

## TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

**Monday, May 20**

**7:00 p.m. Supper/8:15 p.m. Meeting**

The agenda will include

- The election of trustees and officers
- Treasurer's Report
- Remarks from the President and Rabbi

According to the By-Laws, we need a quorum of approximately 200 members to conduct synagogue business at our Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend this meeting.

Please make reservations for supper and the meeting at [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org) or by calling the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 39, by Monday, May 13.

## Panel: "Free for All or Stopped by the Law?"

**TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT, TUESDAY NIGHT, MAY 14**  
Ma'ariv begins at 8:00 p.m., followed by panel and dairy feast

**E**rev Shavuot will begin at Or Zarua with Ma'ariv services on Tuesday, May 14, at 8:00 p.m. After services, a panel of Or Zarua members, led by Rabbi Scott Bolton, will discuss "Free for All or Stopped by the Law? Intellectual Property and Copyright Law in a Digital Age" in the Or Zarua library.

It is planned that the panel will address issues of ownership and the copying of intellectual properties that are either copyrighted or patented, such as art, writing, music, and pharmaceuticals.

The members of the panel will be litigator and defense attorney Daniel Beller, intellectual property attorney Ethan Horwitz, biopharmaceutical analyst and licensing officer Sharon Seiler, and copyright and trademark attorney Thomas Kjellberg.

Following the panel discussion, everyone is invited to the social hall, where a feast of ice cream sundaes and cheesecake will be served, in keeping with the tradition of eating dairy on Shavuot (see page 7).



**CELEBRATE  
ISRAEL**

**PARADE  
SUNDAY, JUNE 2**

**Picture Israel:  
The Art & The Craft**  
page 3



**THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT:** Congregation Or Zarua's Torah scrolls were brought to our new building in time for Shavuot 2002. See page 8 for additional photographs and a little bit of the history of that day.



A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE  
FOUNDED 1989

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

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

## OZ Committee Chairs

ADMINISTRATION	Sara Stone
AESTHETICS	Aaron Shelden
ART GALLERY	Bobbi Collier
BOOK DISCUSSION	Reed Schneider
BUILDING	Benjamin Marcus
CEMETERY	Aliza Kaplan Mort Schwartz
DEVELOPMENT	Andrew Plevin
HEBREW SCHOOL	Betsy Dizengoff
HESED	Richard Stadin
HEVRA KADISHA	Vera Silver Gerry Solomon
ISRAEL	Aliza Kaplan
LIBRARY	Barry Feldman
MEMBERSHIP	Sarah Klagsbrun
MINYAN	Sheldon Adler
PROGRAMMING	Karen Kaplan
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Aaron Shelden
PURIM SPIEL	Arthur Rosenbloom Bonnie Maslin Barbara Sassoon
TORAH/HAFTARAH	Marc Ashley Jay Palmer
WEBMASTER	Jay Palmer

If you are interested in serving on a synagogue committee, please contact the office for the committee chair's email address.

# President's Message

by Diane Okrent



**A** *l sh'losha devarim ha'olam omeid: Al ha'Torah, v'al ha'avodah v'al gemilut hasadim.* The world stands on three things:

on the Torah, on divine service, and on deeds of loving-kindness.

These words from *Pirke Avot* (Chapter I, 2) reflect the founding principles of Congregation Or Zarua. And we bring these to life each and every day in our community.

Torah is central to our Congregation. We study the Torah reading each Shabbat and holiday—the central element of our services—and we read the full parasha together, split among volunteers.

Torah also refers to learning. We at Or Zarua pride ourselves in being a learning community—dedicated to learning for children and adults. From the very beginning, Or Zarua had a weekly Talmud Class. Early on, we offered classes in Hebrew reading, Torah and Haftarah, as well as a class on the oral law between Pesah and Shavuot. These classes have continued. And right at the beginning of his tenure, Rabbi Bolton initiated a new class in Siddur.

Or Zarua was the first congregation in New York to host Me'ah (now Context) courses for adults. This fall, we will initiate a new form of Context class. Stay tuned for details. A new, two-year Context class will be hosted at our synagogue, in addition to the new endeavor that will bring top scholars to our shul.

Since Pesah, many of us have taken advantage of the opportunity to study *Pirke Avot* with rabbis from neighboring congregations. Bringing the Jewish community together in unity through Torah learning, Rabbi Bolton, with rabbis from five other

synagogues, formed the East Side Torah Learning Coalition (TLC). The initial offerings of the TLC have been classes on *Pirke Avot*, traditionally studied between Pesah and Shavuot. I have always wanted to study that section of the Mishnah, and this was my golden opportunity. Now I know the source of Or Zarua's founding principles!

Or Zarua has been and remains dedicated to our children's learning. Our Hebrew School has been a constant—almost from the beginning of the Congregation. We continue to offer a quality after-school curriculum that has produced some of our best Torah readers. We now offer programs for children from toddlers to teens.

Shavuot is almost upon us. In addition to commemorating the time when the first fruits were harvested and brought to the Temple (*Hag ha-Bikkurim*—the Festival of the First Fruits), Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai (*Hag Matan Torateinu*—the Festival of the Giving of Our Torah). We celebrate this holiday with a rededication to learning.

Or Zarua's second founding principle is *avodah*, translated as divine service or service to God. Our prayer services are central to our existence. We come together each morning for spiritual awakening and to support our members who are saying kaddish. And we come together on Shabbat and holidays to pray to God together. But *avodah* also means work. We learn in *Pirke Avot* (Chapter II, 2) that one must work for a living: Rabban Gamliel, son of Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Nassi taught: "The study of Torah is commendable when combined with a gainful occupation, for when a person toils in both, sin is driven out of mind."

The third principle, *gemilut hasadim*—that the world is sustained through acts of loving-kindness—is also practiced well

*continued on page 3*

## SIDDUR CLASS:

**Our Fixed Prayers and Windows of Inspiration**

**Thursdays, 8:35–9:30 a.m., in the OZ social hall**

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

# Celebrate Israel Parade: Whom Will You Meet?

Sunday, June 2, 2013



## President's Message

*continued from page 2*

at Or Zarua. We continue to feed the former homeless in our community, donate clothing to the less fortunate, collect money for the hungry in our own community and in Israel, and provide comfort to our members who are ill or in mourning.

Recently, in his class, "A Tree of Life for Those Who Grasp It: Torah Study for its Own Sake," Marc Ashley posed the question, "Is it better to spend an hour studying Torah or doing a mitzvah?" My answer referred back to *Al sh'losha devarim ha'olam omeid*—The world is built on three things, not just one. Another class member likened the principle to a three-legged stool. It cannot stand without all three legs.

The success of our Congregation in fulfilling these three principles depends heavily on our volunteers and the generosity of members to support the essence of who we are through tzedakah. There are so many ways to be involved at Or Zarua, and the more you are involved, the closer you will feel to the community. So I urge you to look to Shavuot to rededicate yourself to Or Zarua's founding principles as exemplified in our tagline, "Learn, Pray, Participate and Connect."



**P**articipate in the 2013 Celebrate Israel Parade with other Or Zarua Congregants, and you will meet people from a variety of schools, shuls, organizations, and businesses. You may even meet a camel or two. In celebration of Israel's 65th year of independence, the parade's theme is "Picture Israel: The Art & The Craft." The parade will spotlight the diversity of Israel's people, land, cities, seascapes, culture, schools, businesses, and accomplishments. For those wishing to march with Or Zarua, assembly location and step-off time will be announced in email blasts and during services. For those who wish to watch the parade from the sidelines, the parade will be held along Fifth Avenue, from 57th Street to 74th Street, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

## WELCOMING GUESTS AT CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

**A**s a community, it is important for us to make guests and new members at our services and kiddushim feel comfortable and welcome. If you are seated next to someone whom you do not know or see a new face at kiddush, please reach out and introduce yourself. Making this effort is consistent with our culture and will repay dividends.

# Should We Blow the Shofar on Shavuot?

Why do we only hear it during Elul and Rosh Hashanah?



