

Scholarly Duo Lectures for March
with Professors Jessica Cooperman and Hartley Lachter
Thursday evenings, March 11 and 18, at 7:30 pm on Zoom
Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZLectureMarch2021>
Zoom ID: 821 9601 0875, Zoom Passcode: 613

Varied adult education programming has been a sustaining pillar of the Or Zarua community even during this long pandemic hiatus when our building has been largely inaccessible. Hopefully, in the relatively near future, we will again be able to gather together in person for our educational experiences. But for now, thankfully, we have upcoming visiting scholar sessions on Zoom during the period leading up to Pesah that will interest and invigorate us as a learning community.

On two Thursday evenings in March, we will have the opportunity to convene again as a Zoom learning community for successive lectures by (married) professors Jessica Cooperman and Hartley Lachter. Joining us from the beautiful Lehigh Valley, Drs. Cooperman and Lachter will reexamine historical strategies of expressing and navigating Jewishness in challenging settings, both medieval and modern.

On March 11, Dr. Lachter, Chair of the Department of Religion Studies, Philip and Muriel Berman Chair in Jewish Studies,

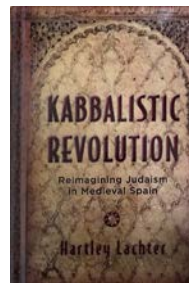


and director of the Berman Center for Jewish Studies at Lehigh University, whose scholarly focus is medieval Jewish mysticism, will give a lecture entitled **What Can Kabbalah Teach**

Us About Jewish History? Kabbalah in the Middle Ages 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 became a vital part of the legacy of how Jews have created their own historical narrative.

Dr. Lachter's scholarly work explores how medieval Jewish-Christian debates, as well as disruptive moments of violence and forced conversion, shaped Jewish mystical literature. He is the author of *Kabbalistic Revolution: Reimagining Judaism in Medieval Spain* (Rutgers University Press 2014). His lecture will explore what kabbalistic texts can teach us about how Jews understood Jewish history—especially moments of crisis and setback—and how Kabbalah served as a form of resistance literature for many pre-modern Jews.



On March 18, as we approach and prepare for Pesah, Dr. Cooperman, Associate Professor of Religion Studies and Director of Jewish Studies at Muhlenberg College, whose scholarship focuses on 20th-century American Judaism and Jewish culture, and



on connections between religion and state policy, will give a lecture entitled **Passover Seders and Jewish-Christian Engagement in Postwar America**. Passover is often

described as the quintessential American Jewish holiday, celebrated by more American Jews than any other religious ritual. Since the mid-20th century, however, seders have also been reinterpreted as auspicious sites for Jewish-Christian engagement. While

early modern European Christian writing about Jews often depicted the seder as a mysterious, secretive Jewish domestic ritual with sinister associations with murder and blood libel, contemporary American engagements with Passover have radically altered this depiction. The seder has been moved out of an exclusively Jewish realm and reconceived as an opportunity for genuine connection between Jews and Christians through the celebration of a ritual that an increasing number of Christians have come to regard as an important part of their own heritage.

Dr. Cooperman's book, *Making Judaism Safe for America: World War I and the Origins of Religious Pluralism* (NYU Press 2018), received an honorable mention for the bi-annual Saul Wiener Book Prize in American Jewish History. Her current research explores sites of Jewish-Christian dialogue



and engagement in the post-World War II period. This lecture will examine some of the ways American Jews and Christians have reimagined their engagement with the Passover seder, both together and separately, and consider how Jewish texts and practices associated with Passover have been reinterpreted in order to serve new purposes and communities. An exploration of these different approaches to the seder will offer us a window into the multiple and shifting dynamics of Jewish-Christian relations in the post-World War II United States.

Please join us for what will be two enjoyable and informative Zoom lectures in March, presented by a dynamic scholarly duo, as we explore how Jews have deftly navigated their complex surroundings and circumstances through time.

-Marc Ashley



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



The story of the Jewish people is one of constantly adapting to new circumstances while holding onto our traditions and values. This past year has presented a series of tests for us and the rest of the world. How do we hold onto our traditions when we are prevented from observing them in our usual ways?

We, at Or Zarua, have been blessed with the creativity and enthusiasm of Rabbi Bolton, Sigal Hirsch, Helene Santo, Deborah Wenger, and many volunteers as they have developed myriad online opportunities for learning, praying, participating and connecting. Yasher Koach! May we go from strength to strength!

