

Or Zarua

HESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5771

NEWSLETTER/VOLUME 23:2

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

Sing to the Lord a New Song: An Array of Musical Programs at Or Zarua

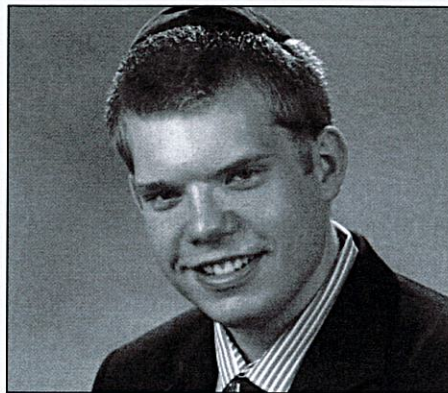
by Marc Ashley

“Worship the Lord in gladness; come into His presence with singing,” wrote the Psalmist. That time-tested religious exhortation can serve as the motivational slogan of our upcoming musical programming. From the spirited singing sessions of musician-in-residence Joey Weisenberg to the resonant service leadership of cantorial intern Jonathan Angress, from a musical Hanukkah Shabbaton featuring Pizmon, an a capella group, to a rollicking spring concert featuring Joey’s avant-garde music, this will be an exciting and inspirational year of musical growth and enhanced spirituality at Or Zarua.

Our musical programming was launched earlier this fall with the first of four Hallel singing sessions led by Joey, who is serving as Or Zarua’s musician-in-residence this year. Returning to Or Zarua after having led similar singing modules in



Joey Weisenberg, Or Zarua’s musician-in-residence, will continue his singing module series covering melodies used for the Hallel prayer service on Thursdays, November 11 and 18, at 7:30 p.m.



JTS student Jonathan Angress, our cantorial intern, will lead select Shabbat services at Or Zarua throughout the year, beginning on November 5 and 6.

prior years covering the Musaf and Kabbalat Shabbat services—which have contributed tangibly to the quality, vitality and diversity of our prayer services throughout the year—Joey’s current singing module focuses on the Hallel prayer service, largely a collection of Psalms recited on numerous occasions during the calendar cycle, including on Sukkot, Pesah, Shavuot, Hanukkah, and Rosh Hodesh. Hallel is perhaps the most rousing section in all of our liturgy, and is the perfect vehicle for Joey’s instruction in robust congregational singing that both delivers musically and inspires religiously. Whether you enjoy singing or just listening, the Hallel sessions with Joey are energetic, invigorating and accessible to all. The fun with Joey will continue in 2011 at both a Shabbaton and a subsequent concert, through which we will be exposed to the breadth of Joey’s musical talents and enjoy some of his original compositions.

Jonathan Angress, a first-year cantorial student at the Jewish Theological Seminary

and our cantorial intern for the year, has already embellished the musicality of both our Friday night and Shabbat morning services with his magnificent voice and highly trained leadership, and will return to lead our services periodically throughout the year. Jonathan, despite his relative youth, comes to us with an impressive Jewish music resume, a wealth of davening and choral experience, and tutelage with

continued on page 16

HANUKKAH SHABBATON WITH PIZMON

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday,
December 3, 4 and 5**

**(See page 5 for a photograph of
this exciting student a capella group)**

Friday, December 3 • after services

SHABBAT HANUKKAH DINNER

Reservations required. \$38 for adults,
\$15 for children aged 5 to 12, children
under 5 are free.

Saturday, December 4 • after services

HANUKKAH KIDDUSH LUNCH

No RSVP or charge.

Sunday, December 5 • 4:00 p.m.

FAMILY HANUKKAH PARTY

Including games, songs, lighting the
hanukiah and pizza dinner.

No RSVP or charge.

Please make dinner reservations by

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

at 212-452-2310, ext. 39

or www.orzarua.org

ק"ק אור זרוע

Congregation

OrZarua

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989127 East 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028

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

www.orzarua.org

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

President's Message

by Andrew J. Frackman

With the High Holy Days behind us, we are deeply into the new year and our intensive programming. I want to bring to your attention a few of our special projects.

First, we have a great deal of diverse music coming your way. Marc Ashley has written a detailed article on this topic which appears on page 1 of this newsletter. Briefly, we have our Cantorial Intern Jonathan Angress, our Musician-in-Residence Joey Weisenberg, and Rabbi Ezra Amichai from Israel all joining us to help us raise our musicality and spirituality through leadership of services and teaching. If you want variety in your nusach, you should attend some of the Friday night and Saturday morning services that they will be leading and join us for some of the dinners and classes we are scheduling around them.

Jonathan was with us for Shabbat Noah, when he led Kabbalat Shabbat and musaf services for the congregation. We are in the process of scheduling another Shabbat for him to spend with us in November. For those of you who like more traditional hazzanut, you should make a point of joining us for services on that Shabbat. Watch your email announcements for the date.

Joey Weisenberg's four-class course on music for the Hallel service, which began on Thursday, October 21, continues on Thursdays, November 11 and 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Ezra Amichai will be with us for Shabbat Vayetze, on November 12-13. He will lead services and participate in our Friday night Family and Friends Dinner. We will culminate the Shabbat with a Seudah

Sh'lishit, the details of which will be distributed soon.

Second, already some of you have responded to my Kol Nidre remarks by contacting me or the office about reading Torah or haftarah this year. We are making some changes in how we assign responsibilities for reading and leading. After ten years, Yaakov Shechter has asked to be relieved of this responsibility. Yaakov, who is such an important participant in and leader of our community, has done more than his fair share, and has filled this key role with skill, excellence and good will. We all thank him for his selfless effort and will be honoring Yaakov at our kiddush on November 20.

We will have information for you shortly about who will be handling this responsibility going forward. One of our goals is to make Torah assignments farther in advance so that congregants have more time to learn the sections that they are to read. Therefore, more congregants can take on this fulfilling role. If you have an interest in reading Torah, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext. 12. If you need support, please join the class that Mark Somerstein will be teaching on leining, or we will arrange tutoring with Jonathan Angress. We have the resources available, but you need to apprise us of your interest.

Finally, I thank all of you who have made your Kol Nidre pledges. Consistent with the nature of our wonderfully supportive community, many of you took my remarks to heart and increased your pledge over last year. Some of you have yet to send in your pledge. Please do so, as our programming plans are dependent on our revenues from the Kol Nidre appeal.

BEGINNING TORAH READERS' CLASS

with Mark Somerstein

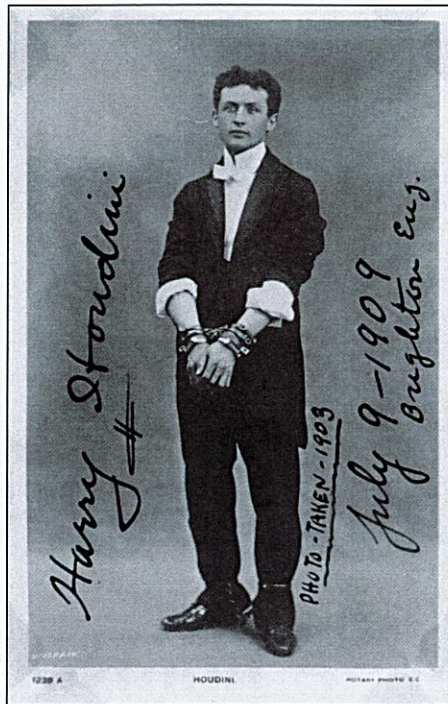
Congregants interested in forming a beginners' trope skills class for Torah reading, please contact Harvey Brenner at hbrenner@orzarua.org. The class will be limited to ten students for optimal development of trope skills and will run for ten sessions. As soon as a core group registers for the class, meeting dates and location will be determined.

