

Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture with Beth Berkowitz, PhD
Professor and Ingeborg Rennert Chair of Jewish Studies at Barnard College
Are Pit Bulls Dangerous? Reflecting on Rabbinic Constructions of Risk
Thursday, February 4, 7:30 pm
Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/LucyD2021>
Zoom ID: 872 9441 1188; Zoom Passcode: 613



When you think about it, animals have been at the core of much Jewish law and narrative.

Animals play a leading role in both Torah stories and the Talmudic legal system. From the Torah's history-altering snake in the Garden of Eden

and Bilaam's wondrous talking donkey, to the damage-causing goring ox in the Talmud, animals have been featured in our pivotal Jewish stories, halakhic regulations, and daily routines. They have been implicated in foundational sacred and mundane Jewish domains such as sacrifices, eating and torts. Talmudic rabbis even debated whether homicidal animals are entitled to a fair trial.

Yet animals have also been feared as dangerous, although our perceptions of danger have changed over time as political and cultural forces shifted. People used to fear bloodhounds; now they fear pit bulls. Animals in different times and places have been viewed variously as companions, sources of sustenance, fatal threats, and fellow creatures.

In this year's Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture,

entitled *Are Pit Bulls Dangerous? Reflecting on Rabbinic Constructions of Risk*, Professor Beth Berkowitz of Barnard College will explore the interaction of Jewish thought and animality, and illuminate what complex and evolving attitudes towards animals can teach us about ourselves.

Professor Berkowitz will highlight rabbinic notions of dangerous animals and accompanying risk that reflect varying approaches to the world around us. We will focus on a story in the Babylonian Talmud (Bava Kamma 80a-b) about a cat that attacks a baby at a bris and discuss elements of the rabbinic culture that may have enabled the attack and led to excessive legislation resulting from it. Focusing on this Talmudic story will allow us to clarify how rabbinic constructions of danger can help us reflect critically on our own assumptions about risk in everyday life and in the world at large.

Of course, our acceptance of or aversion to risk is a cutting-edge issue during this period of pandemic health crisis. Prudently managing and navigating risk is an ongoing contemporary concern. Gaining a better understanding of Jewish constructions of risk can provide useful guidance in today's perilous environment.

In furthering what is now a long series of distinguished scholars for our annual Lucy

S. Dawidowicz Lecture, Professor Berkowitz is a preeminent leader in her field. She is Professor and Ingeborg Rennert Chair of Jewish Studies at Barnard College, with a specialization in classical rabbinic literature. She was previously a professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and has held post-doctoral fellowships in Yale University's Program in Judaic Studies, the University of Pennsylvania's Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and New York University Law School's Tikvah Center for Law and Jewish Civilization. She is the author of *Execution and Invention: Death Penalty Discourse in Early Rabbinic and Christian Cultures* (Oxford University Press, 2006); *Defining Jewish Difference: From Antiquity to the Present* (Cambridge University Press, 2012); and *Animals and Animality in the Babylonian Talmud* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming). She is also co-editor of *Religious Studies and Rabbinics: A Conversation* (Routledge, forthcoming). Her next book project will be a "biblical bestiary" that profiles the reception history of various animal characters in the Hebrew Bible.

Please join us for what should be an insightful exploration of ancient Jewish texts on a fascinating topic that bears relevance and resonance for our challenging times.

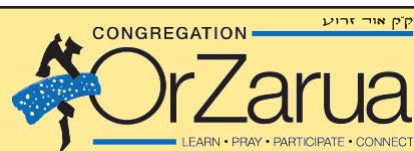
-Marc Ashley

***Miraculous Medicine: Vaccinations, Midrash & Jewish Law* with Rabbi Bolton,**
Monday, January 4, 7:30 pm. See page 3.

Jewish History with Barry Feldman:
Landmark Books, Places & Moments in Jewish History,
Four Sundays, 10 am: January 10 & 24 and February 7 & 21, See page 4

Tu B'Shevat Family Event: Trees of Central Park, Sunday, January 31,
and other youth & family programs, See pages 10 & 11.

In-person services at OZ
are now scheduled for
every other Shabbat
beginning with January 2
as well as every Wednesday
morning. Please see page 6.



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 Diane Okrent



And, Congregation Or Zarua is celebrating its 32nd birthday!"

Next week, we will begin the second book of the Torah: Shemot (Exodus) taking us from the birth of Moses to the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. This is the story of our peoplehood. According to Nahum Sarna in the introduction to his book, *Exploring Exodus*, "It is no wonder that Exodus is the pivotal event in the Bible, and that the experiences connected with it — the slavery of the Israelites, their liberation from Egypt, the covenant between God and His people at Sinai, and the journey in the wilderness toward the Promised Land — all constitute the dominant motif of the Scriptures in one form or another." The exodus from Egypt and God's role in delivering our people from slavery to freedom are recurrent themes in the Torah and in many of our prayers. Our people's experience informs our ethics, e.g., "You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 23:9). We are enjoined never to forget from whence we came as we journey forward.

