



Or Zarua

TEVET/SHEVAT/ADAR 5770

NEWSLETTER/VOLUME 22:2

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

Shabbaton with Yeshivat Hadar

Friday, January 22 and Saturday, January 23

On January 22 and 23, Parashah Bo, we will host rabbis and students from Yeshivat Hadar, who will lead us in services and learning during our second Shabbaton of the year. This promises to be an exciting, uplifting and novel Shabbat for us all.

Yeshivat Hadar is an outgrowth of Mechon Hadar, which was launched in June 2006 by Rabbi Shai Held, Rabbi Elie Kaunfer and Rabbi Ethan Tucker. Rabbis Kaunfer and Tucker will be with us for the Shabbaton.

Mechon Hadar calls itself "An Institute for Prayer, Personal Growth and Jewish Study." The founders of Mechon Hadar have spent years teaching and building Jewish community, and have served as founders and leaders of Kehilat Hadar, an independent, egalitarian community committed to spirited traditional prayer, study and social action. Those of you who have had the chance to attend services at Kehilat Hadar on the West Side know that this is one of the most exciting Jewish communities of faith around today, and one of the most promising initiatives within the Conservative movement.

One of the ways in which Mechon Hadar seeks to empower young Jews to create and strengthen Jewish communities is through Yeshivat Hadar, which is enjoying its inaugural year. Yeshivat Hadar is the first full-time egalitarian yeshiva in North America. Unlike any program in the United States, this study program combines the following elements:

- Text study in Bible, Midrash, Talmud, Halakhah, liturgy and theology.
- A commitment to the religious and spiritual growth of the individual participants.

- The creation of a passionate and active Jewish learning community.
- Social justice initiatives that embody the values embedded in the texts.
- Intensive, all-day programming for students in an egalitarian setting.
- Individualized projects students will take home to local communities.

Perhaps most of all, it is filled with young, committed and interested young Jews who are looking for a fulfilling religious experience outside of the Modern Orthodox movement.

Rabbis Tucker and Kaunfer will bring a group of their students to Or Zarua for the entire Shabbat. They will lead our Friday night services. We will follow that with a congregational dinner in the social hall (reservations are required). And they will then conduct a shiur in the style of their teaching at Yeshivat Hadar. Rabbi Ethan Tucker will teach on the subject of "Sacred Silence: Musical Instruments on Shabbat." After the dinner and shiur, those who would like can stay for singing and additional informal learning, starting at about 9 p.m.

On Shabbat morning, the Hadar students will participate with us in the leading of services and the D'var Torah. Following Kiddush, there will be a congregational lunch (reservations are required) in the social hall followed by another study session led by Rabbi Elie Kaunfer on the subject, "How Can I Pray What I Don't Believe? A Case Study." We will have a short break between 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., followed by Minhah, Seudah Sh'lishit, and finishing with Arvit and Havdalah in the sanctuary. During the

Seudah Sh'lishit, there will be additional learning on the subject "The Exodus and its Relevance for Contemporary Jewish Life."

This is going to be a fascinating Shabbat, both from a substantive and experiential standpoint. Please RSVP promptly to the synagogue office to be assured of reservations for the meals. Many thanks to the families of Daniel Beller, Andrew Frackman and Barry Alperin for underwriting this important event for Or Zarua.

YESHIVAT HADAR SHABBATON

Congregational Dinner

Friday, January 22

immediately following services, which begin at 4:42 p.m.

Rabbi Ethan Tucker will conduct a shiur on "Sacred Silence: Musical Instruments on Shabbat."

Congregational Lunch

Saturday, January 23

immediately following Kiddush

Rabbi Elie Kaunfer will teach on "How Can I Pray What I Don't Believe? A Case Study."

3:30 p.m. Minhah in the sanctuary, followed by Seudah Sh'lishit (*no charge*), Ma'ariv and Havdalah

Please make meal reservations by **TUESDAY, JANUARY 19**

Each meal is \$36 adults; \$15 children aged 5-12; children under 5, no charge

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

ק"ק אור זרוע
Congregation



A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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New York, NY 10028

phone: 212-452-2310 fax: 212-452-2103

www.orzarua.org

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ANDREW J. FRACKMAN, *President*

HARVEY M. BRENNER, FTA, *Executive Director*

ILANA BURGESS, *Youth Education Director*

CHARLES SPIELHOLZ, *Newsletter Editor*

OZ Committee Chairs

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AESTHETICS	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
BOOK DISCUSSION	<i>Reed Schneider</i>
BUILDING	<i>Diane Okrent</i>
CEMETERY	<i>Aliza Kaplan Mort Schwartz</i>
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WEBMASTER	<i>Jay Palmer</i>

If you are interested in serving on a synagogue committee, please contact the office for the committee chair's email address.

President's Message

By Andrew J. Frackman

Many of us are still basking in the glow of our November Shabbaton, which was a tremendous success. Those of you who could not attend Lucette Legnado's discussion of her family and her book at the Friday night dinner and Joey Weisenberg's leading of singing on Shabbat missed one of our great congregational Shabbats.

We continued with our less formal, more family-oriented Shabbat dinner celebrating the first night of Hanukkah. We were very fortunate that Rabbi Ezra Amichai was here from Israel and led Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday evening and Shaharit and Hallel services on Saturday morning, bringing his passion and musicality to our davening. We do not have the privilege of his presence often enough. As many of you know, our Friday night services are going strong. The singing and spirituality are wonderful. Having Rabbi Amichai with us to lead services on the first night of Hanukkah was especially uplifting.

