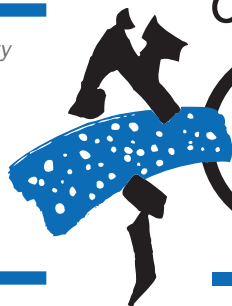


A Traditional, Egalitarian, and Participatory
Conservative Synagogue

CELEBRATING
25 YEARS



CONGREGATION

OrZarua

LEARN • PRAY • PARTICIPATE • CONNECT

TEVET/SHEVAT/ADAR I 5774

NEWSLETTER/VOLUME 26:3

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014



MORDECHAI ROSENSTEIN will be Or Zarua's Artist-in-Residence from Thursday, February 27, through Sunday, March 2. Shown above is his tapestry entitled "Dor l'Dor." See page 5 for additional photos and event details.

Recalling Old Dreams and Dreaming New Ones

Or Zarua's Silver Lights 25th Anniversary Celebration

It started, as all great enterprises do, as a dream, in auxiliary minyan space, in East Side apartments, and in rented quarters—the Jewish Museum, the 92nd Street Y, and modest office space on Lexington Avenue.

From those beginnings, Congregation Or Zarua was founded on the strength and vision of a few committed Conservative Jewish families—with Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler as its spiritual leader—who, in the words of its By Laws, were seeking

"to serve God, by serving the religious and spiritual needs of the Jewish Community and by promoting the moral, intellectual, and social welfare of its members and the Jewish People." To attain these goals as a Conservative synagogue, Or Zarua was to engage in "the study of principles, practices, and beliefs of Judaism, divine worship, and the practice of kind deeds."

The intervening years have seen the
continued on page 6

OZ HIGHLIGHTS

January–March 2014

Talmud Class

with Rabbi Wechsler

MYSTICISM & RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE
January 8, 15, 22, and 29, 7:30 p.m.
See page 12 for details.

Shabbat Shirah

Tizmoret

QUEENS COLLEGE A CAPPELLA GROUP
January 10–11
See page 7 for details.

Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture

Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole

"SACRED TRASH: THE LOST AND
FOUND WORLD OF THE CAIRO GENIZA"
Thursday, January 23, 8:00 p.m.
See page 3 for details.

OZ's 25th Birthday Kiddush

Silver Lights

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Saturday, January 25, after services
See page 3 for details.

Super Bowl Party

Fighting Hunger, Raising Tzedakah

MINHAH AND THE GAME
February 2, 5:00 p.m.
See page 6 for details.

World Café

A Program of OZ and Context

JEWISH LEARNING AND DISCUSSION
February 13, March 6, and March 20
7:00 p.m.
See page 3 for details.

Artist-in-Residence

Mordechai Rosenstein

MEET, LEARN, AND WORK
WITH THE ARTIST
February 27–March 2
See page 5 for details.



A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

127 East 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028
phone: 212-452-2310 fax: 212-452-2103
www.orzarua.org

- SCOTT N. BOLTON, *Rabbi*
- DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, *Rabbi Emeritus*
- DIANE OKRENT, *President*
- HENRY GLANTERNIK, *Treasurer*
- HELENE SANTO, *Executive Director*
- ILANA BURGESS, *Youth Education Director*
- CHARLES SPIELHOLZ, *Newsletter Editor*

OZ Committee Chairs

ADMINISTRATION	Sara Stone
ADULT EDUCATION	Laura Resnikoff
AESTHETICS	Aaron Shelden
ART GALLERY	Bobbi Coller
BOOK DISCUSSION	Reed Schneider
BUILDING	Alan Ilberman
CEMETERY	Aliza Kaplan Mort Schwartz
DEVELOPMENT	Andrew Plevin
EDUCATION AND YOUTH	David Bergman Dara Shapiro
HESED	Richard Stadin Susan Lorin
HEVRA KADISHA	Vera Silver Gerry Solomon
ISRAEL	Aliza Kaplan
LIBRARY	Barry Feldman
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS	Mechele Flaum Dara Shapiro Aaron Shelden
MINYAN	Sheldon Adler
ORAL HISTORY	Mimi Alperin
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Aaron Shelden
READERS AND LEADERS	Marc Ashley Jay Palmer
WEBMASTER	Jay Palmer

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



Twenty-five years ago this month, on January 28, 1989, Congregation Or Zarua

held its first Shabbat morning service. The small group of pioneers who gathered in the second-floor chapel of The 92nd Street Y had no idea where that service would lead them—and us.

The founders were committed to creating a new synagogue on the Upper East Side dedicated to teachings in *Pirke Avot*: *Al sh'losha devarim ha'olam omeid: Al ha'Torah, v'al ha-avodah v'al gemilut hasadim*. The world stands on three things: on the Torah, on divine service, and on deeds of loving-kindness.

Among our founding principles were to be traditional in our service, including the complete Torah reading each Shabbat. We were founded to be participatory in our lay-led services. And we were founded to be completely egalitarian, so women could participate equally with men.

