



Congregation OR ZARUA

NEWSLETTER / VOLUME 18:5

IYAR / SIVAN / TAMMUZ 5766

MAY / JUNE 2006

GET A “TASTE OF ME’AH”

Tuesday, May 23, 7:00 p.m.

Two years ago, 26 OZ Congregants began the Me’ah program, an exciting journey in Jewish learning. Led by accomplished Judaic scholars, they explored the history, culture, and politics of four eras—biblical, rabbinic, medieval, and modern. They grew to understand the effect of texts and ideas on Jews throughout history and Jews of today. The program infused knowledge and insight into their personal lives and

enriched the life of the community.

Me’ah, Hebrew for one hundred, involves a hundred hours of intensive college-level study over a two-year period. The program was developed by Hebrew College in Boston over a decade ago.

OZ is excited to announce that a new two-year Me’ah cycle will begin again next fall. We will introduce the class with a “Taste of Me’ah” presentation in the library on Tuesday, May 23 at

7 p.m. Professor Deena Aranoff, the Me’ah instructor for last fall’s class on the medieval era, will lead an evening of learning and answer questions about the program. Several participants from our first class will be there to share their experiences and excitement. Perhaps they will entice you to embark on this extraordinary journey.

Please use the OZ website to reserve your place at the May 23 presentation.

IN THIS ISSUE

Interview with Rabbi Wechsler.....	2
OZY Talent Show Benefit.....	3
Pesah to Shavuot Class.....	4
Hevra Kadisha Update.....	4
Avivah Zornberg Shabbaton.....	5
Tikkun Leyl Shavuot.....	5
Holiday Mission to Israel.....	5
Purim Spiel.....	8
Kiddush Lunch for Scholars.....	11
Lag B’Omer Study.....	11
Shavuot Questions.....	11
Salute to Israel Parade.....	12

FEATURES

Hebrew School Events.....	3
OZY Services.....	3
Holiday Inspiration.....	3
New OZ Library Books.....	4
Book Discussions.....	5
Monthly Calendars.....	6
OZ Community.....	9

ROOFTOP PICNIC AND ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, May 22 • 7:15 p.m. Picnic • 8:15 p.m. Meeting

The election of new Officers and Board Members will highlight the agenda for Congregation Or Zarua’s 17th Annual Meeting, to be held Monday, May 22 at 8:15 p.m. The meeting will be preceded by a rooftop picnic supper at 7:15 p.m. Reservations for supper are essential. Please make your reservation by using the OZ website or by calling the synagogue office at 212-452-2310 (extension 39).

Hebrew School Havdalah Overnight

Students in the third through sixth grades of Hebrew School are invited to participate in a Havdalah, movie, and sleepover event at OZ on Saturday, May 6. Here is the schedule:

- Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Minhah, Seudah Shlishit, and Havdalah.
- Saturday, 9:00-11:00 p.m. Movie and sleepover.

Students may return home after the movie instead of staying over. Those who stay at OZ may watch more movies or play games. They will participate in the Sunday morning Minyan.

- Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Parents pick up students.

To register, contact Ilana at 212-452-2310 (extension 15) or ilana@orzarua.org.

ק"ק אור זרוע
CONGREGATION

**OR
ZARUA**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

127 EAST 82ND STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10028
phone: 212-452-2310 fax: 212-452-2103
www.orzarua.org

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

FIRST GRADE PROJECT: An Interview with Rabbi Wechsler

Part of our first grade curriculum is learning about the synagogue and the leaders of the Congregation. The students wanted to interview our rabbi and learn about his profession. We met Rabbi Wechsler on March 8 in his study. We had a wonderful time preparing questions and learning from this interview process.

Q: What is your name in both Hebrew and English?

A: Harlan J. Wechsler, Zvi Yaacov Ben Shalom.

Q: What is your favorite Hebrew letter?

A: Tzadik. This is a special letter because it is also a type of person. A tzadik is a righteous Jew, so this letter is very special.

