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CONGREGATION

OrZarua

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ADAR/NISAN/IYAR 5775

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MARCH/APRIL 2015

For You Have Chosen Us: The Blessing and Burden of Chosenness

AN ADULT EDUCATION COURSE BETWEEN PESAH AND SHAVUOT

by Marc D. Ashley

Are Jews God's chosen people? And, if we are, what does chosenness actually mean?

The idea that we are God's chosen people is a vexing one, which has elicited a range of interpretations by both Jews and others. The notion of chosenness has defined various Jewish self-identities, influenced our interactions with those beyond our community, and shaped outsiders' perceptions of us.

The concept of chosenness has animated Jewish thinking since Judaism's inception and continues to be proclaimed (including at Or Zarua) throughout our clas-

sical texts and liturgies. Indeed, every time we make kiddush over wine we reaffirm the proclamation that we were chosen by God from among the nations. It is a pervasive concept that has infused the daily routines of Jewish lives with an enduring sense of holiness, covenant, mission and purpose.

Yet chosenness has constituted both blessing and burden for Jews over time, generating reactions from pride to antipathy. It has carried both meaningfulness and suffering in its wake. Sister religions have premised entire theologies on addressing and displacing the contention that Jews are the chosen people, prompting polemics and warfare in the name of God on many sides.

The historical centrality of chosenness to Jewish thinking and living should be appreciated. But the continuing relevance and meaning of the idea to modern Jews is uncertain and often controversial. Questions about the nature of reciprocal obligations

attendant to chosenness, whether the concept necessarily entails superiority or exclusivity, and who actually did the choosing, pose formidable theological puzzles and moral challenges worthy of our focus.

Join our discussion of these pivotal religious issues in an adult education course, led by Congregant Marc Ashley, between Pesah and Shavuot. In *"For You Have Chosen Us: The Blessing and Burden of Chosenness,"* we will examine Jewish sources and perspectives on, and diverse responses to, the ambitious assertion that Jews are God's chosen people. We will meet in the library on four Sundays—April 12, 19, and 26, and May 3—at 10:00 a.m. (although 10:30 a.m. on April 19). No prior knowledge is required. Please participate in a conversation about whether, why, and how Jews are God's chosen people, as we explore a debate that has raged through the centuries.

OZ BOOK DISCUSSION

Sunday, March 8
5:30 p.m., OZ Library



Sayed Kashua, an Israeli-Arab, is a columnist for Ha'Aretz. His 2002 novel, *Dancing Arabs*, was written in Hebrew; an English translation is available in paperback.

Rabbi Bolton will be hosting a supper at 5:30 p.m., before the book discussion on March 8. Make reservations by Wednesday, March 4, with Deborah Wenger at dwenger@orzarua.org.

Zionist Congress Elections MERCAZ USA campaign

The first Zionist Congress was convened by Theodore Herzl in 1897 to serve as the platform to create the Jewish State.

Nearly 120 years later, the Zionist Congress persists and is holding elections, which began on January 13, 2015, and will continue through April 30. We encourage everyone to register and

vote for MERCAZ USA, the Zionist arm of the Conservative movement. The MERCAZ USA slate includes three members of OZ: Rabbi Scott Bolton, Dr. Sam Klagsbrun, and Rabbi Bob Golub.

To begin the voting process, go to: mercazusa.org/index.html. To learn more about Mercaz, start with this video: youtube.com/watch?v=FnfPe8s6VCU.



A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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

President's Message

by Marc D. Ashley



We will soon emerge not just from a brutally cold winter, but from a relative lull in the Jewish calendar as well. Save for the fleeting appearance of Tu B'Shevat, the recent months since Hanukkah brightened our dark winter evenings were bereft of Jewish holidays. But Jewish hope springs eternal. Accompanying the renewal of spring that will warm our bodies will be a succession of Jewish holidays to brighten our souls. We are on the cusp, finally, of a series of interconnected festivals, from Purim to Passover and then on to Shavuot. As temperatures rise and holidays resurface, make it a priority to spend part of your spring at Or Zarua!

The reckoning of time in Judaism is crucial yet complex; the flow of the Jewish calendar is integrally and functionally tied to the performance of concrete activities at appointed times. Our sages historically have been obsessive about calculating the proper timing of specific tasks.

