

# Congregation **OR ZARUA**

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## Revisiting the Prophets: Who They Were, What They Are

NORMAN PODHORETZ

*Or Zarua Birthday Party, March 24, 8:00 p.m.*

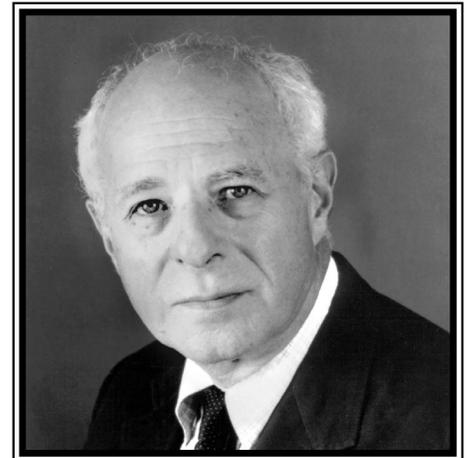
Norman Podhoretz, editor-at-large of *Commentary* magazine, will deliver the Lucy Dawidowicz Lecture at Congregation Or Zarua's 15th Birthday Party on Tuesday, March 24th at 8:00 p.m. His topic will be "Revisiting the Prophets:

Who They Were, What They Are." Mr. Podheretz will also speak about Lucy Dawidowicz, whom he has referred to as the conscience of world Jewry. He frequently published articles by Mrs. Dawidowicz, author of *The War Against the Jews*.

Mr. Podhoretz, a Brooklyn native, was a Pulitzer Scholar at Columbia University, from which he graduated in 1950. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Cambridge University, where he was a Fulbright Scholar and a Kellett Fellow, as well as a degree in Hebrew Literature from the Jewish Theological Seminary. He has been awarded honorary doctorates from JTS, Hamilton College, and Yeshiva, Boston and Adelphi Universities.

A U.S. Army veteran, Mr. Podhoretz is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a former chairman of the New Directions Advisory Committee, a non-governmental group consulted by the United States Information Agency.

Mr. Podhoretz is a frequent lecturer and contributor to major



Norman Podhoretz

American periodicals. He has authored ten books, including: *The Norman Podhoretz Reader: A Selection of His Writings from the 1950's through the 1990's* (2004); *The Prophets: Who They Were, What They Are* (2002); *My Love Affair with America* (2000); *Why We Were in Vietnam* (1982) and *Breaking Ranks: A Political Memoir* (1979).

Mr. Podhoretz and his wife, the well-known author Midge Decter, are members of Congregation Or Zarua.

Please join us for this Or Zarua birthday event. Dessert and coffee will be served.

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ק"ק אור זרוע  
CONGREGATION

**OR  
ZARUA**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

FOUNDED 1989

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NEWSLETTER

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## Youth Education Department

By Ilana Burgess

The Hebrew School had many interesting and exciting activities over the past two months: We participated in the city-wide Zimriyah song festival. Our students received their report cards. We started a new program to encourage the school family, class by class, to get to know each other and to participate in the Friday night service.

Every month, a different class will join the Congregation as an active part of the Friday evening service. After the service, the students convene with their parents for dinner. Let me share with you the thoughts of Shira Engel about the evening:

“On Friday, January 16th, the Vav class was invited to lead the Kiddush and sing *L’cha Dodi* at the service. Prior to that, Rabbi Wechsler paid a visit to our class to talk to us about the structure of the service and to review some of the prayers and songs. We also talked about the Rabbi’s speech, which was about observing Shabbat. What does observing Shabbat really mean? Does it merely mean that we cannot do business on Shabbat or does it also mean that we cannot have others doing business for us?

Later on, the Vav class got to participate in the service. We sang with

our youthful voices, then led the Kiddush and drank a little wine. Well, let’s just say that our parents drank. After the actual service we stayed in the sanctuary a little while longer to watch the Torah being rolled to Saturday’s portion.

As a Bat Mitzvah student, I was delighted to see the words of the Torah in front of me and to know how precious and important they are for me and for my family.

At dinner I looked around and I knew that without even a single one of us, we would not make up the Vav class of Or Zarua and we would not be one family joining together for Shabbat.

We hoped that Ilana had prepared her “famous” stuffed cabbage for us, but we only had cold cuts. Although we were eating cold cuts, our hearts were warm with conversation, songs and laughter. As Marielle pointed out, ‘Ilana is the first principal I’ve ever seen who can sing.’

In conclusion, this was an enlightening experience in our lives. The evening had the power to bring all of us together as one family and as an important part of the Congregation.”

The Youth Department has plans for more activities and special programs in the future.

## Editor’s Note

The OZ newsletter welcomes articles submitted by Congregants. Articles should be no longer than 250 words and may be edited for length and clarity. They should be submitted by e-mail (as an attachment, as well as pasted into the text) to the office at [admin@orzarua.org](mailto:admin@orzarua.org). If possible, digital images should be high-resolution files at 300 dpi.

In order for our newsletter to maintain a bimonthly schedule, all articles must be received six weeks before the issue date. The deadline for the May/June 2004 issue is Wednesday, March 24th.

Many thanks for helping the newsletter to appear in a timely fashion.

## TEEN MOVIE NIGHT

Cast your vote for the movie of the night—*Kazablanca*, a comedy, or *The Impossible Spy*, about the life of Eli Cohen, an agent who was captured in Syria. The film with the most votes will be shown on Saturday, March 27th at 8:00 p.m. RSVP to Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310 x15.

# PURIM AND PESAH: *Celebration and Study*

By Ron Meyers

Memory, a central commandment in our tradition, is nowhere more evident than in the haftarah preceding Purim on Shabbat Zachor, the Sabbath of Remembrance, when we recall the horrible attack of Amalek upon the most vulnerable of the wandering Israelites. The upcoming Purim and Pesah holidays are also heavily weighted with the responsibility of memory. But what different ways we have of remembering.

On Purim, we read Megillat Esther. We amplify the reading by dressing in costumes and making a

ruckus, as if reenacting the king's banquet and the Jews' celebration. In Purim Spiels—particularly at OZ—we weave the Purim story into revelry and farce.

