

A Traditional, Egalitarian, and Participatory
Conservative Synagogue

CELEBRATING
25 YEARS



CONGREGATION

Or Zarua

LEARN • PRAY • PARTICIPATE • CONNECT

IYAR I/SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5774

NEWSLETTER/VOLUME 26:5

MAY/JUNE 2014

Shavuot Panel Discussion

“Let Your Imagination Run Wild: How Imagination, Creativity, and Breaking Boundaries Keep Us Going Forward”

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT, TUESDAY NIGHT, JUNE 3

Ma’ariv begins at 8:20 p.m., followed by panel and dairy feast

Come hear fellow Congregants discuss the impact of imagination and creativity on Judaism, art, and technology. Speakers will be Rabbi Paulette Posner, director of Jewish Education at the 92nd Street Y; Dan Labovitz, a securities industry consultant and intaglio artist, whose work has been shown in New York, San Francisco, and Prague; Suzanne Spector, technology editor at *The New York Times* and a lawyer; and Rabbi Melinda Zalma, a chaplain in the Reserve Component of the U.S. Navy with a master’s in Midrash.

In keeping with the revelatory nature of the holiday, we will ask our panelists to

share how creativity and imagination shape their thinking and work in their respective realms. As the boundaries between disciplines blur and change, how do scholars, artists, and technologists think about where and how to break with tradition and where to build bridges between disciplines? How can openness to new ideas and rethinking old orthodoxies move us forward, Jewishly and generally? But also, how far is too far? When should we tame our imaginations, and when should we let them run wild? Join us for an insightful exploration into the world of creativity!

Dairy treats, traditional on Shavuot, will follow the panel discussion.



CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ

MARCH WITH US IN THE CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE, SUNDAY, JUNE 1. The theme, “50 Ways to Celebrate Israel,” will highlight Israel’s achievements. For OZ marchers, assembly location and step-off time will be announced by email. To sign up and reserve your parade T-shirt, contact Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or iburgess@orzarua.org. For observers, the parade will be held along Fifth Avenue, from 57th to 74th Street, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Additional Celebrate Israel programs are listed on page 5.

OZ HIGHLIGHTS

May–June 2014

Torah Learning Coalition

The Pirke Avot Dialogues

THURSDAYS, VARIOUS LOCATIONS

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

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

See page 5 for details.

Adult Education Course

with Marc Ashley

THOUGH HE MAY TARRY:

MESSIANISM IN JEWISH THOUGHT

Sundays, May 4, 18, 25, and June 1,
10:00 a.m.

See page 3 for details.

OZ Stroller Shabbat

for Families with Young Children

LUNCH, SCHMOOZE, AND PLAY

Saturday, May 17, around noon

See page 10 for details.

Lag B’Omer

with Rabbi Bolton

LEARNING AND L’CHAIM

Saturday, May 17, 9:00 p.m.

See page 4 for details.

OZ Israel Trip

Group Travel with Rabbi Bolton

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

See page 13 for details.

Hevruta: Talmud Seminar

with Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Schwartz

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

See page 7 for details.

Silver Lights Gala

Celebrating 25 Years

MUSIC BY THE ANDY STATMAN BAND

The Pierre, Wednesday, November 12

See page 5 for details.



A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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New York, NY 10028
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www.orzarua.org

SCOTT N. BOLTON, *Rabbi*
DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, *Rabbi Emeritus*
DIANE OKRENT, *President*
HENRY GLANTERNIK, *Treasurer*
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CHARLES SPIELHOLZ, *Newsletter Editor*

OZ Committee Chairs

ADMINISTRATION	<i>Sara Stone</i>
ADULT EDUCATION	<i>Laura Resnikoff</i>
AESTHETICS	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
ART GALLERY	<i>Bobbi Coller</i>
BOOK DISCUSSION	<i>Reed Schneider</i>
BUILDING	<i>Alan Ilberman</i>
CEMETERY	<i>Aliza Kaplan</i> <i>Mort Schwartz</i>
DEVELOPMENT	<i>Andrew Plevin</i>
EDUCATION AND YOUTH	<i>David Bergman</i> <i>Dara Shapiro</i>
HESED	<i>Richard Stadin</i> <i>Susan Lorin</i>
HEVRA KADISHA	<i>Roberta Hufnagel</i> <i>Gerry Solomon</i>
ISRAEL	<i>Aliza Kaplan</i>
LIBRARY	<i>Barry Feldman</i>
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS	<i>Dara Shapiro</i> <i>Aaron Shelden</i>
MINYAN	<i>Sheldon Adler</i>
ORAL HISTORY	<i>Mimi Alperin</i>
PUBLIC RELATIONS	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
READERS AND LEADERS	<i>Marc Ashley</i> <i>Jay Palmer</i>
WEBMASTER	<i>Jay Palmer</i>

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



This is my 18th and concluding newsletter column as president of Congregation Or Zarua. It has been an honor and a privilege to lead this wonderful community for the past three years. As I said at last year's Annual Meeting, I want to thank the founders of Or Zarua for their foresight in setting term limits so that no individual can hold an office for more than three years in succession. It has proven healthy for the individuals and for the organization.