And, Yasher Koach to Charlie Spielholz for editing and publishing a monthly (vs. every other month) newsletter, and a hilarious Purim edition with Raanan Korinow, too!

Our Zoom Purim festivities were as joyous and inclusive as possible with the wholehearted participation of Or L'Atid, our megillah readers, and our Purim Spielers! Yasher Koach to Judy Buchman-Ziv for such a creative Zoom spiel. The Purim Packages and Pizza and Popcorn pick up added to the holiday fun!

Now we are in the countdown to Pesah! Last year, I sent Passover greetings to family and friends that included a graphic that said "Next Year in Person!" Who would have thought that we would be sending the same greeting a year later? And, yet, here we are. Many of us are planning Zoom sederim again.

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 sederim, albeit for far fewer in-person guests than usual, 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. Let them find the physical and spiritual nurturing they crave. Aaron and I hope to share these blessings via Zoom with more people than we can fit around our actual table.

And, so it is with Congregation Or Zarua. We as a community are committed to opening our communal home, via Zoom for the time being, to all who are hungry—for community, for connection, for religious services, for education for themselves and their children.

We have gathered—and will continue to gather—via Zoom for strong daily morning minyans, Torah study, Pirke Avot study, Talmud class, and Siddur class. We are Zooming into and out of Shabbat. And, when needed, we are participating in Zoom Shivas and Shiva minyanim. We are also gathering every Wednesday morning and every other Shabbat morning for in-person services. The numbers are small but, as more people are vaccinated, more will be comfortable coming to shul.

Our Hebrew School has been open and family learning opportunities abound. These programs will continue online until we are back in our building.

By participating in our Zoom programs, members have been able to stay connected by seeing, hearing, and interacting with one another. This has been comforting in this time when we need each other more than ever. The Or Zarua community is strong.

Our commitment to the community, however, takes resources—both personal and financial. We are a volunteer organization. We need volunteers to create minyanim, lead services, read Torah and Haftorah (when we are in our building), 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 Pesah, count the Omer, remember the Shoah, celebrate Israel's 73rd 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 Pesah!

B'Shalom!

Diane

Siyum

Masekhet Pesahim:

Breaking the fast for first-borns

Thursday, March 25

Immediately following Shaharit
via Zoom

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

Zoom ID: 518 639 181

Zoom Password: 613

(same credentials as Shaharit)

Rabbi Bolton will lead a siyum on Thursday morning, March 25 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 Thursday, March 25

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 Thursday, March 25.

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.

MAH NISHTANAH? How Will This Year's Seder Be Different From Last Year's?

Sunday, March 21, 10:00 am (after Shaharit)

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

Meeting ID 283 908 873 Passcode 613

(Same Zoom Credentials as Sunday Morning Services)

Join Rabbi Bolton for an address to the community about Pesah this year, **Zooming your seder** and making the most of our yom tovs. What have we learned about celebrating holidays during the Pandemic? How can we create a special Passover feeling in our homes that takes us back to Egypt, so we can leave in haste? How has the role of religious imagination been enhanced and changed over the last year and what implications arise for our upcoming Passover experience?



Careful With That Matzah! Packaging The Seder Necessity Throughout Jewish History

Annual lecture led by Rabbi Bolton In Memory of his Father, Stewart L. Bolton, z"l, Packaging Engineer
Wednesday, March 31, 7:30 pm

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

Zoom ID: 858 1909 5662; Passcode: 613

(Same Zoom Credentials as Talmud Class)



From round to square, the history of the shape of matzah begets the question: which came first, the box or the board?

What role did packaging play in ensuring matzah would be available for seder? Were there unique packages and dishes for matzah throughout Jewish history or just in the modern era? Do we find instructions not only about how to make it but how to store it?

We will examine Torah, Talmud and Responsa literature, as well as the history annals regarding Passover Judaica to consider the boxes and not just the boards of matzah.

Sell Your Hametz

Rabbi Bolton will arrange the transaction

Before Passover, we are required to "sell" any hametz in our possession to a non-Jew. The transaction is arranged by the rabbi, to ensure compliance with the requirements of halakhah. The completed form, below, must arrive at the synagogue office no

later than noon on Wednesday, March 24, 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.**

You may submit your

Authorization for the Sale of Hametz ONLINE by going to
<https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/hametz-sale-2021.html>

NO LATER than Wednesday, March 24.

