



# Or Zarua

HESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5772

NEWSLETTER/VOLUME 24:2

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

## CVK 2011: An Israeli-Style Summer

by Ortal Isaac

On June 28, 2011, clad in a screamingly loud teal T-shirt labeled “CVK 2011,” I waited in line by the El Al gate at JFK airport. I stood alone. I didn’t know any of the other teenagers standing around me, some of whom were already chatting and laughing, wearing the same shirt as me. I was off to Israel for one whole month, on a program called *Tzofim Chetz v’Keshet* (meaning “Scouts: Bow and Arrow”). This program, organized by the Israeli Scouts movement, is a four-week trip for teens, ranging from the ages of 13 to 18. Most of the participants were from the U.S., yet there were some from France, England, and Brazil. Most importantly, we, the teens coming from abroad to visit Israel, would be mixing with local teenagers who are part of the Israeli Scouts movement—an Israeli youth program.

About 11 hours later, I walked into Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, exhausted. Our group was greeted by clusters of smiling, singing, poster-brandishing teens in Scout uniforms. Our Israeli counterparts, with whom we’d be spending the next month, were there to greet us. We divided into groups and were welcomed with the *Tzofim* movement’s traditional songs, clapping and enthusiasm. It felt as if we were coming home, back from a long journey.

We first drove to Jerusalem, all piled into buses, the foreigners aboard tired yet keeping their eyes open, watching the hills around Jerusalem pass by. It was only then that it struck us: *We were in Israel!* The entire CVK group was split into two companies, or *plugas*, then six platoons divided into buses, or *machlakot*, and

Ortal Isaac is a senior at Lycée Français of New York.



Opening week of *Tzofim Chetz v’ Keshet* in Jerusalem.

finally three teams, or *tzevets*, within each platoon. Our counselors were all IDF soldiers completing their service.

Having grown up speaking Hebrew with my father, I am fluent in the language. Yet being immersed in Israel and being able to see signs everywhere in Hebrew, Tnuva advertisements and “Gilad Adyayin Chai” posters, was at first odd, but it quickly grew into a wonderful feeling. In addition, we were divided according to age and language proficiency, so my *tzevet* was made up entirely of Hebrew speakers, many of whom, like myself, were the children of Israeli emigrants. The first day, I struggled a little to follow the conversation, but over the following weeks I felt my skills grow at an exponential rate. I had never felt my Hebrew improve so easily back at home.

Only a few days after staying in Jerusalem and seeing the *Kotel*, *Ir David*,

the Old City, and getting to know our fellow *chanichim* (campers) over Shabbat dinners and team-building activities, we were off to *Gadna*. We would undertake this five-day introductory training for the Israeli Army, which all Israeli 12th graders go through, at the Joara Army base in Northern Israel. During the days that followed, we pitched the tents that we slept in, were taught how to navigate and maneuver when out in the field, learned about and shot M-16 rifles, had discussions about the military and its importance in Israel...we were basically put into the shoes of the average Israeli 18-year-old getting a taste of his or her future in the IDF. It was tough to endure at times, but the lessons in self-discipline and, most importantly, teamwork were significant. It was also during *Gadna* that we saw our commanders, our

*continued on page 4*

ק"ק אור זרוע  
Congregation

# OrZarua

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE  
FOUNDED 1989

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New York, NY 10028  
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ART GALLERY	Bobbi Coller
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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



There is always a let-down when the holidays are over. We, as individuals and as a community, put a lot of time and effort into planning and making sure that Rosh

Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Hoshanah Rabbah, Shemini Atzeret and Simhat Torah are meaningful, memorable, and delicious. And then they're over!

What wonderful holidays they were! Congregation Or Zarua was able to hold three simultaneous services during Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur with extraordinary professional and lay leadership. The reviews were very positive! *Yasher Koach* to all who volunteered as leaders, readers, gabbai'im, and ushers during the High Holy Days.

Sukkot, Hoshanah Rabbah, Shemini Atzeret and Simhat Torah also were beautiful, inspiring, and joyous! *Yasher Koach* to those who volunteered to read and lead, build and decorate the Sukkah, and arrange for our Sukkah meals.

Now fall is really setting in. Daylight is fading earlier and earlier, and soon we will turn the clocks back.

We are now in the month of Heshvan, often referred to as Mar Heshvan, or Bitter Heshvan. This is because there are no holidays in Heshvan, in contrast to the preceding month, Tishri, which is full of holidays. Heshvan also marks episodes of pain and suffering for the Jewish people, including the deaths of Rachel, Nachmanides, and Yitzchak Rabin.

But the good news is that just as we finish reading the Torah, the cycle begins again: *Bereshit—In the beginning*. We get to explore the family dramas that bring us to Exodus and the defining moments of our peoplehood.

Then next month, Kislev, will bring Hanukkah and more light to our lives.

Between now and Hanukkah, there will be several light-giving events at Or Zarua. On November 10, we will be privileged to host Natan Sharansky. The next night, we will have a Family and Friends

Shabbat Dinner. On November 20, our Hebrew School students will present their annual talent show to benefit the children of S'derot, Israel. In addition, on the Eve of Thanksgiving, our Hesed Committee will collect food and distribute it to the needy. We will have another Family and Friends Shabbat Dinner on December 9. Everyone in the OZ family is welcome at all these events.

