

Message from Sigal Hirsch

Director of Youth Education and Programming



I am the new Director of Youth Education and Programming at Congregation Or Zarua. I am excited to be able to continue my work here at Or Zarua, and to expand it to include educational and programmatic endeavors for children and youth of all ages!

After a vibrant 26 years, Or Zarua is at a pivotal moment as a community, one that is full of possibilities. This is the time to grow and develop our learning community while preserving our most engaging and indispensable programs.

Working with Rabbi Bolton, the synagogue staff, the Youth and Education Committee, and the synagogue's member families, I plan to reinvigorate OZ's programs of child and youth education with the goal of reaching our full potential. We will bring innovation and choice to our learners while ensuring that they develop a deep knowledge of Jewish ritual, text and history, and Hebrew language, as well as love for Israel and Judaism.

I am proud to introduce Or LeAtid, which translates to Light for the Future, our new comprehensive program for youth education and engagement. Or LeAtid is an umbrella banner that includes our new Hebrew School 2.0 for elementary school

students, our B'nei Mitzvah Scholars program for students in grades 6–7, and Teens@OZ, a newly developed weekly program for grades 8–12. Also part of Or LeAtid are two opportunities to participate in Arts and Action mini-courses for grades 6–12, in addition to our Kadima (grades 6–8) and USY (grades 9–12) Youth Group Chapters. Finally, this year Or LeAtid will offer extensive family programming and regular Shabbat services for youth of all ages.

Sigal's Message continues on page 9. The new youth program, Or LeAtid, is described in detail on page 8.

SUMMER TALMUD CLASS

Insight to Insults: Talmud One-Liners

With Rabbi Bolton, Wednesdays, 7:00–8:30 p.m., July 8, 22, 29, and August 12



Can an entire passage of Talmud be summed up in a one-line quip, teaching, insult, or blessing? This year's Summer Talmud Class will explore single lines from the Talmud that pack great punches.

Each of the four sessions of Summer Talmud Class is independent of the others. You may attend any or all of the sessions. No prior preparation or experience is required, and there is no charge to

attend. Come nosh and learn; open to members and non-members.

Although prior registration is not required, we do want to prepare a sufficient amount of materials for the class. If you plan to attend, please let Deborah Wenger know at 212-452-2310, extension 12, or dwenger@orzarua.org.

TISH'AH B'AV SERVICES

Erev Tish'ah B'Av

Saturday, July 25

8:19 p.m. Fast begins

9:10 p.m. Ma'ariv

Reading of Eikha

Tish'ah B'Av

Sunday, July 26

8:45 a.m. Shaharit

8:00 p.m. Minhah/Ma'ariv

8:49 p.m. Fast ends



A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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www.orzarua.org

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- DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, *Rabbi Emeritus*
- MARC D. ASHLEY, *President*
- ALAN ILBERMAN, *Treasurer*
- HELENE SANTO, *Executive Director*
- SIGAL HIRSCH, *Director of Youth Education and Programming*
- CHARLES SPIELHOLZ, *Newsletter Editor*

OZ Committee Chairs

ADMINISTRATION	<i>Pamela E. Goid</i>
ADULT EDUCATION	<i>Laura Resnikoff</i>
AESTHETICS	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
ART GALLERY	<i>Bobbi Coller</i>
BOOK DISCUSSION	<i>Reed Schneider Nora Yood</i>
BUILDING	<i>Edward Kopelowitz</i>
CEMETERY	<i>Aliza Kaplan Mort Schwartz</i>
EDUCATION AND YOUTH	<i>Dara Shapiro</i>
HESED	<i>Susan Lorin</i>
HEVRA KADISHA	<i>Roberta Hufnagel Gerry Solomon</i>
ISRAEL	<i>Aliza Kaplan</i>
LIBRARY	<i>Barry Feldman</i>
MARKETING	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
MEMBERSHIP	<i>Andrew Plevin</i>
MINYAN	<i>Sheldon Adler</i>
ORAL HISTORY	<i>Mimi Alperin</i>
PUBLIC RELATIONS	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
READERS AND LEADERS	<i>Marc Ashley Jay Palmer</i>
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT	<i>Sheldon Adler</i>
WEBMASTER	<i>Jay Palmer</i>

If you are interested in serving on a synagogue committee, please contact the office for the committee chair's email address.

