

Living in Israel for a Year

by Aliza Yailen

I spent this past year with the Nativ College Leadership Program in Israel, a gap-year program for young adults between high school and college.

I had many transformative and once-in-a-lifetime experiences while in Israel this year, but there is one in particular that I think was most significant: Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day.

Israelis are known for their abruptness and chutzpah. One could say that this is reflected by the celebration of Memorial and Independence Days one after the other without a break of time between them.

Although I had been in Israel previously on Yom Ha'atzmaut, in eighth grade with my middle school, Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan, my experience this

time was different. This year I had been living in Israel for almost nine months prior to experiencing Yom Ha'atzmaut. This time I felt more familiar with Israel. Unlike last time, this year I celebrated in Jerusalem, where I had spent my first semester of Nativ. I decided to attend a service at the synagogue in Yemin Moshe, which usually has just a small Orthodox minyan. Unlike the times when I have been there for Shabbat, this gathering was outside, under the stars and next to the famous windmill that is located in this beautiful neighborhood.

We began by sitting on the floor, listening to different people's accounts of their connection to Israel (all in Hebrew). Then we started the Ma'ariv service,
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OZ HIGHLIGHTS

July–August 2014

Summer Programs at OZ

Rabbi on the Roof, Summer Talmud Class, A Taste of Talmud, and more
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Tish'ah B'Av Services

Monday, August 4, 7:50 p.m.
Tuesday, August 5, 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.
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OZ's Young Professionals

Hosting monthly events
Page 11

Membership Celebration

Thursday, September 18, 6:00 p.m.
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Hevruta: Talmud Seminar

Beginning Monday, October 23
Page 10

The Silver Lights Gala

Celebrating Or Zarua's 25th year



LARRY ENGLE

Congregation Or Zarua will continue the celebration of its 25th Silver Lights Anniversary year with a Gala on Wednesday, November 12, at The Pierre, to honor our 25-year history and plan for the next quarter-century and beyond. A social with dinner and music will form the core of the celebration, during which we will honor some very special families in the OZ community.

Music will be provided by the Andy Statman Band. Festive attire and dancing shoes will complement the evening perfectly.

Andy Statman has successfully mixed Flatt and Scrugg's bluegrass banjos, David Gisman's mandolin, Eastern European klezmer, and Hasidic melodies to create a unique style of Jewish music. OZ was treated to his musical style back in December 2004, when his band played from the bimah in our sanctuary.

The breadth of Andy Statman's music is evident from the titles in his 30-plus discography, which include "New Shabbos Waltz," "Songs of Our Fathers," "Avodas



JASON MAROK

Halevi," "East Flatbush Blues," and his most recent release, "Superstring Theory." Listen to "Flatbush Waltz" on YouTube at <http://tinyurl.com/OZGalaNov12music1>. While Andy and his band have these special talents, their consummate musicianship allows them to play terrific ballroom dance tunes as well.

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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 Marc D. Ashley



This is my first newsletter column as president of Or Zarua.

I feel privileged to be writing it.

Or Zarua has been a monumental and enduring presence in my life for almost 25 years. My wife, Joanne, and I arrived at Or Zarua in January 1990, only a few months after the shul had instituted weekly Shabbat services in the music room at the 92nd Street Y. We had experimented with different shuls for several prior years, but none had met my exacting standards of authenticity, learning, and warmth. When I arrived at Or Zarua, however, I knew immediately that I had found a religious home.

Joanne and I were quickly embraced by a caring and intimate community of people who found common purpose in assembling in modest surroundings to pray and study. Each week, a simple Shabbat kiddush was set up in the back of the small room in which we had just davened. Within a year, Joanne and I were married in a local wedding surrounded and blessed by the company of many fellow Or Zarua Congregants, who helped reinforce the joy we felt as part of a distinctive Jewish community.

The excitement of those early years of Or Zarua was palpable and contagious. A quarter-century later, we must strive on a daily and weekly basis to recreate it. I view my mandate as Or Zarua president to help ensure that the enthusiasm and optimism of the synagogue's founding period are renewed with vigor. I am confident that a vibrant and energetic present can successfully bridge our past and our future, honoring tradition while imagining innovation.

We now, of course, have a beautiful building of our own in which to hold our varied services and programming, and even an enhanced weekly Shabbat kiddush graciously set out in its separate location. We must take none of our

achievements through the years for granted. But neither can we rest on our laurels; there is much yet to be accomplished at Or Zarua, and you can be an integral part of our growth and success.

