



A Tree of Life for Those Who Grasp It: Torah Study for Its Own Sake

An adult education course between Pesah and Shavuot by Marc Ashley

The study of Torah has been at the heart of Jewish life for millennia, embraced as the preeminent activity and vehicle of religious dedication. We study Torah in myriad settings, in schools and synagogues, at meals and social events. Torah learning is elevated above all else in Jewish thought and practice, and scholarship in Jewish learning is deemed self-evidently worthwhile and admirable. But why is Torah study such an important Jewish value?

The primacy of Torah study is indisputable. A well-known rabbinic maxim states that Torah study has value equal to all of God's other commandments. We pledge in our prayers to "meditate on [words of Torah] day and night." The Talmud describes brilliant scholars as mighty warriors engaged in battles of the Torah, and as pearl divers capable of reaching great depths in pursuit of divine treasure. Such a virtue is Torah study that even God is described by the rabbis as engaging in daily study of Bible and Mishnah.

A student's motivations behind Torah study are, however, considered relevant to its value. The traditional ideal is study of Torah *lishmah*, learning for its own sake, presumably free of ulterior motive or consideration of reward.

Yet the concept of "Torah *lishmah*" is not transparent. Torah study may, in fact, be a means to a higher end. As a threshold matter, whether study or deeds should be accorded greater value is a vexing issue. Can studying about God's commandments be valued more highly than their actual performance? Is Torah study disconnected from practice of Jewish law considered

meritorious? Definitions of the ultimate goals of Torah study have varied, from the observance of commandments to love of God, from intellectual refinement to cultural attachment.

Such issues have been a perennial source of Jewish debate, and were prominently featured in clashing views of Hasidim and Mitnagdim in the early modern period. They have surfaced most recently in arguments surrounding the inaugural speech of a new Knesset member, a secular Talmud scholar, about the importance of Torah study in modern Israeli culture.

Join our discussion of this pivotal concept in an adult education course, led by Congregant Marc Ashley, between Pesah and Shavuot. In "A Tree of Life for Those Who Grasp It: Torah Study for Its Own Sake," we will examine Jewish sources and perspectives on a pursuit that is so central to Jewish life but the goals and purpose of which are often left unexamined. We will meet in the library on four Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m., on April 7, 14, 21, and 28. No prior knowledge of any kind is required. Please participate in our ongoing give-and-take about the study of Torah, for the sake of strengthening the place of Torah in our community.



Kindergarten and first grade students from Or Zarua's Hebrew School interviewed Rabbi Bolton in his office (see page 7).

JACOB BERGMAN, FIFTH-GRADE STUDENT



A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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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 Diane Okrent



In Judaism, there has always been a tension between the use of Hebrew, (the holy language) and the vernacular—be it Aramaic, Yiddish, Ladino or, in our case, English.

Which prayers should be said in Hebrew and which should be said in the local language?

In recent years, I have been interested in those prayers and traditional documents that have remained in Aramaic, the day-to-day language of the Second Temple period (539 BCE-70 CE) and the main language of the Gemara and the Zohar. For example, the Kaddish and Kol Nidre are in Aramaic, presumably so that everyone could understand them. The traditional Ketubah is also written in Aramaic.

As we approach Passover, I think about Ha Lachma Anya, with which we begin the Maggid at the seder, preserved in the original Aramaic. "This is the bread of affliction which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. All who are hungry, let them come and eat. All who are in need, let them come celebrate Pesah. Now we are here. Next year in the land of Israel. Now we are enslaved. Next year we will be free."

We preserve this command in the vernacular so that everyone understands that Passover is inclusive—all who are hungry are invited to come and eat. As I contemplate the menu for my sederim, I think about the literal meaning of hunger and the material meaning of need. But I think about the spiritual meanings as well. All who hunger for community, for connection with their Jewish roots, and the family with

whom they are close or from whom they may be estranged, let them come and feast at our table. Let them find the physical and spiritual nurturing they crave.

I take this direction very personally and very seriously. Often, I have had to add another chair (or two or three) to my already long collection of tables to accommodate those who need a place. I can't stand knowing that someone has no place to go for seder. And, if asked, I can't turn someone away.

And so it is with Congregation Or Zarua. We, as a community are committed to opening our communal home to all who are hungry—for community, for connection, for religious services, for education for themselves and their children. We try to "be there" for members of the community at all times. Look through this newsletter and read our weekly e-blasts to see the wide-ranging programs and services we provide every week of the year.

This commitment, however, takes resources—both personal and financial. We are a volunteer organization. We need volunteers to create a minyan, lead services, read Torah and Haftarah, plan programs, and perform acts of hesed.

And we need your financial support. As I mentioned at Kol Nidre, membership dues only provide 40 percent of our revenues. The rest comes from your generous contributions at Kol Nidre and throughout the year. As we approach Pesah, count the Omer, remember the Shoah, celebrate Israel's 65th Independence Day, and celebrate Shavuot, I ask that you consider additional support for the depth and breadth of the activities you will find at Or Zarua.

I wish you and your family a happy, healthy, joyous, and peaceful Pesah!

KEVA AND KAVANNA: Our Fixed Prayers and Windows of Inspiration Thursdays at 8:35 a.m. in the OZ social hall

This new siddur class, taught by Rabbi Bolton, studies the history, laws, teachings, and approaches to Jewish prayer. Prior knowledge is not required.

Shabbaton with Rabbi Eliezer Diamond

The Siddur and the Haggadah: Investigations of Text, Song, and Prayer

Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16



Eliezer Diamond, the Rabbi Judah Nadich Associate Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at JTS, will be the OZ Scholar-in-Residence for

Shabbat on March 15 and 16. Many OZ Congregants already know Rabbi Diamond because he has taught the Rabbinical Judaism portion of the Context program and, most recently, presented a lecture, "From Sacrifice to Seder: Celebrating Passover in a Post-Temple World," for last year's Pesah Context miniseries in honor of Rabbi Wechsler.

Rabbi Diamond was ordained at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University and received his doctorate in Talmud from JTS. He is the author of many popular and scholarly

articles, including a chapter on the rabbinic period in the *Schocken Guide to Jewish Books* and articles in the *Reader's Guide to Judaism*. His book, *Holy Men and Hunger Artists: Fasting and Asceticism in Rabbinic Culture* (2003, by Oxford University Press), provides a thorough reassessment of the role that asceticism plays in rabbinic Judaism. Rabbi Diamond is editing a commentary on Yerushalmi Pesahim written by the late Professor Louis Ginzberg as well as a volume on prayer.

The main theme of Rabbi Diamond's Shabbaton is "The Siddur and the Haggadah: Investigations of Text, Song, and Prayer." He will be teaching four different sessions. At dinner on Friday night, the Shabbaton will commence with a discussion on "Worshiping and Wandering: A Study of Psalm 95, *Lekhu Neranenuh*." During Shabbat morning services, the presentation will be "Shirat Ha-Yam: The Song at the

Sea as Reenactment and Metaphor." At Shabbat lunch, Rabbi Diamond will be discussing "From Slavery to Freedom: The Haggadah's Twice-Told Tale." The final presentation will be during Seudah Shlishit: "Server and Served, Gentile and Jew: Whose Story are We Telling at the Seder?"

This Shabbaton, our first with Rabbi Bolton, will be rewarding both intellectually and musically. Please note that the lunch and dinner require reservations; RSVP as soon as possible. Details can be found in the box below. There will be separate programming for young children.

