



## Chaburah OZ Torah Study Parashat Miketz with Charlie Spielholz, PhD

### *Science and Joseph's Story: Droughts, Famine, Ancient Bodies, and Cell Biology*

**Sunday, December 13, 10:00 am**  
(after Zoom services)

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZMiketzCharlie2020>

**Zoom ID: 883 6219 0926**

**Zoom Passcode: 613**



Model of an Egyptian Granary recovered  
from the Tomb of Meketre, Thebes.  
Painted wood, ~2000 BCE.  
Object located in the Egyptian Wing of  
the Metropolitan Museum of Art

**H**umans are unique; they are evolved to eat roasted meat. And, like other animals, the primary goal of eating is to obtain calories, a physiology that has become problematic in the modern age of mechanized agriculture.

Ancient Egypt depended on the Nile and grew grain in agricultural fields for nourishment of its people. Harvests were celebrated in the ancient world; periods of famine could not be solved by rapid and immediate transportation of food. Storage of grain in

Joseph's storehouses saved the people. How does this fit in with our evolved biology? What did Joseph actually do to save Egypt from starvation and poor nutrition? We will review a variety of sources to gain an idea of what life was like for the people of ancient Egypt.

## A Lecture by Marc Ashley *The Essence of Hanukkah: Perspectives on Light(ing)* **Thursday, December 17, 7:30 pm** Communal candlelighting at the start of the program

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZMarcHanukah2020>

**Zoom ID: 822 2768 5737**

**Zoom Passcode: 613**

**A**lthough it is the festival of lights at a time of seasonal darkness, the core of Hanukkah is not black and white. Indeed, the Talmudic rabbis surprisingly ask a basic question (Shabbat 21b)—unlike with regard to any other Jewish holiday—“what is Hanukkah [all about]?” and respond by emphasizing the miracle of the Temple oil.

Yet Jews in different times and places have highlighted various themes as Hanukkah's essence, including religious freedom, political sovereignty, anti-assimilationism, and individual renewal. Despite the Talmud's simple question, answers have varied through time. Hanukkah has been understood as a potent mix of politics, religion and spirituality.

Yet one fact is incontrovertible: The only mitzvah unique to the holiday is lighting the Hanukkah menorah. A focus on light is undoubtedly at the foundation of our celebration. The concrete events underlying Hanukkah may be specific, but its messages about light have extended beyond that particularized story. Traditional sources have connected Hanukkah to formative lights outside the confines of the original miracle, ranging from the creation of the world to the messianic future.

Even the singular mitzvah of Hanukkah, however, was subject to a famous dispute between Hillel and Shammai regarding whether we increase or decrease the number of lights each night. Our manner of lighting candles today is thus not self-evident. Although the thematic prominence of light as Hanukkah's essence was a matter of consensus, competing methods of lighting the hanukkiah reflected divergent perspectives on Jewish life. The ceremony of the Hanukkah lights can be understood as a ritualized debate about optimal approaches to faith, history and possibility.

Please join congregant Marc Ashley on the evening of December 17, on the last night of the holiday, for *The Essence of Hanukkah: Perspectives on Light(ing)*, in which we will discuss enduring themes associated with Hanukkah's compelling focus on the vital force of light. Please set up your Hanukkah menorahs for lighting in advance of the lecture, as we will together light our candles and then bask in their glow during the talk. During this time of global challenge, let's celebrate the majesty of Hanukkah communally through lighting and learning.

**Celebrate Hanukkah with Or Zarua!**  
**Saturday Night Lights**  
**December 12, 5:30 pm; see page 3**



A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE  
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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



2020 is almost over! Phew!

Last December 31, we eagerly ushered in the secular new year. 2020 seemed to be so auspicious. After all, it signifies perfect vision. To see clearly is to see 20/20. It turns out

that most of us need some vision correction to see clearly but we never expected what 2020 would bring! Now, we can't wait to see 2020 in the rearview mirror as we move forward into 2021.

With all the heartache we've experienced this year, and will likely experience well into 2021, there have been moments of light and warmth that have and will sustain us. As a community, Or Zarua has continued to spread the light of learning, praying, participating and connecting to its members and friends. Read through this newsletter, and our bi-weekly e-blasts, and take note of all the services, activities and classes we offer for adults and children—all via Zoom!

Connect with Or Zarua through Zoom.

Why is connection so important? Connection is vital to health. Among the most profound effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessary precautions we must take are isolation and loneliness. Long before COVID-19, articles in such diverse publications as *The New York Times* and *The Harvard Gazette* dealt with the negative effects of loneliness. Social isolation is on a par with high blood pressure, obesity, lack of exercise or smoking as a health risk factor.