Houdini: Art and Magic at The Jewish Museum

Special Tour for OZ members with Guest Curator Brooke Kamin Rapaport, January 2011

The Jewish Museum guest curator and OZ congregant Brooke Kamin Rapaport will be taking fellow members of our synagogue on a unique tour of the new exhibit "Houdini: Art and Magic" this coming January 2011.

Harry Houdini (1874-1926) was born Ehrich Weiss, the son of a rabbi, in Budapest. He emigrated to the U.S. with his family in 1878, becoming a magician and escape artist who fascinated audiences the world over. His amazing feats still inspire awe to this day. The Jewish Museum is the first major American art museum to mount an exhibit on this master magician who broke into American mainstream entertainment. The exhibit features magic apparatus, posters, broadsides, period photographs, and archival films along with contemporary artwork that describe Houdini's life and how his reputation has been interpreted and evolved over



time. The exhibit also shows how, to this day, Houdini influences and inspires 21st-century artists.

Tickets for this special January tour of the Houdini exhibit with guest curator Brooke Kamin Rapaport are \$36 each. Two back-to-back tours are anticipated. Each tour is limited to 20 people (for a total of 40 people). Please RSVP to the Or Zarua office (212-452-2310, ext 39 or www.orzarua.com).

If you can't make the special tour with Brooke, you are encouraged to visit the exhibit on your own. Please see the The Jewish Museum's website for details (www.thejewishmuseum.org) or call 212-423-3200. The Jewish Museum is located at 1109 Fifth Avenue at East 92nd Street.

Houdini in chains, 1903, photograph.
Library of Congress, Rare Books and Special Collections Division, McManus Young Division.

Hesed Events and Calendar

"The world exists for the sake of kindness." —Rashi

Or Zarua has an active Hesed Program covering a variety of important areas within both Or Zarua and our Upper East Side community. We always need participants to help carry out these critical activities. Listed below are some of the events we have planned for this year. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Richard Stadin (stadin1@aol.com or 212-879-0448) for further information.

- Erev Thanksgiving (Wednesday, November 24) and Erev Christmas (Friday, December 24) from 8:45 to 9:30 p.m. congregants glean and repack food from Eli's Vinegar Factory to deliver to the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter (NCS) residence, Ronald McDonald House and Yorkville Common Pantry. We also need volunteers with SUVs or vans.
- Feed formerly homeless people at

the NCS East 81 Street Residence one Monday a month from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. by serving pizza, soda, and salad.

- Visit and cheer up Or Zarua congregants who are ill.

- Jewish families with a child residing at Ronald McDonald House while undergoing serious treatment at a New York City hospital may be in need of relationships with a local synagogue as well as a comforting support system.

- In January, help other OZ congregants organize, feed, and entertain families staying at the Ronald McDonald House on East 73rd Street. To volunteer and for additional information, please contact Stephanie Failla (civilib@aol.com).

- Green thumbs are needed to help care for the Ronald McDonald House Butterfly Garden from early spring through the first fall frost.

RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

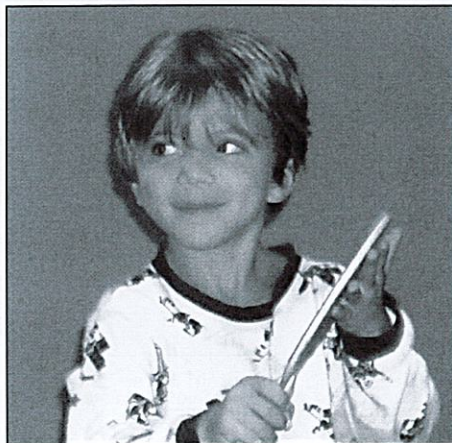
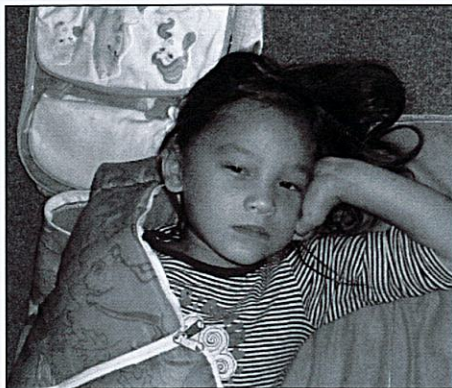
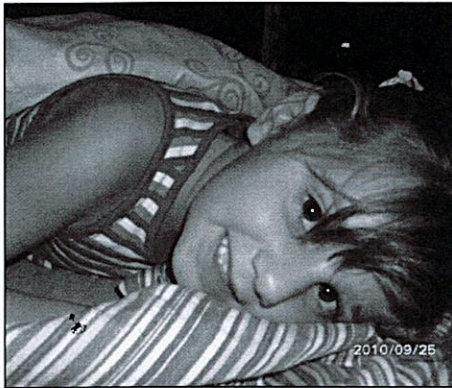
Sundays at 3:00 a.m.
and 11:00 a.m.



Rabbi Wechsler is on SIRIUS XM Stars Radio twice each Sunday. Subscribers to SIRIUS Radio can access the program, "Rabbi Wechsler Teaches," on Channel 102, and XM Radio subscribers can tune in to Channel 155. Non-subscribers to SIRIUS Radio can obtain a free, three-day trial at www.sirius.com.

Sukkah Decorating, Games, and Sleepover

Pizza, Ice Cream Sundaes, Ping-Pong, Pool, Foosball and a Movie



HEBREW SCHOOL CALENDAR

November 2010

- Sat 13** Junior Congregation,
10:30 a.m.
- Mon 15** B'nai Jeshurun
- Sun 21** Annual Talent Show,
10:30 a.m.
- Wed 24** Thanksgiving Recess
(no classes)

December 2010

- Fri 3** Shabbat Hanukkah Dinner
with Pizmon
- Sat 4** Junior Congregation/
Teen-led Service, 10:30 a.m.
- Sun 5** Family Hanukkah Party
with Pizmon, 4:00 p.m.
- Mon 13** B'nai Jeshurun
- Fri 17** Winter Break
(no classes until January 3)

Riverside Symphony Concert Preview

Free Salon at Congregation Or Zarua, Monday, November 1 at 6 pm



Korf will be joined by Israeli cello sensation

Riverside Symphony will host a free salon at Or Zarua on Monday evening, November 1 at 6 p.m. Conductor George Rothman and Composer-in-Residence Anthony

Amit Peled in a preview of the orchestra's 30th anniversary season opener. The salon will include a discussion and live musical performance, followed by a reception with wine and light refreshments. To reserve a seat for the free salon, send an email to salon@riversidesymphony.org.

Riverside Symphony is also offering

premium tickets to their November 6 concert at Alice Tully Hall at a discount to OZ members. Please call the Riverside Symphony at 212-864-4197 to purchase tickets at the Or Zarua discount.

More information about both events can be found on the orchestra's website: www.riversidesymphony.org.

