

Congregation OR ZARUA

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 6

TAMMUZ / AV / ELUL 5764

JULY / AUGUST 2004

Or Zarua Annual Meeting

Election of officers and members of the Board of Trustees of Congregation Or Zarua took place at the Annual Meeting on May 20th. Congratulations to the following slate of officers:

President	Daniel J. Beller
Vice-Presidents	
Legal	Sheldon Adler
Administration	Deborah B. Breznay
Events/Adult Education	Pat Davidson
Finance	Andrew J. Frackman
Facilities	Anne D. Schneider

Treasurer Evelyn Kenvin
 Secretary Lesley H. Palmer
 Ass't Secretary Neil W. Schluger

Joining the Board this year for a first term of service are Brett Cohen, Pamela Gold, Aliza Kaplan, Alan Nadel, Gerry Solomon, Tom Tisch, and Marc Utay. Diane Okrent is returning to the Board.

The Congregation expresses its sincere thanks to Barry Alperin, Mimi Alperin, Sam Klagsbrun, Terry Krulwich, Morty Schwartz, and Miriam Wallerstein—each retiring

from the Board after 12 years of service—and to Willi Aeder, Jesse Hecht (also completing his term as Assistant Treasurer), and David Lewittes, who are also leaving the Board. Their contributions of time, ideas, and energy have enabled Or Zarua to grow and flourish.

Congregational business at the Annual Meeting was preceded by a festive meal on the synagogue roof. A Yom Yerushalayim celebration, featuring shofar blasts and songs led by Joanna Kaplan, completed the agenda.

IN THIS ISSUE

Youth Education Department.....	2
Me'ah Class	2
Tisha B'Av	3
Fall Calendar	3
President's Message.....	4
Book Discussion.....	5
Hesed Committee.....	6
Calendar	Insert
Program Committee	8
Synagogue Funds.....	9
USCJ Membership.....	9
Or Zarua Community.....	10
Or Zarua Library	12



DANIEL J. BELLER

Congregation Or Zarua joined the annual Salute to Israel Parade down Fifth Avenue in the glorious sunshine on Sunday, May 23rd. In keeping with this year's theme, "Let's go to Israel...NOW!," each marching group depicted an Israeli place or tourist activity to encourage the community to visit Israel. Or Zarua represented the Negev.

ק"ק אור זרוע
CONGREGATION

**OR
ZARUA**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

FOUNDED 1989

127 EAST 82ND STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10028
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www.orzarua.org

DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, *Rabbi*
DANIEL J. BELLER, *President*
BARBARA J. BOLSHON, *Executive Director*
ILANA BURGESS, *Youth Education Director*

NEWSLETTER

JEANETTE BRIZEL, *Editor*
PAULETTE SCHNEIDER, *Associate Editor*

YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

By *Ilana Burgess*

We enjoyed many successful programs in the Hebrew School this past year, but it is only the beginning. Next year we plan to enrich the programs that we have started and to create new ones.

This year, I dedicated my time to writing the Hebrew School curriculum, working with teachers, and getting to know the children and their parents. In the coming year, I plan to develop academic goals and activities for the teens as well. Here is a sneak preview of the Monday night class curriculum:

Continuing with the study of significant Torah stories, we will focus on the books of Samuel I & II, exploring the early history of the kingdoms, the choice of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and the construction of the Temple. We will examine David's actions as a king and

as a man, through his relationships with Saul, Jonathan, and the women around him.

As a secondary theme, we will learn about different Jewish communities throughout the world—their history, their traditions, and their customs. As part of our study, we will speak with fellow Congregants, particularly those who are willing to share their family histories with us. If you are interested in being part of this program, please let me know. We will also visit different synagogues and participate in their *tefillot*.

We continue to create programs that enhance the synagogue as a gathering place for the young people of our community—both for study and fun. We are in the process of organizing a youth committee to advise me about the kinds of activities teens would like to have in our synagogue.

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. 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 September/October 2004 issue is Wednesday, July 28th.

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

Me'ah Class to Begin at Or Zarua

Thanks to a grant from UJA-Federation of New York and in cooperation with Hebrew College of Boston, Or Zarua will be offering the Me'ah program, an innovative, two-year intensive curriculum of adult Jewish learning. On May 11th, approximately 60 Congregants filled the Or Zarua library for a "Taste of Me'ah." They were treated to a *limud*, a sample lesson, on Maimonides' *The Guide of the Perplexed*. Dr. David Starr's lesson generated a lively discussion. Twenty-five Congregants have registered for the Me'ah class, which will begin at Or Zarua on Tuesday nights after the fall holidays.

Keep us up to date. Please make sure that we have your current mailing address and phone numbers as well as your email address, so we can send you our weekly email alerts. Call Lidiya at 212-452-2310 x10 to update this information, share your family's good news (such as births and marriages), and make known an illness in your family.