Dr. Robert Waldinger, director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development, was quoted in a 2017 article in *The Harvard Gazette*, "Close relationships, more than money or fame, are what keep people happy throughout their lives, the study revealed. Those ties protect people from life's discontents, help to delay mental and physical decline, and are better predictors of long and happy lives than social class, IQ, or even genes." In a TED talk, Dr. Waldinger was very blunt: "Loneliness kills."

I have said this before, and I say again, that being an active member of Or Zarua is good for your health! So, continue to connect with us at Or Zarua!

Join us for weekday minyan, Zoom into Shabbat and Zoom out of Shabbat, Torah, Talmud and Siddur class and book club discussions. Celebrate Hanukkah with us on Saturday, December 12. Tune in

on December 13 for Charlie Spielholz's Chaburah study of the story of Joseph and Marc Ashley's Torah study on December 17.

While we have started to have some in-person services, we eagerly await the day when we literally are able to open our doors — legally and safely — for all our services and activities without restrictions. We have been consulting with our Health Task Force, as well as Sigal Hirsch, Helene Santo and Rabbi Bolton on how and when we can be in the building in a way that ensures the health and safety of all who enter the doors. Until then, we will continue to be a community via Zoom.

Throughout history, including the story of Hanukkah, we Jews have met seemingly insurmountable challenges and thrived. Or Zarua is doing the same. Eventually, we will be back in our building and back to our routines. Until then, connect with us via Zoom! It will be good for your health and wellbeing!

Wishing you a very Happy Hanukkah! May the light of the Hanukkah menorah bring light and warmth to you and your family in this most trying time!

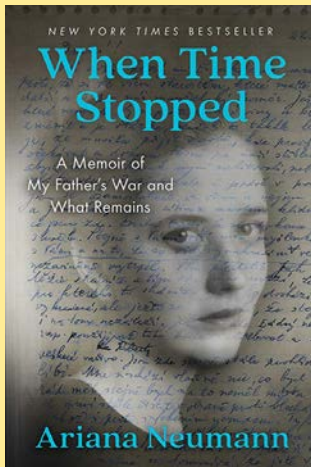
B'Shalom!

*Diane*



**Happy Hanukkah!**  
Hanukkah begins on the evening of Thursday, December 10.

## Or Zarua Book Discussions



*When Time Stopped* by Ariana Neuman  
 Sunday, December 6, 7:00 pm  
 Moderator: Mark Somerstein  
 Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZBkDisc>  
 Meeting ID: 840 2954 6173  
 Passcode: 613

The selection for December, *When Time Stopped*, a memoir by Ariana Neuman, unfolds the amazing account about her father's miraculous survival during the Holocaust, a truth she did not discover until after his death decades later. For a review go to: <https://tinyurl.com/OZBk2July2020>.

## Upcoming Titles for 2021

*And the Bride Closed the Door* by Ronit Matalon  
 Sunday, February, 21, 7:00 pm

*The Last Trial of Kafka* by Benjamin Balint  
 Sunday, April 18, 7:00 pm  
 Discussion to be led by Rabbi Bolton

*Apeirogon* by Colum McCann  
 Sunday, May 23, 7:00 pm

Meeting and background information for upcoming book discussions will be published in future issues of the OZ Newsletter.

If you would like to be a discussion leader please contact Nora Yood via email: [nbmjdy@gmail.com](mailto:nbmjdy@gmail.com)

## In-Person Services have Resumed On Wednesdays and Select Shabbatot Pre-Registration for each day is Required

**Wednesdays, 7:15 am:** On Wednesdays the Shaharit (morning) service will be available either in-person or via Zoom (a "hybrid" service). For participants attending the service via Zoom, you will be joining the participants attending in-person in the OZ Sanctuary. To attend in-person you must pre-register using the following link:

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZPerson341A>

To attend via Zoom please continue to use the Zoom credentials that have already been established for participation in the Monday-Friday daily morning service:

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZZoomDaily>

Zoom ID: 518 639 181; Zoom Password: 613

**Shabbat, December 12, 10:00 am:** On select Shabbatot, the Shabbat morning service will be available in-person. To attend the in-person service on Shabbat you must pre-register using the following link:

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZPerson341A>

For future in-person services on Shabbat, see upcoming issues of the OZ Newsletter and eblasts. Note that Shabbat services will not be available via Zoom.

When registering for in-person services, answers to several questions must be provided. Be sure to bring preferred ritual items (e.g., tallit, tefillin, head covering) as these items will not be available due to current safety procedures.



**Celebrate Hanukkah  
 with Or Zarua!**

**Saturday Night Lights  
 December 12  
 5:30 pm**

Light up Saturday night with a Hanukkah celebration like never before!

