

Congregation OR ZARUA

NEWSLETTER / VOLUME 19:2

HESHVAN / KISLEV / TEVET 5767

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2006

SHABBAT ACROSS OR ZARUA *Friday, November 10*

“**A**nd when he [Abraham] saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door...” (Genesis 15:2). In Parashat Vayera, Abraham welcomes strangers to his home and establishes our tradition of hospitality.

To honor Parashat Vayera, Congregation Or Zarua will celebrate

Shabbat Across Or Zarua on Friday evening, November 10, 2006. In the tradition of Abraham, members will welcome other members into their homes to enjoy a special Shabbat dinner.

Shabbat Across Or Zarua has been a tradition since 1997. In the glow of Shabbat spirit, many of us have made

new friends and become closer with those we already knew. The food is delicious, the conversation is stimulating, and the mood is joyous.

To let us know if you would like to be a host or a guest, please use the OZ website, call the synagogue office (extension 39), or return the form you received by mail.

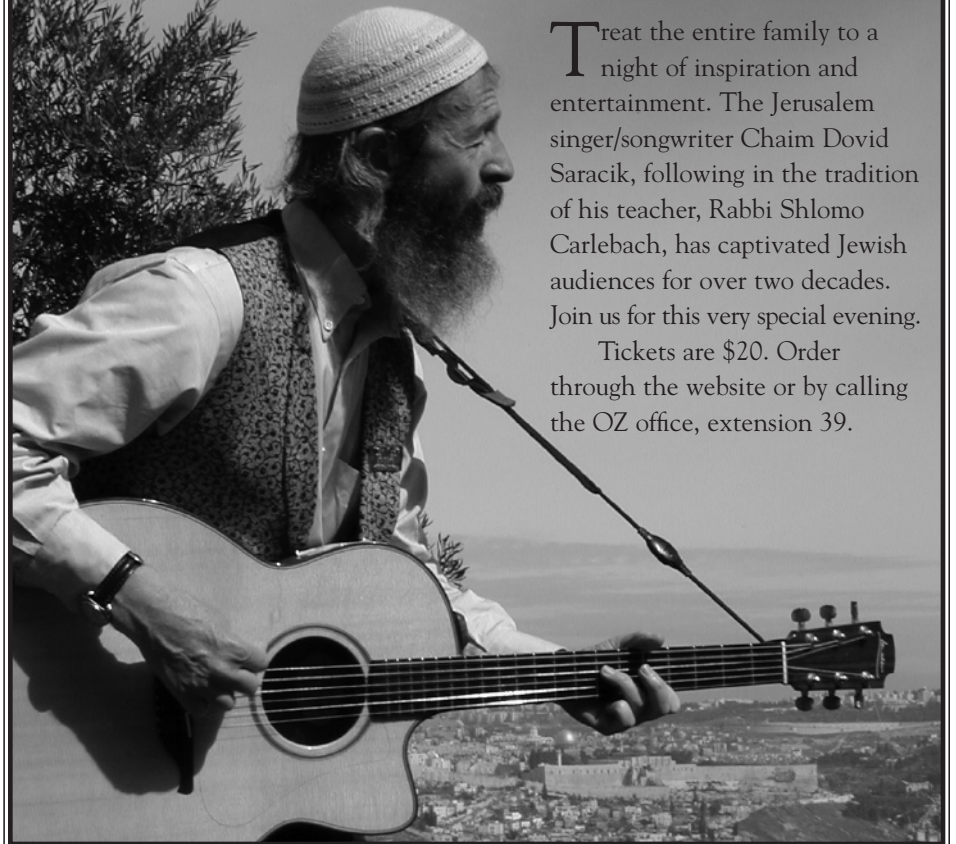
IN THIS ISSUE

A Linguistic Spin	3
A Call to Prayer	4
Shiva Etiquette	8
New Members' Reception	8
Hadassah Medical Program for Tourists	8
A Little Bit of Heaven.....	9
Congregational Shabbat Hanukkah Dinner.....	11
A Few Hanukkah Basics.....	12

FEATURES

Youth Education Department	2
OZY Services.....	3
New OZ Library Books.....	4
Hesed Committee Events	5
Monthly Calendars.....	6
Holiday Inspiration	8
Book Discussions	9
OZ Community	10

CHAIM DOVID IN CONCERT AT OZ *Saturday, November 4, 7:30 p.m.*



Treat the entire family to a night of inspiration and entertainment. The Jerusalem singer/songwriter Chaim Dovid Saracik, following in the tradition of his teacher, Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, has captivated Jewish audiences for over two decades. Join us for this very special evening.