I was reminded of this commandment as I read a *New York Times* article (December 18) about members of the Waldensian Church in the Italian Alps who are helping Syrian refugees. The Waldensians were persecuted in France in the 12th Century. And, they never forgot. Congregation Or Zarua has a connection to the Waldensians and their acts of hesed. In 1994, when we bought the building that occupied the site of our current building, it was the First Waldensian Church. During the purchase process, we learned that the building had been built in the 1880s for Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun. From 1904 when KJ moved to 85th Street until the 1950s, the building was owned by a series of synagogues and Talmud Torahs. When the Waldensians offered to buy the building, some of the synagogue representatives were reluctant to sell to a church until one of the members recognized one of the Waldensians and explained that the Waldensians had saved Jews during the Holocaust — they were righteous gentiles. Only then were

January 2021: a time for both relief and celebration. Relief because the COVID-19 vaccines have arrived, providing some light at the end of the tunnel that was 2020. Celebration because 2020 is over!

the Jewish owners comfortable selling the building. Some 40 years later, when we purchased the building, Rabbi Wechsler and the Pastor hugged and exchanged gifts. The Waldensians were pleased to return the building to the Jewish community. Clearly, the Waldensians have continued to help refugees.

This is the season to celebrate Or Zarua's beginning. On January 28, 1989, Congregation Or Zarua held its first Shabbat morning service. The small group of pioneers who gathered in the 2nd Floor Chapel of The 92nd Street Y had no idea where that service would lead them — and us.

The founders were committed to creating a new synagogue on the Upper East Side dedicated to teachings in Pirke Avot: *Al sh'losha devarim ha'olam omeid: Al ha'Torah, v'al ha-avodah v'al gemilut hasadim*. The world stands on three things: On the Torah, on divine service and on deeds of loving-kindness. Among our founding principles were to be traditional in our service, including the complete Torah reading each Shabbat; to be participatory in our lay-led services; and to be completely egalitarian where women could participate equally with men.

We are still committed to those same principles. Even during the pandemic, we have continued to learn, pray, participate and connect — mostly via Zoom! We are all founders of Or Zarua's future. May we continue to be a light in our own community and beyond.

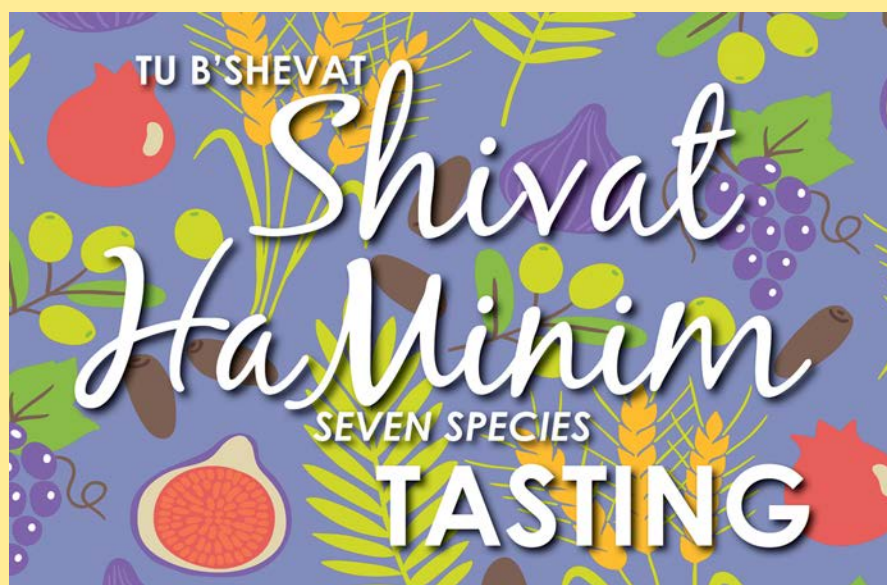
When Or Zarua started, we held monthly Shabbat services until after the High Holy Days in 1989. From then on, we held weekly Shabbat services and gathered for holidays until March 2020 when we suspended in-person services due to the pandemic.

We are slowly reinstating in-person Shabbat services. Beginning this Shabbat, January 2, we are planning in-person Shabbat services every two weeks. We hope to keep to this schedule and, as the pandemic eases, return to weekly in-person services. We look forward to safely resuming our regular activities in our building as 2021 progresses.

