



OR ZARUA

NEWSLETTER / VOLUME 18:2 TISHREI / HESHVAN / KISLEV 5766 NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2005

Light is Sown: A Celebration

Sunday, December 11, 2005

We have completed mortgage payments for the construction of our Or Zarua home! In celebration, a day of special events is planned for the entire Congregation to enjoy.

“Light” will be the theme of the day, and Bobbi Coller has arranged an exhibition around this theme. Included in the exhibition are photos, drawings, text, and an ongoing projection of scenes relating to the history of OZ—all items submitted by OZ members.

The building will be abuzz with activity and festivity:

- The event will begin with Shahrut at 8:45 a.m. and conclude with

Minhah/Ma’ariv at 5:00 p.m.

- The Hesed Committee has organized a Hanukkah Toy Drive.

- Dr. Sam Klagsbrun, using his expertise in psychiatry and Judaic scholarship, will select a biblical character and place him or her “on the couch” for analysis.

- Storytelling, musical programs, Israeli videos, arts and crafts, and a scavenger hunt will interest children.

- An interactive theater performance, Israeli dancing, lectures, and classes will interest both adults and children.

- Musical events will include performances by the group Pharaoh’s

Daughter, under the leadership of Basya Schechter, and Robbin’ Spectre, a rock band with Victor Shelden and friends.

- Maud Kozodoy will teach “The Song of Songs.”

- The book discussion group will examine a work by member Zion Ozeri, *The Jews of Yemen, The Last Generation*. (see page 6).

- Jeff Cymet will teach about Hanukkah.

- Babysitting will be available.

- A light lunch will be served.

Watch your mail for a full description of the scheduled activities as we look forward to this joyous event.

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Congregational Shabbat Lunch

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2005

Immediately following services

Our Discussion Topic:

JEWISH FOOD AND TRADITION

Please make reservations by Wednesday, December 14

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

RSVP: Tel 212-452-2310, ext. 39 / Fax 212-452-2301 / www.orzarua.org

SEUDAH SHLISHIT

On the first Shabbat of each month, OZ members are invited to attend a Seudah Shlishit in the social hall following Minhah services. The next scheduled dates for this event are November 5 and December 3. Please join us—no reservations are needed.

ק"ק אור זרוע
CONGREGATION

**OR
ZARUA**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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NEW YORK, NY 10028
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www.orzarua.org

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MICHAEL W. SCHWARTZ, *President*
BARBARA J. BOLSHON, *Executive Director*
ILANA BURGESS, *Youth Education Director*
PAULETTE SCHNEIDER, *Newsletter Editor*

YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

By *Ilana Burgess*

Our wonderful new teachers will be a great addition to our program. Let me introduce them:

JENNIFER WALNER

Jennifer teaches first grade and high school at OZ. Originally from Tucson, Arizona, she attended Smith College in Massachusetts before moving to New York two years ago to teach full time and study for her master's degree in education at Fordham University. She also teaches social studies at Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis High School in midtown Manhattan. Jennifer traveled to Israel this summer on the Birthright program and had an amazing time learning about Israel. She is excited about the education program at Or Zarua and hopes to teach her students a love of Judaism.

SHAY SHALLOW

Shay teaches third grade and leads the teen orchestra at OZ. He was born and raised in Hedera, Israel, and arrived in America five years ago as a professional musician, working as Judaic and music teacher in the greater Boston area and in New York City. He earned his bachelor's degree at Berkley College of Music in Boston and his master's in classical music at the Boston Conservatory, where he received a merit scholarship. Shay taught Hebrew at the Jewish Family Workshop in Ashland, Massachusetts and music at the Rabbi Halprin Day School in Brooklyn. He also teaches at Solomon Schechter High School of New York and at Woodmere Music Studio.

MORAN BEN SHAUL

Moran teaches fourth grade at OZ. She is a native Israeli with varied teaching experience. In the army, she was an instructor and head of the instructional staff in the language software development unit, which produced software for teaching Arabic to soldiers and to high school and college students. In America,

Moran teaches Hebrew in Hebrew schools and as a private tutor. She taught the National Jewish Outreach Program's "Hebrew Reading Crash Course" at the 14th Street Y. Moran loves languages, yoga, and working with people.