TISHA B'AV: Moving Forward from History

By Ron Meyers

On Tisha B'Av, we recall the destruction of the two Jerusalem Temples with observance on the specific anniversary date of each event. Observances related to Tisha B'Av are the Fast of Gedalia, which marks the assassination of the Jewish governor in Judea after the Babylonian destruction, and the Fast of the 17th of Tammuz, which marks the Romans' breach of the walls surrounding Jerusalem and other tragic events. Our focus on such concrete details well suits our remembrance of the Temples, which gave concrete expression to Jewish faith during these periods.

On Tisha B'Av, we read from a compendium of prophetic literature and elegies that carried the Jewish people forward after the Temples were gone. And the observance itself begins the cycle of readings that point the way toward renewal at Rosh Hashanah. Our focus on sad historic events preserves the memory of our formative tragedies and of our progress in overcoming our losses and building our future.

Tisha B'Av services will be held at Or Zarua on Monday, July 26th at 8 p.m. (Minhah-Ma'ariv) and Tuesday, July 27th at 7 a.m. (Shaharit).

UPDATE ON OR ZARUA'S CEMETERY PLOT

By Andrew Frackman

The Or Zarua Board of Trustees has tentatively approved plans to acquire a Congregational plot at Beth El Cemetery in Paramus, New Jersey. Beth El, an excellent cemetery, has the advantage of being one of the closest to Manhattan—just a short 20-minute drive. This is obviously a major step for the Congregation. The plan, if completed, will enable us to offer an important service to our members.

Or Zarua is fortunate in being able to acquire an entire section from the Workmen's Circle. The Cemetery Committee, together with

Rabbi Wechsler, visited Beth El Cemetery this spring to discuss our options. However, at this point, the Workmen's Circle is fully occupied with internal affairs. They have told us that they are still interested in selling the section to us, but they are not able to focus on the project until July. They estimate that the sale will take approximately six months to complete.

In the meantime, if you are interested in purchasing either single or multiple graves, please contact our Executive Director, Barbara Bolshon at x14.

FALL CALENDAR 2004/5764

Saturday, September 11

Selichot and Sinful Desserts

Sunday, September 12

Book Discussion Meeting

Wednesday, September 15

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, September 16

First Day of Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 17

Second Day of Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 24

Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre

Saturday, September 25

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, September 29

Erev Sukkot

(watch your mail for Sukkah meal arrangements)

Thursday, September 30

Sukkot

(watch your mail for Sukkah meal arrangements)

Friday, October 1

Sukkot

(watch your mail for Sukkah meal arrangements)

Monday, October 4

*Brown Bag Supper in Sukkah
Hebrew School Suppers in Sukkah*

Tuesday, October 5

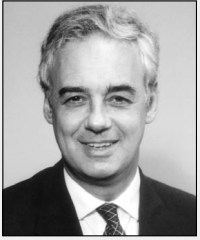
*Brown Bag Supper in Sukkah
Hebrew School Suppers in Sukkah*

Wednesday, October 6

Brown Bag Supper in Sukkah

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The following remarks were delivered by Daniel Beller at the Annual Meeting of Congregation Or Zarua on May 20, 2004:



Thank you, Lesley, for your outstanding efforts as chair of the nominating committee this year, and thank you all for allowing me to serve another year as president of the

Congregation. I'm honored to serve.

This year, eight members of our board are retiring: Barry Alperin, Mimi Alperin, Sam Klagsbrun, Terry Krulwich, Morty Schwartz, Miriam Wallerstein, Willi Aeder, Jesse Hecht, and David Lewittes. Any institution would be proud even if it had only one or two of such a powerful group to call its own. Or Zarua has had all of them in service to the Congregation—many for 12 years or more.

This group not only helped to build the synagogue but it also created the template for service that guides this Congregation. And it set the bar for service at the highest level. If Or Zarua is not an ordinary synagogue, it is in significant part because of the vision and commitment of this group of trustees. So we say *yasher koach* to all of you with immense gratitude.

The departure of such a distinguished group of trustees might have dealt a decisive body blow to any other institution. Not to this one. All we need do to be confident of that is to look at the impressive histories of our nine new trustees and two new officers. I congratulate each of you on your election and welcome you to the board. We have great trust in your abilities and judgment and confidence that Or Zarua will thrive under your leadership.

Last year I spoke a bit about the state of the Congregation and I thought I would continue that tradition tonight.

How are we doing?

You probably won't be surprised to learn that overall I think we are doing quite well, with some room for improvement.

On the positive side, we have been in our building for two years and it feels like home. The work that goes into operating the building isn't always visible—and that's the way it should be. But the building doesn't run itself. Many people work very hard every day to make the building run smoothly. And for

this we owe great thanks to Barbara, Lidiya, Charles, Webster, and Anthony, and to the many lay volunteers who assist them—all deserve our thanks for their efforts.