We will celebrate our 32nd birthday with the annual Lucy Dawidowicz lecture on Thursday, February 4, 2021 via Zoom. May our 32nd birthday — our double "sweet sixteen" — usher in a sweet new year for all of us!

With best wishes for a healthy, happy, peaceful and prosperous 2021!

Diane



Shivat HaMinim: The Seven Species A Tasting and Soiree for Tu B'Shevat

Reserve Your Basket for the Tasting using the following link:
<https://tinyurl.com/ReserveYourBasketForPickUpAtOZ>

**Attend the Tasting via Zoom on
Thursday, January 28, 7:30 pm**

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/7SpeciesTasting>

Zoom ID: 824 5809 2608

Zoom Passcode: 613

Seven is not just for counting days in Jewish tradition! It is the number of species that we associate with the land of Israel. They are listed in the Torah. And on Tu B'Shevat (Thursday, January 28)—the holiday of trees and a link to being rooted in the Holy Land—we will hold a ZOOM-based seven-species tasting. The tasting will highlight unique Israeli products. Reserve your “basket of plenty” featuring delicacies made from: dates, figs, olives, wheat, barley, pomegranate, and grapes.

The basket of seven-species will come packaged and prepared in a way you may or may not expect! Rabbi Bolton and Sigal will host this interactive on-line social-holiday event. We'll hear from a representative of Leket, the organization who recovers fruits of the tree and harvest of the field and delivers them to soup kitchens in Israel. And we will break out to discuss our favorite Israeli food experiences (either eaten locally or experienced there). Trees will get their due, as well, as we celebrate the New Year of Trees as a community.

To reserve your basket for \$36 use the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/ReserveYourBasketForPickUpAtOZ>

You may add wine from the Jezreel Valley Winery to go beyond the basket ingredients. (Remember, grape vines are considered trees, too, despite the special blessing we say over wine or grape juice itself!)

Baskets will be available for pick-up at Or Zarua; hours to be announced. Out-of-town members may opt for shipping at an extra charge.

Get ready for an interactive night of celebrating Tu B'shevat, tasting the seven species and socializing with friends on-line.

Miraculous Medicine: Vaccinations, Midrash, and Jewish Law

**Zoom in with
Rabbi Bolton on
Monday, January 4,
7:30 pm**

Zoom Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/VaccineHalakha>

**Zoom ID: 817 1714 4577
Zoom Password: 613**



The news of two new vaccines for COVID19 inspires hope! As we care for our bodies and seek the welfare of our community it is important that we reflect on the agency we have in deciding to participate in public health initiatives. Judaism's sacred sources lift the intentionality aspect of embracing treatments or public health initiatives. There is a history of Jewish legal reasoning about the importance of vaccines and participating in initiatives deemed important for wellness and protecting life. Rabbi Bolton will present a timely talk on the halakhic history of vaccinations, current Jewish reactions to the new vaccines from around the world and provide spiritual perspective. Join us for the ZOOM lecture on Monday night, January 4 at 7:30 pm.

Landmark Books, Places and Moments in Jewish History

Jewish History with Barry Feldman

Four Sundays: January 10 & 24 and February 7 & 21, 10 am–11:30 pm

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/JewishHistorywithBarry2021>

Zoom ID: 283 908 873; Zoom Passcode: 613

(Note that the sign-in credentials for Barry's class are exactly the same as Sunday morning Zoom services)



This winter Or Zarua Congregant Barry Feldman will again lead a Jewish History course. The class, *Landmark Books, Places and Moments in Jewish History*, will be given in four sessions as follows:

Session 1 on January 10:

The Second Great Migration:

Moving out of the Lower East Side to Greater New York.

This discussion will focus on the growth of greater New York City and the demography of New York's Jewish population. During the first decade of the twentieth century, as thousands of eastern European Jews arrived in the iconic Lower East Side, earlier settlers were departing the neighborhood to settle in the newly-consolidated city. We will look at advances in transportation, housing, education and employment opportunities that supported this movement out of the



Lower East Side. The growth of the Jewish community center and synagogue building will be explored long with the impetus to the suburbs. Conflict between white, primarily Jewish, and black groups concerning school integration will be addressed.

Session 2 on January 24:

Let's Revisit The Kosher Meat Boycott of 1902.

A recently-published book offers new insight to this episode. In addition to narrating the episode, we will discuss women organizers collectively, who confronted the meat trusts, the press and city politicians. This was years before the Triangle Fire.

Session 3 on February 7:

South Carolina is the New Zion: Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, an American Synagogue in Transition.

