



# Shabbaton with Dr. Benjamin D. Sommer

## SEEING A SOUND: REVELATION AND COMMAND AT SINAI

Four sessions, November 13 and 14, 2015

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



**O**r Zarua will host Dr. Benjamin D. Sommer, professor of

Bible at the Jewish Theological Seminary, for a Shabbaton on November 13 and 14, 2015. The main theme of the Shabbaton is "Seeing a Sound: Revelation and Command at Sinai." The presentation will consist of four sessions:

### Friday, November 13

#### "Back-Talk" (First Session)

- 6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat
- 7:15 p.m. Dinner (RSVP required)

- 8:15 p.m. "Back-Talk: The Torah's Surprising Account of What Happened at Sinai" (RSVP required for dinner only; presentation is open to all.)

### Saturday, November 14

#### D'var Torah (Second Session)

"Who Can Retell? How Can We Re-retell? A Close Look at Two Hanukkah Songs"

#### Kiddush (Third Session)

- 12:15 p.m. Kiddush Lunch (no charge, but RSVP for planning)
- 1:15 p.m. "Revelation and Command: How an Ancient Israelite Debate Matters to Contemporary Judaism"

#### Se'udah Shlishit (Fourth Session)

- 4:00 p.m. Minhah, followed by Se'udah Shlishit

"Revelation as Dialogue, and a Dialogue about Revelation: Rabbi Bolton and Professor Sommer Discuss Sinai, Command, and Our Own Judaism"

All four talk sessions are free and open to all. RSVP by Monday, November 9 for the Friday night Shabbat dinner at <http://tinyurl.com/ozchaverweb> or call 212-452-2310, extension 39. The cost is \$40 for adults and \$20 for children ages 5–12, but no charge for children under 5.

Dr. Sommer's book *Revelation and Authority: Sinai in Jewish Scripture and Tradition* provides background for this Shabbaton.

This Shabbaton is made possible through the generous support of Pat and Alan Davidson and Susan and Ed Kopelowitz.

SIGAL HIRSCH



Teens joined Rabbi Bolton for a sushi dinner and an evening of learning, exploring "The Jewish Ethicist: Can I Wave a Stolen Lulav? Jewish Law Surrounding Ownership" in honor of Sukkot.

## TALMUD CLASS

with Rabbi Wechsler

January 13, 20, and 27, 7:30 p.m.

**R**abbi Wechsler will teach Talmud class on January 13, 20, and 27, at 7:30 p.m. The topic is "On the Mystery of Holy Script: The Torah Scroll, Tefillin and Mezuzot," which is based on Menahot, Chapter 3, "HaKometz Rabbah." Descriptive information will be available in the January/February *Newsletter*. For more information about Talmud class, see page 4.

## Ramah Yom Give Back at OZ

Sunday, December 20, 9:30 a.m.

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A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE  
FOUNDED 1989

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

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- DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, *Rabbi Emeritus*
- MARC D. ASHLEY, *President*
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## OZ Committee Chairs

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| ADMINISTRATION        | <i>Pamela E. Goid</i>                     |
| ADULT EDUCATION       | <i>Laura Resnikoff</i>                    |
| AESTHETICS            | <i>Aaron Shelden</i>                      |
| ART GALLERY           | <i>Bobbi Coller</i>                       |
| BOOK DISCUSSION       | <i>Reed Schneider<br/>Nora Yood</i>       |
| BUILDING              | <i>Edward Kopelowitz</i>                  |
| CEMETERY              | <i>Aliza Kaplan<br/>Mort Schwartz</i>     |
| EDUCATION AND YOUTH   | <i>Dara Shapiro</i>                       |
| HESED                 | <i>Susan Lorin</i>                        |
| HEVRA KADISHA         | <i>Roberta Hufnagel<br/>Gerry Solomon</i> |
| ISRAEL                | <i>Aliza Kaplan</i>                       |
| LIBRARY               | <i>Barry Feldman</i>                      |
| MARKETING             | <i>Aaron Shelden</i>                      |
| MEMBERSHIP            | <i>Andrew Plevin</i>                      |
| MINYAN                | <i>Sheldon Adler</i>                      |
| ORAL HISTORY          | <i>Mimi Alperin</i>                       |
| PUBLIC RELATIONS      | <i>Aaron Shelden</i>                      |
| READERS AND LEADERS   | <i>Marc Ashley<br/>Jay Palmer</i>         |
| STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT | <i>Sheldon Adler</i>                      |
| WEBMASTER             | <i>Jay Palmer</i>                         |

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



Light is particularly valued at this time of year. As winter approaches, and days become shorter and darkness descends earlier, we must ensure that we are spreading light in the world. Providing a source of illumination for our community becomes a more pressing mandate.

