

# OZ's Student Congregants Tour Israel

Reflections and photos

After Pesah, four members of Or Zarua who are eighth graders at either the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan or The Abraham Joshua Heschel School traveled to Israel. In words and photos, each student Congregant reflects on an aspect of his or her Israel experience.—CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ

## Riding Camels in the Negev

by Yael Rayport, Schechter Manhattan

**A** highlight of the Israel trip with the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan for me was riding the camels in the Negev. Before going on the trip, I knew I would gain many new experiences, but riding the camels was a very memorable one. As we rode on their backs, we role-played as if this were our only form of transportation, and we were able to get a taste of a Bedouin's life. Not only that, but it was also a great bonding opportunity with the other kids on the trip! Although I

rode with my classmate Adina, our complaining about our sore legs gave us another chance to make connections with the other eighth graders.

## Hiking in the Negev

by Jonathan Mack, Heschel School

**T**his past April, the eighth grade at Heschel took a two-week trip to Israel. We toured the country, starting in the south, traveling to the north, and concluding in Jerusalem. There were many memorable experiences that I shared with my classmates, and we all felt a little more “bonded” by the end of the two-week journey.

One highlight that stood out for me was a two-day, two-night hike in Machtesh Ramon. Located in the Negev, the Machtesh is a crater formed by water erosion. As a group, we started hiking from one side of the crater. We walked and

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## SUMMER TALMUD CLASS

**Jerusalem in the Talmud and Midrash:**

**A Survey of Sources**

**Five Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.**

**T**his summer, Rabbi Bolton will be conducting a Talmud class entitled “Jerusalem in the Talmud and Midrash: A Survey of Sources.” The class will meet on five Wednesdays—July 24 and 31, and August 7, 14, and 21—at 7:30 p.m. in the OZ library. As in the past, anyone may join Or Zarua's Talmud class at any time; experience in Talmud study, Hebrew, or Aramaic is not necessary.

## TISHA B'AV SERVICES

**Erev Tisha B'Av**

**Monday, July 15**

8:00 p.m. Minhah/Ma'ariv  
Reading of Eikha

**Tisha B'Av**

**Tuesday, July 16**

7:00 a.m. Shaharit  
8:00 p.m. Minhah/Ma'ariv



Riding camels in the Negev



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



This message is adapted from my remarks at the Annual Meeting on May 20, 2013.

I thank the membership of Or Zarua for electing me to my third and final year as president. I thank the founders of Or Zarua for their foresight in setting term limits so that no individual can hold an office for more than three consecutive years. It's healthy for the individual and for the Congregation.

So far, I've had an exciting presidency. I took office right after Rabbi Wechsler announced his retirement. Then, less than a month later, we learned that we needed to find a new venue for our High Holy Day services in a little more than two months.

The focus of my first year was the activities surrounding the rabbinic search. Then, at last year's Annual Meeting, we made Or Zarua history by voting to hire Rabbi Scott Bolton to be our next rabbi.

This past year my concentration was on the transition—how to bring Rabbi Bolton into the OZ fold, ease the way for him and his family, and help the Congregation to get to know him. His first year has been more successful than any of us could have imagined a year ago. He really stepped up to the plate!

Rabbi Bolton has brought new energy to all aspects of Or Zarua. Services are lively and upbeat. Adults and children are engaged and involved. Rabbi Bolton added a new class on the Siddur that has been very well attended. With rabbis from five neighboring congregations, he also initiated the East Side Torah Learning Coalition or TLC. The initial offerings of the TLC were classes on *Pirke Avot*, traditionally studied between Pesah and Shavuot. They were huge successes! There will be a TLC day of learning on Rosh Hodesh Elul (August 6), and more community learning opportunities are planned for the coming year.

Rabbi Bolton has engaged so many members of the community as he has reached out in times of gladness and sor-

row. Many members have shared with me how he has brought them comfort and consolation at a time of illness or loss. Many have shared how happy they have been sharing their simchas with him. And many have remarked at how quickly he has become "our rabbi." If you haven't had a chance to meet with him one-on-one, make an appointment. You'll be glad you did!

As I embark on my third year as Or Zarua's president, my focus will be on membership. While we have always prided ourselves in being an intimate community, we have room to grow. We want to be small enough to know one another, but large enough to have robust programming and pay our bills. Right now, we have fewer than 300 member units. In this year, our 25th, I would like to add 25 new member units. To that end, I have appointed a Membership and Kehilla-Building Committee to attract new members, retain the members we have, and integrate new members as they join OZ. The committee will plan events to attract new members and create opportunities for community building. I invite you to join the committee, but every member of Or Zarua is already an ambassador for the Congregation. If you are enjoying your OZ membership, tell your friends, tell your relatives, and bring them into our tent.

From 1987 to 1996, American Express used the slogan, "Membership has its privileges." Well, being a member of Or Zarua has its privileges, too. We are members of a unique community of learners and pray-ers who participate in Jewish religious and communal life together.

