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## SHAVUOT:

## Time of the Giving of Our Torah

By Ron Meyers

Shavuot is linked to Passover in the sequence of the liturgical calendar, coming seven weeks after the second Seder and taking its name (the "Feast of Weeks") from this relationship. The two holidays are connected on other levels as well. Shavuot is the second of the three agricultural pilgrimage holidays, bringing the conclusion of the barley harvest begun at Passover, and also marking the ripening of the first fruits of the trees and vines. The religious history associated with each

holiday similarly progresses from the Exodus celebrated at Passover to the giving of the Torah at Sinai, which corresponds, according to traditional calculations, to the date of Shavuot. One commentator observes that the giving of the Torah is the first fruit of Israel's freedom.

We read the book of Ruth on Shavuot ostensibly due to its setting at the time of the barley harvest, but arguably also for its resonances with the Revelation. Following the giving of the Torah, the bond among the Jewish people is no longer a mere condition of clan relationship. It now entails each individual's affirmative adherence to the Torah, which is reflected in Ruth's affirmative adherence to Naomi, to the people to which she had become connected, and thus also to their laws and customs. Similarly, Boaz's response to Ruth's intimate overture emphasizes her pious, rather than her seductive, intentions. Instead of taking her eagerly as an available young woman, continued on page 5

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## Zvi Feine on OZ's Ner Tamid

on Saturday, May 11th at 9:00am, Dr. Zvi Feine, Director of the Joint Distribution Committee in Romania, will address the congregation to tell us the story of Or Zarua's Ner Tamid.

The Or Zarua building is a modern building. It embodies ideas that are deeply connected to the congregation's founding principles. We are a Conservative congregation that sees itself attached at once to the past and to the present. Therefore, though the building is constructed

with a modern esthetic, we have tried to embody elements which

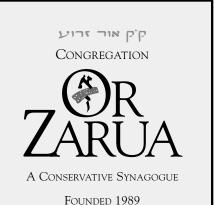
speak to the traditional commitment of the congregation.

The bimah, for example, is in the center. That the ark faces the east is unusual



Dr. Zvi Feine

among New York synagogues, as every other synagogue built on a side *continued on page 5* 



127 EAST 82ND STREET

NEW YORK, NY 10028

phone:212-452-2310 fax:212-452-2103

www.orzarua.org

DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, Rabbi
ALISA ROBBINS DOCTOROFF, President
JEANETTE BRIZEL, Newsletter Editor

## 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.

In order to be included in the July/August edition, submissions must be received by Wednesday, May 22nd. The deadline for the September/October issue will be late in July; the exact date will be provided in the July/August edition.

Many thanks for your help in enabling our newsletter to appear in a timely fashion.

# Hebrew School News Moving and Marching

By Tahl BenYehuda Saidel

The coming month will wrap up the Hebrew School year in grand style. We are eagerly looking forward to moving into our new space in the synagogue building, and it is with a sense of joy that we begin to plan to fill the school floors with Jewish learning.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 5th. As you have certainly read, Congregation Or Zarua is going to be marching in the Israel Day Parade. It is so important for all of us to get involved in this parade not only because our congregation has made a committment to participate, but because we must stand together as American Jews and show our undying support for Israel, who today needs our strong voices more than ever. It is our duty to let our lewish and non-lewish friends, our local government, and our global community know that we love Israel, and that we support Israel in this difficult time. Children in third grade and up will be permitted to march in the parade. While those of you with younger children may not march in the parade, please show your support by coming to watch us march. The media will be there—let our voices ring out and let's be counted as supporters of Israel! The Hebrew School will be sending out mailings soon about parade specifics.

The Hebrew School students will celebrate the Gimmel class' mastery of many t'fillot on Tuesday, May 7th during the Gimmel class siddur ceremony. Gimmel class parents are invited to attend. May 11th is the last Hebrew School Shabbat Class service. The last day of Hebrew School will be Tuesday, May 14th for the kindergarten through sixth grades, and Wednesday, May 15th for the High School grades.

In the coming weeks, you will receive Hebrew School registration forms for the 2002-2003 school year. Please note that for some grades, you will have the choice between a Monday and Wednesday class or a Tuesday and Thursday class. The classes will be first come, first serve until they are full, so be sure to send your registration forms in quickly.