**The entire OZ community is invited to Zoom Out of Shabbat with Havdalah.**

Then, enjoy Hanukkah songs, readings, and a short (but funny) Hanukkah performance by the OZ Junior Players! No Hanukkah celebration is complete without candle lighting, so have your Hanukkiot ready as we fill the screen with a myriad of Hanukkah menorahs!

Join using the Zoom Out of Shabbat Zoom information. Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/OZZoomOutOfShabbat>

Zoom ID: 775 962 249; Zoom

Password: 613



**Sufganiyot to Go!  
 Got Jelly?**

**Tuesday, December 15**

The entire community is invited to stop by Or Zarua to pick up your donuts and say hello. Rabbi Bolton will be there between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm and Sigal will be there from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

There is no charge, but you must register so we know how many donuts to order.

Register with the link:

<https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/Sufganiyot>

Register by 12:00 pm on Friday, December 11.

Limit of one per person in your household, please.



# From Compassion to Action: OZ Hessed Opportunities

"The reward for charity depends entirely upon the extent of the kindness in it."—*Talmud Bavli*

## New York Common Pantry Helping the Hungry

Our long-time partner has remained open and is deemed an essential service during the COVID-19 crisis. They are seeing huge demand for their services. The best way to help is to make a donation through our Hessed Fund. You can learn more about the Pantry here: <http://nycommonpantry.org>.

You can also donate needed pantry staples—particularly rice and pasta—via the Pantry's Amazon list. While Or Zarua has not resumed in-person Hessed activities due to the pandemic, please note that NYCP posts its volunteer shifts at [www.nycommonpantry.volunteerhub.com](http://www.nycommonpantry.volunteerhub.com). Volunteers can manage their own sign-ups and signing-in is done electronically as well. Shifts are 3.5 hours and include lifting 30 pound bags of groceries. Before arrival, volunteers need to know their user name and password for Volunteer Hub as it is used for sign in. It's easy to reset your password if needed. When you arrive, please head straight to the pantry. For more information, contact Stacy at [sgonzalez@nycommonpantry.org](mailto:sgonzalez@nycommonpantry.org).

## Thursday Night Pasta and Salad at the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter

NCS has partially lifted their "no volunteers on site" policy and volunteers are back at the residence on 81st Street, with some changes. Volunteers prepare individual portions (in aluminum trays with plastic lids) which are then distributed by the

NCS staff to the residents. OZ volunteers are needed on the third and fourth Thursdays of each month, 6:00-6:45 pm (note that we will not be at NCS on December 24). Donations to the Hessed Fund are also needed. To volunteer contact Jeff Haberman at [jeff32449@verizon.net](mailto:jeff32449@verizon.net).

## Volunteer to make Friendly Phone Calls to Seniors

Help homebound seniors stay connected. Isolated seniors have been hit hard by the pandemic. Encore Community Services, a wonderful nonprofit in midtown Manhattan, is seeking Friendly Callers to reach out on a weekly basis by phone to homebound seniors. They are serving 2,000 seniors and need more volunteers. If you are interested please contact Gigi Verkaik at [gigi@encorenyc.org](mailto:gigi@encorenyc.org) for more information.

## Erev Christmas Gleaning

Regretably, because of COVID-19, our Gleaning Project will be profoundly different this year. We will not be gleaning and packing any of the donated food, but will instead pick up the already-packed food and deliver it to our partners. However, we may be in need of volunteers with cars or SUV's to help make these deliveries. We are also looking into ways of connecting with the OZ community that night, even if we cannot be together in person. Stay tuned.

## Met Council

We are working with the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish

Poverty (Met Council) on a new project that would involve packing groceries at a Met Council center on Lexington Avenue and 31st Street, for delivery to a Senior Residence on East 92nd Street, and then distributing those packages at the building. This would take place on the third Sunday morning each month (except in January, the fourth Sunday) and would probably require an hour to pack and a 1/2 hour to distribute. Families and individuals are welcome to do the packing and delivery. Optimally, we would like to initiate this project in January. If interested contact Jeff Haberman at [jeff32449@verizon.net](mailto:jeff32449@verizon.net) or (917) 697-1677.

## Or Zarua Hessed Fund

Please consider making a donation to the OZ Hessed Fund using Shulcloud (<https://tinyurl.com/OZDonationPage>) for disbursement to our partners. You may learn more about them at the links below:

### New York Common Pantry:

<http://nycommonpantry.org>

### Met Council for Jewish Poverty:

<https://www.metcouncil.org>

### Project ORE:

<https://edalliance.org/our-programs/community-centers/project-ore>

### Food Bank for New York City:

<https://www.foodbanknyc.org>

### UJA Federation of New York:

<https://www.ujafedny.org>

### Leket, Table to Table (Israeli):

<https://www.leket.org/en/>

**Save the Dates!**

**For a Class with Barry Feldman**

**Landmark Books, Places & Moments in Jewish History**

**Four Sundays after Zoom Services: January 10 & 24 and February 7 & 21**

How should a Jew celebrate Thanksgiving?  
For what are we giving thanks? Wait, should we be celebrating?  
Is it good for the Jews? Does the Torah say anything about it?