President's Message

by Marc D. Ashley



When we imagine summertime, we tend to think of the living as easy. But summer is a more complex

season than it seems. Although superficially a season of pure fun and relaxation, as a function of the Jewish calendar it is less straightforward. Come to Or Zaruva this summer and enjoy its complexity, both its casual and serious character.

Of course, I hope that you will join us at Or Zaruva throughout the year, as the nuanced rhythms of the calendar pulsate within our gracious building, through an abundance of services, classes, and programs for Congregants of all ages. You can find your spiritual or social niche in our meaningful prayer services and sophisticated Torah discussions, or as a participant in our hesed activities, musicality events, or art exhibits. I urge you to expand your synagogue repertoire, sampling services and activities novel to you.

And summer is an optimal time to experiment. Jewish life at Or Zaruva does not stop in June; we are *not* a nine-month-a-year enterprise. With some Congregants out of town, we need our other members to step up and fill out our services and events. But it is also a particularly opportune time to experience the genuine warmth and intimacy of our unique shul community. With an atmosphere somewhat more casual than during the remainder of the year, our summer services and events will seem even more refreshing and leisurely than usual.

Our menu of summertime options is indeed varied. Attend a Kabbalat Shabbat service and feel the relaxing sense of calm and inspiration for the week just ending and that to follow. Participate in a provocative evening Talmud class with Rabbi Bolton and feel the thrill of intellectual challenge and elevation. If interested in joining our growing contingent of young professionals, please join their Shabbat dinners over the coming months. Or Zaruva, both on Shabbat and during the week, is a wonderfully pleas-

ant place to recharge your batteries.

On closer inspection, however, Jewish summertime is not just about easy living. Despite its generally relaxed mood, summer is distinguished by a religious high point that belies the carefree impression of this season. If you attend nothing else this summer, please make the effort to attend our spiritually measured Tish'ah B'Av service, which crystallizes the meaningfulness and complexity of each Jewish summer season.

Tish'ah B'Av is a religious milestone preceded by several weeks of spiritual preparation and followed by even more weeks of spiritual recovery. Despite the annual focus on the High Holy Days, there is certainly no temporal vacuum between Shavuot and Rosh Hashanah, for Tish'ah B'Av is a pivot around which—astonishingly to those not paying attention at this time of the year—approximately 20% of the Jewish calendar revolves.

During the summer, unlike the rest of the year, the weekly Shabbat haftarah is not linked to the Torah portion by a common theme. In advance of Tish'ah B'Av, leading up to the commemoration of the destruction of the two Temples and other calamities, come three weeks of prophetic readings of admonition warning us of the consequences of sin (*"t'lata d'puranuta"*). Subsequently, in the wake of Tish'ah B'Av, following the cathartic recitation of Lamentations, come seven weeks of consolation prophecies designed to provide a sense of comfort and redemption (*"shiv'ah d'nechemata"*). This 10-week cycle of prophetic readings imbues summertime with a rollercoaster-type array of religious emotions. Thus, while seemingly easygoing and frivolous, the summertime is actually a season of reflective Jewish solemnity.

Between the casual and serious sides of summer, from admonition to consolation, there is opportunity for contentedness and renewal. As the summer sun warms our bodies, may we join with each other at Or Zaruva to warm our souls, bringing within our synagogue building the invigorating light of summertime.

New OZ Board Members

Three Congregants join the class of 2018

Joanne Feierman



Joanne has been a member of Or Zarua since its early days at the 92nd Street Y. She remembers being immediately taken by the simple beauty of its services.

As an OZ member, Joanne has taken Mark Somerstein's course in cantillation; this has deepened her involvement in the service, as well as her admiration of our lay leaders who read on a regular basis.

Recently, Joanne has become interested in Jewish choral and cantorial music. She is a member of the Nashir chorus and has attended the North American Jewish Choral Festival. She has spearheaded the synagogue's musicality initiatives by helping secure guest cantors for Shabbat Shirah and other occasions. She also serves as a member of the Gallery Committee.

She is delighted to join the OZ board.

Eric Schmutter

Eric Schmutter is a native New Yorker, born and raised on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. He graduated from Ramaz Day School and continued his education at New York University, majoring in Biology and Jewish Studies. After briefly attending medical school in Philadelphia, Eric changed course and moved back to New York to work as a real estate consultant for Halstead Properties.