LEAH ROSENBERG

Leah is very excited to be the new Vav (sixth) grade teacher at OZ. She has taught Hebrew school in Binghamton, New York, where she completed her undergraduate degree. After enduring the upstate New York cold, Leah spent a year teaching sixth grade in Istanbul, Turkey, while working for the Jewish Agency for Israel. She has now returned to school for a graduate degree in childhood education at Hunter College. Leah loves her teaching career and looks forward to a wonderful year at Or Zarua.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents—Abby Thomson, Joyce Yassky, and David Ross—who chaperoned the teens, helped with the food, and welcomed guests to an Upper West Side homeless shelter with a specially prepared meal. I also give a great hug and thank you to our wonderful teens.

TALMUD CLASS BEGINS

Wednesday, November 2

The weekly Talmud class, conducted by Rabbi Wechsler, meets on Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. in the OZ library. This year we will study *Masekhet Moed Katan*, the source of the laws of mourning. Those who have no familiarity with the Talmud as well as those who are already scholars can enjoy and benefit from attending these informal, stimulating sessions. Please join us on November 2.

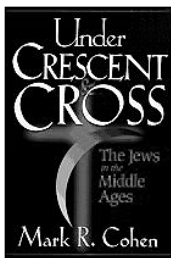
OZ Committee Chairs

AESTHETICS	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
BOOK DISCUSSION	<i>Reed Schneider</i>
BUILDING	<i>Debbie Breznay</i>
CATERING	<i>Diane Okrent Sara Stone</i>
DEVELOPMENT	<i>Mimi Alperin</i>
EVENTS/ADULT ED	<i>Diane Okrent</i>
HESED	<i>Lesley Palmer</i>
HEVRA KADISHA	<i>Vera Silver Gerry Solomon</i>
ISRAEL	<i>Brett Cohen Aliza Kaplan</i>
LIBRARY	<i>Barry Feldman</i>
MEMBERSHIP	<i>Anne Schneider</i>
MINYAN	<i>Sheldon Adler</i>
NEWSLETTER	<i>Paulette Schneider</i>
PLANNED GIVING	<i>Jim Breznay</i>
PUBLIC RELATIONS	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
PURIM SPIEL	<i>Arthur Rosenbloom Bonnie Maslin Tibor Feldman Barbara Sassoon</i>
SCHOOL	<i>Aliza Kaplan</i>
SHABBAT USHERS	<i>Phyllis Solomon Gerry Solomon</i>
TORAH/HAFTARAH	<i>Yaakov Shechter</i>
WEBMASTER	<i>Jay Palmer</i>

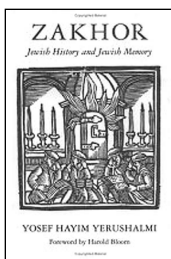
If you would like to serve on a synagogue committee, please contact the office for the committee chair's email address.

New Books in the OZ Library

The OZ library is a welcoming place to spend some free time. It contains a good collection of books including histories, biographies, novels, encyclopedias, biblical commentaries, and more. Here are some recent acquisitions:

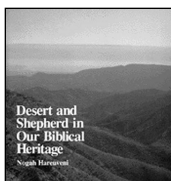


Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages
by Mark R. Cohen



Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory
by Yosef Yerushalmi

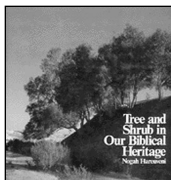
Publications from Neot Kedumim:
The Biblical Landscape Reserve in the Modi'in Region of Israel
by Nogah Hareuveni
Translated by Helen Frenkley



Desert and Shepherd in Our Biblical Heritage



Nature in Our Biblical Heritage



Tree and Shrub in Our Biblical Heritage

SHABBAT ACROSS OR ZARUA Friday, November 18

This year, Congregation Or Zarua will celebrate Shabbat Across Or Zarua in November and Shabbat Across America in March.

Shabbat Across Or Zarua will take place on Friday evening, November 18, 2005, in honor of Parashat Vayera. In that parashah, Abraham welcomes strangers into his home. OZ members will follow Abraham's example and welcome other members into their homes on that Shabbat.

