

Congregation

ק"ק אור זרוע

OR ZARUA



Newsletter

Or Zarua Newsletter

Shevat-Adar I, 5755

Vol. 6 No. 2

1384 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10128 (212) 410-6041

Dr. Harlan J. Wechsler, Rabbi

Notice:

Our Mailing address remains at 1384 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10128. All mail should be addressed to our office, not the synagogue building!

Prof. Jonathan Sarna to deliver Lucy Dawidowicz Memorial Lecture, Jan. 30th

On Monday evening January 30, 1995, Or Zarua will celebrate its sixth anniversary. In honor of the occasion, Professor Jonathan D. Sarna, Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University (see biography on page 6), will deliver the Lucy Dawidowicz Memorial Lecture. Dr. Sarna's topic will be "Perched Between Continuity and Discontinuity: American Judaism at the Crossroads." The lecture will take place at 8:00 p.m. at the Or Zarua building, 127 East 82nd Street, and will be followed by a reception in honor of these six years.

Siddur Brunch, Sun., January 8th

Last January, a large crowd gathered in the living room of one of our congregants to study about the Saturday morning service with Rabbi Wechsler. We got as far as the Torah service.

On January 8, 1995, the SECOND SIDDUR BRUNCH will take place. We begin brunch at 9:00 a.m. and the study continues until noon. A year ago we had to turn away congregants once registration

(continued on page 6)

What's Inside

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A Portrait of Professor Sarna

A summary of the scholar's life and accomplishments

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Capital Campaign Report

Mimi Alperin, Capital Campaign Chair describes our achievements and goals

From our Educational Director School News

The first few months of Hebrew School have gotten off to a great start. Our classes have been hard at work, brushing up on their Hebrew skills, Bible studies, Jewish values just to name a few areas.

Some highlights of the last few weeks; Our Bet class has been leading Tefilot in their class at the start of each school day. The words of the "Barechu" can be heard all the way down the hall. It is so wonderful to hear!

Our Gimmel class has been learning

about Kashruth and has decorated part of their room with a delicious collage of "milchig" and "fleishig" foods.

The Dalet class recently learned more about the Tzedakah money they donated to Bosnian refugees. A representative came to talk with them and discuss her personal experiences.

Finally, the highlight of the month was the visit from the Jewish *a cappella* group PIZMON (a group that our teacher Beth Naditch sings with). The performance was a wonderful way for students to learn about Jewish identity through song.

Michelle Schaerf

Congregation Or Zarua

*A Conservative Synagogue
Founded 1989*

ק"ק אור זרוע



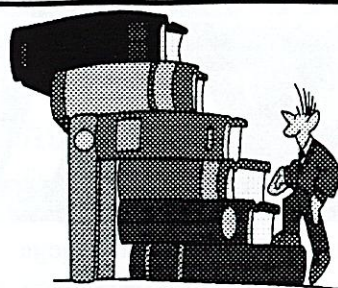
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Dr. Harlan J. Wechsler, *Rabbi*

Henry Wollman, *President*

Newsletter Editor and Publisher:

Stephen A. Agus



Adult Education Talmud Class - every Wednesday

Rabbi Wechsler has resumed teaching the weekly Talmud class, which meets on Wednesday evenings from 8 to 9:30 p.m. at Or Zarua's building, 127 East 82nd Street. This year, the subject is *Masekhet Berakhot*, which examines the foundations of the prayer service. The class may be joined at any time. No knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is required.

(Annual Lucy Diwidowicz lecture by Professor Jonathan Sarna and other Adult Education on pages 1 and 6)

Copy of Rosh Hashana Sermon available

Copies of the sermon, "Three Tears for Isaac: Jewish Empathy, Suffering and Dignity", which was delivered by Rabbi Wechsler on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, are available at the Or Zarua office, telephone 410-6041.

Hesed Food Fund Needs Your Urgent Contributions

Congregation Or Zarua continues to feed Monday night dinner to 25 formerly homeless men living in a neighborhood shelter. Won't you please help by letting us have your contribution (as little as \$10 per month? Make your check payable to Congregation Or Zarua, and specify that it is for the Hesed Food Fund,

As little as \$50 from each family unit at Or Zarua will fully fund this program for two full years. Your participation helps to relieve much suffering. *Every dollar collected is applied directly for the purchase of food.* Please send in your check today!