Financially, we are in a good position. In each of the last two years we operated at a deficit, which is not a good thing. As you have heard from Mort, this year we will have a surplus. This is partly a result of good management and controls. It is also a result of the extraordinary generosity of our members who recognize that we cannot maintain our Congregation if we must depend entirely on membership dues for our operating income.

I'm happy to say that the surplus has enabled the Board to hold dues constant for next year. Our dues remain below the average in this community. But we feel comfortable holding the line for the coming year.

Our membership is growing—at a measured and comfortable rate. In the year 1999, the membership totaled 350; five years later we count approximately 420 members of Or Zarua, an increase of 20% during the period.

Our membership is younger than it was. Of the 53 new members who joined in 2004 (as of March), 27% are younger than 40, as compared with our total population of which 13% of adult members are younger than 40. And this has been accomplished while keeping the balance between families, couples and singles relatively constant over the five-year period.

So all of this is to the good.

But a community is not measured by its building, its financial footing, or its membership statistics. These are pre-conditions, not goals. The question for us is: "Are we fulfilling our mission and serving our membership and community in a way that makes a difference?"

I think we are. This is neither the time nor the place to list all of our programs and offerings—you can find them on our new website at www.orzarua.org. But I think that a Congregation that offers its children a Hebrew School run by an inspiring principal with the active supervision of a dedicated parent body and Board committee; that offers its adult members the highest level study of Talmud with our incomparable rabbi; adult classes and lectures in Hebrew, the Siddur and Torah and Haftarah reading led by gifted teachers drawn from our membership; our own scholar-in-residence program; our annual Lucy Dawidowicz lecture; a book discussion

group; the Me'ah program, which will begin this fall; a library with an outstanding collection of books and an environment ideally suited for study; beautiful and deeply meaningful services on Shabbat and on the cycle of Jewish holidays; a home in which we joyfully celebrate the simchaot that make up the religious life cycle; a daily minyan serving those who must say kaddish and providing to others a way to begin the day with a connection to the sacred; Chaim Dovid's music; communal Shabbat meals; missions to Israel; guided visits to museums and the Lower East Side, under the leadership of our own knowledgeable members; a Super Bowl party; a linking of arms and hearts for the Israel Day Parade; important publications like our monthly newsletter and our own Orot; our glorious Purim Spiel; sports for the entire family after the Sunday minyan; the devotion of our Hevra Kadisha; the generosity of spirit of our Hesed Committee and the wonderful good works done by our members for the poor and the disabled here in New York and in Israel; and, as important, the friendship and support of a community of caring and interesting people—that is a Congregation that I think can, and does, make a difference.

To all who have made a difference, I extend our sincere thanks.

But we can do more. We need more and better programs for the children. We began the Kalanit program this year but we are looking at more options for toddlers. We need programs that will be attractive to our teenagers and that recognize the busy schedules that they have. We need to connect to our young members who have gone off to college and graduate school. We need to continue to strengthen the Friday night minyan and provide a minyan every Sunday, not just twice a month. We need to involve more members in the activities of the Hesed Committee. We need to be vigilant in preserving Or Zarua as a friendly Congregation that welcomes visitors and new members and yet remains an intimate community with a way of doing things that is unique.

These, I think, are good challenges to have.

We have had a wonderful year. We can look forward to the coming year with confidence and enthusiasm.

Thank you again for coming this evening and for your support.

OZ Book Discussion

“The Pity of It All” by Amos Elon to be Discussed Sunday, September 12th

This twelfth year of Or Zaru’s book discussions introduced many Congregants to a wonderful range of good Jewish books—and to each other. An innovation this year was our successful use of the Congregation’s library for our Sunday meetings.

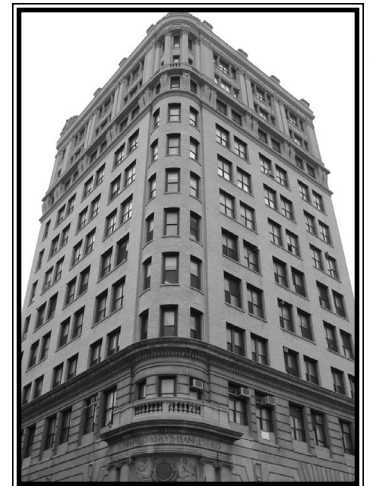
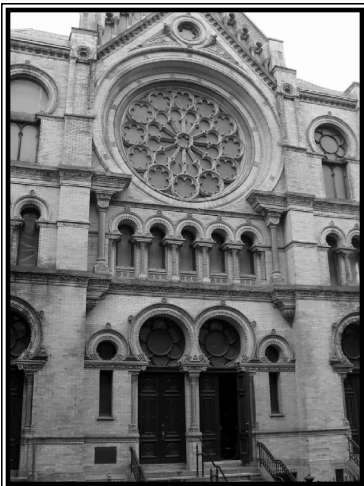
At our kick-off last September, Congregant and noted author, Francine Klagsbrun, led us in a look at her most recent book, *The Fourth Commandment*. In May, Professor

Jeffrey Shandler joined us to discuss the powerful collection of autobiographies selected from YIVO contests in the 1930s. We read and talked about these other excellent books: *Adjusting Sights* by Haim Sabato, *Three Daughters* by Letty Cottin Pogrebin, *Home to Stay* by Daniel Gordis, *The Case for Israel* by Alan Dershowitz, *Daniel Deronda* by George Eliot, and *The New Rabbi* by Stephen Fried.

