

# Or Zarua

TEVET/SHEVAT/ADAR 5772

NEWSLETTER/VOLUME 24:3

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

## USY on Wheels: Mission Mitzvah A Summer of Hesed and Fun

by Aliza Yailen

Imagine a summer trip where you travel across the country and perform *tikkun olam* (community service) along the way. I'm not talking about a family road trip, I'm talking about a coach bus filled with 23 teens who become your best friends and your family. Not to mention the great counselors you look up to as well as befriend. This was my summer trip on USY on Wheels: Mission Mitzvah. The trip began and ended in the Windy City, Chicago. Starting from there, we traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, continuing through the Southwest, until we reached California. We then traveled back to Chicago through the northern part of the United States.

When I signed up for this trip, I did not know a single person who would be going. The first day, my stomach was hurting because I was so nervous, but that was the first and last time I felt nervous or anxious on the trip. The summer was jam-packed with amazing opportunities. The first night, we learned how to put on clown makeup for our visits to old-age homes where we visited with residents. We also had the chance to pack cereal for an organization that gave backpacks filled with food and school supplies to inner city children.

On two occasions, we visited children who had been placed in foster care. One of the places was St. Jude's Ranch in Nevada. I served the children ice cream, and we had an exhilarating water fight, which cooled us all off from the high heat. It was one of the most inspiring afternoons

of my life, because after we played with the children, one of the teens spoke to us about his experience of being in the foster care system. The program really opened my eyes to the challenges faced by disadvantaged children. The experience also showed me how participating in this program does make a difference for children with limited opportunities.

In addition to the large number of opportunities to help change the world a little bit, we toured the United States of America. We saw Elvis's house, Graceland, and some national parks, including Crater Lake, Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone. Of course, the sightseeing also involved

community service. For example, at Yellowstone we helped rebuild a roof that had been damaged by heavy snow. The repairs also included cleaning up debris from the collapsed roof in the area around the building. While clearing roof debris from the forest area directly behind the building, we actually saw a family of elk! That sighting was an amazing and unexpected reward for doing some community service.

When we reached California, we were able to spend an entire day at Disneyland! Then, the next day, we explored Universal Studios. Of course, we did community

*continued on page 9*



On Mission Mitzvah in San Francisco, California.

Aliza Yailen is a junior at the Bard Early College High School.

ק"ק אור זרוע  
Congregation

**OrZarua**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE  
FOUNDED 1989

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

# President's Message

by Diane Okrent



later. What an advantage!

I have always thought that we Jews are very fortunate to have two new years. If we haven't gotten a good start on our Rosh Hashanah resolutions, we get another chance a few months later. What an advantage!

In researching Tu B'Shevat, which we will celebrate on February 8, I learned that the rabbis in the Mishnah identified four new years in the Jewish calendar! In Tractate Rosh Hashanah, the rabbis discussed when new years occurred: "There are four new years: 1) the first day of Nisan is the new year for kings and festivals; 2) the first day of Elul is the new year for tithing cattle. Rabbi Eleazar and Rabbi Simeon say: 'It is first day of Tishri.' 3) The first day of Tishri is the new year for calculation of the calendar, sabbatical years and Jubilees, for planting trees and vegetables. 4) The first day of Shevat, is the new year for the trees according to the House of Shammai. The House of Hillel say, 'On the fifteenth of Shevat [is the new year for trees].'" (Rosh Hashanah:1a). The rabbis of the Talmud ruled in favor of Hillel on this issue. Thus, the 15th of Shevat became the date for calculating when the agricultural cycle began or ended for the purpose of biblical tithes.

Tu B'Shevat marks the beginning of spring in Israel. We celebrate Tu B'Shevat as Israel's Arbor Day and a day for environmental awareness. Our tradition is to plant trees in Israel through the Jewish National Fund and to eat a new fruit from Israel. So, buy and enjoy some Israeli dates or clementines or Jaffa oranges.

For us in the Northeast, January and February are the darkest days of the year. But we Jews have another advantage—an

awareness that even now, daylight lasts a little longer each day. The evidence is that Shabbat begins later and later each week. There is light at the end of the winter tunnel!

And there is always light at Or Zarua! In January, we will add to our adult education offerings with new courses—two levels of ulpan and a Torah reading class. In addition, the basic Context course will begin its final semester with the study of the Modern Era of Jewish History, and the advanced Context course will begin studying the History of Jewish Music. The month will end on a high note with celebrations of Or Zarua's 23rd birthday with the annual Lucy Dawidowicz Lecture on Wednesday, January 25, and a special Kiddush on January 28.

In February, everyone in the Congregation will be invited to participate in a Context Passover miniseries in honor of Rabbi Wechsler—a five-session course taught by four different JTS professors and culminating with a class taught by Rabbi Wechsler. This will be a wonderful way to get a taste of Context, honor Rabbi Wechsler, and prepare for Pesach at the same time. What better way to anticipate spring!

In early March, we will celebrate Purim by reading the megillah on March 7 and 8, and enjoying our annual Purim Spiel on March 7.

So, with these dark days of winter upon us, let us take heart that spring is on its way. As the poet Shelley ended his *Ode to the West Wind*:

Be through my lips to unawakened earth  
The trumpet of a prophecy! O Wind,  
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

I wish you and your family all good things as we begin 2012!

B'Shalom!

## PESAH CONTEXT MINISERIES

In honor of Rabbi Wechsler

All members are invited to participate in a five-session Pesah Context miniseries to be held at OZ starting on Thursday, February 2. The classes will feature four professors from JTS and Rabbi Wechsler. \$36 for all five sessions. Details concerning speakers, content, and registration can be found on page 7.



# Natan Sharansky Spoke at Or Zarua

Discussed "Israel, the Arab Spring, and World Jewry"



PHOTO BY RACHEL FEIERMAN

Natan Sharansky (right) was our guest at Congregation Or Zarua on November 10, 2011. He discussed the impact of the Arab Spring on Arab-Israeli relations. Here, Mr. Sharansky takes questions from the audience in the Or Zarua sanctuary while Rabbi Wechsler moderates. Special thanks to Rachel Feierman for the photograph.