Our success at Or Zarua depends on your participation. Our services are so much better with many voices, and our programs are more interesting with many participants. So, come and share our light!

As I mentioned on Kol Nidre, so much of our success is due to our wonderful volunteers who lead services, teach classes, run programs, create ads promoting Or Zarua, maintain our website, write for and edit our newsletter, arrange for our High Holy Day services, usher, oversee the integrity of our building, manage our finances, and basically run this institution. We always need more volunteers, so please let me know what you would like to do for the community.

We keep discovering our members' hidden talents. Do you sing? If so, would you like to learn to lead a service or read Torah or chant Haftarah? Just let me know and we can arrange for a tutor or a class. Do you like to write? We can always use help with the newsletter. Do you like to plan events? Join our Programming Committee. Would you rather work "behind the scenes"? Join the Hevra Kadisha or the Hesed Committee.

We can only be a truly participatory Congregation if you participate. Come and help us sow light in the winter darkness. *Or Zarua latzadik ul-yishrei leiv simcha—Light is sown for the righteous and joy for the upright of heart.*

### SAVE THE DATE

**Or Zarua Gala**  
**Monday, June 4, 2012**  
**Special Guest: Chancellor Arnold Eisen**  
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.  
Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers

# Natan Sharansky to Speak at Or Zarua

"Israel, the Arab Spring and World Jewry," Thursday, November 10, 8:00 p.m. RSVP required.

ISRAELI KNESSET



Natan Sharansky, Soviet refusenik, political prisoner, human rights activist, member of the Israeli Knesset, and author, will be speaking at Congregation Or Zarua

on Thursday evening, November 10, at 8:00 p.m. on "Israel, the Arab Spring and World Jewry."

Born Anatoly Borisovich Sharansky in the Ukraine, he trained as a mathematician at the Institute of Physics and Technology in Moscow. Sharansky became involved with the human rights movement in the Soviet Union and eventually became one of the most important and outspoken dissidents in support of Soviet Jewry.

In 1973 the Soviets refused to grant Sharansky an exit visa to Israel. His activities as a Soviet refusenik led to his arrest

in 1977. In 1978, he was convicted and sentenced to 13 years in prison. He served his sentence in Moscow, often in solitary confinement, and in the Siberian gulag. His wife, Avital, who had emigrated to Israel, campaigned for his release. Diplomatic efforts to secure Sharansky's release from prison finally met with success in 1986, with an East-West prisoner exchange.

Upon his release from prison, Sharansky was met by the Israeli ambassador at the border between East and West Germany, and was presented with an Israeli passport issued in the Hebrew name Natan Sharansky.

Sharansky's experiences as a "Prisoner of Zion" are described in his book *Fear No Evil*.

In Israel, Natan Sharansky became involved with Israeli politics. He was elected president of the Zionist Forum in 1988 and became associate editor of the

*Jerusalem Report*. In 1995, he created a new political party, Yisrael b'Aliyah, designed to help immigrants become absorbed into Israel. He became a member of the Knesset and held several ministry positions.

In 2006, Sharansky resigned from the Knesset and became chairman of the Adelson Institute of the Shalem Center in Jerusalem. In 2009, he was elected chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

In addition to his memoir, *Fear No Evil*, Sharansky has also written *The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror*, as well as *Defending Identity: Its Indispensable Role in Protecting Democracy*.

After the presentation, there will be a reception in the Or Zarua social hall.

To attend this event, RSVP to the OZ office at 212-452-2310, extension 39, by Monday, November 7.

## Family and Youth Activities

### November 2011

**Thursday, November 10 • 8:00 p.m.**

NATAN SHARANSKY LECTURE

"Israel, the Arab Spring and World Jewry."

This lecture may be of interest to high school students.

RSVP required. See above details.

**Friday, November 11 • after services**

SHABBAT DINNER

WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

RSVP required. See page 14 for details.

**Sunday, November 20 • 3:00 p.m.**

ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

Singing, dancing, music, and more!

Take part as a performer or a guest.

See page 5 for details.

**Sunday, November 20 • 3:00 p.m.**

OR ZARUA TEEN MOVIE

*Kazablan* for ages 12 and up.

See page 5 for details.

### December 2011

**Monday, December 5,  
through Sunday, December 18**

HANUKKAH GIFT, COAT

AND CLOTHING DRIVE

See page 5 for details.

**Friday, December 9 • after services**

SHABBAT DINNER

WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

RSVP required. See page 14 for details.

## ANNUAL RECEPTION FOR CONGREGATION OR ZARUA MEMBERS

**Thursday, December 1**

Congregation Or Zarua will be holding its yearly reception for members on Thursday, December 1, 2011. All OZ Congregants are invited to the home of Kendra Collins and Andrew Plevin from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please join us in this Or Zarua tradition.

Don't miss a wonderful opportunity to socialize with both new and long-standing members of the OZ community in the friendly, informal setting of a member's home. RSVP by Monday, November 28, at 212-452-2310, ext. 39.

### 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](mailto:cssrs@earthlink.net). All copy for the January/February 2012 issue should be received by Monday, December 5.

# CVK 2011: An Israeli-Style Summer

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*mefakdim*, change from the cheery, fun soldiers we had seen them as for the first days into tough IDF commanders who expected the best from their teams and would accept no nonsense from their *chayallim*, their soldiers. These men and women, most of whom were not above the age of 25, stayed with us for the entire month, becoming our friends and mentors.

