

Or Zarua

ELUL/TISHRI/HESHVAN 5772

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Who Will Be Tranquil and Who Will Be Troubled: Confronting the Days of Awe

by Marc Ashley

The time spanning Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a period of inward reflection, contemplation, and repentance. Yet it is also intended to force us to see outside and beyond ourselves, to confront our human condition and our mortality, to provoke consideration of issues that inevitably frighten most of us. The High Holy Days are known in our tradition as the “Yamim Noraim,” the Days of Awe or, perhaps more precisely, the awful (or awe-ful) days. The name is fitting yet provocative, difficult to live up to and embrace. To ensure that we adopt the proper perspective at this pivotal time in the Jewish calendar, certain prayers in the holiday liturgy seem designed to be discomfiting. The High Holy Day prayers were assembled to compel us to acknowledge God’s providence in the world and the accompanying high-level stakes of life and death. Are we up to the daunting existential challenge that the mahzor presents?

The *Unetaneh Tokef* prayer, recited before the *Kedushah* during the Musaf service on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, is a liturgical centerpiece of the High Holy Days and a theological linchpin of the mood and mindset this holiday period is meant to cultivate within us. It evocatively embodies the crucial themes of life’s tenuousness and the tenacity with which we must face it. Its opening line pointedly announces the blunt reality we confront during this period: “And let us acknowledge the power of this day’s holiness, for it is full of awe and dread.” Later, the prayer boldly stipulates that even “angels will recoil and be gripped by shaking and trembling.” It painstakingly

fixes the backdrop of God as our “judge and prosecutor and litigant and witness and author and sealer and recorder and recounter,” willing and able to hold us fully accountable for our actions. It then enumerates dispassionately the endless perils and torments we face—potential demise by fire, water, warfare, wildlife, hunger, thirst, earthquake, plague, strangling, and stoning—generating an inescapable sense of irrevocable fate. Our plight often seems arbitrary and inevitable. *Unetaneh Tokef* establishes an unsettling, even traumatic, liturgical setting as we commence the Jewish New Year. Serious confrontation with the harrowing substance of the prayer, and the harsh reality it depicts, is not for the fainthearted.

The brutal legendary history of the composition of this piyyut (liturgical poem) mirrors its visceral content. The widely known story of its origins derives from the thirteenth-century work, *Or Zarua*, written by Rabbi Isaac of Vienna, though it may have arisen earlier in time. A famous Ashkenazi rabbi, Amnon of Mainz, was asked by the local bishop to convert to Christianity and requested three days to consider the invitation. Consumed by guilt for even suggesting to the bishop that he would contemplate apostasy, Rabbi Amnon was captured and repented of any inkling that he might convert. After offering his tongue as sacrifice for his sin, Rabbi Amnon’s toes and fingers were instead hacked off as punishment for his effrontery. At the next Rosh Hashanah, the mutilated Rabbi Amnon was placed next

to the prayer leader and, as the *Kedushah* prayer was about to begin, interrupted by reciting the newly-minted *Unetaneh Tokef* prayer. Upon its completion, Rabbi Amnon was removed by God from the scene, to reappear three days later to Kalonymus ben Meshullam Kalonymus (eleventh-century paytan) to teach him to disseminate the poem throughout the Jewish world. Though this quintessential martyr’s story is likely largely fictional, its dramatic appeal has helped ensure that *Unetaneh Tokef* is now read throughout the Ashkenazi world on three of the most important days of the Jewish year.

But *Unetaneh Tokef* is not merely a dispiriting tribute to our brutish mortality. Like the troubling but ennobling tale of Rabbi Amnon, *Unetaneh Tokef* is dually resonant, even paradoxical, filled with both futility and hope, fear and inspiration. After posing the terrifying—and seemingly unanswerable—question of “Who will live and who will die?” it proclaims resoundingly that “repentance, prayer, and charity help the hardship of the decree pass.” Although we are “like shattered pottery, like withered grass, and like a faded blossom, like a passing shadow, and like a vanishing cloud,” God’s forgiveness, in turn, is boundless. The stark contrast

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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

ק"ק אור זרוע
Congregation

OrZarua

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

127 East 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028

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

www.orzarua.org

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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



A few weeks ago, I heard a cell phone ringtone that sounded like a shofar. At first, I thought it would be cool to have that ringtone. (It is called "Sherwood Forest" and it is actually available on my iPhone.) But the more I thought about it, the less appealing it became because I wouldn't want the sound of the shofar to become mundane. The sound of the shofar should only be heard on important occasions. The Torah reserves the sounding of the shofar for Rosh Hashanah. While the customs of sounding the shofar have expanded some, we still reserve it for special occasions. That is why we only hear the shofar during Elul, on Rosh Hashanah, and at the end of Yom Kippur. In the words of Maimonides, the message of shofar is, "Awake you sleepers from your sleep, and you that are in slumber, rouse yourselves. Consider your ways, remember God, turn unto Him."

As we listen to the shofar during Elul (August 31 to September 28) and put our personal spiritual houses in order, so must we put our congregational house in order. I urge you to renew your membership in the next week or two so you can receive your High Holy Days tickets and delight in the mitzvah of hearing the shofar.

This year, we will be davening for the first time at The New York Academy of Medicine on Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street. This is a spacious and gracious venue that will enhance our High Holy Days experiences. The two parallel services will be inspiring and fulfilling. One service will be led by Rabbi Wechsler and Congregants in the 500-seat auditorium. The other service will be led by Rabbi Ezra Micah

Amichai in the 200+ seat Reading Room. We will all be together in the auditorium for Ne'ilah at the end of Yom Kippur.

In addition, for those for whom travel to 103rd Street may be a challenge, we will hold services on both mornings of Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur in our building on 82nd Street. These services will be led by Or Zarua members.

Members are welcome at either location and at any services throughout the High Holy Days.

Please remember that the evening services for Rosh Hashanah will be in our building on East 82nd Street.

The wonderful holiday season will continue at the Or Zarua building through the month of October with Sukkot services—and wonderful meals in our roof-top Sukkah—through very festive Simhat Torah services.

I have always thought that the rest of the world really follows the Jewish calendar because so many things begin in the fall along with the Jewish New Year. The school year starts, as do cultural seasons like the opera and the symphony. After Simhat Torah, Or Zarua's programming season picks up with a very special lecture in early November, Shabbat dinners, and meetings of our various clubs.