Hanukkah festivities at Or Zarua also included a wonderful Family Hanukkah celebration on Sunday, attended by congregants and their guests. People of all ages—from babies to grandparents—participated in arts and crafts projects, singing and, of course, the lighting of many hanukkiyot. Tibor Feldman read a story and a pizza dinner was served.

On January 22 and 23, we are having our next Shabbaton, this one led by the young leaders of Yeshivat Hadar, from the West Side. I have spoken of Hadar to you before. Many view what they are doing as representing the brightest future of the Conservative movement—young Jews, committed to serious prayer and study, but in an egalitarian setting. In other words, what we have been doing ourselves for 20

years. But they bring wonderful youthful energy and new perspectives to our common approach. Both Rabbi Ethan Tucker and Rabbi Elie Kaunfer will join us to lead services and study. They will bring with them a number of their colleagues to assist in both the services and shiurim. The details of this exciting Shabbaton are discussed in the article on page 1. This will be another opportunity to experience the full power of Shabbat, starting with our Kabbalat Shabbat service, which they will lead, and Torah study on both Friday night and Saturday afternoon. If you have family members or friends who might be intrigued by this experience (particularly those in the 20-30 year-old age group), please consider inviting them, because this will be a unique outreach opportunity for our Congregation. Please note that our November Shabbaton dinner was sold out. I anticipate that the Hadar Shabbaton will also be over-subscribed, so reserve early.

As you can see from these program offerings, we are taking very seriously our need to expand what we offer to attract new—and engage current—members, and to continue upgrading the music of our services. Both Shabbatonim were made possible by generous sponsors in the Congregation, and I thank them again for their support. There are still opportunities for the rest of you to support future programming, too. Please contact me if you are interested in doing so. We can do even more of this important and productive programming, but to do so, we need additional underwriting.

Our congregation is having a wonderful year. We are stable financially and applying ourselves to making our community an even stronger one. I thank all of you for your support, financial and otherwise, over the past few months.

WELCOMING GUESTS It is important for us as a community to greet guests and new members at our services to make them feel comfortable and welcome. Let's all make more of an effort in this regard. If you are seated next to someone whom you do not know, please reach out and introduce yourself. We should be sure to do the same at our kiddushim. Making this effort is consistent with our culture and will repay dividends.

The Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture

David G. Roskies on “A New Approach to the Holocaust—Inspired by Lucy S. Dawidowicz”

On Wednesday, January 27 at 8:00 p.m. at Congregation Or Zarua, The Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture will be given by David G. Roskies, the Sol and Evelyn Henkind Chair in Yiddish Literature and Culture and Professor of Jewish Literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Dr. Roskies will speak on how Lucy Dawidowicz’s scholarship and writings have influenced thinking about the Holocaust. Lucy Dawidowicz (1915-1990), a member of Congregation Or Zarua, was an historian who wrote on modern Jewish history with expertise on the Holocaust. She wrote many important books, most notably *The War Against the Jews, 1933 to 1945* (1975), a history of the Holocaust. Some of her other books are *The Golden Tradition: Jewish Life and Thought in Eastern Europe* (1967), a description of Jewish life in Europe before the Holocaust, and *On Equal Terms: Jews in America, 1881 to 1981* (1982).

A native of Montreal, Canada, and a product of its Yiddish secular schools, Dr. Roskies received his academic training at the Hebrew University and Brandeis, where he received his doctorate in 1975.



David G. Roskies

In 1981 he co-founded *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History* with Alan Mintz, and has served since 1997 as editor-in-chief of the New Yiddish Library published by Yale University Press.

A major focus of his research and writing is the Holocaust. *Night Words: A Midrash on the Holocaust* (1971), was one of the first Holocaust liturgies ever written. *Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture*, (1984) was awarded the Ralph Waldo Emerson Prize (Phi Beta Kappa). A companion volume, *The Literature of Destruction*, was published in 1989.

Awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1985, Dr. Roskies began studying the modern Jewish return to folklore and fantasy. The fruits of his labor are *The Dybbuk and Other Writings* by S. Ansky (1992) and *A Bridge of Longing: The Lost Art of Yiddish Storytelling* (1995). Trying his own hand as

a storyteller, Dr. Roskies published *Yiddishlands* (2008), a lively memoir about the Yiddish worlds in which he was raised. *Yiddishlands* recently won a Canadian Jewish Book Award.

Dr. Roskies is also the author of *The Jewish Search for a Usable Past* (1999). His edited volumes include *The World According to Itzik: Selected Poetry and Prose of Itzik Manger*, with Leonard Wolf (2002), *Scribblers on the Roof: Contemporary American Jewish Writing*, with Melvin Jules Bukiet (2006), *Everyday Jews* by Yehoshue Perle (2007), and an anthology of Sholem Aleichem’s *Stories* in Hebrew translation (2008).

In the spring of 2010, Dr. Roskies will assume a joint appointment at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, where he will direct the new Center for Yiddish Studies.

Dessert and birthday cake will be served in honor of Or Zarua’s 21st birthday. Please contact the office at 212-452-2310, ext. 39, or www.orzarua.org by Monday, January 25 to reserve a seat for the lecture.

