

Or Zarua

SIVAN/TAMMUZ/AV/ELUL 5771

NEWSLETTER/VOLUME 23:6

JULY/AUGUST 2011

OZ's Day School Students Tour Israel

Personal reflections on their most memorable experiences

After Pesah, five members of Or Zarua who are eighth graders at the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan embarked on an intense, two-week tour of Israel with their class. Each of the five students wrote a short essay for the Or Zarua Newsletter describing a single aspect of their trip to Israel. We hope you enjoy reading each of these wonderful essays!

—CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ

The Dead Sea

by Rebecca Ashley

A month ago we took a class trip to Israel. In the middle of our trip, we took a day to go to the Dead Sea. We were driven to a hotel near the Dead Sea. After we had eaten lunch and changed into our bathing suits, we walked out of the hotel and came to a line of people. They were all waiting for a trolley to transport them to the actual beach of the Dead Sea. Although the hotel we were staying in was very far away from the water, this was not always the case. At one time the hotel had been right on the shore of the Dead Sea, but the water has moved back so far every year so that the hotel now uses this trolley to take everyone to the water.

Once we reached the Dead Sea and got out of the trolley, we all quickly ran into the water together. The sea was a beautiful aqua color and seemed huge, even though I knew that every year the volume of water was getting significantly smaller. Beneath our feet clumps of sparkly white, crystal-like salt could be seen. We floated around for a while, and had much fun even though most of us got the salt water splashed into our eyes. After we got out of the water, we boarded the trolley again to get to the Dead Sea mud. We all

covered ourselves in mud, which was so much fun. We even got to sit in the containers that held the warm mud, while we were laughing together and taking lots of pictures.

The Dead Sea is such a special place, where many different people come to enjoy its beauty. Going to the Dead Sea, and Israel, with my class, where we got to bond and make our most special memories, meant so much to me. I will never forget any of my eighth grade Israel experiences.

Kabbalat Shabbat in Israel

by Lauren Kupferberg

Our eighth grade class left New York City for Israel on a Thursday. After flying overnight, we landed at Ben Gurion Airport on a Friday morning, where we were greeted by our travel guides from the Ramah Israel Institute.

We then traveled to Jerusalem, stopping for a hike and Shahrarit along the way.
continued on page 6



Or Zarua's Schechter Manhattan students with their eighth grade class at the Kotel. Photograph courtesy of the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan.

BEN MANN/SCHECHTER MANHATTAN

ק"ק אור זרוע
Congregation
OrZarua
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.

President's Message

by Diane Okrent

I am honored to be the new president of Congregation Or Zarua—the eighth person, and the third woman, to be elected to this position. I look forward to meeting the challenges that come with the office.

Every Or Zarua president has faced similar issues: How can we grow our membership? How do we retain our current members? How do we maintain the quality of our Hebrew School? How do we maintain our building? How do we provide new and attractive programs, lectures, and courses? How do we keep our services vibrant while remaining traditional? And, how do we finance it all? The Board and its officers will continue to address these challenges in the years to come.

With Rabbi Wechsler's retirement a year from now, our immediate future will bring the additional challenges of finding, hiring, and getting acquainted with our next rabbi.

But, I know we are all up to the challenges and ready to continue the adventure that is Or Zarua. *Barukh attah adonai eloheinu melekh ha-olam, she-heheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higi'anu la-z'man ha-zeh.* Praised are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, for granting us life, for sustaining us, and for helping us to reach this day.

When my husband, Aaron Shelden, and I were shul shopping in 1989, we had some very specific and important requirements. For Aaron, the services had to be traditional. He had grown up in an Orthodox shul and was most comfortable in that environment. For me, the synagogue had to be Conservative and egalitarian. I had grown up in a Conservative synagogue and, as a feminist, wanted equal opportunity to be called for an aliyah. And, for our then 17-month-old son, we wanted a shul where he would be comfortable growing up. We found all those qualities at Or Zarua.

We were also attracted to OZ for its wonderful erudite and inspiring rabbi. And, we were attracted to the warm and embracing community and the dedication to the principles of Torah, Worship, and the Performance of Goodness. I know many of you joined Or Zarua for these same reasons.

But, I think Aaron and I were also

attracted to Or Zarua for the adventure. In 1989, none of us knew where this new path would lead and each member had the opportunity to help shape the community as we moved forward and grew. Aaron and I got involved in the Or Zarua Youth service, the school committee, advertising and PR, plans for the new building, aesthetic enhancements, synagogue administration, Torah reading, Me'ah and Context classes, and the Or Zarua Klezmer Band.

I still think Or Zarua is an adventure. Although we are now 22 years old, we are still forging a new path in contemporary Jewish life, known for learning, children's and adult education, music and art, services, and programs. We may have grown larger but are still an intimate traditional, egalitarian, and participatory community.

To continue the path or road analogy, with Rabbi Wechsler's retirement next year, we have come to a curve in the road. With the curve will come new vistas, new perspectives—a new way to look at the road ahead. The Search Committee is at work preparing, if you will, our Congregation's resumé for the Rabbinical Assembly. The committee will be identifying the traits that characterize Or Zarua, as well as the essential qualities we seek in our next rabbi. To inform the committee, each member of the Congregation will be invited to a facilitated discussion over the next few months. I encourage you to participate as we move into this exciting time of our illustrious history.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts. In my professional life, I am a qualitative research consultant. Clients hire me to interview customers and potential customers, analyze what I have heard, and propose ways to implement ideas. I expect to do the same in my capacity as president. I will hear what you have to say, analyze what I have heard, and propose ways to implement your ideas. I cannot promise to use all your ideas, but I can promise to hear them.