Indeed, we must strive, especially in these upcoming months when darkness is prevalent, to live up to our synagogue's carefully chosen name. Our congregational name is taken from Psalm 97:11: "Light is sown (or zarua) for the righteous, and joy for the upright of heart." We sing this verse not only every Friday night as we chant the Kabbalat Shabbat service, but also on Kol Nidre evening as we march with Torah scrolls through the pathways of our congregation. This stirring verse is therefore both a recurring and once-a-year reminder of our mission.

Notably, this Psalms verse arguably posits an experiential sequence—light precedes joy. That is, light can be understood as a predicate of the experience of joy, a means to that objective. We must establish and spread light before we can truly experience and enjoy happiness. Working to plant and sow the seeds of light can eventually result in genuine happiness.

That same sequence is paralleled in Megillat Esther, which relays that the Jews experienced "light and happiness" in the wake of their Purim salvation, a pattern we invoke each week during the havdalah ceremony at the conclusion of Shabbat. Again, the theme of light as a prelude to joy is invoked during the celebration of an extraordinary holiday, but is also incorporated as a regular feature of our mundane existence from one week to the next. Light, thus, is commonplace and familiar—but also occasionally awe-inspiring and even miraculous.

Which, of course, brings us to our imminent celebration of Hanukkah, also known as "Hag Ha-Urim," most accurately translated as the "festival of flames."

Hanukkah is celebrated at a time when light is rare and precious; the holiday serves as a beacon of light when the physical world is at its darkest. Our Hanukkah candles must be lit so that they burn for some time when darkness prevails, so the distinction between light and darkness is clearcut. Although the Hanukkah candles cannot practically be used for illumination, they are inherent symbols of the victory of light over darkness, both spiritually and physically. Hanukkah powerfully embodies the idea that a routine resource—light—is the emblem of our remarkable endurance.

Lighting Hanukkah candles requires building momentum incrementally over eight days. We consistently expand the scope of light over the course of Hanukkah, so that our menorah emerges by the holiday's conclusion as a brightly burning flame. Just as with the lighting of the ner tamid in the Temple, which required daily rekindling and regular care to constitute an "eternal" flame, our Hanukkah candles are a symbol of recurring and enduring commitment.

So, too, at Or Zarua. Our long-term success demands short-term effort. Our sowing of congregational light, which can lead to enduring communal joy, requires perpetual attention on a daily and weekly basis. We must cultivate light within our own community, and spread light to the outside world, through vigilant care, patient planning, and purposeful commitment.

This year, then, let us enjoy Hanukkah through the prism of our Or Zarua community. Let's take it upon ourselves to sow the light within our wonderful congregation and beyond incrementally over time, so that eventually our communal flame is irreplaceable. Help us grow that light and overcome the darkness this winter by attending our diverse upcoming services and programs—including our daily and Shabbat prayer services, newly opened gallery exhibit, scholarly Shabbaton, young professionals' events, and Shabbat Hanukkah musical dinner.

Join us at Or Zarua as we live up to our inspiring name, by sowing abundant light and transforming it into enduring joy.

# Or Zarua Programs

2015–2016 schedule

- Dr. Benjamin D. Sommer, Professor of Bible at JTS, "Seeing a Sound: Revelation and Command at Sinai," Shabbaton, November 13 and 14, 2015.
- Loren Schoenberg, Artistic Director, Jazz Museum of Harlem, "Jews and Jazz," Sunday, January 10, 2016.
- Dr. Jeremy Dauber, Atran Professor of Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, Columbia University, "Stop Me if You've Heard This One Before: Some New Thoughts on Jewish Comedy," OZ's Annual Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture, Thursday, February 4, 2016.

● Dr. Andrea Bayer, Jayne Wrightsman Curator in the Department of European Paintings, Metropolitan Museum of Art, "Unfinished: Thoughts Left Visible," an exhibit that examines the question of when a work of art is finished, Sunday, March 13, 2016.

● Dr. Alan Mintz, Chana Kekst Professor of Jewish Literature, JTS, "It's Not About Eternity: Rosh Hodesh and the Shape of Jewish Time," Shabbat, April 9, 2016.