Tickets are \$20. Order through the website or by calling the OZ office, extension 39.

ק"ק אור זרוע
CONGREGATION

**OR
ZARUA**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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ILANA BURGESS, *Youth Education Director*
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YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

By *Ilana Burgess*

The youth department is growing and changing. Here are some of our new programs:

**Shabbat Afternoon Hug Ivri:
November 18**

Starting in November, we will offer a monthly Shabbat Afternoon Hug Ivri (discussion in Hebrew) for children in grades 4 and higher—adults may attend as well. After Kiddush, we'll have a light lunch and then study Hebrew poems. We will analyze the content and the language of the poems, so participants will need at least a basic understanding of Hebrew.

Our first Hug Ivri will be held on November 18. If you would like to join us, please notify ilana@orzarua.org or contact the OZ office at extension 39 by Monday, November 13 to let us know the number of adults and children who will attend.

**Family Activities Program:
November 19**

We are starting a new family activities program which will meet one Sunday each month from November through May. Three different classes will be offered: 1) Music; 2) Arts and Crafts; and 3) Yoga in Hebrew. (*Children under 6 years of age must be with an adult. Bring a mat.*) The classes will be open to Hebrew School as well as day school students and their families. Family members may either stay together or attend separate activities.

Sunday classes provide a good opportunity for Hebrew School families to join with day school families in learning, creating, and just having a good time. We hope that bringing together families with children from different schools will strengthen our feeling of community. It will also provide a chance to make new friends in a setting other than Shabbat and holiday events.

Our first family activities session will take place on Sunday, November 19 at 1:30 p.m.

The Jewish Lens

The Jewish Lens is a program for all ages. Do you dream of combining your artistic vision with your Jewish learning experience? Have you ever wanted to learn how to put together an art exhibition or have an opportunity to show your artwork? Have you ever wondered why Argentina is the largest Jewish community in Latin America? Then look no further, and be a part of a great learning experience: The Jewish Lens.

During this course we will use the work of renowned photographer Zion Ozeri as a stimulus to explore diverse Jewish communities all over the world while investigating Jewish values, identity, and tradition. And we will shoot our own photographs to explore these values and to examine text and tradition in an inventive and creative way. In the process, we will learn about the art of photography, enhance our understanding of the local and global Jewish communities, and join our peers to assemble our own photo exhibition. The exhibition will be mounted in the synagogue social hall and will be presented on the OZ web site. For more information, please call Ilana at extension 15 or email ilana@orzarua.org.

OZY Services

Once a month, the Infant through Kindergarten group will be divided into two sections:

Ages 2 and 3. Classes will be held in the library with Amital Isaac. Activities will include more games and songs.

Ages 4 and 5. Classes will continue with Iris Paltin. Activities will focus on the Shabbat and Torah services.

Both classes will start at 11:00 a.m. **Sessions will be held on November 4 and December 16.**

The Alef Bet corner and Junior Congregation will remain the same.

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/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.

Hebrew School students prepare drawings to decorate the OZ sukkah.



Hebrew School Events

NOVEMBER 2006

Saturday 18	Shabbat Class
Sunday 19	Talent Show
Wednesday 22	Thanksgiving vacation (<i>no classes</i>)
Thursday 23	Thanksgiving vacation (<i>no classes</i>)
Monday 27	School resumes. Cooking at BJ (<i>high school</i>)

DECEMBER 2006

Friday 8	Friday Night Dinner (<i>Kindergarten through first grade</i>)
Saturday 9	Shabbat Class
Monday 18	Hanukkah celebration, 5:00 p.m. Cooking at BJ (<i>high school</i>)
Tuesday 19	Hanukkah celebration, 5:00 p.m.
Monday 25	Winter break (<i>no classes</i>)

OZY SERVICES

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

Infant through Kindergarten

11:00 a.m. to noon
(see page 2 under OZY Services)

Alef Bet Corner

Grades 1 to 3
10:00 a.m. to noon

Junior Congregation

Grades 4 to 6
10:00 a.m. to noon

Each month during the school year, we have a special Hebrew School Shabbat Class, which all Hebrew School students in the third through sixth grades are expected to attend. Parents and students from other schools are welcome as well.