But membership also implies obligation. We have the obligation to support the good works of the community—educating ourselves and our children, providing for the needs of our members and the surrounding community, maintaining our physical home, and supporting our rabbi and staff. The bottom line is that we need your participation and financial support for the work we do. And we need to grow our membership so that we can build on and enhance the wonderful community that is Or Zarua.

I look forward to leading Or Zarua in the year ahead. Have a great summer!



# East Side Torah Learning Coalition

Summer program in preparation for the High Holy Days, August 6 at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

On May 30, the East Side Torah Learning Coalition (TLC) completed its seventh session on *Pirke Avot* with Mordechai Rosenstein discussing “The Art and Illumination of *Pirke Avot*.”

You are invited to join the TLC this summer as it expands its rabbinical and congregational participation. On Tuesday, August 6, Rosh Hodesh Elul, two learning opportunities will be offered to prepare us for the High Holy Days:

- At 1 p.m. at Or Olam—The East 55th Street Synagogue, Cantor Lori A. Corrsin (Temple Emanu-El), and Rabbis David Gelfand (Temple Israel, NYC), and David Kalb (Central Synagogue), will discuss “The Shofar: Music to the Ears or a Wake-Up Call for Sinners?” with Rabbi Ephraim Pelcovits (Or Olam) moderating.

- At 8 p.m. at Or Zarua, Rabbis Rachel Ain (Sutton Place), Benjamin Skydell (Orach Chaim), and Jonathan Stein (Shaaray Tefila) will discuss “Apples, Honey and Sins: Does God Love Us or Judge Us on the High Holidays?” with Rabbi Scott Bolton (Or Zarua) moderating.

The TLC is a coalition of synagogues that together create unity—achdut—

through engaging Torah study. Join us for these events!



Mordechai Rosenstein presented “The Art and Illumination of *Pirke Avot*” for the seventh session of the Torah Learning Coalition. He is pictured above with the six rabbis who have participated in the TLC *Pirke Avot* program. From left, Rachel Ain (Sutton Place), Scott Bolton (Or Zarua), Ephraim Pelcovits (Or Olam—East 55th Street), Mordechai Rosenstein, Jonathan Stein (Shaaray Tefila), Elie Weinstock (Kehilath Jeshurun), and Elliot Cosgrove (Park Avenue).

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### High Holy Days and Festivals of Tishri

Traditionally, the *Or Zarua* Newsletter carries scheduling information and other details regarding Selihot, the High Holy Days, Sukkot, Shemini Azteret, and Simhat Torah in the September/October edition. This year, however, the High Holy Days fall in early September, making it necessary to publish relevant information in the July/August issue. Since Sukkot begins in the middle of September, information regarding the Festival days will appear in the September/October issue. High Holy Day information will be reprinted in the September/October *Newsletter*. Thank you for your understanding. —CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ



CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE, SUNDAY, JUNE 2. Approximately 60 Congregants and OZ Youth had a great time marching along Fifth Avenue on a beautiful day to show their support of Israel. White parade caps emblazoned with our shul's name are available for an \$18 donation. Call the office at 212-452-2310, extension 12, to obtain one.

# OZ's Day School Students Tour Israel

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climbed our way across the bottom to the other side and then climbed to the top of the crater. Looking back, we saw in the distance, miles and miles away, the little speck that was the place we had set off from. It was a very rewarding experience.

Before we set off on that hike, we davened together. We prayed, looking out over the vast crater we were about to cross. As the sun rose, we slowly warmed up from the evening chill of the desert. I remember the chill because I had to pull my sweatshirt sleeves over my leather-bound left arm to stay warm. As we prayed about God's beautiful works of creation, we saw one ourselves.

More than just an opportunity to spend time with our friends, the trip helped us all connect to our Jewish roots in Israel, more than we ever could have imagined.



JONATHAN NACK

**Hiking in the Negev**

## From Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut

by *Chloe Sahn, Schechter Manhattan*

For the past three years, I have had the absolute pleasure of attending Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan for middle school. My school trip to Israel was the culmination of my studies and learning experience at Schechter. And my celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut in Jerusalem was the most memorable part of the trip among many great memories of my time in Israel.

This was my first time visiting Israel. Celebrating the founding of the State of Israel in Jerusalem brought into sharp focus my understanding of my heritage, as a Jew, as a student of Hebrew and Jewish



BEN MANN/SCHECHTER MANHATTAN

## Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities

studies, and as a visitor from America falling in love with Israel.

The highlight of the evening celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut was spending time with new and old friends. The old friends were my classmates for the past three years, and the new friends were the other students who were traveling with us and Israelis we met during the festivities.