## SAVE THE DATES

### Kiddush

**Saturday, January 28**

**Celebrating Congregation Or Zarua's  
23rd Birthday**

Immediately following services

### Or Zarua Gala

**Monday, June 4**

**In honor of Rabbi Wechsler**

**Special Guest: Chancellor Arnold Eisen**

6:00–10:00 p.m.

Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers

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# Annual Super Bowl Party

Special auction event: 7-day stay in Disney villa at Bay Lake/Magic Kingdom

**O**Z members and their guests are invited to watch the Super Bowl with their friends at our eighth annual Or Zarua Super Bowl Party, to be held in the synagogue on Sunday, February 5. Enjoy a family atmosphere and great kosher food, including ribs, chili, giant “sub” sandwiches, buffalo wings (all from Dougie’s), sushi, dessert, and much more. Minhah/Ma’ariv starts at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The game will be shown on a large-screen TV in the social hall beginning shortly after 6:00 p.m.

In connection with this year’s Super Bowl Party, we are once again encouraging everyone to make a donation to help fund kosher food pantries. Last year, Or Zarua raised approximately \$25,000 for kosher food pantries, and we are hoping to make a strong contribution again this year.

As you are probably aware, kosher food pantries in our area are struggling to provide kosher food for poor Jewish families and are in desperate need of additional funds.

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

As we need to know the number of guests for planning purposes, RSVP to the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext. 39, or [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org) by noon on Thursday, January 19, if you plan to attend the Super Bowl Party.

This year, we are also auctioning a seven-night stay (May 6–13, 2012) in a

two-bedroom villa at Disney’s Wilderness Lodge and donating the proceeds to the Met Council Food Pantry Fund. Disney’s Wilderness Lodge is a first-class resort located on Disney’s Bay Lake. Disney’s Magic Kingdom theme park is reached by ferry across Bay Lake or by five-minute bus ride, and Disney bus service is available to all other Disney theme parks. An overview of Disney Wilderness Lodge can be found online at [disneyworld.disney.go.com/resorts/wilderness-lodge-resort](http://disneyworld.disney.go.com/resorts/wilderness-lodge-resort).

Fair-market value for seven nights in the two-bedroom villa is approximately \$7,000 (including tax), but we currently intend to set the opening bid at only \$2,000. We hope that this auction will raise some additional funds for the Met Council food pantry fund and also provide a bargain opportunity for the winning bidder. Further details will follow by email or mail.

## Or Zarua Crafts Club Finishes a Quilt

by Terry Edelstein

**T**he Crafts Club first met in October, and we are now about to complete a full quilt for the Sanctuary Stitchers project for the Jewish Board of Children and Family Services. The quilt is an amalgam of knitted or crocheted squares in various patterns with color as the central unifying element.

Please join us on two Sundays, January 22 and February 19, at 10:15 a.m. in the library to help join the seams of the quilt, as we use a needle and yarn to attach one square to another and each row of squares to the next. The club is an amiable, quiet, even quaint way to engage with other Congregants in satisfying work, which becomes an important extension of support to the teenagers in a group home

who are presented with these quilts.

Knitting circles are booming across the country for both women and men of all ages. The phenomenon is likely attributable to an array of factors, not the least of which is that a creative process is a generative one—which in and of itself is satisfying—and that it occurs in a collaborative, communal context where the conversation can be stimulating, supportive, illuminating, or even mundane. But it becomes an ongoing conversation of the lives we live, which is the richness of it.

We typically meet the third Sunday of the month. No reservations, prior knitting skills, or materials are required; we have whatever supplies or instruction you might need and are happy to share them.

We also encourage “virtual membership” for Congregants who prefer to knit at home. Please bring your handiwork to the synagogue office, knowing that knitted squares are very much appreciated as gifts from the heart, regardless of where they emanate. Consult the Sanctuary Stitchers website for the detailed specifications.

Lastly, I happily solicit any iterations, permutations, or expansions of our foray into craft-making that could be interesting. Last year we convened a workshop with a fiber artist and produced abstract, interpretative collages of the holidays, which will be given to the Jewish Board’s group home as a decorative banner.

I hope to see you on Sunday mornings in the library.

### 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 March/April 2012 issue should be received by Monday, February 6.



# Hebrew School Pre-Hanukkah Celebration

OZ students prepared for the Festival of Lights



Or Zarua Hebrew School students had a full Hanukkah experience incorporating all they have learned. Festivities included games, songs, sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), prayers, and the lighting of the hanukkiya.

## Family and Youth Activities

### January 2012

**Sunday, January 8 • 5:00 p.m.**

PURIM SPIEL REHEARSALS BEGIN

All are welcome. Details on page 14.

**Saturday, January 14 • 10:30 a.m.**

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

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

**Wednesday, January 25, 8 p.m.**

THE LUCY S. DAWIDOWICZ LECTURE  
by Sharon Liberman Mintz, curator of  
Jewish art at the JTS library.

Details on page 9. Reservations required.

**Saturday, January 28, after services**  
OR ZARUA'S 23RD BIRTHDAY KIDDUSH

### February 2012

**Sunday, February 5 • 5:00 p.m.**

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Details on page 4. Reservations required.

**Saturday, February 11 • 10:30 a.m.**  
JUNIOR CONGREGATION/TEEN-LED SERVICE  
For 2nd grade and older. Service led by  
students, teachers, and parents.

