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# OR ZARUA newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 1

Tishri-Heshvan-Kislev October-November 1998

## Or Zarua Celebrates the Joy of Sukkot

Five days after Yom Kippur, on Sunday evening, October 4, the holiday of Sukkot commences. Sukkot is a festival rich in mitzvot, including the mitzvah of sukkah and the mitzvah of the lulav and etrog. (Presumably, you have all ordered your lulav and etrog already from the Synagogue office or have purchased them independently.) It is a festival of joy to celebrate the completion of the Days of Awe, and one of the three pilgrimage festivals mentioned in the Torah.

As our colleague, Francine Klagsbrun, has written:

"Behind all the Sukkot symbols lie the themes of rejoicing and thanksgiving, for the abundance of the harvest, for the Exodus from Egypt, for the continuity of the tradition. A poignant moment in that continuity appears in the Book of Nehemiah. About the year 428 B.C.E., some hundred years after groups of Jews had returned from exile in Babylonia, the people assembled in Jerusalem to hear the scribe Ezra read aloud from the Torah scrolls. Among the passages he read were those giving the laws for the feast of Sukkot. The people were so moved that they gathered the plants decreed and built sukkot on their roofs and in their courtyards. Not since the days of Joshua, when the children of Israel first entered the land, had the holiday been celebrated so wholeheartedly. Now the 'whole community that returned from captivity made booths and dwelt in the booths . . . and there was very great rejoicing.' (Nehemiah 8:17)"

F. Klagsbrun, *Jewish Days: A Book of Jewish Life and Culture Around the Year*, p.41 (reprinted with permission of author).

In the time of the Temple, the crowning event of the holiday was the libation of water, the *nisuh hamayim*. The festivities associated with the *nisuh hamayim* were known as the *simhat beit hashoe'vah*, since the waters that were used in the ceremony came from the pool of Shiloah in the city of David. The intense power of the ceremony is reflected in the Talmud, Tractate Sukkah (5/a-b) (translation taken from E. Kitov, *The Book of Our Heritage*, vol. 1, p. 179):

"Men of piety and good deeds used to dance before them [the lamps] with lighted torches in their hands, and sing songs and praises. And Levites without number with harps, lyres, cymbals and trumpets and other musical instruments were there upon the fifteen steps leading down from the court of the Israelites to the court of the women, corresponding to the fifteen songs of ascents in their Psalms. It was upon these that the Levites stood with their instruments of music and sang their songs. Two cohanim stood by the upper gate which led down from the court of the Israelites to the court of the women, with two trumpets in their hands. When the cock crowed they sounded a *teki'ah*, a *truah*, and again a *teki'ah*. When they reached the tenth step they sounded a *teki'ah* . . . They proceeded sounding their trumpets until they reached the gate which led out at the East; they turned their faces from East to West and proclaimed: 'Our Fathers who were in

(Continued on Page 2)



## Or Zarua Book Club Begins 7<sup>th</sup> Year

In the fall of 1992, at the first Or Zarua Retreat, a group of congregants expressed a desire to get together to read and discuss books of Jewish interest. And so the ad hoc Or Zarua book club was born. Not long after, a small, but enthusiastic group (which seems to grow larger each year) gathered to participate in a discussion, led by congregant Fran Klagsbrun, of her book *Mixed Feelings: Love, Hate, Rivalry and Reconciliation Among Brothers and Sisters*.

We at Or Zarua are truly fortunate to have authors, editors and book lovers in our congregation. The result has been six years of interesting and stimulating informal meetings in each other's homes – led by a different member each month – during which a wide variety of books has been discussed.

Last year, for instance, the group began by comparing and discussing *Stones From the River* by Ursula

### Youth Hesed: Past, Present and Future

Howard Blas, Leader

Or Zarua Youth Hesed (known as OZYH), is a Hesed group open to all Or Zarua teenagers. In addition to visiting the sick at local hospitals, cooking chicken soup for the needy, and putting on holiday programs for nursing home patients, OZYH members also eat pizza and cookies, discuss important issues, and generally have a good time! Programs are held approximately once a month. Feel free to join the group for one activity (we know all teenagers have a busy schedule), those that interest you, or all of them.

