

Or Zarua

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We Are But of Yesterday: Yosef Yerushalmi on Jewish History, Memory and Meaning

An Adult Education Course on Four Sundays Between Pesah and Shavuot by Marc Ashley

Congregant Marc Ashley will again be offering a course exploring pivotal issues in classical Jewish thought on four Sundays between Pesah and Shavuot. In “We Are But of Yesterday: Yosef Yerushalmi on Jewish History, Memory and Meaning,” we will pay tribute to the seminal ideas of the late eminent Jewish historian Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi. By focusing on themes reflected in Professor Yerushalmi’s work, we will investigate how Jews have traditionally imbued history with meaning through vehicles of collective memory, and how those traditional methods of remembering and understanding the past have come under assault in the modern period. Jews have always been absorbed by their history—thereby fulfilling the biblical imperative to “remember!”—but what we choose to remember and how we preserve our memories are critical to the future successful

transmission of our tradition.

Professor Yerushalmi, who passed away only a few months ago, was a leading figure of 20th-century Jewish intellectual life and a mentor at Harvard and Columbia to many of today’s foremost Jewish studies scholars. His erudite and elegant 1982 book, *Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory*, addressed the clash between collective memory, in which meaning is attached to historical events through religious rituals and discourse, and modern historical study, in which the past is scrutinized but not revered. From his study of conversos following the Spanish Inquisition to his assessment of Freud’s Jewishness, Prof. Yerushalmi’s wide-ranging scholarship investigated the processes that help constitute Jewish identity and group memory over time.

We will discuss how those traditional processes have been disrupted in modern times, as the meaning of past events is

rigorously dissected but not necessarily preserved for communal memory. How did biblical and rabbinic texts ascribe meaning to history? Through modern historical investigation, has the Passover story now lost its capacity to inspire future generations of Jews? Can a dispassionate historical perspective nurture a vibrant religious Jewish culture? In exploring these key questions about history, memory and meaning, we will evaluate Prof. Yerushalmi’s lament that the modern historian’s craft has indeed become the faith of the fallen Jew.

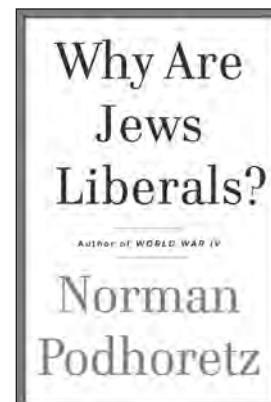
Classes will meet in the synagogue library on April 11, April 18, April 25, and May 2 at 10:00 a.m. All Congregants are welcome to attend, and no prior knowledge of any kind is required. Please join us for stimulating discussions of these crucial historical and religious issues in contemporary Jewish life. To register, please contact the synagogue at 212-452-2310, extension 39, or at www.orzarua.org.



Interfaith Special on SIRIUS XM Radio.

Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler co-hosted a unique dialogue with the Archbishop of New York, Timothy Dolan, on SIRIUS XM Satellite Radio on Sunday, December 20. The two religious leaders shared a spirited discussion on faith and the holidays in today’s world, including the importance of nurturing tradition in an increasingly secularized society. Rabbi Wechsler and Archbishop Dolan each hosts a program of his own on SIRIUS Radio. Rabbi Wechsler’s weekly program, “Rabbi Wechsler Teaches,” airs Sundays on SIRIUS XM Stars, SIRIUS channel 102 and XM channel 155.

—AARON SHELDEN



Book Signing.

Writer, editor, and OZ Congregant Norman Podhoretz will be discussing and signing his new book, *Why are Jews Liberals?*, at Synaplex 2010 on Lag B’Omer, Sunday, May 2,

in the Or Zarua Sanctuary. Please see page 3 for more information about this event and the Synaplex.

ק"ק אור זרוע
Congregation



A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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

What's Nu at Or Zarua?

by Harvey M. Brenner, M.S. Ed, FTA, Executive Director

Shalom, and welcome to what I hope will be a semi-regular column whereby I can share with you some of the items, ideas, programs and issues I deal with on your behalf.

The short answer to the question in my title is many things!

Dina, Luisa, Anthony and I (essentially your office and building staff) are putting into place many checks and balances that will help us serve you better. We're working with Jay Palmer, our webmaster, to improve the appearance and functionality of our website. Our database management software, Chaverware, has many new upgrades and enhancements that we are reviewing so that we can maintain our records more easily and effectively, thereby enhancing communication with you, our members.

Our physical plant, now about eight years old, is constantly being monitored and inspected so that we can provide a safe, clean, attractive environment for our members and guests to frequent. We've replaced HVAC motors and blowers so that our units run quieter and more efficiently than the OEM ones originally installed.

We've added hygienic "hand sanitizing stations" to the classrooms and social hall that don't require water yet cut down

on the transmission of common bacteria and viruses. These products are safe, effective and relatively inexpensive (as well as easy to use). Just spray, rub your hands together and the air will dry the disinfecting liquid in moments.

In our restrooms we have upgraded our hand soaps, dispensers, deodorants and hygienic room-freshening sprays. They uniformly utilize the same "orange blossom" fragrance as our new "green" (environmentally friendly) cleaning supplies, making the entire building smell fresher and cleaner without the use of caustic chemicals or the production of noxious odors. These newer products are healthier for both you, our visitors, and for our staff, who utilize the products daily while cleaning the premises. Also, by switching to larger capacity toilet tissue rolls, we save money and produce less post-consumer packaging waste than our former products, helping us become more environmentally responsible citizens.

Over the next few months, I'll share with you more developments in our operations in the hopes that it will not only show you what we are doing to improve our operating standards at OZ, but help to inspire you to share your ideas with us as to how we can improve the membership experience.

