

The Paradox of Pharaoh's Heart: Free Will in Jewish Thought

Marc Ashley's adult education course between Pesah and Shavuot

Three Sundays: April 22 & 29 and May 6, 10 am

The fundamental Jewish principle that we are rewarded and punished by God for the choices we make is premised on the equally core assumption that we have free will to choose to do good or evil. For surely, if our decisions are predetermined by causes beyond our control, God could have no rational basis to hold us accountable for them. Indeed, if divine providence over our lives is all consuming, then free will may be illusory.

To put it in biblical terms: If God hardened Pharaoh's heart and deprived him of the freedom to make his own decision about liberating the Israelites, how was it fair that God punished Pharaoh and the Egyptians with the plagues?

If God is all-powerful and all-knowing, then the notion of human free will may not

be tenable. And it would be unjust for us to be held accountable for our actions if God has determined them in advance. So which is it – is God omniscient and omnipotent, or are human beings freely capable of shaping their own destinies? Paradoxically, Judaism seems to embrace both concepts concurrently.

God's control over history plays out on both an individual and national scale. God's defining role in historical events, implicating people and nations, is reflected in the stories of Passover and Purim. God hardened Pharaoh's heart and miraculously intervened in Jewish history to bring about the Passover exodus. No less miraculously, even if the divine name is absent from Megillat Esther, God seems to have orchestrated Purim's palace intrigue and collective salvation.

Despite God's purposeful intervention in the details of history, our tradition also

highlights how much of our fate rests in our own hands. The entire system of Jewish commandments, accountability and repentance would be nonsensical if we lacked the free will to decide whether or not to do good. It is in that dynamic – and mysterious – intersection of divine providence and moral decision-making that the paradox of free will comes to life.

Please join congregant Marc Ashley on three Sunday mornings for his annual adult education class between Pesah and Shavuot. This year's course, "The Paradox of Pharaoh's Heart: Free Will in Jewish Thought," will be held on April 22, April 29 and May 6 at 10 am in the Or Zarua library. No prior knowledge is required. Please come and participate in this important conversation on a crucial theme in Jewish thought through the ages.

In honor of Yom Ha'atzmaut

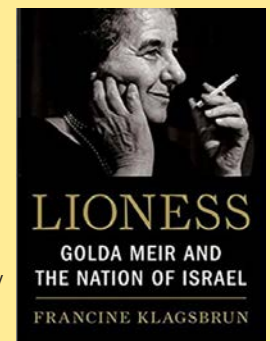
Behind the Scenes - The Making of *Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel* A Special Engagement with Francine Klagsbrun at Or Zarua

Saturday, April 21, after Kiddush (1:00 pm)



What did it take to write this award-winning book?
How does a larger than life leader like Golda fit into the pages of a biography?
Come here about the interviews, research at the Israel State Archive and the pursuit of getting the scoop! The inside story will come out on many levels at this special talk in Francine's home community, which is proud to have her present after our Yom Ha'atzmaut Kiddush on Shabbat, April 21.

Copies of *Lioness*, winner of the 2017 National Jewish Book Award/The Everett Family Foundation Book of the Year, are available from booksellers.
To order from Amazon go to: tinyurl.com/FranLioness



Context Course
**God, Torah and Israel:
Key Questions in Modern Jewish Thought**
With William Plevan, PhD
Beginning March 13, 6:30 pm
See Page 15

Talmudic Takes on Passover
with Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz, PhD
**The Shank Bone:
The Phantom Limb of the Passover Seder**
Thursday, March 22, 7:00 pm
See page 4

Seudah Shlishit Lecture with Rabbi Bolton
**Message in a Bottle:
Dead Sea Scroll Jars & Milk Cans
The Packages that Preserved Sacred Texts
Throughout Jewish History**
Saturday, April 7, 6:00 pm
See page 10



A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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

President's Message

by Sara Stone



As the saying goes, if Purim comes, Pesah cannot be far behind. Time to start cleaning our cupboards of all the hametz that has accumulated during the year. No way to avoid spring-cleaning if you are a Jewish person.

Passover seems to me to be the ultimate l'dor vador holiday, the one where we trace our generations all the way back to Moses at Mount Sinai. Some of my fondest memories are seeing the multiple generations of our family gathered around our Seder table. Continuing the l'dor vador moment, Seders become a wonderful opportunity for sharing grandma's recipe for gefilte fish and grandfather's tune to *Had Gadya* as well as remembering special moments from Seders of the past.

But a Seder is also meant be a learning opportunity, a dialogue of questions and answers, which is one of the best ways to learn. Of course, traditionally the youngest person asks the Four Questions that are a part of the Haggadah. But there are many more questions that we can ask and answer as we gather around our Seder tables. Last year I invested in the book *Pesah Haggadah: The Answer Is...* which contains over "1,000 answers to 300 questions" about the Haggadah. From this trove of information, I learned many things about Passover and the Seder that I never knew before. Did I mention that I have celebrated a few Seders in my lifetime including several second night Seders with Rabbi Wechsler! For instance, did you know that there are four possible answers to the question: how long did the enslavement in Egypt actually last? I shared my new found knowledge with my family last year by letting our youngest grandchild pose this question and several others to our Seder guests at various moments during our Seder.

