



Though He May Tarry: Messianism in Jewish Thought

AN ADULT EDUCATION COURSE BETWEEN PESAH AND SHAVUOT

by Marc Ashley

You have heard of the Jewish notion of a messiah who will arrive one day to relieve Jews of their suffering and bring peace to the world. That classical messianic doctrine may or may not resonate for you today. But it certainly is worth exploring at Or Zarua in an adult education course this spring.

Yearning for the messiah and imagining the messianic age have been central motifs in Jewish thought for millennia. The theme of redemption is highlighted in prayers recited by observant Jews three times a day. Jewish tradition posits that a messiah will ultimately arrive to salvage imperfect history in need of repair.

Mainstream Jewish messianism is forward looking, nourished by a prayerful heart directed to a redemptive future. The Jewish belief that the hoped-for messiah has not yet arrived has been the key feature distinguishing Judaism from Christianity, as tradition teaches that the true messiah will not die in an unredeemed world.

Indeed, one of Maimonides's thirteen principles of faith is that a Jew must await the eventual arrival of the Messiah—"though he may tarry"—whenever that inevitable glorious day might come. The deep-rooted conviction that a messianic figure will banish evil, remedy wrongs,
continued on page 11

OZ HIGHLIGHTS

March–May 2014

Zayin Adar Brunch

with Rabbi Amy Bolton

WRITING LIFE'S LAST CHAPTER

Sunday, March 9, 10:00 a.m.

See page 5 for details.

Purim

Congregational Activities for All Ages

MA'ARIV AND MEGILLAT ESTHER

Saturday, March 15, 8:00 p.m.

SHAHARIT AND MEGILLAT ESTHER

PURIM CELEBRATION AND HOEDOWN

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 16, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

See page 13 for details.

Art Gallery Opening

with Karen Shaw

"ADDITIONAL MEANINGS:
THE ART OF SUMMANTICS"

Sunday, March 23, 6:00 p.m.

See page 5 for details.

Sandwich Project

OZ Youth in conjunction with Hesed

MAKE LUNCHES FOR

THE NEW YORK COMMON PANTRY

Sunday, March 30, 10:00 a.m.

See page 10 for details.

Passover University

Rabbi David Silber and

Professor Marc Epstein

THE HAGGADAH

Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.

See page 3 for details.

Holocaust Looted Art

Owen Pell and Rabbi Scott Bolton

SHOULD WE STILL BE FIGHTING?

Thursday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.

See page 6 for details.

Torah Learning Coalition

Topic: Pirke Avot Dialogues

THURSDAYS, VARIOUS LOCATIONS

April 24, May 8, and May 22, 7:30 p.m.

May 1, May 15, and May 29, 1:00 p.m.

See page 7 for details.



OZ HEBREW SCHOOL STUDENTS reached their goal to collect 100 cans of low-salt soup for the New York Common Pantry. Learn more about donating food or volunteering for the New York Common Pantry, as well as other Hesed opportunities, on page 12.



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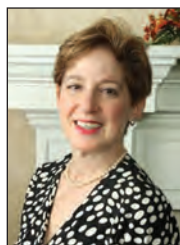
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If you are interested in serving on a synagogue committee, please contact the office for the committee chair's email address.

President's Message

by Diane Okrent



Spring training has begun! Whenever I hear that Major League Baseball teams have begun spring training, I think,

“There is hope. Winter will, indeed, come to an end.” Of course, we are far from the end of this challenging winter, but, soon, spring will be in the air.

The Jewish calendar provides us with our own type of spring training. We have already begun the countdown to Purim and Pesah with the series of special maftir and Haftarah readings—Shabbat Shekalim (March 1), Shabbat Zachor (March 15), Shabbat Parah (March 22), Shabbat Hahodesh (March 29), and Shabbat Hagadol (April 12).

Shabbat Shekalim reminds us of our obligation to contribute to the maintenance of our place of worship. Each member of the community was asked to contribute the same amount, a half-shekel. While the amount has changed over time, we are still responsible for supporting of our community and its gathering place to the best of our ability.

Shabbat Zachor, immediately preceding Purim, reminds us to remember Amalek, who attacked the Israelites from behind, preying on the vulnerable. According to Talmudic tradition, Haman was descended from Amalek. In Jewish tradition, the Amalekites are symbol of the evil that arises and must be fought in every generation. We fight evil by standing strong as a community.

Shabbat Parah includes the ritual of the red heifer, a means of purifying the kohanim and the people in preparation for the Pesah sacrifice. While we no longer practice those rituals, we do clean our homes and rid our lives of physical and spiritual hametz in preparation for Pesah.

Shabbat Hahodesh precedes Rosh Hodesh Nisan, the month in which Pesah is celebrated. Nisan is one of four new years in the Jewish calendar. In Tractate Rosh Hashanah, the rabbis discussed

when new years occurred: “There are four new years: 1) the first day of Nisan is the new year for kings and festivals...” (Rosh Hashana:1a). The Rabbis devised the calendar to ensure that Pesah always occurs in the spring—the year and life begin anew.

Shabbat Hagadol, the Great Sabbath, immediately precedes Pesah. One explanation for the name Shabbat Hagadol comes from the verse in the Haftarah, which refers to a day in the future that will be gadol (great). “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.” (Malachi 3:23).

Passover, the holiday of our redemption from Egypt, also brings hope of future redemption. Therefore, the Talmud teaches: Rabbi Yehoshua says: “In Nisan the world was created...the bondage of our ancestors ceased in Egypt; and in Nisan they will be redeemed in time to come.” (Talmud Rosh Hashana 11a).

So, what do we learn from our Jewish spring training?

We learn that we are responsible for contributing to the maintenance of our community and our building. At Or Zarua, we do this with our membership dues, our Kol Nidre contributions, and our donations to the synagogue for all types of occasions and commemorations. You may want to make a contribution now while it is top of mind!

We learn that we must remember to fight evil in every generation. And we must protect the weak and vulnerable. At Or Zarua, we do this with our Hesed projects and Tzedakah. Our annual Ma’ot Hittim contributions go directly to those in the Jewish community who need our help for a holy and joyous Pesah. (Please use the form on page 17.)