The next few years will be exciting and I look forward to what we will accomplish together!

Have a wonderful summer! Please join us at services whenever you can.

Or Zarua's Youth Education Department

Multiple programs provide for the development of Jewish Life

As spring changes to summer, the Or Zarua Youth Department completes another year of immersing the children of our community in Jewish Life. The term Jewish Life is used because the varied programs of the Youth Department cover not just children's education, but also their social and cultural life.

At the core of OZ's Youth Department is the Hebrew School. The mission of the Hebrew School is to educate our children in Hebrew language, Torah, Talmud, Jewish history and Israel. However, the OZ Youth Department provides more than just a Hebrew education. There are age-appropriate services designed specifically for children during the High Holy Days, the festivals and for each Shabbat. And there is the Friday Tot Shabbat program specially created for Or Zarua's youngest members.

On selected Shabbatot, Or Zarua's teens, under the direction of the Youth Department, lead the service in the Sanctuary. These teen-led services give our Junior Congregation the opportunity to lead the entire Congregation in the prayer service. The Sanctuary was also the site of Shabbat Hayaed, the day we honored our children's accomplishments.

Beyond classes and prayer services, the Or Zarua Youth Department offers a variety of standard and unique programs. Standard programs include our annual



ILANA BURGESS



Students of the Or Zarua Hebrew School enjoy the final day of school.

IN THIS ISSUE

Day School Students Tour Israel.....	1
President's Message	2
Youth Education Department	3
Hesed Events and Programs.....	4
The David Project	4
Hebrew and Jewish Studies	4
AIPAC Conference	5
Choosing Our Next Rabbi	5
Events, Lectures, Classes & Dinners	7
Monthly Calendars.....	8
The Kosher Konnoisseur.....	10
Celebrate Israel Parade Portfolio	11
The OZ Minyan	12
New Board Members Elected.....	12
OZ to Accept Credit Cards	13
Or Zarua Cemetery	13
Or Zarua Community	14
July/August Checklist.....	16

overnight sleep-over in Or Zarua's rooftop sukkah (which, by the way, is decorated each year by Or Zarua's Youth); the annual Talent Show, which raises funds for the Israeli town of S'derot; Purim Tot Program; the Model Seder; the Yom Hashoah Remembrance Service; the Israel Independence Day Celebration; and participation, with the entire Congregation, in the Celebrate Israel Parade.

Unique events for children this year included a visit by the Mayor of S'derot, David Bouskila, who spoke about life in that town in the south of Israel; the Hanukkah Art Fair; planting for Tu B'Shevat; and an end-of-the-year barbeque. Or Zarua Youth also teamed-up with their counterparts at B'nai Jeshurun to prepare cooked meals for the homeless.

For older youth, there were the Kadima/USY social programs which pro-

vided the opportunity for them to get together for ice skating, billiards and other events. And starting next year, the OZ Youth Department will be instituting a new class for post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students who are transitioning to high school. This class will allow students the opportunity to continue their educations in Hebrew language, Torah and Talmud while pursuing their secular studies in the public domain.

If you or anyone you know is interested in any of the programs that have been briefly described above, please contact the Director of Youth Education, Ilana Burgess, at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or email iburgess@orzarua.org.

The OZ Youth Department wishes everyone a great summer and looks forward to seeing both familiar and new faces next fall!

—ILANA BURGESS

Hesed Events and Programs

“The world exists for the sake of kindness.” —Rashi

- Or Zarua Congregants serve pizza, salad, soda and good cheer to men and women with a range of health issues at The Neighborhood Coalition Shelters (NCS) East 81st Street residence each Monday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Please consider making a \$180 contribution to the Hesed Fund to cover the cost of food for one Monday evening at the NCS East 81st Street residence.
- Volunteer to visit and cheer ill or home-bound Or Zarua Congregants.
- Jewish children come from across the U.S. and around the world to undergo

serious medical treatment at New York City hospitals. Many reside with their families at Ronald McDonald House and often have no local support system of friends or relatives. The Chaplin at Ronald McDonald House alerts us when OZ may be of service to families who may require kosher meals, synagogue services and other assistance.

- Attractive knitted caps in all sizes for children from babies to teenagers residing at Ronald McDonald House while undergoing chemotherapy are welcome donations.
- “Green thumbs” are needed from spring through fall to help care for The Ronald

McDonald House’s 7th Floor Terrace Butterfly Garden.

- “Pre-owned” adult and children’s clothing, toys, dolls, games and related items can be put to good use by the many transitional homeless residents in the South Bronx, including single, jobless mothers and their children as well as unemployed men. OZ partners with The Salvation Deliverance Church, whose members are housekeepers caring for their own local needy.

To participate in any of these Hesed programs, please contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com or 212-879-0448.

OZ YOUTH ART CALENDAR

Fundraiser for Or Zarua’s Youth Education Department

The Or Zarua Youth Department has produced a calendar featuring art work by student-aged members of the Or Zarua community. Each month of the calendar features art work from a different young member of Congregation Or Zarua. Copies of the calendar will be mailed to Congregants this summer as part of an effort to raise funds for the Or Zarua Youth Education Department. We hope you enjoy the calendar and will show your support by sending a donation to the Or Zarua office.