Following a brief discussion of Jewish settlement in the colonial south, we will trace the transition from the congregation's

traditional Orthodox orientation to reform Judaism, and back and forth to the vibrant present congregation. Perhaps next year we can convene and visit the first Jewish cemetery in New York downtown.

Session 4 on February 21:

An-Sky's Expedition, "The Dark Continent": An exploration Into the Past Folklore of Eastern Europe.

At the turn of the 20th century, Sholyme Zanol Rappaport, aka Szymon An-Sky, journalist, ethnographer, dramatist (The Dybuk) recognized that the diminished shtetlach of Jewish eastern Europe were disappearing along with generations of folklore. This class will discuss An-Sky ethnographic investigation, the questions asked, the origins of traditional practices, rituals and superstitions. References include "The Dark Continent" written by Nathan Deutsch and the notes of Avrom Rechtman, an original expedition ethnographer.

Barry is an urban historian, museum educator, and licensed New York City tour guide. He has created and developed tours of the Jewish Lower East Side, Jewish Harlem, and other New York neighborhoods. He has been teaching at OZ since 2014. Barry's classes are open to all. Prior knowledge is not required, and you may attend any or all sessions. We hope to see you this year, via Zoom, as we continue to study NYC Jewish history with Barry.



Image Left: Poe Cottage, Grand Concourse and 191 Street.

Image Above: Nathans, Coney Island

Did you know that Or Zarua records and posts Zoom presentations? Click on the links associated with the presentations shown below. In addition to being able to see a presentation you missed or would like to see again, you will be brought to a section of the web that contains other past Zoom presentations given at OZ.



A recording of Marc Ashley's lecture *The Essence of Hanukkah: Perspectives on Light(ing)* is on YouTube and can be found by clicking: <https://tinyurl.com/Hanukkah2020withMarc>. A recording of Charlie Spielholz's *Chaburah* on Parashat Miketz Science and Joseph's Story: Droughts, Famines, Ancient Bodies, and Cell Biology can be found on YouTube at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/Miketz2020withCharlie>. You will also discover other recordings of OZ presentations archived on YouTube.

ONLINE OZ GALLERY ART FOR JANUARY



Marc Chagall, *Birthday*, 1915
Oil on cardboard
Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), NYC

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS!

Later this month—January 28th to be precise—Congregation Or Zarua will celebrate its 32nd birthday. A few days later (see page one for details) the Annual Lucy S Dawidowicz lecture will take place honoring the memory of Lucy Dawidowicz, noted author and early member of Or Zarua. For our birthday gift, the Online OZ Gallery presents this lovely painting, *Birthday*, by Marc Chagall, the best known artist of Jewish subjects of the 20th century. Renowned for his fusion of Cubist forms, vibrant colors and fantasy, Chagall rose from humble beginnings and lived through momentous and often horrifying times to become a trailblazer and a giant of the Modernist movement. To some he was also the forerunner of Surrealist imagery.

Throughout his long life he never forgot his Jewish roots. Born Moyshe Segal in 1887 in a town called Vitebsk in the part of Russia called the Pale of Settlement (in today's Belarus), the young artist was inspired by the life he saw all around him, especially Russian folk art and the practices of Hasidic Judaism. Rather than seeking inspiration from faraway places, he engaged with his everyday world. Local farmers, beggars, visiting rabbis, farm animals and family appear in his works. By slightly distorting their figures and using abstract backgrounds he made them symbols of his dream-like world. According to writer Jess Harrison, Chagall's "airborne subjects speak of his upbringing, representing wishes for freedom—something that was completely foreign to a Russian Jew at that time."

In 1911, he moved to Paris where he changed his name to Marc Chagall. He also met Pablo Picasso and became part of the French capital's thriving and dynamic art and cultural scene. Three years later, Chagall returned to Vitebsk to marry his adored fiancée Bella. Intending to stay in Russia for a few months, Chagall and Bella found themselves trapped by the outbreak of World War I and the Russian Revolution of 1917. They were forced to stay in Russia for nine years.

Chagall's wife Bella was a profound inspiration—his Muse—throughout his life. The intensity of their relationship is expressed in *Birthday*, the 1915 work seen above. Years later, Bella recalled how she visited him on his birthday carrying flowers and food in embroidered shawls. After the food was unwrapped the shawls were draped around the room and Chagall began to paint. The result, observes writer Harrison, captures "the weightlessness of love...with the couple's heads both twisted to meet the other, testament to the gravity-defying magnetism of their relationship [and] a challenge to Bella's upper-class parents who did not approve of the union." Using similar language, writer Monica-Bohm-Ducher describes *Birthday* as providing a "vivid testimony to the gravity-defying self-sufficiency of their partnership...[a] bliss that cannot be contained by drabness or gravity." For more details, click: <https://tinyurl.com/ChagallJan2021>

Marc and Bella Chagall were married for 29 years. They emigrated to the United States with their daughter (under the sponsorship of MoMA) when the Nazi threat became too great. Bella died of an infection in 1944 and although Marc Chagall married two more times his love for Bella was enduring. Throughout his long life—he died in 1985 at 97—Marc Chagall never lost his deep attachment for Bella, nor did he forget his Jewish roots. Chagall himself said in 1922:

"If I were not a Jew...I wouldn't have been an artist."