Eric married Lisa Lyons Schmutter in 2006. Lisa is a pediatric nurse and clinical manager at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Their three children, Benjamin, Jonah, and Natalie, range in age from two to seven and attend Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan. Eric has spent the last six years as a stay-at-home father helping to raise his children during these formative years.

Eric is an active member of Or Zarua and leads services on Friday evening, Shabbat morning, and the High Holidays. He has been a member of the nominating committee, Or Zarua's a cappella group (Bir'nana), and the youth education com-

mittee. Eric was recently recognized as a "Rising Star" at the Or Zarua 25+ Silver Lights Gala. He is looking forward to continuing his service to Or Zarua as a first-time board member.

Charles Spielholz



Charlie and his wife, Sharon Seiler, have been members of Congregation Or Zarua since 1997. They chose Or Zarua because of its tradition-

al and egalitarian approach to Judaism, academic environment, and welcoming community.

An original member of the minyan committee, Charlie is a regular attendee at daily Shaharit, Shabbat, and Holiday services. For the past six years, he has served as editor of the *Or Zarua Newsletter*. He also likes to photograph OZ events.

A physical biochemist/cell biologist, Charlie has worked as a research scientist at the Sloan-Kettering Institute, North Shore University Hospital, and Downstate. Currently he is a consultant to pharmaceutical companies, public health groups, and clinical research organizations.

Sharon and Charlie are dedicated to traditional Conservative Judaism. Sharon currently serves on the education committee of Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan. Their daughter, Talia, a graduate of Schechter Manhattan and a former camper at Ramah, is co-vice president for religion and education of OZ's chapter of USY. Talia plans to begin study toward a BFA this fall.

OZ GALLERY

One Family by Vardi Kahana

On Sunday, May 3, the OZ Gallery hosted an exciting opening of 24 photographs by the well-known Israeli photographer Vardi Kahana. The works are on loan from the Andrea Meislin Gallery in Chelsea, which specializes in contemporary Israeli art. OZ staged a first by Skyping a live interview with the artist at the event. The connection was remarkably clear, making it feel as though she had joined us in the room.

Although it was 2:00 a.m. in Israel, Kahana was both gracious and articulate as she described the origins of the series, recounted the various international locations where the work has been shown, and described the different reactions of viewers in Israel and the United States. She also answered several questions from the audience about some of the individuals in her large family and their cooperation in the project.



One Family continues to move viewers with its powerful narrative of three sisters' survival and resilience. Their over 100 descendants mirror the range of political and religious diversity in Israel today. Kahana's family dynamic represents the face of contemporary Israel and resonates as families throughout the world experience political differences and geographical separation.