SHABBATON WITH RABBI ELIEZER DIAMOND

Friday, March 15

Congregational Dinner

immediately following services, which begin at 6:44 p.m.

"Worshiping and Wandering: A Study of Psalm 95, Lekhu Neranenuh."

Saturday, March 16

Shaharit at 9:00 a.m.

"Shirat Ha-Yam: The Song at the Sea as Reenactment and Metaphor"

Congregational Lunch

immediately following Kiddush

"From Slavery to Freedom:

The Haggadah's Twice-Told Tale"

Minhah at 6:25 p.m.

Seudah Shlishit

"Server and Served, Gentile and Jew: Whose Story are We Telling at the Seder?"

Please make Friday night dinner or Saturday lunch reservations by

MONDAY, MARCH 11

at 212-452-2310, extension 39

or www.orzarua.org

Lunch and dinner are \$40 adults; \$20 children aged 5-12; children under 5, no charge. Seudah Shlishit is free and open to all.

SHABBAT HAYELED

Saturday, March 16, 9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Hayeled, a Shabbat dedicated to our children, will take place on Saturday, March 16, 9:00 a.m. In this ceremony our third graders and new students will receive their first siddurim. We also honor our teachers and volunteers for their work in providing a Jewish education and heritage to our community's children. post-Bnei Mitzvah kids will read from the Torah. All children will go up to the bimah for Adon Olam.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Show

Opening soon in the Or Zarua Gallery

Can you guess which Or Zarua member is pictured in this Bar Mitzvah photograph and when it was taken? You will be able to find the answer at the next exhibition, "Today I Am..." to be held in the Or Zarua Gallery.

OZ GALLERY COMMITTEE



"Today I Am..." will explore the origins and changes in Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies and celebrations. It will be illustrated with photographs (like this one) and memorabilia from Or Zarua Congregants. We are in the process of organizing the exhibition and look forward to seeing you at the opening.

Reclaiming “Imagine” as a Jewish Tune

Seeing and attaining our Jewish future through the Seder



Each time I am at prayer services, the music makes me imagine a different world, a developing self, a new conception of an aspect of

our reality. Older, comforting tunes and newer, rhythmic ones inspire me to reflect and to ask: Am I doing my part in this unfolding story of creation? How much have I developed the self I can be? How much am I working with my community to fulfill even more of my responsibility?

While some people attend services or programs often and regularly plug into the Jewish music of synagogue life, others wait until a holiday like Pesah. The Passover Seder is a great “musical set” which provides us with lyrics and choreography that lets us dance familiar steps. The song is for shaking us out of our normal zone of living. Singing the order of the Seder is the step-by-step climb away from the toil of work, the pain and suffering that may ail us, the obfuscation in our way, onto the truest plane of freedom to be. By the end we are singing, “Next year in Jerusalem...” We read aloud, to paraphrase: “Imagine you are there right now. You are going out of Egypt. Your life is entwined with the very experiences of the ancestors who came before you. What is it that you really want to do with newly attained freedom? What will you do with the blessing and freedom you have, when you get up from the Seder table?”

The Haggadah, near the end, boils it down to this message: *b'khol dor va'dor chayav adam lirot et atzmo k'ilu hu yatza m'mitzrayim*—in every generation a person must imagine him or herself as if he or she went out of Egypt. John Lennon has nothing on us! I vote to reject a world of no religion. As time unfolds, Jewish understandings create more responsible approaches to consumerism, materialism, technological engagement, and developing one's self as part of community. Torah is a source of ancient wisdom that can be applied to modern times. Applied in their

purest and best forms, Jewish values have the potential to continue enhancing our understandings of living freely, in a democracy, allowed as we are individually and collectively to become our most profound selves, and at the same time to serve God.

Through our rituals and our prayer services, we are reminded to look at ourselves anew and construct a world in which God's holiness and determination for justice will prevail. Soon we will celebrate Passover, count the Omer, remember the Holocaust, commemorate heroism, recall fallen soldiers in Israel who gave their lives for our precious homeland, show our pride on Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) and arrive at Shavuot, the holiday whereupon we celebrate receiving our Torah. Each slice of time in our calendar brings us to an incredible time in history, and each is asking us to make our everyday experience more powerful and infused with Jewish vision.

Will we be *Lifnim M'shurat haDin*—a mensch about the way we go about living our lives and not taking too much credit for the “super-righteous” things we do? Or will we become *Naval B'R'shut HaTorah*—that even while we lay tefillin or light candles our hands and hearts would still deceive? Our tradition asks us to consider how we will engage in business and behave at meals. At daily minyan, I like to stop and appreciate the poetry of a hope expressed in the siddur by the following line: *Mah rabu ma'asekha Adonai!* How greatly and manifest are your works, Adonai. As God makes manifest all that unfolds in creation, for good, so should we be inspired to good each day.

The notion that we are to imagine, “to see” ourselves going out of Egypt, whether we are reading the Haggadah or passages about the Exodus in our daily liturgy, is a call to us to figure out what we will do as free people—free to serve God and good causes through the application of our minds, hands, and hearts. Even if we are not on the physical journey to

Israel, do we see ourselves being brought out of whatever it is that enslaves us? Can we see ourselves being freed to become more of the people we are supposed to be?

The Seder and participation in the Jewish community, especially in one's synagogue, is a way to keep the fires of imagination alight. Finding the power to reflect on our history, where we came from, who we are, and where we are going, is a profound experience. I would argue that it is a profound need that many miss in our busy, modern times.

This is why the Haggadah uses the strong word “chayav”—obligated. It obligates us to imagine, see, and think of ourselves as making meaning by being students of history through poetry, liturgy, art, ritual, dance, texts, and polemics. In modern times, the tendency has been to lessen the branding of Judaism as a faith-base that demands or requires much. Yet, as we each prepare to make Seders in our homes or join Seders in the homes of loved ones, with the community (as with Or Zarua's second Seder), or elsewhere, we will require of ourselves the re-reading of the central narratives of our people.

Imagine all the people leaving behind a system where slavery and servitude was a given. Imagine being part of the Jewish people who, for thousands of years, asked if it was ethical and right to keep a worker's garment as a pledge overnight or if corporal punishment should give way to monetary compensation.

We are a people who value legal requirements, as much as we are a people who value a world wherein everyone lives in peace. A good debate? We enjoy that, too! What is the essential meaning of “in every generation, a Jew must see him or herself going out of Egypt.” I welcome your reflections at rabbibolton@orzarua.org. I am looking to share them at the second Seder.

Be in touch so that we can get to know one another, especially if we have not had a chance meet. *Chag Kasher V'sameah*—a Sweet, Happy, Kosher Passover.

—RABBI SCOTT N. BOLTON

The Spirit of Communal Song at Or Zarua

by Marc Ashley

Song permeates much of what we do at Or Zarua. We sing collectively during prayer services throughout the year, before and after meals, and at celebratory events. Some melodies are festive and others contemplative, and the mood of our singing may vary, but surely the music we create together helps to enrich both our individual lives and our communal experience.

Yet the spirit we generate through singing together can always be enhanced; the liveliness that infuses our prayer services can be made ever more robust. Our challenge is to make our communal singing perpetually fresh, so that we fulfill the instruction of the Psalms to “sing a new song to the Lord,” as if each melody, however familiar, were a new musical venture.

But we must recognize that creating a

community of sacred song takes time and effort. And, indeed, we are making strides to improve and inspire ourselves.

