

## Elisha's Apostasy: Reward and Punishment in Jewish Thought

Marc Ashley's adult education course between Pesah and Shavuot

Four Sundays: April 23 & 30 and May 7 & 21, 10 am

**D**oes it make any sense to believe that God rewards virtue and penalizes misconduct? In classical Jewish thought, God rewards the righteous and punishes sinners based on our performance of the commandments. But that notion of strict accountability flies in the face of reality. Good people sometimes suffer and bad people often thrive. God's allotment of reward and punishment can seem arbitrary. It is challenging to believe with confidence that divine justice actually flourishes in our world. If we possess free will to do good or evil, isn't God paying attention to our choices?

The clash between concept and reality can be jarring. The Talmud relates that Elisha ben Avuya, a respected rabbinic scholar, was led to apostasy when he witnessed a young boy fall to his death when climbing a ladder at his father's instruction to send away a mother bird before capturing the nestlings. While fulfilling two commandments the Torah expressly states will prolong our lives, this dutiful boy was deprived of life. In the face of this inexplicable tragedy, Elisha's religious faith was irrevocably shattered, leading to his notorious heresy.

This theological challenge still resonates today, particularly in the shadow of the

Holocaust during which God's indifference to radical injustice seemed to reign. The unsettling disconnect between goodness and success can lead to religious doubt.

Please join us on four Sundays in April and May as congregant Marc Ashley leads his annual adult education course on the important topic of reward and punishment in Jewish thought. We will survey classical Jewish texts and modern commentaries as we explore the continuing relevance of this provocative doctrine. All congregants (and friends) are welcome, and no prior background is required.

## The Development of a Jewish Iconography

with Archie Rand, Sunday, March 26, 7 pm

**A**rchie Rand, Professor of Art at Brooklyn College, will be speaking about the development of images and symbols in Jewish art. "Using illustrations from his five-decade career, Professor Rand will show how the inventions of a textually obedient and midrash-based use of Jewish symbols became transformed. Rand's experience in painting many commissions for religious institutions caused him to realize a radically new understanding of art's function, both from within and outside the community. With his revolutionary painting



*The 613* and his subsequent best-selling book *The 613*, whose groundbreaking images individually address the 613 mitzvot, Rand re-establishes and manifests the necessity for a visual primacy in Jewish and all religious painting."

Archie Rand, a Brooklyn native, received his BFA in in Cinegraphics from Pratt Institute. His works have been presented in over 100 solo shows and 200 group exhibitions. He is represented in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum, the Brooklyn Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Bibliothèque Nationale, and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.



Song of Songs



Esther

## Scholarly Shabbat

in honor of

**Yom Ha'atzmaut**  
with guest scholar

**Fred A. Lazin, PhD**  
Saturday, April 29



**Lecture During the D'var Torah**  
**Making the Desert Bloom 2.0:**  
**A Survey of the 21st Century**  
**Ben Gurion University.**

From Desert Studies to CyberTech, we will hear how BGU is making a global impact.

**Lecture After Kiddush**

**Israel in China: A Visiting Scholar**  
**Presents Israel to the Far East.**

What was the first documentary film about Israel shown on Chinese national TV? What questions were most often asked of the professor? Jewish or Israeli: how was a visiting scholar defined? Professor Lazin will share his experiences as a guest scholar in China.

**Bir'nana will perform for Yom Ha'atzmaut**  
**during the festive kiddush.**

Fred A. Lazin is Professor Emeritus of Local Government, Ben Gurion University and Chair, RC05 Comparative Studies on Local Government and Politics, International Political Science Association. He received his PhD in Political Science from the University of Chicago.



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| ART GALLERY              | <i>Bobbi Coller</i>                       |
| BOOK DISCUSSION          | <i>Reed Schneider<br/>Nora Yood</i>       |
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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



With the arrival of the new Jewish month of Adar, it is that time of the year in which happiness abounds and spring is right

around the corner. Days are longer, the air is warming, and trees start to bloom. The natural world will soon be at its most beautiful and inspiring.

But material beauty and inspiration are not all that accompany the advent of Adar. Spiritual elevation is also in the offing as we prepare for the momentous arc of the Jewish calendar that encompasses Purim and Pesah. Indeed, at this time of the overcoming of winter, we can feel that redemption is foreseeable, that a redeemed world will entail an eternal spring.

Purim and Passover are inextricably linked. It is noteworthy that climactic events of the Purim story as narrated in Megillat Esther, when Haman's nefarious plan was exposed, actually occurred on Pesah. Further, our sages have instructed us that, despite our many other concurrent obligations, we are to renew our annual study of the complex laws of Pesah on Purim, which are always separated by a month even in leap years. The Rabbis explained that "it is preferable to juxtapose one redemption [Purim] to the other redemption [Passover]" (Megillah 6b).

Both of these central holidays involve historical accounts of dramatic deliverance from mortal danger to our people. But neither Purim nor Passover is exclusively, or even predominantly, about the past. Both joyous holidays also provide us each year with a visceral foretaste of ultimate redemption in the indefinite future. The spring month that links Purim to Pesah is therefore pregnant with enduring hope of more promising times to come.

But how do we bring the themes of Purim and Pesah to their fullest expression in the present, to ensure that our hopes for redemption are not only a recollection of the distant past? The answer is that – taking cues from our heroic ancestors who assisted God in fashioning the miraculous events of Purim and Passover – we must participate in our own redemption. The Jews of Purim and Passover were actors in,

rather than mere pawns of, their divine dramas.

The human heroes of the Purim story, Esther and Mordechai, are readily apparent. The pronounced human initiative that delivered the Jewish people from imminent annihilation at Haman's hands is highlighted in Megillat Esther, which avoids even mentioning God's name. Were it not for these two members of a single family, Jewish history may have ended long ago.

The human initiative at the heart of Pesah is less obvious. Moses, Aaron and Miriam were participants in the events, but the Torah emphasizes that they functioned more as agents of God, whose "strong hand and outstretched arm" were the primary instruments of redemption. The Passover Haggadah, reinforcing this message, includes only a passing reference to Moses.

