A Traditional, Egalitarian and Participatory Conservative Synagogue



ADAR/NISSAN/IYAR 5780

NEWSLETTER/VOLUME 32:4

MARCH/APRIL 2020

Scholarly Shabbaton: *Navigating Jewishness in Christian Worlds* with Professors Jessica Cooperman and Hartley Lachter Friday, March 27 and Saturday, 28

wo sustaining pillars of Or Zarua have been our weekly Shabbat services and varied adult education programs. On Friday evening and Saturday, March 27-28, those two important facets of the unique Or Zarua experience will coincide. We will convene as a community for what promises to be a wonderful Scholarly Shabbaton, led by (married) professors Jessica Cooperman and Hartley Lachter, that will be filled with stimulating learning, joyous prayer, and delicious food.

Coming to us from the beautiful Lehigh Valley, Drs. Cooperman and Lachter will give several lectures over the course of Shabbat addressing the multifaceted theme of historical strategies of navigating Jewishness in challenging Christian settings, both medieval and modern.

On Friday evening at approximately 8:15 pm, following services and Shabbat dinner, Dr. Cooperman, Associate Professor



of Religion Studies and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at Muhlenberg College, whose scholarship focuses on modern Jewish history,

American religious policy, Holocaust studies, interfaith movements, and military history, will give a lecture entitled *Fighting for Judaism in World War I America*. In 1917, "American religion" was understood to mean only Protestantism; Judaism and Catholicism

The Kaskeset Shabbaton has been Rescheduled: Kaskeset is SUNY Binghamton's A Cappella Group

> Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 See Page 5

were still seen as suspicious, foreign faiths at odds with American values. When the US War Department began preparations to send American soldiers and sailors to fight in World War I, it had no plans to introduce the country to new ideas about religious pluralism. Over the course of the war, however, the American military adopted new policies and practices intended to elevate the moral character and civic consciousness of its troops. Thanks to the work of the Jewish Welfare Board, these new "soldiers" welfare programs" became an unexpected gateway for renegotiating portrayals and perceptions of Jews and Judaism within American society. Dr. Cooperman's lecture will illuminate the evolving role of Jews and Judaism in twentieth-century America. (You are encouraged to register for the Friday night dinner, or invited just to attend Dr. Cooperman's lecture.)

During Shabbat morning services and then again following kiddush (at



approximately
1:00 pm), Dr. Lachter,
Associate Professor
of Religion Studies,
Philip and Muriel
Berman Chair in
Jewish Studies,
and Director of

the Berman Center for Jewish Studies at Lehigh University, whose scholarly focus is medieval Jewish mysticism, will give talks on Kabbalah as a Response to Christian Anti-Judaism. Kabbalah in the Middle Ages

Continued on page 13

Marc Ashley's Class between Pesah and Shavuot:

Kiddush Hashem (Sanctification of God's Name): Between Holiness and Martyrdom

Beginning Sunday, April 19, 10:00 am See Page 3

Scholarly Shabbaton Professors Jessica Cooperman & Hartley Lachter

Friday, March 27

6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm Dinner (RSVP)

8:15 pm Lecture by Dr. Jessica Cooperman: Fighting for Judaism in

World War I America

Note that you may attend the lecture without attending the dinner.

Saturday, March 28 9:00 am Shabbat Services Sermon by Dr. Lachter

12:00 pm Kiddush

1:00 pm Lecture by Dr. Hartley Lachter: Kabbalah as a Response to Christian Anti-Judaism

5:30 pm Minhah, Seudah Shlishit, Panel Discussion with Drs. Cooperman and Lachter and moderated by Rabbi Bolton: Jewish Responses—Models of Resilience?, Ma'ariv and Havdalah

Dinner: \$45 per adult, \$25 per child; Register through ShulCloud at: tinyurl.com/OZShabbatMar2020 by Thursday March 19. For questions contact Deborah Wenger at dwenger@orzarua.org.

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CONGREGATION OR ZARUA MARCH/APRIL 2020



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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 Diane Okrent



he countdown has begun! By the time you read this, Purim will be about a week away and Pesah will be 5 weeks away. I am already in the process of what I call "hametzdown"-reducing

the amount of hametz in my kitchen and pantry. Of course, I have to wait until the hamantaschen are gone!

I love Pesah! Yes, the work involved is prodigious-planning, inviting, cleaning, shopping, cooking-but I always conclude that the end justifies the means. When I slip into my seat at our Seder table and wave to my husband at the other end of the long table and see my family and friends gathered together, my exhaustion lifts and I am re-energized. My heart is filled with love and gratitude and pride that we are all together again to celebrate Pesah.

What a profound tradition we have of gathering in our homes year in and year out to retell the origins of our people and to celebrate our survival, then and now. We learn from the Torah that from that first Pesah in Egypt, we are to celebrate in our homes with our families and neighbors. "The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ...Speak to the whole community of Israel and say that in the tenth of this month each of them shall take a lamb to a household. But if the household is too small for a lamb, let him share one with a neighbor who dwells nearby..." (Exodus 12:1-4). In a 2012 lecture at Or Zarua, Dr. Eliezer Diamond pointed out that Pharaoh sought to destroy the Hebrew families by enslaving the men. At that first Passover, the family was reconstituted and celebrated the impending Exodus together.