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Eat! Play! Love! at Synaplex 2010

A cornucopia of events at Congregation Or Zarua on Lag B'Omer, Sunday, May 2

EAT...

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Norman Podhoretz discusses his new book, *Why are Jews Liberal?*

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Marc Ashley leads a discussion, "We Are But of Yesterday: Yosef Yerushalmi on Jewish History, Memory and Meaning."

FOOD FOR THE BODY

A delicious Israeli lunch; wine and cheese at the end of the day.

PLAY...

PLAY, DANCE AND SING

with Miss Joanie in a program for 5-year-olds and under.

PLAY WITH PUPPETS

Small Wonder Jewish Puppets present their interactive show for children aged 3 to 9. Two performances with music.

PLAY AND LEARN ISRAELI DANCING

with Shalhevet, the Israeli dance troupe from Columbia/Barnard and JTS. All ages welcome!

LOVE...

LOVE YOUR CHILDREN

Noted child psychiatrist Dr. Sarah Klagsbrun answers all your child-rearing questions.

LOVE THAT MAGIC!

An incredible magician entertains us all with his bag of tricks.

LOVE ISRAELI MOVIES

Come see the award-winning Israeli movie, *The Band's Visit*.

LOVE LEARNING

Study Talmud with Rabbi Wechsler.

All programs subject to change. Consult your email bulletins for current updates and information. But don't forget to save the date.

Podhoretz on *Why are Jews Liberals?*

OZ Congregant Norman Podhoretz will discuss and sign his new book on May 2

On Lag B'Omer, Sunday, May 2, Or Zarua Congregant Norman Podhoretz will discuss his most recent book, *Why Are Jews Liberals?*, and sign copies for those attending this Synaplex event in the Sanctuary.

In the book he deals with the question of why most American Jews support liberal causes and vote Democratic. He first traces the history of anti-Semitism to show why Jews might naturally shy away from the political right; but by the time of the Six Day War of 1967, he contends, this reaction no longer made sense. In his book, Mr. Podhoretz proposes an answer to the question of why, despite today's fundamentally changed circumstances, Jews remain committed to liberalism.

Born in Brooklyn in 1930, Norman Podhoretz was educated at Columbia University, Cambridge University, and the Jewish Theological Seminary. He served as editor-in-chief of *Commentary* magazine from 1960-1995. He holds a number of honorary doctorates and other awards, including the 2007 Guardian of Zion award



Norman Podhoretz

from Bar-Illan University. In 2004, in recognition of his editorial achievement as well as of his own writings, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor the U.S. government can bestow on a civilian.

Mr. Podhoretz has written hundreds of articles for periodicals in America and other countries and has lectured widely on foreign policy, American culture, and Jewish affairs. In addition to *Why are Jews Liberals?*, he is the author of eleven books, including the memoirs *Making It*, *Breaking Ranks*, *Ex-Friends*, and *My Love Affair with America* and such studies in politics and culture as *The Present Danger*, *Why We Were in Vietnam*, *The Bloody Crossroads*, and *World War IV*.

A member of Congregation Or Zarua, Mr. Podhoretz spoke to us in 2002 on his book *The Prophets: Who They Were, What They Are*.

Copies of Norman Podhoretz's *Why Are Jews Liberals?* will be available for purchase in the synagogue office starting March 15 for \$27; 40 percent of each sale will accrue to Or Zarua. An order form is provided below for your convenience.

BOOK ORDER FORM

Yes, I would like to order _____ copies of ***Why are Jews Liberal?*** by Norman Podhoretz at \$27 each for a total of \$_____. I understand 40 percent of each sale will accrue to Congregation Or Zarua.

Please make your check payable to Congregation Or Zarua.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Books may be picked up in the synagogue office starting Monday, March 15 or at the event on Sunday, May 2.

Holocaust Memorial Service

Yom Hashoah ceremony led by our teens and community leaders

We will commemorate Yom Hashoah vahaG'vurah on Sunday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. On this day the victims of the Holocaust are remembered. We also proudly salute the heroism shown by many during this horrible time and pass on the memory of

the Holocaust to the next generation. We cannot allow our people to forget the destruction of the many communities and lives in Europe.

For the last few years at Or Zarua, we remembered the Holocaust with a wonderfully artistic and touching ceremony led by our teens and adults. This year, support is

especially important because Israel is fighting to protect itself from forces that wish to see its destruction. Being together on this day will also show the world that 6,000,000 of our people did not die in vain.

Yom Hashoah is a community event and everyone is invited.

—ILANA BURGESS

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 mem-

ber 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 Keloheyinu and Adon Olam, adding ruah and joy to our service.

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

—ILANA BURGESS



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.

HEBREW SCHOOL CALENDAR

March 2010

Sat 6 Junior Congregation and Siddur Ceremony, 10:00 a.m.

Mon 15 B'nai Jeshurun, 6 p.m.

Mon 29 Pesah (*no classes*)

April 2010

Wed 7 Classes resume

Mon 26 B'nai Jeshurun, 6 p.m.

May 2010

Mon 17 B'nai Jeshurun, 6 p.m.

Tue 18 Shavuot (*no classes*)

Mon 24 Last week of classes

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.

First Graders Interview Rabbi Wechsler

Questions, Answers and Stories Shared

On Thursday, February 4, the Or Zarua first-grade class met with Rabbi Wechsler in his office to ask him some questions. This was an opportunity for the students to learn about what the rabbi does during the day and his role at Or Zarua.

