

SHAVUOT: *The Palpable Experience of Torah*

By Ron Meyers

Shavuot is arguably the least sensory of all our holidays. There are no special candles, no drinking of wine, no noisemaking, singing or dancing. Even the other great pilgrimage festivals, Pesah and Sukkot, are replete with tangible symbols. Shavuot is the observance of the Giving of the Torah, and it is the words of Torah that are this holiday's accoutrements. We spend the entire

long evening of Shavuot not in Pesah-like feasting, but in a feast of study.

But study of Torah is not strictly cerebral. The mystical view of the Tikkun L'yel Shavuot is that of an ecstatic union between God and Israel—if Pesah was a betrothal, the night before the first Shavuot was the thrilling rush before the wedding day. And what a wedding: As the Torah tells us, the Israelites not only

heard thunder and blaring trumpets, but they actually *saw* the sounds as well (Exodus 20:15). The Giving of the Torah is not a simple sensory experience—it shatters the bounds between thought and sensation. And since, according to tradition, we all were present at Sinai, that sensory experience carries through to us. No foods or candles can evoke that experience—only the Torah itself will do.

WWW.ORZARUA.ORG

Or Zarua is only a click away!

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

Use www.orzarua.org to:

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

“A Taste of Me’ah” at Or Zarua

By Debbie Breznay

Text study. Active questioning. Community building. Personal enrichment. Welcome to Me’ah, a two-year intensive and innovative program of adult Jewish learning developed by Hebrew College in Boston almost 10 years ago.


It is Or Zarua’s good fortune to have been selected as one of two sites in New York City to participate in the Me’ah program next fall. Participants in Me’ah will be immersed in reading core Jewish texts, including the Bible, and will grapple with the historical, political and cultural

aspects of four eras—biblical, rabbinic, medieval and modern. During approximately 100 hours of class time (Me’ah means “100” in Hebrew) over a two-year period, participants will study the major works and ideas of each period within its unique historical context and discover interrelationships among the periods. No prior formal Jewish education or knowledge of Hebrew is required.

Me’ah instructors are accomplished Judaic scholars with communication skills appropriate for adult *continued on page 3*

Youth Education Department

By Ilana Burgess

ק"ק אור זרוע
 CONGREGATION

**OR
 ZARUA**
 A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
 FOUNDED 1989
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 NEWSLETTER
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 PAULETTE SCHNEIDER, *Associate Editor*

I recently visited Ma'ale Habsor Flagship School in the Negev, the Israeli school to which we sent the books we collected this past fall. It is hard to describe the joy these books have brought to the students' lives. Ma'ale Habsor is an area school that serves many of the kibbutzim and other settlements in the northern part of the Negev. While they have a wonderful Hebrew library, English reading material was severely lacking.

When they received the books we sent, the English department selected books that were most useful for teaching English.

The school then invited other area schools to cull books from those remaining.

While I was there, I had the opportunity to meet a young Bedouin teacher who came to find books for her school. The project has been wonderful and everyone, from the principal to the students, was appreciative of our effort.

Back home, we are coming to the end of the Hebrew school year. During the last two months we learned about Purim and Pesah. The mishloach manot fundraiser was a success, and I hope that next year even more families

will take part in this Purim mitzvah. By the time you read this, we will have held two Pesah model sederim at the Hebrew school. In addition, during the sederim, a Hebrew book sale will have taken place. I hope that you have chosen good Jewish books for your children and continue to support the Hebrew school.

Now I turn my attention to the sixth graders. Kita Vav students, you will be finishing up your first step in Jewish education. Your next step is more difficult. It is time for you to take

on more responsibility and to understand the beauty of being Jewish and being part of *clal Yisrael*



During her visit to Ma'ale Habsor, Ilana Burgess met with Orly, a librarian (top); Vered, the principal (right); and Iman, an English teacher in a Bedouin school near Arad (left).

(the Jewish people.) Being Jewish is a lifelong commitment of learning, giving and participating in Jewish organizations. I would like to see all of you participating actively in Monday night classes and returning to afternoon school as tutors as well as assistants to your former teachers.