Come join us throughout the year as the rhythms of the Jewish calendar pulsate within our walls. You may find your Or Zarua niche, spiritually and socially, at our meaningful daily minyan or at our spirited Shabbat services. If learning is your passion, we have provocative Torah discussions each Shabbat, complemented by numerous and varied adult education courses apportioned across the calendar that highlight diverse Jewish and secular themes. Challenge yourself to expand your synagogue repertoire, sampling services and activities outside your comfort zone.

And the summer months are no exception to our eclectic menu of activities. Indeed, the summer is a particularly delightful season to spend time at Or Zarua, enjoying and refreshing yourself. The mood at summer services is a bit more casual, the socializing at kiddush somewhat more leisurely. Come to a mid-summer Friday night service and feel an invigorating mix of relaxation and inspiration, as we assemble for an hour of soaring music and meditative reflection. Ascend to our roof, an unexpected urban treasure, on a summer evening for a stimulating learning session with Rabbi Bolton. Make an appointment to attend our spiritually measured Tish'ah B'Av service, which crystallizes the meaningfulness of these upcoming months. I encourage you to spend more time at the shul this summer, and can virtually guarantee that you will feel better for having done so.

So join me as we build on our past while we develop our future. But remember there is no time like the present. I hope we meet frequently over the coming months at Or Zarua in song, prayer, learning, and conversation.

With best wishes for a wonderful and productive summer,

Marc

Living in Israel for a Year

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making a space between ourselves as a mehitzah rather than having some sort of structure blocking us from each others' views. We just separated into two different groups while we prayed.

We stood up together overlooking the Old City. By this time it was dark and the Old City was lit up in front of us. It was enchanting. The praying started. Unlike services for Shabbat or a Chag, this one included instruments and speakers. How did I feel during all of this? Spiritual. I would never have thought that I would use this word to describe myself, but there is no other word for how I felt. I found myself swaying and closing my eyes, taking in everything around me.

When we finished singing a prayer, women would join hands and create circles. My friends and I would join them each time. By the end of Hallel, we had even started some of the circles ourselves.

There was this overwhelming feeling of joy the entire time—as if I were enveloped by a warm and wonderful blanket. We were all there for the same reasons: praying, thanking God that we had Israel. By the end of the service, it occurred to me that this would not have been possible in any place other than

Israel. Normally I would have felt uncomfortable having people stare at me behaving this way outdoors; but that would have been someplace other than Israel. But here, everyone knew what we were doing. What had started out as a small crowd sitting in a circle, listening, had become hordes of people dancing and singing and praying. I did not notice until the end how many people had joined us.

Later on that night, I met a friend who had decided to make aliyah and live in Israel. We had often discussed aliyah, and our views differed. My reaction to aliyah was that I would miss my family and friends and New York City. Therefore, I never understood why he would want to move away from everybody and everything he understood to live in a new country. Do not get me wrong: I have always loved Israel, but I had never understood the desire or drive to live here—until that night. When I saw him, I told him, “I get it now.”

Israel is not just a location. It is not just the Old City, Eilat, the Negev, or any of the countless places I could name, but rather what this country stands for: the unity of a nation, the importance of inclusivity, and a shared understanding that runs through the entire country. If someone could only visit Israel once, I would say visit, and then see if you can stay away.



Aliza Yaillen (left) and her friend Jordy Satok in the Old City during the snowstorm. This snow storm represented another spiritual moment during her year in Israel: “Being in Israel for a snowstorm that gave us six snow days, as well as being able to walk to the Old City—a beautiful sight—was an incredible experience.”

We've Already Created Your Dream Trip!

by Linda Dershowitz

Developing a guided tour intriguing enough for children, teens, and adults of all ages took brainstorming, flexibility, and communication among our friends and relatives for their experienced feedback. And we did it!

So many of us have visited Israel before, but have we been there lately? On my three trips to Israel, I toured the country only once, 45 years ago. This is my chance to see the country again and among shul friends. I will be in as much awe as our first-timers.

Larry Ritter, the representative from our tour company, Israel Tour Connection, presented ideas and information to us. He insisted we make this trip meaningful and personal and asked for our concerns. I shared that I needed time to see my huge family. He suggested I rent a room in the hotel in Jerusalem, serve coffee and cake, and invite the group over. We voiced interest in visiting Petra in Jordan. Larry is working out the details and costs to determine if we should fly there from Eilat before or after our scheduled dates of December 25 through January 5.

If you need special accommodations, ITC will arrange them for you. Is there something personal you need for traveling, like a C-PAP adapter? ITC will handle it. If one needs to separate from the group for a day, that can be worked out. Should your family prefer to upgrade the room accommodations in the two hotels, see the prices listed in the packaged materials. To obtain extra copies of materials or more information, contact Deborah Wenger in the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 1.2, or dwenger@orzarua.org.