### HEBREW SCHOOL CALENDAR

#### January 2012

- Wed 4** Classes in session
- Mon 9** Classes in session
- Wed 11** Classes in session
- Sat 14** Junior Congregation,  
10:30 a.m.
- Mon 16** Martin Luther King, Jr., Day  
(no classes)
- Wed 18** Classes in session
- Mon 23** Classes in session
- Wed 25** Classes in session
- Mon 30** Classes in session

#### February 2012

- Wed 1** Classes in session
- Mon 6** Classes in session
- Wed 8** Classes in session
- Sat 11** Junior Congregation and  
Teen-led Service, 10:30 a.m.
- Mon 20** Presidents' Day (no classes)
- Wed 22** Winter break (no classes)
- Mon 27** Classes in session
- Wed 29** Classes in session

#### March 2012

- Sat 10** Shabbat Haya'ed  
Save the Date!

## Torah Reading Class

by Mark Somerstein

I am offering a course in Torah reading to interested Congregants. The class will meet on Monday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. beginning on January 9, 2012. Meetings are in a classroom on the sixth floor of the synagogue. My aim is to expand participation in the centerpiece of our Shabbat services—we are a participatory synagogue, after all—as well as any time the Torah is read.

I would like people to be able to read any piece of Torah confidently, using the trope system with understanding. I would like to increase the number of people who

enjoy the Torah reading and appreciate its aesthetic and nuances. This is something I love and have been doing for more than 50 years. I am happy to have others share the benefits of that experience in no more than 10 sessions. I feel I will thus be honoring those who taught me, either directly or by example. This course has been advertised as for beginners, but all levels are welcome.

If you are interested, please contact me via email (msmrstn@aol.com) or phone (646-303-1076). Hoping to see you on Monday nights.

# Food Gleaning on Erev Thanksgiving: My Personal Reflections

by Brenda Goldman

**M**y Thanksgiving volunteer service began when I responded to one of the many activities offered by Or Zarua's Hesed

Committee. This opportunity for giving charitably to the community is an annual event that involves gleaning food from Eli's and the Vinegar Factory at closing time on Erev Thanksgiving. All of the food—including bags of fresh breads; tins of salads, vegetables, main courses, sushi, fruit, and desserts; as well as boxes of festive Thanksgiving-themed cookie trays—was loaded by the volunteers into cars and vans, and delivered to grateful recipients at the Ronald McDonald House, the Neighborhood Coalition Shelter, the South Bronx Salvation Deliverance Church, and the Yorkville Common Pantry.

I arrived at the Vinegar Factory and met Terry Edelstein, head of the OZ Crafts Club. We have seen each other several times before at OZ services and holiday dinners, but this time we got to know each other a little better. She told me about the knitted chemotherapy caps that Mina Greenstein completed for the children at the Ronald McDonald House. This was a project of the OZ Crafts Club, which meets monthly for knitting and friendly conversation.

Other OZ members who joined us had also participated in Thanksgiving gleaning several times before.

Lukaz Dynia, a non-Congregant volunteer who donates his time and his van every year for both this and the annual Erev Christmas event, arrived at 9:00 p.m. Our work started as we were given boxes, large bags, aluminum tins, and containers to fill. We were all working in unison as some of us gathered the bread, others packed the aluminum tins, and others labeled them; we were a "well-oiled machine."

I joined the Tennengauzers, a mother and her two sons from Israel, who were filling containers with salads, fruits, elegant soups, and cooked foods. As the



**Lukaz Dynia (left) and Sheldon Adler at Eli's Vinegar Factory.**



**Dana Tennengauzer (left) and her son Tal carry a box of food to the van.**

evening unfolded, I would get to know Tomer (age 11), Tal (age 8), and Dana (their mother) better. I saw these two confident boys doing a mitzvah and enjoying every moment of it.

**W**hen all of the delicious food was packed up from the Vinegar Factory, we began loading the vans and cars of volunteers to make the deliveries. Jonah Adler was taking photographs of us gleaning, packing, and loading the food at the Vinegar Factory. It should be noted that there was simultaneous gleaning being performed by other OZ volunteers at Eli's, and carloads of food were being packed and delivered from there as well. The volunteers at both locations, in addition to those specifically referred to in this article, included members of the following families: Bernstein, Gold, Goldman, Haberman, Hawa, Isaacs, Morris, Pearlman, Plevin, Resnikoff,



**Terry Edelstein (left), Brenda Goldman, and Dana Tennengauzer fill containers.**



**Tomer Tennengauzer (left) ladles soup into quart containers.**



**Bread loaded in Lukaz Dynia's van for delivery to the Ronald McDonald House.**

Strauss, and Zises. We also were joined by three volunteers from the South Bronx Salvation Deliverance Church.

Sheldon and Jonah Adler left to deliver trays and boxes to the Neighborhood Coalition Shelter. I got in Lukaz's van with Terry, Dana, Tal, and Tomer, and took off to make a delivery at the Ronald McDonald House. Richard Stadin and others who had been at Eli's were already there,

*continued on page 7*

PHOTOS BY JONAH ADLER



## Erev Thanksgiving

continued from page 6

where an abundance of food had been placed on tables in the lobby to be used by residents of Ronald McDonald House for their Thanksgiving celebration. Both the staff and the family members of patients who saw all of the food in the lobby expressed their appreciation for making this day a bit brighter for them.

Our next stop was a bread delivery at the Yorkville Common Pantry, located at East 109th Street, just steps away from Fifth Avenue, but a world away from the Fifth Avenue I know. As we were unloading the boxes of bread, I heard a homeless man ask us for some bread. There were four men bundled up just outside of the locked Yorkville Pantry on this very cold night. Tal and Tomer asked if it was okay to give the men the bread. It was most certainly okay, and the boys did just that. They handed the bread without hesitation to the men who did not have a place to call home on the night before Thanksgiving. It turned out that we also had sandwiches, which Tal, Tomer, and I gave to the men. We learned that there were more homeless people along 109th Street and in the basements, and before long, Tal and Tomer began to hand out the sandwiches to the homeless people up the block.

Something happened at that moment when we gave out the sandwiches—there was a real moment of Thanksgiving. Not the one with the turkey, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. It was a special, amazing, and indefinable feeling that will be with me—and I am certain will be with Tal and Tomer—for a lifetime: the feeling one has when giving unconditionally to another.

