

OR ZARUA

Congregation

NEWSLETTER / VOLUME 18:6

TAMMUZ / AV / ELUL 5766

JULY / AUGUST 2006

Annual Meeting and Election

The 2006 Or Zarua Annual Meeting was held on Monday, May 22. The meeting was preceded by a festive meal in the social hall. Congratulations to the following newly elected officers and members of the Board of Trustees:

President	Michael W. Schwartz
Vice Presidents	
Administration	Sheldon S. Adler
Facilities	Alan D. Ilberman
Legal	Andrew J. Frackman
Programming	Diane Okrent
Assistant Vice President, Legal	Marc D. Ashley
Treasurer	Morton Z. Schwartz
Assistant Treasurer	Alan A. Nadel
Secretary	Anne D. Schneider
Assistant Secretary	Pamela E. Gold

Rejoining the board this year is Alisa Doctoroff.

The Congregation expresses its sincere thanks to Linda Spitzer, who retired from the Board after nine years of dedicated service, and to Lesley Palmer, whose three-year term limit as Secretary has expired. Their contributions have enabled us to grow and flourish.

SELIHOT

Saturday, September 16

8:30 p.m.

SINFUL DESSERTS

Join us for an evening of community as we usher in the Yomim Noraim with a dessert reception.

9:15 p.m.

STUDY

Rabbi Wechsler will teach "Mystical Repentance in the Writings of Rav Kook." His source is Rav Kook's *Lights of Repentance*.

10:00 p.m.

SELIHOT SERVICES

"WELCOME HOME TO OR ZARUA" SHABBAT

Saturday, September 16

Join us on September 16 for a "Welcome Home" Shabbat to greet prospective members and to welcome existing members back to OZ from their summer vacations. Please invite friends who may be interested in joining our community! Services begin at 9:00 a.m., and a sumptuous kiddush will follow.

High Holy Days: Alternate Services

The huge turnout at our main High Holy Day services is an inspiration in itself. But for a more intimate davening experience, join our Alternate Services on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Kol Nidre. The Alternate Services are held in the second-floor chapel at Ramaz, upstairs from the main services. Knowledge of Hebrew or the liturgy is not required.

Guided by community leaders, these services are more interactive than the main services. They encourage participation, singing, and discussions while

exploring the history, theology, insights, and interpretations of various prayers and customs. Participants range from novices to learned daveners who enjoy the congenial atmosphere.

The Ramaz second-floor chapel accommodates only about 100 people, so it is important that you notify the synagogue office as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

Please indicate your choice of service by returning the reservation form mailed with your dues statement.

In the city on a Tuesday in August?
Come to the minyan at 7:15 a.m.

HIGH HOLY DAY TICKETS Please order your extra tickets now. The cost is \$250 per ticket. To order, call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 10.

ק"ק אור זרוע
CONGREGATION

**OR
ZARUA**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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www.orzarua.org

DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, *Rabbi*
MICHAEL W. SCHWARTZ, *President*
BARBARA J. BOLSHON, *Executive Director*
ILANA BURGESS, *Youth Education Director*
PAULETTE SCHNEIDER, *Newsletter Editor*

TISHE'AH B'AV: Looking Back and Looking Ahead

By Ron Meyers

Isn't it curious that we have no holiday for the day our ancestors entered into the Promised Land? Passover commemorates the beginning of our journey there, and Shavuot commemorates the climactic experience of the Revelation. But the Torah was given while we were still wandering in the desert, far from reaching the place or building the society that the Torah envisions for us.

This thought arises as we approach Tishe'ah B'Av—the ninth day of the month of Av, on which both Temples were destroyed, the first in 586 BCE and the second in 70 CE. On Tishe'ah B'Av, August 3 this year, we recall the loss of the focal point in Jewish life, the geographic point of connection between Israel and God. It is the most tragic day of our year, colored in tones of grief and misery far

darker than the tones of existential solemnity on Yom Kippur. We have no holiday for coming into the land, yet we have this holiday to recall being cast out of the land.