But further scrutiny yields a bold, albeit less famous, human hero of the Passover story – Nahshon ben Aminadav. The Talmud relates that Nahshon literally took the initial plunge into the Reed Sea, triggering the mighty miracle that saved the Israelites from a premature demise. It was Nahshon's initiative to take history into his own hands, nourished by a powerful faith that God would supplement his human audacity, that allowed the Passover exodus to achieve success. Nahshon gained further prominence, leading the people in its marches through the Sinai desert as chieftain of the tribe of Judah, and offering the first gifts at the dedication of the tabernacle. He would eventually be known as a link in King David's lineage and thus of that of the messiah.

At Or Zarua, this spring and beyond, let us be inspired by Nahshon's daring productivity. His audacious initiative and deep trust in God should be our guiding paradigm, as we confidently overcome wintry challenges in the continued growth of our wonderful shul. We must ambitiously generate and seize opportunities in the present so that we can more firmly secure our future. With Nahshon in mind, may we move happily each year from Purim to Pesah, and from one success to the next.



# Purim Begins Saturday Night, March 11



### Hang on to your hats! Or Zarua's Bir'nana is coming to your Purim celebration on March 12!

This year's mini-spiel is sure to surprise, delight and make you laugh. A very popular musical (tickets to it are almost unobtainable!) is our inspiration. Judy Buchman-Ziv and Susan March are our lyricists. Pictured above (Left to right) are Judith Buchman-Ziv, Rabbi Amy Bolton, Susan March, Aliza Kaplan, Rabbi Scott Bolton, Marcia Kalin, Dore Hollander, Terry Krulwich, Mark Alexander, Alan Yaillen, and Mark Hoffman. In addition, expect to see Barbara Bluestone, Aaron Shelden, Vera Silver and Peter Wolf Smith.

## PURIM at OR ZARUA

**Thursday, March 9**

**Ta'anit Esther (Fast of Esther)**

7:15 am: Shoharit

**Saturday Night, March 11**

**Purim Service**

7:00 pm: Ma'ariv & Megillat Esther

**Sunday, March 12**

**Purim Services and Festivities**

9:00 am: Shoharit & Megillat Esther

10:00 am: Sing Song Purim for children

birth-4 years. (Older children welcome)

11:00 am: Persian Feast with Middle

Eastern Music by Amir Vahab and

mini-Spiel by Bir'nana

11:30 am: Kids' Purim Carnival

*RSVP for the Persian Feast by Monday, March 6 so that we can order enough food for all. There is no charge to attend any of the events for Purim.*

**Saturday Night, March 11**

**Sunday, March 12**

**Matanot LaEvyonim**

**Purim Gifts for those in Need**

At all times: Collection boxes in the OZ Art Gallery/Social Hall. Or Zarua's Purim food drive and financial donations support the New York Common Pantry.

## Matanot LaEvyonim

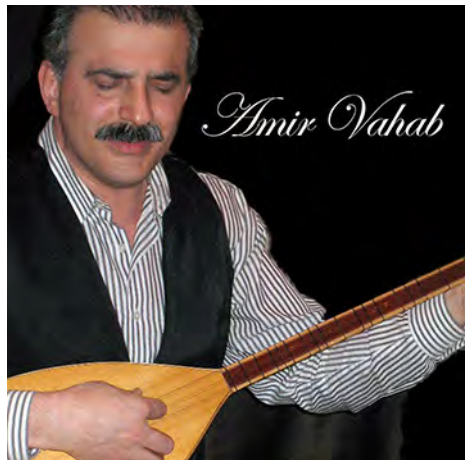
Purim Food Drive to help the hungry in our community

**O**bserve the Purim mitzvah of Matanot LaEvyonim, giving gifts to the needy. Donate nonperishable food items or bring a check when you come to Purim services or festivities on Saturday night, March 11 or Sunday, March 12. See the Purim schedule at right for details. Collection baskets for the donations, which help support the New York Common Pantry (NYCP), 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. OZ supports the NYCP, as well as many other organizations, throughout the year with donations and volunteers. Read about OZ's Hesed projects for the month of March and April on page 5.



**Amir Vahab (right) will be joining Or Zarua on Purim, Sunday, March 12.** Amir Vahab was born in Tehran and arrived in New York in 1981 via London. Trained as both a jeweler and musician, Vahab gave up jewelry design in order to concentrate on music. Performing as a soloist and in ensembles, he focuses on Persian music using a variety of traditional instruments. He has performed throughout the US and Europe in many venues, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (bottom right).

**Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler**  
will be discussing  
**Psalm 78**  
**The Oldest Pesah Haggadah?**



Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 pm  
This lecture is open to the community.

**Yom HaShoah  
Memorial Service**  
Sunday, April 23, 7:30 pm

We will be commemorating Yom HaShoah with our annual Holocaust Memorial Service on April 23. This short, moving service involves the participation of adults and teens from our community. If you wish to take part in this event, please email Ilana Burgess at [hebrew\\_teacher@hotmail.com](mailto:hebrew_teacher@hotmail.com).



**Halakhah in a Changing World**

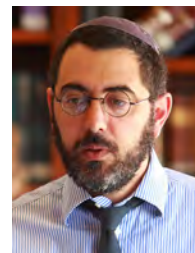
**An Insider's View to the Law Committee**

**JTS Context Class at Or Zarua, beginning Tuesday, March 7**

**O**ur next JTS Context class, "Halakhah in a



Changing World: An Insider's View to the Law Committee," is an exciting six-session course presented by Dean Daniel Nevins of JTS Rabbinical School and Rabbi Dr. Noah Bickhart. The course poses the question of how halakhah can adapt to our world of rapid scientific change and changing ethical sensibilities. Both lecturers are members of the Conservative movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards. CJLS wrestles with the need to reconcile tradition with change in society by promulgating teshuvot (rabbinic responsa) in secular and religious



matters and setting guidelines for the Conservative community

The course meets in the OZ library and begins on March 7 and costs \$325.00. (See dates on the OZ Calendar.)

Although the official registration date has passed, there still may be open slots in the class. To register online, go to: [tinyurl.com/OZContextMarch2017](http://tinyurl.com/OZContextMarch2017). This reading-intensive seminar is designed for graduates of the Me'ah or Context two-year program or for those with similar Jewish learning backgrounds. If you are uncertain whether the course is right for you or for more information, please contact Lynn Feinman at 212-678-8821 or [lyfeinman@itsa.edu](mailto:lyfeinman@itsa.edu).