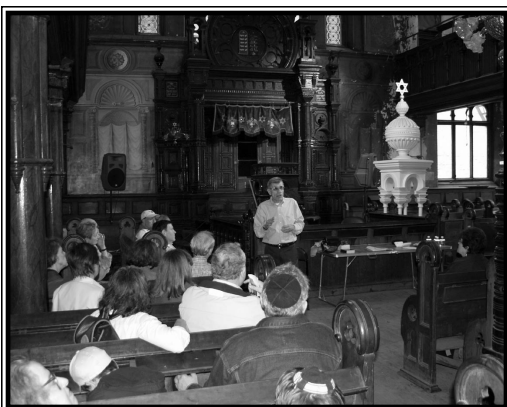
Congregants participating in our discussions select the books we read.

Selections include fiction and nonfiction either by Jewish authors or on topics of concern to the Jewish community. All Congregants and their guests are welcome to attend the discussions. Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 12th at 7:30 p.m. We will discuss an intimate history of German Jewry, *The Pity of It All: A History of the Jews in Germany from 1743 to 1933*, by Amos Elon. So, do some great summer reading and join us on September 12th.

Tour of the Lower East Side



DANIEL J. BELLER



Congregant Barry Feldman (above center) led a tour of the Lower East Side on May 2nd, which included visits to the Eldridge Street Synagogue (far left), Jarmulowsky’s Bank (above) and the Young Israel Synagogue of Manhattan (left), among many other interesting sites. There was also time for lunch at a kosher restaurant and opportunities for shopping.

HESED COMMITTEE

Books for Israel Project, 2nd Edition

The Books for Israel Project is back! Celebrate the New Year and the start of school by donating used English-language books for Israeli public schools serving all sectors of the population. Or Zarua's donations last year were immediately put to good use in schools throughout the Negev. The best books to send are those that young people themselves recommend and choose to share (fiction, mystery, science fiction, autobiography, etc.). Junior and senior high schools throughout Israel are also now in need of encyclopedias as well as science and history books for use in mandatory research projects. They seek history books on music, art, film, printing, paper manufacturing, fashion, and technology. In general, all reference and discovery books for children are very much needed. School textbooks are less useful unless they are written in such a way that students can read from them and learn independently. The project is also making a special request for books in Braille, books with large-print texts, and story books accompanied by listen-along audio cassette tapes. All donated books must be in good condition.

The Books for Israel Project is a wholly volunteer, grassroots effort begun in 2002 to help Israel's children and their teachers continue the vital task of achieving English-lan-

guage literacy through public school education, despite the economic, emotional, and psychological hardships imposed by the constant threat



Packing books for shipment to Israel.

of terror against Israel's civilian population. As of April 2004, over 21 tons of donated English literature and reference books have been delivered to Israel's Jewish, Druze, Bedouin, Christian, Bahai, and Muslim schools from book drives launched by concerned synagogues, churches, schools, youth groups, community centers, and individuals

throughout North America. For more information, visit the Books for Israel Project website at: <http://www.edunegev.gov.il/bs/b4i/>.

Every Or Zarua member can participate in this project and help schools that have no funding to purchase books. Please go through your bookshelves, visit the book store, or make a donation to the Hesed Fund to help underwrite the significant shipping expense incurred by this project. Please drop off books in the Social Hall or on the sixth floor, between September 1st and October 31st. Contact Lesley Palmer at 212-771-9673 or Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310 x15 with any questions.

The following messages are from Adele Raemer, the Project's coordinator for the Negev, located at Ma'ale Habsor Regional High School:

