

Learning in Elul

The month of Elul is the end of the Jewish calendar year, but at Or Zarua it is truly a month of new beginnings and new opportunities to learn together. Elul is a time devoted to personal and spiritual renewal as Jews everywhere prepare for the High Holy Days. Traditionally we study sacred texts to enhance our appreciation and understanding of the Days of Awe and their special place in our lives.

Take advantage of our Elul programming—your Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot will be growth-filled and connected to our heritage.

HEBREW. The High Holy Day services are more enjoyable when you

can participate by reading Hebrew.

Mark Somerstein will teach an intensive six-session Hebrew reading course for beginners at 6:30 p.m. on the following Monday and Tuesday evenings: September 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, and 27.

LITURGY. A better understanding of the liturgy will enhance your High Holy Day experience. Toward this end, our rabbinic intern, **Jeff Cymet**, will speak on Wednesday, September 14 at 8:00 p.m. His topic will be “HaMelekh: The Kingship of God as the Primary Motif in the Rosh Hashanah Liturgy.”

HAFTARAH. To complete the month of learning, we are privileged to

have **Rabbi David Silber** address the Congregation on Wednesday, September 21 at 8:00 p.m. Rabbi Silber, a well-known biblical scholar and teacher, is the founder and dean of Drisha Institute as well as founder and co-director of HaSha’ar. Rabbi Silber will speak on the Haftarah for the first day of Rosh Hashanah (I Samuel 1:1-2:10).

KABBALAH. Our Selihot teaching and services will begin at 8:15 p.m. on Saturday, September 24. Our own **Rabbi Wechsler** will share with us his new thoughts on Rav Kook’s kabbalistic ideas of repentance. Prior to study and prayer, we will enjoy some “sinful desserts.”

IN THIS ISSUE

Jeff Cymet, Rabbinic Intern	3
High Holy Day Services	3
Learners’ Services.....	3
OZY Services	9
Rabbi David Silber, Drisha Dean	5
Volunteering with Sar-El.....	8
Hebrew Reading Class	8
Study Mission to Israel	9
OZ and DOROT.....	9
United Synagogue Awards.....	11

FEATURES

Youth Education Department	2
Book Discussions.....	4
Holiday Inspiration.....	4
New OZ Library Books.....	5
Monthly Calendars	6
OZ Community.....	10

Don’t Miss Meals in the OZ Sukkah!

DINNER IN THE OZ SUKKAH

Erev Sukkot, Monday, October 17

Services begin at 5:53 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

SHABBAT LUNCH IN THE OZ SUKKAH

Saturday, October 22

Immediately following services

Reservations for either event are essential.

\$25 adults; \$15 children (ages 5-12); under 5, no charge

RSVP: Tel 212-452-2310, ext. 39 / Fax 212-452-2301 / www.orzarua.org

SHABBAT IN THE PARK • SEPTEMBER 10 AT 3:30 P.M.

Enter Central Park at East 79th Street and go to the bottom of Cedar Hill.

Bring a blanket to sit on and a dairy or parve snack to share.

Please contact Meredith Katz at 212-879-5408 or 2mlk@netzero.com.

ק"ק אור זרוע
CONGREGATION

**OR
ZARUA**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

FOUNDED 1989

127 EAST 82ND STREET

NEW YORK, NY 10028

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DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, *Rabbi*

MICHAEL W. SCHWARTZ, *President*

BARBARA J. BOLSHON, *Executive Director*

ILANA BURGESS, *Youth Education Director*

PAULETTE SCHNEIDER, *Newsletter Editor*

YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

By Ilana Burgess

We are planning an exciting, fun, and educational year for Or Zarua's youth. Successful programs to be continued and additional new activities include:

ONGOING PROGRAMS

High School Student Mentors. We need high school students to assist our teachers with children's services during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. High school students are also invited to work individually with Hebrew School students during the year. These are wonderful opportunities to gain teaching experience, fulfill community service requirements, meet with friends at Or Zarua, and have fun interacting with the younger students. To participate, please contact Ilana Burgess (extension 15) by September 17.

Post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Reading Skills.

For those who would like to refresh their Torah and Haftarah reading skills, we are continuing classes taught by Mark Somerstein, starting after the High Holy Days. Time to be announced.