It is a sad fact of human perception, perhaps, that we recognize what we have lost more powerfully than we notice what we have gained. But it is also in our nature to be motivated strongly by what lies ahead. Moses left this earth not by entering the Promised Land but by peering out over it, looking ahead to what his people would attain. In recalling the loss of the Temples, we join Moses in looking ahead to the goal of a people united, within itself, and with God.

TEXTS: Lamentations; Haftarat of Admonition (Jeremiah 1-2; Jeremiah 2-4; Isaiah 1); Haftarah of Comfort ("Nachamu"); Isaiah 40.

OZ Committee Chairs

AESTHETICS	Aaron Shelden
BOOK DISCUSSION	Reed Schneider
BUILDING	Alan Ilberman
CATERING	Diane Okrent Sara Stone
CEMETERY	Andrew Frackman Morty Schwartz
DEVELOPMENT	Mimi Alperin
EVENTS/ADULT ED	Diane Okrent
HESED	Robin Blumenthal Stephanie Failla
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	Pamela Gold
SHABBAT USHERS	Phyllis Solomon Gerry Solomon
TORAH/HAFOTARAH	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.



Save Darfur Now. An Or Zarua contingent traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the April 30 rally to stop genocide in Darfur. It was a moving and beautiful experience. During the bus ride, we davened in New Jersey (Shaharit), Maryland (Minhah), Delaware (the rabbi read the 93rd Psalm), New Jersey again (part of Ma'ariv), and New York (the conclusion of Ma'ariv).

GERRY SOLOMON

Book Discussions

Read any good Jewish books lately? Please join our informal book discussions on Sunday evenings in the OZ library from September to June. Friends are invited as well.

Our 14th year of Congregant-led book discussions introduced this wonderful selection of titles:

■ As part of our Light is Sown celebration last December, photographer Zion Ozeri discussed his recently published book, *The Jews of Yemen: The Last Generation*, and shared his own family's experience making aliyah from Yemen.

■ OZ librarian Barry Feldman led our discussion of *Outwitting History: The Amazing Adventure of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books*, Aaron Lansky's highly acclaimed and humorous story of how he founded the National Yiddish Book Center.

■ Herb Lukashok delved into *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, Amos Oz's emotionally charged memoir of growing up in Israel.

■ Pat Davidson presented ideas on *The Radetsky March*, Joseph Roth's 1932 novel of the demise of European ideals.

■ Martha Mendelsohn focused on *Welcome to Heavenly Heights*, Risa Miller's contemporary novel set in a religious community outside Jerusalem.

■ World War II veteran Alvin Lukashok recalled his experiences in discussing *Soldiers and Slaves: American POWs Trapped by the Nazi's Final Gamble*, a haunting report by Roger Cohen on American victims of Nazi slave labor in 1945.

■ Dr. Barry Collier examined the highly readable biography, *Maimonides*, by Sherwin Nuland.

■ Israeli mystery writer Batya Gur's *Murder Duet: A Musical Case* rounded out our season.

The next season of Sunday evening book discussions begins on September 17 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611 or arlm1199@aol.com.

OZ Members Attend World Zionist Congress

Congregation Or Zarua congratulates Rabbi Robert Golub and his son Chanan—they were elected as MERCAZ USA delegates to last month's World Zionist Congress. They were among 145 American representatives who traveled to Israel for the quadrennial event.

This 35th Congress marked 109 years since Theodore Herzl, founder of the modern Zionist movement, gathered 200 Jewish leaders from around the world for a meeting in Basel, Switzerland to discuss the condition of the Jewish people. The meeting yielded the World Zionist Organization, which led the campaign to establish the State of Israel.

Rabbi Golub and his wife, Judith

Rubin Golub, have lived on the Upper East Side for the past five years. Chanan, a recent graduate of The George Washington University, is an auditor at PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Rabbi Golub is the Executive Director of MERCAZ USA.

MERCAZ USA is the Zionist organization of the Conservative movement. It is the voice of Conservative Jewry within the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Zionist Movement, and the Jewish National Fund. Founded nearly 30 years ago, MERCAZ's mission is both to support religious pluralism in Israel and to strengthen the connection between Israel and the Diaspora.

