

January Jazz and Shabbat Shirah Songs

Connect with Congregation Or Zarua through music

“Jews and Jazz”

with **Loren Schoenberg**

Sunday, January 10, 7:00 p.m.



Jazz is a genre of music that originated in African American communities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The extensive list of African Americans who have contributed to

the development of jazz includes Scott Joplin, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Charlie Parker. However, a wide variety of people from other ethnic groups have also influenced the development of jazz. Among them are Jewish composers and musicians, including Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Benny Goodman, Jerome Kern, and Artie Shaw.

Loren Schoenberg, Founding Director and Senior Scholar of The National Jazz Museum in Harlem, will be discussing the

Jewish role in the history of jazz on Sunday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m. “Jews and Jazz” is free of charge and open to all.

Shabbat Shirah Shabbaton

Friday night, January 22,

and Saturday, January 23



Or Zarua will be celebrating Shabbat Shirah with a Shabbaton featuring Dr. Marsha Bryan Edelman and Friends of Zamir. Dr. Edelman is an adjunct professor of music and education

at Gratz College and conductor of HaZamir Philadelphia, a chapter of the Jewish Choral Foundation. She will be bringing an ensemble called Friends of Zamir to enhance both Friday night dinner and a Shabbat post-kiddush performance.

Dr. Edelman will be speaking Friday night at dinner about Jewish World Music, and

she will address the Congregation from the bimah on Shabbat morning.

Thank you to Mimi and Barry Alperin for their ongoing support of musicality at OZ. This Shabbat Shirah program is dedicated to the memory of Mimi’s mother, Vera Fish, Chava bat Usher, z”l.

Friday, January 22

KABBALAT SHABBAT, 5:30 pm
SHABBAT DINNER AND MUSIC PROGRAM, after services

RSVP for dinner by Tuesday, January 19, using Chaverware, <http://tinyurl.com/ShabbatShirah2016>, or calling 212-452-2310, extension 39. The cost is \$40 for adults; \$20 for children 5-12; no charge for children under 5.

Saturday, January 23

SHAHARIT, 9:00 a.m.
OZ’S BIRTHDAY KIDDUSH AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCE, 1:00 p.m.

Note that only the dinner requires an RSVP; all other events are free and open to all.

Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture

with **Jeremy Dauber, Ph.D.**

Thursday, February 4, 7:30 p.m.

page 3

Annual Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 7, 5:00 p.m.

page 3

Talmud Class

with **Rabbi Wechsler**

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

page 3

DOROT Package Delivery

Sunday, January 31, 10:30 a.m.

page 5



“MACCABEE MISHEGOSS,” with ventriloquist Jonathan Geffner, was one of many Hanukkah events at Or Zarua designed especially for youth. On Saturday, January 23, families with children are invited to Family Havdalah and Drum Orchestra (see page 9).



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*
- MARC D. ASHLEY, *President*
- ALAN ILBERMAN, *Treasurer*
- HELENE SANTO, *Executive Director*
- SIGAL HIRSCH, *Director of Youth Education and Programming*
- CHARLES SPIELHOLZ, *Newsletter Editor*

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 Nora Yood</i> |
| BUILDING | <i>Edward Kopelowitz</i> |
| CEMETERY | <i>Aliza Kaplan Mort Schwartz</i> |
| EDUCATION AND YOUTH | <i>Dara Shapiro</i> |
| HESED | <i>Susan Lorin</i> |
| HEVRA KADISHA | <i>Roberta Hufnagel 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 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



At Or Zarua, we learn, pray, participate, and connect. And we sing.

Singing is at the core of much of what we do at Or Zarua. We sing together during all of our prayer services throughout the year, on a daily and weekly basis. Depending on the occasion, our liturgical singing ranges in tone from somber to joyous. We are able to reach peaks of unity during our communal singing that are difficult to match in a non-musical setting. As we join together in spirited prayerful song, we achieve a compelling communal harmony.

We also sing together in settings beyond our prayer services. When we gather for communal meals, we generally sing together before and after we eat, as a reflection of the anticipation and joy of dining as a community. Over many years, we have also scheduled sessions dedicated to group singing, sometimes led by guest musicians who have taught us melodies that continue to animate our congregational life. And our homegrown a cappella group, Bir'nana, has developed an impressive repertoire of songs with which to entertain and inspire us at communal events. Singing plays a pivotal role in our shul life.