The students had prepared their questions in advance. They asked Rabbi Wechsler about the founding of Or Zarua, what he does during the day, and how he learned Hebrew. The students were also interested in why Rabbi Wechsler chose to become a rabbi and for how long he has



Rabbi Wechsler (center) with first-grade students Annie Sahn and Jason Nash.

been a member of the rabbinate.

Every question was answered by Rabbi Wechsler. He was more than willing to share many stories about the early years of Or Zarua, his time studying at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the year that he spent in Israel as a rabbinical student.

The students had a wonderful meeting with Rabbi Wechsler. They learned a lot about him and his job. The rabbi had an opportunity to interact with the Or Zarua students on a personal level. We look forward to future conversations.

—DANIEL SILVERMAN

Family and Youth Activities

March

Friday, March 5 • following services
DINNER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS
Details on page 7. Reservations required.

Saturday, March 6 • 10:00 a.m.
JUNIOR CONGREGATION
SIDUR CEREMONY
A celebration of the youth at Or Zarua.

Saturday, March 13 • TBA
USY AND KADIMA
A joint Chocolate Seder

April

Sunday, April 11 • 7:30 p.m.
YOM HASHOAH VEHAG'VURAH
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE
A special musical and oral presentation by our teens and our community leaders.

Saturday, April 17 • 10:30 a.m.
JUNIOR CONGREGATION
for 2nd grade and older. Service led by students, teachers and parents.

Saturday, April 17 • TBA
USY AND KADIMA
A joint program to be announced.

Saturday, April 24 • 10:30 a.m.
OZY TEEN-LED SERVICE

May

Monday, May 3 • 4:00-6:00 p.m.
HEBREW SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, May 5 • 4:00-6:00 p.m.
HEBREW SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, May 15 • 10:30 a.m.
JUNIOR CONGREGATION
for 2nd grade and older. Service led by students, teachers and parents.

Saturday, May 22 • TBA
USY AND KADIMA
Annual Casino Night

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
- Listen to Shabbat Melodies

You can access the Shabbat Melodies page directly at:

<http://www.orzarua.org/davening.shtml>

Or go to www.orzarua.org and click the link on the home page.

Shabbat Melodies are in mp3 and wma formats, which play in both Mac and Windows environments.

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.

Join MERCAZ USA

The Zionist Arm of the Conservative Movement

We Jews love anniversaries. Last year, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of Tel Aviv, the first city of the modern Zionist movement. The year before, in 2008, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel. And this year, 2010, is itself an “anniversary” year as we mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Theodore Herzl, the founder of the modern Zionist movement.

It was Herzl who convened the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in August 1897. Fifty years (and a couple of months) later, the U.N. General Assembly approved the Partition Plan for Palestine, thereby endorsing the creation of the Jewish State, and we, today, are the beneficiaries of these acts.

But while the Jewish State is a blessed reality, the mission of Zionism has not been completed. As long as there are Jews in need, as long as Israel is not

secure, as long as the ideal Jewish society within the Jewish State has not been achieved, the Zionist movement will continue with purpose.

In just a couple of months, the 36th World Zionist Congress, the heir of Herzl’s first congress, will convene in Jerusalem. And seated in the assembly hall, among the 550 elected delegates from Israel and the Diaspora, will be nearly 60 delegates representing the worldwide Conservative/Masorti Movement under the “MERCAZ” banner.

The Conservative Movement, through MERCAZ USA, is a full partner in the WZO and Jewish Agency. Our delegates to the Zionist Congress will be working to push forward our agenda: to shape the nature of Israeli society with the values of religious pluralism and environmental awareness and to gain important resources for the development of institutions of Conservative-Masorti Judaism in Israel and throughout the world, including the Schechter Institute, the Masorti Movement and the Conservative Yeshiva.

But the work of MERCAZ USA doesn’t end with the Zionist Congress. Upon our return from Israel, our thoughts will turn again to our ongoing work to strengthen the connection between the Diaspora and Israel. How do we infuse Israel more strongly into the life of our congregations? How do we get more of our children to spend time in the Jewish State? How do we promote the Hebrew language? These are among the goals of this organization for the past 30 years ago and they will continue to guide our work long into the future. (For details about our program, visit our website, www.mercazusa.org)

Be a part of that future! A strong MERCAZ USA helps ensure success of a vibrant Masorti Movement in Israel and throughout the world and a strong Zionist connection in our American Jewish community. Your membership brings this goal closer to reality. Join MERCAZ USA, the Zionist Organization of the Conservative Movement.

—BOB GOLUB

MERCAZ Membership Application

\$500 Benefactor
 \$250 Sustainer
 \$100 Sponsor
 \$54 Family
 \$36 Individual
 \$12 Student (over 18)

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Last Name (Spouse) _____ First Name (Spouse) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Congregation _____

Please complete your Membership Application and mail with your dues payment to:

MERCAZ USA
 820 Second Avenue, 10th Floor
 New York, New York 10017

The Membership Application may also be completed online at www.mercazusa.org/membership.html

First Family and Friends Shabbat Dinner

by Sarah Klagsbrun

Shabbat Dinner at Or Zarua on February 5 was an extremely special and well attended event. It was a dinner designed to be perfect for families to feel at home together in their own oversized Manhattan living room. And the dinner was a success. Or Zarua has had many beautiful dinners with incredible intellectual content. I have, unfortunately, missed several of these events. I could not attend because, for starters, I could not bring my two-year-old as these events go way past his bedtime. My focus is to share with you the ideas that led to the planning of this event and why a second Family and Friends Dinner is scheduled for Friday, March 5.