Family and Youth Activities

November 2010

Friday, November 12 • following services
FAMILY AND FRIENDS DINNER

Details on page 12. Reservations required.

Saturday, November 13 • 10:30 a.m.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

for 2nd grade and older. Service led by students, teachers and parents.

Sunday, November 21 • 10:30 a.m.

ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

Sing, dance or rock and roll to raise money for Gil School in S'derot.

December 2010

Friday, December 3 • following services
SHABBAT HANUKKAH DINNER

WITH PIZMON

Details on page 1. Reservations required.

Saturday, December 4 • 10:30 a.m.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION/TEEN-LED SERVICE

for 2nd grade and older. Service led by students, teachers and parents.

Saturday, December 4 • following services
HANUKKAH KIDDUSH LUNCH

WITH PIZMON

Details on page 1. No RSVP or charge.

Sunday, December 5 • 4:00 p.m.

FAMILY HANUKKAH PARTY

WITH PIZMON

including games, songs, lighting the hanukkah and pizza dinner.

Details on page 1. No RSVP or charge.

KOSHER RESTAURANT REVIEWER WANTED

There are many kosher restaurants both in our town and the surrounding areas. At one time, reviews of these restaurants were included in the Or Zarua Newsletter. We would like to start that column again. If you would like to write reviews of kosher restaurants for the Or Zarua Newsletter, please contact Charlie Spielholz at cssrs@earthlink.net.

Pizmon Shabbaton

Hanukkah, Friday-Sunday, December 3-5



For a Hanukkah Shabbaton, December 3 through 5, Or Zarua will be hosting Pizmon, an a capella group formed by students with beautiful voices from JTS, Columbia University and Barnard College. The group is pictured above in the Cardiff Reform Synagogue, Cardiff, Wales, as part of their annual Musical Outreach Initiative. By traveling to Jewish communities around the globe, the singers bring spirit, song and unity to diverse Jewish populations. Pizmon's Hanukkah celebrations include a Friday night Shabbat dinner, a Saturday Kiddush lunch and a Family Hanukkah Party on Sunday. Dinner is by reservation: \$38 for adults, \$15 for children aged 5 to 12, children under 5 are free. Please RSVP by Monday, November 29.

Kohelet, Sukkot and Me

by Arthur H. Rosenbloom

Sukkot is one of the happiest times of the holiday season from which we have recently emerged, as we remember the days of our past when, the harvests having been concluded, our forebears could enjoy their bounty. Thus, Sukkot appears an unlikely time to be reading from Kohelet, which, on the face of it, appears to question life's values. But read it we do. Why? Let's start our inquiry with some basics about Kohelet.

Who or what is Kohelet? The Greek term *Ecclesiastes* or "Convoker" is a reasonably accurate translation of the word Kohelet, which is a title rather than a proper name because the words of Kohelet were uttered "b'hikahel," that is, in the place of public assembly.

Classically, Kohelet was said to have been King Solomon, with Ramban and Ibn Ezra supporting that view as a result of the peshat reading of the text of Chapter 1:1, "The words of Kohelet, son of David, King in Jerusalem." They argued that although Kohelet is not explicitly identified as Solomon, because Solomon was the only son of David to ascend the throne, Kohelet and Solomon must be one and the same. However, from an examination of the text's linguistics, modern Bible scholars argue that Kohelet could not have been Solomon due to the text's use of words derived from later Aramaic and Persian, both of which came into use after Solomon's time.

Who indeed is Kohelet? In my mind's eye, I picture a grizzled older man, perhaps one around my own age, reflecting on his life experiences. He's been successful in all the activities by which we judge that term: power—he's attained it; wealth—perhaps above counting; knowledge and wisdom—an ongoing and productive search; and sybaritic pleasures in abundance. And yet, counterintuitively, all of these attainments notwithstanding, he loudly proclaims in the gathering places that all is futility. Kohelet is an enigmatic figure, well worth pondering.

As many of us know, Kohelet's twelve chapters cover a wide spectrum of topics.

These include the natural order of things, whether wealth or wisdom provide keys to happiness, the opposing forces that govern life, the meaning of friendship, the advantages and disadvantages of human authority, the nature of folly, the enjoyment of one's toil and the terrors of old age.

A cynicism pervades the text in its assertion that humans are unable to make sense of the world or see a coherent pattern in it. Chapter 1:2, "Havel havalim omar Kohelet," traditionally translated as "vanity of vanities," but more recently as "futility of futilities," is an allusion to the vaporous quality of human experience. For Kohelet, the only immutable event is death, in which wise humans are indistinguishable from foolish ones and humans are, at the end of things, indistinguishable from animals. What is left to humans is principally to enjoy their toil and families while alive. Individual punishments and rewards are cancelled by death and cannot be passed on to future generations. The capacity to understand what can be known and what can't is, for Kohelet, the task of wisdom, which is most evident when it is used to clarify its own limits. Kohelet does not deny that God controls, only that people are unable fully to understand God's purposes.

Rabbinic tradition is ambivalent about Kohelet and concerned with certain views that do not comport with the mainstream of Jewish thinking about God and Torah. Indeed, after Kohelet's canonization, there were those who expressed reservations concerning the wisdom of that canonization. Such concerns are mitigated in Kohelet's (or a later emender's) epilogue. In Chapter 12:12, the epilogue concludes that there is no limit to the making of books and that too much study wears out the flesh, Kohelet's not so subtle put down of his own text. Further, Kohelet asserts in 12:13-14 that, when all is said and done, what's central is for everyone to revere God and keep God's commandments, recognizing that God will bring to judgment every act, good or bad, overt or hidden, a conclusion that, like the

Book of Job—although without that book's *deus ex machina* conclusion—harmonizes the text with biblical and rabbinic tradition.

My first encounter with Kohelet came as a young teenager when I came across a *yahrzeit* plaque with text that "the day of death is better than the day of birth," a shortened version of Kohelet 4:1-3. Puzzled for years by the downbeat character of the text, in later study I came to understand that, like me, the scholars of the Rabbinic period struggled with this passage as well. One of the many efforts at understanding the text appears in the Talmud tractate *Eruvin* 13b. The schools of Hillel and Shammai are said to have disputed for two and a half years whether it was better for people to have been created or not to have been created. They finally agreed on a formulation asserting that it would have been better had mankind not been created but, now that such creation had taken place, it was important for people to examine their deeds and lead a righteous life. A soft pedaling of the stark claim that the day of death is better than the day of birth appears in a charming midrash that compares death to a ship coming into a snug harbor after toiling arduously on the sea of life.

What has long resonated with me is the motherlode of aphorisms found in Kohelet and how these have become part of the modern vernacular. Consider these: "All streams flow into the sea but the sea is never full" (Ch 1:7); "There's nothing new under the sun" (Ch 1:9); "A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven. (Ch 3:1). "The race is not won by the swift nor the battle by the strong (Ch 9:11) "Send your bread forth upon the waters" (Ch 11:1).

Some of Kohelet's poetry is stunning in its elegance. My revered rabbi and teacher Mordecai Waxman would, at funerals, often quote from Chapter 12 with words symbolically urging repentance "before the silver cord snaps and the golden bowl is shattered, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain and the wheel is smashed into the pit. Thus the dust returns to the ground as it was, and the

spirit returns to God who gave it" (Ch 12:6-7).

