

A Traditional, Egalitarian, and Participatory
Conservative Synagogue

CELEBRATING
25 YEARS



CONGREGATION

Or Zarua

LEARN • PRAY • PARTICIPATE • CONNECT

IYAR/SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5775

NEWSLETTER/VOLUME 27:5

MAY/JUNE 2015

Shavuot Book Share Tikkun

The Aleppo Codex, with Rabbi Scott Bolton and Michael Schwartz

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT, SATURDAY NIGHT, MAY 23

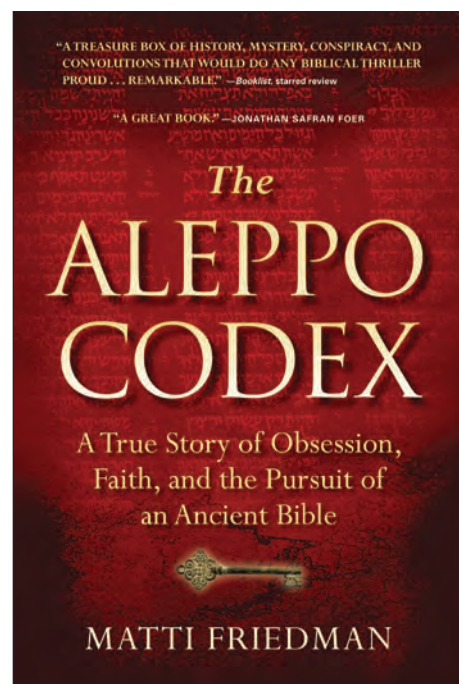
Ma'ariv begins at 9:00 p.m., followed by the Tikkun and cheesecake

This Shavuot join us for a unique and participatory Tikkun—a community book discussion led by Rabbi Bolton and Congregant Michael Schwartz. Our book,

The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith, and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible by Matti Friedman, tells the amazing story of the creation, preservation, loss, and rediscovery of a crucial Biblical text. It is

widely available from booksellers. You can find reviews of the book at the Jewish Book Council website (www.tinyurl.com/OZTikkun2015) and in *Tablet* (www.tinyurl.com/OZTikkun2015A).

A famous scribe, cited by the legendary Maimonides, wrote the Aleppo Codex in the tenth century. It was written at the same time as the Mishneh Torah and was protected for centuries in the



ancient synagogue of Syria's largest Jewish community. When the Aleppo community began to disperse in the 1940s and 1950s, the Codex found itself in transit for the first time in hundreds of years. However, pages are missing. Where are the missing pages? What did human hands do with a relic that was thought to preserve the experience of Sinai?

We look forward to seeing everyone on Shavuot and, of course, for the cheesecake—and other dairy treats—afterwards!



JOIN OZ FOR THE 51st ANNUAL CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE, SUNDAY, MAY 31. The 2015 theme, "Israel Imagines," encompasses the dreams that Israel's founders envisioned for the newly formed country as a home for all Jews and the dreams of the generations of Jews who currently live in Israel. 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. OZ Youth, above, led our Congregation's contingent among the more than 35,000 participants in the 2014 Celebrate Israel Parade. See page 3 for pre-celebration parade preparations.

OR ZARUA GALLERY OPENING

One Family

Sunday, May 3, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Skype interview with the artist, Israeli photographer Vardi Kahana, 7:00 p.m.
See page 5



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*
- MARC D. ASHLEY, *President*
- ALAN ILBERMAN, *Treasurer*
- HELENE SANTO, *Executive Director*
- ILANA BURGESS, *Youth Education Director*
- CHARLES SPIELHOLZ, *Newsletter Editor*

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ADULT EDUCATION	<i>Laura Resnikoff</i>
AESTHETICS	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
ART GALLERY	<i>Bobbi Collier</i>
BOOK DISCUSSION	<i>Reed Schneider Nora Yood</i>
BUILDING	<i>Edward Kopelowitz</i>
CEMETERY	<i>Aliza Kaplan Mort Schwartz</i>
EDUCATION AND YOUTH	<i>Dara Shapiro</i>
HESED	<i>Susan Lorin</i>
HEVRA KADISHA	<i>Roberta Hufnagel Gerry Solomon</i>
ISRAEL	<i>Aliza Kaplan</i>
LIBRARY	<i>Barry Feldman</i>
MARKETING	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
MEMBERSHIP	<i>Andrew Plevin</i>
MINYAN	<i>Sheldon Adler</i>
ORAL HISTORY	<i>Mimi Alperin</i>
PUBLIC RELATIONS	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
READERS AND LEADERS	<i>Marc Ashley Jay Palmer</i>
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT	<i>Sheldon Adler</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 Marc D. Ashley



Finally, spring is upon us. After a brutally protracted winter, the days are now longer, brighter, and more cheery. The world seems transformed.