On March 3, 2006, we will observe

Shabbat Across America with a communal dinner in the social hall.

Since 1997, Shabbat Across Or Zarua has been a resounding success. It has been a warm and wonderful way for members to get to know each other while sharing Shabbat joy, delicious food, and stimulating conversation.

If you would like to be a host or a guest for Shabbat Across Or Zarua, please call the synagogue office (extension 39) or register through the website.

Hebrew School Events

NOVEMBER 2005

Monday 7	Jewish Museum trip (<i>high school</i>)
Saturday 12	Hebrew School Shabbat Class, 10:00 a.m.
Monday 14	Jewish Museum trip (<i>high school</i>)
Tuesday 15	Or Zarua Hebrew School Open House
Monday 21	Jewish Museum trip (<i>high school</i>)

DECEMBER 2005

Friday 9	Shabbat Dinner (<i>Kindergarten and first grade</i>)
Saturday 10	Hebrew School Shabbat Class, 10:00 a.m.
Monday 12	Teen Volunteer Program at BJ Soup Kitchen
Monday 19	Winter break (<i>no classes</i>)

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 Class, which all Hebrew School students in the third through sixth grades are expected to attend. Students from other schools are welcome as well.

The next Hebrew School Shabbat Class will take place on Saturday, November 12 and Saturday, December 10.

November Calendar

December Calendar

NEW MEMBERS RECEPTION

Open to all Congregants

Take this opportunity to meet fellow OZ members

Thursday, November 10
6:30-8:30 p.m.

at the home of
Betty Goldberg

Invitations have been mailed

The Spirit of Hanukkah

By Ron Meyers

“Not by might and not by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts.” This is the resounding message of the haftarah for the Shabbat of Hanukkah. Despite the overtly military history underlying the holiday, it is the spirit that we emphasize. The Maccabees staged a successful revolt against the Syrian rulers of second-century BCE Israel, who had severely restricted the practice of Jewish rites. The apocryphal books of the Maccabees report in detail the politics and strategy of the revolt. But the Talmudic tradition placed a greater emphasis on the miracles relating

to the rededication of the Temple, the most famous of which is the burning of a single day’s allotment of oil for eight days.

Even by the time of the Talmud, a few hundred years after the Maccabees, the military achievement had lost some of its luster in the collective memory. But the resurgence of Jewish life that resulted from our victory remained then, and remains now, a powerful example of the persistence of our tradition. Rulers, wars, and even temples come and go, but Jewish life renews itself in the dedicated acts of those who defend it and carry the flame forward.

A Gift of Stock

We are again offering Congregants the option of donating gifts of stock as payment for dues and for other contributions. A stock gift is a wonderful way for you to make good use of the income tax charitable deduction while providing meaningful support for Congregation Or Zarua.

A gift of appreciated stock generally offers a twofold tax saving. First, you avoid paying any capital gains on the increase in the value of the stock. Second, you receive an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock for a “long term” period of time (generally more than one year). Gifts of appreciated stock are tax deductible.

For information about the transfer of securities, please call Executive Director Barbara Bolshon at extension 14. We can facilitate your transfer and confirm the transaction. The valuation of your gift will be established on the basis of the transfer date.

By making a stock gift, you can help to build our community and secure a strong future for our Congregation.

SPECIAL AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION



As part of the Light is Sown celebration on December 11, photographer and OZ Congregant Zion Ozeri will discuss his just-published book of photographs, entitled *The Jews of Yemen, The Last Generation*. The beautiful photos in the book portray the traditional way of life followed by the Yemeni Jewish community, a quickly diminishing population. The book opens with Ozeri’s personal prologue, recounting family members’ long history in Yemen and their aliyah “on the wings of eagles” two years before his birth. Zion Ozeri will share insights on his Yemeni heritage and on the use of art and photography for moral education.

Book discussions will resume their ordinary schedule for the following meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 22, 2006.

YAD VASHEM: A CALL TO ACTION

Yad Vashem is issuing an urgent call to action, asking the Jewish world to join their international 11th-hour campaign to collect the names of Holocaust victims and submit them to the Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names Database. In the months since the database was launched, almost four and a half million visitors from 183 countries have entered the website, and Yad Vashem has received 23,000 new Pages of Testimony and 400 photographs. However, nearly three million names are still missing.