We walked on Ben Yehuda Street, a cobblestone street closed to cars with stores lining each side of the street. There were festivities everywhere. There was Israeli music, dancing, candy vendors, and booths selling all sorts of celebratory items, such as blue-and-white blow-up hammers. Most impressive were all of the spray cans of white foam. People were spraying each other everywhere—on our clothes, in our hair. There were also fireworks popping up all over the place. We ate crepes and ice cream that were so delicious and so freshly made, ice cream never tasted so good. We also met so many Israeli teens, and we spoke Hebrew, and even though we were from different countries, we really connected with each other. It was truly magical.

Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut for the first time in Israel was amazing. I had the experience of celebrating this important holiday as if I had been living in Israel all my life. It made me feel more connected to Israel, and I felt part of something bigger as a Jew.



This celebration was in stark contrast to Yom Hazikaron, which took place starting the night before and continued into the start of Yom Ha'atzmaut. Yom Hazikaron is similar to our Memorial Day, a national remembrance day observed in Israel for those who fought for Israel and lost their lives from the days before the founding of Israel and thereafter. There was one siren that sounded at 8:00 the night of Yom Hazikaron and another siren at 11:00 the following morning. When the sirens sound, people stop what they are doing, cars and buses stop, and people get out of their cars. That morning during the second siren, we were on a hike in the hills outside of Jerusalem, and during the hike, we saw an Israeli military plane almost eye level to us.

Reflecting on these two particular days during my visit to Israel made me very aware of how magnificent a place Israel is, and how Israel came at a price of people giving their lives for the idea of a Jewish homeland.

Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut for the first time in Israel was amazing. I had the experience of celebrating this important



# Israel Tour

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holiday like an Israeli. It made me feel more connected to Israel. I felt part of something bigger as a Jew. The songs sung in Hebrew made me realize that I was not only in Israel, but in the Holy Land. I cannot wait until I return to Israel and spend more time with my new friends and my new home away from home.

## Experiencing a National Transition in a Day

by Eliana Weinstein, Schechter Manhattan

**T**his April, I traveled to Israel for two weeks with my eighth-grade class at Solomon Schechter. There were many powerful experiences, but one that stands out was the transition between Yom Hazikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day). On Yom Hazikaron, we remember the soldiers who died protecting Israel. It is a very emotional and personal day for Israelis because everyone seems to know someone who perished. We visited Har Herzl, where everyone in the armed services who dies in the line of duty gets buried, as well as dignitaries such as Golda Meir. It was moving to see families visiting the graves of loved ones who died. This again made all of us there feel connected to one another.

Afterwards, we hiked in the Judean Mountains. While hiking, we heard the long siren and immediately stopped moving, talking, or laughing. When the siren blows, people stop what they are doing to pay their respects. We watched off the side of the mountain as people stopped their cars and got out of them. This was one of the pivotal moments of my trip. I felt connected to the entire state of Israel.

Later in the evening, we celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day). We partied on Ben Yehuda Street—laughing, dancing, and spraying foam on one another and complete strangers in celebration. It amazed me how quickly Israelis were able to transition from solemnness to happiness. Both moments made me feel connected to Israel. I will always remember these moving experiences.

# Rabbi's Reflections

by Rabbi Scott N. Bolton



**A**llow me to thank you—so many of you—who have welcomed my family and me to the Or Zarua community. We have shared simchas and tzarot (happy times and sad times), and have found strength through our traditions, frameworks, and responses. During illness, we have drawn strength from spiritual wells, and during classes, we have gained wisdom from our holy sources.

Prayerful mornings at our daily minyan help me start each day with inspiration, while Shabbat services have continued to inspire. Our programming, which centers on Israel and intellectual and artful pursuits, helps me feel whole. We have much to celebrate as a community, and with the dedication of our board officers, committee chairs, and programming groups, we will create even more opportunities to be engaged this coming year.

Before the High Holy Days come upon

us, please join me for a five-session class on “Jerusalem in the Talmud and Midrash: A Survey of Sources,” starting on Wednesday evening, July 24, at 7:30 p.m. Then on Tuesday, August 6, Rosh Hodesh Elul, the Torah Learning Coalition will offer two panels concerning spiritual preparation for the High Holy Days. The first is on “The Shofar: Music to the Ears or a Wake-Up Call for Sinners?” at 1 p.m. at Or Olam—The East 55th Street Synagogue. The evening panel will be held at Or Zarua, at 8:00 p.m., on the topic “Apples, Honey and Sins: Does God Love Us or Judge Us on the High Holidays?” (see page 3 for details).

Finally, if we have not had a chance to meet one another, let us do so. I would very much enjoy getting to know you. I invite you to call my assistant, Deborah Wenger, at 212-452-2310, extension 12, and make an appointment. I encourage everyone to connect with any one or a number of our programs and ongoing services, so that we can continue the sacred work and community of learning to which we are dedicated.

L'shalom!