Registration forms for next year will be sent out the first week of April. Please return them to me as soon as possible.

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 July/August 2004 issue is Wednesday, May 26th.

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

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“A Taste of Me’ah” at Or Zarua

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education and the ability to adapt both to the Me’ah curriculum and to a variety of learning styles. What makes Me’ah a unique adult education experience is the opportunity to study a wide range of materials with the same group of learners over a two-year period, a contemporary adaptation of the classical Jewish method of learning with a partner—“Chavrutah.”

An exciting journey, Me’ah offers a powerful way to bring knowledge and insight into your personal life and community as you build your understanding of what Jewish texts and ideas meant historically and what they mean for Jews today.

Participants in the Me’ah program will be required to commit to three hours of study each week for 20 weeks during two academic years. Enrollment in the program will be limited to 25 members of the Congregation.

Each class will be based on assigned readings, including passages from both primary sources and supplemental scholarly materials that reveal the richness of Jewish literature and thought. These sources are at the heart of the Jewish “conversation”—a conversation that stretches over 3,000 years as Jews have interpreted and re-interpreted the central texts that define the Jewish tradition. As a participant in Me’ah, you will

become part of that conversation.

My husband Jim and I were students in the first Me’ah program offered in Boston. Our lives were enriched by the experience, which was the beginning of what has become a continuing adventure in Jewish learning for us. Me’ah introduced us to the wisdom of the Rabbis and the richness of our tradition and set us on the road to becoming educated advocates for the preservation of both.

To introduce the program to our Congregation, David Starr, the Dean of Me’ah at Hebrew College, will present “A Taste of Me’ah” as an evening of learning on Tuesday, May 11, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

PURIM SPIEL 2004

The Chacham of OZ



The OZ Purim Spielers performed another original musical extravaganza, *The Chacham of OZ*, on Sunday, March 7th at the UJA Ballroom. This brilliant parody of *The Wizard of Oz* featuring the familiar Purim characters, was the seventh spiel produced by our members since 1997. Participation in the production is a unique experience that bonds a cast and crew of nearly

40 adults and children, ranging in age from 3 to 80.

The Chacham of OZ was presented following morning services and the reading of the Megillah, with brunch served after the performance.

Children made groggers and participated in a costume parade. Both adults and children were encouraged to dress up as characters from *The Wizard of Oz*.

BAR AND BAT MITZVAHS: *More Than Just a Celebration*

By Gail Kraushar

In keeping with the laudable trend amongst Bar and Bat Mitzvah students in America of learning first-hand about the central role of tzedekah in Judaism, Or Zarua's Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidates are being offered the opportunity to support severely abused and neglected Israeli children through contributing to American Friends of Orr Shalom.

Twenty-five years ago, Orr Shalom pioneered the first therapeutic family group homes for Israeli children removed from their biological families due to abuse or neglect. With over 245 employees and the support of the Israeli government, Orr Shalom is able to provide these children with a family-like atmosphere including "house" parents,

therapy, counseling, food, basic clothing and education. But they lack the resources to provide the "extras" these children see their peers getting—additional clothing; after-school programs; allowances; occasional indulgences, such as a trip to the movies; and, significantly, Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebrations, which are considered universal rites of passage in Israel.

The Or Zarua Bar and Bat Mitzvah Tzedekah program is a chance for Or Zarua children to give tzedekah and fulfill an obligation of becoming a Jewish adult by supporting at-risk children in Israel. They may choose to support Orr Shalom by donating general supplemental funds, or they may earmark contributions

specifically to an Orr Shalom child's own Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration. Regardless of the direction of funding, financial support helps an Orr Shalom child to share some of the experiences of "normal" Israeli children and to assimilate back into Israeli society. And it helps an Or Zarua Bar/Bat Mitzvah student put the mitzvah back in the equation.

For more information about the Or Zarua Bar and Bat Mitzvah Tzedekah program and Orr Shalom, please contact Gail Kraushar at 212-996-2042 or Gail@demoscope.com. For more information about Orr Shalom, please contact Orr Shalom's Executive Director, Lynn Berney, at 212-672-5169 or lberney@orr-shalom.org.