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____ Apt # _____

City/State/Zip _____

Other Locations (vacation home, office, etc):

Address _____

Address _____

Address _____

Signature _____

Please note that this authorization must be signed.

This completed form must arrive at the OZ office

NO LATER THAN Wednesday, March 24

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

-By fax: 212-452-2103

-By US Postal Service mail so that it arrives by Wednesday, March 24 to:

Rabbi Scott N. Bolton, Congregation Or Zarua

127 East 82nd Street, New York, NY 10028

Ma'ot Hittim Fund

Assist needy Jews to prepare for Passover

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

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

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

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

PESAH SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 21

Pre-Pesah Lecture: **Mah Nishtanah?**
 with Rabbi Bolton (Zoom) 10:00 am

Thursday, March 25

Ta'anit Bechorot (Fast of the Firstborn)
 Shaharit, Siyum (Zoom) 7:15 am
 Bedikat Hametz Evening

Friday, March 26

Shaharit (Zoom) 7:15 am
 Finish Eating Hametz and Sell
 and Burn Hametz before 11:58 am
 Zoom into Shabbat 6:00 pm
 Candlelighting 6:56 pm

Saturday, March 27

Erev Pesah
 Shabbat Services (in person with
 registration, No Zoom) 10:00 am
 Bittul Hametz (nullification) before 11:58 am
 Light Candles after 7:52 pm
 First Seder

Sunday, March 28

First Day of Pesah (no service)
 Erev Second Day of Pesah
 Light Candles after 7:52 pm
 Second Seder

Monday, March 29

Second Day of Pesah (no service)
 Yom Tov Ends 7:53 pm

Tuesday, March 30

Third Day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed
 Shaharit (Zoom) 7:15 am

Wednesday, March 31

Fourth Day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed
 Shaharit (Zoom and
 in person with registration) 7:15 am
Careful With That Matzah!
 with Rabbi Bolton 7:30 pm

Thursday, April 1

Fifth Day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed
 Shaharit (Zoom) 7:15 am
 Yizkor (Zoom) with registration 11:00 am
 Yizkor Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/OZPY2021>

Friday, April 2

Sixth Day of Pesah/Erev Day 7
 Shaharit (Zoom) 7:15 am
 Zoom into Shabbat
 and Day 7 Pesah 6:00 pm
 Candlelighting 7:03 pm

Saturday, April 3

Shabbat and Day 7 of Pesah
 Shabbat Services (in person service
 with registration) 10:00 am
 Light Candles after 8:00 pm

Sunday, April 4

Last Day of Pesah (no service)
 Festival Ends 8:00 pm

The First Seder is After Shabbat Ends

How Does this Affect the Observance of Pesah?

This year the first Seder of Pesah is Motzi Shabbat (Saturday night) after Shabbat ends. This means there are some changes in the way we prepare for the Festival of Passover since there are certain procedures that we can not do on Shabbat. This list briefly outlines the issues and approaches to observing the festival in order to observe Pesah.

- The Fast of the First Born (Ta'anit Behorot) is Thursday, March 25 and so is the Siyyum. The Siyyum will be online after the online service for Shaharit. Attending a Siyyum means one does not have to fast.
- Bedikat Hametz (the search for hametz) is conducted the evening of Thursday, March 25.
- Friday is Biur—burning of the hametz is done at 11:58 am.

- Prior to lighting Shabbat candles, light a 24 (or 48) hour candle from which to transfer flame to light candles for Yom Tov on Saturday night (this allows the avoidance of striking a match during Yom Tov).

- By Friday the house should have NO hametz at all.

- For Shabbat, perform Motzi over two full pieces of EGG MATZAH as you would hallah for Shabbat Dinner and Lunch.

- Recitation of Bittul Hametz (nullification) is done on Shabbat morning (before 11:58 am).

- Seudah Shlishit (a light meal before Seder) can be done with fish, eggs, veggies and fruit.

- On Saturday night (March 27) candlelighting is performed after 7:52 pm (when 3 stars are out). Perform the candle lighting by transferring flame from the

24 (or 48 hr) hour candle that you lit prior to Shabbat to Yom Tov candles; these Yom Tov candles will also be used for havdalah during kadesh of the Seder. Also, if you did not light a 48 hour candle, light another 24 hour candle in order to have flame for transferring to Yom Tov candles of Day 2 of Pesah.