We have seen many changes at the synagogue since 2011. I was elected soon after Rabbi Wechsler announced his retirement. Then, less than a month later, we learned that we could not use the Ramaz Upper School for our High Holy Day services in 2011 as we had for the previous 19 years. Three weeks after that, while the Board was meeting to vote on the decision to hold services at the New York Academy of Medicine, we learned that Kehilath Jeshurun was on fire. So my presidency started with something of a bang!

The focus of my first year was the rabbinic search and the activities surrounding the search. Two years ago, I presided at the Annual Meeting during which we voted to hire Rabbi Bolton.

During my second year as president we concentrated on the rabbinic transition—helping Rabbi Bolton adjust to Or Zarua and helping Or Zarua adjust to Rabbi Bolton. From my perspective, the transition has been a tremendous success. Rabbi Bolton has brought new energy to all aspects of Or Zarua. He has created a wonderful vibe in the shul—and buzz outside the Congregation. His enthusiasm is contagious. His warm embrace and ability to engage members of all ages are recognized and much appreciated. Services are

lively and upbeat. Adults, teens, and children are engaged, involved, and learning. Rabbi Bolton has inspired new educational opportunities for all. He initiated, and has helped expand, the East Side Torah Learning Coalition. Now comprising 11 congregations—two Orthodox, five Conservative, and four Reform—the East Side TLC is, once again, offering *Pirke Avot* classes between Pesah and Shavuot. These will continue on Thursdays through May 29. Check the calendar for times and locations.

Rabbi Bolton often engaged members of the community as he has reached out in times of joy and sadness. Many members have shared with me how he has brought them comfort and consolation at a time of illness or loss. And many have shared how happy they have been sharing their simchas with him. Many have remarked at how quickly he became “our rabbi.”

Transition continued this past year as we hired our new executive director, Helene Santo. Helene has brought renewed energy and organization to our staff. She has tackled many of the challenges of the community and our maturing building with grace and resourcefulness.

As I leave office, I thank you, the members, for your encouragement and support. I appreciate the time, creativity, and resources so many of you bring to OZ. I want to give special thanks to the committee chairs and their members, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Trustees for all their hard work to make this a vibrant, thriving organization. I am particularly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with both Rabbi Wechsler and Rabbi Bolton to enhance what Or Zarua offers its members and the larger Jewish community.

With all good wishes,
Diane

Or Zarua Book Discussions

MY PROMISED LAND: THE TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY OF ISRAEL, BY ARI SHAVIT

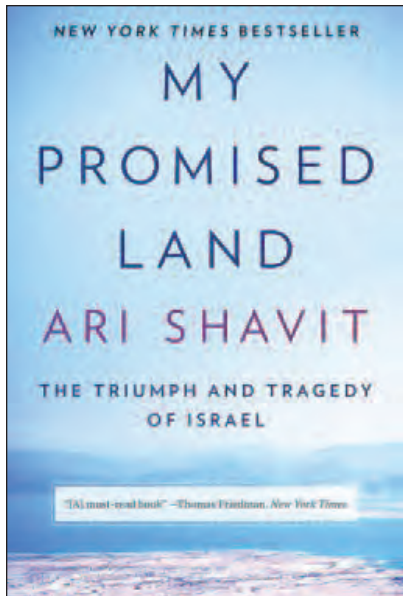
led by Aliza Kaplan, Sunday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for our next Or Zarua book discussion on Sunday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m. in Or Zarua's library, when Aliza Kaplan will lead a discussion of *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*, by Ari Shavit, a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the National Book Award.

The book is an authoritative and deeply personal narrative history of the State of Israel by one of the most influential journalists writing about the Middle East today.

Ari Shavit draws on interviews, historical documents, private diaries, and letters, as well as his own family's story, to illuminate the pivotal moments of Israel's development and tell a riveting narrative.