Remembrance at Pesah is a more serious affair. The seder demands order above all and focuses less on the actual Exodus story, which we read during the winter, than on the commentaries and customs that strictly guarantee our remembrance. If Purim is a celebration of our history, Pesah is a study of that history.

These different approaches to memory are well suited to the two

holidays. The Purim story is replete with frivolity and chance. The word "purim" itself refers to Haman's lottery for choosing the fateful day of destruction. The Pesah story is the extreme opposite: everything is preordained and implemented in terrifying detail—the plagues, the instructions for shielding Israelite homes from death, even Pharaoh's rejection of Moses's demand for freedom.

These holidays show us that we can remember our history in levity and in diligence, in silliness and in scholarship. Remembering is an act for all moods and for all seasons.

## Yom HaShoah Special Service

*Saturday, April 17th, 8:15 p.m.*

The New York office of the Anti-Defamation League will join the Or Zarua community in a special service of Holocaust remembrance on Saturday, April 17th at 8:15 p.m. Members of the Greek Jewish community have been invited to tell their stories as we commemorate the deportation and destruction of Greek Jewry sixty years ago. The program will be held in the sanctuary.

During the program, we will

acknowledge beloved friends and relatives of our Congregants who were victims of the Shoah. If you have friends or relatives whom you would like acknowledged, please complete the form on page 14 and return it to the office by Wednesday, April 14th. Names submitted in the past will be carried forward.

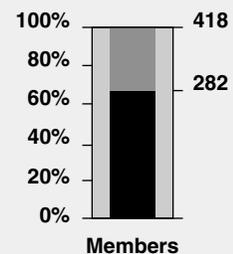
You can observe Yom HaShoah at home as well as in the synagogue by lighting a memorial candle on Saturday, April 17th after nightfall.

**Keep us up to date.** Call Lidiya at 212-452-2310 x10 to share your family's good news, such as births and marriages, or if there is an illness in your family. Also, be sure the office has your current address and phone numbers.

### KOL NIDRE APPEAL UPDATE

#### Our Goal

100% Participation  
(at a level comfortable for  
each Congregant)



■ Total ■ Participating

**We're On The Way!**

Thanks to all Congregants  
who have already given.

# DISCUSSING DEATH

## *Hevra Kadisha Panel Draws Overflow Crowd*

By Martha Mendelsohn

Medical logistics of end-of-life care can keep the relatives of a dying patient from “sitting down and talking with their loved one about feelings and fears at a time when support and connections are desperately needed,” said OZ member Robin Blumenthal, assistant director of social work at Beth Israel Medical Center, at a December panel discussion sponsored by the Hevra Kadisha on “Death, Dying and the Afterlife.”

The audience of OZ members, social workers, physicians, and others filling the synagogue library proved that people more than welcome the opportunity to talk about this sensitive subject.

Stressing the importance of health care proxies, Blumenthal suggested that people also

draw up an “ethical will” to transmit values to those they leave behind. She recommended that a dying person be encouraged to engage in a “life review” with loved ones, to recollect successes and disappointments.

The other panelists were Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler; Dr. Samuel Klagsbrun, executive medical director of Four Winds Hospitals and a faculty member at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the Jewish Theological Seminary; and Rabbi Stephen Shulman, chaplain of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Life after death is a Jewish belief, Rabbi Wechsler made clear. “From a religious perspective, the physical is just the beginning of our existence,” he said. “The immortality of the soul lies beyond the reality of the body. That is why we say Kaddish; the living are concerned about the soul of the one who has died. The one we love is being judged for a year.”

“suggest to families what may be available in the tradition.” Even those who have previously shunned the spiritual may seek it out in their final days. “There are prayers that ask for healing, and others that offer consolation and closure,” he said.



*A large, diverse audience welcomed the opportunity to talk with panelists about “Death, Dying and the Afterlife.”*



Each bereaved person approaches that year in a different way. “There is no single way of mourning,”

Dr. Klagsbrun said, and though our culture doesn’t acknowledge it, the process can take “an enormous amount of time. People in mourning don’t have to be ashamed or apologize.”

Neither is anticipation of the event the same as the actual experience, he said, citing the example of an author who wrote one memoir immediately after her spouse’s death—and a different (and better) account a year later.

As a chaplain, Rabbi Shulman said that one of his duties is to

Reciting psalms as a shomer, organizing shiva minyans at which mourners can say Kaddish, and helping the bereaved observe Jewish laws and customs surrounding funerals and mourning are, of course, the province of OZ’s Hevra Kadisha.

Vera Silver, co-chair of the group with Gerry Solomon, pointed out that when a synagogue member or a member’s loved one dies, a chain of activities is set in motion on short notice by a small group of people.

Silver was struck by the Hevra Kadisha’s importance to the community when a mourner told her how comforting it was, when she arrived for the funeral, to see members who had performed the tahara or served as shomers at the chapel.

“Let’s make attendance in the Hevra Kadisha as good as tonight’s attendance,” Silver urged the audience.

# SUNDAY MINYAN PROGRAMS

## March 28th: “The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg”

Following minyan at 8:45 a.m. and breakfast at 9:30 a.m., on Sunday, March 28th, we will be screening “The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg” at 10:30 a.m. This critically acclaimed 95-minute documentary about the Hall of Fame baseball player spotlights Greenberg’s hardships and travails as a Jewish player in the Major Leagues during the 30’s and 40’s. He was recognized as MVP in ’35 and ’40; Home Run Leader in ’35, ’38, ’40 and ’46; and RBI Leader in ’35, ’37, ’40 and ’46, with most runs in ’38. Greenberg achieved these feats even though he missed four of his prime years by serving in the U.S. Army during World War II.

## May 2nd: Tour of the Lower East Side

Have you been to the Lower East Side lately? This area, first home to various immigrant groups and new Americans, is quickly being transformed into a flourishing, trendy neighborhood. Two hotels recently opened, along with a movie theater and some popular restaurants. More new

and renovated buildings continue to appear among the old tenements.