One of my very clever friends turned her questions into answers much like Jeopardy on TV. And for a few years, when we had mostly adults at our Seder, our Seder leader posed an existential question such as "What is the importance to you of being Jewish?" to our guests at the beginning of the Seder so each person could think about his answer as we read the Haggadah and during dinner. Then each guest was given

an opportunity to answer as we ate the afikomen.

This year I plan to ask our guests to send me their questions about Passover, the Seder or the Haggadah before the Seder. This way, I know the questions will be relevant to our guests but I will also have time to find the answers. I always have prizes on hand not just for the one who finds the afikomen but also for anyone who can answer the questions and this year, for whoever submits the best question. I find that prizes encourage participation. But if I fail to receive questions from my Seder guests, I have still have my book from last year. I certainly did not use all 300 questions at last year's Seder!

These are but a few ways not just to enliven your Seder, but to make it your own. There are so many ideas and resources on the internet. Please take a few moments away from cleaning out the accumulated hametz in your cupboards to design a Seder that will be especially meaningful to you. Try to share some stories from generations past so that this becomes a l'dor vador evening for your family.

Wishing everyone a very special Seder experience.

Sara



See Passover Services & Programming at Or Zarua beginning on page 10.

Yom HaShoah Memorial Service

Wednesday, April 11, 7:00 pm

We will be commemorating Yom HaShoah with our annual Holocaust Memorial Service on Wednesday evening, April 11. 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 hebrewteacher@gmail.com.



Yiddish Theater Returns to Or Zarua

Film Screening: Golden Age of Yiddish Theater

May 23, 6:30 pm
by Barry Feldman

As Upper East Siders we know the Second Avenue Deli. We pass it walking on First Avenue, eat there, inhale the aromas. Abe Lebewohl, founder of the deli, arrived in New York from a displaced persons camp after World War II. He opened the original Second Avenue Deli downtown in 1954 expanding it from 12 to 250 seats. Following a corned beef or pastrami sandwich with a side spear of pickle, satisfied patrons stopped to admire the Yiddish Walk of Fame, imbedded in the asphalt in front of the restaurant, searching for familiar names. Reminiscences were shared and occasionally a chorus of Bei Mir Bist Du Schein surprised passers-by.

Among the Yiddish Walk of Stars icons were founder of Yiddish theater Abraham Goldfaden; leading ladies Jenny Goldstein, Bertha Kalisch and Molly Picon, leading men Boris Thomashefsky, Hyman Yablakoff and Aaron Lebedoff; and popular performing couples, such as Pesach Burstein and Lillian Lux. A total of almost 60 names were imbedded in the sidewalk in front of the Second Avenue Deli. Yiddish theater was in decline but the stars perpetuated the memory of the glittering Yiddish Rialto of Second Avenue.

The deli has moved uptown. The granite plaques on the Yiddish Walk of Stars are now badly deteriorated; crumbling pavement threatens their survival. The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, the Bowery Alliance of Neighbors, and cooperating partners are campaigning

to preserve these historic markers of the vibrant Yiddish theater and the performers who entertained Yiddish speakers for decades perpetuating an important remnant of Yiddish culture.

On Wednesday, May 23 at 6:30 pm, Or Zarua will be hosting a showing of the film *Golden Age of Yiddish Theater*. The film celebrates Yiddish theater in America from Bowery to its Second Avenue heyday. It includes rare footage of Second Avenue scenes of Yiddish plays, movies and actors Paul Muni, Celia Adler, and Molly Picon.

Rita Silverstein, wife of the documentary's producer, and Sharon Lebewohl, Abe Lebewohl's daughter, will introduce the film and discuss the efforts to save the sidewalk star plaques. Admission is free but seating space is limited. Your attendance will indicate interest in preserving Yiddish culture in New York. **Reservations are required; RSVP to Deborah Wenger at dwenger@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, ext 12.**



Or Zarua Mourns Luisa Paulino



We were deeply saddened by the death of Luisa Paulino on February 24th. During her years as bookkeeper at Or Zarua, Luisa shared her light, decency, commitment and goodness with our synagogue community. She went above and beyond the call of duty often, and she extended a warm and caring greeting to our members. She was a treasure to our Congregation.

To honor Luisa's memory, the Congregation is collecting tzedakah to provide for her funeral and burial expenses, in addition to family needs. Those who would like to contribute may send a check made payable to Congregation Or Zarua with "In Memory of Luisa" in the memo line.

We will be dedicating a plaque in Luisa's memory on the Memorial Wall in the sanctuary, so that she will be remembered forever in our Congregation.

May God keep her soul and provide comfort to her family.