The high quality and wide range of our programs depends on your participation and generous support. Please let me know if you would like to sponsor a program.

Please join us often throughout the new year—at services, lectures, dinners, and meetings. We may not blow the shofar all the time, but every occasion at Or Zarua is special.

I look forward to greeting you at our High Holy Day services.

L'Shana Tova U'metuka!

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.

Natan Sharansky to Speak at Or Zarua

Thursday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.

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, 2011.

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 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 different 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*.

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

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WELCOME BACK KIDDUSH LUNCH

Saturday, September 10

Welcome the month of Elul by feeding your body and your soul! On September 10, Or Zarua will sponsor a Kiddush lunch after Shabbat services. This event will provide a wonderful opportunity to greet new and prospective members as well as Congregants returning from their summer travels. Please invite friends who may be interested in joining Or Zarua. No reservations are required.

SIMHAT TORAH KIDDUSH LUNCH

Friday, October 21

Immediately following services

Please join us as we approach the end of a meaningful holiday season.

No reservation is required.

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 5772/2011

Wednesday, September 28

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Evening 6:15 p.m.–7:15 p.m.
Congregation Or Zarua

Thursday, September 29

First Day Rosh Hashanah

Morning 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
NY Academy of Medicine & Or Zarua

Tashlikh 5:35 p.m.–6:05 p.m.
Central Park, south end of reservoir

Evening 6:35 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
Congregation Or Zarua

Friday, September 30

Second Day Rosh Hashanah

Morning 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
NY Academy of Medicine & Or Zarua

Minhah/ 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
Kabbalat Shabbat
Congregation Or Zarua

Saturday, October 1

Shabbat Shuvah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.
Congregation Or Zarua

Friday, October 7

Erev Yom Kippur

Minhah 1:15 p.m.–1:40 p.m.
Congregation Or Zarua

Kol Nidre 6:15 p.m.–8:45 p.m.
NY Academy of Medicine & Or Zarua

Saturday, October 8

Yom Kippur/Yizkor

Services 9:00 a.m.–7:17 p.m.
NY Academy of Medicine & Or Zarua

• Service Locations •

Congregation Or Zarua
127 East 82 Street
(between Lexington and Park Avenues)

NY Academy of Medicine
1216 Fifth Avenue at 103 Street
(entrance on 103 Street, just east
of Fifth Avenue)

*Please use the High Holy Day ticket order
form you received in the mail to inform
the synagogue office if you plan to attend
services at Congregation Or Zarua rather
than the NY Academy of Medicine.*

High Holy Days 5772/2011

New Locations for a New Year

With the arrival of the month of Elul, our thoughts begin to turn to the ending of one year and the beginning of the next. We

reflect on the events of the past year and consider what the New Year will bring. For Congregation Or Zarua, one change for the High Holy Days will be our move from the Ramaz Upper School to the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM), located on Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street.

This change became necessary when we were informed in mid-June that the Ramaz Upper School would not be available to us. Or Zarua immediately initiated an intensive search for an appropriate location on the Upper East Side that resulted in the choice of the NYAM as Or Zarua's new location for High Holy Day services. The NYAM is housed in an outstanding, early Romanesque-style building from 1926. It affords us a large facility described by our president, Diane Okrent, as "spacious and gracious."

However, in a first for Or Zarua, we will also be using our synagogue building for High Holy Day services. The location of each of the services is listed in the High Holy Day Services schedule shown at left and is also described below. Please become familiar with Or Zarua's new High Holy Day service arrangements and be sure to keep the schedule of the service locations handy.

Evening services for Rosh Hashanah on Wednesday, September 28 and Thursday, September 29 will be held in our synagogue building at 127 East 82nd Street, between Lexington and Park Avenues. Our synagogue building will be the only location of services for both evenings of Rosh Hashanah.

Services for the first and second days of Rosh Hashanah (beginning at 8:30 a.m. Thursday and Friday, September 29 and 30), **Kol Nidre** (beginning at 6:15 p.m., Friday, October 7) and **Yom Kippur Day** (beginning at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 8) will be held simultaneously at the NYAM and at Or Zarua's synagogue building.

Although the NYAM provides ample

space for all of Or Zarua's requirements, services will also be held at the synagogue building to accommodate those who may face challenges in traveling to Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street. These services will be led by Congregants and our rabbinic intern, Joseph Schwartz. Since space in our sanctuary is limited, please use the High Holy Day ticket order form you received in the mail to inform the synagogue office if you plan to attend services at Congregation Or Zarua rather than the NY Academy of Medicine.

Two parallel High Holy Day services will be provided at the NYAM. One set of services, to be led by Rabbi Harlan Wechsler and Congregants, will be held in Hosack Hall, a 500-seat auditorium with fixed theater-style seating. The other set, to be led by Rabbi Ezra Micah Amichai, will take place in the NYAM's magnificent Library Reading Room, with chairs arranged on three sides around a central bimah.

Bringing his extraordinary ruah from Jerusalem, Rabbi Amichai will conduct full services during which he will teach and provide commentary. These services will be somewhat less formal than those in the auditorium and will appeal to those who enjoyed our Tefilat Haverim services in the Ramaz Chapel in previous years.

There will be parallel services at the NYAM for both days of Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, and on Yom Kippur through Yizkor. After Yizkor, all those attending services at the NYAM will come together in Hosack Hall as we complete the Yom Kippur service through Ne'ilah.

All Or Zarua Youth services will be held at the NYAM. Several large rooms will be available; room assignments will be posted at the NYAM. There will be no youth services at our synagogue building.

While the location at the NYAM is new, what remains the same is our community as well as the nature and quality of our services. Francine Klagsbrun will present a discussion on a timely, thought-provoking topic in the late afternoon of Yom Kippur day. As always, Ne'ilah, the concluding service of Yom Kippur, with all

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High Holy Days 5772/2011

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of us gathered together, will be conducted by Rabbi Wechsler. We hope that our worship is renewed, enhanced and elevated in this lovely setting.

At the conclusion of Kol Nidre at the NYAM there will be large groups of people walking down Fifth Avenue extending the communal experience.

As in the past, bring your admission tickets to all services, whether at the NYAM or our synagogue building. The

same ticket will be honored at both locations. Bring your Kol Nidre Appeal Card (one per household) with you to Kol Nidre. A complete listing of service times and locations will be printed on the reverse side of your admission ticket. Be sure to allow extra time for security checks when arriving at either location. And please make sure that your tallit bag is labeled, especially if you plan on leaving it for any extended time at any service.