We are still committed to those same principles. They have played out in ways few could have anticipated in 1989. Women have learned to read Torah, Haftorah, and to lead services. Men, too, have studied and gained those skills. We have educated our children to read and lead as well. Our teens have become regular readers and leaders at Shabbat services.

Over the past 25 years, the founders and those who have gathered around them, built a synagogue community that continues the dedication to Torah (learning for adults and children); religious services (daily, Shabbat, and Yom Tov); and hesed projects that enhance the lives of those in our immediate community and in Israel.

We at Or Zarua learn together, pray

together, participate, and connect with one another and the community. Our celebration of our 25th Anniversary Year will continue that tradition.

This month kicks off our year of Silver Lights as we reflect on our illustrious history and plan for an even better future.

We will begin the Silver Lights year with learning. In commemoration of 25 years of Talmud Class, Rabbi Wechsler will teach for four consecutive Wednesday evenings starting on January 8. The subject will be the second chapter of Tractate Hagigah, "Ein Dorshin," the classic focus in the Talmud for discussions of mysticism and religious experience.

On Thursday, January 23, we will celebrate with the annual Lucy Dawidowicz lecture. Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole will talk about their book, *Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza*.

Then on Shabbat, January 25, following Shabbat morning services, we continue with a celebratory kiddush to honor our 25th birthday!

Also in January, we will host a musical Shabbaton with Tizmoret to commemorate Shabbat Shirah. In late February, the visual arts of Mordechai Rosenstein will be the focus of another Shabbaton.

Throughout the coming year, we will celebrate Or Zarua in many ways, culminating in a gala in November 2014.

We have much to be proud of in our 25-year history. We have contributed to the Jewish vibrancy in our immediate community. Recent articles in *The Jewish Week* have highlighted the growth of Jewish life on the Upper East Side.

We are all founders of Or Zarua's future. May we continue to be a light in our own community and beyond.

With best wishes for the start of a wonderful 2014!

PASSOVER CANDY SALE

Hebrew School Fundraiser

A variety of kosher-for-Passover confections from Bartons, including chocolates, fruit slices, and macaroons, are available for sale. Download an order form at <http://tinyurl.com/OZ-Candy-Sale-2014>. Orders are due in the office by March 24.

The Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture

Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole on Thursday, January 23, 2014, 8:00 p.m.

The Lucy S. Dawidowicz lecture, which honors the memory of a great historian of the Jewish people who was one of Congregation Or Zarua's early members, will itself be a fascinating exploration of Jewish history and Jewish historiography. Our speakers will be **Adina Hoffman** and **Peter Cole**, authors of *Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza*.

The authors will discuss their book, which is a double history. It tells, first, of the once-lost Jewish world of medieval North Africa, whose details and character were restored to light by the rediscovery of a vast trove of documents that had lain forgotten and unread in the geniza of the Ben Ezra Synagogue in Fustat (Old Cairo). Second, the book recounts the unlikely series of events by which the documents were found and their meaning and significance deciphered. Among the key actors



in the second drama was Solomon Schechter, who would afterwards go on to become the leader of early Conservative Judaism, serving as president of the Jewish Theological Seminary from 1902 to 1915.

Sacred Trash is a work not only of careful history, but of high literary merit. Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole, in addition to being skilled historical researchers, are also both gifted writers, and the book

reflects their special mix of skills. As *The Wall Street Journal* wrote in its review, their book is "a wonderfully passionate and lively account of a civilization we could not have imagined existed and of the men and women whose enthusiasm and dedication brought it to light."

Copies of *Sacred Trash* are now available for purchase in the Or Zarua office and will be available at the event. Also for sale will be two anthologies translated and edited by Peter Cole, *The Poetry of Kabbalah* and *The Dream of the Poem: Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain, 950–1492*, and a collection of his own verse, *Things on Which I've Stumbled*.

After the presentation, dessert and birthday cake will be served in honor of Or Zarua's 25th birthday. Please help us to plan by contacting the office at 212-452-2310, extension 39, with a reservation for the lecture by Monday, January 20.

—MICHAEL W. SCHWARTZ

World Café Jewish Learning Experience

A program of OZ and Context, Thursdays, February 13, March 6, and March 20, 7–10 p.m.

Or Zarua, in partnership with Context, will be hosting the World Café Jewish Learning Experience on Thursdays, February 13, March 6, and March 20, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The World Café model of Jewish learning offers participants the opportunity to listen

to a faculty member in Jewish studies and then talk with one another before hearing from the scholar again about the topics presented. Scholars will react to the ideas and angles that emerge in the café experience.

Each session will offer three topics, such as: Can music be midrash? Is art Bible commentary? How many names of

God are there, or are they just poetry? Final topics will be announced by email.

Registration will be required and is free for members of Or Zarua. Members may register for one or all three topics. The cost for nonmembers is \$72 per topic or \$180 for all three. Additional information will be arriving soon by email.

OR ZARUA'S SILVER LIGHTS BIRTHDAY KIDDUSH

Saturday, January 25, following services

In celebration of Congregation Or Zarua's 25th anniversary. All are invited.