Why ask? ... Why ask?! It's Jewish to ask questions!

KAVANAH? Permitted? Forbidden? The holiday? Turkey? In Israel?

-Agricultural reasons?  
-Historical reasons?  
-Spiritual reasons?  
-To fulfill a mitzvah? which?



The Halakic Challenge of making a KOSHER Thanksgiving!

How do I eat my latkes with sour cream and still have a Jewish festival for Thanksgiving?

Or Zarua



**Rabbi Moshe Feinstein**

On America

"Kingdom of kindness, whose only goal is to do good on behalf of the residents of the country."



In his presentation *Goyble, Goyble, Turkey, Torah, and Thanksgiving by the Jews*, Rabbi Bolton discussed, via Zoom, the kashrut. practices, and Halakhah of this secular national holiday. The presentation was recorded; so if you would like to see and hear it go to this link:

[https://youtu.be/u3\\_jzX2s7lo](https://youtu.be/u3_jzX2s7lo)



# ONLINE OZ GALLERY ART FOR DECEMBER



This Hanukkah lamp, made in Italy in the 19th century, depicts Judith holding a sword in one hand and the severed head of Holofernes in the other.

From the collection of The Jewish Museum, New York



Artemisia Gentileschi  
Judith and Her Maidservant with the Head of Holofernes, c. 1623-1625.

From the collection of The Detroit Institute of Art.

## A Heroine for Hanukkah

The Hanukkah song, *Mi yimalel...* asks, “Who can retell the things that befell us/Who can count them?” In response, we tell the story of Judah and the Maccabees and we sing, “In every age a hero or sage came to our aid.” But what about a Hanukkah heroine? Enter Judith, a woman who lived a few hundred years before Judah! The Hanukkah lamp shown above depicts Judith’s bold, brave action. There is much more to be learned in this scholarly article by Professor. Deborah Levine Gera of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (the article can be found at this link: <https://www.thetorah.com/article/judith-a-chanukah-heroine>). Judith is described as a compelling and challenging figure, a beautiful and bold widow, pious, violent, seductive and wise. Judith “took the initiative to save her people,” writes Professor Gera, “after the leaders of Jerusalem failed to act forcefully against their enemies.” According to versions of the story passed down orally through the centuries Judith and her maidservant go to the camp of the enemy general Holofernes whose Assyrian forces have laid siege to her town. They bring food so they won’t have to partake of their enemies’. Among the items are dry cake, bread and salty cheese, guaranteed to make the general so thirsty he will be forced to drink so much wine he gets drunk. When Holofernes does pass out—after trying unsuccessfully to seduce Judith—she turns the tables on him, takes his sword and beheads him, as depicted in this image.

Judith’s story disappeared from Jewish tradition fairly early in ancient times. Professor Gera notes there is no trace of the tale in the Dead Sea Scrolls; she is not mentioned in the Mishnah, Talmud or other rabbinic literature. She doesn’t reappear in Jewish literature for more than a thousand years after the apocryphal book was first composed. Professor Gera points out that in the medieval accounts of Judith, she is often associated with the holiday of Hanukkah and is connected with other Hebrew tales of the heroine, such as Jael killing Sisera, Miriam singing a victory song and Esther saving her people. At Purim, we’ll give Esther her artistic tribute. For now, let’s give Judith her moment along with the Maccabees. Behold this beautiful Hanukkah lamp, remember our heroines and heroes and Happy Hanukkah from the OZ Gallery Committee!

-Gerry Solomon and Bobbi Collier



# Or Zarua Community Torah Study

## Mondays, 12:00 pm, as shown on the calendar

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZMondayTorahStudy>

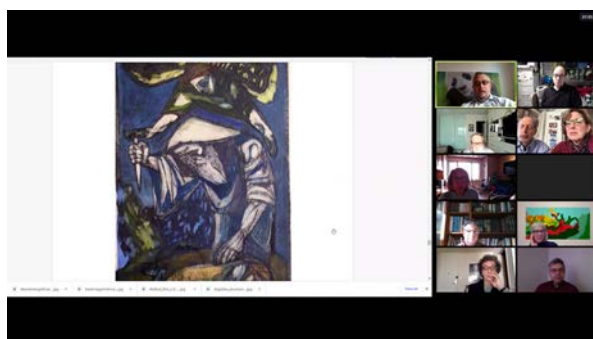
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The mishnah in Avot (1:15) states: "Shammai says: Make your Torah keva" (keva meaning fixed: make your study of Torah a fixed and routine habit)! This is one area of Jewish life when we rule like Beit Shammai! At Or Zarua we not only fix a time for Torah study; annually we choose a Torah commentator to study together in depth. This approach is not typical to Jewish communities around the globe but a wonderful and unique feature of the Or Zarua experience.