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SHABBAT DINNER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Friday, February 5
immediately following services,
which begin at 5:00 p.m.

Join the OZ community for a special Kabbalat Shabbat service led by Sarah Klagsbrun with traditional Camp Ramah tunes, followed by a festive meal with singing. Guests and non-members are welcome.

Please make dinner reservations by **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1** at 212-452-2310, ext. 39 or www.orzarua.org

\$30 adults; \$12 children aged 5-12; children under 5, no charge

Sponsored by Anne & Reed Schneider and Sarah Klagsbrun & Eric Weinstein

Our Young People are Awesome!

Or Zarua's Teen-led Shabbat Services

The “not-so-secret” secret has been revealed...Congregation Or Zarua has very talented teens and future teens-to-be. A group of these amazing young people came together to create a truly beautiful Shabbat service in November. It was a complete and fully participatory service just like the one in the main sanctuary. The difference—it was led by an under-18

year-old crowd who were in total control!

A highlight of the service was reading from a Torah that had been used in Europe during World War II by chaplains who parachuted into the front lines and read from it to the soldiers. At the end of the youth service, everyone enjoyed a Kiddush with special treats.

Please join us for the next teen-led service on January 30. Anyone who wants

to participate, as well as young people who just want to be members of this special congregation, are welcome. For more details, please contact Laurie Dien and Alan Yaillen at ayaillen@rcn.com.

To learn more about these services or other youth, teen or kids education programs, please contact Ilana Burgess at iburgess@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, ext. 15. —LAURIE DIEN

Siddur Ceremony

Third Graders to be Honored at Shabbat Services

Congregation Or Zarua will honor the students of our community on Saturday, March 6. The Hebrew School third graders will receive their own siddurim, which they have personally decorated and studied. Each student will have the opportunity to express, in his or her own way, why they are proud to be a member of Or Zarua and to be a Jew.

Towards the end of the service, all

students will be invited onto the bimah to lead the congregation in Ein Keloheynu and Adon Olam, adding ruah and joy to our service.

If you are post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah and would you like to have an aliyah or read a portion of Torah, please contact Ilana at iburgess@orzarua.org.

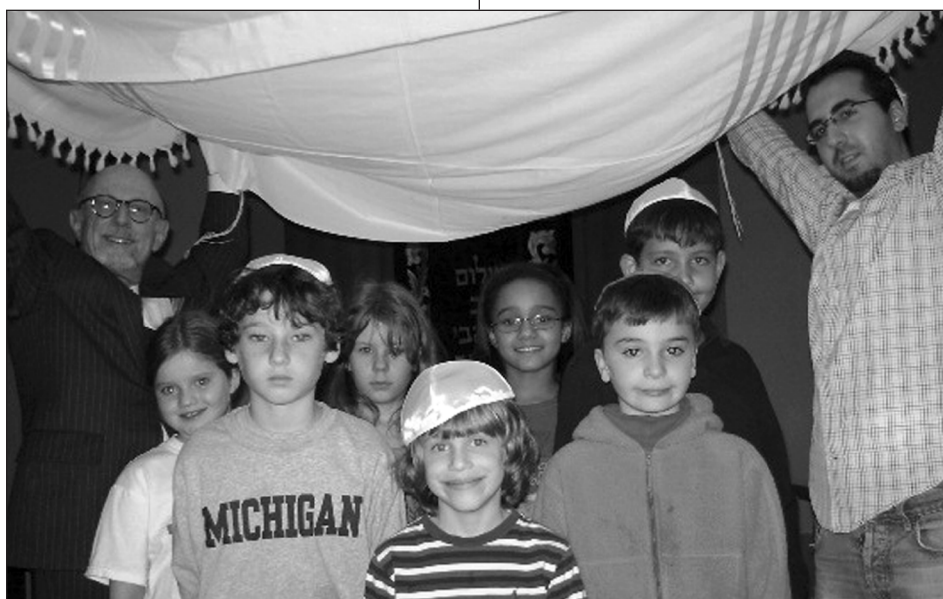
This will be a special Shabbat for all and I do hope you can join us.

—ILANA BURGESS

RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Sundays at 3:00 a.m.,
11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Rabbi Wechsler is on SIRIUS XM Stars Radio three times each Sunday. Subscribers to SIRIUS Radio can access this program on Channel 102, and XM Radio subscribers can tune in to Channel 155. Non-subscribers to SIRIUS Radio can obtain a free three-day trial at www.sirius.com.



Rabbi Wechsler (left) and teacher Calvin Tesler (right) hold a tallit over students preparing for the Siddur Ceremony on Saturday, March 6. Third grade, front row (from left): Eli Cohen, Skye Rabbin Binbaum, and Simon Fitts. Fourth grade, back row (from left): Gabriella Raviv, Nicole Balassi, Zoe Fleishaker, and Hart Rapaport.

College Connection

Purim Packages for Students

We are still collecting the school addresses of all congregants' children who are away at college in order to mail gift packages to the students on Purim. To help us stay in contact with these family members while they are away from home, please send your child's name, school address, and email address to Dina Linsk at dlinsk@orzarua.org or mail the information to the synagogue office, attention "College."

