

# Congregation OR ZARUA

NEWSLETTER / VOLUME 20:3

TEVET / SHEVAT / ADAR I 5768

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008

## Our 20th Year, 2008, Will Be Great!

By Diane Okrent

Every year since January 1989 has been a good year at Or Zarua. But, as we embark on our 20th year, 2008 will be great!

The year begins with Shabbat dinner on Friday, January 11, when our member, Dr. Bonnie Maslin, will speak about the joys and challenges of parenting. Every family that attends will receive a signed copy of Dr. Maslin's book, *Picking Your Battles*. Reservations are required.

A nostalgic exhibition, "From Yankel to Yankee: The Americanization of Jews Reflected in Yiddish Theater and Popular Music," opens in the social hall on Sunday, January 27.

Celebration of our 19th birthday officially begins on Friday, February 1 with Shabbat dinner featuring Kol Zimra, an *a cappella* group who will perform and lead us in song and dance. Reservations are required.

The celebration continues on Saturday, February 2, with a free Kiddush lunch. Kol Zimra will again lead us in song and dance.

Then, on Wednesday, February 6, Professor Ruth R. Wisse of Harvard University will deliver the Lucy Dawidowicz Lecture. See box below for details.

The sixth annual Or Zarua Super Bowl Party kicks off on Sunday, February 3. This year we are encouraging everyone to make a donation to help fund Kosher food pantries.

Or Zarua will also present an exclusive showing of the movie *Blues by the Beach* on Saturday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m. The filmmaker, Jack Baxter, will be present to introduce the movie and answer questions. The program will start with Havdalah. *Please note that this is not a program for children.*

RSVP at 212-452-2310, extension 39 or [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org).

### PURIM SPIEL REHEARSALS BEGIN JANUARY 27

Come one, come all! We need everyone—singers, dancers, actors, artists, stage crew members and production assistants. We need YOU!

Be at the first rehearsal to learn the name of our new show and hear all the songs.

Rehearsals are held every Sunday beginning January 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. and every Thursday beginning January 31 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the OZ social hall, unless otherwise advised.

The Purim Spiel will be performed at the Lycée Français, 505 East 75th Street, on Thursday, March 20.

For further information, please email Barbara Sassoon at [barbdee@mac.com](mailto:barbdee@mac.com).

### RUTH WISSE TO DELIVER THE LUCY DAWIDOWICZ LECTURE

Wednesday, February 6 • 8:00 p.m.




Professor Ruth R. Wisse will deliver the Lucy Dawidowicz Lecture at Congregation Or Zarua on Wednesday, February 6 at 8:00 p.m. Professor Wisse is the Martin Peretz Professor of Yiddish Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University.

Formerly a professor of Yiddish and English Literature at McGill University, Professor Wisse held an endowed chair in Jewish Studies. She has written a number of books, including *A Little Love in Big Manhattan*, *The Schlemiel as Modern Hero*, and *I.L. Peretz and the Makings of Modern Jewish Culture*. Her edited works include *The Penguin Book of Modern Yiddish Verse* (with Irving Howe), *The Best of Sholem Aleichem*, and *The I.L. Peretz Reader*. She is the president of the Association for Jewish Studies at Harvard and the senior editor of *The Library of Yiddish Classics*. Her newest publication, *Jews and Power*, will be the focus of the Or Zarua book discussion on Sunday, February 25 (see page 4).

Professor Wisse delivered one of Or Zarua's first Lucy Dawidowicz Lectures and is back by popular demand.

ק"ק אור זרוע  
CONGREGATION



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*  
VICKY A. STEIN, *Executive Director*  
ILANA BURGESS, *Youth Education Director*  
LYNN NACK, *Newsletter Editor*

# YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

By Ilana Burgess

## MITZVAH PROJECT

On Thursday, January 10, at 6:30 p.m. Areyvut staff will be at Or Zarua to meet with students and parents to discuss each student's personal interests and the development of a mitzvah project. Areyvut is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower Jewish youth by encouraging them to participate in community service projects. These projects help teach students the core Jewish values of hesed (kindness), tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam (social justice). Areyvut personnel also work individually with Bnai Mitzvah families to plan mitzvah projects as well as with rabbis and educators within the community.