We learn to purify our homes and ourselves to be open to the gift of Pesah. “We clean our homes and our psyches, deflate our bread and our egos, reconnect with our people and the rhythm of the seasons, celebrate life and freedom.” (Ira Steingroot, *Keeping Passover*, 1995.)

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Passover University

ART, NARRATIVE, AND THE RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION IN THE PASSOVER HAGGADAH

with Rabbi David Silber, Dr. Marc Epstein, and Moderator Christopher Miller, Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.

As we head into Pesah, on Thursday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m., OZ will be joined by Rabbi David Silber and Dr. Marc Epstein, each of whom will be discussing the Passover Haggadah with us. This event will be moderated by OZ Congregant Christopher Miller, Associate Professor of English at CUNY, Staten Island. His speciality is the poetry and prose of the late seventeenth century through the Romantic era.



Rabbi Silber will talk about his new book, *A Passover Haggadah: Go Forth and Learn*. This book combines a traditional Haggadah with commentary and a series of essays on the liturgy and themes of Pesah. It can be used during the seder or for advance study in preparation for a deeper under-

standing of the holiday.

Rabbi Silber is founder and dean of the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, which offers an advanced program of Jewish studies for women, providing them full access to classical texts of the Jewish tradition and preparing them for leadership positions in Jewish education. He is a staple of Or Zarua's programs, traditionally

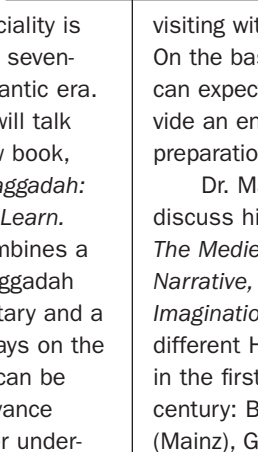
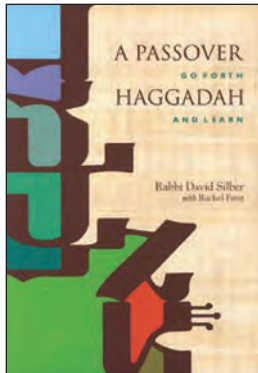
visiting with us during the High Holy Days. On the basis of those presentations, we can expect Rabbi Silber to provide an engaging and scholarly preparation for Pesah.

Dr. Marc Epstein will discuss his latest book, *The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination*, a study of four different Haggadot published in the first half of the 14th century: Bird's Head Haggadah (Mainz), Golden Haggadah

(Barcelona), Rylands Haggadah (Catalonia), and Brother Haggadah (Catalonia). In the book, Dr. Epstein brings together art history and Medieval Jewish thought and culture.

Dr. Epstein has been a professor of religion at Vassar College since 1992. A graduate of Oberlin College, he received a Ph.D. from Yale University and did much of his graduate research at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He has written extensively about Jewish visual and material culture. In addition to teaching at Vassar, he was director of the Hebrew Books and Manuscripts division of Sotheby's Judaica department.

Both books will be offered for purchase through the synagogue office and on the day of the presentation. We look forward to seeing everyone there.



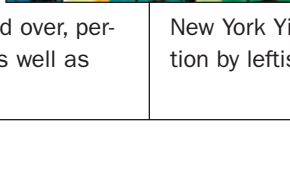
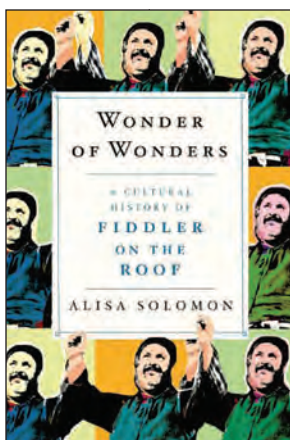
Or Zarua Book Discussions

WONDER OF WONDERS: A CULTURAL HISTORY OF FIDDLER ON THE ROOF BY ALISA SOLOMON

led by Susan March, Sunday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for our next Or Zarua book discussion on Sunday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m. in Or Zarua's library. We will discuss *Wonder of Wonders*, by award-winning drama critic Alisa Solomon. Congregant Susan March will lead our discussion.

Since its 1964 premiere, *Fiddler on the Roof* has had an astonishing global impact. Beloved by audiences the world over, performed in rural high schools as well as



grand state theaters, *Fiddler* is a potent cultural landmark.

In a history as captivating as its subject, Alisa Solomon traces how and why the great Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem's stories of Tevye the milkman were reborn as blockbuster entertainment and a cultural touchstone, not only for Jews and not only in America. The story follows Tevye from his humble appearance on the New York Yiddish stage through his adoption by leftist dramatists as a symbol of

oppression, to his Broadway debut in one of the last big-book musicals and a major Hollywood movie.

Solomon reveals how the show spoke to the deepest conflicts and desires of its time: the fraying of tradition, generational tension, and loss of roots. Audiences everywhere found in *Fiddler* immediate resonance and a usable past, whether in Warsaw, where it unlocked the taboo subject of Jewish history, or in Tokyo, where the producer asked how Americans could understand a story that is "so Japanese."

Wonder of Wonders explores the surprising and enduring legacy of a show about tradition that itself became a tradition.

Tzedakah is Righteous Giving at Certain Times and at Any Time

by Rabbi Scott N. Bolton



Let me take this opportunity to wish you a great Purim and a happy Passover! I am looking forward to celebrating with everyone as we create our first musical bash for Purim, and again delight in services and a second seder at Pesah.

A common thread between the two holidays is the mitzvah to make sure that hungry souls get both the physical nourishment and spiritual sustenance they need. For physical nourishment during Purim, we do the mitzvah of Matanot LaEvyonim (giving gifts to the poor). During Passover, we do the mitzvah of giving kimcha d'pischa (literally: flour for Passover— tzedakah contributions for Passover food collected at the beginning of the Jewish month of Nisan).

On Purim, join us on Saturday night and Sunday to enjoy the festivities and to give tzedakah. For Passover, you can send

a check with “Passover Tzedakah— Kimcha D’Pischa” in the note, and I will be sure that worthy agencies get our donations, so that we help make sure that everyone has enough seder food this year.