As I wrote in a 2019 Orot article, I am intrigued by the fact that significant parts of our daily, Shabbat and holiday liturgy are in Aramaic, the vernacular of the Jews in Babylonia and Palestine from the fifth century BCE until the Arab conquest (634-638 CE). For example, the Kaddish and Kol Nidre are in Aramaic, presumably so that everyone could understand them.

As we approach Passover, I think about Ha Lachma Anya with which we begin the Maggid at the seder, preserved in the original Aramaic. "This is the bread of affliction which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. All who are hungry, let them come and eat. All who are in need, let them come celebrate Pesah. Now we are here. Next year in the land of Israel. Now we are enslaved. Next year we will be free."

We preserve this command in the vernacular so that everyone understands that Passover is inclusive—all who are hungry are invited to come and eat. As I contemplate the menu for my sedarim, I think about the literal meaning of hunger and the material meaning of need. But, I think about the spiritual meanings as well. All who hunger for community, for connection with their Jewish roots, and for the family with whom they are close or from whom they may be estranged. let them come and feast at our table. Let them find the physical and spiritual nurturing they crave.

I take this direction very personally and very seriously. Often, I have had to add another chair (or 2 or 3) to my already long collection of tables to accommodate those who need a place. I can't stand knowing that someone has no place to go for seder. And, if asked, I can't turn someone away.

And, so it is with Congregation Or Zarua. We, as a community, are committed to opening our communal home to all who are hungry-for community, for connection, for religious services, for education for themselves and their children. We try to "be there" for members of the community at all times. Look through this newsletter and read our weekly e-blasts to see the wide-ranging programs and services we provide every week of the year.

This commitment, however, takes resources—both personal and financial. We are a volunteer organization. We need volunteers to create minyanim, lead services, read Torah and Haftorah, plan programs, and perform acts of hesed.

And, we need your financial support. As I mentioned at Kol Nidre, membership dues only provide 40% of our revenues. The rest comes from your generous contributions at Kol Nidre and throughout the year. As we approach Purim and Pesah, count the Omer, remember the Shoah, celebrate Israel's 72nd Independence Day, and celebrate Shavuot, I ask that you consider additional support for the depth and breadth of the activities you will find at Or Zarua.

I wish you and your family a happy, healthy, joyous and peaceful Purim and Pesah!

B'Shalom!

Kiddush Hashem (Sanctification of God's Name): Between Holiness and Martyrdom

Marc Ashley's adult education course between Pesah and Shavuot Four Sundays: April 19, 26, May 3 and 17 at 10:00 am

he Torah frequently urges us to sanctify God's name and to avoid profaning it. Leviticus 22:32, for example, instructs us: "And you shall not profane My holy name, but I shall be sanctified in the midst of the Children of Israel: I am the Lord who sanctifies you." Accordingly, the affirmative concept of kiddush Hashem (the duty to sanctify God's name), and the inverse and complementary principle of chilul Hashem (the obligation to avoid desecrating God's name), have become core ideas in Jewish thought. Indeed, for centuries, these concepts have been primary motivating factors and guideposts in Jewish conduct. The mitzvah of kiddush Hashem applies to all Jews, women and men, in all times and places.

Yet the precise parameters of these seminal terms are not perfectly clear. What does *kiddush Hashem* mean in both theory and practice? How, in our concrete behavior, are we to sanctify God's name, and to what

lengths must we go to fulfill this essential commandment? Should we, in our abiding commitment to God, sometimes sacrifice our lives?

In general, any action that brings honor to God is considered righteous sanctification of His name and, in contrast, any behavior that shames God constitutes improper diminution of His name. Thus, it is not only our own reputations that are on the line as reflected in our individual and communal behavior; God's enduring, but sometimes tenuous, reputation is also at stake, which creates heavy responsibilities for us.

The manner in which we conduct ourselves in public, and even (or perhaps particularly) in private, reflects foundational Jewish ethical values. Over time, Jews concluded that even the essential principle of preserving life was superseded, under particular traumatic circumstances, by the equally compelling imperative to sanctify God's name. Embodying the principle of kiddush Hashem by validating core Jewish

values through the way we live our lives could mean, tragically, dying for the Jewish cause. From brutal Roman persecution of the Rabbis, to the decimation of the medieval Crusades, to the vast horror of the Holocaust, holiness could give way to martyrdom. Fulfillment of the *kiddush Hashem* commandment can therefore be, depending on circumstance, spiritually uplifting or physically daunting.

Please join congregant Marc Ashley on four Sunday mornings for his annual adult education class between Pesah and Shavuot. This year's course, *Kiddush Hashem* (Sanctification of God's Name): Between Holiness and Martyrdom, will be held on April 19, April 26, May 3, and May 17 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.

-Marc Ashley

Pre-Pesah Lecture

Rabbits and Lettuce: The History of the Haggadah in Text & Art with Dr. Joshua Kulp, Rosh Yeshiva of the Conserative Yeshiva in Jerusalem Wednesday, April 1, 7:30 pm

Imost all illuminated Haggadot from the Medieval period contain pictures of hunters chasing rabbits. Why? In this lecture, Dr. Kulp, will explain the history of the texts and illustrations found in Haggadot throughout Jewish history. What really is marror? What does it mean to eat reclining? Why does a medieval Haggadah portray the Jews with birds' heads? If you are looking for some unique aspects of the history of the seder to enliven your own experience this year, attend this presentation.