We meet Shavit's great-grandfather, a British Zionist who, in 1897, visited the Holy Land on a Thomas Cook tour and



saw that the future of his people was there; the idealistic young farmer who bought land from his Arab neighbor, in the 1920s, to grow the Jaffa oranges that would support a thriving economy; the visionary youth group leader who, in the 1940s, transformed Masada from the neglected ruins of an extremist sect into a powerful

symbol for Zionism; a young man who was expelled with his Arab family from their home in Lydda in 1948; the immigrant orphans of Europe's Holocaust, who took on menial work and focused on raising their children to become the leaders of the new state; the pragmatic engineer who was instrumental in developing

Israel's nuclear program in the 1960s, in the only interview he ever gave; the religious Zionists who started the settler movement in the 1970s; the dot-com entrepreneurs and young men and women behind Tel Aviv's booming club scene; and today's architects of Israel's foreign policy to counter Iran's nuclear threat.

As it examines the complexities and contradictions of the Israeli condition, *My Promised Land* asks difficult but important questions: Why did Israel come to be? How did it come to be? Can Israel survive? Culminating with an analysis of the issues and threats that Israel is currently facing, *My Promised Land* uses the defining events of the past to shed new light on the present.

"Israel is not a proposition, it is a country. Its facticity is one of the great accomplishments of the Jews' history....It is one of the achievements of Ari Shavit's important and powerful book to recover [that] feeling," wrote Leon Wieseltier in *The New York Times Book Review*.

All are welcome to attend; we look forward to seeing you there.

Though He May Tarry: Messianism in Jewish Thought

AN ADULT EDUCATION COURSE BETWEEN PESAH AND SHAVUOT

by Marc Ashley

The most famous of Maimonides's thirteen principles of faith posits that a Jew must await the eventual arrival of the Messiah—"though he may tarry"—whenever that day might come. Observant Jews pray for the messiah three times a day. Our holy sources are filled with persistent pleas to God to bring about the messianic redemption. Yet messianism in Jewish thought is anything but uniform and transparent.

Indeed, crucial questions persist about this pivotal Jewish idea. Does Jewish mes-

sianic yearning spring from a sense of deep despair or of vibrant hope? Will the glorious messianic era be preceded by a period of suffering and misery, and, if so, why must history work that way? And, perhaps most important as a logistical matter, how will we recognize the Messiah when we see him? Such age-old questions continue to animate contemporary Jewish life and touch the core of many Jewish hearts and hopes.

Join our discussion of these important 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 at 10:00 a.m. on four Sunday mornings: May 4, 18, and 25, and June 1. No prior knowledge is required. Please participate in an enduring conversation about whether, when, and why the Messiah might arrive, issues about which Jews have studied, prayed, and dreamed through the centuries.

Ceremony, Community, and Individual Clarifications

by Rabbi Scott N. Bolton



Participating in rituals goes beyond robotic rehearsals of ancient rites. In our communal engagements, we declare our

faith and intention to remember loved ones, sacred teachings, or important aspects of and connections in our lives. On an individual basis, each of us can use the group setting to find even deeper privacy and space to think. It is ironic, but it works just this way.

With rituals and ceremonies, we listen and acquiesce, yet we question and ultimately clarify. By coming together for prayer, a ceremony concerning the Holocaust, an Israel program, a memorial service, or a class with fellow Congregants, we are committing to time for mindfulness as much as we are setting ourselves into

an aesthetic experience that bespeaks sacred pursuits. We must take the opportunity in these spaces and during these times to clarify values, develop our own thinking and ask serious questions of ourselves.

The Holocaust and Israel are on our minds at this season, or we are at least thrust into grappling with their place in our lives. Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut—Holocaust Heroism and Remembrance Day, Israeli Memorial Day and Independence Day—all follow Passover. These holy days prompt us to ask: Where does a historic moment fit into our lives? How do these permanent parts of history impact us? As we remember the millions who perished, we may ask, among other questions: How was it holy and heroic to resist, either physically or mentally?

With Israel we are spurred to explore our connections. What investment are we making to encounter and develop ideas

about Israel and to experience the reality on the ground?

This time period on the Jewish calendar is called Sefirah, or the Omer. We understand that God wanted us to enumerate each day in order to prepare us for a life-changing experience at Mount Sinai. Historically, Shavuot is the time when the Jewish people received the Torah. What is our relationship to the Jewish calendar? To Torah's messages? To the law and the cultural constructs of Judaism and the Jewish people?