- When the first seder occurs on a Saturday night Havdalah is different. It is said during Kiddush (Kadesh of seder). Begin Kiddush as in the Haggadah and use the special insertions for a Saturday night—without a havdallah candle—and use the light of the Yom Tov candles for Boreh Me'orei haEish. Then add the blessing that ends HaMavdil Bein Kodesh I'Kodesh and then add the Shehehyanu.

Continue with the Seder!

Guidelines for Passover

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

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

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

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

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

Food Items

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

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

In contrast to Ashkenazic custom, Sephardic authorities permit the use of all kitniyot on Pesah.

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

and eggs.

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

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

Non-Food Items

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

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

Continued on the next page

Wednesday Evening, April 7, 7:30 pm Yom HaShoah Memorial Program

We will be commemorating Yom HaShoah with a
Ceremony of Remembrance and Recognition of Heroism.

OZ Congregant and Past President Michael Schwartz
will give an address entitled:

The Prophet Nahum's Message and His Place on Yom HaShoah

Zoom Registration Required:

<https://tinyurl.com/OZYomHaShoahApril2021>

Guidelines for Passover

continued from previous page

Kashering (of hametz items)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

See the **Hesed** Column, Page 9

Omer Basics

WHAT'S AN OMER?

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

WHY DO WE COUNT IT?

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

HOW DO WE OBSERVE IT?

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

WHAT IS LAG B'OMER?

Lag B'Omer is the 33rd day of the counting—“lag” is an acronym made up of lamed (30) and gimel (3). The massive fatalities of Rabbi Akiva's students halted on that day, and the customs of semi-mourning are suspended. Lag B'Omer is observed as the yahrzeit of Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, the person said to have authored the mystical book *The Zohar*. This year Lag B'Omer begins on the night of Wednesday, April 28.

Adult Education Class with Marc Ashley Between Pesah and Shavuot

"Righteousness Like a Mighty Stream": Social Justice as Divine Imperative

Three Sunday mornings on Zoom, April 11, 18 and 25, at 10 am

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

Zoom ID: 283 908 873; Passcode: 613

(after Sunday morning services; Zoom credentials are the same as the those for the service)



Social justice is not only of contemporary relevance. It is a bedrock Jewish commitment, the cornerstone of an ideal community that has inspired and shaped Western values for centuries.

Jewish tradition teaches us that one of the three pillars of the world's very existence is the performance of acts of lovingkindness. The Torah urges us not only to achieve justice but to strive for it vigorously and implement it meticulously: "Justice, justice shall you pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20). Yet what does Jewish thought teach us about

how social justice is to be realized?

In Judaism, justice and righteousness are two sides of the same coin, conjoined by common aspirations. Indeed, the Hebrew word tzedakah denotes both ideas, in addition to defining properly motivated philanthropy that encompasses each. The means of establishing justice and embodying righteousness, however, must move beyond the abstract to the concrete.

Jewish tradition, from the Torah to the Talmud and beyond, establishes procedural and substantive foundations of social justice, defined by both broad principles and precise rules. Indeed, Jewish law even recognizes its own limitations, mandating that we sometimes must act beyond the letter of the law in pursuing justice. Because Judaism dictates that justice is a divine imperative,

and that we must seek to imitate God in the process, figuring out how to manifest social justice based on Jewish values must be our greatest concern.

Please join congregant Marc Ashley on three Sunday mornings in April on Zoom for his annual adult education class between Pesah and Shavuot. This year's course, *"Righteousness Like a Mighty Stream": Social Justice as Divine Imperative*, will be held on April 11, 18 and 25, at 10 am. Although social justice is a cutting-edge agenda item in modern society, it has been an integral focus of Jewish thought for many centuries. Please join us on Zoom and participate in this important conversation on a crucial theme.

Kesher Israel Presents for Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut *Women on the Front Lines* with Debbie Zimelman, photographer and a soldier from the IDF

Wednesday, April 14, 12:00 noon

Zoom Registration Required: <https://tinyurl.com/DebbieZimelmanAtOZApril2021>



Join us for a dynamic book presentation in honor of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israeli Memorial and Independence Days). We will hold a ZOOM book talk with 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. We will welcome a chayyelet, a former Israeli combat soldier, as well.