As one in the final innings of life, I find it impossible to avert my eyes from the downbeat description of the aging process described in Chapter 12 of Kohelet. Aided by Rabbi Wechsler's doctoral dissertation, *Broken Tablets in the Ark: Ideas of Aging in Talmudic Literature*, let's have a look at the text followed by the ways in which rabbinic tradition understands these metaphoric figures for parts of the human body in decline.

As Rabbi Wechsler points out, three rabbinic texts—Vayikra Rabbah, Kohelet Rabbah, and T.B. Shabbat—are principal sources filling in the enigmatic statements of the text, in which the rabbis draw from their experience in the world an understanding of the words used metaphorically in the text. Here I cite in parentheses Rabbi Wechsler's referencing of the Jewish Publication Society English translation of the text:

"So appreciate your vigor in the days of your youth, before those days of sorrow come and those years arrive of which you will say 'I have no pleasure in them; before the sun (the countenance or forehead) and light (the forehead or nose) and moon (the nose, forehead or breath) and stars (the cheeks) grow dark (all of these referring to the skin and face) and the clouds come back after the rain (alluding to tears, vision or bowel problems); when the guards of the house become shaky (the knees or ribs) and the men of valor are bent (arms, ribs or legs that stoop) and the maids that grind (stomach or teeth) grow few are idle and the ladies who peer through the windows grow dim (the lungs or the eyes malfunction) and the doors to the street are shut (legs or bodily orifices diminish in power) with the noise of the hand mill growing fainter (stomach problems); and he rises at the sound of the bird (fear of attack and insomnia); and all the strains of music dying down (hanging lips, a dulling of the mind and difficulty hearing); when one is afraid of heights (the

difficulties of walking) and there is terror on the road (the physical problems of mobility); and the almond tree shall blossom (the bones of the lower spine malfunction), the grasshopper shall drag itself along (problems with ankles or buttocks); and the caperberry shall fail (diminution of erotic desire)."

All of the foregoing amply demonstrates the wisdom of Bette Davis, who famously remarked, "Growing old ain't for sissies." Although it's undeniable that our gray mares (or stallions as the case may be) ain't what they used to be, and that preventive maintenance and sometimes more is the price that we (and Medicare) pay for our ability to live, to labor and to enjoy, we can still experience wonder at our daily existence. Upon waking, tradition enjoins us to recite the Modeh Ani prayer in which we thank God for restoring our souls from sleep, death's second self. And we can marvel at the daily functioning of our bodies, so eloquently expressed in the early minutes of the Shaharit prayer service each morning in the Sim Shalom siddur:

Praised be You Lord our God,
King of the universe, who with
wisdom fashioned the human
body, creating openings, arteries,
glands and organs, marvelous in
structure, intricate in design.
Should but one of them, by being
blocked or opened fail to func-
tion, it would be impossible to
exist. Praised are You Lord, heal-
er of all flesh who sustains our
bodies in wondrous ways.

We can, moreover, be comforted by the words of yet another unimpeachable authority—Rogers and Hammerstein. In a gloss on "There is Nothin' Like a Dame" from *South Pacific*, one might observe that:

It's a waste of time to worry
Over things that we have not,
We're thankful for
the things we've got.

And there's much to feel good about. It's been my experience that the onset of age is often accompanied by better judgment and a cooling of some of the unwar-

ranted anger that used to characterize our youth. We better experience the joys of a family, extended by children and grandchildren. In our professional lives, there appears to be a rebuttable presumption that we geezers know what we're talking about, it being our burden never to adduce facts calculated to overcome that presumption. And we come to recognize that our possessory interests in our bodies are mere tenancy interests, terminable at will, as we forego the urge to rage against the failing of the light.

It's been suggested that a successful old age is an art that takes years to perfect, a process that provides us at last with a united sense of who we are. And while we may never be the huge successes we dreamed of during the most grandiose moments of youth, neither have we turned out to be the abject failures we feared in our darkest moments of youthful doubt. We are at long last comfortable with who and what we are.

The fact that some of us are in our twilight years reminds us, precisely as Kohelet urges, that time is too short to waste. We can follow the prescription he offers in Chapter 9:7-10: "Eat your bread with joy and drink your wine with a glad heart for God has already approved your deeds. Enjoy life with the wife you love... whatever you are able to do with your might, do it." Indeed, there are places to visit, books to be read, and courses to be taken and taught. We can strengthen the bonds that unite us by blood and affinity while we live and thereafter, to those closest to us. In this regard, we take comfort from the words of Shir Ha Shirim (8:6-8):

For love is fierce as death
Passion is mighty as Sheol
Its darts are darts of fire
A blazing flame
Vast floods cannot quench love
Nor rivers drown it.

And, at the end of our days, we can seek places at which to leave our mark in our desire to make the world a bit better for our having lived in it. If we can do such things, in the time that remains, we will have been truly blessed.

And, as we celebrate the blessing of our spiritual and material bounty, perhaps that's why we read Kohelet on Sukkot.



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

November 2010 • Heshvan / Kislev 5771

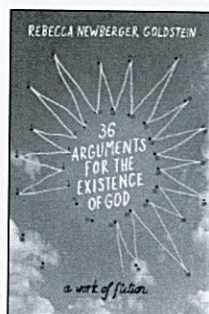
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 • 24 Heshvan 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Riverside Symphony Salon with Amit Peled, cello	2 • 25 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Adv 7:00 pm Context: Beg	3 • 26 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	4 • 27 7:15 am Minyan	5 • 28 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 6:00 pm Minhah/ Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 pm Candlelighting	6 • 29 9:00 am Shahrarit Toledot
7 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Kislev I 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 10:15 am Crafts Club <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	8 • 1 Kislev Rosh Hodesh Kislev II 7:00 am Minyan	9 • 2 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Adv 7:00 pm Context: Beg	10 • 3 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	11 • 4 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Joey Weisenberg	12 • 5 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 4:23 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Ezra Amichai Family and Friends Dinner	13 • 6 9:00 am Shahrarit Vayetze 10:30 am Junior Congregation 4:00 pm Seudah Sh'lisheit and Havdalah with Rabbi Ezra Amichai
14 • 7 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	15 • 8 7:15 am Minyan	16 • 9 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Adv 7:00 pm Context: Beg	17 • 10 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Caroline Golden Art Exhibit Viewing 7:00 pm Artist Talk 8:00 pm Talmud Class	18 • 11 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Joey Weisenberg	19 • 12 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 4:17 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	20 • 13 9:00 am Shahrarit Vayishlah Bat Mitzvah of Louise Tisch (Minhah/Ma'ariv)
21 • 14 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 10:30 am Annual Talent Show	22 • 15 7:15 am Minyan	23 • 16 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Adv 7:00 pm Context: Beg	24 • 17 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	25 • 18 Thanksgiving 8:45 am Minyan Office closed	26 • 19 8:45 am Minyan 4:13 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Office closed	27 • 20 9:00 am Shahrarit Vayeshev
28 • 21 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	29 • 22 7:15 am Minyan	30 • 23 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Adv 7:00 pm Context: Beg				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 • 24 Kislev 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	2 • 25 7:15 am Minyan	3 • 26 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 4:11 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Pizmon Shabbaton Dinner Hanukkah: 3 Candles	4 • 27 9:00 am Shahrut Miketz 10:30 am Junior Congregation/Teen-led Service 12:00 pm Pizmon Shabbaton Lunch Hanukkah: 4 Candles
5 • 28 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 4:00 a.m. Family Hanukkah Party with Pizmon Hanukkah: 5 Candles	6 • 29 7:15 am Minyan Hanukkah: 6 Candles	7 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Tevet I 7:00 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Adv 7:00 pm Context: Beg Hanukkah: 7 Candles	8 • 1 Tevet Rosh Hodesh Tevet II 7:00 am Minyan Hanukkah: 8 Candles	9 • 2 7:15 am Minyan Hanukkah: Last Day	10 • 3 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 4:10 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	11 • 4 9:00 am Shahrut Vaygash
12 • 5 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 10:15 am Crafts Club 7:30 pm Book Discussion	13 • 6 7:15 am Minyan	14 • 7 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Adv 7:00 pm Context: Beg	15 • 8 7:15 am Minyan	16 • 9 7:15 am Minyan	17 • 10 Fast of Tevet 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot and Toddler 4:11 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	18 • 11 9:00 am Shahrut Vayehi
19 • 12 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	20 • 13 7:15 am Minyan Hebrew School Winter Break	21 • 14 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Adv (last fall class) 7:00 pm Context: Beg (last fall class)	22 • 15 7:15 am Minyan Hebrew School Winter Break	23 • 16 7:15 am Minyan 3:00 pm Office Closes	24 • 17 8:45 am Minyan 4:15 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	25 • 18 9:00 am Shahrut Shemot
26 • 19 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	27 • 20 7:15 am Minyan Hebrew School Winter Break	28 • 21 7:15 am Minyan	29 • 22 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class Hebrew School Winter Break	30 • 23 7:15 am Minyan	31 • 24 7:15 am Minyan 4:19 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	