*Additional information will be available in future issue of the OZ Newsletter, eblasts, postcards, and flyers.*

## SHABBAT HANUKKAH DINNER WITH BIR'NANA

**Friday, December 11**

**5:15 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by dinner with Bir'nana**

Join us for Shabbat Hanukkah dinner, and singing with Bir'nana, OZ's a cappella ensemble.

*Reservations are required for the Hanukkah dinner.*

**RSVP by Monday, December 7.**

Call 212-452-2310, extension 39, or go to <http://tinyurl.com/ozchaverweb>.

*The cost is \$40 for adults and \$20 for children ages 5–12, but no charge for children under 5.*

## HANUKKAH CAMPUS CONNECTION

Every year, Or Zarua strives to maintain contact with our young adults who are away at college. For Hanukkah (the first night is December 6), we send a gift "care package" to remind them that they are



part of our extended family wherever they go to school. If you would like your child(ren) to receive a free package, please reply to Deborah (dwenger@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, extension 12) by Friday, November 20, with their full name and complete school address. Also, please include their email address and cell phone number so that Rabbi Bolton can stay in touch with them.



**BIR'NANA, OR ZARUA'S A CAPPELLA ENSEMBLE**, rehearsing for their performance at our Shabbat Hanukkah dinner to be held Friday night, December 11. Bir'nana's wide repertoire incorporates Jewish themes and includes traditional and contemporary Hebrew and Israeli music. The group is co-conducted by Rabbi Amy Bolton, an experienced choral and a cappella singer who has performed with community and synagogue-based groups for over 10 years, and Judy Buchman-Ziv, a professional singer with a BFA from Tel Aviv University, who took courses in classical singing at the Ruben Academy of Music, Tel Aviv, and earned a diploma in choir conducting from the Music Department of the Histadrut. Judy performed with the Tel Aviv Chamber Choir for several years, as well as other professional groups during her career. The 15 regular members of Bir'nana are Marc Alexander, Barbara Bluestone, Amy Bolton, Judy Buchman-Ziv, Mark Hoffman, Dore Hollander, Marcia Kalin, Aliza Kaplan, Terry Krulwich, Sharon Litwinoff, Susan March, Aaron Shelden, Vera Silver, Peter Wolf Smith, and Alan Yaillen.

# Greetings from the Golden Age of Jewish Postcards!

On exhibit in the OZ Gallery through this winter

“A penny for your thoughts.” While no one is sure who first uttered this familiar saying, shortly before or after the turn of the 20th century, this idiomatic phrase aptly described a new phenomenon: the postcard! For the price of a penny—one cent—postcards provided a novel way of staying in touch. It was easier and faster than the practice of sending elaborately crafted, handwritten letters.

Like the rest of the world, Jews were caught up in the pictorial potential of postcards. Hundreds of millions were mailed, and it was not unusual to see artistically displayed albums of colorful postcards in Jewish homes. They were so popular, especially from 1880 to 1915, that people wrote of a “post card craze.”

The current Or Zarua Gallery show is appropriately titled, “Greetings from the

Golden Age of Jewish Postcards!” On display through the winter, it is an exhibition of vintage Jewish postcards and greeting cards from this era, generously loaned from the collection of Dr. Ira Rezak, the featured speaker at the exhibition’s opening on November 1. The show comprises eight



Gallery Opening, November 1, 2015

framed wall displays, depicting such themes as Jewish Observance, Romance and Bouquets, Family Life and Children, America: The New World, Views of the Holy Land and Zionism, Biblical Personalities and Jewish

Writers, and Distinctive Artistic Styles.

The postcards and greeting cards on display are charming, nostalgic, elaborate and beautiful. And a bargain of sorts. To mail a postcard today requires a 35-cent stamp. Elaborate greeting cards? As they say in Brooklyn, “Fuhgeddaboutit!”

A penny for your thoughts? Not anymore. Except at Or Zarua!

—GERRY SOLOMON

## EMBRACE THE NEEDY WITH WINTER WARMTH!

**OZ’s Annual Coat and Winter Clothing Drive**

**November 1–December 20**

Please help low-income and homeless families in New York City by donating to OZ’s Annual Coat and Winter Clothing Drive from November 1 to December 20. Items needed include gently-used winter coats (any size welcome), children’s clothing, and men’s and women’s clothing for homeless adults. The adult-sized coats will be donated to the Educational Alliance for their adult population through Project ORE and the children’s coats and clothing will go to the children at PS 140’s after-school programs. The adult clothing will be donated to Urban Pathways, a nonprofit agency providing critically needed services to homeless adults in our community. Please leave donated items in the bin located in the basement.