Yet to ensure that we periodically remind ourselves of the power of song, the Jewish calendar devotes an entire Sabbath to it each year. On Shabbat Shirah, the "Sabbath of Song," which we celebrate annually in parashat Beshalah when we chant the Israelites' poetic song after they successfully crossed the Reed Sea and eluded the pursuing Egyptians, we confront the majesty and appeal of singing.

That first song recorded in the Torah, full of praise for and allegiance to God, inaugurated the end of slavery and the beginning of the Jews' path toward nationhood and redemption. The song itself appears in the biblical text immediately after we are informed that the people "had faith in the Lord and His servant Moses." The nation's trust in and commit-

ment to their destiny therefore finds spontaneous expression in communal song.

The substance and structure of the Israelites' song—deemed so significant that it was incorporated into the daily morning service—reinforce the power of music. The passage begins: "Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord." But the song's lyrics quickly move from the plural to the singular: "I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously." This transition from the many to the one embodies the communal unity and cohesiveness that was captured through song. Powerful singing is so contagious and inspirational that Miriam leads the Israelite women in a tandem performance.

In addition, the unique format of the song in the biblical scroll, with undulating columns of words that suggest the roiling sea waves, denotes its extraordinary character. This hymn is sung with a distinctive melody on Shabbat Shirah, and the Congregation stands while it is read. All these features make clear that this song holds a special place in the Torah.

The Israelites' spectacular Song of the Sea is paired on Shabbat Shirah with the poetic song in the haftarah of the prophetess Deborah, who glorified God in the aftermath of a momentous military victory. Shabbat Shirah teaches us that at great historical moments of national togetherness, Jews have been inspired to join together in song.

At Or Zarua, we continue this long tradition of employing song to express community. When we sing together at various times during the year, from Kol Nidre and Neilah on Yom Kippur to Hallel on festivals and returning the Torah to the ark each Shabbat, we experience the majesty of music. Our souls yearn for the emotional fervor of song just as our minds seek intellectual stimulation. We join in song to reinvigorate the bonds of our community, to help transcend our separateness.

Please join us for our special musical program on Shabbat Shirah. I look forward to singing in community with you then, and throughout the year.

The Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture

“STOP ME IF YOU’VE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE: SOME NEW THOUGHTS ON JEWISH COMEDY”

with **Jeremy Dauber, Ph.D., Thursday, February 4, 7:30 p.m.**



Jeremy Dauber, professor of Yiddish in the Department of Germanic Languages at Columbia University, will give the annual Lucy S.

Dawidowicz lecture on February 4, at 7:30 p.m. The title of his presentation will be “Stop Me If You’ve Heard This One Before: Some New Thoughts on Jewish Comedy.”

Professor Dauber grew up in Teaneck, NJ, and spent a year in Israel before attending Harvard. He received his doctorate, in Modern Jewish Studies, from Oxford University. He is the author of several books and of numerous articles, essays and reviews; an editor of *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History*; and the director of the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies and Atran Professor of Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture at Columbia. His research

interests include Yiddish literature of the early modern period, Hebrew and Yiddish literature of the 19th century, the Yiddish theater, and American Jewish literature and popular culture.

After the lecture, dessert and birthday cake will be served in honor of Congregation Or Zarua’s 27th birthday. Please help us to plan by contacting the office at 212-452-2310, extension 39, with a reservation for the lecture by Tuesday, February 2.

Annual Super Bowl Party

Supporting the important work of Project ORE

OZ members and their guests are invited to our 13th annual Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 7, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Minhah. Viewing the game on a large-screen HDTV and eating kosher food from Dougie’s BBQ in Teaneck, NJ, while socializing in a family-friendly atmosphere is a great way to enjoy the Super Bowl. Please make reservations at 212-452-2310, extension 39, or email dwenger@orzarua.org, by noon on Tuesday, January 26.

As is our tradition, the OZ Super Bowl Party is free to OZ members and their guests, but we rely on your generous contributions to raise badly needed funds for charities that serve the Jewish poor and elderly. This year, our designated charity is Project ORE. Since 1987, Project ORE has served emergency kosher meals and provided counseling, case management, and other support services to isolated, poor, homeless, and mentally ill Jews. Project ORE is the only program of its kind in New York City and offers kosher, family-style community meals, including a buffet breakfast, hot lunch, and food packages for Shabbat.

