



Congregation OR ZARUA

NEWSLETTER / VOLUME 20:1

ELUL / TISHRI / HESHVAN 5768

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2007

The New Year at Or Zarua

By Diane Okrent

The year really begins in September. Of course, Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Jewish New Year. School starts, and the season begins for such cultural giants as the Metropolitan Opera and the New York Philharmonic. Or Zarua's season for learning and culture also launches in September.

The OZ Programming Committee has been hard at work planning a rich array of educational and cultural activities for the coming year:

- **Saturday, September 8, "Welcome Home" Kiddush Lunch** following services to greet prospective members and to welcome existing members back to OZ from their summer vacations.
- **Saturday, September 8, Selihot** is observed with a dessert reception followed by Rabbi Wechsler's lecture and services.
- **Wednesday, September 19, Rabbi David Silber** will teach on the Book of Jonah.
- **Wednesday, September 26, Dinner in the Sukkah.**

- **Saturday, September 29, Shabbat Lunch in the Sukkah.**
- **During Sukkot**, other "free" lunch and "bring your own" meal opportunities in the Sukkah will be provided.

- **Jewish Theological Seminary Chancellor Arnold Eisen** will lecture this fall.

- **Friday, October 26, Shabbat Across Or Zarua.**

- **Monday, November 19, New Members' Reception.**

- **December, Hanukkah College Outreach** and other Hanukkah celebrations.

- **February 2, 2008, Kiddush Lunch** to celebrate Congregation Or Zarua's 19th birthday.

More Shabbat dinners and lunches as well as programs to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel in 2008 are being planned.

The Programming Committee welcomes your suggestions for future programs.

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High Holy Day Alternate Services

One of the attractions of Congregation Or Zarua is the intimate atmosphere at our services. The relatively small size of the Congregation and the cozy design of our sanctuary enhance the warm davening experience. On the High Holy Days, we expand our signature intimacy into a larger gathering in the Ramaz auditorium.

If you prefer a more personal High Holy Day davening experience, then come to our Alternate Services on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Kol Nidre. These services are held in a small chapel on the second floor at Ramaz. Guided by Terry Krulwich on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and by Mark Somerstein on Kol Nidre, the Alternate Services are interactive. They focus on

participation, singing, discussions, and explorations of the history, theology, and interpretation of various prayers and customs. Participants range from novices to learned daveners who enjoy the congenial atmosphere. Knowledge of Hebrew or the liturgy is not required.

If you are interested in attending one or both of the Alternate Services, let us know as soon as possible because the Ramaz second-floor chapel accommodates only about 100 people.

Please call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 10 immediately or return the reservation form included with your dues statement. Reservations for the Alternate Services will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

ק"ק אור זרוע
CONGREGATION

**OR
ZARUA**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year the High Holy Days are “early,” so we will welcome the New Year 5768 beginning on Wednesday evening, September 12—which is nearly two weeks earlier than we did last year, when the holidays were “late.” And we will observe Yom Kippur 5768 a day before we celebrated Rosh Hashanah 5767 in 2006. These sorts of mismatches between the Jewish and secular calendars give rise to the familiar joke that the holidays always come either early or late, but never on time. They also serve as a forceful, annual reminder that as Jews our lives are governed not only by the familiar patterns of secular life but by a distinctive annual cycle with roots in a long and vital tradition.

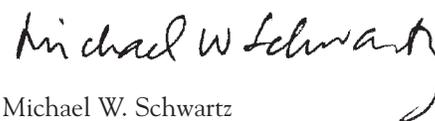
Because the holidays are early this year, time doesn't permit the full menu of courses and programs we like to make available in Elul in the run-up to the High Holy Days. But I am pleased to report that we will get our Congregational new year off to an interesting and rewarding start with two important and challenging speakers during and after the holidays. Between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, on Wednesday evening, September 19, Rabbi David Silber of the Drisha Institute will teach on the subject of the Book of Jonah, which, of course, is the haftarah for the afternoon service on Yom Kippur. And after the end of Sukkot, on a date still to be determined, we will host Chancellor Arnold Eisen of the Jewish Theological Seminary, whose term of office began July 1 and whose tenure promises to involve important issues in the Conservative movement. I hope you will be able to join us for both of these occasions.

