

Or Zarua

HESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5770

NEWSLETTER/VOLUME 22:1

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

Recovering the Past: A Jewish Journey

Shabbaton, Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14

As the Shabbat Torah readings recall Abraham's journey, we will have the opportunity to experience some contemporary personal journeys. At Shabbat dinner, author Lucette Lagnado describes growing up as a Jew in Cairo. Musician Joey Weisenberg returns to lead us in melodies that reflect his efforts to recover lost Jewish music. In addition to Friday night dinner and Saturday lunch, there will be a Seudah Sh'lisheit on Shabbat afternoon at 4 p.m. at the home of Joanne and Marc Ashley.

Separate reservations are required for dinner and lunch. \$36 adults; \$15 children aged 5-12; children under 5, no charge. There is no charge for the Seudah.

RSVP by Monday, November 9 to 212-452-2310, ext. 39, or www.orzarua.org.

Lucette Lagnado: Growing Up in Cairo

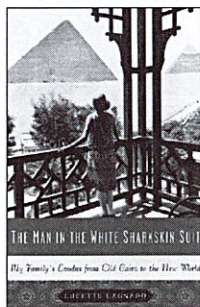
On Friday night, November 13, our Shabbaton will commence with a Shabbat dinner and a discussion with award-winning author Lucette Lagnado on her family's life in Cairo, Egypt. In 1963, while Lucette was a young child, the family left Egypt as refugees. Her life in Cairo and the family's forced departure under the dictatorship of Gamal Abdel Nasser are the subject of her recently published memoir, *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: My Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World* (Ecco/Harper Collins, 2007). After leaving Cairo, the family lived in Paris for a little more than a year before finally settling in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. Her father, who had been a thriving businessman in Cairo, did not regain his prominence in business in Brooklyn.



Lucette Lagnado

Lucette, a journalist, is a graduate of Vassar College. She has worked as an investigative reporter for columnist Jack Anderson and as a reporter for the *New York Post* and *The Village Voice*. She was also an editor with *The Forward*. In 1996, she joined *The Wall Street Journal*, where, since 2000, she has been a senior special writer in the New York Bureau. She concentrates her efforts on health care and hospitals.

Lucette is the 2008 winner of the Sami Rohr Prize, which is presented by the Jewish Book Council to emerging writers who have produced significant Jewish literature. She has also won numerous awards in journalism, including awards from the Columbia School of Journalism, USC, and the New York Press Club.



In addition to *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: My Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World*, Lucette is also the author of *Children of the Flames: Dr. Mengele and the Untold Story of the Twins of Auschwitz* (William Morrow and Co., 1991). This book examines the lives of the twins who survived Mengele's unscientific human experiments after the liberation of the concentration camps.

Lucette resides in New York City with her husband.

Joey Weisenberg and Jewish Music

By Marc Ashley

Based on the belief that more spirited prayer leads to greater spirituality and that more *ruah* results in deeper religious experience, we have worked recently to improve the quality of our prayer services. Our hard work has begun to pay off. Our services are more vibrant and energized than ever, filled with higher-quality music, more enthusiastic singing and greater *kavvanah*. But we think we can do even better, reaching greater heights as a davening community.



Joey Weisenberg

That is our goal—both lofty and practical—in welcoming back Joey Weisenberg to lead us in song and prayer, in a singing module as well as a Shabbaton. In four sessions (on October 29 and November 5, 12 and 19 at 7:30 p.m.) devoted to enriching our familiarity with the melodies and rhythms of the Kabbalat Shabbat service, Joey will help us continue our upward musical trajectory. Joey's positive impact on our services has already been significant. His "spontaneous Jewish choir" sessions last year helped elevate the quality and vibrancy of our Shabbat Musaf service. Over the past year, we have incorporated into our Musaf service elegant niggunim and energetic melodies that Joey taught in those sessions. Those singable melodies have already become, in a relatively short time, emblems of our Shabbat service and occasions for robust communal prayer.

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ק"ק אור זרוע

Congregation

OrZarua

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

127 East 82nd Street

New York, NY 10028

phone: 212-452-2310 fax: 212-452-2103

www.orzarua.org

DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, Rabbi

ANDREW J. FRACKMAN, President

HARVEY M. BRENNER, FTA, Executive Director

ILANA BURGESS, Youth Education Director

CHARLES SPIELHOLZ, Newsletter Editor

OZ Committee Chairs

ADMINISTRATION	Alan Ilberman
AESTHETICS	Aaron Shelden
BOOK DISCUSSION	Reed Schneider
BUILDING	Diane Okrent
CEMETERY	Aliza Kaplan Mort Schwartz
HESED	Stephanie Failla
HEVRA KADISHA	Vera Silver Gerry Solomon
HOUSE	Janet Katz
ISRAEL	Aliza Kaplan
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MINYAN	Sheldon Adler
PROGRAMMING	Sara Stone
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Aaron Shelden
PURIM SPIEL	Arthur Rosenbloom Bonnie Maslin Tibor Feldman Barbara Sassoon
SCHOOL	Betsy Dizengoff
TORAH/HAFTARAH	Yaakov Shechter
WEBMASTER	Jay Palmer

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

Recovering the Past

Joey Weisenberg and Jewish Music

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This fall's musical sessions, focused on the Friday night service, are again intended for anyone interested in singing or simply listening—for both aspiring service leaders and those content just to sing along with others, regardless of age, musical background or talent. The sessions are designed to enhance your enjoyment and knowledge of Jewish liturgical music. And singing beautiful melodies side-by-side with fellow Congregants—in a dynamic chorus of voices that will ascend the heights of the vestibule outside our sanctuary—will be guaranteed fun for all who attend.