NEW PROGRAMS

Learn to Blow the Shofar. Interested Hebrew School students can learn how to blow the shofar. If you would like your child to participate, you need to provide

a shofar. Students will show what they have mastered during the OZY services on the High Holy Days.

Overnight in the Sukkah. The commandment to "dwell" in the sukkah can include sleeping in the sukkah, weather permitting. On Friday, October 21, all students in grades 3 through 6 are invited to a "Sukkah Sleep-In." We will have Shabbat dinner together and spend the night under the skies of New York.

Tune Up the Orchestra. We are in the process of organizing a small orchestra comprised of post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students. The group will meet once a month to rehearse with a teacher and prepare performances for Hanukkah, Israel Independence Day, the Salute to Israel Parade, and other Congregational events.

Monday Night Hebrew School Program.

For middle school and high school students in the Monday night program, we have invited speakers from The Jewish Museum to examine how Jewish identity and community are shaped and represented in America's multicultural society.

For more information, please contact Ilana Burgess, Youth Education Director, at the synagogue office (extension 15) or ilana@orzarua.org.

OZ Committee Chairs

AESTHETICS	Aaron Shelden
BOOK DISCUSSION	Reed Schneider
BUILDING	Debbie Breznay
CATERING	Diane Okrent Sara Stone
DEVELOPMENT	Mimi Alperin
EVENTS/ADULT ED	Diane Okrent
HESED	Lesley Palmer
HEVRA KADISHA	Vera Silver Gerry Solomon
ISRAEL	Brett Cohen Aliza Kaplan
LIBRARY	Barry Feldman
MEMBERSHIP	Anne Schneider
MINYAN	Sheldon Adler
NEWSLETTER	Paulette Schneider
PLANNED GIVING	Jim Breznay
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Aaron Shelden
PURIM SPIEL	Arthur Rosenbloom Bonnie Maslin Tibor Feldman Barbara Sassoon
SCHOOL	Aliza Kaplan
SHABBAT USHERS	Phyllis Solomon Gerry Solomon
TORAH/HAFTARAH	Yaakov Shechter
WEBMASTER	Jay Palmer

If you would like to serve on a synagogue committee, please contact the office for the committee chair's email address.

OZY SERVICES

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

Infant through Kindergarten

11:00 a.m. to noon

Alef Bet Corner

First through Third Grades
10:00 a.m. to noon

Junior Congregation

Fourth through Sixth 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 third through sixth grades are expected to attend. Students from other schools are welcome as well.

The next Hebrew School Shabbat service will take place on Saturday, September 24. We welcome back Iris Paltin, who will be teaching the infant through kindergarten class starting September.

OZ Welcomes Our First Rabbinic Intern, JEFF CYMET



Jeff Cymet, a third-year rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary, will join Or Zarua as our first rabbinic intern this September. Serving

in a one-year position through JTS's Internship Program is a requirement for ordination.

Jeff is a graduate of Princeton University and the Georgetown University Law Center. He is a veteran of the Israeli Defense Forces, in which he served as a non-commissioned officer. Prior to entering rabbinical school, he worked for many years as a lawyer in Israel and in South Korea, specializing in international corporate mergers, acquisitions, and

commercial transactions. For two years, he served the State of Israel as legal advisor to the Israeli minister of justice. Jeff's wife Lorna, also a lawyer, is the executive director of Friends of D-Cure, a charitable organization raising funds for diabetes research in Israel. Jeff and Lorna have two children, Yanai, age 4, and Camellia, age 3. They live in Englewood, New Jersey.

Jeff will spend an average of ten hours per week plus several Shabbatot at Or Zarua. His duties will include assisting Rabbi Wechsler in rabbinic functions and teaching Hebrew School students and adults. As part of our month of study in preparation for the Yomim Noraim, Jeff will speak on "HaMelekh: The Kingship of God as the Primary Motif of the Rosh Hashanah Liturgy."

"WELCOME TO OZ" KIDDUSH LUNCH

Saturday, September 17

Feed your soul—and your body, too! On September 17, OZ will sponsor a Kiddush Lunch after Shabbat services to welcome new and prospective members and to welcome back current members returning from their summer travels. This event will provide a wonderful opportunity to socialize a bit longer after services and introduce people to our Congregation. Please invite friends who may be interested in joining Or Zarua. See you in September!