Project ORE holds classes in art, poetry, and health and wellness, organizes

educational trips, and provides a Jewish experience through a weekly Oneg Shabbat. A staff of licensed clinical social workers provides assistance with housing referrals, entitlements and benefits, referrals for psychiatric counseling and medical treatment, and crisis intervention for emergency situations.

If you want to learn more about Project ORE from the people who directly benefit from its programs, use this link: <https://vimeo.com/29672314>.

TALMUD CLASS

with **Rabbi Wechsler**

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

Rabbi 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.” Anyone may join Talmud class at anytime; no prior knowledge of Talmud, Hebrew, or Aramaic is required.

Rabbi Bolton’s Talmud class will resume on February 3. For more detailed information, see page 4.

CHAVERWEB

Interact with the Or Zarua office online

ChaverWeb is a secure way for OZ members and guests to access individual account information online. ChaverWeb allows you to sign up for events, view and pay your bill, update your demographic information, and register students for Hebrew school. You can find a link to the ChaverWeb login on the homepage of the Or Zarua website (see Online Payment Area). Once you have logged into your account, it is easy to register for dinners and sign up for other Or Zarua activities. To sign in to ChaverWeb for the first time, please follow the instructions that can be found at this link: <http://www.webgravy.com/orzarua/HowTo-Chaverweb2015-r2.pdf>.

Besides signing up for events, if you have recently moved, changed jobs, or changed your email address or phone number, you can let us know by clicking the “Manage Profile” button and updating the information. If you would like to see a list of entries and recent transactions on your account, click “Account Status.” If you are having trouble logging in, please call Helene, Deborah, or Luisa for assistance.

Connect and Pray: Two Key Or Zarua Words

by Rabbi Scott Bolton

Prayer’s potential is expanded in the context of community. *“Mah tovu ohalekha Ya’akov!”* (How goodly are your tents, people of Israel!) We are both a home-based and a synagogue-based people. Our “tents” are meeting places for people who share responsibility for each other, celebrate together, and reflect upon life and times in a communal fashion.

In modernity, few may feel an absolute obligation to join the minyan and make it to shul (on time or otherwise!). However, we may need prayer more than we know, for during prayer we refine our gratitude, review priorities, gather strength, increase oxygen to our minds (according to current research, communal singing and private meditation may indeed afford us such physiological blessings!).

Giving of our time and ourselves is at the heart of the matter, as well. Our daily and Sabbath prayers provide us a place to help comfort mourners in their times of need—and not just for kaddish. We create a “tzur he’chayim”—a web of life in which our fellow community members find comfort, support, and the power to move forward or ask the deepest questions.

When we come together for daily and Sabbath prayer, we may take the opportunity to pray. That comes easier for some and is less accessible for others. By gaining from the intentionality and presence of others, we may indeed find ourselves better able to access prayerfulness, which after all is a natural sense of being, even if it is sometimes not easy to attain.

Many modern Jewish thinkers knew that we would appreciate the glory of newfound freedom among the nations of the world and in our homeland, Israel. However, prayer could become a challenge as the comforts of life and freedom of thought took hold; liberty, ironically, would free some from the most freeing of human practices—prayer.

As a chief architect of enlightened thinking would suggest in his work “Jerusalem,” Moses Mendelssohn recommended that we see coming to our local synagogue as re-enacting a sacred journey to Jerusalem but in small, manageable form! The togetherness of making the pilgrimage to our Temple in our capital city stood as a metaphor for him.

Mendelssohn encouraged a connection to community, to the sacred and to

the prayer ritual. Let it be a source of inspiration and strength for the freest generations on Earth. Mendelssohn’s message was: Connect and pray! You will become an even stronger you, free to be all you can be. Ritual and prayer will allow for the individual’s and community’s strengths to shine.

At our daily minyanim and other services, we come together to retreat from the raging storms of life or just to add a little silence into the mix of noisy times. Breakfast during the week is a time to connect, as is kiddush on Shabbat. There are many ways to connect at OZ, and I hope that we will share some prayerful time together amid the many opportunities.

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 or just by attending.

TALMUD CLASS WITH RABBI BOLTON

For the Sake of the Community: The Talmudic Backstory of Tikkun Olam, “Repairing the World,” Chapter 4 of Masekhet Gittin Resumes Wednesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m.



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.