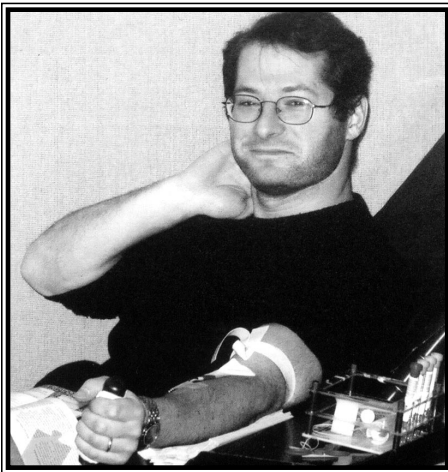
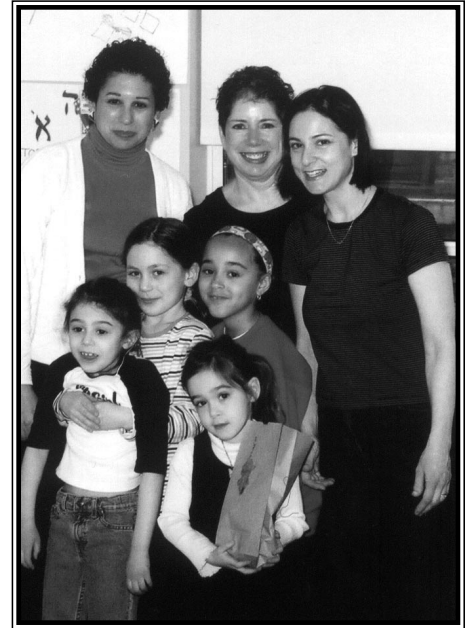
February 23, 2004—Dear Lesley, I have had a busy week—after setting out your books in a makeshift exhibition, I invited teachers from schools in the region to come take books. I am very happy I did it this way this time, as opposed to sending bags of books I had chosen, hoping they would be appropriate. This time, I KNOW that the books going to the different schools are going to be of the right levels and materials. Please know—and inform your congregation—that the books are most definitely reaching their destinations. You should be hearing from the different communities that took them: two moshav schools (elementary and high), our school (kibbutz) and a Bedouin school (elementary). That is it for now—there will be more coming in soon. So, as we Jews have done throughout our history—mix sadness with our happiness—after the horrible terror attack this morning, we can have at least a

little comfort in this wonderful cross-cultural international project. In the name of my school and my region, I thank you.

March 22, 2004—We had a lovely visit from Ilana [Burgess] today in Ma'ale Habsor. I took her around and introduced her to a few of my students, who explained why the books are so important to their English studies and showed her how we distribute the books. Her visit coincided with that of Iman, an English teacher in a Bedouin school near Arad. They are thirsty for books—their library is nonexistent and the books that they took today (about 4 boxes) will be the first ones on their shelves! Ilana met one of our librarians, Orly, who gave her a description of the library and its needs. I hope Ilana enjoyed coming to meet us as much as we enjoyed hosting her. It is so important to put faces, sounds and sights behind the names. It was the first donor visit we have had—we are so off the beaten track that not many people find themselves in our neck of the woods. Our very warm thanks to the rest of your community.

HESED COMMITTEE

Blood Drive and Children's Activities



More than 50 volunteers and donors participated in Or Zarua's Second Annual Blood Drive on February 29th. While parents donated 33 pints of blood and registered with the Bone Marrow Donor Registry, children were involved in their own mitzvot. Above left: Richard and Audrey Stadin helped Or Zarua's children plant bulbs in pots they had decorated as gifts for children of Ronald McDonald House. Above right: Parents and kids assembled meals for the Coalition for the Homeless. Left: Brett Cohen and Susan Kopelowitz gave a couple of pints.



On January 27th, members of Or Zarua performed Israeli folk songs in celebration of Tu B'Shevat at Ronald McDonald House.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Year Two in Our Own Home

Another exciting year of learning, entertainment, and Congregational participation is winding down, and planning is already in full swing for our third year in the new building! A wide range of programs were offered for study and enjoyment this year.

■ Rabbi Wechsler continued his Wednesday evening Talmud classes.

■ Mark Sommerstein taught Hebrew again this year.

■ Marc Ashley discussed Oral Law with Congregants between Pesah and Shavuot.

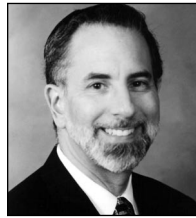
■ Monthly Shabbat dinners or luncheons with concurrent children's programs continued and were highlighted by fascinating and enlightening speakers. They were special occasions to learn from others.

■ Dr. Barbara Spectre, founding Director of Paideia, the European Institute of Jewish Studies in Sweden, spoke on "Jewish Renaissance and Anti-Semitism in Europe: Contradictions?"



Professor Emily Braun, curator, author and professor of Art History at Hunter College and at the Graduate Center of CUNY, enlightened us about "The Power of Conversation: Jewish Women and Their Salons."

This topic will be featured in an exhibit at The Jewish Museum in early 2005.



Rabbi Reuven Kimmelman, an expert in the history of the prayer book and professor of Classical Judaica at Brandeis University, was the mid-winter Scholar-in-Residence. His topic was "The Distinctive Ideas of the Prayerbook."



Commemorating our 15 years as a Congregation, Norman Podhoretz, editor-at-large of *Commentary* magazine, delivered the Lucy Dawidowicz lecture. He spoke on "Revisiting the Prophets: Who They Were, What They Are."