This coat and clothing collection will culminate in Ramah Yom Give Back at OZ on December 20, an event co-sponsored by Or Zarua and Camp Ramah in the Berkshires (see below).

## RAMAH YOM GIVE BACK AT OZ

**Sunday, December 20**

**9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

Join us for an event co-sponsored by Or Zarua and Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. This day of action is a great opportunity to help others, learn about local volunteer opportunities, and spend time with members of the Or Zarua and Camp Ramah communities. At 11:30 a.m., come together with Rabbi Bolton as we study Jewish sources on tzedakah and kindness in a discussion entitled “Do We Get More Than We Give? Altruism, Tzedakah and Working for a Prize.”

Please register for this event at <http://bit.do/YGB2015>.

## FALL TALMUD CLASS

**For the Sake of the Community: The Talmudic Backstory of Tikkun Olam, “Repairing the World,” Chapter 4 of Masekhet Gittin**  
**Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., with Rabbi Bolton**



Modern times have seen the use of the term Tikkun Olam for social action. The term originates in the Talmud and has been repurposed. This fall, we will study the pages that introduce the concept of Tikkun Olam. We will also learn the interesting tale of how this term has been repurposed.

Talmud class meets on most Wednesdays in the OZ Library from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Rabbi Bolton. Anyone may join the class at any time; previous participation is not necessary. No prior knowledge of Talmud, Hebrew, or Aramaic is required. You can also begin to build your own Jewish library by ordering Volume I of Tractate Gittin (Artscroll). If you can’t make every class, please join when you can; it’s easier than you think to be a Talmud learner and to enjoy the material. Contact Rabbi Bolton directly with any questions. All you need to bring is your life experience.

# Or Zarua Hesed Programs

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

## Erev Thanksgiving and Erev Christmas

● Hands, vans, and hearts are needed to glean, pack, and deliver food from Eli's and The Vinegar Factory on the evenings of Wednesday, November 25, and Thursday, December 24. The food will be delivered to Ronald McDonald House (East 73rd Street), Neighborhood Coalition Residence (East 81st Street), New York Common Pantry (East 109th Street), and Salvation Deliverance Church (South Bronx). It's a quick and fun team project. Volunteers, please contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com or 212-879-0448.

## A Solution to Hunger

● Help feed the hungry in our community by donating to or volunteering with the New York Common Pantry. Each month, collection bins are placed in the social hall for food donations of healthy (low-sodium, whole wheat, low-fat or nonfat), packaged grocery items.

For Thanksgiving, the Pantry needs cranberry sauce, rice, gravy, corn bread mix, stuffing mix, oatmeal, cake/brownie mix, frosting, pasta, canned beans, dry beans, olive oil (no glass bottles), garlic powder, and poultry seasoning.

Volunteers from OZ are needed the first

Wednesday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, in the pantry's distribution center, located off Fifth Avenue at 8 East 109th Street. Contact Lesley Palmer at lesleypalmer123@gmail.com to sign up for November 4, December 2, and January 6.

## Home Visit Volunteers

● Volunteer to visit and cheer ill or home-bound Or Zarua congregants. Please contact Roberta Hufnagel at robertahufnagel@gmail.com, 212-744-6572 (home), or 978-835-5445 (cell), if you are interested.

## 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 from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. on the last two Mondays of each month. Volunteers are needed, as are donations to the Hesed Fund. Please contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com or 212-879-0448.

*For additional information about any of these programs, please contact Susan J. Lorin, Hesed Committee Chair, at lorin@sewkis.com or 212-717-4647.*

## RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Sundays at 4:00 a.m., 8 a.m., and 8:00 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 106. Nonsubscribers can obtain a free, three-day trial at [www.siriusxm.com](http://www.siriusxm.com).

## RABBI BOLTON'S SIDDIR CLASS

The Amidah: Central Prayer, Centering Ourselves

Thursdays, 8:30–9:30 a.m., Library

Rabbi Bolton's Siddur Class began this year on October 29, but you may join at any time. Our exploration of the Amidah continues with both liturgy studies and reflections on personal meaning. Analysis of the prose and poetry, with comparison of various versions of each section of the Amidah, inspires a deeper understanding of this central part of our liturgy.