The next Hebrew School Shabbat Classes will take place on November 18 and December 9.

A Linguistic Spin

By Paulette Schneider

Everyone knows that the name for our little Jewish top comes from the word for “turn,” both in Yiddish (“dreidel” from drei) and in Hebrew (“svivon” from sovev). The dreidel is strongly identified as a Hanukkah toy, so we take it for granted that the letters on the sides of our top—Nun, Gimel, Heh, Shin—stand for the Hebrew phrase “Nes Gadol Hayah Sham” (a great miracle happened there).

Not so fast! A gambling toy with lettered sides has been spinning around Europe for centuries. The letters vary by country, but in each case they are mnemonics for the rules of a universal gambling game, called “teetotum” in England and Ireland. So our dreidel letters are actually Yiddish, derived from the game as it was played in Germany—Nit (take nothing), Ganz (take everything), Halb (take half), and Shtel (put in one coin). At some point the little top became a Hanukkah toy, and the Hebrew “Nes Gadol” phrase was assigned to elevate the worldly Yiddish rules-of-the-game mnemonic.

A traditional explanation for how the dreidel became linked with Hanukkah: Torah scholars used it as a decoy to fool the Greek Syrians, who forbade Torah study. When the scholars heard their oppressors approach, they would quickly hide their books and launch into an innocent game of dreidel.

WWW.ORZARUA.ORG

Use our award-winning website to:

- View calendar and service times
- Sign up for meals and events
- Make donations online
- Learn about educational programs

A CALL TO PRAYER

By Ellen de Jonge-Ozeri

I love the month of Elul. The morning sounding of the shofar, with barely a minyan, reverberates around the room and engulfs me down to my toes. It's because there are so few of us available during the summer (and the closer it gets to Labor Day, the more difficult it gets to assemble a minyan) that the shofar's wail seems even more personal. A call to prayer—a call for teshuvah.

I have been sitting in the same seat almost every Tuesday morning at 7:15 for the past four years. I sat there as well on a recent Wednesday morning to cover for the regular “minyan maker,” who could not attend. Four rows behind me in his own regular place sat Irv, who was to have a profound effect on my morning, my day, and my new year.

On that particular Wednesday at 7:15, we were five. Worse, there was no one to lead the davening. But soon I heard the back door open and I knew that Irv had arrived. I knew that our backup leader was up to the task. So many times I've heard his voice behind me, quietly providing page numbers when others are in doubt and helping out when readers mispronounce a word.

Irv proceeded to the bimah without hesitation. But I, as “minyan maker,” still had the task of finding the remaining fifty percent of the group. Gradually, a few more souls trickled in. I tried to call my daughter Chloe on her cell phone—no luck. I tried my close friend who's an insomniac—no answer. Finally, my own cell phone rang and I heard my half-asleep daughter whisper, “I'll be right over.”

We were still missing two, so we couldn't recite the first Kaddish. I noticed an unfamiliar face in our midst. Have I let her down? Is she observing the yahrzeit of a loved one? Is her pain fresh or have years passed since her loss? But Chloe arrived, clearly having just rolled out of bed—in glasses (no time to fuss over contacts) and a short-sleeved T-shirt (oblivious to the morning chill). We were ten! The regular service could proceed.

Irv's voice rang out clear and strong. His melodies transported me to another place. Was it to a shtetl somewhere in Poland, or just across the river to Brooklyn? I could tell that the others felt it as well. We were all transformed, living in the moment.

It was again time to recite the Kaddish, and the newcomer at the back of the sanctuary stood up. Irv led her slowly through the haunting prayer. I sighed with relief, and at that moment I realized that being a “minyan maker” is worth the effort.