To search the database and submit a Page of Testimony online, please visit: <http://www.yadvashem.org>.

For assistance in starting a names collection campaign in your community, please contact: names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il.

For moving accounts of families reunited by the database, see: <http://www.wcnc.com/cgi-bin/bi/video/wmPlayer.pl?title=www.wcnc.com/0222-reunion.wmv>.

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

MAZAL TOV

Wendy Belzberg and Strauss Zelnick, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Cooper
 Robin Blumenthal, on the Bat Mitzvah of her daughter, Julia
 Susan Cantor and Ross Abelow, on the birth of their daughter, Sophie Drew
 Marjorie and Isaac Gad, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Zachary
 Rachell Maidenbaum Gober, on the marriage of her daughter, Randi Gober, to Hazi Ashkenazi and the graduation *cum laude* of her son, Benjamin Gober, from Brandeis University
 Carolyn and Bruce Gould, on the birth of their grandson, Adam Kohl Gould
 Francine Kane, on the Bar Mitzvah of her son, Philip Haines
 Jeffrey Mass, on the Bat Mitzvah of his daughter, Rebecca
 Xiomara and Charles Scheidt, on their marriage
 Carrie and David Shechter, on the birth of their son, Jacob Avi
 Vera and Robert Silver, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Kayla
 Alice and Thomas Tisch, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Maude

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:

Flavia and Alberto Fabian Ades, and their children, Hannah and Benjamin
 Marilyn Balassi, and her daughter, Nicole
 Ivy and David Cohen, and their children, Jacob and Eli
 Belle Faber
 Laura Fisher and Adi Raviv, and their children, Micaela, Jessica, and Gabriella
 Joan Greenberg and Steven Deutsch, and their daughter, Lena
 Sandra and Stephen Greenberg
 Joan Horton-Iattoni
 Judith and Oded Jupiter
 Carol and Steven Kallet, and their children, Samuel and Harry
 Melissa and Craig Lader
 Florence Leventon
 Elizabeth Lusskin and Marc Solomon, and their children, Sadie and Isaac
 Ann Joy Levitt Newton
 Marc Pintel, and his son, Spencer
 Harry Poloner
 Debra and Scott Resnick, and their children, Andrew and Danielle
 Barbara Gish-Scult and Mel Scult
 Harold Varah

CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions listed were received between August 1, 2005 and September 30, 2005.
 Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.

GENERAL FUND

Shelley Binder, in memory of her father, Chaim Binder, on his yahrzeit
 Karen and Eyal Farage, in memory of Sylvia Wachsberger, on her yahrzeit
 Helen Ferszt, in memory of Eva Kriegstein, on her yahrzeit
 Mechele and Sander Flaum, in memory of George Plotkin, on his yahrzeit
 Carolyn and Bruce Gould, in honor of the birth of our grandson, Adam Kohl Gould
 Bernard Laterman, in memory of Sol Laterman, on his yahrzeit
 Judith and David Lewittes, in memory of Judith's father, Isaac Axenzow, on his yahrzeit
 Bonnie Maslin and Yehuda Nir, in memory of Philip Hahn
 Jacob Oberman, in memory of his mother, Dora Oberman, on her yahrzeit
 Shari and David Prince, in honor of Alyssa's sixth birthday
 Jane Ries, in memory of her father, Jonas Ries, on his yahrzeit, and in honor of the marriage of Carmit Steren and Georges
 Vesta Sue Rhodes, in honor of Lev Thomas's Bar Mitzvah
 Elyse and Edward Siegel
 Vicki Stein, in memory of her husband, Ted, on his yahrzeit
 Judith and Barry Schneider
 Sharon Seiler and Charles and Talia Spielholz, in honor of Kayla Silver's Bat Mitzvah in Israel
 Miriam Wallerstein, in honor of the birth of Nico Engstrom Davidson, and the Bar Mitzvah of Jamie Scharf, grandsons of Sara and David Stone

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Robin Sanderson and Bruce Silverman, in honor of Mark Somerstein and his patience in teaching the Hebrew crash course