THRESHOLD TO THE SACRED:

The Ark Door of Cairo's Ben Ezra Synagogue

Yeshiva University Museum Tour, Monday, January 6, 6:00 p.m.

As a preview to the Lucy S. Dawidowicz lecture for OZ's Silver Lights 25th Anniversary, a tour of Yeshiva University Museum's exhibit, *Threshold to the Sacred: The Ark Door of Cairo's Ben Ezra Synagogue*, has been organized. The tour, which will be led by Dr. Jacob Wisse, the museum's director, is now open to members of OZ and their guests and is limited to a group of 40. As of publication time, some slots were still available. If you want to join the group, please call 212-452-2310, extension 12. There is a charge of \$10 per person for this tour.

The Importance of Music and Art in Jewish Life

by Rabbi Scott N. Bolton



In the book of Shemot, the great tale of the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt, we are told many details of a most central institution in Jewish life. The

Mishkan is not only a place of prayer and introspection, expiation, and adjudication. Weaving, colors, adornment, and aesthetic beauty come to life through the work of artisans and patrons. Each of us is asked to bring obligatory and voluntary contributions to the project. “Let them make Me a Sanctuary, and I will dwell among them!” the Holy One instructs.

Poetry, musical instruments, and golden vessels would allow the ritual and transformational experience to unfold. The Levites would carry the boards, it’s true; yet,

they were known already in ancient times for the songs and accompanying verse. The dyed wool and beautiful vestments of the High Priest and those colorful tapestries that made for sacred space attest to our tradition’s concern with the aesthetic.

Over the next months, we will welcome singers and an artist-in-residence into our midst, so that we can be more in touch with the artful explorations of Jewish tradition in our times. The words and verses remain ancient links to our ancestors’ understandings and reflections, and the song and illuminated illustrations will bring glory to God’s name.

Please come join us for the Tizmoret Shabbaton and be part of our Shabbaton of Art with Artist-in-Residence Mordechai Rosenstein. Come enjoy, as always, our glorious gallery and unique sanctuary, as well as beit midrash for other classes

and programs. As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary with scholarship and celebration, song, and art, may we sow more light and delight in our portion.

WELCOMING GUESTS AT OZ

As 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.

LIFE EVENTS

at Congregation Or Zarua

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

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

OZ MINYAN Contact Sheldon Adler at sadler@skadden.com or choose “Daily Minyan” under the “Pray” menu on www.orzarua.org to sign up for a day or two each month.



DEE LEBOWITZ



AUTHORS SPEAK SERIES. Or Zarua’s first two Authors Speak guests drew large crowds. Both Shirley Graetz, Ph.D. (*She Wrote on Clay*), and Ruth Wisse, Ph.D. (*No Joke*), spoke, answered questions, met with people individually, and signed copies of their books. Our next guest in the series will be Eric Kandel, Ph.D. (*The Age of Insight*), on Sunday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Artist-in-Residence Mordechai Rosenstein

Thursday, February 27–Sunday, March 2

A Shabbaton of art will begin in Or Zarua’s Gallery on Thursday, February 27, with Artist-in-Residence Mordechai Rosenstein. A graduate of Akiba Hebrew Academy, he studied with Professor Franz

For those interested in purchasing works by Mordechai Rosenstein, please visit his website, www.rosensteinarts.com. Specify that you are a member of OZ, as a portion of all purchases will go to OZ. Call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310,



CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ

Mordechai Rosenstein (right) discussed “The Art and Illumination of Pirke Avot” as Rabbi Bolton (left) held one of his artworks during the Torah Learning Coalition session on May 30. His illuminated initial, “David’s Harp” is pictured, below right.

Kline at the Philadelphia College of Art. With inspiration from the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, Mr. Rosenstein uses calligraphy to communicate concepts of our scripture and history in art. Many of you met Mr. Rosenstein at the Torah Learning Coalition last May.

During his residency, Mr. Rosenstein will initiate work on a unique commemorative painting for OZ’s Silver Lights 25th Anniversary Celebration. Congregants will be able to add brushstrokes to this piece on Sunday. He will be speaking about his art during Shabbat at the Friday night dinner, for the D’var Torah, and during lunch. Please see the the box at right for detailed information.



MORDECHAI ROSENSTEIN

extension 12, if you have questions about purchasing through the artist’s website.

ART SHABBATON WITH MORDECHAI ROSENSTEIN

Thursday, February 27

Gallery Opening

ARTIST TALK
Refreshments
7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 28

Congregational Dinner

Immediately following services
Reservations required

Presentation

THE ARTIST’S STORY

Saturday, March 1

Shaharit, 9:00 a.m.
ILLUMINATED TORAH
D’var Torah

Congregational Lunch

Immediately following kiddush
Reservations required

Presentation

DISCUSSION OF SELECT PAINTINGS

Sunday, March 2

Workshops

10:30 a.m. to noon

COMMEMORATIVE PAINTING
Congregants add brushstrokes
DESIGN AND PAINT YOUR NAME
Youth of all ages

Friday night dinner or Saturday lunch reservations must be made by **Monday, February 24**. Please watch the weekly eblast or call 212-452-2310, extension 12, for reservation information.

