

## ***Ancient Texts, Digital Age: The Cairo Geniza and the Material Turn*** with Marina Rustow, PhD, MacArthur Fellow, Princeton University The Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture, Tuesday, January 31, 7:30 pm



of Jewish Civilization in the Near East and Professor of History at Princeton University, where she also directs the Princeton Geniza Lab.

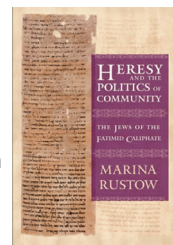
The Geniza Lab brings faculty, researchers, postdocs and students together to identify, transcribe and translate unpublished Geniza documents. In September 2015 she was named a MacArthur Fellow, the first Jewish Professor to receive this award and among the first

**M**arina Rustow, PhD, will present the annual Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture on January 31 at 7:30 pm. Dr. Rustow is the Khedouri A. Zilkha Professor

group of Jews to ever win a MacArthur Award. She earned her PhD in history at Columbia with Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi.

Dr. Rustow describes her presentation as follows: "Recent projects to digitize the contents of the Cairo Geniza—the largest cache of Jewish manuscripts ever discovered—have revolutionized research in the field. They have done so in two main ways: by enabling scholars to reunite fragmentary texts virtually; and by provoking a new interest in manuscripts as objects rather than only containers for words. This illustrated lecture will share recent findings that have persuaded some scholars in the field to revise their views on subjects such as medieval Jewish belief in the sanctity of Hebrew script, Jews' relationship to the caliphs and sultans who ruled them and the existence and destruction of archives in the Middle East."

For those who would like to read some of Dr. Rustow's work, her book, *Heresy and the Politics of Community: The Jews of the Fatimid Caliphate* (Cornell University Press, 2008) won two Jewish studies book awards and is available from book sellers.



The annual Lucy S. Dawidowicz lecture honors the memory of a great historian of the Holocaust and member of Or Zarua. The lectures mark the birthday of the Congregation. After the lecture, champagne and birthday cake will be served in honor of OZ's 28th birthday. This event is free and open to all. Please help us to plan by contacting the office at 212-452-2310, ext. 39, with a reservation for the lecture by Tuesday, January 24.

## ***The Real Diary of Anne Frank: What is it and Why it Matters*** with David Kraemer, PhD, Jewish Theological Seminary Thursday, January 5, 7:00 pm



PhD. As JTS's librarian, he oversees and sets policy for a collection of Judaica that includes many rare and significant pieces that are critical to scholars worldwide; it

**D**avid Kraemer is professor of Talmud and Rabbinics and the Joseph J. and Dora Abbell Librarian at the Jewish Theological Seminary where he earned his

is the most extensive collection of Judaica in the Western hemisphere. The author of many published articles and books, his latest book is *Rabbinic Judaism: Space and Place* (Routledge, 2016). He is well known to members of OZ who have enjoyed and learned from his lectures and discussions in the Me'ah and JTS's Context programs.

Dr. Kraemer's presentation, *The Real Diary of Anne Frank: What is it and Why it Matters*, will trace the formulation of one of the world's most famous diaries and discuss its place in contemporary Jewish culture. This summer, Dr. Kraemer will be

leading a study tour entitled *Amsterdam: Exploring Jewish History and Culture In One of Europe's Greatest Cities*. Travel information regarding this study tour will be available in the coming weeks.

This *Meet the Scholar* program is open to all. To help with planning, please RSVP to <http://info.giltravel.com/amsterdam> or to Deborah Wenger, 212-452-2310, ext. 39 or [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org).

**Shabbat Shirah Shabbaton**  
with Magevet, Yale's A Cappella Group  
Friday & Saturday, February 10 & 11  
See page 3



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127 East 82nd Street  
New York, NY 10028

phone: 212-452-2310 fax: 212-452-2103  
www.orzarua.org

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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



Or Zarua.

In our hectic contemporary world of multi-tasking and high-tech devices, an authentic sense of genuine community is hard to come by. But it is available right here at

Or Zarua. A recent New York Times article ("The App That Came to Dinner") recounted a growing trend around the world, including within Jewish communities, of the use of apps and online services designed to facilitate old-fashioned gatherings among strangers over food. Apparently millions of users of such services globally are on an urgent quest for genuine community. They are willing to pay registration fees to break bread (or challah, as Shabbat dinners are among the menu of options on certain sites) with total strangers in an ongoing effort to overcome alienation. What used to come naturally — social interaction over food — must now be arranged artificially.