High Holy Day Learners' Services

By popular demand, we are continuing to offer High Holy Day Learners' Services for the first day of Rosh Hashanah at 9:30 a.m. and Kol Nidre at 6:00 p.m. They provide a more intimate, less formal davening experience. There's more English, more discussion, and more explanation about the history, meaning, and theology of the prayers. The Learners' Services are not just for beginners—participants have ranged from novice daveners to the learned who have

enjoyed the seminar-like atmosphere.

The Learners' Services will be held in the Ramaz second-floor chapel, which accommodates only about 100 people. Space is limited, so we need to know very soon whether you would like to attend.

Please call the synagogue office as soon as possible to indicate your choice of service or return the reservation cards that were mailed with your dues statements. Reservations for the Learners' Services will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 5766/2005

Monday, October 3

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Evening 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 4

First Day of Rosh Hashanah

Morning 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Tashlikh 5:15 p.m.–6:00 p.m.
(Central Park)

Evening 6:15 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 5

Second Day of Rosh Hashanah

Morning 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Evening 6:30 p.m.–7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, October 12

Erev Yom Kippur

Minhah at OZ 1:00 p.m.

Kol Nidre 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 13

Yom Kippur 9:00 a.m.–7:05 p.m.

Monday, October 17

Erev Sukkot

Evening 5:53 p.m.–6:50 p.m.

Tuesday, October 18

First Day of Sukkot

Morning 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Evening 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 19

Second Day of Sukkot

Morning 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Monday, October 24

Hoshanah Rabbah

Morning 7:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

Evening 5:52 p.m.–6:50 p.m.

Tuesday, October 25

Shemini Atzeret

Morning/Yizkor 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Erev Simhat Torah

Evening 5:45 p.m.–8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, October 26

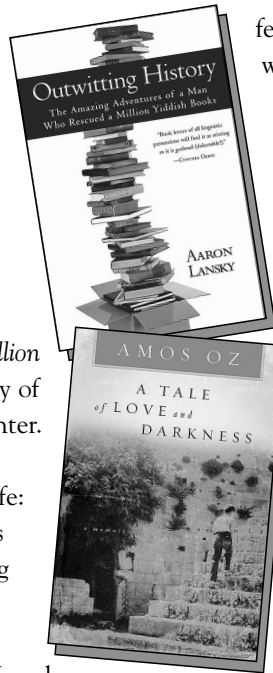
Simhat Torah

Morning 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Or Zarua Book Discussions

Read a good Jewish book lately? Want to make new friends at Or Zarua? Looking for engaging conversation? Please join us for any or all of our discussions at 7:30 on Sunday evenings during the coming year in the OZ library. Book discussions are open to all congregants and their guests.

On September 18, Or Zarua librarian, walking tour guide, and congregant Barry Feldman will lead our discussion of Aaron Lansky's *Outwitting History: The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books*, a highly acclaimed and humorous story of how Lansky founded the National Yiddish Book Center. Lansky was a 23-year-old graduate student in 1980 when he came up with the idea that took over his life: to save Yiddish books before it was too late. Precious books that had survived Hitler and Stalin were being passed down from older Jewish immigrants to their non-Yiddish-speaking children—only to be thrown away or destroyed. With little more than chutzpah, Lansky issued a worldwide appeal for unwanted Yiddish books, and the response was overwhelming. *Outwitting History* is filled with unforgettable characters. The story is told with the exuberance of a man whose passion led him from house to house and country to country, collecting treasured books and listening to heart-



felt, often hilarious stories of the vibrant intellectual world of Yiddish-speaking Jews.

On October 30, congregant Herb Lukashok will lead our discussion of *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, award-winning Israeli author Amos Oz's emotionally charged memoir of his youth in an embattled Palestine during WWII and during Israel's war of independence, living amid violence and deprivation, witnessing the Arab siege of Jerusalem. Oz's father, a scholar, worked as a librarian and failed to attain the academic distinction of his uncle. Oz's beautiful, tender mother, after a long period of depression, committed suicide when Oz was 12. At 14, he fled his father's dreary Jerusalem apartment for the freedom and outdoor life of Kibbutz Hulda. The influence of his parents on his career as a writer dominates this warm, funny, powerful personal saga of a man, his family, and his country.