**O**n Shavuot, as study takes center stage, we will have a panel presentation, “Free for All or Stopped by the Law? Intellectual

Property and Copyright Law in a Digital Age.” Creativity is a gift granted by God to humanity; law in general helps us regulate our society and reflects our will, as it does God’s will, according to our tradition.

The Jewish custom of study is strong on Shavuot; some stay up all night studying in order to connect with the idea that we are preparing to receive Torah all over again at Mount Sinai. Regarding that experience of Sinai, we have a tradition that we were all there. Simultaneously, as with Passover, we use our religious imaginations to receive Torah again every year.

I have always been somewhat surprised that we do not include the sounding of the shofar at our Shavuot services. According to the Torah, when we were at Mount Sinai during the giving of the Torah, the shofar’s sound was very loud, and it grew louder and was “long.” Part of the encounter with the Divine was the piercing sound of the horn.

As it is written: “And it happened on the third day in the morning, there was thundering and lightning and a heavy cloud upon the mountain, and *the sound of a shofar was very loud*, and the whole nation in the camp trembled...and the sound of the shofar grew louder and louder.”

God said, “When the shofar sounds long, they shall ascend the mountain.”

What is this “long” sounding? Is it the tekiah g’dolah of the High Holidays? Is it some other type of blast that needed its own set of notes for the Shavuot holiday, instead of any of those with which we are familiar from the Yamim Noraim (High Holidays)?

Following the text, while receiving the Torah, the Jewish people were trembling; fear and awe filled their hearts. Commentators, including Saadia Gaon and the Rambam, interpret the sounding of the shofar in a loud and long way as indicating that Moses would choose a time to sound the shofar with notes that indicated it was safe to go up the mountain. The Jewish people would know that it was permissible to ascend Mount Sinai and that they did not have anything more to fear. The shofar’s call was the invitation to theophany—the encounter with the Divine—and a release from existential danger.

While I can imagine our sages creating the type of blast on a shofar that would echo the Sinaitic shofar call, and perhaps could see how we would use the sacred horn to thrust ourselves into a revelation experience, a reliving of the giving of the Torah, we are not required or invited to utilize the shofar on the holiday of Shavuot. There were not three types of sounds ordained to mirror the three days of preparation around the mountain; nor was there a long and loud blast to return us to our ancestors’ moments of release from fear and trembling and anticipation of encounter with the Divine.

Yet the silence of the shofar on this upcoming holiday of Shavuot rings true and speaks volumes. Once, our ancestors

had the encounter that we relive in our religious imaginations. Our engagement is with the text of Torah itself, and as Franz Rosenzweig described it, we bring life to the Torah and Torah to life. This is the act of reflecting upon our lives through the filters of Torah and Talmud. This is why it remains an imperative to study our sources as they relate to worldly matters and for their own sake.

Whether it is through discussion at our weekly services or in a class or outing through the synagogue, I invite you to join even if you have no background, have been to none of the other classes or generally do not have the time. As our sources (those we have been learning about in the multid denominational Torah Learning Coalition) tell us, in *Pirke Avot* it says: “Make time for study!” It refreshes the soul, pushes the restart button, and informs our lives so that we experience more of the divine possibilities before us.

As the summer draws near, let me invite you to the special summer study class, “Jerusalem in the Sources: Talmud and Midrash on the Holy City,” Wednesday nights, 7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m., on July 24 and 31, and August 7, 14, and 21.

I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting and look forward to sharing more in person; if we have not yet had a chance to meet, I invite you to make an appointment with Deborah in the office or contact me directly at [rabbibolton@orzarua.org](mailto:rabbibolton@orzarua.org) so we can get to know one another at my office, at your home, or on a walk through the park or a museum you love. It would be my honor.

—Rabbi Scott N. Bolton

## LIFE EVENTS AT OR ZARUA

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

Sometimes people are reluctant to communicate these issues on their own. If you know of a member who is coping with illness or loss, please contact the OZ office at 212-452-2310, extension 12 or 14, so that Rabbi Bolton can be informed.

## EDITOR’S NOTE

**D**o you have an idea or article that is suitable for publication in the *OZ Newsletter*? If so, please contact Charlie Spielholz at [cssrs@earthlink.net](mailto:cssrs@earthlink.net). All copy for the July/August 2013 issue should be received by Monday, June 3.

## “The Art and Illumination of *Pirke Avot*”

Siyyum with Artist Mordechai Rosenstein, Thursday, May 30, 7:00 p.m., Sutton Place Synagogue

**S**iyyum means celebrating learning success! On May 30, the East Side Torah Learning Coalition (TLC) invites everyone to a special engagement with renowned artist Mordechai Rosenstein, who will present “The Art and Illumination of *Pirke Avot*.”

Each of the first four sessions held by the East Side Torah Learning Coalition has drawn more than 120 learners! The kickoff at Congregation Or Zarua packed our house, and subsequent presentations drew

members of the six participating Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform congregations to similar experiences at area shuls. This groundbreaking, multid denominational approach to organizing Jewish learning has created new opportunities for members of the Jewish community to get to know one another and take pride in their own and our area’s thriving synagogue communities.

Following the six weeks of classes about each chapter of *Pirke Avot*, the TLC invites everyone to come to a special class that will bridge art and Jewish text. World-

renowned artist Mordechai Rosenstein ([www.emeseditions.com](http://www.emeseditions.com)) will give a lecture and present the art he has created that is based on *Pirke Avot* texts from a variety of chapters. Attendees will be able to view those works, as well as other works by this great artist, whose erudition about text, creativity, and Jewish art will make for a wonderful learning experience. The event will be held at Sutton Place Synagogue, 225 East 51st Street, on Thursday, May 30, at 7:00 p.m.

—Rabbi Scott N. Bolton

## “I Scream at Sinai: A Torah Celebration”

PJ Library program, Erev Shavuot, Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 p.m.

**I**n keeping with the traditions of Shavuot, the next PJ Library program at Congregation Or Zarua, “*I Scream at Sinai*,” will feature a celebration of Torah. All youth, from infants to elementary school students, are invited to participate. This PJ Library will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, Erev Shavuot. For additional information,

please contact Ilana Burgess at [iburgess@orzarua.org](mailto:iburgess@orzarua.org).

In the photo below, children and their parents gathered to hear Pesah stories at the PJ Library held Sunday, April 21, which followed a sleepover at Or Zarua the previous night.

Or Zarua is beginning its second year as a host of the PJ Library. The PJ Library

is a Jewish family engagement program throughout North America designed to help children learn and make new friends. It mails, on a monthly basis, free, high-quality Jewish children’s literature and music to families with children ages six months through eight years. For further information, go to [www.PJLibrary.org](http://www.PJLibrary.org).

—ILANA BURGESS



During the PJ Library held Sunday, April 21, children and their parents listened to Pesah stories.

# Earlier Rather Than Later

This year, the High Holy Days are definitely earlier

**A**lthough Rosh Hashanah arrives each year on the first of Tishri, there is a long-standing tradition to discuss whether the High Holy Days are “early” or “late.” This year there is no question—they are early. Erev Rosh Hashanah 5774 coincides with Wednesday, September 4, which is two days after Labor Day.

With that date in mind, please note that membership renewal notices will be

mailed during the week of June 17 and will include the form for purchase of guest tickets. Tickets for all members in good standing will be mailed on Monday, August 12. The smooth process of preparing and mailing the tickets is dependent upon the timely receipt of membership payment.

Please direct any questions about membership dues to the Or Zarua office, 212-452-2310, extension 10. We look forward to welcoming 5774 together.

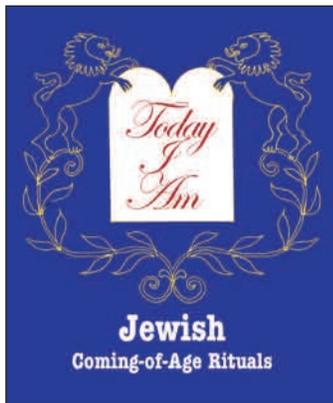
# Bar/Bat Mitzvah Show

Opening in the Or Zarua Gallery on Thursday, June 6

**T**he next exhibition in the Or Zarua Gallery, “Today I Am: Jewish Coming-of-Age Rituals,” will be opening on Thursday, June 6, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

“Today I Am,” another original exhibition organized by the Or Zarua Gallery Committee, will examine the origins and

OZ GALLERY COMMITTEE



practice of Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies and celebrations. It will be illustrated with vintage photographs and memorabilia from Or Zarua Congregants.