I knew that this would be my daughter's first Rosh Hashanah away from home—she moved to Turkey for a year to work for the Joint Distribution Committee. Of course, I'm both very proud and very anxious. It's that moment in motherhood where your child must fly away (like that butterfly quote I see woven into a needlepoint pillow in a neighborhood store).

I stood close to my daughter as Irv finally blew the shofar. Our arms touched. I took in her scent and touched her hair. My eyes welled up.

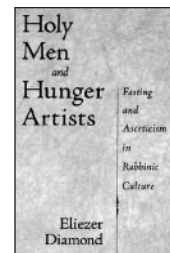
Thank you, Irv.

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. Here are some recent acquisitions:



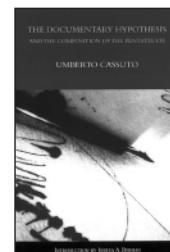
The Ladder of Jacob: Ancient Interpretations of the Biblical Story of Jacob and His Children
by James L. Kugel



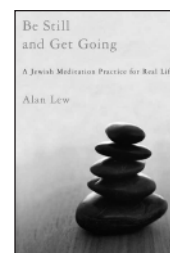
Holy Men and Hunger Artists: Fasting and Asceticism in Rabbinic Culture
by Eliezer Diamond



Battling for Souls: The Vaad Hatzala Rescue Committee in Post-War Europe
by Alex Grobman



The Documentary Hypothesis and the Composition of the Pentateuch
by Umberto Cassuto



Be Still and Get Going: A Jewish Meditation Practice for Real Life
by Alan Lew

OZ GOES WIRELESS Or Zarua has installed a wireless network—Internet access is now available throughout the synagogue building. Bring your laptop and try it out! The OZ library is a relaxing place to spend some time or do some work during the day.

HESED COMMITTEE EVENTS

Hesed is the expression of loving kindness—*gemilut hasadim*. According to *Pirkei Avot*, it is incumbent upon every Jew to participate in acts of hesed. Toward this end, the Or Zarua Hesed Committee engages in various projects that fulfill needs in our local community, in Israel, and around the world.

Please donate generously to the Hesed Fund. Enable us to build on our success!

NEW PROGRAM

Dignity Drive. When people lack shelter and basic services, it is easy to forget that their needs often include such simple everyday items as shampoo and socks. To help address this issue, OZ will sponsor a Dignity Drive in cooperation with the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter (NCS) and with special participation by the OZ Hebrew School. Two weeks before Thanksgiving in November, we will leave boxes for donations in the social hall and at the Hebrew School office. Ilana Burgess will coordinate participation by distributing Dignity Drive bags for students to take home and fill with needed items. Specifically, NCS needs adult-sized men's and women's underwear, socks, and personal hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo, mouthwash, hairbrushes, etc. Your help enables NCS to meet the very basic needs of people who come to them for services ranging from a shower and food to counseling and housing. Contributions to the Hesed Fund can also be made for the purchase of these items.

CURRENT AND ONGOING PROGRAMS

Monday Night Pizza Delivery for NCS. Our regular Monday Night Pizza Delivery to the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter Residence at East 81st Street is ramping up, now that the facility has undergone nearly three years of renovation. If you can commit to one hour on one Monday per month, please participate by being a server. Enjoy rewarding interactions with the shelter residents while doing a wonderful mitzvah! To volunteer, contact Richard Stadin (212-879-0448; stadin1@aol.com).

Or Zarua and DOROT: A Tradition of Service to the East Side Community. On Sunday, December 10, OZ will continue our Hanukkah tradition of joining DOROT to bring companionship and nourishing foods to elderly residents on the East Side of Manhattan. Volunteers of all ages find it memorable and rewarding to lift the spirits of homebound seniors. This program is also a special opportunity to introduce youngsters to the concept of hesed and to make it an integral part of their lives.

OZ will again serve as a host site for DOROT package

delivery volunteers. (You can begin with the Sunday minyan at 8:45 a.m.—followed by a complimentary breakfast—and accomplish two mitzvot in the same day!). Meet with the DOROT staff at 10:30 a.m. in the OZ social hall. Following a brief orientation, you will be assigned a senior to visit for up to an hour.