Mark your calendar with the dates of future Sunday evening discussions: December 11, 2005; January 22, February 26, April 2, May 21, and June 25, 2006.

If you would like more information on Or Zarua book discussions or would like to be on our email roster to receive updates, contact Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611.

Save the Dates

NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION

Thursday, November 10

SHABBAT ACROSS OR ZARUA

Friday, November 18

ALL-DAY OZ FAMILY CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 11

Tishrei: The Old Year and the New

By Ron Meyers

Much of the meaning of the High Holy Days can be seen in their sequence in the month of Tishrei.

The final month of the year, Elul, is the time to begin penitence. We are properly bearing responsibility for the accumulated missteps of a year that is nearly played out. But when the new year arrives, we do not drop all our reflections and forget it all. On the contrary, Rosh Hashanah is the Day of Remembrance. It is the day for God, and for us, to remember the past year. We don't watch the ball drop and say "out with the old and in with the new." The old year is finished but not left behind. We know that the new is not

so new, that this year will bring error and pain like any other year. We take a look back at the old year to see how we might make the new year a little better.

We are granted a free pass into Tishrei—we are not judged for the past year until ten days into the new year, on Yom Kippur. But we may enter only on the condition that we make atonement our first concern. We are obliged to complete our unfinished business, and only after we have done so can we enjoy the celebrations of the season: the bounty of the Sukkot harvest and the celebration of Simhat Torah. Only then are we new enough ourselves to read again of when the world was new.

Rabbi Silber to Discuss the Story of Hannah



Rabbi David Silber will join us on Wednesday, September 21 at 8 p.m. in the OZ library to discuss Rosh Hashanah themes illustrated in the story of Hannah, the Haftarah reading for the first day of Rosh Hashanah (I Samuel 1:1-2:10).

Rabbi Silber is a gifted, inspiring interpreter of biblical narrative and a pioneer in women's education. He is the founder and dean of the Drisha Institute, which is internationally recognized as the creative force

behind women's advanced study of classical Jewish texts. Over the past twenty-five years, Drisha has introduced groundbreaking initiatives that continue to change the way people look at Jewish education in general and the role of women in particular.

Drisha offers an array of classes for women of all levels and all denominations, including intensive full-time programs, year-round continuing education programs frequented by our own members, summer programs for high school students, and cutting-edge lectures by top scholars. Classes are open to women only, but men may attend the lectures. Many of Drisha's programs have been emulated in the rest of the country and in Israel.

Etrogim and Lulavim for Sukkot

The joyous holiday of Sukkot begins Monday evening, October 17. Congregation Or Zarua will arrange for the purchase of etrogim and lulavim. All orders are delivered in complete sets: etrog in box, bagged lulav with hadassim and aravot. Three different sets, each certified for use on Sukkot, are available:

- Standard Sets, \$40.00 each
- Muvchar (Choice) Sets, \$52.00 each
- Mehudar (Gorgeous) Sets, \$65.00 each

If you wish to purchase a set, please be sure that your order is received at the Or Zarua office by noon on Tuesday, October 11.

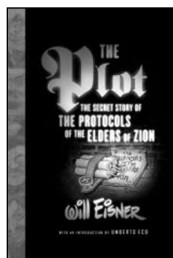
There are three easy ways to order etrogim and lulavim sets:

- On-line: www.orzarua.org
- By fax: 212-452-2301
- By phone: 212-452-2310, x10

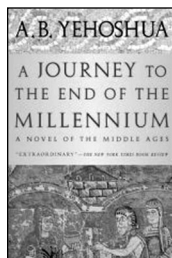
Etrogim and lulavim sets may be picked up at the Or Zarua office on Monday, October 17 from 8 a.m. until noon.