Invitations to the festive opening will be sent to members in the coming weeks. Don't miss it; chopped liver and nostalgia will be served!

# RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Sundays at 5:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m., and 12:00 p.m.



**R**abbi Wechsler can be heard on SiriusXM Stars Channel three times each Sunday. From February to May, the program will be emanating from Jerusalem. Subscribers to SiriusXM Satellite Radio can access “Rabbi Wechsler Teaches” on Channel 107. Nonsubscribers can obtain a free, three-day trial at [www.siriusxm.com](http://www.siriusxm.com).

# TORAH STUDY THIS SUMMER AT JTS

Programs for adults and high school juniors and seniors

**W**ant to study at JTS this summer? Credit and noncredit courses are being offered, including “Nishma: A Summer of Torah Study” in the JTS Beit Midrash (the only North American summer Talmud program that integrates university-level Hebrew study with intensive beit midrash-style learning) and JustCity, a precollege program that provides high school juniors and seniors with the chance to integrate Jewish learning with community service.

For more information about any JTS spring and summer courses, programs, and events, please contact Bonnie G. Biondi at 212-678-8056 or [bobiondi@jtsa.edu](mailto:bobiondi@jtsa.edu).



**HELP THE FORGOTTEN ETHIOPIANS OF ISRAEL! Please Contribute to an Or Zarua Congregant's Anonymous \$5,000 Matching Grant Challenge**

There remain many poor Ethiopian *olim* (immigrant) families living in the city of Netanya in Israel who continue to struggle to survive. The Forgotten People Fund (FPF) was set up in 1998 as an emergency fund to help Ethiopian families who had no place else to turn. Led by volunteers, FPF has provided for untold numbers of Ethiopian *olim* over the last decade in cooperation with local social services. **They are efficient, compassionate and work with an overhead of only 1.5%.**

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of an anonymous congregant, Congregation Or Zarua has received a challenge grant of \$5,000 to support the FPF and help respond to hunger, poverty and educational needs in the Netanya Ethiopian community. Please make a donation to the Hesed Fund to help generate this generous match specifying “The Forgotten Fund”. Every donation helps!

Please remember to make your check to “Congregation Or Zarua” and specify on the memo line “The Forgotten Peoples Fund.” Mail to: Congregation Or Zarua, 127 East 82nd St., New York, NY 10028.

**\$5,000 Grant**

**\$2,600 Match**

**As of April 17, 2013**

# Happiness Flowed on Tu B'Shevat Night at Ronald McDonald House

OZ brought a respite to young children and their families

For an audience of smiling, laughing children, Or Zarua hosted the 11th annual Israeli Night at the Ronald McDonald House on Monday, February 18. In the second-floor dining room at the Ronald McDonald House on East 73rd Street, OZ volunteers joined Danny Pollack, the talented Israeli folk dancer, entertainer, and teacher, as he presented the magic of Tu B'Shevat and the land of Israel by leading the children and their families in frolicking, dancing, and singing.

A catered kosher meal of Israeli specialties was served, along with a wide selection of desserts, some made by or brought by OZ volunteers. A very special thanks to Zaro's Bakery for cupcakes and Gertel's for assorted cookies donated to the event. Once again, Fairway generously provided drinks. We were also fortunate this year to have musical instruments donated by Mary Arnold Toys, a local toy shop located on Lexington Avenue and East 72nd Street. Congregants also brought flowering plants, which adorned the tables along with blue and white balloons.

Also displayed was a beautiful mural designed and prepared by Or Zarua's



Volunteers from Or Zarua in front of the mural created by OZ Hebrew School students.

Hebrew School students that conveyed wishes of health and friendship to the residents of the House.

A band of veteran volunteers and newcomers decorated the room, served dinner, took photographs, and interacted with families from around the world. Residents of the House this year were from China, Poland, and many locations across the United States.

This year's volunteers were Justin

Erenkrantz, Brenda Goldman, Mina Greenstein, Hanan Harchol, Shanon Levine, Allan Mayer, Cecilia Mayer, Sharon Morris, Lesley Palmer, Stephanie Rosenbloom, Andrew Rubin, Becky Rubin, Sharon Seiler, Lavern Sullivan Spero, Bernie Tolpin, Lynda Wertheim, and Toby Wertheim. Special thanks to Stephanie Failla, who originally developed OZ's Tu B'Shevat Night at Ronald McDonald House.

—LYNDA WERTHEIM

## Blintzes and Branches on Shavuot

### Why is it customary to eat dairy foods on the first day of Shavuot?

Among the many explanations is that the custom derives from a verse in the Song of Songs, "Honey and milk shall be under your tongue...." This is considered a reference to the sweet and nourishing Torah, which we received on Shavuot. A practical explanation is that the Israelites at Sinai, having just received the Torah, realized that any meat they had already prepared was not kosher, so they had to eat whatever dairy foods they had on hand. A symbolic explanation is that consumption of meat represents indulgence, while consumption of dairy foods represents restraint, and the Torah is more accessible to those who exercise restraint and self-control.

### Why is it customary to decorate the synagogue with foliage on Shavuot?

In addition to its association with receiving the Torah, Shavuot is an agricultural festival—the beginning of the wheat harvest (and the end of the counting of the omer) and the beginning of the fruit harvest. The Torah itself refers to the holiday in terms of the first fruits that grow in the Land of Israel. During Temple times, Shavuot was a pilgrimage festival, and bikkurim—first fruits—were brought to the Temple as offerings. Bringing the fields into the synagogue recalls these ancient customs.

**FAMILY AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

**May 2013**

**Thursday, May 2 • 7:30 p.m.**  
TORAH LEARNING COALITION  
with Rabbi Pelcovits at Shaaray Tefila.  
Details on page 6.

**Monday, May 6 • 4:00 p.m.**  
OZ HEBREW SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE  
View classes, and meet teachers, the  
education director, and the rabbi. All  
are invited. Details on page 12.

**Monday, May 6 • 8:00 p.m.**  
SHABBAT CLASS DISCUSSION  
Rabbi Bolton and Education Director  
Ilana Burgess will discuss Shabbat  
classes for OZ Youth. All are invited.  
Details on page 12.

**Thursday, May 9 • 12:30 p.m.**  
TORAH LEARNING COALITION with  
Rabbi Stein at Sutton Place Synagogue.  
Details on page 6.

**Tuesday, May 14 • 8:30 p.m.**  
TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT PANEL  
“Free for All or Stopped by the Law?”  
Followed by a cheesecake tasting and  
ice cream. Details on page 1.

**Saturday, May 18 • 10:30 a.m.**  
JUNIOR CONGREGATION  
For second grade and older. Services  
led by students, teachers, and parents.

**Monday, May 20 • 7:00 p.m.**  
SUPPER AND ANNUAL MEETING  
Supper begins at 7:00 p.m., followed  
by the Annual Meeting at 8:15 p.m.  
All members are welcome to attend.  
Details on page 1.

**Thursday, May 30 • 7:00 p.m.**  
TORAH LEARNING COALITION with  
artist Mordechai Rosenstein at Sutton  
Place Synagogue. Details on page 6.

**June 2013**

**Saturday, June 1 • 10:00 a.m.**  
TEEN-LED MINYAN in the OZ library.

**Sunday, June 2**  
CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE  
Assembly time and location to be  
announced. Details on page 3.