Indeed, the very first passage of the Mishnah (Berakhot 1:1-2), the core text of rabbinic Judaism, begins not with an introduction to the general topic of prayers or blessings, but rather with a focused question regarding the appropriate times to recite the daily Sh'ma. And the Mishnah's answers are not defined by abstract temporal deadlines, but instead by reference to human events and natural phenomena, ranging from times of priestly consumption of sacrifices (which themselves are rendered invalid if offered at the wrong times) to the rise of dawn. For the mishnaic rabbis, the threshold religious inquiry is not an issue of "what?" but of "when?"

As a matter of Jewish priorities, which value precise timing, accurately locating ourselves within the Jewish calendar would seem, then, to be a straightforward matter. One would think that the beginning, middle, and end of the calendar would be clearly defined—but they are not. As Purim and Pesah approach, are we in the middle of

the calendar, or somewhere else entirely?

If we inaugurated the Jewish year with Rosh Hashanah, an assumption reinforced by the holiday's name, then we are approaching the midpoint of the calendar. Based on that temporal reckoning, the period of Purim through Shavuot constitutes the central core of the calendar. But perhaps Jewish time is not quite so linear. The Torah itself suggests a different temporal pattern: Rosh Hashanah is said to fall not in the first month but in the seventh; Nisan, during which Pesah falls, is proclaimed the first month of the year. Seen from that perspective, in which Nisan is the initial month of the Torah year, Pesah becomes the inaugural holiday of our calendar, and Purim, during the twelfth and final month, is celebrated at its conclusion. Holidays that seemed to fall at the center of the calendar suddenly occupy its beginning and end.

Whether aligned together at the center of the Jewish calendar, or viewed respectively as its conclusion and introduction, Purim and Passover are intrinsically linked. Jewish legal codes mandate that we begin the study of Passover laws on Purim, which effectively marks Purim as the start of the preparatory period for the elaborate holiday to follow. Rashi notes that joy is said to increase in the month of Adar (during which Purim falls) because miracles occurred on both holidays, and, therefore, the redemption of one is celebrated in conjunction with the other. In fact, when their timing is laid out precisely, the seminal events of Megillat Esther are understood to have occurred on Passover, further strengthening the bond between these two joyous holidays.

There is a compelling fluidity to Jewish time, even if perceived as topsy-turvy. Whether we are currently situated in the middle of the Jewish calendar or near its end, we are on the verge of a season of spiritual highpoints, moving from the physical salvation of Purim to the national liberation of Pesah, and eventually beyond both to the revelation of Torah on Shavuot.

Please join us at Or Zarua, on both sacred and mundane days, as together we experience times of communal elevation, creating a spring full of warmth and joy.



PURIM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 4

Kids' Purim Program

5:00 p.m., Floors 6 and 7
CHILDREN'S SERVICE, MEGILLAT ESTHER, COSTUME PARADE, DANCING, BOOK READING, AND CARNIVAL

Purim and Me

5:45 p.m., Library
For children aged 5 and under

A Bissel for Break Fast of Esther

6:17 p.m.

Ma'ariv and Megillat Esther

6:30 p.m., Or Zarua Sanctuary

Purim Celebration and Bluegrass Bash

7:45 p.m., Or Zarua Social Hall
LIVE MUSIC AND PURIM SEUDAH
Guests are encouraged to attend!
No charge for the Purim Seudah, but to help with dinner planning, RSVP to the OZ office, 212-452-2310, extension 39.

Thursday, March 5

Shaharit and Megillat Esther

7:00 a.m., Or Zarua Sanctuary

Matanot LaEvyonim—

Purim Gifts for the Needy

At all times, Or Zarua Social Hall
PURIM FOOD DRIVE AND DONATIONS

Matanot LaEvyonim

Purim Food Drive to help the hungry in our community

Observe the Purim mitzvah of Matanot LaEvyonim, giving gifts to the needy, by donating nonperishable food items or a check when you come to Purim services or festivities on Wednesday, March 4. 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

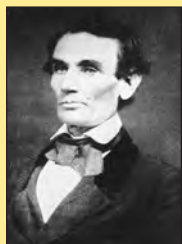
wheat pasta; tomato sauce; 100% real fruit juice; canned soups and stew (low-sodium), brown rice; peanut butter; canned tuna, salmon, and chicken; shelf-stable milk (nonfat or 1%); coffee; and tea.