But we can still identify persistent remnants of the old Jewish settlement. Congregant Barry Feldman will lead our Sunday, May 2nd tour, which will include a visit to the Eldridge Street Synagogue, the former Forward Building, the former Garden Cafeteria, the Educational Alliance, Shtibl Row, Jarmulowsky’s Bank, Eddie Cantor’s childhood home, and more. If you use your imagination, you will hear Emma Goldman rallying at Straus Square and wander among the pungent pushcarts that lined Khazzer’s Market.

We’re planning lunch at a recently opened kosher restaurant. There will also be opportunities to shop at Kossover’s Bialy Bakery, Gus’s Pickles, other bakeries, and dried fruits/nuts/candy stores. The day will begin with 8:45 a.m. minyan at Or Zarua, followed by breakfast. We will travel together via subway to the first stop on our tour, the Eldridge Street Synagogue. Please call 212-452-2310 x39 to RSVP.

# The Chacham of OZ

*Purim Spiel, Sunday, March 7th, 9:00 a.m.*

The OZ Purim Spielers are hard at work creating another musical extravaganza. This year’s show, *The Chacham of OZ*, is the seventh spiel produced by our members since 1997. We are a cast of nearly 40 adults and children, ranging in age from 3 to 80. All of us look forward to having you join us for the performance on Sunday, March 7, 2004. Services begin at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Megillah reading. Then, *The Chacham of OZ* will be presented, with brunch served after the performance.

Children will be making groggers and participating in a costume parade. Both adults and children are encour-

aged to dress up as characters from *The Wizard of Oz*.

If you are planning to join us for Purim, remember that we meet at the UJA Ballroom, 130 East 59th Street, near the corner of Lexington Avenue. Please call 212-452-2310 x39 to RSVP. Come early as you will need time go through a security check. To hasten this procedure, please do not bring bags, backpacks, etc.

The Hesed Committee will be collecting food donations for the needy at the Purim Spiel. Please bring at least two different types of non-perishable food items to deposit in boxes as you enter the performance.



DAN BELLER

**Scenes from the Super Bowl Party:** Congregants gathered with their guests on Sunday, February 1st to daven, learn with Rabbi Wechsler, eat kosher food from Dougie’s, and view the Super Bowl game on a big screen television in the Social Hall.

## YOM HA'ATZMAUT SERVICE AND KUMSITZ

*Sunday, April 25th, 7:30 pm*

**C**elebrating the 56th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, the Or Zarua Community will gather at 7:30 p.m. on April 6th for a special minhah in memory of slain Israelis (Yom HaZikaron) followed by ma'ariv for Yom Ha'atzmaut. Then to the Kumsitz—Israeli singing, dancing, and food. The following morning minyan will include special readings for Yom Ha'atzmaut.

## Just Say Yes....

**I**n less than an hour, you can bring comfort and a sense of a strong, supportive community to a fellow Or Zarua Congregant. There's no fee, no gift to purchase, you don't even have to know the person (the need and the mitzvah is even greater if you don't), and your Hebrew might not get past "aleph, bet." Attend a shiva minyan at the home of a mourner—it's enough that you and the mourner belong to the same spiritual home. Minyanim begin with the minhah service, a brief teaching from the Mishnah follows, and the service then concludes with ma'ariv.

You might think everyone has enough friends and family to make a minyan and that you're not needed. Wrong—you are needed! Perhaps you're fortunate enough to think that if, God forbid, the mourner were you,

### Annual Purim Donation Drive

**February 29th–March 12th**

Observe the Purim mitzvot of Matanot LaEvyonim (gifts to the needy) and Mishloah Manot (giving of food and drink) and donate at least two different types of non-perishable food items for our community's hungry. Helping those in need is a year-round responsibility for Jews, but on Purim it is a special mitzvah to remember the poor.

From February 29th through March 12th, please leave donations in the boxes placed in the Social Hall and on the sixth floor. Special opportunities to donate include the Blood Drive at Or Zarua on February 29th and Purim services both March 6th at Or Zarua and March 7th at UJA.

Donated food will be distributed through the Yorkville Common Pantry, one of the city's largest providers of emergency food. Recommended items include dry

enough friends and family would attend. Maybe so, but can you imagine the powerful sense of communal strength conveyed at a time of emptiness and loss when people from Or Zarua come just because they might be needed? It's incredible.

When you receive a notice or see an e-mail, plan to go. And, if you live in the immediate neighborhood of an Or Zarua mourner, you might get a call from the Hevra Kadisha asking you to help a neighbor. So, please, just say "yes"—the rewards are worth it!

## HESED HAPPENINGS

milk, pasta, cereal, canned food of all kinds, peanut butter, rice and beans. Don't just clean out your cabinets—add these items to your shopping list and be prepared to donate. Involve your children by taking them shopping for the drive.

Demand for food packages is great in the city's food pantries. YCP needs our help! Or Zarua donations last year were lower than in previous years. Please help us to make this a record year in a time of tremendous need.

### Hesed Fund

Your generous donations to the Hesed Fund sustain our weekly meal serving for the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter and many other year-round projects in our community and in Israel. Please continue to support the Hesed Fund! Contact Lesley Palmer, chair of the Hesed Committee, with project suggestions or any questions at [lesley@nyc.rr.com](mailto:lesley@nyc.rr.com).

## Congregational Seder

*Join Rabbi Wechsler to celebrate*

**THE SECOND SEDER**

**at Congregation Or Zarua**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 6**

**8:00 p.m.**

*Watch your mail for an invitation.*



To all the citizens of Greater Or Zarua, located in the Kingdom of Shushan:

We are pleased to announce the great event of **MEGILLAH READING** on Saturday, March 6th, after Minhah at 5:45 p.m.