Prior knowledge is not required. As each class is independent of the others, you may attend any or all of the classes.

**OZ MINYAN** Join Or Zarua's minyan for Shaharit (morning service), followed by breakfast. Start times are listed on the calendar. You will meet other congregants and get your morning cup of coffee, OJ, bagels, yogurt, and other delicacies. You can be a minyanaire by contacting Sheldon Adler at [sadler@skadden.com](mailto:sadler@skadden.com) or just by attending.

# Or Zarua Book Discussions

## Sunday, November 22, 2015

*Little Failure* by Gary Shteyngart

Provocative, hilarious, and inventive, *Little Failure* reveals a deeper vein of emotion in Gary Shteyngart's prose. It is a memoir of an immigrant family coming to America, as told by a lifelong misfit who forged from his imagination an essential literary voice and, against all odds, a place in the world.

## Sunday, January 24, 2016

*The Last Flight of Poxl West* by Daniel Torday

“A stunning, award-winning novel in which a young man recounts his idealization of his uncle Poxl, a Jewish former RAF pilot, exploring fame, memory, and storytelling. *The Last Flight of Poxl West* examines what it means to be a family in the shadow of war—to love, to lose, and to heal.” —*Good Reads*

## Sunday, March 6, 2016

*To Rise Again at a Decent Hour*

by Joshua Ferris

“With the help of a somewhat petulant, loner dentist, the book takes on existential dread, what it means to be a Jew, and Red Sox fandom in a mix of the absurd, the droll, and the profound. It's an eminently worthy nominee for the Booker Prize or any other.” —*Tablet Magazine*

## Sunday, May 22, 2016

*Book title to be announced.*

OZ Book Discussions meets in the OZ library on select Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. All are invited. For additional information, contact Reed Schneider or Deborah Wenger, 212-452-2310, extension 12.