As I discovered, you, too, will find something you can do as an OZ Hesed volunteer: serving Monday Night Pizza; knitting chemo stocking caps and winter scarves with the Crafts Club for the children, or helping tend to the Butterfly Garden at the Ronald McDonald House; making home visits to ill or homebound OZ Congregants; or donating pre-owned clothes or toys to the South Bronx Salvation Deliverance Church. In so doing, we can all enjoy the true spirit of Thanksgiving, gratitude, and charity throughout the year.

# Pesah Context Miniseries

In honor of Rabbi Wechsler

All members are invited to register for and attend a five-session Context miniseries about Passover. The classes will be held at Or Zarua starting on February 2.

Context, the flagship adult Jewish learning program of the Jewish Theological Seminary's Institute for Jewish Learning, is honoring Rabbi Wechsler for his strong support of the program. Context classes, formerly Me'ah, have been held at Congregation Or Zarua since 2004.

The Context miniseries will feature four professors from JTS and Rabbi Wechsler. Each class will be held from 7:30–9:00 p.m. The professors and presentations will be:

Robert Harris, Associate Professor of Bible at JTS, "The Cow That Laid an Egg: From Biblical Passover to Your Seder Plate," February 2.

Eliezer Diamond, the Rabbi Judah Nadich Associate Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at JTS, "From Sacrifice to Seder: Celebrating Passover in a Post-Temple World," February 9.

Benjamin Gampel, the Dina and Eli

Field Family Professor of Jewish History at JTS, "Vengeance as a Motif in the Passover Seder," February 16.

Anne Lapidus Lerner, Director of the Jewish Feminist Research Group and Assistant Professor of Jewish Literature at JTS, "Writing Women into the Haggadah," February 23.

Rabbi Harlan Wechsler, Founding Rabbi of Congregation Or Zarua, "Redemption Theology: Hope in the Haggadah," March 8.

Context has consistently produced superb programming for the study and understanding of Jewish history and thought. The speakers for this Pesah Context miniseries have been selected exclusively for Congregation Or Zarua. Each speaker is a preeminent expert in his or her field of study and is also renowned as a teacher, discussion leader, and writer. The cost to attend all five presentations of Pesah Context is only \$36.

You must register with the Institute for Jewish Learning at JTS. Contact Lynn Feinman by phone (212-678-8821) or email (lyfeinman@jtsa.edu) for information and to register.

## 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](http://www.orzarua.org), contains recordings of many of the presentations given by guest speakers and teachers at the synagogue.

Natan Sharansky's discussion of "Israel, the Arab Spring, and World Jewry" on November 10, 2011, has been posted.

By clicking on the drop-down menu titled "Learning" and choosing "Adult Study," followed by "Recorded Talks," you can also access 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.

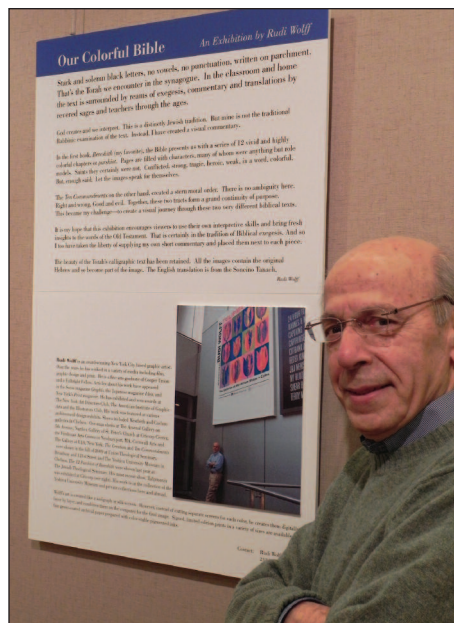
There are many other resources on the Or Zarua website—upcoming events, service schedules, current art gallery shows, minyan sign-up, and much more. So take a moment to explore [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org) and see what has been, is currently, and will be happening at OZ!

# Rudi Wolff's "Our Colorful Bible"

Showing now in the OZ Gallery

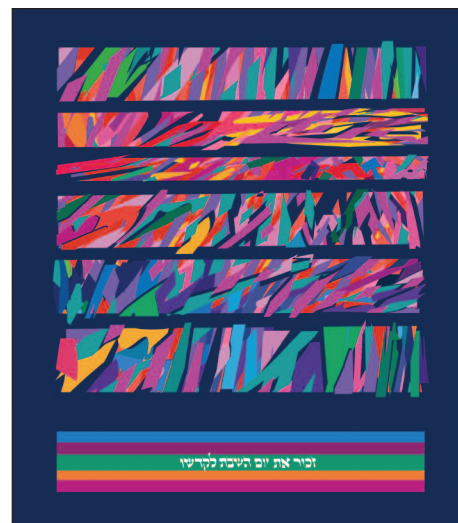
If you were an artist, how would you illustrate the commandment to keep the Sabbath or to honor one's mother and father, or the story of Joseph being cast into a pit? In two series of serigraph prints, the talented and thoughtful artist Rudi Wolff uses vivid colors and abstract forms to suggest the force of the Ten Commandments as well as anecdotes from each of the 12 parshiyot of the Book of Genesis. All 22 works are on display in the OZ Gallery in the social hall. Together with banners especially designed with Or Zarua's initials, they create a striking and celebratory effect.

In addition to the images, Rudi provides his personal commentary on each label, giving us insight into the subject and provoking the viewer to consider different aspects of our Bible. With bursts of color, this newest exhibition will light up the dark during the winter season. Be sure to drop by and review the exhibit.



Through his images and commentary, Rudi Wolff (above) provides insight into different aspects of our Bible.

GERRY SOLOMON



Observe the Sabbath Day  
from the Ten Commandments series

RUDI WOLFF



Rabbi Wechsler discussing "Our Colorful Bible" with the artist, Rudi Wolff.