Talmudic Takes on Passover with Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz, PhD The Shank Bone: The Phantom Limb of the Passover Seder Thursday, March 22, 7:00 pm



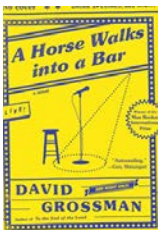
One metaphor that we employ with sacrifices is sharing a meal with God. For human beings sharing food is a form of intimacy and a way of developing relationships; it is a sign of caring, love, and generosity. What happens

when this sign is removed, and we are forced to continue without it? We keenly feel the absence of the Paschal Lamb throughout the Passover Seder. In this session of Talmudic Takes we will spend time looking at a few of the places where we can notice the absence of the Paschal Lamb most strongly. We will also try and uncover its meaning and significance in the present time for us. Talmudic Takes, led by Rabbi Schwartz,

PhD, Beit Midrash Director at JTS, are scholarly presentations about major themes of our holidays. The goal is to expand on profound ideas and practices that enrich the holidays. Rabbi Schwartz led our two-year hevruva program. Please join us for this unique opportunity to study with a master teacher of Talmudic and Rabbinic texts in preparation for Passover. Talmudic Takes is open to everyone.

Or Zarua Book Discussions

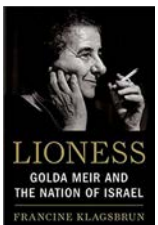
A Horse Walks into a Bar: A Novel by David Grossman
Sunday, March 4, 7:30 pm; To be led by Mark Somerstein



Dov Greenstein is performing stand-up comedy in an Israeli town. Through the eyes of District Court Judge Avishai Lazar, an audience member and Dov's childhood friend, the reader is taken back

in time. We learn that Dov's mother is a Holocaust survivor and his father doesn't support his passions. School, growing up, and military service present challenges to be overcome. During this one show, the novel provides a description of how Dov confronted life and grew in spite of it.

Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel
by Francine Klagsbrun
Sunday, May 6, 7:30 pm



Francine Klagsbrun's book is the definitive biography "of the iron-willed leader, chain-smoking political operative, and tea-and-cake-serving grandmother who became the fourth prime minister of Israel." The book received the 2017

National Jewish Book Award/Everett Family Foundation Book of the Year. Francine, a founding member of OZ, teaches annually at our Yom Kippur services. She is the author of more than a dozen books, including *The Fourth Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day*, and was the editor of *Free To Be... You and Me*.



Or Zarua Book Discussions meet in the OZ library on select Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm. Attendance is open to members, guests, and newcomers. For additional information contact Deborah Wenger in the OZ office, 212-452-2310, ext 12.

**Chaburah:
OZ Torah Study
After Kiddush
on Select Shabbatot**

Or Zarua is initiating a Torah study group that will meet after Kiddush once per month. A Congregant will present a 15-minute exposition on the Parsha, which will then be followed by a discussion with the attendees.

Upcoming sessions are:
March 17: Arthur Rosenbloom on Vayikra
April 14 : Karen Kaplan on Shemini

Everyone is invited to attend.

**Upcoming Events
OZ's Young Professionals**

**Friday, March 16
Shabbat Dinner**

**Friday, April 13
Shabbat Dinner**

OZ's Young Professionals 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.

Say Yes! To Hessed Programs

Get involved through Or Zarua and help those in need

Let's Keep Celebrating Purim

Come and join us as we celebrate Purim with the participants of Project ORE from 11 am to 1 pm on Sunday March 4th, 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 Project ORE members. Purim is the happiest of all Jewish holidays, when having fun is not only permitted, it is 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 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 and programs for health and wellness including mental health issues. They provide a Jewish experience through a weekly Oneg Shabbat.

For those of you who donated to our winter coat and clothing drive, Project ORE thanks you.

They successfully provided coats to more than 30 participants, and warm clothing to many more.

Volunteer for Dorot's Passover Package Delivery for Seniors

Make time to deliver a package of goodies and visit with an older person on Sunday, March 18. OZ volunteers will meet at 10:15 am at Sutton Place Synagogue, 225 East 51st Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues. This project is always a wonderful way to bring a senior some joy and companionship! Plan on approximately 2.5 hours including a visit of up to one hour, an orientation about Dorot, and travel. Ages 8 and up are welcome. Contact Miriam Quart (miriamquart@aol.com) for more info or to register.

Help the NY Common Pantry Fight Hunger

Do you know nearly 22% of NYC's children are food insecure? Fight hunger by volunteering at the NY Common Pantry, the city's largest community-based food program. Or Zarua volunteers help with the distribution of nutritious, fresh food pantry packages for families the first Wednesday (9 am to noon) of every month and of supplemental food for seniors the third Monday (10 am to 1 pm) of each month (with adjustments for holidays). Upcoming Monday dates are March 19, April 16 and May 14 and upcoming Wednesday dates are March 7, April 4 and May 2. To sign up, or request info, please contact Lesley Palmer (lesleypalmer123@gmail.com). You can also donate non-perishable food items for the pantry, such as whole wheat pasta and canned soups, and beans. Collection bins are located in the social hall and the basement.

New In-person Tutoring Opportunity with Local Children

DREAM, formerly Harlem RBI, is a youth development program that began as a baseball/softball program in East Harlem 26 years ago, and today offers a charter school and after-school program serving over 2,000 youth. DREAM's after-school tutoring program, TeamBuilders, is looking for volunteer tutors to work with middle-schoolers one afternoon a week, helping with homework, test preparation, remediation, and general enrichment. Tutors must make a commitment of one afternoon per week for a minimum of three months. Training will be provided. If you are interested in helping an under-performing student succeed, please contact Susan Lorin (lorin@sewkis.com).