Once the Hebrew School classes end, I will be in my office Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays planning for next year at least through June. If you need to reach me for any reason, please contact me through the synagogue office.

## Annual Meeting, Thursday, May 30th

The annual meeting, to be held on Thursday, May 30th at 7:30 pm, will include election of officers and board members, remarks by the President and the Rabbi. More details to follow.

# Israel Solidarity Rally OZ Goes to Washington on April 15th

By Laura Resnikoff

Responding to Rabbi Wechsler's call to attend the Israel Solidarity Rally in Washington, D.C., a very lively and dedicated group of Or Zarua congregants left for Washington on Monday morning, April 15, promptly at 6:30 am. While

our bus, which was difficult to obtain on short notice, was a little primitive, its distinctive outside decoration of the New York City skyline made it easy to locate among the more than 1,200 buses in D.C.'s RFK Stadium parking lot.

Our terrific bus leaders, Jeremy Posner and Richard Stadin, organized us for a group photo right after we arrived in Washington,

proudly holding the new OZ banner.

D.C. was gorgeous, with trees in full flower and bright beds of tulips everywhere. The city was filled with good feeling as well as lots of municipal employees and community marshals to assist us through the Metro stations and through the streets. We all enjoyed being part of the wave upon wave of people from all parts of the U.S. and Canada who came by air, train, car and bus to gather at the West Front of the U.S. Capitol, a

vast group representing the full rainbow of religious practices in America. All shared an open expression of tolerance as full-suited, hatted men stood literally a step away from much less clothed teens.

We observed a minute of silence



A busload of Or Zarua congregants head to the Israel Solidarity Rally at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. on April 15th with the new OZ banner.

in acknowledgment of Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Memorial Day, which was occurring at the same time. We heard speeches from Jewish and Christian leaders as well as U.S. and Israeli politicians, including Morton Zuckerman, House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, Nevada Senator Harry Reid, Natan Sharansky, Binyamin Netanyahu, our own Rudy Giuliani, Governor George Pataki and Elie Wiesel.

Deputy Secretary of Defense

Paul Wolfowitz, the Bush administration's representative, offered a strong message of support for the State of Israel. He also offered some balanced words about the pain being experienced by both the Israelis and the Palestinians. Some in the more than

100,000 strong crowd chose to boo at this remark as well as his note about the formation of a state of Palestine. This has been noted in many newspaper accounts and editorials.

The trip home was long as the mass of buses combined with regular rush hour traffic added hours to the travel time. Our bus experienced its own fatigue and we all

evacuated quickly upon smelling smoke. Fortunately, the overheated brakes cooled rapidly and we were able to successfully meet the challenge of the New Jersey Turnpike construction delays.

We all enjoyed the caloric nourishment provided by Richard and supplemented by all the goodies everyone shared with one another. Upon our after-midnight arrival home, we all concurred it was a journey well worth having taken.

## Book Club

The next book club meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19th at 7:30 pm. We will be discussing What Went Wrong: Western Impact and Middle East Response by Bernard Lewis. Reviewers have stated that this is a "concise and timely survey of how Islamic civilization fell from worldwide leadership in almost every frontier of human knowledge five or six centuries ago to the...backwater dominated by shabby tyrannies...modern only in their apparatus of repressions and terror." We hope to hold the meeting in the synagogue.

On June 23rd at 7:30 pm, we will discuss Be My Knife by David Grossman.

All are welcome to attend.

## Talmud Class

Rabbi Wechsler's weekly Talmud class continues on Wednesdays from 8 to 9:30 pm through May 15th. Please call the office for the location of the class. The class studies the seventh chapter of Talmud-Berakhot, "On the Grace After Meals."

The Talmud class is free to members and nonmembers alike, and may be joined at any time. No knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is required; nor is attendance at last year's class required.

## MAZELTOV

# Births Bar/Bat Mitzvahs Graduations Weddings Anniversaries

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## Weekday Minyan

The weekday minyan is scheduled to begin on May 6th. Members who signed up for the minyan received a schedule with their assigned days. We have commitments that will enable us to hold services Monday through Friday, but we are still looking for more volunteers.