*For more information about these events,  
please contact Ilana Burgess, OZ's Youth  
Education Director, at 212-452-2310,  
extension 15, or iburgess@orzaru.org.*

# Torah Scrolls Arrive Home

## The Oral History Project

**O**n Thursday, April 25, 2002 (13th of Iyar 5762), Congregation Or Zarua's Torah scrolls were brought to the new sanctuary. Shavuot was the first festival Or Zarua celebrated in our new building. The Torah scrolls had been kept at the 92nd Street Y while our current building was being constructed on East 82nd Street. That rainy Thursday, Congregants and students from the OZ Hebrew School, led by Rabbi Wechsler, carried the plastic-wrapped Torah scrolls to their new home (below, left). The cele-

bration began in the social hall (bottom) and continued into the sanctuary (below, right), where the Torah scrolls were placed in our new Ark.

The Oral History Committee, chaired by Mimi Alperin, collects materials, such as memories and artifacts, from the early days of Congregation Or Zarua. If you have a submission for the Oral History Project, please contact Caroline Golden at [caroline@carolinegolden.com](mailto:caroline@carolinegolden.com) or Gerry Solomon at [gsolomon2@aol.com](mailto:gsolomon2@aol.com). Questions should be directed to Meredith Katz at [mekatz@jtsa.edu](mailto:mekatz@jtsa.edu).



OZ ARCHIVES

# Pesah and Yom Ha'atzmaut

Hebrew School students celebrate festive days



JACOB BERGMAN, FIFTH-GRADE STUDENT



The curriculum for children enrolled in Or Zarua's Hebrew School includes celebrating festive Jewish holidays. The students, parents, and teachers shown here are celebrating Pesah and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day). At the end of a matzah baking class for Pesah (top row), students were able to sample their final product. Yom Ha'atzmaut was celebrated with lessons on Israel's land and history (middle and bottom rows) and birthday cake (right).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 • 25 8:45 am Minyan	6 • 26 7:15 am Minyan 4:00 pm Hebrew School Open House 8:00 pm Shabbat Class Discussion	7 • 27 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context (final session)	8 • 28 <b>Yom Yerushalayim</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	1 • 21 Iyar 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	2 • 22 7:15 am Minyan 8:35 am Siddur Class 7:30 pm TLC with Rabbi Pelcovits at Shaaray Tefila	3 • 23 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:35 pm Candlelighting
12 • 3 <b>Mother's Day</b> 8:45 am Minyan	13 • 4 7:15 am Minyan	14 • 5 <b>Erev Shavuot</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm PJ Library, "I Scream at Sinai" 7:47 pm Candlelighting 8:00 pm Ma'ariv/8:30 pm Tikkun Leyl Shavuot Panel 1:00 pm Office closes	15 • 6 <b>Shavuot: First Day</b> 9:00 am Shaharit 8:30 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv Light candles after 8:52 pm Office/Hebrew School closed	16 • 7 <b>Shavuot: Second Day</b> 8:45 am Shaharit Yizkor 8:54 pm Festival ends Office closed	17 • 8 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:50 pm Candlelighting	18 • 9 9:00 am Shaharit Naso Bat Mitzvah of Anna Negrin 10:30 am Jr. Congregation 8:55 pm Shabbat ends
19 • 10 8:45 am Minyan 7:30 pm Book Discussion	20 • 11 7:15 am Minyan <b>Annual Meeting</b> 7:00 pm Supper 8:15 pm Meeting	21 • 12 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context (make-up, if needed)	22 • 13 7:15 am Minyan Last Day of Hebrew School 8:00 pm Talmud Class	23 • 14 7:15 am Minyan 8:35 am Siddur Class	24 • 15 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:56 pm Candlelighting	25 • 16 9:00 am Shaharit Beha'alotekha 9:01 pm Shabbat ends
26 • 17 8:45 am Minyan	27 • 18 <b>Memorial Day</b> 8:45 am Minyan Office closed	28 • 19 7:15 am Minyan	29 • 20 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	30 • 21 7:15 am Minyan 8:35 am Siddur Class 7:00 pm TLC Syyyum: The Art and Illumination of Pirke Avot with Mordechai Rosenstein at Sutton Place Synagogue	31 • 22 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:02 pm Candlelighting	



127 East 82nd Street  
New York, NY 10028 • 212-452-2310

# June 2013 • Sivan/Tammuz 5773

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2 • 24</b> 8:45 am Minyan Celebrate Israel Parade (time to be announced)	<b>3 • 25</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>4 • 26</b> 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 p.m. Meeting for 2013-14 Context Class	<b>5 • 27</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>6 • 28</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Gallery Opening, "Today I Am"	<b>7 • 29</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:07 pm Candlelighting	<b>1 • 23</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Shelah 10:00 am Teen-Led Minyan 9:07 pm Shabbat ends
<b>9 • 1 Tammuz</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh Tammuz</b> 9:00 am Minyan Bat Mitzvah of Gabrielle Raviv	<b>10 • 2</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>11 • 3</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Parlor Meeting for Trip to Israel Location: TBD	<b>12 • 4</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>13 • 5</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>14 • 6</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:10 pm Candlelighting	<b>15 • 7</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Hukkat 9:15 pm Shabbat ends
<b>16 • 8</b> <b>Father's Day</b> 8:45 am Minyan	<b>17 • 9</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>18 • 10</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>19 • 11</b> 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	<b>20 • 12</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>21 • 13</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13 pm Candlelighting	<b>22 • 14</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Balak Bar Mitzvah of Michael Phillipp Moriarty 9:18 pm Shabbat ends
<b>23 • 15</b> 8:45 am Shaharit	<b>24 • 16</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>25 • 17</b> <b>Fast of 17th of Tammuz</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>26 • 18</b> 7:15 am Minyan No Talmud Class	<b>27 • 19</b> 7:15 am Minyan	<b>28 • 20</b> 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13 pm Candlelighting	<b>29 • 21</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Pinhas 9:18 pm Shabbat ends
<b>30 • 22</b> 8:45 am Shaharit						

# Hesed Events and Programs

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

## Salvation Deliverance Church

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

## Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden

● “Green thumbs” are needed from spring through fall to help care for Ronald McDonald House’s 7th Floor Terrace Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden.

## Home Visit Volunteers

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

## Monday Night Pasta and Salad at NCS

● Or Zarua Congregants serve hot food

and good cheer to men and women with a range of mental health and addiction issues at the Neighborhood Coalition Shelter’s East 81st Street Residence on the last two Mondays of each month from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m., when the residents’ government checks are depleted.

## Ronald McDonald House

● Children come from across the U.S. and around the world to undergo serious medical treatment at New York City hospitals. Many reside with their families at Ronald McDonald House and have no local support system of friends or relatives. The chaplain at Ronald McDonald House alerts us when OZ may be of service to Jewish families who may require kosher meals, synagogue services, and other assistance.

*To participate in any of these hesed programs, please contact Richard Stadin at [stadin1@aol.com](mailto:stadin1@aol.com) or 212-879-0448.*

## CONGREGATION OR ZARUA OFFICE HOURS

**Monday through Thursday**

**9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.**

**Friday**

**9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

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

## OZ Cemetery

Gravesites for members

The Or Zarua section of Beth El Cemetery is located in Washington Township (Bergen County), New Jersey, just 10 miles away from the George Washington Bridge. Beth El Cemetery is well maintained and landscaped with trees and shrubs. The cemetery’s design provides a serene and beautiful final resting place that reflects the values and aesthetics of Congregation Or Zarua. Gravesites within the Or Zarua section are available for sale solely to members of our Congregation. Burial is limited to persons of the Jewish faith. For information concerning gravesite purchases, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 14.

## Youth Education Department

**Open House, Monday, May 6, at 4:00 p.m.**

**Shabbat Class Discussion, Monday, May 6, at 8:00 p.m.**

The Youth Education Department will be holding two events for prospective and current Hebrew School parents. The first is an Open House on Monday, May 6, at 4:00 p.m. All prospective parents are invited to meet Rabbi Bolton, Youth Education Director Ilana Burgess, and OZ Hebrew School teachers, as well as to observe classes in session.

The second event is a meeting of the Youth Programming Group with Rabbi Bolton

and Ilana Burgess on Monday, May 6, at 8:00 p.m. The topic of discussion will be OZ Youth Shabbat classes. All who attend will be able to ask questions and present their ideas and concerns to our rabbi and youth education director.