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 and families in the South Bronx. 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 at jeff32449@verizon.net, for information.

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

Smile for Tzedakah

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to OZ. Here's how: Visit smile.amazon.com and search for Congregation Or Zarua. Shop for your favorite items any time of the year through AmazonSmile!



Or Zarua volunteers help out at the NY Common Pantry, from left: Ed Kopelowitz, Mina Greenstein, Roy Levit and Lynda Wertheim.



Inaugural B'nei Mitzvah Cohort

Or Zarua is proud to launch the B'nei Mitzvah Cohort, our new program for children approaching their Bar or Bat Mitzvah and their families. The B'nei Mitzvah Cohort will provide opportunities for participants to explore what it means to be a Jewish adult, to add deeper connection and meaning to this experience, and to engage even further with the Or Zarua Community.

Upcoming Cohort events include:

Saturday, March 17, 12:30 pm
Lunch 'n Learn

Friday, April 27, 7:15 pm
Shabbat Dinner



Our B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Kick-Off Pizza Party was a great success! Families studied together about what it means to "become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah," coming together with old friends and meeting new people.

Family Shabbat Dinner Friday, March 9 Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat at 5:38 pm Family Dinner at 6:45 pm

Families with infants to teens, join us for a Family Shabbat Dinner! Celebrate Shabbat with family and friends and a delicious Shabbat meal.

Members and non-members are welcome. Please invite friends to join us!
\$25 per Adult; \$10 per child (ages 5-12); \$70 max per family
First-year members eat free (but please still sign up so we know whom to expect)!

Register on Chaverweb by Tuesday, March 6.

Call the OZ office, 212-452-2310 x12, with any questions about dinner sign up. Please note that children over 12 are considered adults with regards to payment. If your family makeup (adults & children) is not listed, please call the office.

Family Shabbat

Saturdays, March 24, April 21, 10:30 am

Join us for Youth and Family Shabbat Programs

Shabbat & Me Saturday

For pre-school children and younger

Families with children pre-K and younger are invited to celebrate Shabbat through prayer, songs, stories, activities, and a light snack.

Family Learning Experience

For elementary school children & parents

Enrich your lives with monthly parent-child learning.

Shabbat Buddies

For middle and high school students

Middle Schoolers pair up with High School buddies to develop skills and knowledge for participation on Shabbat!

Advanced sign up required. Contact Sigal (shirsch@orzarua.org) to sign up.

On March 24: Join us after services for our Family Lunch in the Social Hall.

On April 21: Celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, at our special Israeli-themed community Kiddush. After Kiddush, families are invited to the Social Hall for special Israeli treats and games! Parents are invited to join the community for a book talk from author and Congregant Francine Klagsbrun as she discusses her new book *Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel*, as children go downstairs to play. See page 1 for information about Fran's discussion.



Sushi & Study with Rabbi Bolton

Mondays, March 5 & April 9, 6:30 pm

All teens are invited to attend Rabbi Bolton's monthly Sushi & Study class

Join us in March for
"Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue"

What are the burning issues that deserve our attention and action now?

More to come in April with
"Israel: What's Your Connection?"

Teens not registered may join the class; RSVP to shirsch@orzarua.org.

Shabbat & Me Friday Friday, April 13, 5:00 pm

Usher in Shabbat together with songs, stories, simple prayers, and special Shabbat activities.

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

Light dinner to follow at 5:45 pm. Minhah and Kabbalat Shabbat begin at 6:15 pm.

All are invited to join the community for Kabbalat Shabbat after dessert.

\$18 per family. Registration required.
Register on Chaverweb



Tu B'Shvat: Our Hebrew School Tu B'Shvat program was a blast. Students sang with Rabbi Bolton and made trees using recycled materials.

Yom Give Back Sunday, April 29, 11:00 am

The entire Or Zarua community is invited to Yom Give Back, a day of hesed for the Or Zarua and Camp Ramah communities. No need to be affiliated with Camp Ramah. People of all ages are welcome as we sort donated goods, make sandwiches for the hungry and perform other hesed projects throughout the OZ building. Connect with members of the OZ and Ramah communities over brunch and give back to local organizations.

Contact Sigal Hirsch or yomgiveback@gmail.com for more information.