TISHE’AH B’AV SERVICES

Erev Tishe’ah B’Av

Monday, August 8

7:45 p.m. Reading of Eikha

Tishe’ah B’Av

Tuesday, August 9

7:00 a.m. Shaharit

7:30 p.m. Minhah/Ma’ariv

The David Project

A Discussion About Israel, Monday, October 3, 6:30 p.m.

Jewish students on college campuses and in high schools frequently encounter inaccurate and skewed characterizations of Israel. The David Project will be coming to Or Zarua on Monday, October 3, at 6:30 p.m. to provide an educational seminar about Israel for our middle school, high school and college students.

The David Project was formed in 2002 in response to perceived hostility

towards Israel on college campuses and has evolved into an educational organization dedicated to giving students the knowledge to understand the complexities of the Arab-Israeli conflict, to defend their support for Israel and to advocate for Israel. This is an excellent opportunity for learning, discussion and debate.

All members of the Congregation and their friends, including adults, are also welcome to attend this discussion.

Hebrew and Jewish Studies

For post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students

Starting this coming fall (5772), Or Zarua will be offering a class for post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students who are looking to continue their Jewish education while developing social relationships with like-minded kids. The class will offer the students two major opportunities. The first will be an environment to advance their ability to use conversational Hebrew in the form of an Ulpan. The second will be the chance to build upon their knowl-

edge of Torah or Talmud.

The class will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Mondays. After a pizza dinner at 6:00 p.m., a 45-minute Ulpan, to be taught by Ilana Burgess, will encourage students to hone their Hebrew skills and speak the language as it is used daily in Israeli life. Students will then engage in the study of Torah or Talmud for 45 minutes. For further information, please contact Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or email iburgess@orzarua.org.

OZ Members Attend AIPAC Conference

Washington, D.C., May 22–24, 2011

A record-breaking group of over 10,000 citizen activists, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, including around 1,500 high school and college students, attended AIPAC's annual Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. from Sunday, May 22 to Tuesday, May 24. The event consisted of plenary sessions and breakout sessions with panels of outside experts on the Middle East.

The gala event featured plenary assembly speeches by President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Kadima Party Chief Tzippi Livni, and addresses from both sides of the aisle in Congress, including Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Representative Eric Cantor (R-VA), as well as many others. More than two-thirds of the House and Senate, candidates for Congress, and a large turnout from the international diplomatic community attended AIPAC's gala dinner on Monday, May 24.

The capstone of any Policy Conference weekend is the lobbying sessions on the last day of the conference. This year was no exception. The delegates visited around 500 House and Senate offices to lobby on



Or Zarua's delegation to the AIPAC conference (from left): Edward Kopelowitz, Susan Kopelowitz, Roz Goldberg, Alan Bandler, Rabbi Harlan Wechsler, Arthur Rosenbloom, Evelyn Kenvin and Stephanie Failla.

foreign aid to Israel (no sure thing these days given national economic realities), heightened sanctions on Iran, and a reso-

lution urging the administration to take steps designed to bring the Palestinians to the peace table with Israel.

Choosing Our Next Rabbi

by the Rabbinical Search Committee

Many people have asked about the process of choosing our next rabbi. The Search Committee is following the protocol established by The Rabbinical Assembly. The Rabbinical Assembly, first organized in 1901 by graduates of the rabbinical school of the Jewish Theological Seminary, is the international association of Conservative/Masorti rabbis.

The Rabbinical Assembly protocol

involves setting forth the Congregation's core values and goals as well as the essential qualities for our next rabbi. To inform the Search Committee, each member of the Congregation will be invited to a facilitated discussion over the next few months. The information collected will be used in our application submitted to The Rabbinical Assembly.

The application will be submitted in the early fall. Then qualified and interested Conservative rabbis with many years of

pulpit experience will apply for the position. The Search Committee will review resumes and begin interviewing candidates. The top two or three candidates will be invited to Or Zarua in the late winter and early spring and the choice will be made around Pesah.

If you know of interested rabbis, they should be advised to apply through The Rabbinical Assembly.

We are looking forward to an exciting year.

EDITOR'S NOTE If you have an idea or article that is appropriate for publication in the *OZ Newsletter*, please contact Charlie Spielholz at cssrs@earthlink.net. All copy for the September/October 2011 issue should be received by Wednesday, August 3.

OZ's Day School Students Tour Israel

continued from page 1

Arriving in Jerusalem, we settled into our hotel and then took a walk. Evening was approaching while we walked through the New City and to the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. Shabbat was about to begin and you could tell because stores were closing as people prepared for Shabbat.

Our destination was the Kotel, where our group was going to celebrate the beginning of our first night in Israel with Kabbalat Shabbat! We prayed on a balcony overlooking the Kotel. While praying I could hear other people praying. Our voices together were priceless. At one point we had to shoo off a bystander who wanted to take a picture of us. Kabbalat Shabbat has always been one of my favorite things. But this time, in Israel, at the Kotel, it was different. This Shabbat, the variety of people all praying at the Kotel made me think about how all of us are so different but are still one united people.

Yad Vashem

by Michaela Palmer

When my eighth grade class and I went to Israel in April, we traveled all over the country and saw many meaningful sights. One of the most memorable experiences from my trip was at Yad Vashem. It was a very powerful and emotional visit. The last room we went to was filled with black binders. Each binder held testimonies and stories of people who were in the Holocaust. It was very striking to see so many binders, to know that each binder had many pages of information on people, and then to realize that all of those people are gone forever.

