "A History of Their Own: Jewish Women in America." Dinner will follow services, which will begin at 5:11 p.m.

Professor Diner, a Wisconsin native and New York resident, received her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and her doctorate from the University of Illinois in Chicago.  
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ק"ק אור זרוע  
CONGREGATION

**OR  
ZARUA**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE  
FOUNDED 1989

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PAULETTE SCHNEIDER, *Newsletter Editor*

# YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

By Ilana Burgess

In the last few months, the Hebrew School and Youth Education Department offered wonderful activities in addition to the daily classes.

- During the Hebrew School Shabbat Service, students had a chance to listen to an adult Torah reader and study the history of a Torah that was saved from the Holocaust. Adults are invited to come and study with us at the Hebrew School services. We learn about the structure of the siddur and the meaning of the prayers and weekly portion. You do not need to be a parent to join us.

- Our fourth graders labeled books to be sent to Israel. Students there will use the books for research and for advancing their knowledge of English.

- Middle and high school students helped to make the collages for Or Zarua's "Our Precious Legacies" exhibition.



Clockwise from top right: Eve Engel (left), Emily Margolin and Rae Album; Jonah Hecht (left), Sam Album and Hannah Weintraub; Sam Rosenfield (left) and Sam Beller; Jonah Adler (left), Morah Yael and Zachary Gold.

## Editor's Note

The *Congregation Or Zarua Newsletter* welcomes articles submitted by Congregants. Please email your text and/or images to the office at [admin@orzarua.org](mailto:admin@orzarua.org). We may edit your article for length and clarity. If possible, digital images should be high-resolution files at 300 dpi.

Kindly submit articles for the March/April 2005 issue by Monday, January 24.

**Keep us up to date.** Please make sure that we have your current mailing address and phone numbers, as well as your email address so we can send you our weekly email alerts. Call Lidiya at 212-452-2310 (ext. 10) to update your contact information, share your family's good news (such as births and marriages) or to notify us of an illness in your family.

## Hebrew School Events

### JANUARY 2005

<b>Monday, January 3</b>	Classes resume after Winter Vacation
<b>Saturday, January 8</b>	Hebrew School Shabbat Class, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Saturday, January 8</b>	Movie: "Operation Thunderbolt," 6:30 p.m.
<b>Monday, January 17</b>	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no classes)
<b>Monday, January 24</b>	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 7:00 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 2005

<b>Friday, February 4</b>	Fourth and Fifth Grade Shabbat Dinner, (following Kabbalat Shabbat)
<b>Saturday, February 12</b>	Hebrew School Shabbat Class, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Monday, February 21</b>	Presidents' Week (no classes)
<b>Monday, February 28</b>	Classes resume after Presidents' Week

## “OPERATION THUNDERBOLT”

Saturday, January 8 • 6:30 p.m. • 4th Floor Library

For the first time at Or Zarua, the hit Israeli movie, “Operation Thunderbolt,” will be screened in the OZ library on January 8, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. In the summer of 1976, an Air France jet filled with Israeli and Jewish passengers was hijacked and diverted to deepest Africa. While the world watched silently from afar, Israel undertook a dramatic rescue operation to save the hostages. If you have forgotten these events from 30 years ago, or if you have mature children (age 11 years or older) who wish to learn about that fateful summer, please join us to watch this suspenseful, exciting film (Hebrew with English subtitles).



### David Ellenson

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faculty member of the Wexner Heritage Foundation. Rabbi Ellenson is a native of Brookline, Massachusetts.

Author of over 200 articles and reviews, Rabbi Ellenson has lectured extensively in the United States and abroad on diverse topics in modern Jewish history, ethics and thought. His writings include *Tradition in Transition: Orthodoxy, Halakhah and the Boundaries of a Modern Jewish Identity* (1989) and *Between Tradition and Culture: The Dialectics of Jewish Religion and Identity in the Modern World* (1994). In 1990, he was nominated for the National Jewish Book Council’s Award in Jewish History for his work *Rabbi Esriel Hildesheimer and the Creation of a Modern Jewish Orthodoxy*. He co-edited *Bits of Honey: Essays for Samson H. Levey* (1993) and is presently completing, with Daniel Gordis, a study tentatively titled *For the Sake of Heaven: Conversion, Identity and the Politics of Modern Jewish Orthodoxy*.

We look forward to having Rabbi David Ellenson celebrate with us on February 2. Please call the synagogue (ext. 39) or respond through the website by Friday, January 28 to reserve a seat at the lecture. The OZ birthday party will follow.

### Barry Feldman

*continued from page 1*

and how the city responded to its increasing Jewish population.