Trees are blooming and pedestrians' smiles are more prevalent. New York City is glorious and welcoming once again. And at its epicenter stands Or Zarua, beckoning to us to feel the warmth and joy of springtime together as participants in a vibrant and buoyant shul community.

Each day and every year, out of darkness comes light. As we move in the Jewish calendar from Passover toward Shavuot, along the ascending path from redemption to revelation, we should take note of the changing world around us. We must rouse ourselves from our recurring complacency and inattentiveness to appreciate the regeneration of life all around us. The seasons may be predictably cyclical, but each can be enjoyed for its own special character.

Jewish tradition certainly takes note of God's grant of a revitalized world each spring. Indeed, Jewish law mandates that we pause to praise God for renewed nature that surrounds us. The annual rebirth of the natural world is not to be taken for granted, lest it be neglected.

The Shulchan Arukh, the authoritative and comprehensive 16th-century code of Jewish law authored by Rabbi Yosef Karo, prescribes a specific blessing—*birkat ha-ilanot*—upon our initial viewing of a blooming fruit tree each spring. The blessing, which is traceable to the Talmud and can be said once each year starting in the springtime, extols God's ongoing renewal of creation and gracious provision for us of a bountiful world. "Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has made nothing lacking in His world, and created in it goodly creatures and goodly trees so that people can take pleasure in them." This once-a-year mitzvah is preferably fulfilled in the presence of a group of trees and in the absence of

rain, when the abundance and awesomeness of nature are self-evident.

It is noteworthy that this extraordinary blessing over a flowering tree is said upon the tree's flowering but before the tree actually bears fruit. That is, we thank God in advance for fruit yet to come; once the fruit has ripened, the blessing may no longer be said. The blessing thus reflects the reality that spring is a time of blooming and rebirth, but it is not an end in itself. It is a period of regenerative transition and transformation, designed eventually to achieve a higher plateau, in which the world settles into a natural rhythm of warmth, beauty, and grace.

The passage from flowering tree to fruit-bearing tree sometimes takes weeks, but it is worth the wait. The longer spring lasts, the better. It is a pleasure to enjoy the enveloping comfort of spring, when all is suffused with color, while anticipating the steady warmth of summer. That annual seasonal trajectory is both reassuring and invigorating, and can inspire us to capture the splendor of the moment as we derive pleasure from the world beyond ourselves.

So, too, in the life of Or Zarua. Each year and from generation to generation, we must work hard to move beyond the cold of winter, to appreciate the transformative quality of spring, so that we can then enjoy the fruits of our labor. We must pause, individually and communally, to take account of and give thanks for what has been provided to us and for all we have achieved. The past must be honored, even as we recognize that the present is the gateway to our future. We nurture the blossoming trees that accompany the springtime, as they herald fruits to come.

To move from season to season takes effort and patience, but the sight of a newly blooming tree—or the flourishing of our synagogue community—is cause for thanksgiving and celebration. As we enjoy this seasonal bounty, may our energy, optimism and happiness abound.



**Join us for a
Musical &
Mystical
Lag B'Omer
May 6th**



CONGREGATION
OrZarua
LEVIN • PIRKE • FIVE CORNER • CONVENT
127 East 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028


**Join us for an evening of
Klezmer
A Taste of Torah
& Good Eats
Wednesday, May 6th
7:00 PM**

No charge for dinner, but please email
dwenger@orzarua.org if you plan to attend.

The music of a great klezmer group, Too Many Davids, will light up the night! Lag B'Omer is a night of bonfires and parties throughout Israel and the Jewish world. Come join the celebration of this unique day on the calendar.

TORAH LEARNING COALITION

East Side synagogues studying together



LIFE WITH A GUIDEBOOK
Attend Our 3rd Annual Pirke Avot Series

As part of this exciting series of classes on Pirke Avot, a tractate from our Mishnah that is traditionally studied between Tu B'Shvat and Shavuot. Our multi-denominational coalition of synagogues makes these classes open to members of partner shuls and the public. In the hope that Torah learning will help us develop a deeper sense of unity.