Or Zarua's Youngest Minyan

Tot Shabbat Services and Tot Shabbat Siddur

Over the past few weeks, 10 to 15 of our youngest members and their parents have been gathering on Shabbat morning for Tot Shabbat services with their new leader, Sarah Richman. Tot Shabbat services are held every Shabbat morning from 10:30 a.m. to noon for children six and under. The children have free play until 11:00 a.m., when Sarah guides her young minyanaires using our new Tot Shabbat Siddur. The children sing Shabbat prayers and songs, march in a lively Torah parade, listen to stories, and participate in a special hands-on activity about a topic related to the weekly parashah or an upcoming holiday. The group then enjoys their own special Kiddush with grape juice and cookies before joining the main service downstairs.



Sarah Richman

leading Tot Shabbat services in November and we are thrilled to welcome her to the OZ community.

The new Tot Shabbat Siddur is a true OZ collaboration—compiled by OZ parents, illustrated by Youth Education Director Ilana Burgess, and printed by the Klapper family, who are congregants and owners of Soho Reprographics. Copies of the Siddur were mailed to all OZ members with young children so that the children can personalize them and either keep them at home or leave them at the syna-

Sarah, a freshman at Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University's joint program, has years of experience teaching young children. She began

gogue for use in Tot Shabbat services. If you have not received one and would like a copy, please contact Ilana Burgess (iburgess@orzarua.org). Please invite any families who might be interested in our Tot Shabbat services to attend and they can have their own copy of the Siddur, too!

—CARRIE FOX

HEBREW SCHOOL CALENDAR

January 2010

- Mon 4** Classes resume
Sat 9 Junior Congregation, 10:30 a.m.
Mon 18 MLK, Jr. Day (*no classes*)
Mon 25 B'nai Jeshurun, 6 p.m.

February 2010

- Mon 1** B'nai Jeshurun, 6 p.m.
Sat 6 Junior Congregation, 10:30 a.m.
Mon 15 Winter Break (*no classes*)
Mon 22 Classes resume

Family and Youth Activities

January

Saturday, January 9 • 10:30 a.m.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

for 2nd grade and older. Service led by students, teachers and parents.

Thursday, January 21 • 6:30 p.m.

GET TOGETHER AT THE BROMBERGS

Sunday, January 24 • TBA

USY AND KADIMA

Ice skating

Saturday, January 30 • 10:30 a.m.

SECOND OZY TEEN-LED SERVICE

February

Friday, February 5 • following services

DINNER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Details on page 3. Reservations required.

Saturday, February 6 • 10:30 a.m.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

for 2nd grade and older. Service led by students, teachers and parents.

Saturday, February 27 • 5:35 p.m.

USY AND KADIMA

Megillah reading

Sunday, February 28 • 9:30 a.m.

PURIM CELEBRATION

There will be a children's spiel and costume parade in addition to Shaharit services, the megillah reading, and the spiel by the OZ players. See page 11 for additional information.

April

Saturday, April 10 • TBA

YOM HASHOAH AND G'VURAH

Join us for a special musical and oral presentation by our teens and our community leaders. Let us not forget.

Saturday, April 17 • 10:30 a.m.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

for 2nd grade and older. Service led by students, teachers and parents.

THANKS TO THE KLAPPER FAMILY,

members of Congregation Or Zarua and owners of Soho Reprographics (www.sohorepro.com) for printing our new Congregation Or Zarua Tot Shabbat Siddurim.

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

The Or Zarua office is closed Saturday and Sunday as well as on Jewish and federal holidays.

Annual Super Bowl Party

Helps to Feed the Poor

Come and watch the Super Bowl with your friends at our eighth annual Or Zarua Super Bowl Party, to be held in the synagogue on February 7. Enjoy a family atmosphere and great kosher food from Dougie's, including ribs, chili, giant "sub" sandwiches, buffalo wings, dessert, and much more. Minhah/Ma'ariv starts at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The game will be shown on a large-screen TV in the social hall beginning about 6:00 p.m.

In connection with this year's Super Bowl Party, we are once again encouraging everyone to make a donation to help fund kosher food pantries. For the last two years, Or Zarua raised about \$4,000 each year for kosher food pantries and we are hoping to raise even more this year. As you

are probably aware, kosher food pantries in our area are struggling to provide kosher food for the poor. As a result of the current economic downturn and cuts in federal funding, the kosher food pantries are in desperate need for additional funds to feed hungry Jewish families.

Please consider making a generous contribution to our food pantry fund. Checks payable to Congregation Or Zarua should be designated "Kosher Food Pantry Fund" on the memo line. All monies raised will be contributed to the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty Food Pantry Network.

RSVP to the office at 212-452-2310, ext. 39, or www.orzarua.org by Monday, February 1 to let us know that you plan to attend the Super Bowl Party.

—SHELDEN ADLER

TALMUD CLASS

Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.
in the OZ Library

This year, we are studying the fourth chapter of *Baba Metzia*, which covers disputes over financial matters. The fourth chapter deals with fraud, from the subject of price fixing, to truth in advertising. As well, the use of language to mislead becomes, by association, a related issue that is discussed.

Classes are taught by
RABBI WECHSLER

No prior knowledge of Talmud, Hebrew or Aramaic is required.

Or Zarua is on Facebook

Become a Fan Today!

Facebook is a global social networking website that allows you to keep in touch with friends and organizations you care about and stay updated on their activities.

As many other synagogues have done, we have created a page for Or Zarua on Facebook as another way to connect with members, and also as a way to attract new congregants.