May we and the entire House of Israel be remembered and sealed in the Book of life, blessing, sustenance and peace.

Rabbi David Silber Lecture

"Yom Kippur and Purim" on Tuesday, October 4



Our annual study session with Rabbi David Silber will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4. The title of Rabbi Silber's discussion will be "Yom Kippur and Purim."

Lectures by Rabbi Silber, founder and dean of the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, have become a staple of Or Zarua's schedule of events in connection with the High Holy Days. Based on his past talks, we can count on an interesting and thought-provoking presentation which will enrich our understanding of a

key part of the High Holy Days service.

The Drisha Institute, opened in 1979, offers an advanced program of Jewish studies for women, providing women full access to classical texts of the Jewish tradition and preparing women for leadership positions in Jewish education. A number of Or Zarua members have studied at Drisha. For the past several years, Drisha has also provided increasing opportunities for men.

Rabbi Silber also lectures and teaches in other venues. For 13 years he conducted a weekly Bible class at a midtown law firm.

We hope to see everyone at Rabbi Silber's presentation.

OR ZARUA YOUTH HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 5772/2011

Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, September 29 (First Day)
10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Friday, September 30 (Second Day)
10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

2–4 years old: **2nd Floor**

(must be accompanied by an adult)

Kindergarten–Grade 2: **2nd Floor**

Grades 3–5: **2nd Floor**

Grades 6 and older: **1st Floor**

High School students are encouraged to attend the adult service.

Kol Nidre

Friday, October 7
6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Grades 1–3: **2nd Floor**

Grades 4–6 and older: **2nd Floor**

High School students are encouraged to attend the adult service.

Yom Kippur

Saturday, October 8
11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

2–4 years old: **2nd Floor**

(must be accompanied by an adult)

Kindergarten–Grade 2: **2nd Floor**

Grades 3–5: **2nd Floor**

Grades 6 and older: **1st Floor**

High School students are encouraged to attend the adult service.

A playroom will be open during all services for very young children who are accompanied and supervised by an adult. Children may not be left alone in this room.

• Service Location •

All Or Zarua Youth High Holy Day services will be held at:

NY Academy of Medicine

1216 Fifth Avenue at 103 Street
(entrance on 103 Street, just east of Fifth Avenue)

ADDITIONAL HIGH HOLY DAY TICKETS

are \$360 each. To order, contact Luisa Paulino at lpaulino@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, extension 10.

SELIHOT

Saturday, September 24

8:00 p.m.

Sinful Desserts

Join us for an evening of community as we usher in the Yamim Noraim with a dessert reception.

9:15 p.m.

Study

Rabbi Wechsler will teach "Mystical Repentance in the Writings of Rav Kook." His source is Rav Kook's *Lights of Repentance*.

10:00 p.m.

Selichot Services

Call for Shofar Blowers

Or Zarua needs shofar blowers for each morning minyan from Wednesday, August 31, through Tuesday, September 27. If you would like to learn

to blow the shofar, Or Zarua will teach you. If you can play a brass or woodwind instrument, you have a great start. If not, blowing the shofar is easy to learn. Please contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com or 212-879-0448.

Eating in the Sukkah

Reserved dinner, free kiddush lunches, and "bring your own" events

It is a mitzvah to eat in the sukkah during the Festival of Sukkot. Or Zarua is offering Congregants several opportunities to have lunch or dinner in the sukkah on the roof of our building.

Dinner on Erev Sukkot

Wednesday, October 12

7:15 p.m. promptly

This meal requires reservations.

\$40 for adults,

\$20 for children ages 5 to 12,

no charge for children under 5.

RSVP by Tuesday, October 4

Three Free Enhanced Kiddush Lunches

Thursday, October 13

Friday, October 14

Saturday, October 15

Immediately after services

No reservation required for free lunches.

"Bring Your Own" Dinner

Friday, October 14

You bring dinner and all service items, including beverages, plates, cups, napkins, and utensils. All food brought to the sukkah must be kosher. Congregants are asked to call the Or Zarua office in advance if they plan to eat in the sukkah. Please include the number of people in your group when you make the reservation for "Bring Your Own" Dinner.

If you wish to dine in the sukkah at times other than those listed above, please notify the synagogue office. We ask that you conclude your evening meal by 9:00 p.m. To make reservations for any event, call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 39, or email Deborah Wenger at dwenger@orzarua.org.

ETROGIM AND LULAVIM FOR SUKKOT

The joyous holiday of Sukkot begins Wednesday evening, October 12. Congregation Or Zarua will again arrange for the purchase of etrogim and lulavim. All orders are delivered in complete sets: etrog in a box, lulav with hadassim and aravot in a bag.

Three different sets, each certified for use on Sukkot, are available:

- Special Sets (Aleph), \$90.00 each
- Choice Sets (Bet), \$80.00 each
- Standard Sets (Gimmel), \$70.00 each
- Lulav carrying case, \$12.50 each

If you wish to purchase a set, contact Deborah Wenger at 212-452-2310, extension 12 or dwenger@orzarua.org by noon on Friday, September 16. We cannot accept any orders without payment.

Sets will be available for pick up in Or Zarua's 5th floor lobby from 9:00 a.m. Monday, October 10, until 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 12.

SLEEP IN THE SUKKAH

Saturday, October 15

All Or Zarua children are invited to participate in the mitzvah of sleeping in the sukkah starting after Shabbat at 7:45 p.m. A pizza dinner will be served, followed by a "make your own ice cream sundae" for dessert. There will also be ping-pong, pool, foos ball, board games, and a movie.

RSVP to Ilana Burgess at iburgess@orzarua.org by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 10.

SUKKOT SERVICES 5772/2011

Wednesday, October 12

Erev Sukkot

Evening 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 13

First Day Sukkot

Morning 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Evening 6:15 p.m.–7:15 p.m.

Friday, October 14

Second Day Sukkot

Morning 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Minhah/ 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, October 15

Shabbat Hol Hamoed

Shaharit 8:45 a.m.

Wednesday, October 19

Hoshana Rabbah

Morning 7:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

Erev Shemini Atzeret

Evening 5:53 p.m.–6:53 p.m.

Thursday, October 20

Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor

Morning 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Erev Simhat Torah

Evening 6:05 p.m.–7:35 p.m.