A gifted musician and charismatic music teacher, Joey has nurtured an appreciation for Jewish melodies in diverse settings. At age twelve, Joey began performing as a harmonica player and guitarist in blues bars in Milwaukee. He currently performs as a mandolinist and guitarist (among other instruments) with a variety of bands and klezmer revival groups, and as a leader of his own ensembles, in venues all over the world. Yet Joey is not merely an exceptional musician. A student of traditional Jewish *nusah*, Joey is also an explorer of Jewish tunes lost in the aftermath of the Holocaust. He seeks

to recover bygone melodies, some centuries-old, and reintroduce them into the fabric of living Jewish song and prayer.

We will again be the beneficiaries of Joey's extensive efforts and talents. The fall singing sessions will lead up to our Shabbaton on November 13 and 14, "Recovering the Past: A Jewish Journey," which will highlight two searches for contemporary Jewish meaning. Following Kabbalat Shabbat services led by Joey, the Friday night dinner will feature author Lucette Lagnado describing her childhood as a Jew in Cairo, Egypt. At the Saturday luncheon following services and kiddush, Joey will discuss his ongoing efforts to decipher written Jewish music of the past through recovered songsters and *nusah* books. A *Seudah Sh'lishit* will then be held on Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. at the home of Marc and Joanne Ashley, at which Joey will help us immerse ourselves in stirring Jewish tunes as Shabbat draws to a close.

Please join us for both the Kabbalat Shabbat singing sessions and the various Shabbaton events, which will be filled with rousing and inspirational music in addition to insightful discussion. Your soul will surely be enriched by the experience.

Weekday Minyan

Your help is needed to strengthen the Or Zarua Minyan

Did you know that Or Zarua runs a daily minyan every weekday morning? Shaharit, the morning service, begins at 7:15 a.m., Monday through Friday, except on Rosh Hodesh and Hol Hamoed, when it begins at 7:00 a.m. On Sundays, Shaharit begins at 8:45 a.m. Each morning, Barkhu is said and the Amidah is recited with the Kedushah. The weekly Torah portion is read every Monday and Thursday. On Rosh Hodesh and during Hol Hamoed, the

appropriate Torah portions are read. Each morning, there are Congregants and guests who are reciting the Mourner's Kaddish. In order to accomplish these prayers, a minyan of 10 is needed. And to ensure a minyan at Or Zarua we need your help. If you want to be part of the minyan on any given morning, all you need to do is attend. If you want to help strengthen the Or Zarua minyan, please sign up for a morning or two each month by contacting Sheldon Adler at sadler@skadden.com.

Hanukkah Basics

Frequently Asked Holiday Questions

What's a menorah? We call the familiar piece of Judaica we use on Hanukkah either a hanukkiah (as they do in Israel) or a Hanukkah menorah. A menorah is simply a lamp. The original menorah was the seven-branched candelabrum fashioned by Bezalel for the Tabernacle and then for the Temple (Exodus 25). This type of menorah—carved in a relief on the Arch of Titus, stamped into ancient coins, and represented in the seal of the State of Israel—has no ritual function today. The Hanukkah menorah differs in that it has eight branches, plus the shamash.

What blessings do we recite before lighting the candles? On the first night of Hanukkah, we say three blessings: "L'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah," "she-asah nisim lavotenu bayamim hahem bazman hazeh," and "shehekheyanu." On subse-

quent nights, we say only the first two. We say the appropriate blessings and then light the candles.

In which order do we light the candles?

On the first night, we put one candle on the right side of the hanukkiah. The second night and thereafter we add lights to the left. After reciting the berakhot, use the shamash (servant candle) to light the new candle first, then the others in descending order. Place the hanukkiah on a windowsill facing the street so that it can be seen from outside.

What about Shabbat during Hanukkah?

On Friday night, light the Hanukkah candles first—before Shabbat—then light the Shabbat candles. On Saturday night, light the Hanukkah candles after Shabbat ends.

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New Members' Reception

Monday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Each November, we hold a special reception to honor and meet Congregation Or Zarua's new members. On Monday, November 9, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., all OZ Congregants are invited to the home of Karen and Henry Glanternik to welcome these new members into our community.

Please join us in this Or Zarua tradition. Don't miss a wonderful opportunity to socialize with new and long-standing members of the OZ community in the friendly, informal setting of a member's home. RSVP by November 2 at 212-452-2310, ext. 39 or www.orzarua.org.