Someone recently asked me, “With all the tzedakah opportunities available through the synagogue, how do I decide?” I believe that the tradition encourages us to make many avenues possible for giving. People who contribute to my discretionary fund or at minyan should know that when people call upon me for help during a tough time or if a family comes who can not afford the simplest of measures, we do provide. Worthy agencies and endeavors are granted appropriate tzedakah contributions. Particular events, like the Super Bowl Party, raise funding for projects that seek to educate and sustain the most needy. Our Pesah collections, whether for kimcha d'pischa or contributions in honor of my selling hametz (ma’ot hittim) for our community, go to sustain those with the greatest Pesah needs.

Sometimes righteous giving to the

shul’s general fund helps provide comfort and care for families who suffer loss. They may be in need of a spiritual uplift at a time when life throws challenges their way. Our tzedakah also goes to keep our gates open for learning, joyous singing, and social gathering.

Tzedakah, righteous giving, is part of the Jewish culture. Sometimes a holiday, like Passover, presents a particular kind of giving opportunity, like making sure everyone has enough matzah. That was the original intent of kimcha d'pischa, when people did indeed deliver wheat for those in need. Alternatively, there is always an opportunity to enrich others’ lives and the life of our community through giving. May the delight come back at least twice for any extending of your hands and heart!

And remember, sometimes your presence counts as much as any dollar amount. Check the calendar and join us for other holidays, such as commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day and celebrating Yom Ha’atzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day!

President’s Message

continued from page 2

We learn to celebrate new beginnings. Nisan begins a new year just as spring shows us that life begins again.

We learn that just as our ancestors were redeemed from Egypt, we will also be redeemed. Each year at our seders, we recall that the Jewish people have survived for millennia against all odds. And we will prevail. In an article in the January 2012 issue of *The Jewish Week* supplement *Text/Context*, Barry E. Lichtenberg stated that “We Jews invented the future. ‘On that day G-d will be one and his name one’ we thrice daily conclude our prayers.” At the end of the seder, we proclaim “Next Year in Jerusalem!”

I wish you a very Happy Purim and a joyous and meaningful Pesah!

PASSOVER CANDY SALE

Hebrew School Fundraiser

A variety of kosher-for-Passover confections from Bartons, including chocolates, fruit slices, and macaroons, are available for sale. Download an order form at <http://tinyurl.com/OZ-Candy-Sale-2014>. Orders are due in the office by March 24.

PJ LIBRARY

Sunday, May 4, 3:00 p.m.

The next PJ Library will be held on May 4 with a theme for Yom Ha’atzmaut, Israel Independence Day (actually celebrated on Tuesday, May 6). The PJ Library is a program designed for families with young children. To sign up, go to www.pjlibrary.org and find OZ using zip code 10028. Your child will receive 12 monthly mailings of free, wonderful children’s books and CDs.

Additional Meanings

New OZ gallery exhibition to open on Sunday, March 23, 6:00 p.m.

Where most people see only numbers, Karen Shaw sees poetry. Join us from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 23, at the opening of the next OZ Gallery exhibition, a provocative, one-person show of collages and mixed-media work entitled "Additional Meanings: The Art of Summantics by Karen Shaw."

Both an artist and a curator from New York, Shaw's work has been shown at many galleries and museums, including the Wadsworth Atheneum, the Katonah Museum of Art, and the International Collage Center. Acutely aware of the power of language and the beauty of numbers, Shaw uses her work to explore the intersection of visual imagery, allusive words, and numeric systems. A highlight of the opening will be a talk by the artist at 7:00 p.m.

Karen Shaw also has the distinction of being the winner of a short story contest sponsored by *The New York Times* in 1976. Contestants were given the beginning three paragraphs of a story written by the author Donald Barthelme and challenged to complete it. In just six more paragraphs, Karen composed a perfect ending. Although not a professional writer, out of 3,126 contestants, hers was the winning entry. When asked how she arrived at the concise conclusion, Karen recalled that it was a remarkable experience. She read the beginning about 12 times, "and then just sat down and wrote the ending."

Come to the opening, see the art, meet the artist, and read the winning short story!



COURTESY OF KAREN SHAW

"Additional Meanings: The Art of Summantics by Karen Shaw," a one-person show of collages and mixed-media work, opens on March 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the OZ Gallery. At 7:00 p.m. the artist will talk about her use of visual imagery, allusive words, and numeric systems.

Writing Life's Last Chapter

Rabbi Amy Bolton to discuss Jewish perspectives on hospice and palliative care at Zayin Adar brunch, Sunday, March 9, 10:00 a.m.

How do Jewish values and texts inform how we care for those who are dying? As caregivers, what words can we offer and what deeds can we perform to make a loved one's final journey comforting and meaningful? How do we make this last chapter of a loved one's life a resonating, enduring story?

Drawing upon her experience with hospice and palliative care, Rabbi Amy Bolton will teach at this year's Zayin Adar brunch at Or Zarua on Sunday, March 9, after the morning minyan, at 10:00 a.m. Rabbi Amy Bolton was the founding chaplain and co-bereavement director of the Martin and Edith Stein Hospice in central New Jersey, and was part of the Spiritual

Counseling and Bereavement team of Holy Name Medical Center Hospice and Palliative Care in Teaneck, New Jersey. She was also part of the chaplaincy team of the Jewish Hospice and Chaplaincy Network in West Bloomfield, Michigan.

Zayin Adar, believed to be the *yahrzeit* of Moses, is the occasion for the congregation to join in recognizing and learning about the work of the *Hevra Kadisha*. This year's Zayin Adar brunch is sponsored by Gerry Solomon in memory of his mother, Eleanor Solomon.

All are welcome to attend, and we hope you will join us on March 9. Please contact the office to make reservations. Donations to the *Hevra Kadisha* are gratefully accepted.

ZIMRIYAHS

Saturday, April 5 and May 3
after kiddush

Zimriyah singing sessions are scheduled after kiddush on Saturday, April 5, and May 3. All are invited.

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.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Observed Sunday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

At this time of year, along with the spring holidays of Purim and Pesah, Yom HaShoah, (Holocaust Remembrance Day) looms large in my mind. I think the reason may be that some people feel that the Holocaust was such a horrible event, maybe we should get over it—we should give it less space.