In the middle of the room there was a big well, and hanging over it were hundreds of pictures of Holocaust victims. When I looked inside the well, I could see unclear reflections of the faces above and couldn't distinguish any individual faces. Our tour guide said the well was a metaphor for how the memories of all of these people were fading. This showed just how important it was for us to remember all six million Jews who were killed—and all of the

people whose stories were recorded in the many binders surrounding us.

Going to a Holocaust memorial in Israel was very different from going to Holocaust memorials in America. I was very conscious of the fact that I was in Israel, the Jewish state, a country that may not have ever been founded if not for the Holocaust. I felt very fortunate to be in Israel, surrounded by Jews, safe.

Hiking in the Golan

by Talia Spielholz

This was my first time in Israel, so everything I did was new. One of my many favorite activities was hiking in the Golan in the northern part of Israel near the Syrian border. Hiking in the Golan, specifically in the Jilaboon, showed me the incredible extent of the beauty of Israel and how unique a place Israel actually is. When we got to the end of the hiking trail, it hit me that Israel is the home for all Jews everywhere. I realized this because there were many Jewish people in the area, some speaking Hebrew and some wearing shirts with Hebrew writing—all different, but all Jewish. Throughout my learning at Solomon Schechter, I've studied about that exact concept, Israel being the Jewish home, but it never truly occurred to me until I saw unified Jews in Israel. By seeing that, I felt like I was part of the Jewish

community and a member of a thriving and prosperous unit of people. Israel is a very distinctive place because of that, even if you are a Jewish foreigner, you are still at home.

Synagogues of Jerusalem

by Hayley Sussman

One of the highlights of going to Solomon Schechter is the eighth grade trip to Israel. Every spring, the eighth graders go for a two-week trip.

This year it was my turn to go with my class. After nine years of learning about Israel, when you get there, it feels like what you have learned has been brought to life.

On one Shabbat during our trip, we went to different synagogues around Jerusalem. I attended the Jerusalem Great Synagogue. Although it is an Orthodox synagogue, a lot of their prayers are the same as our prayers at Or Zarua and Solomon Schechter. Throughout the service, there was a choir of around twenty men singing the prayers in harmony. I found it interesting that there was a choir at the synagogue because I had never heard of a synagogue having a choir, only churches. It made the prayers sound very meaningful and have a lot of Kavanah. The entire trip was a wonderful experience that I will remember forever.



Eighth graders traveling the Negev on camels. Photograph courtesy of the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan.

BEN MANN/SCHECHTER MANHATTAN

OZ Events, Lectures, Classes and Dinners

Building a foundation for future variety and success

This past year, over 1,500 people attended a variety of programs at Congregation Or Zarua. This extraordinary level of attendance includes participation by over 140 of Congregation Or Zarua's member families in at least one program as well as a number of guests from outside our synagogue community. Attendance by people outside our community indicates an interest in what Or Zarua has to offer and is a source of strength for the growth of our membership.

It is well known that Or Zarua offers a broad range of programs to satisfy the varied interests of our membership. This past year alone, Or Zarua sponsored, developed and presented lectures and discussions by Rabbi David Silber for the High Holy Days, Yeshivat Hadar for a March Shabbaton, Professor Lawrence Schiffman for the Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture, and *Jerusalem Post* Diplomatic Correspondent Herb Keinon on Yom Ha'atzmaut. Musical programs featured Chaim Dovid, Cantorial Intern Jonathan Angress, OZ Musician-in-Residence Joey Weisenberg, and the *a cappella* group Pizmon during a Hanukkah Shabbaton. A host of special events included two art exhibits in the social hall, the screening *Paul Bowles: The Complete Outsider*, a presentation on persistence of memory by psychologist Dr. Jonathan Canick, the tour of the Houdini exhibit at the

Jewish Museum, the Riverside Symphony Concert preview, the Annual Super Bowl Party (which raised needed funds for kosher food pantries), many enhanced Kiddushim, classes and club meetings, panel discussions, and the Purim Spiel. There were also Congregational lunches and dinners for Sukkot, Passover and, this year, a Shabbat Hagadol dinner plus two Family and Friends Shabbat Dinners.

All of these programs are coordinated through the Or Zarua Program Committee. The current chair, Sara Stone, will be stepping down and Karen Kaplan will be assuming the responsibilities for programs as the next chair of the committee.

The successes of the Program Committee would not have been possible without the support and dedication of Or Zarua Congregants. We hope that you will continue your wonderful and enthusiastic support of Or Zarua's programs with your attendance, your help and your financial support. You can support the Program Committee by sponsoring programs and attending Program Committee meetings. Dates will be announced in the weekly OZ e-mail blast. A preliminary list of programs and the costs of their sponsorship for 5772 (2011-2012) is in the column at right. Sponsorships by individuals, families or groups are welcome. For additional information, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 14.