Indeed, our lives can often feel busy and complicated, yet it is precisely the conflicting demands we juggle that, ironically, can lead to a sense of isolation despite our perpetual activity. We are often too preoccupied with next steps to ensure that we have established firm roots. That's when and where a local shul can function productively as a necessary community anchor. Establish deep and sturdy roots at Or Zarua, and you will come to see your tree of life blossom.

A sense of genuine community (*kehillah*) is deeply embedded in classical Judaism. Variants of *kahal* are used often in the Torah, reflecting the premium placed on conducting significant events within the framework of a community of assembled individuals. The beginning of Genesis teaches us that it is preferable for people to avoid being alone. Organized Jewish living is, of course, also manifest in the prayer quorum required through a minyan; only in a proper group can the community's power be felt and expressed. Jewish existence demands communal organization. The Jewish whole is certainly greater than the sum of its parts.

That sense of coming-togetherness is also engrained in the formal name of our synagogue — *Kehillah Or Zarua*. We are an extraordinary community united by compelling core values. Or Zarua is a one-of-a-kind institution. It occupies a distinct niche and serves a unique purpose in Jewish life. There may not be another shul out there like ours, and the Jewish world needs our model of a nuanced blend of tradition and innovation.

Yet, although our community may be sustained by a core set of distinctive values, it is also drawn together by diverse interests and motivations. We are clearly not all attracted to Or Zarua for precisely the same reasons, nor do we need to be. The congregants that give life to our shul are not a monolithic bunch, and the numerous activities that go on within our building reflect that diversity. Our impressive whole is a sum of intriguing parts.

So, if you don't want to attend weekly Saturday services, experiment with Kabbalat Shabbat on a Friday night or daily minyan on a Monday morning. And if prayer isn't your thing, try Rabbi Bolton's siddur or Talmud classes, or any of our other adult education classes or lectures. We have an array of speakers on a variety of topics throughout the calendar year. And if you've already had your fill of learning (though I hope there are few in that category), visit our beautiful art gallery exhibits or sing in Bir'nana, our homegrown a cappella group.

There is something at Or Zarua for almost anyone interested in Jewish life and thought. We have never aspired to be overly large in number, but our communal life is expansive. And if you have discovered a home here, tell others about what you've found.

In 2017, spend more time at Or Zarua. Sample more of our diverse activities. Pray and learn, sing and converse, or engage in some combination of your choosing. I predict you will find genuine community in the process. And friends, not strangers, with whom to share dinner.

*Marc*

# Shabbat Shirah Shabbaton with Magevet

## Jewish, Hebrew, and Israeli a cappella from Yale University

### Friday and Saturday, February 10 and 11

Or Zarua will be celebrating Shabbat Shirah with guest a cappella group Magevet. Magevet, Yale University's student a cappella group, founded in 1993, performs a broad repertoire of Jewish, Hebrew, and Israeli music. Their song book includes a diverse array of pieces covering Renaissance, Yemenite dance, modern Israeli pop and a variety of other musical genres. The 16 members of Magevet have toured widely in the US and Canada. They have sung for US Senator Joe Lieberman, Canadian Member of Parliament Joe Peschisolido, and former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

On Shabbat Shirah, we read Parshat Beshallah, which includes Shirat HaYam, the Song of the Sea (Exodus 15:1-18). We will welcome Shabbat Shirah with Magevet on Friday evening, February 10. After Kabbalat Shabbat services, Magevet will join us for Shabbat dinner (reservations required, see yellow box, right). Magevet will again join us for Shabbat morning services on Saturday, February 11 and will present a *Sermon in Song*. A special kiddush will follow Shabbat services. After kiddush, Magevet will perform once again. We will end Shabbat with a



musical family Havdalah.

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 Barry's father and mother, Max and Ruth Alperin, z"l.

## Shabbat Shirah with Magevet

### Friday, February 10

**5:07 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat**

**6:15 pm Shabbat Dinner—RSVP Required**

\$45 for adults, \$25 for children from ages 5 through 12, no charge for children under 5.