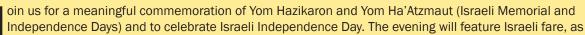




r. Joshua Kulp made aliyah in 1994 and is Rosh Yeshiva of the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, where he teaches Talmud and halakhah. He is the author of *Reconstructing the Talmud, The Schechter Haggadah:*Art, History and Commentary, an English commentary on the Mishnah, and others. He serves as the scholar-in-residence at Camp Ramah in New England. In addition to his scholarly activities, Dr. Kulp is a triathlete and runner and has completed three full Ironmans. He is originally from Margate, New Jersey, grew up in the Conservative movement and spent summer at Camp Ramah.

Women on the Front Lineswith Debbie Zimelman, photographer

Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 pm



well as a book talk by Israeli photographer and author Debbie Zimelman, who wrote and published *Women on the Front Lines*. This is the first book documenting the lives of female combat soldiers in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). The author's talk will highlight the stories behind superb photographic images. Debbie will also speak about her career as a photographer in Israel and what specifically led her to prepare this book about these pioneering women.









Commit to Kindness: Volunteer with Or Zarua

"The reward for charity depends entirely upon

the extent of the kindness in it."—Talmud Bavli

Dorot Package Delivery

Looking for a one-time opportunity to visit with an older adult? DOROT's Passover package delivery programs bring hundreds of clients and volunteers together to share warmth and companionship. Join them Sunday morning March 29th at your preferred location.

Individual volunteers can sign up on their own or with a friend or partner. DOROT welcomes adult, college and family volunteers. To sign up and for locations, please go to:

Adult Registration: tinyurl.com/OZDorotIndMar20 Family Registration: tinyurl.com/OZDorotFamMar20

Donate non-perishables to help the hungry

Did you know 1 in 5 New Yorkers is food insecure? There are three ways you can help:

- 1) Start your day off right and volunteer to help serve a hot breakfast at the NY Common Pantry, 8 East 109th Street on Tuesday, March 24 or Tuesday, April 21 from 7:00 to 9:00 am. Volunteers plate meals in the kitchen for 150 to 200 food insecure individuals.
- 2) If the breakfast shift is too early for you, help with the packing and distribution of nutritious, fresh food pantry packages for families from 9 am to noon on Wednesday,

March 4 or Wednesday, April 1.

3) Drop off non-perishable, healthy food items in the Or Zarua Social Hall.

Contact Lesley Palmer at hesed@orzarua.org to sign up or ask questions.

Join Thursday 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 to 6:45 pm on the the third and fourth Thursdays of each month or as noted on the OZ calendar. Contact Jeffrey Haberman at jeff32449@verizon.net, for information.

Help OZ Congregants in Need

Volunteer to visit and bring cheer to ill or homebound OZ Congregants. Contact Deborah Wenger: dwenger@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, ext 12.

Help South Bronx Residents

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 include housekeepers caring for their own local needy. Contact Richard Stadin at 212-744-6697 or stadin1@aol.com to arrange for donations.

The Exodus Narrative in Christian and Jewish Traditions

Interfaith Dialogue: Joint Program

St. Ignatius Loyola Monday evening, March 16 Doors open at 6:30 pm for socializing Program at 7:00 pm

Rabbi Bolton will be in dialogue with clergy from St. Ignatius Loyola. This is our first joint program with members of the St. Ignatius Loyola community - the location at which we hold our High Holiday services.

All are invited.

Help Keep Our Daily Minyan Strong

Please donate
ONE HOUR
ONE MORNING
per month
to our Shaharit minyan.

Contact Sheldon Adler: sadler@skadden.com

Or Zarua Book Discussions

Fly Already by Etgar Keret Sunday, March 15, 7:30 pm Led by Karen Kaplan



dazzling short story collection in which the Israeli writer's whimsy often conceals gut-wrenching wisdom while heartache comes laced with hilarity.

-Guardian

Our next title is:

How to Fight Anti-Semitism by Bari Weiss, on Sunday, May 3 and will be led by Artie Seltzer

Everyone is welcome to attend OZ Book Discussions; please join us.

ChaburahTorah Study at Or Zarua

After Kiddush on Select Shabbatot

May 16

Behar-Behukotai with Joanne Feierman

May 30:

Shabbat Shavuot II with Marc Ashley: A Chaburah in memory of Sharon R. Seiler, z"I

OZ Perspectives: The History of the Talmud

with Professor

David C. Kraemer, JTS Four Tuesdays, 6:30 pm March 24, 31, April 21, and May 5



Our next class, The history of the Talmud, will be presented by Dr. David C. Kraemer, Joseph J. and Dora Abbell Librarian and Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics.

The course meets on four Tuesdays: March 24, 31, April 21, and May 5; tuition is \$250 for OZ members and \$275 for nonmembers. Register through ShulCloud (tinyurl.com/OZPerSpring2020) or by email (dwenger@orzarua.org). Registration must be finalized before the second meeting date of class.

Yom HaShoah Memorial Service

Monday, April 20, 7:00 pm

We will be commemorating Yom HaShoah with our annual Holocaust Memorial Service on Monday evening, April 20, 7:00 pm.