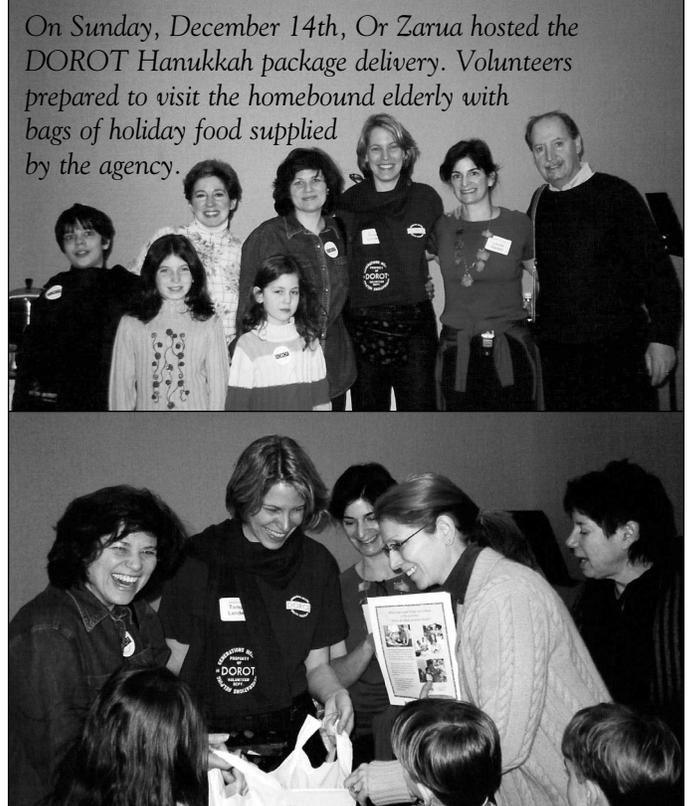


Our esteemed leader, Rabbi Wechsler, will encourage the judges and his loyal court to select the best costumes.

*Winners will receive beautiful prizes!*

So all princes and princesses of Or Zarua, do not miss this opportunity to appear in costume on the great event of Purim.





## OZY SERVICES

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

**Infant through Kindergarten**

11:00 a.m. to noon

**Alef Bet Corner**

1st through 3rd grades  
10:00 a.m. to noon

**Junior Congregation**

4th through 6th grades  
10:00 a.m. to noon

Each month, we have a special Hebrew School Shabbat service, which all Hebrew School students in the 3rd through 6th grades are encouraged to attend. Students from other schools are welcome as well.

The next Hebrew School Shabbat service will take place on Saturday, April 3rd.

## Jewish Law: On Whose Authority?

The period leading up to Shavuot, the spring holiday commemorating the giving of the Torah, is a perfect time to study issues relating to man's role in revelation. Marc Ashley will again be teaching a course between Pesah and Shavuot on aspects of the Oral Torah. The course, "Jewish Law: On Whose Authority?," will examine historical and theological issues concerning the origins of the Oral Law and the exercise of rabbinic authority. He will highlight modern debates about the nature of Jewish Law, particularly as it relates to the development of the Conservative Movement. No special prior knowledge is required. The class will meet on four Sunday mornings from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Or Zarua library: April 18th, April 25th, May 2nd, and May 16th. All Congregants

are welcome to participate in this dynamic discussion of core issues concerning the revelation of the Torah as we move towards Shavuot. Please call 212-452-2310 x39 if you plan to attend.

**Save the Dates**

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**SATURDAY, MARCH 27**

Teen Movie Night

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 25**

Pre-Israel Day Parade  
Or Zarua Event

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**SUNDAY, MAY 23**

Israel Day Parade

# Guidelines for Passover

*This guide was prepared for the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards by Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz. It was accepted by the Committee on December 12, 1984 and is updated annually by Rabbi Wechsler. Remember that the Kosher for Passover home is a unique and transcendent experience for adults as well as children. Pesah feels different to the extent that it is different, and special foods and practices are the source of these special experiences.*

The Torah prohibits the ownership of hametz (leaven) during Pesah. Therefore, we arrange for the sale of the hametz to a non-Jew. The transfer, mekhirat hametz, is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the Rabbi, to handle the sale. It is valid and legal transfer of ownership. At the end of the holiday, the agent arranges for the reversion of ownership of the now-permitted hametz. If ownership of the hametz was not transferred before the holiday, the use of this hametz is prohibited after the holiday as well (hametz she-aver alav ha-Pesah).

Since the Torah prohibits the eating of hametz during Pesah and since many common foods contain some admixture of hametz, guidance is necessary when shopping and preparing for Pesah.

During the eight days of Pesah, hametz cannot lose its identity in an admixture. Therefore, the minutest amount of hametz renders the whole admixture hametz and its use on Pesah is prohibited. However, during the rest of the year, hametz follows



the normal rules of admixture, i.e., it loses its identity in an admixture of one part hametz and sixty parts non-hametz (batel be-shishim). This affords us the opportunity to differentiate between foods purchased before and during Pesah.

What follows is a general guideline. However, Rabbi Wechsler should be consulted when any doubt arises. Products containing Kosher le-Pesah labels that do not bear the name of a rabbi or one of the recognized symbols of rabbinic supervision, or labels which are not integral to the package, should not be used without consulting Rabbi Wechsler.

Prohibited foods include the following: leavened breads, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereals, coffees containing cereal derivatives, wheat, barely, oats, spelt, rye and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

According to Ashkenazic custom, the following foods (kitniyot) are added to the prohibited list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all kitniyot.

## PERMITTED FOODS

The following foods require no Kosher le-Pesah label if purchased before or during Pesah: Fresh fruits, vegetables (for legumes, see above), and eggs.

The following foods require a Kosher le-Pesah label if purchased before or during Pesah: All baked products (matzah, cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzah meal, and any products containing matzah); canned or bottled fruit juice (these juices are often clarified with kitniyot which are not listed among the ingredients); canned tuna (since tuna, even when packed in water, is often processed in vegetable broth and/or hydrolyzed protein); wine; vinegar; liquor; oils; dried fruits; ice cream; yogurt and soda.

The following processed foods (canned, bottled or frozen) require a Kosher le-Pesah label if purchased during Pesah: milk, butter, juices, vegetables, fruit, milk products, spices, coffee, tea, fish and meat.

In recent years, the number and variety of Kosher le-Pesah products has ballooned. They are available in local markets as well as in special Pesah stores that appear each year. Patronize these special Pesah stores, for they provide an important service to the Jewish community.

## DETERGENTS

If permitted during the year, powdered and liquid detergents do not require a Kosher le-Pesah label.

## MEDICINES

Since hametz binders are used in many pills, the following guidelines

should be followed: If the medicine is required for life-sustaining therapy, it may be used on Pesah. If it is not for life-sustaining therapy, some authorities permit, while others prohibit. Consult Rabbi Wechsler.