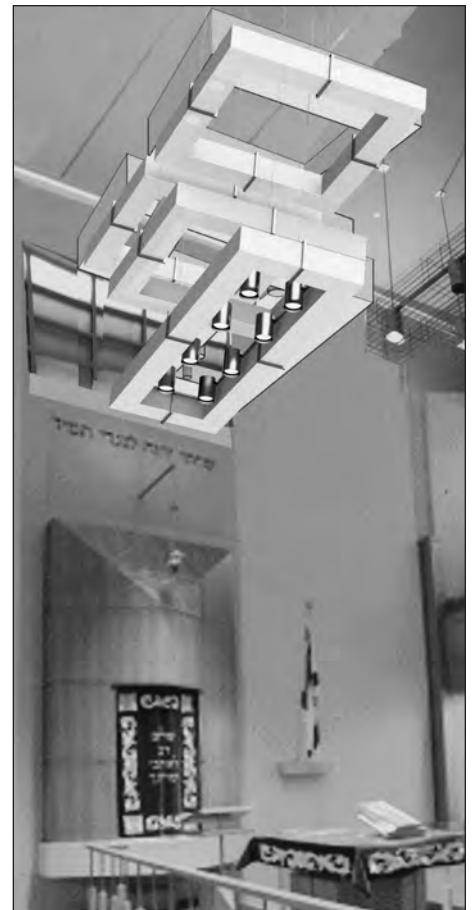


Upcoming OZ Programs

A preview of 5776; further details to be announced

- Annual High Holy Day Tshuvah Talk, speaker and topic to be announced, Sunday, September 20, 2015.
- Rabbi Robert Harris, Associate Professor of Bible, JTS, “A Sukkot Like None Ever Celebrated Before: Ezra, the Torah Book, and the Return from Exile,” Wednesday evening, September 30, 2015, in the OZ sukkah.
- Dr. David G. Roskies, Sol and Evelyn Henkind Chair in Yiddish Literature and Culture, JTS, “Jewspeak: How We Became the People of the Spoken Word,” Shabbat, October 24, 2015.
- Dr. Benjamin D. Sommer, Professor of Bible at JTS, “Seeing a Sound: Revelation and Command at Sinai,” Shabbaton, November 13 and 14, 2015.
- Loren Schoenberg, Artistic Director, Jazz Museum of Harlem, “Jews and Jazz,” Sunday, January 10, 2016.
- Dr. Jeremy Dauber, Atran Professor of Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, Columbia University, “Stop Me If You’ve Heard This One Before: Some New Thoughts on Jewish Comedy,” OZ’s Annual Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture, Thursday, February 4, 2016.
- Dr. Andrea Bayer, Jayne Wrightsman Curator in the Department of European Paintings, Metropolitan Museum of Art, “Unfinished: Thoughts Left Visible,” an exhibit that examines the question of when a work of art is finished, Sunday, March 13, 2016.
- Dr. Alan Mintz, Chana Kekst Professor of Jewish Literature, JTS, “It’s Not About Eternity: Rosh Hodesh and the Shape of Jewish Time,” Shabbat, April 9, 2016.

Additional information will be available in future issues of the OZ Newsletter, eblasts, postcards, and flyers.



Yahrzeit Memories

by Art Rosenbloom

Memories light the corners of our minds, and never more fully than when we celebrate the yahrzeit of a loved one.

A number of us have enlarged those recollections by sharing them with members of the Congregation and guests at the kiddush following Shabbat morning services that have been sponsored or co-sponsored by those observing yahrzeits. A fine way to double down on that joy and also expand the ranks of the morning minyan is for members to follow a practice initiated by Sheldon Adler, by sponsoring or co-sponsoring an enhanced breakfast following Shaharit services on the exact day of the yahrzeit.

I did so on Wednesday morning, May 22. It was a marvelous opportunity to tell something about my mom, her early life, her courtship and elopement with my dad, and her role in our nuclear family and in our quite extended Rosenbloom/Morris clan (numbering over 50 nieces, nephews, and their children). It also gave me a chance to field more extensive questions and comments from the minyanners than it is possible to address on Shabbat, when the yahrzeit is only one of a number of kiddush-related announcements.

For further information on how to experience the joy-inducing mitzvah I’ve just described, please contact Helene Santo in the OZ office at 212-452-2310, extension 14.

Sanctuary Lighting Project

by Benjamin Marcus

Or Zarua has begun a project to modernize and renovate the sanctuary lighting. The centerpiece will be a replacement (pictured) for the large central chandelier hanging above the bimah. The new fixture is being specially fabricated to our custom design, and will incorporate the latest dimming technology to control various types of eco-sensitive LED lamping. Also planned are upgrades to the existing “cage” lighting over the balconies, with every fixture treated to an overhaul that will include new housings and long-lasting LED downlights. Our goals—long in forming and looking far to the future—are to improve and enhance illumination levels while maintaining the warm feeling and clean lines that serve, elevate, and give focus to our communal worship experience.

OZ SOCIAL HALL The Or Zarua social hall is available to rent for appropriate functions. Contact Helene Santo, 212-452-2310, extension 14, for information.

Or Zarua's Membership Committee

by Naomi Smook

The membership committee, chaired by Andrew Plevin, has been newly configured this year to include a broad range of Or Zarua constituencies. With about ten members, including Rabbi Bolton, Marc Ashley, and Helene Santo, the committee is charged with looking as broadly as possible at all aspects of membership. It will review, on an ongoing basis, membership issues that may arise over time.

The committee will review procedures for recruiting new members and determining how well those members are integrated into our community. Equally important, it

will explore how to ensure retention of current members and will develop creative strategies to market and promote OZ.

The committee met for the first time at the end of April and established several initiatives as first steps in this ongoing process.