One of the main functions of the Facebook page will be to announce events and synagogue activities. We'd love to

hear from you! Become a fan of Or Zarua on Facebook and share your thoughts. We welcome you to comment on events, write suggestions on our "wall," tell other Or Zarua members what activities and services you plan on attending, or write about a past event you loved. Sharing in this new way will make our community stronger and, hopefully, will keep us connected to a broader base of congregants.

Look us up at www.facebook.com/orzarua and become a fan today!

—DARA SHAPIRO

OZ Cemetery

Gravesites for Members

The Or Zarua section of Beth El Cemetery is located in Washington Township (Bergen County), New Jersey, just ten miles away from the George Washington Bridge. Beth El Cemetery is well maintained and landscaped with trees and shrubs. The cemetery's design provides a serene and beautiful final resting place that reflects the



Rabbi Wechsler (center) reciting psalms at the landscaped central area.

values and aesthetics of Congregation Or Zarua. Gravesites within the Or Zarua section are available for sale solely to members of our Congregation. Burial is limited to persons of the Jewish faith. If you are interested in buying gravesites in the Or Zarua section, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext. 14.

MEET, GREET AND SEAT

Ushers are needed for Shabbat services throughout the year. Please email Janet Katz at jmkatz@nyc.rr.com to add your name to our list of volunteers. You will be contacted by email only. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Or Zarua's Youth Teachers

Encouraging the spirit and desire to learn



Ilana Rae Borzak teaches fifth grade. Born in Chicago, but raised in Boston, suburban Detroit, and Boca Raton, she is currently a senior at Barnard College, majoring in religion and minoring in psychology. Ilana was educated in the American Jewish Day School system and is a graduate of a co-ed yeshiva high school. She spent all of her childhood summers either at Jewish summer camp or on teen travel programs, and also served on staff for three summers at Bnei Akiva's Camp Stone. Ilana has travelled to Israel, Australia, Europe, and New Zealand, as well as many parts of the U.S. Besides travel, Ilana loves to run, dance, listen to music and hang out with friends and her three younger sisters.



Yael Goren grew up in Ramat Hasharon, served in the IDF as a Gadna instructor and also in the Israeli Navy. She studied theater design at Tel Aviv University and worked as a designer in Israel. In 2000 Yael came to the U.S., continuing her design career while teaching. Yael has returned to school in order to pursue a career in physical therapy and will begin studies toward a doctorate this coming summer. Yael, who teaches sixth grade, sees OZ's Hebrew school as a dynamic place with a strong sense of belonging.



Sheila K. Lewis, our second grade teacher, has been teaching and designing supplemental arts and literacy programs for many years. Sheila loves weaving Torah stories, art, Hebrew, and midrash together, to help children expand their imaginations while nurturing their love of Judaism. An accomplished writer, she has published both children's stories and educational materials. Sheila also teaches adult yoga and relaxation/meditation techniques, most notably at the JCC of Manhattan. A grad-

uate of Boston University with a B.F.A. and Teachers' College with a master's in educational media, she has recently completed the Me'ah adult Jewish education program, a wonderful addition to her ten years of yeshiva education. She and her husband live in New York City, and are the proud parents of two grown sons, Ezra and Zachary. Sheila has been with Or Zarua for three years.



Shira Jacobs, from Suffern, New York, teaches the Shabbat class at OZ. A Ramah counselor since attending Frisch High School, Shira currently attends both Barnard College and List College at the Jewish Theological Seminary with a dual major in economics and Talmud. Shira studied at Tel Aviv University in the spring semester of her junior year, which increased her love for Israel. She will graduate in May 2010 and plans to pursue a career in business.



Matthew Platt, OZ's Kadima coordinator and counselor, is a recent graduate of Columbia University, majoring in history with a concentration in ancient history. Upon graduation from the Ramaz School, Matthew spent a year studying at Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel. He is currently employed as a paralegal at a midtown law firm and plans to attend law school next fall.



Rob Silverbush is the music teacher and song leader at OZ's Hebrew School. He grew up in White Plains, New York, and majored in music at nearby Purchase College Conservatory of Music. He feels fortunate that both of his sisters and their families are also living in the city. His number one hobby is music; he plays guitar and sings. At OZ, he enjoys the great *ruah* of the Hebrew School students. Whether they're singing new Judaic songs or studying T'filah, the great spirit and desire to learn is always there!



Daniel Silverman teaches first grade. He grew up in Ottawa, Canada, and moved to New York this past May. Graduating from McGill University with a B.A. in 2007, he worked for Hillel at the University of Toronto. Daniel just started his first year of study towards a master's of Jewish education at the JTS. In his spare time he plays hockey, bikes, and plays guitar and piano. He loves travel and is currently exploring New York. Daniel has been applying his education skills at OZ's Hebrew School, bringing his university learning to life.



Calvin Tesler is in his first year teaching grades 3 and 4. He particularly enjoys teaching about Israel and using games to improve the reading skills of OZ students. He graduated from Temple University with a B.A. in political science. Currently, he is finishing up his master's degree in Jewish studies at the Touro Graduate School and plans to pursue a Ph.D. specializing in the Holocaust. Nearly fluent in Hebrew and fluent in Russian, Calvin's hobbies include hockey, football, computers, and the guitar, which he has been playing for 11 years. He hopes to incorporate music into the Hebrew lessons.