This short, moving service involves the participation of adults and teens from our community.

If you wish to take part in this service, please email Ilana Burgess at hebrewteacher@gmail.com.











Rescheduled! SHABBATON WITH







Friday, March 13

6:00 pm Shabbat Services Led and Harmonized by Kaskeset

7:00 pm Mini-concert

Saturday, March 14

9:00 am Shabbat Services Sermon in Song

12:00 pm Kiddush 1:00 pm Concert



Celebrate Purim with Or L'Atid

Sing Song Purim Sunday, March 8, 10:00 am

Sing, dance and play the Purim way!
Join Hannah, our Shalom Sing-A-Long
and Torah Tots leader for a morning of
fun-filled Purim songs, stories and more!
Geared towards Early Childhood.
Older children welcome.

Mini-Megillah Monday, March 9, 5:00 pm

Little ones, join Rabbi Bolton and Sigal in the sanctuary for Mini-Megillah. Hear the story of Esther, shake your groggers, and enjoy lots of Purim silliness! Geared towards Early Childhood. Older children welcome.

Majestic Megillah Monday, March 9, 6:30 pm

Celebrate Purim with kids and families
before our community
Megillah reading and spiel!
Hear the story of Queen Esther, spin the
groggers and get ready to "BOO"
when you hear the name... HAMAN!

Families are encouraged to stay after the kids' program for Megillah reading and the OZ Purim Spiel; dinner will not be served so please feed your child before you arrive. Please note: Hebrew School will not meet on March 9. Families are instead encouraged to join us for the kids' program and the community celebration!

RSVP for all Purim Events to Sigal: shirsch@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, ext 15.

Tastes & Traditions with Rabbi Bolton Wednesdays, March II and April 22, 6:15 pm

Middle Schoolers are invited to join Rabbi Bolton for his monthly "Tastes and Traditions" class on select Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:15 pm.

Together, students will explore Jewish cultures and traditions from around the world as they enjoy cuisine from that country.

Special thanks to David Moche who shared his family's experience in Japan Students can enroll for the remainder of the year or drop in when available!





Kaskeset is coming! Binghamton University's Jewish A Cappella Group Sermon in Song and Concert Saturday, March 14

Join Kaskeset for Shabbat services. Hear Kaskeset's Sermon in Song during services.

Then, after a filling and kid-friendly kiddush, head back up to the sanctuary for

Kaskeset's concert.

Please note that Shabbat & Me for the youngest children will begin at 10:30 am, but other Family Shabbat programs will not meet. Instead, families are encouraged to attend the main service. The Torah service begins at about 10:00 am, which is a good time to aim to arrive. Participate in Rabbi Bolton's interactive Torah discussion about parashat Ki Tisa, exploring the sin of the Golden Calf. After the Torah Service, Kaskeset will perform their Sermon in Song, followed by Musaf.





Photos: Our second grade students continue to make great progress in their Hebrew studies. They are reading beautifully, learning the Hebrew words for various colors, fruits and vegetables, and using them in simple sentences!

Family Shabbat and Lunch Saturday, April 4

Join us for a Youth and Family Shabbat Program at 10:30 am. After services, all families are invited to a Family Lunch! After lunch, parents are invited to join the Haggadah Song Workshop (see page 16) while kids stay with Sigal for a Four Questions Workshop

Shabbat & Me Saturday
Pre-School and younger

Family Learning Experience for Elementary School and parents

Mah Zeh Shabbat?! for Middle and High School

B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Lunch 'n Learn

Saturday, March 21 following services

Sixth graders and their families are invited to our next meeting of the B'nei Mitzvah Cohort.

Families are encouraged to join us for Shabbat morning services, which begin at 9:00 am. The Torah service begins at about 10:00 am, which is a good time to aim to be there. We'll join the whole community for kiddush, and then head to the library for a light lunch and learning together, including our "Torah Service Workshop." Parents, B'nei Mitzvah students (past and future) and siblings are invited! Please RSVP to Sigal.

Hebrew School Pesah Celebration

Monday, April 6 5:00 pm

Parents, grandparents and siblings are invited to join our Elementary School students for our Hebrew School Pesah celebration. We'll learn about Pesah together so that everyone will be able to participate in and enrich their own family seders.

Photos; Kids and parents had a great time celebrating the Birthday of the Trees at our Or L'Atid Tu B'Shevat Celebration. After exploring different reasons for celebrating the holiday, we became trees ourselves, tasted the Shivat Haminim and planted our own plants to grow at home.



