-Gerry Solomon and Bobbi Collier

In-Person Services have Resumed

On Alternate Shabbatot and on Wednesday Mornings

Pre-Registration for each day is Required

On the following Shabbatot OZ will have an in-person service beginning at 10:00 am and ending at 12 noon:

January 2
January 16
January 30
February 13
February 27

In order to attend the in-person service on Shabbat one must pre-register; to register please use the following link:

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

For in-person services on Shabbat after February 27, see upcoming issues of the OZ Newsletter and eblasts. Note that Shabbat services will not be available via Zoom.

On Wednesdays at 7:15 am 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/OZPerson>

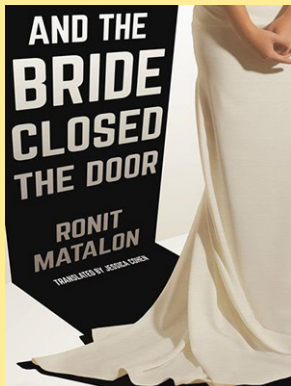
To attend the Wednesday morning service via Zoom please continue to use the Zoom credentials that have already been established for participation in the Monday-Friday daily morning service:

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

Zoom ID: 518 639 181; Zoom Password: 613

•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. •For in-person services, please plan to arrive early enough to find seats that allow for social distancing before services begin. •Remember to keep your mask on over your nose and mouth while you are in the building.

Or Zarua Book Discussions



And the Bride Closed the Door
by Ronit Matalon

Sunday, February 21, 7:00 pm

Moderator: Volunteer Appreciated

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

Meeting ID: 840 2954 6173

Passcode: 613

This riotous satire of wedding-day jitters is an absurdist comedy of contemporary Israeli family life. It takes place in Tel Aviv and begins with Margie making a big announcement through her bedroom door: "Not getting married." However, look deeper and it can also stand as a parable of a country divided. Elusive yet powerful, by turns laugh-out-loud funny and tragically sad. Join us on Zoom for this perfectly relevant pre-Purim discussion

Upcoming Titles

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

ZOOM Into OZ's Daily Shaharit Minyan

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 with OZ

Zoom into Shabbat on Friday Nights
See Calendar for times

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

Zoom ID: 854 630 476

Zoom Password: 613

Zoom out of Shabbat on
Saturday Nights

See Calendar for times

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

Zoom ID: 775 962 249

Zoom Password: 613

Or Zarua Community Torah Study

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

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

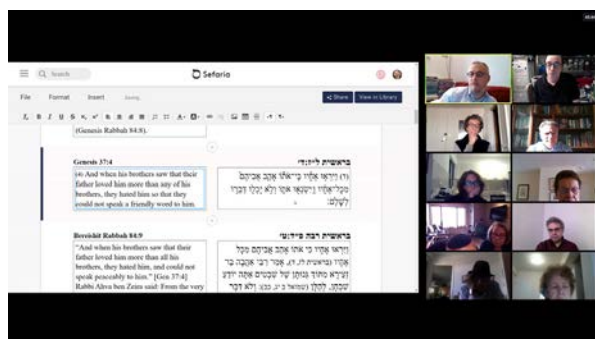
Zoom ID: 8152 249 6147; Passcode: 613

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

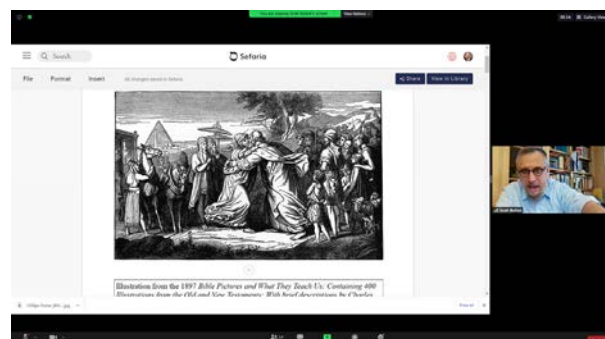
and narratives. Additionally, Rabbi Bolton will show how some of Rashi's comments speak to psychological or existential issues that Jews of medieval France faced and modern NYC folks still contend with.



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: Vayeshev. Above right: Vayigash.