Q: How did you become a rabbi?

A: Becoming a rabbi requires a great deal of school. I went to college and then continued on to graduate school, where I studied to be a rabbi. I was then ordained and began to look for a community in which I could practice as a rabbi.

Q: Is your job hard?

A: My job is very challenging because it requires many hours. Some days I work

from very early in the morning to very late at night.

Q: What is the biggest audience you have ever spoken to?

A: I have given many sermons where there have been large audiences. The biggest audience I spoke to was on the High Holy Days. There were a few thousand people.

Q: What do you like most about your job?

A: I love being a rabbi because I am constantly around people. I also enjoy teaching. I love teaching people of all ages about Judaism, and being a rabbi allows me to do this.

Q: What is your favorite Jewish holiday?

A: Passover. I enjoy the seder very much.

Q: Why is being a rabbi important?

A: A rabbi has a lot of responsibility. You are with people at the most important events in their lives. You welcome babies into the world with the brit milah or naming ceremonies and you officiate at bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings, and funerals. A rabbi offers spiritual guidance for families and helps to teach about Judaism.

OZ Committee Chairs

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

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



The first graders from Ms. Wallner's class question Rabbi Wechsler about the duties of his profession.

OZ YOUTH TALENT SHOW BENEFIT

Sunday, May 21 • 10:30 a.m.

OZ Youth is proud to present our first annual talent show! The event will take place on Sunday, May 21 at 10:30 a.m. Performances may include dancing, singing, poetry reading, or telling a kosher joke.

The suggested contribution is \$18.00 per ticket. Our proceeds will benefit Jewish youth in need of school supplies, Bar or Bat Mitzvah preparation, books, or tuition.

If you would like to participate in the show, please contact Reuben Dizengoff at dizengoff@nyc.rr.com.

Hebrew School Events

MAY 2006

Wednesday 3	Yom Ha'atzmaut
Thursday 4	Yom Ha'atzmaut
Saturday 6	Havdalah Overnight Event
Saturday 13	Hebrew School Shabbat Class, 10:00 a.m.
Monday 15	Lag B'Omer / Teen Volunteer Program at BJ
Tuesday 16	Lag B'Omer
Wednesday 17	Dictionary Ceremony, Second Grade
Sunday 21	Kohav Holad / OZY Talent Show Benefit
Monday 22	Salute to Israel Parade Program, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday 23	Siddur Ceremony, Third Grade
Wednesday 24	Last day of school
Thursday 25	Last day of school

JUNE 2006

Sunday 4	Salute to Israel Parade
----------	-------------------------

SHAVOUT: Commencement Season

By Ron Meyers

Shavuot originated as an agricultural festival to celebrate the ripening of the spring barley, the first fruit of the long season of growth and harvest. The rabbis associated Shavuot with the giving of the Torah because the date seemed to correspond to the time when the Israelites had arrived at Sinai following their escape from Egypt.

But the two themes of the holiday coincide in their meaning as well as their timing. The Revelation is at once the epilogue to the Exodus and the explosive beginning of the moral culture that has grown and sustained us to this day. Like the first fruits, it is both a completion and a commencement. Shavuot, then, combines the satisfaction of fruition with the promise of so much yet to come.

The moment of first maturation is thrilling. Other cultures have observed its arrival with enthusiasm and awe, as the Greeks did with their kouros statues. Jewish tradition fixes on it as an occasion to increase devotion, to exercise our expanding ability to fulfill the obligations that elevate us, from mere tillers of the soil to participants in a cosmic cycle of life, or from a horde of slaves to a nation of priests.

It seems no accident, then, that this season also brings our celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, the date of the reestablishment of the State of Israel, on which our millennia of exile came to completion and the exalting challenges of statehood began. In a calendar already rich with holidays that celebrate beginnings, renewals and rededications, this season bursts with the escalating power of growth.