RSVP by Monday, February 6 at

<http://tinyurl.com/ShabbatDinnerFeb2017>

or through Chaverweb or contact Deborah Wenger at 212-452-2310, ext. 39 or [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org).

### Saturday, February 11

**9:00 am Shabbat Services begin**

Magevet presents a *Sermon in Song*.

**12:00 pm Kiddush for Shabbat Shirah**

**1:30 pm Magevet Post-Kiddush Concert**

**6:30 pm Musical Family Havdalah**

No charge but to help with planning RSVP to Sigal Hirsch at 212-452-2310, ext. 15 or [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org).

## Sanctuary Renovation Projects

### Opportunities for tzedakah by Marc Ashley

Are you interested in enhancing the beauty of Or Zarua's elegant sanctuary, and in search of opportunities to give tzedakah? If so, we have a worthy cause for your generous support.

Our sanctuary at the heart of Or Zarua is home to services and programs on a daily basis throughout the year. From prayer and song, teaching and speaking, meetings and mingling, the sanctuary provides a welcoming space for holy activity. That continual usage, however, creates normal wear and tear that demands our caring attention.

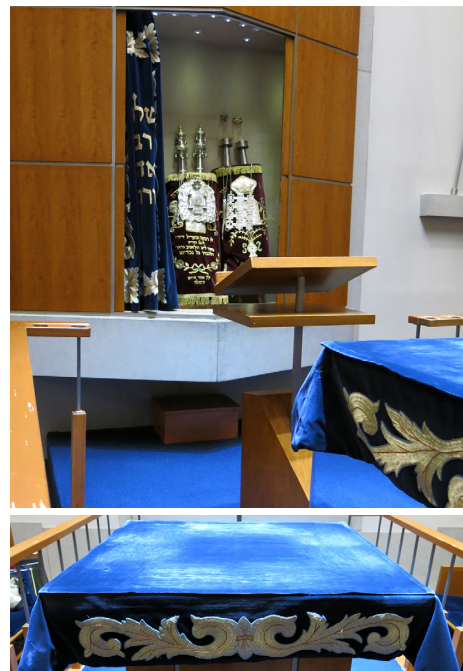
We have, of course, already begun to refine the beauty and utility of our sanctuary, to improve its space both aesthetically and practically. Earlier this year, we celebrated the installation of our new sanctuary lighting, which wondrously illuminates our bimah and surrounding pews like a virtual heavenly skylight. We also installed a graceful memorial wall, on both sides of the sanctuary, to honor the memories of loved ones. Each of those sanctuary enhancement projects was generously funded by the valued tzedakah of Or Zarua congregants.

Additional opportunities have now arisen to sponsor the beautification of our sanctuary. We will be engaged in the coming months in sanctuary renovation projects, in the cause of *kavod ha-Torah*, giving appropriate honor to the Torah and all that it represents in Jewish life.

One project will be reupholstering and refurbishing the interior of our *aron kodesh* (ark) so that our Torah scrolls can be housed in greater light, beauty and glory. As the focal point of our sanctuary, our opened ark deserves to be a source of vibrancy, illumination and inspiration. A second project will be repairing the fabric cover for the *shulhan* (table) on our bimah, on which our Torahs are placed and from which our services are led. Damaged by the flood in our sanctuary two years ago, the careworn *shulhan* cover must be upgraded. A third project will involve the continuing maintenance and repair of our Torah scrolls.

It would be fitting, and greatly appreciated, if these necessary renovation efforts were sponsored by congregants who use and enjoy our inspiring sanctuary space.

If you would like to give tzedakah to fund any one or more of these projects, please contact the Or Zarua office.



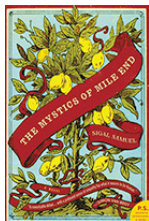


# Or Zarua Book Discussions

*The Mystics of Mile End: A Novel*  
by Sigal Samuel

**Sunday, January 29, 2017, 7:30 pm**

Led by Rabbi Scott Bolton



Sigal Samuel tells the story of a dysfunctional family in Montreal headed by a widowed father, a professor of Jewish mysticism.

The father becomes convinced that his heart murmur is providing divine communications. The family's next door neighbor, a Holocaust survivor, brings reason to the drama.