Coming to participate in ceremonies, community programs, and times of togetherness is not only about what's on the menu. It is also a time to nourish one's mind and soul. Amazingly, the collective experiences help each of us find our truest selves. The more we are here with and for one another, the greater the blessings and more profound the discoveries.

B'rakha.

LAG B'OMER

Learning and L'Chaim

Saturday, May 17, 9:00 p.m.

The 33rd Day of the Omer is a traditional time to get together for singing, study, and enjoying a bonfire—we'll light a havdallah candle! Rabbi Bolton will lead a study entitled "Teachers Who Tell Secrets: Do You Have to Be 40 Years Old to Listen?" Enjoy a nosh, a drink, and link in with Jewish communities throughout the world commemorating this day when Rabbi Akiva's students learned a lesson in respect. Lag B'Omer is also traditionally considered the yahrzeit of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, the eponymous author of *The Zohar*, and a time to enjoy an evening of song and community.



Children playing games during Or Zarua's Purim carnival.

DEE LEBOVITS

The Pirke Avot Dialogues

SIX CHAPTERS WITH 12 RABBIS AT SIX SYNAGOGUES OVER SIX WEEKS

presented by The East Side Torah Learning Coalition

Between Pesah and Shavuot, it is traditional to study *Pirke Avot*. The East Side Torah Learning Coalition (TLC) will facilitate your study with "The Pirke Avot Dialogues." The TLC is a multid denominational coalition of synagogues. Classes are taught by rabbis from member synagogues and are held in different shuls. The goal is to unite our community with Torah learning. All classes are open to members of partner shuls and the public. On each of six Thursdays, a chapter of *Pirke Avot* will be presented. The schedule of topics, dates and times, presenting rabbis, and locations are listed below.

Chapter 1

Thursday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.

Kehilath Jeshurun

114 East 85th Street

"DON'T TALK TOO MUCH TO WOMEN":
TOWARDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING
OF CONVERSATIONS

with Rabbi Elie Weinstock of Kehilath
Jeshurun and Rabbi Rachel Ain of Sutton
Place Synagogue.

Chapter 2

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

Park Avenue Synagogue

50 East 87th Street

WHY DO WE LEARN?

FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK...

with Rabbi Eve Rudin of Park Avenue
Synagogue and Rabbi Rena Rifkin of
Emanu-El

Chapter 3

Thursday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.

Orach Chaim

1459 Lexington Avenue

REMEMBERING, FORGETTING,
CONSCIOUSNESS, AND COUNTING
Rabbi Ben Skydell of Orach Chaim
and Rabbi Scott Bolton of Or Zarua

Chapter 4

Thursday, May 15, 1:00 p.m.

Temple Israel

112 East 75th Street

WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU?

with Rabbi Jim Stoloff of Temple Israel
and Rabbi Josh Strom of Shaaray Tefila.

Chapter 5

Thursday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.

Or Zarua

127 East 82nd Street

DISAGREEING AMONG FAMILY:
GOD LOVES IT!

with Rabbi Scott Bolton of Or Zarua and
Congregational Scholar Gilah Kletenik of
Kehilath Jeshurun

Chapter 6

Thursday, May 29, 1:00 p.m.

Sutton Place Synagogue

225 East 51st Street

"IS YOUR RECEPTION CLEAR?"

with Rabbi Rachel Ain of Sutton Place
Synagogue and Rabbi Ephraim Pelcovits of
Or Olam, The East 55th Street Synagogue.

TLC partners are Central Synagogue;
Congregation Emanu-El; Congregation
Kehilath Jeshurun; Congregation Or Zarua;
Congregation Orach Chaim; Or Olam, The
East 55th Street Synagogue; Park Avenue
Synagogue; Sutton Place Synagogue;
Shaaray Tefila; Temple Israel; and Town
and Village Synagogue.

Celebrate Israel Programs

from Or Zarua's Israel Committee

OZ's Israel Committee is pleased to offer the following programs related to the Celebrate Israel Parade:

Shabbat Emor, May 3

● Savor the flavors of Israel with kiddush and join in a Zimriyah.

Sunday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.

● Book Discussion of *My Promised Land*:

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 July/August 2014 issue is due by Monday, June 2.

The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel by Ari Shavit (see page 3)

Monday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.

● Yom HaZikaron ceremony followed by services for Ma'ariv. After Ma'ariv, there will be a sing-along for Yom Ha'atzmaut with coffee, tea, and scrumptious dessert.