SHABBAT USHERS NEEDED

Please contact Phyllis Solomon (pslegal@aol.com) or Gerry Solomon (gsolomon2@aol.com).

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

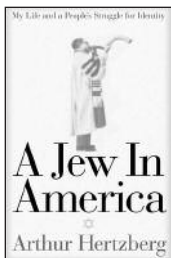
10:00 a.m. to noon

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.

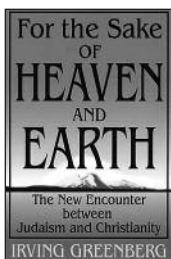
The next Hebrew School Shabbat Class will take place on Saturday, May 13.

New Books in the OZ Library

The OZ library is a welcoming place to spend some free time. Our wide selection of books includes histories, biographies, novels, encyclopedias, biblical commentaries, and more. Here are some recent acquisitions:



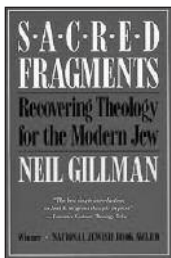
A Jew in America: My Life and a People's Struggle for Identity
by Arthur Hertzberg



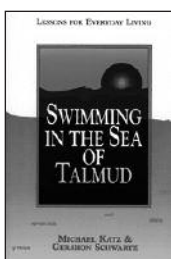
For the Sake of Heaven and Earth: The New Encounter between Judaism and Christianity
by Irving Greenberg



Giants of the Old Testament: Six New Plays
by Norman Beim



Sacred Fragments: Recovering Theology for the Modern Jew
by Neil Gillman



Swimming in the Sea of Talmud: Lessons for Everyday Living
by Michael Katz and Gershon Schwartz

BETWEEN HERESY AND PLURALISM: WHAT CAN A JEW BELIEVE?

Two Sunday Morning Classes Remaining: May 7 and May 21

Marc Ashley's course exploring pivotal issues in classical Jewish thought, "Between Heresy and Pluralism: What Can a Jew Believe?," discusses how Jewish thinkers have defined the range of permissible beliefs regarding the revelation and origin of the Torah. We focus on how modern Jewish denominations approach notions of truth, heresy, and pluralism in today's diverse world. The two remaining classes of the four scheduled will meet in the synagogue library on May 7 and May 21 at 10 a.m. All Congregants are welcome and no prior knowledge is required. Please join us for stimulating discussions of these crucial issues in Jewish thought. To register, please call the synagogue at 212-452-2310 (extension 39) or register online at www.orzarua.org.

HEVRA KADISHA UPDATE

NEXT MEETING. OZ's purchase of a section at Beth El Cemetery in Washington Township, New Jersey will be one of the main topics of discussion at a special meeting of the Hevra Kadisha on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the OZ library. If you have considered becoming a member of the Hevra Kadisha, please plan to attend this meeting so that you can learn about the group and find a way to participate.

GREAT DINNER. The Zayin Adar dinner was held on March 7, 2006. About 20 people enjoyed a festive multi-course meal catered by Village Crown. Rabbi Wechsler taught an insightful lesson about the 23rd Psalm and led a spirited discussion about its meaning. The cozy, familiar atmosphere of the OZ social hall was perfect for an evening that combined celebration, reflection, and study. Each table was graced with a floral arrangement by Abby Thomas.

SACRED SHARDS. A gorgeous container for sherblakh, created by Caroline Golden Ilberman, was presented to the Hevra Kadisha. The vessel will soon be stationed on the fifth floor. Remember—your broken pottery and china now have a purpose! They are used during preparation of the deceased for burial.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Hevra Kadisha, please contact Vera Silver or Gerry Solomon through the synagogue office.