Friday, October 21

Simhat Torah

Morning 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Minhah/ 5:50 p.m.–6:50 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat

DINNER IN THE OZ SUKKAH

**Erev Sukkot,
Wednesday, October 12**

Services begin at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner promptly at 7:15 p.m.

Please make dinner reservations by 5:00 p.m. on

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

at 212-452-2310, ext. 39

or www.orzarua.org

\$40 adults; \$20 children ages 5-12;

No charge for children under 5

Sushi in the Sukkah

OZ's young professionals to gather on Sunday, October 16

Kugels, briskets, and harvest vegetables might be a more familiar cast of characters at a traditional Sukkot meal, but convention was shaken last year when Or Zarua hosted its first annual "Sushi in the Sukkah" event. More than 30 young members and their friends gathered in the rooftop sukkah on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Attendees enjoyed pleasant conversation and munched on various culinary treats while lounging in the shade of the schach.

Although the majority of participants were Or Zarua members, many participants were first-time visitors to the synagogue. Several of these people have since rejoined our community for other events and holiday celebrations. We hope to further welcome the young Jewish professionals of the Upper East Side to Or Zarua, and make our synagogue known as a vibrant center among this constituency.



Or Zarua young professionals (from left): William Zaiantz, Melissa Kashan Lader, and Keely Blumentritt.

As such, we are looking forward to our second annual "Sushi in the Sukkah" event on Sunday, October 16 at 3:00 p.m. Please spread the word and help us make this year's event as successful as the last! If you have any questions, please feel free to email Ariella Friedman at ajcfriedman@gmail.com.

—ARIELLE FRIEDMAN

SHABBAT DINNER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Friday, November 11

immediately following services

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

Babysitting and children's activities will be provided.

Please make dinner reservations by **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7** at 212-452-2310, ext. 39 or www.orzarua.org

\$30 adults; \$10 children ages 5-12; children under 5, no charge



Last year's "Sushi in the Sukkah" event for young OZ professionals was attended by more than 30 members and their friends.

Or Zarua's Friday Preschool Program

Preparing toddlers for Shabbat

Or Zarua's Friday Preschool Program is designed to teach toddlers about Shabbat. The children will learn to welcome Shabbat by singing songs, saying the blessings over Shabbat candles, reciting the kiddush blessing over grape juice, and chanting *Hamotzi*. Each child in the program will have an

opportunity to lead the service.

Children will also learn about Shabbat through art by making their own candles, challah covers, kiddush cups, and other items.

In addition, children will be introduced to modern Hebrew. They will hear and learn common Hebrew words that describe classroom activities as well as Hebrew

vocabulary associated with Shabbat.

Classes begin on Friday, October 28 at 10:00 a.m. The cost for the 10-session program is \$100 for members of Or Zarua and \$150 for non-members.

Space is limited, so please reserve early. For more information, contact Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310, extension 15 or iburgess@orzarua.org.

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 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.

Hebrew and Jewish Studies

For post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students

Starting this fall (5772), Or Zarua will offer 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 knowledge of Torah or Talmud.

The class will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Mondays beginning September 12. 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 with OZ's rabbinic intern, Joseph Schwartz. For further information, please contact Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or email iburgess@orzarua.org.

Family and Youth Activities

HEBREW SCHOOL CALENDAR

September 2011

- Mon 12** First day of classes
- Wed 28** Erev Rosh Hashanah
(no classes)
- Thu 29** Rosh Hashanah (no classes)

October 2011

- Mon 10** Columbus Day (no classes)
- Tue 11** Sukkah Decorating
(no classes)
- Wed 12** Erev Sukkot (no classes)
- Thu 13** Sukkot (no classes)
- Wed 19** Erev Shemini Atzeret
(no classes)
- Thu 20** Shemini Atzeret (no classes)

September 2011

Monday, September 12 • 4:00 p.m.
FIRST DAY OF HEBREW SCHOOL

October 2011

Monday, October 3 • 6:30 p.m.
THE DAVID PROJECT SEMINAR
See page 9 for details.

Tuesday, October 11 • 4:00 p.m.
SUUKAH DECORATING
All are invited.

Wednesday, October 12 • after services
DINNER IN THE OZ SUUKAH
RSVP required. See page 6 for details.

Thursday, October 13 • 12:30 p.m.
Friday, October 14 • 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 15 • 12:30 p.m.

FREE KIDDUSH LUNCH IN THE SUUKAH
See page 6 for details.

Friday, October 14 • after services
"BRING YOUR OWN" SUKKOT DINNER
See page 6 for details.

Saturday, October 15 • 7:45 p.m.
SLEEP IN THE SUUKAH
RSVP required. See page 6 for details.

Friday, October 21 • 12:30 p.m.
SIMHAT TORAH KIDDUSH LUNCH
See page 3 for details.

November 2011

Friday, November 11 • after services
SHABBAT DINNER
WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS
RSVP required. See page 7 for details.

Two Levels of Kiddush Sponsorship

Enhanced kiddush now available

By popular demand, beginning with Shabbat on September 3, new levels of Shabbat kiddush sponsorship will take effect. There will be two types of kiddush: basic and enhanced.

The enhanced kiddush will feature a new bakery for Or Zarua, Butterflake of Teaneck, N.J. All enhanced pastries will be

nut-free and pareve, elegantly arranged on platters by the bakery staff, and delivered fresh to our door. The cost of sponsoring an enhanced kiddush will be \$238.

The supplier of the basic kiddush will remain Gertel's of Brooklyn. The cost of the basic kiddush will be \$118.

With two levels of kiddush, Or Zarua will have the best of both worlds in provid-

ing for a variety of simchas and kiddushim during the year.

If you're interested in sponsoring a kiddush, please contact the main office to reserve your date. It is a wonderful way to mark a special occasion, honor the achievements of a loved one or remember the passing of a beloved friend or family member.

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.

SUKKAH DECORATING

Tuesday, October 11, 4:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited join in the fun making ornaments and decorations for Or Zarua's rooftop Sukkah.

Met Council Chesed Award

Congregation Or Zarua honored for \$25,000 contribution



Congregation Or Zarua received the Chesed Award from The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty for its generous \$25,000 contribution to the organization. The funds for this gift were raised at OZ's Annual Super Bowl Party. Pictured are Rabbi Harlan Wechsler (left), and Congregants Linda Spitzer and Sheldon Adler accepting the award.