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 or Jay Palmer at jpalmer@nyc.rr.com. You may also sign up online at www.orzarua.org by clicking “Reading Torah” under the “Pray” heading.

EDITOR’S NOTE If you have an idea or article that is suitable for publication in the *OZ Newsletter*, please contact Charlie Spielholz at cssrs@earthlink.net. All copy for the March/April 2014 issue is due by Monday, February 3.

WWW.ORZARUA.ORG Some of the resources on the Or Zarua website include upcoming events, service schedules, art gallery shows, minyan sign-up, and guest speaker presentations. So explore www.orzarua.org!

Annual Super Bowl Party

Help feed the hungry

OZ members and their guests are invited to watch the Super Bowl with their friends at our 11th annual Or Zarua Super Bowl Party, to be held in the Social Hall on Sunday, February 2. Enjoy a family-friendly atmosphere and great kosher food, including ribs, chili, giant “sub” sandwiches, buffalo wings (all from Dougie’s BBQ in Teaneck), 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. Please make reservations at 212-452-2310, extension 39, or www.orzarua.org, by noon on Monday, January 20, if you plan to attend the Super Bowl Party.

As you may know, the party raises badly needed funds for charities that serve the Jewish poor and elderly in the New York area. Last year, Or Zarua raised over \$20,000, and we are hoping to make a

strong contribution again this year. We are encouraging everyone to make a donation to our fund to assist Project ORE and DOROT, two important organizations that serve the Jewish poor and elderly populations. Since 1987, Project ORE has served more than 400,000 kosher meals and provided counseling, case management, and other supportive services to isolated, poor, homeless, mentally ill, elderly Jews—including Holocaust survivors. DOROT alleviates social isolation among the elderly and provides services to help them live independently as valued members of the community. As part of its work, DOROT delivers kosher meals each week to elderly in urgent need and to seniors who are unable to shop or cook for themselves.

Charitable organizations 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 kosher food charity fund. Checks should

be made payable to Congregation Or Zarua and should be designated “Kosher Food Charity Fund” on the memo line. All monies raised will be contributed to Project ORE and DOROT.

—SHELDON ADLER

SIDDUR CLASS

History, Meaning, and Commentaries on the Jewish Prayer Book

Thursdays, 8:30–9:30 a.m. in the OZ Social Hall

Congregation Or Zarua’s siddur class, taught by Rabbi Bolton, studies the history, laws, teachings, and approaches to Jewish prayer. Prior knowledge is not required.

Recalling Old Dreams and Dreaming New Ones

Or Zarua’s Silver Lights 25th Anniversary Celebration

continued from page 1

Congregation move to its East 82nd Street building, blessed with growing opportunities for children’s, youth, and adult study; worship; and the performance of acts of loving-kindness, both within our walls and beyond. Our new rabbi, Scott Bolton, Rabbi Amy Bolton, and their family have brought new flame to our “Or” (light).

Every day one can see the vibrancy of our *kehillah* (community) in its own unique brand of traditional, participatory, and egalitarian services. Or Zarua has a strong emphasis on youngsters with Mah Zeh Shabbat, Hangouts after Havdalah, the PJ Library, and other programs for kids and teens. Our programs for youngsters stand alongside traditional ones, such as the Hevra Kadisha and cemetery, and our strong sense of Gemilut Hasadim (acts of loving-kindness) through our work

at Ronald McDonald House, New York Common Pantry, disaster relief programs (most recently the Philippine Hurricane Relief Fund), and our Annual Super Bowl Party, whose proceeds go to kosher food programs.

In 2014, we begin a year of celebration—our Silver Lights 25th Anniversary Celebration, which recalls how far we have come in the realization of that old dream and the start of new ones for OZ.

Our celebratory year will be marked by a wonderful lecture series (beginning with the Lucy S. Dawidowicz lecture by Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole), an Artist-in-Residence program with Mordechai Rosenstein, Shabbatons (beginning on Shabbat Shirah with the a cappella group Tizmoret), along with many other programs, and culminating in a Gala to be held in November 2014. While no venue has yet

been selected, it is intended that it take place in marquee space, with a distinguished honoree and a crowd-pleasing entertainer.

In commenting on the passage from Isaiah 59:17 “And he shall put on righteousness as a coat of mail,” Baba Batra 9b explains that just as in a coat of mail, every small scale joins with the others to form a single piece of armor, any gift, united with others, can form a large sum.

In that spirit, and over the course of the celebratory year, OZ members and others will be afforded the mitzvah of giving sums large and small to preserve, sustain, and build on the institutional values that are today’s Or Zarua.

Stay tuned for more information on our Silver Lights Celebration in future issues of the *Or Zarua Newsletter*.

—ARTHUR ROSENBLOOM

Shabbat Shirah with Tizmoret

Shabbaton, January 10–11, 2014

Shabbat Shirah is the day we read Parshat Beshalach, which includes the verses of the Song of the Sea, Shirat HaYam, (Exodus 15:1–18).