(continued on Page 7)

Hegi and *The Tin Drum* by Gunter Grass, both of which present an outsider's view of Nazi Germany. Attention was then turned to the United States with a discussion on *A Modern Heretic and A Traditional Community: Mordecai M. Kaplan, Orthodoxy and American Judaism* by Jeffrey S. Gurock and Jacob J. Schachter. Cynthia Ozick's wonderfully written *Messiah From Stockholm* was next, followed by James McBride's moving biography of his mother, *The Color of Water*. Marian Thurm, a member of the congregation and author of the delightful book *The Clairvoyant* graciously attended a meeting and aided the group in understanding her work. The year ended with a discussion of the provocative book *The Reader*, by Bernard Schlink.

(continued on Page 7)

## Talmud Class to Start After Sukkot

Rabbi Wechsler will resume teaching his weekly Talmud class on Wednesdays from 8 to 9:30 p.m. in the Synagogue beginning October 14<sup>th</sup>. This year the subject of study will be the fifth chapter of *Masekhet Berakhot*. This chapter is the most important chapter in the Talmud concerning the psychology of prayer and the inner life. It contains an extensive discussion of Hanah's prayer which is read on Rosh Hashanah.

The Talmud class is free to members and non-members alike, and may be joined at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is not required.

## OZ Celebrates the Joy of Sukkot

(continued)

this place (stood) with their backs toward the Temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the East, and they worshipped the sun toward the East, but as for us, our eyes are turned to the Lord.' Rabbi Yehudah stated, they used to repeat (the last words) and say 'we are the Lord's and our eyes are turned to the Lord.'

Our traditional, but somewhat less exotic, services will commence on Sunday evening with Minhah and Maariv at 6 p.m. Shaharit services for the both days will start at 9:00 a.m., with Minhah and Maariv services at 6 p.m. on Monday evening. All services will be at the Synagogue.

Each year, we build our congregational sukkah in the garden of the Synagogue office. The congregation's children, ages 2 and up, are invited to assist in decorating the sukkah on Sunday, October 4 at 10 a.m.

Members of the Congregation who would like to bring kosher meals to the sukkah during Hol Hamoed may make reservations with the Or Zarua office. Because of space limitations and logistical considerations, we ask that you contact the office as soon as possible to make your reservations.

Shemini Atzeret commences on Sunday evening, October 11, with Maariv services at 6 p.m. Shaharit services, including Yizkor services, will be at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning.

We will close our celebration of the holidays with Simhat Torah. The dancing and singing will start on Monday evening following Minhah and Maariv services, which will begin at 6:15 p.m. We will continue with Shaharit services at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning.



**Congregation Or Zarua**  
*A Conservative Synagogue*  
 Founded 1989

תקשר זריה



Office: 1384 Lexington Avenue  
 New York, NY 10128  
 Tel. (212) 410-6041  
 Fax (212) 410-2137  
 Synagogue: 127 East 82nd Street

Dr. Harlan J. Wechsler, *Rabbi*  
 Samuel C. Klagsbrun, *President*

Newsletter Editor  
 Andrew Frackman

## Save the Date: New Members Reception to take place November 5<sup>th</sup>

You'll want to circle Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. That's the date for our New Members Reception, always a highlight on the Or Zarua social calendar. It's an opportunity not only to welcome our new members (defined as anyone who has joined the congregation since September 25, 1997, the date of last year's reception!), but to purely and simply socialize with one another in a warm home setting.

Invitations will be sent to all members right after Sukkot. Letting the office know whether or not you'll be able to attend will be helpful in planning for food and drink.

## Hebrew School News

Michelle Schaerf, *Education Director*

The new school year is just getting under way and there is much to look forward to in the coming weeks. I met regularly with our teaching staff during the summer, and they have planned an exciting and stimulating curriculum designed to challenge our students.