I am the child of Holocaust survivors. I feel strongly that we should never forget it. I believe that the Holocaust should be taught in school both as a warning and as a great survival story.

My students in the Or Zarua Hebrew School study the Holocaust. We concentrate on the resistance stories, righteous gentiles, and the partisans. I want to make sure that students in the Or Zarua Hebrew School understand not only the horror of the Holocaust, but the bravery of some people.

When asked why it is important to study and remember the Holocaust, my students gave the following reasons:

- We should remember the people of the Holocaust, those who died and those who survived, as heroes.
- We need to honor all the Jews who were lost and went through the Holocaust.
- We can learn from history.
- It is an important part of our history.
- We can't forget those who were lost.
- Everybody should learn and hear what happened.

Or Zarua will remember the Holocaust, Yom HaShoah, on Sunday, April 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the OZ sanctuary. You can participate by attending, or you may choose to do a reading. Contact me at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or iburgess@orzarua.org.

—ILANA BURGESS

SIDDUR CLASS

History, Meaning, and Commentaries on the Jewish Prayer Book

Thursdays, 8:30–9:30 a.m. in the OZ Social Hall

Congregation Or Zarua's siddur class, taught by Rabbi Bolton, studies the history of, laws and teachings about, and approaches to Jewish prayer. Prior knowledge is not required.

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 at mashley@chadbourn.com or Jay Palmer at jpalmernyc.rr.com. Or sign up online at www.orzarua.org by clicking "Reading Torah" under the "Pray" heading.

Holocaust Looted Art: Should We Still Be Fighting?

with Owen Pell and Rabbi Scott Bolton, Thursday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.



On Thursday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m., Owen Pell, an OZ congregant, will converse with Rabbi Scott Bolton regarding art looted by the Nazis. The conversation will be organized around the five factors developed by the Dutch jurist Theo van Boven, who between 1977 and 1982 was the Director of what was then the U.N. Commission on Human Rights (today the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights).

Owen Pell, a lawyer specializing in commercial and securities litigation and litigation involving foreign sovereigns and public international law, is an expert in Holocaust reparation claims. He has been

involved with the issue of Holocaust art since 1997 and was coauthor of "How to Handle That Nazi-Era Art Trove," which appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* on November 18, 2013. In light of the fact that he has handled several litigations involving looted art, recent remarks by Mr. Pell concerning the new movie *Monuments Men* were included in a *USA Today* article, published January 28, (tinyurl.com/LootedArtProgramOZ-USA Today). Mr. Pell also presented an insightful TEDx talk at Binghamton University concerning human rights (tinyurl.com/LootedArtProgramOZ-TedTalk).

This program, scheduled for the same week as this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day, is open to all. We encourage OZ congregants and nonmembers alike to attend.

PARTICIPATE AND LEARN

World Café

A joint program of OZ and Context

The World Café, a joint program of OZ and Context, will be presented as a Scholar's Circle in June. Further details will be published in the *OZ Newsletter* and eblasts.

Talmud Class

Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Engaging in the study of Talmud, our central rabbinic text, is one way to understand more about the Jewish culture engineered by our sages and their values. It is worthwhile stopping in when you can, even if you can't attend every Wednesday evening. Each class stands on its own as a window into our history and sparks creative thinking, like that of the rabbis, in us. Contact Rabbi Bolton for more information at rabbibolton@orzarua.org.

Torah Learning Coalition

The Pirke Avot Dialogues

The traditional mode of studying *Pirke Avot*, the ethical treatise in the Mishnah, highlights one chapter each week between Passover and Shavuot during the Omer period. In keeping with this tradition, rabbis from the member synagogues of the East Side Torah Learning Coalition (TLC) will be presenting “The Pirke Avot Dialogues” on six Thursdays beginning April 24. Three classes will be held at lunchtime and three in the evening. Locations will be various Coalition partner synagogues. Below is a listing of the dates, times, and locations:

- Thursday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., at Kehillath Jeshurun
- Thursday, May 1, 1:00 p.m., at Park Avenue Synagogue
- Thursday May 8, 7:30 p.m., at Orach Chaim

- Thursday, May 15, 1:00 p.m., at Temple Israel
- Thursday May 22, 7:30 p.m., at Congregation Or Zarua,
- Thursday May 29, 1:00 p.m. at Sutton Place Synagogue.

Details about the presenting rabbis will follow in future communications.

The TLC is a multi-denominational study program consisting of Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox synagogue members. We are uniting in order to study the ethical lessons of the rabbis of the Mishnah.

We invite everyone to attend these TLC sessions to learn and to be part of building our greater Jewish community. This approach is unique in the Jewish world, even in New York City. The coalition being built is founded on what unites us all—Torah and text study!



HARVEY BRENNER

A view of the Or Zarua cemetery section.

OZ Cemetery

For members and their families

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 Executive Director Helene Santo at 212-452-2310, extension 14.

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 challenges arise—illness, hospitalization, or a death in your family—let us share your burden.

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

EDITOR’S NOTE If you have an idea or article that is suitable for publication in the *OZ Newsletter*, please contact Charlie Spielholz at cssrs@earthlink.net. All copy for the May/June 2014 issue is due by Monday, March 31.

RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

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



SIRIUS XM

Rabbi Wechsler can be heard on SiriusXM Stars Channel three times each Sunday. 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.