And despite the vagaries of the calendar, we have two notable events on the Shabbat before the holidays begin. On Saturday, September 8, Shabbat services will be followed by a Congregational Kiddush Lunch to welcome members back from what I hope will have been a highly enjoyable summer vacation season for all of you. That evening after the end of Shabbat, we will recite Selihot to reflect the penitential mood of Elul. The recitation will be preceded, as is our custom, with a service of a different kind: “Sinful Desserts.” Please join us for that, too.

For the High Holy Days themselves, we are pleased to offer again—on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Kol Nidre—both our traditional service and our Alternate Service, providing members of the Congregation with a choice of approaches in celebrating the High Holy Days. (If you wish to attend the Alternate Service, please be sure to advise the synagogue office well in advance.) As always, we will offer a full range of children's services. Here, too, our goal is to ensure that all of our Congregants have a rich and rewarding High Holy Day experience.

One more calendar note: because 5768 is a Jewish leap year, it will last 383 days – all the more time to enjoy and participate in all of our programs and services this coming year!

I wish you all a restful remainder of the summer and look forward to seeing you at Or Zarua when you return.



Michael W. Schwartz
President

OZ Committee Chairs

AESTHETICS	Aaron Shelden
BOOK DISCUSSION	Reed Schneider
BUILDING	Alan Ilberman
CEMETERY	Andrew Frackman Mort Schwartz
DEVELOPMENT	Mimi Alperin
EVENTS/ADULT ED	Diane Okrent
HESED	Robin Blumenthal Stephanie Failla
HEVRA KADISHA	Vera Silver Gerry Solomon
HOUSE	Janet Katz
ISRAEL	Aliza Kaplan
LIBRARY	Barry Feldman
MEMBERSHIP	Brett Cohen
MINYAN	Sheldon Adler
NEWSLETTER	Phyllis Brochstein
OROT	Ron Meyers
PLANNED GIVING	Jim Breznay
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Aaron Shelden
PURIM SPIEL	Arthur Rosenbloom Bonnie Maslin Tibor Feldman Barbara Sassoon
SCHOOL	Betsy Dizengoff
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.

OZ CRAFTS CLUB Do you like to knit or crochet? Would you like to learn how? Join the new OZ Crafts Club and crochet a kipah, knit blankets for children in hospitals or homeless shelters, or work on your own projects. Enjoy socializing while being creative. We also need a facilitator to teach and to mentor beginners. Please contact Carrie Fox at carrie@foxshechter.com if you are interested.

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 5768/2007

Wednesday, September 12

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Evening 6:15 p.m.–7:15 p.m.

Thursday, September 13

First Day Rosh Hashanah

Morning 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Tashlikh 5:45 p.m.–6:30 p.m.
(in Central Park)

Evening 6:50 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 14

Second Day Rosh Hashanah

Morning 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Evening 6:15 p.m.–7:15 p.m.
(at Or Zarua)

Saturday, September 15

Shabbat Shuvah (at Or Zarua) 9:00 a.m.

Friday, September 21

Erev Yom Kippur

Minhah 1:20 p.m.–1:50 p.m.
(at Or Zarua)

Kol Nidre 6:15 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 22

Yom Kippur 9:00 a.m.–7:40 p.m.

Wednesday, September 26

Erev Sukkot 6:15 p.m.–7:15 p.m.

Thursday, September 27

First Day Sukkot

Morning 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Evening 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 28

Second Day Sukkot

Morning 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Evening 6:15 p.m.–7:15 p.m.

Saturday, September 29

Shabbat Hol Hamoed 8:45 a.m.