**Or Zarua Gallery News**

**Final Month of Mark Podwal Exhibition**

**Next Exhibit: Art by OZ Hebrew School Students**

**A**lthough we are small, the OZ Gallery enjoys a reputation and connections that reach far beyond the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Last month, the gallery was the subject of Fran Klagsbrun's long-running, consistently-thoughtful, and widely-read column in *The Jewish Week*. We are very grateful to Fran for shining the spotlight on our unusual gallery. In addition, our featured artist for the current exhibition "Printed Matters", Mark Podwal, is working on several projects that will be realized in the coming year.

Three major Jewish museums in Europe will be showing Dr. Podwal's work in 2017: The Jewish Museum in Berlin, The Jewish Museum in Prague, and The Jewish Museum in Paris. In October, 2017, his series "Mozart and Prague" will be exhibited in Prague's Estates Theater to celebrate the 230th anniversary performance of Don Giovanni to be conducted by Placido Domingo. Further on September 17th, at a tribute to Elie Wiesel

at Boston University, Dr. Podwal will present a slide lecture entitled "Collaborating with Elie Wiesel: 40 Years of Friendship and Art".

Many people have inquired about purchasing a work from the exhibition. Several of them are prints from limited series and can be purchased at a very reasonable cost. If you are interested, contact Mark Podwal through his website, [markpodwal.com](http://markpodwal.com).

The next opening in the OZ Gallery will celebrate Or L'Atid with displays of art done by students in OZ's Hebrew school. This exhibition will showcase the learning and achievements of our students in art. It will be an opportunity for the entire community to show support for our students and Or L'Atid. Opening Sunday, May 7, 5 pm; details to follow.



**Megillah in Empty Wine Bottle. Silkscreen, 2012.**

**Kiddush & Minyan Breakfast Sponsorship**

Consider sponsoring a Shabbat kiddush or minyan breakfast. Sponsoring a kiddush can be a meaningful way to remember your loved ones or celebrate a birthday or anniversary with fellow congregants while enhancing the community's Shabbat experience. Contact Deborah Wenger (212-452-2310, ext. 12) for details.

**Look for Congregation Or Zarua on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Amazon will sent OZ 0.5% of eligible purchases made using [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).**



# Hesed Programs

Get involved through Or Zarua and help others in need

## Be Part of the Solution

Feed the hungry in our community by donating to or volunteering with New York Common Pantry. OZ volunteers are needed the first Wednesday of each month, 9:00 am to noon, in NYCP's distribution center, 8 East 109th Street. Contact Lesley Palmer (lesleypalmer123@gmail.com) to sign up for March 1, April 5 or May 3. Collection bins are in the Social Hall for food donations of healthy (low-sodium, whole wheat, low-fat or nonfat) packaged grocery items.

## Hesed Purim Party at Project ORE

Come and join us as we celebrate Purim with Project ORE Sunday, March 19, from 11 am to 1 pm, at their space at 331 East 12th Street. We will hear part of the Megillah, sing, eat (of course) and enjoy spending time with some of the members of Project ORE. Purim is the happiest of all Jewish holidays, when having fun is not only permitted, but commanded. We hope that OZ members and their families can join us in creating a fun and meaningful celebration with the Project ORE community. To volunteer, please contact Susan J. Lorin at lorin@sewkis.com.

*Since 1987, Project ORE (Outreach to the Elderly) has served emergency kosher meals and provided counseling, case management, and other support services to isolated, poor, homeless, and mentally ill Jews. It is the only program of its kind in New York City. Project ORE provides kosher, family-style community meals including a buffet breakfast, hot lunch, and food packages for Shabbat. Project ORE offers classes in art and poetry, educational trips*



**OZ's Super Bowl Party raised funds for Project ORE.** This year OZ's Tzedakah Super Bowl Party, which has been held in the Social Hall (above left) for 15 years, honored the founder of Project ORE, Rabbi Meyer Leifer. Rabbi Leifer was given a plaque (above right: Congregant and Project ORE supporter Ira Glauber, Rabbi Leifer, Rabbi Scott Bolton and Congregant Sheldon Adler, founder and sponsor of OZ's Tzedakah Super Bowl Party). **At the NYCP**

**Common Pantry** (top, righthand column), families came together to pack food for distribution over the winter break, making for a meaningful day of hesed. **During Yom Give Back with Camp Ramah**, participants gathered in the Social Hall (right, second from top), sorted clothing and coats (right, third from top), made cards for soldiers (right, fourth from top) and prepared bagged lunches for distribution by the NYCP (right, fifth from top).

and programs for health and wellness including mental health issues. They provide a Jewish experience through a weekly Oneg Shabbat.

## Home Visit Volunteers

Volunteer to visit and bring cheer to ill or home-bound OZ Congregants. Contact Deborah Wenger: dwenger@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, ext. 12, if you are interested.

## South Bronx Salvation and 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 South Bronx Salvation and Deliverance Church, whose members are housekeepers caring for their own local needy. Contact Richard Stadin at (212) 879-0448 or stadin1@aol.com to arrange for donations.

## Monday Night Pasta and Salad at NCS

OZ congregants serve hot food and good cheer at the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter's East 81st Street Residence from 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm on the last two Mondays of each month. Contact Jeffrey Haberman, jeff32449@verizon.net, for information.

For information about Hesed programs, please contact Susan J. Lorin, Hesed Committee Chair, at lorin@sewkis.com or 212-717-4647.





# Upcoming Events and Ongoing Programs with Or L'Atid

## Community and Learning for OZ's Youth

### Shalom Sing-A-Long

**Mondays, 11:00am-11:45 am**  
**Recommended for ages 1-4**

Spread the word: Or Zarua's first ever **Early Childhood music class is here!** Join us every Monday for song, stories, fun and games! Sing, dance and play while learning simple Hebrew, Jewish values and favorite tunes!

**Sign up for our Spring Semester,** which begins April 3, or drop in anytime for a class! Sign up at

[www.orzarau-oriental.org/Shalom-sing-a-long/](http://www.orzarau-oriental.org/Shalom-sing-a-long/)



Little ones celebrate Tu B'Shvat at Shalom Sing-A-Long with special birthday guest Mrs. Tree! Join us this month as we gear up for Purim with songs, games and guests!