WELCOMING GUESTS

at Congregation Or Zarua

As a community, it is important for us 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.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				27 • 27 Adar I 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 8:00 pm Hebrew Language Class Mordechai Rosenstein, Artist-in-Residence	28 • 28 7:15 am Minyan 5:27 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Mordechai Rosenstein, Artist-in-Residence Congregational Dinner	1 March • 29 Shabbat Shekalim 9:00 am Shaharit Pekude Mordechai Rosenstein, Artist-in-Residence 6:32 pm Shabbat ends
2 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Adar II 8:45 am Minyan 10:30 am Artist-in-Residence Workshops: <i>Commemorative Painting Design and Paint Your Name</i> 7:30 pm Birhana Rehearsal	3 • 1 Adar II Rosh Hodesh Adar II 7:00 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	4 • 2 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context Seminar	5 • 3 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	6 • 4 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 4:00 p.m. "Masters of Fire" Exhibit Tour at ISAW	7 • 5 7:15 am Minyan 5:35 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	8 • 6 9:00 am Shaharit Vayikra 5:30 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv Bar Mitzvah of Jason Levine 6:40 pm Shabbat ends 7:00 p.m Mask Making
9 • 7 8:45 am Minyan 10:00 am Zayin Adar Brunch 7:30 pm Book Discussion 7:30 pm Birhana Rehearsal <i>Daylight Saving Time begins</i>	10 • 8 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	11 • 9 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context Seminar	12 • 10 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	13 • 11 Ta'anit Esther 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 8:00 pm Hebrew Language Class	14 • 12 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:43 pm Candlelighting	15 • 13 Shabbat Zachor 9:00 am Shaharit/Tzav 7:48 pm Shabbat ends Erev Purim 8:00 pm Ma'ariv and Megillat Esther 9:30 pm Purim Zimriyah
16 • 14 Purim 9:00 am Shaharit and Megillat Esther 9:00 am Children's Service and Carnival 10:30 am Brunch and Hamantaschen Hoedown	17 • 15 Shushan Purim 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	18 • 16 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context Seminar	19 • 17 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	20 • 28 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class	21 • 29 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:50 pm Candlelighting	22 • 20 Shabbat Parah 9:00 am Shaharit Shemini 7:55 pm Shabbat ends
23 • 21 8:45 am Minyan 6:00 pm Art Show Opening 7:30 pm Birhana Rehearsal 30 • 28 8:45 am Minyan 10:00 am Sandwich Project	24 • 22 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i> 31 • 29 7:15 am Minyan	25 • 23 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context Seminar	26 • 24 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	27 • 25 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 8:00 pm Hebrew Language Class	28 • 26 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:58 pm Candlelighting	29 • 27 Shabbat Hahodesh 9:00 am Shaharit Tazria 10:30 am Discovery Shabbat Minyan (K-3) 8:03 pm Shabbat ends

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 • 1 Nisan Rosh Hodesh Nisan 7:00 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context Seminar (make-up session)	2 • 2 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	3 • 3 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 7:30 pm Passover University with Rabbi David Silber and Professor Marc Epstein	4 • 4 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:05 pm Candlelighting	5 • 5 Rosh Hodesh Adar I 9:00 am Shaharit Metzora After Kiddush, Zimriyah 8:10 pm Shabbat ends
6 • 6 8:45 am Minyan 12:00 p.m. Make Your Own Sushi and Learn About Kitniyot 7:30 pm Birhana Rehearsal	7 • 7 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	8 • 8 7:15 am Minyan	9 • 9 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	10 • 10 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class	11 • 11 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:12 pm Candlelighting	12 • 12 Shabbat Hagadol 9:00 am Shaharit Aharei Mot 8:17 pm Shabbat ends
13 • 13 Bedikat Hametz 8:45 am Minyan	14 • 14 Fast of the Firstborn/ Siyum 7:00 am Minyan Erev Pesah 7:16 pm Candlelighting First Seder 1:00 pm Office closes <i>Hebrew School closed</i>	15 • 15 1st Day of Pesah 9:00 Shaharit 7:45 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 8:30 pm Or Zarua Congregational Seder Light candles after 8:21 pm Second Seder	16 • 16 2nd Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit 8:23 pm Yom Tov Ends <i>Office closed</i> <i>Hebrew School closed</i> <i>No Talmud Class</i>	17 • 17 Hol Hamoed 3rd Day of Pesah 7:00 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class	18 • 18 Hol Hamoed 4th Day of Pesah 7:00 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:20 pm Candlelighting	19 • 19 Hol Hamoed 5th Day of Pesah 8:45 am Shaharit 7:00 pm Minhah/Seudah Shlishit Lecture by Rabbi Bolton/Ma'ariv 8:25 pm Shabbat ends
20 • 20 Hol Hamoed 6th Day of Pesah 8:45 am Minyan Erev 7th Day of Pesah 7:22 pm Candlelighting	21 • 21 7th Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit Erev Last Day of Pesah 7:45 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv Light candles after 8:27 pm <i>Hebrew School closed</i>	22 • 22 Last Day of Pesah 9:00 Shaharit Yizkor 8:29 pm Festival Ends	23 • 23 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	24 • 24 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 7:30 p.m. Torah Learning Coalition	25 • 25 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:27 pm Candlelighting	26 • 26 9:00 am Shaharit Kedoshim Bar Mitzvah of Benji Weinstein 10:30 am Discovery Shabbat Minyan (K-3) 8:32 pm Shabbat ends
27 • 27 8:45 am Minyan 7:00 pm Holocaust Remembrance Event	28 • 28 Yom HaShoah 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	29 • 29 7:15 am Minyan	30 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Iyar 7:00 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	May 1 • 1 Iyar Rosh Hodesh Iyar 7:00 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 1:00 pm Torah Learning Coalition 7:00 pm Holocaust Looted Art with Owen Pell		

Discovery Shabbat Minyan and Shabbat Groups

for OZ children and their families

Discovery Shabbat

Saturdays, March 29 and April 26, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Discovery Shabbat Minyan is an interactive prayer experience for OZ's youth and their families. On March 29 and April 26, our Ruach and Kef Shabbat youth groups (0 through 3rd grade) and their families join together for a service followed by a special kiddush. Discovery minyan is held on the 7th floor.

Shabbat Minyan Groups

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to noon

In addition to the Discovery Shabbat

Minyan, Or Zarua offers three minyan groups, designated by age, for all children every Shabbat. Kef Shabbat is for children from ages 0 to 4 years old and meets on the 7th floor. Ruach Shabbat is for children in kindergarten through grade 3 and also meets on the 7th floor. Mah Zeh Shabbat is for children in grade 3 through Bar/Bat Mitzvah age and meets in the OZ library on the fourth floor. Registration is not required; you simply have to join us on Shabbat morning.

For additional information, contact Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or iburgess@orzarua.org.

OZ YOUTH EVENTS

Saturday, March 1 • 10:30 a.m.