We have recently established a tradition of assembling periodically for a *zim-riyah*, a singing session, to sing old and new tunes that may be used in our prayer services and beyond. These sessions are intended to be informal and fun, to encourage singing for the enjoyment of it.

We have also scheduled a series of musicality workshops over the coming weeks at which we will learn accessible melodies to revitalize our Hallel and Musaf prayer services. Rabbi Julia Andelman, an experienced musical mentor and service leader, will guide us at workshops on two Sunday mornings, March 3 and 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. In between those educational Sunday workshops, we will

hold an in-house session on Thursday evening, March 14, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., so we can practice together what Rabbi Andelman has taught us about prayerful song and congregational *ruah*. Toward the same end, our upcoming Shabbaton with Rabbi Dr. Eliezer Diamond will have a musical component in addition to text-based learning.

Finally, we are launching an *a cappella* group at Or Zarua, which will complement our already established klezmer band. We will soon have an organizational meeting to inaugurate our project to bring greater singing harmony to our communal events.

Please join this music-related programming, no matter your singing skill. We need the participation of all Congregants to strengthen our efforts to enhance our community of song.

OZ Series on Eldercare

Three Mondays: March 4, April 8 and 29, 7:30 p.m.

Congregation Or Zarua is pleased to sponsor a series of three evening programs on eldercare, inter-generational relationships, and conflicting responsibilities.

On Monday, March 4, Rabbi Amy Bolton will open the series with the topic “Giving Care and Caring for Ourselves: The Spiritual Odyssey of the Mitzvah of Respecting Your Parents.”

The second presentation will be given on Monday, April 8 by Robert M. Freedman, an attorney specializing in elder law. He will speak on “Legal Aspects of Eldercare:

Health Care, Privacy, and Decisions for Older Adults.”

On Monday, April 29, Dr. Renee Solomon, a nationally-known gerontologist with a private practice and retired professor from the School of Social Work, Columbia University, will discuss “Challenges in Inter-Generational Relationships: Staying Close, and Letting Go.”

These events, open to the public, will be held in the OZ library beginning at 7:30 p.m. An informal discussion with refreshments will follow each speaker’s presentation, ending by 9:00 p.m.

RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Sundays at 5:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m., and 12:00 p.m.



Rabbi Wechsler can be heard on SiriusXM Stars Channel three times each Sunday. From February to May, the program will be emanating from Jerusalem. Subscribers to SiriusXM Satellite Radio can access “Rabbi Wechsler Teaches” on Channel 107. Nonsubscribers can obtain a free, three-day trial at www.siriusxm.com.

OR ZARUA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Oral History committee, chaired by Mimi Alperin, continues to collect materials, such as memories and artifacts, from the early days of Congregation Or Zarua. If you have a submission for the Oral History Project, please contact Caroline Golden at caroline@carolinegolden.com or Gerry Solomon at gsolomon2@aol.com. Questions should be directed to Meredith Katz at mekatz@jtsa.edu.

The Torah Learning Coalition

Achdut (Unity) through Torah learning and the vibrancy of the East Side Jewish community

The Torah Learning Coalition (TLC) is a consortium of several East Side synagogues which have joined together to invite each others' members across their thresholds to share in the vibrant Jewish life and Torah learning opportunities in our neighborhoods. The purpose of the TLC is to promote community, Torah learning, and engagement of Jews, regardless of denominational background. We seek to

show the value of being part of a synagogue community while learning from and with each other.

More information will be coming soon about the schedule of learning opportunities that will be offered between Pesah and Shavuot. A weekly shiur/class will be given at an area synagogue in the TLC, and our rabbis' hopes are that we will join together in *achdut*—unity—to study *Pirke Avot*, our major treatise on Ethics (or

Sayings) of the Fathers. Between Pesah and Shavuot it is traditional to take a new chapter each week and study it for its essential messages of how to live freely and ethically.

Join this groundbreaking project and be part of the broader Jewish community, as we take pride in being members of our own synagogues. Watch for schedules and locations.

—RABBI SCOTT N. BOLTON

OZ Crafts Club Chemo Caps

Supporting children at Ronald McDonald House

MINA GREENSTEIN



In conjunction with the Hesed Committee, Or Zarua's Crafts Club knitted many chemo caps and scarves for children residing at Ronald McDonald House while undergoing chemotherapy. These colorful caps were knitted in a range of sizes to fit children of all ages, including babies and teenagers. Now that Ronald McDonald House is well stocked, the Crafts Club will be moving on to other projects. If you are interested in joining the Crafts Club, please leave a message with the synagogue office at 212-452-0809, extension 39. For additional information on OZ hesed activities, please see the Hesed Events and Programs column on page 12.

TORAH STUDY THIS SUMMER AT JTS

Programs for adults and high school juniors and seniors

Want to study at JTS this summer? Credit and noncredit courses are being offered, including "Nishma: A Summer of Torah Study" in the JTS Beit Midrash (the only North American summer Talmud program that integrates university-level Hebrew study with intensive beit midrash-style learning); JustCity, a precollege program that provides rising high school juniors and seniors with the chance to integrate Jewish learning with community service, and Summer Sessions I, II, and III.

For more information about any JTS spring and summer courses, programs, and events, please contact Bonnie G. Biondi at (212) 678-8056 or bobiondi@jtsa.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Have an idea or article that is suitable for publication in the *OZ Newsletter*? If so, please contact Charlie Spielholz at cssrs@earthlink.net. All copy for the May/June 2013 issue should be received by Monday, April 1.

A Thank You from S'derot, Israel

Proceeds of the OZ Talent Show contributed to the Gil Rabin School

Each year, OZ's Youth Education Department sponsors a talent show. Proceeds from the show benefit the Gil Rabin School's indoor game facility in S'derot, Israel. This facility, built with JNF funds, provides a safe place for children to play during rocket attacks emanating from some of Israel's neighbors. The principal of the school wrote a beautiful letter thanking our Youth Education Department for its support. Below is a translation of the letter (shown at right) by Ilana Burgess.

—CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ

Dear Ilana Burgess and Congregation Or Zarua:

Let me thank you from the bottom of my heart for the generous donation that the students of your religious school made to our school.

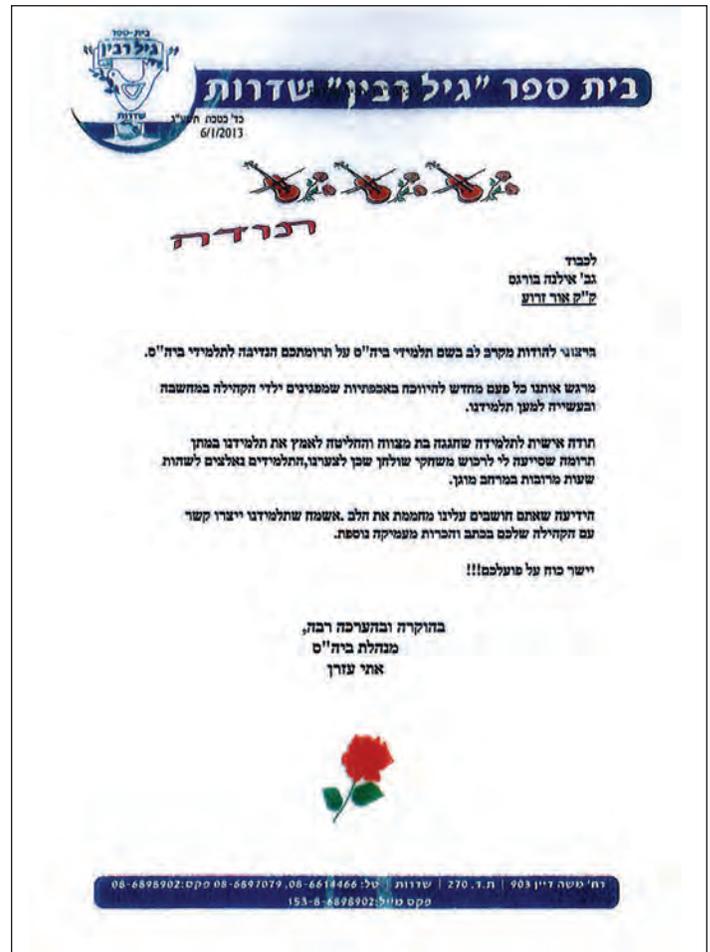
Each time the students of your Congregation so generously support us, we are profoundly touched. A special thanks to the student who celebrated becoming Bat Mitzvah and decided to donate to our community. We were able to purchase board games and other equipment that our kids use during the long stretches that we must be in our indoor, protected playground.