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Pursuit of Enlightenment

by Rabbi Scott N. Bolton



The months of Tammuz and Av are important times on the Jewish calendar. During the summer we recall the historical turmoil and pain of our ancestors; we willingly share in their suffering with the fasts of 17 Tammuz and Tish'ah B'Av. External enemies challenged our way of life and banished us from our land. We thank the Lord for the power and strength to have returned to our borders and to our holy city, Jerusalem. Regarding internal strife, we remind ourselves during the summer observances that *sinat chinam*, baseless

hatred, must cease among the Jewish people. Disagreements for the sake of heaven may thrive, but a unity among the Children of Israel continues cultural productivity and moral refinement. Through such achievement “a new light may shine forth from Zion!”

About pursuing enlightenment, study of our sacred texts is yet another way to connect with the legacy of our teachers from throughout the ages. Let me invite you to join me for an exploration of water in the Talmud and the Midrash. Waves speak to one another about free will, and debates about directing irrigation channels in the Talmud open up conversations about being good neighbors. Many rituals invite the use of water for sacred purposes

as well. Please come to any or all of the four sessions of the summer Talmud class. If you don't make it to these classes, put Talmud learning on your agenda starting after the holidays!

In that sense, let's unify as a community in making a connection to pursue what is good and holy. This is what makes Or Zarua such a unique congregation; so many of our members do pursue what is right and beneficial to the world. I hold that studying sacred texts, engaging in Jewish rituals, and finding pathways to acts of kindness through our synagogue uplifts and enriches not only those who engage in the opportunities, but so many more lives as well.

Warm regards; b'vrakhah.

Bir'nana Celebrates a Year of Joyous Song

by Dore Hollander

We Jews are a musical people. Music is an integral part of our culture, and it is certainly an integral part of life at Or Zarua. So it wasn't too surprising when, a little more than a year ago, Marc Ashley and Rabbi Amy Bolton cooked up the idea of getting Congregants together to form an a cappella group. An organizational meeting in the spring of 2013 drew about a dozen people with various types of musical backgrounds—or none at all—who had one thing in common: They love to sing. And thus was born Bir'nana, whose name means “with joyous song.”

The group (which currently consists of 18 OZ Congregants) agreed at the outset that our focus would be “Jewish music, broadly defined,” and that our goal would be to enhance events both at shul and in the wider community. It's been a year of hard work for our members, many of whom had never done this kind of thing before. But under the careful and patient leadership of our co-conductors, Rabbi Amy (sixth from left) and Congregant Judy



Buchman (seventh from left), we've developed our musical skills, worked up a core repertoire, and begun to realize our goal of bringing song to shul and community activities. We've performed music for Shabbat Shira, Purim, and Yom Ha'atzmaut; for Hanukkah, we sang not only for the Congregation, but also for families at the Ronald McDonald House Share-a-Night celebration. We've come a long way, and it's been a blast!

Bir'nana will be meeting occasionally

over the summer and will get back into our more regular routine after the fall holidays. Over the next year, we are looking forward to expanding our repertoire and our number of performances. We always welcome new members. You don't have to know whether you're a soprano or a baritone; you don't have to know major from minor. All you have to do is love to sing. So watch for scheduling announcements, and please come and help us make joyous song.

Newly Elected Or Zarua Board Members

Four Congregants join the class of 2017

Marcia Kalin

Marcia Kalin hails from Wantagh and Merrick. She received her Jewish education from the Center Island Jewish School and through summering in Israel. An endocrinologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where she specializes in the management of diabetes in patients with cancer, Marcia received a degree in biology from Brandeis University and her medical degree from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. While an undergraduate at Brandeis, she attended the Hiatt Institute in Jerusalem to study Hebrew, Jewish philosophy, and Israeli culture.

Marcia is married to Steve Rayport, a psychiatrist and neuroscientist at Columbia University and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Their two children, Ilana and Yael, celebrated their b'not mitzvah at Or Zarua. Both daughters are graduates of the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan and continued on to the Heschel High School. Ilana is now majoring in neuroscience at Barnard College.

Marcia and Steve were introduced to Or Zarua by their friend and neighbor Anne Schneider. They joined OZ because the egalitarian, participatory, and traditional services reminded Marcia of services at Brandeis. Marcia attends OZ's Shabbat services regularly, is a member of Bir'nana, and invited and hosted ADL Director Abe Foxman for a Sukkot presentation at Or Zarua.

Both she and Steve deeply appreciate the support provided by the OZ community after the death of Steve's father and during Marcia's recuperation from a broken ankle.