*The Yid* by Paul Goldberg

**Sunday, March 5, 7:30 pm**

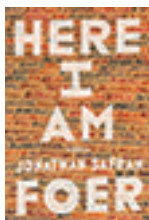


In his debut novel, Paul Goldberg tells of the arrest of Solomon Shimonovich Levinson during Stalin's last pogrom. Levinson's response is to set up a reaction with the goal of assassinating Stalin. This

novel is both intellectual and comic and is an exciting read.

*Here I Am* by Jonathan Safran Foer

**Sunday, April 30; 7:30 pm**



The title of Jonathan Safran Foer's book is a reference to Abraham's response to God before he is told to sacrifice Isaac. Foer deals with the challenge of balancing various responsibilities we have to the different people

in our lives while maintaining one's own identity.

OZ's Book Discussions are open to all. For additional information about Or Zarua Book Discussions, call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext 12, or simply attend.



**A lively discussion of the book** *Ally: My Journey Across the American-Israeli Divide* by Michael B. Oren, was led by Congregant Arthur Seltzer.

## Reward and Punishment in Jewish Thought

### An adult education course between Pesah and Shavuot

That God rewards good and punishes evil, based on our performance of the commandments, is a fundamental Jewish doctrine reflected in the Torah and other classical texts. But how literally should it be understood?

The express theme of the *Shema* prayer that God metes out reward and punishment in strict justice flies in the face of reality around us. Bad things happen to good people all the time, and evildoers often go unpunished and even flourish. If we possess free will to do good or evil, and God cares about which conduct we choose, isn't God paying attention to our choices?

The allotment of reward and punishment in the real world often seems arbitrary, rather

than predictable and fair. This jarring clash of concept and reality is unsettling. Indeed, the Talmud famously relates that this tension relating to reward and punishment turned a respected rabbinic scholar into a notorious heretic. This religious challenge still resonates today, particularly in the shadow of the Holocaust marked by radical injustice and God's apparent indifference.

Please join us this spring on Sunday mornings in April and May (dates to be announced) as congregant Marc Ashley leads his annual adult education course through a survey of Jewish thought on the important topic of reward and punishment. All congregants (and their friends) are welcome to join the discussion.

## Zayin Adar Dinner

**Save The Date**

**Thursday evening, March 2, 2017**

Zayin Adar, the traditional *yahrzeit* of Moses, is observed annually as a time to celebrate the accomplishments of the *Hevra Kadisha*. This year's Zayin Adar dinner will be Thursday evening, March 2. Topic and other information regarding the Zayin Adar Dinner will be available via eblast and the next issue of the OZ Newsletter.

## Kiddush & Minyan Breakfast Sponsorship

Consider sponsoring a Shabbat kiddush or minyan breakfast. 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.

Contact Deborah Wenger (212-452-2310, ext. 12) for details.



**OZ Congregant Francine Klagsbrun** (pictured above left) moderated a retrospective of the life of Golda Meir at the Temple Emanu-El Skirball Center. The panelists, beginning second from left, were Shaul Rahabi (Golda's grandson); Dr. Hagai Tsoref (Director, State Documents and Commemoration Department, Israel); Meron Medzini (former spokesperson for Golda Meir); Pnina Lahav (Professor of Law, Boston University and author of *Judgement in Jerusalem*); and Elinor Burkett (Author of *Golda*). Entitled *Golda: The Retrospective: From Goldie Mabovitch to Golda Meir*, the event marked the Prime Minister's 38th *yahrzeit*. Francine's biography of Golda Meir will be published by Schocken Books in the fall of 2017.

## Purim Campus Connection

Or Zarua strives to maintain contact with our young adults who are away at college. For Purim, we send a "holiday package" to remind them that they are still part of our extended family. This year Purim is Sunday, March 12. If you would like your children to receive a free package, please reply to Deborah Wenger ([dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org) or 212-452- 2310, ext. 12) by Wednesday, February 15, 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.

# Hesed Programs

Get involved through Or Zarua and help others in need

## Be Part of the Solution

Feed the hungry in our community by donating to or volunteering with New York Common Pantry. OZ volunteers are needed the first Wednesday of each month, 9:00 am to noon, in NYCP's distribution center, 8 East 109th Street. Contact Lesley Palmer (lesleypalmer123@gmail.com) to sign up for January 4, February 1 or March 1. Collection bins are in the social hall for food donations of healthy (low-sodium, whole wheat, low-fat or nonfat) packaged grocery items.