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)

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 worshiper 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.

From Compassion to Action: OZ Hesed 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 Hesed 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 Hesed activities due to the pandemic, please note that NYCP posts its volunteer shifts at 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.

Volunteer to help pack groceries at a Met Council pantry and distribute to a Senior Residence

The OZ Hesed committee is working with the Metropolitan New York Coordinating

Council on Jewish Poverty (Met Council) on a new project to bring food to Seniors. We will be packing groceries at a Met Council pantry (Lexington Avenue and 31st Street) for delivery to and distribution at a Senior Residence on East 92nd Street. We plan to begin this monthly project on Sunday, January 24 (next planned date is February 21 and the final Sunday of each month thereafter). Individuals and as well as families are welcome to volunteer. If interested please contact Jeff Haberman at jeff32449@verizon.net or (917) 697-1677.

Thursday Night Pasta and Salad at the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter

Unfortunately, because of the spike in COVID cases, NCS has reinstituted its policy of not having volunteers on site at the residence on 81st Street, so that volunteers are not needed at this time. However, please look for further notices for when volunteers may once again go to 81st Street to package or serve food. However donations to the Hesed Fund needed. To volunteer when NCS is able to resume operations please contact Jeff Haberman at 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 for more information.

Or Zarua Hesed Fund

Please consider making a donation to the OZ Hesed 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/>

Hesed Thanksgiving and Christmas Gleaning



Or Zarua's Annual Gleaning for Thanksgiving and Christmas:

Volunteers from Or Zarua and the Salvation and Deliverance Church delivered food from Eli's Essentials on Madison to the Church which is located in the Bronx.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 • 17 Tevet 8:45a Shaharit 3:45p Zoom into Shabbat 4:20p Candlelighting	2 • 18 Tevet Vayehi 10:00a In-Person Shabbat Service: Pre-registration required (No Zoom Service) 5:20p Shabbat Ends 5:25p Zoom Out of Shabbat
3 • 19 Tevet 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	4 • 20 Tevet 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 7:30p <i>Miraculous Medicine: Vaccinations, Midrash & Jewish Law with Rabbi Bolton</i>	5 • 21 Tevet 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	6 • 22 Tevet 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	7 • 23 Tevet 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies	8 • 24 Tevet 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 3:45p Zoom into Shabbat 4:27p Candlelighting	9 • 25 Tevet Shemot 5:27p Shabbat Ends 5:35p Zoom Out of Shabbat
10 • 26 Tevet 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 10:00a Jewish History with Barry Feldman: <i>The Second Great Migration: Moving out of the Lower East to Greater New York No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i>	11 • 27 Tevet 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	12 • 28 Tevet 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	13 • 29 Tevet 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	14 • 1 Shevat Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 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	15 • 2 Shevat 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 3:45p Zoom into Shabbat 4:34p Candlelighting	16 • 3 Shevat Vaera 10:00a In-Person Shabbat Service: Pre-registration required (No Zoom Service) 5:34p Shabbat Ends 5:40p Zoom Out of Shabbat
17 • 4 Shevat 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal	18 • 5 Shevat 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 12:00p Community Torah Study <i>No Hebrew School OZ Office Closed</i>	19 • 6 Shevat 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	20 • 7 Shevat 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	21 • 8 Shevat 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies	22 • 9 Shevat 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 3:45p Zoom into Shabbat 4:43p Candlelighting	23 • 10 Shevat Bo 5:41p Shabbat Ends 5:50p Zoom Out of Shabbat
24 • 11 Shevat MET Council Volunteers 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 10:00a Jewish History with Barry Feldman: <i>The Koshers Meat Boycott of 1902 No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i>	25 • 12 Shevat 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	26 • 13 Shevat 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	27 • 14 Shevat Erev Tu B'Shevat 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	28 • 15 Shevat Tu B'Shevat 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 7:30p Shivat HaMinim (Seven Species) Tasting and Soiree for Tu B'Shevat (Zoom)	29 • 16 Shevat 7:15a Shaharit 3:45p Zoom into Shabbat 4:51p Candlelighting	30 • 17 Shevat Beshalah 10:00a In-Person Shabbat Service: Pre-registration required (No Zoom Service) 5:49p Shabbat Ends 5:55p Zoom Out of Shabbat
31 • 18 Shevat 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 10:30a Tu B'Shevat Family Event in Central Park 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal						

Be sure to check the Or Zarua Website (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.