STUDENT HELP NEEDED FOR OR ZARUA YOUTH SERVICES

Post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students are needed to read Torah and Haftorah for the Or Zarua Youth High Holy Days services. High school students are also asked to help with the services. If you are interested in participating, contact Ilana Burgess at iburgess@orzarua.org or call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 39.



127 East 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028 • 212-452-2310

September 2011 • **Elul/Tishri 5772**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 • 2 Elul 7:15 am Minyan	2 • 3 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:10 pm Candlelighting	3 • 4 9:00 am Shaharit Shoftim
4 • 5 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	5 • 6 Labor Day 8:45 am Minyan <i>Office closed</i>	6 • 7 7:15 am Minyan	7 • 8 7:15 am Minyan	8 • 9 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Search Committee Discussion Group	9 • 10 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:58 pm Candlelighting	10 • 11 9:00 am Shaharit Ki Tetze Welcome Back Kiddush
11 • 12 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 7:00 pm Search Committee Discussion Group	12 • 13 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School begins</i> 7:00 pm Search Committee Discussion Group	13 • 14 7:15 am Minyan	14 • 15 7:15 am Minyan	15 • 16 7:15 am Minyan	16 • 17 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:46 pm Candlelighting	17 • 18 9:00 am Shaharit Ki Tavo Bar Mitzvah of Eric Greenstein
18 • 19 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 9:30 am Tahara Training with Rabbi Zohn 7:30 pm Book Discussion	19 • 20 7:15 am Minyan	20 • 21 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Search Committee Discussion Group	21 • 22 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Search Committee Discussion Group	22 • 23 7:15 am Minyan	23 • 24 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:35 pm Candlelighting	24 • 25 9:00 am Shaharit Nitzavim/Vayelech 8:00 pm Sinful Desserts 9:15 pm Study with Rabbi Wechsler 10:00 pm Selihot
25 • 26 8:45 am Selihot and Minyan	26 • 27 7:00 am Selihot and Minyan	27 • 28 7:00 am Selihot and Minyan	28 • 29 Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:00 am Selihot and Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv (Or Zarua) 6:26 pm Candlelighting	29 • 1 Tishri Rosh Hashanah I 8:30 am Shaharit (NYAM and Or Zarua) 5:35 pm Tashlikh (Central Park) 6:35 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv (Or Zarua) 7:24 pm Candlelighting	30 • 2 Rosh Hashanah II 8:30 am Shaharit (NYAM and Or Zarua) 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat (Or Zarua) 6:23 pm Candlelighting	



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New York, NY 10028 • 212-452-2310

October 2011 • Tishri/Heshvan 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 • 3 Tishri Shabbat Shuvah 9:00 am Shaharit Ha'azinu
2 • 4 Tishri Fast of Gedaliah 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	3 • 5 7:00 am Selihot and Minyan 6:30 pm The David Project	4 • 6 7:00 am Selihot and Minyan 8:00 pm Rabbi Silber Lecture	5 • 7 7:00 am Selihot and Minyan	6 • 8 7:00 am Selihot and Minyan	7 • 9 Erev Yom Kippur 7:00 am Selihot and Minyan 1:15 pm Minhah (<i>Or Zarua</i>) 6:15 pm Kol Nidre (<i>NYAM and Or Zarua</i>) 6:11 pm Candlelighting	8 • 10 Yom Kippur/Yizkor 9:00 am – 7:17 pm Yom Kippur Services Yizkor (<i>NYAM and Or Zarua</i>)
9 • 11 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	10 • 12 Columbus Day 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School closed</i>	11 • 13 7:15 am Minyan 4:00 pm Sukkah Decorating	12 • 14 Erev Sukkot 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School closed</i> 6:00 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 6:03 pm Candlelighting 7:15 pm Dinner in Sukkah	13 • 15 Sukkot First Day 9:00 am Shaharit 12:30 pm Kiddush Lunch 6:15 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:00 pm Candlelighting	14 • 16 Sukkot Second Day 9:00 am Shaharit 12:30 pm Kiddush Lunch 6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00pm Candlelighting "Bring Your Own" Dinner	15 • 17 Shabbat Hol Hamoed 8:45 am Shaharit 12:30 pm Kiddush Lunch 7:45 pm Hebrew School Sleep in the Sukkah
16 • 18 Hol Hamoed 4 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 3:00 pm Sushi in the Sukkah for Young Professionals	17 • 19 Hol Hamoed 5 7:00 am Minyan	18 • 20 Hol Hamoed 6 7:00 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Kraemer	19 • 21 Hoshanah Rabbah 7:00 am Minyan Erev Shemini Atzeret 5:53 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 5:53 pm Candlelighting	20 • 22 Shemini Atzeret 9:00 am Shaharit Yizkor Erev Simhat Torah 6:05 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 6:52 pm Candlelighting	21 • 23 Simhat Torah 9:00 am Shaharit Simhat Torah Kiddush Lunch 5:50 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:50 pm Candlelighting	22 • 24 9:00 am Shaharit Bereshit Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Cohen
23 • 25 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 10:15 am Crafts Club 30 • 2 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	24 • 26 7:15 am Minyan 31 • 3 7:15 am Minyan	25 • 27 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Kraemer 7:00 pm Context: Gampel	26 • 28 7:15 am Minyan	27 • 29 7:15 am Minyan	28 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Heshvan I 7:00 am Minyan 5:40 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	29 • 1 Heshvan Rosh Hodesh Heshvan II 9:00 am Shaharit Noah Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Leavy Sobell

Images of Mom

by Arthur H. Rosenbloom

In this season of the year, during which we contemplate our past and ponder our future, my thoughts inevitably turn to those who helped make my life what it is but whose presence is only a memory, in this case, my Mom.

The memories return as snapshots, some real and taken from the photo albums she and my Dad lovingly filled over the years, now among my most prized possessions, and some I have conjured from my own recollections.

I recall her on the dance floor with my Dad. No candidates for "Dancing With The Stars," their style was that of the understated elegance in the three-quarter time of a slow waltz. I also recall her regaling family and friends as she dipped into her rich storehouse of Yiddish humor.

In our own interactions, one of my fondest images is of Mom and me doing the dishes in the pre-dishwasher days of World War II Brooklyn, performing World War I ballads and then contemporaneous standards in two-part harmony. Small wonder that I embraced vocal music.