Marcia feels honored to have been invited to join the Or Zarua board and marvels at the journey that has brought her to this juncture. As a board member, Marcia would like to support and participate in the development of OZ's community.

Karen Kaplan



Karen and her husband, Jonathan, joined Or Zarua in 2006, shortly after moving to Manhattan from Rochester, NY. They chose Or Zarua because of its participatory nature, and Karen soon joined the ranks of the Shabbat Torah readers. While saying Kaddish for her mother, she began to help with weekday Torah readings. She now attends the weekday minyan several times a week, organizes the Monday and Wednesday Torah reading schedule, coordinates the Sunday minyan, and occasionally leads the daily minyan. Karen served on the Program Committee for several years and chaired it for two years.

Karen and Jonathan have been committed attendees of the Me'ah/Context program since joining Or Zarua. Karen recently earned a master's in Judaic Studies at JTS and continues to take courses there. She serves on the Dean's Advisory Committee for the Graduate School and List College at JTS.

Karen retired from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry as Emeritus Professor of Medicine. She had previously been on the faculty at Columbia P&S and at Mt. Sinai.

The Kaplans have three sons and eight grandchildren. She is happy to have joined the OZ board and to have the opportunity to continue to serve the Congregation.

Laura Resnikoff

Laura B. Resnikoff, recently retired from the faculty of the Columbia Business School after more than two decades of service, is now a volunteer guide at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A member of Or Zarua for over two decades, she has been an active participant in Talmud and Siddur classes, maintains the automated defibrillator program, chaired the committee to review OZ's By-Laws, and is currently chair of the Adult

Education Committee.

Laura joined the Columbia faculty after an extensive commercial career with large-scale corporations and private equity entities, managing companies and completing transactions in the U.S. and abroad. During the past decades, she has served as a member of for-profit domestic and non-domestic boards of directors as well as a board member for not-for-profit entities.

She is a graduate of Brandeis University, B.A., and Columbia Business School, M.B.A.

Naomi Smook



Naomi Smook joined Or Zarua with her son, Yoni, three years ago. She was immediately impressed by Or Zarua's warm welcome and traditional, lay-led services.

Yoni loves the Friday night family dinners and was thrilled to join the other OZ children holding our banner at the Celebrate Israel Parade. He is already looking forward to celebrating his bar mitzvah at OZ in 2019. As a member of Or Zarua, Naomi has been volunteering on the development committee and is excited to be helping to lead the efforts for the upcoming Silver Lights 25th Anniversary Gala in November.

After a 14-year career as a real estate attorney, Naomi decided to change directions and went to work in the not-for-profit world. She spent many years at the Jewish Theological Seminary as the Director of the Greater New York Region, then served at American Friends of the Hebrew University and Yeshivat Chovevei Torah as the Vice President for Institutional Advancement. She is currently the Chief Operating Officer at ISGAP (The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy), a high-caliber research center created to advance understanding of antisemitism and combat hatred against Jews.

Naomi is excited to join the OZ board and to be able to help the synagogue grow and prosper in any way she can.

A Year of Classes About Judaism at Or Zarua

Talmud, Siddur and Messianism

A variety of programs offered at OZ provide many opportunities to learn about Judaism. Three classes given annually are the Talmud class, the Siddur class, and Marc Ashley's special-topic class that meets between Pesah and Shavuot.

This past year, participants in Rabbi Bolton's Talmud class studied Chapter 16 of Masekhet Shabbat, a discussion of what activities can and cannot be done on Shabbat. Completion of the year of study was marked with a Siyum that included halvah and festive drink. Wednesday Talmud class will resume on October 22.

For the summer, a four-session Talmud class, "Water, Water Everywhere: Mayim (H₂O) in Talmud and Midrash," will be offered Thursdays, July 24, July 31, August 14, and August 21, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Participants in the Siddur class studied the Sh'ma with Rabbi Bolton. When it resumes on October 23, the Siddur class will focus on the Amidah.

Marc Ashley led a class on concepts of Messianism in Judaism using a variety of sources ranging from the Bible and the Talmud to the writings of Rabbis Kook and Ginsberg. The four-session class for 2015 will begin on April 12.

Each year, OZ offers these classes to Congregants and guests. All are invited; knowledge of texts, Hebrew or Aramaic is not required. The only requirement is the desire to learn and your presence. We hope to see you in a future OZ class.



Participants in the Siddur class studied the Sh'ma with Rabbi Bolton.



Rabbi Bolton teaching the Siddur class.



Talmud class members



Talmud class celebrated with a Siyum.