Knowing that you are thinking of us, and that you support us, warms our hearts.

We look forward to continuing the connections that we have developed with your community, and we would be delighted if even more personal relationships are forged among the students and families in both of our communities.

With great thanks and yishar koach!

Etti Azran
School Principal



Rabbi Bolton Interviewed

By kindergarten and first grade students of the Or Zarua Hebrew School (see photo on page 1)

Each year, the kindergarten and first grade students of Or Zarua's Hebrew School interview the rabbi. This was Rabbi Bolton's first annual interview. After greeting each other and singing "Am Israel Chai," (We are alive, the Jewish faith is alive, and this the reason that we are all here), to a guitar accompaniment, the students asked their questions. Here are selections from the interview.

Sam: Did you have to go to a special school to become a rabbi?

Rabbi Bolton: Yes, I went to one

school for four years and then I continued for three more years. I studied a total of seven years to become a rabbi.

Mayan: What did you do before you became a rabbi?

Rabbi Bolton: I was a painter, artist, and photographer—just like Jacob, who is taking the pictures. I also worked in an organization that supported the Fire Department, making sure they had all the equipment they needed.

Harry: What is the happiest and the saddest thing you had to do as a rabbi?

Rabbi Bolton: The happiest is, of

course, welcoming a new baby to the world; the saddest is when someone is leaving our world.

Hanna: Why did you become a rabbi?

Rabbi Bolton: Because I am Jewish—as we all are—and it is important that we practice Judaism, and I wanted to be where I can do the most good.

Noah: What do you like the most about being a rabbi?

Rabbi Bolton: The thing I like the most is that I can read and learn. Isn't that great to be able to read and learn all day?

Ahavat Zion: Programs for All to Enjoy!

from the Or Zarua Israel Committee

Israeli Youth Emissary Program, Monday, March 18

● Growing up in Israel on the cusp of the 21st century is a unique experience. How is life different for teenagers and young adults in Israel from that of those in New York? You can find out by meeting with young Israelis who will be visiting OZ on March 18. This Israeli Youth Emissary Program features young men and women from Friends of the IDF and Mechinat Ein Prat. (Mechinat Ein Prat is a joint religious and secular preparatory program in Israel that works to bridge gaps in Israeli society through education focusing on Zionism, leadership, Judaism, political science, and philosophy, and intensive volunteering community service). The entire Congregation is invited to meet young Israeli men and women in the social hall from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to learn about

their experiences. We ask that you submit questions one week prior to the event to Ilana Burgess at iburgess@orzarua.org. Or Zarua's Youth will be having dinner with the speakers prior to the event from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310, extension 15 or Aliza Kaplan at akaplan@clal.org.

Independence Day Mission to Israel with UJA

● From Saturday, April 13 to Friday, April 19, in celebration of Israel's 65th Anniversary, an Or Zarua group will take part in the UJA-William Rosenwald Mission to Israel. Be in Israel for Independence Day! Discover unique Israeli attractions—archaeological digs, ancient cities, ports, rare treasures, exclusive museum exhibits, biblical artifacts, landmarks, and much more. Meet with top government officials,

key political leaders, and leading military analysts. This UJA mission is designed to excite your curiosity and deepen your connection to Judaism, our people, and your *Ahavat Israel*, love of Israel. For more information, contact Aliza Kaplan at 212-779-3300, extension 105. To register, please contact Susan Flanders at flanderss@ujafedny.org or 212-836-1813.

Erev Yom Ha'atzmaut, Monday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.

● Or Zarua will celebrate Israel's Independence Day with delicious food, drink and song!

Celebrate Israel Parade, Sunday, June 2

● Congregation Or Zarua will march as a group up Fifth Avenue in the Celebrate Israel Parade. There will be preparation activities prior to the parade. Please watch for our step-off time, which will be announced closer to the date.

Family and Youth Activities

Congregational programs for all ages

March 2013

Sunday, March 3 • 10:00 a.m.

MUSICALITY WORKSHOP with "Song and Instrument" program for children. Details on page 5.

Sunday, March 3 • 1:00 p.m.

USY TIKKUN OLAM SUNDAY
All USYers and Jewish teens are invited!

Saturday, March 9 • 10:00 a.m.

TEEN-LED MINYAN in the library.

Saturday, March 16 • 9:00 a.m.

SHABBAT HAYELED
Celebrating our children. Details on page 3.

Saturday, March 16 • 10:00 a.m.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION
For second grade and older. Services led by students, teachers, and parents.

Friday–Saturday, March 15–16

SHABBATON WITH ELIEZER DIAMOND,
Rabbi Judah Nadich Professor
of Talmud and Rabbinics at JTS.

"The Siddur and the Haggadah:

Investigations of Text, Song and Prayer"
Reservations required. Details on page 3.

Sunday, March 17 • 10:00 a.m.

MUSICALITY WORKSHOP with "Cook, Create, and Paint" program for children. Details on page 5.

Monday, March 18 • 5:00 p.m.

ISRAELI YOUTH EMISSARY PROGRAM
Details on page 8.

Tuesday, March 26 • 8:00 p.m.

OZ CONGREGATIONAL SECOND SEDER
Reservations required. Details on page 15.

April 2013

Sunday, April 7 • 7:00 p.m.

YOM HASHOAH PROGRAM.
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL EVENT

Monday, April 15 • 7:30 p.m.

YOM HAZIKARON AND
YOM HA'ATZMAUT PROGRAM

Saturday, April 20 • 10:30 a.m.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION
For second grade and older. Services led by students, teachers, and parents.

Saturday, April 20 • 9:00 p.m.

SPRING SLEEPOVER for second grade and older, starting with movies at 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 21 • 4:00 p.m.

PJ LIBRARY: "Go Israel"

Saturday, April 27 • 10:00 a.m.

TEEN-LED MINYAN in the library.

May 2013

Monday, May 6 • TBD

OZ YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
OPEN HOUSE

For more information about these events, please contact Ilana Burgess, OZ's Youth Education Director, at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or iburgess@orzarua.org.

Tu B'Shevat Activities

at the Or Zarua Hebrew School



OR ZARUA YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



The Or Zarua Hebrew School students studied the history and customs of Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees. In these photographs, the students are shown preparing decorations inspired by the holiday for the children at Ronald McDonald House. The decorations were used on Tu B'Shevat Night at Ronald McDonald House, a buffet dinner with singing and dancing, that is hosted annually by Congregation Or Zarua. The festive dinner is designed for all the young patients and their families who are residing at Ronald McDonald House.