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>1 • 19 Heshvan</b><br><i>Daylight Saving Time ends</i><br>8:45a Shahaarit Minyan<br>6:00p Gallery Opening<br>7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal | <b>2 • 20</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br>7:00p Talmud Hevruta Seminar     | <b>3 • 21</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>6:00p Teens@OZ                   | <b>4 • 22</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>9:00a NYCP<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>7:30p Talmud Class                      | <b>5 • 23</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>8:30a Siddur Class   | <b>6 • 24</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>4:29p Candlelighting,<br>Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat   | <b>7 • 25</b><br>9:00a Shahaarit<br>Haye Sarah<br>10:30a Torah Kids<br>11:15a Torah Tots<br>5:34p Shabbat ends<br>6:30p Reel Shpiel Teen<br>Film Festival  |
| <b>8 • 26</b><br>8:45a Shahaarit Minyan<br>7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal  | <b>9 • 27</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br>7:00p Talmud Hevruta Seminar     | <b>10 • 28</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>6:00p Teens@OZ<br>7:00p Context | <b>11 • 29</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>7:30p Talmud Class<br><i>No Hebrew School 2.0</i>                               | <b>12 • 30</b><br><b>Rosh Hodesh Kislev</b><br>7:00a Shahaarit Minyan<br>8:30a Siddur Class<br>7:00p Young Professionals<br>Israeli Boutique Beers<br>and Limmud ( <i>not at OZ</i> ) | <b>13 • 1 Kislev</b><br><b>Rosh Hodesh Kislev</b><br>7:00a Shahaarit Minyan<br>4:22p Candlelighting<br>6:00p Kabbalat Shabbat/<br>Ma'ariv<br>7:15p Dinner (RSVP)<br>8:15p Shabbaton with<br>Dr. Benjamin Sommer | <b>14 • 2</b><br>9:00a Shahaarit/Toledot<br>Shabbaton with<br>Dr. Benjamin Sommer<br>10:30a Shabbat & Me Sat.<br>10:30a Torah Kids<br>10:30a Mah Zeh Shabbat?!<br>5:27p Shabbat ends<br>6:30p USY/Kadima Bowling |
| <b>15 • 3</b><br>8:45a Shahaarit Minyan<br>7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal  | <b>16 • 4</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br><i>No Talmud Hevruta Seminar</i> | <b>17 • 5</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>6:00p Teens@OZ<br>7:00p Context  | <b>18 • 6</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>7:30p Talmud Class                                    | <b>19 • 7</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>8:30a Siddur Class   | <b>20 • 8</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>4:16p Candlelighting,<br>Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat<br>6:00p USY Manhattan-Wide<br>Shabbat Dinner<br>7:00p Young Professionals<br>Shabbat Dinner                        | <b>21 • 9</b><br>9:00a Shahaarit<br>Vayetze<br>10:30a Torah Kids<br>11:15a Torah Tots<br>5:21 pm Shabbat ends  |
| <b>22 • 10</b><br>8:45a Shahaarit Minyan<br>7:30p Book Discussion<br>7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal  | <b>23 • 11</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br>7:00p Talmud Hevruta Seminar    | <b>24 • 12</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>6:00p Teens@OZ<br>7:00p Context | <b>25 • 13</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>Hesed Holiday Gleaning<br><i>No Hebrew School 2.0</i><br><i>No Talmud Class</i> | <b>26 • 14</b><br><b>Thanksgiving</b><br>8:45a Shahaarit Minyan<br><i>No Siddur Class</i><br><i>Office Closed</i>   | <b>27 • 15</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>4:12p Candlelighting,<br>Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat<br><i>Office closed</i>  | <b>28 • 16</b><br>9:00a Shahaarit<br>Vayishlah<br>10:30a Torah Kids<br>11:15a Torah Tots<br>5:17 pm Shabbat ends   |
| <b>29 • 17</b><br>8:45a Shahaarit Minyan   | <b>30 • 18</b><br>7:15a Shahaarit Minyan<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br>7:00p Talmud Hevruta Seminar    |   |   |   |   |  |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
|  |   | <b>1 • 19 Kislev</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>6:00p Teens@OZ<br>7:00p Context   | <b>2 • 20</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>9:00a NYCP<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>7:30p Talmud Class   | <b>3 • 21</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>8:30a Siddur Class                                    | <b>3 • 22</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>4:10p Candlelighting,<br>Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat   | <b>5 • 23</b><br>9:00a Shaharit Vayeshev<br>10:30a Torah Kids<br>10:30a Mah Zeh Shabbat?!<br>11:15a Torah Tots<br>5:15p Shabbat ends<br>5:20p Family Hanukkah Havdalah<br>6:30p Kadima Game Night  |
| <b>6 • 24</b><br>8:45a Shaharit Minyan<br>7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal<br><br><b>Erev Hanukkah: 1 Candle</b>   | <b>7 • 25</b><br>7:00a Shaharit Minyan<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br>7:00p Talmud Hevruta Seminar<br><br><b>Hanukkah: 2 Candles</b>     | <b>8 • 26</b><br>7:00a Shaharit Minyan<br>6:00p Teens@OZ<br>7:00p Context<br><br><b>Hanukkah: 3 Candles</b>                | <b>9 • 27</b><br>7:00a Shaharit Minyan<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>7:00p Young Professionals Hanukkah Party<br>7:30p Talmud Class<br><br><b>Hanukkah: 4 Candles</b> | <b>10 • 28</b><br>7:00a Shaharit Minyan<br>8:30a Siddur Class<br><br><b>Hanukkah: 5 Candles</b> | <b>11 • 29</b><br>7:00a Shaharit Minyan<br>4:10p Candlelighting<br>5:15p Kabbalat Shabbat<br>6:30p Hanukkah Dinner with Bir'nana<br><br><b>Hanukkah: 6 Candles</b> | <b>12 • 30</b><br><b>Rosh Hodesh Tevet</b><br>9:00a Shaharit/Miketz<br>10:30a Torah Kids<br>11:15a Torah Tots<br>5:15p Shabbat ends<br>6:00p Reel Shpiel Teen Film Festival<br><br><b>Hanukkah: 7 Candles</b>                                    |
| <b>13 • 1 Tevet</b><br><b>Rosh Hodesh Tevet</b><br>8:45a Shaharit Minyan<br><br><b>Hanukkah: 7 Candles</b> | <b>14 • 2</b><br>7:00a Shaharit Minyan<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br><i>No Talmud Hevruta Seminar</i><br><br><b>Hanukkah: 8 Candles</b> | <b>15 • 3</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>6:00p Teens@OZ<br>7:00p Context  | <b>16 • 4</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>7:30p Talmud Class   | <b>17 • 5</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>8:30a Siddur Class                                    | <b>18 • 6</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>4:12 pm Candlelighting,<br>Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat   | <b>19 • 7</b><br>9:00a Shaharit/Vayigash<br>10:30a Shabbat & Me Sat.<br>10:30a Mah Zeh Shabbat?!<br>10:30a Torah Kids<br>11:15a Torah Tots<br>5:17p Shabbat ends<br>5:45p Havdalah & Zimriyah<br>TBA USY Manhattan-Wide Shabbat Dinner and Movie |
| <b>20 • 8</b><br>8:45a Shaharit Minyan<br>9:30a Ramah Yom<br>Give Back at OZ<br>7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal   | <b>21 • 9</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br>7:00p Talmud Hevruta Seminar                                       | <b>22 • 10</b><br><b>Asara B'Tevet/Fast of Tevet</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>6:00p Teens@OZ<br>7:00p Context (Make-Up) | <b>23 • 11</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br><i>No Talmud Class</i>  | <b>24 • 12</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>Hesed Holiday Gleaning<br><i>No Siddur Class</i>     | <b>25 • 13</b><br>8:45a Shaharit Minyan<br>4:16p Candlelighting,<br>Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat<br><i>Office closed</i>  | <b>26 • 14</b><br>9:00a Shaharit Vayehi<br>10:30a Torah Kids<br>11:15a Torah Tots<br>5:21p Shabbat ends  |
| <b>27 • 15</b><br>8:45a Shaharit Minyan<br>7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal  | <b>28 • 16</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br>7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar<br><i>No Hebrew School 2.0</i><br><i>No B'nei Mitzvah Scholars</i>                            | <b>29 • 17</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br><i>No Teens@OZ</i>  | <b>30 • 18</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br><i>No Hebrew School 2.0</i><br><i>No Talmud Class</i>  | <b>31 • 19</b><br><b>New Year's Eve</b><br>7:15a Shaharit Minyan<br><i>No Siddur Class</i>      | <b>1 Jan • 20</b><br>8:45a Shaharit Minyan<br>4:21p Candlelighting,<br>Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat<br><i>Office closed</i>   | <b>2 • 21</b><br>9:00a Shaharit Shemot<br>10:30a Torah Kids<br>11:15a Torah Tots<br>5:26p Shabbat ends   |