Shabbat Across Or Zarua

By all accounts, Shabbat Across Or Zarua, held on Friday evening, March 12th, was a resounding success! More than 50 members enjoyed the gracious hospitality of eight host families. Guests—from toddlers to seniors—shared Shabbat joy, delicious food, and stimulating conversation with other OZ members, new and old.

Shabbat Across Or Zarua is our own unique way of observing Shabbat Across America. Shabbat Across America, developed by the

National Jewish Outreach Program, is designed to introduce Jewish people across the country to the joys of Shabbat observance. Most synagogues participate by hosting a communal Friday night dinner. When Shabbat Across America started in 1997, the old Or Zarua building could not accommodate a large communal dinner and so we developed Shabbat Across Or Zarua with home hospitality. While we now have communal dinners in our new building, the program committee decided to

continue Shabbat Across Or Zarua as a warm and wonderful way for members to get to know each other.

Thanks again to the hosts: Joanne and Marc Ashley, Pat and Alan Davidson, Diana and Jay Goldin, Judith and David Lewittes, Martha and Fred Mendelsohn, Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur Rosenbloom, Nora and Barry Yood, and Cathy and Seymour Zises.

Shabbat Across Or Zarua was chaired by Diane Okrent and Anne Schneider.

HESED HAPPENINGS

The Hesed Committee scheduled several events during the past year, seeking to support those in need in our community through a range of programs and partners described below.

Books for Israel Drive: Thirteen boxes of English-language books donated by Or Zarua members were distributed by teachers at Ma'ale Habsor Flagship School in the Negev to their colleagues at local schools. All were thrilled with the new additions. The shipment arrived in record time, thanks to arrangements made by Ran Eisenbruch and Richard Stadin, after preparation by Book Drive co-chairs Phyllis Brochstein and Lynn Michalson and their enthusiastic committee. Our Hebrew school children helped out as well, labeling and sorting books. Many thanks to all who donated! More books are welcome—please leave them at the Or Zarua Hebrew School office. Learn more about what books are needed at www.edu-negev.gov.il/bs/b4i.

Purim Donation Drive: In March, Or Zarua's fifth annual Purim Food Donation Drive collected non-perishable food items for Yorkville Common Pantry, an agency serving our community's hungry (www.ycp.org). Purim tzedakah containers were filled with \$300 in donations for the Ziv Tzedakah Fund, which identifies and funds small, grassroots projects created in the U.S. and Israel by someone with an innovative response to a world problem. For more information about this wonderful organization, visit www.ziv.org.

Blood Drive and Children's Hesed Activities: In February, more than 50 volunteers and donors participated in Or Zarua's second annual blood drive, held in cooperation with the New York Blood Center

(www.nybloodcenter.org). Thirty-three pints were collected, and 13 volunteers registered with the Bone Marrow Donor Registry. While parents donated blood, children were involved in their own mitzvot, preparing 150 bagged meals with packets of toiletries for distribution through the Coalition for the Homeless; decorating pots and planting bulbs to bring a little spring to the children at Ronald McDonald House; and creating birthday cards for seniors served by DOROT. Kudos to James Rothman for organizing the drive, with assistance from Debbie Breznay and Phyllis Solomon, and to Joanne Ashley, Robin Blumenthal, Audrey and Richard Stadin and Elliott Sussman for keeping the kids so busy!

Tu B'Shevat at Ronald McDonald House: In January, Or Zarua hosted its annual dinner at the Ronald McDonald House (www.rmdh.org), a residence at 405 E. 73rd Street for children in treatment for serious illnesses at local hospitals. Or Zarua provided an Israeli dinner buffet, folk dancing, and songs organized by Or Zarua's talented musicians. Stephanie Failla put together a wonderful committee, with more than 25 Or Zarua volunteers participating and many more donating desserts. It was a very special evening. The Hebrew School created a beautiful decorative mural for the event.