Each year, I look forward to Sukkot dinners at Or Zarua when you can bring your family and an informal dinner to the Or Zarua Sukkah. At the Or Zarua Sukkah, I have found fellow Congregants and friends eating and socializing. I would love to be able to invite these people from Or Zarua, some of whom I know well and some that I don't, to my home for Shabbat dinner. That being said, I live in a Manhattan apartment and there are already five of us. Space is an issue. Cooking is an issue. Who has time with three young children needing constant attention? Does a pre-made barbecue chicken, noodle kugel and pareve cookies from the Kosher butcher suffice? Even if it does, as my friends are very loving and easy-going, there is still the space issue. I could do buffet, but there is the issue of our dog, who would eat the food if it is within a jumping distance from his mouth. Let's not forget to mention cleaning up afterwards. Charlie Spielholz told me that he views the Or Zarua social hall as an

extension of his dining area, and why not?

The idea of a dinner where the entire focus was eating and schmoozing with new and old friends on Shabbat seemed incredibly appealing. I shared this idea with Anne Schneider at a board meeting and her response was, "Who doesn't like to eat and schmooze? I'd love to organize this event with you." Then Sara Stone graciously stepped in to help both of us in this endeavor.

The Family and Friends Dinner on February 5 was open to the entire community, but the event was planned around the needs of families with young children. We wanted to make sure families that could not come to other events for reasons similar to my own—the events went too late, they would need to hire a babysitter for their young children as they were too young to go with OZ babysitters they did not know, or the kids could not wait for dinner to be served which was way past their usual dinnertime to begin with—could attend this dinner. The purpose of this dinner was to be able to come to shul, attend services, spend time with old friends, and meet new friends. The Family and Friends Dinner was without a formal program and ended before young children needed to be in bed. Families experienced a dinner that started with Shalom Alechem, followed by communal Kiddush, and a dinner that ended with singing z'mirot.

Having an active two-year-old who loves to explore, I wanted to make sure services were welcoming to children making noise, walking around on the bimah, exploring the shul in an open environment. I always loved davening to Camp Ramah Kabbalat Shabbat tunes and wanted to share that with Or Zarua. My daughter Eliana, who has attended Camp Ramah in

the Berkshires sleep-away camp for the past few summers, was shocked that Or Zarua does not use the Camp Ramah tunes on Friday nights or even know them. This was a surprise to Eliana because the ruah on Friday night at Camp Ramah is incredible (almost at the Ezra level). By leading Kabbalat Shabbat services with the Camp Ramah tunes, that ruah was brought to Or Zarua for the Family and Friends dinner.

The February Family and Friends Shabbat Dinner not only sold out, there was a long waiting list. The people who attended want to return. People who could not attend because the event was sold out, want the opportunity to attend. Non-members who have heard about the dinner want to attend. Given the huge success of the February Family and Friends Dinner, we have scheduled another one for Friday, March 5. These dinners are open to the entire community. As long as you don't mind a grape juice spill and excited children running around with their friends—come one, come all!

SHABBAT DINNER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Friday, March 5

immediately following services, which begin at 5:33 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, MARCH 1** at 212-452-2310, ext. 39 or www.orzarua.org

\$36 adults; \$12 children aged 5-12; children under 5, no charge

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

JTS PARTY IN THE GARDEN

"Twilight in the Garden of Good and Evil," Tuesday, May 11

This year's event is entitled "Twilight in the Garden of Good and Evil." We will be joining Park Avenue Synagogue, 55th Street Synagogue, and Sutton Place Synagogue for this wonderful evening at JTS on Tuesday, May 11 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Save the date; a mailed invitation will follow.

Or Zarua Library News

An Update on Donations

With the 92nd Street Y restructuring its library, our library has become a major source of literary Judaica for the synagogue community. Contributions from Or Zarua Congregants of new and used books have provided a comprehensive collection of religious texts, fiction, biography, history, sociology, cooking, art, and other Jewish topics.

At this time, shelf space has become increasingly limited. While gifts are deeply appreciated, it is necessary to set guidelines for contributions.

- Please do not contribute underlined or soiled books.

- The library is limited to Judaica and related subjects. We cannot accept other genres.

- No textbooks.

- Please call the office before delivering in excess of one carton.

- Duplicates may be donated to other organizations.

- Please notify the office if you are considering contributing new books.

Your cooperation will allow the library to stock relevant reading material for your reading enjoyment.

—BARRY FELDMAN

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.

A Note from the Editor

Guidelines and Deadlines

The *Or Zarua Newsletter* welcomes contributions from members of our community which relate to a synagogue program or function, the Conservative movement, or the life of our community. Publication guidelines are based on interest to our community and, of course, space limitations. All articles are subject to editing. Significant editorial changes will be discussed with the contributor prior to printing. Please submit written material in DOC, TXT, or RTF format; try to avoid DOCX. You may also submit written material in the body of an email message.

Photographs are always appreciated. High-resolution photographs (4" x 5" at 300 dpi or 4 MB minimum) reproduce the

best; therefore, you are strongly encouraged to submit high-resolution photographs. Please submit photographs as JPEGs.

Deadlines for submissions are generally six weeks before the issue date:

March 25	May/June/Summer
July 29	September/October
September 23	November/December
November 24	January/February
January 27	March/April

Please send all submissions via email to Charlie Spielholz at cssrs@earthlink.net.

Finally, I would like to thank Lynn Nack of David November Design for all her help with layout and dealing with the printer.

—CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ

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.

OR ZARUA IS ON FACEBOOK!

Join our Facebook community! Follow us at www.facebook.com/orzarua for more events and news.