RABBI DAVID SILBER: *Hagar and Ishmael*



Rabbi David Silber will speak on Wednesday, September 13 at 8:00 p.m. in the OZ library. He will discuss the Torah reading for the first day of Rosh Hashanah, focusing on Hagar and Ishmael.

Rabbi Silber is the founder and dean of Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, which provides advanced studies for women. He compared the exclusion of women from certain posts to the segregation that kept black athletes out of certain team positions. He feels that "the women's movement can allow Torah to speak with a louder voice to the entire Jewish community."

TISHE'AH B'AV SERVICES

Erev Tishe'ah B'Av

Reading of Eikha

Wednesday evening, August 2

Minhah—7:45 p.m.

Thursday morning, August 3

Shaharit—7:15 a.m.

Thursday evening, August 3

Minhah/Ma'ariv—7:45 p.m.

LEARNING IN ELUL

To enhance our High Holy Day experience, Jeremy Yoskowitz, OZ's rabbinic intern for 2006-2007, will speak about the liturgy on Monday, September 18 at 8:00 p.m.

Other discussions and lectures, including Rabbi David Silber's on Rosh Hashanah (see above) and Rabbi Wechsler's Selihot lesson (see page 1), are planned to prepare us spiritually for the Days of Awe.

July Calendar

August Calendar

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

MAZAL TOV

Liz Neumark, Diane Okrent, and Aaron Shelden for receiving Special Recognition Awards in honor of their many years of commitment to the Heschel School

Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler, on receiving a Vision in Leadership Award at the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan's 10th Anniversary Benefit Dinner

Nora and Barry Yood, on the birth of their grandson, Gabriel Max Deener

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:

Felice and Darrell Friedman, and their son, Jacob

Karen and Jonathan Kaplan
Ilana and Samuel Vichness

Jodi and Stuart Zgodny, and their children, Jordan and Dylan

CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions listed were received between April 1, 2006 and May 31, 2006.

Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.

DESIGNATED SPECIAL PURPOSE FUND

Mimi and Barry Alperin, in memory of Barry's parents, Max and Ruth Alperin

GENERAL FUND

Marilyn Balassi, in memory of Philip Minoff
Curtis Boyles, in honor of Zella and Glenn Goldfinger

Suzanne and Evan Brownstein
Linda Eidelberg, in memory of her husband, Al Eidelberg, on his yahrzeit and in memory of her mother, Rose Basch, on her yahrzeit

Pamela and Mark Gold, in honor of Jonathan Stadin's engagement
Zella and Glenn Goldfinger, in honor of Marc Ashley for his Sunday morning classes; in honor of Mark Somerstein for his Monday evening Hebrew Ulpan; with thanks to Pat and Alan Davidson for sponsoring the Avivah Zornberg Shabbaton; and with congratulations to Alex Bromberg for winning first place in the Jewish Museum photo contest
Diana and Harrison Goldin, in honor of receiving an aliyah

Carol and Phil Goldsmith, in honor of Gabriel Max, grandson of Nora and Barry Yood, and in memory of Henry and Mina Bess Cohen

Linda, Jeffrey, and Evan Haberman, with best wishes for a speedy recovery to Ilana Burgess and Abby Thomas

Judith and Oded Jupiter, in memory of Varda Jupiter, on her yahrzeit

Judith and David Lewittes, in memory of Betty Axenzow and Sarah Lewittes, on their yahrzeits

Yafa and Alan Nadel, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler, and in memory of Mickey Krulwich

Jacob Oberman, in memory of his wife, Esther, on her yahrzeit

Joy and Bruce Roberts, in memory of Mickey Krulwich

Charlotte Schwartz, for Pesah Yizkor
Lorraine and Herb Shapiro, in memory of Mickey Krulwich

Elyse and Ed Siegel, in memory of Elyse's mother, Bernice Roth, on her yahrzeit
Rabbi Efy Spectre, in honor of receiving two aliyot

Tubby Stayman Philanthropic Fund
Elise Strauss, in memory of Frieda Maslin
Helen Unger, in honor of Anna Brenner's Bat Mitzvah

Ayala Usdin, in memory of Mickey Krulwich
Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of Mickey Krulwich