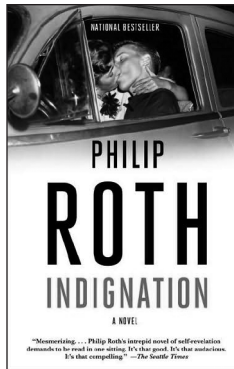


Jenny Wallner, OZ's USY coordinator and counselor, grew up in Tucson, Arizona, and attended Tucson Hebrew Academy. Jenny graduated from Smith College and received a master's degree in teaching from Fordham. She is currently in her final year at the CUNY School of Law. Upon graduation, Jenny hopes to advocate for children with special needs. Jenny enjoys reading, working out and playing tennis. Jenny is excited about her upcoming wedding this March in Tucson. This is Jenny's fifth year with OZ.

Or Zarua Book Discussions

Indignation by Philip Roth on Sunday, January 24

Please join us for our next Or Zarua book discussion on Sunday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Or Zarua library. Pat Davidson will lead us in discussing *Indignation*, Philip Roth's 29th book.



In 1951, the second year of the Korean War, a studious, law-abiding, and intense youngster from Newark, New Jersey, named Marcus Messner begins his

sophomore year on the pastoral, conservative campus of Winesburg College in Ohio. And why is he there and not at college in Newark, his hometown, where he originally enrolled? Because his father, the sturdy, hardworking neighborhood Kosher butcher, seems to have gone mad with fear of the dangers of adult life he sees at every corner for his beloved son. Far from familiar Newark, Marcus has to find his way amid the customs of another American world.

Ron Charles wrote in *The Washington Post* that Roth's "favorite themes are all here—the comic sexual frustration of *Portnoy's Complaint*, the assimilation anxieties of the Zuckerman books, the enraged grievance of *The Human Stain*—

but with *Indignation*, Roth presents his most concentrated parable of self-destructive fury. Here's a novel to be witnessed as an explosion from an author still angry enough to burn with adolescent rage and wise enough to understand how self-destructive that rage can be."

The next book discussion, *A Safe Haven: Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel*, by Ronald Radosh and Allis Radosh, will be held on March 7. If you would like more information on Or Zarua book discussions or have a book suggestion, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext. 12 or email dlink@orzarua.org.

—REED SCHNEIDER

Or Zarua Crafts Club

Contribute to Mitzvah Projects or Work on Your Own

Do you like to knit or crochet? Join the OZ Crafts Club! Our newest mitzvah project is making blankets for premature babies at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. We are also working on our third afghan for the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services Sanctuary Stitchers

program (www.sanctuarystitchers.org), which services children living in residential treatment facilities.

You can contribute to these projects or work on your own personal projects. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Upcoming meetings are Sundays, January 10 and February 14 from 10:15-11:45 a.m. in the 4th floor library. For more information, email Carrie Fox at cfox@aya.yale.edu.

Life Events at OZ

Members of our congregation are sometimes faced with painful, and, in some cases, tragic, events in their lives. If you know of a member of the congregation who is coping with extended illness, hospitalization, or a death in their family, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310 so that Rabbi Wechsler can be informed. Press extension 14 for the executive director or extension 12 for the rabbi's assistant.

SIDDUR SKILLS CLASS

Looking to improve your siddur skills as well as your Hebrew? Then a class just for you is starting on January 21. Taught by Mark Somerstein, the class is scheduled to meet on Thursdays from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m., on OZ's 7th floor. (If any Purimspielers want to partake, we can adjust the timing.) Simply show up to join us. Looking forward to hearing and seeing you!

MEALS ON WHEELS

Do you know someone who could benefit from a home delivered meal? Maybe you know a neighbor, a friend, or a relative? Perhaps someone who recently returned home from the hospital? Please call us! Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center would be happy to provide a meal to eligible seniors (60+ years old) in need living between Fifth Avenue and the East River from 59th Street up to 143rd Street. Hot, frozen and Kosher meals are available. To make a referral for yourself or someone else, or for more information, please contact the East Side Case Management Consortium at 212-744-5022, ext 1203.

Zayin Adar Brunch

Celebrate the Accomplishments of the Hevra Kadisha

Zayin Adar, the traditional yearzeit of Moses, is observed annually as a time to celebrate the accomplishments of the Hevra Kadisha in a morning filled with prayer, celebration, and learning.

Past Zayin Adar celebrations have featured text study with Rabbi Wechsler of the beautiful liturgy recited during a tahara, a presentation entitled "Bet Hayyim (The House of Life): The Cemeteries of Tzfat, Prague and Tel Aviv," and a presentation about Jewish opinion regarding organ donation. The Zayin Adar event always serves as an open forum for questions congregants may have about Jewish practices and ideology concerning death, the afterlife, customs, law, and myths.

All are invited as we look forward to another wonderful study session and discussion at this year's brunch on Sunday,

February 21, immediately following minyan at 8:45 a.m. Reservations should be made through the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext 39. Suggested donations to the Hevra Kadisha Fund are \$36 per person.

When you are visiting Or Zarua, please stop by on the 5th floor where the beautiful sherblakh container created especially for Or Zarua by Caroline Golden Ilberman is now "formally" installed, including a descriptive narrative about Caroline's sources of inspiration when creating this piece. Of course, please also add some broken pottery or crockery to the container.

Hevra Kadisha booklets are available in the Or Zarua sanctuary. These booklets provide a good overview of the Jewish tradition after death, and will provide information about what the Hevra Kadisha does.