OROT

OZ’s High Holy Day Journal

This year many of us missed OROT, the journal previously distributed at our High Holy Day services, so we are moving forward to be sure a new edition of OROT greets you next Rosh Hashanah. If you would like to contribute a personal recollection, essay, or poem that pertains to the High Holy Day liturgy, themes, or experiences, please contact Joanne Feierman at feierman@gmail.com or Rabbi Bolton at rabbibolton@orzarua.org. We also welcome articles that relate to our central Or Zarua values of “Learn, Pray, Participate, Connect.” We hope that you will be involved in—and enriched by—our forthcoming OROT journal.

Or Zarua Hesed Programs

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

Visit a Senior with DOROT

● Or Zarua is participating in DOROT’s annual Winter Package Delivery on Sunday, January 31. Bring treats and winter warmth to a senior living on the East Side. Volunteers will meet at Ramaz High School, 60 East 78th Street, between Park and Madison Avenues, at 10:30 a.m. Allow two to three hours for the project, a perfect activity for the whole family. Please contact Lesley Palmer at lesleypalmer123@gmail.com with any questions or to register.

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.

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 January 6 and February 3.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE GLEANERS. Each year, on Erev Thanksgiving and Christmas, several dozen volunteers from Or Zarua glean and pack food from Eli’s Manhattan and the Vinegar Factory and deliver it to Ronald McDonald House, Neighborhood Coalition Residence, New York Common Pantry, and the Salvation Deliverance Church.