Preliminary List of Programs and Sponsorship Opportunities for 5772 (2011-2012)

September 10

WELCOME BACK KIDDUSH, \$2,500

September 24

SINFUL DESSERTS, \$500

October 5

RABBI SILBER'S LECTURE, sponsored in full

October 12

SUKKAH DINNER, approximately 50 people at \$40 per person

October 13, 14 and 15

SUKKAH KIDDUSHIM (enhanced), \$2,000 for each Kiddush

October 21

SIMCHAT TORAH KIDDUSH, \$1,000

November 11

FAMILY AND FRIENDS SHABBAT DINNER, \$1,000

December 9

FAMILY AND FRIENDS SHABBAT DINNER, \$1,000

January

LUCY S. DAWIDOWICZ LECTURE, \$3,000

February 5

SUPER BOWL PARTY, sponsored in full

March 8

PURIM SPIEL, sponsored in full

April 7

SECOND NIGHT SEDER, \$3,000

April 26

YOM HA'ATZMAUT, \$2,000

May 26

SHAVUOT PANEL, \$1,000

May

ANNUAL MEETING, \$2,000

VISIT WWW.ORZARUA.ORG

Explore Or Zarua's past, present and future

Have you missed an Or Zarua lecture, class or discussion? Would you like to hear a presentation a second time? Or Zarua's website, www.orzarua.org, contains recordings of many of the presentations given by guest speakers and teachers at the synagogue. For example, by clicking on the drop-down menu titled "Learning" and choosing "Adult Study" followed by "Recorded Talks" you will arrive at a webpage with lectures by Professors Ruth R. Wisse, David Roskies, and James Kugel, and Rabbis David Silber and Harlan Weschler. You can even listen to the Or Zarua Klezmer Band. There are many other resources on the Or Zarua website, including upcoming events, service schedules, current art gallery shows, minyan sign-up and much more. So take a moment to explore www.orzarua.org and see what has been, is currently, and will be happening at OZ!



127 East 82nd Street
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July 2011 • Sivan/Tammuz 5771

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 • 29 Sivan 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13 pm Candlelighting	2 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Tammuz I 9:00 am Shaharit Hukkat
3 • 1 Tammuz Rosh Hodesh Tammuz II 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	4 • 2 Independence Day 8:45 am Minyan <i>Office closed</i>	5 • 3 7:15 am Minyan	6 • 4 7:15 am Minyan	7 • 5 7:15 am Minyan	8 • 6 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:12 pm Candlelighting	9 • 7 9:00 am Shaharit Balak
10 • 8 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	11 • 9 7:15 am Minyan	12 • 10 7:15 am Minyan	13 • 11 7:15 am Minyan	14 • 12 7:15 am Minyan	15 • 13 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:08 pm Candlelighting	16 • 14 9:00 am Shaharit Pinhas
17 • 15 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	18 • 16 7:15 am Minyan	19 • 17 Fast of Tammuz 7:15 am Minyan	20 • 18 7:15 am Minyan	21 • 19 7:15 am Minyan	22 • 20 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:04 pm Candlelighting	23 • 21 9:00 am Shaharit Mattot
24 • 22 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 31 • 29 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	25 • 23 7:15 am Minyan	26 • 24 7:15 am Minyan	27 • 25 7:15 am Minyan	28 • 26 7:15 am Minyan	29 • 27 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:57 pm Candlelighting	30 • 28 9:00 am Shaharit Masei



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August 2011 • Av/Elul 5771

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 • 1 Av Rosh Hodesh Av 7:00 am Minyan	2 • 2 7:15 am Minyan	3 • 3 7:15 am Minyan	4 • 4 7:15 am Minyan	5 • 5 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:50 pm Candlelighting	6 • 6 Shabbat Hazon 9:00 am Shaharit Devarim
7 • 7 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	8 • 8 Erev Tishe'ah B'Av 7:15 am Minyan 7:45 pm Reading of Eikha	9 • 9 Tishe'ah B'Av 7:00 am Shoharit 7:30 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv	10 • 10 7:15 am Minyan	11 • 11 7:15 am Minyan	12 • 12 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:41 pm Candlelighting	13 • 13 Shabbat Nahamu 9:00 am Shoharit Vaethanan Bar Mitzvah of Adam Pell Aufruf of David Beller and Allison Lowenstein
14 • 14 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	15 • 15 7:15 am Minyan	16 • 16 7:15 am Minyan	17 • 17 7:15 am Minyan	18 • 18 7:15 am Minyan	19 • 19 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:31 pm Candlelighting	20 • 20 9:00 am Shoharit Ekev
21 • 21 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	22 • 22 7:15 am Minyan	23 • 23 7:15 am Minyan	24 • 24 7:15 am Minyan	25 • 25 7:15 am Minyan	26 • 26 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:21 pm Candlelighting	27 • 27 9:00 am Shoharit Re'eh
28 • 28 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	29 • 29 7:15 am Minyan	30 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Elul I 7:00 am Minyan	31 • 1 Elul Rosh Hodesh Elul II 7:00 am Minyan			

The Kosher Konnoisseur

by Louis Barash

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Tel: (212) 712-2222
Web: <http://www.noiduecafe.com/>

Kosher restaurants in New York generally fall in two categories: the dwindling number that serve traditionally “Jewish” food, and Kosher versions of popular cuisines. In the latter category—be it Continental cuisine, steakhouses, Italian, or Indian—the ultimate compliment seems to be that it is as good, or almost as good, as the best non-kosher restaurants. Happily, NoiDue neither fits, nor tries to fit, in either category. A subterranean, Mediterranean café on the West Side, it aims for and succeeds at being a unique and interesting restaurant that happens to be kosher.