Online OZ Gallery For March *Artistic Visions of the Ten Plagues*



James Jacques Joseph Tissot

Left: *Water is Changed into Blood*, c. 1896-1902

Right: *The Fourth Plague: The Plague of Flies*, c. 1896-1902

Imagining the Ten Plagues

No wonder Pesah is such a popularly celebrated holiday! We get together with family (soon, we hope), share a fabulous meal and retell a thrilling, inspirational tale of victory over oppression, of hope and salvation, a tale packed with colorful and dramatic moments of conflict and almost unbelievable happenings. For centuries, the Exodus story—and particularly the recounting of the Ten Plagues—has inspired artists' imagination as expressed through illuminated Haggadot to engravings to fine art to drama to cinema. (Here's looking at you, Cecil B DeMille's *The Ten Commandments* or Charlton Heston's *Moses*.)

For example, the two images seen above are by French-born painter and illustrator Jacques Joseph Tissot (1836-1902), whose name was Anglicized as James Tissot. Tissot became a successful painter of Paris society before moving to London in 1871. He was famous as a painter of fashionably dressed women shown in various scenes of everyday life. He also painted scenes and characters from the Bible. Tissot's parents were both devout Catholics and his mother instilled a pious devotion in her son at a very young age, lessons he would not forget. Late in his life, Tissot would reward his mother's religious teaching by working on engravings and painting of subjects from the Hebrew Bible.

A Google search for visual expression of the Ten Plagues led us to SEFARIA: *The Art of the Ten Plagues* by Rabbi Bolton: <https://www.sefaria.org/sheets/150370?lang=bi>. In this luminous source sheet, Rabbi Bolton places relevant text from Exodus alongside images of each of the Plagues. Asked about the importance of these images in our appreciation of the Pesah text, Rabbi Bolton says: "In the case of the Plagues, artists' interpretations invite us to wonder about not only the visual scenes but the emotions that are stirred. Viewing [the images] encourages us to re-live the experience of going out of Egypt, as we are commanded in every generation: *hayav Adam lirot et atzmo k'ilu hu yatza m'Mitzrayim*. What did it look like? How did it feel? Where is God to be located? From which perspective shall I paint the picture?" Rabbi Bolton adds: "The artist presents a view that is to behold! Then the work stirs us to artfully use our religious imagination ourselves."

From the OZ Gallery Committee to all, a joyous, fulfilling and, A Zissen Pesah!

-Gerry Solomon

From Compassion to Action: OZ Hesed Opportunities

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteer to help pack groceries at a Met Council pantry and distribute to a Senior Residence on the Upper East Side

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. **Our next session will meet on Sunday, March 21.** Individuals and families are welcome to volunteer. If interested please contact Jeff Haberman at: jeff32449@verizon.net or (917) 697-1677.

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.

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. Donations to the Hesed Fund are needed. To volunteer when NCS is able to resume operations please contact Jeff Haberman at jeff32449@verizon.net.

**Superbowl Tzedakah Fund
Still In Play! See Page 10**

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>

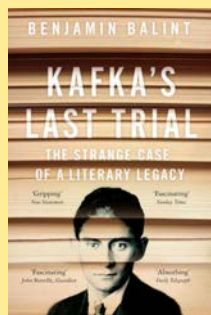
UJA Federation of New York:

<https://www.ujafedny.org>

Leket, Table to Table (Israeli):

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

Or Zarua Book Discussions



Kafka's Last Trial by Benjamin Balint

Sunday, April 18, 7:00 pm

Moderator: Rabbi Bolton

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

Meeting ID: 840 2954 6173, Passcode: 613

Kafka's Last Trial by Benjamin Balint is at once a brilliant biographical portrait of a literary genius, and the story of two countries whose national obsessions with overcoming the traumas of the past came to a head in a hotly contested trial for the right to claim the literary legacy of one of our modern masters.