JOIN THE OR ZARUA PURIM SPIEL!

Are you interested in acting, singing, performing, or being a stagehand? Become an OZ Player and join in the fun of the Purim Spiel!

This year's Purim Spiel will be performed on Sunday, February 28, at the Lycée Français, 505 East 75th Street, between York and East End Avenues.

Rehearsals are on Sundays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at OZ. Children need only attend the Sunday rehearsals.

The first rehearsal will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 3 with a viewing of last year's Spiel and snacks, followed by a rehearsal from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Sassoon at BarbDee@mac.com.

Weekday Minyan

Your help is needed to strengthen the Or Zarua Minyan

Did you know that Or Zarua runs a daily minyan every weekday morning? Shaharit, the morning service, begins at 7:15 a.m., Monday through Friday, except on Rosh Hodesh and Hol Hamoed, when it begins at 7:00 a.m. On Sundays, Shaharit begins at 8:45 a.m. Each morning, Barkhu is said and the Amidah is recited with the Kedushah. The weekly Torah portion is read every Monday and Thursday. On Rosh Hodesh and during Hol Hamoed, the

appropriate Torah portions are read. Each morning, there are Congregants and guests who are reciting the Mourner's Kaddish. In order to accomplish these prayers, a minyan of 10 is needed. And to ensure a minyan at Or Zarua we need your help. If you want to be part of the minyan on any given morning, all you need to do is attend. If you want to help strengthen the Or Zarua minyan, please sign up for a morning or two each month by contacting Sheldon Adler at sadler@skadden.com.

OR ZARUA PURIM CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, February 28

**Lycée Français, 505 East 75th Street
between York and East End Avenues**

8:45–9:30 a.m.

Shaharit, in the cafeteria

9:30–10:30 a.m.

Megillah reading, in the cafeteria

9:30–10:30 a.m.

Children's Spiel, in a classroom TBD

10:30–11:45 a.m.

Brunch, in lobby behind the auditorium

11:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Children's Costume Parade,
in the auditorium

12:15 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

The OZ Players Present

**THE VONCE WHO STOLE PURIM:
THE PARABLE OF THE PURLOINED
PRUNE PASTRY—A TALE OF CHELM**
in the auditorium

REMEMBER THE PURIM FOOD DRIVE!

(see page 13)

PROGRAM SPONSORSHIPS

Many opportunities to sponsor an Or Zarua program are still available. We are seeking sponsors for the following programming events: Second Seder at Or Zarua on March 30 and Synaplex on May 2. Please consider honoring a family member and helping our community by sponsoring one of these events. If you are interested, please contact Andrew Frackman or Rabbi Wechsler.

Exhibit on Israel: *From Jaffa to Java*

By Gerry Solomon

What a wondrous place, this Eretz Yisroel! The promised land of “milk and honey,” of vineyards and olive groves, today is an economic, technological, and intellectual powerhouse, home to many world-renowned products and achievements.

This is the theme of “From Jaffa to Java: 10 Stories of Economic and Cultural Achievements in Israel,” now on display in the social hall. It celebrates Israel’s natural and intellectual bounty—everything from



Curator Bobbi Collier (right) and artist Rudi Wolff reviewing the Zim panel.

the orange groves of Jaffa to the vineyards of the Golan Heights, from high-tech labs that gave the world Javascript to cruise ships and cargo ships, from bathing suits to cosmetics. Even the historic fruits of the land are much sought-after items.

In her introduction to the exhibit, curator Bobbi Collier states that in the more than 60 years since the founding of the State of Israel, its people “have turned a small and difficult terrain, with few natural resources, into a vital and thriving econo-



Teva Pharmaceuticals



Jaffa oranges

my...[The] initial challenge was to tame its inhospitable landscape in order to provide food for the growing population. Far surpassing that goal, [Israel] now produces and introduces varieties of savory foods that...are in demand around the world.” Think of Jaffa oranges and blue-ribbon Israeli wines from renowned winemakers such as Carmel, Dalton, Golan, and Tishbi.

In six decades, Israel has built transportation giants on land, sea, and air; established world-renowned cultural and



Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

educational institutions; and developed new technologies and products that have enriched the quality of life for all. Most impressive, says Collier, is the innovation in science and technology—with more scientists per capita than any nation in the world, the highest number of patents filed in the life sciences, and the second-highest number of high-tech start-ups on the NASDAQ. (Only the United States has a higher number.) One of these start-ups, Iscar, has even attracted the attention—

and the financial muscle—of legendary investor Warren Buffet.

“From Jaffa to Java” highlights ten representative examples of the Israeli success story: the Jaffa orange export industry, wine, Zim Shipping Lines, El Al Airlines, Technion-Israeli Institute of Technology, the Israel Philharmonic, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Gottex swimwear, Ahava products, and Iscar Limited precision tools. Each panel, richly illustrated by



Gottex Swimwear

artist Rudi Wolff, was researched and written by Or Zarua congregants Barry Feldman, Shelley Binder, Cynthia Brodsky, Joanne Feierman, Judy Lukashok, Benjamin Marcus, Barbara Nadler, Marilyn Shapiro, and Gerry Solomon, under the direction of Bobbi Collier.

This is truly an inspiring story: how Israel has gone from its Biblical promise of bounty to a strong modern nation brimming with brainpower, achievement, commercial success, and technological/intellectual leadership.