Marc Ashley led a class entitled "Though He May Tarry: Messianism in Jewish Thought."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ

OZ Book Discussions

Start reading for fall 2014

Sunday, September 14, 7:30 p.m.

A Replacement Life by Boris Fishman

This discussion will be led by Chris Miller, associate professor of English at CUNY-College of Staten Island and author of two books: *The Invention of Evening*:

Perception and Time in Romantic Poetry (2006) and *Surprise: The Poetics of the Unexpected from Milton to Austen* (forthcoming, spring 2015).

Sunday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.

Like Dreamers by Yossi Klein Halevi

Siddur Ceremony

by Ilana Burgess

On May 5, OZ Hebrew School had a beautiful siddur ceremony at which our youngest students received their first siddur. Each student decorated the cover of his or her siddur, and we all were proud of their accomplishments.

During the ceremony, the students conducted the Shabbat first-line service. It means that they studied the whole Shabbat service, but only the beginning of each part. Now they are ready to dive into the rest of the service.

Rabbi Bolton and OZ's past president Diane Okrent spoke to the students and wished them well. We wish a mazal tov to our teachers, Sheila Lewis, Rob Silverbush, and Yael Goren.



Students display their decorated siddurim.

Or Zarua's Hebrew School classes will resume on Monday, September 8. For information, please contact Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or iburgess@orzarua.org.

TISH'AH B'AV SERVICES

Erev Tish'ah B'Av

Monday, August 4

7:50 p.m. Minhah/Ma'ariv

Reading of Eikha

Fast begins at 8:09 p.m.

Tish'ah B'Av

Tuesday, August 5

7:00 a.m. Shaharit

8:00 p.m. Minhah/Ma'ariv

Fast ends at 8:38 p.m.

The Silver Lights Gala

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Proceeds from the event will be used to support existing and new synagogue initiatives. Save-the-date notices will be arriving soon; formal Gala invitations will be mailed this fall. The *OZ Newsletter* and e-blasts will report developments and will keep everyone informed. A Gala website for attendance sign-up and making gifts to the shul will be available soon.

The Gala Committee needs volunteers in many areas of its work; please contact Naomi Smook (nsmook@nyc.rr.com). And if you have photographs from Andy Statman's 2004 OZ performance to share with the OZ community in the *Newsletter*, please send them to Charlie Spielholz (cssrs@earthlink.net).

Joseph Schwartz Ordained

May 19, 2014

Or Zarua Congregant and former OZ rabbinic intern Joseph Schwartz was ordained as a rabbi by The Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies of the American Jewish University on May 19, 2014. Rabbi Schwartz was also chosen to present a shi'ur on behalf of his class of 17 as part of the ordination ceremony. He spoke on the Talmudic text Shabbat 31a. The text of his presentation is available on his Facebook page.

Rabbi Schwartz and his family—his

wife, Alyson, and son, Zev Yedidia—have taken up residence in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn. He will be creating a Jewish learning center in their community, both independently and in association with Kevah, a California-based Jewish learning organization with which he worked while in rabbinical school.

He and Alyson, an attorney in private practice, expressed unqualified delight at being back in New York and look forward to renewing acquaintance with the OZ family.