WELCOMING GUESTS AT OZ It is important for us as a community to make guests and new members at our services and kiddushim feel comfortable and welcome. If you are seated next to someone whom you do not know or see a new face at kiddush, please reach out and introduce yourself. Making this effort is consistent with our culture and will repay dividends.



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

March 2013 • Adar/Nisan 5773

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3 • 21 8:45 am Minyan 10:00 am Or Zarua Musicality Workshop with "Song and Instrument" program for children 1:00 pm USY Tikkun Olam Sunday</p>	<p>4 • 22 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Series on Eldercare with Rabbi Amy Bolton 8:00 pm Mark Somerstein Torah Reading Class</p>	<p>5 • 23 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context</p>	<p>6 • 24 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class</p>	<p>7 • 25 7:15 am Minyan 8:35 am Keva and Kavanna: Siddur Class</p>	<p>1 • 19 Adar 7:15 am Minyan 5:28 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat</p>	<p>2 • 20 Shabbat Parah 9:00 am Shaharit Ki Tissa Zimriyah, after services 6:33 pm Shabbat ends</p>
<p>10 • 28 8:45 am Minyan <i>Daylight Savings begins</i></p>	<p>11 • 29 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Mark Somerstein Torah Reading Class (final)</p>	<p>12 • 1 Nisan Rosh Hodesh Nisan 7:00 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context</p>	<p>13 • 2 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class with guest teacher Rabbi Daniel Nevins (JTS)</p>	<p>14 • 3 7:15 am Minyan 8:35 am Keva and Kavanna: Siddur Class 7:30 pm OZ Musicality Workshop: Come Sing!</p>	<p>15 • 4 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:44 pm Candlelighting Shabbaton with Rabbi Dr. Eliezer Diamond</p>	<p>16 • 5 9:00 am Shaharit: Vayikra Shabbaton with Rabbi Dr. Eliezer Diamond 9:00 am Shabbat Hayaed 10:00 am Jr. Congregation 6:25 pm Minhah 7:49 pm Shabbat ends</p>
<p>17 • 6 8:45 am Minyan 10:00 am Or Zarua Musicality Workshop with "Cook, Create and Paint" Pesah program for children 7:30 pm Book Discussion</p>	<p>18 • 7 7:15 am Minyan Israeli Youth Emissary Program 5:00 pm Youth 6:00 pm all OZ members</p>	<p>19 • 8 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context</p>	<p>20 • 9 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class</p>	<p>21 • 10 7:15 am Minyan 8:35 am Keva and Kavanna: Siddur Class</p>	<p>22 • 11 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:51 pm Candlelighting</p>	<p>23 • 12 Shabbat Hagadol 9:00 am Shaharit Tzav 7:56 pm Shabbat ends</p>
<p>24 • 13 8:45 am Minyan</p>	<p>25 • 14 Fast of the Firstborn/Siyum 7:00 am Minyan Erev Pesah 6:55 pm Candlelighting First Seder 1:00 pm Office closes Hebrew School closed</p>	<p>26 • 15 1st Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit 7:15 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 8:00 pm Or Zarua Congregational Seder Light candles after 7:54 pm Second Seder Office closed/No Context</p>	<p>27 • 16 2nd Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit 7:56 pm Festival Ends Office closed Hebrew School closed No Talmud Class</p>	<p>28 • 17 Hol Hamoed 3rd Day of Pesah 7:00 am Minyan 8:35 am Keva and Kavanna: Siddur Class</p>	<p>29 • 18 Hol Hamoed 4th Day of Pesah 7:00 am Minyan 6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:59 pm Candlelighting</p>	<p>30 • 19 Shabbat Hol Hamoed 5th Day of Pesah 8:45 am Shaharit 6:40 pm Minhah/Seudah Shlishit Lecture with Rabbi Bolton/Ma'ariv 8:04 pm Shabbat ends</p>



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

April 2013 • Nisan/Iyar 5773

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 • 20 Nisan Hol Hamoed 6th Day of Pesah 8:45 am Minyan Erev 7th Day of Pesah 6:00 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:01 pm Candlelighting	1 • 21 7th Day of Pesah 9:00 Shaharit Last Day of Pesah 6:15 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv Light candles after 8:01 pm Office closed Hebrew School closed	2 • 22 Last Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit Yizkor 8:02 pm Festival ends Office closed No Context class	3 • 23 7:15 am Minyan Hebrew School resumes 8:00 pm Talmud Class	4 • 24 7:15 am Minyan 8:35 am Keva and Kavanna: Siddur Class	5 • 25 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:06 pm Candlelighting	6 • 26 9:00 am Shaharit Shemini B'nai Mitzvah of Michael and Benjamin Plevin 8:11 pm Shabbat ends
7 • 27 Yom HaShoah 8:45 am Minyan 10:00 am Ashley Adult Education Course 7:00 pm Holocaust Memorial Event	8 • 28 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm "Series on Eldercare with Robert M. Freedman	9 • 29 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context	10 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Iyar 7:00 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	11 • 1 Iyar Rosh Hodesh Iyar 7:00 am Minyan 8:35 am Keva and Kavanna: Siddur Class	12 • 2 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:13 pm Candlelighting	13 • 3 9:00 am Shaharit Tazria-Metzora 8:19 pm Shabbat ends
14 • 4 8:45 am Minyan 10:00 am Ashley Adult Education Course	15 • 5 Yom HaZikaron 7:15 am Minyan Erev Yom Ha'atzmaut 7:30 pm Yom HaZikaron/Yom Ha'atzmaut program	16 • 6 Yom Ha'atzmaut 7:00 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context	17 • 7 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	18 • 8 7:15 am Minyan 8:35 am Keva and Kavanna: Siddur Class	19 • 9 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:21 pm Candlelighting	20 • 10 9:00 am Shaharit Aharei Mot/Kedoshim Bar Mitzvah of Hart Rapaport 10:30 am Jr. Congregation 8:26 pm Shabbat ends 9:00 pm Spring Sleepover and Movies
21 • 11 8:45 am Minyan 10:00 am Ashley Adult Education Course 4:00 pm PJ Library	22 • 12 7:15 am Minyan	23 • 13 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context	24 • 14 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	25 • 15 7:15 am Minyan 8:35 am Keva and Kavanna: Siddur Class	26 • 16 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:28 pm Candlelighting	27 • 17 9:00 am Shaharit Emor 10:00 am Teen-Led Minyan 8:33 pm Shabbat ends
28 • 18 Lag B'Omer 8:45 am Shaharit 10:00 am Ashley Adult Education Course	29 • 19 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Series on Eldercare with Renee Solomon	30 • 20 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context				

Program Sponsorships

For the year 5773 (2012–2013)

Please consider full or partial sponsorship of our programs. For additional information, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 14.

March 15-16

SHABBATON
with Rabbi Eliezer Diamond
Sponsored in full

March 26

SECOND NIGHT SEDER, \$5,000

April 15

YOM HA'ATZMAUT, \$1,800

May 14

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT PANEL WITH CHEESECAKE AND ICE CREAM, \$1,500

May

ANNUAL MEETING DINNER, \$2,500

June

END-OF-YEAR KIDDUSH LUNCH, \$3,000

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

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.

Hesed Events and Programs

“The world exists for the sake of kindness.”—Rashi

Salvation Deliverance Church

● “Pre-owned” adult and children’s clothing, toys, dolls, games, and related items can be put to good use by the many transitional homeless residents in the South Bronx, including single, jobless mothers and their children, as well as unemployed men. OZ partners with Salvation Deliverance Church, whose members are housekeepers caring for their own local needy.

Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden

● “Green thumbs” are needed from spring through fall to help care for Ronald McDonald House’s 7th Floor Terrace Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden.

Home Visit Volunteers

● Volunteer to visit and cheer ill or home-bound Or Zarua Congregants.

Monday Night Pasta and Salad at NCS

● Or Zarua Congregants serve hot food and good cheer to men and women with a range of mental health and addiction issues at the Neighborhood Coalition

Shelter’s East 81st Street Residence on the last two Mondays of each month from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m., when the residents’ government checks are depleted.

Ronald McDonald House

● Children come from across the U.S. and around the world to undergo serious medical treatment at New York City hospitals. Many reside with their families at Ronald McDonald House and have no local support system of friends or relatives. The chaplain at Ronald McDonald House alerts us when OZ may be of service to Jewish families who may require kosher meals, synagogue services, and other assistance.

Chemotherapy Caps

● Attractive knitted caps in all sizes for children from babies to teenagers residing at Ronald McDonald House while undergoing chemotherapy are welcome donations.

To participate in any of these Hesed programs, please contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com or 212-879-0448.

OZ Cemetery

Gravesites for members

The Or Zarua section of Beth El Cemetery is located in Washington Township (Bergen County), New Jersey, just 10 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 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. For information concerning gravesite purchases, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 14.



A view of the Or Zarua cemetery section.

HARVEY BRENNER

TORAH READERS NEEDED

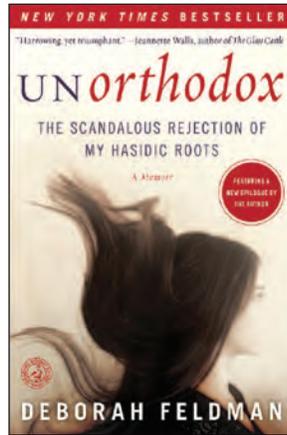
If you are able to read Torah or haftarah and would like to do so on a Shabbat, please contact Marc Ashley (mashley@chadbourn.com) or Jay Palmer (jpalmer@nyc.rr.com). You may also sign up online at www.orzarua.org by choosing “Read Torah” under the “Prayer” drop-down menu.

Or Zarua Book Discussions

Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots
by Deborah Feldman, Sunday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for our next Or Zarua book discussion on Sunday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. in Or Zarua's library. We will discuss *Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots*, a memoir by Deborah Feldman

Deborah Feldman was born into the Satmar Hasidim community in Brooklyn to a mentally disabled father and a mother who fled the sect. Raised by devout grandparents, who forbade her to read in English, Feldman rebelled as a youngster against the strict standards of the community, smuggling into her room books by Jane Austen and Louisa May Alcott borrowed from the public library. Her boldest childhood revolt: she buys an English translation of the Talmud, which would otherwise be kept from her, so that she might understand the prayers and stories that are central to her Satmar life. Tensions escalated when at 17, hoping to escape scrutiny and gossip, she enters



into an arranged marriage with a man she meets once before the wedding.

This memoir, *Unorthodox*, unrolls the story of her marital crisis, her break-

down, and her escape from the world she had known all her life.

Jeannette Walls calls the book “a brave, riveting account of her journey. *Unorthodox* is harrowing, yet triumphant.”

If you would like more information on Or Zarua book discussions or have a book suggestion, please contact Deborah Wenger in the synagogue office at dwenger@orzarua.org.

TALMUD CLASS

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

This year we are continuing our study of Tractate Sanhedrin, which deals with the laws of capital punishment, the composition of the courts, and judicial procedures.

Anyone may join the class at any time; it is not necessary to have participated in Talmud class previously to join the class now. Talmud class will be taught by Rabbi Wechsler. When he is out of town, Rabbi Bolton will teach.

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

OR ZARUA MINYAN

Contact Sheldon Adler at sadler@skadden.com or choose “Daily Minyan” under the “Prayer” menu on www.orzarua.org to sign up for a day or two each month.

LIFE EVENTS

at Congregation Or Zarua

A community such as ours shares good times and bad with its members. When something good happens in your family—birth, graduation, engagement, or marriage—let us share your joy. When something bad happens—illness, hospitalization, or a death in your family—let us share your burden.

Sometimes people are reluctant to communicate these issues on their own. If you know of a member who is coping with illness or loss, please contact the OZ office at 212-452-2310, extension 12 or 14, so that Rabbi Bolton can be informed.

HEBREW SCHOOL CALENDAR

March 2013

- Mon 4** Classes in session
- Wed 6** Classes in session
- Mon 11** Classes in session
- Wed 13** Classes in session
- Sat 16** Shabbat Haya'el, 9:00 a.m.
Junior Congregation, 10:00 a.m.
- Mon 18** Model Seder
- Wed 20** Classes in session
- Mon 25** Pesah (no classes)
- Wed 27** Pesah (no classes)

April 2013

- Mon 1** Pesah (no classes)
- Wed 3** School resumes
- Mon 8** Classes in session
- Wed 10** Classes in session

- Mon 15** Classes in session
- Wed 17** Classes in session
- Sat 20** Junior Congregation, 10:30 a.m.
- Mon 22** Classes in session
- Wed 24** Classes in session
- Mon 29** Classes in session

May 2013

- Wed 1** Classes in session
- Mon 6** B'nei Jeshurun
- Wed 8** Classes in session
- Mon 13** Classes in session
- Wed 15** Shavuot (no classes)
- Sat 18** Junior Congregation, 10:30 a.m.
- Mon 20** Classes in session
- Wed 22** Last day of school

Guidelines for Passover

The guidelines below were prepared for the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards by Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz. They were accepted by the Committee on December 12, 1984 and are updated annually by Rabbi Bolton. Remember that the kosher for Passover home is a unique and transcendent experience for adults as well as children. Pesah feels different to the extent that it is different, and special foods and practices are the source of the special experience.

The Torah prohibits the ownership of hametz (leaven) during Pesah. Therefore, we arrange for the sale of the hametz to a non-Jew. The sale—mekhirat hametz—is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the rabbi, to handle the transfer. The transaction is a valid and legal transfer of ownership. At the end of the holiday, the agent arranges for the reversion of ownership of the now-permitted hametz. If ownership of the hametz was not transferred before the holiday, the use of this hametz is prohibited even after the holiday (hametz she-aver alav ha-Pesah).

The Torah also prohibits the eating of hametz during Pesah. We often need guidance when shopping and preparing for the holiday because many common foods contain some admixture of hametz.

During the eight days of Pesah, hametz does not lose its identity, even in an admixture. Therefore, the minutest amount of hametz renders the whole admixture hametz, and its use on Pesah is prohibited.

Following are some general guidelines. Consult Rabbi Bolton when there is any doubt about the status of a product. Examine the Kosher le-Pesah label: If it does not bear the name of a rabbi, does not contain one of the recognized symbols of rabbinic supervision, or is not integral to the package, check with the rabbi.

Foods

● **Prohibited foods:** leavened bread, cake, biscuits, crackers, cereal, coffee containing cereal derivatives, wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye, and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

According to Ashkenazic custom, the following foods—kitniyot—are added to the prohibited list: rice, corn, millet, and legumes (beans and peas; but string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unambiguously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible. In contrast, Sephardic authorities permit the use of *all* kitniyot on Pesah.