Purim: Or L'Atid's Purim festivities are off to a great start! Young children and families enjoyed Sing Song Purim with Bracha, singing and dancing together. At our Hebrew School celebration, students learned all about the four Mitzvot of Purim: Megillah, Mishlo'ach Manot, Matanot La'Evyonim and Seudah, actively partaking in all of them!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 • 14 Adar Purim 7:00a Shaharit and Megillat Esther <i>No Siddur Class</i>	2 • 15 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 5:31p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	3 • 16 Adar Bat Mitzvah: Sarah Kenvin 9:00a Shaharit Ki Tissa 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Torah Tots 6:36p Shabbat Ends
4 • 17 Adar 8:45a Shaharit 11:00a Hesed: Celebrate Purim at Project ORE 7:30p Book Discussion: <i>A Horse Walks Into a Bar</i> <i>No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i>	5 • 18 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Rock Ivrit 6:30p Teen Sushi & Study with Rabbi Bolton	6 • 19 Adar 7:15a Shaharit	7 • 20 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 9:00a NY Common Pantry 4:00p Hebrew School 7:30p Talmud Class	8 • 21 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class	9 • 22 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 5:38p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:45p Family Shabbat Dinner	10 • 23 Adar Shabbat Parah 9:00 am Shaharit Vayakhel-Pekude 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Torah Tots 6:43p Shabbat Ends
11 • 24 Adar <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 8:45a Shaharit 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	12 • 25 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Rock Ivrit	13 • 26 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Context	14 • 27 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 8:30a CAJAC; RSVP required 4:00p Hebrew School 7:30p Talmud Class	15 • 28 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class	16 • 29 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 6:00p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat TBA: Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner 6:46p Candlelighting	17 • 1 Nissan Shabbat Ha-Hodesh 9:00 am Shaharit Vayikra 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Torah Tots 12:30p B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Lunch 'n Learn 1:00p Chaburah OZ Torah Study 7:51p Shabbat Ends
18 • 2 Nissan 8:45a Shaharit 10:15a Dorot: Meet at Sutton Place Synagogue 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	19 • 3 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a NY Common Pantry 10:15a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Rock Ivrit	20 • 4 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Context	21 • 5 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 7:30p Talmud Class	22 • 6 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 7:00p Talmudic Takes on Passover with Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz	23 • 7 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 6:00p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:53p Candlelighting	24 • 8 Nissan Shabbat Hagadol 9:00 am Shaharit Tzav 10:30a Family Learning Experience 10:30a Shabbat & Me 10:30a Shabbat Buddies 12:30p Family Shabbat Lunch 1:00p Pre-Pesah Zimriyah 7:58p Shabbat Ends
25 • 9 Nissan 8:45a Shaharit <i>No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i>	26 • 10 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Rock Ivrit	27 • 11 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Context	28 • 12 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 7:30p Talmud Class	29 • 13 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class Bedikat Hametz	30 • 14 Nissan Erev Pesah Ta'anit Bechorot/Siyum 7:15a Shaharit 10:53a Finish eating Hametz 11:56a Sell & Burn Hametz 6:00p Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:01p Candlelighting First Seder	31 • 15 Nissan First Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit <i>No Youth Programs</i> 8:00p Congregational Seder led by Rabbi Bolton Light Candles After 8:01p Second Seder

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 • 16 Nissan Second Day of Pesah 9:00a Shaharit 8:02p Yom Tov Ends <i>No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i></p>	<p>2 • 17 Nissan Hol Hamoed Third Day of Pesah 7:00a Shaharit <i>No Shalom Sing-A-Long</i> <i>No Hebrew School</i></p>	<p>3 • 18 Nissan Hol Hamoed Fourth Day of Pesah 7:00a Shaharit <i>No Context Class</i></p>	<p>4 • 19 Nissan Hol Hamoed Fifth Day of Pesah 7:00a Shaharit 9:00a NY Common Pantry <i>No Hebrew School</i> 7:30p Talmud Class</p>	<p>5 • 20 Nissan Hol Hamoed Sixth Day of Pesah 7:00a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 7:07p Candlelighting</p>	<p>6 • 21 Nissan Seventh Day of Pesah 9:00a Shaharit <i>OZ Office Closed</i> 6:15p Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:08p Candlelighting</p>	<p>7 • 22 Nissan Last Day of Pesah 8:45a Shaharit/Yizkor 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Torah Tots 6:00p Minhah/Seudah Shlishit discussion with Rabbi Bolton/Ma'ariv 8:13p Shabbat/Festival Ends</p>
<p>8 • 23 Nissan 8:45a Shaharit 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 • 24 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Rock Ivrit 6:30p Teen Sushi & Study with Rabbi Bolton</p>	<p>10 • 25 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Context</p>	<p>11 • 26 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Yom HaShoah Memorial Service <i>No Talmud Class</i></p>	<p>12 • 27 Nissan Yom HaShoah 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class</p>	<p>13 • 28 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 5:00p Shabbat & Me Friday and Dinner 6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat TBA: Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner 7:15p Candlelighting</p>	<p>14 • 29 Nissan 9:00a Shaharit Shemini 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Torah Tots 1:00p Chaburah OZ Torah Study 8:20p Shabbat Ends</p>
<p>15 • 30 Nissan Rosh Hodesh 8:45a Shaharit 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 • 1 Iyar Rosh Hodesh 7:00a Shaharit 10:00a NY Common Pantry 10:15a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:30p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Rock Ivrit</p>	<p>17 • 2 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Context</p>	<p>18 • 3 Iyar Yom Hazikaron 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School <i>No Talmud Class</i> Community Yom Hazikaron Celebration</p>	<p>19 • 4 Iyar Yom Ha'atzmaut 7:00a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class</p>	<p>20 • 5 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:23p Candlelighting</p>	<p>21 • 6 Iyar 9:00a Shaharit Tazria-Metzora 10:30a Family Learning Experience 10:30a Shabbat & Me 10:30a Shabbat Buddies 12:30p Israeli Treats and Family Hangout 1:00p Yom Ha'atzmaut Program with Fran Klagsbrun 8:28p Shabbat Ends</p>
<p>22 • 7 Iyar 8:45a Shaharit 10:00a Paradox of Pharaoh's Heart with Marc Ashley 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 • 8 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:30p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Rock Ivrit</p>	<p>24 • 9 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Context</p>	<p>25 • 10 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 7:30p Talmud Class</p>	<p>26 • 11 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class</p>	<p>27 • 12 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:15p B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Shabbat Dinner 7:30p Candlelighting</p>	<p>28 • 13 Iyar 9:00a Shaharit Ahrei Mot-Kedoshim 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Torah Tots 8:35p Shabbat Ends</p>
<p>29 • 14 Iyar Pesah Sheni 8:45a Shaharit 10:00a Paradox of Pharaoh's Heart with Marc Ashley 11:00a Yom Give Back 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 • 15 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:30p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Rock Ivrit</p>	<p>1 May • 16 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Context</p>	<p>2 May • 17 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 9:00a NY Common Pantry 4:00p Hebrew School 7:30p Talmud Class Lag B'Omer begins this evening</p>	<p>3 May • 18 Iyar Lag B'Omer 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class</p>	<p>4 May • 19 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:37p Candlelighting</p>	<p>5 May • 20 Iyar 9:00a Shaharit Emor 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Torah Tots 8:42p Shabbat Ends</p>