GERRY SOLOMON



And Adam and Eve Heard the Voice of  
God in the Garden of Eden  
from Bereshit of the 12 Parshiyot  
of the Book of Genesis series

RUDI WOLFF

## OR ZARUA CRAFTS CLUB

The next meetings of the Or Zarua Crafts Club will be on Sundays, January 22 and February 19, 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 Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture

Sharon Liberman Mintz on Wednesday, January 25, 8 p.m.



**Liberman Mintz**

January 25, at 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Liberman Mintz specializes in the fields of illuminated Hebrew manuscripts

The 2012 Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture will be given by Sharon Liberman Mintz, curator of Jewish art at the library of The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), on Wednesday, January 25, at 8:00 p.m.

and rare printed books. Over the course of 22 years at the library, Ms. Liberman Mintz has curated more than 40 exhibitions and coauthored 11 exhibition catalogs. Since 1994, she has also served as the senior consultant for Judaica and Hebraica at Sotheby's New York, where she curated and mounted the record-breaking exhibition of the Valmadonna Trust Library last winter.

Her recent publication, *A Journey through Jewish Worlds: Highlights from the*

*Braginsky Collection of Hebrew Manuscripts and Printed Books*, accompanied an international exhibition of rare Hebrew books that she co-curated; the exhibition opened in Amsterdam in 2009 and was shown in New York in 2010.

Dessert and birthday cake will be served in honor of Or Zarua's 23rd birthday.

Please help us with planning by contacting the office at 212-452-2310, ext. 39 with a reservation for the lecture by Monday, January 23.

## USY on Wheels: Mission Mitzvah

continued from page 1

service in California as well. One day, we attended a festival where we helped a community learn about recycling. We helped to spread awareness and demonstrated how effective recycling should be carried out. We also stopped in Minnesota, where we saw the unique Spam Museum, but of course we did not partake of the samples. One of my favorite places on the whole trip was Powell's City of Books in Portland, Oregon. It is the largest used and new bookstore in the world and is a huge maze of books!

Another aspect of the trip was study, prayer, and Shabbat. While the whole trip was absolutely spectacular, one of the parts that everyone always looked forward to was Shabbat. On Wheels, we never stopped at a synagogue for Shabbat services; we always participated in services as a community at our hotel. Praying with your peers is a very powerful experience. During the trip, our counselors identified and taught us portions of the prayer service that we had not led before. These lessons were taught while we were riding the bus. Everyone in our community was very supportive in this process.

We also had classes, or *sichot*, on Saturday afternoons. Each of the counselors headed different classes. Every other week, we switched groups so that



we would all end up having two classes with each counselor. The various topics generated interesting discussions and debates on subjects including Israel, death, and kashrut.

Traveling on a bus for six and a half weeks may sound like it would be cramped, dull, and boring. However, the bus ride itself was the foundation of the trip. The bus, with my fellow USY participants, became my home this past summer. It was where we slept in the mornings, ate lunch in the afternoons, and made best friends and wonderful memories. Spending a summer with USY on Wheels was not only the best summer of my life, it was life-changing.



From top, USY on Wheels at Crater Lake in the Cascade Mountains of southwestern Oregon; trying to get the group together at Millennium Park, Chicago.



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

January 2012 • Tevet/Shevat 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 • 6 Tevet</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	<b>2 • 7</b> 8:45 am Minyan <i>Office closed</i> <i>Hebrew School closed</i>	<b>3 • 8</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: 1st Year (Seminar) 7:00 pm Context: 2nd Year Makeup (if necessary)	<b>4 • 9</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>5 • 10</b> <b>Fast of Tevet</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>6 • 11</b> 7:15 am Minyan 4:25 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>7 • 12</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Vayehi Bat Mitzvah of Kayla Norflus
<b>8 • 13</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 5:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	<b>9 • 14</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Torah Reading Class	<b>10 • 15</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: 1st Year Makeup (if necessary)	<b>11 • 16</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Beg. Ulpan 8:00 pm Adv. Ulpan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>12 • 17</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	<b>13 • 18</b> 7:15 am Minyan 4:32 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Family and Friends Dinner	<b>14 • 19</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Shemot Bat Mitzvah of Alyssa Prince
<b>15 • 20</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 10:15 pm Crafts Club 5:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	<b>16 • 21</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr., Day</b> 8:45 am Minyan <i>Office closed</i> <i>Hebrew School closed</i>	<b>17 • 22</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>18 • 23</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Beg. Ulpan 8:00 pm Adv. Ulpan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>19 • 24</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	<b>20 • 25</b> 7:15 am Minyan 4:40 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>21 • 26</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Vaera
<b>22 • 27</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 5:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal 7:30 pm Book Discussion	<b>23 • 28</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Torah Reading Class	<b>24 • 29</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Diner	<b>25 • 1 Shevat</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh Shevat</b> 7:00 am Minyan 6:00 pm Beg. Ulpan 8:00 pm Adv. Ulpan 8:00 pm Lucy Dawidowicz Lecture by Sharon Liberman Mintz	<b>26 • 2</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	<b>27 • 3</b> 8:45 am Minyan 4:48 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>28 • 4</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Bo Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Frackman OZ 23rd Birthday Kiddush
<b>29 • 5</b> 8:45 am Minyan 5:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	<b>30 • 6</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Torah Reading Class	<b>31 • 7</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Diner				