PIRKE AVOT CHAPTER 1	April 30 Tuesday 7:00 pm	CHAIN OF OR CHAINED DOWN BY TRADITION? Rabbi Ben Shalom (Congregation Orach Chaim) and Rabbi Jim Straub (Temple Israel of the City of New York) teaching at Congregation Or Zarua 127 East 82nd Street 212.452.2310 orzarua.org
PIRKE AVOT CHAPTER 2	April 21 Tuesday 5:00 pm	BRINGING TORAH TO OUR WORLDLY OCCUPATIONS Rabbi Rachel Ann (Sutton Place Synagogue) and Rabbi Larry Selbert (Emanu-El of Village Synagogue) teaching at Temple & Village Synagogue 834 East 14th Street 212.477.8090 tandiv.org
PIRKE AVOT CHAPTER 3	April 28 Tuesday 7:00 pm	THE JEWISH JOURNEY: THE COMPASS THAT POINTS IN ALL DIRECTIONS Rabbi David J. Goffman (Temple Israel of the City of New York) and Rabbi Lew Silverman (Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun) teaching at Temple Israel of the City of New York 312 E 75th Street 212.249.5000 templeisraelnyc.org
PIRKE AVOT CHAPTER 4	May 5 Tuesday 5:00 pm	WHO IS WISE? AND OTHER QUESTIONS Rabbi Ben Shalom (Park Avenue Synagogue) teaching at Park Avenue Synagogue 50 East 87th Street 212.349.2600 paany.org
PIRKE AVOT CHAPTER 5	May 12 Tuesday 7:00 pm	WHO KNOWS TEN? JUDAISM'S MEANINGFUL NUMBERS Rabbi Scott Butler (Congregation Or Zarua), Rabbi Roy Feldman (Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun), and Rabbi Joshua Green (Temple Shalom) teaching at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun 114 East 89th Street 212.774.5600 ckj.org
PIRKE AVOT CHAPTER 6	May 19 Tuesday 5:00 pm	LET US RECEIVE TORAH Rabbi David Falk (Central Synagogue) and Rabbi Ephraim Feinstein (Or Zarua; The East 55 Street Synagogue) teaching at Sutton Place Synagogue 225 East 54th Street 212.593.3300 spsyn.org

TLC PARTNERS:
CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE
CONGREGATION EMANU-EL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CONGREGATION KEHILATH JESHURUN
CONGREGATION OR ZARUA
CONGREGATION ORACH CHAIM
OR CHAIM - THE EAST 55TH STREET SYNAGOGUE
PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE
SUTTON PLACE SYNAGOGUE
SHARAY TEFILA
TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
TEMPLE SHALOM
TEMPLE SHOLOM

For more information, contact RabbiBolton@OrZarua.org

With the completion of Pesach, the East Side Torah Learning Coalition (TLC) began its annual tradition of studying *Pirke Avot*. During the Omer, the TLC studies a chapter of the *Pirke Avot* in a different synagogue and with different teachers every week leading up to Shavuot.

This year, the study theme is “Life with a Guidebook.” As of the end of April, we are halfway through the cycle of this year’s study. The schedule of the remaining sessions is shown in the flyer at left or at www.tinyurl.com/OZTLC2015. Note that there are afternoon (1:00 p.m.) and evening (7:00 p.m.) sessions. Or Zarua invites everyone to attend these TLC sessions to learn and to be part of building our greater Jewish community. You may attend any session at any time; each session is independent of the others. The program is free of charge; there is no sign-up. The TLC is founded on what unites us all—Torah and text study!

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

**Tuesday, May 19
6:30 p.m. Dinner/8:00 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 important meeting.

Please make reservations for dinner and the meeting at <http://tinyurl.com/2015-OZ-Meeting> or by calling the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 39, by Monday, May 11.

ISRAEL PARADE PRE-CELEBRATION

Prepare decorations for the Celebrate Israel Parade with the Israel Committee! Watch the email blasts for a date and time on a Sunday in May. Arts and crafts will be mixed with socializing and fun. All ages are invited!

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.