No experience is required; just arrive for services at 7:15 am on the days you sign up for the minyan.

Services will begin each day at 7:15 am and conclude by 8:00 am. We expect to have coffee, juice, bagels and other light refreshments available at the conclusion of each day's service.

Please contact Dan Beller if you're interested in filling this important role and haven't previously signed up. Dan can be reached by email at dbeller@paulweiss.com; his fax is 212-373-2730; telephone is 212-373-3312. When contacting Dan (preferably by email), please let him know what day(s) are convenient for you.

## Hesed Committee Ronald McDonald House Israeli Night

Join us on May 9th to celebrate Yom Yerushalayim by creating a fun, Israeli-themed evening for the children (and their families) of Ronald McDonald House, a residence for children with cancer who are in treatment at local hospitals. The Hesed Committee needs 10-15 volunteers to provide Kosher desserts and help serve the Israeli buffet. This has become a very special Or Zarua annual event with folk dancing, music, singing games and rewarding interaction with young patients from all over the world. Please contact Stephanie Failla at 212-480-3111

(days) and 212-472-7506 (evenings) to volunteer for this event.

Please join the Hesed Committee or contact Lesley Palmer at 212-772-9673 or lpalmer2@ix.netcom.com with your suggestions. You can support Or Zarua's Hesed activities with a donation to the Or Zarua Hesed Fund.

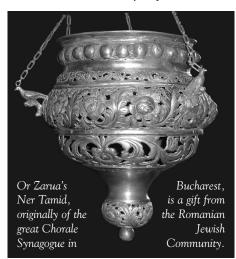
## Zvi Feine Speaks on Or Zarua's Ner Tamid

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street faces either north or south. Or Zarua faces, quite conscientiously, toward Jerusalem. The window above the ark, for example, is Or Zarua's "Jerusalem Window," the embodiment of a pasage in the Book of Daniel where a window was opened to face Jerusalem.

But the sense of history in the sanctuary is especially represented by the Ner Tamid, the Eternal Light. The lamp hanging above our ark is the gift to Or Zarua of the Romanian Jewish Community. Dr. Zvi Feine will tell us the story of this Ner Tamid.

Dr. Feine serves the JDC as Country Director for Romania and also as Deputy Director of JDC-Israel. Born in New York, he went on Aliyah in 1960 and has five children. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Social Work at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem



and his Doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work.

Dr. Feine is former Director of the Hebrew University's Schwartz

Program, a post-graduate program for directors and senior personnel of Community Centers in Israel. In prior years, he served JDC as country director for Poland, as well as the JDC consultant on social services for many countries including Morocco, France, Romania and transmigrant programs in Vienna and Rome.

In Romania, Dr. Feine is the JDC staff person responsible for providing the professional support for the Jewish community's programs for youth, health and social services, with an emphasis on aiding elderly, indigent Jews.

On May 11th, come hear how the Ner Tamid of the great Chorale Synagogue in Bucharest became the Ner Tamid of Congregation Or Zarua in New York City.

## SHAVUOT

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Boaz recognizes his opportunity to fulfill the familial obligation of redeeming his relative's widow. He

even acknowledges that there is another man with superior standing in this matter, and defers his marriage to Ruth until the legal posture of the situation is resolved with all due rigor. The reading offers exemplary models of the individual's subordination of impulse to considerations of law and morality, as is demanded by the giving of the Law.

Shavuot takes place on the sixth and seventh days of Sivan, commencing this year on Thursday evening, May 16th.

## THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

#### WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Daphne Merkin Andrea Rothman and Larry Khazzam

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Burt Biderman on the March birth of his grandson, David Miller

Brett and Gwen Cohen on the April birth of a son

Bobbi and Barry Coller on the March birth of two grandchildren, Rachel Lorien Kruglyak and Lucas Redford Shapiro

Shelley Doctors on the birth of her grandson, Matthew Eric Yoss

Stephanie Failla on her conversion

#### CONDOLENCES TO

Sheldon Adler on the death of his parents, Belle and Murray Adler

Karen Glanternik on the death of her mother, Judith Sachs

Paul Gottlieb, on the death of his mother, Ilona Gottlieb

Rachel Norton on the death of her father, William Regelson

Jacob Oberman on the death of his wife, Esther Oberman

## Contributions

All contributions listed were received on or before March 27, 2002.