## KASHERING OF UTENSILS

The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to halakhah, leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process through which it was absorbed in the utensil (*ke-voleo kakh poletu*). Therefore, utensils used in cooking are kashered by boiling, those used in broiling are kashered by fire and heat, and those used only for cold food are kashered by rinsing.

**Earthenware:** China, pottery, etc. may not be kashered. However, fine translucent chinaware which has not been used for over a year may be used if scoured and cleaned in hot water.

**Metal:** Utensils made entirely of metal used in fire (spit, broiler) must first be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned and then made as hot as possible. Those used for cooking or eating (silverware, pots) must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned and completely immersed in boiling water. Pots should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and the immersion in boiling water. Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered for Pesah.

**Ovens and Ranges:** Every part that comes into contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. Then, the oven and range should be made as hot as possible for a half hour. If there is a broil setting, use it. Self-cleaning ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned and then put through the self-cleaning cycle.

Continuous-cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens.

**Microwave ovens,** which do not cook food by means of heat, should be cleaned, and then a cup of water should be placed inside. Then the oven should be turned on until the water disappears. A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be kashered for Pesah.

**Glassware:** Glassware requires only a thorough scrubbing before Pesah, or it may be cleaned in a dishwasher.

**Glass Cookware:** There is a difference of opinion as to whether it is to be kashered. One opinion is that it must be kashered. After a thorough cleaning, water should be boiled in the cookware so that it overflows the rim. The other opinion is that only a thorough cleaning is required.

**Glass Bakeware:** Like metal bakeware, glass bakeware may not be kashered for Pesah.

**Dishwashers:** Clean out the food trap or filter, if there is one. After not

using the machine for a period of 24 hours, run a full cycle with detergent.

**Electrical Appliances:** If the parts that come into contact with hametz are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rule for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be kashered. (All exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned.)

**Tables, Closets and Counters:** If used with hametz, they should be thoroughly cleaned and covered, and then they may be used.

**Kitchen Sink:** A metal sink can be kashered by thorough cleaning and then having boiling water poured over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used. However, if dishes are to be soaked in a porcelain sink, a dish basin must be used.

**Hametz and Non-Passover Utensils:** Non-Passover dishes, pots and hametz whose ownership has been transferred should be separated, locked up or covered and marked, in order to prevent accidental use.

## SHABBAT ACROSS OR ZARUA

*Friday, March 12th, 7:30 p.m.*

Coinciding with Shabbat Across America, Or Zarua will celebrate Shabbat Across Or Zarua with members sharing Shabbat dinner with other members in their homes. Shabbat services will begin at 5:40 p.m. at Or Zarua and dinner will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Both hosts and guests are being sought. If you would like to be a guest, please return the form on page 14 by Wednesday, February 25th. The Shabbat Across Or Zarua Committee will contact you with the name and address of your host.

If you would like to host Shabbat dinner for four to ten members of Or Zarua and you maintain a kosher home, please call the Or Zarua office at 212-452-2310 x10. Hosts will receive information regarding informal study and Zemirots (songs) as part of the Shabbat celebration.

# TAKE PART IN OR ZARUA'S Pesah Meal Match

*First Night, Monday, April 5th*

The first seder is a time to share ancient and modern traditions with family and friends. It is also a traditional time to welcome a new guest. No wonder it has been an Or Zarua tradition for members to extend invitations to fellow Congregants who may enjoy joining a home seder.

We invite those members who wish to extend an invitation, and those who would like to be included in a home seder, to complete the form on page 11. Please return it to the Or Zarua office by mail at 127 East 82nd Street, New York, NY 10028 or by fax (212) 452-2103. All forms must be received by Thursday, April 1, 2004.

## Ma'ot Hittim Fund

“A Jew should drink four cups of wine at the seder,” the Mishnah says, “even if they come from the public dole.” Every Jew needs to experience the exodus from Egypt, even the needy Jew who cannot afford to prepare for Passover himself.

Special funds are raised each year before Passover to make certain that Jews without adequate resources will be able to enjoy the holiday. These funds, called ma'ot hittim (wheat money) are forwarded to the Joint Passover Appeal in New York and to the New York Board of Rabbis. These two communal organizations see to it that Jews who cannot make Passover for themselves are nonetheless able to fully celebrate the holiday. The funds also enable Or Zarua to invite Jews to our Community Seder who could not otherwise afford to be at a seder that night. Please give generously to this fund—many will benefit from your kindness.

## Sell Your Hametz

Prior to Passover, it is customary to “sell” any hametz in the household to a non-Jew. This is normally arranged by the Rabbi to ensure compliance with the requirements of halakhah (Jewish law).

Please complete the form on page 11 and return it to the Or Zarua office by Thursday, April 1, 2004, to make certain that your hametz is sold before Passover. It is customary to enclose a contribution to Or Zarua's Ma'ot Hittim Fund with your authorization.

### SCHEDULE OF PASSOVER SERVICES 5764/2004

#### Monday, April 5

##### Erev Passover

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Shaharit,      | 7:15 a.m. |
| Siyum Bechorim |           |
| Minhah-Ma'ariv | 6:00 p.m. |
| Candlelighting | 7:04 p.m. |

#### Tuesday, April 6

##### First Day of Passover

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Shaharit             | 9:00 a.m. |
| Minhah-Ma'ariv       | 7:15 p.m. |
| Candlelighting       | 8:05 p.m. |
| Congregational Seder | 8:00 p.m. |

#### Wednesday, April 7

##### Second Day of Passover

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Shaharit | 9:00 a.m. |
|----------|-----------|

#### Thursday, April 8

##### Pesah Hol Hamoed

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Morning Minyan | 7:00 a.m. |
|----------------|-----------|

#### Friday, April 9

##### Pesah Hol Hamoed

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Morning Minyan   | 7:00 a.m. |
| Minhah and       | 6:15 p.m. |
| Kabbalat Shabbat |           |
| Candlelighting   | 7:10 p.m. |

#### Saturday, April 10

##### Shabbat Hol Hamoed Pesah

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Shaharit | 8:45 a.m. |
|----------|-----------|