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 • 20 Tevet New Year's Day 8:45a Shaharit Minyan 4:21p Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat <i>Office Closed</i> | 2 • 21 9:00a Shaharit Shemot 5:26p Shabbat ends |
| 3 • 22 8:45a Shaharit Minyan 6:15p Torah Reading Class 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal | 4 • 23 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p Talmud Hevruta Seminar | 5 • 24 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 6:00p Teens@OZ | 6 • 25 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 9:00a NYCP 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 <i>No Talmud Class</i> | 7 • 26 7:15a Shaharit Minyan <i>No Siddur Class</i> | 8 • 27 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:27p Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat | 9 • 28 9:00a Shaharit/Vaera 10:30a Torah Kids 10:30a Shabbat & Me Sat. 10:30a Mah Zeh Shabbat?! and Welcome Back Kiddush for Kadima/USY 5:32p Shabbat ends |
| 10 • 29 8:45a Shaharit Minyan 6:15p Torah Reading Class 7:00p "Jews and Jazz" with Loren Schoenberg | 11 • 1 Shevat Rosh Hodesh Shevat 7:00 Shaharit Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p Talmud Hevruta Seminar | 12 • 2 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 6:00p Teens@OZ | 13 • 3 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler | 14 • 4 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 8:30a Siddur Class | 15 • 5 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:35p Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat | 16 • 6 9:00a Shaharit Bo 10:30a Torah Kids 11:15a Torah Tots 5:40p Shabbat ends |
| 17 • 7 8:45a Shaharit Minyan 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal | 18 • 8 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 7:00p Talmud Hevruta Seminar <i>Office Closed</i> <i>No Hebrew School 2.0</i> <i>No B'nei Mitzvah Scholars</i> | 19 • 9 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 6:00p Teens@OZ 7:00p "Fiddler on the Roof" on Broadway | 20 • 10 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p Taste the Land (Teen mini-course) 7:30p Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler | 21 • 11 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 8:30a Siddur Class | 22 • 12 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:43p Candlelighting <i>No Minhah</i> 5:30p Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15p Young Professionals Shabbat Shirah Dinner 6:30p Shabbat Shirah Dinner Guest a cappella group | 23 • 13 Shabbat Shirah 9:00a Shaharit/Beshalah Guest a cappella group 10:30a Torah Kids 11:15a Torah Tots 1:00p OZ Birthday Kiddush 6:15p Family Havdalah and Drum Orchestra 5:48p Shabbat ends |
| 24 • 14 8:45a Shaharit Minyan 6:15p Torah Reading Class 7:30p Book Discussion 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal | 25 • 15 Tu B'Shevat 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars <i>No Talmud Hevruta Seminar</i> | 26 • 16 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 6:00p Teens@OZ | 27 • 17 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p Taste the Land (Teen mini-course) 7:30p Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler | 28 • 18 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 8:30a Siddur Class | 29 • 19 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:51p Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat | 30 • 20 9:00a Shaharit Yitro 10:30a Torah Kids 11:15a Torah Tots 5:56p Shabbat ends 7:00p Reel Shpiel Teen Film Series |
| 31 • 21 8:45a Shaharit Minyan 10:30a DOROT Winter Package Delivery 6:15p Torah Reading Class 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal | | | | | | |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | 1 • 22 Shevat 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p Talmud Hevruta Seminar | 2 • 23 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 6:00p Teens@OZ | 3 • 24 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 9:00a NYCP 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class with Rabbi Bolton | 4 • 25 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 8:30a Siddur Class 7:30p Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture with Jeremy Dauber | 5 • 26 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 5:00p Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00p Shabbat & Me Friday | 6 • 27 9:00a Shaharit Mishpatim 10:30a Torah Kids 10:30a Mah Zeh Shabbat?! and After-Shul Hangout 11:15a Torah Tots 6:05p Shabbat ends |
| 7 • 28 8:45a Shaharit Minyan 5:00p Super Bowl Tzedakah Party | 8 • 29 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p Talmud Hevruta Seminar | 9 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Adar I 7:00a Shaharit Minyan 6:00p Teens@OZ | 10 • 1 Adar I Rosh Hodesh Adar I 7:00a Shaharit Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class with Rabbi Bolton | 11 • 2 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 8:30a Siddur Class 7:00p Young Professionals Beer Happy Hour and Limmud | 12 • 3 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 5:08p Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat | 13 • 4 9:00a Shaharit Terumah 10:30a Torah Kids 11:15a Torah Tots 6:13p Shabbat ends |
| 14 • 5 8:45a Shaharit Minyan | 15 • 6 Presidents' Day 7:15a Shaharit Minyan <i>No Talmud Hevruta Seminar</i> <i>Hebrew School closed</i> <i>Office closed</i> | 16 • 7 7:15a Shaharit Minyan <i>Hebrew School closed</i> | 17 • 8 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 7:30p Talmud Class with Rabbi Bolton <i>Hebrew School closed</i> | 18 • 9 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 8:30a Siddur Class | 19 • 10 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 5:17 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat | 20 • 11 9:00a Shaharit Tetzaveh 10:30a Torah Kids 11:15a Torah Tots 6:22p Shabbat ends |
| 21 • 12 8:45a Shaharit Minyan 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal | 22 • 13 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars <i>No Talmud Hevruta Seminar</i> | 23 • 14 Purim Katan 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 6:00p Teens@OZ | 24 • 15 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class with Rabbi Bolton | 25 • 16 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 8:30a Siddur Class | 26 • 17 8:45a Shaharit Minyan 5:25p Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30p Family Shabbat Dinner 7:00p Young Professionals Board Games, Shabbat Services, and Dinner | 27 • 18 9:00a Shaharit Ki Tisa 10:30a Torah Kids 10:30a Mah Zeh Shabbat?! 11:15a Torah Tots 6:30p Shabbat ends 7:30p USY Event |
| 28 • 19 8:45a Shaharit Minyan 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal 1:00p Kadima Outing | 29 • 20 7:15a Shaharit Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar | | | | | |

Or L'Atid: Youth Education and Programming

Family Havdalah

Our first Family Havdalah of the year was a wonderful event for the community. Over 50 people—members of the Or Zarua community, as well as welcome guests—came together to bring in the new week. It was a very special week as we prepared for Hanukkah with a wonderful show, “Maccabee Mishegoss.”

Families with children of all ages are invited to join us for our Shabbat Shirah Family Havdalah on January 23, followed by a special drum orchestra program, Jewish Drum Tales. See the box on page 9 for all the details.

Kadima and USY Preview

It was an exciting fall for Kadima and USY. Some of the activities tweens and teens enjoyed were a Shabbat dinner, Bowling Night, the first event in our Reel Shpiel Film Series, and a Hanukkah Game Night.



SIGAL HIRSCH

Students made Cauliatkes with Nancy Wolfson Moche during our community-wide Hanukkah celebration.

We’re looking forward to more learning, praying, and fun in January and February, so be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming events:

Saturday, January 9, Mah Zeh Shabbat?!, followed by a Welcome Back Kiddush (5th grade and up)

Saturday, January 9, USY Zumb-dalah at Congregation Habonim (9th–12th grades)



Saturday, January 30, Reel Shpiel Teen Film Series (9th–12th grades), 7–10 p.m.