OZ's College Connection

Holiday Gift Packages for College Students

We are once again collecting the school addresses of all Congregants' children who are away at college in order to mail gift packages to the students on Hanukkah and Purim. To help us remain in contact with these family members while

they are away from home, please send your child's name, school address, and email address to the synagogue office to Dina Linsk at dlinsk@orzarua.org or mail the information to the synagogue office, attention "College."

CONGREGATIONAL SHABBAT HANUKKAH DINNER

Friday, December 11
immediately following services,
which begin at 4:12 p.m.

It's not for kids only—it's for all generations! Join the Or Zarua community for traditional foods, songs and games.

Rabbi Ezra Amichai, visiting from Israel for Hanukkah, also will bring his *ruah* to our Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service and Shabbat Hanukkah dinner on December 11, as well as to our Shaharit service (which includes Hallel) on Shabbat Hanukkah morning, December 12.

Please make dinner reservations by
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

\$36 adults; \$15 children aged 5-12;
children under 5, no charge

RSVP: 212-452-2310, ext. 39
or www.orzarua.org

Helping the Homeless

Support Or Zarua's Programs in Partnership with NCS

For nearly 10 years, Congregation Or Zarua has been partnered with the Upper East Side Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter (NCS). Founded in 1982, NCS has helped more than 25,000 homeless and formerly homeless individuals find food, shelter, counseling, employment, and, in many cases, a home to call their own. NCS provides a full spectrum of services, aimed at helping people move from the streets to housing and independence. Or Zarua projects at NCS have been numerous and on-going. Mondays nights are Pizza Night at the NCS 81st Street residence: Or Zarua provides pizza, salad and drinks; OZ volunteers set up, serve, and schmooze with the residents. On

Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve our volunteers box up entrees and desserts and deliver them to the NCS residence (as well as to Ronald McDonald House). Other joint NCS projects included a "Dignity Drive" during which OZ's Hebrew School students collected undergarments and toiletries for distribution to the former 77th Street Shelter, and Purim Mitzvah projects, which have entailed making sandwiches for NCS residents and collecting canned goods for donation.

The Monday Pizza Night program costs \$180 each week. Your checks sent in support of this program will help Congregation Or Zarua perform good deeds in our neighborhood.

TALMUD CLASS

Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.
in the OZ Library

This year, we are studying the fourth chapter of *Bava Metzia*, which covers disputes over financial matters. The fourth chapter deals with fraud, from the subject of price fixing, to truth in advertising. As well, the use of language to mislead becomes, by association, a related issue that is discussed.

Classes are taught by
RABBI WECHSLER

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

OZ Cemetery

Gravesites for Members

The Or Zarua section of Beth El Cemetery is located in Washington Township (Bergen County), New Jersey, just ten 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



Entering the Or Zarua section of Beth El Cemetery through the stone threshold.

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. If you are interested in buying gravesites in the Or Zarua section, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext. 14.

Connect to Care

Loan Program of UJA-Federation of New York

In response to these challenging times, UJA-Federation of New York has created a program called Connect to Care to help members of the Jewish community who have been hurt by the current economic downturn.

UJA has recently introduced a new component of Connect to Care which offers residents of Manhattan and Westchester interest-free loans designed to help middle-income Jewish families help themselves. They are funded by UJA-Federation and administered by the Hebrew Free Loan Society. The interest-free loans provide up to \$10,000 to Jewish families significantly affected by the recession who do not have sufficient, nonretirement savings to pay for a compelling, nonrecurring need. UJA-Federa-

tion's Connect to Care Loan Program is open to families who had pre-recession gross family income of up to \$140,000 and lost significant income because of the recession.

For further information, or to learn more about whether the loan program is right for you, a loved one, or someone else in the community, please contact one of the following:

In Manhattan, the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services at 1-212-399-2685, ext. 206 or connect-to-care@jbfcs.org.

In Westchester, Westchester Jewish Community Services at 1-914-470-5721 or connect-to-care@wjcs.com.

Or visit the New York UJA-Federation website at <http://www.ujafedny.org>.

OR ZARUA IS ON FACEBOOK!

Facebook is a great way to catch up with friends and family—and now you can add Or Zarua to your network. Sign up and log on to Facebook at www.facebook.com, search for "Or Zarua" and become a "fan" today!

Junior Congregation and Tot Shabbat

Expanded Services for Or Zarua Youth

While Congregation Or Zarua has long held Junior Congregation for its youth, we have expanded the format to include even more opportunities for our youth to become further engaged in their own services.

We will be building upon the Hebrew School Shabbat Service that Hebrew School students attend monthly. That service, which will remain open to all Or Zarua youth, will continue to be noted in the OZ newsletter calendar as "Junior Congregation." The next Hebrew School Shabbat services are scheduled for November 14 and December 5.

In addition, Or Zarua will now hold a new, fully teen-led Shabbat morning service once a month for youth in grades 2 and up. Post-B'nei Mitzvah youth will

lead prayers and read Torah and Haftorah, while Pre-B'nei Mitzvah youth will lead portions of the service. Teens interested in participating should contact Laurie Dien at ayaillen@rcn.com. The more teens who participate, the more enjoyable the service! To date, teen-led services are scheduled for November 21 (Parashat Toldot) and January 30 (Parashat Beshalah).