## Yom Give Back with Camp Ramah

On Sunday, January 22, 11:00 am-2:00 pm, the entire Or Zarua community is invited to Yom Give Back, a day of hesed for the Or Zarua and Camp Ramah communities. Affiliation with Camp Ramah is not required. People of all ages are welcome as we sort donated goods, make sandwiches for the hungry and perform other hesed projects throughout the OZ building. Learn about additional local volunteer opportunities and connect with members of the OZ and Ramah



On Erev Thanksgiving and Erev Christmas several dozen members of Or Zarua performed hesed by gleaning Eli's and The Vinegar Factory. They packed their harvest into vans and shipped it to Ronald McDonald House, the NY Common Pantry, Neighborhood Coalition for the Homeless, and Salvation Deliverance Church in the Bronx.

# Or Zarua's Young Professionals

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, January 20, 6:30 pm**  
**Shabbat Dinner**

**Friday, February 24, 6:30 pm**  
**Shabbat Dinner**

**Thursday, March 2, 6:30 pm**  
**Happy Hour**

Right: Or Zarua's Young Professionals Hanukkah party attracts a crowd with Ruach (spirit).

communities over brunch. Register at <http://bit.do/YGB17>, or drop in at any time. Contact Sigal Hirsch at [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org) or [yomgiveback@gmail.com](mailto:yomgiveback@gmail.com) for more information.

## Home Visit Volunteers

Volunteer to visit and bring cheer to ill or home-bound OZ Congregants. Contact Deborah Wenger: [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org) or 212-452-2310, ext. 12, if you are interested.

## Monday Night Pasta and Salad at NCS

OZ congregants serve hot food and good cheer at the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter's East 81st Street Residence from 6:00 to 6:45 pm on the last two Mondays of each month. Contact Jeffrey Haberman, [jeff32449@verizon.net](mailto:jeff32449@verizon.net), for information.

For information about Hesed programs, please contact Susan J. Lorin, Hesed Committee Chair, at [lorin@sewkis.com](mailto:lorin@sewkis.com) or 212-717-4647.



OZ's Young Professionals are a group in their 20s and 30s committed to building a welcoming and vibrant Jewish community within Or Zarua. For more details follow their Facebook page (Or Zarua's Young Professionals). Contact OZ's Young Professionals with any questions, suggestions or just to say hi via email: [OZYoungPros@gmail.com](mailto:OZYoungPros@gmail.com).



# Tzedakah

## Super Bowl Party Supporting Project ORE Sunday, February 5, 5:00 pm

OZ members and their guests are invited to our 14th annual Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 5, 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, ext. 39, or email [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org), or through Chaverweb by noon on Monday, January 29.

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 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>.