SHABBAT IN THE PARK

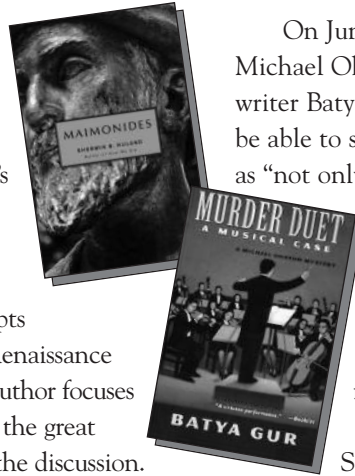
May 5 and June 3 • 4:00 p.m.

Enter Central Park at East 79th Street and go to the bottom of Cedar Hill. Bring a blanket to sit on and a dairy or parve snack to share. Please contact Meredith Katz at 212-879-5408 or 2mlk@netzero.com.

Or Zarua Book Discussions

Please join us in the OZ library on Sundays at 7:30 p.m. for our monthly book discussions. An important biography and an Israeli mystery are our selections for May and June.

On May 21 we will explore Sherwin Nuland's new book, *Maimonides*. Moses Maimonides—a great physician who served a sultan, a dazzling Torah scholar, a community leader, a daring philosopher whose *Guide for the Perplexed* attempts to reconcile science with faith in God—was a Renaissance man even before there was a Renaissance. The author focuses his surgeon's eye to create a readable account of the great rabbi's life and times. Dr. Barry Coller will lead the discussion.



On June 25 we will discuss *Murder Duet*, the fourth Michael Ohayon detective novel by renowned Israeli mystery writer Batya Gur. Once you start reading this book, you won't be able to stop until you finish. Amos Oz praised *Murder Duet* as "not only a superb murder mystery, but also a subtle study of the relations between creativity, ambition, love and possessiveness." A *New York Times* book reviewer wrote, "The characters are examined in such depth and detail that the motive eventually uncovered for the murder makes perfect, if perfectly, morbid sense."

For additional information, please contact Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611 or arlm1199@aol.com.

RENOWNED SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE Dr. Avivah Zornberg AT SHABBATON, MAY 5 AND 6



Avivah Zornberg

Congregation Or Zarua presents a unique opportunity to learn with one of today's leading Torah scholars. Dr. Avivah Zornberg will present the following topics:

Through the Looking Glass: Women in the Exodus Narrative.

Dinner follows Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat/Ma'ariv services, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 5.

Prayer Denied: Moses' Spiritual Autobiography? Lunch follows Shaharit and Musaf services, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

on Saturday, May 6.

Dr. Zornberg is the author of *Genesis: The Beginning of Desire*, a National Jewish Book Award winner, and *Exodus: The Particulars of Rapture*.

Reservations are required. Friday evening dinner is \$25 per meal for adults, \$15 for children ages 5 through 11, and free for children under 5. There is no charge for Saturday lunch.

As soon as possible, please reserve at www.orzarua.org, by calling the office at 212-452-2310 (extension 39), or by mailing a check to Congregation Or Zarua, 127 East 82nd Street, New York, NY 10028, Att: Shabbaton.

WWW. ORZARUA.ORG

Use our award-winning website to:

- View calendar and service times
- Sign up for meals and events
- Make donations online
- Learn about educational programs

OR ZARUA HOLIDAY MISSION TO ISRAEL

December, 2006

We are planning a Congregational trip to Israel for this December's school vacation. The trip will be designed to meet the needs of families traveling with children, but will also be appropriate for couples and singles.

If you might be interested in traveling with us, contact Eric Weinstein at eweinstein@feldmanweinstein.com. Please let him know how many adults and how many children would be included in your party.

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT

Thursday, June 1, 8:00 p.m.

On Erev Shavuot, Thursday, June 1, Minhah/Ma'ariv will begin at 8:01 p.m. The service will be followed by a night of study. Watch your mail and email for further announcements.

May Calendar

June Calendar

PURIM SPIEL 2006

The King and Chai



Thanks again to the endlessly creative talents of Bonnie Maslin, our resident playwright, a cast of more than 30 Congregants and friends presented this year's Purim Spiel, *The King and Chai*, at The Kaye Playhouse of Hunter College on Monday, March 13. Like its namesake, the show sought to depict how fear and misunderstanding can lead to hatred.