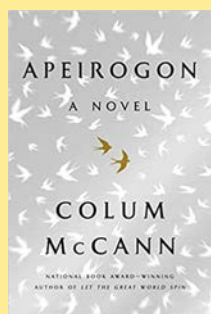
Apeirogon by Colum McCann

Sunday, May 23, 7:00 pm

Moderator: Pat Davidson

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

Meeting ID: 840 2954 6173, Passcode: 613



Apeirogon is a fictional account based on the real life friendship that evolved between two fathers as they sought to survive and, ultimately, transcend the deaths of their children. Rami Elhanan is an Israeli whose thirteen-year-old daughter, Smadar, becomes the victim of suicide bombers. A decade later, Bassam Aramin's ten-year-old daughter, Abir, is killed by a rubber bullet. After meeting the grieving fathers, Irish writer Colum McCann was moved by their willingness to share their stories with the world, and inspired to create this lyrical masterpiece that spans centuries and continents, exploring art, history, nature, politics, and religion, and strives to be both tragic and hopeful.

In-Person Services have Resumed On Select 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:

March 13 and 27

April 3, 10 and 24

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 April 24, 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 Passcode: 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.

Superbowl Tzedakah Fund Still In Play! It's 4th Down and You're the One

It's Game On for our Superbowl Tzedakah Fund and the clock is ticking! We will be making our significant annual contributions around Passover time this year. We like to support the Met Council and Project ORE with meaningful gifts. In typical times, Marcel and Shelly Adler throw a Superbowl Party at Or Zarua in memory of his parents that starts the tzedakah collection in their honor. This year because of COVID there was no party, yet Shelly and Marcel are encouraging all of us to join them in making generous tzedakah donations. It's Fourth Down and goal to go. People are hungry and in need. Will you be the one who helps push us into the End Zone? Please contribute to the Superbowl Tzedakah Fund using this link:

tinyurl.com/OZ-2021SuperBowlTzedakah



ZOOM Into OZ's Daily Shaharit Minyan

Monday-Friday, 7:15 am

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

Zoom ID: 518 639 181

Passcode: 613

Sundays, 8:45 am

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

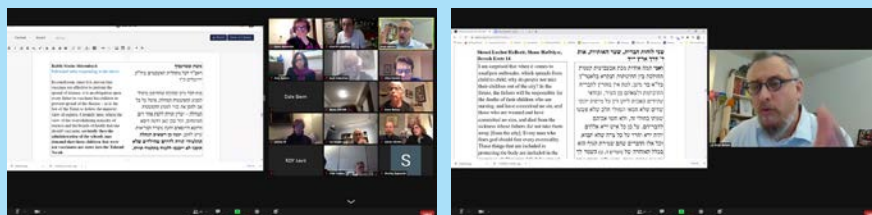
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Passcode: 613

Miraculous Medicine: Vaccinations, Midrash and Jewish Law

Source Sheet by Scott Bolton with thanks to many who compiled sources on vaccination on Sefaria

More info >



"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."
(attributed to) Albert Einstein

A recording of Rabbi Bolton's presentation *Miraculous Medicine: Vaccinations, Midrash, and Jewish Law* is on YouTube and can be found by clicking: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VihH1kdIxAw>.

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

Passcode: 613

Zoom out of Shabbat on
Saturday Nights

See Calendar for times

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

Zoom ID: 775 962 249

Passcode: 613

Or Zarua Community Torah Study

Mondays, 12:00 pm (see the calendar in this newsletter)

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

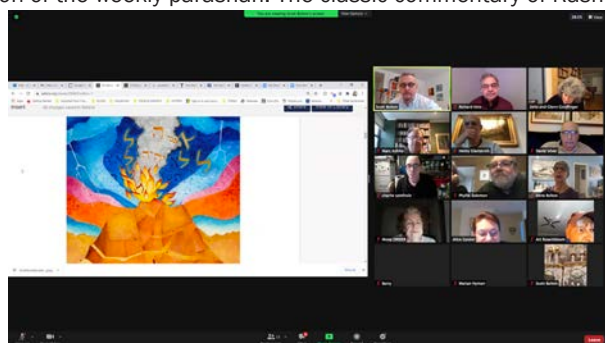
Zoom ID: 8152 249 6147; Passcode: 613

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 parashah. The classic commentary of Rashi is thought of as foundational and central to understanding Torah's words and narratives.

