

# OR ZARUA

Congregation

NEWSLETTER / VOLUME 19:6

TAMMUZ / AV / ELUL 5767

JULY / AUGUST 2007

## Annual Meeting and Yom Yerushalayim

The 2007 Or Zarua Annual Meeting and Yom Yerushalayim commemoration were held on Tuesday, May 15, preceded by a festive picnic on the synagogue roof.

The business meeting included reports from President Michael Schwartz and Treasurer Mort Schwartz and the election of officers and members of the Board of Trustees.

Congratulations to the following newly elected officers and members of the Board of Trustees:

President	Michael W. Schwartz
Vice Presidents	
Administration	Sheldon S. Adler
Facilities	Alan D. Ilberman
Legal	Marc D. Ashley
Membership	Brett Cohen
Programming	Diane Okrent
Treasurer	Morton Z. Schwartz
Assistant Treasurer	Alan A. Nadel
Secretary	Anne D. Schneider
Assistant Secretary	Pamela E. Gold

Rejoining the board this year is Miriam Wallerstein. New board members are Bobbi Collier, Jay A. Palmer, and Sara Stone. The Congregation expresses its sincere thanks to Andrew Frackman, who retired from the Board after twelve years of dedicated service.

Following the meeting, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the unification of Jerusalem during the Six-Day War. Steven Katz presented his painting of the Kotel, which he and his family have donated to the Congregation, in memory of his parents. We then heard a recording of the live radio broadcast as Israeli soldiers fought their way through the Old City to liberate the Kotel, as well as the historic blasts of the shofar and the words of Rabbi Goren, "Le-shana HA-ZOT be-Yerushalayim ha-b'nuya, be-yerushalayim ha-atika!" (*This year in a rebuilt Jerusalem! In the Jerusalem of old!*) Ilana Burgess, Yaakov Shechter, Mark Somerstein, and Rabbi Efray Spectre, all members of Congregation Or Zarua, spoke movingly of their experiences while in Israel at that time. Judith Buchman-Ziv led us in song, including "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav."

### SELIHOT

Saturday, September 8

8:30 p.m.

#### SINFUL DESSERTS

Join us for an evening of community as we usher in the Yomim Noraim with a dessert reception.

9:15 p.m.

#### STUDY

Rabbi Wechsler will teach "Mystical Repentance in the Writings of Rav Kook." His source is Rav Kook's *Lights of Repentance*.

10:00 p.m.

#### SELIHOT SERVICES



The 18th Or Zarua Annual Meeting (right) was preceded by a rooftop picnic dinner (left) and followed by a Yom Yerushalayim program in the sanctuary of music and reminiscences.

ק"ק אור זרוע  
CONGREGATION

**OR  
ZARUA**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE  
FOUNDED 1989

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www.orzarua.org

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## OZ Committee Chairs

AESTHETICS	Aaron Shelden
BOOK DISCUSSION	Reed Schneider
BUILDING	Alan Ilberman
CEMETERY	Andrew Frackman Mort Schwartz
DEVELOPMENT	Mimi Alperin
EVENTS/ADULT ED	Diane Okrent
HESED	Robin Blumenthal Stephanie Failla
HEVRA KADISHA	Vera Silver Gerry Solomon
HOUSE	Janet Katz
ISRAEL	Aliza Kaplan
LIBRARY	Barry Feldman
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OROT	Ron Meyers
PLANNED GIVING	Jim Breznay
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 would like to serve on a synagogue committee, please contact the office for the committee chair's email address.

## OR ZARUA YOUTH HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 5768/2007

### Rosh Hashanah

**Thursday, September 13 (First Day)**  
10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

2-4 years old (accompanied by an adult)  
Kindergarten-Grade 1, Grades 2-3,  
Grades 4-6, Grades 7 and above

**Friday, September 14 (Second Day)**  
10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

2-4 years old (accompanied by an adult)  
Kindergarten-Grade 2, Grades 3-6,  
Grades 7 and above

### Kol Nidre

**Friday, September 21**  
6:15 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Grades 1-3 and Grades 4-6

### Yom Kippur

**Saturday, September 22**  
11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

2-4 years old (accompanied by an adult)  
Kindergarten-Grade 2, Grades 3-6  
Grades 7 and above

A playroom will be open during all services for very young children who are accompanied and supervised by an adult. Children may not be left alone in this room.