Barry has spent his career in education and research. He earned two master’s degrees from Yeshiva University, one in School Counseling and one in Administration of Guidance Services. He also earned a master’s degree from the City University of New York in Supervision and Administration. He was a professor at Mercy College, and within the New York City school system he held various positions including Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Director of Pupil Personnel, and Consultant in Labor Relations.

As a fellow at the YIVO Institute for Higher Jewish Learning, Barry’s area of concentration was Ethnicity and Social History of Polish Jews. He has also researched the Lamed Vav Tzadikim and other topics in the YIVO archives and at Columbia University, Jewish Theological Seminary and Hebrew Union College.

Barry’s talk on the Jews of colonial New York promises to be enlightening. Please call the synagogue (ext. 39) or respond through the website by Tuesday, January 11 to place a reservation for the Shabbat Lunch.

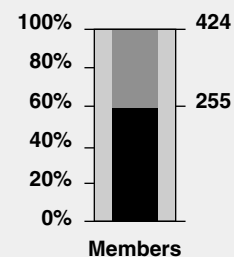
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## KOL NIDRE APPEAL UPDATE

### Our Goal

100% Participation  
(at a level comfortable for  
each Congregant)



**We’re On The Way!**

Thanks to all Congregants  
who have already given.

# HESED COMMITTEE

## *Annual Israeli Night; Third Blood Drive*

### ANNUAL ISRAELI NIGHT AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

Or Zarua will host its annual Israeli Night at the Ronald McDonald House (405 East 73rd Street), a residence for children in treatment for serious illnesses at local hospitals. This joyous evening features entertainment by OZ members and the opportunity to interact with young patients and their families from around the globe. Israeli Night provides these families with a catered dinner and a welcome distraction from illness through song and laughter. The Hesed Committee needs up to 15 volunteers to:

- Donate kosher desserts—cupcakes, cookies, pastry, etc. (to be dropped off at the House on January 27 by 5:30 p.m., although alternative arrangements can be made)
- Assist with set-up and decorations (from 5:15 p.m.)
- Serve food (from 6:00 p.m.)
- Clean up (from 7:00 p.m.)
- Help lead singing and/or folk dancing (from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Contact **Stephanie Failla at 212-480-3111 (days) and 917-941-3199 (evenings) for information or to volunteer.** Note that children under the age of 18 cannot volunteer. Space is limited, so please call as soon as possible.

Please also consider a donation to the Or Zarua Hesed Fund to help defray the cost of this and other Hesed Committee events.

### THIRD ANNUAL OZ BLOOD DRIVE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

It's now a tradition: in the midst of winter, Or Zarua donors roll up their sleeves and give generously by donating blood and/or registering in the national Bone Marrow Donor Registry. On February 13, the synagogue will be vibrant with volunteers for different Hesed activities. Along with the blood drive there will be a variety of children's Hesed projects,

including the preparation of sandwiches for distribution to the homeless. The day starts with morning minyan at 8:45 a.m. and includes a delicious brunch.

Who can give? Just about everyone who is at least 17 years old and weighs at least 110 pounds can be a blood donor. (If you are over 75, bring a letter from your doctor.) If you have spent a significant amount of time overseas in the past few years, please double check before making an appointment.

Even if you don't wish to donate blood, please join the Bone Marrow Donor Registry of the National Marrow Donor Program, a national network of medical organizations that identifies potential bone marrow donors around the country and matches donors with patients who might be treated with a bone marrow transplant. While the odds of matching are low, many patients are successfully treated for leukemia and other diseases with bone marrow transplants. Jews in particular are needed as potential donors because of the likelihood that they will be a close match for other Jews with similar ancestry. Registering requires a simple blood test and takes just a few minutes.

This year we are seeking at least 65 potential donors to reach our goal of 50 pints collected. Please sign up and bring your friends and family members to donate as well.

Contact **James Rothman at 212-472-1739 or jarohtman@yahoo.com for more information, to make an appointment to donate, or to volunteer at this important event (you don't have to donate to volunteer!).** Please consider making a donation to Or Zarua's Hesed Fund to support this effort—though the collection of blood is free, each bone marrow registration costs about \$25.

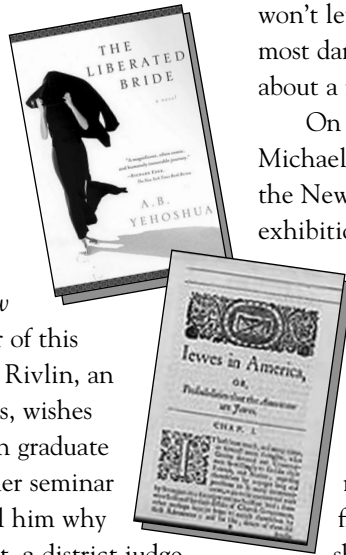
**For more information about OZ's Hesed Committee, please contact Lesley Palmer at 212-772-9673 or Lesley@nyc.rr.com.** Your donations to the Hesed Fund sustain these and other activities, such as the Monday night meal serving for the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter's residence on East 81st Street. Please join us!