Or L'Atid

אור לעתיד
Youth
Education
& Programming
Congregation Or Zarua



Tu B'Shevat Family Event in Central Park

**Sunday
January 31
10:30 am-Noon**

Naked-Tree Tour

Meet Sigal and Rabbi Bolton at *Cleopatra's Needle* by 10:30 am for an **on-the-move** parent-child learning experience! Explore Central Park while we follow Rabbi Bolton on a unique tour of Central Park's trees. Continue the Tu B'Shevat celebration with interactive activities and discussion. **Most importantly, don't forget to BYOM (Bring Your Own Marker!)**

The program will be geared towards Elementary School students and their parents. Older and younger children are welcome to join! This is not a drop-off program. Parents and children will learn together.

Registration requested for planning purposes. Sign up on Shulcloud:
<https://tinyurl.com/TBShevatReg>



Thursday, January 14

**5:00 pm
Cooking with Sigal**

**6:00 pm
Class with Rabbi Bolton**

For Middle School and High School Students

Join Rabbi Bolton for his class:

"Start Spreading the Jews! We want to be a part of it, New York, NY..."

Class dates for the rest of the year have been scheduled!
January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 6

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)!

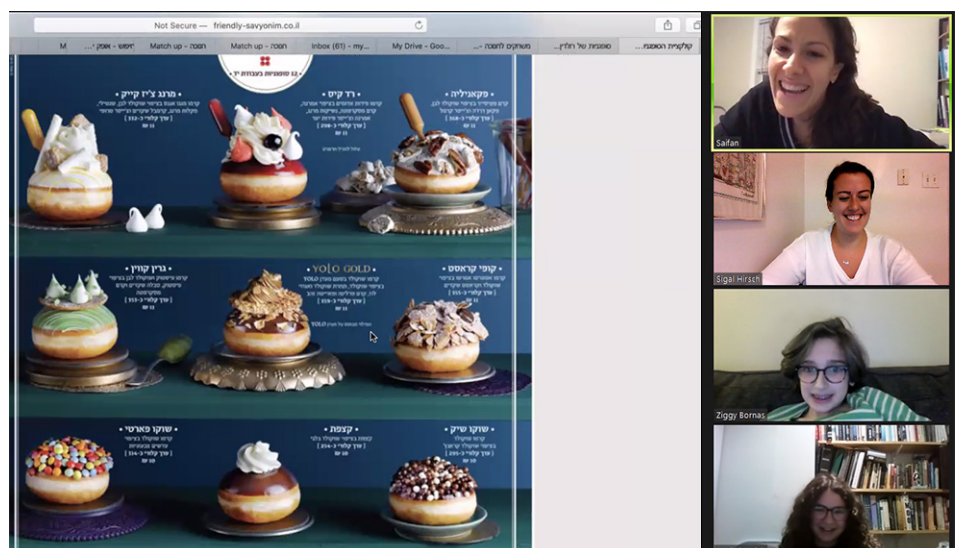
Sign up for the year, or to drop in for a class:

<https://orzaru.shulcloud.com/form/2020-2021-start-spreading-the-Jews.html>

Attend a Tasting of the Seven Species Thursday, January 28 , 7:30 pm



**See Page 3
for Zoom
and Seven-Species
Ordering Information**



New Semester begins January 7.
Be sure to sign up!



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.
For kids of ALL educational backgrounds!
This is not a Hebrew School program.

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.

Families can sign up for the semester (January-June) or drop in for one class
\$10 per class

Member Families: \$100 for the semester

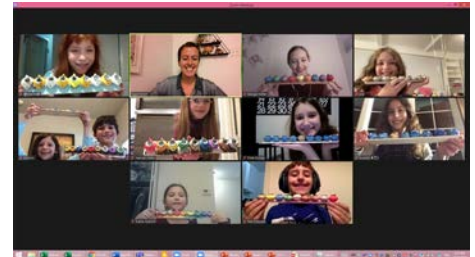
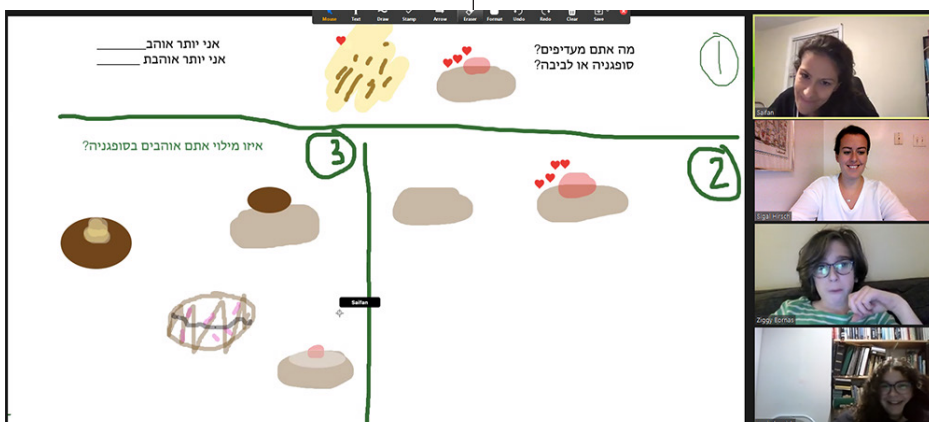
Non-Member Families \$120 for the semester

Please note all registration fees are per household.