Last year's Annual Super Bowl party filled the OZ Gallery and raised a significant amount of funds for Project ORE.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 • 3 Tevet</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 8:45a Shaharit	<b>2 • 4 Tevet</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> 8:45a Shaharit <i>No Hebrew School</i>	<b>3 • 5 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit	<b>4 • 6 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit 9:00a NYCP 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 <i>No Talmud Class</i>	<b>5 • 7 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit <i>No Siddur Class</i> 7:00p <i>The Real Diary of Anne Frank: What is it and Why it Matters</i> with David Kraemer, PhD	<b>6 • 8 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:26p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>7 • 9 Tevet</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Vayigash 11:00a Torah Kids 11:15a Torah Tots 5:31p Shabbat Ends
<b>8 • 10 Tevet</b> <b>Tzom Asarah B'Tevet</b> (Fast of the 10th of Tevet) 8:45a Shaharit 7:45p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>9 • 11 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Rock-Ivrit	<b>10 • 12 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit	<b>11 • 13 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class	<b>12 • 14 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class	<b>13 • 15 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:33p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>14 • 16 Tevet</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Vayehi Bar Mitzvah of Graham Yarden 11:00a Torah Kids 11:15a Torah Tots 5:38p Shabbat Ends
<b>15 • 17 Tevet</b> 8:45a Shaharit 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>16 • 18 Tevet</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr Day</b> 7:15a Shaharit <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>OZ Office Closed</i>	<b>17 • 19 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit	<b>18 • 20 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class	<b>19 • 21 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class	<b>20 • 22 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:41p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30p Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner	<b>21 • 23 Tevet</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Shemot 11:00a Torah Kids 11:15a Torah Tots 5:46p Shabbat Ends
<b>22 • 24 Tevet</b> 8:45a Shaharit 11:00a Yom Give-Back with Camp Ramah 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>23 • 25 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Rock-Ivrit	<b>24 • 26 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit	<b>25 • 27 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 <i>No Talmud Class</i>	<b>26 • 28 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit <i>No Siddur Class</i>	<b>27 • 29 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:50p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>28 • 1 Shevat</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh</b> 9:00 am Shaharit/Va'era OZ Birthday Kiddush 10:30a Shabbat & Me Saturday 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Mah Zeh Shabbat?! 1:00p Zimriyah (after Kiddush) 5:55p Shabbat Ends
<b>29 • 2 Shevat</b> 8:45a Shaharit 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal 7:30p Book Discussion <i>The Mystics of Mile End</i>	<b>30 • 3 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Sushi & Study with Rabbi Bolton 7:30p Rock-Ivrit	<b>31 • 4 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 7:30p <i>Ancient Texts, Digital Age: The Cairo Geniza and the Material Turn</i> The Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture and Reception with Marina Rustow, PhD				



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1 • 5 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 9:00a NYCP 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class	<b>2 • 6 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class	<b>3 • 7 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:58p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>4 • 8 Shevat</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Bo Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Feld 11:00a Torah Kids 11:15a Torah Tots 6:03p Shabbat Ends
<b>5 • 9 Shevat</b> 8:45a Shaharit 5:00p Super Bowl Tzedakah Party	<b>6 • 10 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Rock-Ivrit	<b>7 • 11 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit	<b>8 • 12 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class	<b>9 • 13 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class	<b>10 • 14 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 5:07p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15p Dinner with Guest A Capella Group Magevet	<b>11 • 15 Shevat</b> <b>Tu B'Shevat</b> <b>Shabbat Shirah</b> 9:00a Shaharit/Beshalah 11:00a Torah Kids 11:15a Torah Tots 1:30p Magevet Concert 6:12p Shabbat Ends 6:30p Musical Family Havdalah
<b>12 • 16 Shevat</b> 8:45a Shaharit 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>13 • 17 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Rock-Ivrit	<b>14 • 18 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit	<b>15 • 19 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class	<b>16 • 20 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class	<b>17 • 21 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 5:15p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>18 • 22 Shevat</b> 9:00a Shaharit Yitro No Torah Kids No Torah Tots 6:20p Shabbat Ends
<b>19 • 23 Shevat</b> 8:45a Shaharit	<b>20 • 24 Shevat</b> <b>President's Day</b> 7:15a Shaharit <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>OZ Office Closed</i>	<b>21 • 25 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit	<b>22 • 26 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit <i>No Hebrew School</i> 7:30p Talmud Class	<b>23 • 27 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class	<b>24 • 28 Shevat</b> 7:15a Shaharit 5:15p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:15p Shabbat & Me Friday 6:30p Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner	<b>25 • 25 Shevat</b> <b>Shabbat Shekalim</b> 9:00a Shaharit/Mishpatim Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Pollack No Torah Kids No Torah Tots 6:29p Shabbat Ends
<b>26 • 26 Shevat</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh</b> 8:45a Shaharit 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>27 • 1 Adar</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh</b> 7:00a Shaharit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Sushi & Study with Rabbi Bolton 7:30p Rock-Ivrit	<b>28 • 2 Adar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Sushi & Study	<b>1 • 3 Adar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 9:00a NYCP 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class	<b>2 • 4 Adar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 6:30p Young Professionals Happy Hour TBA: Zayin Adar Dinner	<b>3 • 5 Adar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 5:32p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>4 • 6 Adar</b> 9:00a Shaharit Terumah 11:00a Torah Kids 11:15a Torah Tots 6:37p Shabbat Ends



For information about Youth Education and Programming contact Sigal Hirsch, Director of Youth Education and Programming at [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org) or 212-452-2310, ext 15.