The committee will produce a "protocol" to ensure that new members continue to be warmly welcomed and integrated into the community and check in with members who have joined over the last three years to make sure that they have had appropriate touch points with the rabbi and with other areas of the Congregation. The committee will find new

sources for prospective members, attracting new members at natural transition times when people traditionally look to join synagogues. Or Zarua already has a new and active Young Professionals group, but the membership would like to help this group continue to grow and thrive. We will look at ways to promote synagogue events with an eye toward engaging current members and attracting new members. The High Holy Days have always been central to recruitment efforts, but we hope to find new, creative ideas for marketing around the High Holy Days. Finally we will look at the dues-based model of membership relative to our funding needs.

Or Zarua Hessed Programs

"The world exists for the sake of kindness."—Rashi

A Solution to Hunger

● Help feed the hungry in our community by donating to or volunteering with the New York Common Pantry. Each month, collection bins are placed in the social hall for food donations of healthy (low-sodium, whole wheat, low-fat or nonfat), packaged grocery items. Volunteers from OZ are needed the first Wednesday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, in the pantry's distribution center, located off Fifth Avenue at 8 East 109th Street. Contact Lesley Palmer at lesleypalmer123@gmail.com to sign up for August 5, September 2, and October 7.

Home Visit Volunteers

● Volunteer to visit and cheer ill or homebound Or Zarua Congregants. Please contact Roberta Hufnagel at robertahufnagel@gmail.com, 212-744-6572 (home), or 978-835-5445 (cell), if you are interested.

Monday Night Pasta and Salad at NCS

● Or Zarua Congregants serve hot food and good cheer to men and women with a range of mental health and addiction

issues at the Neighborhood Coalition Shelter's East 81st Street Residence from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. on the last two Mondays of each month. Volunteers are needed, as are donations to the Hessed Fund. Please contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com or 212-879-0448.

Ronald McDonald House

● Children from across the U.S. and from around the world come to New York City hospitals for cancer treatment. Many reside with their families at Ronald McDonald House and have no local support system of friends or relatives. The chaplain at Ronald McDonald House alerts us when OZ may be of service to Jewish families who may require kosher meals, synagogue services, and other assistance. Please contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com or 212-879-0448.

For additional information about any of these programs, please contact Susan J. Lorin, Hessed Committee Chair, at lorin@sewkis.com or 212-717-4647.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Letters regarding renewal of membership at Or Zarua were mailed on July 1, 2015. Please note that the Or Zarua Board has decided not to increase dues for the new membership year. Please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310 with any questions regarding membership at Congregation Or Zarua.



BEN CHARNOV

OR ZARUA AT THE 51ST CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE. The almost 50 participants received an Or Zarua baseball cap in addition to the traditional T-shirt. If you weren't there on May 31, 2015, we hope to see you on Sunday, June 5, 2016.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 • 14 Tammuz 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 9:00 am NYCP 7:30 pm <i>The Opposite of Spoiled</i> with Ron Lieber	2 • 15 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	3 • 16 Independence Day (observed) 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13 pm Candlelighting <i>Office closed</i>	4 • 17 Independence Day 9:00 am Shaharit Balak 9:18 pm Shabbat ends
5 • 18 Tzom Shiv'ah Asar b' Tammuz (Fast of 17th of Tammuz) 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan	6 • 19 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	7 • 20 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	8 • 21 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Summer Talmud Class	9 • 22 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	10 • 23 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm Young Professionals Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:11 pm Candlelighting	11 • 24 9:00 am Shaharit Pinhas 9:16 pm Shabbat ends
12 • 25 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	13 • 26 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	14 • 27 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	15 • 28 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	16 • 29 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	17 • 1 Av Rosh Hodesh Av 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:07 pm Candlelighting	18 • 2 9:00 am Shaharit Mattos-Massey 9:12 pm Shabbat ends
19 • 3 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	20 • 4 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	21 • 5 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	22 • 6 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Summer Talmud Class	23 • 7 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	24 • 8 7:15 am Shaharit 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:02 pm Candlelighting	25 • 9 Shabbat Hazon 9:00 am Shaharit Devarim 9:00 am Young Professionals Shabbat Erev Tish'ah B'Av 9:07 pm Shabbat ends
26 • 10 Tish'ah B'Av 8:45 am Shaharit 8:00 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 8:49 pm Fast ends	27 • 11 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	28 • 12 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	29 • 13 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Summer Talmud Class	30 • 14 Erev Tu B'Av 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	31 • 15 Tu B'Av 7:15 am Shaharit 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:55 pm Candlelighting	Tish'ah B'Av 8:19 pm Fast begins 9:10 pm Ma'ariv Eikha