● **Permitted foods that DO NOT require a Kosher le-Pesah label:** fresh fruit, fresh vegetables (for legumes, see above), and eggs.

● **Permitted foods that DO require a Kosher le-Pesah label:** all baked products (matzah, cake, matzah flour, matzah farfel, matzah meal, and any other products containing matzah), canned or bottled fruit juice (often clarified with kitniyot, which are not listed among the ingredients), canned tuna (often processed in vegetable

broth and/ or hydrolyzed protein, even when packed in water), wine, vinegar, liquor, oil, dried fruit, ice cream, yogurt, and soda.

The following processed foods (canned, bottled, or frozen) DO require a Kosher le-Pesah label *if purchased during Pesah*: milk and milk products, butter, juice, vegetables, fruit, spices, coffee, tea, fish, and meat.

Non-Food Items

● **Detergent.** If permitted during the year, powdered and liquid detergents DO NOT require a Kosher le-Pesah label.

● **Medicine.** Because many pills are made with hametz binders, follow this guideline: If the medicine is required for life-sustaining therapy, it may be used on Pesah; if it is not for life-sustaining therapy, some authorities permit, while others prohibit the use of the medicine. Consult Rabbi Bolton.

Kashering

● **Utensils.** The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to halakhah, leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process through which it was absorbed into the utensil (ke-voleo kakh poletu). Therefore, utensils used in cooking are kashered by boiling, those used in broiling are kashered by fire and heat, and those used only for cold food are kashered by rinsing.

● **Earthenware.** China, pottery, etc. may not be kashered. However, fine

WHAT IS THE FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN?

Ta'anit bekhoring, the Fast of the Firstborn, is a custom observed on the day before Pesah to commemorate our gratitude for surviving the pre-Exodus tenth plague, which smote all firstborn Egyptians but spared all firstborn Hebrews. It is a dawn-to-dusk fast, which this year falls on Monday, March 25.

WHO IS CONSIDERED A FIRSTBORN?

A firstborn is a male child who is the first child born either to his mother or to his father. Even if he is the first male born to either parent, having an older sister precludes his firstborn status—he is not the first child.

WHY ONLY THE MALE FIRSTBORN?

In the ancient world, male firstborns were subject to Temple service. It was this hierarchy that was the target of the tenth plague.

HOW CAN A FIRSTBORN AVOID FASTING?

The mitzvah of attending a siyum—a completion of the reading of a tractate of Talmud—overrides the mitzvah of observing this fast. Firstborns can opt to attend a siyum, which is followed by a festive meal. The meal is part of the deal, so the fast is legitimately broken. Synagogues facilitate this choice for firstborns by scheduling a siyum for the morning before Pesah.

translucent chinaware that has not been used for over a year may be used for Pesah if scoured and cleaned in hot water.

● **Metal.** Utensils made entirely of metal and used in fire (such as a spit or broiler) must first be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned, and then heated to the highest possible temperature. Utensils used for cooking or eating (such as silverware or pots) must be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned, and then completely immersed in boiling water. These metal objects should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and the immersion in boiling water. Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered for Pesah.

● **Ovens and ranges.** Every part that comes into contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned, and then heated to the highest possible temperature for a half hour. For ovens with no self-cleaning feature, use the broil setting; for self-cleaning ovens, use the self-cleaning feature to achieve the highest temperature. Continuous-cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens.

● **Microwave ovens.** These do not cook food by means of heat. After the interior is cleaned, place a cup of water inside. Keep the oven on until the water disappears. A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be kashered for Pesah.

● **Glassware.** Drinking glasses and stemware require only a thorough cleaning, by hand or in a dishwasher, before Pesah.

● **Glass cookware.** There is a difference of opinion as to whether glass cookware should be kashered. One opinion is that it must be kashered—after a thorough cleaning, boil water in the cookware so that it overflows the rim. The other opinion is that only a thorough cleaning is required.

● **Glass bakeware.** Like metal bakeware, glass bakeware may not be kashered for Pesah.

● **Dishwashers.** Clean any food trap or filter and leave the dishwasher unused for 24 hours. Then, complete a full wash cycle with detergent.

● **Electrical appliances.** If parts that come into contact with hametz are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rule for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable,

then the appliance cannot be kashered. However, all exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned in either case.

● **Tables, closets, and countertops.**

If they have come into contact with hametz, surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned and covered before use.

● **Kitchen sinks.** Metal sinks must be thoroughly cleaned and then doused with boiling water. Porcelain sinks must be thoroughly cleaned and outfitted with a sink rack. Items may be soaked in a basin placed inside a porcelain sink.

● **Hametz and non-Passover items.**

In order to prevent accidental use, all non-Passover kitchen items and hametz whose ownership has been transferred should be separated from Passover items, marked, covered, and placed in a locked area.

An ever-increasing variety of Kosher le-Pesah products is available in local markets as well as in the specially dedicated Pesah stores that appear each year. Patronize these special Pesah stores, for they provide an important service to the Jewish community.

CONGREGATIONAL SECOND SEDER

Tuesday, March 26, 8 p.m.
immediately following services,
which begin at 7:15 p.m.

We invite you, your family, and your friends to share the second Seder with us on Tuesday, March 26. Services will start at 7:15 p.m. Our Congregational Seder, led by Rabbi Bolton, begins at 8:00 p.m., immediately following services.

Please make Seder reservations by **FRIDAY, MARCH 15** at 212-452-2310, extension 39 or www.orzarua.org.

*OZ Members and Guests: \$75 adults; \$50 children aged 8 and under.
Non-members: \$125 adults; \$55 children aged 8 and under.*

Watch your mail for an invitation.

OMER BASICS

What's an omer? An omer is a unit of measure for cut sheaves of a grain crop. The 49-day period between the second day of Pesah and the day before Shavuot is referred to as the period of sefirat ha'omer—the counting of the omer.

Why do we count it? The Torah tells us in Parashat Emor (Leviticus 23:15-16) that an omer of barley was brought to the Temple on the second day of Pesah as a “wave offering.” This omer of barley consisted of newly harvested grain, and new barley could not be eaten until the omer offering was brought. Starting on the second day of Pesah, 49 days were counted, at the end of which Shavuot was celebrated and an offering was brought to the Temple from the early summer's wheat harvest. The counting, sefirat ha'omer, is done at nightfall each day during the seven weeks. The counting of the omer connects the Exodus from Egypt with the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. In eagerness, we count the days of waiting for the revelation.

How do we observe it? For a period of time during the counting of the omer it is traditional to observe certain semi-mourning customs, such as postponing weddings and foregoing haircuts. This tradition may have an agricultural origin in that the period leading up to the summer harvest is a time of concern for the continuing safety of the crop. But also during this time of year in the second century CE, some 24,000 of Rabbi Akiva's students perished—they were most likely killed by the Romans.

What is Lag B'Omer? Lag B'Omer is the 33rd day of the counting—“lag” is an acronym made up of lamed (30) and gimel (3). The massive fatalities of Rabbi Akiva's students halted on that day, and the customs of semi-mourning are suspended. Lag B'Omer is observed as the *yahrzeit* of Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, the person said to have authored the mystical book, *The Zohar*. This year Lag B'Omer begins on the night of Sunday, April 28.

Pesah Meal Match

First Seder, Monday, March 25

We value being a community and want all our members to have the opportunity to participate in the first Seder. Would you like to join an OZ family for the first Seder? Would you be able to host OZ Congregants around your Seder table? Please let us know and we will organize a first Seder match.