In celebration of Shabbat Shirah, for Or Zarua's 25th Anniversary, we will be hosting Tizmoret, Queens College Hillel's professional, Jewish a cappella group. Tizmoret sings classic Jewish melodies, contemporary Israeli tunes, and American pop songs. The group has toured the east coast and has won several music awards.

We will welcome Shabbat Shirah, together with the members of Tizmoret, beginning with Kabbalat Shabbat followed by a festive dinner (reservations required). On Shabbat morning, Tizmoret will perform during the time usually reserved for the D'var Torah. After kiddush, we will return to the Sanctuary, at about 1:30 p.m., for a concert. The concert is open to the public, so please invite your friends and neighbors. Following the concert, Tizmoret will meet with the youth of OZ.



TIZMORET, a professional Jewish a cappella group from Queens College Hillel, will perform at Or Zarua for Shabbat Shirah, January 10–11, 2014.

SHABBAT SHIRAH WITH TIZMORET

Friday, January 10

Congregational Dinner

5:45 p.m.

Please make dinner reservations by **Monday, January 6**, at <http://tinyurl.com/OZ-Dinner-Jan-10-2014> or 212-452-2310, extension 39.

\$30 adults; \$15 children ages 5–12; no charge for children under 5.

Saturday, January 11

Performance by Tizmoret

in lieu of the D'var Torah

Kiddush for Shabbat Shirah

All are invited

Post-kiddush Concert by Tizmoret

1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

All are invited

Tizmoret and Teens

2:30 p.m.

Writing Life's Last Chapter

Rabbi Amy Bolton to teach about Jewish perspectives on hospice and palliative care at Zayin Adar brunch on Sunday, March 9

How do Jewish values and texts inform how we care for those who are dying? As caregivers, what words can we offer and what deeds can we perform to make a loved one's final journey comforting and meaningful? How do we make this last chapter of a loved one's life a resonating, enduring story?

Drawing upon her experience with hospice and palliative care, Rabbi Amy Bolton will teach at this year's Zayin Adar brunch at Or Zarua on Sunday, March 9, after the morning minyan. Rabbi Amy Bolton was the founding chaplain and co-bereavement director of the Martin and Edith Stein Hospice in central New Jersey, and was part of the Spiritual Counseling and Bereavement team of Holy Name Medical Center Hospice and Palliative Care in Teaneck, New Jersey. She was also part of the chaplaincy team

of the Jewish Hospice and Chaplaincy Network in West Bloomfield, Michigan.

Zayin Adar, the *yahrzeit* of Moses, is the occasion for the congregation to join in commemorating and learning about the work of the *Hevra Kadisha*. 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 these mitzvot are serving as *shomrim*, volunteers who watch the body of the deceased in the funeral chapel; performing *tahara*, purifying and dressing the deceased for burial; providing *Seudat Havra'ah*, a condolence meal at the mourner's home; and ensuring that during *shivah* there is a minyan in the house of mourning for daily services. This last task is not left only to the *Hevra Kadisha* to observe; presence at a shiva is a great mitzvah that everyone in the congregation can perform.

—GERRY SOLOMON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 • 29 Tevet New Year's Day 8:45 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School closed</i> <i>Office closed</i>	2 • 1 Shevat Rosh Hodesh Shevat 7:00 am Minyan	3 • 2 7:15 am Minyan 4:22 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	4 • 3 9:00 am Shaharit Bo 5:27 pm Shabbat ends
5 • 4 8:45 am Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana rehearsal	6 • 5 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	7 • 6 7:15 am Minyan	8 • 7 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	9 • 8 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Hebrew Language Class	10 • 9 7:15 am Minyan 4:29 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Congregational Dinner with Tizmoret	11 • 10 Shabbat Shirah 9:00 am Shaharit Beshallah Tizmoret/Kiddush 1:30 pm Tizmoret Concert 2:30 pm Teen Program 5:34 pm Shabbat ends
12 • 11 8:45 am Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana rehearsal	13 • 12 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	14 • 13 7:15 am Minyan	15 • 14 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	16 • 15 Tu B'Shevat 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 8:00 pm Hebrew Language Class	17 • 16 7:15 am Minyan 4:37 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	18 • 17 9:00 am Shaharit Yitro 5:42 pm Shabbat ends
19 • 18 8:45 am Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana rehearsal	20 • 19 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day 8:45 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School closed</i> <i>Office closed</i>	21 • 20 7:15 am Minyan	22 • 21 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	23 • 22 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 8:00 p.m. Lucy Dawidowicz Lecture: <i>Sacred Trash</i>	24 • 23 7:15 am Minyan 4:45 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	25 • 24 9:00 am Shaharit Mishpatim OZ 25th Birthday Kiddush 5:50 pm Shabbat ends
26 • 25 8:45 am Minyan 7:00 pm Book Discussion	27 • 26 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	28 • 27 7:15 am Minyan	29 • 28 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	30 • 29 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 8:00 pm Hebrew Language Class	31 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Adar I 7:00 am Minyan 4:53 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm Young Families Dinner	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 • 1 Adar I Rosh Hodesh Adar I 9:00 am Shaharit Terumah 5:58 pm Shabbat ends
2 • 2 8:45 am Minyan 5:00 pm Super Bowl Party	3 • 3 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	4 • 4 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context Seminar	5 • 5 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	6 • 6 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 8:00 pm Hebrew Language Class	7 • 7 Fast of Tevet 7:15 am Minyan 5:02 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	8 • 8 9:00 am Shaharit Tetzaveh 10:30 am Discovery Shabbat Minyan (K-3) 6:07 pm Shabbat ends
9 • 9 8:45 am Minyan	10 • 10 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	11 • 11 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context Seminar	12 • 12 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	13 • 13 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 7:00 pm World Café	14 • 14 Purim Katan 7:15 am Minyan 5:11 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	15 • 15 9:00 am Shaharit Ki Tissa 6:16 pm Shabbat ends
16 • 16 8:45 am Minyan	17 • 17 Presidents' Day 8:45 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School closed</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	18 • 18 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context Seminar	19 • 19 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School closed</i>	20 • 20 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class	21 • 21 7:15 am Minyan 5:19 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	22 • 22 9:00 am Shaharit Vayakhel 6:24 pm Shabbat ends
23 • 23 8:45 am Minyan	24 • 24 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	25 • 25 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context Seminar	26 • 26 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	27 • 27 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 8:00 pm Hebrew Language Class Mordechai Rosenstein, Artist-in-Residence (see page 5)	28 • 28 7:15 am Minyan 5:27 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Mordechai Rosenstein, Artist-in-Residence Congregational Dinner (see page 5)	1 March • 29 Shabbat Shekalim 9:00 am Shaharit Pekude Mordechai Rosenstein, Artist-in-Residence (see page 5) 6:32 pm Shabbat ends