Iscar Limited Precision Tools

Israeli Night at Ronald McDonald House

Celebrate with Young Patients and Their Families

On Thursday, February 4, Congregation Or Zarua will host its eighth annual dinner at the Ronald McDonald House, a residence for children with serious illnesses who are in treatment at local hospitals. This joyous evening features entertainment by OZ members and the opportunity to interact with young patients and their families from

around the globe. OZ provides residents with a catered dinner and a welcome distraction from illness through song, dance and friendship.

The Hesed Committee needs up to 15 volunteers to help set-up, serve, sing and schmooze. We are also seeking donations of kosher desserts and small plants for the evening. You can just drop them off at the Ronald McDonald House

at 405 East 73rd Street by 5:15 p.m. on February 4. Contact Stephanie Failla at 917-941-3199 (cell), 212-472-7506, or civilib@aol.com. Please note that children under the age of 18 cannot volunteer.

This has been a wonderful, rewarding and festive event for both the residents and the OZ volunteers. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

—STEPHANIE FAILLA

Interfaith Special on SIRIUS XM Radio

Co-Hosted by Rabbi Wechsler and Archbishop Dolan

Rabbi Harlan Wechsler co-hosted a unique dialogue with the Archbishop of New York, Timothy Dolan, on SIRIUS XM Radio, Sunday afternoon, December 20. The two renowned leaders of their respective religions shared an engaging discussion on faith and the holidays in today's world, including the

importance of nurturing tradition in an increasingly secularized society. They also answered questions from listeners and the studio audience. This live program was particularly timely since Hanukkah just concluded and Christmas was about to begin. For those who listened on their radios or were fortunate enough to be in the studio audience, it was an awesome

and extraordinary experience with a wonderful exchange of ideas, observations and insights. Rabbi Wechsler and Archbishop Dolan each host a program of his own on Sirius XM Radio. Rabbi Wechsler's weekly program, "Rabbi Wechsler Teaches," airs Sundays on SIRIUS XM Stars, SIRIUS channel 102 and XM channel 155.

—AARON SHELDEN

Purim Food Drive

Help the Hungry in our Community

Observe the Purim mitzvot of *Matanot LaEvyonim* (Gifts to the Needy) and *Mishloah Manot* (Giving of Food and Drink) by bringing at least three non-perishable food items (or a check) for our community's hungry to the Purim Spiel on February 28. Helping those in need is a year-round responsibility for Jews, but on Purim it is a special mitzvah to remember the poor.

Donated food will be distributed through the Yorkville Common Pantry, one of the city's largest providers of emergency

food. Recommended items include dry milk, pasta, cereal, canned food of all kinds, peanut butter, rice and beans. Don't just clean out your cabinets—add these items to your shopping list.

Demand for food packages is great during this difficult economic time when so many have lost their jobs. YCP needs our help!

Financial donations are also welcome. Make checks out to Or Zarua marked for the Purim Food Drive. Checks can also be mailed to the OZ office.

—STEPHANIE FAILLA

WWW.ORZARUA.COM

Use our award-winning website to:

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY CHECKLIST

- RSVP by noon, Tuesday, January 19 for the Yeshivat Hader Shabbaton on Friday, January 22 and Saturday, January 23.
- Improve your siddur skills with Mark Somerstein's class beginning Thursday, January 21 at 8:00 p.m. on the 7th floor.
- Reserve a seat by Monday, January 25 to hear The Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture on Wednesday, January 27 by Dr. David Roskies on "A New Approach to the Holocaust."
- Mark your calendars for Kadima and USY events on January 24 and February 27.
- Join the next Book Discussion on Sunday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m.
- Join the OZ Crafts Club on Sundays, January 10 and February 24 at 10:15 a.m.
- RSVP by noon, Monday, February 1 for the "Family and Friends" Shabbat services and dinner on Friday, February 5.
- Volunteer for Israeli Night at Ronald McDonald House, Thursday, February 4.
- Participate in a minyan, party, and feed the hungry at the same time by attending the Annual OZ Super Bowl Party, Sunday, February 7, beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- RSVP for the annual Hevra Kadisha Zayin Adar Brunch on Sunday, February 21.
- Note the schedule for Purim services and festivities on Sunday, February 28 and remember to bring non-perishable food for the Purim Food Drive.
- Sign up for the morning minyan.
- Save Wednesday nights at 8:00 p.m. for Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler.
- Call the Or Zarua office at 212-452-2310, ext. 14, if you have questions about or wish to sponsor an OZ program or event.
- Submit all articles and ideas for the March/April Newsletter to Charlie Spielholz at cssrs@earthlink.net by Wednesday, January 27.

Upcoming Events March and April

Saturday, March 6

STUDENT SIDDUR CEREMONY

Honoring Or Zarua's third-grade students.

Tuesday, March 30

SECOND SEDER AT OR ZARUA

Family and friends are invited to share our Congregational Seder, led by Rabbi Wechsler.

Between Pesah and Shavuot

THE ORAL LAW IN JEWISH THOUGHT

Congregant Marc Ashley will again be offering a 4-week course exploring issues in contemporary Jewish life.

Sunday, May 2

SYNAPLEX

An exciting multi-event, day-long program on Lag B'Omer. Activities and fun for all ages. Watch for further details!



CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

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