## Hebrew School Events

### SEPTEMBER 2007

<b>Wed 5</b>	In Service (for teachers)
<b>Thu 6</b>	In Service (for teachers)
<b>Mon 10</b>	First day of school
<b>Tues 11</b>	First day of school
<b>Wed 12</b>	Erev Rosh Hashanah (no classes)
<b>Thu 13</b>	Rosh Hashanah (no classes)
<b>Mon 24</b>	Sukkah Decoration
<b>Tues 25</b>	Sukkah Decoration
<b>Sat 29</b>	Sleep in the Sukkah

## TISHE'AH B'AV SERVICES

**Erev Tishe'ah B'Av**  
Reading of Eikha

**Monday evening, July 23**  
Service—8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday morning, July 24**  
Shaharit—7:15 a.m.

**Tuesday evening, July 24**  
Minhah/Ma'ariv—8:00 p.m.



Fifth and sixth grade students had a wonderful experience participating in an art class with Rudi Wolff, whose serigraphs are on exhibit in the social hall. Top, from left: Matthew Buxbaum, Lucas Zelnick, and Gil Lubkin. Center, from left: Claire Elias, Sophia Danzig, and Lawrence Edelstein. Bottom, from left: Sydney Lederman and Jordyn Feinman.

# The Architecture of Time

By Ron Meyers

In his classic essay, "The Sabbath," Abraham Joshua Heschel notes that the observance of Shabbat creates an "architecture of time" that is the locus of Jewish spirituality. Rather than focusing our sense of the sacred in objects or places, in cathedrals or statues, we exercise our art in the crafting of time and in the meanings that our days invoke.

Never is this concept more evident than in late summer, when our observances are literally about architecture. On the 17th of Tammuz (July 3), a minor fast day, we recall the breach of the city walls in the Roman siege of Jerusalem, and on the 9th of Av (July 23-24), a major fast, we recall the destruction of

the Temples. Our attention to architecture is precisely about our loss of it as an organizing principle. And in its place we have erected structures of time: we have the sequence of four haftarot of rebuke that lead up to Tishe'ah B'Av and the haftarot of consolation in the seven weeks that follow. And we have the month of Elul, in which the daily blowing of the shofar focuses our attention on atonement for the acts of the past year.

In each of these structures, the destination is Rosh Hashanah, the birthday of the world. Rosh Hashanah is the home base to which we return for each year's journey through the structures of space and of time.

## ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR SERVICES 5768/2007

Wednesday, September 12

### Erev Rosh Hashanah

Evening 6:15 p.m.–7:15 p.m.

Thursday, September 13

### First Day Rosh Hashanah

Morning 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Tashlikh 5:45 p.m.–6:30 p.m.  
(in Central Park)

Evening 6:50 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 14

### Second Day Rosh Hashanah

Morning 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Evening 6:15 p.m.–7:15 p.m.  
(at Or Zarua)

Friday, September 21

### Erev Yom Kippur

Minhah 1:20 p.m.–1:50 p.m.  
(at Or Zarua)

Kol Nidre 6:15 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 22

Yom Kippur 9:00 a.m.–7:40 p.m.

**HIGH HOLY DAY TICKETS** Please order any additional tickets now. The cost is \$250 per ticket. To order, call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 10.

**CALLING ALL USHERS** Congregant ushers are a welcoming presence to people who visit Or Zarua on Shabbat and holidays, making them feel at home in our beautiful sanctuary and leaving them with a good impression. Please let the OZ office know that you would like join our cadre of ushers. You will do a good deed helping worshippers to their seats, meet new people, and feel rewarded.

## FALL EVENTS

■ On Saturday, September 8, we will welcome new and returning members at a "Welcome Back" Shabbat. Please invite friends who may be interested in joining our community! Services begin at 9:00 a.m., and a sumptuous kiddush will follow.

■ Rabbi David Silber will return to Or Zarua on Wednesday evening, September 19, to teach from the Book of Jonah. Rabbi Silber has taught us for the last two years as we prepare for the High Holy Days.

## OZ Scholars Study Sephardic Jewry

By Phyllis Solomon

What was daily life like for Sephardic Jews during their almost 1,500-year sojourn in the Iberian Peninsula?

To find out, a group of OZ students took a graduate-level study course about Iberian Jews. In the Me'ah Graduate Institute last January through April, we examined in detail the social and religious life of Sephardic Jews—from their origins in early Roman times and their development under Islam through their expulsions and forced conversions to Christianity in the last decade of the

15th century. Under the guidance of Dr. Benjamin Gampel, Associate Professor of Jewish History at the Jewish Theological Seminary, we examined the early years of the Sephardic diaspora. Its themes of communal crisis, demographic transposition, and cultural transformation served as the coda for this seminar.