Hebrew School Mitzvot

by Annie Sahn

Each year, OZ Hebrew School students are encouraged to perform different mitzvot. We collect money for a school in S'derot and toys for Chai Lifeline, which helps sick kids, and make decorations for



Laughing Latkes competed in Top Latke.

Ronald McDonald House (RMH). For the RMH Share-a-Night event on December 5, we made dreidels, hanukkiot, and oil pitchers to bring joy into the lives of the children.

This year, Harry Gandel, a Hebrew School first grader, and his sister Allison, who will be a kindergarten student next year, participated in the RMH Fun Run in early November. Both Harry and Allison finished the race and had a great time while raising money for a good cause.

OZ believes that if we come together, we can do amazing things, and every year OZ Hebrew School students strive to do more and better.



Harry and Allison Gandel participated in the RMH Fun Run in early November.



Preparing art for the Ronald McDonald House Share-a-Night event

HEBREW LANGUAGE CLASS

by Mark Somerstein

Mark Somerstein will teach a class on the siddur, establishing a lexicon of prayer, ritual, and ceremony. In addition to exploring derivations, the class will ultimately lead to the study of modern Hebrew.

Beginning on Thursday, January 9, at 8:00 p.m., the class will meet for a total of seven Thursday sessions: January 9, 16, and 30; February 6 and 27; and March 13 and 27.

This class is open to all. There is no charge for members of Or Zarua. For nonmembers, the fee is \$180. For additional information, please contact Mark Somerstein at 646-303-1076. To register, call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 12, or go to www.tinyurl.com/KoachSiddur.

Purim Campus Connection

Holiday packages for OZ college students

Every year, Or Zarua strives to maintain contact with our young adults who are away at college. For Purim, we send a "holiday package" to remind them that they are still part of our extended family.

If you would like your child to receive a free package, please reply to Deborah Wenger at dwenger@orzarua.org or

212-452-2310, extension 39, by Monday, February 24, with your child's name and complete school mailing address (including dormitory room, apartment, or P.O. box number, if applicable), as well as his or her email address and phone number.

If you submitted your child's name and address for a Hanukkah package, we already have the information on file.

DISCOVERY SHABBAT MINYAN

Saturday, February 8, 10:30 a.m.

Discovery Minyan is an interactive prayer experience for OZ's youth and their families. The first one will take place on February 8 with OZ's Ruach and Kef Shabbat youth groups (0 through 3rd grade) and their families, followed by a special kiddush. Future Discovery Minyan events will be held on Saturdays, March 29 and April 29, at 10:30 a.m. Discovery Minyan will be held on the seventh floor.

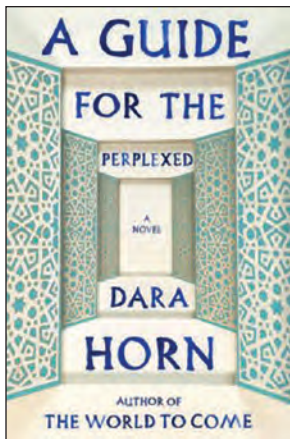
"LIKE" CONGREGATION OR ZARUA ON FACEBOOK to help spread the word about us!

Or Zarua Book Discussions

A Guide for the Perplexed by Dara Horn, Sunday, January 26, 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for our next Or Zarua book discussion on Sunday, January 26, at 7:00 p.m. in Or Zarua's Library. Pat Davidson will lead our discussion of Dara Horn's fourth novel, *A Guide for the Perplexed*.