Understanding that everyone is unique, Areyvut works one-on-one with students to design and implement projects that cater to their individual interests and needs. One of the central aspects of Areyvut's Bnai Mitzvah program is helping students and families enhance their celebrations through social action.

## COLLAGE FOR ISRAEL

The youth department is planning to display a great collage in the social

hall in honor of Israel's 60th birthday. The collage will consist of eight sections, each one telling the story of ten years in the life of Israel. We will begin with 1938-1948, which will show the immigration to Palestine, the kibbutzim, and the Yemenite aliyah. Sections representing the next six decades will follow, and the last section will illustrate our hope for Israel in the future.

If you have pictures, articles or stories to contribute, please make copies of the items and send them to us. Please be sure to include relevant dates, such as when a picture was taken.

## KADIMA AND USY

The Kadima (middle school) and USY (high school) groups will convene separately on the following dates:

- January 13 Meeting
- January 27 Event
- February 10 Meeting
- February 24 Event

During the meetings we will plan our future events. New members are welcome to join us.

For more information, please email [ilana@orzarua.org](mailto:ilana@orzarua.org).

## 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
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.

# OZY SHABBAT CLASSES

Each Shabbat, four different grade-level classes will meet from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:

### Seventh Floor

- Class I:** Kindergarten (ages 4-5)
- Class II:** Grades 1 to 3
- Class III:** Grades 4 to 6

### Sixth Floor

- Class IV:** Ages 2-3 (new program)

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, January 19 and February 9.



**Kadima and USY Teens Party at OZ:** Over sixty youths partied the night of October 20th away at Or Zarua to music and games provided a DJ. This was the kick-off event for Or Zarua's Kadima and USY chapters for 6th-8th grades and 9th-12th grades, respectively. Our friends from Town and Village's Kadima and USY chapters joined us as well for a great time. Special thanks go to Iris Paltin and Shay Salthov for helping arrange the activity, along with a number of parents who assisted behind the scenes. And a huge thank you to Anthony Banfield for helping set up, judging the mummy contest, and cleaning up after the young people finally conceded to go home.

## Youth Education Calendar

### JANUARY 2008

- Mon 7 Back to school
- Thu 10 Mitzvah project, 6:30 p.m.
- Mon 14 Cooking at BJ, 6 p.m.
- Sat 19 Shabbat Class, 10 a.m.
- Mon 21 MLK, Jr. Day (no classes)
- Tue 22 Report cards mailed
- Tue 22 Tu B'Shevat Celebration
- Wed 23 Tu B'Shevat Celebration

### FEBRUARY 2008

- Fri 1 Tot Shabbat
- Sat 9 Shabbat Class, 10 a.m.
- Mon 11 Cooking at BJ, 6 p.m.
- Mon 18 Presidents' Week  
(no classes)
- Mon 25 Back to school

### MARCH 2008

- Sat 8 Shabbat Class with  
Lunch, 10 a.m.
- Mon 10 Cooking at BJ, 6 p.m.
- Mon 17 Spring Break  
(no classes)
- Mon 31 Back to school

## WWW.ORZARUA.ORG

Use our award-winning website to:

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

## OH, NO! I JUST BROKE A PLATE...

**B**roken dishes, pottery, or clay flowerpots can serve a purpose to the OZ community. They can become sherblakh—shards of pottery customarily used to cover the eyes and mouth of a met or metah (deceased man or woman) in preparation for burial.

There are several interpretations of this custom, which the Or Zarua Hevra Kadisha follows. One is an acknowledgement that we are but dust. Another is that the shards on the eyes will prevent the deceased from seeing any ill that those still living might perform, while the shard on the mouth will prevent the deceased from speaking ill of anyone in the next world.