My Journey with AIPAC

by Arthur H. Rosenbloom

It was on an airplane during a business trip in 1994 that I first thought about joining AIPAC. I'd arrived at a stage of life at which it was possible for me to devote more of my time to involvement in the non-profit world. It was now time to act on my inclination to do so. I removed from my briefcase a yellow, legal-sized notepad. Drawing a vertical line down the center of the page, I listed, in the left-hand column, each of my eleemosynary interests, and in the right-hand column directly parallel to the listing of each such interest, the names of the organizations likely to satisfy those interests. One of those left-hand column interests was "Israel and U.S. politics." In the corresponding right-hand column I wrote "AIPAC". My journey with AIPAC had begun.

I soon learned that as America's leading pro-Israel lobby, AIPAC works with Democratic and Republican political leaders to enact public policy, strengthening the vital U.S.-Israel relationship. With the support of its 100,000 members nationwide, AIPAC has worked with Congress, the Executive branch, and every party in power in Israel. Initiatives range from securing vital foreign aid for Israel to pass-

ing legislation aimed at stopping Iran's illicit nuclear program. AIPAC highlights include:

- Successfully lobbying for more than a dozen bills and resolutions condemning and imposing tough sanctions on Iran.
- Working to provide critical security assistance to Israel each year to ensure that Israel remains capable of facing increased threats.
- Supporting America's efforts to help Israel achieve peace with its neighbors.
- Helping pass legislation requiring the administration to evaluate all future military sales to Arab states given the need to maintain Israel's qualitative military edge.
- Working to obtain many resolutions affirming congressional support for Israel's right to self-defense in the face of terrorism by groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

In support of these efforts, it's been a thrill for me to lead groups that lobby members of Congress and to derive satisfaction from seeing those efforts ripen into pro-Israel congressional legislation and resolutions.

AIPAC provides fact-finding missions to Israel for members of Congress and

other elected leaders, during which they participate in face-to-face discussions with Israel's top leadership. AIPAC also works to combat Israel-bashing practices, prevalent on many college campuses, by recruiting and helping train student leaders of many races and creeds to champion Israel's vital interests. Having spoken with members of both groups, I bear witness to AIPAC's effectiveness with them.

The capstone of AIPAC's programmatic year is its annual Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. Sitting there among more than 6,000 participants, including over 1,000 college students, and listening to Israel's prime minister, U.S. presidents, leaders of Congress on both sides of the aisle, and Middle East scholars has been, for me, a transformative experience. This year's AIPAC Policy Conference will take place March 21-23 and I hope you'll join Evelyn and me there.

For further information, please contact me at arosenbloom@crai.com, 212-520-7128 or Akiva Roth at AIPAC. akroth@aipac.org, 212-750-4110.

I look back with satisfaction on my journey with AIPAC that began with another journey—that flight in 1994.

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? Shacharit, 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, Shacharit 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.

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.

Or Zarua Book Discussions

Sunday evenings, March 7 and April 25, 7:30 p.m.

March 7

A Safe Haven: Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel
by Allis Radosh and Ronald Radosh

Please join us for our next Or Zarua book discussion on Sunday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Or Zarua's library. Ari Weiss will lead us in discussing *A Safe Haven:*



Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel by Allis Radosh and Ronald Radosh.

On May 14, 1948, under the stewardship of President Harry S. Truman, the United States became the first nation to recognize the State of Israel—just moments after sovereignty had been declared in Jerusalem. But it was hardly a foregone conclusion that America would welcome the creation of this new country. While acknowledging this as one of his proudest moments, Truman also admitted that no issue was “more controversial or more complex than the problem of Israel.”

As the president told his closest advisers, these attempts to resolve the issue of a Jewish homeland had left him in a condition of “political battle fatigue.”

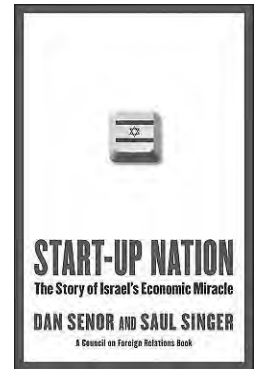
Based on never-before-used archival material, *A Safe Haven* is the most complete account to date of the events that led to this historic occasion. Allis and Ronald Radosh explore the national and global pressures bearing on Truman and the people—including the worldwide Jewish community, key White House advisers, the State Department, the British, the Arabs, and the representatives of the new United Nations—whose influence, on both sides, led to his decision.

April 25, Special Discussion
Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle
by Dan Senor and Saul Singer

We are pleased to invite Congregants, including teenagers, to join us on April 25 when author Dan Senor will appear to discuss his provocative book, *Start-Up Nation* at Or Zarua.

Israel has become a major player in the global business world, especially in

the technology sector. *Start-Up Nation* addresses the trillion-dollar question: How does Israel—a small country of just 7 million people, surrounded by enemies, in a constant state of war, and with very few natural resources—produce more start-up companies than much larger nations like Canada, Japan, or China? Perhaps we, too, can learn from Israeli's innovation, entrepreneurship, and business successes.



Dan Senor is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, has served as a foreign policy adviser to the U.S. government, and has written extensively about the Middle East for publications including *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. Saul Singer is the editorial page editor for *The Jerusalem Post*.

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

Davidson School of JTS

Offers Full-Tuition Fellowships for Exceptional Applicants

Thanks to the generosity of the Jim Joseph Foundation, the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education of JTS is pleased to offer full-tuition fellowships for exceptional M.A. applicants for fall 2010. The Davidson School offers full-time, part-time, and distance learning M.A. programs in Jewish Education with opportunities for specializations in day school education, synagogue school administration, and informal

and communal education. The Davidson School welcomes students of all ages and backgrounds who have a wide range of professional goals within Jewish education. All applicants will be automatically considered for the fellowships. To view the application and its requirements, visit the Admissions website at www.jtsa.edu. For more information on the M.A. program, visit the Davidson School website or contact Abby Eisenberg, Director of Admissions, at 212-678-8022.

RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Sundays at 3:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Rabbi Wechsler is on SIRIUS XM Stars Radio three times each Sunday. Subscribers to SIRIUS Radio can access the program, “Rabbi Wechsler Teaches,” 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.

Or Zarua Crafts Club

Contribute to Mitzvah Projects or Work on Your Own

Or Zarua Crafts Club members completed their second blanket for the Jewish Board of Family and Children Services' Sanctuary Stitches program.

The blanket will be given to a child or teen living in a JBFC's residential treatment facility. To learn more about the program, go to www.sanctuarystitchers.org.

The next meetings of the Or Zarua Craft's Club will be held Sunday, March 14 and Sunday, April 11 at 10:15 a.m. in the Or Zarua library.

The Crafts Club wishes Carrie Fox and her family the very best in their new home in Westchester County. Carrie infused the work of the "knitters" with the enthusiasm and focus she lends to everything she undertakes. The club is appreciative for the leadership, warmth and camaraderie she brought to Or Zarua's production of quilts for the Jewish Board's Sanctuary Stitches program.

We are looking to reinforce our ranks

and ask you to join the OZ knitting circle—it's an opportunity to sit, share and create with good intent plus bagels. For more information about the Crafts Club, email Terry Edelstein at terryedelstein@aol.com.



From left: Carrie Fox, Debbie Solymar, Lorraine Shapiro, Robin Blumenthal and Diane Okrent display the second blanket completed for the Sanctuary Stitches program by the OZ Crafts Club.

OR ZARUA NEWSLETTER GOING GREEN

Future issues to be emailed

Distribution of the *Or Zarua Newsletter* will be heading to cyberspace in the very near future. The many advantages of distributing the newsletter this way include: saving about \$5,000 a year on printing and postage, introducing color photographs and typography, receiving the newsletter on a more timely basis, incorporating last-minute updates, and the possibility of providing links to register for events.

Congregants who chose not to receive issues by email can still opt for hard copies by regular mail. Printed newsletters will also be available in the synagogue sanctuary.

So keep your eyes on your computer inbox as Or Zarua modernizes its communications.

—CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ

Upcoming Events May 2010

Monday, May 10

OR ZARUA ANNUAL MEETING
AND ROOFTOP PICNIC

Tuesday, May 18

SHAVUOT PANEL DISCUSSION

Sunday, May 23

LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION...ISRAEL!
Salute to Israel Parade



Summer in the City: Precollege Program for High School Students

Do you know a rising junior or senior in high school? If so, tell him or her about United Synagogue Youth's (USY) wonderful Summer in the City program. For one month, participants experience the best of all that New York City has to offer, both academically and culturally. They learn from top instructors at The Jewish Theological Seminary and

Barnard College-Columbia University; explore the rich culture and history of New York City during evenings and weekends; and experience Jewish New York in a program supervised by USY. The Summer in the City precollege program promises an exciting, unforgettable summer. Interested students can find more detailed information at <http://www.usy.org/programs/sitc>.

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.

Guidelines for Passover

The guidelines below were prepared for the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards by Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz. They were accepted by the Committee on December 12, 1984 and are updated annually by Rabbi Wechsler. Remember that the kosher for Passover home is a unique and transcendent experience for adults as well as children. Pesah feels different to the extent that it is different, and special foods and practices are the source of the special experience.

The Torah prohibits the ownership of hametz (leaven) during Pesah. Therefore, we arrange for the sale of the hametz to a non-Jew. The sale—mekhirat hametz—is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the rabbi, to handle the transfer. The transaction is a valid and legal transfer of ownership. At the end of the holiday, the agent arranges for the reversion of ownership of the now-permitted hametz. If ownership of the hametz was not transferred before the holiday, the use of this hametz is prohibited even after the holiday (hametz she-aver alav ha-Pesah).

The Torah also prohibits the eating of hametz during Pesah. We often need guidance when shopping and preparing for the holiday because many common foods contain some admixture of hametz.

During the eight days of Pesah, hametz does not lose its identity, even in an admixture. Therefore, the minutest amount of hametz renders the whole admixture hametz, and its use on Pesah is prohibited.

Following are some general guidelines. Consult Rabbi Wechsler when there is any doubt about the status of a product. Examine the Kosher le-Pesah label: If it does not bear the name of a rabbi, does not contain one of the recognized symbols of rabbinic supervision, or is not integral to the package, check with the rabbi.

Foods

● **Prohibited foods:** leavened bread, cake, biscuits, crackers, cereal, coffee containing cereal derivatives, wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye, and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

According to Ashkenazic custom, the following foods—kitniyot—are added to the prohibited list: rice, corn, millet, and legumes (beans and peas; but string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimately that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible. In contrast, Sephardic authorities permit the use of *all* kitniyot on Pesah.

● **Permitted foods that DO NOT require a Kosher le-Pesah label:** fresh fruit, fresh vegetables (for legumes, see above), and eggs.

● **Permitted foods that DO require a Kosher le-Pesah label:** all baked products (matzah, cake, matzah flour, matzah farfel, matzah meal, and any other products containing matzah), canned or bottled fruit juice (often clarified with kitniyot, which are not listed among the ingredients), canned tuna (often processed in vegetable

broth and/ or hydrolyzed protein, even when packed in water), wine, vinegar, liquor, oil, dried fruit, ice cream, yogurt, and soda.

The following processed foods (canned, bottled, or frozen) DO require a Kosher le-Pesah label *if purchased during Pesah*: milk and milk products, butter, juice, vegetables, fruit, spices, coffee, tea, fish, and meat.

Non-Food Items

● **Detergent.** If permitted during the year, powdered and liquid detergents DO NOT require a Kosher le-Pesah label.