On the remaining Shabbatot, we will continue to have Junior Congregation, but these services will be geared toward youngsters in grades 2 to Pre-B'nei Mitzvah, who will be encouraged to take more active roles in the service. Post-B'nei Mitzvah teens are welcome to help with the service and encouraged to attend in order to provide mentoring for their younger counterparts.

Tot Shabbat services continue each

week with a newly expanded Tot Shabbat Siddur. Families with young children should receive their own copy of the siddur in the mail soon. Please contact Ilana Burgess if you do not receive one. If you know of other families with toddlers to invite, please give us their addresses and we will be happy to send them Tot Shabbat Siddurs as well! Children should add their own artwork to the siddur, and then bring it to Tot Shabbat services. Services are for babies through children age 6. We will be introducing a new Tot Shabbat leader in November.

We welcome all our OZ youth to participate in these wonderful services. All services begin at 10:30 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Ilana Burgess at iburgess@orzarua.org.

Family and Youth Activities

November

Saturday, November 14 • 10:30 a.m.
JUNIOR CONGREGATION
for 2nd grade and older. Service led by students, teachers and parents.

Sunday, November 15 • 5:00 p.m.
USY AND KADIMA
Activity to be decided by the students.

Saturday, November 21 • 10:30 a.m.
FIRST OZY TEEN-LED SERVICE

Sunday, November 22 • 10:30 a.m.
ANNUAL TALENT SHOW
Sing, dance or rock and roll to raise money for Gil School in S'derot.

December

Saturday, December 5 • 10:30 a.m.
JUNIOR CONGREGATION
for 2nd grade and older. Service led by students, teachers and parents.

Friday, December 11,
following Kabbalat Shabbat
HANUKKAH, OH HANUKKAH DINNER!
Who can retell the things that befell us?

We sure can! Dreidels, dreidels everywhere; stories, songs and games, donuts and latkes. Enjoy a traditional Hanukkah celebration on the first night of the holiday. Reservations required. Adults, \$36; Children 5-12, \$15

Saturday, December 12 • 5:00 p.m.
USY AND KADIMA
Game show and party.

Sunday, December 13 • 4:00 p.m.
LET'S LIGHT UP OR ZARUA
Bring your own hanukkah and celebrate the third night of Hanukkah together.

Upcoming Events in 2010

Sunday, February 28 • TBA
PURIM CELEBRATION
Together we will read a special Megillah, have a costume showing and share Mishloach Manot.

Saturday, April 10 • TBA
YOM HASHOAH VEHA'G'VURAH
Join us for a special musical and oral presentation by our teens and our community leaders. Let's not forget.

HEBREW SCHOOL CALENDAR

November 2009

- Sat 14** Junior Congregation, 10:30 a.m.
Mon 16 B'nai Jeshurun, 6 p.m.
Sat 21 Teen-Led Services, 10:30 a.m.
Sun 22 Annual Talent Show, 10:30 a.m.
(Everyone is invited)
Wed 25 Thanksgiving (no classes)
Thu 26 Thanksgiving (no classes)

December 2009

- Sat 5** Junior Congregation, 10:30 a.m.
Mon 21 Winter Break (no classes)

January 2010

- Mon 3** Classes resume



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

November 2009 • Heshvan/Kislev 5770

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 • 14 Heshvan 8:45 am Sunday Minyan <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	2 • 15 7:15 am Minyan	3 • 16 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Me'ah Class	4 • 17 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	5 • 18 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Joey Weisenberg Music Session	6 • 19 7:15 am Minyan 4:29 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	7 • 20 9:00 am Shaharit Vayera Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Norflus
8 • 21 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 10:15 am Crafts Club	9 • 22 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm New Members' Reception	10 • 23 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Me'ah Class	11 • 24 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	12 • 25 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Joey Weisenberg Music Session	13 • 26 7:15 am Minyan 4:22 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Shabbaton Dinner: <i>Recovering the Past</i> with Lucette Lagnado and Joey Weisenberg	14 • 27 9:00 am Shaharit Haye Sarah 10:30 am Junior Congregation Shabbaton Lunch with Joey Weisenberg 4:00 pm Seudah Sh'lshit
15 • 28 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 5:00 pm USY and Kadima	16 • 29 7:15 am Minyan	17 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Kislev I 7:00 am Minyan 7:00 pm Me'ah Class	18 • 1 Kislev Rosh Hodesh Kislev II 7:00 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	19 • 2 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Joey Weisenberg Music Session	20 • 3 7:15 am Minyan 4:17 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	21 • 4 9:00 am Shaharit Toledot Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Drucker 10:30 am Teen-led services
22 • 5 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 10:30 am Annual Youth Talent Show	23 • 6 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Hevra Kadisha Meeting	24 • 7 7:15 am Minyan	25 • 8 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	26 • 9 Thanksgiving 8:45 am Minyan Office closed	27 • 10 8:45 am Minyan 4:13 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Office closed	28 • 11 9:00 am Shaharit Vayetze
29 • 12 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	30 • 13 7:15 am Minyan					



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December 2009 • Kislev / Tevet 5770