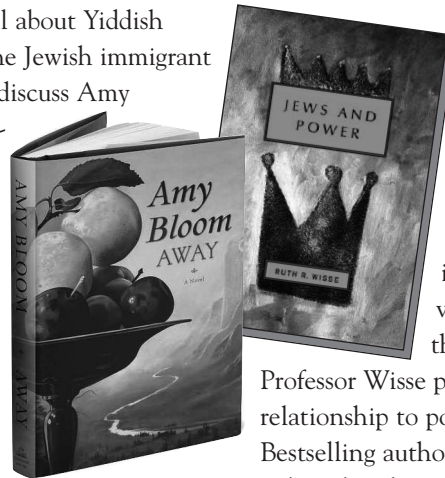
Our sherblakh container is located in the 5th floor hallway opposite the synagogue office.

# Or Zarua Book Discussions

Please join us in the Or Zarua library on the fourth floor for our January and February book discussions.

On Sunday, January 13 at 7:30 p.m., as an entrée to the upcoming exhibit in the Or Zarua social hall about Yiddish theater in the early twentieth century and the Jewish immigrant experience on the Lower East Side, we will discuss Amy Bloom's new novel, *Away*, an epic, emotionally charged story of young Lillian Leyb. After a pogrom destroys her family, Lillian comes to America alone, determined to make her way. When word comes that her daughter might also have survived, Lillian embarks on an astonishing journey from the Yiddish theater on Second Avenue to Seattle's Jazz District, then to Alaska, and toward Siberia.

Ron Charles wrote in *The Washington Post*, "This whole novel reads like dry wood bursting into flame: desperate and impassioned, erotic and moving—absolutely hypnotic... [W]hat begins as a paean to the immigrant spirit in a city of millions is ultimately a gasp of wonder at the persistence of love, even in the remotest spot on earth. Hang on."



On February 24 at 7:30 p.m., we will discuss *Jews and Power* by Ruth R. Wisse, Professor of Yiddish and Comparative Literature at Harvard University.

Traditionally, Jews have believed that we have a covenant with God, the most powerful force in the universe; in time, this faith engendered a belief that, unburdened by a military force, Jews could pursue a religious mission on a purely moral plain. Wisse demonstrates how Jewish political weakness increased our vulnerability to scapegoating and violence. In the context of Jewish history from the kingdom of David to the Oslo accords, Professor Wisse presents a new way to think about the Jewish relationship to power that offers apt lessons for today's politics. Bestselling author Michael Oren writes, "In an era of deepening political and moral confusion, Ruth Wisse supplies a voice that is both clarion and courageous."

Professor Wisse will deliver the Lucy Dawidowicz Lecture at Or Zarua on Wednesday, February 6 at 8:00 p.m. (see page 1).

Please contact Reed Schneider for further information at 212-860-8611 or arlm1199@aol.com.

## FROM THE OR ZARUA LIBRARIAN

By Barry R. Feldman

Inspired by the curatorial skills of Bobbi Collier, other Congregants have joined her to develop an exhibit on the rise of Yiddish theater in New York City. The comedic antics, melodramatic performances, and artistic classical interpretations of the art theaters may be long past, but those vibrant productions will echo again in Or Zarua's social hall when the exhibit opens on Sunday, January 27.

To enhance your appreciation of the exhibit, the following bibliography offers a general introduction to Yiddish theater and the early period of Jewish settlement on the Lower East Side, which supported the theater. I have included some lesser known sources that will require a trip to the Jewish Division at the New York Public Library or JTS. These are not easily

available and require strong interest and commitment. Devotees of this theatrical genre can also listen to digitalized CDs, which are scratchy but passable.

Lifson, David S. *The Yiddish Theater in America*. Thomas Yoseloff, 1963.

Gorin, B. *The History of the Yiddish Theater* (in Yiddish), 2 vols. Henry Holt, 1920.

Aidline-Trommer, Elbert. "Yiddish Plays on Broadway," *Jewish Theatrical News*, I-III (December, 1924).

Sandrow, Nahman. *Vagabond Stars*. Harper Row, 1977.