Wednesday, October 3

Erev Shemini Atzeret

Evening 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 4

Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor

Morning 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Erev Simhat Torah

Evening 6:20 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Friday, October 5

Simhat Torah

Morning 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Evening 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

HIGH HOLY DAYS, 5768

The Jewish New Year for the year 5768 begins Wednesday evening, September 12.

- As in previous years, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services will be held at the Ramaz School, 60 East 78th Street.

- Shahrith for the first day of Rosh Hashanah begins at 8:30 a.m.

- For Tashlikh, we will meet at the Central Park Reservoir on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, Thursday, September 13 at 5:45 p.m. Minhah and Ma'ariv will follow at the Ramaz School at 6:50 p.m.

- Services for the second day of

Rosh Hashanah will also begin at 8:30 a.m. Evening services will be held at the synagogue beginning at 6:15 p.m.

- Kol Nidre services begin at 6:15 p.m. on Friday, September 21. During the day of Yom Kippur, services begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 22 and include Yizkor (at about 3:00 p.m.) The Yom Kippur fast concludes with the shofar blast after Neilah services at 7:40 p.m.

- There are Alternate Services for the first day of Rosh Hashanah and for Kol Nidre. Both services will be held in the chapel on the second floor at Ramaz.

Eating in the Sukkah

It is a mitzvah to eat in a sukkah during Sukkot. To help you fulfill this mitzvah, Congregants are welcome to dine in the OZ sukkah throughout the holiday.

Any food you bring to the sukkah must be kosher. You also need to bring all service items for your meal, including beverages, plates, cups, napkins, and utensils.

Please notify the office whenever you plan to dine in the sukkah. We ask that you conclude your meal by 9:00 p.m.

Join us for these Congregational meals:
Reservations Required

Wednesday, September 26: First Night of Sukkot Dinner, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, September 29: Shabbat Hol

Hamoed Sukkot Lunch, after services

Free—No Reservations Required

Thursday, September 27: Sukkot Lunch

Friday, September 28: Sukkot Lunch

Friday, September 28: "Bring Your Own" Dinner (challah and dessert provided)

Friday, October 5: Simhat Torah Lunch

Don't Miss Meals in the OZ Sukkah!

DINNER IN THE OZ SUKKAH

First Night of Sukkot, Wednesday, September 26

Services begin at 6:15 p.m., Dinner at 7:15 p.m.

SHABBAT LUNCH IN THE OZ SUKKAH

Saturday, September 29

Immediately following services

Reservations for either event are essential.

\$30 adults; \$15 children (ages 5-12); children under 5, no charge

RSVP: Tel 212-452-2310, ext. 39 / Fax 212-452-2103 / www.orzarua.org

Or Zarua Book Discussions

Please join us in the Or Zarua library on Sunday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. when Karen Kaplan leads us in discussing *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, Michael Chabon's first major novel since his Pulitzer prize-winning *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*. We welcome all Congregants and their guests.

Chabon's fictional premise is that the security European Jewish refugees found in the temporary safe haven of the Federal District of Sitka following the calamity of the 1948 collapse of the newly created State of Israel is about to end in only two months, when district control reverts to Alaskan native tribes. With time running out to save his job and his home, nearly washed-up homicide detective Meyer Landsman sets out to find the killer of a former chess prodigy, who had occupied one of the rooms in the rundown hotel where he lives.



But Landsman's search is complicated by the reappearance of Bina, his ex-wife, who has been appointed Chief of Police to smooth the transition before Reversion.

Kirkus Reviews compared this book to "a mutant strain of Dashiell Hammett crossed with Isaac Bashevis Singer." *The New York Times* praised Chabon's novel as "creating a completely fictional world that is as persuasively detailed as his re-creation of 1940s New York in *Kavalier & Clay*, even as it gives the reader a gripping murder mystery and one of the most appealing detective heroes to come along since Sam Spade or Philip Marlow."

The next book discussion will be on Sunday, December 2.