Siyum
Friday, March 30
Immediately
Following Shaharit
(morning service)

Rabbi Bolton will lead a siyum on Friday morning, March 30, after the completion of the Shaharit service (which begins at 7:15 am).

Everyone who attends the siyum will join in a festive meal. All are invited to attend the siyum.

Ta'anit Bechorot
Fast of the Firstborn
Friday, March 30


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 Friday, March 30.

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.

Seudah Shlishit Lecture
In Memory of Stewart Bolton z"l
Saturday, April 7, 6:00 pm
Led by Rabbi Bolton



Message in a Bottle:
Dead Sea Scroll Jars & Milk Cans
The Packages that Preserved Sacred Texts
Throughout Jewish History

Sacred texts have been preserved in unique containers and discovered at different points throughout Jewish history. We will take a look at some new research regarding the Dead Sea Scrolls jars and explore the story of the archive in milk cans and metal boxes from the Warsaw Ghetto. Both the material history of the packages and the documents themselves will be the focus of our study.

Note the full schedule of Shabbat services for April 7 in the column on page 11.

Pesah Meal Match
First Seder, Friday night, March 30

Pesah is the time to invite guests into our homes to read the Haggadah during a Seder. If you would like to host a guest or guests in your home for the first Seder, or if you would like to join other 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, March 22.

Congregational Second Seder
Saturday night, March 31, 8:00 pm
Led by Rabbi Bolton



Congregation Or Zarua invites you and your family and friends to share the Second Seder with us on Saturday night, March 31. Our Congregational Seder, led by Rabbi Bolton, begins at 8:00 pm.

Please make reservations by Monday, March 26 at 212-452-2310, ext. 39, or email Deborah Wenger at dwenger@orzarua.org or at Chaverweb or at tinyurl.com/OZSeder2018.

OZ Members and Guests: \$75 per adult; \$50 per child aged 8 and under.
 Nonmembers: \$125 per adult; \$50 per child aged 8 and under.

Watch for more details and reservation information.

Pre-Pesah Talmud Study with Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz, PhD
The Shank Bone: The Phantom Limb of the Passover Seder
Thursday, March 22, 7:00 pm
Please see Talmudic Takes on page 4

Sell Your Hametz

Rabbi Bolton will arrange the transaction

Before Passover, we are required to “sell” any hametz in our possession to a non-Jew. The transaction is 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 Thursday, March 29, or email a scan of the signed form to 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.

PESAH SCHEDULE 5778/2018

Thursday, March 29

Bedikat Hametz

Friday, March 30

Ta’anit Bechorot (Fast of the Firstborn),

Shaharit, Siyum 7:15 am

Finish Eating Hametz before 10:53 am

Sell and Burn Hametz before 11:56 am

Erev Pesah/First Seder

Minhah/Ma’ariv 6:00 pm

Candlelighting 7:01 pm

Saturday, March 31

Shabbat & First Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 am

Erev Second Day of Pesah/Second Seder

OZ Congregational Seder 8:00 pm

Light Candles after 8:01 pm

Sunday, April 1

Second Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 am

Yom Tov ends 8:02 pm

Monday, April 2-Wednesday, April 4

Third-Fifth Days of Pesah, Hol Hamoed

Shaharit each morning 7:00 am

Thursday, April 5

Sixth Day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed

Shaharit 7:00 am

Candlelighting 7:07 pm

Friday, April 6

Seventh Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 am

Minhah/Ma’ariv 6:15 pm

Candlelighting 7:08 pm

Saturday, April 7

Shabbat & Last Day of Pesah

Shaharit 8:45 am

Yizkor

Minhah, Seudah Shlishit Lecture with

Rabbi Bolton, Ma’ariv 6:00 pm

Shabbat & Festival ends 8:13 pm

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 _____

Address _____

Signature _____

This authorization must be signed.