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 • 14 Kislev 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Me'ah Class	2 • 15 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	3 • 16 7:15 am Minyan	4 • 17 7:15 am Minyan 4:11 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	5 • 18 9:00 am Shahrut Vayishlah Bar Mitzvah of Lawrence Edelstein 10:30 Junior Congregation
6 • 19 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 7:30 pm Book Discussion	7 • 20 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Me'ah Makeup Class	8 • 21 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Me'ah Class	9 • 22 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	10 • 23 7:15 am Minyan	11 • 24 7:00 am Minyan 4:10 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Ezra Amichai Hanukkah Dinner Hanukkah: 1 Candle	12 • 25 9:00 am Shahrut with Rabbi Ezra Amichai Vayeshev Bat Mitzvah of Juliet Kopel 5:00 pm USY/Kadima Game Show and Party Hanukkah: 2 Candles
13 • 26 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 10:15 am Crafts Club 4:00 pm Family Hanukkah Party Hanukkah: 3 Candles	14 • 27 7:15 am Minyan Hanukkah: 4 Candles	15 • 28 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Me'ah Class Hanukkah: 5 Candles	16 • 29 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class Hanukkah: 6 Candles	17 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Tevet I 7:00 am Minyan Hanukkah: 7 Candles	18 • 1 Tevet Rosh Hodesh Tevet II 7:00 am Minyan 4:12 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Hanukkah: 8 Candles	19 • 2 9:00 am Shahrut Miketz
20 • 3 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	21 • 4 7:15 am Minyan Hebrew School Winter Break	22 • 5 7:15 am Minyan	23 • 6 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class Hebrew School Winter Break	24 • 7 7:15 am Minyan Hebrew School Winter Break	25 • 8 8:45 am Minyan 4:15 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Office closed	26 • 9 9:00 am Shahrut Vayigash
27 • 10 Asara B'Tvet 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	28 • 11 7:15 am Minyan Hebrew School Winter Break	29 • 12 7:15 am Minyan	30 • 13 7:15 am Minyan Hebrew School Winter Break	31 • 14 7:15 am Minyan Hebrew School Winter Break		

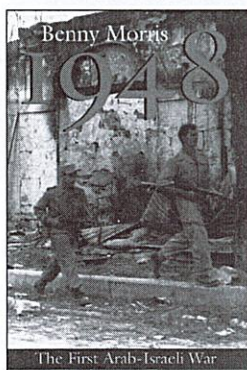
Or Zarua Book Discussions

1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War by Benny Morris

Please join us for our next Or Zarua

book discussion on Sunday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Or Zarua library. We will discuss Benny Morris'

1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War. A professor of history in the Middle



East Studies Department at Ben-Gurion University in Israel, Benny Morris is a key figure among Israel's "New Historians," whose writings attempt to realign our thinking about and understanding of the various Arab-Israeli wars.

1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War covers the first war of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Like other histories written by Benny Morris, it is revisionist. The book reviews the military history and the political thinking that was involved in carrying out the war. The author uses newly available documents from both the Israeli gov-

ernment and Western governments. Since documents from Arab countries are still not available to historians, Morris depends on various intelligence and diplomatic materials. Morris discusses the jihadist character of the Arabs, the refugee issue and the role of the West, as well as that of the Soviet Union, in the 1948 war.

If you would like more information on Or Zarua book discussions or have a book suggestion, please call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext. 12, or Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611, or email dlinsk@orzarua.org.

Or Zarua Crafts Club

Contribute to Mitzvah Projects or Work on Your Own

Do you like to knit or crochet? Join the OZ Crafts Club! Our newest mitzvah project is making blankets for premature babies at the New York-

Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. We are also working on our third afghan for the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services Sanctuary Stitchers program (www.sanctuarystitchers.org), which services children living in residential treatment facilities.

You can contribute to these projects or work on



your own personal projects. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Upcoming meetings are on Sunday, November 8 and



Sunday, December 13 from 10:15-11:45 a.m. in the 4th floor library. For more information, email Carrie Fox at cfox@aya.yale.edu.

Blankets made by OZ Crafts Club members for premature babies in the New York-Presbyterian Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Life Events at OZ

Members of our congregation are sometimes faced with painful, and, in some cases, tragic, events in their lives. If you know of a member of the congregation who is coping with extended illness, hospitalization, or a death in their family, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310 so that Rabbi Wechsler can be informed. Press extension 14 for the executive director or extension 12 for the rabbi's assistant.

SHABBAT MELODIES ON OR ZARUA WEBSITE

You can access the Shabbat Melodies page directly at:

<http://www.orzarua.org/davening.shtml>

Or go to www.orzarua.org and click the link on the home page.

Shabbat Melodies are in mp3 and wma formats, which play in both Mac and Windows environments.