Baruchim Habaim, welcome to the 1998-99 staff: Mechina and Alef classes, Loren Stein; Bet #1 and High School Ethics classes, Charlie Sherman; Bet #2 class, Adeena Shames; Gimmel class, Rebecca Hoffman; Dalet #1 class, Eliav Bock; Dalet #2 class, Aaron Melman; Vav class, Liba Kornfeld; High School Hebrew class, Idit Krymolowski; and High School Theology class, Beth Naditch.

This year we have the wonderful opportunity to be in session during the fall holidays, a timely beginning for the new Hebrew School year. In fact, each of our students will have the chance to begin study in a new, inspiring area of the curriculum by the start of Rosh Hashanah. Some of our students will study Chumash (Bible) in the original for the first time ever, others will begin discussions about bar/bat mitzvah as they reach this new age, and our youngest will learn their very first letters of the Alef Bet. We all look forward to a productive, exciting and SWEET 5759 Hebrew School year. Shanah Tovah!

*(For further inquiries about the Or Zarua Hebrew School, please contact Michelle Schaerf, Education Director, at 1-917-913-5120.)*

## Members, Reserve Now For Meals Under Our Sukkah

Members are invited to bring kosher meals and enjoy dining in the garden sukkah of the Synagogue office at the following times:

Sunday, Oct. 4: Dinner after evening services

Monday, Oct. 5

& Tuesday, Oct. 6: Lunch following kiddush (which will take place in the sukkah)  
 Dinner

Wednesday, Oct. 7

thru Friday, Oct. 9: Dinner only

Saturday, Oct. 10: Lunch & Dinner

Sunday, Oct. 11 Lunch

Since space is limited, please call the office (410-6041) as soon as possible to make reservations.

## Hesed Food Fund Needs Your Contributions

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



1998

## October

1998

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
4 6 p.m. Sukkot evening service 6:14 p.m. Candle Lighting	5 9 a.m. Sukkot 1 morning service 6:00 p.m. Sukkot 2 evening service 7:16 p.m. Candle Lighting	6 9 a.m. Sukkot 2 morning service	7 Hol Hamoed Sukkot	8 Hol Hamoed Sukkot	9 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:06 p.m. Candle Lighting Hol Hamoed Sukkot	10 9 a.m. Shabbat Hol Hamoed Sukkot
11 Hoshana Rabbah 6 p.m. Shemini Atzeret evening service 6:02 p.m. Candle Lighting	12 9 a.m. Shemini Atzeret (yizkor) 6:15 p.m. Simhat Torah	13 9 a.m. Simhat Torah	14 8-9:30 p.m. Talmud Class	15	16 5:55 p.m. Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat Service	17 9 a.m. Shabbat, Bereshit Bat Mitzvah/Julia Norton
18	19	20 Rosh Hodesh Heshvan	21 Rosh Hodesh Heshvan 8-9:30 p.m. Talmud Class	22	23 5:46 p.m. Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat Service	24 9 a.m. Shabbat, Noah
25 7:30 p.m. Book Club	26	27	28 8-9:30 p.m. Talmud Class	29	30 4:37 p.m. Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat Service	31 9 a.m. Shabbat, Lekh-Lekha

1998

## November

1998

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 8-9:30 p.m. Talmud Class	5 6-8 p.m. New members Reception	6 4:29 p.m. Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat Service	7 9 a.m. Shaharit, Vayera 3:39 p.m. Minhah/Maariv & Seudah Shlishit
8	9	10	11 8-9:30 p.m. Talmud Class	12	13 4:22 p.m. Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat Service	14 9 a.m. Shaharit, Haye Sarah
15	16	17	18 8-9:30 p.m. Talmud Class	19 Rosh Hodesh Kislev	20 4:17 p.m. Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat Service Rosh Hodesh Kislev	21 9 a.m. Shaharit, Toledot
22	23	24	25 8-9:30 p.m. Talmud Class?	26 Thanksgiving	27 4:13 p.m. Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat Service	28 9 a.m. Shaharit, Vayetze
29	30					