March 2020 • Adar/Nissan 5780

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SUNDAY		MONDAY TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 • 5 Adar 8:30a Shaharit Following Shaharit: Zayin Adar Brunch with Rabbi Meyer Laniado 6:30p Bir'nana and Purim Spiel Rehearsals	2 • 6 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A- Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars	3 • 7 Adar 7:15a Shaharit	4 • 8 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 9:00a NY Common Pantry 4:00p Hebrew School 7:30p Talmud Class	5 • 9 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 6:00p Birhana Dress Rehearsal	6 • 10 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Yoga, Goga, Shabbatl 5:35p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	7 • 11 Adar Shabbat Zakhor 9:00a Shaharit Tetzaveh 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Torah Tots 6:31p Shabbat Ends
8 • 12 Adar Daylight Saving Time 8:45a Shaharit 10:00a Sing Song Purim No Bir'nana Rehearsal	9 • 13 Adar Ta'anit Esther/Erev Purim 6:05a Fast Begins 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A- Long 5:00p Mini-Megillah 6:30p Majestic Megillah 7:28p Fast Ends 7:40p Ma'ariv/Megillat Esther, Purim Spiel	10 • 14 Adar Purim 7:00a Shaharit	11 • 15 Adar Shushan Purim 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 6:15p Tastes & Traditions with Rabbi Bolton 7:30p Talmud Class	12 • 16 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class	13 • 17 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Yoga, Goga, Shabbatl 6:00p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat with Kaskeset, SUNY Binghamton's Jewish a cappella group 6:43p Candlelighting 7:00p Mini-Concert	14 • 18 Adar Shabat Parah 9:00a Shaharit Ki Tissa Sermon in Song 10:30a Shabat & Me! 1:00p Concert with kaskeset 7:39p Shabbat Ends
15 • 21 Adar 8:45a Shaharit 7:30p Book Discussion: Fly Already by Etgar Keret 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	16 • 20 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A- Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30 p Exodus Narrative in Christan and Jewish Traditions with Rabbi Bolton: at St. Ignatius Loyola	17 • 21 Adar 7:15a Shaharit	18 • 22 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 7:30p Talmud Class	19 • 23 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 6:00p NCS Hesed Program	20 • 24 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Yoga, Goga, Shabbat 6:00p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:50p Candlelighting 6:00p OZYP Backyard BBQ: Happy Hour (6:00p), Services (645p), Dinner (7:30p) RSVP	21 • 25 Adar Shabbat HaHodesh 9:00a Shaharit Vayakhel-Pekude 11:00a Torah Kids 12:30p B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Lunch and Learn 7:46p Shabbat Ends
22 • 26 Adar 8:45a Shaharit 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	23 • 27 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A- Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars	24 • 28 Adar 7:00a NY Common Pantry 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p OZ Perspectives	25 • 29 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 7:30p Talmud Class	26 • 1 Nissan Rosh Hodesh 7:00a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 6:00p NCS Hesed Program	27 • 2 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Yoga, Goga, Shabbat 6:00p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:58p Candlelighting 7:00p Dinner (RSVP) 8:15p Fighting for Judaism in World War I America with Dr. Cooperman	28 • 3 Nissan 9:00a Shaharit/Vayikra 11:00a Torah Kids & Tots 1:00 Kabbalah as a Response to Christian Anti-Judaism; Dr. Lachter 5:30p Minhah/Seudah Shiishit Panel Discussion Models of Resilience?/ Ma'ariv 7:54p Shabbat Ends
29 • 4 Nissan 8:45a Shaharit 10:00a Dorot Package Delivery 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	30 • 5 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A- Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p Bnei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p Torah Reading Class with Mark Somerstein	31 • 6 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Oz Perspectives				

Congregation Or Zarua Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 am-5:00 pm; Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm. The office is closed Saturday and Sunday, as well as on Jewish and federal holidays. Be sure to check the Or Zarua Website (www.orzarua.org) and the weekly eblasts for updates to the calendar.