After *Gadna*, we spent the rest of the trip travelling all around Israel. The second week was North Week, during which we spent our time in the Golan Heights, sleeping by the serene Kinneret, rappelling and hiking at Keshet cave, being hosted by Druze families for an evening. We saw the border between Israel and Syria, learned about how Israel had acquired this territory, and discussed a controversial issue facing Israel today amongst ourselves: Should Israel return the Golan? Part of the program was to inform us and help us form opinions about modern-day issues in Israel.

When not traveling, we also got the chance to explore Israel on our own time during free weekends, during which we could be hosted by families or new Israeli friends from the program. One weekend I spent in Tel Aviv exploring the city with a friend from Or Zarua who had moved to Israel a few years before, and the next I was welcomed into the home of a new friend from my *machlaka*, and really got a taste of the local lifestyle: being welcomed and feeling like family in the home of Israelis whom I had never met before. Additionally, the family lived not far from the *Kav HaYarok* (Green Line), which marks the border of the West Bank, a place I had never really imagined myself staying at for a weekend. CVK had been advertised as a summer in Israel, "Israeli style," and after this experience I really felt that statement to be true.

South Week and Closing Week were devoted to seeing the Negev, more of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. We hiked in the spectacular Red Canyon, rode camels and took Jeep rides in the desert, visited the home and grave of David Ben-Gurion, hiked up Masada at sunrise, slept in a guest



**Tzevet 16 in uniform, Northern Israel.**

house just on the edge of the *Miztpeh Ramon* crater. Back in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, we went to Yad Vashem, Rabin Square, Rechov Ben Yehuda, Independence Hall, and so much more. And then, all too soon, it was time to say good-bye to Israel, and all the friends I had made. The closing ceremony in Tel Aviv was full of laughter, hugs, and tears. We all agreed that the past month had gone by in the blink of an eye, and yet we still all felt as if we had known each other for years.

My trip to Israel was truly a life-changing experience. I returned to the U.S. with a different outlook on my relationship to Israel, a new confidence built from the experiences and things I learned from my commanders and peers, and countless memories and photos of the best summer I have ever had. Not only did I have the time of my life, but I also learned a great deal about Israel, Jewish history, and the Hebrew language. I also began the program not knowing a single person, and returned with many new friends living in both Israel and America, whom I talk to regularly. I know that some of the friendships I made on this trip will last a lifetime.

There are so many trips to Israel available—for different ages and levels of observance—it is easy to find a group that matches a person's interests. I really



**A tent with an Israeli flag brought by a *chanich* from Hawaii.**

encourage others, especially teens, to go on one of these trips and have the journey of a lifetime! My month in Israel helped me forge a much deeper and more real connection to Judaism and the State of Israel. Now, when I watch the news and see images of Israel, I see a country that is as much a home for me as New York City—the place in which I was born and brought up.

# Hebrew and Jewish Studies

For post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students



Post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students were photographed with their teachers between classes. On the left, the students finished their conversational Hebrew class with Or Zaru'a's youth education director Ilana Burgess. The Hebrew class is taught in the form of an ulpan. In the center, the students are about to begin their class in Torah and Talmud with Or Zaru'a's rabbinic intern, Joseph Schwartz. These students are all former Jewish day school students who have begun their high school years at secular schools. The class is held on Mondays starting at 6:00 p.m. and begins with a pizza dinner. On the right, the eighth-grade class, with its teacher, Yael Goren, is learning Hebrew ulpan-style and exploring various religious movements within Judaism.

## OZ'S ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

Sunday, November 20, 3:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to either perform or be a guest at OZ's Annual Talent Show on Sunday, November 20, at 3:00 p.m. Build community and spirit while becoming part of the OZ "family." Support a worthy charity, make new friends, see old ones, and have fun! All proceeds will be donated to the JNF playground in S'derot. Recommended donation is \$10 per person.

Please email Karen Perlman Norflus at [karina1291@aol.com](mailto:karina1291@aol.com) or Ilana Burgess at [iburgess@orzaru.org](mailto:iburgess@orzaru.org) if you have any questions.

## Hanukkah Gift, Coat and Clothing Drive

Congregation Or Zaru'a's Youth Education Department is collecting new, unwrapped gifts for school-age children, such as educational toys, books, and CDs, as well as clothes and coats in good condition for the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty from Monday, December 5, through Sunday, December 18. Collection boxes will be located on the 6th and 7th floors and the social hall. Coats will be collected in the coat room on the basement level.

## KAZABLAN: OZ TEEN MOVIE

Sunday, November 20, 3:00 p.m., for ages 12 and up

Kazablan, an army veteran turned gang leader in the Israeli port of Jaffa, masks his feelings of bitterness with a lot of bravado. He's sweet on Rachel, a young woman who lives with her father and stepmother. The budding relationship scandalizes the neighbors (not to mention Rachel's parents) and infuriates Yanush, a middle-aged shoe store owner who wants Rachel for himself. (Yanush feels he's entitled to marry Rachel since they're both Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern European origins, whereas Kazablan is a Sephardic Jew from Morocco.)