Scholarly Sabbath

with Rabbi Judith Hauptman, Saturday, May 30



will present the fourth and final Scholarly

Rabbi Judith Hauptman, the E. Billi Ivry Professor of Talmud and Rabbinic Culture at The Jewish Theological Seminary,

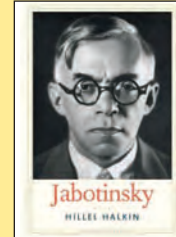
Shabbat for this year at Or Zarua, entitled “Protest or You’re Guilty: An Exploration of Talmudic Principle.” Rabbi Hauptman will speak between Shahrut and Musaf on Saturday, May 30, and will lead a discussion after kiddush.

The Scholarly Shabbat program is free of charge, and no advance registration is required.

OZ BOOK DISCUSSION

Sunday, May 3

7:30 p.m., OZ Library

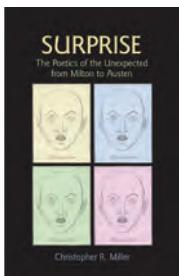


Vladimir Jabotinsky (1880–1940), novelist, Russian journalist, and founder of the branch of Zionism now headed by

Benjamin Netanyahu, has been the most misunderstood of all Zionist politicians. Hillel Halkin’s *Jabotinsky: A Life* dispels many stereotypes that have limited an understanding of Jabotinsky as a writer, a political thinker, and a leader. Join us as Congregant Mark Somerstein leads a discussion of this splendid biography.

Shabbat Presentation

with Christopher Miller, Saturday, May 16, after kiddush



fiction of the Long Eighteenth Century—that is, from the late seventeenth century

Congregant Christopher Miller, associate professor of English at the College of Staten Island (CUNY), specializes in the poetry and prose

through the Romantic era.

After kiddush on Saturday, May 16, he will be discussing his recently published book *Surprise: The Poetics of the Unexpected from Milton to Austen*. The book studies the changes in the meaning of surprise in fiction “from violent attack to pleasurable experience, and from external event to internal feeling.”

This event is open to everyone. No RSVP is required.

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 are now studying in a 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.

Our last class will be Wednesday, May 20; we will celebrate with a siyum. Watch for announcements for summer Talmud classes.

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

The Opposite of Spoiled

with Ron Lieber, Wednesday, July 1, 7:30 p.m.



New York Times “Your Money” columnist Ron Lieber will be discussing his recently published book, *The Opposite of Spoiled*.

The book is a guide for parents who want to have conversations with their children regarding money and good values. It is both a *New York Times* and a *Wall Street Journal* bestseller. Lieber’s columns about student loans won the 2011 Loeb Award, business journalism’s highest honor, in the personal finance category.

SPONSORING KIDDUSH On a *yahrzeit* it is customary to remember our loved ones in the bonds of community. If you wish to sponsor a kiddush after services in someone’s memory, please call Deborah Wenger at 212-452-2310, extension 12.

SIGN UP FOR OZ MINYAN

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.

Or Zarua Hessed Programs

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

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 May 6, June 3, and July 1.

Home Visit Volunteers

● Volunteer to visit and cheer ill or homebound Or Zarua Congregants. Please contact 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 are donations to the Hessed Fund. Please contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com or 212-879-0448.

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. Please contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com or 212-879-0448.

For additional information about any of these programs, please contact Susan J. Lorin, Hessed Committee Chair, at lorin@sewkis.com or 212-717-4647.

ONE FAMILY

OZ Gallery Opening

Sunday, May 3, 6:00 p.m.



Please join us for the opening of “One Family,” an exhibition of the works of Israeli photographer Vardi Kahana. This is a personal, moving, and powerful chronicle of her immediate family: parents, aunts and uncles, brothers, cousins, their children, and grandchildren—four generations of post-Holocaust Israelis. In Kahana’s words, “It is the entire Jewish-Israeli narrative embodied in a single family. This is my family. ‘One Family’ is literally my life’s work. This is a picture of our complex lives here in this land at this time.”

Kahana’s show, which has been exhibited throughout Europe and Israel, will provide a contemporary counterpoint to the historical narrative of Rudi Weissenstein’s recent work.

The exhibit opens at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, with a Skype interview with the artist at 7:00 p.m.—a first for an OZ gallery opening! Refreshments will be served.

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.

The final siddur class for this year will be on Thursday, May 21. Siddur classes will resume in the fall.