Send this completed form to the OZ office no later than, Thursday, March 29:

By scan and email to: dwenger@orzarua.org

By fax: 212-452-2103

By US Postal Service mail so that it arrives by Thursday, March 29 to:

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

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

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

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

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

Help Keep Our Daily Minyan Strong

Please donate ONE HOUR
ONE MORNING per month to our
Shaharit minyan.
Contact Sheldon Adler:
sadler@skadden.com

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 CE, 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 Wednesday, May 2.

**Or Zarua's
Tikkun Leyl Shavuot
will be
Saturday night, May 19.**

Guidelines for Passover

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

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

Kashering (of hametz items)

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

Continued on page 13, column 1, bottom

The Best Little Library On The Upper East Side

OZ Library open house, Thursday, May 10, 7:00 pm

The old adage “Jews are people of the Book” is well documented at Or Zaruva.

The library on the fourth floor is well stocked offering books of varied interest.

One section contains religious texts including prayer books, volumes of Talmud, megillot, haggdot, Pirke Avot, midrashim and other texts. Books in this section may not be removed from the library.

Another section includes multiple genres of nonfiction of Jewish interest. These shelves are alphabetized by author’s last name. There are also shelves of novels and biography.

For Yiddish readers the complete works of Sholem Aleichem and other Yiddish authors are available. Dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedia, and annuals are available in the reference section. Additionally, periodicals ranging over several years are also available.

The library is always open, except when it is occupied by Or L’Atid or other synagogue

groups. Congregants are welcome to visit, browse and borrow. Borrowers are required to note the book borrowed in the folder located on the table in the rear of the library.

Contributions of books to the library are welcome but there are conditions and restraints. Books must be of Jewish content and in good condition. Due to limited space all books must be screened before accepted by the library. Discarding duplicates creates additional responsibility on synagogue staff.

To acquaint Congregants with the library’s holdings I am inviting congregants to an OZ Library open house on Thursday, May 10, 7:00 pm. I will highlight each section and discuss various holdings and how to negotiate sections. Additionally, I will speak about the role of libraries in education and citizenship preparation during the iconic period of immigrations and settlement.

I hope to see you there.

-Barry Feldman

Guidelines for Passover, Continued from page 12

metal objects should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and the immersion in boiling water. Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered for Pesah.

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

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

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

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

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

Dishwashers: Clean any food trap or filter and leave the dishwasher unused for

24 hours. Then, complete a full wash cycle with detergent.

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

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

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

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

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

Talmud & Siddur Class with Rabbi Bolton

Talmud Class

The Gates Are Unlocked:

The Yom Kippur Experience in the Talmud Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, as shown on the OZ Calendar

Join us for the continuation of the last chapter of Yoma. This section focuses us on the meaning of Yom Kippur rituals and their message for the Jewish year. Additionally, philosophical discussions regarding repentance and relations with neighbors come into focus. Texts are studied in both the original language and are translated into English. Beginners to experienced students welcome. Join any class or make Wednesdays Talmud night! (7:30–9:00 pm). Text: Artscroll Yoma Vol. 2 or a Gemara Yoma that contains the last chapter.



Above: The Wednesday night Talmud class.

Siddur Class: The Torah Service

Thursdays, 8:40 am, as shown on the OZ Calendar

We will continue investigating the history and meaning of the siddur and Jewish prayer experience. We are up to the part in the siddur when the Torah is on the table. How ancient are the blessings we say? Blessings done over the reading come from a different age than prayers for the sick or for remembering loved ones. We will look at the prayers we insert on Shabbat after the Torah reading, as well. The class meets Thursday mornings (8:40–9:40 am).



Above: The Thursday morning Siddur class.

Although classes have already begun, you may join either class at anytime; class sessions are independent of one another. Talmud classes are recorded and can be found under “adult study” on the OZ website: orzarua.org.

God, Torah and Israel: Key Questions in Modern Jewish Thought With William Plevan, PhD

JTS Context Class at Or Zarua

Eight Tuesdays beginning March 13, 6:30 pm



Our next JTS Context class, "God, Torah and Israel: Key Questions in Modern Jewish Thought," is an eight-session course presented by Dr. William Plevan, Adjunct Instructor of Jewish Thought, JTS.

An exploration of major questions of modern Judaism: is Judaism a religion, a nationality or something else? How should we think about our relationships with non-Jews after the rise of modern nation-states? What makes Torah and the Jewish tradition meaningful and authoritative? How do we think about God in light of modern scientific advancements and in the face of the evils of history, particularly the Holocaust? How does

the rise of gender equality and feminism shape our understanding of God, Torah and Jewish identity? We will address these questions through reading some of the most important modern Jewish thinkers, including, Mendelssohn, Buber, Heschel, Kaplan, Soloveitchik, Plaskow and others..

The course meets in the OZ library on Tuesday evenings March 13, 20, and 27, April 10, 17, and 24, and May 1, and 8, from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. The tuition is \$425.

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 regarding registering, please contact Lynn Feinman at 212-678-8821 or lyfeinman@jtsa.edu. You may register for the class at www.jtsa.edu/god-torah-israel.

Or Zarua's Memorial Wall

For information about plaques for our Memorial Wall, please contact Helene Santo at hsanto@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, ext 14.