## Clean Out Your Bathroom Cabinets!

**Y**ou know those little bottles of shampoo and lotion that you can't resist taking home from hotels or picking up at the local pharmacy "just in case"? Well, clear them off your vanity shelf and put them to use! Please donate toiletries (unused travel-size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, bars of soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste) for distribution to the homeless. One of the activities for children during the OZ Blood Drive will be the preparation of brown-bag meals along with toiletries for those in need. Drop your donations in the collection boxes in the social hall and on the sixth floor during the month of February.

# Or Zarua Book Discussions

Congregants and their guests are invited to our discussion of acclaimed Israeli author A.B. Yehoshua's new novel, *The Liberated Bride*, on Sunday evening, January 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Or Zarua library. Pat Davidson will lead our look at this exploration of relationships at once personal and political—man and wife, father and son, teacher and pupil, Israeli and Arab. *The New Yorker* wrote: "The three brides at the center of this gentle novel all refuse to do what Yochanan Rivlin, an aging Israeli professor of Near Eastern studies, wishes them to do. Samaher, a depressed Palestinian graduate student who is newly married, won't finish her seminar paper; Galya, soon to be a mother, won't tell him why she divorced his son; and Rivlin's wife, Hagit, a district judge,



won't let him worry himself to death about it. Yehoshua, the most daring of the major Israeli writers, tells a simple story about a region that complicates all it touches."

On Sunday evening, March 6, we will have as guest speaker Michael Terry, chief librarian of the Dorot Jewish Division of the New York Public Library. He will discuss the wonderful exhibition of original documents he curated in celebration of the 350th anniversary of the arrival of Jews in America: "Jews in America: Conquistadors, Knickerbockers, Pilgrims and the Hope of Israel." *The New York Times* lauded Terry as having done "what a consummate collector does: gather unusual materials from disparate places and juxtapose them, revealing hidden resonances, creating connections and, finally, informing those less learned about what is being shown, with finely detailed, often playful commentary."

## MAKE LAUGHTER AND FRIENDS AT PURIM SPIEL

**First Rehearsal**  
Sunday, January 30, 2-5 p.m.

**Second Rehearsal**  
Thursday, February 3, 7-10 p.m.

*All rehearsals will be on Sunday  
afternoons and Thursday evenings.*

**Purim Spiel**  
Thursday, March 24, 6 p.m.

We need everyone there from the beginning, so come to the Or Zarua social hall!

- actors • singers • narrators
- schlepers • directors • producers
- designers • stage hands • ushers
- fun-loving kids & adults

*Please pass this announcement on to  
your friends and fellow OZ'ers.*

*RSVP to our producer,  
Barbara Sassoon, at barbdee@aol.com.*

## MIDWINTER JOY IN THE TORAH

By Ron Meyers

Once the last Hanukkah candle has burned down, we are returned to the darkness of the winter. The days are getting minutely longer and the small holiday of Tu B'Shevat (on January 25 this year) stirs our first anticipation of the still-distant springtime. But apart from Tu B'Shevat, even our holiday calendar is in blackout for two full months until Purim comes along.

Fortunately, we have a holiday every week with Shabbat, and during these quiet months we have a number of special Shabbat observances. The first comes as we read of the climactic exodus from Egypt in parshat Beshalah (read this year on January 22). As the Israelites pass through the parted seas, Moses sings, Miriam sings, the people sing, in a rare

display of spontaneous delight and gratitude. The Song at the Sea is enshrined in our daily morning prayers, and the Shabbat when we read it is elevated on our calendar as Shabbat Shirah—the Shabbat of Song. The haftarah for Shabbat Shirah contains another song, that of the prophetess Deborah, which she sings after winning a decisive victory that inaugurated a long era of peace. There is a tradition on Shabbat Shirah of sending children out to feed the birds so that the birds, too, will be encouraged to join us in song.

The holiday of Simhat Torah may be a distant memory at this point in the year, but our joy in the Torah shines through from week to week, brightening even the dark days of winter.

**Bimah Ramp** Congregation Or Zarua's bimah can be made wheelchair-accessible with our portable ramp. If you know that you will be attending a Shabbat service and will need the ramp, please call the office (ext. 10) by early Friday afternoon to let us know.