Kanfer, Stefan. *Stardust Lost: The Triumph, Tragedy and Mishugas of Yiddish Theater*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Landes, Joseph C. *The Great Jewish Plays*. Horizon Press, 1966.

Rosenfeld, Lulla. *Bright Star of Exile: Jacob Adler and the Yiddish Theater*. Thomas Crowell, 1977.

For greater insight to the early East Side Yiddish community, see also:

Howe, Irving. *World of Our Fathers*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976.

Hapgood, Hutchins. *The Spirit of the Ghetto*. Schocken, 1966.

Sorin, Gerald. *A Time for Building: The Third Migration, 1880-1920, Volume 3*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992.

Goldsmith, Edgar J. *Poet of the Ghetto: Morris Rosenfeld*. Ktav Publishing, 1998.

**Special Request:** The library needs a typewriter to continue cataloging. If anyone has one cluttering a closet, please call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 10.

# TU B'SHEVAT: The Celebration of Small Things

By Ron Meyers

Tu B'Shevat is a little holiday. But we make a virtue of celebrating little things. We've only just finished celebrating Hanukkah and the miracle of the little bit of oil lasting for eight days. We have enshrined in our liturgy the miracle that in our ancestors' rebellion against foreign rulers, the strong were delivered into the hands of the weak, the many into the hands of the few.

The Jewish people has always been the little nation, the few amid the many. It was with only seventy people that

Jacob descended into Egypt, but, as God had promised, that small clan grew into a multitude. God promised Abraham that he would give rise to a great nation when his family was at its smallest point—when Ishmael was banished and Isaac not yet conceived. This must have felt to Abraham like his darkest hour, but in fact the deepest darkness had already passed, as God had the future mapped out for him.

At Tu B'Shevat, the darkest days of winter are just, imperceptibly, passed,

and as the sap begins to run in the trees, the future begins to come into view. We make the most of the hint of what is to come, so that we can orient ourselves to bringing it to pass. So it is in the big picture of history—we speak of the re-establishment of the State of Israel as *reishit tsmichat g'ulateinu*, the first glimmer of our salvation, even if much work remains to bring that salvation to full fruition. And so it is that we celebrate the sweep of the changing seasons, at the first glimmer of the new cycle of life.

## THE REBECCA AND ISRAEL IVRY PROZDOR OPEN HOUSE

Students in the seventh through twelfth grades are invited to an open house on Sunday, February 3 from 9:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. to see what goes on at Ivry Prozdor, the Hebrew High School program of The Jewish Theological Seminary, 3080 Broadway at 122nd Street. For more information, visit [www.jtsa.edu/ivryprozdor](http://www.jtsa.edu/ivryprozdor) or contact Bess Adler, principal, at 212-678-8824.

## ZAYIN ADAR DINNER, MARCH 13 Annual Hevra Kadisha Celebration

The Or Zarua community is invited to join our Hevra Kadisha at its annual Zayin Adar Dinner celebrating the work of the group and its dedication to the community. Zayin Adar (the 7th of Adar), the *yahrzeit* of Moses, is the traditional date for Hevra Kadisha members to join with the communities they serve for fellowship and recognition of the important work they do when a loss occurs. The Hevra Kadisha arranges for *shomrim* to accompany the deceased and read psalms until the funeral, performs *taharas* (preparation of the deceased for burial), arranges for meals of condolence and supplies for the home during *shiva*, and assists with supporting *minyanim*.

The Zayin Adar Dinner will be held at Or Zarua on March 13 at 7:00 p.m. A catered hot meal will be served and Rabbi Wechsler will speak. RSVP 212-452-2310, extension 39 or [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org).

## RONALD McDONALD HOUSE Volunteer Recognition Award

OZ volunteers at Ronald McDonald House were honored for their three years of service at the 29th Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on November 28. Ronald McDonald House showed its appreciation for OZ volunteers packing and delivering food on Thanksgiving and Christmas and serving, singing and schmoozing with the young patients at our annual Israeli Night event (above).