Editor's notice to our readers:

The next publication date of the newsletter is February 25th. All articles or notices must be submitted to me at least one week in advance of the publication date. Any article exceeding 100 words in length must be given to me on a 3.5" IBM formatted disc in any of the popular word processing formats or ASCII text.

Condolences

Barry Alperin, on the death of his father, **Max Alperin**.
Jinx Bandler, on the death of her mother, **Jennie Jaffe**.
Stanley Gluck, on the death of his mother, **Flora Gluck**.
Helen Squire, on the death of her brother, **Dr. Joel Friedman**.
Donald Sussman, on the death of his mother, **Rose Sussman**.

Calendar of Events and Candle Lighting Times


All Shabbat and festival morning services, *except as may be noted below*, are held promptly at 9:00 A.M. Friday evening services for Kabbalat Shabbat are held every Friday at candle lighting time. All services will be held at the synagogue building at 127 East 82nd Street.

January, 1995

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat	
1	2 - Rosh Hodesh Shevat	3	4	5 - Hevra Kadisha meeting, 7:30 p.m., 127 East 82nd Street	6 - Light candles 4:25 p.m.	7 - Parashat Bo	בא
8 - Siddur Brunch, 9 a.m. - Call Or Zarua office for reservation and location, Book Club, 7:30 p.m. at Spergel home. Call 935-8975	9	10	11 - Talmud Class, 8 - 9:30 p.m.	12	13 - Light candles 4:32 p.m.	Shabbat Shira - Parashat Beshalah	שבת שירה בשלח
15	16 - Tu B'Shevat Martin Luther King Birthday	17	18 - Talmud Class, 8-9:30 p.m.	19	20 - Light candles 4:40 p.m.	21 - Parashat Yitro	יתרו
22	23	24 - Women's Study Group meeting, 8 p.m. - Call Linda Agus for information	25 - Talmud Class 8-9:30 p.m.	26	27 - Light candles 4:49 p.m.	28 - Parashat Mishpatim	משפטים
9	30 - Lucy Dawidowicz Memorial Lecture by Prof. Sarna 8:00 p.m. - 127 E. 82nd St.	31 - Rosh Hodesh Adar I, First Day					

February, 1995

			1 - Rosh Hodesh Adar I - Second Day - Talmud Class, 8-9:30 p.m.	2	3 - Light candles 4:57 p.m.	4 - Parashat Terumah	תרומה
5 - UJA - Federation Super Sunday	6	7	8 - Talmud Class, 8-9:30 p.m.	9	10 - Light candles 5:08 p.m.	11 - Parashat Tetzaveh	תצוה
12	13	14	15 - Talmud Class 8-9:30 p.m.	16	17 - Light candles 5:15 p.m.	18 - Parashat Ki Teesa	כי תשא
19	20 - President's Day	21	22 - Talmud Class, 8-9:30 p.m.	23	24 - Light candles 5:23 p.m.	25 - Shabbat Shekalim - Parashat Vayakhel	שקלים - ויקהל
26	27	28					



Su-
per
Sun-
day

SUPER SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 5, 1995

ANSWER
THE CALL &
REACH OUT
TO HELP

4.5 million people a year.
One at a time.

UJA-FEDERATION
of New York

To volunteer or learn more
about this community-wide
phone-a-thon call:

N.Y.C. (212) 836-1000
 L.I. (516) 877-1000
 West. (814) 761-5100

Capital Campaign Report

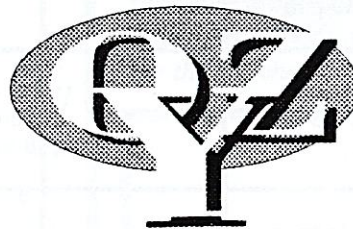
This Fall marked an exciting and important step in the growth of Congregation Or Zarua as we began to celebrate Shabbat in our newly refurbished building on 82nd Street. Fresh paint, polished pews reconfigured to suit our style of worship and study, lovely new chandeliers have all immeasurably enhanced the beautiful simplicity of our Synagogue. But as we enjoy the luxury of having our own space, its limitations have confirmed ever more powerfully the urgency of proceeding with our plans to build a home which will suit all the needs of our growing congregation. It would take the space of this entire newsletter to describe the difficulties of managing a Congregation with an office and Hebrew School housed separately and at a distance from the Synagogue. The parents of young children feel particularly frustrated by the lack of space for children to

play and learn safely and most importantly to feel a part of the Shabbat service. All these hardships are temporary as our building plans go forward, both through the City bureaucracy, and most importantly, as we seek to raise the funds.