## HEVRA KADISHA ZAYIN ADAR DINNER

Thursday, March 17, 2005

The Hevra Kadisha of Or Zarua will host its annual Zayin Adar Dinner on the evening of March 17, 2005. Zayin Adar, the *yahrzeit* of Moses, is the traditional date for Hevra Kadisha members to join with the rest of the Congregation for fellowship and recognition of the group's important work.

When a loss occurs within the community, the Hevra Kadisha provides *shomrim* to accompany the deceased and read psalms until the funeral, performs *taharas* (preparation of the deceased for burial), delivers meals of condolence and supplies for the home during *shiva*, and assists with supporting *minyanim*.

The Zayin Adar Dinner will be held at Park East Grill, where a beautifully prepared celebratory meal was enjoyed last year. Please call the synagogue (ext. 39) or use the website to make your reservations.

## OZ HOSTS ME'AH CLASS

By Sara Stone

Every Tuesday evening you will find twenty-six OZ Congregants gathered in the library for study. This is OZ's pioneer Me'ah class. Me'ah is a two-year intensive adult Jewish learning program developed by Boston's Hebrew College. This year, with the support of the United Jewish Appeal, the program has expanded to the New York metropolitan area. Or Zarua was fortunate to be one of only two New York City sites selected to host Me'ah.

We have begun our studies with the Hebrew Bible—Tanakh—led by a wonderful instructor, Diane Sharon, who received a doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary and is currently leading the Youth Studies Department at Young Judaea. Despite our busy days, we all try to do the assigned reading, which is not overwhelming, so that we can ask questions. Many of us arrive after a long day at work or at home, but as soon as the class starts we are quickly engrossed in the material as Diane leads us with lightening speed through the Bible and beyond. No looking at your watch in this class!

Yes, we all know the stories of Bereshit (Genesis) and Shemot (Exodus), but suddenly we are seeing them in a new light. What values are imparted by the

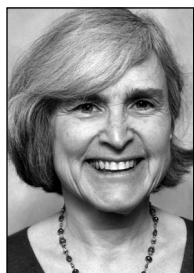
Tanakh and how do they compare to values imparted by stories of other cultures in the Ancient Near East? Who was chosen: Cain or Abel? What does it mean to be chosen? What lessons can be learned from all the stories of sibling rivalry? Why didn't Abraham object to killing Isaac? What are the plagues really about? We could spend two years on this material alone but we have only ten weeks!

After our ten sessions on Tanakh, we move on to the rabbinic period. Next year we will study the medieval and modern periods of Jewish history. Each section of the course will be taught by a different instructor who is an expert in the subject. And yes, from time to time Rabbi Wechsler will make guest appearances so that we can share with him all we have learned and hear his responses. How fortunate we are to have this experience.

As Diane has told us, *shivi'im panim la Torah*, the Torah has seventy faces. With a lifetime of study, there is always something new to see. Our class has barely scratched the surface, yet we are already eager for more. That is exactly the point of Me'ah—to increase our knowledge, but also to whet our desire to learn more. The course has more than lived up to its advanced billing.

## Hasia Diner

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Prior to her tenure at NYU, she was a professor in the Department of American Studies at the University of Maryland.

A prolific writer, Dr. Diner has been the recipient of a senior post-doctoral fellowship at Princeton. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Jewish

Research and a member of the Society of American Historians. She was nominated for the James Beard Award in the "Writing About Food" category for her work entitled *Hungering for American: Italian, Irish and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration* (2002). Dr. Diner is also one of the twenty living historians included in *American Women Historians, 1700s-1900s* (1998). Her books include *The Jews of the United States, 1645-2000* (2004) and *In the Almost Promised Land: American Jews and Blacks, 1915-1935* (1995). She also co-authored *Her Works Praise Her: A History of Jewish Women in*

*America from Colonial Times to the Present* (2002) and is a co-editor of *Dictionary of American History*.

Dr. Diner is a frequent lecturer and conference speaker, and she was on the grant selection committee for the American Memory Project for the Library of Congress. She was also involved with the films, *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg* and *The Irish in America*. We are very pleased to welcome Hasia Diner.

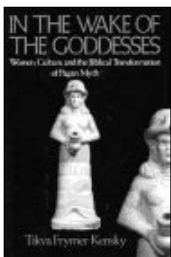
Please call the synagogue (ext. 39) or respond through the website by Tuesday, February 8 to place a reservation for the Shabbat Dinner.