Hanukkah Activities for Youth and Elderly: In December, Or Zarua hosted DOROT's East Side Hanukkah Package Delivery for senior citizens, thanks to the efforts of Laurie Pauker and Aaron Shelden. Despite a snow-storm, our building was filled with volunteers learning about DOROT (www.dorotusa.org) and picking up packages. Or Zarua's first Hanukkah Toy Drive was a great success, bringing

in over 400 toys benefiting foster children served by Ohel Children's Home and Family Services (www.ohelfamily.org). Thanks to Susan Sussman for organizing the drive.

Monday Night Meal Serving: Or Zarua provides a pizza dinner and volunteer servers every Monday night year-round for residents at the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter's 81st Street residence (www.ncs.org) for the formerly homeless. Currently dinner is served at a local pizza parlor as the residence is under construction. On Christmas Eve, Mark Gold, Phyllis and Gerry Solomon, Richard Stadin, Meira Epstein, Ira Nailer and other Or Zarua Congregants picked up food donated by Eli's and the Vinegar Factory for delivery to Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter facilities, Yorkville Common Pantry and Ronald McDonald House. Contact Richard Stadin at 212-879-0448 for more information, to volunteer for the Monday night meal serving, or to volunteer on Christmas or Easter when these organizations' staff members are off.

All of these events were supported by generous donations from our members to the Or Zarua Hesed Fund, as well as in-kind donations from the following individuals and companies: Crumbs Bakery, Flat Rate Moving, Brent and Becky's Bulbs, Park East Kosher Butcher, Danny Pollock, Sam Ash, Shleppers Moving, and Moishe's Moving Systems. The Hesed Committee also relied on the wonderful support of the Or Zarua staff to accomplish all of these projects.

Please join the Hesed Committee or contact Lesley Palmer at 212-772-9673 or lesley@nyc.rr.com with your suggestions.

TAR BEACH PICNIC AND ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 18th • 7:15 p.m. Picnic • 8:15 p.m. Meeting

The election of new Officers and Board Members will highlight the agenda for the 15th Annual Meeting of Congregation Or Zarua, to be held on Tuesday evening, May 18th at 8:15 p.m.

The meeting will be preceded by a rooftop picnic supper at 7:15 p.m. Supper reservations are essential. Please r.s.v.p. to 212-452-2310 x39.

TIKKUN L'YEL SHAVUOT

Tuesday, May 25th, 8:00 p.m.

On Erev Shavuot, Tuesday, May 25th, Minhah/Ma'ariv will begin at 8:00 p.m., followed by a night of study with Rabbi Wechsler. Please watch your mail and email for further information.

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.

Orot: A Journal

We are now accepting submissions for *Orot*, our annual journal of writings for the High Holidays. Please share your insights, reflections or memoirs with Ron Meyers at meyersxyz@yahoo.com.

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, May 1st.

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 is teaching "Jewish Law: On Whose Authority?," a course that examines historical and theological issues concerning the origins of the Oral Law and the exercise of rabbinic authority. He highlights 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 two remaining classes will meet on Sunday mornings, May 2nd and May 16th, from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Or Zarua library. 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.

Hevra Kadisha on the Mourning Psalm

All members of Or Zarua are welcome to attend the next meeting of the Hevra Kadisha on June 8th at 7 p.m. in the synagogue. Rabbi Wechsler will teach about the psalm recited in a house of mourning. Attend the meeting to broaden your understanding of this psalm. This will be the last meeting of the Hevra Kadisha until after the summer.

BEQUESTS TO OR ZARUA: Another Way to Help the Congregation

By Jim Breznay

Or Zarua, which hopes to serve the needs of its Congregants well into the future, would be remiss if it did not alert members that they have an opportunity to provide the Congregation with long-term stability through a bequest through estate planning. Please consider Or Zarua as you make plans to secure the welfare of individuals, including your family, and institutions which are meaningful to you. This is your opportunity to give back in a manner which involves the future as well as the present.