Sunday, June 1

● Come march with us in the Celebrate Israel Parade. This year's theme is "50 Ways to Celebrate Israel." To sign up and reserve your parade T-shirt, contact Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or iburgess@orzarua.org (see page 1).

—ALIZA KAPLAN

SAVE THE DATE

Silver Lights Gala Celebrating 25 Years

Wednesday, November 12

The Pierre

Music by the Andy Statman Band

Or Zarua's Silver Anniversary Gala, to be held at The Pierre, 2 East 61st Street, at Fifth Avenue, on Wednesday, November 12, will feature music by Andy Statman and his band. Statman is a musical legend, whose range of talent runs from klezmer to bluegrass to dance music (www.tinyurl.com/OZGalaAndyS). So bring your dancing shoes!

Additional Meanings: The Art of Summantics

Now Showing in the Or Zarua Gallery



RABBI SCOTT BOLTON AND RACHEL WOURSSELL

The Or Zarua Gallery opening of “Additional Meanings: The Art of Summantics” took place on March 23. Karen Shaw (standing, above right) discussed her use of visual imagery, allusive words, and numeric systems in her art.

The exhibit was installed by committee members (shown at right, from left) Caroline Golden Ilberman, Barbara Nadler, Rachel Woursell, and Bobbi Collier.

If you missed the festivities, Karen Shaw’s art is still on display. So please take the opportunity to visit the gallery and view her provocative collages and mixed-media work.



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.

SIGN UP TO READ TORAH ON SHABBAT

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.

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.

Hevruta: Talmud Seminar

Reading Talmud Informational Meeting, Tuesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

Enhance your Talmudic literacy! Whether it is deciphering the complex English translations or gaining the vocabulary and technical expertise to dissect a page of Talmud, OZ will be offering a class to develop your own ability to read Talmud. Students will spend time in hevruta, a learning dyad or triad, with fellow learners, and be guided during that time by teachers who know how to help adult learners develop the vocabulary and conceptual approaches they need to unlock the Talmud's language and structure.



The class is designed for adult learners. A participant's Hebrew background can be deep or just at the phonetic readers' level. Each participant will experience learning with partners and being in seminar with an expert instructor who will help each individual progress at pace that is appropriate.

There will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m. with our instructor, Rabbi Dr. Mordecai Schwartz. Rabbi Schwartz has

a Ph.D. in Talmud and Rabbinics from JTS. Please contact Deborah Wenger in the OZ office at 212-452-2310, extension 12, to register for the informational meeting.



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.

ZIMRIYAH

Saturday, May 3 after kiddush

A Zimriyah singing session is scheduled after kiddush on Saturday, May 3. All are invited.

RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

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



Rabbi Wechsler can be heard on SiriusXM Stars Channel two times each Sunday. Subscribers to SiriusXM Satellite Radio can access "Rabbi Wechsler Teaches" on Channel 106. 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
				1 • 1 Iyar Rosh Hodesh Iyar 7:00 am Minyan <i>No Siddur Class</i> 1:00 pm TLC: Rabbis Rudin & Rifkin at Park Avenue 7:00 pm Holocaust-Looted Art with Owen Pell	2 • 2 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:34 pm Candlelighting	3 • 3 9:00 am Shaharit Emor After kiddush, Zimriyah 8:39 pm Shabbat ends
4 • 4 8:45 am Minyan 10:00 am Marc Ashley's Class 7:30 pm Book Discussion 8:30 pm Birhana Rehearsal	5 • 5 Yom HaZikaron 7:15 am Minyan 5:00 pm Siddur Ceremony 7:00 pm Yom HaZikaron/ Yom Ha'atzmaut Program <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	6 • 6 Yom Ha'atzmaut 7:00 am Minyan	7 • 7 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	8 • 8 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 7:30 pm TLC: Rabbis Skydell & Bolton at Orach Chaim	9 • 9 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:42 pm Candlelighting	10 • 10 9:00 am Shaharit Behar 8:47 pm Shabbat ends
11 • 11 Mother's Day 8:45 am Minyan 7:30 pm Birhana Rehearsal	12 • 12 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	13 • 13 7:15 am Minyan	14 • 14 Pesah Sheini 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	15 • 15 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 1:00 pm TLC: Rabbis Stoloff & Strom at Temple Israel 6:00 pm Teen Beit Midrash	16 • 16 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:49 pm Candlelighting	17 • 17 9:00 am Shaharit Behukkotai noon Stroller Shabbat 12:30 pm Lunch & Learn 4:00 pm Shabbat in Park 8:54 pm Shabbat ends 9:00 pm Learning and L'Chaim with Rabbi Bolton
18 • 18 Lag B'Omer 8:45 am Minyan 10:00 am Marc Ashley's Class 7:30 pm Birhana Rehearsal	19 • 19 7:15 am Minyan Annual Meeting 7:00 pm Supper 8:15 pm Meeting <i>Hebrew School in session</i>	20 • 20 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Hevruta Informational Meeting	21 • 21 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class <i>Last Day of Hebrew School</i>	22 • 22 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 7:30 pm TLC: Rabbis Bolton & Kletenik at Or Zarua	23 • 23 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:55 pm Candlelighting	24 • 24 9:00 am Shaharit Bemidar 9:00 pm Shabbat ends
25 • 25 8:45 am Minyan 10:00 am Marc Ashley's Class	26 • 26 Memorial Day 8:45 am Minyan <i>Office closed</i>	27 • 27 7:15 am Minyan	28 • 28 Yom Yerushalayim 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class	29 • 29 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 1:00 pm TLC: Rabbis Ain & Pelcovits at Sutton Place	30 • 1 Sivan Rosh Hodesh Sivan 7:00 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:01 pm Candlelighting	31 • 2 9:00 am Shaharit Naso 10:30 am Teen-led Shabbat 9:06 pm Shabbat ends