New Books in the OZ Library

The OZ library is a welcoming place to spend some free time. It contains a good collection of books including histories, biographies, novels, encyclopedias, biblical commentaries, and more. Here are some recent acquisitions:



The Plot: The Secret Story of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion
by Will Eisner



A Journey to the End of the Millennium
by A.B. Yehoshua



American Synagogues: A Century of Architecture and Jewish Community
by Samuel D. Gruber



The Memoirs of Gluckel of Hameln
Translated by Marvin Lowenthal

WWW.ORZARUA.ORG

Our award-winning website is a great resource for current as well as prospective members.

Use www.orzarua.org to:

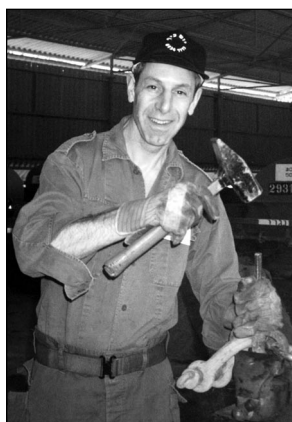
- View our calendar and check service times
- Sign up for events
- Make donations online
- Learn about educational programs for adults and for children
- Keep informed about our Congregation

SHABBAT USHERS NEEDED

Please contact Phyllis Solomon (pslegal@aol.com) or Gerry Solomon (gsolomon2@aol.com).

Volunteering for Israel with Sar-El

By Reed Schneider



An army base may seem an unlikely vacation destination, but this past May I had a wonderful time working at an Israel Defense Force trans-

portation depot located between Gaza and Beersheva as a volunteer with Sar-El, the National Project for Volunteers for Israel. I was one of 300 volunteers—women and men, Jews and non-Jews aged 18 to 80 from around the world—posted to 16 bases throughout Israel that month, performing a variety of support functions necessary to keep the IDF ready for what may come and sharing the burden with regular soldiers and reservists called from their civilian jobs and families each year.

The volunteers at my base were integrated with Israeli soldiers on duty. We slept in the soldiers' barracks, "dined" in their *chadar okhel*, took their direction on work assignments, and worked together with them. This provided a wonderful opportunity for those of our group who could converse in Hebrew to get to know

these young Israeli men and women. The tasks assigned us included taking inventory of equipment and supplies; scraping rust and spray-painting truck trailers; repainting barracks rooms, bed frames and storage lockers (in anticipation of a ministry official's tour); and kitchen cleanup.

Preferring a change from my civilian office setting, I worked outdoors with one team sorting heavy-duty truck chains for rehab or disposal and then another team folding and stacking large rubberized tarps used to cover trucks being readied for the planned Gaza disengagement. The terrific spirit of these volunteers, who chose to give their time and energy to help Israel in this way, created an instant bond of friendship among us. It felt great to contribute directly to Israel's protection with a few simple, tangible accomplishments.

Two bonuses enriched our experience of working at the base. One was the field trip sponsored each week by Sar-El. On our first week's trip on Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day, we participated in a ceremony at the Paratroopers' Memorial. The next week we saw the Israeli Air Force Museum's intriguing collection of aircraft flown by the IAF since 1948. Following my return to

New York after two weeks, those in the group who remained in Israel visited Ben Gurion's Negev home, S'de Boker. The second bonus was our off-duty weekend tours. When the base's work week ends on Thursday, volunteers are released until Sunday to travel on their own. Sar-El arranges small group tours for its volunteers to destinations such as the Dead Sea and Masada. Because my first week coincided with the Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut holidays, there was time for an extended tour of the Galilee and Golan, including historic sites such as Tel Hai and archeological sites at Tzipori and Bet Shearim.

Volunteering for Israel is a fun way to visit and support Israel, meet others who share a love of Israel, and learn about Israel from another perspective.



Reed (top) with other volunteers at an IDF base.

ELUL LECTURE Jeff Cymet, Rabbinic Intern

Wednesday, September 14
8:00 p.m.
Or Zarua Library

HaMelekh:
*The Kingship of God as the
Primary Motif of the
Rosh Hashanah Liturgy*

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HEBREW READING BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

Are you finding it difficult (or impossible) to keep up during services because your Hebrew reading skills are nothing to speak of (or nonexistent)? Help is on the way! A mini-course specifically designed for people who cannot read the Hebrew alphabet will be offered at OZ this fall, just in time for the High Holy Days.