In order to achieve the goal we have set for ourselves, we must raise a total of \$5.5 million. To date, we have pledges of \$2 million. We must raise another \$1 million by June, 1995 if we are to be able to proceed with the beginning of construction by next summer. The help and involvement of each and every congregant is critical to our success. Please call and let me know that you want to be involved. The faster we raise the funds, the sooner we will have the home our Congregation needs.

Mimi Alperin
Chair, Capital Campaign

Youth



Services



Two Youth Services, the first for children ages 2 through 4, and the second for children 5 through 6 will be held in the lower level of 127 East 82nd Street every Shabbat morning, promptly at 11:00 a.m. ending at noon. The second service (for older children) is for children only (no parents). At the conclusion of the Youth Services, the children are escorted to the main service to join our congregants in the concluding hymns and Kiddush. Older children are welcome to serve in leadership roles.

ATTENTION HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS:

Steven Spielberg has established a foundation whose purpose is to conduct on-camera personal interviews with Holocaust survivors, thus preserving their experiences for posterity. The interviews are to be conducted in the homes of the Survivors.

There are Survivors in our own congregation, some of whom have written books recounting their experiences. But the personal interview, presenting the face and the voice of the Survivor, has great impact. If you are a Survivor and if you want to be interviewed, please call the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation at 1-800-661-1091.

Although based in California, the Foundation has already established 16 regional offices throughout the USA. Therefore, you may also use that number to volunteer as an office assistant, camera assistant, or in some other way; application forms for such Volunteer positions are also available at the Synagogue office. If you know any Survivors, please pass this information along to them.

Notice - Prayer leaders, Torah and Haftarah readers needed

All actual and potential prayer leaders, Torah and Haftarah readers are urged to volunteer their services. Anyone with a good knowledge of the Hebrew language is a candidate to learn how to lead services, read Torah and Haftarah. Many of our members who now lead services and read Torah and Haftarah on a regular basis learned to do so at Or Zarua!

Should you wish to learn, or volunteer your services, or just want to find out more, please speak to Neal Kozodoy or Steve Agus after services or leave a message with the Or Zarua office.

Thinking about college?

Imagine a school where you would engage in serious Jewish studies and pursue an outstanding liberal arts course of study

The Albert A. List College of Jewish Studies
the undergraduate school of
The Jewish Theological Seminary of America
and
Columbia University/Barnard College

offers students the best of both worlds

For more information, call
The Office of Admissions at
(212) 678-8832

Or Zarua Bulletin Board

Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club will take place at the home of Rochelle and Martin Spergel, 300 East 59th Street, Apartment 2106., on Sunday, January 8, 1995 at 7:30 p.m. The book for discussion will be Joseph Heller's "Closing Time". Please call the Spermels at 935-8975 to let them know you are coming.

Women's Study Group

A Women's Study Group, led by Susan Fendrick, a rabbinical student in her final year at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, meets monthly during the evening in members' homes to discuss the role of Jewish women from biblical times up to the present day. We are currently studying life cycles and rituals. The next meetings of the Women's Study Group will be on January 24th at 8 p.m.. A nominal fee is charged. For additional information and location, call Linda Agus at 861-6932 (home) or 869-3500 (office). No Shabbat calls, please.

Shabbat service tapes available

Tapes of an Or Zarua Shabbat service, suitable to give as a gift, are available at the Or Zarua office for \$10 each. Call Enid Menzies at 410-6041

Siddur Brunch

(continued from page 1)

reached the room's capacity. Be sure to r.s.v.p. to the synagogue's office soon (410-6041) to make certain you are on the list for January 8th. At the time of your call, we will give you the location.

Give us eight students, and we'll give you a class

Several congregants have expressed interest in specific areas of learning. We would like to organize classes, to meet in a variety of locations, but we cannot do so unless we have a minimum of 8 participants. We are currently organizing classes in:

1. **Beginner's Hebrew**, so that you can follow the synagogue service.

2. **Haftarah class** - Learn to read a Haftarah.

3. **Basic Judaism** - What are the holidays? What are the principal beliefs? What are the basics that every Jew should know?

Call the office and enlist! When we have eight participants for a class, it will begin.

To Congregation Or Zarua

My recent trauma was devastating — but I am not devastated. Both physically and spiritually I feel strengthened by the outpouring of concern and wishes for my recovery. Indeed, Or Zarua sheds the light that shows the way, and I am fortunate to follow.