**Teen Manhattan Outing**  
**Saturday, March 18, 8:30pm**  
**Details to follow.**

## Spend Shabbat with Or L'Atid

### Family Shabbat

**March 25, 10:30 am**  
**followed by**  
**Family Shabbat Lunch**

Celebrate Shabbat with Or L'Atid!  
**Join us on Shabbat morning, March 25 for Shabbat & Me Saturday, Torah Kids and Mah Zeh Shabbat?!**, our Shabbat morning programs for youth of all ages.

**After services join us for our Family Shabbat Lunch!**

RSVP to [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org) by Wednesday, March 22.

### Ice Cream Kiddush

**Saturday, April 22**  
**after Or L'Atid services**

**Join us again on April 22** for Shabbat services followed by our **New**

#### Ice Cream Kiddush!

Children and families celebrate Shabbat at

#### Shabbat & Me Saturday, Torah Kids and Mah Zeh Shabbat?!

Then, stick around for our community-wide Kiddush with a **special ice cream treat for kids!**

*Shabbat & Me Saturday (infants–Pre-K) begins at 10:30 am.*

*Torah Tots (K-5) and Mah Zeh Shabbat?! (Middle School and High School) begin at 11:00 am.*

*Torah Tots (infants-Pre-K) meets weekly at 11:15 am.*

*Torah Kids meets weekly at 11:00am. Join us once/month for our expanded Family Shabbat mornings! Check the calendar for dates.*

**Teens, Save the Date!**  
**Friday, March 17 6:30pm**  
**USY Shabbat Dinner**  
**Congregation Habonim**

## Purim

Celebrate Purim with a Persian Twist!

Join us on Purim day, Sunday, March 12 for Megillah, music and more!

Shaharit and Megillah reading begin at 9 am. Then, come up to the 7th floor for Sing Song Purim with Bracha! Enjoy a special holiday edition of Shalom Sing-A-Long, geared towards infants-kindergarten age children.

Be sure to arrive by 10:15 am to march through the sanctuary in our costume parade!

Following the 11 am community-wide Persian Feast, youth of all ages are invited upstairs for the Or L'Atid Purim carnival (11:30 am), with games, arts & crafts, heshed, face painting and other Purim fun!

*Children in first grade and older are encouraged to attend Megillah reading. Sing Song Purim is geared towards infants-Kindergarten; older children welcome to attend. The carnival is for children of all ages, infants-teens. RSVP to [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org).*



## Pesah & Me

**Friday, March 31, 5:00pm**

Welcome Shabbat with our special holiday edition of Shabbat & Me Friday: Pesah & Me!

**Usher in Shabbat with a kid-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat, learn about the upcoming holiday of Pesah with an activity, story, and special Pesah songs!**

*For families with children from birth through age 6. Older siblings welcome.*



## Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday, April 28, 6:30 pm

Celebrate Shabbat with family & friends at a delicious Shabbat dinner!

**Join as at 6:00 pm for a Family Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by dinner at 6:30pm.**

Members & non-members are welcome. Feel free to invite friends!

RSVP on Chaverweb, or to [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org) or to [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org) by Wednesday, April 26.



Kids, families and the OZ community end Shabbat Shirah with a meaningful havdalah ceremony, and a wonderful performance by Magevet (above). Hebrew School students make date candies and pomegranate guacamole with Nancy Wolfson-Moche in celebration of Tu B'Shvat (below).



## Sushi & Study with Rabbi Bolton

**Mondays, March 13, April 3 & May 22 6:30 pm**

All teens are invited to attend Rabbi Bolton's ongoing class, meeting monthly on Mondays. Teens study and discuss Jewish ethics and sources on contemporary issues with the Rabbi.

### Upcoming topics

**March 13: Kiddush Wine, Purim Spirit, Four Cups: Alcohol & Our Responsibilities**

**April 3: A Seder Without a Haggadah?! Before Everyone had a Book at the Table**

Mark your calendars for March 13, April 3 & May 22 at 6:30pm as we finish the school year with great learning! Teens not registered may join the class at any time. RSVP: [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org).

## Hebrew School Registration for 2017-2018

It's hard to believe, but the time has come to think about Hebrew School for the 2017-2018 school year! If you're interested, or know others who may be interested, contact Sigal Hirsch, [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org) or 212-452-2310 x15 for more information or to set up a tour of the school. Visit us online at [www.orzarua-ortalid.org](http://www.orzarua-ortalid.org).



## Or L'Atid Gallery Show Save the Date

**Sunday, May 7, 5 pm**  
See the OZ Gallery article on page 4



Students prepare artwork for the Or L'Atid gallery show, opening on May 7. Guest artist Caroline Golden Ilberman facilitates projects, teaching techniques while fostering individual students' styles and perspectives (above). Our K-2 students are speaking, reading and writing Hebrew using Tal Am! Students are making great progress as we pass our midpoint of the school year (left).

For information about Youth Education and Programming contact Sigal Hirsch, Director, at [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org) or 212-452-2310, ext 15.