April 2020 • Nissan/Iyar 5780

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 • 7 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 9:00a NY Common Pantry 4:00p Hebrew School 7:30p Pre-Pesah Lecture: The History of the Haggadah in Text and Art with Joshua Kulp No Talmud Class	2 • 8 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Glass	3 • 9 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Yoga, Goga, Shabbat 6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:05p Candlelighting	4 • 10 Nissan Shabbat HaCadol 9:00a Shaharit/Tzav 10:30a Family Learning Experience 10:30a Mah Zeh Shabbat?! 12:00p Family Lunch 1:00p Haggadah Song 1:00p Four Questions (kids) 8:02p Shabbat Ends
5 • 11 Nissan 8:45a Shaharit No Bir'nana Rehearsal	6 • 12 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p Hebrew School Pesah Celebration 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars	7 • 13 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit Bedikat Hametz No OZ Perspectives	8 • 14 Nissan Erev Pesah/Ta'anit Behorot (Fast First Born)/Siyum 7:15a Shaharit 10:23a Finish eating Hametz 11:40a Sell & Burn Hametz 7:40p Candlelighting First Seder No Hebrew School No Talmud Class Office Closes 1 pm	9 • 15 Nissan First Day of Pesah 9:00a Shaharit Light Candles After 8:06pm Second Seder 8:00p OZ Congregational Seder: Talmudic Seder led by Rabbi Bolton, (RSVP) No Siddur Class Office Closed	10 • 16 Nissan Second Day of Pesah 9:00a Shaharit 6:15p Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:12p Candlelighting Office Closed	11 • 17 Nissan Hol Hamoed Third Day of Pesah 8:45a Shaharit Song of Songs 6:00p Minhah/Seudah Shlishit & Shiur with Rabbi Bolton/Ma'ariv 8:10p Shabbat Ends No Shabbat Youth Programs
12 • 18 Nissan Hol Hamoed Fourth Day of Pesah 8:45a Shaharit No Bir'nana Rehearsal	13 • 19 Nissan Hol Hamoed Fifth Day of Pesah 7:00a Shahomit No Shahom Sing-A-Long No Hebrew School	14 • 20 Nissan Hol Hamoed Sixth Day of Pesah 7:00a Shaharit 7:17p Candlelighting No OZ Perspectives Office Closes 1 pm	15 • 21 Nissan Seventh Day of Pesah 9:00a Shaharit 7:30p Minhah/Ma'ariv Light Candles After 8:13p No Hebrew School No Talmud Class Office Closed	16 • 22 Nissan Last Day of Pesah 9:00a Shaharit Yizkor 8:14p Festival Ends No Siddur Class Office Closed	17 • 23 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:20p Candlelighting	18 • 24 Nissan 9:00a Shaharit Shemini 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Torah Tots 8:18p Shabbat Ends
19 • 25 Nissan 8:45a Shaharit 10:00a Kiddush Hashem (Sanctification of God's Name):Between Holiness and Martyrdom - class with Marc Ashley 7:30p Bir hana Rehearsal	20 • 26 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p Yom HaShoah Memorial	21 • 27 Nissan Yom HaShoah 7:00a NY Common Pantry 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p OZ Perspectives	22 • 28 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 6:15p Tastes & Traditions with Rabbi Bolton 7:30p Talmud Class	23 • 29 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 11:00a Or L'Dorot-Mature Connections East Village Walking Tour 6:00p NCS Hesed Program	24 • 30 Nissan Rosh Hodesh 7:00a Shaharit 10:00a Yoga, Goga, Shabbatl 6:15p Minhaly/KabbatsShabbat 7:27p Candlelighting 6:00p OZYP Israeli Shabbat: Happy Hour (6:00p), Services (6:45p), Dinner (7:30p) RSVP	25 • 1 lyar Rosh Hodesh 9:00a Shaharit Tazria-Metzora 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Torah Tots 8:26p Shabbat Ends
26 • 2 lyar 8.45a Shaharit 10:00a Kiddush Hashem 10:00b Birinana Rehearsal 10:00p Ozyp Jewish Harlem 10:00p Ozyp Jewish	27 • 3 lyar 7:15a Shaharit 10:15a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars	28 • 4 lyar Yom Hazikaron 7:15a Shaharit 7:00p Women on the Front Lines with Debbie Zimelman	29 • 5 lyar Yom Ha'Atzmaut 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 7:30p Talmud Class	30 • 6 lyar 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 6:00p NCS Hesed Program	1 May • 7 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Yoga, Goga, Shabbatl 6:30 Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:34p Candlelighting	2 May • 8 Iyar 9:00a Shaharit Aharei Mot-Kedoshim 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Torah Tots 8:34p Shabbat Ends

Be sure to check the Or Zarua Website (www.orzarua.org) and the weekly eblasts for updates to the calendar.

Congregation Or Zarua Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 am-5:00 pm; Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm. The office is closed Saturday and Sunday, as well as on Jewish and federal holidays.

Siyum Wednesday, April 8 Ta'anit Behorot Immediately Following Shaharit (morning service)

Rabbi Bolton will lead a siyum on Tuesday morning, April 8 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 Behorot Fast of the Firstborn Wednesday, April 8

What is the Fast of the Firstborn? Ta'anit behorot, 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, April 19.

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.

Guidelines for Passover and Omer Basics are now online at: https://tinyurl.com/OZPesah2020

Encapsulated: Packaging and Blessings for Medication



Seudah Shlishit Shiur In Memory of Stewart Bolton z"I Saturday, April 11, 6:00 pm Led by Rabbi Bolton

Should I say a blessing over my pills? Vitamins? Is there a kashrut issue with gelcaps? Rabbi Bolton will explore Jewish sources related to the packaging, kashrut and materials of medication during this learning dedicated to the memory of his father, Stewart L. Bolton, z'l, former pharmaceutical and food packaging specialist.

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

Pre-Pesah Zimriyah: Haggadah Song Workshop Saturday, April 4, After Kiddush (1:00 pm) in the OZ Library (see page 16)

Pesah Meal Match

First Seder, Wednesday night, April 8

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 Wednesday, April 1.



The Mystique of the Haggadah
Or Zarua Community Second Seder
Thursday night, April 9, 8:00 pm
Led by Rabbi Bolton

Congregation Or Zarua invites you, your family, and friends to the OZ Community Second Seder, led by Rabbi Bolton, Thursday, April 9, 8:00 pm. Our theme will be *The Mystique of the Haggadah*.

Please make reservations by Wednesday, April 1 through ShulCloud (tinyurl.com/OZseder2020) or at 212-452-2310, ext. 39, or email Deborah Wenger at dwenger@orzarua.org

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.

If finances are keeping you from joining the second Seder at Or Zarua,

write to Rabbi Bolton at rabbibolton@orzarua.org

Watch for more details and reservation information.

Pre-Pesah Lecture: Rabbits and Lettuce:
The History of the Haggadah in Text and Art
with Joshua Kulp, PhD, Conservative Yeshiva, Jerusalem
Wednesday, April 1, 7:30 pm
See Page 3

Sell Your Hametz

Rabbi Bolton will arrange the transaction

efore 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. The completed form, below, must arrive at the

synagogue office no later than noon on Tuesday, April 7, 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.

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.

Street Address _____ Apt # ____ City/State/Zip _____ Other Locations (vacation home, office, etc): Address _____ Address _____ Address ___ Please note that this authorization must be signed.