Or Zarua Book Discussions

36 Arguments for the Existence of God by Rebecca Goldstein on Sunday, December 12

Please join us for our next Or Zarua book discussion on Sunday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Or Zarua's library. Laura Resnikoff will lead us in discussing the novel *36 Arguments for the Existence of God* by award-winning author Rebecca Goldstein.



36 Arguments plunges into the great debate of our era: the clash between faith and reason. Through the enchantment of

fiction, Goldstein shows that the tension between religion and doubt cannot be understood through rational argument alone. It must be explored from the point of view of individual people caught in the raptures and torments of religious experience in all their variety.

Using her gifts in fiction and philosophy, Goldstein has produced a true crossover novel, complete with a nail-biting debate ("Resolved: God Exists") and a stand-alone appendix with the 36 arguments (and responses). One reader suggests reading the appendix before you read the story.

In *The Washington Post*, Ron Charles wrote, "*36 Arguments* radiates all the humor and erudition we've come to expect from Goldstein...a brainy, compassionate, divinely witty novel....Goldstein [will] make you a believer in the power of fiction."

The following book discussion will be January 23. Our selection is the very well-received novel *To the End of the Land* by Israeli author David Grossman.

If you would like more information on Or Zarua book discussions or have a book suggestion, please contact Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611 or through Dina Linsk at dlinsk@orzarua.org.

WWW.ORZARUA.COM

- Listen to recordings of recent guest presentations at Or Zarua by Professor David Roskies of JTS, Rabbi David Silber of the Drisha Institute, Professor James Kugel of Bar Ilan University, and Professor Ruth Wisse of Harvard University.
- Hear Rabbi Wechsler's Selihot lectures on Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook's teachings on teshuvah.
- Introduce yourself to the Or Zarua Hebrew School's programs and classes for children in kindergarten through high school.
- Download melodies for many of Or Zarua's prayer services.
- View descriptions and schedules for all Or Zarua events.
- RSVP for Shabbat and holiday lunches and dinners, classes, lectures, and programs
- Check service times
- Sign up for the daily minyan
- Tune into the OZ Klezmer Band

Life Events at Congregation Or Zarua

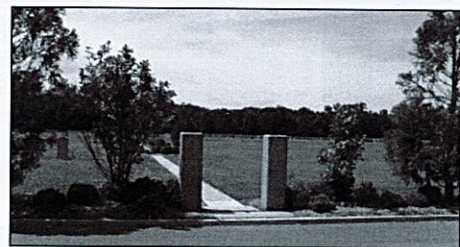
Members of our congregation are sometimes faced with painful, and, in some cases, tragic events in their lives. If you know of a member of the congregation who is coping with extended illness, hospitalization, or a death in their family, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310 so that Rabbi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

HANUKKAH GIFT, COAT AND CLOTHING DRIVE

Or Zarua is collecting new, unwrapped gifts for school-age children, such as educational toys, books, and CDs, as well as clothes and coats in good condition for The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty from Sunday, November 14 through Sunday, November 28. Collection boxes will be located on the 6th and 7th floors and the social hall. Coats will be collected in the coat room on the basement level.

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 values and



A view of the Or Zarua cemetery section.

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. Please note that all purchases paid by December 31, 2010 may have certain tax advantages for the 2010 tax year.

Crafts Club Projects and Field Trips

by Terry Edelstein

This year the Crafts Club will be incorporating some additional projects and field trips. Our basic mission of creative craft production and community service through our Stitchery Project for the Jewish Board of Children and Family Services will be supplemented by a few "twists" with the intention of engaging the congregation in a project.

The Crafts Club will be sponsoring a workshop entitled "Translating Text into Textile" with Heather Stoltz. Participants will engage with Jewish texts and prayer in a novel way as Heather guides them through a chevuta study, resulting in an artistic rendering of the text. Using a favorite prayer from the liturgy, a personal prayer, or even a transformative experience as inspiration, the group is posed a series of questions to help them translate the concept into a piece of fiber art.

A two-level quilt will be produced during the single, two-hour session from the 12" x 12" fabric collage squares developed and ironed on site. Then the fabric squares will be mounted onto a larger

back with hooks to donate to the Jewish Board's group home as an artistic wall hanging.

Even those who enter the workshop skeptical about their artistic abilities are often pleasantly surprised by their resulting piece and are proud of their creation. Please join us as no quilting, sewing or art experience is necessary.

The Or Zarua program committee will be providing a celebratory luncheon after the textile workshop. All workshop participants are invited to start their morning at the minyan followed by the congregational breakfast. Child care and activities for young children will be available during the quilting session. Older children are very welcome to join the project in keeping with our regular knitting sessions, which are often an intergenerational experience. Please let the office know if you plan to participate so that we can be sure to have ample supplies and child support on hand.

Please look in your email inbox and future issues of the *OZ Newsletter* for the date of our workshop with Heather Stoltz.



Heather Stoltz
Passover Quilt: Splitting of the Reed Sea, through which the Jews were able to escape Pharaoh's wrath
Nisan 5766 – April 2006
approximately 8.5" x 11"

To learn more about Heather Stoltz, visit www.sewingstories.com.

Continuing into winter, we will be scheduling a Sunday morning field trip to a local knitting shop. With our knitting squares in hand, seated at the shop's large wooden table, a knitting class will be convened. A discussion of yarns, patterns and other adventures in knitting will be included. Again, the specific Sunday will be announced via email.

I hope we have sparked an emergent interest among many of you in the Or Zarua Crafts Club and look forward to welcoming you to our group. The Or Zarua Crafts Club generally meets at 10:15 a.m. the first Sunday of each month, however, our next sessions are Sunday, November 7 and December 12.