TEEN SHABBAT

4th grade and up, 4th Floor Library

Saturday, March 8 • 7:00 p.m.

MASK MAKING

for Purim Tzedakah Sale
Middle and High School Students

Saturday, March 15 • 9:30 p.m.

TEEN SUMMIT

Purim hesed project, Purim treats, and future OZ teen program planning
7th grade and up

Sunday, March 30 • 10:00 a.m.

SANDWICH PROJECT

in conjunction with Hesed make lunches for the New York Common Pantry
All congregants are invited
(see Hesed programs, page 12)

Sunday, April 6 • 12:00 p.m.

MAKE YOUR OWN SUSHI

AND LEARN ABOUT KITNIYOT!

Middle and High School Students

Date and Time TBA

A MEXICAN FIESTA

Middle and High School Students

Information on other youth programs will be available by email. If you have a child, grade 4 through teen, who is not receiving OZ Youth emails, please contact Sigal at sigal.c.hirsch@gmail.com or Elana at elanamend@gmail.com to be added to their email list.

PURIM AND YOM HASHOAH

Volunteers Needed

Teenage volunteers are needed on Sunday, March 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to help with the Purim carnival. High school students and adults are also needed to do readings, in English, for Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Sunday, April 27, at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or iburgess@orzarua.org.

“LIKE” CONGREGATION OR ZARUA ON FACEBOOK to help spread the word about us!



OR ZARUA YOUTH attended a drum circle at STOMP OZ (above left) and a movie night (above right). For information regarding youth programs for March and April, see the OZ Youth Events column above. Details not available at publication time will be distributed by email. If you are not receiving OZ Youth emails, please contact Sigal at sigal.c.hirsch@gmail.com or Elana at elanamend@gmail.com.

SIGAL HIRSCH AND ELANA MENDELOWITZ

Though He May Tarry: Messianism in Jewish Thought

AN ADULT EDUCATION COURSE BETWEEN PESAH AND SHAVUOT
continued from page 1

and redeem history has sustained embattled Jews in the darkest of times. The rise and fall of Jewish messianic dreams, through historical travails and the emergence of pseudo-messiahs, have inspired passionate faith, religious cynicism, and even momentous despair.

Yet in light of messianic aspirations that persist in modern times for many Jews, crucial questions remain. How will Jews recognize the messiah when they see him? What are classical visions of the messianic future and should they be understood literally or metaphorically? And, perhaps most poignantly, why has the messiah not already come? Such age-old questions continue to animate con-

temporary Jewish life and touch the core of many Jewish hearts and hopes.

Join our discussion of these pivotal religious issues in an adult education course, led by congregant Marc Ashley, between Pesah and Shavuot. In "Though He May Tarry: Messianism in Jewish Thought," we will examine Jewish sources and perspectives on the messiah and messianism. We will meet in the library on four Sundays—May 4, 18, and 25, and June 1—at 10:00 a.m. No prior knowledge of any kind is required. Please participate in a conversation about whether, when, and why the messiah might arrive, joining our minds and voices with those of Jews through the centuries.



JACOB BLOKENSTAFF PHOTOGRAPHY



THE LUCY S. DAWIDOWICZ LECTURE on January 23 featured Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole in honor of OZ's 25th Silver Lights birthday. The speakers discussed their book, *Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza*. The lecture, which attracted a great crowd, was followed by birthday cake, champagne, Israeli wine, and a book signing.

Hallel: A Joy to Hear

Join us for this musical prayer service during Passover

Spirited congregational singing has always been an important and appealing feature of Or Zarua services. Over the past several years, we have intensified our efforts to refine our already robust congregational singing by expanding our evolving repertoire of liturgical melodies. New melodies are learned and then employed in our services to complement beloved traditional tunes, as we continually strive to imbue our prayers with renewed ruah (spirit).

As part of that ongoing communal agenda, please make a special effort to join us in shul during Passover in time to

participate in Hallel during the morning shaharit service. (To ensure your participation in the Hallel service, please try to make it to the sanctuary on the yom tov festival days by about 9:30 a.m.)

We will be using both old and new melodies to animate Hallel—perhaps the most poetic, poignant, and melodious of all our prayer services—during the celebratory Passover period. Our prayer leaders need your presence and participation to make our Hallel services as lively and inspiring as possible.

A musically rousing Hallel is a joy to hear. Please be in shul during Passover to contribute to and experience it!

PRIVATE DOCENT-LED TOUR

**NYU Institute for the Study
of the Ancient World**

Thursday, March 6, 4:00–5:00 p.m.



Join fellow OZ congregants and their guests for a private, docent-led tour of a recently-opened exhibition, "Masters of Fire: Copper Age Art from Israel," at the NYU Institute for the Study of the Ancient

World, 15 East 84 Street.

Depending on registration, there will be one group of 25 or two groups of 20 each. Cost is \$10 per person. Please sign up by 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 3, by calling the synagogue office with any questions at 212-452-2310, extension 12.

EXPLORE WWW.ORZARUA.ORG

Some of the many resources on the Or Zarua website include upcoming events, service schedules, art gallery shows, minyan sign-up, and guest speaker presentations. So go exploring on www.orzarua.org!

A Solution to Hunger

Support OZ's partnership with the New York Common Pantry

Or Zarua has committed to send a team of three to five volunteers on the first Wednesday of every month to the New York Common Pantry (NYCP), the city's largest community-based food pantry. Volunteers are asked to work from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the pantry's distribution center located off Fifth Avenue at 8 East 109th Street. In February, OZ's team included Rabbi Bolton (top left), NYCP Board Member and OZ Congregant Michael Nachman (top right), Hesed Committee Co-Chair Richard Stadin (bottom left), OZ Congregant Sam Kupferberg (bottom right), and OZ Executive Director Helene Santo. Please sign up for March 5 or April 2 by contacting Lesley Palmer at lesley@nyc.rr.com.

You also can help feed the hungry

by donating food for OZ's year-round food drive for NYCP, or donate a FreshDirect gift card by going to www.freshdirect.com/ycp.

Needed grocery items include whole wheat pasta; tomato sauce; tea and coffee; 100% real fruit juice; packaged dry beans; canned soup or stew (low-sodium); whole-grain items; brown rice; oatmeal; peanut butter; canned tuna, salmon, and chicken; and shelf-stable milk (nonfat or 1%, such as 32 oz. Parmalat).