Congregant Richard Stadin (center, in cap) was also honored for his five years of service expertly managing the holiday food deliveries as well as instituting two very special projects, the RMH seventh floor Butterfly Garden and the Annual Fall Monarch Tagging and Release event. A special thank you goes to Richard for all his efforts! Or Zarua's award, an engraved crystal star from Tiffany's, will be on display in the library.

# HESED COMMITTEE EVENTS

**H**esed is the expression of loving kindness—*gemilut hasadim*. According to *Pirkei Avot*, it is one of the three pillars on which the world stands and it is incumbent upon every Jew to participate. The Or Zarua Hesed Committee works to promote hesed through various projects within the Or Zarua and local community, and to help provide for needs in Israel and around the world. **Please donate generously to the Hesed Fund so we can continue and expand our programs.**

## HESED EVENT CALENDAR

This year's calendar includes our annual OZ Hesed events as well as some new projects. Keep an eye out for flyers, emails and announcements! Our events for the coming year include:

**Israeli Night at Ronald McDonald House.** To celebrate Tu B'Shevat on Thursday, January 24, we require volunteers and donations of kosher desserts for this special evening when we make friends, entertain the resident children and their families with song and Israeli folk dance, and serve our traditional Middle Eastern buffet.

**Give the Gift of Life!** Or Zarua will again be partnering with the New York Blood Center to host its 6th Annual Blood Drive on Sunday, March 2. Volunteer an hour of your time to give blood or sign up for bone marrow donation. As in the past, there will be a sumptuous brunch provided, as well as additional hesed and arts activities for children.

**Purim Project.** We are organizing an Or Zarua Hesed project for Purim. Details will follow as we finalize our plans. Please let us know if you have ideas for a project or wish to volunteer. Contact Robin Blumenthal at [rblument@chpnet.org](mailto:rblument@chpnet.org) or Stephanie Failla at [civilib@aol.com](mailto:civilib@aol.com).

**DOROT Pesah Package Delivery.** Share the spirit of the holidays by visiting with seniors in their homes and bringing friendship along with small packages of holiday treats. This is an excellent activity for the entire family, and a wonderful way to introduce children to the joy and importance of hesed. Contact Aaron Shelden at 212-734-2888.

## CURRENT AND ONGOING PROGRAMS

**Monday Night Pizza Servers Needed.** OZ volunteers serve pizza each Monday night at the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter Residence at 211 East 81st Street. If you are able to commit to one hour (6-7 p.m.) one Monday evening a month, you'll experience personally rewarding interactions with the residents while performing your own special mitzvah! Contact Richard Stadin at 212-879-0448 or [stadin1@aol.com](mailto:stadin1@aol.com).

**Laptop Recycling.** Used laptops are needed for formerly homeless clients of the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter. Noah Eisenbruch, OZ's resident techie, deletes your data, refurbishes the laptops, and instructs NCS clients about their operation. Donations are tax deductible; tax receipt forms are available. Contact Richard Stadin at 212-879-0448 or [stadin1@aol.com](mailto:stadin1@aol.com).

**Donation Deliveries.** The Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter needs volunteers to pick up donations and transport supplies to volunteer events in various locations in Manhattan. Volunteer drivers are notified in advance, and shifts are based on the volunteers' availability. Willingness to carry boxes is a plus, but is not required. This is a great opportunity for people who have very little free time but who want to volunteer. For details, contact Millicent Cavanaugh, Director of Volunteer Services, at 212-861-0704 (option 1), x407 or [mcavanaugh@ncsinc.org](mailto:mcavanaugh@ncsinc.org).

## FEED THE FOOTBALL FAN, FEED THE POOR

**C**ome and watch the Super Bowl with your friends at our sixth annual Or Zarua Super Bowl Party, to be held in the synagogue on February 3. 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 large-screen TV in the social hall.