For more information about either of these events, contact Ilana Burgess at [iburgess@orzarua.org](mailto:iburgess@orzarua.org) or 212-452-2310, extension 15. Feel free to invite other parents who may be interested in Or Zarua’s educational programs for youth.



A view of the Or Zarua cemetery section.

HARVEY BRENNER

## TORAH READERS NEEDED

If you are able to read Torah or haftarah and would like to do so on a Shabbat, please contact Marc Ashley at [mashley@chadbourne.com](mailto:mashley@chadbourne.com) or Jay Palmer at [jpalmernyc@rr.com](mailto:jpalmernyc@rr.com). You may also sign up online at [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org) by choosing “Read Torah” under the “Prayer” drop-down menu.

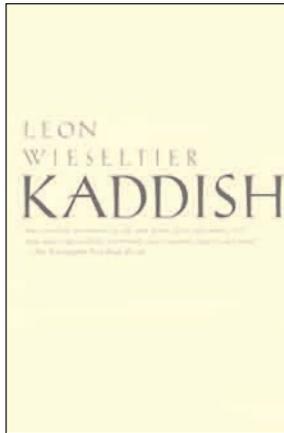
# Or Zarua Book Discussions

*Kaddish* by Leon Wieseltier, Sunday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.

**P**lease join us for our next Or Zarua book discussion on Sunday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m. in Or Zarua's library. We will discuss *Kaddish* by Leon Wieseltier, the literary editor of *The New Republic*.

When his father died in March 1996, Leon Wieseltier began to observe the rituals of the traditional year of mourning, going daily to the synagogue to recite kaddish. In addition to his observance of traditions of mourning and his everyday responsibilities, he sought out ancient, medieval, and modern Jewish texts in pursuit of the kaddish's history and meaning. And every day he studied, translated, and wrote his own reflections on the texts that he found, punctuating his journal with stories about life in his synagogue and about his family's progress through grief.

In reflecting upon the fate of his



father and of his people, he wrestles with problems of loss and faith; the meaning of tradition, freedom, and determinism; and the perplexity of rational religion. *Kaddish*

is a work of history, philosophy, and interior autobiography, of moral force and emotional power.

If you would like more information on Or Zarua book discussions or have a book suggestion, please contact Deborah Wenger at [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org).

## TALMUD CLASS

**Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. through June 19**

**T**his year we are continuing our study of Tractate Sanhedrin, which deals with the laws of capital punishment, the composition of the courts, and judicial procedures.

Anyone may join the class at any time; it is not necessary to have participated in Talmud class previously to join the class now. Talmud class will be taught by Rabbi Wechsler. When he is out of town, Rabbi Bolton will teach.

*No prior knowledge of Talmud, Hebrew, or Aramaic is required.*

## SUMMER TALMUD CLASS

**Jerusalem in the Sources: Talmud and Midrash on the Holy City**

**Five Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.**

This summer, Rabbi Bolton will be conducting a Talmud class entitled "Jerusalem in the Sources: Talmud and Midrash on the Holy City." The class will meet on five Wednesdays—July 24 and 31, and August 7, 14, and 21—at 7:30 p.m. in the OZ library. As in the past, anyone may join Or Zarua's Talmud class at any time; experience in Talmud study, Hebrew, or Aramaic is not necessary.

# OZ Crafts Club Afghans

**Supporting teens in group homes**

**T**his afghan was knitted by the Or Zarua Crafts Club. Afghans handmade by club members are given to the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services (JBFCs), which distributes them to teens who live in group homes. The afghans are often the teens' only possession. Knitting afghans is labor-intensive, but participation is easy, since different people can be responsible for different sections. This method creates a truly custom blanket for a teen who owns little or nothing.

If you are interested in joining the Crafts Club, please leave a message with the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 39. For additional information on OZ hesed activities, please see the Hased Events and Programs column on page 12.



OZ CRAFTS CLUB

**OZ MINYAN** Contact Sheldon Adler at [sadler@skadden.com](mailto:sadler@skadden.com) or choose "Daily Minyan" under the "Prayer" menu on [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org) to sign up for a day or two each month.

## HEBREW SCHOOL CALENDAR

### May 2013

- Wed 1** Classes in session
- Mon 6** B'nei Jeshurun
- Wed 8** Classes in session
- Mon 13** Classes in session
- Wed 15** Shavuot (*no classes*)
- Sat 18** Junior Congregation, 10:30 a.m.
- Mon 20** Classes in session
- Wed 22** Last day of school

# Or Zarua's Newest Readers of Torah

Seven additional members are prepared to leyn

For several years, under the direction of Congregant Mark Somerstein, Or Zarua has been training members to leyn. This year, Or Zarua welcomes seven new graduates to the bimah: Laurie Dien, Joanne Feierman, Aliza Kaplan, Meredith Katz, Susan Katz, Susan Kopelowitz, and Chris Miller. Short essays by Mark and some of our newest readers that describe their experiences in approaching this class appear below. As summed up by Meredith, "It was a great experience; Mark is a great teacher; and it was a wonderfully supportive group with whom to learn!" If you feel inspired to learn how to leyn, please contact Mark Somerstein by calling the synagogue office at 212-452-2310.

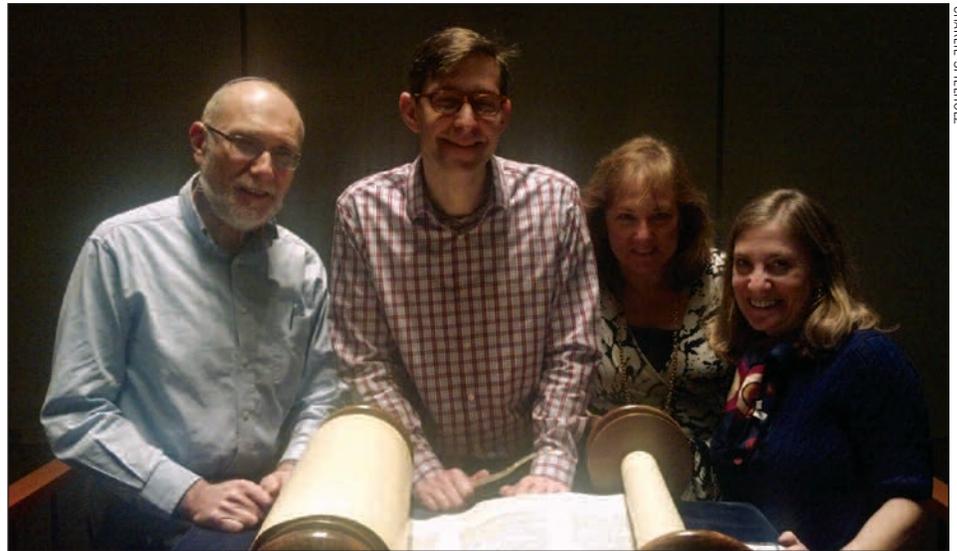
—CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ

## Mark Somerstein

I have been reading Torah for more than 50 years, as a volunteer and as a professional. I have loved it, and it is a great pleasure and honor to be able to pass this skill on to classes at Or Zarua. People who take this class (usually 10 or 12 sessions) have varying degrees of ability in reading Hebrew, singing, learning the notes, and standing before an audience. It is, therefore, a tremendous source of gratification for me, at the end of the course, to watch each person read his or her section of the Torah. I am aware of the distance each person had to cover to reach that end result and the effort that had to be put in, and it is indeed a proud moment when the class "performs" in front of the Congregation. These are the feelings inspired in me by the current class; I leave it to them to express their own feelings about this experience.