Our youngest Hebrew School students lead our Hebrew School community in t'filah.

## Upcoming Events and Ongoing Programs with Or L'Atid

### Community and Learning for OZ's Youth

#### Musical Family Havdalah Saturday, February 11, 6:30pm

Join us as we end Shabbat Shirah and bring in the new week with a meaningful and songful family Havdalah ceremony.

#### Spend Shabbat with Or L'Atid Or L'Atid has Shabbat youth services for kids of all ages!

**Little ones:** Join us every week for Torah Tots at 11:15am, or join us once each month for Shabbat & Me Saturday at 10:30am.  
**Elementary Schoolers:** Torah Kids is for you, weekly at 11:00am.  
**Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers:** Check out monthly Mah Zeh Shabbat?! programs meeting at 11:00am.

Go to: [www.orzarua-ortalid.org/calendar-2/](http://www.orzarua-ortalid.org/calendar-2/) for Shabbat & Me and Mah Zeh Shabbat?! dates.

#### Shalom Sing-A-Long Mondays, 11:00am-11:45am Recommended for ages 1-4

Join us in January as Or Zarua launches its first ever **Early Childhood** morning music class! Members and non-members alike are welcome, so invite friends to sign up.

Start your little one's day the happy and healthy way with **song, story time, balls, puppets, musical instruments, blocks, parachute games** and more!

Parents, grandparents and caregivers are welcome as we **sing, dance, play** and **learn** simple **Hebrew, Jewish values**, and **favorite tunes!**

**SIGN UP** for our winter semester, beginning January 9 at:

[www.orzarua-ortalid.org](http://www.orzarua-ortalid.org)

**Sibling Discount:** Each sibling receives 10% off.

**Never been to Shalom Sing-A-Long?**

Try your first class free! Contact Sigal: (212) 452-2310 x15 or [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org).



Left: Congregant and artist Caroline Golden Ilberman guides students through their first project that will be displayed in the Or L'Atid Gallery Show this May, a unique Hanukkah.

Right: B'nei Mitzvah Scholars make sandwiches and bagged lunches for donation to the New York Common Pantry.



#### Sushi & Study with Rabbi Bolton January 30 & February 27 6:30 pm

Teens study Jewish ethics and sources on contemporary issues with Rabbi Bolton once a month. Teens not registered may join the class at any time. RSVP: [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org).

Right: Students in grades 3-5 studied *Modeh Ani* with Rabbi Bolton by creating their own commentaries about gratitude.





# December was Full of Fun for Kids and Families

Check the calendar for January and February events!



Middle Schoolers faced off in a heated game of Taboo at our Middle School Game Night.



**Purim 5777**  
**Save the Date**  
**Sunday, March 12**

This year, Purim falls on a Sunday!  
Be sure to mark your calendars for our  
community-wide Purim celebration  
featuring lots of fun family activities.  
Get your costumes ready!



After a meaningful Havdalah ceremony led by Rabbi Bolton, Jonathan Geffner performed his acclaimed show *Maccabee Mishegoss* to a full house! Kids and parents alike delighted in Jonathan and his puppet friends, roaring with laughter throughout the evening with 90 people in attendance.



### **Rabbi Bolton's Siddur Class** **Most Thursdays (see calendar), 8:40 am**

In January we will finish the exploration of Tahanun and move on to weekday and Shabbat Torah Services. We will study the history of the prayers and ceremonies, as well as the language of the familiar and not so familiar tunes we sing when we take out the Torah and return it to the ark.

All necessary texts are provided. Siddur meets Thursdays 8:40 am to 9:40 am (see the calendar for dates).

### **TALMUD CLASS**

#### **Finishing Tzedakah** **Introducing the Passover Seder**

**Most Wednesdays (see calendar), 7:30 pm**

We will finish our study of tzedakah in the sources with two classes (January 11 and 18). Beginning February 1 we will turn to the last chapter of Tractate Passover and study the how-to guide for the Passover seder in the Talmud. The last chapter deals with the haggadah and Passover rituals as well as everything from demons to desserts to Shabbat rituals! Purchase the third volume in the Artscroll Pesachim Hebrew-English set or the second volume of Pesachim in the Koren Talmud (Steinsaltz) Hebrew-English edition. You may just come to class to listen in, but having a volume in Hebrew-English is recommended.