## HEBREW SCHOOL CALENDAR

### November 2011

- Wed 2** Classes in session
- Mon 7** Classes in session
- Wed 9** Classes in session
- Sat 12** Junior Congregation, 10:30 a.m.
- Mon 14** Classes in session
- Wed 16** Classes in session
- Mon 21** Classes in session/  
B'nai Jeshurun
- Mon 28** Classes in session
- Wed 30** Classes in session

### December 2011

- Mon 5** Classes in session
- Wed 7** Classes in session
- Sat 10** Junior Congregation, 10:30 a.m.
- Mon 12** Classes in session
- Wed 14** Classes in session
- Sun 18** Winter Break (no classes)

### January 2012

- Mon 2** Classes resume

# Building On: Or Zarua

by Benjamin Marcus

In the past year, 5771, Congregation Or Zarua has been busy making modest and meaningful improvements to our synagogue building. As shown in these photographs, building improvements have been done to both the outside and the inside of the building.

On the outside of our building, new three-dimensional stainless steel signage looks east and west, up and down the sidewalk from atop our canopy. The signage clearly announces our name, Congregation Or Zarua, to our neighborhood, while maintaining the dignified, modern aesthetic of our existing design.

Adding to our public face is our new digital display, a contribution from the Gold family. The video display allows us to present ourselves to the Upper East Side community. Display information includes the many regular and special dates in our programming schedule, the weekly parashah and Haftarah readings, worship times, and colorful photographs of past events. The project was done within the footprint of our existing marquee box—



**Stainless steel signage atop the canopy announces our name to people on the street.**

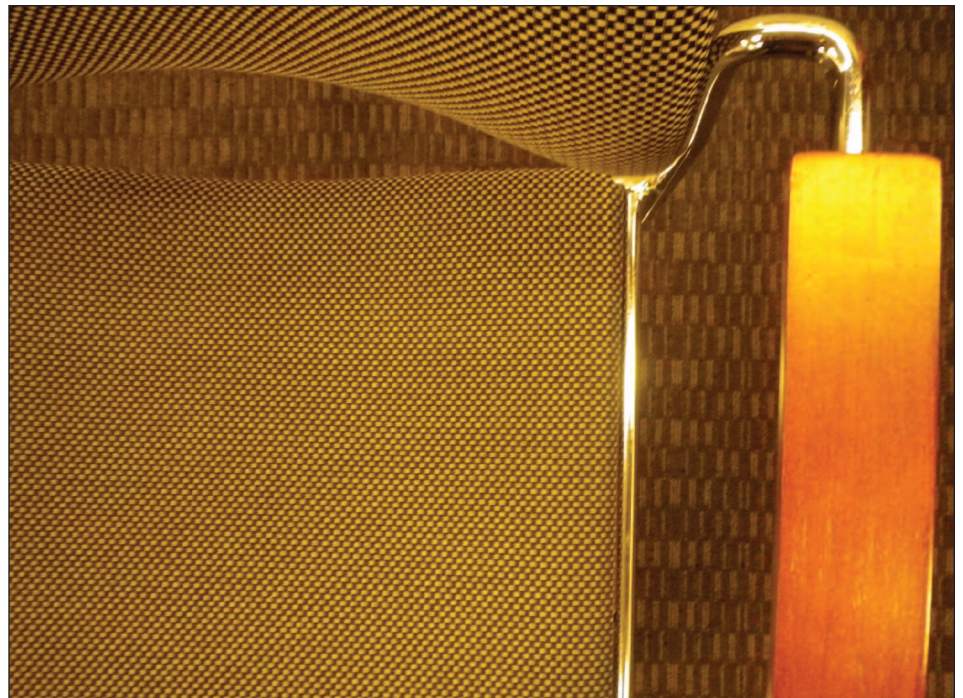


**The redecorated Or Zarua library on the fourth floor. In addition to its namesake purpose, the library also serves as a classroom, discussion hall, youth service sanctuary, quick space, and backup social hall. Note the portable Ark located on the east wall and the television screen on the north wall.**

so as to be both attractive and discreet.

We have a new, portable Ark, our second one. Again, a gift from Congregants, it has been designed to carry our Sifre Torah with the modern visual sensibility and warmth of the Or Zarua design idiom “on-the-road.” This Ark will be used during the High Holy Days and at other times. This Ark will be maintained in storage when not in use.

Inside our building, our fourth-floor library has undergone a carefully chosen set of renovations. Initiated by past president Andy Frackman, and made possible by the generous contributions of several Congregants, these changes kept the warmth and improved the functional flexibility of our library space. We cleared out and opened up the east wall, making a place for one of our portable Arks and, with a new height-adjustable *shulchan*, the table from which the Torah is read, a more suitable home for our youth minyan. New



The view looking down at one of the new chairs in the OZ library shows how the pattern of the fabric on the chair contrasts with the pattern of the carpet. The old furnishings from the library were donated to two synagogues with assistance of the North American Association of Synagogue Executives.