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 • 3 Sivan 8:45 am Minyan 10:00 am Marc Ashley's Class Celebrate Israel Parade <i>(time to be announced)</i> 7:30 pm Birhana Rehearsal	2 • 4 7:15 am Minyan	3 • 5 Erev Shavuot 7:15 am Minyan 8:20 pm Ma'ariv 8:04 pm Candlelighting 8:45 pm Tikkun Leyl Shavuot 1:00 pm Office closes	4 • 6 Shavuot: First Day 9:00 am Shaharit Light candles after 9:09 pm <i>Office closed</i>	5 • 7 Shavuot: Second Day 8:45 am Shaharit Yizkor 9:10 pm Festival Ends <i>Office closed</i>	6 • 8 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:06 pm Candlelighting	7 • 9 9:00 am Shaharit Beha'alotekha 9:11 pm Shabbat ends
8 • 10 8:45 am Minyan 12:00 p.m. Necessities Bags 7:30 pm Birhana Rehearsal	9 • 11 7:15 am Minyan	10 • 12 7:15 am Minyan	11 • 13 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Talmud Class	12 • 14 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class	13 • 15 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:10 pm Candlelighting	14 • 16 9:00 am Shaharit Selah Lekha 9:15 pm Shabbat ends
15 • 17 Father's Day 8:45 am Minyan	16 • 18 7:15 am Minyan	17 • 19 7:15 am Minyan	18 • 20 7:15 am Minyan	19 • 21 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class	20 • 22 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:12 pm Candlelighting	21 • 23 9:00 am Shaharit Korah 4:00 pm Shabbat in the Park 9:17 pm Shabbat ends
22 • 24 8:45 am Minyan	23 • 25 7:15 am Minyan	24 • 26 7:15 am Minyan	25 • 27 7:15 am Minyan	26 • 28 7:15 am Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class	27 • 29 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13 pm Candlelighting	28 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Tammuz 9:00 am Shaharit Hukkat 9:18 pm Shabbat ends
29 • 1 Tammuz Rosh Hodesh Tammuz 8:45 am Minyan	30 • 2 7:15 am Minyan					

Shabbat Minyan Groups

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to noon

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. Each minyan includes age-appropriate prayer and singing, Torah learning, and kiddush. No registration is necessary; simply join us any Shabbat morning.

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



CHARLIE SPIELHOLTZ

OR ZARUA TEENS gathered after the reading of Megilat Esther to make sandwiches with cheese donated by Park East Kosher to be distributed by New York Common Pantry. The teens then feasted on ice cream sundaes in honor of Purim.

OZ Stroller Shabbat

Saturday, May 17th
Social Hall, Around Noon

Calling all families with young children! Come enjoy Shabbat and a relaxed bagel lunch. Schmooze with other parents while your children play and hear a story read by Rabbi Bolton.



For those interested, Shabbat services for young children start at 10:30 am in the Social Hall..

For more information please contact Deborah Wenger at dwenger@orzarua.org or 212.452.2310, ext. 12.



OZ YOUTH EVENTS

Thursday, May 15 • 6:00 p.m.