MEET, GREET & SEAT Ushers are needed for Shabbat services throughout the year. Please email Janet Katz at jmktatz@nyc.rr.com to add your name to our list of volunteers. You will be contacted by email only. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Webster Ward: A Man of Dignity

in Memoriam

In our earliest days, Congregation Or Zarua acquired office space at 1364 Lexington Avenue directly across the street from the 92nd Street Y, where we held Shabbat morning services for our first five years. Initially, we had no regular custodial staff and occasionally some of those tasks fell to Rabbi Wechsler. By 1991 we knew we needed to move beyond that and hire a custodian. Elise Strauss, then an OZ Board member, told us that she knew the perfect person for us, and so she did. She introduced us to Webster Ward, with whom we were privileged to work from that time until his retirement at the end of June 2008.

Webster was an extraordinary person. Not only did he maintain our first floor, "lower level" office and the second floor that we later rented, but, as we had very limited storage space in the 92nd Street Y chapel, he was responsible for moving most of our davening material and Kiddush goods each and every week back and forth to and from the Y. The challenges and surprises that we were confronted with on an all-too-frequent basis never fazed Webster. There was an awful lot of moving around of items in those days and Webster managed it all without question or complaint. He also told the rabbi, in no uncertain terms, that it was his responsibility, and not the rabbi's, to put out the garbage.

When we moved into the original structure on 82nd Street, Webster continued with his custodial duties on Lexington Avenue and had responsibility for the same in our newly acquired sanctuary. Webster had exacting standards for everything he did and one did not quarrel with him about compromising them in any way.

After five years, when we moved out of the original 82nd Street building in preparation for its demolition and the construction of the present building, we once again returned to the 92nd Street Y for three very long years of Shabbat morning services. By this time we were a significantly larger congregation, with much more material to move on a weekly basis, which did not make Webster's job any simpler.



**Webster Ward,
February 2002**

Now we no longer fit into the second floor chapel and we used a large room on the lobby floor of the Y. The set-up and breakdown there were more complicated. During these three years we had to move out of the Y twice, on very short notice, for many weeks each time due to ongoing renovations there. We were very fortunate in being able to relocate to the Ramaz Upper School auditorium both times, and this brought a different set of requirements to our Shabbat arrangements, all of which Webster dealt with in his usual efficient manner. Eventually we did return to the Y for the remaining time of our construction. Webster was our strength during this protracted period of time. He never took a day off during those three years and never made mention of it.

When we moved into the new building and instituted the weekday morning minyan, Webster took on the responsibility for opening the building, making certain that everything was in order for the service, and setting up each morning's breakfast, Sunday through Friday. Every day except Sunday he left home in Brooklyn at 4:30 a.m. to allow for any subway delays and to insure that he would be at 82nd Street by 6:00 a.m.; on Sundays he'd arrive by 7:00 a.m.

Another task that Webster particularly enjoyed doing during our early months in our new home was preparing the outside bulletin board with each week's notices. Webster was a quiet presence, eager to do whatever was asked of him. He had a sense of pride about everything being properly done and in order for the arrival and presence of Congregants. He understood all of the workings of our many mechanical systems in a way that no one else did. He was a wonderful conversationalist with a keen and sharp mind. He kept up on all the

news of the day, particularly politics and he certainly knew his scripture. He would often quote verses and talk about how they were relevant to current events. He had a delightful sense of humor and was an on-target analyst of personalities.

Webster reluctantly began to consider the idea of retirement and returning to Barbados in early 2008. He loved his work here and the routine of his days. His devotion to our congregation and his respect for and admiration of Rabbi Wechsler were deep and great. On the last Shabbat of June 2008 we honored Webster and wished him well in the new phase of life he was about to enter. He was an integral part of our congregational family and we were an equally integral part of his life.

It was with great sadness that we learned of his death on September 17, the day before erev Rosh Hashanah. He passed away peacefully with his many loving children and grandchildren at his side. One of his grandsons delivered the eulogy at his service: "Granddad was always there to offer words of advice and encouragement or just lend a listening ear. He was kind and caring, not only to his immediate family, but also to his friends and neighbors. He was there when we needed him. He gave even when we didn't ask, and that is how he would want to be remembered." That is how we, too, will always remember this very special man who meant so much to us. He was 81 years old. *Yehi zichro baruch*, may his memory be for a blessing.

Editor's Note

This issue of the *Or Zarua Newsletter* debuts a new design. The type has been changed to Franklin Gothic, a sans serif font, and the layout made more flexible. The clean look is easier to read and reflects contemporary styling. We hope you enjoy the redesigned newsletter.

Please contact Charlie Spielholz at cssrs@earthlink.net with any ideas, programs or articles that you feel may be appropriate for inclusion in future editions of the *Or Zarua Newsletter*.