Lists of food items are also available from the office and in the rear of the OZ sanctuary. Baskets have been placed in the social hall for donations, which will be distributed through the New York Common Pantry. If you would like to sign up directly with the NYCP to volunteer, please visit <http://www.nycommonpantry.org/volunteer.html>.



Or Zarua 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.

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.

Winter Caps and Scarfs

- Or Zarua congregants create attractive knitted caps and scarfs for children in need.

Matanot LaEvyonium—Gifts to the Needy

- Observe the Purim mitzvah of giving gifts to the needy by donating to the Purim Food Drive (see page 13).

Sandwich Project

- In conjunction with OZ Youth, help make lunches for the New York Common Pantry

on Sunday, March 30, at 10:00 a.m. All congregants are invited. (See page 10, OZ Youth Events.)

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

TALMUD CLASS

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Talmud class meets on most Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. with Rabbi Bolton. This year, we are studying Chapter 16 of Masekhet Shabbat (Artscroll Shabbat Vol. 4 or Koren Steinsaltz Shabbat Vol. 2).

Anyone may join the class at any time; it is not necessary to have participated in Talmud class previously to join the class now.

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



PURIM SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 15

Ma'ariv and Megillat Esther

8:00 p.m.

Or Zaruva sanctuary

Purim Zimriyah

FESTIVE SINGING

9:30 p.m.

Or Zaruva library

Sunday, March 16

Shaharit and Megillat Esther

9:00 a.m.

Or Zaruva sanctuary

Purim Celebration and Hamantaschen Hoedown

10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

HAMANTASCHEN HOEDOWN with Bluegrass Band

SPECIAL APPEARANCES

by Bir'nana and the OZ Players

TOAST L'CHAIM

(bourbon donations accepted)

PURIM SEUDAH (brunch)

No charge, but to help with planning, RSVP to the OZ office, 212-452-2310, extension 39

Or Zaruva social hall

Children's Program

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE AND MEGILLAT ESTHER

COSTUME PARADE

DANCE

BOOK READING

CARNIVAL

Floors 6 and 7

Matanot LaEvyonium— Purim Gifts for the Needy

At All Times

PURIM FOOD DRIVE

MONETARY DONATIONS

PURIM MASKS

made and sold by OZ teens

Or Zaruva social hall

Matanot LaEvyonium

Purim Food Drive to help the hungry in our community

Observe the Purim mitzvah of Matanot LaEvyonium, giving gifts to the needy, by donating nonperishable food items or a check when you come to Purim services or festivities on Sunday, March 16. See the Purim schedule at right for details. Collection baskets for the donations, which help support the New York Common Pantry, will be located in the social hall.

Needed food items include whole

wheat pasta; tomato sauce; 100% real fruit juice; canned soups and stew (low-sodium), brown rice; peanut butter; canned tuna, salmon, and chicken; shelf-stable milk (nonfat or 1%); coffee; and tea.

Purim is not the only time to make donations. Or Zaruva supports the New York Common Pantry, as well as other organizations, throughout the year with donations and volunteers. Read about all OZ's Hesed projects on page 12.



LANA BURGESS

OZ HEBREW SCHOOL STUDENTS build a game for the children's Purim carnival to be held Sunday, March 16. See the Purim schedule at right for details.

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

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, April 14.

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, April 15, 8:30 p.m.
immediately following services,
which begins at 7:45 p.m.

We invite you, your family, and your friends to share the second seder with us on Tuesday, April 15. Services will start at 7:15 p.m. Our Congregational Seder, led by Rabbi Bolton, begins at 8:30 p.m., immediately following services.

Please make seder reservations by **FRIDAY, APRIL 4** at 212-452-2310, extension 39 or www.orzarua.org.

OZ Members and Guests: \$75 adults; \$50 children aged 8 and under. Nonmembers: \$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 forgoing 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 C.E., 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 Saturday, May 17.

Pesah Meal Match

First Seder, Monday, April 14

Each year at Pesah, Jews relive the Exodus by reading the Haggadah during a seder, which generally is held in our homes with family and friends. Pesah is also a time to invite guests into our homes. If you would like to host a guest or

guests in your home for the first seder or if you would like to join other Or Zarua congregants in their home, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310 and speak with Helene Santo (extension 14) or Deborah Wenger (extension 12). But you need to call by Thursday, April 11.

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 funds for these come from the public dole.

We, therefore, raise such 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 our possession 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, April 10, 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 5774/2014

Sunday, April 13

Bedikat Hametz at night

Monday, April 14

Fast of the Firstborn/Siyum

Minyan 7:00 a.m.

Erev Pesah

Candlelighting 7:16 p.m.

First Seder

Tuesday, April 15

First Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Erev Second Day of Pesah

Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:45 p.m.

Candlelighting after 8:21 p.m.

Second Seder 8:30 p.m.

(Congregational)

Wednesday, April 16

Second Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Yom Tov ends 8:23 p.m.

Thursday, April 17

Hol Hamoed

Minyan 7:00 a.m.

Friday, April 18

Hol Hamoed

Minyan 7:00 a.m.

Shabbat

Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15 p.m.

Candlelighting 7:20 p.m.

Saturday, April 19

Shabbat

Shaharit 8:45 a.m.

Minhah/Seudah Shlishit 7:00 p.m.

Lecture with Rabbi Bolton/Ma'ariv

Shabbat ends 8:25 p.m.

Sunday, April 20

Hol Hamoed

Minyan 8:45 a.m.

Erev Seventh Day of Pesah

Candlelighting 7:22 p.m.

Monday, April 21

Seventh Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Erev Last Day of Pesah

Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:45 p.m.

Candlelighting after 8:27 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22

Last Day of Pesah/Yizkor

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Festival ends 8:29 p.m.

LECTURE BY RABBI BOLTON

Under the Rabbi's Bed:

How Far Does Mentorship Go in the Talmud?

Saturday, April 19, during Seudah Shlishit

Rabbi Bolton will present a Seudah Shlishit lecture entitled “Under the Rabbi's Bed: How Far Does Mentorship Go in the Talmud?” on Saturday, April 19, following Minhah services, which begin at 7:00 p.m.