■ The Yom HaShoah service, co-sponsored with the Anti-Defamation League, commemorated the deportation and destruction of Greek Jewry 60 years ago.



A musical happening with Chaim Dovid and his troupe, who played well into the night, "framed traditional Jewish themes into modern melodic passages." The concert and jam session concluded only due to hunger and fatigue on the part of the musi-

cians, remaining Congregants, and presiding rabbi.

■ The long, cold winter of 2003-2004 was warmed by Congregants hosting Congregants for Shabbat Across Or Zarua in March.

■ Rooftop activities included Sukkot meals and a Tar Beach picnic preceding the Annual Meeting.

■ The annual Tikkun Leyl Shavuot, a panel discussion led by Rabbi Wechsler, dealt with many current and controversial medical ethics issues. Expert participants included Barry Coller (moderator), with Larry Norton, Mark Gold, Leona Schluger, and Sabina Preter. The Teen Tikkun focused on love and relationships as depicted in the Book of Ruth.

WWW.ORZARUA.ORG

Or Zarua is only a click away!

Our new website is a great resource both for existing and prospective members.

Use www.orzarua.org to:

- View our calendar and check service times
- Sign up for events
- Make donations on-line
- Learn about educational programs for adults and for children
- Keep informed about our Congregation

The Synagogue Funds

Congregation Or Zarua's dues remain at the low end of the range charged by other congregations in our area. Our relatively low dues ensure access to the Congregation by a diverse membership. But please note that your dues cover only approximately 40% of the cost of operations; donations provide the rest. Donations to the various funds described in this article help us provide service that is not just adequate but excellent. Please consider making frequent donations to our synagogue's funds in an area of interest to you.

Designated Special Purpose Fund allows Congregants to donate money so that the Congregation can purchase important items such as ritual objects.

General Fund is used to defray operating costs not covered by dues.

Hebrew School Fund supports both formal and informal Youth and Family Programs.

Hesed Fund distributes money

to organizations and programs in New York City, the rest of the United States, and Israel. It also supports the Monday Night Pizza Meals served weekly by OZ Congregants as well as Hesed Committee programs, including Ronald McDonald Night, DOROT Day at OZ, the Blood Drive, and Books for Israel.

Hevra Kadisha Fund helps support services that we offer our members, such as condolence meals delivered to mourners' homes.

Kiddush Fund helps defray the costs of the weekly Shabbat and Yom Tov kiddushes. To sponsor a kiddush, please contact the office.

Library Fund helps us purchase books. Appropriate book plates are placed in the books we purchase.

Ma'ot Hittim Fund raises money each year before Pesah to make certain that Jews without adequate resources will be able to enjoy the holiday.

Minyan Fund helps defray the costs of the light breakfast served at weekday minyans and the traditional breakfasts served at Sunday minyans.

Music Fund enables us to expand the musical offerings at our synagogue.

Purim Spiel Fund helps defray the cost of our annual Purim Spiel and meal, which are enjoyed by many.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund is used by Rabbi Wechsler at his discretion. Rabbi Wechsler often uses these funds to support charitable organizations.

Scholar-in-Residence Fund enables us to bring esteemed scholars to Or Zarua, not only for the Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat, but also for Shabbat Meals and the Lucy Dawidowicz Memorial Lecture.

Shabbat Meal Fund allows us to charge reasonable rates for Congregational Shabbat meals. To sponsor a specific Shabbat Meal, please contact the office.

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Every year your Or Zarua dues bill includes a charge for membership in the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ). The USCJ promotes the role of the synagogue in Jewish life. Its mission is to strengthen and serve Conservative congregations and their members. USCJ accomplishes this objective by creating, developing, and disseminating educational and religious programming materials and ideas for adults and youth. Or Zarua uses many USCJ publications, includ-

ing our daily and High Holy Day prayer books and the Luah. Our Tikkun Leyl Shavuot last year was based on a USCJ publication written by Rabbi Wechsler. USCJ has developed a Megillat HaShoah, which may be used in a future Yom HaShoah commemoration at Or Zarua.

USCJ works in concert with other Conservative institutions and organizations to promote and nurture a vibrant movement. Many OZ Congregants are involved in these

organizations—Camp Ramah, Solomon Schechter schools, Jewish Theological Seminary, Masorti, and Mercaz. The professional organizations of United Synagogue support our Congregation's professional staff.

Or Zarua is assessed an annual fee for membership in USCJ. This fee is based on the number of members and their dues. It is voluntary, but highly encouraged, for all Or Zarua Congregants to pay the USCJ charge on their dues bill.