## LIFE EVENTS AT 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, so that Rabbi Bolton can be informed.

## OR ZARUA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

**T**he Oral History committee, chaired by Mimi Alperin, continues to collect materials, such as memories and artifacts, from the early days of Congregation Or Zarua. If you have a submission for the Oral History Project, please contact Caroline Golden at [caroline@carolinegolden.com](mailto:caroline@carolinegolden.com) or Gerry Solomon at [gsolomon2@aol.com](mailto:gsolomon2@aol.com). Questions should be directed to Meredith Katz at [mekatz@jtsa.edu](mailto:mekatz@jtsa.edu).

## HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 5774/2013

### Wednesday, September 4

#### Erev Rosh Hashanah

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

### Thursday, September 5

#### First Day Rosh Hashanah

Morning 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
*Wallace Hall*

Tashlikh 6:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m.  
*Central Park, south end of Reservoir*

Evening 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.  
*Congregation Or Zarua*

### Friday, September 6

#### Second Day Rosh Hashanah

Morning 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
*Wallace Hall*

Minhah/ Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15 p.m.–7:15 p.m.  
*Congregation Or Zarua*

### Saturday, September 7

#### Shabbat Shuvah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.  
*Congregation Or Zarua*

### Friday, September 13

#### Erev Yom Kippur

Minhah 1:30 p.m.–1:55 p.m.  
*Congregation Or Zarua*

Kol Nidre 6:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.  
*Wallace Hall*

### Saturday, September 14

#### Yom Kippur/Yizkor

Services 9:00 a.m.–7:57 p.m.  
*Wallace Hall*

### • Service Locations •

*Congregation Or Zarua*  
 127 East 82nd Street  
 between Lexington and Park Avenues

*Wallace Hall*  
 on west side of Park Avenue  
 between 83rd and 84th Streets

*Tickets are required for all services.*

# High Holy Days 5774/2013

Information regarding tickets, service schedules, and locations



For our High Holy Day services, we will again use Wallace Hall, located on the lower level of St. Ignatius Loyola Church, on the west side of Park Avenue between 83rd and 84th Streets. Last year, we found that Wallace Hall held all of us comfortably, with a central bimah and unassigned seating on three sides. Wallace Hall is also conveniently located close to our building on East 82nd Street.

This year, Or Zarua will be offering three types of services for the High Holy Days: our main service, led by Rabbi Scott Bolton; children’s services, divided by age; and a Family Learning Experience, led by Rabbi Amy Bolton. One set of children’s services is for children ages 2–6, and the other is for ages 7–12. Children’s services will be held on both days of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur. There will also be a children’s service on Kol Nidre for children ages 5–12. Please note that children ages 2–4 years old must be accompanied by no more than one parent.

Teenagers are encouraged to attend the main service. Please review the High Holy Day schedules, shown on pages 6 and 7, for all service times and locations.

The Family Learning Experience, led by Rabbi Amy Bolton, is designed for the entire family: children of all ages and their parents. The Family Learning Experience is not a drop-off service for children. It will be held at Or Zarua on East 82nd Street on the second day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur from 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Grandparents are also invited. Times and locations are shown on the schedule on page 7.

The schedule for all main services for the High Holy Days will be printed on the reverse side of your tickets. Remember to bring your ticket with you to all services.

Membership bills have been mailed to each household. Tickets will be mailed to all members in good standing in August. Please call the synagogue office with questions regarding your membership. Note that all children through the age of 22 are included in family membership; children ages 23 and above are required to have guest tickets. To purchase guest tickets, please call the synagogue office.

## ADDITIONAL HIGH HOLY DAY TICKETS

Guest tickets for all High Holy Day services are \$360 each for ages 13 and up, and \$180 for ages 5-12. To order, contact Luisa Paulino at lpaulino@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, extension 10.



**CONGREGATION OR ZARUA BID FAREWELL** in June to Harvey Brenner (right center), who had been our executive director since 2009. Hebrew School students honored him with cards, words, and songs. We all wish Harvey good health and good fortune. Thank you, Harvey!

LANA BURGESS

# Rabbi Silber at OZ on Pesah

A change from High Holy Day tradition



**E**ach year during the Days of Awe, Rabbi Silber, founder and dean of the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education studies for

women, has led a study session for Congregation Or Zarua. This year, we will be breaking tradition. Rabbi Silber will be joining us for Pesah instead of the High

Holy Days, and for a good reason. His book, *A Passover Haggadah: Go Forth and Learn*, has recently been published. This Haggadah presents Rabbi Silber's commentary and a collection of essays that discuss biblical and rabbinic texts related to the ritual and narration of the Passover Seder.

The March/April edition of the *OZ Newsletter* will contain all the details about Rabbi Silber's Pesah presentation. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

## Selihot Study Session

“Seeking a Conception of the Jewish Soul: Coming Closer to the High Holy Day Liturgy”

**D**uring the Selihot service and Kol Nidre, we say “The Soul is Yours, God, and the Body Your Servant.” Throughout the liturgy of Selihot and the High Holy Days, we encounter poetry and prayers that concern our souls. Over the ages, various Jewish thinkers and sages, from mystics to rationalists, have con-

ceived of what a Jewish soul is made of and the whereabouts of her source. In this shiur before the Selihot service, we will study sources that deal with how the High Holy Day liturgy presents the Jewish soul, discuss various conceptions of the soul, and touch upon how developing those understandings can enhance our prayer experiences.