#### Sunday, April 11

##### Erev Yom Tov

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Morning Minyan | 8:45 a.m. |
| Minhah-Ma'ariv | 6:15 p.m. |
| Candlelighting | 7:12 p.m. |

#### Monday, April 12

##### Seventh Day of Passover

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Shaharit       | 9:00 a.m. |
| Minhah-Ma'ariv | 7:15 p.m. |
| Candlelighting | 8:23 p.m. |

#### Tuesday, April 13

##### Eighth Day of Passover / Yizkor

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Shaharit      | 9:00 a.m. |
| Festival ends | 8:20 p.m. |

# Pesah Meal Match

*I would like to participate in a first-night seder as a:*

(check one)

GUEST

Are you planning to bring children? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, how many and what ages? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any dietary restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_

HOST

How many people are you willing to host? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have any children? \_\_\_\_\_

How many and what ages? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you welcome children as guests? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return *before Thursday, April 1, 2004*, to:

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA, 127 EAST 82ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10028, FAX: 212-452-2103

# Sell Your Hametz / Ma'ot Hittim

**Dear Rabbi Wechsler:** Please sell all hametz in my possession, at the locations listed below, before Passover, in accordance with Jewish law (halakhah). Enclosed is my contribution to Or Zarua's Ma'ot Hittim Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Other Locations (vacation home, office, etc):*

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return *before Thursday, April 1, 2004*, to:

**DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, RABBI**

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA, 127 EAST 82ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10028, FAX: 212-452-2103

# THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

## MAZAL TOV

Becky & Avi Banyasz, in honor of the birth of their daughter, Isabella Noa  
 Barbara & Martin Bienenstock, in honor of Jarrett's Bar Mitzvah  
 Barbara Bluestone & Alan Heller, in honor of their marriage  
 Debbie & James Breznay, in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Isabella Noa  
 Rosa & Alexander Dembitzer, in honor of Rachel's Bat Mitzvah  
 Stacy Gitlin & Henry Katz, in honor of their marriage  
 Allen & Valerie Hyman, on the birth of their granddaughter, Isabelle  
 Barbara Kupetzky & Joshua Tannenbaum, in honor of their marriage  
 Stephanie Katz-Rothman and James Rothman, on the birth of their son, Benjamin Lawrence  
 Suzan & Daniel Rozen, in honor of the birth of their son, David Avraham  
 Judith Schneider, in honor of receiving *Our Town's* annual OTTY Award  
 Cherise Solomon-Feld and Randy Feld on the birth of their son, Joshua  
 Danielle Gentin Stock & Eric Stock, on the birth of their son, Zachary Philip  
 Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler, in honor of receiving *Our Town's* annual OTTY Award  
 Elaine & James Wolfensohn, in honor of the marriage of their son, Adam, and Jennifer Small

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:

Barbara Bluestone Heller & Alan Heller  
 Judith & Stephen Goodman  
 Michele & David Rosenbloom  
 Gloria & Burton Schulman  
 Danielle Gentin Stock & Eric Stock  
 Amy Wolf

## CONTRIBUTIONS

*All contributions listed were received between December 1, 2003 and January 31, 2004. Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.*

## DESIGNATED SPECIAL PURPOSE FUND GIFT

Catherine & Phil Isaac

Vivian & Fred Kenvin  
 Cathy & Seymour Zises

## KIDDUSH FUND

Aesthetics Committee Members, in honor of Aaron Shelden, and all the hard work he has done as chairperson of the Aesthetics Committee  
 Becky & Avi Banyasz, in honor of the baby-naming of their daughter, Isabella  
 Birgit and Franck Benayoun, in honor of their aufruf  
 Barbara Bluestone & Alan Heller, in honor of their aufruf  
 Marilyn & Perry Braunstein, in honor of Seth's Bar Mitzvah  
 Debbie & James Breznay, in honor of Debbie's Adult Bat Mitzvah  
 Bobbi & Barry Coller, in memory of Barry's father's yearzeit  
 Susan Gotbetter & Tom Berry, in honor of Susan's reading from the Torah and Haftarah  
 Susan & Edward Kopelowitz, in memory of Edward's mother, Betty Kopelowitz, on her yearzeit  
 Judith & Herbert Lukashok  
 Ron Meyers, in honor of the yearzeit of his grandfather, Sam Dumbroff  
 Yafa & Alan Nadel, in memory of Alan's parents, Bernard and Thelma Nadel, on their yearzeit  
 Suzan & Daniel Rozen, in honor of the birth of their son, David Avraham  
 Elaine Schattner & Paul Glasserman, in honor of Aaron's Bar Mitzvah  
 Joan Schulick & Jerry Kramer, in honor of the bar mitzvah of their son, Raymond  
 Schussler Family, in memory of Albert Schussler, on his yearzeit  
 Yona & Steven Serota, in memory of the yearzeit of Yona's father, Luis Burstin  
 Linda Shulsky, in memory of her father, Arthur Rosenfeld, on his yearzeit  
 Anita & Barry Weinstein, in honor of the aufruf of their son, Marc, and Stephanie  
 Eve Wolf & Owen Lewis, in memory of Eve's father, Robert Wolf, on his first yearzeit and of Owen's brother, Jason Lewis  
 Cathy & Seymour Zises, in honor of Natalie's Bat Mitzvah

## MINYAN FUND

Elaine & Howard Brownstein  
 Pamela & Mark Gold  
 Isadora & Jesse Hecht  
 Martha & Frederick Mendelsohn, in honor of the marriage of Paulette Gross and Jeremy Posner, and in memory of Norman and Etta Mendelsohn, on their yearzeit  
 Linda & David Paresky, in honor of the marriage of Julie & Mark Paresky  
 Thalia & Alan Segal  
 Marilyn Shapiro, in memory of her mother, Sarah Steiman Shapiro, on her yearzeit