DOROT needs sufficient time to match volunteers with elderly people to visit, so please make your commitment early. They also need to know how many adults will be participating with children. If you can contribute just a few hours of your time, please contact Aaron Shelden (212-734-2888; ashelden@aol.com) or call the synagogue office (extension 39).

Food Delivery on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We need you—as well as your SUV, station wagon or car! Help pack up and deliver food donated by Eli's Market to three Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter facilities and to Ronald McDonald House on erev Thanksgiving and erev Christmas (November 22 and December 24). This is an enjoyable way to spread our goodwill to the community in need. Teens and adults are welcome! To participate, contact Richard Stadin (212-879-0448; stadin1@aol.com).

Computer Roundup. Help disadvantaged adults in our neighborhood by donating your unwanted computer. The Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter welcomes donations of used computers for its formerly homeless clients who are now in permanent housing. If you can donate a PC, keyboard, monitor, or printer that is no more than five years old, contact Richard Stadin (212-879-0448; stadin1@aol.com). OZ volunteer “techies” led by Noah Eisenbruch will arrange delivery, delete your data, and install the computers for NCS clients. If you cannot donate a computer but are technologically savvy, contact Richard to volunteer for the delivery and installation tasks. This is a great community service opportunity for student volunteers!

Donation Deliveries. The Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter needs volunteer drivers to pick up donations and transport supplies to events in various Manhattan locations. Volunteer drivers are notified in advance, and shifts are based on volunteers' availability. Willingness to carry boxes is a plus, but is not required. This is a great opportunity for those who have very little time to spare but who are interested in doing some volunteer work. For details, contact Millicent Cavanaugh, Director of Volunteer Services (212-861-0704 (option 1), x407; mcavanaugh@ncsinc.org).

Hanukkah Toys. Watch your weekly OZ News email for further details about the annual OZ Hanukkah Toy Drive in December.

HANUKKAH: *Israel's Dedication*

By Ron Meyers

The Torah is read on every day of Hanukkah, with each day's reading coming from Chapter 7 of Numbers. The readings are almost identical, recounting the gifts that were brought by each tribe for the dedication of the Tabernacle in the desert. Each tribe's gift is absolutely identical to the others' gifts, reflecting both a complete equality and a complete unanimity among them. This is one of the circumstances in which repetition is thrilling rather than monotonous—each identical gift affirms and expands on the last, somewhat like the accumulation of light from each night's addition of another identical candle to the menorah.

Numbers picks up where Exodus had left off, with the construction of the Tabernacle. There, too, we encounter the

dramatic repetition of exquisitely enumerated detail, as the Israelites execute the design precisely as God had dictated. These stories in Exodus and Numbers show the power of the entire people acting in concert with each other and with God. The dedication of the desert Tabernacle provides a backdrop to the story of Hanukkah, in which the Temple in Jerusalem was rededicated in 165 BCE after its desecration under the Hellenistic ruler Antiochus. When the same Temple was destroyed by the Romans two centuries later, though, it was a result of discord and baseless hatred amongst the people of Israel. Hanukkah and its readings remind us how crucial it is for us to dedicate ourselves to our community and its needs—and of what great things can happen when we do.

NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION

Monday, November 13 • 6:30 p.m.

Each November, we hold a special reception to welcome Congregation Or Zarua's new members. On Monday, November 13, 2006 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., all OZ members are invited to the home of _____ to meet and greet these new members. Invitations were sent by mail.

Please join us in this Or Zarua tradition—don't miss a wonderful opportunity to socialize with new and long-standing members of the OZ community in the friendly, informal setting of a member's home.

Hevra Kadisha Discussion: SHIVA ETIQUETTE

Monday, December 4
7:30 p.m. • OZ Library

Many of us feel awkward about visiting a mourner during a time of loss. We are not sure what we can say that will truly be comforting. Sometimes we may not even be sure whether to visit mourners at all if we don't really know them well. But Jewish tradition provides a meaningful construct to guide us.

The Or Zarua Hevra Kadisha will sponsor a discussion about how to bring strength and comfort to mourners when paying a shiva call. Rabbi Wechsler will lead the discussion, which will take place on Monday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the OZ library.

Rabbi Wechsler, the Hevra Kadisha, and other members of the OZ community will also discuss the shiva minyanim.