Bequests are gifts made by will. They are the most popular type of

planned gift and are crucial to creating a stable and adequate financial base for Or Zarua. Whether you wish to provide general operating income or to support an endowment fund for a specific Or Zarua program or for unrestricted support, your bequest expresses your lasting commitment to the Congregation. A bequest may also help you meet personal financial and estate-planning goals, since an estate and gift tax charitable deduction for the entire amount of the gift will be allowed. While your estate plan should be prepared by your attorney in consultation with your tax and finan-

cial advisors, Or Zarua's staff is ready to assist you in any way possible with estate planning and to discuss various giving opportunities with you.

Types of bequests to think of when you consider Or Zarua include:

A cash bequest of a specified dollar amount.

A specific bequest or devise of property, by which Or Zarua receives specified assets, such as marketable securities or an interest in real estate.

A residuary bequest or devise, by which Or Zarua receives all or a percentage of the remainder of your estate after specific legacies, debts, taxes, and estate expenses have been deducted.

A contingent bequest or devise, by which property is distributed to Or Zarua only if you outlive your named beneficiaries.

Qualified retirement plan assets, by which you name Or Zarua as a beneficiary or contingent beneficiary of all or a specified percentage of your plan assets. With this type of bequest, you can support the Congregation while also removing from your estate assets which may otherwise be subject to significant federal taxation. Generally, if you intend to make both noncharitable and charitable gifts at death, it makes sense to use your tax-deferred retirement plan assets for charity and other assets for heirs.

We invite you to contact Barbara Bolshon, our Executive Director, at 212-452-2310 for further information or to receive estate planning assistance.



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For further information or to register, please contact AIPAC's Manhattan Director Jay Haberman at jhaberman@aipac.org or 212-750-4110 or visit www.aipac.org

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THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

MAZAL TOV

Nancy Bach, in honor of her engagement to Scott Delman
 Barbara Bolshon & Michael Picheny, in honor of Alexandra's Bat Mitzvah
 Bobbi Coller, in honor of receiving her doctorate degree in art history
 Alisa & Dan Doctoroff, in honor of Jenna's Bat Mitzvah
 Susan Engel, in honor of Shira's Bat Mitzvah
 Stephanie Failla & David Pine, in honor of their wedding
 Zella & Glenn Goldfinger, in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Michaella Efrat
 Barbara & Oliver Goldstein, on the birth of their daughter, Eliza Joy
 Isadora & Jesse Hecht, in honor of Rebecca's Bat Mitzvah
 Ellen & John Leventhal, in honor of Adam's Bar Mitzvah
 Jessica & Ron Liebowitz, in honor of the birth of their son, David Heschel
 Dina Markson & Andrew Seidman, in honor of Benjamin's Bar Mitzvah
 Anne & Reed Schneider, in honor of Mariel's Bat Mitzvah
 Brigitte Sion, in honor of her engagement to Geoffrey Newman
 Eve Wolf & Owen Lewis, in honor of Victoria's Bat Mitzvah

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:
 Goldi Juer & Richard Nager
 Chaya Moskowitz & Edward Manning
 David Seldin

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to:
 Sander Flaum, on the death of his father, Joseph
 Steven Magid, on the death of his father, Bernard
 Ronald Slevin, on the death of his father, Mortimer
May they and their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

DESIGNATED SPECIAL PURPOSE FUND GIFT

Lynn & Daniel Beller
 Evelyn Kenvin & Arthur Rosenbloom

KIDDUSH FUND

Anonymous, in honor of the good works of the Hevra Kadisha
 Deborah & Jonathan Bakin, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler and all our friends at Or Zarua
 Lesley Berger & Kenneth Drucker, in honor of the adoption of Bella and in memory of Lesley's father, Leo Berger
 Debbie & Jim Breznay, in honor of the baby-naming of their granddaughter, Isabella Noa
 Bobbi & Barry Coller, in memory of Barry's mother, Ruth Coller, and Bobbi's father, Harold Gelfand
 Stephanie Failla & David Pine, in honor of their wedding
 Stacy Gitlin & Henry Katz, in honor of their aufruf
 Pamela & Mark Gold, in memory of Mark's mother on her first yahrzeit and in honor of their first year at Or Zarua
 Richard Gottlieb, in memory of his brother, Peter Gottlieb
 Valerie & Allen Hyman
 Deborah & Steven Katz, in memory of Steven's father, Harry Katz
 Francine & Samuel Klagsbrun, in memory of Francine's mother, Anna Lifton
 Barbara Kupetsky & Joshua Tannenbaum, in honor of their aufruf
 Loretta & Robert Lifton, in memory of Robert's mother, Anna Lifton
 Sharon Seiler, Charlie & Talia Speilholz, in memory of Charlie's father, Terry Spielholz
 Lynn & Mark Somerstein, in honor Mark's Bar Mitzvah Parashat
 Linda & Jerome Spitzer, in memory of Jerome's father, Harry Spitzer
 Lynda Wertheim, in celebration of another year of good health