While we are taking walks and fortifying in new ways (thank God for quiet reading and study time as well as our parks) on Shabbat mornings, the Or Zarua community is invited to take a break from normal Monday endeavors and join for communal Torah study on Mondays at noon. Rabbi Bolton will teach from the weekly parashah and explore Rashi's commentaries that illuminate the text and make evident what Rashi intended to accomplish as he taught Torah in his Diaspora community of Troyes, France in the 11th Century.

We pride ourselves as a congregation on having weekly, interactive Torah study. Join with other congregants and Rabbi Bolton as he leads learning and discussion of the weekly parsha. The classic commentary of Rashi is thought of as foundational and central to understanding Torah's words

and narratives. Additionally, Rabbi Bolton will show how some of Rashi's comments speak psychological or existential issues that Jews of medieval France faced and modern NYC folks still contend with.



Scenes from Community Torah study at OZ via Zoom. Each Monday Rabbi Bolton leads a Torah study session covering the parashah (section) to be read on the following Shabbat. As a bonus a piece of art work related to parashah is included. Above left: Vayera. Above right: Toledot.

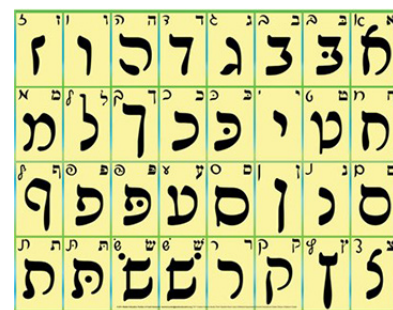
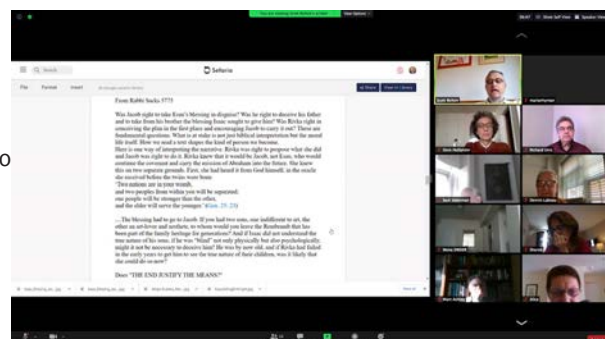


Image above: Did you know that "Rashi Script" was not Rashi's handwriting but an early printer's font that differentiated commentary from Torah text in early volumes?



## Talmud and Siddur Classes with Rabbi Bolton

**Talmud Class for 5781**  
**Wednesdays, 7:30–9:00 pm**  
**See the Calendar for Dates**

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZWedTalmudClass>  
 Zoom ID: 858 1909 5662; Passcode: 613

**Jews in a Non-Jewish World: Idol Worship and Living With Others.**  
**Chapter 1 of Masekhet Avodah Zarah**

Throughout history, Jews have maintained strong religious beliefs and cultural ties. The Talmudic Sages, through the paradigm of exploring the mitzvah of refraining from and even abolishing idol worship, confront us with questions: how do we, as Jews, navigate living in a non-Jewish world? How much interaction and integration is acceptable, when it comes to business or socializing with neighbors? Should there be any limits? The Rabbis' discussions and debates about the prohibition against idol worship is engaged as a framework of thought concerning the Jewish People's place among the nations of the world. From the beginning of Tractate Avodah Zarah (Idol Worship) the Sages expand on laws that seem black and white on their face but move us into discussions about living in the complex world of kaleidoscopic humanity. Join the learning no matter what your background. Students may use either the *Artscroll Schottenstein Volume. 1 Avodah Zarah* or the *Koren Talmud Bavli Avoda Zara -Horayot* volume to class. Class meets at 7:30 pm on Wednesday evenings throughout the year.