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1 • 8 Shevat</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Beg. Ulpan 8:00 pm Adv. Ulpan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>2 • 9</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal 7:00 pm Pesah Context	<b>3 • 10</b> 7:15 am Minyan 4:57 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>4 • 11</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Beshallah Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Nash
<b>5 • 12</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 5:00 pm Super Bowl Party 5:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	<b>6 • 13</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Torah Reading Class	<b>7 • 14</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Diner 7:00 pm Context: Graduate Seminar	<b>8 • 15</b> <b>Tu B'Shevat</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Beg. Ulpan 8:00 pm Adv. Ulpan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>9 • 16</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal 7:00 pm Pesah Context	<b>10 • 17</b> 7:15 am Minyan 5:06 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>11 • 18</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Yitro Bat Mitzvah of Zoe Fleishaker
<b>12 • 19</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 5:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	<b>13 • 20</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Torah Reading Class	<b>14 • 21</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Diner 7:00 pm Context: Graduate Seminar	<b>15 • 22</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Beg. Ulpan 8:00 pm Adv. Ulpan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>16 • 23</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal 7:00 pm Pesah Context	<b>17 • 24</b> 7:15 am Minyan 5:14 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>18 • 25</b> <b>Shabbat Shekalim</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Mishpatim
<b>19 • 26</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 10:15 am Crafts Club 5:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	<b>20 • 27</b> <b>Presidents' Day</b> 8:45 am Minyan <i>Office closed</i> <i>Hebrew School closed</i>	<b>21 • 28</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Diner <i>No Graduate Seminar</i>	<b>22 • 29</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Beg. Ulpan 8:00 pm Adv. Ulpan 8:00 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School closed</i>	<b>23 • 30</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh Adar</b> 7:00 am Minyan 7:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal 7:00 pm Pesah Context	<b>24 • 1 Adar</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh Adar</b> 7:00 am Minyan 5:22 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>25 • 2</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Terumah Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Philipp Moriarty
<b>26 • 3</b> 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 5:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	<b>27 • 4</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Torah Reading Class	<b>28 • 5</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Diner 7:00 pm Context: Graduate Seminar	<b>29 • 6</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Beg. Ulpan 8:00 pm Adv. Ulpan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>1 March • 7</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Zayin Adar Dinner 7:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal		

# Or Zarua's Oral History to Be Recorded

Collecting memories and memorabilia of our Congregation

January marks the beginning of a project to record an oral history of Congregation Or Zarua. A small committee has been training in oral history interviewing techniques, learning how to use the recording equipment, and becoming steeped in the history of the synagogue.

We plan to record the memories of people who have been involved in the Congregation, beginning with the people

who founded our Congregation and those who remember the early days of our synagogue. At the same time, we are collecting memorabilia, such as photographs, documents, and invitations, to create an Or Zarua archive.

We hope that you will agree to be interviewed if you are asked. Also, please contact us if you have material that would add to the historical understanding and record of Congregation Or Zarua. Caroline Golden

and Gerry Solomon are collecting material; Mimi Alperin is directing the project.

We plan to periodically write about the project to share the information and material that we discover. We hope you enjoy the letter, shown below, from the real estate attorney who conducted the research into the ownership of the property we bought to erect our new building.

We think you will find the results of this project interesting.

## POLLET & POLLET

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
110 EAST 58TH STREET  
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WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER  
212-909-9661

April 15, 1994

VIA TELECOPIER  
(212) 410-2137

Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler  
Congregation Or Zarua  
1384 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York 10128

Re: 127 East 82nd Street

Dear Harlan:

I have completed my Dickensian search through the dusty tomes in the Office of the City Register to discover the fascinating history of the building, which will be the new home of Congregation Or Zarua.

The first record of the property is in a Map of Tracts and Farms, which by the 1800's was owned by the City of New York as "Common Lands". In 1823, the land between Park and Lexington Avenues on East 82nd Street was leased for ten years by the City to Mary Dunscomb and others, Trustees of the Estate of Edward Dunscomb.

About thirty years later, on May 4, 1852, the Mayor, Alderman and Commonalty of the City of New York sold Lot 14 in Block 1511, a 25 x 102'2" parcel, 127 East 82nd Street, to John R. Paxton, who in turn conveyed the parcel the next year (April 26, 1853) to William Woods. Ten years later (February 4, 1863) William and Elisabeth Woods conveyed the lot to Hugh Mahon. I have not yet discovered any record which would suggest that during the 1850's and 1860's any building was erected on the land.

The next recorded deed appears in 1883, when on July 19, Hyman Schnitzer, Jr. and Esther Schnitzer conveyed the property to Congregation Kehillath Jeshurun. (There is no record of a transfer of title from Mr. Mahon to Hyman Schnitzer; presumably, Mr. Schnitzer did not record a deed.)

Congregation Kehillath Jeshurun kept the building until May 23, 1904, when, as grantor, it sold the synagogue to Joseph

## POLLET & POLLET

Rabbi Harlan Wechsler  
April 15, 1994  
Page 2

Rosenzweig, who the next day, conveyed the building and land to Congregation B'Nai Paiser. Congregation Kehillath Jeshurun probably built the synagogue which now stands on the site, because we know that a two-story building existed on June 13, 1904, when B'Nai Paiser filed for an Alteration Permit in the Buildings Department. The application was to extend the rear wall and to construct a balcony "made 5'2" wide supported on 6 x 8 spruce girder, 6 x 6 posts beams" in an existing synagogue (I. Cohen 171 East 83rd Street was the Chairman of the Buildings Committee; M. Gallert, 168 E. 80th Street, President; Oscar Lowinson, 250 W. 24th Street, Architect). B'Nai Paiser stayed in the building only five years. On July 13, 1909, B'Nai Paiser sold the property to Chebra Kadischa Talmud Torah.

It is not until almost forty years later that another deed conveyance is recorded. On December 23, 1947, Chebra Kadischa Talmud Torah conveyed the building to New Light Temple, Inc., a religious corporation, which only a little more than a year later, on February 2, 1949, sold the property to The Modern Synagogue, Incorporated.

The Modern Synagogue sold the property to the First Waldensian Church of New York City on February 20, 1951. Now forty-three years later, the property will be returned to its original use, when a deed is recorded in the name of Congregation Or Zarua.

I hope the knowledge of the building's past contributes an added dimension of pleasure on the wonderful occasion of the Congregation's reclaiming this synagogue.