Purim is not the only time to make donations. Or Zarua 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 5.

LINCOLN AND THE JEWS

Tour the New-York Historical Society exhibit with Curator Ann Meyerson, Ph.D.

Thursday, April 16, 4:45 p.m.



Lincoln's positive and meaningful personal relationships with Jewish individuals not only arguably changed him, but also had an important and lasting impact on the status of American Jews. Lincoln stood up to his anti-Semitic generals even as he depended upon them to win the war, and became an advocate for Jewish equality and acceptance. The exhibition, which opens March 20, will trace events in Lincoln's life through the lens of his Jewish contemporaries, such as Abraham Jonas, who became Lincoln's political strategist and "most valued friend," and Issachar Zacharie, his enigmatic confidant. For more details, visit www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/lincoln-and-the-jews.

The tour is limited to 30 people at \$22 per person. Please make reservations online at <http://www.wizevents.com/register/3355> or with Deborah Wenger at dwenger@orzarua.org.

OZ MINYAN

Sign up for a day or two

Congregants are needed for the OZ minyan. For the weekday morning service, contact Sheldon Adler at sadler@skadden.com. For the Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service, contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com. You may also choose "Daily Minyan" under the "Pray" menu on www.orzarua.org to sign up for a day or two each month.

OZ SOCIAL HALL The Or Zarua social hall is available to rent for appropriate functions. Contact Helene Santo, 212-452-2310, extension 14, for information.

OZ's Young Professionals

A year of awesome events

OZ's Young Professionals is a group of members in their 20's and 30's committed to building a welcoming, vibrant Jewish community within Or Zarua.

While it's hard to believe, a year has passed since we gathered at Rabbi Bolton's home to start this group. So far we have had 10 awesome events—most recently a Board Game Shabbat—which more than 100 different people attended!

We are very much looking forward to joining OZ for the Purim festivities.

We encourage everyone in the Or Zarua community to tell any young adults out there (single, married, and everything in between) about our group! Follow us on Facebook for updates and events at Or Zarua's Young Professionals. Or contact Susan (susan.steinman@gmail.com), Liora (liora.avitan@gmail.com), or Marc (marc.a.alexander@gmail.com).

Shabbat Programs at OZ

For youth of all ages

● **Shabbat and Me**, for the youngest Or Zaruaans, meets on March 27 at 5:15 p.m., May 1 at 5:30 p.m., and June 5 at 5:30 p.m.

● **Torah Tots and Torah Kids**, Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Weekly morning Shabbat programs.

● **Discover Shabbat**, Saturday, April 25, at 10:30 a.m. A supplemental program to the weekly Shabbat morning programs offering enhanced activities to connect the weekly Torah portion to our everyday lives. The theme on April 25 will be Israel Independence Day. Snacks are served.

● **Mah Zeh Shabbat** welcomes students in grades 4 to 8 to meaningful and exciting Shabbat services, featuring Breakfast Club and Torah Talk, on select Shabbatot at 10:30 a.m. in the OZ Library. Upcoming dates are March 14, March 28, April 18, and May 2.

● **Teen-led Minyan**, including Torah reading, Haftarah, and a special Kiddush, meets on select Shabbatot at 10:30 a.m. in the OZ Library. For 4th grade and up; teens are encouraged to participate.

Check the weekly OZ eBlast and messages from orzaruayouth@gmail.com for updates about these and other youth events.

A Life in Stills

Encore Screening, Sunday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.



If you missed the powerful, touching, award-winning documentary film *A Life in Stills*, about the family of photographer Rudi Weissenstein, join us for a repeat screen-

ing at 7:00 p.m. on March 22. Friends and guests are welcome. This is a rare opportunity to see the film, which is only shown at film festivals. Enjoy wine and cheese in the gallery before the film is shown.

If you are interested in purchasing a framed photograph from the exhibition (from \$500 to \$1,000), please contact Helene Santo (hsanto@orzaruua.org) or Bobbi Coller.