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |   | <b>1 • 3 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>9:00a NYCP<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>7:30p Talmud Class   | <b>2 • 4 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>8:40a Siddur Class<br>6:30p Zayin Adar Dinner<br><i>Shiva: In Reel Life and Real Life</i> | <b>3 • 5 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>5:32p Candlelighting<br>5:32p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat   | <b>4 • 6 Adar</b><br>9:00 am Shaharit<br>Terumah<br>11:00a Torah Kids<br>11:15a Torah Tots<br>6:37p Shabbat Ends   |
| <b>5 • 7 Adar</b><br>8:45a Shaharit<br>7:30p Book Discussion<br><i>The Yid</i> by Paul Goldberg<br>7:00p Bir'nana Rehearsal  | <b>6 • 8 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br>6:30p Rock-Ivrit  | <b>7 • 9 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>6:30p Context: <i>Halakhah in a Changing World</i>                         | <b>8 • 10 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>7:30p Talmud Class  | <b>9 • 11 Adar</b><br><b>Ta'anit Esther (Fast of Esther)</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>8:40a Siddur Class                             | <b>10 • 12 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>5:39p Candlelighting<br>5:39p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat   | <b>11 • 13 Adar</b><br><b>Shabbat Z'chor/Erev Purim</b><br>9:00 am Shaharit<br>Tetzaveh<br>11:00a Torah Kids<br>11:00a Mah Zeh Shabbat?!<br>11:15a Torah Tots<br>1:00p Bir'nana Rehearsal<br>6:44p Shabbat Ends<br>7:00p Ma'ariv & Megillat Esther |
| <b>12 • 14 Adar</b><br><b>Purim</b><br><i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i><br>9:00a Shaharit & Megillat Esther<br>10:00 a: Sing Song Purim for 0-4yr<br>11:00a Persian Feast with Music by Amir Vahab & Spiel by Bir'nana<br>11:30a Kids' Purim Carnival | <b>13 • 15 Adar</b><br><b>Shushan Purim</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br>6:30p Sushi & Study with Rabbi Bolton<br>6:30p Rock-Ivrit | <b>14 • 16 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>6:30p Context: <i>Halakhah in a Changing World</i>                       | <b>15 • 17 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>7:30p <i>Psalm 78: The Oldest Pesah Haggadah?</i> with Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler: | <b>16 • 18 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>8:40a Siddur Class  | <b>17 • 19 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>6:00p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat<br>6:30p USY Shabbat Dinner at Congregation Habonim<br>6:47p Candlelighting | <b>18 • 20 Adar</b><br><b>Shabbat Parah</b><br>9:00 am Shaharit<br>Ki Tissa<br>11:00a Torah Kids<br>11:15a Torah Tots<br>7:52p Shabbat Ends<br>8:30p Teen Event  |
| <b>19 • 21 Adar</b><br>8:45a Shaharit<br>11:00a Purim Hased Event with Project ORE<br>7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal   | <b>20 • 22 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br>6:30p Rock-Ivrit  | <b>21 • 23 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>6:30p Context: <i>Halakhah in a Changing World</i>                       | <b>22 • 24 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>7:30p Talmud Class   | <b>23 • 25 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>8:40a Siddur Class  | <b>24 • 26 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>6:55p Candlelighting<br>6:00p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat<br>6:30p Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner         | <b>25 • 27 Adar</b><br><b>Shabbat HaHodesh</b><br>9:00 am Shaharit<br>Vayakhel/Pekude<br>10:30a Family Shabbat<br>11:00a Torah Kids<br>11:00a Mah Zeh Shabbat?!<br>12:00p Family Shabbat Lunch<br>8:00p Shabbat Ends                               |
| <b>26 • 28 Adar</b><br>8:45a Shaharit<br>11:00a <i>Jewish Settlement in NYC</i> with Barry Feldman<br>7:00p <i>The Development of a Jewish Iconography</i> with Prof Archie Rand   | <b>27 • 29 Adar</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br>6:30p Rock-Ivrit  | <b>28 • 1 Nisan</b><br><b>Rosh Hodesh</b><br>7:00a Shaharit<br>6:30p Context: <i>Halakhah in a Changing World</i> | <b>29 • 2 Nisan</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br>7:30p Talmud Class   | <b>30 • 3 Nisan</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>8:40a Siddur Class  | <b>31 • 4 Nisan</b><br>7:15a Shaharit<br>5:00p Pesah & Me<br>6:00p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat<br>7:02p Candlelighting                                 | <b>1 April • 5 Nisan</b><br>9:00 am Shaharit<br>Vayikra<br>11:00a Torah Kids<br>11:15a Torah Tots<br>8:07p Shabbat Ends  |



| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>2 • 6 Nisan</b><br/>8:45a Shaharit<br/>7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>  | <p><b>3 • 7 Nisan</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long<br/>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br/>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br/>6:30p Sushi &amp; Study with Rabbi Bolton<br/>6:30p Rock-Ivrit</p>   | <p><b>4 • 8 Nisan</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>6:30p Context: <i>Halakhah in a Changing World</i></p>   | <p><b>5 • 9 Nisan</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>9:00a NYCP<br/>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br/>7:30p Talmud Class with Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz, PhD : <i>Moses and Ramses: Recovering the Unwritten Rivalry</i></p> | <p><b>6 • 10 Nisan</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>8:40a Siddur Class</p>  | <p><b>7 • 11 Nisan</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat<br/>7:09p Candlelighting</p>   | <p><b>8 • 12 Nisan</b><br/><b>Shabbat Hagadol</b><br/>9:00 am Shaharit<br/>Tzav<br/>11:00a Torah Kids<br/>11:15a Torah Tots<br/>1:00p Zimriyah: Seder Tunes<br/>8:14p Shabbat Ends</p>  |
| <p><b>9 • 13 Nisan</b><br/>8:45a Shaharit<br/>7:58p Bedikat Hametz</p>   | <p><b>10 • 14 Nisan</b><br/><b>Erev Pesah</b><br/><b>Ta'anit Bechorot/Siyum</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>10:45a Finish eating Hametz<br/>11:51a Sell &amp; Burn Hametz<br/><i>No Hebrew School</i><br/>7:12p Candlelighting<br/>First Seder</p>                      | <p><b>11 • 15 Nisan</b><br/><b>First Day of Pesah</b><br/>9:00a Shaharit<br/><i>OZ Office Closed</i><br/><i>No Context</i><br/>8:15p Congregational Seder led by Rabbi Bolton<br/>Light Candles After 8:14pm<br/>Second Seder</p> | <p><b>12 • 16 Nisan</b><br/><b>Second Day of Pesah</b><br/>9:00a Shaharit<br/><i>OZ Office Closed</i><br/><i>No Hebrew School</i><br/><i>No Talmud Class</i><br/>8:15p Yom Tov Ends</p>                      | <p><b>13 • 17 Nisan</b><br/><b>Hol Hamoed</b><br/><b>Third Day of Pesah</b><br/>7:00a Shaharit<br/>8:40a Siddur Class</p> | <p><b>14 • 18 Nisan</b><br/><b>Hol Hamoed</b><br/><b>Fourth Day of Pesah</b><br/>7:00a Shaharit<br/>6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat<br/>7:17p Candlelighting</p> | <p><b>15 • 19 Nisan</b><br/><b>Hol Hamoed</b><br/><b>Fifth Day of Pesah</b><br/>8:45a Shaharit<br/>11:00a Torah Kids<br/>11:15a Torah Tots<br/>6:30p Minhah, Seudah Shlishit discussion with Rabbi Bolton, Ma'ariv<br/>8:22p Shabbat Ends</p>                   |
| <p><b>16 • 20 Nisan</b><br/><b>Hol Hamoed</b><br/><b>Sixth Day of Pesah</b><br/>8:45a Shaharit<br/>7:19p Candlelighting</p>  | <p><b>17 • 21 Nisan</b><br/><b>Seventh Day of Pesah</b><br/>9:00a Shaharit<br/><i>OZ Office Closed</i><br/><i>No Hebrew School</i><br/>Light Candles After 8:21pm</p>  | <p><b>18 • 22 Nisan</b><br/><b>Last Day of Pesah</b><br/>8:45a Shaharit<br/>Yizkor<br/><i>OZ Office Closed</i><br/><i>No Context</i><br/>8:22p Festival Ends</p>  | <p><b>19 • 23 Nisan</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br/>7:30p Talmud Class</p>  | <p><b>20 • 24 Nisan</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>8:40a Siddur Class</p>   | <p><b>21 • 25 Nisan</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat<br/>6:30p Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner<br/>7:24p Candlelighting</p>         | <p><b>22 • 26 Nisan</b><br/>9:00a Shaharit<br/>Shemini<br/>10:30a Shabbat &amp; Me<br/>11:00a Torah Kids<br/>11:00a Mah Zeh Shabbat?!<br/>After Youth Services:<br/>Or L'Atid Ice Cream Kiddush<br/>8:29p Shabbat Ends</p>                                      |
| <p><b>23 • 27 Nisan</b><br/>8:45a Shaharit<br/>10:00a Marc Ashley's Class<br/><i>Reward and Punishment in Jewish Thought</i><br/>7:30p Yom HaShoah Memorial Service</p>                                | <p><b>24 • 28 Nisan</b><br/><b>Yom HaShoah</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long<br/>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br/>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br/>6:30p Rock-Ivrit</p>  | <p><b>25 • 29 Nisan</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>6:30p Context: <i>Halakhah in a Changing World</i></p>   | <p><b>26 • 30 Nisan</b><br/><b>Rosh Hodesh</b><br/>7:00a Shaharit<br/>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br/>7:30p Talmud Class</p>   | <p><b>27 • 1 Iyyar</b><br/><b>Rosh Hodesh</b><br/>7:00a Shaharit<br/>8:40a Siddur Class</p>                               | <p><b>28 • 2 Iyyar</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat<br/>6:30p Family Shabbat Dinner<br/>7:31p Candlelighting</p>                       | <p><b>29 • 3 Iyyar t</b><br/>9:00a Shaharit<br/>Tazria/Metzora<br/>Scholarly Shabbat with Prof Fred A Lazin<br/>11:00a Torah Kids<br/>11:15a Torah Tots<br/>12:15p Yom Ha'atzmaut Kiddush with Bir'nana<br/>1:00p Prof Lazin Lecture<br/>8:36p Shabbat Ends</p> |
| <p><b>30 • 4 Iyyar</b><br/>8:45a Shaharit<br/>10:00a Marc Ashley's Class<br/><i>Reward and Punishment in Jewish Thought</i><br/>7:30p Book Discussion<br/><i>Here I Am</i> by Jonathan Safran Foer</p> | <p><b>1 May • 5 Iyyar</b><br/><b>Yom Hazikaron</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long<br/>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br/>6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars<br/>6:30p Rock-Ivrit<br/>7:00p UES Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration, Temple Emanuel/Skirball Center</p> | <p><b>2 May • 6 Iyyar</b><br/><b>Yom Ha'atzmaut</b><br/>7:00a Shaharit</p>  | <p><b>3 May • 7 Iyyar</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>9:00a NYCP<br/>4:00p Hebrew School 2.0<br/>7:30p Talmud Class</p>   | <p><b>4 May • 8 Iyyar</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>8:40a Siddur Class</p>   | <p><b>5 May • 9 Iyyar</b><br/>7:15a Shaharit<br/>6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat<br/>7:39p Candlelighting</p>  | <p><b>6 May • 10 Iyyar</b><br/>9:00a Shaharit<br/>Aharei Mot/ Kedoshim<br/>11:00a Torah Kids<br/>11:00a Mah Zeh Shabbat?!<br/>11:15a Torah Tots<br/>8:44p Shabbat Ends</p>  |

# Daily Minyan

## Help strengthen OZ's minyan



**Would you be willing to donate ONE hour ONE morning a month to attend our morning minyan?** Your hour's time one morning a month will allow members who have lost loved ones to say Kaddish. You'll be doing a mitzvah and helping them to do one, as well. If you choose a Monday or Thursday, having a minyan will allow us to read Torah, something that isn't allowed without a minyan. And so that you leave the shul filled both spiritually and nutritiously there's always a breakfast with cake, coffee and tea, orange juice, bagels, yogurt and cottage cheese. If this is a something you would like to do, please notify Sheldon Adler (sadler@skadden.com) and tell him the day that's best for you. Services at OZ start at 7:15 am on weekday mornings and 8:45 am on Sundays.

### Or Zarua's Memorial Wall

For information about plaques for our Memorial Wall, please contact Helene Santo at [hsanto@orzarua.org](mailto:hsanto@orzarua.org) or 212-452-2310, ext 14. We will place another order when we have sufficient interest

# Sell Your Hametz

Rabbi Bolton will arrange the transaction

**B**efore Passover, we are required to "sell" any hametz in our possession to a non-Jew. The transaction is normally arranged by the rabbi, to ensure compliance with the requirements of halakhah. Send the

completed form, below, to the synagogue office no later than noon on Friday, April 7, or email it to [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org). **Please be sure to sign the form.** It is customary to enclose a contribution to Or Zarua's Ma'ot Hittim Fund with your authorization.

## 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. Note that this authorization must be signed; this authorization is NOT valid without your signature.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Locations (vacation home, office, etc):**

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**This authorization must be signed.**

Send this completed form to the OZ office no later than noon, Friday, April 7:

By scan and email to: [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org)

By fax: 212-452-2103

By US Postal Service mail: Rabbi Scott N. Bolton, Congregation Or Zarua  
127 East 82nd Street, New York, NY 10028

# Ma'ot Hittim Fund

Assist needy Jews to prepare for Passover

**T**he Haggadah tells us that every Jew must experience the Exodus from Egypt, and the Mishnah tells us that a Jew should drink four cups of wine at the seder, even if funds for these come from the public dole.