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 • 16 Av Shabbat Nahamu 9:00 am Shaharit Va-ethchanan 9:00 pm Shabbat ends
2 • 17 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	3 • 18 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	4 • 19 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	5 • 20 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 9:00 am NYCP	6 • 21 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	7 • 22 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Young Professionals Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:47 pm Candlelighting	8 • 23 9:00 am Shaharit Ekev 8:52 pm Shabbat ends
9 • 24 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	10 • 25 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	11 • 26 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	12 • 27 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Summer Talmud Class	13 • 28 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	14 • 29 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:38 pm Candlelighting	15 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Elul 9:00 am Shaharit Re'eh 8:43 pm Shabbat ends
16 • 1 Elul Rosh Hodesh Elul 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan	17 • 2 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	18 • 3 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	19 • 4 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	20 • 5 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	21 • 6 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:29 pm Candlelighting	22 • 7 9:00 am Shaharit Shoftim 8:34 pm Shabbat ends
23 • 8 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 30 • 15 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan	24 • 9 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 31 • 16 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	25 • 10 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	26 • 11 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	27 • 12 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	28 • 13 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:18 pm Candlelighting	29 • 14 9:00 am Shaharit Ki Tetze 8:23 pm Shabbat ends

Or LeAtid: Youth Education and Programming

The new program of youth education and engagement at Congregation Or Zarua, Or LeAtid (Light for the Future) serves as an umbrella banner for the various experiences for children and youth of all ages provided by the Congregation.

Or LeAtid at Or Zarua seeks to nurture and develop caring, knowledgeable, and involved Jewish youth by providing a wide range of opportunities for engaging in rich learning in a positive and warm environment. We firmly believe that there is nothing more central to living Jewishly than educating our children and passing on to them our treasured heritage. Through a varied curriculum that includes the study of Tanakh (Bible), Jewish history, culture and values, religious life and

laws, prayer, skills for living Jewishly, Israel, and Hebrew language, we seek to instill a lifelong intellectual, emotional, and spiritual connection to Judaism.

Our modern K–12 Hebrew School—Hebrew School 2.0—combines engaging Jewish learning with science and arts, providing a unique interdisciplinary experience for our youth. Learners in grades 6–12 can participate in our B’nei Mitzvah Scholars Program or Teens@OZ, both of which provide a slate of semester-based Judaic studies courses that enable students to delve deep into our sacred texts and history. Those same learners can also participate in our two Arts and Action mini-courses, in which we use a variety of media to explore our Jewish identities while also embodying the value of tikkun olam, repairing the world,

through our work.

Outside of the classroom, Or LeAtid provides opportunities for youth and families to learn and pray together in our extensive family programs and Shabbat services, all of which enable learners to pray in authentic, age-appropriate Shabbat services, while exploring Jewish song, values, and texts with their peers.

Or LeAtid also allows youth to connect to one another through our vibrant and continuously growing Kadima (grades 6–8) and USY (grades 9–12) Youth Group Chapters. These provide youth with opportunities to learn, pray, and engage in hesed projects together, while enjoying time spent together.

To achieve our goals, Or LeAtid offers a wide range of opportunities for learners.

HEBREW SCHOOL 2.0

Elementary School	Middle School	High School	Arts and Action
<p>Elementary school learners can participate in our more traditional Hebrew School 2.0 on Monday afternoons, studying Tanakh (Bible), Jewish history, culture and values, religious life and laws, prayer, skills for living Jewishly, Israel, and Hebrew language. Learners in grades 3–5 will also attend our JSA Day (Jewish Science and Arts) on Wednesday afternoons, where they will engage in interdisciplinary Jewish learning, incorporating science and arts into our robust curriculum. Hebrew School 2.0 provides a comprehensive foundation of Jewish learning for our children.</p>	<p>As they work towards becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, middle school learners can enroll in our B’nei Mitzvah Scholars program on Monday evenings, studying Hebrew language and literature while engaging with a wide range of Jewish subjects, including Tanakh (Bible), Mishnah and Gemara, Jewish history, and Israel in Judaism for the Modern Mind (JAMM). Our B’nei Mitzvah Scholars will begin the evening with Poignant Pizza, learning about topics relevant to Jewish tweens with members of our community while eating dinner together.</p>	<p>Students in grades 8–12 can enroll in our weekly Teens@OZ (T@OZ) program. Offerings include Hebrew Language and Literature (HALLEL) and Judaism for the Modern Mind (JAMM). HALLEL provides immersive Hebrew learning to students of all levels. In JAMM, learners will participate in semester-long Judaic studies courses, engaging with thematic explorations of Jewish text, history and culture, and Israel. Learners of all backgrounds can participate in either program or in both! In between JAMM and HALLEL, students will share a meal while exploring topics relevant to Jewish teens with members of our community.</p>	<p>Middle school and high school students can further their learning in our two Arts and Action mini-courses offered on Wednesday evenings, which provide learners in grades 6–12 with opportunities to engage in various media through a Jewish lens, while also producing projects that work to better our world.</p>

OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

Shabbat	Family Programs	Kadima	USY
<p>Four distinct Shabbat experiences—Torah Tots, Torah Kids, Mah Zeh Shabbat, and Teen Shabbat—meet regularly, allowing children and teens to pray, sing, study Torah, and celebrate Shabbat together. We also offer special Shabbat experiences, such as Shabbat & Me, Family Shabbat Dinners, Family Havdalah, and Family Shabbat Experience, which allow families to come together to celebrate Shabbat as a community.</p>	<p>Outside of the classroom, Or LeAtid offers a wide variety of family programs for all ages, providing parents and children with opportunities to come together and learn. Aside from our Shabbat programs listed, we offer a number of Sunday afternoon Family Learning programs, allowing children and adults to deepen their connection with Judaism and our community.</p>	<p>Middle schoolers can participate in our growing Kadima Youth Group Chapter. Kadima allows youth in grades 6–8 to learn, pray, and give back, all while making connections with other Jewish youth. Events include Dinner and a Movie, Shabbat Lunch 'n' Learn, and Hesed events.</p>	<p>Our USY Youth Group Chapter, which has experienced major growth and revitalization throughout this past year, gives high school students opportunities to spend time with other Jewish teens, while learning, praying, and giving back. Events include our second annual Teen Film Festival, bowling night, and Manhattan-wide Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner.</p>

HEBREW SCHOOL 2.0 OFFERINGS

(Italicized offerings are NOT required)

Grades K-2

Monday, 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Hebrew School 2.0

Shabbat, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Torah Kids

Grades 3-5

Monday, 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Hebrew School 2.0

Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Hebrew School 2.0: Jewish Science and Arts Day (JSA)

Shabbat, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Torah Kids

Grades 6-7

Monday, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

B'nei Mitzvah Scholars

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Arts and Action
(two mini-courses)

Shabbat, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Mah Zeh Shabbat, Teen Shabbat

Grades 8-12

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Judaism for the Modern Mind (JAMM)

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Hebrew Language and Literature
(HALLEL)

Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Judaism for the Modern Mind (JAMM)

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Hebrew Language and Literature
(HALLEL)

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Arts and Action
(two mini-courses)

Shabbat, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Mah Zeh Shabbat, Teen Shabbat



FRED KEVIN



ILANA BURGESS (above, left) was honored at a brunch on Sunday, May 17, celebrating her 12 years as Or Zarua's Youth Education Director. The social hall was packed with attendees as many speakers recognized Ilana's service to the OZ community. Donations in Ilana's honor support a variety of programs for OZ youth and the Gil School in S'derot, Israel.

Sigal Hirsch's Message

continued from page 1

We have created a comprehensive program that considers the development of our children from birth through their later years. Our goal is to instill Jewish knowledge, confidence, and a powerful and informed connection to our culture and heritage. By enhancing the scope of our youth programming, we will elevate the experience of the entire Or Zarua community.

Looking towards the future, I ask you to be my partners in growing and developing our youth community so that it can reach its full potential.

I am ever grateful for this opportunity, and I look forward to learning with you!



DARA SHAPIRO

SHABBAT & ME, offered on select Friday evenings for children ages 6 and under, is part of Or LeAtid, the new program of youth education and engagement at OZ. Rabbi Bolton and Sigal Hirsch lead the children in song, story, simple prayers, and fun activities. For a full description of Or LeAtid programs at Or Zarua, see page 8.