Saturday, February 6, Mah Zeh Shabbat?! and After-Shul Hangout (5th grade and up)

Saturday, February 27, Mah Zeh Shabbat?! (5th grade and up) and Evening USY Event (9th–12th grades)

Sunday, February 28, Kadima Outing (6th–8th grades)

Yom Give Back

On Sunday, December 20, we teamed up with Camp Ramah in the Berkshires for Yom Give Back. The day was a huge success. We made 500 sandwiches to donate to various food pantries and shelters around Manhattan; collected and sorted over 60 bags of donated clothing and coats, in addition to canned goods and toiletries; made 75 Art Kits for youth who do not have access to art supplies; wrote letters to Israeli soldiers; and decorated Tray Favors to be included with Meals-On-Wheels. With over 85 people in attendance, it was a day filled with giving back and a great start to what is sure to be a meaningful collaborative relationship between the two organizations.

Hebrew School 2.0 Update

Hebrew School 2.0 is off to a running start after two months. Students have been making remarkable progress in their classes. Our K–2 class continues to learn letters of the Hebrew alphabet, to recognize words written in Hebrew, to develop their Hebrew vocabulary, and to use their new words in simple sentences. They can now introduce themselves and say that they are present in class, and are moving on to learning about different objects around the classroom, the days of the week, and the weather.

Students in the 3–5 class have completed a unit about the Jewish calendar and Rosh Hodesh. They have studied the different phases of the moon and how they indicate where we are in the Jewish calendar. The class has learned the names of the months, their sequence, and which holidays fall within which months. We concluded the unit by studying about Rosh Hodesh. The class learned Birkat HaHodesh, the blessing that announces the new month on the Shabbat prior to Rosh Hodesh. Students acted as new moon witnesses, engaging in a Mock Beit Din, and describing to the rest



SIGAL HIRSCH

Rabbi Bolton joined the Hebrew School in T'filah on the final day of Hanukkah, teaching them about the Menorah and leading us in singing Al HaNissim.

of the class the moon phases they had seen leading up to Rosh Hodesh as a means of determining that the new month had come. After an intensive Hebrew reading unit, we are excited to jump back into our rich content and Jewish study.

In our weekly T'filah, K–5 students have truly become a community. Led by Abe, our music teacher, they have learned the words and melodies of t'filot that make up the framework of our modified service. Students are eager to help lead the t'filot and are excited to act as leaders of their community both in prayer and in explanations of those prayers that add meaning to them. In our weekly study of the parsha, students readily recall the stories of past weeks and jump at the opportunity to ask questions, offer insights, and learn what happens next in the narrative of Bereshit.

OZ's first cohort of B'nei Mitzvah Scholars is living up to its title. The stu-

Or L'Atid: Youth Education and Programming

dents are making great progress in Hebrew with Mark Somerstein, learning numbers, colors, body parts, countries, and languages, among other subjects. They have completed their semester-long study of Mitzvot and are looking forward to a new class next semester.

In Teens@OZ's HALLEL (Hebrew Language and Literature) class, the students are studying about modern-day issues and current events, with many opportunities to share their own views and opinions. And, of course, this is all done in Hebrew, giving students the chance to speak the language on a regular basis, improve their grammar and vocabulary, and become more comfortable with the language. It's not too late to sign up for HALLEL, and be sure to check out our new teen offerings for the spring!

New Teen Courses This Spring

Teens, be sure to try one of our new mini-courses this spring. Low on commitment, but high on content and engagement, these mini-courses are a great opportunity to add some Jewish learning to your lives.

Each mini-course will be held on a different day of the week, so rest assured, there is one that will work for you.

Taste the Land

Wednesdays, January 20 and 27
6:00–8:00 p.m.

Reconnect with Israel at its roots. Learn

the sources and savor the tastes as we explore the geography and topography of the land of Israel. Explore modern innovations that have made the dessert bloom and enjoy the fruits of the land in a whole new way. *Foods and sweets are included with the registration fee; please indicate any allergies.*

Omanut L'Ho'da-ah— The Art of Thanks

Thursdays, March 3, 10, and 31
6:00–8:00 p.m.

Taught cooperatively by Rabbi Bolton and Congregant Dan Labovitz

Become a more artful human. Learn the Jewish way of gratitude and why we should personalize our thanks. Then learn print-making and linoleum-carving techniques to create personalized thank-you cards. Values and skills to last you a lifetime!