This intense and imaginative novel intertwines the Joseph story from Genesis, Maimonides' philosophy, Solomon Schechter's foray into the Fustat Genizah, and the digital frontier to explore how technology can change memory and



how memory shapes the soul.

Software prodigy Josie Ashkenazi developed Genizah, a software program that can comprehensively archive every moment of its users' lives. When the richly endowed, new Library of Alexandria invites her to work as a consultant, her jealous sister Judith persuades her to go, leaving her husband and daughter at home. But

Josie is abducted. While captive in Egypt, Josie delves into the work of the medieval philosopher Moses Maimonides, who

sought to reconcile divine providence and human free will.

Geraldine Brooks wrote: "Intricate and suspenseful, *A Guide for the Perplexed* is both learned and heartfelt, an exploration of human memory, its uses and misuses, that spans centuries in a twisty braid full of jaw-dropping revelations and breathtaking reversals. An elegant and brainy page-turner from a master storyteller."

If you would like more information on Or Zarua book discussions or have a book suggestion, please contact Deborah Wenger in the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 12, or dwenger@orzarua.org.

YOUNG FAMILIES DINNER

Friday, January 31, 6:00 p.m.

Make reservations by Monday, January 27, by contacting Ilana Burgess, 212-452-2310, extension 15, or iburgess@orzarua.org. \$18 adults; \$10 children ages 5-12; no charge for children under 5.

OZ YOUTH EVENTS

Saturday, January 11 • 2:30 p.m.
SHABBAT HANGOUT WITH TIZMORET
High School and College students
4th Floor Library

Saturday, January 25 • 10:30 a.m.
TEEN SHABBAT
4th grade and up
4th Floor Library

Saturday, January 25 • 6:00 p.m.
COOKIE DECORATING
Middle School students
7th Floor Youth Lounge

Additional information on these events and future youth programs in February and beyond will be available by email. If you have a child (4th grade and up) and are not receiving OZ Youth emails, please contact Sigal at sigal.c.hirsch@gmail.com or Elana at elanamend@gmail.com.



DARA SHAPIRO

DID YOU VISIT ABRAHAM AND SARAH AT THE PJ LIBRARY? The reading for the day was "Why Sarah Laughed." The next PJ Library event, a program designed for families with young children, will be on Friday, April 4, at 5:30 p.m. To sign up for the PJ Library, go to www.pjlibrary.org and find OZ using zip code 10028. Your child will receive 12 monthly mailings of free, wonderful Jewish children's books and CDs.



SIGAL HIRSCH

Thanksgivikkah at Or Zarua

A Solution to Hunger

Support OZ's partnership with the New York Common Pantry

Congregation Or Zarua has launched a year-round effort to collect food for New York's hungry in collaboration with the New York Common Pantry, the city's largest community-based food pantry. You can help by either donating food items or volunteering at the Common Pantry distribution center.

Needed items include whole wheat pasta; tomato sauce; tea and coffee; 100% real fruit juice; packaged dry beans; canned soup or stew (low sodium); whole grain items; brown rice; oatmeal; peanut butter; canned tuna, salmon, and chicken; and shelf-stable milk (non-fat or 1%, such as 32 oz. Parmalat).

Baskets have been placed in the Social Hall for food donations, which will be distributed through the New York Common Pantry.

Come see this amazing organization

up close by volunteering in the pantry's distribution center, at 8 East 109th Street, off Fifth Avenue. Every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the Common Pantry distributes grocery packages to thousands of families, and relies on volunteers to get the work done. Or Zarua has committed to send three to five volunteers the first Thursday of every month, starting February 6. Volunteers are asked to work from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

One congregant who has volunteered with her teenager at the pantry said, "It is always a great experience. We take turns filling bags with items selected by the pantry's clients, and the time flies by. It's fun to work with other volunteers from around the city, and interesting to see first-hand how the organization works."

Please contact Lesley Palmer at lesley@nyc.rr.com for more information or to volunteer.

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.

TALMUD CLASS

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Wechsler will teach in January

This January, Rabbi Wechsler will teach the second chapter of Tractate Hagigah, "Ein Dorshin," the classic locus in the Talmud for discussions of mysticism and religious experience. We will study the limits of human knowledge, the relationship between science and religion, and the strictures instituted by the rabbis to discourage potentially heretical behavior. We shall read about "entering the Orchard," the inner sanctum of religious experience, a place of danger as well as bliss. Seldom studied, yet of monumental importance, "Ein Dorshin" will be another celebration of Or Zarua's 25th Silver Lights Anniversary.

Rabbi Wechsler will teach for four Wednesdays in January, beginning on January 8. In February, Talmud study will return to Masekhet Shabbat with Rabbi Bolton. Anyone may join the class at any time; it is not necessary to have participated in Talmud class on previous occasions. No prior knowledge of Talmud, Hebrew, or Aramaic is required.

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 homebound 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.

Winter Caps and Scarfs

● Or Zarua congregants create attractive knitted caps and scarfs for children in need.