We, therefore, raise such funds each year to assist less fortunate Jews who cannot afford to prepare for Passover. We forward the funds, called ma'ot hittim (wheat

money), to two communal organizations – the Joint Passover Appeal in New York and the New York Board of Rabbis – for distribution to needy Jews.

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

**OZ is on Facebook. Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/OrZarua/>**



## PESAH SCHEDULE 5777/2017

### Sunday, April 9

**Bedikat Hametz** 7:58 pm

### Monday, April 10

**Ta'anit Bechorot (Fast of the Firstborn),  
Shaharit, Siyum** 7:15 am  
**Finish Eating Hametz** before 10:45 am  
**Sell and Burn Hametz** before 11:51 am  
**Erev Pesah/First Seder**  
Candlelighting 7:12 pm

### Tuesday, April 11

**First Day of Pesah**  
Shaharit 9:00 am  
**Erev Second Day of Pesah/Second Seder**  
OZ Congregational Seder 8:00 pm  
Light Candles after 8:14 pm

### Wednesday, April 12

**Second Day of Pesah**  
Shaharit 9:00 am  
Yom Tov ends 8:15 pm

### Thursday, April 13

**Third Day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed**  
Shaharit 7:00 am

### Friday, April 14

**Fourth Day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed**  
Shaharit 7:00 am  
Minhah/Ma'ariv 6:15 pm  
Candlelighting 7:17 pm

### Saturday, April 15

**Fifth Day of Pesah, Shabbat Hol Hamoed**  
Shaharit 8:45 am  
Minhah, Seudah Shlishit Lecture with  
Rabbi Bolton, Ma'ariv 6:30 pm  
Shabbat Ends 8:22 pm

### Sunday, April 16

**Sixth Day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed**  
Shaharit 8:45 am  
**Erev Seventh Day of Pesah**  
Candlelighting 7:19 pm

### Monday, April 17

**Seventh Day of Pesah**  
Shaharit 9:00 am  
**Erev Last Day of Pesah**  
Light Candles after 8:21 pm

### Tuesday, April 18

**Last Day of Pesah**  
Shaharit 8:45 am  
Yizkor  
Festival ends 8:22 pm

## Talmudic Takes on Passover

Moses and Ramses: Recovering the Unwritten Rivalry  
with Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz, PhD

Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 pm



This third and final session of Talmudic Takes on the Holidays will cover Passover. Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz, PhD, will be leading a discussion titled: "Moses and Ramses: Recovering the Unwritten Rivalry." According to Leo Tolstoy, "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." We will examine the sub-text of the biblical story of the Exodus, along with some passages from the Talmud and Midrash,

to study some of the families searching for happiness at its core. We will attempt to sketch out the ideal picture of family that the narrative of Passover presents.

Talmudic Takes on the Holidays is a series of three scholarly presentations about major themes of the High Holy Days, Hanukkah and Passover. The goal is to expand on profound ideas and practices that enrich these holidays. Rabbi Schwartz led our two-year hevruva program. Join us for the final presentation in the series. Talmudic Takes is a unique opportunity to study with a master teacher of Talmudic and Rabbinic texts. Talmudic Takes is open to everyone.

### Seudah Shlishit Lecture

## Mevushal Wine: Packages and Controversies

Led by Rabbi Bolton

Saturday, April 15, 6:30 pm

Note the full schedule of Shabbat services for April 14 and 15, shown in the column at left.

## Pesah Meal Match

First Seder, Monday night, April 10

**P**esah 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 Or Zarua Congregants in their home, please contact the OZ office at 212-452-2310 and speak with Helene Santo (ext 14) or Deborah Wenger (ext 12) by Thursday, April 6.

## Congregational Second Seder

Tuesday night, April 11, 8:15 pm

Led by Rabbi Bolton



Congregation Or Zarua invites you and your family and friends to share the second seder with us on Tuesday night, April 11. Our Congregational Seder, led by Rabbi Bolton, begins at 8:15 pm.

Please make reservations by Monday, April 3 at 212-452-2310, ext. 39, or at Chaverweb or at [tinyurl.com/OZSeder2017](http://tinyurl.com/OZSeder2017).

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.

# Guidelines for Passover

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

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

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

During the eight days of Pesah, hametz

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

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

## Food Items

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

According to Ashkenazic custom, the following foods—kitniyot—are added to the prohibited list: rice, corn, millet, and legumes (beans and peas; but string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible.

IN CONTRAST to Ashkenazic custom, Sephardic authorities permit the use of all kitniyot on Pesah.

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

and eggs.

**Permitted foods that DO require a Kosher le-Pesah label:** all baked products (matzah, cake, matzah flour, matzah farfel, matzah meal, and any other products containing matzah), canned or bottled fruit juice (often clarified with kitniyot, which are not listed among the ingredients), canned tuna (often processed in vegetable broth and/or hydrolyzed protein, even when packed in water), wine, vinegar, liquor, oil, dried fruit, ice cream, yogurt, and soda.

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

## Non-Food Items

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

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

*Continued on page 13*

## Ta'anit Bechorot Fast of the First Born

### WHAT IS THE FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN?

Ta'anit bechorot, the Fast of the Firstborn, is a custom observed on the day before Pesah to commemorate our gratitude for surviving the pre-Exodus tenth plague, which smote all firstborn Egyptians but spared all firstborn Hebrews. It is a dawn-to-dusk fast, which this year falls on Monday, April 10.

### WHO IS CONSIDERED A FIRSTBORN?

For this fast, a firstborn is a male child who is the first child born either to his mother or to his father. Having an older brother or sister, by either parent, precludes his firstborn status—he is not the first child.

### WHY ONLY THE MALE FIRSTBORN?

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

### HOW CAN A FIRSTBORN AVOID FASTING?

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

## Siyum

### Monday, April 10, immediately following shaharit (morning service)

Rabbi Bolton will lead a siyum on Monday morning, April 10, after the completion of the shaharit service (which begins at 7:15 am). All firstborn males who attend the siyum will join in a festive meal and will break their fast. All are invited to attend the siyum.