Mark Somerstein will conduct the course, starting on September 12. Classes will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for three weeks on Mondays and Tuesdays. The dates are September 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, and 27.

Be prepared for the holidays. Register through our website (www.orzarua.org) or call the office at 212-452-2310, extension 39.

OZ Study Mission to Israel

By Susan Gotbetter

Two dozen of us traveled to Israel this spring for an OZ study tour organized by Debbie Breznay, Rabbi Wechsler, and Keshet. After a brief stop in Tel Aviv, we headed north to the Galilee and the Golan. Our first stop was Tzipori, an ancient Galilee hilltop city with beautiful mosaics and the remains of a synagogue. In Tzfat, the center of seventeenth-century Kabbalah, we learned about Caro, Luria, Alkabetz, and others, visited their graves, and met a modern-day kabbalistic artist. We then toured Israel's borders in the Golan and in Tel Dan, which contains the most important source of the Jordan River and the site of the city captured by the tribe of Dan. We visited a Talmudic-era house in Katzrin, where the rabbi and members of the Talmud class could recognize the building's design features from their studies. From Katzrin we drove down the Jordan River valley and approached Jerusalem through the Judean desert, a new experience for those of us accustomed to arriving from the sea. The tour culminated in five days of study in Jerusalem.

The best parts of any trip are the unexpected. Here are a few of my personal highlights:

Tel Dan. Wednesday. Tel Dan was the perfect combination of history, ancient ruins, rushing water, natural beauty and a good walk—not to mention the most important source of the Jordan. Terry Krulwich turned out to be our own nature guide. On our way back to the bus, we stopped at a wading pool so that I could dip my feet in the Dan. Children on school trips were splashing each other, laughing and bounding about. Rabbi Wechsler pointed out that some were speaking Hebrew and some, Arabic. We could not tell them apart to see them.

Jerusalem. Thursday. Prof. Daniel Schwartz of Hebrew University gave us a talk on Second Temple Judaism that left us dazzled. He put a new spin on

the period and turned everything we previously knew upside down.

Jerusalem. Friday evening. We intended to arrive early and inconspicuously for services at Shira Hadasha, a feminist Orthodox congregation. Instead we wound up coming late en masse. But as we entered, the congregation was singing “or zarua la tzadik,” and we knew that we were in the right place at the right time. The service was full of energy and spirited singing. The prayer for peace in Jerusalem hit home for me for the first time.

In many ways, an unexpected dividend of the trip was the way the group clicked and the camaraderie that developed. Before we left, Tom and I were nervous about going on a group tour. We were delighted to have the opportunity to get to know people better and to enjoy their company. As one member put it, we all had a chance to be together in a situation where we were not in a formal setting wearing our good clothes, perhaps a little cranky at times. We were elated to be together on this special tour.

Many thanks to Debbie Breznay for initiating the trip, to Rabbi Wechsler for leading us, and to the Rabbi and Naomi for welcoming us into their home and to Ezra's ordination.

OZY HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 5766/2005

Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, October 4

10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Wednesday, October 5

10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

2-4 years old

(accompanied by an adult)

Kindergarten-Grade 2

Grades 3-6

Grades 7-9

Kol Nidre

Wednesday, October 12

6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Grades 1-3

Grades 4-6

Yom Kippur

Thursday, October 13

11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

2-4 years old

(accompanied by an adult)

Kindergarten-Grade 2

Grades 3-6

Grades 7-9

A playroom will be open during all services for very young children who are accompanied and supervised by an adult. Children may not be left alone in this room.

OR ZARUA AND DOROT

In keeping with our Rosh Hashanah tradition, OZ Congregants will provide good company and good food (prepared by DOROT) to elderly Upper East Side residents this year on Sunday, September 25 at 11:00 a.m. We will meet at the 92nd Street Y directly after the Sunday morning minyan. Following a brief orientation, volunteers will be assigned a senior to visit for up to an hour. Our visits are most welcome during the holiday season.

DOROT, the Hebrew word for “generations,” is a multi-service agency serving the elderly through a partnership with volunteers and professionals while fostering interaction among generations. If you would like to volunteer just a few of hours of your time in this Hesed Committee event or if you can identify any seniors in need, please contact Aaron Shelden at 212-734-2888, ashelden@aol.com, or Lesley Palmer at 212-772-9673, lesley@nyc.rr.com.