# Contributions

*All contributions listed were received on or before September 10, 1998.  
Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.*

## Hesed Fund

Samuel & Francine Klagsbrun  
Leonard & Harriet Mayer, wishing Harvey Newman a speedy recovery and continued good health

## Hesed Food Fund

Jacob & Esther Oberman, in memory of Edith Donner, Cynthia Brodsky's mother  
Jacob & Esther Oberman, in memory of Bertha Grossman, Susan Friedland's mother  
James & Martha Sasmor, in memory of Joyce Arnoff Cohen  
James & Martha Sasmor, in honor of Barry and Bobbi Collier for their family Shabbat dinner hospitality  
James & Martha Sasmor, in honor of Muriel Tannenbaum for organizing the wonderful Pesach seders year after year  
James & Martha Sasmor, in honor of Arthur Rosenbloom for originating and leading our Purim Spiel and to Rabbi Wechsler, Dr. Klagsbrun, Bonnie Maslin and Tibor Feldman and all the terrific participants this year and last  
Barry & Judith Schneider  
Talía Seiler, in celebration of her first birthday  
Charles Spielholz & Sharon Seiler

## Hevra Kadisha Fund

Herbert & Judith Lukashok  
Jerome & Linda Spitzer, in memory of Edith Jankoff, John Jankoff's mother

## Kiddush Fund

Laurence Friedman, in honor of Renee Siegel's birthday  
Laurence Friedman & Renee Siegel, in honor of the 50th anniversary of Laurie's Bar Mitzvah and his 63rd birthday  
Benjamin Kaplan & Jill Litner in honor of their aufruf and September 13th wedding  
Simon & Janet Katz, in honor of their 44th wedding anniversary  
Martin & Rochelle Spergel, in honor of the aufruf of their daughter Lauren and Michael Blumenthal  
Charles Spielholz and Sharon Seiler, in celebration of daughter Talia's first birthday  
Charles Spielholz & Sharon Seiler, in honor of their 6th wedding anniversary  
Barry & Ethel Weintraub, in memory of his father, William Weintraub  
Lynda Wertheim, in celebration of the completion of her chemotherapy and in recognition of the support extended her by Congregation Or Zarua

## Kol Nidre Appeal

Barry & Bobbi Collier  
Mel Ilberman  
Marc Rosenblatt & Kathy Halton  
Marvin & Linda Shulsky

## Prayer Book Fund

Marvin & Penny Cohen in memory of Betty Lou Gordon & Dr. Robert Mann

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sander & Mechele Flaum, in member of his mother, Rose Flaum, on her yahrzeit  
Gladys Schlanger, in celebration of the life of Joyce Arnoff Cohen, on her birthday

## General Fund

Bill and Jane Bram, in memory of Edith Donner, mother of Cynthia Brodsky  
Phil & Harriet Brodsky, in memory of Edith Donner, mother of Cynthia Brodsky  
Robert & Linda Feldman, in memory of Edith Donner, mother of Cynthia Brodsky  
Elizabeth Goldberg, in memory of Ariel Goldberg  
Richard & Sharon Hammerman, in honor of Lynda Wertheim's recovery  
Theodore & Shulamith Koton, in honor of Ted's aliyah  
Saul & Sondra Paul, in honor of and thankfulness for their son Donald Bernstein's speedy and complete recovery  
Jeannette Sandler, in honor of her daughter, Robin Sandler  
Jerome & Linda Spitzer, in honor of the marriage of Martin and Rochelle Spergel's daughter, Lauren  
Richard & Audrey Stadin



Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services, Inc.  
Division of Volunteer Services

## A JEWISH CHILD NEEDS YOU.

**How can you make a difference in someone's life,  
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The Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services is seeking Jewish men and women to serve as "Big Brother and Sister" volunteers to 7-16 year old Jewish boys and girls from single-parent families. We have an especially great need for male volunteers to work with fatherless Jewish boys at this time, although men and women are encouraged to apply.