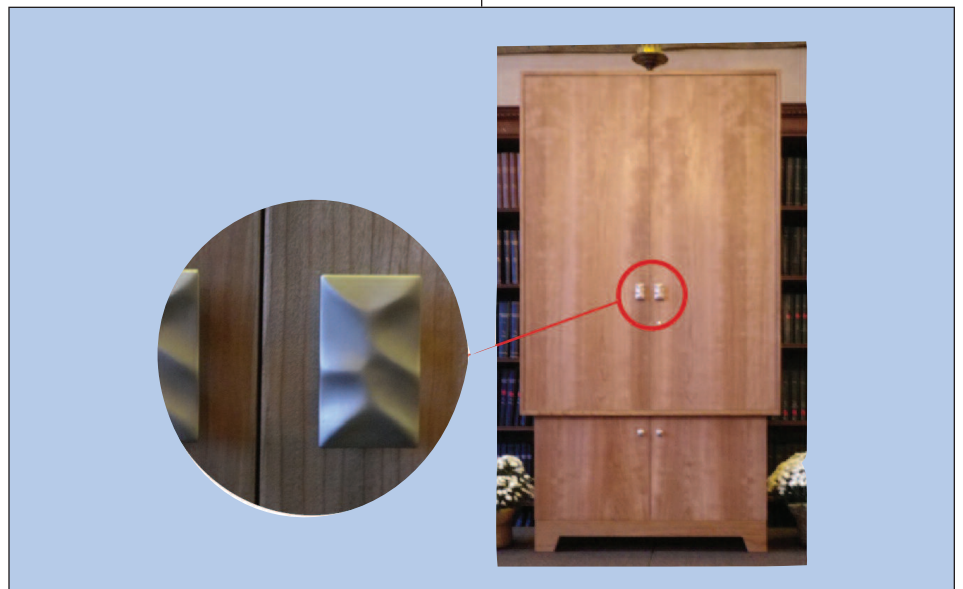


A video display containing information about activities taking place inside our building was designed to fit in the existing marquee box.

tables share the substantial scale and continuity with existing cherry woodwork, but are foldable and easily reconfigured. New seating—the classic David Rowland “40/4”—is comfortable and economical, lending texture, clean lines and portability to the varied programmatic uses of the room. A wall-mounted, flat-screen television, with integral Internet capabilities, is

both larger and less obtrusive than our previous one. Hanging alongside, and at a complementary scale, to existing artwork by Rudi Wolff, it presides over a pared-down workcenter, where obsolete equipment makes way for multiple purposes. Holding it all together is new, more richly colored carpeting, which also allows for occasional food service.

While these photos serve to illustrate the enhancements to our building, we hope you will take the opportunity to experience the renovations directly and in person. In the coming year, 5772, Or Zarua will be waging a major campaign to repair and protect our building envelope, and ensure the integrity and beauty of our spiritual home for the future.



Our new, portable Ark will be kept in storage when not in use. The inset shows a detail of the hardware used on the door.



127 East 82nd Street  
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# November 2011 • Heshvan/Kislev 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1 • 4 Heshvan</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Kraemer 7:00 pm Context: Gampel	<b>2 • 5</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>3 • 6</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>4 • 7</b> 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 5:31 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>5 • 8</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Lekh-Lekha Bat Mitzvah of Sophia Katz
<b>6 • 9</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	<b>7 • 10</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>8 • 11</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Kraemer	<b>9 • 12</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>10 • 13</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Natan Sharansky Lecture	<b>11 • 14</b> 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 4:24 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Family and Friends Dinner	<b>12 • 15</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Vayera
<b>13 • 16</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	<b>14 • 17</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>15 • 18</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Kraemer 7:00 pm Context: Gampel	<b>16 • 19</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>17 • 20</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>18 • 21</b> 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 4:18 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>19 • 22</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Haye Sarah Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Gold
<b>20 • 23</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 10:15 am Crafts Club 3:00 pm Talent Show 3:00 p.m <i>Kazablan</i> Movie 7:30 pm Book Discussion	<b>21 • 24</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>22 • 25</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Kraemer 7:00 pm Context: Gampel	<b>23 • 26</b> 7:15 am Minyan <i>No Hebrew School</i>	<b>24 • 27</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b> 8:45 am Minyan <i>Office closed</i>	<b>25 • 28</b> 8:45 am Minyan 4:13 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>26 • 29</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Toledot
<b>27 • 1 Kislev</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh Kislev</b> 8:45 am Minyan	<b>28 • 2</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>29 • 3</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Kraemer 7:00 pm Context: Gampel	<b>30 • 4</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class			





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# December 2011 • Kislev/Tevet 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1 • 5 Kislev</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Members' Reception	<b>2 • 6</b> 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 4:11 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>3 • 7</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Vayetze Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Ades
<b>4 • 8</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	<b>5 • 9</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>6 • 10</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Kraemer 7:00 pm Context: Gampel	<b>7 • 11</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>8 • 12</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>9 • 13</b> 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 4:10 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Family and Friends Dinner	<b>10 • 14</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Vayishlah
<b>11 • 15</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	<b>12 • 16</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>13 • 17</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Kraemer 7:00 pm Context: Gampel	<b>14 • 18</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>15 • 19</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>16 • 20</b> 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 4:11 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>17 • 21</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Vayeshev
<b>18 • 22</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 10:15 am Crafts Club	<b>19 • 23</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>20 • 24</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Kraemer 7:00 pm Context: Gampel  <b>Hanukkah: 1 Candle</b>	<b>21 • 25</b> 7:15 am Minyan <i>No Hebrew School</i> 8:00 pm Talmud Class  <b>Hanukkah: 2 Candles</b>	<b>22 • 26</b> 7:15 am Minyan  <b>Hanukkah: 3 Candles</b>	<b>23 • 27</b> 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 4:14 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat  <b>Hanukkah: 4 Candles</b>	<b>24 • 28</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Miketz  <b>Hanukkah: 5 Candles</b>
<b>25 • 29</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan  <b>Hanukkah: 6 Candles</b>	<b>26 • 30</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh Tevet I</b> 7:00 am Minyan <i>No Hebrew School</i>  <b>Hanukkah: 7 Candles</b>	<b>27 • 1 Tevet</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh Tevet II</b> 7:00 am Minyan  <b>Hanukkah: 8 Candles</b>	<b>28 • 2</b> 7:15 am Minyan <i>No Hebrew School</i> 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>29 • 3</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>30 • 4</b> 7:15 am Minyan 4:19 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>31 • 5</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Vayigash