The Or Zarua Community

Announcements and fund contributions received between July 11 and September 30, 2009

Mazal Tov

Beth and Jared Greisman, on the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Marni Greisman
Dana Gross and Jeff Gandel, on the birth of their daughter, Allison Casey Gandel
Stephanie and Ernest Wechsler on the birth of their daughter, Jocelyn Michal Wechsler

New Members

Welcome to:

Roy Bachar and Jean Mahler
Leslie Barnett
Justin Benford and Amy Sussman
Michelle and Michael Filler
Sheri and Mark Harrison
Marisa June Lederman
Karen and Paul Levy
Maura and Richard Rosberger
Joseph and Rosalie Rothenberg
Shari and Keith Silverstein
Caryl and Bruce Spector
Sharon and David Topper

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy to:

Barry Feldman, on the death of his sister, Rita Fussman
Alan Schwartz on the death of his father, Seymour Schwartz
May they and their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

General Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Ashley, in honor of Rebecca Ashley's Bat Mitzvah
Shelley Binder, in memory of Barry Feldman's sister, Rita Fussman
Laurie and Robert Cooper, in memory of Robert's mother, Miriam Cooper; his father, Louis Cooper; and Laurie's father, Hyman Tenzer

Dinah and Uri Evan, in memory of Joshua Ashkenazi

Mechele and Sander Flaum, in memory of George Plotkin

Frances Freedman, in memory of Esther Werner

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gandel, in honor of Allison Casey Gandel's baby naming

Carol and Arthur Goldberg, in memory of Carol's mother, Lily Smith

Diana and Harrison Goldin

Rabbi Robert Golub, in memory of his father Karolyn and Bruce Gould, in honor of

Nataniei Wolff's Bar Mitzvah and in memory of Stanley Richman

Harvey Himel, in memory of his father

Susan and Edward Kopelowitz, in memory of Rita Fussman

Bernard Laterman, in memory of Sarah and Sol Laterman

Diane Okrent and Aaron Shelden, in memory of Aaron's mother, Reba Shelden, and his father, Victor Shelden

Laura Resnikoff in honor of the Kenvin/Rosenbloom family, in honor of Peter's marriage, and in memory of Barry

Feldman's sister, Rita Fussman

Leonard Rosen, in memory of his mother, Ruth

Judith and Barry Schneider, in memory of Phillip Elgart

Marilyn Shapiro, in memory of Susan Kopelowitz's mother, Ruth Goldberg; Phillip and Sylvia Shapiro on their unveiling; and Audrey Eiber, beloved mother, sister and companion

Vera and Robert Silver, in honor of Kayla's 16th birthday, and in memory of their daughter, Ruach

Lynn and Mark Somerstein, in memory of Ted Abel and Bernice Fishman

Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler, in memory of his father

General Program Contribution

Mimi and Barry Alperin, for sponsoring the David Harris Lecture

Anonymous donor, whose generosity sponsored the Selihot and Sinful Desserts program

Hesed Fund

Susan and Stanley Alt, in memory of Susan's parents, Celia and Joseph M. Benbasset

Shelley Binder, in memory of her father, Chaim Binder

Thelma and Solomon Borodkin, in honor of their 60th anniversary

Faith and Harvey Brenner, in memory of Lucille Colodin, mother of Joseph Colodin; Rose Frimet, mother of Esta Ellis; and Lawrence Alpert, father of Edward Alpert

Mina Greenstein in honor of Rebecca Ashley's Bat Mitzvah and Mark Somerstein's classes

Dara Murray, in memory of her dear parents, George and Anita

Robyn Sanderson-Silverman and Bruce Silverman, in honor of Robyn and Bruce's 9th Anniversary and Robyn's conversion

Judith and Barry Schneider, in memory of Phillip Elgart on his yahrzeit

Ethel and Barry Weintraub, in memory of Morris Bass

Lynda Wertheim

Helene and Michael Wolff, in memory of Stanley M. Richman and Helene's mother, Jennie Simon

Hevra Kadisha

Alan Schwartz, in memory of Seymour Schwartz

Sara and David Stone, in memory of Rita Rand on her second yahrzeit and George Stone on his yahrzeit

PROGRAM SPONSORSHIPS

Many opportunities to sponsor an Or Zarua program are still available. We are seeking sponsors for the following programming events: Shabbaton lunch with Joey Weisenberg (November 14), Congregational Hanukkah Dinner (December 11) and the Lucy Dawidowicz Annual Lecture (scheduled for late January). Please considering honoring a family member and helping our community by sponsoring one of these events. If you are interested, please contact Andrew Frackman or Rabbi Wechsler.

The Or Zarua Community

Announcements and fund contributions received between July 11 and September 30, 2009

Kiddush Fund

Andrew Danzig and Anne Schneider, in memory of their father, Leonard Danzig, on his yahrzeit
Benjamin Marcus, in memory of his mother's yahrzeit
Sharon Seiler, Charlie Spielholz and Talia Spielholz, in honor of the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan students who became Bar and Bat Mitzvah at Or Zarua in 5769: Rebecca Ashley, Lauren Kupferberg, Michaela Palmer, Eliane Shinder and Hayley Sussman; and in celebration of Sharon and Charlie's 17th wedding anniversary