“For You Have Chosen Us: The Blessing and Burden of Chosenness” is an adult education course led by Congregant Marc Ashley that has examined Jewish sources and perspectives on, and diverse responses to, the ambitious assertion that Jews are God’s chosen people. We began our conversation about this centuries-old debate on three Sundays in April following Pesah. The final class session will meet on Sunday, May 3, at 10:00 a.m. in the library. All are welcome to join.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 • 12 Iyar 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 5:30 pm Shabbat & Me 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm Young Professionals Israeli Shabbat 7:33 pm Candlelighting	2 • 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
3 • 14 Pesah Sheini 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 10:00 am Study with Marc Ashley 3:00 pm Teen Film Festival 6:00 pm Gallery Opening 7:30 pm Book Discussion	4 • 15 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar	5 • 16 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 1:00 pm Torah Learning Coalition (Park Avenue Synagogue)	6 • 17 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 9:00 am NYCP OZ Hebrew School 7:00 pm Musical and Mystical Lag B'Omer <i>No Talmud Class</i>	7 • 18 Lag B'Omer 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class	8 • 19 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm USY Citywide Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner 7:41 pm Candlelighting	9 • 20 9:00 am Shaharit Emor 10:30 am Torah Tots 10:30 am Torah Kids 8:46 pm Shabbat ends
10 • 21 Mother's Day 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 10:00 am Hebrew Conversation Group	11 • 22 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 8:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	12 • 23 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Torah Learning Coalition (Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun)	13 • 24 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:30 pm Talmud Class	14 • 25 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class	15 • 26 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:48 pm Candlelighting	16 • 27 9:00 am Shaharit Behar/Behukkotai 10:30 am Torah Tots 10:30 am Torah Kids After kiddush, "Surprise: The Poetics of the Unexpected" with Chris Miller 8:53 pm Shabbat ends
17 • 28 Yom Yerushalayim 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 11:30 am Brunch in Tribute to Ilana Burgess with a performance by Bir'nana	18 • 29 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan OZ Hebrew School 7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar	19 • 1 Sivan Rosh Hodesh Sivan 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan 1:00 pm Torah Learning Coalition (Sutton Place Synagogue) 6:30 pm Dinner on the Roof 8:00 pm Annual Meeting	20 • 2 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan Last Day of Hebrew School 7:30 pm Talmud Class and Siyum (<i>final session</i>)	21 • 3 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 8:30 am Siddur Class <i>(final session)</i>	22 • 4 7:15 am Shaharit 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:54 pm Candlelighting	23 • 5 9:00 am Shaharit Bemidbar Erev Shavuot Light candles after 8:59 pm 9:00 pm Ma'ariv, followed by Tikkun Leyl 9:00 pm Tween/Teen Tikkun
24 • 6 Shavuot: First Day 9:00 am Shaharit Light candles after 9:02 pm	25 • 7 Shavuot: Second Day Memorial Day 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan Yizkor Festival ends 9:07 pm <i>Office closed</i>	26 • 8 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	27 • 9 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	28 • 10 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	29 • 11 7:15 am Shaharit 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:00 pm Candlelighting	30 • 12 9:00 am Shaharit Naso Scholarly Shabbat with Rabbi Judith Hauptman 10:30 am Torah Tots 10:30 am Torah Kids 9:05 pm Shabbat ends

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 • 13 Sivan 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 11:00 am Celebrate Israel Parade, "Israel Imagines"	1 June • 14 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar	2 • 15 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	3 • 16 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 9:00 am NYCP	4 • 17 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	5 • 18 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 5:30 pm Shabbat and Me 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm Young Professionals Board Game Shabbat 8:05 pm Candlelighting	6 • 19 9:00 am Shaharit Beha'alotekha Bat Mitzvah of Bella Drucker 10:30 am Torah Tots, Torah Kids, and Mah Zeh Shabbat 9:10 pm Shabbat ends
7 • 20 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 7:30 pm Bir'nana Rehearsal	8 • 21 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Talmud Hevruta Seminar (<i>final session</i>)	9 • 22 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	10 • 23 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	11 • 24 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	12 • 25 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:09 pm Candlelighting	13 • 26 9:00 am Shaharit Shelah Lekha After kiddush, Hevra Kadisha Discussion with Sam Klagsbrum 10:30 am Torah Tots, Torah Kids, and Mah Zeh Shabbat Mah Zeh Picnic in the Park 9:14 pm Shabbat ends
14 • 27 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 7:00 pm Bir'nana Siyum and Dessert	15 • 28 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	16 • 29 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	17 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Tammuz 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan 7:15 pm Young Professionals Happy Hour with Rabbi Bolton	18 • 1 Tammuz Rosh Hodesh Tammuz 7:00 am Shaharit Minyan	19 • 2 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:12 pm Candlelighting	20 • 3 9:00 am Shaharit/Korah Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Nachlis 10:30 am Torah Tots 10:30 am Torah Kids 9:17 pm Shabbat ends
21 • 4 Father's Day 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan	22 • 5 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	23 • 6 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	24 • 7 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	25 • 8 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	26 • 9 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13 pm Candlelighting	27 • 10 9:00 am Shaharit Chukkat 10:30 am Torah Tots 10:30 am Torah Kids 9:18 pm Shabbat ends
28 • 11 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan	29 • 12 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	30 • 13 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	1 July • 14 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan 9:00 am NYCP 7:30 pm <i>The Opposite of Spoiled</i> with Ron Lieber	2 • 15 7:15 am Shaharit Minyan	3 • 16 8:45 am Shaharit Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13 pm Candlelighting <i>Office closed</i>	4 • 17 Independence Day 9:00 am Shaharit Balak 9:18 pm Shabbat ends