# DOROT Provides Services for Seniors

## Annual Rosh Hashanah Package Delivery

**O**n Sunday, September 20, fifteen OZ volunteers spread out across the East Side, bags of goodies in hand, to visit with seniors.

Organized every year by DOROT, the annual Rosh Hashanah Package Delivery brings company, conversation, and holiday treats into the homes of seniors, many of whom are frail and isolated, and have limited mobility or financial resources.

DOROT ([www.dorotusa.org](http://www.dorotusa.org)) is a wonderful nonprofit agency established in 1976. It provides thousands of seniors every year with food, friendship, and opportunities for educational and cultural enrichment by mobiliz-



DOROT

ing volunteers and resources. She showed me pictures of her family, and we talked about TV, movies, books, etc. She's an energetic, smart, and witty lady, but as her legs don't work so well anymore, she depends on a walker or a motorized wheelchair. Our visit was a wonderful way to start the new year."

Many thanks to our volunteers: Susan Di Leo, Susan Katz, Ariel and Joanna Kipnis, Lesley Palmer, Aaron Shelden, Gerry and Phyllis Solomon and their grandsons, Charlie Spielholz, and the Spungen family.

ing volunteers and resources.

OZ member Susan Di Leo shared her experience: "I visited for a little over an

Save Sunday, January 31, for DOROT's annual Winter Package Delivery!  
—LESLEY PALMER



CHARLIE SPELHOLZ



**Or Zarua** started the New Year off with two guests during Tishri. *New Yorker* Columnist Adam Gopnik (top) discussed how Holy Words communicate to us, and JTS Rabbi Robert Harris (above) spoke about the celebration of Sukkot. Or Zarua will be hosting a variety of speakers on a broad range of topics throughout the year. See "Or Zarua Programs" on page 3 for the full schedule.



# Or L'Atid: Youth Education and Programming

## Hebrew School 2.0

Students are already in the full swing of things in the inaugural year of the Hebrew School 2.0 program.

K-2 students jumped right into learning Hebrew language, starting with the phrase “Shalom Kitah Alef” (hello, first grade), learning to say the phrase and recognize the individual words. They continue to build on this phrase, learning to say “Shalom” to one another, and to use it to greet others.

The 3rd-5th-grade students continue their studies of the Jewish calendar and its correspondence with moon phases, grounding their knowledge of the holidays in a deeper understanding of the patterns and structure of the calendar. Excited students routinely come into the synagogue and volunteer which moon phase they saw the previous evening.