### SELIHOT, SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

#### 8:30 p.m. Dessert Reception

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

#### 9:15 p.m. Study Session

Rabbi Bolton will address the topic “Seeking a Conception of the Jewish Soul: Coming Closer to the High Holy Day Liturgy”

#### 10:00 p.m. Selihot Services

## OR ZARUA YOUTH HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 5774/2013

### Rosh Hashanah • Choice of Services

#### Children's Services

Thursday, September 5 (*First Day*)

Friday, September 6 (*Second Day*)

10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

**Wallace Hall**

Two groups: Ages 2–6 and ages 7–12  
*Children ages 2–4 must be accompanied by no more than one parent.*

#### Family Learning Experience with Rabbi Amy Bolton

Friday, September 6 (*Second Day*)

10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

**Congregation Or Zarua**

*For children of all ages and their parents. Grandparents welcome.*

### Kol Nidre

**Friday, September 13**

**6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.**

Ages 5–12: **Wallace Hall**

Post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah: **Wallace Hall**  
(*main service*)

### Yom Kippur • Choice of Services

#### Children's Services

Saturday, September 14

10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

**Wallace Hall**

Two groups: Ages 2–6 and ages 7–12  
*Children ages 2–4 must be accompanied by no more than one parent.*

#### Family Learning Experience with Rabbi Amy Bolton

Saturday, September 14

10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

**Congregation Or Zarua**

*For children of all ages and their parents. Grandparents welcome.*

### • Service Locations •

**Congregation Or Zarua**

127 East 82nd Street

between Lexington and Park Avenues

**Wallace Hall**

on west side of Park Avenue

between 83rd and 84th Streets

**Tickets are required for all services.**

**All children should attend youth services.**

**Teenagers in 9th grade and above are encouraged to attend the main service.**

## CALL FOR SHOFAR BLOWERS

Or Zarua needs shofar blowers for each morning minyan during the month of Elul through Wednesday, September 4. 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.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 • 23 Tammuz 7:15 am Minyan	2 • 24 7:15 am Minyan	3 • 25 7:15 am Minyan <i>No Talmud Class</i>	4 • 26 <b>Independence Day</b> 8:45 am Minyan <i>Office closed</i>	5 • 27 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13 pm Candlelighting <i>Office closed</i>	6 • 28 9:00 am Shaharit Mattot/Masei 9:18 pm Shabbat ends
7 • 29 8:45 am Minyan	8 • 1 Av <b>Rosh Hodesh Av</b> 7:00 am Minyan	9 • 2 7:15 am Minyan	10 • 3 7:15 am Minyan <i>No Talmud Class</i>	11 • 4 7:15 am Minyan	12 • 5 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:10 pm Candlelighting	13 • 6 <b>Shabbat Hazon</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Devarim 9:15 pm Shabbat ends
14 • 7 8:45 am Minyan	15 • 8 7:15 am Minyan <b>Erev Tisha B'Av</b> 8:00 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv Reading of Eikha	16 • 9 <b>Tisha B'Av Fast Day</b> 7:00 am Shaharit 8:00 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv	17 • 10 7:15 am Minyan <i>No Talmud Class</i>	18 • 11 7:15 am Minyan	19 • 12 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:06 pm Candlelighting	20 • 13 <b>Shabbat Nahamu</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Vaethanan 9:12 pm Shabbat ends
21 • 14 8:45 am Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	22 • 15 7:15 am Minyan	23 • 16 7:15 am Minyan	24 • 17 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Summer Talmud Class	25 • 18 7:15 am Minyan	26 • 19 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:00 pm Candlelighting	27 • 20 9:00 am Shaharit Ekev 9:05 pm Shabbat ends
28 • 21 8:45 am Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	29 • 22 7:15 am Minyan	30 • 23 7:15 am Minyan	31 • 24 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Summer Talmud Class			