If you would like more information on Or Zarua book discussions or have a book suggestion, please contact Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611 or arlm1199@aol.com.

2007-08 ME'AH GRADUATE INSTITUTE

The Me'ah Graduate Institute is offering two separate courses of study at Or Zarua. The courses will be open to all graduates of Me'ah.

The Rise and Fall of Biblical Prophecy

Every Tuesday evening beginning October 16, 2007, Professor Robbie Harris of Jewish Theological Seminary will teach a course on The Rise and Fall of Biblical Prophecy.

The course will introduce students to the phenomenon of Israelite prophecy as it is presented in the Hebrew Bible. We will address such questions as: How did prophecy arise in ancient Israel? How did prophecy function in its "classical period" (from the 8th-6th centuries B.C.E.)? What were the circumstances through which prophecy ceased? What is the nature of the literature produced by the Israelite prophets and their disciples?

What were the contributions of Israelite prophecy to post-biblical apocalyptic literature and messianism? Finally, what is the continued religious message of the biblical prophets to the present day and age?

Students will consider these and other questions through reading representative samples of biblical prophetic literature (including Hosea, Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel) and through exposure to medieval exegesis (Rashi, R. Yosef Kara, R. Eliezer of Beaugency) as well as modern scholarly approaches (including Heschel, Muffs, Geller, and Blenkinsopp). All readings will be in English translation.

From Medievalism to Modernity: The Transitional Years (1498-1789)

Beginning Tuesday, January 15, 2008, Dr. Benjamin Gampel of JTS returns to Or Zarua to lead an investigation of the three centuries, spanning the last Iberian

expulsion, the first emancipation of a renewed Western European Jewish community, the growth and development of the Sephardic Diaspora, the glories and traumas of Ashkenazic life in Eastern Europe, and the reestablishment of Western European Jewish communities and their gradual transition to modernity. The story of the Sephardic diaspora, with its themes of communal crisis, demographic transposition and cultural transformation, will be the focus of the course. Among the topics we will cover are the rise of a center in Eretz Yisrael, the semikhah controversy and the emergence of Lurianic Kabbalah; the new communities in Amsterdam and the controversies involving Uriel da Costa and Benedictus Spinoza; the dizzying variety of Jewish communities and cultural dynamics in the Italian peninsula; and the birth of Jewries in the Americas.

RABBI WECHSLER expresses his gratitude to the many Congregants who brought great comfort to him and his family during the recent shivah for his mother.

A YIDDISH THEATER EXHIBIT is being planned. Share your memories—and your artifacts, music, and posters. To share something, call Bobbi Coller at 212-987-2067.

Shabbat Across Or Zarua

Friday, October 26, 2007

Shabbat Across Or Zarua celebrates its 10th Anniversary in 2007! When Shabbat Across America started in 1997, the old Or Zarua building could not accommodate a large communal dinner, so we developed Shabbat Across Or Zarua with home hospitality. While we now provide dinners in our building, we continued Shabbat Across Or Zarua as a warm and wonderful way for members to get to know each other.

Shabbat Across Or Zarua honors Parashat Vayera, in which Abraham welcomes strangers into his home and estab-

lishes our tradition of hospitality. On Friday evening, October 26, 2007, members will welcome other members into their homes to enjoy a special Shabbat dinner. In the glow of Shabbat spirit, many of us have made new friends and have become closer with others we already knew. The food is delicious, the conversation is stimulating, and the mood is joyous.

Let us know if you would like to be a host or a guest—use the OZ website, call the synagogue office (extension 39) or return the form that will be mailed soon.

TISHRI: New Month and New Year

By Ron Meyers

It seems strange that the rituals surrounding Rosh Hodesh, the new month, are observed only eleven times a year, rather than twelve. Of course, the biggest Rosh Hodesh is Rosh Hashanah, which is both the beginning of Tishri and the threshold of the Jewish spiritual year. But Tishri is, uniquely, not announced with the blessing of the new moon on the Shabbat preceding the first of the month nor is it celebrated with the recitation of Hallel on the first day itself. Replete with the majestic sequence of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simhat Torah, Tishri does not need our blessing—it is blessed directly by God.