Together, the K-5 group has also begun their regular t'filah (prayer) services, moving through an abridged service, singing both new and old songs, reciting prayers, and becoming increasingly comfortable in the Or Zarua sanctuary. They've also explored Abraham's faith in God when learning about Lekh-Lekha and the value of welcoming guests as Abraham did in Vayera, learning the phrase “B'ruchim HaBa'im” (welcome).

Our B'nei Mitzvah scholars are off to a running start, learning Hebrew phrases they can use to talk about themselves, in addition to the origins of the Hebrew and English alphabets! They have also begun their study of mitzvot, recently considering



the difference between the commandments “zachor” (remember) and “shamor” (observe) when it comes to Shabbat.

Last but not least, our Teens@OZ have learned the word “sh'deira” (avenue), to describe where they live in Manhattan, as well as to discuss in Hebrew the personal meaning that Rosh Hashanah holds for them. Our JAMM students have begun the semester learning about the various expulsions of Jews at the end of the Medieval period, looking towards better times as they move to the emancipation of the Jews in the modern period.

It's been a great start to a year sure to be filled with rich learning!

## Family Shabbat Dinner

On October 23, 65 people joined Rabbi Bolton and Sigal Hirsch for the first Family Shabbat Dinner of the year. Or Zarua members got to know families new to our community by singing, praying, learning, and, of course, eating together! It was a great start to the year, and we look forward to many more events like it.

Be sure to join us at upcoming family

events: November 14, Shabbat & Me Saturday; December 5, Family Hanukkah Havdalah; and December 19, Shabbat & Me Saturday.

## The Reel Shpiel Teen Film Series

Or L'Atid, Youth Education and Programming at Or Zarua, and Or Zarua USY are excited to announce our second annual Reel Shpiel Teen Film Series. This year, all of our events will speak to the theme “Box Office Hits with Jewish Twists” exploring the presentation of Jews and Judaism in popular American movies. Join us for our first event



on November 7, to watch “You Don't Mess with the Zohan” and explore the presentation of Israelis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a major motion picture. Mark your calendars with subsequent dates: December 12, January 30, and April 3.

## Calling all youth and families!

To learn more about programs for youth and families, please email shirsch@orzarua.org to sign up for our mailing list.



**Above:** Teens@OZ, in their first HALLEL (Hebrew Language and Literature) class, began their studies of modern Hebrew by discussing what Rosh Hashanah means to each of them. **Top left:** Hebrew School 2.0 students singing “Mah Tov” in our regular t'filah (prayer) services. **Top right:** OZ's first cohort of B'nei Mitzvah Scholars explored mitzvot and their meaning in our present-day lives.



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

**MUSICAL HAVDALAH  
 AND ZIMRIYAH**

**Saturday, December 19**

**5:45 p.m.**

Come join us for great music with players from the OZ band and communal singing! Refreshments will be served. All ages welcome!

**Shabbat Hanukkah Dinner  
 with Bir'nana**

**Friday, December 11**

page 3

# Or Zarua's Young Professionals

by Liora Avitan Seltzer

It has been a wonderful fall season for OZ's Young Professionals. We started 5776 with meaningful High Holy Days, davening with the rest of the congregation. It was a special experience for those who were able to take part, to be

surrounded by good friends from both our group and the rest of the congregation .

Sushi in the Sukkah became Sushi in the Social Hall due to uncooperative weather on October 1. Nonetheless, it was a great event, which attracted 30 young

professionals, who celebrated and studied with Rabbi Bolton.

Following the success of last year's Homey Shabbat, we celebrated Shabbat Across America with potluck meals and davening at different homes. It's always a great experience to host new friends and bring the community together.

We are all looking forward to our next events. First up is our Israeli Boutique Beers and Limmud on Rosh Hodesh Kislev, November 12. Then we will return to OZ for our monthly Shabbat services and dinner on November 20. December brings the all-time favorite holiday of Hanukkah, and we will get together for our annual Hanukkah party on Wednesday, December 9. All events begin at 7:00 p.m.

As always, please join our group on Facebook, Or Zarua's Young Professionals, for more information about our events, or email us at [ozyoungpros@gmail.com](mailto:ozyoungpros@gmail.com).



OZ YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The OZ Young Professionals Hanukkah party will be held on Wednesday, December 9. Approximately 50 people attended last year's celebration, as pictured above.