**DISCOVER
WWW.ORZARUA.ORG**

Some of the many resources on the Congregation Or Zarua website include upcoming events, service schedules, current art gallery shows, minyan sign-up, guest speaker presentations, and much more. So take a few moments to discover www.orzarua.org!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 • 3 Tammuz 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	2 • 4 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 9:00 a.m. Volunteer at New York Common Pantry	3 • 5 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	4 • 6 Independence Day 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13 pm Candlelighting	5 • 7 9:00 am Shaharit Balak 9:18 pm Shabbat ends
6 • 8 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan	7 • 9 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	8 • 10 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	9 • 11 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	10 • 12 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	11 • 13 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:11 pm Candlelighting	12 • 14 9:00 am Shaharit Pinchas 9:16 pm Shabbat ends
13 • 15 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan	14 • 16 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	15 • 17 Tzom Shiv'ah Asar b'Tammuz 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	16 • 18 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	17 • 19 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	18 • 20 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:07 pm Candlelighting	19 • 21 9:00 am Shaharit Mattot 9:12 pm Shabbat ends
20 • 22 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	21 • 23 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	22 • 24 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	23 • 25 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	24 • 26 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:00 pm Rabbi on the Roof 7:30 pm Summer Talmud Class	25 • 27 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:01 pm Candlelighting	26 • 28 9:00 am Shaharit Mas'ey 9:06 pm Shabbat ends
27 • 29 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	28 • 1 Av Rosh Hodesh Av 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan	29 • 2 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	30 • 3 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	31 • 4 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Summer Talmud Class		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 • 5 Av 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:54 pm Candlelighting	2 • 6 Shabbat Hazon 9:00 am Shaharit Devarim Shabbat Siha with Rabbi Bolton, after kiddush 8:59 pm Shabbat ends
3 • 7 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	4 • 8 Erev Tish'ah B'Av 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:50 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 8:09 pm Fast begins	5 • 9 Tish'ah B'Av 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan 8:00 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 8:38 pm Fast ends	6 • 10 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 9:00 a.m. Volunteer at New York Common Pantry	7 • 11 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	8 • 12 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:46 pm Candlelighting	9 • 13 Shabbat Nahamu 9:00 am Shaharit Va'etchanan 8:51 pm Shabbat ends
10 • 14 Erev Tu B'Av 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan	11 • 15 Tu B'Av 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	12 • 16 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	13 • 17 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	14 • 18 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Summer Talmud Class	15 • 19 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:37 pm Candlelighting	16 • 20 9:00 am Shaharit Ekev 8:42 pm Shabbat ends
17 • 21 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan	18 • 22 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	19 • 23 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	20 • 24 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:00 pm Rabbi on the Roof	21 • 25 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Summer Talmud Class	22 • 26 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:27 pm Candlelighting	23 • 27 9:00 am Shaharit Re'eh 8:32 pm Shabbat ends
24 • 28 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	25 • 29 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	26 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Elul 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan	27 • 1 Elul Rosh Hodesh Elul 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan	28 • 2 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	29 • 3 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:16 pm Candlelighting	30 • 4 9:00 am Shaharit Shoftim Bar Mitzvah of Shiya Bolton 8:21 pm Shabbat ends
31 • 5 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan						

OZ Youth Program Wrap-Up

by Sigal Hirsch and Elana Mendelowitz

We would like to thank everyone for a wonderful first year at Or Zarua. You have all welcomed us with open arms, and we have

very much enjoyed getting to know the youth and laying the groundwork for some exciting youth programming. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall!

Most recently, we hosted a Teen Beit Midrash program in conjunction with the East Side Torah Learning Coalition, where teens from all over Manhattan came together to explore the power of words in Pirke Avot. We also enjoyed a Shabbat Lunch and Learn, taught by Rabbi Bolton, on the book *Divergent*, ate a delicious picnic in Central Park following our final

Teen Shabbat, engaged in interesting activities and discussion involving the topic of Jewish identity on Shavuot, and made Necessities Bags for women undergoing mastectomies.

Start getting excited for Middle School and High School Kickoff events slated for this coming September. Be on the lookout for more details! We are also going to be electing governing boards for both Middle School (Kadima) and High School (USY).

Finally, please feel free to stay in touch, to send us ideas for future youth programming or to have the names of youth, grade 4 through teen, placed on our mailing list! Contact Sigal Hirsch and Elana Mendelowitz at orzaruyouth@gmail.com. Have a wonderful summer!

RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.



Rabbi Wechsler can be heard on SiriusXM Stars Channel two times each Sunday. Subscribers to SiriusXM Satellite Radio can access "Rabbi Wechsler Teaches" on Channel 106. Nonsubscribers can obtain a free, three-day trial at www.siriusxm.com.

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 September/October 2014 issue is due by Monday, August 4.



Teen Beit Midrash



Teen Beit Midrash



Necessities Bags

Talmud Study Expands

Hevruta at Congregation Or Zarua

This coming year, OZ will be offering two Talmud classes. Rabbi Bolton will continue the Wednesday night class, which will begin on October 22. All are welcome to mine the wisdom of the Talmud, no matter what one's background. The Wednesday night Talmud class may be joined at any time.

Monday nights we will add an instructional seminar where adult learners will study the technical design of the Talmud and address the content of top *sugiyas* (various textual selections) with the goal of becoming independent readers of the

text. Learning in *hevruta* (learning partnerships) in addition to seminar and lecture formats, will make Monday nights engaging. Preregistration is required for the Monday evening seminar, which will meet three or four Monday evenings a month beginning October 27.

Members of Congregation Or Zarua are being asked to invest \$2,000 for the two-year program. The rate for nonmembers is \$2,500. Two-hour sessions will include guided beit midrash and lecture/seminar time. All are welcome to join. Register at www.orzarua.org; call Rabbi Bolton at 212-452-2310 for additional information.