We plan to continue our studies next fall with a course taught by Dr. Robert A. Harris, Associate Professor of Bible at the Jewish Theological Seminary, on "The Rise and Fall of Biblical Prophecy."

# Or Zarua Book Discussions

Informal book discussions on Sunday evenings in the synagogue library are among Or Zarua's many opportunities for Jewish learning. Our fifteenth year of book discussions introduced Congregants to a wonderful selection of good Jewish books. Our past season began in September, when Barry Feldman helped us peek into the world of Yiddish presented in *Born to Kvetch* by Michael Wex. Mark Kinn, a student of memoir-writing, led our October discussion of Masha Gessen's *Ester and Ruzya*, the story of the intertwined lives of her two Russian grandmothers. In December, Herb Lukashok led our discussion of one of the Nextbook series on Jewish topics, *Betraying Spinoza: The Renegade Jew Who Gave Us Modernity* by Rebecca



*Policemen's Union*. So, get started on your summer reading and plan to join us!

Goldstein. Rabbi Yehoshua Aizenberg led our January discussion of the Chaim Grade classic about the pre-War Vilna Jewish community, *The Well*. In March, Pat Davidson led our discussion of A. B. Yehoshua's intriguing new novel, *A Woman in Jerusalem*. In May, Fred Mendelsohn took on David Mamet's angry discourse on anti-Semitism and Jewish self-hatred, *The Wicked Son*.

We will start our next season of book discussions Sunday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m. Karen Kaplan will lead us in discussing Pulitzer prize-winner Michael Chabon's new novel, *The Yiddish*

## HEVRA KADISHA STUDIES TAHARA LITURGY

By Gerry Solomon and Vera Silver

Tahara is a ritual of purification, a most solemn, sacred task of the Hevra Kadisha. As the Hevra Guide explains, "Before a funeral, the deceased is washed, cleansed and ritually purified so that, in a symbolic way, he leaves the world in the same condition as he entered it."

It is a task requiring the utmost in respect for the dignity and honor of the deceased, and members of the Hevra who perform this mitzvah are trained in the proper procedures.

Tahara also requires a special liturgy. This liturgy was the topic for study at this year's Zayin Adar brunch on the 7th of Adar, the *yahrzeit* of Moshe Rabbeinu.

Zayin Adar is the customary day for celebrating the work of the Hevra Kadisha. About 40 people davened together at the regular Sunday morning minyan on February 25, enjoyed a hot catered buffet brunch, and then heard Rabbi Wechsler teach about the majestic tahara liturgy.

Those in attendance discovered that Rabbi Wechsler has devoted a significant amount of study to this topic. His knowledge, enthusiasm, and devotion to the subject permeated the room as the group followed the steps involved in a tahara and its accompanying liturgy. There were many questions and remarks as we learned about the progression of the ritual and the beautiful and honorable words that

accompany it. Those who have participated in a tahara shared their unique feelings and experiences.

The next formal meeting of the Hevra Kadisha will take place after the summer, but you may join at any time. Please speak with either Vera Silver or Gerry Solomon. Their telephone numbers are available through the Or Zarua office.

And, by the way, the next time you hear a plate or cup crash and break, collect the pieces of broken crockery and bring them to Or Zarua. These pieces, called *sherblakh*, are used during taharot to cover the eyes and mouth of the deceased. We have a beautiful, special container for these *sherblakh* on the fifth floor.

# 2007 Salute to Israel Parade

Sixty Or Zarua Congregants in navy blue shirts marched up Fifth Avenue on Sunday, May 6, for the Salute to Israel Parade. Our beautiful banners and signs, crafted by the Hebrew School students and their teachers, reflected this year's theme,

"Israel Lights Up Our Life!" With their brightly colored streamers, OZ's decorations were recognized with a special certificate by the parade organizers. Join us next year to share in this amazing experience and show the strength of our support for Israel.



## CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

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## HEBREW SCHOOL REGISTRATION

The first day of Hebrew School is Monday, September 10, 2007. Now is the time to register, both for returning and new students. For a registration form, please contact Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310, extension 15 or [ilana@orzarua.org](mailto:ilana@orzarua.org).

## OZY SHABBAT SERVICES

During the months of July and August, children's Shabbat services will be divided into two groups: one for ages 2 through 6 and one for all other school-aged children.

**Not going away for the weekend?**  
Remember Friday night services at OZ:  
6:45 p.m. in July, 6:30 p.m. in August.