In connection with this year's Super Bowl Party, we are encouraging everyone to make a donation to help fund kosher food pantries. As you may have seen in a front page article in the November 23 issue of *The Jewish Week*, kosher food pantries in our area are struggling to provide kosher food for the poor. As federal funding has been cut, the kosher food pantries are in desperate need for additional funds to feed hungry Jewish families.

Please consider making a generous contribution to our food pantry fund. Checks payable to Congregation Or Zarua should be designated "Kosher Food Pantry Fund" on the memo line. All monies raised will be contributed to the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty Food Pantry Network.

Please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 39 or use the website to let us know that you plan to attend the Super Bowl Party.

# SIXTH ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, March 2 • 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Give the Gift of Life! On Sunday, March 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Or Zarua will again be seeking volunteers to donate blood and/or register for bone marrow donation. As in the past, we will provide a sumptuous post-minyan brunch as well as hesed and children's activities.

To donate you must be at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. (If you are over 75, you will require a letter from your doctor.) Since many of our Congregants are frequent travelers, it is advisable to call the Blood Center at

1-800-688-0900 or check out their website at <http://www.nybloodcenter.org/donate> regarding travel restrictions or other questions about blood donation.

Looking for other ways to participate, whether you can or cannot donate blood? Volunteers are urgently needed to help with organization, food, registration, and especially hesed and children's activities. No experience is needed and teens are particularly welcome to join in this important hesed activity. In the past we have bagged meals and collected toiletries for the homeless and the children

have participated in arts and planting activities to benefit various groups. This year, with your help, we would like to plan new activities to engage Congregants of all ages.

Please encourage family, friends and members of the community to participate in the drive so we can reach our goal of 50 pints! Your monetary contribution will also help support the drive and other Hesed Committee activities. To donate or to volunteer to help with the drive, please contact Robin Blumenthal at 212-420-2942 or [rblument@chpnet.org](mailto:rblument@chpnet.org).

## Israeli Night at Ronald McDonald House

On Thursday, January 24, Congregation Or Zarua will host its sixth annual dinner at the Ronald McDonald House, a residence for seriously ill children undergoing treatment 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. OZ provides the residents with a catered dinner and a welcome distraction from illness through song, dance and friendship.

The Hesed Committee needs up to 15 volunteers to help set-up, serve, sing and schmooze. We are also seeking donations of kosher desserts for the evening—just drop them off at the House at 405 East 73rd Street by 5:30 p.m. on January 24.

Please note that volunteers must be at least 18 years old. As space is limited, the first 15 people to call will join us.

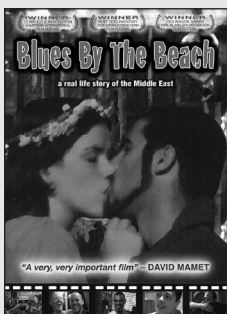
If you are interested in volunteering, contact Stephanie Failla at 917-941-3199 (cell) or 212-472-7506 (day).

Please help by:

- Donating a kosher dessert (such as cupcakes, cookies, pastry, etc.) and dropping it off at the House on Thursday, January 24 by 5:30 p.m.
- Assisting with set-up and decorations (from 5:15 p.m.)
- Serving food (from 6:00 p.m.)
- Cleaning up (from 7:00 p.m.)
- Leading singing and/or folk dancing (from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

This has been a wonderful, rewarding and festive event for both facility residents and OZ volunteers. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

## "Blues by the Beach" to be Screened at Or Zarua



Join us on Saturday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m. for the screening of "a very, very important film" according to the acclaimed author, director and playwright David Mamet. In *Blues by the Beach*, New York filmmaker and freelance journalist Jack Baxter travels to Israel looking for the right story to document, but quickly becomes part of the story at Mike's Place, a live music bar in Tel Aviv. Enamored with the intercultural mix and the American blues-style music, Baxter teams up with bartender/filmmaker Joshua Faudem to begin filming at Mike's Place. When a suicide bomber quickly shatters the peaceful atmosphere, the film takes a personal turn into the lives of the survivors. The result of this collaborative effort is a film that resonates with recovery, perseverance, and hope. Jack Baxter will speak with us at the screening. Our own Congregant, Judy Buchman-Ziv, was performing at Mike's Place on the eve of the terrorist attack. RSVP at 212-452-2310, extension 39 or [www.ozarua.org](http://www.ozarua.org).