# The Universal Torah Registry Program

## Securing Or Zarua's Torah Scrolls

**T**orah scrolls, Judaism's most sacred religious objects, are central to worship and study in the synagogue. However, Torah scrolls are also extremely valuable monetarily. Unfortunately, their monetary value has led to an active black market in Torah scrolls.

Since the loss of a Torah scroll would be a significant tragedy, Congregation Or Zarua has taken steps to protect its Torah scrolls. In addition to the installation of locks and alarms, Or Zarua participates in the Universal Torah Registry Program.

The Universal Torah Registry Program is an independent, not-for-profit organization founded by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. The Registry Program, based in New York City, developed a halachically acceptable method to identify and register individual Torah scrolls. Each Torah scroll that is registered with the program is marked with a unique pattern of microperforations. Using a template provided by the program, the pattern is applied to several specific, secret locations throughout the scroll. This unique pattern, which is impossible to obliterate, makes each Torah scroll unique and easy to identify.

The unique identity pattern inscribed into each scroll is then communicated to the Universal Torah Registry, which maintains the data. Should a registered Torah scroll be stolen or otherwise become missing, the registry provides the information that identifies it to local, national and

international law enforcement authorities.

Torah scrolls registered with the Universal Torah Registry Program are given a certificate of registration. By checking with the program, a purchaser of a Torah scroll can be assured that the scroll is not stolen. A legally purchased, registered Torah scroll can then be registered with the new owner.

The Registry Program has been very successful. Registered Torah scrolls that

have been stolen have been returned to their owners. Since the inception of the Universal Torah Registry Program, the number of stolen Torah scrolls has decreased from approximately 200 per year to less than six. Perpetrators of this crime have been prosecuted on the basis of information maintained by the registry.

Each of Congregation Or Zarua's Torah scrolls is fully registered with the Universal Torah Registry.



**The day before his Bar Mitzvah, Adam Pell helped Harvey Brenner apply security marks to an Or Zarua Sefer Torah using a unique template. His parents, Owen and Pearl, and his brother, Nathan, observed the process. Each Torah owned by Congregation Or Zarua has been registered with the Universal Torah Registry Program.**

ZEVI GREENFIELD/GRUBER PHOTOGRAPHERS

## VISIT [WWW.ORZARUA.ORG](http://WWW.ORZARUA.ORG)

Explore Or Zarua's past, present, and future

**H**ave 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](http://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 Wechsler. 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](http://www.orzarua.org) and see what has been, is currently, and will be happening at OZ!

# Choosing Our Next Rabbi

by the Rabbinical Search Committee

**D**uring September, approximately 150 Congregants participated in five facilitated discussion group meetings led by Annie Marks, a professional facilitator. Overall, everyone who participated enjoyed the experience.

The input from the Congregation, together with that from the Board/Search Committee, will be invaluable in completing a lengthy questionnaire from the Rabbinical Assembly. This questionnaire will describe our Congregation in detail to any rabbis who may be interested in becoming our next rabbi and is thus a critical tool in the search process. The Search Committee thanks everyone who participated in this process for your thoughtful comments. At the same time, it is important to remember that many factors besides the data generated at the discussion group meetings will be considered in formulating our answers to these questions.

The discussion group meetings dealt with three questions. The first question was: "What qualities distinguish Or Zarua from other congregations?" It is not a surprise that the most noted characteristics were that our services are participatory, lay-led, traditional, egalitarian, and intellectual, and that our shul is a place of learning and study. Also noted was

the general high level of Jewish (and non-Jewish) learning within the Congregation.

Our second question was: "What are the most important qualities that we are looking for in our next rabbi?" Since this was much more difficult to answer, there tended to be less agreement. Nevertheless, a few answers seemed to stand out. Important attributes are that our next rabbi be an intellectual, learned teacher and scholar who is able to communicate well. We also would like a rabbi who can build our community by reaching out to everyone, but especially by appealing to young families; is pastoral, kind and compassionate; and has good people skills. Although it is not likely that a single person exists who embodies all of these characteristics, we will strive to identify the best candidate.

And finally we asked: "What would you change to make Or Zarua an even better place?" Here there was much divergent opinion. Among the suggestions most often mentioned were finding more ways to engage young people and teens, and improving the music in our services. All of the suggestions for change have been noted and will be given due consideration at the appropriate time.

Again, thanks to everyone who participated in this process.

## RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

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



**R**abbi 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 can obtain a free, three-day trial at [www.siriusxm.com](http://www.siriusxm.com).