Love,

Alice Canick

Portrait of Dr. Jonathan Sarna

Dr. Jonathan Sarna was born in Philadelphia, and raised in New York and Boston. He attended Brandeis University, the Boston Hebrew College, and Merkaz HaRav Kook in Jerusalem. He obtained his doctorate from Yale University in 1979.

From 1979 to 1990, Dr Sarna taught at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, where he rose to become Professor of American Jewish History and Director for the Center of the Study of The American Jewish Experience. He has also taught at Yale University, the University of Cincinnati and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Dr. Sarna came back to Brandeis in 1990 to assume the new Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professorship in American Jewish History in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies. In 1992 he was elected chair of that department; he is the youngest chair in its forty year history. Simultaneously, he also chairs the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society. In addition, Dr. Sarna also directs the Joint Seminar in American Jewish Studies, edits Brandeis Studies in American Jewish History, Culture and Life with the University Press of New England, and co-edits The American Jewish Civilization Series at Wayne State University Press.

Dr. Sarna has written, edited or co-edited twelve books, including The American Jewish Experience, a reader; People Walk on Their Heads, a volume dealing with Jewish immigrant life in New York; Jacksonian Jew, a biography of Mordecai Noah that was nominated for the National Jewish Book Award; JPS, a history of the Jewish Publication Society, and with Nancy Klein, The Jews of Cincinnati, a community history.

Articles and reviews by Dr. Sarna appear regularly in scholarly and popular journals, among them, Commentary, Moment, and the Journal of American History. In addition, he sits on the editorial committees of American Jewish History and Religion and American Culture; and serves as Book Review Editor in American Judaism for Religious Studies Review.

Dr. Sarna is currently working on several projects, including a documentary history of religion and State issues affecting American Jews, an interpretive history of American Judaism, and an illustrated history of the Jews of Boston. He is married to Dr. Ruth Langer, and they have two children, Aaron and Leah.

Contributions

Kiddush Fund

Murray and Joyce Cohen
Richard and Janet Cohen, in
honor of the naming of
their daughter, Emma
Molly
Helen Ferszt, in honor of her
husband, Roger's 72nd
birthday
Andrew Frackman and Emily
Braun, in honor of the
birth of their son, Jacob
Ted and Eva Lazarus, in
honor of their daughter
Batsheva's Bat Mitzvah
Yehuda Nir and Bonnie
Maslin, in honor of the
occasion of the 21st
anniversary of Yehuda's
missing their wedding
Meyer and Shirley Okrent, in
honor of the naming of
Rebecca and Rachel
Okrent
Paul Posner and Terry
Krulwich, in honor of Or
Zarua's marathoners, Dore
Hollander and Michael
Fandal
James and Martha Sasmor, in
honor of the marriage of
Miriam Wallerstein's son,
William to Meryll Mayer
David and Susan Shapiro
Edward and Elyse Siegel, in
honor of the aufruf of
daughter Evee and Lt.
David Gardner
Donald and Hinda Sussman,
in memory of Donald's
mother, Rose Sussman
Ann Wimpfheimer, in honor
of her mother, Vicki's
birthday

Designated Special Gift

Sam and Francine Klagsbrun

Hesed Fund

David Araten
Murray and Joyce Cohen
Bart and Georgia Farber
Andrew Frackman and Emily
Braun

Judith Goldstein
Sam and Ruth Perelson
Victoria Schonfeld and
Victor Friedman

Hesed Food Fund

Mort and Shiela Braunstein
Paula Chalfin
Daniel and Alisa Doctoroff,
in memory of Samuel
Medoff
Ruth Drazen, in memory of
her mother, Jessie Yorkin
Glenn and Zella Goldfinger
Mina, John and Elizabeth
Greenstein, in memory of
Marvin Greenstein
Terry Krulwich, in memory
of her mother, Beatrice
Krulwich
Jack and Esther Oberman, in
memory of Harold Heller,
brother of Leon Heller;
Flora Gluck, mother of
Stanley Gluck; and Alan
Marks, husband of Helen
Marks
James and Martha Sasmor
Gladys Schlanger
Barry and Judith Schneider
Albert and Claire Schussler
Albert Sussman
David and Elise Strauss
William and Muriel
Tannenbaum, in memory
of their parents, Mollie
Tannenbaum and Jack
Silver
Marc and Sharon Teitelbaum
Vicki Wimpfheimer