*Either class may be joined at any time. For additional information contact Rabbi Bolton ([rabbibolton@orzarua.org](mailto:rabbibolton@orzarua.org))*

**Siddur Class for 5781**  
**Thursdays, 8:40–9:40 am**  
**See the Calendar for Dates**

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZZoomSiddur>  
 Zoom ID: 832 425 240; Passcode: 613

**"I Thought the Service Was Over!"**

**Readings, Songs and Passages of Study After the Official Morning Prayers**

The Siddur is not only a prayerbook but a repository for passages of study, hymns to sing, and glorious, poetic songs. We will study passages from the Rambam such as the Thirteen Principles of Faith, collections of Torah verses prepared for the worshipper who wanted to go right to study after prayers and other materials that were inserted into the post-service sections of printed siddurim stemming from manuscripts of the Middle Ages. Of course, already in the Talmud, certain Sages would add personal prayers and pleas of their own after their recitations of the Amidah. Those personal prayer passages have made their way into some prayer rites at the end of morning services as well. They stand on their own as petitionary poetry, and we will study them as stand alone liturgy. In this class we sing, listen to the music of prayer, discuss prayer life and examine prayer language closely. Gain understandings and add meaning to prayer life. Join us at 8:40 am on Thursdays.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1 • 15 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	<b>2 • 16 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) 4:00p Hebrew School: 3rd-5th Grades 6:45p 8th-9th Grade Hebrew 7:30p Talmud Class	<b>3 • 17 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies 5:00p Start Spreading the Jews! Cooking with Sigal 6:00p Start Spreading the Jews! Class with Rabbi Bolton	<b>4 • 18 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit 3:45p Zoom into Shabbat 4:10p Candlelighting	<b>5 • 19 Kislev</b> <b>Vayishlah</b> Bat Mitzvah: Rachel Nayman 5:09p Shabbat Ends 5:15p Zoom Out of Shabbat
<b>6 • 20 Kislev</b> 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 7:00p Book Discussion: <i>When Time Stopped</i> by Ariana Neuman 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>7 • 21 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School: K-5th Grades 6:30p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars: 6th-7th Grades	<b>8 • 22 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p Hanukkah Play Rehearsals with Sigal	<b>9 • 23 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) 4:00p Hebrew School: 3rd-5th Grades 6:45p 8th-9th Grade Hebrew 7:30p Talmud Class	<b>10 • 24 Kislev</b> <b>Erev Hanukkah</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies <i>Light 1 Candle at night</i>	<b>11 • 25 Kislev</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 3:00p Hanukkah Story Time for little ones 3:45p Zoom into Shabbat <i>Light 2 Candles before Shabbat</i> 4:10p Candlelighting	<b>12 • 26 Kislev</b> <b>Hanukkah/Vayeshev</b> 10:00a In-Person Shabbat Service: Pre-registration required (No Zoom Service) 5:09p Shabbat Ends 5:15p Zoom Out of Shabbat 5:30p Saturday Night Lights followed by Hanukkah Play <i>Light 3 Candles at night</i>
<b>13 • 27 Kislev</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 10:00a Parashat Miketz: Chaburah Torah Study with Charlie Spielholz <i>Light 4 Candles at night</i> <i>No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i>	<b>14 • 28 Kislev</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School: K-5th Grades 6:30p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars: 6th-7th Grades <i>Light 5 Candles at night</i>	<b>15 • 29 Kislev</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh/Hanukkah</b> 1:00p Sufganiyot to Go! 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) <i>Light 6 Candles at night</i>	<b>16 • 1 Tevet</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh/Hanukkah</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) 4:00p Hebrew School: 3rd-5th Grades 6:45p 8th-9th Grade Hebrew 7:30p Talmud Class <i>Light 7 Candles at night</i>	<b>17 • 2 Tevet</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies 6:00p OZ Volunteers at NCS 7:30p <i>The Essence of Hanukkah: Perspectives on Light(ing)</i> with Marc Ashley <i>Light 8 Candles at night</i>	<b>18 • 3 Tevet</b> <b>Hanukkah (8th Day)</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 3:45p Zoom into Shabbat 4:12p Candlelighting	<b>19 • 4 Tevet</b> <b>Miketz</b> 5:12p Shabbat Ends 5:20p Zoom Out of Shabbat
<b>20 • 5 Tevet</b> 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>21 • 6 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School: K-5th Grades 6:30p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars: 6th-7th Grades	<b>22 • 7 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	<b>23 • 8 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid Service) 4:00p Hebrew School: 3rd-5th Grades 6:45p 8th-9th Grade Hebrew 7:30p Talmud Class	<b>24 • 9 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class <i>No Aleph-Bet Cooking &amp; Cookies</i> <i>No OZ Volunteers at NCS</i>	<b>25 • 10 Tevet</b> 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 3:45p Zoom into Shabbat 4:16p Candlelighting <i>OZ Office Closed</i>	<b>26 • 11 Tevet</b> <b>Vayigash</b> 5:16p Shabbat Ends 5:25p Zoom Out of Shabbat
<b>27 • 12 Tevet</b> 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) <i>No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i>	<b>28 • 13 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 12:00p Community Torah Study <i>No Hebrew School</i>	<b>29 • 14 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	<b>30 • 15 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Talmud Class</i>	<b>31 • 16 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit <i>No Aleph-Bet Cooking &amp; Cookies</i> <i>No Siddur Class</i>	<b>1 Jan • 17 Tevet</b> 8:45a Shaharit 3:45p Zoom into Shabbat 4:20p Candlelighting <i>OZ Office Closed</i>	<b>2 Jan • 18 Tevet</b> <b>Vayehi</b> 5:20p Shabbat Ends 5:25p Zoom Out of Shabbat