## Or Zarua Minyan

**T**o be part of the OZ minyan on any given morning, all you need to do is attend; minyan times are listed on the calendar pages. 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](mailto:sheldon.adler@skadden.com). You may also sign up online at [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org) by choosing "Daily Minyan" under the "Prayer" drop-down menu.

# Sponsorship Opportunities

### 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

*For additional information, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 14.*

## 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.

# JTS Releases 2011 Israel Study

Rabbinical students and alumni continue their strong attachment to the Jewish State

The Jewish Theological Seminary has released a new survey of JTS-ordained rabbis and current rabbinical students, the results of which show continued strong attachment to Israel among both the students and their older colleagues. Conducted by Professor Steven M. Cohen, senior counselor to JTS Chancellor Arnold M. Eisen, the survey—"JTS Rabbis and Israel, Then and Now: The 2011 Survey of JTS-Ordained Rabbis and Current Students"—demonstrates that current JTS rabbinical students are no less passionate about Israel and their connection to the Jewish state than their older counterparts, JTS-ordained rabbis.

"In light of widespread concern in our community (which I share) about decreasing attachment on the part of younger North American Jews to Israel, and concomitant concern about weakening bonds to Israel and the Jewish people of future Conservative leaders, it is reassuring to learn from Steven Cohen's research that

current JTS students retain the high levels of passionate relation to Israel of their predecessors in the Conservative rabbinate," said Chancellor Eisen. "Political opinions have shifted over the decades, but love for Israel remains strong. I am grateful to Steve for undertaking the study at my request and carrying it out so promptly."

Added Professor Cohen, "In comparing young with old, we're seeing no change in the traditionally high levels of attachment to Israel, marked by high levels of Israel connection and Israel-based experiences. At the same time, we are seeing a clear shift leftward in younger rabbis' and rabbinical students' Israel-related political attitudes and identities. Most strikingly, younger rabbis and students see Israel as less vulnerable, social justice issues as more compelling, Palestinians as less threatening, and Israeli government leaders as less compromising. The center of gravity on the political spectrum is moving from a position slightly to the left of cen-

ter among the more senior rabbis to one more firmly situated on the moderate left of the Zionist and pro-Israel camp among younger rabbis and current students.

"In short, younger rabbis and students do indeed differ from their elders and predecessors in their attitudes about Israel. But the differences are not at all about declining connections or attachment to Israel. Rather, they signal the advance of a more 'liberal Zionism,' one that bears many parallels with that advanced by classic Labor Zionists of the past, or many of Israel's opposition parties today. This move may cause some anxiety among some right-wing Zionists or supporters of the current Israeli government, but it does not constitute any diminution in attachment to Israel—at least not by rabbis recently trained, or now studying, at JTS."

For information about the new study on JTS rabbinical students and alumni, and to support JTS, please contact Bonnie Biondi at (212) 678-8056 or [bobiondi@jtsa.edu](mailto:bobiondi@jtsa.edu).

## OZ YOUTH ART CALENDAR

Fundraiser for Or Zarua's Youth Education Department

The Or Zarua Youth Department has produced a calendar featuring artwork by student-aged members of the Or Zarua community. Each month of the calendar features artwork from a different young member of Congregation Or Zarua. Copies of the calendar were mailed to congregants during the summer in an effort to raise funds for the Or Zarua Youth Education Department. We hope you are enjoying the calendar and will show your support by sending a donation to the Or Zarua office.

## LIFE EVENTS

at Congregation Or Zarua

A community such as ours shares good times and bad with its members. When something good happens in your family—birth, graduation, engagement, or marriage—let us share your joy. When something bad happens—illness, hospitalization, or death—let us share your burden.

Sometimes people are reluctant to communicate these issues on their own. If you know of a member who is coping with illness or loss, please contact the OZ office at 212-452-2310, extension 12 or 14, so that Rabbi Wechsler can be informed.

## PURIM SPIEL REHEARSALS

Begin Sunday, January 8

Come one, come all! Actors, singers, dancers, backstage folks—it's time to join the OZ Players as we prepare for our 2012 Purim Spiel extravaganza, whose working title is "Much Ado About Gornischt."

Rehearsals begin on Sunday, January 8 in Or Zarua's social hall from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Thursday rehearsals, also in the social hall, are from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The Spiel will be performed at the Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College, 68th Street between Lexington and Park Avenues on Wednesday, March 7.

Participation is fun and is guaranteed to add vocabulary words to boost your SAT scores.

Don't be shy, give it a try!

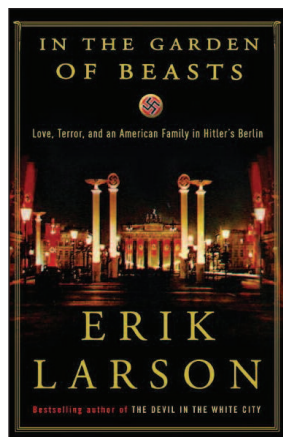
# Or Zarua Book Discussions

*In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson on Sunday, November 20

Please join us for our next Or Zarua book discussion on Sunday, November 20, at 7:30 p.m. in Or Zarua's library. Fred Mendelsohn will lead us in discussing Erik Larson's best seller, *In the Garden of Beasts*.