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 • 25 Av 7:15 am Minyan	2 • 26 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:53 pm Candlelighting	3 • 27 9:00 am Shaharit Re'eh 8:58 pm Shabbat ends
4 • 28 8:45 am Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	5 • 29 7:15 am Minyan	6 • 30 <b>Rosh Hodesh Elul</b> 7:00 am Minyan 1:00 p.m. TLC Panel Discussion at Or Olam 8:00 p.m. TLC Panel Discussion at OZ	7 • 1 Elul <b>Rosh Hodesh Elul</b> 7:00 am Minyan 7:30 pm Summer Talmud Class	8 • 2 7:15 am Minyan	9 • 3 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:45 pm Candlelighting	10 • 4 9:00 am Shaharit Shoftim 8:50 pm Shabbat ends
11 • 5 8:45 am Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	12 • 6 7:15 am Minyan	13 • 7 7:15 am Minyan	14 • 8 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Summer Talmud Class	15 • 9 7:15 am Minyan	16 • 10 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:36 pm Candlelighting	17 • 11 9:00 am Shaharit Ki Tetze 8:41 pm Shabbat ends
18 • 12 8:45 am Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	19 • 13 7:15 am Minyan	20 • 14 7:15 am Minyan	21 • 15 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Summer Talmud Class	22 • 16 7:15 am Minyan	23 • 17 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:26 pm Candlelighting	24 • 18 9:00 am Shaharit Ki Tavo 8:31 pm Shabbat ends
25 • 19 8:45 am Minyan	26 • 20 7:15 am Minyan	27 • 21 7:15 am Minyan	28 • 22 7:15 am Minyan	29 • 23 7:15 am Minyan	30 • 24 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:15 pm Candlelighting	31 • 25 9:00 am Shaharit Nitzavim/Vayelech 8:20 pm Shabbat ends 8:30 pm Dessert Reception 9:15 pm Study with Rabbi 10:00 Selihot Services

## EDITOR'S NOTE

**D**o you have an idea or article that is suitable for publication in the *OZ Newsletter*? If so, please contact Charlie Spielholz at [cssrs@earthlink.net](mailto:cssrs@earthlink.net). All copy for the September/October 2013 issue should be received by Monday, August 5.

## Bir'nana

*OZ's a cappella group*

**M**usic and singing have always been central to the Or Zarua experience. Our lay-led prayer services are nurtured by old and new liturgical melodies. The singing of zemirot and Israeli tunes accompanies our communal meals and celebrations. Musicality workshops have filled our calendar for the last several years. Concerts have exalted our acoustically blessed sanctuary. And now we have a new singing phenomenon in our midst—Or Zarua's first a cappella group, newly named Bir'nana!

The apt name Bir'nana ("with joyous singing") comes from a well-known verse in Psalm 100: "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyous singing." The joy that attends the singing of Jewish music epitomizes the spirit and purpose of our a cappella group. A core of Congregants committed to the vibrancy of Jewish music has gathered to learn classical and contemporary Jewish songs, first to sing happily with each other, and then over time to share their efforts with fellow Congregants. Bir'nana eventually will perform at—and enhance—selected Congregational events throughout the year.

Our hope is that our infectious enthusiasm for joyous Jewish song will inspire and entertain you, bringing newfound ruah to our communal celebrations. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Marc Ashley at [mashley@chadbourne.com](mailto:mashley@chadbourne.com).

—MARC ASHLEY

# Talmud and Siddur Classes

Summer Talmud Class, five Wednesdays in July and August

**A**bout 20 Siddur class students and 35 Talmud class students have wrapped up another year of learning. At the end of the year, Talmud class students treat themselves to halvah, served by Rabbis Bolton and Wechsler. This summer, Or Zarua will be offering a five-session Talmud class, led by Rabbi Bolton, entitled "Jerusalem in the Talmud and Midrash: A Survey of Sources." The class will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the OZ library on July 24 and 31, and August 7, 14, and 21. To participate, you just need to show up; prior experience with or knowledge of Talmud study, Hebrew, or Aramaic is not required. And, of course, Talmud and Siddur classes will resume meeting on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings, respectively, after the holidays of Tishri.



CHARLIE SPELHOLZ

**Rabbi Bolton (left) and Rabbi Wechsler preparing to serve halvah in celebration of a year of Talmud study.**



**Members of the Siddur class with Rabbi Bolton (center)**



**Rabbi Wechsler (left) and Rabbi Bolton (third from right) with Talmud class members**

# Newly Elected Or Zarua Board Members

## Installed at the Annual Meeting

### Marc Ashley

**M**arc happily rejoins the Board after prior service, including as a member of the Executive Committee. He and his wife, Joanne, discovered Or Zarua in 1990, only a few months after the shul began holding weekly services. Or Zarua has been a beloved focal point of the life of their family ever since. A year after joining, Marc and Joanne were married by Rabbi Wechsler, with many Or Zarua friends in attendance, in what was perhaps the shul's first communal wedding. Their three children, Josh, Rebecca, and Benji, each celebrated becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at Or Zarua. Marc has expressed his love of Jewish music and liturgy by reading Torah and leading services throughout the year, co-chairing the Readers & Leaders Committee, and helping launch the shul's a cappella group. Following up on his graduate work in Jewish studies, Marc also teaches an annual spring adult education course on issues of classical Jewish thought. Marc is a litigator at Chadbourne & Parke LLP.

### Laurie R. Dien

**L**aurie grew up in St. Louis with dreams first of designing toys and later entire playgrounds. After earning a B.A. from Barnard and a Ph.D. in environmental psychology from CUNY, she realized that her true motivation was a desire to improve the lives of young people in general. That led her to the Hasbro Children's Foundation and, ultimately, to The Pinkerton Foundation, where she has been a senior program officer since 1997. Laurie also serves on the steering committees of the New York City Youth Funders and the New York City Workforce Funders.