The menu at NoiDue is driven by Mediterranean cuisines: much Italian, a fair amount of Israeli, with a smattering of Greek and Turkish, and a number of dishes that either combine inspirations from some of those cuisines or are completely original. With impeccable ingredients—particularly marvelous cheeses—and simple, well conceived presentations, NoiDue regularly delivers attractive food that precisely fits its atmosphere.

Finding NoiDue is not an easy matter. Downstairs on West 69th Street, right near the late, lamented Levana, the signage is not obvious and one might miss the place. Stepping down from the street, one seemingly crosses the Atlantic into a pleasant, bustling room, noisy with chatter. The low ceiling keeps the noise above a buzz, but below a din. A long room, with a coal-fired oven emitting tasty thin crust pizzas in the back, is comfortable and tastefully, if minimally, decorated. A good thing, too, as guests can and do spend long stretches at NoiDue. The lively conversation and food that, while delicious, doesn't take itself too seriously, gives more of the feeling of a casual bistro in the harbor in Tel Aviv or on the coast of Greece.

The starters at NoiDue are interesting

and one might easily make a meal out of a selection of them. An interesting take on Turkish cigars—here filled with wonderful goat cheese and spinach—are crisp, light and almost greaseless. A novel arancini—normally rice balls, but here done with macaroni and cheese, are surprisingly not heavy, rather tasty and surely unique. The mozzarella basket features outstanding, fresh mozzarella cheese lightly fried and mixed with mushrooms and vegetables in an edible, fried basket with an Asian-inspired teriyaki sauce that, despite the complexity, surprisingly works. The excellent mozzarella is also the basis for a lovely caprese salad. Indeed, the salads are uniformly good, all lightly dressed with fresh ingredients. A special one evening, an Israeli chopped salad with a creamy goat cheese, was exceptional.

The soups are also worthwhile. A frequent special is typical of NoiDue's unique blending of cultures: a rich French onion soup topped with creamy melted cheese is served in the style of Tuscan soups in a carved out bread bowl. While more bread than soup, the soup is flavorful and it is an attractive dish, a “bowl” and a salad would make a satisfying meal. The excellent mozzarella also serves well on the crispy, thin crust pizzas, well charred from NoiDue's coal-fired oven. With excellent toppings (try the artichoke), a pizza makes a lovely lunch or a fine shared first course.

The main courses are largely pasta and fish, and both are winners. The highlight of the pastas is the daily special baked lasagna. The spinach version was infused with spinach flavor, the thick lasagna noodles were perfectly cooked and the cheeses perfectly melted and slightly charred on the top. Teriyaki salmon starts with impeccably fresh salmon smartly grilled in a sweet and tangy soy-based sauce (if you prefer your fish rare, you need to ask). The salmon burger—a dish that too often reminds one of grade school cafeteria salmon croquettes, a gooey mess of salmon and bread crumbs—is here blended and grilled to perfection: a real burger. And a frequent special, simply split and grilled branzino—the epitome of the

Mediterranean—is excellent.

To top it all off, desserts are all very good; a light cheese cake (with perhaps a bit too much lemon) and a molten chocolate fondant among the very good choices. As many apparently come just for dessert and the excellent coffees, the menu thoughtfully lists those desserts that are *pareve*.

As one would expect from a Mediterranean establishment, there is a thoughtfully selected wine list, with several selections available by the glass, as well as a good selection of beers. Prices are reasonable. NoiDue is one of the few good choices anywhere near Lincoln Center. But a quick, pre-theatre dinner is not really what NoiDue is about. It is a place to sit, to talk, to eat. Be it lunch, dinner or a late-night snack or dessert (open until 11:00 p.m. weekdays and 1:00 a.m. after Shabbat), NoiDue is a place to enjoy with good friends at a pace more Mediterranean than New World.

Kosher Knibbles: As summer approaches, lighter fare and wines that go with them, or just go with a summer's day, come to mind. Until recently, the pickings have been somewhat slim in the kosher aisle. While there are a number of excellent kosher wines, they are predominantly of the big, red (mostly Cabernet) variety. Kosher whites have been close to uniformly disappointing, and kosher rosés close to non-existent. Some recent new releases have happily changed that picture and some reasonably priced (all around \$20 or less) summer wines are widely available.

Tavel Rosé is a staple in Provence and perhaps the top name in Tavel is Domaine Lafond. Domaine Lafond has issued a kosher Tavel in the 2008 vintage that is fresh, fruity and with sufficient acidity that it works well with food or on its own. An outstanding bottle of summer wine.

Alsatian wines are also summer pleasers and Willm, a well-known Alsatian producer, has recently started producing in the kosher market. Their Riesling 2008 is simple and refreshing *vin ordinaire*, perfect for a late summer afternoon sipper. Sweet, but not overly sweet, it will do well

with Asian and spicy cuisines. The 2008 Pinot Blanc (a particularly underappreciated grape) is more full bodied and with a little higher acidity, it will be better with chicken and fish. Willm also makes a Gewurtztraminer, which was not tasted. (Like most French kosher wines, neither the Domaine Lafond or the Willm are mevushal.)

Five Stones Vineyard has long been producing (previously under the Beckett's Flat name), a refreshing Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Blend that is delightful with summer fare. It is a little lighter and less complex than the Bordeaux white blends it emulates (like the fantastic Smith Haut Lafite Graves, but the kosher version unfortunately rolls in at \$150 a bottle), but an extremely nice mouthfeel and ripe acidity make it a good choice with more complex fish dishes.