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Pamela and Mark Gold, in honor of Jonathan Stadin's engagement and in honor of the birth of Ellen and Michael Schwartz's grandson, Isaiah Luke Walsh

HESED FUND

Robin and Julia Blumenthal, in appreciation of Suzan and Daniel Rosen's Pesah hospitality
Yafa and Alan Nadel, in honor of the birth of Harry Leon Posner, grandson of Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner

Lesley and Jay Palmer, in honor of the birth of Ellen and Michael Schwartz's grandson, Isaiah Luke Walsh

Libby Saypol

Judith and Barry Schneider, in honor of their 40th anniversary

Miriam Wallerstein, wishing refuah sh'lemah for Ilana Burgess and Abby Thomas

HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Patti and Jerry Josepher
Vera and Robert Silver, for Pesah Yizkor
Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of her mother, Goldie Patt, on her yahrzeit

KIDDUSH FUND

Susan Altman and Ivan Kreitman
Ellen Gerson and Tibor Feldman, in honor of Harris Feldman's Bar Mitzvah
Ellen and Said Hawa, in memory of Said's mother, Nazimah Hawa, on her yahrzeit
Bess and Leor Landa, in honor of the baby naming of their daughter, Zeva Gavrielle
Judith and Herbert Lukashok, in memory of Lillian Lukashok, on her yahrzeit
Martha and Fred Mendelsohn, in memory of Martha's father, Arnold Neustader, on his 10th yahrzeit
Ellen and Michael Schwartz, in honor of their grandson, Isaiah Luke Walsh
Sharon Seiler and Charlie and Talia Spielholz, in memory of Charlie's father, Terry Spielholz, on his yahrzeit
Lorraine and Herb Shapiro, in honor of their son, James, for his Guggenheim Fellowship award

Laura Siegel and Stephen Stern, in honor of Samantha's Bat Mitzvah
Lynn and Mark Somerstein, in honor of the anniversary of Mark's Bar Mitzvah, in honor of his family, and to express his appreciation and gratitude to OZ Torah Reading Class, in honor of Mark Somerstein

Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler, in honor of the 50th anniversary of Rabbi Wechsler's Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat HaGadol

LIBRARY FUND

Alice Geisler, in memory of her sister, Jeanette Steiner, on her yahrzeit

MA'OT HITTIM FUND

Marcel and Sheldon Adler
Abby Altman and Peter Ezzard
Lynn and Daniel Beller
Burt Biderman
Robin Blumenthal
Emily Braun and Andrew Frackman
Debbie and Jim Breznay
Phyllis Brochstein
Suzanne and Evan Brownstein
Alice Canick

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

Anna and Ben Charkow
 Jan Cornell and Matt Neuman
 Ellen DeJonge-Ozeri and Zion Ozeri
 Linda Dershowitz
 Ellen and Stanley Deutsch
 Susan and Alexander Deutsch
 Alisa and Dan Doctoroff
 Mona Dreier
 Meira Epstein
 Audrey and Barry Feldman
 Lynne Galler and Yeheskel Dattner
 Alice Geisler
 Carol and Phil Goldsmith
 Judith and Robert Golub
 Trudy and Robert Gottesman
 Dore Hollander
 Ruth Horowitz
 Adele and Mel Ilberman
 Caroline and Alan Ilberman
 Sherry Jacobson and Eugene Zuriff
 Patti and Jerry Josepher
 Aliza Kaplan
 Glenn Kashan
 Janet and Simon Katz
 Meredith and Michael Katz
 Vivian and Fred Kenvin

Francine and Samuel Klagsbrun
 Melissa and Craig Lader
 Cecilia and Allen Mayer
 Ron Meyers
 Yafa and Alan Nadel
 Jacob Oberman
 Diane Okrent and Aaron Shelden
 Lesley and Jay Palmer
 Sabina and Maurice Preter
 Randi Schatz and Joseph Allerhand
 Anne and Reed Schneider
 Barbara Scott and Jonathan Bromberg
 Lorraine and Herbert Shapiro
 Linda Shulsky
 Arlene and Sheldon Simon
 Chantal Simon
 Claire and Peter Wolf Smith
 Phyllis and Gerry Solomon
 Mark Somerstein
 Rabbi Efy Spectre
 Sara and David Stone
 Abby and Philip Thomas
 Bernard Tolpin
 Miriam Wallerstein
 Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and
 Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Ethel and Barry Weintraub
 Lynda Wertheim