KADIMA AND USY EVENTS

March 2015

SATURDAY, MARCH 7
USY Midnight Run at Habonim

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
Mah Zeh Shabbat

SATURDAY, MARCH 21
Teen-led Minyan
Kadima Evening Event

SATURDAY, MARCH 28
Mah Zeh Shabbat

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 The Reel Shpiel Film Festival: *When Jews Were Funny*

April 2015

FRIDAY, APRIL 17
USY City-wide Dinner at Town and Village

SATURDAY, APRIL 18
Mah Zeh Shabbat

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 The Reel Shpiel Film Festival: *The Soap Myth*

May 2015

SATURDAY, MAY 2
Mah Zeh Shabbat

SUNDAY, MAY 3 The Reel Shpiel Film Festival: *David: One Boy, Two Faiths*

FRIDAY, MAY 8
USY City-wide Dinner and Kabbalat Shabbat at OZ

SATURDAY, MAY 23
Tikkun Leyl Shavuot for grades 6-12

Please contact Sigal Hirsch and Elana Mendelowitz at orzaruayouth@gmail.com for information about Kadima or USY, or to be added to the OZ Youth email list.

SAVE THE DATE

Brunch in Tribute to Ilana Burgess
Sunday, May 17



Celebrate Israel Parade, June 2014

CHARLIE SPIELHOIZ

Or Zarua Hessed Programs

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

LAURIE DIEN



A Solution to Hunger

● Help feed the hungry in our community by donating to or volunteering with the New York Common Pantry. Each month collection bins are placed in the social hall for food donations of healthy (low-sodium, whole wheat, low-fat or nonfat), packaged grocery items. Volunteers from OZ are needed the first Wednesday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the pantry’s distribution center, located off Fifth Avenue at 8 East 109th Street. Contact Lesley Palmer at lesleypalmer123@gmail.com to sign up for March 11, April 8, May 6, or June 3.

Home Visit Volunteers

● Volunteer to visit and cheer ill or homebound Or Zarua Congregants. Please con-

tact Roberta Hufnagel at robertahufnagel@gmail.com, 212-744-6572 (home), or 978-835-5445 (cell), if you are interested.

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 from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. on the last two Mondays of each month. Volunteers are needed as well as donations to the Hessed Fund.

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.

To participate in any of these programs, please contact Susan J. Lorin, Hessed Committee Chair, at lorin@sewkis.com or 212-717-4647.

JEN WINTER



A NOTE OF THANKS TO OZ FROM JEN WINTER, NYCP’S VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:
 “Thank you to the Or Zarua volunteers who helped to pack hundreds of pounds of produce for NYCP’s Choice Pantry Program! As a direct result of your hard work, we will be able to provide the families we serve with much-needed fresh fruits and vegetables.”

RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Sundays at 4:00 a.m., 8 a.m., and 8:00 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.

TALMUD CLASS

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Talmud class meets on most Wednesdays in the OZ Library from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Rabbi Bolton. We will begin study in a new chapter of Masekhet Sanhedrin, Perek HaCheilek. You may use either the Artscroll (Schottenstein) or Koren (Steinsaltz) edition, or obtain copies of the chapter from the Rabbi.

Anyone may join the class at any time; previous participation is not necessary. No prior knowledge of Talmud, Hebrew, or Aramaic is required.

SIDDUR CLASS:

History, Meaning, and Commentaries on the Jewish Prayer Book

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

Or Zarua’s siddur class, taught by Rabbi Bolton, studies the history of, laws about, teachings on, and approaches to Jewish prayer. The topic for this year’s study is the Amidah. Prior knowledge is not required; you may attend any or all of the classes.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 • 10 Adar 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 11:00 am Project ORE Purim Hesed Event 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 • 11 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar</p>	<p>3 • 12 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:15 pm Torah Reading Class <i>No Context Class</i></p>	<p>4 • 13 Fast of Esther/Erev Purim 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 5:00 pm Kids' Purim 5:45 pm Purim and Me 6:17 pm Break Fast 6:30 pm Ma'ariv and Megillah Esther 7:45 pm Bluegrass Bash</p>	<p>5 • 14 Purim 7:00 am Shaharit and Megillah Esther <i>No Siddur Class</i></p>	<p>6 • 15 Shushan Purim 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 5:34 pm Candlelighting. Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat</p>	<p>7 • 16 9:00 am Shaharit/Ki Tissa Bat Mitzvah of Judy Lawrence 10:30 am Torah Tots/Kids 6:39 pm Shabbat ends 6:00 pm USY Midnight Run at Habonim</p>
<p>8 • 17 Daylight Saving Time begins 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 5:30 pm Dinner and Book Discussion <i>(note earlier start time!)</i> 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 • 18 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar</p>	<p>10 • 19 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Context 7:15 pm Torah Reading Class</p>	<p>11 • 20 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 9:00 am NYCP 7:30 pm Talmud Class</p>	<p>12 • 21 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class</p>	<p>13 • 22 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:42 pm Candlelighting</p>	<p>14 • 23 Shabbat Parah 9:00 am Shaharit Vayyakhel-Perkudey 10:30 am Torah Tots, Torah Kids, and Mah Zeh Shabbat 7:47 pm Shabbat ends</p>
<p>15 • 24 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 • 25 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School <i>No Talmud Hevruta Seminar</i></p>	<p>17 • 26 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Context 7:15 pm Torah Reading Class</p>	<p>18 • 27 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:30 pm Talmud Class</p>	<p>19 • 28 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class</p>	<p>20 • 29 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:49 pm Candlelighting</p>	<p>21 • 1 Nisan Shabbat HaHodesh Rosh Hodesh Nisan 9:00 am Shaharit/Vayyikra 10:30 am Torah Tots, Torah Kids, and Teen Minyan 6:00 pm Kadima Event 7:54 pm Shabbat ends</p>
<p>22 • 2 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm <i>A Life in Stills</i> Film Screening, Wine and Cheese 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 • 3 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar</p>	<p>24 • 4 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Context 7:15 pm Torah Reading Class</p>	<p>25 • 5 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:30 pm Talmud Class</p>	<p>26 • 6 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class</p>	<p>27 • 7 7:15 am Shaharit 5:15 pm Shabbat and Me 6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:57 pm Candlelighting</p>	<p>28 • 8 Shabbat Hagadol 9:00 am Shaharit/Tzav Scholarly Shabbat with Rabbi David Hoffman 10:30 am Torah Tots, Torah Kids, and Mah Zeh Shabbat 8:02 pm Shabbat ends</p>
<p>29 • 9 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 3:00 pm Film Festival: <i>When Jews Were Funny</i> 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 • 10 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar</p>	<p>31 • 11 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Context 7:15 pm Torah Reading Class</p>				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 • 12 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:30 pm Talmud Class	2 • 13 Bedikat Hametz 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class	3 • 14 Fast of the Firstborn/Siyum 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan Erev Pesah 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:04 pm Candlelighting First Seder	4 • 15 1st Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit 10:30 am Torah Tots/Kids 8:00 pm Or Zarua Congregational Seder Light candles after 8:09 pm Second Seder
5 • 16 2nd Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit Minyan 8:09 pm Yom Tov ends	6 • 17 Hol Hamoed 3rd Day of Pesah 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar <i>OZ Hebrew School closed</i>	7 • 18 Hol Hamoed 4th Day of Pesah 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan 7:15 pm Torah Reading Class <i>No Context Class</i>	8 • 19 Hol Hamoed 5th Day of Pesah 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan 9:00 am NYCP <i>OZ Hebrew School closed</i>	9 • 20 Hol Hamoed 6th Day of Pesah 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan Erev 7th Day of Pesah 7:10 pm Candlelighting	10 • 21 7th Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit Erev 7th Day of Pesah 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:11 pm Candlelighting	11 • 22 Last Day of Pesah 8:45 am Shaharit/Yizkor 10:30 am Torah Kids 10:30 am Torah Tots 6:30 pm Minhah/Seudah Shlishit Lecture by Rabbi Bolton/Ma'ariv 8:16 pm Festival ends
12 • 23 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 10:00 am Study with Marc Ashley 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	13 • 24 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar	14 • 25 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Torah Learning Coalition (Or Zarua)	15 • 26 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:00 pm Holocaust Remembrance Program	16 • 27 Yom HaShoah 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class	17 • 28 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat USY City-wide Dinner at Town and Village 7:19 pm Candlelighting	18 • 29 9:00 am Shaharit Shemini Yom Ha'atzmaut Kiddush with Alisa Bodner, LOTEM 10:30 am Torah Tots, Torah Kids, and Mah Zeh Shabbat 8:24 pm Shabbat ends
19 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Iyar 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 10:30 am Study with Marc Ashley 3:00 pm Film Festival: <i>The Soap Myth</i> 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	20 • 1 Rosh Hodesh Iyar 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School	21 • 2 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 1:00 pm Torah Learning Coalition (Town and Village) 7:00 pm Context	22 • 3 Yom Hazikaron 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 6:30 pm Yom Ha'atzmaut Community Celebration (Park Avenue Synagogue) 7:30 pm Talmud Class	23 • 4 Yom Ha'atzmaut 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class 6:00 pm Gallery Opening	24 • 5 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:26 pm Candlelighting	25 • 6 9:00 am Shaharit Tazria-Metzora 10:30 am Torah Tots, Torah Kids, and Discover Shabbat Yom Ha'atzmaut Kiddush and Zimriyah 8:31 pm Shabbat ends
26 • 7 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 10:00 am Study with Marc Ashley 4:00 pm "Baseball!" with Ivy Weingram 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	27 • 8 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar	28 • 9 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Context Make-up 7:00 pm Torah Learning Coalition (Temple Israel)	29 • 10 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:30 pm Talmud Class	30 • 11 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class	1 May • 12 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 5:30 pm Shabbat and Me 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:33 pm Candlelighting	2 May • 13 9:00 am Shaharit Aharei Mot-Kedoshim Bat Mitzvah of Eve Butler 10:30 am Torah Tots, Torah Kids, and Mah Zeh Shabbat 8:38 pm Shabbat ends