# Guidelines for Passover

Continued from page 12

## Kashering

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

**Earthenware:** China, pottery, etc. may not be kashered. However, fine translucent chinaware that has not been used for over a year may be used for Pesah if scoured and cleaned in hot water.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Electrical appliances:** If parts that come into contact with hametz are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rule for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable, then the appliance cannot be kashered. However, all exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned in either case.

**Tables, closets, and countertops:** If they have come into contact with hametz, surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned and covered before use.

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

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

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

## Omer Basics

### WHAT'S AN OMER?

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

### WHY DO WE COUNT IT?

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

### HOW DO WE OBSERVE IT?

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

### WHAT IS LAG B'OMER?

Lag B'Omer is the 33rd day of the counting—“lag” is an acronym made up of *lamed* (30) and *gimel* (3). The massive fatalities of Rabbi Akiva’s students halted on that day, and the customs of semi-mourning are suspended. Lag B'Omer is observed as the *yahrzeit* of Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, the person said to have authored the mystical book the *Zohar*. This year Lag B'Omer begins on the night of Saturday, May 13.

# The Or Zarua Community

## Rabbi Bolton's Siddur Class

Most Thursdays (see calendar), 8:40 am

We are now discussing the weekday and Shabbat Torah Services. We will study the history of the prayers and ceremonies, as well as the language of the familiar and not so familiar tunes we sing when we take out the Torah and return it to the ark. All necessary texts are provided.

Siddur class meets Thursdays from 8:40 am to 9:40 am.

See the calendar for dates.

## TALMUD CLASS

The Roots of the Passover Seder, Cups of Wine and Sacred History

Most Wednesdays (see calendar), 7:30 pm

We are now studying the last chapter of Tractate Passover: the how-to guide for the Passover seder in the Talmud. The last chapter deals with the haggadah and Passover rituals as well as everything from demons to desserts to Shabbat rituals! Purchase the third volume in the Artscroll Pesachim Hebrew-English set or the second volume of Pesachim in the Koren Talmud (Steinsaltz) Hebrew-English edition.

You may just come to class to listen in, but having a volume in

Hebrew-English is recommended. See the calendar for meeting dates.

## Rabbi Wechsler Teaches

On SiriusXM Satellite Radio  
Sundays, 4:00 am & 8:00 pm  
Channel 106  
www.siriusxm.com

## The Or Zarua Social Hall

is available to rent.  
For information contact Helene Santo,  
212-452-2310, ext. 14

## Machlokis, Tzuris & Achdus

Session 4 of Barry Feldman's Class  
on Jewish Settlement

Sunday, March 26, 11:00 am

The last session of this series will be a tour highlighting selected sites discussed in class. Visits to the Bialystoker Synagogue and the Polisher Shtibl are included.

We will be meeting offsite from OZ.

You can meet Barry in one of two places:

- 1) F station at East Broadway, 11 am or
- 2) Q station at 72nd St., SE corner, 10 am

Both synagogues require a contribution

Please bring \$10 per person; funds will be collected before we visit the synagogues.

Prior participation in the class is not required.

## Shiva: In Reel Life and Real Life

Zayin Adar Dinner, Thursday, March 2, 6:30 pm

A recent Hollywood film and the book on which it is based, "This Is Where I Leave You", is the story of a (highly dysfunctional) family sitting shiva after the patriarch dies. In it and in other movies, on television and on the Internet scenes of shiva are used to advance or alter the plot or for character development. Even, occasionally, to poke fun!

How does this portrayal of shiva in popular culture reflect or distort what shiva

is all about? Through film, internet clips, and discussion, this year's Zayin Adar dinner looks at the representation of shiva in the media and examines its roots and true meaning. This annual event celebrating the work of OZ's Hevra Kadisha is sponsored by Phyllis and Gerry Solomon in loving memory of their families. All are welcome. There is no charge for the dinner, but contributions to the Hevra Kadisha are greatly appreciated.

## Or Zarua Book Discussions

Upcoming selections

*The Yid*

by Paul Goldberg

Sunday, March 5, 7:30 pm

Led by Mark Somerstein



In his debut novel, Paul Goldberg tells of the arrest of Solomon Shimonovich Levinson during Stalin's last pogrom. Levinson's response is to set up a reaction with the goal of assassinating Stalin. This novel is both

intellectual and comic and is an exciting read.

A discussion of *All Who Go Do Not Return*, by

Shulem Deen, led by Congregant Barry Feldman, was well attended and lively. OZ Book Discussions are open to all. For additional information, call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext. 12.

*Here I Am*

by Jonathan Safran Foer

Sunday, April 30; 7:30 pm



The title of Jonathan Safran Foer's book is a reference to Abraham's response to God before he is told to sacrifice Isaac. Foer deals with the challenge of balancing various responsibilities we have to the different people in

our lives while maintaining our own identities.







**CONGREGATION OR ZARUA**

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

Session 4 of Barry Feldman's Class  
**Machlokis, Tzuris & Achdus**

will be held on Sunday, March 26  
Meeting times and sites for this Field trip  
are described on page 15.

Zayin Adar Dinner

**Shiva: In Reel Life and Real Life**

Thursday, March 2, 6:30 pm. See page 15.

**Pre-Pesah Zimriyah**

**Passover Melodies**

**Saturday, April 8**

**After Kiddush (1:00 pm)**

**in the OZ Art Gallery**

Join fellow congregants for a pre-Pesah zimriyah (community singing). Rabbi Bolton, Marc Ashley, and our service leaders will lead us in singing Passover tunes. All are welcome to join in the celebration.

**Upcoming Holidays and Festivals**

Purim festivities are listed on page 3  
Passover information begins on page 11

# Or Zarua's Young Professionals



**Upcoming Events**  
**OZ's Young Professionals**

**Friday, March 24, 6:30 pm**  
**Shabbat Dinner**

**Friday, April 21, 6:30 pm**  
**Shabbat Dinner**

OZ's Young Professional are a group in their 20s and 30s committed to building a welcoming and vibrant Jewish community within Or Zarua. For more details follow their Facebook page (Or Zarua's Young Professionals). Contact OZ's Young Professionals with any questions, suggestions or just to say hi via email: [OZYoungPros@gmail.com](mailto:OZYoungPros@gmail.com).