## Me'ah Books in the OZ Library

On Tuesday evenings, twenty-six Me'ah students are engaged in active learning with our Biblical Studies instructor, Diane Sharon. In order to share our learning with the entire Congregation, we have dedicated a shelf in the OZ library to books used in the Me'ah class and additional books recommended by the instructor. Come spend some time in the library and read these books. Here are some recent acquisitions:



*Love and Joy:  
Law, Language  
and Religion in  
Ancient Israel*  
by Yochanan Muffs



*In the Wake of  
the Goddesses:  
Women, Culture  
and the Biblical  
Transformation  
of Pagan Myth*  
by Tikva Frymer-Kensky



*The Death and  
Resurrection of the  
Beloved Son:  
The Transformation  
of Child Sacrifice in  
Judaism and Christianity*  
by Jon Levenson



*Old Testament Study*  
by John B. Hayes

## Meals with OZ Congregants

**SHABBAT LUNCH WITH BARRY FELDMAN**

**Saturday, January 15**

*Immediately following services and kiddush*

**SHABBAT DINNER WITH HASIA DINER**

**Erev Shabbat, Friday, February 11**

*Services begin at 5:06 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

***Reservations for all meals are essential.***

*\$25 adults; \$15 children (ages 5-12); under age 5, no charge*

RSVP: Tel 212-452-2310 (ext. 39) / Fax 212-452-2301 / [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org)

## What can you do for Israel this year?

1. You can help further religious pluralism.
2. You can ensure that the government of Israel hears the voice of Conservative Jews.
3. You can resolve to strengthen your support for Israel and learn how to advocate on her behalf.
4. You can join MERCAZ USA, the voice of Conservative Jews for Israel!

Visit the MERCAZ website, [www.mercazusa.org](http://www.mercazusa.org), or contact the MERCAZ office for a membership application.

# MERCAZ USA

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# SPREAD THE WORD

By Debbie Breznay and Pamela Gold

Like most other Congregations, we assemble in our sanctuary at the daily minyan and on Shabbat and Jewish holidays to pray and study together. At other times we gather as a community to serve our synagogue and our greater community. On Monday night, November 15, we met at the home of Rabbi Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler to welcome new members to Or Zarua. The New Members Reception exemplified the best that Or Zarua has to offer in the way of hospitality. There was lively conversation, plentiful and delicious food, and most importantly, a very warm and welcoming atmosphere. We were delighted to be able to share the pleasures of Or Zarua with each other, and we are very grateful to our gracious hosts.

The Congregation has a wonderful New Members

Committee, ably led by Meredith Katz. Each and every one of us who treasures membership in Or Zarua and is eager to sustain the strength and spirit of Or Zarua would benefit by actively introducing our Congregation to family and friends. And that is what we are asking Congregants to do, with the same enthusiasm we all shared at the New Members Reception.

In personally spreading the word about Or Zarua, we give meaning to the Congregation's Mission Statement, which is memorialized on our web site: "Out of that infinite yield of light freely bestowed upon the world by a profuse and loving Creator, may we, in turn, seed, nurture and cultivate light, and live to scatter joy and light among ourselves and our children and amid the house of Israel." Then, we will truly be living up to our name.

## *OZ's First Shabbat Learners' Service*

Saturday, January 22, 2005 • Or Zarua Library, 4th Floor

**YOU ASKED FOR IT...AND YOU'LL HAVE IT!**

Come join our first Shabbat Learners' Service, modelled on our well-received High Holy Day Learners' Service. We'll all learn together. Whatever your background, there is always plenty to learn.

We'll focus on the meaning of prayer, Torah study and "how-to" skills.

### WWW.ORZARUA.ORG

Our new website is a great resource both for existing and prospective members.

Use [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org) to:

- View our calendar and check service times
- Sign up for events
- Make donations on-line
- Learn about educational programs for adults and for children
- Keep informed about our Congregation

## OZY SERVICES

Each Shabbat, we have three different grade-level services:

### Infant through Kindergarten

11:00 a.m. to noon

### Alef Bet Corner

First through Third Grades

10:00 a.m. to noon

### Junior Congregation

Fourth through Sixth Grades

10:00 a.m. to noon

Each month during the school year, we have a special Hebrew School Shabbat service, which all Hebrew School students in the third through sixth grades are encouraged to attend. Students from other schools are welcome as well.

The next Hebrew School Shabbat Classes will take place on Saturday, January 8 and Saturday, February 12.