As always, participants experienced the transformative power of theater, reconnecting with our friends from Spiels past

and welcoming new members. The love and caring of this group, combined with its discipline and involvement, is truly inspiring. We all go through withdrawal after the Spiel.

The OZ Players invite anyone interested in being a part of this cheerful and animated cast to join us next year. We welcome singers and actors, prop and costume designers, and administrative assistants. To volunteer, please contact Barbara Sassoon at barbdee@aol.com.

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

MAZAL TOV

Audrey and Barry Feldman, on the birth of their grandson, Jonah David
 Ellen Gerson and Tibor Feldman, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Harris
 Cheryl Fishbein and Phil Schatten, on the birth of their granddaughter, Mira
 Devorah Epstein
 Ruth Horowitz, on her engagement to Michael Nachman
 Melissa and Craig Lader, on the birth of their son, Ethan Marc
 Bess and Leor Landa, on the birth of their daughter, Ziva Gavriel
 Frances and Bernard Laterman, on the birth of their granddaughter, Beatrice Iger Scott-Laterman
 Mira Levenson, on the marriage of her daughter, Deborah Lester, to Eric Edell
 Sharon and Alexander Mack, on the birth of their daughter, Shira Ann
 Goldi and Richard Nager, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Max
 Ellen and Michael Schwartz, on the birth of their grandson, Isaiah Luke
 Susan and David Shapiro, on the birth of their grandson, Charles Leo Shapiro
 Elise and Edward Siegel, on the birth of their granddaughter, Emily Judith Gardner
 Audrey and Richard Stadin, on the engagement of their son, Jonathan, to Kim Krawitz
 Mindy and Mark Utay, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Eric, in Jerusalem
 Ellen Wetter-Brenner and Mark Brenner, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Anna

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:
 Leslie Coch, and her children, Emily and Charlotte
 Rachel and Roy Levit
 David Mysels

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to:
 Joseph Allerhand, on the death of his father, Irving Allerhand
 Sara and David Stone and Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner, on the death of their aunt, Mickey (Marilyn) Krulwich
May they and their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

CONTRIBUTIONS

*All contributions listed were received between February 1, 2006 and March 31, 2006.
 Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.*

DESIGNATED SPECIAL PURPOSE FUND

Cathy Izzo

GENERAL FUND

Marcel and Sheldon Adler, in honor of Sheldon's parents' yahrzeits and for hosting the Super Bowl Party
 Willi and Arthur Aeder, in memory of Lorraine Shapiro's brother, Herbert Ackerman
 Harry Bornstein
 Jaclyn Braunstein and Jeremy Feffer, in honor of the aliyah given to Jeremy and the misheberach said for Perry Braunstein
 Suzanne and Evan Brownstein, in honor of their parents
 Bobbi and Barry Collier, in memory of the yahrzeits of Bobbi's father, Harold Gelfand, and Barry's mother, Ruth Collier
 Linda Eidelberg, in memory of her father, Benjamin Basch
 Mechele and Sander Flaum, in memory of Clara S. Plotkin
 Ruthe and Ronald Golden, in honor of the birth and brit milah of their grandson, Raphael Moshe Katz
 Zella and Glenn Goldfinger, in honor of Jonathan Bromberg's birthday
 Beth and Jared Greisman, in honor of the birth of Meredith and Michael Katz's son, Raphael
 Susan and Ed Kopelowitz, in memory of Betty Kopelowitz, on her yahrzeit
 Frances and Bernard Laterman, in honor of the baby naming ceremony for their granddaughter, Beatrice Iger Scott-Laterman
 Mira Levenson, in honor of the marriage of her daughter, Deborah Lester, to Eric Edell
 Martha and Frederick Mendelsohn, in honor of the birth of Jeremy and Paulette Posner's son, Harry Leon Posner
 Laura Resnikoff, with thanks to Sheldon Adler for hosting the Super Bowl Party and to Sara and David Stone and Tom Tisch; condolences to Lorraine Shapiro; good wishes to Zella and Glenn Goldfinger on the birth of their grandchild; and in honor of Jonathan Stadin's engagement