We welcome hosts who celebrate in many different ways—making their own Haggadah, following the traditional one, or offering children lots of opportunity to

interact—as we know there will be interest from our members. Congregants wishing to be guests, please let us know what Seder atmosphere is most attractive to you.

Please note: This matching is available only for members of Congregation Or Zarua.

If you would like to be a host or a guest, please complete the form on page 17 by 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 22, and send it to the synagogue office or register online at www.orzarua.org by clicking “Events & News” (in blue on the right of the page).

Ma’ot Hittim Fund

Assist needy Jews to prepare for Passover

The Haggadah tells us that every Jew must experience the Exodus from Egypt, and the Mishnah tells us that a Jew should drink four cups of wine at the Seder, even if they come from the public dole.

We therefore raise special funds each year to assist less fortunate Jews who cannot afford to prepare for Passover. We forward the funds, called

ma’ot hittim (wheat money), to two communal organizations—the Joint Passover Appeal in New York and the New York Board of Rabbis—for distribution to needy Jews.

We hope that you will give generously to the fund as many will benefit from your kindness. Please make your check payable to Congregation Or Zarua and write Ma’ot Hittim Fund on the memo line.

Sell Your Hametz

Rabbi Bolton will arrange the transaction

Before Passover, we are required to “sell” any hametz in the household to a non-Jew. The transaction is normally arranged by the rabbi to ensure compliance with the requirements of halakhah.

Send the completed form on page 17 to the synagogue office no later than noon on Thursday, March 21 or email it to dwenger@orzarua.org. It is customary to enclose a contribution to Or Zarua’s Ma’ot Hittim Fund with your authorization.

SCHEDULE OF PASSOVER SERVICES 5773/2013

Sunday, March 24

Bedikat Hametz at night

Monday, March 25

Fast of the Firstborn/Siyum

Shaharit 7:00 a.m.

Erev Pesah

Candlelighting 6:55 p.m.
First Seder

Tuesday, March 26

First Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Erev Second Day of Pesah

Minhah/Ma’ariv 7:15 p.m.
Candlelighting after 7:54 p.m.
Second Seder 8:00 p.m.
(Congregational)

Wednesday, March 27

Second Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.
Yom Tov ends 7:56 p.m.

Thursday, March 28

Hol Hamoed

Minyan 7:00 a.m.

Friday, March 29

Hol Hamoed

Minyan 7:00 a.m.

Shabbat

Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.
Candlelighting 6:59 p.m.

Saturday, March 30

Shabbat

Shaharit 8:45 a.m.
Minhah/Seudah Shlishit 6:40 p.m.
Lecture with Rabbi Bolton/Ma’ariv
Shabbat ends 8:04 p.m.

Sunday, March 31

Hol Hamoed

Minyan 8:45 a.m.

Erev Seventh Day of Pesah

Minhah/Ma’ariv 6:00 p.m.
Candlelighting 7:01 p.m.

Monday, April 1

Seventh Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Erev Last Day of Pesah

Minhah/Ma’ariv 6:15 p.m.
Candlelighting after 8:01 p.m.

Tuesday, April 2

Last Day of Pesah/Yizkor

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.
Festival ends 8:02 p.m.

LECTURE WITH RABBI BOLTON

Packaging Engineering in Talmudic Times: A Memorial Lecture

Saturday, March 30, during Seudah Shlishit

Rabbi Bolton will present a Seudah Shlishit lecture on “Packaging Engineering in Talmudic Times: A Memorial Lecture” on Saturday, March 30.

Pesah Meal Match

We value being a community and want all our members to have the opportunity to participate in the first Seder. Would you like to join an OZ family for the first Seder? Would you be able to host OZ Congregants around your Seder table? Please let us know and we will organize a first Seder match.

I would like to participate in a first-night Seder on Monday, March 25 as a: (check one)

GUEST I prefer a Traditional Seder Innovative Seder Interactive Seder

Are you planning to bring children? _____ If yes, how many and what ages? _____

Are there any food restrictions? _____

HOST I offer a Traditional Seder Innovative Seder Interactive Seder

How many people will you host? _____ How many children will be attending? _____

What are their ages? _____ Do you welcome children as guests? _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Best time to call _____

This meal match is available only for members of Congregation Or Zarua.

Register at www.orzarua.org by clicking "Events & News" (in blue on the right of the page) or mail or fax this completed form **by 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 22** to:

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA, 127 EAST 82ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10028, FAX: 212-452-2103

Authorization for the Sale of Hametz

Dear Rabbi Bolton: In accordance with Jewish law, please sell all hametz in my possession at the locations listed below. Enclosed is my contribution to Or Zarua's Ma'ot Hittim Fund.

Name _____ Apt. No. _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Other Locations (vacation home, office, etc):

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Send this completed form no later than **noon on Thursday, March 21** to dwenger@orzarua.org or to:

SCOTT N. BOLTON, RABBI

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA, 127 EAST 82ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10028, FAX: 212-452-2103



CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

127 East 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028-0807

March/April Checklist

- OZ's Eldercare Series begins on Monday night, March 4, with Rabbi Amy Bolton and continues on Monday, April 8 with Attorney Robert M. Freedman and Monday, April 29 with Professor of Social Work Renee Solomon (see page 5).
- OZ's Musicality Workshop meets at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays, March 3 and 17, and 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 14. On Sundays, there will be concurrent programming for children (see page 5).
- RSVP by Monday, Monday, March 11, for Rabbi Eliezer Diamond Shabbaton dinner and lunch on March 15 and 16 (see page 3).
- Shabbat Haya'eled is Saturday, March 16, 9:00 a.m. (see page 3).
- OZ Book Discussion on Sunday, March 17, 7:30 p.m., features Deborah Feldman's *Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots* (see page 13).
- Israeli Youth Emissary Program, Monday, March 18, 5:00–7:30 p.m. (see page 8).
- RSVP by Friday, March 15 for Or Zarua's Second Seder on Tuesday, March 26 (see page 15).
- Contract to sell your hametz by noon Thursday, March 21 (see page 16 and form on page 17).
- Make a donation to the Ma'ot Hittim Fund (see pages 16 and 17).
- Sign up for OZ's Pesah Meal Match for the first Seder by 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 22 (see page 16 and form on page 17).
- Attend the Seudah Shlishit lecture with Rabbi Bolton, "Packaging Engineering in Talmudic Times: A Memorial Lecture," Saturday, March 30 (see page 16).
- Marc Ashley's annual class between Pesah and Shavuot, "A Tree of Life for Those Who Grasp It: Torah Study for Its Own Sake," will meet on four Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, and 28, at 10:00 a.m. (see page 1).
- The Torah Learning Coalition will be meeting between Pesah and Shavuot (see page 6).
- The Holocaust Memorial Service will be Sunday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Ilana Burgess, OZ's Youth Education Director, at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or iburgess@orzarua.org.
- Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut program on Monday, April 15, 7:30 p.m. (see page 8).
- OZ's Youth Education Department activities for March and April include a spring sleepover, movies, PJ Library, teen minyans, and other events. See page 8 for a complete listing.
- The next exhibit in the Or Zarua Gallery is titled "Today I Am..." and will be opening soon (see page 4).
- Sign up for one of the Hesed activities listed on page 12.
- Talmud class meets on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. (see page 15).
- Rabbi Bolton's Siddur Class meets Thursdays at 8:35 a.m. in the OZ social hall (see page 2).
- "Rabbi Wechsler Teaches" is now broadcasting from Jerusalem (see page 5).