Scholarly Sabbath

with Rabbi David Hoffman, Saturday, March 28



COURTESY OF JTS

Rabbi David Hoffman, assistant professor of Talmud and Rabbinitics at JTS, will speak on “21st Century Talmud—1,900

Years Young” between Shahrith and Musaf on Saturday, March 28, and will

lead a discussion after kiddush.

Our final Scholarly Sabbath of the year will be with Rabbi Judith Hauptman, E. Billi Ivry Professor of Talmud and Rabbinic Culture at JTS, discussing “Protest or You’re Guilty: An Exploration of a Talmudic Principle,” on Saturday, May 30, during and after services.

These programs are free of charge, and no advance registration is required.

Pesah Meal Match

First Seder, Friday, April 3

Pesah is the time to invite guests into our homes to read the Haggadah during a seder. 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 OZ 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) by Thursday, April 2.

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. Funds, called ma’ot hittim (wheat money), are forwarded to 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. 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 halakhah.

Complete the form on page 9 and send it to the synagogue office by noon on Thursday, April 2. It is customary to enclose a contribution to Or Zarua’s Ma’ot Hittim Fund with your authorization.

SCHEDULE OF PESAH SERVICES 5775/2015

Thursday, April 2

Bedikat Hametz at night

Friday, April 3

Fast of the Firstborn/Siyum

Shahrith 7:00 a.m.

Erev Pesah

Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15 p.m.

Candlelighting 7:04 p.m.

First Seder

Saturday, April 4

First Day of Pesah

Shahrith 9:00 a.m.

Erev Second Day of Pesah

OZ Congregational Seder 8:00 p.m.

Second Seder

Light candles after 8:09 p.m.

Sunday, April 5

Second Day of Pesah

Shahrith 9:00 a.m.

Yom Tov ends 8:09 p.m.

Monday, April 6

Hol Hamoed

Third Day of Pesah

Shahrith 7:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 7

Hol Hamoed

Fourth Day of Pesah

Shahrith 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 8

Hol Hamoed

Fifth Day of Pesah

Shahrith 7:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 9

Hol Hamoed

Sixth Day of Pesah

Shahrith 7:00 a.m.

Erev Seventh Day of Pesah

Candlelighting 7:10 p.m.

Friday, April 10

Seventh Day of Pesah

Shahrith 9:00 a.m.

Erev Last Day of Pesah

Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15 p.m.

Candlelighting after 7:11 p.m.

Saturday, April 11

Last Day of Pesah

Shahrith/Yizkor 8:45 a.m.

Minhah/Seudah Shlishit 6:30 p.m.

Lecture by Rabbi Bolton/Ma’ariv

Festival ends 8:16 p.m.