Robert Schallop, in memory of his mother, Minnie Schallop, on her yahrzeit
 Charlotte Schwartz, in memory of her husband, Sidney Schwartz and her mother, Mary Meyer Simon; in honor of the birth of Harry Leon Posner, grandson of Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner; and in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler
 Lorraine and Herbert Shapiro, in honor of Ilana Rayport's reading the Torah on her Bat Mitzvah anniversary
 Elyse and Edward Siegel, in honor of receiving an aliyah
 Rana and David Silver, in memory of Pearl Linderauer and Gusia Yanowitz
 Ellen and Donald Simon, in memory of Milton Simon, on his yahrzeit, and in memory of Ellen's parents, Jeanne and Herman Perlman
 Efray Spectre, in honor of receiving two aliyot
 Audrey and Richard Stadin, in honor of the engagement of their son, Jonathan, to Kim Krawitz
 Faith Weinberg, in memory of her father, Nathan Charak, on his yahrzeit
 Lynda Wertheim, in honor of Jason Bauer and Crumbs Bakery for their donation of cupcakes to the Ronald McDonald Israeli night
 Nora and Barry Yood, in honor of the birth of Debbie and Jim Breznay's grandson, Audrey and Barry Feldman's grandson, and Bobbi and Barry Collier's granddaughter
 Manhattan New School Social Committee, in memory of Herbert Ackerman

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Barbara Scott and Jonathan Bromberg, in honor of Alex Bromberg's second-place prize in the Jewish Museum Photography Contest
 Isabel and Robert Schein, in honor of the birth of Shira Ann, daughter of Sharon Shorofsky Mack and Alexander Mack

HESED FUND

Robin and Julia Blumenthal, in memory of Robin's father, David Blumenthal, on his yahrzeit
 Pamela and Mark Gold, in honor of the birth of Harry Leon Posner
 Meredith, Michael and Esther Katz, in honor of Israeli Night at Ronald McDonald House

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

Lesley and Jay Palmer, in honor of the births of Rafael Moshe Katz and Shira Ann Mack
 Linda and Jerome Spitzer, in memory of Harry Spitzer, on his yahrzeit
 Audrey and Richard Stadin, in honor of Lesley Palmer and in honor of Or Zarua's programs for the homeless
 Ellen Wetter-Brenner and Mark Brenner in honor of Israeli Night at Ronald McDonald House

HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Stephanie and Ira Rubin, on the recent passing of Ira's stepmother, Estelle Rubin and of their dear friend, Eddie Toppel
 Elyse and Edward Siegel, in memory of Gerald Siegel
 Vera and Robert Silver, in memory of Vera's mother, Claire Horn, on her yahrzeit
 Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of Ted Lazarus's father, Joseph Allerhand's father, and Lorraine Shapiro's brother

KIDDUSH FUND

Anonymous, in fulfillment of a pledge made on Simhat Torah, in honor of those who made pledges during Atah Har'eita
 Joanne and Marc Ashley, in honor of their 15th wedding anniversary
 Clara and Edward Blinder, in honor of Maximillian's Bar Mitzvah
 Bobbi and Barry Collier, in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Natalie Fable Kruglyak
 Eva and Harvey Comita, in honor of the aufruf of their daughter, Jenny, and Seth Yellen
 Audrey and Barry Feldman, in honor of the birth of their grandchild, Jonah David Skolnik
 Marcia Kalin and Stephen Rayport, in honor of Ilana's reading the Torah on the anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah
 Deborah Markson-Katz and Steven Katz, in memory of Steven's father, Harry Katz, on his yahrzeit
 Meredith and Michael Katz, in honor of the brit milah of their son, Raphael
 Terry Krulwich, Paul Posner, and Jim and Betty Gross, in celebration of the birth of their grandson, Harry Leon Posner
 Marilyn Krulwich and Sara Stone, in memory of Sara Appleman Lewis, on her yahrzeit