## LIBRARY FUND

Jacqueline & Yitzchak Frank  
 Lorraine & Herbert Shapiro

## KOL NIDRE APPEAL

Joanne & Marc Ashley  
 Barbara & Gilbert Bach  
 Marsha & Craig Basson  
 Donald Bernstein  
 Ilana Burgess  
 Eileen & Stephen Cohen  
 Gwen & Brett Cohen  
 Leslie Cornell  
 Linda Dershowitz  
 Laurie Dien & Alan Yailen  
 Barry Feldman  
 Mechele & Sander Flaum  
 Miriam Frankel  
 Carla & David Glasser  
 Roz Goldberg & Alan Bandler  
 Bilha Goodman  
 Barbara & Irvin Goldman  
 Susan Gotbetter & Henry Berry  
 Sherry Jacobson & Eugene Zuriff  
 Ronnie & John Jankoff  
 Marilyn Krulwich  
 Lori Lesser & Daniel Shuchman  
 Judith Lewis  
 Andrea & Matthew Lustig  
 Jane Matthews  
 Linda & Robert Miller  
 Judith Nadler  
 Beth Goldberg Nash & Joshua Nash  
 Thalia & Alan Segal  
 Sharon Seiler & Charles Spielholz

# THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

Rana & David Silver  
 Robyn & Bruce Silverman  
 Brigitte Sion  
 Elise Strauss  
 Alice & Thomas Tisch  
 Mindy & Marc Utay  
 Miriam Wallerstein  
 Naomi Friedland-Wechsler  
 & Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler  
 Joyce & Marc Yassky  
 Nora & Barry Yood

## GENERAL FUND

Marcel & Sheldon Adler  
 Willi & Arthur Aeder, in honor of the wedding of Jeremy Posner and Paulette Gross  
 Joan & Jerome Badner, in memory of his father, Hyman Badner, on his *yahrzeit*  
 Alisa & Daniel Doctoroff, in memory of Laurence Tisch and Vicki Wimpfheimer; in honor of the birth of Mimi and Barry Alperin's granddaughter; and *refua shlema* to Jack Nash  
 Mechele & Sander Flaum, in honor of the *yahrzeit* of Rose Flaum  
 Jared Greisman, in honor of the wedding of Jeremy Posner and Paulette Gross  
 Trudy & Robert Gottesman, in honor of the marriage of Jeremy Posner & Paulette Gross  
 Richard Gottlieb  
 Ellen & Said Hawa, in memory of Salim Hawa  
 Beverly & John Jacoby  
 Doris & Don Katz, in honor of the birth of Benjamin Lawrence Rothman  
 Maud & Neal Kozodoy  
 Nancy & Paul Lewittes, in honor of the anniversary of Judith and David Lewittes  
 Marilyn Moss & Cameron Hendershot  
 Bonnie Maslin & Yehuda Nir, in honor of Daniel Klagsbrun  
 Harriet & Leonard Mayer  
 Diane Okrent & Aaron Shelden, in honor of the wedding of Jeremy Posner and Paulette Gross and for Shemini Atzeret *yizkor*  
 Gail Propp, in honor of Larry Norton  
 Thelma Rodbell  
 Laura Resnikoff, in honor of Aaron Glasserman's Bar Mitzvah and Jason Douglas Boockvar's *brit milah*

Joy & Bruce Roberts, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler's award from *Our Town*  
 Carol Rosenbloom & Ira Kay, in honor of Evelyn Kenvin  
 Annette Roth, in honor of her father's *yahrzeit*  
 Barbara & Melvyn Rothman, in honor of the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Lawrence Rothman  
 Leona & Neal Schluger, in honor of the wedding of Jeremy Posner and Paulette Gross  
 Charlotte Schwartz, in memory of Jacob Simon  
 Irene & Sidney Silverman, in honor of Bonnie Maslin and Yehuda Nir, on their 30th anniversary  
 Ellen & Donald Simon, in memory of Milton Simon  
 Vicky Aufhauser Stein, in memory of her father, Fred Aufhauser, on his *yahrzeit*  
 Judith & Henry Sosland, in honor of receiving an *aliyah*

## HESED FUND

Ethel Bass & Barry Weintraub, in memory of Ethel's mother, Anita Bass, on her *yahrzeit*  
 Robin Blumenthal, in honor of the marriage of Jeremy Posner and Rabbi Paulette Gross; in congratulations to Leslie Berger & Kenneth Drucker on the arrival of their daughter, Bella Ying Shuai; and in memory of Doris Finkel's mother, Vicki  
 Laurie Dien & Alan Yaillen, in honor of Rabbi Paulette Gross and Jeremy Posner's marriage; and Barry and Mimi Alperin's new granddaughter  
 Mina Greenstein, in honor of the *aufruf* of Jeremy Posner and Rabbi Paulette Gross  
 Terry Krulwich & Paul Posner  
 Cecilia & Allen Mayer, in memory of Allen's aunt, Clara Okrainetz, on her *yahrzeit*  
 Ruth & Sam Perelson  
 Suzan & Daniel Rozen  
 Judith & Barry Schneider  
 Lorraine & Herbert Shapiro, in honor of Adar Eisenbruch's acceptance at Johns Hopkins University  
 Lynda Wertheim  
 Alice & Milton Wolson, in honor of the *yahrzeit* of Frank Wolson

## HESED FUND FOR HOSPITALIZED ISRAELI TERROR VICTIMS

*In honor of OZ Runners Pam Gold, Dore Hollander and Naama Potok*  
 Michael Gold  
 Joy & Benno Kimmelman, in honor of Yaakov Shechter and Marc Ashley for conducting Shabbat morning services at Michael's Bar Mitzvah  
 Terry Krulwich & Paul Posner  
 Adena Potok, in honor of Naama Potok  
 Liz, Stephen, Lily Ann & Katie Raynes  
 Lynn & Mark Somerstein  
 In honor of Jonathan Stadin's birthday (anonymous)

## HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Elaine & Howard Brownstein  
 Laurie Dien & Alan Yaillen, in memory of Alan's father, Earl Yaillen, on his *yahrzeit*  
 Joanne Feierman  
 Patti & Jerry Josepher, in memory of Jerry's father, Benjamin Josepher, on his *yahrzeit*  
 Cathy & Seymour Zises

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Joanne Feierman  
 Mechele & Sander Flaum  
 Jacqueline & Yitzchak Frank  
 Frances Freedman  
 Anita & Douglas Harris  
 Terry Krulwich & Paul Posner  
 Cecilia & Allen Mayer, in memory of Erna Mayer, on her *yahrzeit*  
 Charlotte Schwartz  
 Elyse & Edward Siegel  
 Efray Spectre  
 Alice & Thomas Tisch