This completed form must arrive at the OZ office no later than, Tuesday, April 7:

-By scan and email to: dwenger@orzarua.org

-By fax: 212-452-2103

-By US Postal Service mail so that it arrives by Tuesday, April 7 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

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.

PESAH SCHEDULE 5780/2020

Tuesday, April 7 Bedikat Hametz

Wednesday, April 8

Ta'anit Bechorot (Fast of the Firstborn) Shaharit, Siyum 7:15 am Finish Eating Hametz before 10:23 am Sell and Burn Hametz before 11:40 am

Erev Pesah/First Seder

Candlelighting 7:10 pm

Thursday, April 9

First Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 am Erev Second Day of Pesah/Second Seder Light Candles after 8:06 pm OZ Congregational Seder 8:00 pm

Friday, April 10 Second Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 am Minhah/Ma'ariv 6:15 pm Candlelighting 7:12 pm

Saturday, April 11

Shabbat & Third Day of Pesah

Shaharit 8:45 am

Song of Songs

Minhah, Seudah Shlishit Shiur with

6:00 pm Rabbi Bolton, Ma'ariv Shabbat Ends 8:10 pm

Sunday, April 12

Fourth Day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed

Shaharit 8:45 am

Monday, April 13

Fifth Day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed

Shaharit 7:00 am

Tuesday, April 14

Sixth Day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed

Shaharit 7:00 am Candlelighting 7:17 pm

Wednesday, April 15

Seventh Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 am Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:30 pm Candlelighting after 8:13 pm

Thursday, April 16

Last Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 am

Yizkor

Festival Ends 8:14 pm

US Election for the 38th World Zionist Congress



ote in the 38th World Zionist Congress to make sure your point of view is represented in Israel. Every five years American Jews vote to send delegates to teh World Zionist Congress in Israel. The Conservative Movement is represented Mercaz, which is slate 6 (of 15 slates). Mercaz stands for Progress, Pluralism, and Religious Freedom—values that are critical to creating a strong and vibrant Israel.

To vote go to: www.mercaz2020.org. Voting, which began in January 21, closes on March 11.





Going From Plain to Fancy

How a Simple Social Hall Blossomed into an Art Gallery

t began its functional life as a simple, large utilitarian meeting room—the Social Hall—a place for Kiddush after Shabbat, breakfast after morning minyan, lectures and meetings and similar gatherings for non-sanctuary events. While the designers did imagine displays of art on the walls (there was, in the early days, a magnificent photo exhibit of black and white photos of Jews around the world taken by renowned photographer Zion Ozeri) the Social Hall was primarily seen as a simple, unadorned, functional room.

Then, in 2004, the seed was planted that blossomed into the 2005 exhibition, *Our Precious Legacies*, and the Social Hall—later reimagined as the OZ Gallery—

was transformed. How this transformation took place will soon be commemorated in a new volume being prepared by the OZ Gallery committee under the direction of the Committee's luminous chair and curator Bobbi Coller and art director, artist and OZ Congregant Caroline Golden Ilberman. This anniversary catalogue will feature highlights of past exhibits and reminiscences by contributors and Gallery Committee members. It is meant to be a celebration of the Gallery's place in our synagogue's past, present and future. We also hope it will be treasured as a keepsake honoring the OZ Gallery itself-as a "precious legacy"-as we celebrate Or Zarua's past and imagine its future.

Hevra Kadisha Zayin Adar Brunch

Sunday, March 1, immediately after services



Zayin Adar, the traditional yahrzeit of Moses, is observed annually to acknowledge the accomplishments of the Hevra Kadisha. At this year's brunch we will welcome Rabbi Meyer Laniado, Assistant Rabbi of Kehillath Jeshurun, who leads the Sephardic Minyan at KJ. He will speak on Sephardic Customs and Rites for Burial, Mourning and Remembering Our Loved Ones.

The brunch is sponsored by Gerry and Phyllis Solomon, in memory of their parents. The brunch also recognizes Gerry Solomon and Roberta Hufnagel's work as co-leaders of the Or Zarua Hevra Kadisha. Kindness during times of death and mourning grant comfort and strength to Or Zarua community members. Please come help us welcome Rabbi Laniado and express gratitude to the Hevra Kadisha.

Brunch will begin following morning minyan. The event is free, but reservations are required. Register on ShulCloud: tinyurl.com/OZMarch2020ZayinAdar.

A Minyan Poem

Please help to make Our minyan strong Forty minutes Is not that long Once a month Or once a week Will keep our minyan At its peak Those saying kaddish Will be so glad During a time When mostly they're sad After we daven There's breakfast to eat With lots of babka As a breakfast treat So please give Shelly Adler a shout And let him know That you'll help us out

Help Keep Our Daily Minyan Strong

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

Talmud and Siddur Classes with Rabbi Bolton

Talmud Class Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 pm

Who Can Be Judged?
Who Can Bear Witness?
Kings, Judges, and the
Great Men and Women of Israel.
Chapter 2 of Masekhet Sanhedrin

Siddur Class

Thursdays, 8:40–9:40 am When Prayer and Remembering Meet: Yizkor, Funeral Rites, Daily Psalms and Reminders.