## Laurie R. Dien

Many, many moons ago, at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, I read Torah for the first time. Unfortunately, the synagogue in St. Louis, where I grew up, didn't allow girls to read Torah then, so I never read it again. Now, many years later, I have had the privilege



Mark Somerstein (left) with three of Or Zarua's seven new Torah readers: Chris Miller, Aliza Kaplan and Meredith Katz.

of facilitating the teen- and tween-led service here at Or Zarua. Both Mark Somerstein and Marc Ashley have been kind enough, when approached, to make recordings of Torah portions from which the teens could learn. Then, at Or Zarua's gala in honor of Rabbi Wechsler, Mark Somerstein asked if I would be joining his Torah reading class this year. How could I say no? He had been so kind to record all those Torah readings. I'm sure the celebration of Rabbi Wechsler and his reminders that we are a participatory Congregation helped as well. Finally, I had read a comment somewhere that questioned why we ask our children to learn to read Torah for their Bar or Bat Mitzvahs when most of them never see their parents read from the Torah. Here I was, asking all of these teens (including my daughter, Aliza) to read, but I wasn't doing it myself—not a very good role model. So I joined this wonderful class.

I dare say that if you asked any of us in the class if we could ever imagine how well we would do when we read our Torah portions on Passover, we might have chuckled a bit. But we succeeded, and we all did well—because we had a wonderful teacher in Mark. No matter what your age, I highly recommend taking Mark's class. As Rabbi Bolton noted when introducing

us before our reading, it is a wonderful way to link ourselves with our tradition. And Mark is a teacher who works miracles! Thank you, Mark!

## Susan Katz

A curious, new member of Or Zarua who wanted to get out of the apartment on Monday nights, I wandered into Mark's class. Being called to the Torah for an Aliyah was a new, positive experience for me, and I liked the challenge of all-Hebrew services at Or Zarua. I grew up in a Conservative synagogue, where I learned to read the Hebrew Bible and read the haftarah for my Bat Mitzvah on a Friday night. Then my formal Jewish education stopped. While my folks would have continued to send me to more Hebrew school, I didn't want to go. Prior to some of my five visits to Israel, I did try to learn modern Hebrew, but was always frustrated by the lack of vowels.

In Mark's Torah reading class, I quickly realized that I enjoyed meeting other members of OZ and learning about the trope—the musical notations that help the reader to sing Torah. In addition to learning how to read Torah, the class gave

*continued on page 15*

## Readers of Torah

*continued from page 14*

me an opportunity to improve my Hebrew skills. I not only had to be able to read Hebrew without the vowels, but would have to sing it without the trope, too. To paraphrase Big Julie in *Guys and Dolls*, “I would have to remember where the spots formerly was.”

My initial attempts were frustrating, and I felt I would never be able to carry or remember a tune. However, I soon realized that my classmates and I were all learning together and surmounting the same challenges. Mark had the amazing ability to give each of us the individual support we needed, and as a group, we learned from each other. Mark pointed me to the trope notes at the end of the Chumash we use in the synagogue for Torah reading; that really helped. My big breakthrough came when I realized “there’s an app for this”

and I could practice verses with and without trope on my iPhone anywhere—even in the subway!

The Last Day of Passover came quickly. I was proud of our class’s accomplishments. I am considering a repeat performance or perhaps learning a new part for the second day of Shavuot.

### Susan Kopelowitz

It has been a wonderful experience studying Torah with Mark Somerstein these past several weeks. While growing up in a traditional Conservative synagogue, attending Camp Ramah, and participating in USY during the 50’s, I never thought that women would be given the privilege of being counted in minyan, receiving Aliyot l’Torah, as well as chanting from the Torah. My Bat Mitzvah was on Shabbat morning, and I chanted a haftarah; however, the blessing before and after the reading, as well as the Aliyah,

were done by the Bar Mitzvah boy who shared my day. Who would have thought that almost 60 years later, I would have been taught to chant from the Torah?

I found out quite readily that one does not have to have musical talent to learn to read from the Torah; I certainly don’t. Through the “exercises” that Mark has his students do, repeating the trope, and making the newcomer feel comfortable, the whole class “got it.” Listening to each other helped in the learning process, as did the communal support from fellow students. The enthusiasm was contagious.

I would encourage anyone who has even a tiny desire to learn to read Torah to take this class. You will learn. I feel very privileged to be here at Or Zarua, where everyone is welcome to participate. Although I did not grow up with full synagogue participation, I am grateful that my family gave me the background, tradition, and education that has served as my foundation. Never say never.

# Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day

OZ youth led the Yom HaShoah service

With music and candle lighting, Or Zarua’s youth and their families led a service for Yom HaShoah v’HaG’vurah—Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day—after sunset on Sunday, April 7. This service not only remembered the victims of the Holocaust, but also recalled people, both Jews and non-Jews, who rose up against

those who were destroying every aspect of European Jewry. The heroes of the Holocaust hid and protected Jewish people from arrest, organized and participated in uprisings in the concentration camps, fought against our foes at every opportunity, and kept the spirituality and faith of Judaism alive despite the many obstacles established by our determined adversaries.



LANA BURGESS



# Purim 5773

The spiel and youth activities at Congregation Or Zarua



Final rehearsal by the OZ Players.



RACHEL FEIERMAN



The Purim Spiel, *East Side Story*, was performed in the sanctuary.



RACHEL FEIERMAN



OZ Hebrew School students celebrated Purim in the library.



JACOB BERGMAN, FIFTH-GRADE STUDENT

# The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between February 1, 2013, and March 31, 2013

## Mazal Tov

Luzie and Mitchell Cepler, on the birth of Liam and Scarlett  
 Joanne Feierman, on the birth of her grandson, Noah Martin, the son of Rachel Feierman and Adam Bonislawski  
 Lesley and Jay Palmer, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Jordanna  
 The family of Benjamin and Michael Plevin, on their becoming B'nai Mitzvah  
 Brooke and Richard Rapaport, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Hart

## New Members

Welcome to:

Amira Kohn-Trattner and Harry Trattner

## Condolences

Our deepest sympathies to:

The family of Marilyn Pomerance, on her death  
 Rosalie Rothenberg, on the death of her husband, Joseph Rothenberg  
 Gerry Solomon, on the death of his mother, Eleanor Solomon  
*May they and their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*

## Forgotten People Fund

Susan and Stanley Alt  
 Herbert Blum  
 Marilyn Butler  
 Murray Cohen  
 Brenda Goldman  
 Mina Greenstein, in memory of her father, Hyman C. Baylis  
 Karen and Jonathan Kaplan  
 Janet Katz  
 Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur Rosenbloom, in honor of Richard Stadin  
 Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner  
 Allen Mayer  
 Dara Murray  
 Evelyn and Morton Schwartz

## General Fund

Willi and Arthur Aeder, in honor of the birth of Henry Amdeer, grandson of Shirley and Marty Amdeer; and in memory of Evelyn Schwartz's mother, Regina Binfeld  
 Lenore Alpert, in honor of Rosalind Devon, from "DeDe and Eugene"

Cynthia Brodsky, in memory of Edward Brodsky, Edith Donner, and Jacob Donner  
 Laurie and Bob Cooper, in memory of Laurie's sister, Renee Skulnik  
 Linda Dershowitz, in memory of her father, Morris Dershowitz  
 Linda Eidelberg, in memory of her father, Benjamin Basch; her mother, Rose Basch; and her husband, Albert Eidelberg  
 Dinah and Uri Evan, in memory of Millie Ashkenazi and Shulamit Milstein  
 Joanne Feierman, in honor of Glenn and Zella Goldfinger  
 Mechele and Sander Flaum, in memory of Clara Cecil Storper  
 Judith Friedlander, in memory of Martin Friedlander  
 Karen and Henry Glanternik, in memory of Gerry Solomon's mother, Eleanor Solomon  
 Zella and Glenn Goldfinger, in honor of Rabbi Bolton's Keva and Kavannah class  
 Roberta Hufnagel, in memory of Amos Shuchman and Eleanor Solomon  
 Valerie and Allen Hyman, in honor of Mimi Alperin  
 Karen and Harvey Klapper, in memory of Harvey's mother, Shirley Klapper  
 Barbara Kleinberg, in memory of Armand Kleinberg  
 Natasha and Daniel Labovitz  
 Frances and Bernard Laterman, in memory of Bernard's mother, Sarah Laterman  
 Benjamin Marcus, in honor of Jay and Lesley Palmer for being presented the Cornerstone Award by The Solomon Schechter Day School of Manhattan  
 S.T. Marx Company, in honor of Roz Devon  
 Barbara and Ira Nadler  
 Helen Nash, in memory of her father, Moses Englander; and her mother, Rose Englander  
 Barbara Lutzky Packer  
 Shari Prince, in memory of Harris Cohen  
 Laura Resnikoff, in memory of Joanne Feierman's brother, Joel Kollin  
 Rosalie Rothenberg and Joseph Rothenberg, in memory of Ida Rothenberg, on her yahrzeit  
 Leona and Neil Schluger, in memory of Evelyn Schwartz's mother, Regina Binfeld  
 Charlotte Schwartz, in memory of her