Hebrew Conversation Group

First meeting, Sunday, May 10, 10:00 a.m.

Are you interested in conversing in Hebrew? OZ Congregants Frank Bocian and Aliza Kaplan are organizing a group to help you do just that.

A certified Jewish educator, Aliza is an experienced Hebrew and Judaics teacher, who enjoys Hebrew conversation. She studied at Hebrew University, worked in Tel Aviv, and holds dual American-Israeli citizenship.

Frank, a retired ophthalmologist, has

a passion for the Hebrew language and has studied Hebrew at JTS, the JCC, and Ha-Ulpan at Machon Avi. Presently, he participates in a class in contemporary Israeli literature and studies Tanach with Yosi Levi, an Israeli of Yemenite background.

At the first meeting, on Sunday, May 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., we can discuss the best times for future meetings. You need not be fluent in Hebrew to attend—just have a desire to expand your experience with conversational Hebrew.

OZ SHABBAT PROGRAMS

For youth of all ages

● **Shabbat and Me.** Or Zaruaans aged 6 and younger join with Rabbi Bolton in song, story, and simple prayers to welcome Shabbat on Friday, May 1, at 5:30 p.m., and Friday, June 5, at 5:30 p.m.

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

● **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 May 2, June 6, and June 13. On June 13, Mah Zeh will be followed by a picnic in Central Park.

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



YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT MODEL SEDER. Beginning with bedikat hametz, OZ Hebrew School students were introduced to the traditions of the Passover. The model seder provided an opportunity for the students to learn how a seder is conducted. The last day of Hebrew School for this academic year is Wednesday, May 20. For information regarding the OZ Hebrew School, please contact Ilana Burgess at iburgess@orzarua.org.

KADIMA AND USY EVENTS

May 2015

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Mah Zeh Shabbat, 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

The Reel Shpiel Film Festival:

David: One Boy, Two Faiths, 3:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

USY Citywide Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner at OZ, for grades 8-12, 7:00 p.m.

\$15 per person. RSVP at www.wizevents.com/register/3480

SATURDAY, MAY 23

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot for grades 6-12, 9:00 p.m.

June 2015

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Mah Zeh Shabbat, 10:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Mah Zeh Shabbat, 10:30 a.m.

Followed by a picnic in Central Park

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.

Physician-Assisted Suicide

with Samuel Klagsbrun, M.D., Saturday, June 13, after kiddush

Earlier this year, a lawsuit filed in New York State Supreme Court by a group of doctors and terminally ill patients asked the court to declare doctor-assisted suicide legal. Currently New York State law prohibits helping people to take their own lives.

Or Zarua Congregant Dr. Samuel Klagsbrun, a psychiatrist and the executive medical director of Four Winds Medical Center, is one of the plaintiffs named in that lawsuit. Following kiddush on

Shabbat, June 13, Dr. Klagsbrun will discuss his participation in the lawsuit and the many issues it raises for a medical professional and a person of faith. Questions include: How do Jewish teachings about death and the end of life view the taking of a life? How is the physician's mandate to "do no harm" reconciled with an act that might be considered as delivering the "ultimate harm?"