TEEN BEIT MIDRASH
with East Side Torah Learning Coalition
This multid denominational teen learning experience among East Side Torah Learning Coalition synagogue youth will be a night of interactive experiences exploring "The Power of Words" as seen in *Pirke Avot*.

Congregation Or Zarua

Saturday, May 17 • 12:30 p.m.

SHABBAT LUNCH AND LEARN
Explore Jewish themes in the book *Divergent* following Mah Zeh Shabbat!
7th Floor

Saturday, May 31 • 10:30 a.m.

TEEN-LED SHABBAT AND LUNCH IN THE PARK
Our final Teen Shabbat of the year, followed by a picnic lunch in the park!
Middle and High School Students
4th Floor Library

Tuesday, June 3 • 8:30 p.m.

TWEEN TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT
Middle schoolers are invited to a special evening of learning celebrating the holiday of Shavuot. Delicious dairy delicacies will be served!
Congregation Or Zarua

Sunday, June 8 • 12:00 p.m.

NECESSITIES BAGS
Mothers and daughters from the community are invited to a ladies' lunch, followed by an afternoon of hessed assembling Necessities Bags to help women with breast cancer prepare for mastectomies and feel supported throughout the process.
Congregation Or Zarua

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. They will add you—and your child—to their email distribution list.

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



ELANA MENDELOWITZ

MAKE YOUR OWN SUSHI AND LEARN ABOUT KITNIYOT, a youth event with Elana Mendelowitz and Sigal Hirsch, was held on April 6.

SIDDUR CEREMONY

Monday, May 5, 5:00 p.m.

The Hebrew School will hold its Siddur Ceremony on Monday, May 5, at 5:00 p.m. Contact Youth Education Director Ilana Burgess, at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or iburgess@orzarua.org, for more information. Note that the final day of school is Wednesday, May 21.



ILANA BURGESS

SHABBAT IN THE PARK

Saturdays, May 17 and June 21, 4:00 p.m.

North End of the Great Lawn

Shabbat in the Park is for all ages! Bring your blanket, pareve nosh to share, sports equipment or games, or just yourself. Rabbi Bolton and his family will be there.



ILANA BURGESS

PESAH LESSONS AND A MODEL SEDER. In a series of lessons that culminated with a model seder, OZ Hebrew School students learned about Passover. They began with b'dikat hametz (search for hametz) and then studied different traditions of celebrating and conducting the seder. For example, did you know that in some places in Hungary guests remove their jewelry during the seder and place it in a basket on the table until the start of the festive meal? It is a tradition that symbolizes the slavery at the beginning of the seder and freedom at the end of the seder. Post-bar/bat mitzvah students prepared and conducted a "chocolate seder" with a festive meal of matzah brei covered in chocolate syrup.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, May 19

7:00 p.m. Supper/8:15 p.m. Meeting

The agenda will include

- The election of trustees and officers
- Treasurer's Report
- Remarks from the President and Rabbi

According to the By-Laws, we need a quorum of approximately 200 members to conduct synagogue business at our Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend this meeting.

Please make reservations for supper and the meeting at <http://tinyurl.com/2014-OZ-Meeting> or by calling the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 39, by Monday, May 12.

A Solution to Hunger

Support OZ's partnership with the New York Common Pantry

Or Zarua has made a commitment to send volunteers for one shift per month at 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 12:00 p.m. in the pantry's distribution center, located off Fifth Avenue at 8 East 109th Street. Pictured, from left, are recent volunteers Barry Feldman, Richard Stadin, and Audrey Feldman. Contact Lesley Palmer at lesley@nyc.rr.com to sign up for May 7 or June 11.



You also can help feed the hungry in our community 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. Collection bins have been placed in the social hall for donations, which will be distributed through NYCP. If you would like to sign up directly with NYCP to volunteer, please visit <http://www.nycommonpantry.org/volunteer.html> and contact Jen Winter.

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). The final session will be on June 11.

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.

EXPLORE WWW.ORZARUA.ORG

Some of the many resources on the Congregation Or Zarua website include upcoming events, service schedules, current art gallery shows, minyan sign-up, guest speaker presentations, and much more. So take a few moments to learn, pray, participate, and connect on www.orzarua.org!

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.

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 from across the U.S. and from around the world come to New York City hospitals for cancer treatment. 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.

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

Upcoming Or Zarua Events

Preliminary planning for 2014–2015

The Adult Education Committee has made preliminary plans for the following programs in 2014–2015. Watch the *OZ Newsletter* and eblasts for additional details and events.