Families can enroll multiple children for one fee.

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!

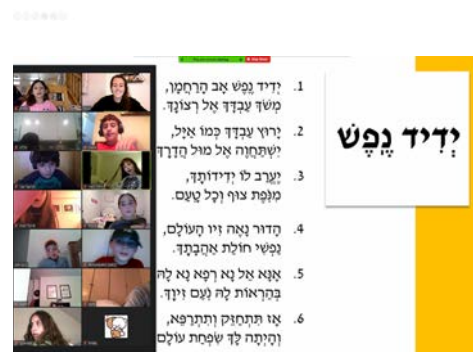
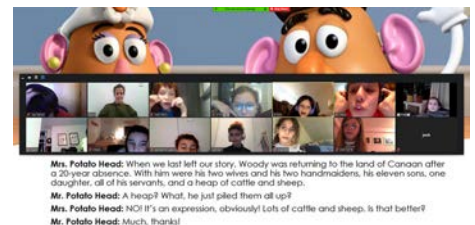


Narrator: Joseph was 30 years old when he entered Pharaoh's service. He was given Osnat as a wife and had two sons, Menasheh and Ephraim. Joseph traveled throughout the land collecting food in large quantities.

Liz: Extra, extra! Read all about it! Egypt experiences seven years of abundant harvest!

Joseph: Well, that's it. If my predictions are right, here comes starvation city.

Liz: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Liz Luxor here with tonight's top story. As predicted by Egypt's number two man, Joseph, we continue to see famine throughout the region. Due to planning ahead, Egypt's population is surviving. However, many surrounding nations are now turning to Joseph to request food.



Hebrew School is going great! Kids love acting out Torah scenes in our weekly Parashah plays, learning Kabbalat Shabbat! For Hanukkah, they made beautiful Hanukkiot that they lit with their families, and learned all about Israeli Sufganiyot!

The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between November 7, 2020 and December 4, 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.

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) 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 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.

Or Zarua's New Accounting Team

Or Zarua are pleased to announce that we have engaged the services of ShulSource, a firm that specializes in outsourced synagogue financial bookkeeping, as our new accounting team. Based in Baltimore, their team has expertise in ShulCloud, QuickBooks, and the unique needs of a congregation using these tools. They will function as part of our team, working hand in hand with Helene and Deborah in the Or Zarua office on financial matters and related tasks. To reach them with questions related to your ShulCloud balances, statements, or payment schedules you can either email accounting@orzarua.org or call 516-399-4613. Rachelle is our assigned bookkeeper and Azi and his team will be working with Rachelle to support the needs of our synagogue.

1600s – 1800s – Europe (Italy, France, England, and more)

- Love of chocolate spreads among the **English, Dutch, and French**, who colonize cacao-growing lands. Trade built on systems of forced labor and slavery of Meso American and African peoples
- **18th century Italy**, chocolate was a preferred drink of the Cardinals, brought in while they were electing a new Pope
- **Late 17th and 18th centuries** Italians experiment with chocolate as a flavoring in everything from soup to pistachio cream dipped (over in chocolate and then fried it)
- **1828** – Coenraad Johannes Van Houten (Dutch chemist) creates "Dutch processed cocoa" involves extracting cocoa butter from chocolate liquor (the ground nibs), mixing it with alkaline salts. Used still today for hot chocolate and baking.

Or Zarua's Chocolate Tasting, hosted by 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.

Join for OZ's next Zoom tasting event which will be the seven-species for Tu B'Shevat on Thursday, January 28 at 7:30 pm; see page 3 for details.

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.

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



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

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.



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.

Help Keep Our Daily Minyan Strong Even on Zoom

Please donate ONE HOUR • ONE MORNING per month to our Shoharit minyan.

Contact Sheldon Adler: sadler@skadden.com

See Zoom Details on Page 6.



Join us for Zoom Out of Shabbat just after the Sabbath ends which includes: Havdalah, songs to start the week, a prayer for those who are ill, and Kaddish when we have a minyan. to remember loved ones. See the blue boxes on page 6 for Zoom sign-in details.

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

JANUARY 2021

Sing Out With Bir'nana!



Pandemic 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) or Dore Hollander (dore.hollander@gmail.com).