MINYAN FUND

Miriam Wallerstein

PURIM SPIEL FUND

Susan March and Louis Barash
 Vera Sullivan, in honor of all the Purim
 Spielers

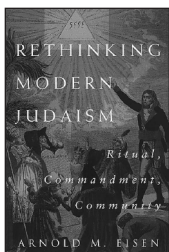
RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Robin and Julia Blumenthal, wishing
 refuah sh'lemah to Abby Thomas and in
 honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Samantha
 Stern
 Gwen and Brett Cohen
 Francine and Samuel Klagsbrun
 Jane Ries, in memory of Jane's father,
 Jonas Ries, on his yahrzeit
 Ellen and Alain Roizen, in memory of
 Alain's father and brother
 Roanna and Morris Shorofsky, in honor of
 the Simhat Bat of their granddaughter,
 Shira Ann Mack

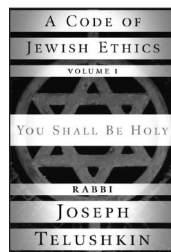
Sleeping late in the city on a Sunday morning in July? Make sure 8:45 a.m. minyan, the hardest one of the year, will happen.

New Books in the OZ Library

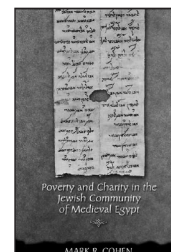
The OZ library is a welcoming place to spend some free time. Our wide selection of books includes histories, biographies, novels, encyclopedias, biblical commentaries, and more. Among our recent acquisitions are two titles authored by Arnold M. Eisen, Chancellor-Designate of The Jewish Theological Seminary.



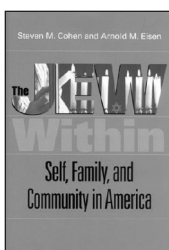
*Rethinking
 Modern Judaism:
 Ritual, Commandment,
 Commentary*
 by Chancellor-Designate
 Arnold M. Eisen



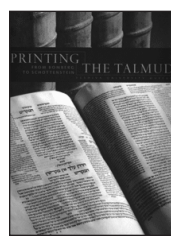
*A Code of Jewish Ethics,
 Volume I:
 You Shall Be Holy*
 by Rabbi Joseph
 Telushkin



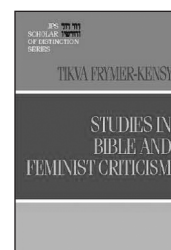
*Poverty and Charity in
 the Jewish Community
 of Medieval Egypt*
 by Mark R. Cohen



*Jew Within:
 Self, Family, and
 Community in America*
 by Chancellor-Designate
 Arnold M. Eisen
 and Steven M. Cohen



*Printing the Talmud:
 From Bomberg to
 Schottenstein*
 by Yeshiva University
 Museum



*Studies in Bible and
 Feminist Criticism*
 by Tikva Frymer-Kensky

2006 Salute to Israel Parade

On Sunday, June 4, 60 Or Zarua Congregants in bright green shirts made their way up Fifth Avenue for the Salute to Israel Parade. Our banners, beautifully crafted by the Hebrew School students and their teachers, announced that Or Zarua's

tie to Israel is unconditional and unbreakable. The banners were decorated with the seven biblical species—the staple foods in the land of Israel during biblical times. Join us for next year's parade to share in this amazing experience.



ALIZA KAPLAN

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HEBREW SCHOOL REGISTRATION

The first day of Hebrew School is Monday, September 11, 2006. Now is the time to register, both for returning and new students. For a registration form, please contact Ilana at 212-452-2310, extension 15 or ilana@orzarua.org.

OZY SHABBAT SERVICES

During the months of July and August, children's Shabbat services will be divided into two groups: one for ages 2 through 6 and one for all other school-aged children.

Not going away for the weekend?
 Remember Friday night services at OZ:
 6:45 p.m. in July, 6:30 p.m. in August.