We will place another order when we have sufficient interest.

Order forms are available online at <http://tinyurl.com/OZMemorialPlaque> or from the OZ office by calling Deborah Wenger at 212-452-2310, ext 12.



Help Keep Our Daily Minyan Strong

Please donate ONE HOUR ONE MORNING per month to our Shahrut minyan. Contact Sheldon Adler: sadler@skadden.com

The Or Zarua Social Hall is available to rent

for appropriate functions. Contact Helene Santo, 212-452-2310, ext 14, for information.

RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Channel 106
www.siriusxm.com.

Sundays at 4:00 am and 8:00 pm.



Sponsor Kiddush or Minyan Breakfast

The custom of sponsoring a kiddush or a minyan breakfast 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 or morning minyan experience. Contact Deborah Wenger (212-452-2310, ext 12) for details.

Or Zarua's Cemetery for Members and their Families

The OZ section at Beth El Cemetery is located in Washington Township, NJ, 10 miles from the George Washington Bridge. The cemetery is well maintained, and its design provides a serene and beautiful final resting place that reflects the values and aesthetics of Congregation Or Zarua. Gravesites within the OZ section are available for sale to members of our congregation. Burial is limited to persons of the Jewish faith. For information concerning gravesite purchases, contact Helene Santo at 212-452-2310, ext 14.



CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

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

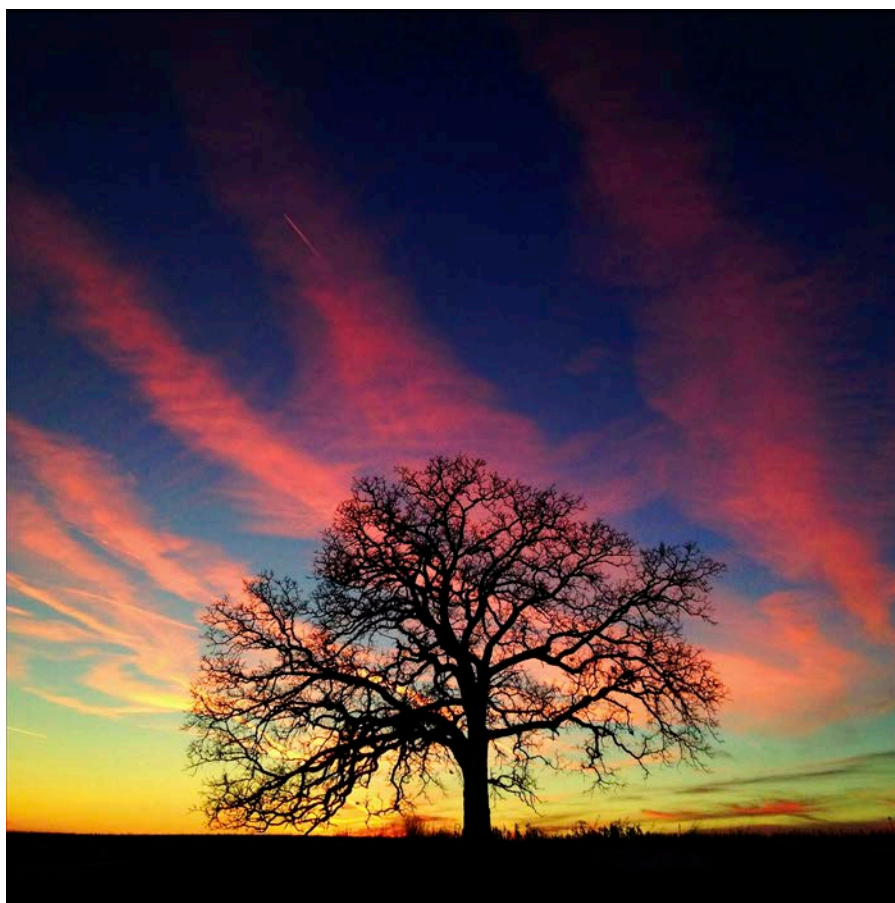
**Pre-Pesah Zimriyah
Passover Melodies
Saturday, March 24
After Kiddush (1:00 pm)
in the OZ Library**

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.

A Complete Listing of
Passover Services & Programming
at Or Zarua begins on page 10.



**העץ ההוא
That Tree:
Comes Down in April
Next opening in the OZ Gallery:
Sunday Evening, May 6**

Like the changing of seasons – winter to spring, Purim to Pesah, Super Bowl to spring training – the exhibit in the OZ Gallery is changing as well. “That Tree: ההוא העץ” is coming down to make way for the next Gallery show.

The current exhibit has its roots in photojournalist Mark Hirsch's project to take one iPhone photo of a Wisconsin Bur Oak tree each day for a year. The stunning images have been accompanied by quotations about trees from Jewish sources.

In addition to purchasing the entire cycle of photographs in the book, *That Tree*, each of the marvelous photographs is for sale. Please contact the office at 212-452-2310 if you are interested.

We will miss the natural beauty of “That Tree” in our gallery, but the OZ Gallery Committee will follow it with an exciting and different spring show. Mark your calendar for opening night on Sunday, May 6 and watch this space and check your OZ emails for details.