Why We Invest in Congregation Or Zarua

by Evelyn Kenvin and Art Rosenbloom

In our view, philanthropy consists of one part inclination and one part opportunity. Inclinations towards charitable giving begin, we suspect, in one's family of origin. Evelyn's parents fled Vienna after Kristallnacht, but not before getting their immediate families out of the country. Having left their comfortable lifestyle behind, they found themselves penniless in Havana. After their first meal, courtesy of the Joint Distribution Committee, Evelyn's dad vowed never again to be a taker, but only a giver. And so it was. Following their years in Cuba and upon attaining success in this country, their gifts to, and investments in, the nascent State of Israel (Evelyn's first visit there was in 1953) left lasting impressions on her. Art's parents' gifts to the Jewish Theological Seminary had a similar effect.

Flash forward many years. After shul shopping, Evelyn and Art began their 22

years of fond association with Congregation Or Zarua. Its unique blend of a traditional Shabbat service that is fully egalitarian and congregant-led has always seemed to us to personify many of the elements proclaimed by the Conservative movement by recognizing the importance of tradition, but likewise acknowledging modernity's requirements for change.

OZ charmed us with its cohort of like-minded people, whose company we continue to enjoy. It has afforded us the opportunity to engage in serious Torah learning, first with Rabbi Wechsler and now with Rabbi Bolton, and provided a venue for additional study, through the Meah (now Context) programs and guest lectures. We've enjoyed the opportunity to hear and be heard in synagogue governance, with plenty of time for fun at Purim, the Celebrate Israel parade, and other festive events. So much for inclination.

We have also been afforded opportunities for giving back to our kahal. Above and beyond dues and Kol Nidre gifts, we were privileged to support OZ's then new building as part of a group whose gifts created our library. We look back fondly on our match that burned a piece of the mortgage on that building, and the pleasure we derived from our gift in support of the Wechsler Gala.

We are certainly not among the most generous of OZ's congregants. Yet, for us, our efforts to support an institution we care about has resulted in a big payoff—it makes us feel good! As is so often the case, the Book of Proverbs (11:25) says it well—those who satisfy abundantly shall themselves be satisfied.

We intend to continue to invest in Or Zarua as it marks a quarter century of growth. It's our hope that, with gifts of whatever size, many of you will do likewise.

Authorization for the Sale of Hametz

In accordance with Jewish law, I/we authorize Rabbi Bolton to sell all hametz in my/our possession at the locations listed below. Enclosed is my/our 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, April 10**, 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

- Teen Shabbat, Saturday, March 1, 10:30 a.m. (page 10).
- “Masters of Fire: Copper Age Art from Israel,” a private, docent-led tour for OZ congregants, Thursday, March 6, 4:00 p.m. RSVP required by Monday, March 3 (page 11).
- Purim Mask Making to support Tzedakah for middle and high school students, Saturday, March 8, 7:00 p.m. (page 10).
- Zayin Adar Brunch with Rabbi Amy Bolton discussing “Writing Life’s Final Chapter,” Sunday, March 9, at 10:00 a.m. (page 5).
- Susan March leads the book discussion of *Wonder of Wonders: A Cultural History of Fiddler on the Roof* by Alisa Solomon, Sunday, March 9, 7:30 p.m. (page 3).
- Purim services and festivities, including Megillah readings, a Hamantaschen Hoedown, a carnival, and a zimriyah singing session, Saturday night, March 15, and Sunday morning, March 16 (page 13).
- Donate generously to the Purim Food Drive (page 13).
- Teen Summit, Saturday, March 15, after Purim services (page 10).
- Art Gallery Opening with Karen Shaw, “Additional Meanings: The Art of Summantics,” Sunday, March 23, 6:00 p.m. (page 5).
- Passover Candy Sale supports the OZ Hebrew School. Order by Monday, March 24 at tinyurl.com/OZ-Candy-Sale-2014 (page 4).
- Sandwich Project, an OZ Youth event in conjunction with Hesed, Sunday, March 30, 10:00 a.m. (pages 10 and 12).
- Passover University: “The Haggadah,” with Rabbi David Silber and Professor Marc Epstein, moderated by Professor Christopher Miller, Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m. (page 3).
- Zimriyah singing sessions are scheduled after kiddush on Saturday, April 5, and May 3. All are invited.
- Make your own sushi and learn about kitniyot for middle and high school students, Sunday, April 6, 12:00 p.m. (page 10).
- Contract to sell your hametz by noon on Thursday, April 10, and donate to the Ma’ot Hittim Fund (pages 16 and 17).
- Attend a siyum on Monday, April 14, 7:00 a.m. to avoid the Fast of the First Born (page 14).
- OZ organizes a Pesah Meal Match for the First Seder. Call the OZ office for information (page 16).
- OZ’s Congregational Second Seder is Tuesday, April 15. RSVP required by Friday, April 4 (page 15).
- “Pirke Avot Dialogues,” six chapters in six Thursday sessions between Pesah and Shavuot, beginning on April 24. A program of the Torah Learning Coalition. Schedule and locations on page 7.
- OZ will observe Holocaust Remembrance Day on Sunday, April 27, 7:00 p.m. (page 6).
- “Holocaust Looted Art: Should We Still be Fighting?” presented by Owen Pell and moderated by Rabbi Scott Bolton, Thursday, May 1, 7:00 p.m. (page 6).
- “Though He May Tarry: Messianism in Jewish Thought,” an adult education course with Marc Ashley on Sundays, May 4, 18, and 25, and June 1 at 10:00 a.m. (page 1).
- P.J. Library for Yom Ha’atzmaut, Sunday, May 4, 3:00 p.m. (page 4).
- Volunteer to help with the Purim carnival, Sunday, March 16, and read on Holocaust Remembrance Day, Sunday, April 27 (page 10).
- Talmud class meets on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. and Siddur class meets Thursday mornings at 8:30 a.m.
- Bir’nana, OZ’s a cappella group will be meeting on Sundays, March 2, 9, and 23, and April 6, at 7:30 p.m.
- Participate in one or more of OZ’s Hesed programs (page 12).