mother, Mary Meyer Simon; and of her beloved husband, Sidney Schwartz  
 Evelyn and Morton Schwartz, in memory of Morty's mother, Miriam Schwartz; and Gerry Solomon's mother, Eleanor Solomon  
 Harriet Seiler, in honor of her daughter, Sharon Seiler, who read Torah on Shabbat to mark her return to good health  
 Dara and David Shapiro, in honor of the birth of Franklin Zaiantz, son of Keely and William Zaiantz  
 Naomi Smook  
 Lynn and Mark Somerstein, in memory of Mark's mother, Hadasa Somerstein; and Mark's uncle, David Gelber  
 Miriam Wallerstein, in honor of Joanne Feierman's grandson, Noah Martin; and in honor of the marriage of Andrew Weinstein and Remy Roizen, daughter of Ellen and Alain Roizen  
 Lynda Wertheim and Toby Wertheim, for cookies for the Ronald McDonald House  
 Nancy and Jay Zises, in memory of Inge Frankel, Marshall Butler, and Ruth Zises, on her yahrzeit  
 Sherry and Gene Zuriff, in memory of Sherry's mother, Rose Jacobson

## Hebrew School Fund

Susan Altman and Ivan Kreitman, in memory of Susan's mother, Florence Altman

## Hesed Fund

Ruthe and Ronald Golden, in honor of Rafi Katz's receiving his Siddur from Grandma Ruthe and Papa Ronald Golden  
 Mina Greenstein, in memory of Amos Shuchman  
 Susan and Edward Kopelowitz, in memory of Betty Kopelowitz  
 Dara Murray, in memory of her beloved husband, John Leo Murray  
 Suzan and Daniel Rosen  
 Judith and Barry Schneider  
 Helene and Michael Wolff, in memory of Helene's sister, Florence Simon; her father, Morris Simon; and Joanne Feierman's brother, Joel Kollin

## Hevra Kadisha

Susan and Stanley Alt, in memory of their parents, Joseph and Celia Benbasset, and Mannie and Dorothy Alt; and Gerry Solomon's mother, Eleanor Solomon

# The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between February 1, 2013, and March 31, 2013

Phyllis Brochstein, in memory of Eleanor Solomon  
 Mona Dreier  
 Pam and Mark Gold, in memory of Ruth Gold on her 10th *yahrzeit*  
 Tamara Jasper  
 Janet Katz  
 Martha and Frederick Mendelsohn, in memory of Alice Shuchman's husband, Amos  
 Barbara Lutzky Packer, in memory of Eleanor Solomon  
 Evelyn and Morton Schwartz, to thank the *Hevra Kadisha* members for their supportive kindness and assistance, which was greatly appreciated  
 Lorraine and Herb Shapiro, in memory of Gerry Solomon's mother, Eleanor Solomon; and in memory of Amos Shuchman  
 Marilyn Shapiro, in memory of Gerry Solomon's mother, Eleanor Solomon  
 Vera and Robert Silver, in memory of Claire Horn, on her *yahrzeit*  
 Linda and Jerome Spitzer, in memory of Jerry's beloved father, Harry Spitzer  
 Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of Eleanor Solomon  
 Nora and Barry Yood, in memory of Joanne Feierman's brother, Joel Kollin

### Kiddush Fund

Amy and Scott Bolton, in memory of Rabbi Bolton's father, Stewart Bolton  
 Phyllis Brochstein, in memory of her mother, Esther Brochstein  
 Bobbi and Barry Collier, in memory of Bobbi's father, Dr. H. Harold Gelfand

Laura Dien, Joanne Feierman, Aliza Kaplan, Meredith Katz, Sue Katz, Susan Kopelowitz, and Chris Miller, in honor of Mark Somerstein's dedication to and great skill at teaching Torah reading  
 Joanne Feierman, in honor of her daughter, Rachel, who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Noah Martin  
 Susan Katz, in memory of her mother, Muriel Helen Goldberg Katz  
 Melissa Kashan Lader and Craig Lader, in memory of their grandparents, Ida and Irving Sternlieb, and Lilian and Seymour Lader; and in honor of the seventh birthday of their son, Ethan  
 Martha and Frederick Mendelsohn, in memory of Martha's father, Arnold Neustadter  
 Alan Nadel, in memory of his parents, Thelma and Bernard Nadel  
 Lynda Wertheim and Toby Wertheim, in celebration of another year of good health

### Kol Nidre Appeal

Susan Altman and Ivan Kreitman  
 Valerie and Charles Diker  
 Mona Dreier  
 Irving Hoffman  
 Susan and David Shapiro

### Kosher Food Pantry

African Empire  
 Marcel and Sheldon Adler  
 Susan Altman and Ivan Kreitman  
 Burt Biderman  
 Amy and Scott Bolton  
 Faith and Harvey Brenner

Deborah and James Breznay  
 Bobbi and Barry Collier  
 Jaye and Mark Edelstein  
 Nancy and Anatole Gershman  
 Pam and Mark Gold  
 Oded Halahmy  
 Ruth Horowitz and Michael Nachman  
 Aliza Kaplan  
 Janet Katz  
 Meredith and Michael Katz  
 Francine and Samuel Klagsbrun  
 Susan and Edward Kopelowitz  
 Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner  
 Allen Mayer  
 Martha and Frederick Mendelsohn  
 Printed Methods  
 Alan Nadel  
 David Reiff  
 Sharon Seiler and Charles Spielholz  
 Marilyn Shapiro, in memory of Sheldon Adler's parents  
 Meryl Sherwood  
 Rana Arons Silver and David Silver  
 Vera and Robert Silver  
 Phyllis and Gerry Solomon  
 Audrey and Richard Stadin  
 Alice and Thomas Tisch  
 Lynda Wertheim and Toby Wertheim  
 Nancy Wolfson-Moche and David Moche, in honor of Maryann Wainstock

### Library Fund

Linda and Harold Friedman, in memory of Evelyn Schwartz's mother, Regina Binfeld

### Ma'ot Hittim

Marcel and Sheldon Adler  
 Susan and Stanley Alt  
 Joanne and Marc Ashley  
 Anne and David Bergman  
 Burt Biderman  
 Emily Braun and Andrew Frackman  
 Anna and Benjamin Charkow  
 Bobbi and Barry Collier  
 Ellen DeJonge-Ozeri  
 Linda Dershowitz  
 Michla Dien  
 Mona Dreier  
 Audrey and Barry Feldman  
 Lynne Galler and Hezzy Dattner  
 Alice Geisler  
 Pam and Mark Gold  
 Zella and Glenn Goldfinger  
 Brenda Goldman

## OROT FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

Call for articles, poems and reflections

Please submit reflective, creative, or scholarly pieces that would be appropriate for High Holy publication of *Orot*. Although the range of topics is broad, I would like to invite Congregants to reflect on these questions:

1. What do we learn from the Akeidah?
2. Why are there both public and private aspects of religious expression? What should be kept private? What should be made public?
3. Is there a particular part of the High Holy Day liturgy or celebration that speaks the most to you?

Please write to me at [rabbibolton@orzarua.org](mailto:rabbibolton@orzarua.org) if you would like an editorial development meeting, so that we can create a rich collection of material for and with one another for this upcoming high holiday season.