Laurie's volunteer activities have largely been associated with her daughter Aliza's activities, beginning as an active parent committee member at the Seton Daycare and Preschool, then president of the Parents' Association at Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan, followed by a stint on its board of trustees. Currently, she is a

member of Schechter Manhattan's development committee and of the Friends of Bard High School Early College. Laurie also enjoys helping with children and youth programming at Congregation Or Zarua.

Laurie is married to Alan Yaillen, a financial analyst for the Cardiothoracic Surgery Department at Weill Cornell Medical College. Their 18-year-old daughter, Aliza, is an alumna of Schechter Manhattan and a recent graduate of Bard High School Early College. Next year, Aliza will be attending the Nativ program in Israel and will continue her studies at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

### Edward Kopelowitz

**E**d has been a member of Or Zarua for seven years. A graduate of Boston University, he has been a board member of several Jewish institutions, including Temple Beth El (Cedarhurst); Congregation Ahavat Israel (Hewlett), where he was also a founding member; and a Solomon Schechter School (Brandeis School, Lawrence), where he also served as board president.

Ed formerly worked in the textile machinery business as well as the yarn business. Presently, he manages real estate in Brooklyn and Queens with his wife, Susan.

Ed and Susan have three daughters and 11 grandchildren. For the past four

years, he has ridden in the ALYN of Love Bike Ride with his grandson Mickey in Israel.

### S. David Moche

**B**orn and raised in Kobe, Japan, David received a B.A. from Yeshiva University, and an M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh. He has lived and worked in Japan, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States, and is fluent in four languages. Since 1975, David has held a variety of positions, ranging from CPA, tax supervisor, trading advisor, senior vice president, and CEO with a number of financial institutions, including Touche Ross & Co., Republic National Bank, Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, Bank HaSapanut, Sumitomo Corporation of America, and Cornwall Partners. He has established hedge funds; managed his family's 50-year-old import-export business, based in Kobe, Japan; and invested in early-stage Israeli high-tech startups. He founded Blue Granite Partners, a real estate investment company, and Venturegeeks Ltd., an accelerator, to continue investing in and nurturing high-tech entrepreneurs.

David lives in New York City and Cornwall, CT, with his wife, Nancy, and daughters, Elsie and Ma'yan. He is active in community affairs and sits on the boards of several religious, cultural, educational, and art foundations.

## OROT FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

### Call for articles, poems and reflections

Please submit reflective, creative, or scholarly pieces that would be appropriate for High Holy Day publication of *Orot*. Although the range of topics is broad, I would like to invite Congregants to reflect on these questions:

1. What do we learn from the Akeidah?
2. Why are there both public and private aspects of religious expression? What should be kept private? What should be made public?
3. Is there a particular part of the High Holy Day liturgy or celebration that speaks the most to you?

Please write to me at [rabbibolton@orzarua.org](mailto:rabbibolton@orzarua.org) if you would like an editorial development meeting, so that we can create a rich collection of material for and with one another for this upcoming High Holy Day season.

—Rabbi Scott N. Bolton



# 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.

## Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden

● “Green thumbs” are needed from spring through fall to help care for Ronald McDonald House’s 7th Floor Terrace Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden.

## Home Visit Volunteers

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

## Monday Night Pasta and Salad at NCS

● Or Zarua Congregants serve hot food

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 on the last two Mondays of each month from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m., when the residents’ government checks are depleted.

## Ronald McDonald House

● 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 Jewish families who may require kosher meals, synagogue services, and other assistance.

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

## RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Sundays at 5:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m., and 12:00 p.m.



Rabbi Wechsler can be heard on SiriusXM Stars Channel three times each Sunday. Subscribers to SiriusXM Satellite Radio can access “Rabbi Wechsler Teaches” on Channel 107. Nonsubscribers can obtain a free, three-day trial at [www.siriusxm.com](http://www.siriusxm.com).

# Or Zarua’s Hebrew School

by Ilana Burgess, OZ Youth Education Director

**A**s I celebrate the completion of 10 years as Youth Education Director at Or Zarua, I want to take a moment to reflect upon our Hebrew School.

Or Zarua’s Hebrew School provides students with a strong academic environment offering individual attention. We encourage the kids to think, to analyze, and to form their own opinions. We challenge them to be individuals and leaders, not followers. We emphasize the uniqueness of our Jewish heritage and guide them to become knowledgeable and proud Jews. We are able to do this because the school is small.

New programs that started in the last 10 years include Sukkah overnights, family class dinners, cooking for the homeless at B’nai Jeshurun, adopting a school in

S’derot, Israel, producing a talent show (which benefits that school), Shabbat Hayered, youth groups, the PJ Library, and the Holocaust Memorial Service.