Elaine & James Wolfensohn, in honor of Adam's wedding

MINYAN FUND

Marcel & Sheldon Adler
 Lynn & Daniel Beller, in appreciation of Sheldon Adler for hosting the Super Bowl Party
 Deborah & James Breznay, in honor of Sheldon Adler for generous support of the Super Bowl Party
 Karen & Henry Glanternik
 Carol & Philip Goldsmith, in memory of Carol's father, Henry Cohen; in memory of Carol's mother, Mina Bess Cohen; and in memory of Philip's mother, Cora Goldsmith
 Susan & Edward Kopelowitz, with thanks to Sheldon Adler for the Super Bowl Party
 Martha & Fred Mendelsohn, in honor of the yahrzeit of Fred's mother, Etta
 Lesley & Jay Palmer, for the Super Bowl Party
 Barbara Scott & Jonathan Bromberg
 Phyllis & Gerry Solomon, in memory of Sheldon Adler's parents
 Vera Sullivan, in honor of Arthur Rosenbloom, Bonnie Maslin and Tibor Feldman
 Audrey & Richard Stadin, in appreciation of Sheldon Adler for the Super Bowl Party
 Nora & Barry Yood, in honor of Sheldon Adler

KOL NIDRE APPEAL

Phyllis Brochstein
 Irving Hoffman
 Anne & Reed Schneider
 Charlotte Schwartz
 Emily & Lawrence Turtill

GENERAL FUND

Willi & Arthur Aeder, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler
 Bonnie, Gil and Nancy Bach, in memory of Perry Delman
 Lynn & Daniel Beller, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler
 Linda Eidelberg, in memory of Benjamin Basch
 Barry Feldman, in honor of Jeremy Posner and Rabbi Paulette Gross
 Helen Ferszt, in memory of Samuel Ferszt and Gerald Karp

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

Janet & George Felleman, in honor of the marriage of Alan Heller and Barbara Bluestone

Sarah & Robert Fitts

Ruthe & Ronald Golden, in honor of Chana Katz

Susan & Leon Heller, in honor of Alan Heller's marriage to Barbara Bluestone

Harriet & Leonard Holtz, in honor of Gabby Newman's Bat Mitzvah and the granddaughter of Harvey and Linda Newman

Patti & Jerry Josepher, in memory of Rose Josepher and Joyce Burden

Jane & Gerald Katcher, in honor of Francine and Sam Klagsbrun

Evelyn Kenvin & Arthur Rosenbloom, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler and congratulations to Barbara Bolshon on the occasion of her daughter's Bat Mitzvah

Francine & Samuel Klagsbrun

Susan & Edward Kopelowitz

Judith & David Lewittes, to commemorate the yahrzeits of their mothers, Betty Axenzow and Sarah Lewittes

Bonnie Maslin & Yehuda Nir, in memory of Perry Delman; in memory of Bernard Magid; and in memory of Fay Fisher's father

Martha & Frederick Mendelsohn, Mazal Tov to Yaakov Shechter

Dara Murray, in memory of her husband, John Leo Murray

Judith & David Lewittes, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Rachel & Larry Norton, in honor of Richard Stadin, with gratitude for organizing the ski trip

Joseph Nurnberg

Jacob Oberman, in memory of his father's yahrzeit

Laura Resnikoff, in honor of the newest member of the Greenstein family; the newest member of the Goldfinger family; thanks for Shabbat hospitality to David and Judy Lewittes; and thanks to Arthur Rosenbloom for his glorious and dedicated Purim productions year after year