# YOM TOV IN CENTRAL EUROPE

By Michael Schwartz

My wife and I recently visited Budapest, Krakow and Prague—in that order. Krakow was on the list because of its proximity to Auschwitz/Birkenau, where of course we intended to visit and say kaddish. But by happenstance, our itinerary put us in Budapest on Sukkot and in Prague on Simchat Torah. I wish I could say we'd been smart enough to plan things this way—to “book-end” our trip to Auschwitz/Birkenau with celebrations of Yom Tov—but we weren't. Instead, the dates fell that way by coincidence, one of those coincidences that put a little of the miraculous into everyday Jewish life.

In Budapest, Sukkot services at the Dohany Street Synagogue, the Great Synagogue (Nagy Zsinagoga) of the city, located in the old Jewish quarter. The building is huge; it is the largest Jewish house of worship in the world except for New York's Temple Emanuel. It is reminiscent of Temple Emanuel in its layout—a long, high, almost cathedral-like interior, with the bimah in the very front of the congregation—but unlike Temple Emanuel, the interior is extensively decorated and the exterior has a decidedly Moorish feel. After services, kiddush in the sukkah. And then a walk in the courtyard behind the synagogue, where a weeping willow made of metal memorializes the victims of the Shoah. It is a

brilliant day of Indian summer.

Services were well-attended, perhaps by as many as 250 people. But I am told by our guide that the center of Jewish life in Budapest these days has moved to a different quarter: nearer to the Danube, and interestingly, near the apartment complex where Raoul Wallenberg lived and did his blessed work of saving Hungarian Jews from the Germans. There are two other older synagogues in the Jewish quarter—an Orthodox shul of astonishing beauty and a Conservative synagogue (Rumbach Sebestyen) that is in disrepair and is boarded up. We were told that a Japanese (!) philanthropist began its renovation, but ran out of funds.

Our other book-end was Prague. The Staranova Synagoga, also called the Altneushul (Old-New Synagogue), was the site for Simhat Torah services. These fell two days after we had walked through Auschwitz and Birkenau on another brilliant day of Indian summer, with the slim silver birches for which Birkenau is named rising into a perfect sky.

The hakafot in Prague were exhilarating. The synagogue has its bimah in the center, and the dancing and singing around it went on literally for an hour. The congregants were young, younger than those in Budapest, and full of energy. Everyone got an aliyah. I davened the

whole service, but many Americans (or so they appeared) came in for a portion of the hakafot—whose time had been posted on the synagogue door—and took their turns in the chorus line and at the bimah. An imperishable memory to dance and sing Jewishly in a city where, even after the Shoah, Jews were singled out for show trials and persecution.

And to add to the small miracle of these two hagim, I learned that the thirteenth-century rabbi and halakhist Isaac ben Moses, although known to history as Isaac of Vienna, had reputedly been born in Prague, my Simhat Torah home away from Or Zaruah this year. Rabbi Isaac's immediate significance to me? He is the author of a great ritual and halakhik work whose title is—the other small miracle—Sefer Or Zaruah. On my return from our wonderful trip, I was fortunate enough to find a copy of this seminal work—Rabbi Wechsler tells me it includes the first compendium of Ashkenazi religious practices—for Or Zaruah's library.

Much as I love our holidays at home, I wouldn't have missed for the world observing them this year in Budapest and Prague. It is by far the largest of the many miracles this trip included that we can still celebrate our holidays there, in the aftermath of what we saw in Poland in between the two celebrations.

## Or Zaruah Super Bowl Party, February 6

Come and watch the Super Bowl with your friends at our third annual Or Zaruah Super Bowl Party to be held in the synagogue on February 6. Enjoy a family atmosphere and great kosher food from Dougie's, including ribs, chili, giant “sub” sandwiches, buffalo wings, dessert, and much more.

Minhah/Ma'ariv starts at 5:00 p.m.



in the sanctuary. The game should begin about 6:00 p.m. and will be shown on a big-screen TV in the social hall. All are welcome. Voluntary contributions may be made to the Congregation's Hesed Fund or Minyan Fund.

Please contact Sheldon Adler (212-735-2136 or [sadler@skadden.com](mailto:sadler@skadden.com)) to let us know that you plan to attend.

# THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

## MAZAL TOV

Birgit and Franck Benayoun, on the birth of their son, Joshua  
 Anna and Ben Charkow, on the birth of their son, Micah Beryl  
 Marcia Kalin and Stephen Rayport, on Ilana's Bat Mitzvah  
 Eleanor Merczinski and David Hait, on the birth of their daughter, Rachel Chaia  
 Chaya Moskowitz and Edward Manning, in honor of their marriage  
 Jane and Warren Rosen, on Raechel's Bat Mitzvah  
 Randi Schatz and Joseph Allerhand, on Bruce's Bar Mitzvah

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:  
 Anne and Philip Becker  
 Linda and Neal Stoll  
 Meredith Stoll

## CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to:  
 Miriam Frankel, on the death of her daughter, Hinda Levy  
 Carol Goldberg, on the death of her brother, Jerry Kaufman  
 Rachel Maidenbaum and Ora Ramat, on the death of their mother, Esther Maidenbaum Schreiber  
 Lorraine Shapiro, on the death of her brother, Arthur Ackerman  
 Linda Shulsky, on the death of her brother, Mark Rosenfeld  
 Joshua Tannenbaum, on the death of his father, William Tannenbaum  
 Sharon Teitelbaum, on the death of her mother, Beatrice Goldstein  
*May they and their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*

## CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions listed were received between October 1, 2004 and November 30, 2004.  
 Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.

## KIDDUSH FUND

Marcel and Sheldon Adler, in honor of their 25th anniversary  
 Susan and Stanley Alt, in honor of the anniversary of Stanley's Bar Mitzvah  
 Pamela and Eric Fuchs, in honor of Ariella's Bat Mitzvah  
 Linda and Alfred Greisman, in honor of the wedding of Jared Greisman and Beth Goldstein  
 Francine and Samuel Klagsbrun, in honor of Hannah Leah's wedding  
 Chaya Moskowitz and Edward Manning, in honor of their aufruf  
 Helene Ruddy, in honor of the aufruf of her son, Jeffrey, and Karen Davidson

## GENERAL FUND

Willi and Arthur Aeder, in memory of Arthur Ackerman  
 Adam Eidelberg  
 Linda Eidelberg, in memory of Benjamin Basch, Rose Basch and Albert Eidelberg  
 Laurel and Ran Eisenbruch, in memory of Bill Tannenbaum  
 Karen and Eyal Farage, in memory of Sylvia Wachsberger  
 Barry Feldman, in honor of Hannah Leah's marriage  
 Lynne Galler, in memory of her mother, Beatrice Galler  
 Diana and Harrison Goldin  
 Miriam Frankel  
 Isadora and Jesse Hecht, in memory of Jack and Hannah Silverman  
 Patti and Jerry Josepher, in honor of getting Hagbah on Simhat Torah  
 Susan and Edward Kopelowitz, in memory of J. Goldberg and Betty Kopelowitz

Judith and David Lewittes, in memory of the yearzeit of Israel Lewittes  
 Karen and Robert Meister, in honor of the marriage of Caroline and Scott Lerner  
 Jacob Oberman, in memory of Hinda Levy, and in memory of Muriel and William Tannenbaum  
 Joyce and Arnold Roth, in memory of Jennie Simon  
 Robert Schallop, in memory of his father's yearzeit  
 Sharon Seiler and Charles Spielholz, in honor of Sam Kupferberg's Bar Mitzvah  
 Lorraine and Herbert Shapiro, in memory of Cele Shapiro on her yearzeit, and in honor of Rabbi Wechsler's inspirational leadership  
 Marilyn Shapiro, in memory of Victor Nerfin's yearzeit, for the first yearzeit of her father, Eli Shapiro, and on the occasion of the yearzeit of her mother, Sarah Shapiro



U.S. Marines perform the "Crossing the Swords Ceremony" for the wedding of Chaya Moskowitz and Captain Edward Manning in the Or Zarua social hall on November 14, 2004.

# THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

Arlene and Sheldon Simon, in memory  
of Mark Rosenfeld, Linda Shulsky's  
brother

Dale and Rafael Zaklad

## HESED FUND

Robin and Julia Blumenthal, in honor of  
Bonnie Maslin's new book

Pamela and Mark Gold, in honor of the  
Roizen family

Mina Greenstein

Isadora and Jesse Hecht, for books for  
Israel

Martha and Fred Mendelsohn, in honor  
of the birth of Liora Yunatanov

Pearl and Owen Pell, for books for Israel

Ruth and Samuel Perelson

Suzan and Daniel Rosen

Judith and Barry Schneider

Jill Shapiro, in honor of her parents,  
Lorraine and Herbert Shapiro

Sharon, Charlie and Talia Spielholz,  
in celebration of Simhat Torah

Lynda Wertheim, for books for Israel

Laurie, Alan and Aliza Yaillen, in honor  
of Mariel Schneider's Bat Mitzvah,

Shira Engel's Bat Mitzvah, Pat and  
Alan Davidson's 50th anniversary,  
and the marriage of Hannah Leah  
and Bezalel

## HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Lynne Galler, in memory of her mother,  
Beatrice Galler

Patti and Jerry Josepher, in memory of  
Benjamin Josepher's yahrzeit

Linda Shulsky, in honor of Rabbi  
Wechsler

Vera and Robert Silver, for Yom Kippur  
and Shemini Atzeret Yizkor; in memory  
of Mo Kraushar's father, Abraham; in  
memory of Linda Shulsky's brother,  
Mark Rosenfeld; and in memory of  
Lorraine Shapiro's brother, Arthur  
Ackerman

Abby, Philip and Lev Thomas, in memory  
of Robert Silver's grandmother

## KOL NIDRE APPEAL

Vivian and Daniel Bernstein

Shelley Binder

Robin Blumenthal

Marilyn and Perry Braunstein

Cynthia D. Brodsky

Dina Bromberg and Barrett Sinowitz

Sally Brooks

Linda Dershowitz

Ellen and Stanley Deutsch

Betsy and Ira Dizengoff

Ellen Donath

Laurel and Ran Eisenbruch

Barry Feldman

Miriam Frankel

Judith Friedlander

Karen and Henry Glanternik

Elizabeth Goldberg

Richard Goldberg

Bilha Goodman

Trudy and Robert Gottesman

Ellen and Said Hawa

Dore Hollander

Ruth Horowitz

Caroline and Alan Ilberman

Julie Karp

Clarita and Abraham Kaufman

Joy and Louis Kimmelman

Barbara Kleinberg

Judith Lewis

Judith and David Lewittes

Margret and Steven Magid

Benjamin Marcus

Allen Mayer

Lynn Michalson

Dara Murray

Debra and Warren Nachlis

Yaffa and Alan Nadel

Barbara and Ira Nadler

Lesley and Jay Palmer

Marion and Seth Rogovin

Anne and Reed Schneider

Elyse and Edward Siegel

Rana and David Silver

Vera and Robert Silver

Irene and Sidney Silverman

Norma Small

Cherise Solomon-Feld and Randy Feld

Vicky Stein

Susan and Elliott Sussman

Miriam Wallerstein

Ethel and Barry Weintraub

Nora and Barry Yood

Nancy and Jay Zises

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Karen and Eyal Farage

Frances Freedman

Chaya Moskowitz and Edward Manning

Ellen and Alain Roizen, in memory of  
Edith Roizen

Vicky Stein, in honor of Pat and Alan  
Davidson's 50th anniversary and in  
honor of Hannah Leah's marriage

## PURIM SPIEL FUND

Carol and Arthur Kay, in honor of  
Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur  
Rosenbloom

Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur Rosenbloom

## LIBRARY FUND

Willi and Arthur Aeder, for Me'ah books  
Frances Freedman

## MINYAN FUND

Frances Freedman

Pamela and Mark Gold, in honor of the  
Stadin family

Deborah and Steven Katz, in memory  
of the yahrzeit of Steven's grandfather,  
Moshe Schmuel

Regina Stein

## HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Ilana Burgess, in memory of Miriam  
Alman

Abby, Philip and Lev Thomas, in honor  
of Ariella Fuchs's Bat Mitzvah

# Or Zarua Wins United Synagogue Awards

New and innovative programming is key to creating a vibrant congregation. The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, during its Biennial Convention of the New York Metropolitan Region, acknowledged through a Synagogue Awards Program congregations who have shown ingenuity and creativity in developing new programs. Or Zarua won two awards!

Or Zarua was recognized in the area of Religious Affairs for our innovative and effective method of maintaining a morning minyan. Many congregations much larger than Or Zarua find this a problematic area. We were awarded for our innovative approach in using dedicated lay leaders to serve as minyan captains, in employing the modern technology of email reminders, and in motivat-

ing the large number of congregants who participate in this important area of synagogue life. Richard Stadin's persistent efforts and dedication to the morning minyan since its inception are much appreciated.

We were also recognized for our outstanding achievement in the area of Computer Web Page for our recent redesign of [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org). Our web page was recognized as a great resource for existing members as well as prospective members. In addition to notifying users about our calendar, service times and events for adults and children, the page also enables users to sign up for events and to make donations online. Participants in the Me'ah class can even listen to the class online! Special thanks to our webmaster, Jay Palmer, for his

dedication in developing and maintaining this resource.

The awards were presented at the Biennial Convention on Sunday, November 21, 2004 at Temple Beth Sholom in Roslyn Heights. Sheldon Adler and Aaron Shelden attended on behalf of our Congregation. Kol HaKavod to all OZ Congregants who helped us gain this recognition.

## SHABBAT ACROSS OR ZARUA

BE A GUEST OR BE A HOST

Shabbat Dinner  
Friday, March 4, 2005

*Watch your email and regular mail  
for further details.*

### CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

127 East 82nd Street  
New York, NY 10028



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