The future of the Jewish people is its children; a price cannot be placed on that. We will continue with our mission, but we need the support of the whole community by visiting, participating, and being part of OZ Hebrew School life.

The past 10 years have been wonderful. I have made many friends and enjoyed meeting all these remarkable children. I look forward to meeting more friends and children in coming years.

If you have questions about the OZ Hebrew School or Youth Education programs, contact me at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or [iburgess@orzarua.org](mailto:iburgess@orzarua.org).

## TORAH READERS NEEDED

If you are able to read Torah or haftarah and would like to do so on a Shabbat, please contact Marc Ashley at [mashley@chadbourne.com](mailto:mashley@chadbourne.com) or Jay Palmer at [jpalmer@nyc.rr.com](mailto:jpalmer@nyc.rr.com). You may also sign up online at [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org) by choosing “Read Torah” under the “Prayer” drop-down menu.

## YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### September 2013

- Mon 9** First day of school
- Sat 21** Sukkah Overnight
- Sun 22** PJ Library

*Other events and the complete Hebrew school schedule will be published in the Youth Education Calendar and the September/October issue of the Or Zarua Newsletter.*

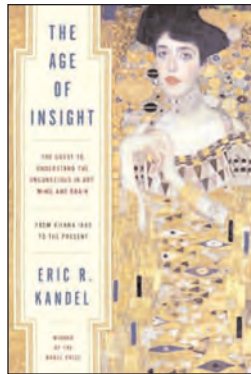
**OZ MINYAN** Contact Sheldon Adler at [sadler@skadden.com](mailto:sadler@skadden.com) or choose “Daily Minyan” under the “Prayer” menu on [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org) to sign up for a day or two each month.

# Or Zarua Book Discussions

*The Age of Insight* by Eric Kandel, Sunday, October 20, 7:30 p.m.

**R**enowned Nobel Prize-winning scientist Eric Kandel will lead our discussion of his book, *The Age of Insight*, on Sunday, October 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the OZ library.

Have you read a good Jewish book lately? Joining Or Zarua's book discussions is a great way to read notable fic-



tion and nonfiction on topics of interest or concern to the American Jewish community. Becoming a book group member is also a wonderful way to make friends with Congregants.

If you would like more information on Or Zarua book discussions or have a book suggestion, please contact Deborah Wenger at [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org).



HARVEY BRENNER

A view of the Or Zarua cemetery section.

## 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 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. For information concerning gravesite purchases, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 14.

## WELCOMING GUESTS AT CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

**A**s a community, it is important for us 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 or see a new face at kiddush, please reach out and introduce yourself. Making this effort is consistent with our culture and will repay dividends.



CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ

**"TODAY I AM: JEWISH COMING-OF-AGE RITUALS,"** the current exhibit in the OZ Gallery, opened to a crowd of nearly 100 guests on June 6. The exhibit examines origins and practices of Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies and celebrations. Guests were treated to chopped liver and an ice sculpture, and heard Bar and Bat Mitzvah stories under a canopy of 75 kippot.

## 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.



**CONGREGATION OR ZARUA**

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

## July/August Checklist

- Tisha B'Av begins Monday night, July 15. The schedule of services appears on page 1.
- Summer Talmud Class, "Jerusalem in the Talmud and Midrash: A Survey of Sources," begins on Wednesday night, July 24. Details on pages 1 and 10.
- Bir'nana, OZ's a capella group, will be meeting on Sundays, July 21 and 28, and August 4, 11, and 18. Learn about Bir'nana and how to participate on page 10.
- East Side Torah Learning Coalition will be offering two programs in anticipation of the High Holy Days on Tuesday, August 6, Rosh Hodesh Elul. See page 3 for times and topics.
- Selihot Study Session, "Seeking a Conception of the Jewish Soul: Coming Closer to the High Holy Day Liturgy," will be held on Saturday night, August 31, following a dessert reception and preceding Selihot services. See schedule on page 7.
- Registration is underway for Or Zarua's Hebrew School. For information about the school or other youth activities, please contact Ilana Burgess at [iburgess@orzarua.org](mailto:iburgess@orzarua.org).
- All Congregants should have received membership renewal information in the mail. Please contact the Or Zarua office (212-452-2310) with any questions that you may have.
- Lulav and etrog orders will be placed in late August. Information will be mailed to Congregants. Additional information regarding Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simhat Torah will appear in the September/October issue of the *OZ Newsletter*.
- Shofar blowers are needed for the month of Elul. Lessons are available for those who are not experienced. Contact Richard Stadin as noted on page 7.
- High Holy Days begin on September 4. Service schedules, locations, and other information are on pages 6 and 7.
- If you wish to submit material for *Orot*, please contact Rabbi Bolton (see page 11).
- The next Or Zarua Book Discussion will be Sunday, October 20, at 7:30 p.m. Nobel Prize-winning neuroscientist Eric Kandel will discuss his book *The Age of Insight* (see page 13).
- Help out with a Hesed Program (see page 12).