The new moon blessing recited in advance of all other months contains a hint of this practice. Through its beautiful text we pray for a month in which we will enjoy “a long life, a life of goodness, a life of blessing; a life of sustenance....” We pray for “life” with eleven of these supplications—not twelve—as if the

wholeness that we seek in the new month and in the perfection of the moon’s cycles is just a bit elusive.

How fitting that we underscore this gap between aspiration and attainment on Rosh Hashanah, the Day of Remembrance, when we take stock of the ways we have fallen short of our goals in the past year. And on Yom Kippur, when fasting creates a gap in our own natural cycles, we acknowledge that our lives cannot be whole without the intervention of God’s mercy and of our friends’ and neighbors’ forgiveness.

Rosh Hashanah, by standing as the Rosh Hodesh that isn’t a Rosh Hodesh, reminds us that our lives cannot be understood by the kind of simple accounting involved in tracking the mechanical movements of the moon; we must summon a spirit within ourselves in order to close the gaps.

SOURCES:

Leviticus 23:24-25; Numbers 29:1-2

ON THE ROAD TO MOROCCO

with Rabbi Wechsler and OZ

We are planning a Congregational trip to Morocco at the end of May 2008 to explore the Jewish history of that country, to learn about the Sephardic tradition, and to visit a Jewish community in existence there for 2,000 years.

Our itinerary is still being developed, but we know that it will include the cities of Fez, the home of Maimonides; Rabat and its mellah (Moroccan Arabic for ghetto); and Marrakech. A pre- or post-Morocco stop in Israel is also under consideration.

Please join us for this exciting educational and communal experience. If you might be interested or if you have any suggestions or questions, please contact Debbie Breznay at 212-772-0975 or dbreznay@nyc.rr.com.

Rabbi David Silber: *The Book of Jonah*



Rabbi David Silber will speak on Wednesday, September 19 at 8:00 p.m. in the OZ library. He will discuss the Book of Jonah,

the haftarah for the afternoon service on Yom Kippur.

Rabbi Silber is the founder and dean of Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, which provides advanced studies for women. He compares the exclusion of women from certain posts to the segregation that kept black athletes out of certain team positions. He feels that “the women’s movement can allow Torah to speak with a louder voice to the entire Jewish community.”

OR ZARUA YOUTH
HIGH HOLY DAY
SERVICES 5768/2007

Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, September 13 (First Day)
10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

2-4 years old (accompanied by an adult)
Kindergarten-Grade 1, Grades 2-3,
Grades 4-6, Grades 7 and above

Friday, September 14 (Second Day)
10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

2-4 years old (accompanied by an adult)
Kindergarten-Grade 2
Grades 3-teens, Special Service

Kol Nidre

Friday, September 21
6:15 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Grades 1-3 and Grades 4-6

Yom Kippur

Saturday, September 22
11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

2-4 years old (accompanied by an adult)
Kindergarten-Grade 2
Grades 3-teens, Special Service

A playroom will be open during all services for very young children who are accompanied and supervised by an adult. Children may not be left alone in this room.

YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

By Ilana Burgess

This year we are starting some amazing programs to enrich the lives of Or Zarua's teenagers. Choose an activity that fits into your schedule.

- Mentor and/or tutor a student in Hebrew school, Monday to Thursday, 4 to 6 p.m.
- Assist teachers during the children's Shabbat services, 10 to 12 a.m.
- Help chaperone students one Monday night per month from 6 to 8 p.m. during a mitzvah project of cooking for the homeless.
- Decorate the Sukkah on Sunday, September 23, 2007 at 10 a.m.
- Be part of the Salute to Israel Parade on Sunday, June 1, 2008.
- Volunteer to assist teachers during the holidays by setting up classrooms (times to be announced).
- Participate in the OZ Talent Show, Sunday November 18, 2007 at 10 a.m.