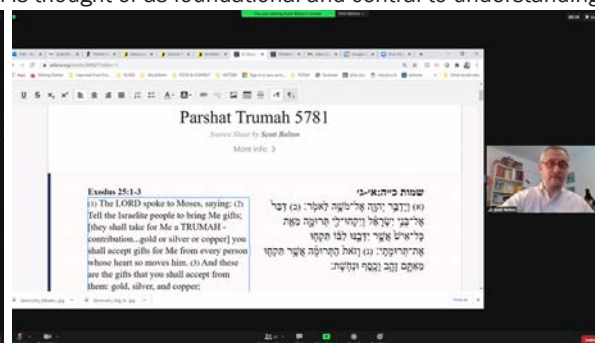
Additionally, Rabbi Bolton will show how some of Rashi's comments speak to psychological or existential issues that Jews of medieval France faced and modern NYC folks still contend with.



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 the parashah is included. Above left: Yitro. Above right: Terumah.



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*. 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 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.

Or L'Atid אור לעתיד

Youth
Education
& Programming

Congregation Or Zarua

Or L'Atid Pre-Pesah in Central Park Sunday, March 14

Meet by Cleopatra's Needle

Bring a sealed box or can of non-perishable food with you for donation. Start cleaning out your pantry for Pesah and get rid of your hametz while helping those in need!

From Slavery to Freedom! Early Childhood Program, 10:15 am

Children under 5 are invited to join us with a grown-up of their choice for a unique interactive, multi-sensory experience "From Slavery to Being Free!" Build bricks and pyramids, jump like frogs, go through the Red Sea, and of course, drum up a ruckus with instruments as we celebrate our freedom! *Each child will get a pre-packed bag of supplies and materials for the program.*

Name That Pesah! Elementary & Middle School Program, 11:00am

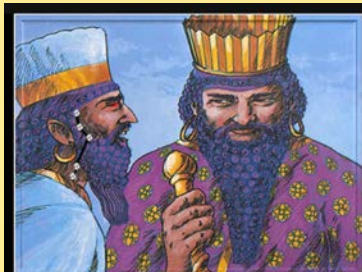
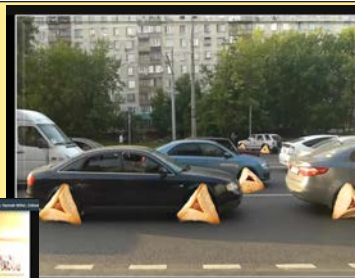
Families are invited to join us as we learn about the different names of Pesah with a variety of "challenges" for families to complete. We'll engage all our senses with multi-faceted activities as we think more deeply about the names for the holiday and what added meaning they bring to our celebrations. *Any materials needed will be provided in individual bags for families. This is a family program, meant for parents and children together.*

Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends are all invited to join us.
Please register in advance on ShulCloud so that we can plan accordingly.
Registration Link: <https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/PesahCentralPark>

All registrants will receive a box of chocolate-covered matzah and a Passover candy, so don't forget to sign up!



Kids had a blast introducing our virtual Megillah reading with their original Weekend Update-Purim Edition. Clever silliness abounded as they joked about Purim, the Megillah and more!



Missed the Or L'Atid Weekend Update Purim Edition? Or, loved it so much that you MUST watch it again? To watch click the link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZWU022521>.



Our new semester is underway!
It's not too late to sign up.

ALEPH-BET

Cooking & Cookies

WITH OZ

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.

March 4: Mandel Bread (or "Zweiback")
March 11: Graham Crackers
March 18: Ka'ach Bilmach—Salty Sesame Cookies
March 25: No Class

Drop in for \$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!



Thursday,
March 11

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..."