Either class may be joined at any time. For additional information contact Rabbi Bolton by calling the office (212-452-2310) or by email (rabbibolton@orzarua.org)

Or Zarua's Young Professionals

Purim: Megillah & Celebration Monday, March 9, 7:40 pm see page 16

> Backyard BBQ Shabbat Friday, March 20 Happy Hour, 6:00 pm Service, 6:45 pm Dinner, 7:30 pm Dinner RSVP to:

tinyurl.com/OZYPMarch2020

Members:

\$24 per person (early bird \$18))
Nonmembers:
\$29 per person (early bird \$25)

Early Bird by March 12

Second Night Seder Thursday, April 9, 8:00 pm see page 10

> Israeli Shabbat Dinner Friday, April 24 Happy Hour, 6:00 pm Service, 6:45 pm Dinner, 7:30 pm Dinner RSVP to:

tinyurl.com/OZYPApril2020

Members:

\$24 per person (early bird \$18)) Nonmembers: \$29 per person (early bird \$25) Early Bird by April 15

Jewish Harlem Walking Tour, Sunday, April 26, 1:00 pm

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 Young Professionals.

Contact OZ's Young Professionals directly via email:

OZYoungPros@gmail.com.

Or L'Dorot — Mature Connections

Jewish Rialto and Historic District Walking Tour

> Thursday April 23 11:00 am

Or L'Dorot — Mature Connections will be taking an East Village Walking Tour, led by OZ member Barry Feldman, through the Jewish Rialto and Historic District. Stay tuned for sign-up information.

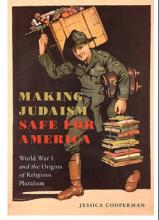
Or Zarua's Tikkun Leyl Shavuot will be Thursday night, May 28...

Scholarly Shabbaton: *Navigating Jewishness in Christian Worlds* with Jessica Cooperman and Hartley Lachter Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28

Continued from page 1

is often imagined as Judaism's best kept secret, known only to a small elite. But an examination of kabbalistic sources reveals that Kabbalah was a very public form of Jewish knowledge. In fact, kabbalistic texts, including the famous Sefer ha-Zohar. addressed all of the pressing social and political issues facing Jews in their daily lives. In particular, Kabbalah provided medieval Jews with a way of understanding national trauma and historical misfortune as, secretly, steps on the path to Jewish redemption. Most importantly for Jews in Western Europe, Kabbalah responded to negative Christian depictions of Jews and Jewish disempowerment. The creativity of medieval kabbalists in this regard has become a vital part of the legacy of how Jews have created their own historical narrative. Dr. Lachter's lectures will examine the depth and sophistication of Jewish responses to an often harsh external reality.

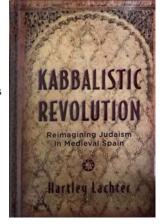
During seudah sh'lishit on Shabbat afternoon, following minha that will start at 5:30 pm, both scholars will participate in a panel discussion moderated by Rabbi Bolton on Jewish Responses-



Models of Resilience?, highlighting intersections in their scholarly work regarding the role of Jews as a minority people within majority cultures. We will ask whether concepts such as survival or continuity

inform
historical
endeavors,
including with
respect to the
blossoming of
Jewish Studies
departments
on North
American
college
campuses.

Please join us for what will be an enjoyable and informative



Shabbaton, with a dynamic scholarly duo, as we explore how Jews have deftly navigated their complex surroundings and circumstances through time.

-Marc Ashley

The Or Zarua Community Fund contributions received between December 1, 2019 and January 31, 2020

Continued on the next page

The Or Zarua Community

Continued from previous page

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.



The Or Zarua Social Hall is available to rent

Contact Helene Santo, 212-452-2310, ext 14, for information. Visit OZ on the Web!
Go to orzarua.org

Celebrate a Birthday or Anniversary at OZ: 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.

Help Keep Our Daily Minyan Strong

ONE HOUR ONE MORNING ONCE A MONTH

Contact Sheldon Adler at: sadler@skadden.com

Get Social

Follow us on social media to learn, participate, and connect. And get the times to pray. Find us on Facebook as Congregation Or Zarua, on Instagram as @or_zarua and on Twitter as @Or_Zarua.

Helping Or Zarua

r Zarua is a vibrant community, and all communities need their members. Here are some quick and easy ways to help:

Choose to **pay via ACH** when using paying online. This is a direct debit from your checking account. It saves OZ the higher credit card transaction fees.

Still want to pay via credit card? Choose to **include the transaction fee** in your payment! It covers that transaction fee so the entire payment comes to OZ.

Start your **shopping at Amazon Smile!** Go to **smile.amazon.com** when you shop on Amazon and choose Or Zarua as your beneficiary. Then shop as usual. OZ earns a percentage of every eligible purchase.

Sponsor a lecture! Our T'shuvah and Lucy Dawidowicz Lectures are important features of OZ programming. You can sponsor a portion, one, or both! Sponsorship defrays the costs of these wonderful events. Please contact Rabbi Bolton or Helene Santo for information.

Stuff envelopes! We send out mailings. You can come in and stuff envelopes or fold newsletters. It gets mailings out in a quick and efficient manner and requires only a few minutes of dedication. Contact Helene Santo for more information.



Pre-Pesah Zimriyah Haggadah Song Workshop Saturday, April 4 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 is page 10 and 11.