Capital Campaign and Bimah Fund contributions are not listed.

#### DESIGNATED SPECIAL PURPOSE GIFT FUND

Richard and Audrey Stadin

#### HESED FOOD FUND

Mina Greenstein, in appreciation for the Shabbat dinner given by Marc and Joanne Ashley

Dara Murray, in memory of her beloved husband, John Leo Murray, on his yahrzeit Richard Hyfler and Amelia Rosner

Barry and Judy Schneider

Martin and Shelly Spergel, in honor of Brenda and Joseph Berger, who came to our discussion of Mr. Berger's book, *Displaced Persons* 

Charles Spielholz, Sharon Seiler and Talia Spielholz, in honor of Richard Stadin for all the good work he does for other people

#### HESED FUND

Robin Blumenthal, in memory of her father, David Blumenthal, on his yahrzeit Robin and Julia Blumenthal, with thanks to Marc and Joanne Ashley for hosting them for Shabbat dinner Samuel and Francine Klagsbrun

Daniel and Suzan Rosen
Richard and Audrey Stadin

#### HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Jerome and Linda Spitzer, in memory of Cora Goldsmith, mother of Philip Goldsmith

#### KIDDUSH FUNI

Ross Abelow and Susan Cantor, in honor of the naming of their daughter, Lauren Ruby Ross Abelow and Susan Cantor, in memory of Morris Lee Abelow, father of Ross, on his vahrzeit

Burt Biderman, in honor of the birth of his grandson, David Miller

Barry and Bobbi Coller, in memory of his mother, Ruth Coller, on her yahrzeit
Barry and Bobbi Coller, in memory of her father, H. Harold Gelfand, on his yahrzeit
Phil and Carol Goldsmith, in honor of Susan and Henry Zilberman, for their gracious hospitality and wonderful Shabbat dinner

Steven and Deborah Katz, in memory of Steven's father, Harry Katz, on his yahrzeit Daniel and Yael Kessler, in honor of the

naming of their daughter Talia Lola Samuel and Francine Klagsbrun, in memory

Samuel and Francine Klagsbrun, in memory of Fran's mother, Anna Lifton, on her yahrzeit

Mickey Krulwich and Sara Stone, in memory of Sara Appelman, their mother and grandmother, respectively, on her yahrzeit

Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner, Sara and David Stone, and their families, in honor of Mickey Krulwich's milestone birthday

Owen Lewis and Eve Wolf, in memory of his father, Seymour Lewis, on his yahrzeit

Robert and Loretta Lifton, in memory of his mother, Anna Lifton, on her yahrzeit

David Pine and Stephanie Failla in honor of Stephanie's conversion

Herbert and Lorraine Shapiro, in honor of their grandson Jake's continued good health Herbert and Lorraine Shapiro, in memory of his father, Albert Shapiro, on his yahrzeit Aaron Shelden and Diane Okrent, in honor of the first anniversary of Victor Shelden's bar mitzvah

Robert and Vera Silver, in memory of Vera's mother, Claire Horn, on her yahrzeit

Mark Somerstein's family in honor of Mark's Hebrew birthday and the birth of a grandson on January 23rd

Jerome and Linda Spitzer, in memory of Jerry's father, Harry Spitzer, on his yahrzeit

Lynda Wertheim, in celebration of another year of good health

#### MA'OT HITTIM FUND

Sheldon and Marcel Adler Arthur and Willi Aeder Joyce Apfeldorf

Joseph Allerhand and Randi Schatz

Louis Barash and Susan March

Daniel and Linda Beller

Henry Berry and Susan Gotbetter

Robin Blumenthal

Jeanette Brizel

Alice Canick

Paula Chalfin

Benjamin Charkow and Anna Weiss

Barry and Bobbi Coller

Alan and Pat Davidson, in memory of Pat's father on his yahrzeit

Linda Dershowitz

Stanley and Ellen Deutsch

Alisa and Dan Doctoroff

Florence Edelstein

Bart and Georgia Farber

Barry and Audrey Feldman

Albert and Marjorie Fortinsky

Yitzchak and Jacqueline Frank

Alice Geisler

David and Carla Glasser

Robert and Judith Golub

Elizabeth Goldberg

Glenn and Zella Goldfinger

Mina Greenstein

Jesse and Isadora Hecht

Roger and Susan Hertog

Dore Hollander

Ruth Horowitz

Alan and Caroline Ilberman

Mel and Adele Ilberman

Michael Jaffe and Bobbie Stein

Jerry and Patti Josepher, in memory of Rose Josepher, Jerry's mother, on her yahrzeit