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

MAZAL TOV

Gwen & Brett Cohen, on the birth of their son, Benjamin Moses
 Trudy & Robert Gottesman, in honor of Sarah's Bat Mitzvah
 Ron Liebowitz, in honor of being named President of Middlebury College
 David Shechter, in honor of receiving his doctorate degree
 Rana & David Silver, in honor of the marriage of David's son, Alexander, and Jamie Grossmann
 Liz Neumark & Chaim Wachsberger, in honor of Kaitlin's Bat Mitzvah
 Naomi Friedland-Wechsler and Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler, in honor of Hannah Leah's engagement to Bezalel Esterson
 Elaine & James Wolfensohn, in honor of the marriage of their daughter, Sara, and Neil Mayle

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:
 Jacqueline & Jason Friedland
 Ayala & John Podhoretz
 Debra & Stephen Weiss

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to:
 Sara Adler Gottlieb & Judith Friedlander, on the death of their mother, Silvia Paulson
 Ran Eisenbruch, on the death of his father, Joseph Eisenbruch
 Ellen Hawa, on the death of her father, Nye Levy
 Bernard Tolpin, on the death of his wife, Leah
 Barry Weintraub, on the death of his mother, Anna Weintraub
 May they and their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions listed were received between April 1, 2004 and May 31, 2004.
 Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.

DESIGNATED SPECIAL PURPOSE FUND GIFT

Jacob Oberman, in memory of his wife, Esther, on her yahrzeit
 Anne & Reed Schneider

KIDDUSH FUND

An anonymous group of friends, in honor of Naomi Friedland-Wechsler's return to good health and Rabbi Wechsler's recent birthday
 The Talmud Class, in honor of our teacher, Rabbi Wechsler
 Susan Cantor & Ross Abelow, in memory of Morris Lee Abelow
 Barbara & Martin Bienenstock, in honor of Jarett's Bar Mitzvah
 Rose & Alexander Dembitzer, in honor of Rachel's Bat Mitzvah
 Laurie Dien & Alan Yaillen, in honor of Aliza's 9th birthday
 Alisa & Daniel Doctoroff, in honor of Jenna's Bat Mitzvah
 Mechele & Sander Flaum, in memory of Sander's father, Joseph Flaum
 Barbara & Olive Goldstein, in honor of their daughter's babynaming
 Isadora & Jesse Hecht, in honor of Rebecca's Bat Mitzvah
 Eve Wolf and Owen Lewis, in honor of Victoria's Bat Mitzvah
 Rachel & Larry Norton, in memory of Rachel's father, William Regelson
 Jacob Oberman, in memory of his wife, Esther, and her father
 Dina Markson & Andrew Seidman, in honor of Benjamin's Bar Mitzvah
 Carrie & Ilana Shechter, in honor of David's defense of his doctoral thesis
 Sharon Seiler & Talia Spielholtz, in honor of Charlie's birthday
 Rana & David Silver, in honor of Rana's Haftarah reading and her first time reading Torah

MINYAN FUND

Gloria & Burton Schulman
 Stadin Family, in memory of Leah Tolpin; and in memory of Joseph Eisenbruch

Abby & Philip Thomas, with thanks to Barry Feldman, for his enjoyable tour of the Lower East Side

GENERAL FUND

Willi & Arthur Aeder, in memory of Leah Tolpin
 Lynn & Daniel Beller, in memory of Joseph Eisenbruch; and in memory of Leah Tolpin
 Robin Blumenthal, in memory of Leah Tolpin
 Faye Baron Dorfman
 Linda Eidelberg, in memory of her mother, Rose Basch, and her husband, Albert Eidelberg
 Helene Ferszt, in memory of Roger Ferszt and Louis Karp
 Mechele & Sander Flaum
 Emily Braun & Andrew Frackman
 Goldy & Arthur Fried
 Pamela & Richard Gelfand, in honor of Barry Coller on his induction to the National Academy of Science
 Diana & Harrison Goldin
 Isadora & Jesse Hecht, in memory of Leah Tolpin
 Valerie & Allen Hyman, in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Isabelle Emma Hyman
 Robin Kirman & Joseph Schwartz
 Nancy & Paul Lewittes, in honor of Peter Levine's birthday
 Anne & Charles Mayer, in memory of Anne's parents, Clara & Dennis Winston
 Marcia Kalin & Stephen Rayport, in honor of Pat and Alan Davidson, for their hospitality on Shabbat Across Or Zarua
 Laura Resnikoff, in memory of Leah Tolpin; in memory of Joseph Eisenbruch; and with thanks to Alain Roizen
 Vera & Robert Silver, for Pesah Yizkor, and in memory of Leah Tolpin
 Sharon Seiler & Charles Spielholz & Talia, in honor of Sara Stone, for organizing the Or Zarua seder
 Irene Beartiz Susmano, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler
 Vicky Stein, in memory of Leah Tolpin
 Cheryl Sternlieb, in memory of Isidore and Ida Sternlieb and Evelyn Stolpen