Save the Dates

Sundays, May 8 and 22
Time TBD

Mark your calendars as we take our Teen Courses out into Manhattan for the final mini-course of the year.

Registration is required for mini-courses, but will remain open until the first day of each course.

Please contact Sigal Hirsch at shirsch@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, extension 15 with any questions.

FAMILY HAVDALAH AND DRUM ORCHESTRA

Saturday, January 23

6:15 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m. Havdalah

7:15 p.m. Drum Orchestra

If you enjoyed “Maccabee Mishegoss” with Jonathan Geffner on December 5, be sure to mark your calendars for our next Family Havdalah program.

Families with children of all ages are invited to end Shabbat Shirah and bring in the new week with a Family Havdalah ceremony and song.

Then we take the drum circle to a whole new level with Jewish Drum Tales, an high-energy, interactive program that emphasizes the power of collaboration and community.

We will start with a light dinner at 6:15 p.m. on Saturday, January 23, with a break for Havdalah at 6:30 p.m. The Drum Orchestra program will begin at 7:15 p.m.

There is no cost for this event. However, to ensure that everyone has a drum, please sign up on your Chaverweb account or RSVP to Sigal Hirsch at shirsch@orzarua.org.

YOM HASHOAH Holocaust Memorial Service

Wednesday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.

We will be commemorating Yom HaShoah with our annual Holocaust Memorial Service on May 4. This short, moving service involves the participation of adults and teens from our community. We are seeking volunteers, specifically for English readings.

If you wish to take part in this event, please email Ilana Burgess at hebrew_teacher@hotmail.com.



In T'filah, students act out the weekly parsha. Above, they are learning how best to welcome guests from Abraham's and Sarah's example.

SIGAL HIRSCH

The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between October 1, 2015, and November 30, 2015



OZ Congregants Sarah Klagsbrun and Eric Weinstein (right) were honored at the Camp Ramah in the Berkshires Annual Fund Dinner held at Temple Israel Center, White Plains, on December 6, 2015. Other honorees included Shoshi Talesnick, Rabbi Barry Dov Katz, Heidi Silverstone, and Steven Seiden. Celebrating with true Ramah “ruach” and lighting the first Hanukkah candle, the dinner raised over a half-million dollars for financial assistance, program enhancements, and staff training.

KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP

Consider sponsoring a Shabbat kiddush or minyan breakfast to support Or Zarua. The custom of sponsoring a kiddush can be a meaningful way to remember your loved ones or celebrate a birthday or anniversary with fellow Congregants while enhancing the community's Shabbat experience. The three levels of kiddush sponsorship through donations are \$180, \$360, and \$540; a donation of \$125 sponsors a minyan breakfast. To sponsor a standard kiddush or minyan breakfast, contact Deborah Wenger in the office. To make special arrangements or add a little extra something to the standard sponsorship offering, please speak with Helene Santo.

Or Zarua Book Discussions

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.



***Greetings from the Golden Age of Jewish Postcards!*, a colorful, illuminating show of more than 140 vintage postcards and greeting cards, continues on exhibit until spring in the OZ Gallery.**

CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ



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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- 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. Benjamin D. Sommer, Professor of Bible at JTS, “Seeing a Sound: Revelation and Command at Sinai,” Shabbaton, April 8 and 9, 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, May 21, 2016.

Or Zarua’s Young Professionals

by Liora Avitan Seltzer

Fall brought two special events for Or Zarua’s Young Professionals. A Rosh Hodesh limmud and happy hour was held at Jeremy and Liora’s home. One of our new members, Ronit Avitan, taught us



about Israel’s finest boutique beers with a taste testing. Then Rabbi Bolton led a limmud about beer in ancient Israel and its modern day halacha.

Over Hanukkah, 40 OZ Young Professionals gathered to celebrate the lighting of the fourth candle with food and music in OZ’s Social Hall/Art Gallery. This event was featured as one of the top 10 places to celebrate Hanukkah on NY Blueprint, which brought some wonderful new people to our event.

We are looking forward to an awesome 2016. Save the dates for these upcoming winter events:

- January 22, Shabbat services and dinner for Shabbat Shirah
- February 11, Beer Happy Hour and Limmud
- February 26, Board games, Shabbat services and dinner



The OZ Young Professionals Hanukkah party on December 9, featured as one of the top 10 places to celebrate Hanukkah on NY Blueprint, attracted over 40 guests.