Goose Bay has been turning out excellent New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc—tart, grassy and refreshing—for some years now, and if you like this style, their 2008 version is a real bargain. (Their very good Pinot Noir is more expensive, but a fine summer red.) Another good choice in Sauvignon Blanc is the Dalton Reserve.

Dalton is the one Israeli producer that has come up with a good range of quality whites, and their Unoaked Chardonnay is a fine example, as is the Segal's Reserve Chardonnay. (If you are looking for a bigger red wine in this price range for a summer barbecue, the Segal's Cabernet Reserve is an excellent choice; not quite up to their Unfiltered Cabernet, but, at less than half the price, a better value.)

Sparkling wine is also a great summer choice. Some of the French kosher champagnes are very good, but too expensive for this list. Yarden (Golan Heights Winery) turns out a surprisingly refreshing Blanc de Blancs (100% Chardonnay) that will do fine on its own and is the perfect choice for mimosas and bellinis. And sweet, lightly carbonated and refreshing Moscato, a fabulous dessert wine and an easy, if sweet, quaffer, is done well by Dalton.

A number of shops in New York have a broad selection of kosher wine. The largest selections are probably at Skyview in Riverdale, McCabe's on the East Side and Gotham on the West Side. KosherWine.com (out of Skokie, Illinois) is also a good way to shop.

RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Sundays at 3 a.m., 5 a.m. and 7 a.m.



Rabbi Wechsler can be heard on SiriusXM Stars Channel three times each Sunday. Subscribers to SiriusXM Satellite Radio can access the program, "Rabbi Wechsler Teaches" on Channel 107. Non-subscribers to SiriusXM Radio can obtain a free, three-day trial at www.siriusxm.com.

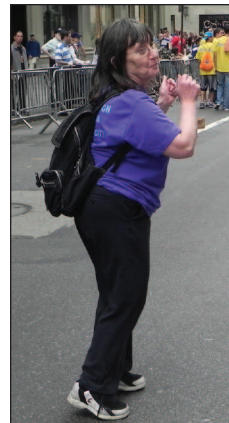
Celebrate Israel Parade Portfolio

Marching along Fifth Avenue, Sunday, June 5, 2011

AMRON SHELLEN



GERRY SOLOMON



The Or Zarua Minyan

by Charlie Spielholz

Regular readers of the *Or Zarua Newsletter* understand the uniqueness of Or Zarua’s daily minyan. A series of five articles written by members of the Congregation presented a variety of individual reasons for attending Or Zarua’s morning minyan.

The summer months afford a special opportunity to people who have not been able to attend the daily minyan at Or Zarua. During the summer months, many of our minyan “regulars” are away from the city. This results in some pressure on the minyan. In other words, the minyan requires help. Fortunately, that help is easy to provide—an individual Jew just has to attend. Each person who attends provides 10% of the minyan’s strength, a significant portion that will be greatly appreciated.

Some of you who have not taken the opportunity to attend Or Zarua’s daily minyan may have a concern. You may be con-

cerned because you do not know what to do in a sparsely populated and unfamiliar service. I will tell you to completely forget that concern. In fact I am an example of a person who started to attend daily minyan without knowing what to do.

I did not start attending synagogue services until I was 33 years old. Before that I had probably attended a synagogue service less than half-a-dozen times in my entire life. (Actually, I can only remember attending services three times in my first 33 years—a cousin’s Bat Mitzvah and twice on a Rosh Hashanah). I did not know what a Chumash or a Siddur was. I had no concept of what the Ark was, and I would not have called the Scrolls inside an Ark a Torah under any circumstance. Everything I know about synagogue worship I learned by attending services—at first with my father-in-law (z”l) on holidays when Sharon and I would visit Great Neck and later when I started attending daily services at the Jewish Center after my father’s (z”l)

death in 1997. My participation in Or Zarua’s daily minyan began with the completion of our synagogue building and the inauguration of Or Zarua’s daily minyan.

So I would like to invite even those who are concerned about their lack of familiarity with synagogue service to come join the Or Zarua minyan this summer. I guarantee you will be part of something good and important. I guarantee you will feel like you belong. I guarantee that you will learn how the service works. And finally, I guarantee that you will be making a critical contribution to the Or Zarua community, a contribution that will be appreciated.

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 day or two each month by contacting Sheldon Adler at sheldon.adler@skadden.com. Alternatively, you may sign up online at www.orzarua.org by choosing “Daily Minyan” under the “Prayer” drop-down menu.

New Board Members Elected

Three new members begining their terms

Ruth E. Horowitz



Ruth and her husband, Michael Nachman, have been members of Or Zarua for many years. Ruth and Michael are members of the synagogue for many reasons, including the

traditional services, egalitarian participation and welcoming community. Ruth is excited to rejoin the Board so that she can further these and other goals of Or Zarua.

Ruth is the COO of the IFC Asset Management Company in Washington, D.C., and spends her weekdays in D.C. and weekends in New York.

Alan Ilberman

Alan rejoins the Board after a one-year hiatus. He is the president of Business Solutions Inc., a full-service property management and consulting firm located in New York with a national practice and client base. He is also is an owner of REdirect Consulting, which provides IT consulting services specifically for the real estate industry.