Michael and Meredith Katz

## THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur Rosenbloom Fred and Vivian Kenvin Sam and Fran Klagsbrun Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner David and Judith Lewittes Herbert and Judith Lukashok Z. March Fred and Martha Mendelsohn Ron Meyers Alan and Yafa Nadel Samuel and Ruth Perelson Mona Preminger-Dreier Sabine Preter Jacob and Esther Oberman Iav and Leslev Palmer Laura Resnikoff, in honor of Jill Prosy and Jim Posner, and the Krulwich/Posner family Daniel and Suzan Rosen Neil and Leona Schluger Anne and Reed Schneider Charlotte Schwartz Michael and Ellen Schwartz Herbert and Lorraine Shapiro Marilyn Shapiro Yaakov and Roberta Shechter Aaron Shelden and Diane Okrent Linda Shulsky Edward and Elyse Siegel Robert and Vera Silver Gerry and Phyllis Solomon Mark and Lynn Somerstein Martin and Shelly Spergel Charles Spielholz, Sharon Seiler, and Talia Spielholz Jerome and Linda Spitzer David and Sara Stone William and Muriel Tannenbaum Bernard and Leah Tolpin Miriam Wallerstein Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler Eric Weinstein and Sarah Klagsbrun James and Elaine Wolfensohn

#### PURIM SPIEL FUND

Eugene and Sherry Zuriff

Arthur and Willi Aeder
Barry and Mimi Alperin
Nancy Bach, in honor of and appreciation for
all Art Rosenbloom, Bonnie Maslin and
Tibor Feldman do to create the Purim Spiel
Fred and Martha Mendelsohn
Arthur Rosenbloom and Evelyn Kenvin

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Arthur and Willi Aeder Stephanie Failla, in honor of her conversion to Judaism Samuel and Ruth Perelson

#### GENERAL FUND

Joyce Apfeldorf, in honor of Willi and Arthur Aeder for hosting a Shabbat Across America dinner

Harvey and Joan Bucholtz, in memory of Cora Goldsmith, mother of Philip Goldsmith Barry and Bobbi Coller, in honor of Enid Menzies Phyllis Cornell, in memory of Albert Cornell Jerome and Brenda Deener, in memory of Cora Goldsmith, mother of Philip Goldsmith

Alisa and Dan Doctoroff, in honor of the birth of Talia Kessler, the birth of Barry and Bobbi Coller's two grandchildren, and the retirement of Enid Menzies

Alisa and Dan Doctoroff, in memory of Thelma Nadel, and Belle and Murray Adler Linda Eidelberg, in memory of her father, Benjamin Basch, her mother, Rose Basch, and her husband, Albert Eidelberg, on their yahrzeits

Natalie Eigen, in memory of Cora Goldsmith, mother of Philip Goldsmith

Helen Ferszt, in memory of her father-in-law, Samuel Ferszt, on his yahrzeit

Harold and Linda Friedman, in memory of Cora Goldsmith, mother of Philip Goldsmith

Ronald and Ruthe Golden, with gratitude to their children, Meredith, Michael and Esther Katz, and to Or Zarua for honoring them on their 35th anniversary

Willis and Marilynn Goldsmith, in memory of Cora Goldsmith, mother of Philip Goldsmith

Granovsky Family Foundation, in memory of Cora Goldsmith, mother of Philip Goldsmith Jesse and Isadora Hecht, in loving memory of

Sylvia Skolnick, mother of Robert Skolnick Leonard and Harriet Holtz, in memory of Cora

Goldsmith, mother of Philip Goldsmith Mark and Hannah Kinn, in memory of Harry

Katz, Steven Katz's father, on his yahrzeit Bernard and Frances Laterman, in memory of his mother, Sarah Laterman