This post-kiddush discussion is sponsored by the Hevra Kadisha of Or Zarua. All are invited to attend.

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 three 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.



KADIMA AND USY EVENTS. Kadima and USY members gathered for game night (top). *When Jews Were Funny*, the first of three films in The Reel Shpiel Film Festival, was shown on Sunday, March 29 (above). The second in the series, *The Soap Myth*, ran on Sunday, April 19. The final selection, *David: One Boy, Two Faiths*, will be screened on Sunday, May 3.

SIGAL HIRSCH AND ELANA MENDELLOWITZ

SIRIUS XM

Bir'nana's Community Debut

OZ'S A CAPPELLA GROUP PERFORMS AT JNF YOM HA'ATZMAUT EVENT

by Rabbi Amy Bolton



BEN GABBY PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE JNF

Bir'nana made its community-wide debut at the first New York City Yom Ha'atzmaut Israeli Independence Day Community Celebration. The event, sponsored by the JNF and held at Park Avenue Synagogue, brought together Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox synagogues to commemorate Israel's independence. Bir'nana had the honor of representing Or Zarua by singing a medley of Israeli classics, alongside Best Cantors of the Upper East Side.

Anna Richlin, the event organizer, wrote the following note of thanks to our home-grown a cappella group:

"It was inspiring to be in a room filled with such ruach [spirit] and hear vocalists from all denominations and backgrounds come together to share a unified message in honor of Israel's 67th birthday. With your partnership, we were able to attract a multigenerational audience and experience the true meaning of kehila [community] as we embodied the values represented in our Megillat Ha'atzmaut [Israeli Declaration of Independence]. May this beautiful new tradition continue to grow in communities around the world. From strength to strength."

Barbara Bluestone of Bir'nana summed up the experience:

With joyous clang
 We stood and sang
 Led by Amy and Judy,
 Harmoniously.
 Chaverim, it was splendid,
 From the start 'til it ended.
 Hurrah, hurrah
 For Bir'nana!

Bir'nana rehearses on Sunday evenings. We are a congregant-led a cappella group, focusing on Jewish and Hebrew music. Our co-conductors have musical and professional backgrounds and make utmost efforts together with our singers towards achieving a polished and professional sound, while having a good time. We are looking for a few new singers for the coming year—please consider joining us! Contact Aliza Kaplan at akaplan@clal.org for details.

Bir'nana sang a medley of Israeli classics at the first New York City Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) Community Celebration, sponsored by the JNF, at Park Avenue Synagogue.

Join us at a brunch in honor of

Ilana Burgess

Or Zarua's Youth Education Director

In celebration of her esteemed career in Jewish education and her 12 years at Congregation Or Zarua

Sunday, May 17, 11:30 am

Congregation Or Zarua
 127 East 82nd Street
 New York City

\$20 per adult, \$10 per child between the ages of 5 and 12, up to a maximum of \$50 per family. A portion of each payment will go to the Gil Rabin School in S'derot, Israel.

To join us or make a gift in Ilana's honor please go to www.tinyurl.com/IlanaBrunch or call Deborah Wenger at 212.452.2310, ext. 39.

Donations can also be mailed to the office.





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

Or Zarua's Young Professionals

by Liora Avitan Seltzer

Twenty Or Zarua Young Professionals joined OZ's fabulous Purim celebration on Wednesday, March 4. Two of our members, Marc and Jeremy, read Megillah. The following party was a blast and everyone had an awesome time. We felt welcome and lucky to be part of the greater community. We look forward to future collaborative events.

The next scheduled Or Zarua's Young Professionals events are:

- Friday, May 1, Israeli Shabbat, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 6, Lag B'Omer with Congregation OZ, 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 5, Board Game Shabbat (back by popular demand), 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 17, Happy Hour with Rabbi Bolton on the roof, 7:15 p.m.

We have begun planning for 2015-2016. Our rapid growth means we will be increasing the number of events for OZ's



OZ YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Or Zarua's Young Professionals partied at the Purim celebration on March 4.

Young Professionals. All of our events are posted on our Facebook page (Or Zarua's Young Professionals) and are distributed by email. Contact Susan (susan.steinman@gmail.com), Liora (liora.avitan@gmail.com) or Marc (marc.a.alexander@gmail.com) for

additional information or to be added to the Young Professionals email list.

We encourage everyone in the Or Zarua community to tell any young adults out there (single, married, and everything in between) about our group!