*In the Garden of Beasts* depicts the interlocking stories of the American ambassador to Germany, William Dodd, and his daughter, Martha. Dodd obtained his Ph.D. in Leipzig on his way to becoming a University of Chicago history professor when President Roosevelt appointed him to the Berlin post in 1933.

Dodd sees placid normalcy walking the well-tended Tiergarten paths, but receives much information of violence hid-



*Tribune* before going to Berlin with her parents, she left her job and husband behind to gallivant with French diplomats, Russian agents and the head of the Gestapo.

den from public view with growing alarm. Martha finds herself rather enchanted by all the glamorous men in uniform.

Having worked as an assistant literary editor at the *Chicago*

Both Dodd and Martha (who was encouraged to write about what she saw by Thornton Wilder and Carl Sandburg, family friends in Chicago) made extensive notes of their observations and corresponded actively, providing Larson rich source material for this gripping, inside look at America's ambivalence to early developments in Germany under Nazi rule.

Our selection for the following book discussion on January 22 is the very well-received work, *The Hare With Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance* by Edmund De Waal. If you would like more information on Or Zarua book discussions or have a book suggestion, please contact Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611 or Deborah Wenger at the synagogue office at [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org).

## Hesed Events and Programs

"The world exists for the sake of kindness." —Rashi

### Erev Thanksgiving and Erev Christmas

- Hands and vans needed to glean and pack food from Eli's and The Vinegar Factory on Wednesday, November 23, and Saturday, December 24, from 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. The food will be delivered to The Neighborhood Coalition Shelter's (NCS) East 81 Street Residence, Yorkville Common Pantry, Ronald McDonald House, and The South Bronx Salvation Deliverance Church.

### Salvation Deliverance Church

- "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 Salvation Deliverance Church, whose members are housekeepers caring

for their own local needy.

### Home Visit Volunteers

- Volunteer to visit and cheer ill or home-bound Or Zarua Congregants.

### Monday Night Pizza at NCS

- Or Zarua Congregants serve pizza, salad, soda, and good cheer to men and women with a range of mental health and addiction issues at The Neighborhood Coalition Shelter's (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 OZ's weekly food costs.

### Ronald McDonald House

- 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 have no local support system of friends or relatives. The chaplain at Ronald McDonald House alerts us when OZ may be of service to families who may require kosher meals, synagogue services, and other assistance.

### Chemotherapy Caps

- Attractive knitted caps in all sizes for children from babies to teenagers residing at Ronald McDonald House while undergoing chemotherapy are welcome donations.

### Butterfly Garden

- "Green thumbs" are needed from spring through fall to help care for Ronald McDonald House's 7th Floor Terrace Butterfly Garden.

*To participate in any of these Hesed programs, please contact Richard Stadin at [stadin1@aol.com](mailto:stadin1@aol.com) or 212-879-0448.*

**OR ZARUA CRAFTS CLUB** The next meetings of the Or Zarua Crafts Club will be on Sundays, November 20 and December 18, at 10:15 a.m. in the OZ library. Remember, no experience is necessary to join the Crafts Club, and older children and nonmembers are also welcome to attend.

# The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between August 1 and September 30, 2011

## TALMUD CLASS

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

This year we will be studying Tractate Sanhedrin, which deals with the laws of capital punishment, composition of the courts and judicial procedures.

The first class will be held on November 2.

Classes are taught by  
**RABBI WECHSLER**

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

## OZ Cemetery

**Gravesites for Members**

**T**he Or Zarua section of Beth El Cemetery is located in Washington Township (Bergen County), New Jersey, just 10 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.



**CONGREGATION OR ZARUA**

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

# November/December Checklist

- Make a reservation to hear Natan Sharansky speak about “Israel, the Arab Spring and World Jewry,” Thursday, November 10, 8:00 p.m. (see page 3).
- RSVP by Monday, November 7, for a Shabbat Family and Friends Dinner on Friday, November 11 (see page 14).
- Participate in or attend the Annual OZ Youth Talent Show for the benefit of S’derot, Sunday, November 20, 3:00 p.m. (see page 5).
- OZ Teen Movie presents *Kazablan*, Sunday, November 20, 3:00 p.m. (see page 5).
- Or Zarua Book Discussions reviews *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson, Sunday, November 20, 7:30 p.m. (see page 13).
- OZ Crafts Club meets on Sundays, November 20 and December 18 at 10:15 a.m. (see page 13).
- Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler begins on Wednesday, November 2 (see page 15).
- Attend the reception for all members on Thursday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. RSVP by Monday, November 28 (see page 3).
- RSVP by Monday, December 5, for a Shabbat Family and Friends Dinner on Friday, December 9 (see page 14).
- Hanukkah Gift, Coat and Clothing Drive starts December 5 and runs through December 18. See page 5 for details.
- Help out with a Hesed program (see page 13).
- Sign up for the morning minyan (see page 11).
- Purim Spiel rehearsals begin on Sunday, January 8 in Or Zarua’s social hall, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. All who wish to participate are welcome to attend. (see page 12).
- 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.

## TORAH READERS NEEDED

If you are able to read Torah or Haftarah and would like to do so on a Shabbat, please contact Henry Glanternik at [hjgmoose@aol.com](mailto:hjgmoose@aol.com). Alternatively, you may sign up online at [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org) by choosing “Read Torah” under the “Prayer” drop-down menu.