Zane and Sylvia Liff, in memory of Sylvia's father, Isidore Barchenko, on his yahrzeit Ralph and Phyllis Lusskin, in memory of

Morris Brown

Fred and Martha Mendelsohn, in honor of Enid Menzies' years of service at Or Zarua and Jane Fuchsberg's future years of service

Harvey and Linda Newman, in memory of Cora Goldsmith, mother of Philip Goldsmith

Golda Och, in memory of Cora Goldsmith, mother of Philip Goldsmith

Diane Okrent, in honor of Aaron and Victor Shelden's participation in the Purim Spiel

Shirley Okrent, in honor of Aaron Shelden, Diane Okrent and Victor Shelden reading Torah

Stephen Rayport and Marcia Kaylin, in honor of and thanks to Marc and Joanne Ashley for graciously hosting them for Shabbat dinner, and to Mina Greenstein for the books she gave to their daughters

Laura Resnikoff, in honor of Arthur and Willi Aeder, with thanks for their hospitality; Barry and Bobbi Coller on the birth of their granddaughter; and Enid Menzies, with many years of thanks

Robert Schallop, in memory of his mother Minnie Schallop, on her yahrzeit

Norman and Nancy Scher, in memory of Cora Goldsmith, mother of Philip Goldsmith

Neil and Leona Schluger, in memory of the recent passing of Neil's aunt, Ray Schluger

Anne and Reed Schneider, with thanks to Daniel and Suzan Rosen for their Shabbat Across America hospitality

Anne and Reed Schneider, in memory of Belle and Murray Adler, beloved parents of Sheldon Adler

Charlotte Schwartz, in memory of her husband, Sidney M. Schwartz, on his yahrzeit

Charlotte Schwartz, in memory of her mother, Mary Meyer Simon, on her yahrzeit

Herbert and Lorraine Shapiro, in honor of the birth of Barry and Bobbi Coller's two grandchildren

Aaron Shelden and Diane Okrent, in honor of Mickey Krulwich's milestone birthday

Donald Simon and Ellen Perlman Simon, in memory of her mother, Jeanne Perlman

Charles Spielholz, Sharon Seiler and Talia Spielholz, in honor of the people who worked so hard in bringing Or Zarua to its 13th anniversary

Bernard and Leah Tolpin, in memory of Leah's mother and father, Sheindel and Markus Ungar, on their yahrzeit

Faith, Jill and Todd Weinberg, in memory of Nathan Charak, Faith's father

## Salute to Israel Parade, May 5th

During these very trying times for Israel, one small gesture we can make to show our support for our Israeli brethren is by marching in this year's parade on Sunday, May 5th.

For the first time, Congregation Or Zarua, including our Hebrew School, will be marching as a group. We will be celebrating "Israel and America...Now and Forever." We hope that as many people as possible will turn out to demonstrate the strong American support that we have for Israel.

Everyone is welcome to participate—Hebrew School students from 4th grade and up included. Third

grade students require adult supervision. Marchers should come wearing white or royal blue shirts and a parade T-shirt will be provided. We will assemble at a specific location and time to be determined.

Save the date and plan to show your solidarity with Israel! For more details go to www.salutetoisrael.org.

## Youth Services

Two Or Zarua Youth (OZY) Services, one for children ages infant through 6 (children 3 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult) and another one for children ages 7 through 13 (parents need not attend) are held every Shabbat morning. The OZY service for children ages infant through 6 begins at 11 AM and ends at noon. The Junior Congregation service for children ages 7 through 13 begins at 10:30 AM and ends at noon. At the conclusion of the OZY/Junior Congregation services, the children are escorted from their classrooms to join our congregants in the concluding services and Kiddush.

On weeks when there is a Hebrew School Shabbat Class, children who wish to attend the 7-to-13-year-old Junior Congregation are invited to join the Hebrew School Shabbat Class. Please see the calendar for dates when Hebrew School Shabbat Class meets.

### We've Moved!

You can now find all of our services, classes and offices at 127 East 82nd Street. Note our new phone and fax numbers:

Phone 212-452-2310

Fax 212-452-2103



#### CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

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