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

OZ Hanukkah Activities

November and December 2013



Thanksgiving gleaners collecting food at The Vinegar Factory.



LINDA DERSHOWITZ AND CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ



Bir'nana performing in the welcoming ceremonies for Share-a-Night at Ronald McDonald House.



Roz Devon (left) performing in OZ's reception room at Share-a-Night at RMH before art work prepared by OZ Hebrew School students.



HARVEY BRENNER

A view of the Or Zarua cemetery section.

OZ Cemetery

For members and their families

The Or Zarua section of Beth El Cemetery is located in Washington Township (Bergen County), New Jersey, just 10 miles away from the George Washington Bridge. Beth El Cemetery is 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 Executive Director Helene Santo at 212-452-2310, extension 14.

TOP LATKE COMPETITION. Five teams competed in Or Zarua's first Top Latke competition (near left, from top): Diane Okrent and Dick Stadin, Gold Spun Latkes (the Spungens), Brian and Annie Sahn, Vera and Kayla Silver, and Laughing Latkes with Ilana Burgess (bottom, far left). The entries were butternut squash and sage, coconut and chocolate, carrots and spinach, Jerusalem artichoke with a creamy pareve sauce, and traditional. The judges were Anthony Banfield, Shiya Bolton, and Rabbi Bolton (in white toque). The Spungen family's Jerusalem artichoke recipe was awarded the Grand Prize—a frying pan.

The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between October 1, 2013, and November 30, 2013

OR ZARUA YOUTH ART CALENDAR

Fundraiser for the Youth Education Department

CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ



The OZ Youth Art Calendar is a fundraiser for the Youth Education Department. This year's calendar, which consists of collages of the faces of OZ youth, was created by one of our young congregants, Talia Spielholz. A copy of the calendar has been mailed to each OZ membership unit. While there is no cost for the calendar, all money raised will help to support holiday celebrations, field trips, and tzedakah projects for the Or Zarua Hebrew School. We hope that you enjoy the calendar and will show your support by sending a donation to the synagogue office.



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

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

The Or Zarua office is closed Saturday and Sunday, as well as on Jewish and federal holidays.

January/February Checklist

- “Threshold to the Sacred,” Yeshiva University Museum Tour, Monday, January 6, 6:00 p.m. Tickets are still available (page 3).
- Talmud class with Rabbi Wechsler. He will teach from “Ein Dorshin” on four consecutive Wednesdays, beginning January 8, 7:30 p.m. (page 12).
- Hebrew language class taught by Mark Somerstein begins Thursday, January 9, 8:00 p.m. (page 10).
- Shabbat Shirah with the a cappella group Tizmoret on January 10 and 11. RSVP by Monday, January 6, for Friday night dinner (page 7).
- Teen Hangout with Tizmoret, Saturday, January 11, 2:30 p.m. (page 11).
- The Lucy S. Dawidowicz lecture, “Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza,” with Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole, is on Thursday, January 23, at 8:00 p.m. (page 3).
- All are invited to Or Zarua’s 25th Birthday kiddush on Saturday, January 25. (page 3).
- Teen Shabbat, Saturday, January 25, 10:30 a.m. (page 11).
- Cookie Decorating for Middle School Students, Saturday, January 25, 6:00 p.m. (page 11).
- Book discussion features “A Guide for the Perplexed,” by Dara Horn, Sunday, January 26, 7:00 p.m. (page 11).
- Young Families Dinner, Friday, January 31, 6:00 p.m. (page 11).
- The Annual Super Bowl Party in support of Hesed is Sunday, February 2. Minhah/Ma’ariv begins at 5:00 p.m., with dinner and the party following. Reservations are required (page 6).
- World Café Jewish Learning Experience, an OZ and Context program, meets on February 13, March 6, and March 20 (page 3).
- Discovery Shabbat Minyan, Saturday, February 8 (page 10).
- Meet, learn, and work with Artist-in-Residence Mordechai Rosenstein, February 27 to March 2 (page 5).
- Send the name and address of your college-aged children to OZ’s Campus Connection by February 24 so that they may receive a Purim package (page 10).
- The Hevra Kadisha Zayin Adar Brunch is Sunday, March 9, after the morning service (page 7).
- Fight hunger in NYC. Support OZ’s partnership with the New York Common Pantry by volunteering your time on Thursday mornings or by donating specific types of food (page 12).
- Rabbi Bolton’s Siddur Class, Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. (page 6).
- Bir’nana, OZ’s a cappella group, will be meeting on Sundays at 7:30 p.m., January 5, 12, and 19.
- Passover candy sale to benefit OZ’s Hebrew School can be ordered at <http://tinyurl.com/OZ-Candy-Sale-2014> (page 2).
- Rescheduled: Eric Kandel, “The Age of Insight,” Sunday, April 6, 7:30 p.m. (page 4).
- Have you seen the new OZ Youth Art Calendar (page 14)?
- Help out with a Hesed program (page 12).
- Sign up for the morning minyan (page 4).
- Torah and haftarah readers are needed (page 5).