Prayer Book Fund

Arthur and Helene Goodman,
in memory of Rose
Sussman, Donald
Sussman's mother
Sidney and Helen Squire, in
memory of Helen's
brother, Dr. Joel
Friedman
Sidney and Helen Squire, in
memory of Harvey
Goldberg
Sidney and Helen Squire, in
memory of Milton Taylor

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Johanna Kaplan, with
gratitude to Rabbi
Wechsler

General

Stephen and Linda Agus, in
memory of Harold Heller,
Leon's brother
Faye Baron, with thanks for
inclusion of prayers for
her sick friend in our
Shabbat services, and
with gratitude for her
own wonderful life
Richard and Janet Cohen, in
honor of the naming of
their daughter, Emma
Molly
Murray and Joyce Cohen, in
honor of Mimi Alperin,
Gladys Schlanger and
Henry Wollman
Ruth Druss, in memory of
her husband, Joseph
George Druss
Eva and Yoel Haller, in
honor of their very
special friends, Alan and
Pat Davidson
Avery Krut
Philip and Susan Lasker
Helen Lifton, in memory of
Rae Gordon
Yehuda Nir and Bonnie
Maslin, in memory of the
beloved brother of
Bernard Manuel
Meyer and Shirley Okrent,
aliyah contribution
Philip and Barabara Pakula,
in memory of Barbara's
mother, Estelle
Zuckerman, on her
yahrzeit
Esther Panitz, in memory of
her father, Robert
Allentuck, on his yahrzeit
Esther Panitz, in honor of
Hannukah
Hyman Panush, in honor of
his granddaughter, Zelda
Shoshana Panush
Joseph and Phyllis Rothstein,
in memory of Robert
Towers

Barry and Judith Schneider
Irving Shapiro, in honor of
David and Susan Shapiro
and Rabbi Wechsler and
Mrs. Friedland-Wechsler
Aaron Shelden and Diane
Okrent, *Yizkor* (Shmini
Atzeret)
Aaron Shelden and Diane
Okrent in memory of
Rose Sussman, Donald's
mother
Reba Shelden, *Yizkor*
(Shmini Atzeret)
Edward and Elyse Siegel, in
memory of their parents
Benjamin Roth, Bertha
Roth, Bernice Roth and
Charles Siegel
Sidney Tager
Elia and Renee Toueg, in
memory of Renee's father,
Moses Eichler, and Elia's
brother, Maurice Salem
Toueg

Kol Nidre Appeal

Arthur and Willi Aeder
Sally Ruth Brooks
Jean Dardick
Ran and Laurel Eisenbruch
Michael Fandal
Leonard and Constance
Goodman
Joyce Hauser
Leon and Susan Heller
Andrew Hirsch
Mark and Hannah Kinn
Martin and Carol Koshakow
Mickey Krulwich
Ted and Eva Lazarus
Maurice Lefkort
Jack and Rose Less
Howard Levy and Susan
Klim
Herbert Lukashok
Ira and Stephanie Rubin
Harvey and Justine Schussler
Edward and Elyse Siegel
Philip and Abby Thomas
Alan Weinberg and Emily
Frank

*Building fund contributions will
appear in a later issue. All
contributions listed were received
in the Or Zarua office on or prior
to December 27, 1994.
Contributions received thereafter
will be listed in a later issue*

We welcome . . .

Congregation Or Zarua welcomes the following new members to its growing congregational family:

David and Michelle Cooperberg
 Richard Goldberg
 Joyce Hauser
 Alexander and Sharon Mack
 Charles and Ora Ramat
 Bruce Roberts
 Robert Skolnick and Ellen Bromberg
 Skolnick
 Jerome and Linda Spitzer
 Betty Jane Mintz and Stanley Tuhim
 Chaim Wachsberger and Liz Neumark

Hevra Kadisha Meeting, January 5th

The next meeting of the Hevra Kadisha will take place on Thursday, January 5th at 7:30 p.m. at the synagogue building, 127 East 82nd Street. All interested men and women are invited to attend and learn more about the work of the Hevra Kadisha.

Mazal Tov To

Andrew Frackman and Emily Braun, on the birth of their son, **Jacob**

Marguerite Lederberg, on the marriage of her son **Alice Shuchman**, on the marriage of her daughter, **Nina**, to **Brian Roth**.

Elyse and Edward Siegel, on the marriage of their daughter, **Evee**, to **Lt. David Gardner**

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