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

Except as noted in-person services are temporarily suspended and are being conducted virtually via Zoom; all in-person services require registration with OZ prior to attending.



**Friday, December 11**  
**3:00 pm**

Join Sigal and Rabbi Bolton for  
**Hanukkah Story Time!**  
Hear stories and sing songs, with visits  
from favorite puppet pals!  
Light the Hanukkah Menorah and say the  
blessings together before Shabbat.  
Geared towards Early Childhood. Older  
siblings welcome.

Register for the Zoom information:  
<https://tinyurl.com/OZHanukkahStory2020>



**Sufganiyot to Go!**  
**Got Jelly?**

**Tuesday, December 15**

The entire community is invited to stop by  
Or Zarua to pick up your donuts and say  
hello. Rabbi Bolton will be there between  
1:00 pm and 3:00 pm and Sigal will be  
there from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

There is no charge, but you must register  
so we know how many donuts to order.  
Register with the link:

<https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/Sufganiyot>

Register by 12:00 pm on Friday,  
December 11.

Limit of one per person in your  
household, please.



**Thursday, December 3**  
**5:00 pm: Cooking with Sigal**  
**6:00 pm: Class with Rabbi Bolton**  
**For Middle School and High School Students**

Join us this month as we continue our culinary tour of NY Jews with PICKLES! Make your  
own dill cucumber pickles in the "classic" New York style, and pickle other vegetables for  
a more Middle Eastern flavor.

Join Rabbi Bolton for his brand new class:  
"Start Spreading the Jews! We want to be a part of it, New York, NY..."

Join us this month as we continue our culinary tour of NY Jews with PICKLES!  
Make your own dill cucumber pickles in the "classic" New York style, and pickle  
other vegetables for a more Middle Eastern flavor.

Come explore the kaleidoscope of Jewish New Yorkers on this culinary and historical  
journey. When did they get here? By choice or chance? What tastes did they establish  
for all of New York? How did their new situation get reflected in media and on Broadway?  
Each session will feature a taste of Jewish New York and an exploration of the various  
Jewish communities that make up the larger Jewish community of  
the Big Apple (and honey, of course!)

Sign up for the year, or to drop in for a class:  
<https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/2020-2021-start-spreading-the-Jews.html>.



**OZ Junior Players**  
**Hanukkah Play at**  
**Saturday Night Lights**  
**Saturday**  
**December 12**  
**5:30 pm**

Calling OZ Kids of all ages! Celebrate Hanukkah with the whole community at our shul-  
wide celebration on December 12. Our first ever kids' Zoom Hanukkah play will be a  
highLIGHT of our virtual Hanukkah celebration. Bring lots of laughs to all of OZ with a  
short, but HILARIOUS rendition of the Hanukkah story.

Email Sigal, [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org), to sign up. Children must be able to read in  
order to participate, and must be ready for lots of Hanukkah fun! Sign up by  
Friday, December 6 so that Sigal can make sure your child will have a part!

Join Sigal for a rehearsal in advance of the event  
on Tuesday, December 8, at 4:00 pm.

All OZ children are invited to participate: Day School, Hebrew School,  
kids of all educational backgrounds

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZZoomOutOfShabbat>  
Zoom ID: 775 962 249; Zoom Password: 613!





**Thursdays, 4:00-4:45 pm**  
**Time to get cooking with**  
**ALEPH-BET Cooking and Cookies!**

Cook and bake your way from Aleph-to-Tav with delicious alphabetical confections. With Sigal's instruction, you'll learn new recipes and new Hebrew words each week.

**Kids kindergarten and older are welcome.**  
**Younger children will require adult participation or supervision.**

Bring the joy of Jewish and Hebrew baking into your home with this new virtual after-school program! Ingredient and supplies lists will be provided in advance, along with information about where to purchase special supplies when needed.

**Coming up this month:**

**December 3:** Cookie Dough Brownies

**December 10:** Sufganiyot (Jelly Donuts)

**December 17:** "Drop" Donuts

*Please note that class will not meet on December 24 or 31.*

Families can sign up for one semester, the whole year, or drop in for one class.