Alan is 57 years old and grew up in Queens, N.Y. He attended New York City public schools while pursuing his Jewish education at after-school religious programs through 12th grade. He attended George Washington University, where he got his B.A. in Political Science. Alan and his wife, Caroline Golden Ilberman, have been members of Or Zarua for 16 years.

Benno Kimmelman

Benno Kimmelman, his wife Joy, and their children, Melanie and Michael, have been members of Or Zarua for many years. Melanie and Michael celebrated their Bat and Bar Mitzvahs in the synagogue. Rabbi Wechsler not only has been the family rabbi but a part of the family for a very long time. The Kimmelmans consider Or Zarua to be both their synagogue and community—a very special place for each member of the family. Benno looks forward to joining the Board as we plan together for the future.

Benno is a partner in the law firm of Allen & Overy LLP, where he focuses on international arbitration and international litigation.

Congregation Or Zarua to Accept Credit Cards

by Harvey M. Brenner, FTA, Executive Director

Beginning with our new fiscal year on July 1, 2011, Congregants and others will have the option of making online payments to the synagogue using Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express credit cards. This enhancement is made possible by a major upgrade to our database management software.

Each member will be able to enter a secure "Members Only" area to register and authorize a credit card linked to his or her account, which may then be charged for "online payments" for dues, donations, programs and other synagogue business, as requested. A 4% "Internet Administrative Fee" will be added to cover the costs of online processing.

Guests to the website will also be able to make donations electronically (subject to the same 4% administrative fee). However, they will not be able to register a credit card to be retained in the system. Each subsequent transaction will require guests to re-enter their card information before acceptance.

Step one in our upgrade process will be for each Congregant ("Membership

Unit") to review and update his or her personal database information (similar to what we did last year through the mail) so that we have current email, telephone numbers and addresses. You will be instructed to go online, change your temporary password to a private, personal one, and then set up the credit card information to be retained securely within the system.

Our website will provide 24/7 online access so that you may monitor your account, make full or partial payments, make donations and fund contributions, or make reservations and pay program/meal fees at your convenience.

Of course, checks will also be accepted and will not be subject to the 4% online, administrative fee.

As we move closer and closer to a paperless, more electronic environment, it is ever more important that we have as accurate a database as possible. When you receive your 2011-12 membership packets, please take a few moments to review your database information online, and update it as necessary.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

EDITOR'S CALL FOR MATERIAL

Have you recently traveled to a place that provided a unique Jewish experience? Do you recall an event during a Jewish holiday or on a Shabbat that may be of interest to a wide audience? Do you know of an appropriate OZ happening that is not being covered by the *Newsletter*? If you answered yes to any of these questions and if you like to write, there may be a forum for you! To discuss the possibility of publishing in the *Or Zarua Newsletter*, please contact Charlie Spielholz via email (cssrs@earthlink.net).

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



A view of the Or Zarua cemetery section.

well-maintained and landscaped with trees and shrubs. The cemetery's design provides a serene and beautiful final resting place that reflects the 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.

"BAGELS, BABKA AND BALABUSTAS"

100 Years of Jews and Food in America

The new OZ Gallery show explores how traditional Jewish foodways were preserved, adapted and blended with American modernity. If you missed the opening on May 19, be sure to savor the exhibit on display in the OZ social hall through the fall.

CRAFTS CLUB The Or Zarua Crafts Club will be meeting in the fall on the following Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in the OZ library: October 23, November 20, and December 18. Remember, no experience is necessary to join the Crafts Club and older children and non-members are also welcome to attend.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS The next Or Zarua book discussion will be Sunday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m. If you would like more information on OZ book discussions or have a book suggestion, please contact Reed Schneider at 212-860 8611.



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

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.

July/August Checklist

- Tishe'ah B'Av begins Monday night, August 8. See page 4 for the complete schedule of services at Or Zarua.
- Look for your invitation to a facilitated discussion with the Rabbinical Search Committee. Participation in these discussions by each member of the Congregation is strongly encouraged.
- Look forward to information about the Or Zarua Oral History Project.
- Mark your calendar to attend Or Zarua's Welcome Back Kiddush on Shabbat, September 10.
- Plan to enjoy Sinful Desserts and Rabbi Wechsler's study session for the start of Selihot on Saturday night, September 24.
- Sponsor an Or Zarua program, event or lecture (see page 7).
- Read about Or Zarua's new class for post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students who wish to continue to develop their skills in Hebrew, Torah and Talmud. (see page 4).
- Help out with a Hesed program (see page 4).
- Listen to "Rabbi Wechsler Teaches" on SiriusXM Satellite Radio, channel 107 (see page 11).
- Plan to attend the next Or Zarua Book Discussion on Sunday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m.
- View "Bagels, Babka and Balabustas" now on display on the Or Zarua Gallery walls in the social hall.
- Sign up for the morning minyan (see page 12).
- Join the OZ Program Committee. Look for future dates in Or Zarua's email blasts or contact the office at 212-452-2310.
- Follow Or Zarua on Facebook by going to www.facebook.com/OrZarua and clicking "Like."
- Call the Or Zarua office (212-452-2310) if you have questions about or wish to sponsor any OZ program or event.
- Have an idea or article for the OZ newsletter? If so, please contact Charlie Spielholz (cssrs@earthlink.net).

WELCOMING GUESTS

It is important for us as a community to make guests and new members at our services and kiddushim feel comfortable and welcome. If you are seated next to someone whom you do not know, please reach out and introduce yourself. Making this effort is consistent with our culture and will repay dividends.