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

MAZAL TOV

Leslie Berger and Kenneth Drucker, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jacob
Lauren and Stewart Kushner, on the birth of their son, Andrew Evan
Mira Levenson, on the engagement of her daughter, Deborah Lester, to Eric Edell
Ruth and Michael Sherman, on the engagement of their son, Joshua, to Andrea Eisenstadt
Abby and Philip Thomas, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Lev

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:

Danielle Aptekar and Evan Nadler
Lori Balter
Patrice and Michael Feinman
John Gliedman
Esther and Laurence Kahn
Ronit and Oleg Mitnik
Laura Sebi and Ira Glauber
Claire and Peter Smith
Eliza and Jon Weber

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to:

Trudy Elbaum-Gottesman, on the death of her father, Izak Elbaum
Judith and Oded Jupiter, on the death of their daughter, Varda Jupiter
Aliza Kaplan, on the death of her sister, Varda Jupiter
Jane Ries, on the death of her mother, Sylvia Ries

May they and their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

CONTRIBUTIONS

*All contributions listed were received between June 1, 2005 and July 31, 2005.
Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.*

GENERAL FUND

Dina Bromberg and Barrett Sinowitz
Linda and Lowell Dashefsky, in honor of Zachary Nachlis

Ran and Laurel Eisenbruch
Geraldine Chark and Richard Frankel, in memory of Leah Tolpin
Helen Ferszt, in memory of Louis Karp on his yahrzeit
Gloria and Tipp Gilbert
Trudy Elbaum-Gottesman and Robert Gottesman, in memory of Izak Elbaum Mendel Klepper
Susan and Edward Kopelowitz, with best wishes to Rabbi Wechsler and his family on Ezra's accomplishment and in memory of Nathan Goldberg and Betty Kopelowitz

Ellyn Kreitman
Florence Leventon, in memory of her husband and parents on their yahrzeits
Harriet and Leonard Mayer, in honor of their parents' yahrzeits
Diane Okrent and Aaron Shelden, in memory of Reba and Victor Shelden on their yahrzeits, and for Shavuot Yizkor

Libby Saypol
Charlotte Schwartz, in memory of Morris Schwartz

Lorraine and Hugh Schweitzer, in honor of Melanie's Bat Mitzvah

Jean and Bill Shanks, in memory of Laura Resnikoff's father, Israel
Chantal Simon

Josephine Stayman, in honor of Sara Stone's birthday

Cheryl Sternlieb, in memory of Dr. Isidore and Ida Sternlieb and Evelyn Stolpen

Sara and David Stone, in recognition of the wonderful group of people who helped create the fabulous Or Zarua seder: Mina Greenstein, Barbara Bolshon, Debbie Breznay, Miriam Wallerstein, Charlie Spielholz, David Goldman, Rabbi Wechsler, and Ezra Friedland-Wechsler

Ethel and Barry Weintraub, in memory of Barry's father, Bill Weintraub, on his yahrzeit

HESED FUND

Ellen and Sam Bender, in memory of Birdie Goldstein, grandmother of Marc Yassky
Robin and Julia Blumenthal, in honor of Yehuda Nir's 75th birthday
Pamela and Mark Gold, in memory of Ruth Gold on her yahrzeit
Samuel and Ruth Perelson
Judith and Barry Schneider
Ethel and Barry Weintraub, in memory of Varda Jupiter

HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Robin and Julia Blumenthal, in memory of Varda Jupiter



Amital Isaac (left), 16-year-old Or Zarua member, won a Silver Medal in Tae Kwon Do at the 17th Maccabiah Games in Jerusalem in the Adult/Middle Weight Division on July 18.