Heather Stoltz
Miriam and the Israelites rejoicing in song after crossing the Reed Sea
approximately 35" x 45"



The Morning Minyan: A Journey

by Karen Kaplan

I believe that my first experience with a daily minyan was a few weeks before our oldest son's Bar Mitzvah. He was about to start the eighth grade at an Orthodox day school. As our shul was about two miles from our house in Tenafly—and at least that far from the homes of his classmates, most of whom lived in Englewood or Teaneck—we decided to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah on Labor Day. Since neither Jonathan nor I was familiar with the daily service, we went a couple of times before the Bar Mitzvah. But I don't think we attended a daily minyan again until just before our middle son's Bar Mitzvah, also on Labor Day, two years later. Then three years passed and our youngest son's Bar Mitzvah was on Memorial Day. But while I was immensely proud of my sons' ability to lead the service and read from the Torah, going to the daily minyan

on a regular basis wasn't on my radar screen. I did begin to learn to read from the Torah while we were in New Jersey—with all my sons able to do it, I wanted to learn as well!

I probably didn't go to a daily minyan again until early 1997, when my father died. Although as a convert to Judaism, I wasn't required to say Kaddish, I inquired and found that saying Kaddish was permitted. We had moved to Rochester about seven months before my father's death, and had joined the large Conservative congregation there, but hadn't gotten to know many people in the congregation. I started going to the morning minyan and gradually became familiar with the liturgy. As I said above, I hadn't been to many daily minyans before I started saying Kaddish, so my first task was to learn to follow the prayers as they were being chanted. As time went by, I became comfortable with the liturgy and gradually thought about learning to be able to lead the service. Another benefit of going to the minyan every day, in addition to learning the service, was that I got to know the daily minyan regulars (the Red Brigade, named for the red satin kipot that they wore—I got my red satin kipah after several months). Through the members of the daily minyan, Jonathan and I got to know more people and to feel a part of the congregation.

The major downside to that daily minyan was that women were not counted. The shul's policy was officially that of the Conservative movement, that women who accepted the obligation of prayer could be counted, but the rabbi who led the daily minyan, an older Israeli rabbi, didn't accept counting women. There were usually two or three women present, but if ten men weren't there, no minyan! Despite this, I kept going fairly regularly after the eleven months. As time went by, I was occasionally allowed to lead (but only if that rabbi was not there). After he retired, the policy changed.

I started coming to the OZ daily minyan four years ago, the first summer we were in New York. There was a plea one Shabbat morning for help making the minyan the

next day. I came a few Sundays and decided that I would become a Sunday regular. Early the next summer my mother died, and I became a daily regular for the next eleven months as I said Kaddish. Somehow, I've had trouble separating myself from the OZ morning minyans. I went back to my usual Sundays, but added Tuesdays. While I was saying Kaddish every day, I started to volunteer to read Torah on some Mondays and Thursdays. Now, even though I finished saying Kaddish more than two years ago, I'm at the minyan on Sundays and Tuesdays as well as frequent Mondays and Thursdays, and I try to make sure that we have a minyan every Sunday—great thanks to those who respond to my pleas and come to help when it looks like we might be short.

So why do I come? Fulfilling the mitzvah of prayer has become important to me, as is helping to make a minyan for others who are saying Kaddish for loved ones or who are there for yahrzeits. The fellowship of the other congregants who make up the morning minyan is also a factor. I've gotten to know a group of OZ members whom I wouldn't have known without the regular interaction in the daily minyans. I'm sure that attending the daily minyan and participating in the Me'ah course contributed to my decision to study at JTS, where I'll eventually get a master's in Judaic Studies.

Editor's Note: 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 sustain the Or Zarua minyan, please sign up for a given day or two each month. To sign up, please contact Sheldon Adler; Sheldon's email address is: sadler@skadden.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Do you have an idea or article that is appropriate for publication in the Or Zarua newsletter? Is there an Or Zarua program that is being overlooked by the editor? If so, please contact Charlie Spielholz (cssrs@earthlink.net).

SHABBAT DINNERS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

**Friday, November 12
and Friday, January 14
immediately following services**

Join the OZ community for two special Kabbalat Shabbat services. On November 12, Rabbi Ezra Amichai will lead the service with his unique melodies. On January 12, Sarah Klagsbrun will lead the service with traditional Camp Ramah tunes. Both services will be followed by a festive meal with singing. Guests and non-members are welcome.

Babysitting and children's activities will be provided.

Please make dinner reservations by **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8 AND MONDAY, JANUARY 10** at 212-452-2310, ext. 39 or www.orzarua.org

\$30 adults; \$10 children aged 5-12; children under 5, no charge

Through the Window: Enchanted Places and Magical Spaces

Caroline Golden Artist Talk and Reception, Wednesday, November 17, 6 to 8 p.m.

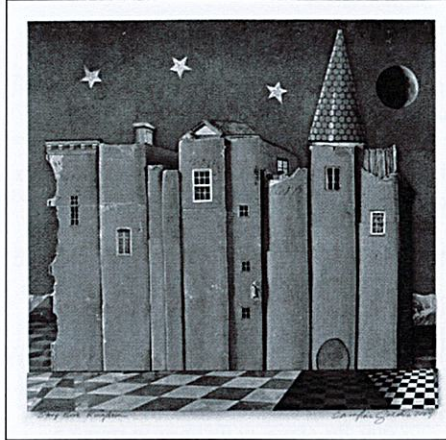


A retrospective of Caroline Golden's work is currently on display in our first floor social hall. The exhibit can be viewed on Wednesday, November 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. and

Caroline will give an Artist Talk at 7 p.m. She and her husband, Alan Ilberman, are long time members of Or Zarua.

After graduating college, Caroline worked as a graphic designer, which often involved physically cutting and pasting elements of text and imagery to create cohesive layouts for print magazines, ads and books.

For the past 15 years, as a full-time fine artist, Caroline works in her Long Island City studio cutting apart the very same imagery, combining seemingly unrelated visuals to create a new reality. The collages are not computer generated; they are all



Caroline Golden
Storybook Kingdom 2004
Mixed media on paper
10 x 10.5 x .25 inches