If you would like to join any of these activities, please email Ilana Burgess at ilana@orzarua.org.

OZ Youth High Holy Day Services

It is important that the children and teens of Or Zarua attend the special High Holy Day Services we prepared for them. We generally divide the groups by age, but your child may participate in a service for an older group if you feel that it is appropriate. The children who attend these services come from different schools and from homes with a variety of observance levels, so it is difficult to make the groups homogeneous.

An adult must accompany a child in the youngest group, but school-aged children should attend on their own so that we have sufficient space in each classroom to teach effectively.

This year we will have special sessions for grades 3 and above on the second day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur day.

I sincerely hope that all of the children and teens will enjoy these services.

SELIHOT
Saturday, September 8

8:30 p.m.

SINFUL DESSERTS

Join us for an evening of community as we usher in the Yomim Noraim with a dessert reception.

9:15 p.m.

STUDY

Rabbi Wechsler will teach "Mystical Repentance in the Writings of Rav Kook." His source is Rav Kook's *Lights of Repentance*.

10:00 p.m.

SELIHOT SERVICES

OZY SERVICES

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

Infant through Kindergarten

11:00 a.m. to noon

Alef Bet Corner

Grades 1 to 3

10:00 a.m. to noon

Junior Congregation

Grades 4 to 6

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. Parents and students from other schools are welcome as well.

The next Hebrew School Shabbat Classes will take place on Saturday, October 13 and November 3.

HIGH HOLY DAY TICKETS Please order any additional tickets now. The cost is \$250 per person. To order, call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 10.

The Situation in Sderot

By Ilana Burgess

As I entered the car, the principal of the school told us to remain silent, leave our seat belts unfastened, and keep the windows open until we reached the main road. This was the scene as we were about to leave the school we just visited in Sderot, Israel.

Why all these instructions as we left Beit Sefer Gil? We were told that we must listen, not get distracted, and be ready to run to the ditch on the side of the road the moment we heard the sirens.

During my visit to the school last January, I thought that the situation could not become any worse. But I was clearly wrong.

During that visit, students played in the yard, daring to leave their protection for a bit of outdoor relaxation. All of the classrooms in the school were utilized, not only the protected areas.

But during my most recent visit to the school in June, the situation was so dangerous that even the guard did not stand outside, but instead watched the

gate from inside the building. All of the students were crowded into the classrooms with special protective roofing, and no one was allowed to leave the building for outdoor recess. Overall school attendance was very poor.

I saw two girls sitting in the office doing some work. When I teased them by asking why they had been punished,

they explained that they were not in trouble, but that they were the only two students out of twenty-six that had come to school that day.

Imagine the fear of the parents when they send their children to school or other activities and cannot watch them every moment. Can you imagine the children's fear when they hear the sirens dur-

ing a red alert? I saw this fear in the eyes of so many children as they told me that they will leave Sderot the moment school ends.

At the same time, I also saw the courage of some who reported that they and their families plan to stay, as this city is home.

Or Zaru'a's last donation added extra books and shelves to the school library, which is helping keep the children occupied indoors during the summer months since it is not safe for them to be outside. I am urging that the OZ community expand our contributions well beyond school supplies so that we can make a real difference in these

students' lives. For this reason, I am also urging that this project be extended beyond the Hebrew School mitzvah project and that all of us take part in it.

If you wish to help, please contact me at 212-452-2310, extension 15 or ilana@orzarua.org.

Happy New Year and G'mar Hatimah Tovah.



Scenes from Sderot: Students work in the office and a classroom, while a guard inspects the air raid shelter.