- Dr. Arnold M. Eisen, chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary, will deliver the annual High Holy Day Teshuvah talk, Wednesday, October 1, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
- “From Assyria to Iberia: Crossing Continents at the Dawn of the Classical Age” with a curator from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, October 14, 2014.
- “Emigration to Immigration: From Journey to Settlement in New York City” with

Congregant Barry Feldman, in four sessions, November 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2014.

- “Cubism and the Leonard A. Lauder Collection” with OZ Congregant Dr. Emily Braun, Distinguished Professor of Art and Art History, Hunter College, December 7, 2014.
- Shabbat Shirah with a visiting chazzan, January 3, 2015.
- The Annual Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture, “Dubnow’s Other Daughter: Lucy S. Dawidowicz and the Beginnings of Holocaust Research in the United States” with Dr. Nancy Sinkoff, Professor of Jewish Studies and History, Rutgers University, January 22, 2015.

OZ ISRAEL TRIP

Informational Meeting

Date to be announced by email

A trip to Israel is being planned for OZ members. Watch your email for the date of an informational meeting to be held with the tour operator. The itinerary should be of interest to a broad range of Congregants and will include some flexibility to address individual interests. Rabbi Bolton will be traveling with the group.

Contact Deborah Wenger in the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 12, or dwenger@orzarua.org, for more information.

Or Zarua Purim Festivities

Hamantaschen Hoedown and Carnival, Sunday, March 16



THE RABBIS BOLTON. Seeing double on Purim.



CHARLIE SPELHOZ



CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

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

May/June Checklist

- The East Side Torah Learning Coalition will host presentations on Chapters 2 through 6 of *Pirke Avot* on Thursdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. See page 5 for topics, times, and locations.
- Flavors of Israel Kiddush on Shabbat Emor, Saturday, May 3 (page 5).
- Zimriyah singing session, Saturday, May 3, after services. All are invited (page 7).
- Marc Ashley's annual class between Pesah and Shavuot will meet on Sundays, May 4, 18, 25, and June 1, at 10:00 a.m. This year's topic is "Though He May Tarry: Messianism in Jewish Thought" (page 3).
- Book discussion of *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel* by Ari Shavit, led by Aliza Kaplan, Sunday, May 4, 7:30 p.m. (page 3).
- Siddur Ceremony for the OZ Hebrew School, Monday, May 5, 5:00 p.m. (page 11).
- Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut services and programs, Monday, May 5, 7:00 p.m. (page 5).
- Volunteer with fellow Congregants at the New York Common Pantry on Wednesdays, May 7 or June 11, 9:00 a.m. to noon (page 12).
- Teen Beit Midrash, Thursday, May 15, 6:00 p.m. (page 10).
- Stroller Shabbat for families with young children, Saturday, May 17, after services, in the social hall (page 10).
- Shabbat Lunch and Learn for OZ Youth, Saturday, May 17, 12:30 p.m., 7th Floor (page 10).
- Shabbat in the Park, Saturday, May 17, 4:00 p.m. (page 11).
- Learn and L'Chaim with Rabbi Bolton on Lag B'Omer, Saturday, May 17, 9:00 p.m. (page 4).
- Annual Meeting, Monday, May 19, supper at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 8:15 p.m. (page 11).
- Hevruta: Talmud Seminar, a new class to begin in fall 2014, is being planned for members of OZ. An informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m. (page 7).
- Teen-Led Shabbat and Lunch in the Park, Saturday, May 31, 10:30 a.m. (page 10).
- Celebrate Israel Parade, Sunday, June 1. (page 1).
- Tikkun Leyl Shavuot Panel, "Let Your Imagination Run Wild: How Imagination, Creativity, and Breaking Boundaries Keep Us Going Forward," Tuesday night, June 3, after Ma'ariv, followed by dairy desserts (page 1).
- Tween Tikkun Leyl Shavuot, Tuesday, June 3, 8:30 p.m.
- Mothers and daughters are invited to pack Necessities Bags for women preparing for mastectomies, Sunday, June 8, 12:00 p.m. (page 10).
- Shabbat in the Park, Saturday, June 21, 4:00 p.m. (page 11).
- OZ is planning a trip to Israel in late December. Watch your email for the date (page 13).
- OZ will celebrate its 25th year with a Silver Lights Gala on Wednesday, November 25, at The Pierre, with music by the Andy Statman Band (page 5).
- "Additional Meanings: The Art of Summantics," OZ's current art show, can be seen in the OZ Gallery (page 6).
- A preliminary list of events and programs to begin this fall appears on page 13.