Young Professionals Group

by Liora Seltzer, Susan Steinman, and Marc Alexander

As of May 2014, Or Zarua launched an active Young Professionals group, which hosts monthly events ranging from Friday night services with Shabbat dinner to social events around New York. The group was created to provide a friendly, warm environment where young Jewish professionals can

come together on the Upper East Side. It's a place where we can define our Judaism, make new friends, and participate in the Or Zarua community together.

Plans for July and August events are under way. We will post details about our programs and events on our Facebook page (<http://tinyurl.com/OZYoungProFB>). For more details, please email Susan

Steinman (susan.steinman@gmail.com), Liora Seltzer (liora.avitan@gmail.com), Marc Alexander (marc.a.alexander@gmail.com) or Rabbi Bolton (rabbibolton@orzarua.org).

We are excited about the success of our new group, and we are looking forward to our continued growth as part of the Or Zarua community.

Celebrate Israel Parade

Recognizing 25 years of OZ and 50 years of parading



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ

Early arrivals on Fifth Avenue before the parade began on Sunday, June 1.

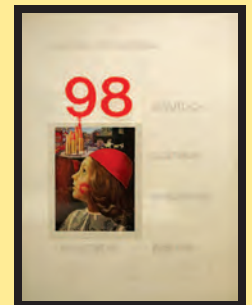


OZ youth leadership heading OZ's parade contingent.

NOW SHOWING IN THE OZ GALLERY

Additional Meanings: The Art of Summantics by Karen Shaw

Explore visual imagery, allusive words, numbers, and gain an introduction to Gematria in the OZ Gallery.



Israel Dream Trip

continued from page 3

Our itinerary allows for diverse activities to suit a variety of ages, walking abilities, study interests, and biblical/modern connections. When the children are immersed in the Bird Conservatory, others can visit Yad Vashem. One may choose the evening option of riding camels and eating a biblical dinner, or listening to a speaker in our hotel. Not all dinners are covered, allowing us flexibility to explore and plan on our own.

My dilemma is this: Do I participate in the chocolate-making workshop at De Karina Chocolate Factory or experience boutique wine tasting at the Bahat Winery?

A Solution to Hunger

Support OZ's partnership with the New York Common Pantry

Help feed the hungry in our community by donating food for OZ's year-round food drive for the New York Common Pantry (NYCP), the city's largest community-based food pantry, or by donating a FreshDirect gift card at www.freshdirect.com/ycp. Can you imagine how many we could help if everyone at OZ contributed in some way? Needed grocery 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 (nonfat or 1%, such as 32-oz. Parmalat). Lists of food items are available from the office and in the rear of the OZ sanctuary. Collection bins have been placed in the social hall for donations, which will be distributed through NYCP.

Or Zarua members volunteer at NYCP the first Wednesday of every month. Volunteers work from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the pantry's distribution center, located off Fifth Avenue at 8 East 109th Street. Recent volunteers include Elyte Barzilay, Audrey Feldman, Barry Feldman, Zella Goldfinger, Susan Katz, Susan Lorin,



CHARLIE SPIELHOIZ

Michael Nachman, Richard Stadin, and Nora Yood. Join the list of OZ volunteers who make a difference at NYCP! Contact Lesley Palmer at lesleypalmer123@gmail.com to sign up for July 2 or August 6. If you would like to sign up directly with NYCP to volunteer, please visit <http://www.nycommonpantry.org/volunteer.html> and contact Jen Winter.

MUSICAL INSPIRATION

at Congregation Or Zarua

Experience these music programs in the coming year:

- Classical fare at the Membership Celebration
- Guest chazzanim in October and on January 31 for Shabbat Shirah
- Live music at the Hanukkah Extravaganza
- Ladino and Carribean Jewish Jazz in January
- A cappella in the spring
- A mystical, classical music menu for Lag B'Omer

Also watch for Zimriyot after Shabbat kiddush (community singing and learning new tunes) plus times when our own a cappella group, Bir'nana, will perform.

READING TORAH 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. Or sign up online at www.orzarua.org by clicking "Reading Torah" under the "Pray" heading.

Or Zarua Hessed Events and Programs

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

Salvation Deliverance Church

● "Pre-owned" adult and children's clothing, toys, dolls, games, and related items can be put to good use by the many transitional homeless residents in the South Bronx, including single, jobless mothers and their children, as well as unemployed men. OZ partners with Salvation Deliverance Church, whose members are housekeepers caring for their own local needy.

Home Visit Volunteers

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

Monday Night 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 from across the U.S. and from around the world come to New York City hospitals for cancer treatment. 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 Hessed programs, please contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com or 212-879-0448.

Upcoming Or Zarua Events

Preliminary planning for 2014–2015

The Adult Education Committee has made preliminary plans for the following programs in 2014–2015. Watch the OZ Newsletter and eblasts for additional details and events.