This program will offer a perfect opportunity to learn about Jewish traditions and insights regarding death and mourning. Please plan to attend.

Hadassah Medical Program for Tourists

Have you ever considered what you would do if you needed routine medical tests or procedures while traveling in Israel? Hadassah wants to allay your fears—these medical issues need not be obstacles in your decision to make the trip.

Hadassah has established a new program for the convenience of travelers

who require monitoring, testing, or follow-up. In many cases, these types of medical services are available by appointment in the traveler's own hotel room. The costs are reasonable and might even be covered by insurance. Examples of available services are in-flight medical assistance, blood tests, dialysis, blood pressure readings, consultations, and

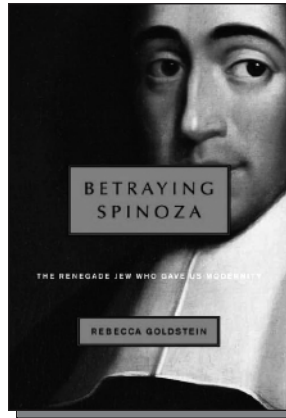
appointments with appropriate physicians for more serious situations. Our Congregant, David Lewittes, availed himself of these services during a recent visit. The Hadassah program gave him peace of mind.

For information, please contact Julie Benbenishty, RN (Julie@hadassah.org.il; 972 67778555).

Or Zarua Book Discussions

Please join us on **Sunday, December 3** at 7:30 p.m. in the OZ library for a discussion of Rebecca Goldstein's *Betraying Spinoza: The Renegade Jew Who Gave Us Modernity*, an engaging exploration of Baruch Spinoza's life (1632-1677) and thought. Herb Lukashok will lead the discussion.

Because Spinoza denied the importance of Jewish identity—for which he was expelled from Amsterdam's Jewish community—this biography of Spinoza opens with a paradox: "By what right is Benedictus Spinoza included in a book series devoted to Jewish thinkers and themes?" Goldstein finds the roots of Spinoza's radical rationalism and secularism in the historical trauma of the Inquisition and expulsion of Jews, including his own family, from Spain and Portugal. Goldstein argues that Spinoza's "determination to think through his



community's tragedy in the most universal terms possible compelled him to devise a unique life for himself, insisting on secularism when the concept of it had not yet been conceived." Spinoza's effort to live as neither Jew nor Christian nor Muslim was unheard of in the 17th century, but his arguments for political and religious tolerance were forerunners of principles of our own Constitution.

On **January 21, 2007**, we will discuss the classic novel *The Well* by the great Yiddish writer, Chaim Grade. Rabbi Isidoro Aizenberg will lead that discussion.

All Congregants and their guests are welcome at our book discussions. If you have any questions about our programs or have a book suggestion, please call Reed Schneider (212-860-8611; arlm1199@aol.com).

Keep us up to date. Please be sure that the OZ office has your current mailing address, phone numbers, and email address. Contact Lidiya (212-452-2310, extension 10; lidiya@orzarua.org) to update your contact information. Please also notify us of family events—marriages, births, illnesses, or other news—that you would like to share with the Congregation.

A LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN

By Barbara Nadler

"You are in the place I call 'a little bit of heaven on earth,'" emailed my friend. I was at Ulpan Akiva, located in Natanya, al yad hayam. (I mean *near the sea*.) And she is nakhon. (I mean *right*—Hebrew keeps interrupting my English!) I was in Kita Aleph, or "Kita Aleph Minus" as I called it when I began. How could anyone teach me to speak Hebrew in three and a half weeks? It was a mystery to me. Meanwhile, I had a small room, a tiny bathroom, good meals, and someone to make my bed and bring fresh towels every day except Yom Shabbat. (There I go again.)

I think I was given the best teacher at the Ulpan, Clara. But other people

were saying the same about their own teachers. I didn't spend any time arguing because I had a lot of homework. Then, there was the singing and dancing and touring—all of this in a warm, encouraging atmosphere.

I met people from all over the world: France, Russia, Italy, England, Japan, South Africa, the Netherlands, Mexico, and the United States. Some were olim chadashim, some had lived in Israel for a while and decided to learn Hebrew, some needed the language for a job or for school, and some, like me, just felt the need lilemod ledaber ivrit. (Whoops.)