Anne & Reed Schneider, with thanks to Pat & Alan Davidson for their hospitality on Shabbat Across Or Zarua

Ellen & Donald Simon, in memory of Ellen's parents, Jeanne and Herman Perlman

Charlotte Schwartz, in memory of her husband, Sidney Schwartz, and her mother, Mary Meyer Simon

Sharon Seiler & Charles Spielholz & Talia, in honor of Barbara Bolshon and Lidiya Yunatanov and in honor of the wedding of Jeremy Posner and Rabbi Paulette Gross

Vera & Robert Silver

Albert Sussman

Leah & Bernard Tolpin, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler and in memory of Leah's parents, Charlotte and Israel Ungar

Carol & Barry Wechsler, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Jill & Todd Weinberg, in memory of their father, Paul Weinberg

Elaine & James Wolfensohn, in honor of Adam's wedding

Alice & Milton Wolson, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Lidiya & David Yunatanov, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler and in honor of Barbara Bolshon's daughter, Alexandra's Bat Mitzvah

HESED FUND

Robin & Julia Blumenthal, in memory of David Blumenthal; to support the Blood Drive; in appreciation to the Ashley family for hosting Shabbat Across Or Zarua; and Mazal Tov to Steven & Jodi Lasensky on the birth of their daughter, Sydney Rose

Mina Greenstein, in honor of the birth her grandson, Daniel Asher Greenstein

Janet & Simon Katz, congratulations to Zella & Glenn Goldfinger on the birth of their granddaughter, Michaela Efrat, and to Cherice Solomon-Feld and Randy Feld, on the birth of their son, Joshua

Martha & Fred Mendelsohn, in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Isabel Charlotte Mendelsohn Davis

Lesley & Jay Palmer, in honor of James Rothman and Stephanie Katz's new son, Ben; in honor of Debbie and Jim Breznay's new granddaughter, Isabella; and for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Suzan & Daniel Rosen

Judith & Barry Schneider, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Lorraine & Herbert Shapiro, in honor of the birth Zella and Glenn Goldfinger's granddaughter

Linda & Jerome Spitzer, in honor of Bonnie Maslin and everyone involved in the Purim Spiel

Elise Strauss

Miriam Wallerstein, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Janet & Simon Katz

Joy & Bruce Roberts

Phyllis & Gerry Solomon

Audrey & Richard Stadin

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Susan & Stanley Alt

Marilyn & Perry Braunstein, in honor of Seth's Bar Mitzvah

Elaine & Howard Brownstein, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Abraham Carson, in memory of Harriet Carson

Pat & Alan Davidson, in honor of Stephanie Failla & David Pine

Stephanie Failla & David Pine

Barbara & Alan Heller, with warmest thanks for officiating at their wedding

Martha & Frederick Mendelsohn, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Ruth & Sam Perelson, for refua shleima to Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Sharon Seiler & Charles Spielholz & Talia Anita & Barry Weinstein

PURIM SPIEL FUND

Nancy Bach, in honor of Tibor Feldman, Bonnie Maslin and Arthur Rosenbloom

Elaine Blum, in honor of Tibor Feldman, Bonnie Maslin, Arthur Rosenbloom and all the Purim Spielers

Alisa & Daniel Doctoroff

Evelyn Doliner

Evelyn Kenvin & Arthur Rosenbloom, in honor of Bonnie Maslin and Yehuda Nir

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

Francine & Samuel Klagsbrun
Susan & Edward Kopelowitz, in honor of
Tibor Feldman, Bonnie Maslin, Arthur
Rosenbloom, Barbara Sassoon and all the
Purim Spielers
Mark Lowenthal
Martha & Frederick Mendelsohn

MURIEL TANNENBAUM MEMORIAL FUND

Christopher Berke

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Aliza Kaplan, with thanks to Taire Rubin and
Ari Greenberg