## PURIM SPIEL FUND

Bobbie & Barry Coller  
 Beth Goldberg Nash & Joshua Nash  
 Rosalie Goldberg & Alan Bandler  
 Diana & Harrison Goldin  
 Evelyn Kenvin & Arthur Rosenbloom  
 Terry Krulwich & Paul Posner  
 Carol Rosenbloom & Ira Kay, in honor of Arthur Rosenbloom  
 Ellen & Michael Schwartz

## Shabbat Across Or Zarua

*I/We would be delighted to be the guest of a fellow Congregant for Shabbat dinner on Friday, March 12th:*

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Children under age 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Children ages 6-12 \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any dietary restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return *before Wednesday, February 25, 2004*, to:

SHABBAT ACROSS OR ZARUA COMMITTEE

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA, 127 EAST 82ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10028, FAX: 212-452-2103

## Yom HaShoah Special Service

*I would like the following people to be acknowledged during the Yom HaShoah service on Saturday, April 17th:*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return *before Wednesday, April 14, 2004*, to:

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA, 127 EAST 82ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10028, FAX: 212-452-2103

# “For Us and For All Israel”

By Debbie Breznay

One of our goals as a Congregation is to provide opportunities for members to enhance their connection with the Jewish community. We pray together on Shabbat and at the daily minyan, and we celebrate the holiday cycle. Our ritual observances and participation in other Congregational activities—the weekly Talmud class, the Purim Spiel, the Hesed and Hevra Kadisha Committees—help us to build a sense of Jewish community in New York City. As a Congregation and as individuals we are also a part of a larger Jewish community, which includes the State of Israel. This year, Or Zarua has provided us with many ways to show our support for Israel and nurture our relationship with that community as well.

On a rainy day last June, we marched in the Salute to Israel Parade decked out in T-shirts commemorating the courageous spirit of Israel. Parents and children, young and old, marched together proudly carrying Israeli and American flags. Or Zarua’s participation, which was arranged by our Israel Committee, provided an opportunity to show support for Israel in a public forum, as individuals and as a Congregation.

More recently, 600 pounds of books were collected by our Congregation in a book drive for Israel sponsored by the Hesed and Israel Committees. The books were sorted by volunteers from the Congregation. Children from our Hebrew School were given the opportunity to participate by affixing labels that read: “To a child in Israel with

love from Congregation Or Zarua, New York City, NY.” The books will be delivered to a public school district in the Negev, to be distributed to a diverse school-aged population including Bedouin children.

The Hebrew School also sponsored a Hanukkah Family Mitzvah Day, during which the children made Hanukkah cards for Israeli soldiers and “get well” hats for sick Israeli children.

Or Zarua Congregants contributed nine of the 75 wedding gowns sent to Israel since last February as part of a Ziv Tzedekah Fund project. The satin, tulle and silk dresses go to the Rabbanit Bracha Kappach, who distributes them to prospective brides.

Those of us who attend the morning minyan have been exposed to the variety of Israeli breakfast products available in our neighborhood markets. The Minyan Committee has treated us to mandarin orange juice, wonderful cheese spreads and other delicacies from Israel in an effort to encourage members of the Or Zarua community to “Buy Israeli.”

The participation of three Congregants, “the OZ NYC Marathon Runners,” gave the New York Marathon a special meaning for us. The Congregation’s pride in our runners was enhanced by the fact that they ran on behalf of Israeli victims of terror, raising over \$4,000. The money was donated to Hadassah Hospital and SELAH (the Israel Crisis Management Center) to help

provide services to terror victims and their families.

We also make an effort to keep Congregants informed about current events in Israel by including elements related to Israel in many other programs. The highlight of one Seudah Shlishit was a talk by three young Israelis about the current situation in Israel. Or Zarua’s ability to receive news broadcasts directly from Israel was tested at last year’s Super Bowl celebration. This technology is available for use by all Congregants as well as our Hebrew School.

Without a doubt, the most meaningful way to express our love and support for Israel and our Israeli brothers and sisters is to spend time there with them. Or Zarua is proud of those of our members who visit Israel, choose to spend a sabbatical year in Israel, or who send their children there to travel or to study.

Congregants recently returned from Israel have all brought the same message for us: Go to Israel. See that daily life goes on with the same vigor and joy as always. Bring this message back to your friends in the United States.

In response, we are now planning a Congregational trip to Israel later this year. This will give us a chance to demonstrate our support for Israel in a tangible way and to nourish ourselves by being there. Please call the office if you would be interested in participating in this trip or have ideas about other activities the Congregation can sponsor to show our support of Israel.

# OZ Book Discussion

Please join our March 14th book discussion of George Eliot's "Jewish" novel, *Daniel Deronda*. This final novel of Eliot's contrasts the manner of English aristocracy with the dedicated fervor of Jewish nationalists. It is the most complete expression of Eliot's idealism.

We will meet in the Or Zarua library on the 4th floor on Sunday, March 14th at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Congregants and their guests are welcome.

Please mark your calendar also for our next gathering on Sunday



evening, May 2nd. Editor Jeffrey Shandler will join us to lead the discussion about his book, *Awakening Lives*, a collection of 15 gripping autobiographies submitted to YIVO contests in the 1930's by young Polish Jews coping with personal hardship, poverty and growing anti-Semitism.

If you have a book recommendation, want to be added to our e-mail roster, or need further information about our book discussions, contact Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611 or [arlm1199@aol.com](mailto:arlm1199@aol.com).

## JOIN THE OR ZARUA BABYSITTERS CLUB

Are you interested in babysitting for some of our youngest Congregants during Shabbat meals and programs? If so, and if you are at least 12 years old, please call Ilana Burgess, Youth Education Director, at 212-452-2310 x15 and sign up for an Or Zarua Babysitting Workshop. You will learn activities and skills for becoming a great babysitter. Community service credit or compensation are available to certified Or Zarua babysitters who assist at an event.

## CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

127 East 82nd Street  
New York, NY 10028