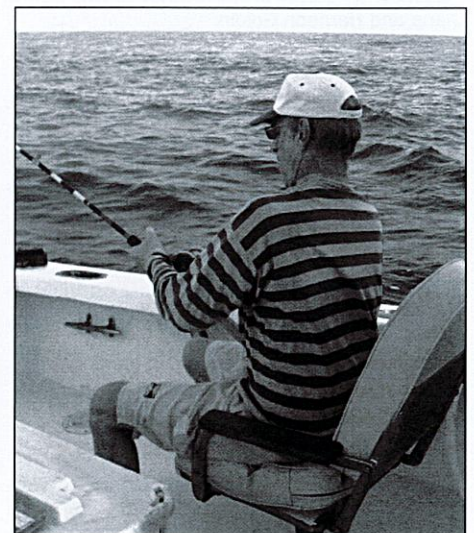
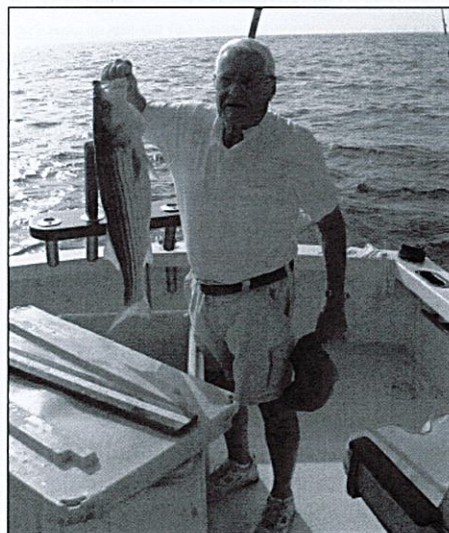
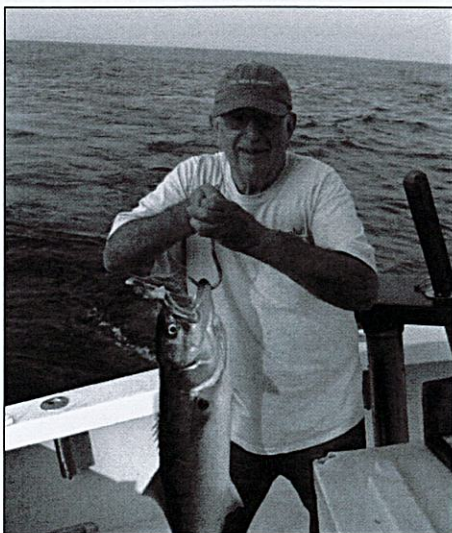
created and assembled by hand. All the elements within Caroline's work are either

found, or created by her using her original painting or photography. These become the fabric of her work that we see in her completed collages. Additional dimension is created by raising the assembled components off the paper in a relief technique.

Golden's work has been focused on fairytales and the exploration of the many characters found within. Stepping into their slippers, their isolated towers and standing on the palace grounds, Caroline follows them through their transformations as she looks for new clues in their/our collective narrative. Expanding the margins of these cherished tales, she aims to release the characters from their biographical narrative in order to learn more about them and she invites the viewer to reacquaint themselves as well. You can find out more about Caroline and her work at her website: www.carolinegolden.com.

OZ Men and the Sea

End-of-summer fishing trip from Montauk



You should have seen the even bigger ones that got away! Or Zarua's Bernie Tolpin, Dick Stadin and Henry Glanternik (pictured from left to right) departed from Montauk for a stripers and blues fishing trip at the end of the summer filled with warm camaraderie and a healthy mix of relaxation and exertion. If anyone is interested in joining similar expeditions, please contact Richard Stadin at 212-879-0448 or stadin1@aol.com.

The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between August 1 and September 30, 2010

Mazal Tov

Keely Blumentritt and William Zaiantz, on the occasion of their marriage
Amy Freedman and Micah Cohen, on the occasion of their marriage

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy to:

Frances Freedman, on the death of her brother,
Dr. Henry Freedman
Pamela Gold, on the death of her mother,
Estelle Greenberg
Joy Kimmelman, on the death of her father,
Solomon Noveck
Michael Schwartz, on the death of his brother,
Steven Schwartz
Barbara Scott, on the death of her mother,
Enid Scott Lefkowitz
Sherry Jacobson Zuriff, on the death of her
father, Rabbi Bernard Jacobson
*May they and their loved ones be comforted
among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*

Gallery Fund

Bobbi and Barry Collier

General Fund

Willi and Arthur Aeder, in memory of Arthur's
father, Wolf Aeder and Jerry Spitzer's mother
Susan and Stanley Alt, in memory of Susan's
parents, Celia and Joseph Benbasset
Laurie and Robert Cooper, in memory of Miriam
Cooper
Terry Koch and Allen Fienberg
Frances Freedman, for yahrzeit
Marjorie and Isaac Gad
Diana and Harrison Goldin
Judith and Rabbi Robert Golub, in memory of
Judith's father, William Rubin
Alvin Hellerstein, in honor of Alice Shuchman's
75th Birthday
Harriet and Leonard Holtz
Caroline and Alan Ilberman, in honor of Ezra
and Carly's wedding
Karen and Jonathan Israel
Susan and Edward Kopelowitz, in memory of
Susan's father, Nathan J. Goldberg
Melissa Kashan Lader and Craig Lader
Frances and Bernard Laterman, in memory of
Bernard's father, Sol Laterman
Susan Linder
Anne and Charles Mayer, in memory of Kurt
Mayer and Dennis Winston
Dara Murray, in memory of her mother,
Anita Prisant
Linda and Harvey Newman, in memory of
Lisa Segal
Laura Resnikoff, in honor of Evelyn Kenvin
and Arthur Rosenbloom

Paulette and Joseph Rose, in honor of the
engagement of Ian Rose and Ellen
Schwartzman
Rosalie and Joseph Rothenberg, in memory of
Joseph's father, Samuel Rothenberg
Rabbi Charles Savenor and Julie Walpert
Judith and Barry Schneider, in memory of
Dr. Henry Freedman
Alan Schwartz, in memory of Seymour Schwartz
Lorraine and Herbert Shapiro, in memory of
Dr. Henry Freedman
Marilyn Shapiro, in honor of Audrey and Richard
Stadin's granddaughter, Jocelyn Rose Stadin,
and in memory of Audrey Eiber and Howie
Adelman
Jodi and Yoav Sisley
Philip Thomas, in memory of Abby Thomas
Nancy and Jay Zises, in memory of Nancy's
father, Nathan Frankel

Hesed Fund

Robin Blumenthal
Rabbi Robert Golub, in memory of his father
Vivian and Fred Kenvin, in memory of Vivian's
mother, Chee Kuen
Suzan and Daniel Rosen
Sara Pildis and Daniel Simnowitz
Judith and Barry Schneider
Lynda Wertheim
Helene and Michael Wolff, in memory of
Dr. Henry Freedman

Hevra Kadisha

Brenda Goldman, in memory of her sister, Edith
Paredes
Karolyn and Bruce Gould, in memory of
Karolyn's brother, Stanley M. Richman, and
Allen Mayer's father, Arthur Mayer
Allen Mayer
Vera and Robert Silver, in memory of their
daughter, Ruach

Kiddush Fund

Andrea and Raphael Cohen
Rabbi Robert Golub, in memory of his father
Karolyn and Bruce Gould, in honor of Naomi
Friedland-Wechsler and Rabbi Harlan
Wechsler on the marriage of their son,
Rabbi Ezra Micah Amichai to Carly Fleisher
Benjamin Marcus, in memory of his mother,
Estelle Marcus
Ruth and Samuel Perelson
Helene and Michael Wolff, in memory of
Helene's mother, Jennie Simon