## Upcoming Programs

**Friday, March 7**

Shabbat Across America Dinner  
at Or Zarua

**Wednesday, March 12**

JTS Chancellor Arnold Eisen  
Lecture and Reception

**Thursday, March 13**

Zayin Adar Dinner at Or Zarua

**Thursday, March 20**

Megillah Reading and Purim Spiel  
at Lycée Français

**Friday, March 21**

Megillah Reading at Or Zarua

**Sunday, April 20**

Pesah Second Seder at Or Zarua

**Wednesday, April 30**

Yom HaShoah

**Sunday, May 4**

AIPAC Speaker

**Wednesday, May 7**

Yom Hazikaron  
Israel Remembrance Day

**Thursday, May 8**

Yom Ha'atzmaut,  
Israel's 60th Anniversary and  
OZ Annual Meeting

**Thursday, May 22**

Lag B'Omer

**Sunday, June 1**

Salute to Israel Parade

**Sunday, June 8**

Erev Shavuot, Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

**Saturday, June 14**

Me'ah Graduation and  
Kiddush Lunch

**OZ CRAFTS CLUB** Do you like to knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? Join the OZ Crafts Club and knit blankets for children in hospitals, crochet kippot for a Hebrew school in S'derot or work on your own projects. Enjoy socializing while being creative and doing mitzvot. We meet on the second Sunday of every month from 10:00-11:45 a.m. in the library. Upcoming meetings are **January 13** and **February 10**. Please contact Carrie Fox at [carrie@foxshechter.com](mailto:carrie@foxshechter.com) for more information.



# SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

## *JTS Chancellor Arnold Eisen to Speak at OZ*



Arnold M. Eisen, Chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) and a foremost expert on American Judaism, will be guest speaker at Congregation Or Zarua at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12.

Chancellor Eisen, who officially assumed his position at JTS last July, will discuss "Conservative Judaism: A Vision." A reception will follow his presentation.

The Chancellor has worked closely for the past 20 years with synagogue and federation leadership around the country to analyze and address the issues of Jewish identity, the revitalization of Jewish tradition, and the redefinition of the American Jewish community.

A product of the Conservative Movement, Chancellor Eisen has served as a faculty member of the Wexner Heritage Program, the Wexner Fellowship, and the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. He is also on the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency and has long been known as a passionate advocate of strengthening the connection between American Jews and Israel.

Chancellor Eisen's publications include a personal essay, *Taking Hold of Torah: Jewish Commitment and Community in America* (1997); an historical work, *Rethinking Modern Judaism: Ritual, Commandment, Community* (1998); and *The Jew Within: Self, Family and Community in America* (2000), coauthored with sociologist Steven M. Cohen. He is currently at work on a book that probes new possibilities for the meaning of Zionism.

He received a Ph.D. in the history of Jewish thought from Hebrew University; a B.Phil. in the sociology of religion at Oxford University; and a B.A. in religious thought from the University of Pennsylvania. Before assuming his role as Chancellor, he was the Koshland Professor of Jewish Culture and Religion at Stanford University. He previously served as senior lecturer in the Department of Jewish Philosophy at Tel Aviv University, and assistant professor in the Department of Religion at Columbia University.

Chancellor Eisen is married to Dr. Adriane Leveen, a scholar of Hebrew Bible, and has two children, Shulie and Nathaniel.

### CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

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#### EXHIBIT OPENING

*"From Yankel to Yankee:*

*The Americanization of Jews Reflected  
in Yiddish Theater and Popular Music*

Sunday, January 27, 6:30 p.m.

Congregation Or Zarua Social Hall

A nostalgic exhibition of Yiddish posters and sheet music from 1882-1924 that reveal the aspirations and struggles of immigrant Jews on the Lower East Side.