- Dr. Arnold M. Eisen, chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary, will deliver the annual High Holy Day Teshuvah talk, Wednesday, October 1, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
- “From Assyria to Iberia: Crossing Continents at the Dawn of the Classical Age,” with Michael Seymour, Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, October 14, 2014.
- “Emigration to Immigration: From Journey

to Settlement in New York City,” with Congregant Barry Feldman, in four sessions, November 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2014.

- “Cubism and the Leonard A. Lauder Collection,” with OZ Congregant Dr. Emily Braun, Distinguished Professor of Art and Art History, Hunter College, December 7, 2014.
- Shabbat Shirah with a visiting chazzan and OZ’s birthday kiddush, January 31, 2015.
- Dinner Talk with Helen Nash on Kosher Cooking, Friday, January 9, after Kabbalat Shabbat.
- The Annual Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture, “Dubnow’s Other Daughter: Lucy S.

Dawidowicz and the Beginnings of Holocaust Research in the United States,” with Dr. Nancy Sinkoff, Professor of Jewish Studies and History, Rutgers University, January 22, 2015.

SAVE THE DATE

Membership Celebration

Thursday, September 18
6 to 9 p.m.

Hosted by Betsy and Ira Dizengoff

Details will be available by mail this fall.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHARLIE SHELHOLZ

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 challenges arise—illness, hospitalization, or a death in your family—let us share your burden.

Sometimes people are reluctant to communicate these issues on their own. With the consent 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.



YOM HA'SHOAH MEMORIAL SERVICE. Members of Congregation Or Zarua, including students from the Youth Education Department, led a Holocaust Remembrance Service on Sunday, April 27, with prayer, music, and candlelighting. We remembered those who endured and those who perished in the Holocaust with a reading of names.

The Or Zarua Community



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.

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.

"LIKE" CONGREGATION OR ZARUA ON FACEBOOK

to help spread the word about us!

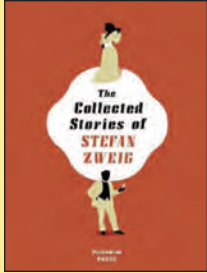


CONGREGATION OR ZARUA
127 East 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028-0807

RABBI ON THE ROOF

Wednesday, August 20

6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on OZ's roof



Join Rabbi Bolton for sushi and a discussion of the book *Collected Stories of Stefan Zweig*. Favorites from this collection of 23 Zweig's

short stories include "Amok" and "In the Snow."

Connect with OZ this Summer

All are welcome to attend one or all of these community events. Bring family and friends.

OZ'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Hosting monthly programs and events

This new group at Or Zarua enables young Jewish professionals to come together on the Upper East Side. See page 11 for details.

RABBI ON THE ROOF

Thursday, July 24

6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on OZ's roof

All are welcome to have a light supper and conversation with Rabbi Scott Bolton. Whether it is the first time you are meeting Rabbi Bolton or if you just wish to reconnect, join him on OZ's rooftop. This event will be followed by the first session of the summer Talmud class (see below).

SUMMER TALMUD CLASS

"Water, Water Everywhere:
Mayim (H₂O) in Talmud and Midrash"

*Four Thursdays, July 24, July 31,
August 14, and August 21
7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the OZ library*

This summer, Rabbi Bolton will be leading a Talmud class entitled "Water, Water Everywhere: Mayim (H₂O) in Talmud and Midrash." The class will meet on four Thursdays—July 24, July 31, August 14, and August 21—at 7:30 p.m. in the OZ library. All are invited to join Or Zarua's Talmud class at any time; experience in Talmud study, Hebrew, or Aramaic is not necessary. Talmud class is open to both members and nonmembers.

SHABBAT SIHA

Saturday, August 2, after kiddush

Rabbi Bolton will be joining rabbinic colleagues on a unique mission to Israel organized by AIPAC. Visits with Israeli and Palestinian officials are planned, along

with meetings with key thought leaders in Israel. Upon his return, Rabbi Bolton will be holding a Shabbat Siha, a post-kiddush "Sabbath Conversation." This informal conversation will include impressions about AIPAC's bipartisanship.

RABBI ON THE ROOF

Wednesday, August 20

6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on OZ's roof

Join Rabbi Bolton for sushi and a discussion of the book *Collected Stories of Stefan Zweig*. Favorites from this collection of 23 Zweig's short stories include "Amok" and "In the Snow."

HEVRUTA: TALMUD SEMINAR

Beginning Monday, October 27

Sign up for Talmud study with Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Schwartz at Or Zarua. See page 10 for details.