I vividly recall Mom pounding away at her ancient Smith-Corona, or talking on the telephone or in person to friends and family across the miles and the generations—there in body or in spirit—to celebrate a simhah, commiserate on a tragedy, or dispense some old-fashioned advice to those seeking it. Aunt Esther—or Nanny Esther—the dutiful chronicler of birthdays, anniversaries, unveilings, and yahrzeit days, was a visible presence to the legions who comprised our extended family.

Mom left behind a series of constituents, each blessed by the warmth of her presence. Some are captured in a snapshot of her early years in Asbury Park featuring Mom jauntily perched on the hood of a second-hand Whippet automobile, among friends and relatives now long gone. And there was Esther Rosenbloom of the bandage rolling brigade at the Flatbush Jewish Center, serving the GIs in World War II, not to mention her forays to Shmulke Bernstein's on the Lower East Side, from which she sent salamis to her many GI nephews. Family lore has it that one of Mom's salamis, frozen by the cold and delivered to my cousin Ruby's foxhole in the Battle of the Bulge during the frigid winter of 1944, stopped a bullet intended for his head.

And then there were the Great Neck years—the fifth-row seats in Temple Israel, occupied for the better part of 38 years, (how wise she was to have insisted that the rose-colored curtains on the sanctuary windows be lined to prevent the sun from fading them), the American flag faithfully planted on our lawn on the 4th of July, and the candies she lovingly set aside for the Halloween trick or treaters.

Mom taught me something about cemeteries, too. Not the big impersonal ones, but the tiny Chesed Shel Ames cemetery in Neptune, New Jersey, by the Asbury Park border (Murray Rosenbloom, founding treasurer). For Mom, and now for me and my kids, the cemetery was not a

mournful place, but rather one from which it was possible to reconnect with the past, as part of an oral history of her family and that of my Dad. "Do you remember Uncle Aaron with his soulful eyes?" she'd say. "Oh, there's Tante Sarah with the low, gravelly voice." "Here's your Grandpa Harry's tombstone, Arthur." She'd recall when my paternal grandmother would prostrate herself on his grave, urging him to "*bets ach oys fur de kinder*" (pray for the children), sure in her conviction that he stood close to the divine intercessor. "Hey, Art, check out old Mr. Scavron, your grandfather's pinochle buddy," she'd say. Mom would often point to the spot that now marks her grave, facing the road beyond which lie the graves of her family and, behind, those of the Rosenbloom family into which she'd married. "How do you like my orchestra seat?" she'd say.

As I write these lines, I recall the memory of one who exhibited "*derech eretz*" ("good character" is one of its several meanings) to her elders, her peers, and her successors and who, in her later years, taught a lesson on how to deal with a debilitating physical handicap with quiet grace.

Time has taught me that a huge part of our understanding of the world at large, ourselves, and our loved ones comes about not so much as a result of the great life-cycle events we celebrate, but rather in the nickel-and-dime moments we have shared with our nearest and dearest, day-by-day, month-by-month, and year-by-year. I reflect on the images of those moments with Mom—and I smile.

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 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 and see what has been, is currently, and will be happening at OZ!

Choosing Our Next Rabbi

by the Rabbinical Search Committee

In order to select the right person to be the next rabbi of Congregation Or Zarua, the Rabbinical Search Committee needs to define the characteristics of our shul and the expectations we, as a community, will have of the person selected for the position. Toward this goal, the Search Committee will be preparing a "curriculum vitae" of our synagogue community and a description of the qualities desired from potential candidates. The information required to complete these two tasks will be garnered from the members of our Congregation using Facilitated Discussion Groups.

The Facilitated Discussion Groups will meet in multiple, small gatherings during the month of September. Every person who attends these meetings will have the opportunity to express his or her views regarding the defining characteristics of both our synagogue and the next rabbi. The information obtained during the Facilitated Discussion Groups will be collected and organized so that it can be disseminated to prospective rabbinical candidates. Points of view expressed by individual members of the Congregation will be kept anonymous.

The Search Committee encourages every member of the Congregation to participate in one of the five Facilitated

Discussion Group meetings that have been scheduled on the following dates: Thursday, September 8; Sunday, September 11; Monday, September 12; Tuesday, September 20 and Wednesday, September 21. All five meetings will be identical in format and led by Annie Marks, a professional facilitator. It does not matter which meeting you attend, but please attend only one.

Invitations to these meetings were sent to members this summer. If you have not already reserved a spot in a Facilitated Discussion Group, please contact Deborah Wenger in the Or Zarua office at 212-452-2310, extension 12 or dwenger@orzarua.org. It is not too late to sign up, but you will need to contact the office immediately.

The meetings will start promptly at 7:00 p.m. and will conclude about 9:00 p.m. Before the meeting begins, a light snack will be served. We invite both husbands and wives to attend as we recognize that each has his or her own opinion. You may attend the same night as your spouse or come separately.

We held one meeting over the summer for members of the Board and Search Committee. Everyone had a very positive, fun experience. We look forward to hearing from you.

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.

Or Zarua Minyan

To 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. You may also sign up online at www.orzarua.org by choosing "Daily Minyan" under the "Prayer" drop-down menu.

Programs and Sponsorship Opportunities

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

SIMHAT 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

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

Tahara Training at Or Zarua

National Authority Rabbi Zohn to teach Sunday, September 18

One of the most solemn—some might even say “awesome”—rituals performed by the Hevra Kadisha is the Tahara, the purification of the body before burial. It is usually performed shortly before the funeral. The deceased is washed, cleansed, ritually purified, and then dressed in shrouds—in linen garments like those worn by the High Priest in Temple times on Yom Kippur. Prayers asking for the forgiveness of the deceased and soul’s eternal peace are offered. Thus, in a symbolic way, the deceased leaves the world in the same condition as he or she entered it.

According to Rabbi Elchonon Zohn, “Proper performance of the Tahara...(is) a unique expression of the ultimate respect for the dignity and the specialty of man.” Rabbi Zohn, head of the Hevra Kadisha in Queens and Long Island under the auspices of the Vaad Harabonim of Queens, and director of The National Association of Chevra Kadisha, is a leading authority on the practice of Tahara. On Sunday,

September 18, following the morning minyan, Rabbi Zohn will speak on the principles of Tahara and then conduct a training session and demonstration at Or Zarua.