Youth Education Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2007

- Mon 10** First day of school
- Tue 11** First day of school
- Wed 12** Erev Rosh Hashanah
(no classes)
- Thu 13** Rosh Hashanah
(no classes)
- Sun 23** Sukkah Decoration, 11 a.m.
(all children are invited)
- Wed 26** Erev Sukkot (no classes)
- Thu 27** Sukkot (no classes)
- Sat 29** Sleep in the Sukkah, 7 p.m.
(all children are invited)

OCTOBER 2007

- Mon 1** Dinner in the Sukkah,
5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Tue 2** Dinner in the Sukkah,
5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Mon 8** Columbus Day (no classes)
- Sat 13** Shabbat Class, 10 a.m.
- Mon 15** Cooking at BJ, 6 p.m.
- Wed 24** OZ Hebrew School
Open House, 7 p.m.
- Mon 15** Cooking at BJ, 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2007

- Sat 3** Shabbat Class, 10 a.m.
- Mon 12** Veteran's Day (no classes)
- Sun 18** Talent Show, 11 a.m.
(all children are invited)
- Mon 19** Cooking at BJ, 6 p.m.
- Wed 21** Thanksgiving (no classes)
- Thu 22** Thanksgiving (no classes)

DECEMBER 2007

- Wed 5** Hanukkah Celebration
- Thu 6** Hanukkah Celebration
- Fri 7** Family Hanukkah Dinner
(all children are invited)
- Sat 15** Shabbat Class, 10 a.m.
- Mon 17** Cooking at BJ, 6 p.m.
- Mon 24** Winter Break (no classes)

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

Etrogim and Lulavim for Sukkot

The joyous holiday of Sukkot begins Wednesday evening, September 26. Congregation Or Zarua will arrange for the purchase of etrogim and lulavim. All orders are delivered in complete sets: etrog in a box, lulav with hadassim and aravot in a bag. Three different sets, each certified for use on Sukkot, are available:

- Standard Sets, \$48.00 each
- Muvchar (Choice) Sets, \$60.00 each
- Mehudar (Gorgeous) Sets, \$72.00 each

If you wish to purchase a set, please be sure that your order is received at the Or Zarua office by noon on Monday, September 10.

There are three easy ways to order etrogim and lulavim sets:

- Online: www.orzarua.org
- By fax: 212-452-2103
- By phone: 212-452-2310, x10

They may be picked up at the Or Zarua office on Tuesday, September 25 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Wednesday, September 26 from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Kivunim: New Directions

By Victor B. Shelden

Kivunim: New Directions is a brand new gap-year (between high school and college) program that recently completed its first year. This pioneering experience was truly amazing. Thirty students lived in Jerusalem and traveled every five weeks to a different country with a deep Jewish history. In Israel, we studied Hebrew, Arabic, and Middle East Studies, and we took a course on Civilizations. In this course we learned about the Jewish history and national history of a given country and then we visited that country. We traveled to Lithuania, Russia, Spain, Morocco, India, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Italy.

The program started with Sukkot in Ein Gedi. In November, we sat in the remnants of a synagogue in Lithuania

and imagined what it must have been like when it was filled with vibrant congregants. Hanukkah found us lighting the Hanukkah in the Sahara, singing and dancing with a few Berber men. In February, we met Jews in Cochin, India, who have preserved their Jewish heritage for over two thousand years. In March, we saw the fruits of efforts underway to restore the Jewish communities in Prague and Budapest. We also visited Therezienstadt. The program ended with two weeks in southern Italy, where we met members of the Jewish communities in Naples and Rome.

We gained a rich understanding of Jewish history from Israel's point of view and from viewpoints throughout a wide range places in the Jewish Diaspora.

"WELCOME HOME" KIDDUSH LUNCH

Saturday, September 8

Feed your soul—and your body, too! Join us on September 8 for a "Welcome Home" Kiddush Lunch after Shabbat to greet prospective members and to welcome existing members back to OZ from their summer vacations. This event will provide a wonderful opportunity to socialize a bit longer after services and introduce people to our Congregation. Please invite friends who may be interested in joining our community!

Services begin at 9:00 a.m., and a sumptuous kiddush lunch will follow. We hope to see you there!

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

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