During the course at Ulpan Akiva, the war started. But nothing interferes

with life when you are in Israel, and our studies continued. Our touring was adjusted, and very few of us left. By the time the course was over and it was time to leave, more people were coming to learn. In addition, families from the north who had nowhere else to go were invited to the Ulpan to escape the pressures of missiles and of living in shelters. We were all glad to contribute toward this effort because we had become family. I felt at home during my entire stay.

At the end, Hebrew actually did enter my brain and I passed my test. Mitzuyan! I plan to come back, I hope next summer or sooner. Want to come with me?

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

If I do not acquire ideals when I am young, when will I?

— Maimonides

You know it's true: Children learn what they live and live what they learn. Providing a sense of connectedness with Jewish values and experiences during your children's formative years is a powerful strategy for producing well-balanced, Jewishly active adults.

METNY encourages you to explore the many outstanding programs available to your children through the Conservative Movement and The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.



United Synagogue Youth (USY) for 9th through 12th graders offers numerous social, educational, and religious programs on the local, regional, national, and international levels, including many Israel-based experiences.



Kadima, USJ's youth group for Middle Schoolers, is the future of United Synagogue Youth.



Koach, USJ's College Outreach program, ensures Jewish continuity for your youngsters as they go off to the independence of college.

What's your Jewish kid doing this summer?

METNY invites your children to join the thousands of United Synagogue youngsters who will spend their summer making new friends and having memorable Jewish experiences as they:

- Enjoy uniquely Jewish camping at Camp Ramah day or sleepaway camps
- Participate in METNY's fantastic 8-day USY and Kadima August Encampment Program
- Travel the Americas with USY on Wheels or USY Outdoor Adventures
- Tour Eastern Europe with USY and experience first-hand the global history of the Jews
- Visit Israel on USY Pilgrimage and develop a lifelong love for The Promised Land

If you want your children to be Jewishly conscious and active adults, give them Jewishly relevant and fun experiences when they are young.



For more information about METNY and all USJ Youth Programs, contact METNY Youth Director Cynthia Weinger at (212) 533-7800, extension 2155.

Presented by the New York Metropolitan Region (METNY) of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Flapport House, 155 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10010, (212) 533-7800. For more information about METNY and USJ, speak to your Rabbi or contact METNY.

Congregational Shabbat Hanukkah Dinner

JOIN THE OZ COMMUNITY FOR SINGING AND INTERGENERATIONAL FUN!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2006

Immediately following services, which begin at 4:09 p.m.

Please make reservations by Tuesday, December 12

\$30 adults; \$20 children (ages 5-12); \$5 children (under 5)

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

A FEW HANUKKAH BASICS

What's a menorah? To describe the familiar piece of Judaica we use on Hanukkah, we call it either a hanukkiah (as they do in Israel) or a Hanukkah menorah. A menorah is simply a lamp. The original menorah was the seven-branched candelabra fashioned by Bezalel for the Tabernacle and then for the Temple (Exodus 25). This type of menorah—carved in a relief on the Arch of Titus, stamped into ancient coins, and represented in the seal of the State of Israel—has no ritual function today.

What blessings do we recite before lighting the candles? On the first night of Hanukkah, we say three blessings: "L'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah," "she-asah nisim lavotenu bayamim hahem bazman hazeh," and "shehekheyanu." On subsequent nights, we say only the first two. We say the appropriate blessings and then light the candles.

In which order do we light the candles? On the first night, we put one candle on the right side of the hanukkiah. The second night and thereafter we add lights to the left. After reciting the berakhot, use the shammash (servant candle) to light the new candle first, then the others in descending order. Place the hanukkiah on a windowsill facing the street so that it can be seen from outside.

What about Shabbat during Hanukkah? On Friday night, light the Hanukkah candles first—before Shabbat—then light the Shabbat candles. On Saturday night, light the Hanukkah candles after Shabbat ends.

Congregation Or Zarua

cordially invites all Congregants

to meet new members

at a reception on

Monday, November 13

6:30-8:30 p.m.

at the home of

Please RSVP 212-452-2310,
ext. 39 or www.orzarua.org

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

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