Save the Dates!
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://tinyurl.com/StartSpreadingJews>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 • 17 Adar 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	2 • 18 Adar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	3 • 19 Adar 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) 4:00p Hebrew School: 3rd-5th Grades 7:15p 8th-9th Grade Hebrew <i>No Talmud Class</i>	4 • 20 Adar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies	5 • 21 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 4:30p Zoom into Shabbat 5:33p Candlelighting	6 • 22 Adar Bat Mitzvah: Sonia Kranich Shabbat Parah Ki Tissa 6:29p Shabbat Ends 6:35p Zoom Out of Shabbat
7 • 23 Adar 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) TBD: Bir'nana Rehearsal	8 • 24 Adar 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	9 • 25 Adar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	10 • 26 Adar 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) 4:00p Hebrew School: 3rd-5th Grades 7:15p 8th-9th Grade Hebrew 7:30p Talmud Class	11 • 27 Adar Bar Mitzvah: Ziggy Bornas 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies 5:00 & 6:00p Start Spreading the Jews! Cooking with Sigal and Rabbi Bolton 7:30p Scholarly Duo Lecture with Dr. Hartley Lachter	12 • 28 Adar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 5:00p Zoom into Shabbat 5:41p Candlelighting	13 • 29 Adar Bar Mitzvah: Ziggy Bornas Shabbat Hachodesh Vayakhel-Pekude 10:00a In-Person Shabbat Service: Pre-registration required (No Zoom Service) 6:37p Shabbat Ends 6:45p Zoom Out of Shabbat
14 • 1 Nissan Rosh Hodesh Daylight Saving Time 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 10:15a Or L'Atid Slavery to Freedom (Early Childhood) 11:00a Or L'Atid Name that Pesah (Elementary & Middle School) TBD: Bir'nana Rehearsal	15 • 2 Nissan 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	16 • 3 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	17 • 4 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) 4:00p Hebrew School: 3rd-5th Grades 7:15p 8th-9th Grade Hebrew 7:30p Talmud Class	18 • 5 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies 7:30p Scholarly Duo Lecture with Dr. Jessica Cooperman	19 • 6 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 6:00p Zoom into Shabbat 6:48p Candlelighting	20 • 7 Nissan Vayikra 7:44p Shabbat Ends 6:50p Zoom Out of Shabbat
21 • 8 Nissan MET Council Volunteers 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 10:00a MAH NISHTANAH? with Rabbi Bolton TBD: Bir'nana Rehearsal	22 • 9 Nissan 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	23 • 10 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	24 • 11 Nissan Hametz Sale Authorization Due Today (See Page 4) 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) 4:00p Hebrew School: 3rd-5th Grades 7:15p 8th-9th Grade Hebrew 7:30p Talmud Class	25 • 12 Nissan Ta'anit Behorot (Fast First Born)/Siyum after services 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) Evening: Bedikat Hametz Search for Hametz <i>No Aleph-Bet</i> <i>Cooking & Cookies</i> <i>No Siddur Class</i>	26 • 13 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 11:58a Finish Eating Hametz; Sell & Burn Hametz 6:00p Zoom into Shabbat 6:56p Candlelighting	27 • 14 Nissan Erev Pesah/Shabbat Hagadol/Tzav 10:00a In-Person Shabbat Service: Pre-registration required (No Zoom Service) Bittul Hametz (nullification) before 11:58 am 7:52p Shabbat Ends Light Candles after 7:52p First Seder; No Zoom Out
28 • 15 Nissan First Day of Pesah Light Candles after 7:52p Second Seder <i>No Zoom Out</i> <i>No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i>	29 • 16 Nissan Second Day of Pesah 7:53p Yom Tov Ends <i>No Community Torah Study</i> <i>No Zoom Out</i> <i>No Hebrew School</i>	30 • 17 Nissan Hol Hamoed Third Day of Pesah 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	31 • 18 Nissan Hol Hamoed Fourth Day of Pesah 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) 7:30p Careful with that Matzah! with Rabbi Bolton <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Talmud Class</i>	1 April • 19 Nissan Hol Hamoed Fifth Day of Pesah 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 11:00a Yizkor with Pre-registration using link: https://tinyurl.com/OZPY2021 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies	2 April • 20 Nissan Hol Hamoed Sixth Day of Pesah 7:15a Shaharit 6:00p Zoom into Shabbat & Day 7 of Pesah 8:00p Candlelighting	3 April • 21 Nissan Hol Hamoed Seventh Day of Pesah 10:00a In-Person Shabbat Service: Pre-registration required (No Zoom Service) 8:00p Shabbat Ends Light Candles after 8:00p <i>No Zoom Out</i>

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.

The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between January 2, 2021 and January 31, 2021

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.

OZ has a YouTube Channel!

Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/OZonYouTube>

Or Zarua's New Accounting Team

Or Zarua is 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.

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>

OZ Purim Spiel 5781/2021 Zoom



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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

for packing and distributing groceries with the Met Council
See the Hesed Column, Page 9

Help Keep Our Daily Minyan Strong Even on Zoom

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

Contact Sheldon Adler: sadler@skadden.com

See Zoom Details on Page 10.



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 10 for Zoom sign-in details.