With warmest regards.

Cordially,

Sybil H. Pollet

SHP/swc

cc: Mr. Henry Wollman  
Mr. Aaron Sheldon  
Ms. Diane Okrent

This letter from real estate attorney Sybil H. Pollet describing the fascinating history of the property at 127 East 82nd Street will be added to the Congregation Or Zarua archive as part of a new oral history project.

## 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.



# Choosing Our Next Rabbi

by the Rabbinical Search Committee

**T**he search for our next rabbi is proceeding according to schedule. We posted our questionnaire on the Rabbinical Assembly website in early November. Thus, OZ accomplished the first official step in the search process. The Rabbinical Assembly questionnaire included information that was gleaned from the facilitated discussions held in September.

The Rabbinical Search Committee has already had a very positive initial response from rabbis who are interested in the position. We have received 20 resumes, and more continue to arrive.

The Search Committee is conducting a preliminary screening of the applicants and will identify the most promising candi-

dates. As the pool of promising candidates is narrowed, we will invite two, or possibly three, to visit our Congregation. The Committee anticipates that these visits will occur between late January and mid-March. The Committee is hopeful that each rabbinical candidate will visit for a Shabbaton. A Shabbaton will enable as many Congregants as possible to attend at least a service, a meal, or a study session with the candidate. These weekends have not yet been scheduled, since they will depend on when the rabbis are able to visit. Please watch for announcements of these events on the OZ website, by e-blast, and by mail. The Search Committee hopes that all Congregants will have the opportunity to participate.

## RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Sundays at 3:00 a.m., 5:00 a.m., and 7:00 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. Nonsubscribers can obtain a free, three-day trial at [www.siriusxm.com](http://www.siriusxm.com).

## Hesed Events and Programs

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

### 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 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 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.ozarua.org](http://www.ozarua.org) by choosing "Daily Minyan" under the "Prayer" drop-down menu.

## 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.

# Ulpan Classes for Teens at Or Zarua

by Ilana Burgess

Or Zarua offers two ulpan classes to teach teens modern Hebrew. These classes have been a source of great satisfaction to the OZ faculty because of the enthusiasm shown by the students who are enrolled.

The two ulpan classes serve very different purposes and have different goals. The first is a beginner's class of eighth graders who are learning conversational Hebrew to allow them to find their way around Israel and have discussions with local people.

The second ulpan class consists of teenagers who are graduates of the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan and who are now attending secular high schools. The material presented in this class is designed to expand their language skills, perfect their grammar, and enrich their understanding of Hebrew literature and poetry.

Teaching a second language once a week is very difficult. The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) is an organization that establishes rating scales for how well an

individual can speak a language. According to the FSI, a person needs about 300 hours of training in Hebrew to acquire the skills to satisfy the basic needs of routine travel. Training in Hebrew at camps generally involves the use of "intermingled sentences," such as, "We will meet in the *hadar ochel* (dining room) at 4:00 p.m." Although this method allows the kids to learn about the facilities and activities in the camp, it does not help with true Hebrew conversation outside of camp.

At Or Zarua, the goal is to teach actual conversational Hebrew. Therefore, as OZ continues to offer ulpan classes in the future, we will be considering approaches to expand the contact time the students have with the Hebrew language as suggested by FSI's rating scales.

For more information about Hebrew courses for youth at Or Zarua or any other Hebrew school questions, please contact me at 212-452-2310, ext. 15, or [iburgess@orzarua.org](mailto:iburgess@orzarua.org).

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### January/February

RUDI WOLFF GALLERY SHOW,  
"Our Colorful Bible," \$1,500

### February 5

SUPER BOWL PARTY, sponsored in full

### March 7

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, ext. 14.

## OZ YOUTH ART CALENDAR 5773

**Fundraiser for Or Zarua's Youth Education Department**

The Or Zarua Youth Department will begin collecting material for the 5773 OZ student calendar (September 2012). The new calendar will feature artwork created by members of the Or Zarua community up to 18 years of age and chosen by a competition. Artwork may be submitted by email to Ilana Burgess ([iburgess@orzarua.org](mailto:iburgess@orzarua.org)).

In addition, people can purchase a birthday entry on the calendar for \$1.00 per name. Please contact Ilana Burgess for further information.

## OZ'S COLLEGE CONNECTION

**Staying in touch with our college-age youth**

We are once again collecting the school addresses of all Congregants' children who are away at college in order to mail gift packages to the students on Purim. To help us remain in contact with these family members while they are away from home, please send your child's name, school address, and email address by Friday, February 24, to Deborah Klee Wenger at [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org), or mail the information to the synagogue office, attention "College."

## 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, "Mirth and Mitzvahs."

Rehearsals begin on Sunday, January 8 in Or Zarua's social hall from 5:00 to 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!



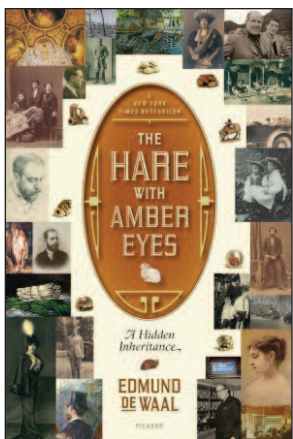
# Or Zarua Book Discussions

*The Hare with Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal on Sunday, January 22

Please join us for our next Or Zarua book discussion on Sunday, January 22, at 7:30 p.m.

in Or Zarua's library. Pat Davidson will lead us in discussing *The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance*, by Edmund de Waal.