● **Medicine.** Because many pills are made with hametz binders, follow this guideline: If the medicine is required for life-sustaining therapy, it may be used on Pesah; if it is not for life-sustaining therapy, some authorities permit, while others prohibit the use of the medicine. Consult Rabbi Wechsler.

Kashering

● **Utensils.** The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to halakhah, leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process through which it was absorbed into the utensil (ke-voleo kakh poletu). Therefore, utensils used in cooking are kashered by boiling, those used in broiling are kashered by fire and heat, and those used only for cold food are kashered by rinsing.

● **Earthenware.** China, pottery, etc. may not be kashered. However, fine

WHAT IS THE FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN?

Ta'anit bekhoring, the Fast of the Firstborn, is a custom observed on the day before Pesah to commemorate our gratitude for surviving the pre-Exodus tenth plague, which smote all firstborn Egyptians but spared all firstborn Hebrews. It is a dawn-to-dusk fast, which this year falls on Wednesday, April 8.

WHO IS CONSIDERED A FIRSTBORN?

A firstborn is a male child who is the first child born either to his mother or to his father. Even if he is the first male born to either parent, having an older sister precludes his firstborn status—he is not the first child.

WHY ONLY THE MALE FIRSTBORN?

In the ancient world, male firstborns were subject to Temple service. It was this hierarchy that was the target of the tenth plague.

HOW CAN A FIRSTBORN AVOID FASTING?

The mitzvah of attending a siyum—a completion of the reading of a tractate of Talmud—overrides the mitzvah of observing this fast. Firstborns can opt to attend a siyyum, which is followed by a festive meal. The meal is part of the deal, so the fast is legitimately broken. Synagogues facilitate this choice for firstborns by scheduling a siyyum for the morning before Pesah.

translucent chinaware that has not been used for over a year may be used for Pesah if scoured and cleaned in hot water.

● **Metal.** Utensils made entirely of metal and used in fire (such as a spit or broiler) must first be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned, and then heated to the highest possible temperature. Utensils used for cooking or eating (such as silverware or pots) must be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned, and then completely immersed in boiling water. These metal objects should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and the immersion in boiling water. Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered for Pesah.

● **Ovens and ranges.** Every part that comes into contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned, and then heated to the highest possible temperature for a half hour. For ovens with no self-cleaning feature, use the broil setting; for self-cleaning ovens, use the self-cleaning feature to achieve the highest temperature. Continuous-cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens.

● **Microwave ovens.** These do not cook food by means of heat. After the interior is cleaned, place a cup of water inside. Keep the oven on until the water disappears. A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be kashered for Pesah.

● **Glassware.** Drinking glasses and stemware require only a thorough cleaning, by hand or in a dishwasher, before Pesah.

● **Glass cookware.** There is a difference of opinion as to whether glass cookware should be kashered. One opinion is that it must be kashered—after a thorough cleaning, boil water in the cookware so that it overflows the rim. The other opinion is that only a thorough cleaning is required.

● **Glass bakeware.** Like metal bakeware, glass bakeware may not be kashered for Pesah.

● **Dishwashers.** Clean any food trap or filter and leave the dishwasher unused for 24 hours. Then, complete a full wash cycle with detergent.

● **Electrical appliances.** If parts that come into contact with hametz are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rule for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable,

then the appliance cannot be kashered. However, all exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned in either case.

● **Tables, closets, and countertops.**

If they have come into contact with hametz, surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned and covered before use.

● **Kitchen sinks.** Metal sinks must be thoroughly cleaned and then doused with boiling water. Porcelain sinks must be thoroughly cleaned and outfitted with a sink rack. Items may be soaked in a basin placed inside a porcelain sink.

● **Hametz and non-Passover items.**

In order to prevent accidental use, all non-Passover kitchen items and hametz whose ownership has been transferred should be separated from Passover items, marked, covered, and placed in a locked area.

An ever-increasing variety of Kosher le-Pesah products is available in local markets as well as in the specially dedicated Pesah stores that appear each year. Patronize these special Pesah stores, for they provide an important service to the Jewish community.

CONGREGATIONAL SECOND SEDER

**Tuesday, March 30
8:00 p.m.**

**immediately following services,
which begin at 7:15 p.m.**

We invite you, your family and your friends to share the Second Seder with us on Tuesday, March 30. Services will start at 7:15 p.m. Our Congregational seder, led by Rabbi Wechsler, begins at 8:00 p.m., immediately following services.

Please make seder reservations by **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24** at 212-452-2310, ext. 39 or www.orzarua.org

**\$90 adults; \$55 children aged 5-12;
children under 5, no charge**

Watch your mail for an invitation.

OMER BASICS

What's an omer? An omer is a unit of measure for cut sheaves of a grain crop. The 49-day period between the second day of Pesah and the day before Shavuot is referred to as the period of sefirat ha'omer—the counting of the omer.

Why do we count it? The Torah tells us in Parashat Emor (Leviticus 23:15-16) that an omer of barley was brought to the Temple on the second day of Pesah as a “wave offering.” This omer of barley consisted of newly harvested grain, and new barley could not be eaten until the omer offering was brought. Starting on the second day of Pesah, 49 days were counted, at the end of which Shavuot was celebrated and an offering was brought to the Temple from the early summer's wheat harvest. The counting, sefirat ha'omer, is done at nightfall each day during the seven weeks. The counting of the omer connects the Exodus from Egypt with the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. In eagerness, we count the days of waiting for the revelation.