Diane Lipman, in honor of her aufruf
 Yafa and Alan Nadel, in memory of Alan's parents, Thelma and Bernard Nadel, on their yahrzeits
 Goldi and Richard Nager, in honor of Max's Bar Mitzvah
 Elyse and Edward Siegel, in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Emily Judith Gardner
 Robyn and Bruce Silverman, in honor of Or Zarua
 Miriam Wallerstein
 Ellen Wetter-Brenner and Mark Brenner, in honor of Anna's Bat Mitzvah
 Lynda Wertheim, in honor of another year of good health

KOL NIDRE APPEAL

Marc and Joanne Ashley
 Joyce and Marc Yassky

LIBRARY FUND

Clara and Edward Blinder, in honor of Mark Somerstein
 Dara Murray, in memory her husband, John Leo Murray, on his yahrzeit

MA'OT HITTIM FUND

Willi and Arthur Aeder
 Susan and Stanley Alt
 Suzanne and Evan Brownstein
 Susan Cantor and Ross Abelow
 Bobbi and Barry Collier
 Mechele and Sander Flaum
 Marjorie and Albert Fortinsky
 Pamela and Mark Gold
 Zella and Glenn Goldfinger
 Elizabeth Goldberg
 Diana and Harrison J. Goldin
 Mina Greenstein
 Beth and Jared Greisman
 Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur Rosenbloom
 Susan and Ed Kopelowitz
 Maud and Neal Kozodoy
 Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner
 Judith and David Lewittes
 Judith and Herbert Lukashok
 Sharon and Alexander Mack
 Susan March and Louis Barash
 Martha and Fred Mendelsohn
 Ruth and Sam Perelson
 Laura Resnikoff
 Ellen and Alain Roizen
 Suzan and Daniel Rosen

Charlotte Schwartz
 Sharon Seiler and Charlie Spielholz
 Ronit Setton and Benjamin Hershkowitz
 Lorraine and Herbert Shapiro
 Marilyn Shapiro
 Vera and Robert Silver
 Cheryl Sternlieb
 Nora and Barry Yood

MINYAN FUND

Michael Gold, in honor of Sheldon Adler
 Pamela and Mark Gold, in honor of Sheldon Adler
 Marilyn Shapiro, in honor of the birth of Harry Posner, grandson of Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner; in honor of the birth of Bobbi and Barry Collier's granddaughter, Natalie; and in memory of Lorraine Shapiro's brother, Herbert Ackerman
 Audrey and Richard Stadin, in memory of Sheldon Adler's parents and in honor of the birth of Harry Posner, grandson of Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner and son of Rabbi Paulette and Jeremy Posner
 Abby and Philip Thomas, in honor of the Super Bowl Party
 Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of her father, Abraham Patt, in honor of Sheldon Adler, and in memory of Sheldon's parents

PURIM SPIEL FUND

Elaine Blum
 Robin and Julia Blumenthal, in honor of Bonnie Maslin on the 10th anniversary of the Purim Spiel
 Alisa and Daniel Doctoroff
 Frances Freedman
 Susan Lorin and Martin Kupferberg
 Sharon and Alexander Mack
 Martha and Fred Mendelsohn
 Suzan and Daniel Rosen, in honor of the entire cast and the amazing directing/producing team
 Vera and Robert Silver

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Suzanne and Evan Brownstein, in celebration of Purim
 Gwen and Brett Cohen, in honor of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler's and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler's hospitality in Jerusalem

THE OZ COMMUNITY

Susan and Alexander Deutsch, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Pamela and Mark Gold, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Jan Cornell and Matt Neuman, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Hannah and Mark Kinn, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Jacob Oberman, in honor of his father's *yahrzeit*

Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner, in honor of Harry Leon Posner

Paulette and Jeremy Posner, in honor of Harry Leon Posner

Ellen and Alain Roizen, in memory of Alain's parents

Barbara Scott and Jonathan Bromberg, in honor of Jonathan's 50th birthday

Elyse and Edward Siegel

Audrey and Richard Stadin, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler and in honor of their son's engagement, Jonathan Stadin, to Kim Krawitz

Anita and Barry Weinstein, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

KIDDUSH LUNCH HONORING THE SCHOLARS OF OZ Saturday, June 3

after services, which begin at 8:45 a.m.

The Congregation will celebrate the accomplishments of those who have completed a course of study and those who are continuing their studies.

HONOREES INCLUDE: Hebrew School Students Me'ah Program Graduates Adult Learners of the Community

All are welcome to congratulate those who are dedicated to Jewish learning.

Lag B'Omer Study: *The Zohar*

Monday, May 15, 8:00 p.m.

Congregants are invited to follow the mystical tradition and join our study of *The Zohar* on Lag B'Omer. Rabbi Wechsler will lead the discussion, which begins at 8:00 p.m. in the OZ library.

The Zohar, possibly authored by Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, is a mystical Torah commentary written in medieval Aramaic

and medieval Hebrew. It deals with the nature of God, the origin and structure of the universe, souls, sin, and redemption. Studying the *Zohar* on Lag B'Omer is based on the practice of the 16th-century mystics of Safed, led by Isaac Luria. In Lag B'Omer, Luria acknowledged not only the cessation of the sadness that afflicted

Rabbi Akiva's disciples during the period between Pesah and Shavuot, but also the rescue of the Torah by one of Rabbi Akiva's surviving students. The day was therefore declared a semi-holiday—on Lag B'Omer, weddings are permitted, children play outdoor games, and adults traditionally study the *Zohar*.

BLINTZES AND BRANCHES ON SHAVUOT

WHY IS IT CUSTOMARY TO EAT DAIRY FOODS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SHAVUOT?

Among the many explanations is that the custom derives from a verse in the Song of Songs, "Honey and milk shall be under your tongue..." This is considered a reference to the sweet and nourishing Torah, which we received on Shavuot. A practical explanation is that the Israelites at Sinai, having just received the Torah, realized that any meat they had already prepared was not kosher, so they had to eat whatever dairy foods they had on hand. A symbolic explanation is that consumption of meat represents indulgence while consumption of dairy foods represents restraint, and the Torah is more accessible to those who exercise restraint and self-control.

WHY IS IT CUSTOMARY TO DECORATE THE SYNAGOGUE WITH FOLIAGE ON SHAVUOT?

Aside from its association with receiving the Torah, Shavuot is an agricultural festival—the end of the wheat harvest (and the end of the counting of the omer) and the beginning of the fruit harvest. The Torah itself refers to the holiday in terms of the first fruits sown in the fields. During Temple times, Shavuot was a pilgrimage festival, and *bikkurim*—first fruits—were brought to the Temple as sacrifice offerings. These offerings were adorned with branches, so our present custom is reminiscent of the foliage decoration during Temple times.

Salute to Israel Parade, Sunday, June 4

By OZ Israel Action Committee

For our fifth consecutive year, the Congregation will march up Fifth Avenue to salute Israel and to celebrate our forthcoming Congregational trip to Israel this December. Last year, more than 80 Congregants participated in the parade. As many of us as possible should be there to demonstrate the strength of our support.

All are welcome, including Hebrew School students. Third graders and younger students may participate if escorted by an adult. We will assemble at a specific location and time—details to follow.

On Monday, May 22 at 5:00 p.m., we will gather at the synagogue to create themed banners and signs. Please join us, even if you cannot attend the parade!



Congregants marched in the 2005 Salute to Israel Parade to "Celebrate 350 Years in America."

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA
127 East 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
New York, NY
Permit No. 7998