Kol Nidre Appeal

Susan and Stanley Alt
Sanford Batkin
Elaine Blum
Herbert Blum

Rhoda Blumenthal
Robin Blumenthal
Keely Blumentritt
Debbie and James Breznay
Cynthia Brodsky
Julie and Mitchell Cepler
Eileen and Stephen Cohen
Bobbi and Barry Collier
Laurie and Robert Cooper
Nancy and Andrew Danzig
Pat and Alan Davidson
Linda Dershowitz
Rosalind Devon
Dara Dickstein
Linda Eidelberg
Laurel and Ran Eisenbruch
Michelle and Michael Filler
Mechele and Sander Flaum
Alice Geisler
Diana and Harrison Goldin
Barbara and Oliver Goldstein
Richard Goldberg
Mina Greenstein
Joseph Hilsenrath
Dore Hollander
Ruth Horowitz and Michael Nachman
Adele and Mel Ilberman
Marcia Kalin and Stephen Rayport
Clarita and Abraham Kaufman
Vivian and Fred Kenvin
Joy and Louis Kimmelman
David Kingsley
Francine and Samuel Klagsbrun
Karen and Harvey Klapper
Susan and Edward Kopelowitz
Susan Lorin and Martin Kupferberg
Melissa Kashan Lader and Craig Lader
Lucette Lagnado
Frances and Bernard Laterman
Esther and Alan Levy
Ninette and Alvin Lukashok
Margret and Steven Magid
Benjamin Marcus
Allen Mayer
Anne and Charles Mayer
Anita and David Meerscham
Ronnie and David Parker
Midge and Norman Podhoretz
Laura Resnikoff
Thelma Rodbell
Arthur Rosenbloom and Evelyn Kenvin
Paulette and Joseph Rose
Rosalie and Joseph Rothenberg
Elaine Schattner and Paul Glasserman
Xiomara and Charles Scheidt
Judith and Barry Schneider
Alan Schwartz
Charlotte Schwartz
Ellen and Michael Schwartz
Lorraine and Hebert Shapiro

The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between August 1 and September 30, 2010

Marilyn Shapiro
Alice Shuchman
Rana Arons Silver and David Silver
Linda and Jerome Spitzer
Miriam Wallerstein
Lynda and Toby Wertheim
Elaine and James Wolfensohn
Barry and Nora Yood
Cathy Zises
Seymour Zises

Minyan Fund

Annette Roth
Marilyn Shapiro, in memory of Victor Nerfin

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Bobbi and Barry Collier, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler
Faye and David Dorfman, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler

Karolyn and Bruce Gould, in honor of the birth of Richard and Audrey Stadin's granddaughter, Jocelyn Rose Stadin, and of the Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Wolfe Winkelman, grandson of Helene and Michael Wolff
Phyllis and Ralph Lusskin, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler
Ruth and Samuel Perelson, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler
Vera and Robert Silver, to wish Fran Kane a speedy and complete recovery
Sharon and Marc Teitelbaum, in memory of Marc's parents, William and Beatrice Teitelbaum

Youth Department Fund

Suzanne Spector and Robert Lawrence, in memory of Suzanne's mother, Mildred Spector

TALMUD CLASS

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

This year we will be studying the first chapter of *Masechet Hullin* (Ordinary Things). The tractate is mostly devoted to the Laws of Kashrut. The first chapter covers shechting (kosher slaughtering).

Classes are taught by
RABBI WECHSLER

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

Talent Show Supports Gil School of S'derot

Sunday, November 21 at 10:30 a.m.

In 2006, during the second war in Lebanon, I wanted to initiate a mitzvah project that would help people in Israel who were affected by the war and were in need. I also wanted the students of the Or Zarua Hebrew School to participate in the mitzvah—not only by providing the mitzvah, but also to learn something about Israel and its needs during this tragic time. There were two challenges in the creation of this project. The first challenge was to identify a group or organization in Israel that could benefit from a mitzvah from Or Zarua's Hebrew School students. The second challenge was to identify a project that the OZ students could do while they learned about the group or organization in Israel that we proposed to help.

To identify a beneficiary within Israel, I called my sister who lives in the Negev, Israel's southern half, for advice. My sister told me that since many charities were working in the north, we should look to Israel's south to identify a beneficiary; we identified the Gil School of S'derot.

The city of S'derot is located in the western part of the Negev, less than one

mile from the Gaza Strip. Over a period of several years, S'derot was a continuous target of thousands of Qassam rockets launched by Palestinian terrorists from the Gaza Strip. Many Israelis were killed and wounded and millions of dollars of damage had been done to homes, schools and businesses. In addition to the physical damage that had been inflicted on S'derot by the rocket attacks, there was also psychological damage to its people, especially S'derot's children. Jewish children lived in fear—they could not go outside to their playgrounds and it was difficult to get to school. Some people even had to move from S'derot. This happened in a city, populated by innocent civilians, that was established in 1953 as a place for new immigrants to Israel to live. (It is important to note that S'derot is not part of the occupied territories; it is part of Israel.)

Israel has spent a great deal of money building new homes with bomb shelters and warning systems to help protect the citizens of S'derot. These facts plus my own visit to S'derot cemented the relationship of Or Zarua's Hebrew School

to the Gil School of S'derot. Or Zarua students would be helping fellow students in Israel, with both funds and the concept of psychological support from the outside and, at the same time, would be learning about life in Israel during times of tragedy.

To raise funds for the Gil School of S'derot, the students of the Or Zarua Hebrew School stage an annual talent show. It is easy to find participants since every congregant at Or Zarua has talent! Each year the talent show has been sponsored by a different student and their family. In 2007, it was the Bar Mitzvah project of Reuben Dizengoff and the following year of his sister Sophia. Last year Gabriel Norflus sponsored the show; this year it will be Talia Rosen's project.

So on Sunday, November 21 at 10:30 a.m., all are invited to sing, tell a joke, play an instrument, display a piece of art work or share any talent you may have. And, of course, to make a donation to the Gil School of S'derot. If you do not want to show your talent publicly, you are still invited to watch the talent show and be part of this great mitzvah. —ILANA BURGESS



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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.

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

Musical Programs at OZ

continued from page 1

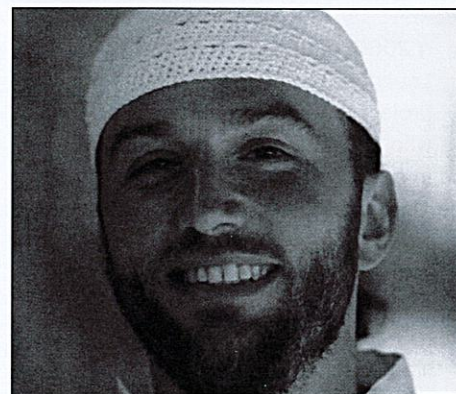
renowned hazzanim and choirs. Working with both adults and children, Jonathan will help us refine the professionalism, variety and appeal of our services.

And Joey and Jonathan are not the only guests contributing to the enriched religious spirit and musical entertainment at Or Zarua this year. Native son and Israeli resident Rabbi Ezra Amichai, with his distinctive blend of enthusiasm and holiness, will add kavvanah to our prayer and zemirot by leading services and a Seudah Sh'lishit on November 12-13. Ezra's unique sense of liturgical rhythm and intensity are not to be missed.

Hanukkah, too, will not be the same at shul this year. At a musical Shabbaton during the entire weekend of December 3-5, Pizmon—the nation's first collegiate Jewish a capella group, comprised of students from Columbia, Barnard and JTS, which performs at diverse venues throughout the world—will bring its own special

festive spirit to our Hanukkah services and meals. Through passionate and sophisticated Jewish song, Pizmon will reanimate our collective experience of the family-friendly holiday.

This year—even if you've never done so before—please join us for some or all of these musically oriented events, both during our services and beyond, and thereby add to our communal ruah. Together we will be uplifted through the process.



Rabbi Ezra Amichai will be leading Or Zarua's Shabbat services and a Seudah Sh'lishit on November 12 and 13.

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 by November 15 to Dina Linsk at dlinsk@orzarua.org or mail the information to the synagogue office, attention "College."