By sharing just two weekend afternoons a month, our volunteers provide one-to-one friendship, support and positive role models to Jewish children in need. Join us, and feel the rewards of giving.

*To learn more about JBFC's volunteer opportunities,  
and the mitzvah of befriending a child in need,  
please call:*

Leslie Phillips, CSW, Jewish Friends for Youth Social Worker  
JBFC's Division of Volunteer Services  
(212) 632-4793

*Thank you for taking the time to care.*



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## Book Club

(continued)

The current (seventh!) year began on September 13<sup>th</sup> with a lively session centered around *Rubber Bullets* by Yaron Ezrahi. If you are an author and would like your book (or book in progress) read, or if you have read a book you particularly enjoyed and would like to discuss, the group would like to hear from you. Please call Enid Menzies in the Or Zarua office (410-6041) for further information.

All are invited to attend the meetings, which usually take place on a Sunday evening beginning at 7:30 p.m. – and to bring a friend (or friends). The next meeting will take place on Sunday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m. We will discuss *American Pastoral* by Philip Roth. Please call the office for the location.

## Reminder

On the first Saturday afternoon of each secular month, there is Minhah (at one hour before candle lighting), followed by Seudah Shlishit (the Third Sabbath Meal). At the meal there is wonderful singing and the study of Hasidic philosophy, followed by Maariv and Havdalah. It's a real spiritual high!

## Youth Hesed

(continued)

OZYH ended last year by participating in "Operation Chicken Soup", when we ate pizza with about 50 Jewish teens from around the city and had a lively discussion about giving money to the homeless... in addition to making matzoh balls and chicken soup, which were distributed to needy individuals at a west side shelter.

In addition to regular group activities, some members serve as weekly volunteers at New York Hospital, some participate in "Operation Chicken Soup" each month, and others have done extensive Hesed work over the summer. All participating members are eligible for "Service Credits" and/or letters of recommendation.

Following is the tentative list of the exciting activities planned for this year:

Sunday 9/30 2:30-3:30 p.m.

*Delivering Rosh Hashanah greetings to patients at New York Hospital*

Thursday 10/1 4:30-6 p.m.

*Decorating the Sukkah at New York Hospital*

Thursday 11/19 6:30-8:30 p.m.

*Making chicken soup and matzoh balls as part of "Operation Chicken Soup"*

Sunday 12/20 2:30-4 p.m.

*Putting on a Hannukah program for residents of DeWitt Nursing Home*

Sunday 3/21/99 10 a.m.-noon

*Delivering Passover food packages to home bound elderly through "Dorot"*

Check your mail for flyers and announcements prior to each event. If you have any questions, any ideas for new activities, or would like to volunteer on a regular basis, please call Howard Blas (230-1774) or Helen Strauss (535-8398).



## ***Congratulations To***

David & Annette Araten on the  
August 26th birth of their daughter, Sarah

Harvey & Linda Newman on the  
upcoming October 10th marriage,  
in Boca Raton, Florida, of their  
son Chuck to Elysa Ettlinger  
Eugene Zuriff on his upcoming  
September 27th marriage to  
Sherry Jacobson

### ***We Welcome New Members***

Sheila Brody  
Michael Canick & Barbara Roth  
Belle Faber  
Albert & Marjorie Fortinsky  
Rachell Gober  
Norton & Adair Goodman  
Howard Pressman  
Alan & Adele Spickler  
Jonathan Stadin  
Richard & Audrey Stadin  
Lawrence Turtill  
Joshua Wesoky

## **FASHION RESCUE**

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## **OZY SERVICES**

Two Youth Services, the first for children ages 2 through 5 and the second for children ages 6 through 9 (no parents), are held on the lower level of the synagogue every Shabbat morning, beginning promptly at 11 a.m. and ending at noon. At the conclusion of the Youth Services, the children are escorted to the Sanctuary to join our congregants in the concluding hymns and Kiddush.

### **Congregation Or Zarua**

1384 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10128

קק אור זרוע