In an article, “Respect for a Sacred Society,” Rabbi Zohn notes that the percentage of Jewish people having Tahara has increased from around three percent to almost 50 percent in the last 35 years. Or Zarua’s Hevra Kadisha has been called upon to perform this mitzvah several times in the past few years. Hevra members who volunteer to perform Tahara sometimes are assisted and guided by members of other synagogues with Hevrot, such as Ansche Chesed and Kehilath Jeshurun (KJ), and the training session will be open to them as well. While prior training is not mandatory, it is helpful in maintaining the expected protocols and decorum of the mitzvah. And the need to increase the number of qualified participants is urgent.

The importance of Tahara, says Rabbi Zohn, can’t be overstated. The care for the deceased in the washing and dressing process and the accompanying and exact-

ing procedures “...are not simply ancient rituals, but rather the logical consequence of the Jewish perception of death and burial.”

On September 18, before beginning the training session, it is anticipated that Rabbi Zohn will speak at the breakfast following the minyan. The session itself is expected to last at least three hours. While this is a substantial commitment, people are encouraged to spend whatever amount of time—as little or as much—as they can to learn from this recognized authority. Whatever else remains to be learned can be absorbed through “on-the-job training.” In other words, by participating in a Tahara.

All Or Zarua Congregants—whether members of the Hevra or not—are invited to hear Rabbi Zohn. If you plan to attend, please make a reservation with the office no later than Tuesday, September 13. There is no charge for this event, but donations to the Or Zarua Hevra Kadisha Fund are always welcome and accepted.

—GERRY SOLOMON AND VERA SILVER

Hesed Events and Programs

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

Pizza at NCS

● 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.

Hesed Fund

● 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 Visits

● Volunteer to visit and cheer ill or homebound Or Zarua Congregants.

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 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.

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 The Ronald

McDonald House’s 7th Floor Terrace Butterfly Garden.

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 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.

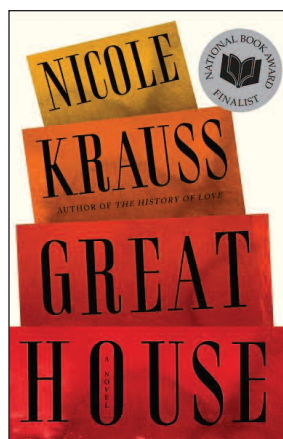
Or Zarua Book Discussions

Great House by Nicole Krauss on Sunday, September 18

Please join us for our first Or Zarua book discussion of the 2011-12 season on Sunday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Or Zarua's library. Pat Davidson will lead us in discussing Nicole Krauss' well-received novel, *Great House*.

Nominated for a 2010 National Book Award, *Great House* received the citation: "This is a novel about the long journey of a magnificent desk as it travels through the twentieth century from one owner to the next. It is also a novel about love, exile, the defilements of war, and the restorative power of language."

This grand desk moves from Europe to New York to Israel and into the lives of four separate narrators who offer, in alternating chapters, accounts of their lives, loves, and losses. The desk links their stories, opening up questions and



fantasies about its provenance and the mostly tragic fates of its custodians. Nadia, the initial narrator, is a writer who received the desk from a young poet from Chile. Aaron, an elderly Israeli widower, is grieving over his recently deceased wife and over his long-fraught relationship with his son, Dov. Arthur is the professor husband of Lotte Berg, who was able to flee Germany as a Kindertransport chaperone. And Isabel, an American in England, meets and falls for a

young Israeli, whose domineering father, a mysterious and emotionally distant antiques dealer, hunts down furniture looted by Germans during the World War II in order to return it to those who survived. In each narrative, Krauss raises provocative questions about the nature of human relationships.

Derek Thompson praised *Great House* in *The Atlantic*: "Imagine a surprising, breathtaking panorama, captured in four adjacent Polaroids developing at different speeds that only reveal the full view at the last moment, and you have a feel for the patient mastery of Krauss' achievement."

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 in the synagogue office at dwenger@orzarua.org.

Confronting the Days of Awe

continued from page 1

between human and divine, between our fragility and God's infinitude, could not be more clearcut.

The prayer confidently suggests we can affirmatively influence our otherwise unalterable destiny through conventional Jewish means. Whether we each believe that we can in fact take our fate into our own hands is uncertain. Will repentance, prayer, and charity really make any meaningful difference in our lot in life? Indeed, the answer given in *Unetaneh Tokef* is equivocal; we can sidestep, not necessarily annul, the severe decree, albeit only for the short term. But *Unetaneh Tokef*, and the mainstream Jewish theology it reflects, instruct that our good actions

should ultimately be rewarded, at some point and in some manner.

The literal meaning of *Unetaneh Tokef's* poignant words may not be intellectually compelling to many modern Jews. Perhaps, however, the prayer's resonance for us does not reside in its linear truth. The High Holy Day liturgy speaks to our souls as much as to our minds, to our hearts as well as to our intellect. The pressing challenge during the upcoming Days of Awe is to walk the tightrope of trepidation and resoluteness, to feel inspired to overcome anxiety about our encroaching future. What that future holds, of course, only God knows. May it be a blessed future for all of us.

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 a death in your family—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.

OR ZARUA 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.

Or Zarua Welcomes Deborah Klee Wenger

New administrative assistant to the rabbi



Deborah Klee Wenger has recently joined the Or Zarua staff as the administrative assistant to the rabbi.

For the last 22 years Deborah has been involved profes-

sionally within the Jewish community in administration, journalism and teaching.

For 10 years, until last summer, Deborah worked in Jewish journalism, first at the *Kansas City Jewish Chronicle*, then at *The Jewish State* in central New Jersey. Her most unusual interview was with Teddy the Corgi, the first service dog at Village Shalom, a senior living community in Kansas. At *The Jewish State* Deborah wrote a weekly column called "Practice Tips," in which she interviewed rabbis from three perspectives—Conservative,

Orthodox, and Reform—on a particular Jewish practice or custom. She was also the production coordinator at the newspaper, and did the layout and design each week.

More recently Deborah has been active at Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey in Elizabeth as a volunteer grant writer. In addition, she coordinates the bloggers for www.Jewcology.com, which promotes environmental awareness and action within the international Jewish community.

Growing up in the greater Boston area, Deborah earned a Ph.D. from Boston University in the history and literature of ancient Israel. During her graduate studies she was on the administrative staff of the dean's office of the School of Theology at B.U. Later, she taught all ages in a variety of settings: afternoon Hebrew school, college and graduate school, and Jewish adult education.