See the calendar for meeting times, most every Wednesday.



**Rabbi Schwartz led a group discussion on the Talmudic Take on High Holy Days (above).** The second session covered Hanukkah. The third and final session of Talmudic Takes on the Holidays will cover Pesah (date and time to be announced).



**Pictured above are Congregation Or Zarua's Bir'nana a cappella singers.** Bir'nana, which means "in joy" in Hebrew, is constantly expanding its repertoire and honing a cappella skills. The group performs a broad range of music including songs from pioneering Israel, Ashkenazic and Sephardic liturgical pieces from the 18th and 20th century, to modern Israeli and American songs. Co-conducted by veteran musicians Rabbi Amy Bolton and Judith Buchman-Ziv, Bir'nana strives to enhance OZ's musical experience and holiday celebrations. Recently, the group performed at OZ's Annual Sukkot and Hanukkah dinners. The members of Bir'nana are (back row from left): Vera Silver, Susan March, Aliza Kaplan, Rabbi Amy Bolton, Aaron Shelden, Alan Yaillen, Peter Wolf Smith; (front row from left): Judith Buchman-Ziv, Dore Hollander and Marcia Kalin; (not pictured): Barbara Bluestone, Mark Hoffman, Doris Holz, Terry Krulwich.

### **Rabbi Wechsler Teaches**

On SiriusXM Satellite Radio  
Sundays, 4:00 am & 8:00 pm  
Channel 106  
[www.siriusxm.com](http://www.siriusxm.com)

### **The Or Zarua Social Hall**

is available to rent for appropriate functions.  
For information contact Helene Santo,  
212-452-2310, ext. 14



**Sunday morning, November 20 we were strong for minyan.** But we need your help to accomplish this each and every weekday morning. Join Or Zarua's minyan for Shaharit (morning service) and help keep the minyan strong. The service begins at 7:15 am most weekday mornings and 8:45 am on Sundays (check the calendar for times). The service usually lasts about 45 to 55 minutes (a little longer on Rosh Hodesh and Hol Hamoed) and is followed by a breakfast where you meet with other congregants over coffee, OJ, bagels, cake and yogurt. Contact Sheldon Adler ([sadler@skadden.com](mailto:sadler@skadden.com)) for additional information.





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

## Or Zarua's Birthday Kiddush & Zimriyah

**Saturday, January 28  
in the OZ Art Gallery**

Please join us for a special kiddush, with birthday cake, in celebration of Or Zarua's 28th birthday. After kiddush, there will be a zimriyah (community singing). Rabbi Bolton, Marc Ashley, and our service leaders will lead us in singing Shabbat songs, teaching us new tunes and reviewing familiar ones. All are welcome to join in the celebration.

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

## Or Zarua Art Gallery News

**W**hat do you call a world-class artist whose work is owned and displayed by museums and libraries through the world, who is also an author, illustrator, filmmaker and op-ed columnist .... AND who is also a physician with a full-time dermatological practice in Manhattan?

Francine Klagsbrun calls him "a genius". Bobbi Collier says he is "one of the foremost artists of the Jewish experience of our generation."

He is Dr. Mark Podwal. The encomiums were applied by Congregants Klagsbrun and OZ Gallery curator Collier, as they marked the opening of the current exhibition, *Printed Matters: The Art of Mark Podwal*. More than 100 attended and heard Podwal review his rich, multi-faceted career and speak on the topic *Drawing Is a Form of Prayer*. The current one-person exhibition coincides with the publication of a monograph of the artist's work, *Reimagined: 45 Years of Jewish Art*, published by Glitterati Incorporated.

The current show — which includes a portfolio of Podwal prints originally displayed in the Czech Republic's Terezin Ghetto Museum and shown last spring at

the Godwin-Ternbach Museum of Queens College — will remain on view until March 29th.

Next up in the OZ Gallery will be an Or L'Atid student gallery show. The show will feature artwork by OZ's K-8 students depicting their learning throughout this year. Join us in the OZ Gallery for the opening on Sunday, May 7, in support of Or L'Atid.



**Photos (clockwise from top left): Bobbi Collier, Francine Klagsbrun, Mark Podwal**