\$10/class. See below for semester and year rates.

Please note all registration fees are per household.

Families can enroll multiple children for one fee.

**For Member Families**

**Log into Shulcloud for member rates:**

\$100 for one semester (September - December or January - June)

\$180 for the full year (September - June)

**FREE** if you "bring a friend" (if your friend signs up for the program)

If you bring a friend contact Sigal ([shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org)) before registering to obtain a discount code.

**For non-Member Families:**

\$120 for one semester (September-December or January-June)

\$215 for the full year (September-June)

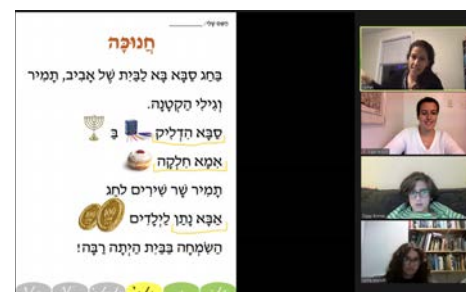
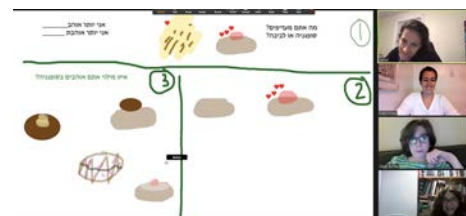
**Refer a friend to a program and sign up for free if they register for the class!**

Visit <https://www.orzarua.org/or-latid/after-school-programs/> for more information and to sign up!



**Saturday Night Lights**  
**December 12**  
**5:30 pm**

Light up Saturday night with a Hanukkah celebration like never before!  
 See page 3 for details.



Middle School students are getting ready for Hanukkah in Hebrew class. They're definitely hungry for Sufganiyot already!

# The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between October 8, 2020 and November 6, 2020

**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 with any questions, suggestions, or just to say hi via email: [OZYoungPros@gmail.com](mailto:OZYoungPros@gmail.com).

## Celebrate a Birthday or Anniversary with OZ: Be a Virtual Sponsor

Sponsor a Zoom program or minyan at Or Zarua to celebrate a birthday or anniversary with fellow Congregants or as a meaningful way to remember a loved one. Contact Deborah Wenger ([dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org)) for details.

## Helping Or Zarua

Or 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 paying online. This is a direct debit from your checking account. It saves the congregation credit card transaction fees.

Still want to pay via credit card? Choose to include the transaction fee in your payment. This ensures that the entire payment comes to OZ.

Start your **shopping at Amazon Smile!** Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://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, Shabbat Zoom, or other program. Our online programming has been varied and well attended. This will defray the costs to the congregation of having these wonderful events. Please contact Helene Santo for more information.

## The Or Zarua Social Hall will be available to rent once NYC is no longer (semi)-paused

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

## Get Social

Follow us on social media to learn, participate, and connect. Find us on Facebook as Congregation Or Zarua, on Instagram as @or\_zarua and on Twitter as @Or\_Zarua.

**Visit OZ on the Web!**  
Go to <https://orzarua.org>

## Or Zarua's Memorial Wall

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

We will place another order when we have sufficient interest.

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.



Or Zarua's Chocolate Tasting, hosted by Dr. Shira Novack and Rabbi Amy Bolton via our Zoom platform, taught us about the history, culture, farming, processing, ethics, and the available varieties of chocolate. The presentation included taste-testing of a variety of chocolates.

## ZOOM Into Minyan

Weekdays (Monday-Friday), 7:15 am  
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZZoomDaily>  
Zoom ID: 518 639 181; Zoom Password: 613

Sundays, 8:45 am  
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZZoomSunday>  
Zoom ID: 283 908 873; Zoom Password: 613

## ZOOM Into & Out of Shabbat

Friday Nights: See Calendar for times  
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZZoomIntoShabbat>  
Zoom ID: 854 630 476; Zoom Password: 613

Saturday Nights: See Calendar for times  
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZZoomOutOfShabbat>  
Zoom ID: 775 962 249; Zoom Password: 613

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

DECEMBER 2020

## Sing Out With Bir'nana!



**P**andemic schmandemic! Bir'nana, Or Zarua's a cappella group, has been meeting via Zoom to learn new music, revisit our oldies but goodies, and keep up the musical community we've built over the last seven years. We're on hiatus now, but virtual rehearsals will resume after the holidays. If you love to sing—and that's the only qualification—please join us. For more information, contact Rabbi Amy Bolton ([rabamy@gmail.com](mailto:rabamy@gmail.com)) or Dore Hollander ([dore.hollander@gmail.com](mailto:dore.hollander@gmail.com)).