Torah Learning Coalition

The Tradition of Studying Pirke Avot

Pirke Avot, an ethical treatise of the Rabbis, comprises six chapters in Tractate Avot of the Mishnah. It is our tradition to study a chapter of *Pirke Avot* each week during the Omer, beginning after the end of Passover. Our broader community has been keeping with this tradition through the East Side Torah Learning Coalition (TLC). The TLC is a multid denominational study program consisting of more than 10 Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox synagogues located on Manhattan's East Side. The TLC studies together during Elul in preparation for the High Holy Days, at Hanukkah, and during the Omer with the purpose of sharing Torah learning opportunities and experiencing the vibrant Jewish life in our neighborhoods.

This year, the TLC will begin its six-week study-cycle of *Pirke Avot* on Tuesday, April 14. Three sessions will be held at lunchtime (1:00 p.m.), and three in the evening (7:00 p.m.). Locations and speakers will be different each week. The

schedule of times and locations is listed below; a flyer with additional details, including the presenting rabbis, will be distributed before the end of March.

- Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m., at Or Zarua
- Tuesday, April 21, 1:00 p.m., at Town and Village
- Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 p.m., at Temple Israel
- Tuesday, May 5, 1:00 p.m., at Park Avenue
- Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 p.m., at Kehilath Jeshurun
- Tuesday, May 19, 1:00 p.m., at Sutton Place

Or Zarua invites everyone to attend these TLC sessions to learn and to be part of building our greater Jewish community. The program is free of charge; there is no sign-up. The TLC is founded on what unites us all—Torah and text study!

CONGREGATIONAL SECOND SEDER

Saturday, April 4, 8:00 p.m.
Led by Rabbi Bolton



Yael Pushkin (YaelDraw.com)

We invite you, your family, and your friends to share the second seder with us on Saturday, April 4. Our Congregational Seder, led by Rabbi Bolton, begins at 8:00 p.m.

Please make seder reservations by **MONDAY, MARCH 30** 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; \$50 children aged 8 and under.

Watch for a postcard with all the details and reservation information.

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 2**, 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

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

**Observed Wednesday,
April 15**

7:00 p.m., in the OZ Sanctuary

For additional information, or if you wish to participate directly, please contact Ilana Burgess at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or iburgess@orzaarua.org.

Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture

Continuing a tradition of excellent programming at Or Zarua

GERRY SOLOMON



This year's lecture in honor of Lucy S. Dawidowicz

celebrated Congregation Or Zarua's 25th anniversary. Presented by Nancy Sinkoff, professor of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University (*left*), and Francine Klagsbrun,

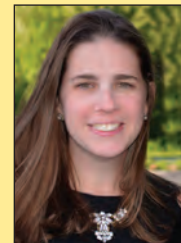
author and OZ member, the lecture examined the life and work of Lucy Dawidowicz.

OZ begins its 26th year by continuing a tradition of excellent programming with a curator-led tour of the New-York Historical Society exhibit "Lincoln and the Jews" (April 16, page 3), an encore screening of a "A Life in Stills" (March 28, page 4), a Scholarly Sabbath with Rabbi David Hoffman (March 28, page 8), and the immigrant experience through baseball (April 26, box at right).

BASEBALL!

with Ivy Weingram

Sunday, April 26, 4:00 p.m.



Ivy Weingram, associate curator of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, co-curated the Museum's exhibition "Chasing Dreams:

Baseball and Becoming American."

With a focus on Jews, the exhibit explored the relationship of baseball—a quintessential American game—to the assimilation of the diverse array of immigrant groups in our country. It covered the stories of players, as well as fans, reporters, business people, and others involved in making the game come to life. Ms. Weingram will talk about her experience with this exhibit in OZ's Social Hall. All are invited to come and enjoy this program; there is no registration required.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT SHABBAT AND KIDDUSH, **Saturday, April 18, after services**

Enjoy an Israeli Kiddush followed by a discussion with LOTEM representative Alisa Bodner, who will speak about making nature in Israel accessible to people with special needs. To learn more about LOTEM, go to www.lotem.net/?page_id=386. Registration is not required.

NEW YORK CITY YOM HA'ATZMAUT COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 p.m., Park Avenue Synagogue

OZ will participate in this event sponsored by JNF and Park Avenue Synagogue. There is no cost, but pre-registration is required. Go to tinyurl.com/OZ-JNFApr22 for details.