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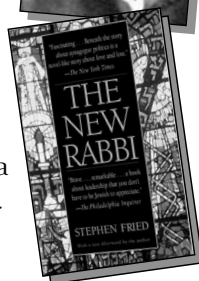
Linda Dershowitz
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Cherise Solomon-Feld & Randy Feld
Jacqueline & Yitchak Frank
Alice Geisler
Pamela & Mark Gold
Elizabeth Goldberg
Zella & Glenn Goldfinger
Carol & Philip Goldsmith
Trudy & Robert Gottesman
Mina Greenstein
Isadora & Jesse Hecht
Dore Hollander
Patti & Jerry Josepher
Adele & Mel Ilberman
Janet & Simon Katz
Evelyn Kenvin & Arthur Rosenbloom
Vivian & Fred Kenvin
Maud & Neal Kozodoy
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Judith & David Lewittes
Judith & Herbert Lukashok
Sharon Shorofsky Mack & Alexander Mack
Martha & Frederick Mendelsohn
Chaya Moskowitz & Edward Manning
Yafa & Alan Nadel
Jacob Oberman

Diane Okrent & Aaron Shelden
Ellen & Zion Ozeri
Ruth & Sam Perelson
Sabina & Maurice Preter
Laura Resnikoff, in honor of Jill Prosky
& Jim Posner
Marion & Seth Rogovin
Charlotte Schwartz
Thalia & Alan Segal
Sharon Seiler & Charles Spielholz & Talia
Ronit Setton & Benjamin Hershkowitz
Lorraine and Herbert Shapiro
Elyse & Edward Siegel
Arlene & Sheldon Simon
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Lynn & Mark Somerstein
Regina Stein
Sara & David Stone
Elise Strauss
Abby & Philip Thomas
Leah & Bernard Tolpin
Miriam Wallerstein
Lynn & Gil Weitzman
Rita Wroblewski
Nora & Barry Yood
Lidiya & David Yunatanov

OZ Book Discussion

Treat yourself to a good Jewish book and share insights with other Congregants in an informal gathering at Or Zarua. On May 2nd we will discuss *Awakening Lives*, an extraordinary window into the lives of 15 young Polish Jews who entered their autobiographies in contests held by YIVO in the 1930s. Editor Jeffrey Shandler will join us for the discussion of his book.

On June 13th we will discuss Stephen Fried's *The New Rabbi*, a journalist's account of the tribulations of a prominent suburban Philadelphia Conservative synagogue in its search for a successor for its rabbi after 30 years of service. This



provocative book raises the issues, among others, of the changing role of the pulpit rabbi and the often unrealistic expectations of congregants who want "someone who is 28 years old but has preached for 30 years." Rabbi Stephen Shulman will join us for our discussion.

Book discussions are held in the Or Zarua library on the 4th floor on Sunday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Congregants and their guests are welcome. If you have a book recommendation, want to be added to our e-mail roster, or have questions about our book discussions, contact Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611 or arlm1199@aol.com.

Salute to Israel Parade 2004

Save the Date! Sunday, May 23rd

Congregation Or Zarua is planning to march down Fifth Avenue in the annual Salute to Israel Parade on Sunday, May 23rd, rain or shine.

The Parade is the largest event of its kind, supporting and celebrating the State of Israel. It is always held to honor Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) and is a day filled with pageantry, pride, unity and joy.

This year's Parade theme, "Let's go to Israel...NOW!," will be a strong, inspirational message to the community, encouraging people to

visit Israel. Each marching group will depict a place or an activity as



Or Zarua marchers in last year's Salute to Israel Parade.

"tourists" in Israel. We want Israel to know in a very real way that we are always with her.

All OZ members and friends are eligible to march, including Hebrew

school students from third-grade age level and up, if accompanied by an adult. Younger children and their families are welcome to participate as spectators.

We need volunteers to help prepare for this exciting event. Please join us on Sunday, April 25th between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. as we prepare our banners and props for marching.

If you have any questions, please contact Aliza Kaplan at 212-423-0399, Jesse Hecht at 212-877-7871 or Ilana Burgess, Youth Education Director, at 212-452-2310 x15.

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA
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