In her free time she enjoyed folk

dancing, including performing once a year at the Israel Folkdance Festival held at M.I.T. She also discovered the joys of sky-diving, earning a "C" license.

Each of the things Deborah has done professionally through the years has centered around administrative work within a learning environment. As she puts it, "Creating order out of chaos is a joy. Finding creative and positive ways to direct the currents of an institution's day-to-day functioning is exciting."

"My passion is Klal Yisrael," Deborah said. "Or Zarua's mission as a participatory synagogue is wonderful, for I believe deeply that Judaism is a hands-on experience, not a spectator sport."

We all welcome Deborah and wish her a long and happy tenure with us.

Contact Deborah in the OZ office at 212-452-2310, extension 12, or email dwenger@orzarua.org.

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.

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. Alternatively, you may sign up online at www.orzarua.org by choosing "Read Torah" under the "Prayer" drop-down menu.

Bagels, Babka and Balabustas

100 years of Jews and Food in America



The current 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.

Executive Director's Network Saves Or Zarua Thousands

Harvey M. Brenner, FTA, shops online for mahzorim

Did you know that one of the benefits of affiliation with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is the ready access our executive director, Harvey Brenner, FTA, has with his cohorts around the country through their peer organization NAASE, the North American Association of Synagogue Executives?

He is able to ask an online question of more than 250 other synagogue administrators that helps Or Zarua resolve a problem or find a resource to obtain goods and services that our shul needs.

Most recently, when we determined that we would supplement our High Holy Day services at the New York Academy of Medicine with additional services in our Or Zarua building, we recognized the need to acquire 250 "Harlow mahzorim" quickly. Harvey queried his peers online and located

the mahzorim at Congregation Ansche Chesed on the Upper West Side. Through his NAASE affiliation and his relationship with their executive director, Josh Hanft, he was able to procure the much needed mahzorim at no charge, saving the Congregation approximately \$7,000.

As you daven at Or Zarua this High Holy Day season, you'll note that the prayer books are used and have donation plates from Ansche Chesed, which we have chosen to honor as our way of saying "thank you" to Rabbi Jeremy Kalmanofsky, President Roberta Kupietz Shapiro, and Executive Director Josh Hanft for their extraordinary generosity.

The Jewish community in New York is a close-knit one and it is through such acts that we are sustained and nurtured.

Hazak, hazak, v'nithazayk! May they be blessed and move from strength to strength!

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

The 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

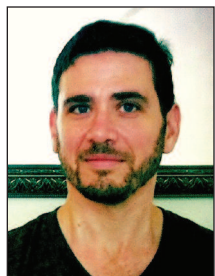


A view of the Or Zarua cemetery section.

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.

Introducing Joseph Schwartz

Congregation Or Zarua's rabbinic intern



pursue the rabbinate.

Currently a fourth-year rabbinical student at the Ziegler School for Rabbinical Studies at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles, Joe will be studying at the Jewish Theological Seminary this year.

Joe is passionate about Jewish

Joseph Schwartz will be Or Zarua's rabbinic intern for the current academic year. Joe grew up at Congregation Or Zarua; it was Rabbi Wechsler's example that inspired him to

thought, tefila, and Talmud Torah. He hopes to help create new ways for Jews to engage with their tradition.

He received his B.A. from Columbia College and his J.D. from New York University School of Law, where he was an editor of the *Law Review*.

Joe began his tenure with Or Zarua on July 1. He will be involved in several aspects of our Congregation, including teaching in our youth and adult programs, creating online course material and discussion groups, and participating in our services.

Please extend a warm welcome to Joe Schwartz.

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 November/December 2011 issue should be received by Monday, October 3.



CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

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

HIGH HOLY DAY VENUE CHANGE

NY Academy of Medicine

1216 Fifth Avenue at 103 Street

*(entrance on 103 Street, just east
of Fifth Avenue)*

Congregation Or Zarua

127 East 82nd Street

Please see detailed information and
schedule for Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre
and Yom Kippur on page 4.

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011

September/October Checklist

- Please review all the information about High Holy Day Services contained on page 4.
- Shofar blowers are needed; lessons available (see page 5).
- Sign up for a Rabbinical Search Committee Discussion Group on September 8, 11, 12, 20 or 21 (see page 13).
- Join other Congregants at our annual Welcome Back Kiddush Lunch after Shabbat services, Saturday, September 10.
- Hebrew school starts on Monday, September 12.
- Hebrew and Jewish Studies class for post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students begins on Monday, September 12 (see page 8).
- Rabbi Zohn conducts Tahara training at Or Zarua, Sunday, September 18, after the morning service (see page 14).
- Or Zarua Book Discussions features *Great House* by Nicole Krauss, Sunday, September 18, 7:30 p.m. (see page 15).
- Order your lulav and etrog for Sukkot by noon on Friday, September 16 (see page 6).
- Selihot services on Saturday, September 24 at 10:00 p.m. will be preceded by Sinful Desserts at 8:00 p.m. and Rabbi Wechsler teaching on the writings of Rav Kook at 9:15 p.m.
- The David Project will present a discussion about Israel on Monday, October 3 at 6:30 p.m. (see page 9).
- Attend Rabbi David Silber's lecture "Yom Kippur and Purim" on Tuesday, October 4 at 8:00 p.m. (see page 5).
- RSVP by Wednesday, October 5 for dinner in the Sukkah on Erev Sukkot, Wednesday, October 12.
- Or Zarua children are invited to sleep in the Sukkah after Shabbat, Saturday night, October 15. RSVP by Monday, October 10 (see page 6).
- Sushi in the Sukkah for OZ's young professionals, Sunday, October 16 at 3:00 p.m. (see page 7).
- Enjoy kiddush lunches on the first three days of Sukkot—Thursday, October 13, Friday, October 14, and Saturday, October 15—immediately following services.
- Enjoy kiddush lunch after services on Simhat Torah, October 21.
- Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler begins on Wednesday, November 2.
- Or Zarua Preschool Program begins on Friday, October 28 (see page 8).
- RSVP by Monday, November 7 for a Shabbat Family and Friends dinner on Friday, November 11 (see page 7).
- Make a reservation to hear Natan Sharansky on Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. (see page 3).
- Help out with a Hesed program (see page 14).
- Sign up for the morning minyan.
- Have you seen the OZ Youth Art Calendar described on page 8?
- 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).