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

KIDDUSH FUND

Anonymous, in honor of Michael Schwartz, in recognition of his election as President of the Congregation
 Pamela and Mark Gold, in honor of Zach Gold's 10th birthday
 Bob and Judy Golub, in honor of their 25th anniversary, Chanan's 24th birthday, and Yonit's receiving her master's degree from Johns Hopkins University and assuming the position of director of leadership curriculum at AIPAC
 Francine and Sam Klagsbrun, in honor of Herb Lukashok's d'var Torah
 Susan Kopelowitz, in honor of Edward's birthday
 Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner, in memory of their fathers, Lester Krulwich and Harry Posner, on their yahrzeits
 Betsy and Hugh Lamle, in honor of Alexandra's Bat Mitzvah
 Diane Okrent and Aaron Shelden, in celebration of their 20th wedding anniversary
 Joy and Bruce Roberts, in honor of the the baby naming of their daughter, Daniella Lauren Naomi Roberts
 Lorraine and Herbert Shapiro
 Talmud Class, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler for leading us through

another outstanding year of study
 Ethel and Barry Weintraub, in honor of Hannah's Bat Mitzvah

KOL NIDRE APPEAL

Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur Rosenbloom

LIBRARY FUND

Annette and Seymour Roth, in memory of Annette's mother, Pauline Drexler, on her yahrzeit

MINYAN FUND

Pamela and Mark Gold

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ralph Davidson, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler's participation in the brit milah of his son, Nico Engstrom Davidson
 Diana and Harrison Goldin
 Lorraine and Hugh Schweitzer, in honor of Melanie's Bat Mitzvah
 Sara and David Stone, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler's participation in the brit milah of their grandson, Nico Engstrom Davidson
 Anita and Barry Weinstein, in honor of their new grandchild, Samantha Jade

PROJECT RECONNECT: OZ Reaches Out to College Kids

Our new College Committee, chaired by Eileen Cohen, is collecting the school addresses of Congregants' children who are away at college. The College Committee will be mailing food packages to the students on Hanukkah and Purim.

To help us remain in contact with these family members while they are away from home, please send your child's name, school address, and email address to the synagogue office by email (admin@orzarua.org), fax (212-452-2103), or mail to the attention of College Committee.

If you would like to participate in the committee, please call Eileen at 212-288-8541 or email her at escohen297@aol.com.

Or Zarua Wins United Synagogue Awards

Continuing its winning tradition, Or Zarua won two Solomon Schechter Awards from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. The awards will be presented at the USCJ Biennial Convention to be held in Boston from December 4 to 8. Awards are presented to congregations that have distinguished themselves during the preceding two years in aspects of congregational life.

OZ won a Gold Award in the category of Worship and Ritual for *Orot*, our annual journal of articles written by

Congregants on subjects pertaining to the High Holy Days. *Orot* is distributed at services during the High Holy Days. It serves as a catalyst for repentance and reflection, and it binds the community together as Congregants come to know each other through the sharing of thoughts. It also helps sustain our Congregation's culture of learning.

OZ was also recognized in the category of Judaica and Fine Arts. We received Honorable Mention for our most recent exhibit, "Our Precious

Legacies: Treasured Objects from Or Zarua Families," and for two previous exhibits, Zion Ozeri's large-scale photographs of Jewish life throughout the world and Leon Azoulay's series of the five books of Moses executed in the technique of microcalligraphy. These exhibits have enhanced Or Zarua's Social Hall over the past few years while educating the Congregation by presenting a variety of Jewish art.

Kol Hakavod to all Or Zarua Congregants who helped us gain this recognition.

PHOTOS BY TERRY KRULWICH



Theater in Tzipori, the ancient Galilean capital



Yom Yerushalayim Parade



Overlooking the Jewish Quarter, Old City of Jerusalem



Ezra Friedland-Wechsler Susan Gotbetter in the Dan



OZ Study Mission to Israel group (see article on page 9)



Studio of Kabbalist artist Avrom Lowenthal in Tzfat

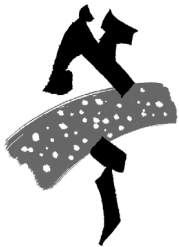
PHOTO BY GERRY SOLOMON

SINFUL DESSERTS AND... REPENTANCE

An evening of community will usher in the Yomim Noraim for Congregation Or Zarua. Beginning at 8:15 p.m. on Saturday, September 24, members will gather for a dessert reception, followed by Rabbi Wechsler's Selihot lecture on Rav Kook's kabbalistic ideas of repentance. A special Selihot program for teens will be held at the same time. At 10:00 p.m., Selihot services will be held in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited.

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

127 East 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028



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