This intriguing story follows five generations of the author's family, from its roots in Odessa. It was sparked by de Waal's inheritance of a collection of 264 tiny Japanese wood and ivory carvings, called netsuke, which were once owned by the Ephrussi family, a 19th-century banking



dynasty in Paris and Vienna, who were as rich and respected as the Rothschilds. The netsuke are the only remnant of the wealth plundered from their Vienna mansion after 1938. As de Waal follows the intricately carved netsuke from person to person, across two continents, readers meet his colorful ancestors, such as Charles Ephrussi of Paris: art connoisseur, friend to Impressionist painters, and the model for Proust's character Swann in *Remembrance of Things Past*. A fine ceramicist and natural researcher, de Waal provides tantalizing glimpses into the

life of each owner, with rich details about the art, architecture, fashion, literature, celebrities, and politics of the times.

This is a poignant history of an Old World family, of the society in which they lived, and of their beloved objects. It's a tale of art and wealth, survival, and the bittersweet memories of family heirlooms lost and found.

Our selection for the following book discussion, on March 18, is *The Free World*, by David Bezmozgis, an acclaimed young writer from the former Soviet Union.

For more information on Or Zarua book discussions or to suggest a book, please contact Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611 or Deborah Wenger in the synagogue office at [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org).

## Hevra Kadisha Zayin Adar Dinner

Thursday, March 1, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Or Zarua's Hevra Kadisha will observe its annual Zayin Adar dinner on Thursday evening, March 1. The topic this year will be the efforts to preserve and protect historic Jewish cemeteries. Representatives of the organization involved in this project, Or Zarua Congregants among them, will speak. The dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

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

Recent Or Zarua Hevra Kadisha activities have included an extraordinary and moving Tahara training session with Rabbi Elchonon Zohn, a leading authority on the

practice and head of the Hevra Kadisha in Queens and Long Island, as well as the director of the National Association of Hevra Kadisha.

All are invited as we look forward to another wonderful study session and discussion at this year's dinner. Reservations should be made through the synagogue office (212-452-2310, ext. 39) by Thursday, February 16. Suggested donations to the Hevra Kadisha Fund are \$36 per person.

The Or Zarua Hevra Kadisha (Holy, or Sacred, Society) was established in 1993. Its purpose is to assist members of the Congregation at the difficult time of a loved one's death. Members of our Hevra Kadisha perform certain duties without any personal or private gain. In fact, Hevra members understand that one of the greatest mitzvot

one can do is to perform an act of kindness and respect for someone who can never repay or thank you. Among such services are acting as *shomrim*, volunteers who watch over the body of the deceased in the funeral chapel; performing *tahara*, purifying and dressing the deceased for burial; providing *Seudat Havraah*, the condolence meal at the mourner's home; and ensuring that during *shivah* there is a minyan in the house of mourning for daily services and providing siddurim, kipot, tallitot, and mourners' low chairs as needed.

The Congregation Or Zarua Hevra Kadisha eagerly welcomes new members. For further information, please contact the synagogue office or co-chair Vera Silver ([vsilver@related.com](mailto:vsilver@related.com)) or Gerry Solomon ([gsolomon2@aol.com](mailto:gsolomon2@aol.com)).

### 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.

# OZ's Annual Members' Reception

Congregants socialized in the home of Kendra Collins and Andrew Plevin on December 1



PHOTOS BY RACHEL FEIERMAN



These and additional photos from the annual reception for members of Congregation Or Zarua can be viewed online at [rachelfeierman.com/OZparty](http://rachelfeierman.com/OZparty). If you wish to obtain a copy of any of the photos shown, please contact Rachel Feierman via email at [rachelfeierman@gmail.com](mailto:rachelfeierman@gmail.com).

## Sushi in the Sukkah

OZ's young professionals enjoyed Sukkot together



ARIELLE FRIEDMAN

Sushi in the Sukkah attracted young families, couples, and singles, including nonmembers who were invited by Congregants. This event allowed a young crowd to mingle in the sukkah and also gave nonmembers an opportunity to learn about Congregation Or Zarua.



ty  
o, 2011

## TALMUD CLASS

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

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

Classes are held most Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. in the OZ library.

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



HARVEY BRENNER

**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

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

## January/February Checklist

- Pesah Context miniseries in honor of Rabbi Wechsler begins on Thursday, February 2, 7:30 p.m. Five 90-minute presentations by four JTS professors and Rabbi Wechsler. \$36 for all five sessions. RSVP to Lynn Feinman at the Institute for Jewish Learning (see page 7).

- 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 in the Purim Spiel are welcome to attend (see page 14).

- Torah Reading Class with Mark Somerstein begins on January 9. Contact Mark for details (see page 5).

- An ulpan class to learn native Hebrew as it is actually spoken in Israel is forming at Or Zarua (see page 19).

- The Lucy S. Dawidowicz lecture will be given on Wednesday, January 25, at 8:00 p.m. by Sharon Liberman Mintz, curator of Jewish art at the JTS library (see page 9).

- Or Zarua's 23rd Birthday Kiddush is Saturday, January 28.

- Rudi Wolff's "Our Colorful Bible" is currently on display in the OZ Gallery in the social hall (see page 8).

- Or Zarua is recording its oral history and creating an archive. If you have information or material to be included, please contact the Oral History Committee (see page 12).

- OZ Book Discussion features Edmund de Waal's *The Hare with Amber Eyes* on Sunday, January 22, 7:30 p.m. The following

discussion will be Sunday, March 18 (see page 15).

- Join the OZ Crafts Club on Sundays, January 22 and February 19, at 10:15 a.m. in the OZ library (see page 4).

- The Hevra Kadisha Zayin Adar Dinner is Thursday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. Reservations required (see page 15).

- Participate in a minyan, a party, and an auction for a seven-night stay in a Disney villa at Bay Lake while supporting the Met Council Food Pantry by attending the Annual OZ Super Bowl Party, Sunday, February 6, beginning at 5:00 p.m. RSVP required (see page 4).

- Send the names and addresses of your college-age children to OZ's College Connection by February 24 so that they may receive a Purim package (see page 14).

- Help out with a Hesed program (see page 13).

- Sign up for the morning minyan.

- Submit your artwork for the 5773 OZ Youth Art Calendar (see page 14).

- Mark your calendar for Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. for Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler.

- 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).