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

HESED FUND

Elaine & Howard Brownstein, for Israeli Victims of Terrorism
 Mina & Elizabeth Greenstein, in memory of Leah Tolpin
 Martha & Frederick Mendelsohn, in memory of Leah Tolpin
 Ruth & Sam Perelson
 Suzan & Daniel Rosen
 Leona & Neil Schluger, in memory of Neil's father, Joseph Schluger, on his 4th yearzeit
 Judith & Barry Schneider
 Charlotte Schwartz, in memory of Morris Schwartz
 Lorraine & Herbert Shapiro, in memory of Leah Tolpin; and in memory of Joseph Eisenbruch
 Linda & Jerome Spitzer, in memory of Leah Tolpin
 Vicky Stein, refua shleima for Naomi Friedland-Wechsler
 Alice & Milton Wolson, in honor of Marisa Paige Wolson's birthday

HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Martha & Fred Mendelsohn, in memory of Leah Tolpin; and in memory of Martha's father, Arnold Neustadter, on his yearzeit
 Abby, Philip & Lev Thomas, with great thanks to the Silver family for their Pesah hospitality; and in memory of Leah Tolpin

Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of her mother, Goldie Patt; and in memory of Leah Tolpin

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Rhoda Blumenthal, in honor of Julia and Robin Blumenthal's participation in the Purim Spiel
 Joan Schulick & Jerry Kramer, in honor of Raymond's Bar Mitzvah
 Janee Ries

PURIM SPIEL FUND

Jill Braufman & Daniel Nir

LIBRARY FUND

Alice Geisler, in memory of Leah Tolpin; and in memory of Jeanette Steiner, on her yearzeit
 Hope & Seymour Grayson, in honor of Barry Coller's induction into the National Academy of Science
 Mina Greenstein, in honor of Mariel Schneider; Marc Ashley for his classes on Jewish Oral Law; and Ilana Burgess and the teachers of Kalanit
 Abby, Philip & Lev Thomas, with much appreciation to Mark Somerstein for his wonderful classes

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Sharon Seiler & Charles Spielholz, in honor of Ilana Burgess
 Vicky Stein, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of

Barbara Bolshon's daughter, Alexandra; and in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Jenna Doctoroff

Abby, Philip & Lev Thomas, with many thanks to the Schneider family for their hospitality and Mazal Tov on Mariel's Bat Mitzvah

MA'OT HITTIM FUND

Joanne & Marc Ashley
 Marsha & Craig Basson
 Burt Biderman
 Barbara Scott & Jonathan Bromberg
 Alice Canick
 Susan & Alexander Deutsch
 Mona Dreier
 Florence Edelstein
 Judith & Robert Golub
 Barry Feldman
 Mechele & Sander Flaum
 Ruth Horowitz
 Aliza Kaplan
 Meredith & Michael Katz
 Francine & Samuel Klagsbrun
 Susan & Edward Kopelowitz
 Lesley & Jay Palmer
 Ellen & Alain Roizen
 Rana & David Silver
 Anne & Reed Schneider
 Alice & Milton Wolson
 Laurie Dien & Alan Yaillen
 Sherry Jacobson & Eugene Zuriff

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 during the school year, 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 date of the next Hebrew School Shabbat service will be announced in the fall.

**THERE ARE NOW
 TWO EASY WAYS TO
 MAKE DONATIONS
 TO OR ZARUA**

**1. Use the on-line donation form on our web site:
<http://www.orzarua.org/donations1.html>**

2. Mail your donation to the synagogue office.

The Or Zarua Library

By Barry R. Feldman

We are known as Am HaSefer, People of the Book: a fitting description for a people whose religious identification has been informed by literature—Torah, Talmud, Psalms, mystical writings, responsa, and the prayer book. Since Jews first put pen to paper, they have described in a variety of ways the internal Jewish experience, contributing to academic and fiction writing in every area of settlement Jews have shared with the non-Jewish world.

One of the functions of a synagogue is to provide a *bet midrash*, house of study. At Or Zarua, this tra-

dition is richly observed. Rabbi Wechsler's weekly D'var Torah, the Talmud class, the Hebrew School, and the book discussion group continue this tradition. In addition, Or Zarua has established a warm and attractive library on the fourth floor as a resource for Congregants. Shelves are quickly filling with a rich and varied collection of religious texts and other genres of Jewish interest, including the complete works of Sholem Aleichem in Yiddish, a Holocaust section, holiday and festival traditions, and a collection of haggadot. Each volume will be identified with a call number, and

a computer catalog listing each book by subject, author and title is in preparation.

Contributions to the Library Fund are welcome, or you may wish to donate a volume that is special to you. A gift subscription to a periodical would enhance the collection. In addition, we hope to expand library resources to include small collections of videos and music. If you wish to contribute a specific book, please call the office. At this time, while the bulk of cataloging is in progress, books do not yet circulate outside the library. But readers inside the library are welcome.

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