—Rabbi Scott N. Bolton

# The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between February 1, 2013, and March 31, 2013

Judy and Robert Golub  
 Susan Gotbetter and Henry Berry  
 Trudy and Robert Gottesman  
 Mina Greenstein  
 Sheila and Samuel Gunther  
 Linda and Jeffrey Haberman  
 Dore Hollander  
 Ruth Horowitz and Michael Nachman  
 Roberta Hufnagel  
 Caroline Golden Ilberman  
 and Alan Ilberman  
 Aliza Kaplan  
 Meredith and Michael Katz  
 Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur Rosenbloom  
 Vivian and Fred Kenvin  
 Maud and Neal Kozodoy  
 Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner  
 Melissa Kashan Lader and Craig Lader  
 Judith and Herbert Lukashok  
 Sharon and Alexander Mack  
 Susan March and Louis Barash  
 Martha and Frederick Mendelsohn  
 Alan Nadel  
 Diane Okrent and Aaron Shelden  
 Barbara Lutzky Packer  
 Linda Pomper  
 Sabina and Maurice Preter  
 Shari Prince  
 Laura Resnikoff  
 Rosalie Rothenberg  
 and Joseph Rothenberg  
 Charlotte Schwartz  
 Sharon Seiler and Charles Spielholz  
 Ronit Setton and Benjamin Hershkowitz  
 Lorraine and Herb Shapiro  
 Marilyn Shapiro  
 Vera and Robert Silver, in memory of  
 Ruth Himmel  
 Arlene and Shelly Simon  
 Phyllis and Gerry Solomon  
 Lynn and Mark Somerstein  
 Cheryl Sternlieb  
 Miriam Wallerstein  
 Elaine and Aryeh Weiss  
 Lynda Wertheim and Toby Wertheim  
 Nora and Barry Yood  
 Keely and William Zaiantz  
 Cathy Zises  
 Sherry and Gene Zuriff

## Met Council Purim Fund

Susan and Stanley Alt  
 Abby Altman and Peter Ezzard  
 Terry Edelstein  
 Susan Katz

Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur Rosenbloom  
 Allen Mayer  
 Rosalie Rothenberg and  
 Joseph Rothenberg  
 Charlotte Schwartz  
 Phyllis and Gerry Solomon  
 Elaine and Aryeh Weiss

## Pesah Appeal

Burt Biderman  
 Cherise and Randy Feld  
 Karen and Henry Glanternik  
 Dore Hollander  
 Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur Rosenbloom  
 Francine and Samuel Klagsbrun  
 Sarah Klagsbrun and Eric Weinstein  
 Alan Nadel  
 Brooke and Richard Rapaport  
 Susan and David Shapiro  
 Miriam Wallerstein  
 Lynda Wertheim and Toby Wertheim  
 Keely and William Zaiantz

## Purim Spiel Fund

Bobbi and Barry Coller  
 Ruthe and Ronald Golden, in honor of the  
 outstanding performances of Esther and  
 Rafi Katz in the wonderful Purim Spiel  
 Caroline Golden Ilberman and Alan  
 Ilberman  
 Meredith and Michael Katz, with great  
 admiration of and appreciation for the  
 hard work of all those who make the  
 Purim Spiel possible  
 Vivian and Fred Kenvin  
 Francine and Samuel Klagsbrun  
 Sarah Klagsbrun and Eric Weinstein, in  
 honor of Bonnie Maslin and the amaz-  
 ing Purim Spiel  
 Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner, in memory  
 of Martha Sasmor  
 Rosalyn and Bruce Nussman, wishing the  
 best for a successful spiel  
 Laura Resnikoff, in honor of Arthur  
 Rosenbloom, Bonnie Maslin, and the  
 whole cast and crew  
 Carol Rosenbloom and Ira Kay  
 Marilyn Shapiro

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Aliza Kaplan  
 Sarah Klagsbrun and Eric Weinstein,  
 in memory of Andrea Fisher  
 Susan March and Louis Barash  
 Ellen and Alain Roizen

Emilya and Brian Sahn  
 Evelyn and Morton Schwartz  
 Marilyn Shapiro, in memory of Sheldon  
 Tessler, beloved father and grandfather  
 Alice Shuchman

## Super Bowl Donation

Marcel and Sheldon Adler

## Tzedakah Fund

Emilya and Brian Sahn, for the children of  
 S'derot

## Youth Programming Fund

Ilana Burgess, in memory of Gerry  
 Solomon's mother, Eleanor Solomon

## Zayin Adar

Burt Biderman  
 Susan Gotbetter and Henry Berry  
 Frances and Bernard Laterman  
 Vera and Robert Silver  
 Phyllis and Gerry Solomon  
 Nora and Barry Yood

## WWW.ORZARUA.ORG

Have you missed an Or Zarua lecture, class, or discussion? Would you like to hear a presentation a second time? Or Zarua's website, [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org), contains recordings of many of the presentations given by guest speakers and teachers at the synagogue.

By clicking on the drop-down menu titled "Learning" and choosing "Adult Study," followed by "Recorded Talks," you can also access lectures by Professors James Kugel, David Roskies, and Ruth R. Wisse, and Rabbis David Silber and Harlan J. Wechsler. You can even listen to the Or Zarua Klezmer Band.

There are many other resources on the Or Zarua website—upcoming events, service schedules, current art gallery shows, minyan sign-up, and much more. So take a moment to explore [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org) and see what has been, is currently, and will be happening at OZ!



## CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

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

# May/June Checklist

- OZ Hebrew School Open House with Rabbi Bolton and Education Director Ilana Burgess, Monday, May 6, 4:00 p.m. (page 12).
- Shabbat Class Discussion with Rabbi Bolton and Education Director Ilana Burgess, Monday, May 6, 8:00 p.m. (page 12).
- The East Side Torah Learning Coalition will host its fifth and sixth presentations on *Pirke Avot*. Rabbi Ephraim Pelcovits of Or Olam will teach from Chapter 5 of *Pirke Avot* at Shaaray Tefila on May 2, at 7:30 p.m., and Rabbi Jonathan Stein will teach from Chapter 6 at Sutton Place Synagogue, on May 9, at 12:30 p.m.
- PJ Library, “*I Scream at Sinai: A Torah Celebration*,” Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. (page 5).
- Tikkun Leyl Shavuot Panel, “Free for All or Stopped by the Law?” Tuesday night, May 14, after Ma’ariv and followed by cheesecake tasting and ice cream (page 1).
- OZ’s next Book Discussion on Sunday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m., will feature Leon Wieseltier’s *Kaddish* (page 13).
- 24th Annual Meeting of Congregation Or Zarua, Monday, May 20. Supper at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 8:15 p.m. RSVP for dinner by Monday, May 13 (page 1).
- TLC Siyum with Artist Mordechai Rosenstein: “The Art and Illumination of *Pirke Avot*,” Thursday, May 30, 7:00 p.m., at Sutton Place Synagogue (page 5).
- Celebrate Israel Parade, Sunday, June 2. Step-off time and location to be announced (page 3).
- Context organizing meeting and informational session, Tuesday, June 4, 7:00 p.m., Or Zarua library.
- OZ Gallery opening, “Today I Am,” Thursday, June 6, 6:00 p.m. (page 6).
- Parlor meeting for a trip to Israel, Tuesday, June 11, 8:00 p.m., at a location to be determined. All interested travelers are invited to attend.
- Talmud class meets on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. (page 13).
- A summer Talmud class with Rabbi Bolton is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on five Wednesdays: July 24 and 31, and August 7, 14, and 21. The topic will be “Jerusalem in the Sources: Talmud and Midrash on the Holy City.” (page 13).
- Rabbi Bolton’s Siddur Class meets Thursdays at 8:45 a.m. in the OZ Library. (page 2).
- “Rabbi Wechsler Teaches” broadcasts from Jerusalem (page 6).
- To publish a piece in *Orot* for the High Holy Days, contact Rabbi Bolton at rabbibolton@orzarua.org (page 18).
- Membership information and renewal notices will be mailed the week of June 17.
- If you have information or material from the early days of Or Zarua, please contact the Oral History Committee (page 8).
- Sign up for the morning minyan.
- Call the Or Zarua office (212-452-2310) if you have questions about or wish to sponsor any OZ program or event.