How do we observe it? For a period of time during the counting of the omer it is traditional to observe certain semi-mourning customs, such as postponing weddings and foregoing haircuts. This tradition may have an agricultural origin in that the period leading up to the summer harvest is a time of concern for the continuing safety of the crop. But also during this time of year in the second century CE, some 24,000 of Rabbi Akiva's students perished—they were most likely killed by the Romans.

What is Lag B'omer? Lag B'omer is the 33rd day of the counting—“lag” is an acronym made up of lamed (30) and gimel (3). The massive fatalities of Rabbi Akiva's students halted on that day, and the customs of semi-mourning are suspended. Lag B'omer is observed as the *yahrzeit* of Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, the person said to have authored the mystical book, *The Zohar*. This year Lag B'omer begins on the night of Saturday, May 1.

Pesah Meal Match

First Seder, Monday, March 29

Let us increase our joy in this z'man heiruteinu—the season of our liberation—by hosting other Congregants or by joining a host family for the first Seder on Monday, March 29.

We welcome hosts who celebrate in many different ways—making their own Hagaddah, following the traditional one, or offering children lots of opportunity to interact—as we know there will be interest

from our members. Congregants wishing to be guests, please let us know what Seder atmosphere is most attractive to you.

Please note: This matching is available only for members of Congregation Or Zarua.

If you would like to be a host or a guest, please complete the form on page 17 and send it to the synagogue office or register online at www.orzarua.org by 4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 25.

Ma'ot Hittim Fund

Assist needy Jews to prepare for Passover

The Hagaddah tells us that every Jew must experience the Exodus from Egypt, and the Mishnah tells us that a Jew should drink four cups of wine at the seder, even if they come from the public dole.

We therefore raise special funds each year to assist less fortunate Jews who cannot afford to prepare for Passover. We forward the funds, called

ma'ot hittim (wheat money), to two communal organizations—the Joint Passover Appeal in New York and the New York Board of Rabbis—for distribution to needy Jews.

We hope that you will give generously to the fund as many will benefit from your kindness. Please make your check payable to Congregation Or Zarua and write Ma'ot Hittim Fund on the memo line.

Sell Your Hametz

Rabbi Wechsler will arrange the transaction

Before Passover, we are required to “sell” any hametz in the household to a non-Jew. The transaction is normally arranged by the rabbi to ensure compliance with the requirements of halakhah.

Please complete the form on page 17 and send it to the synagogue office by 11:00 a.m., Friday, March 26 or email it to dliinsk@orzarua.org. It is customary to enclose a contribution to Or Zarua's Ma'ot Hittim Fund with your authorization.

SCHEDULE OF PASSOVER SERVICES 5769/2010

Sunday, March 28

Bedikat Hametz at night

Monday, March 29

Fast of the Firstborn/Siyum

Shaharit 7:15 a.m.

Erev Pesah

Candlelighting 6:59 p.m.

First Seder

Tuesday, March 30

First Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:15 p.m.

Candlelighting 8:00 p.m.

Second Seder 8:00 p.m.

(Congregational)

Wednesday, March 31

Second Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 1

Hol Hamoed

Minyan 7:00 a.m.

Friday, April 2

Hol Hamoed 2

Minyan 7:00 a.m.

Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15 p.m.

Candlelighting 7:03 p.m.

Saturday, April 3

Shabbat Hol Hamoed

Shaharit 8:45 a.m.

Sunday, April 4

Hol Hamoed 4

Minyan 8:45 a.m.

Seventh Day of Pesah

Minhah/Ma'ariv 6:15 p.m.

Candlelighting 7:05 p.m.

Monday, April 5

Seventh Day of Pesah

Shaharit 8:45 a.m.

Last Day of Pesah

Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:15 p.m.

Candlelighting 8:06 p.m.

Tuesday, April 6

Last Day of Pesah/Yizkor

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Festival ends 8:08 p.m.

March/April Checklist

Remember these dates and deadlines

- Mark your calendars for the Synaplex 2010 on Sunday, May 2, an all-day cornucopia of discussions, entertainment, film, and food at Congregation Or Zarua. Synaplex 2010 is described in detail on page 3. We hope to see everyone there.
- RSVP by noon, Monday, March 1 for the Family and Friends Friday night services and dinner on Friday, March 5.
- Register for Marc Ashley's class on four Sundays, April 11, April 18, April 25, and May 2, 10:00 a.m.
- Put the Kadima and USY events on March 13, April 17 and May 22 on your schedule.
- Participate in the Or Zarua Holocaust Memorial Service, Sunday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. Let us not forget.
- Discuss *A Safe Haven: Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel* on Sunday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m.
- Convene with the OZ crafts club on Sundays, March 14 and April 11 at 10:15 a.m.
- Reserve Sunday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. for author Dan Senor's special book discussion on *Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle*. Everyone is enthusiastically encouraged to attend, including teens.
- Order your copy of Norman Podhoretz's book, *Why are Jews Liberals?*, prior to his May 2 discussion and book signing using the order form on page 3.
- Become a member of MERCAZ USA using the form on page 6.
- Attend the AIPAC meeting, March 21-23 (see page 9).
- Sell your hametz! Submit the form on page 17 by 11:00 a.m. p.m., Friday, March 26.
- Remember the Ma'ot Hittim Fund and please donate generously.
- Sign up for the First Seder Pesah Meal Match, either as a host or a guest, by Thursday, March 25, using the form on page 17.
- RSVP for the Congregational Second Seder by Wednesday, March 24.
- Sign up for the morning minyan.
- Follow Or Zarua on Facebook.
- Save Wednesday nights at 8:00 p.m. for Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler.
- Submit all articles and ideas for the May/June/Summer issue of the OZ newsletter to Charlie Spielholz (cssrs@earthlink.net). by Thursday, March 25.



CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

127 East 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028-0807

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