HESED FUND

Ruth and Samuel Perelson
 Judith and Barry Schneider
 Robyn and Bruce Silverman, in honor of their fifth wedding anniversary and Robyn's conversion to Judaism

HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Judith and Oded Jupiter, for preparing their daughter, Varda, for burial

KIDDUSH FUND

Julie and Robert Beller
 Leslie Berger and Kenneth Drucker, in honor of Jacob's Bar Mitzvah
 Lynn Galler and Hessa Dattner, in honor of their aufruf

Shulamith Koton, in memory of her husband, Theodore Koton, on his yahrzeit
 Eleanor Merczynski and David Hait and their children, Andrew and Hannah, in honor of the baby naming of their daughter, Rachel
 Joanna and Ronald Slevin, in memory of Joanna's mother, Beatrice Cecille Applebaum, on her yahrzeit
 Sharon Seiler and Charlie Spielholz, in honor of Talia's eighth birthday, and in honor of their thirteenth wedding anniversary
 Abby and Philip Thomas, in honor of Lev's Bar Mitzvah
 Eve Wolff and Owen Lewis, in honor of their thirtieth wedding anniversary

KOL NIDRE APPEAL

Willi and Arthur Aeder
 Susan and Stanley Alt
 Eileen and Stephen Cohen
 Bobbi and Barry Collier
 Pat and Alan Davidson
 Linda Dershowitz
 Meira Epstein
 Lynn Galler and Hessa Dattner
 Nancy Friedman and James Margolin
 Carolyn and Bruce Gould
 Stacy and Henry Katz
 Karen and Harvey Klapper
 Susan Lorin and Martin Kupferberg
 Allen Mayer
 Harriet and Leonard Mayer
 Cheryl and Craig Nisnewitz
 Jacob Oberman
 Ronnie and David Parker
 Judith and Barry Schneider
 Cathy and Seymour Zises

LIBRARY FUND

Marjorie and Albert Fortinsky

MINYAN FUND

Linda and Jeffrey Haberman, in memory of Linda's father, Avery Waldman, on his yahrzeit
 Lilly Kaufman
 Audrey and Richard Stadin, in honor of the Me'ah program

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Bobbi and Barry Collier
 Judith and Oded Jupiter, in memory of their daughter, Varda Beth Jupiter
 Sabina and Maurice Preter
 Sara and David Stone

HESED COMMITTEE EVENTS

Include Or Zarua's annual Hanukkah Toy Drive on your shopping list! We are hosting a toy drive from November 14 through December 12. Gifts will be distributed by the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty to disadvantaged children in New York City, including children in hospitals and Hurricane Katrina evacuees staying in the New York area. Please bring new, unwrapped items to the collection boxes in the social hall and on the sixth floor. Educational toys and books are especially welcome. A perfect time to donate a gift would be our Light is Sown Celebration on December 11! *Contact Lesley Palmer at 212-772-9673 or lesley@nyc.rr.com.*

Cheer up a senior citizen on Hanukkah with DOROT. Kindle the joyous Hanukkah lights with an Upper East Side senior by joining DOROT's holiday food package delivery on

Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 a.m. at the 92nd Street Y. After a brief orientation, you will proceed to the home of a senior with a package of goodies in hand. Participants of all ages are welcome—this is a wonderful family activity! The time commitment is only two hours, but the memories will be long lasting for all. DOROT will provide holiday craft activities for children, during or after the visit. *Contact Aaron Shelden at 212-734-4004 or ashelden@aol.com. For more information about DOROT, see their website at www.dorotusa.org.*

Get in the spirit of gemilut hasadim. Join the Hesed Committee in planning activities to benefit those in need in our community. The next committee meeting will be held on November 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the OZ library. *If you cannot attend, please forward suggestions to Lesley Palmer at 212-772-9673 or lesley@nyc.rr.com.*

**SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE SHABBATON • JANUARY 6 AND 7, 2006
FEATURING RABBI DAVID HOFFMAN**

Adjunct Instructor of Professional and Pastoral Skills at the Jewish Theological Seminary

Shabbaton will include a Shabbat dinner and lunch. Invitations will be mailed in late November.

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

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New York, NY 10028

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