Or Zarua Book Discussions

Dates and titles, 5776

Sunday, October 11, 2015

Bromley Girls by Martha Mendelsohn
 “While *Bromley Girls* (Texas Tech) is published as a young adult novel, readers of all ages will be drawn to her New York story, set at a prestigious girls’ school, with themes of identity, family, and friendship, with shadows of prejudice in the background. Mendelsohn has a great ear for the way young women speak and maneuver through the cliques and dramas of coming of age.” —Sande Brawarsky, Book Editor, *The Jewish Week*.

This book discussion will be led by the author and OZ member Martha Mendelsohn.

Sunday, November 22, 2015

Little Failure by Gary Shteyngart
 Provocative, hilarious, and inventive, *Little Failure* reveals a deeper vein of emotion in Gary Shteyngart’s prose. It is a memoir of an immigrant family coming to America, as told by a lifelong misfit who forged from his imagination an essential literary voice and, against all odds, a place in the world.
 Discussion leader to be announced.

Sunday, January 24, 2016

The Last Flight of Poxl West by Daniel Torday

“A stunning, award-winning novel in which a young man recounts his idealization of his uncle Poxl , a Jewish, former RAF pilot, exploring fame, memory, and storytelling. *The Last Flight of Poxl West* examines what it means to be a family in the shadow of war—to love, to lose, and to heal.”
 —*Good Reads*

Discussion leader to be announced.

Sunday, March 6, 2016

To Rise Again at a Decent Hour by Joshua Ferris
 “With the help of a somewhat petulant, loner dentist, the book takes on existential dread, what it means to be a Jew, and Red Sox fandom in a mix of the absurd, the droll, and the profound. It’s an eminently worthy nominee for the Booker Prize or any other.” —*Tablet Magazine*
 Discussion leader to be announced.

Sunday, May 22, 2016

Book title and discussion leader to be announced.
 OZ Book Discussions meets in the OZ library on select Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. All are invited. For additional information, contact Reed Schneider or Deborah Wenger, 212-452-2310, extension 12.

RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Sundays at 4:00 a.m., 8 a.m., and 8:00 p.m.



Rabbi Wechsler can be heard on SiriusXM Stars Channel three times each Sunday. Subscribers to SiriusXM Satellite Radio can access “Rabbi Wechsler Teaches” on Channel 106. Nonsubscribers can obtain a free, three-day trial at www.siriusxm.com.

OZ MINYAN Congregants are needed for the OZ minyan. For the weekday morning service, contact Sheldon Adler at sadler@skadden.com. For the Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service, contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com. You may also choose “Daily Minyan” under the “Pray” menu on www.orzarua.org to sign up for a day or two each month.



BIR’NANA, OZ’s a cappella group, is looking for a few new singers as we celebrate our second year. Summer rehearsals are on Sundays, July 12 and 19, and August 2 and 9. Contact Aliza Kaplan at akaplan@c1al.org for details.



CONGREGATION OR ZARUA
 127 East 82nd Street
 New York, NY 10028-0807

Or Zarua's Young Professionals

by Liora Avitan Seltzer

After our wonderful time with OZ's Purim celebration, we were thrilled to join the OZ community for Lag B'Omer. The music, food, limmud, and company were outstanding! Then, by popular demand, Board Game Shabbat was back on June 5! Our members led services in the main sanctuary, followed by a catered Shabbat dinner and a few triumphant victories! On June 17, we held our first rooftop Rosh Hodesh Happy Hour with Rabbi Bolton.

What's next? This summer, OZ's Young Professionals will continue with great Shabbat and social events:

Friday, July 10, 7:00 p.m.

Young Professionals Friday night services, followed by a catered Shabbat dinner.

Saturday, July 25, 9:00 a.m.

Young Professionals will lead Shaharit with the entire Congregation. Please contact us if you are interested in leading services,



OZ YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

OZ's Young Professionals joined our Musical & Mystical celebration of Lag B'Omer on May 6, which included Torah study, pulled brisket, and klezmer music by Too Many Davids.

reading Torah or Haftorah, or participating in any way.

Friday, August 7, 7:30 p.m.

Young Professionals Friday night services, followed by a catered Shabbat dinner.

Friday, August 28–Sunday, August 30

Young Professionals Retreat (details to come).

Please join our Facebook group, "Or Zarua Young Professionals," or send us an email at OZYoungPros@gmail.com to keep up with our latest events.