Kol Nidre Appeal

Jean Appleton
Susan and Stanley Alt
Barbara and Martin Bienenstock
Jill Braufman and Daniel Nir
Debra Braverman
Leborah and James Breznay
Gwendolyn and Brett Cohen
Pat and Alan Davidson
Rosalind Devon
Dara Dickstein
Betsy and Ira Dizengoff
Laurel and Ran Eisenbruch
Michelle and Michael Filler
Melvin Fishman
Mechele and Sander Flaum
Elizabeth Goldberg
Diana and Harrison Goldin
Brenda Goldman
Constance and Leonard Goodman
Sharon and Scott Greenstein
Ruth Horowitz and Michael Nachman
Adele and Mel Ilberman
Johanna Kaplan
George Kaufman
Susan Lorin and Martin Kupferberg
Melissa Kashan Lader and Craig Lader
Jessica Korn Liebowitz and Ron Liebowitz
Benjamin Marcus
Marla and Michael Marin
Allyn Maultasch
Ellen Mayer
Rita and David Meerscham
Cheryl and Craig Nisnewitz
Ronnie and David Parker
Pearl and Owen Pell

Ruth and Samuel Perelson
Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner
Caryl Ratner
Laura Resnikoff
Ellen and Alain Roizen
Jane and Warren Rosen
Arthur Rosenbloom and Evelyn Kenvin
Rosalie and Joseph Rothenberg
Marjorie and Murray Sachs
Robyn Sanderson-Silverman and Bruce Silverman
Anne and Reed Schneider
Alan Schwartz
Ellen and Michael Schwartz
Lorraine and Herbert Shapiro
Marilyn Shapiro
Alice Shuchman
Rana Arons Silver and David Silver
Phyllis and Gerry Solomon
Sara and Walter Squire
Sara and Daniel Susmano
Miriam Wallerstein
Lynda Wertheim
Toby Wertheim
Sherry and Eugene Zuriff

Library Fund

Benjamin Marcus, in memory of his mother, Estelle S. Marcus

Minyan Fund

Marilyn Shapiro, in memory of Victor Nerfin

Muriel and William Tannenbaum Fund

in memory of Muriel and William Tannebaum, who built the first Or Zarua Sukkah
Laurel and Ran Eisenbruch
Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner
Diane Okrent and Aaron Shelden
Audrey and Richard Stadin

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sylvia Adelman, in honor of Elsa and Steve Solender
Susan and Stanley Alt, in memory of Susan's parents, Celia and Joseph Benbasset

Robin Blumenthal, in honor of Julia's 16th birthday
Pamela and Mark Gold, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler's son, Ezra, on his engagement
Sara and David Stone, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler's son, Ezra, on his engagement
Sarah Klagsbrun and Eric Weinstein, in honor of the birth of Naomi Paula Shechter

Tzedakah Fund

Tamara Jasper

Youth Department Fund

Ilana Burgess, in memory of Barry Feldman's sister, Rita Fussman
With thanks to Ilana Burgess for welcoming the Second Grade of Temple Shaaray Tefila's Religious School

HEVRA KADISHA MEETING

**Monday, November 23
at 7:00 p.m.**

Please join Rabbi Wechsler and the Hevra Kadisha for its autumn meeting on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Or Zarua. The meeting will begin with a d'var torah delivered by Rabbi Wechsler. Harvey Brenner, Or Zarua's new executive director, will attend as well. All members of Or Zarua are encouraged to come learn more about the Hevra Kadisha and the many opportunities to bring comfort at the time of loss.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CHECKLIST

- RSVP by Monday, November 2 for the New Members' Reception on November 9.
- Join with Joey Weisenberg as he leads us in song and prayer on Thursday, November 5, 12 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. (page 1).
- RSVP by Monday, November 9 for "Recovering the Past: A Jewish Journey" Shabbaton dinner and lunch with Lucette Lagnado and Joey Weisenberg on November 13 and 14.
- Provide your child's name and school address for OZ's College Connection (page 3).
- Learn about OZ's Junior Congregation, Tot Shabbat, and Teen-led Services (page 5).
- Participate in USY and Kadima programs on Sunday, November 15 and Saturday, December 12, both at 5:00 p.m.
- Attend the OZ Youth Talent Show on Sunday, November 22 at 10:30 a.m. to benefit the Gil School in S'derot.
- Meet with the Or Zarua Hevra Kadisha on Monday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m.
- RSVP by Monday, December 7 for the Congregational Shabbat Hanukkah Dinner on December 11 with special guest Rabbi Ezra Amichai.
- Sign up for the morning minyan.
- Save Wednesday nights at 8:00 p.m. for Talmud Class with Rabbi Wechsler.
- Take part in Monday Pizza Nights at NCS, as well as Or Zarua's Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve food delivery programs.
- The next book discussion is on Sunday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. (page 8).
- Knit or crochet with the Crafts Club on Sunday, December 13 at 10:15 a.m. (page 8).
- Sponsor an Or Zarua programming event (page 10).

January Events

Mark your calendars

Saturday, January 9

A GRAPE AND A MIGHTY NATION

A celebration of Israel's achievements in industry, academia, research and development along with its food and wine.

Friday and Saturday, January 22 and 23

SHABBATON WITH YESHIVAT HADAR

Yeshivat Hadar is a full time, egalitarian yeshiva on the West Side and the first of its kind in North America. Yeshivat Hadar is committed to spirited, traditional prayer, study and social action.

January evening to be announced

ANNUAL LUCY DAWIDOWICZ LECTURE

More information about these events as well as programs in February will be available in the January/February issue of the Or Zarua Newsletter and on www.orzarua.org.



CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

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