

Keshet Israel Presents for Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut *Women on the Front Lines* with photographer Debbie Zimelman, 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.

Ms. Zimelman 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.

In order to attend this Zoom presentation please pre-register using the link printed above (blue font); after registration Zoom sign-in credentials will be sent to you via email.



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CONGREGATION תקוה זרוא
OrZarua
 LEARN • PRAY • PARTICIPATE • CONNECT

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
 FOUNDED 1989

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 www.orzarua.org

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YOUTH EDUCATION	<i>Eric Schmutter</i>

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



A *l 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.

These words from *Pirke Avot* (Chapter I, 2) are the founding principles of Congregation Or Zarua. And, we bring these to life each and every day in our community—even in a year-long pandemic.

It is traditional to study *Pirke Avot*, Teachings of the Sages, at this time in the Jewish year, between Pesach and Shavuot.

For our congregation, the first principle, **Torah**, is paramount. Even during this pandemic year, we have been studying the Torah portion and Rashi's commentary weekly. At our in-person services, the Torah reading is the central element. As we have since the founding of Or Zarua, we read the entire parasha together. Rabbi Bolton has been shouldering most of the reading these days but when we get back to weekly in-person services, the reading will again be shared among volunteers. Members will again be encouraged to learn to read Torah.

Torah also refers to learning. We, at Or Zarua, pride ourselves in being a learning community—dedicated to learning for both children and adults. During the past year, we have continued to educate our adults with a variety of classes—in Torah, Talmud, Siddur, Jewish History with Barry Feldman and, in the next few weeks, Social Justice with Marc Ashley. We have enjoyed learning with scholars from around the world. We have also sponsored ScholarStream, an initiative of the Rabbinical Assembly, USCJ, JTS and Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. Many OZ members have participated in these unique learning opportunities.

Or L'Atid, our youth education program, is thriving on Zoom. For the entire school year, our students have been learning Hebrew, Jewish History, Torah, T'filah, Customs and Practices, as well as love of Israel and Hesed. Our middle and high school students have been studying with Rabbi Bolton and Sigal Hirsch about the food, songs, history and culture of Jews in New York. We have had cooking classes for young children and their parents. Many families participated in a Pre-Pesach Sunday in Central Park (pages 13-14).

If Pesach is over, Shavuot is coming soon. The holiday begins on the evening of May 16. Shavuot commemorates the time when the first fruits were harvested and brought to the Temple (*Hag ha-Bikkurim*—the Festival of the First Fruits). Shavuot also celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai (*Hag Matan Torateinu*—the Festival of the Giving of Our Torah). We celebrate this holiday with a rededication to learning.

The second of Or Zarua's founding principles is **avodah**, translated as divine service or service to God. Our prayer services are central to our existence. We come together on Zoom each weekday morning for spiritual awakening and to support our members who are saying Kaddish. And, we are beginning to come together in person on Shabbat and holidays to pray to God, together. But, avodah also means work. We learn in *Pirke Avot* Chapter II, 2, that one must work for a living: "Rabban Gamliel, son of Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Nassi taught: The study of Torah is commendable when combined with a gainful occupation, for when a person toils in both, sin is driven out of mind."

The third principle, **gemilut hasadim**—that the world is sustained through acts of loving-kindness — is also well practiced at Or Zarua. We continue to feed the former homeless in our community, visit the elderly homebound by phone, collect money for the hungry and provide comfort to our members who are ill or in mourning. Recently, we received a donation from a recipient of our long-standing hesed outreach at NCS with thanks for our generosity to provide food for him and the other residents.

The success of our congregation in fulfilling these three principles depends greatly on your participation as a learner, davener, volunteer and generous supporter. There are so many ways to be involved at Or Zarua, and the more you are involved, the more you will feel part of the community. So, I urge you to look to Shavuot to rededicate yourself to Or Zarua's founding principles as exemplified in our branding identity, "Learn, Pray, Participate and Connect."

B'Shalom!

Adult Education Class with Marc Ashley Between Pesah and Shavuot *“Righteousness Like a Mighty Stream”*: Social Justice as Divine Imperative

Two Sunday mornings on Zoom, April 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 two 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 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.

Yom HaShoah u'Gevurah Program Wednesday Evening, April 7, 7:30 pm

A Reading of the Prophet Nahum
 with Rabbi Bolton

The Allied Victory in WWII and the Prophet Nahum's Message

with Past OZ President Michael Schwartz

Music

with Congregant Daniel Panner



Zoom Registration Required:

<https://tinyurl.com/OZYomHaShoahApril2021>

Join us online for a unique program in honor of Yom HaShoah u'Gevurah, Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism Day. This year we will emphasize the “gevurah” (heroism) aspect of the day. Or Zarua past-president **Michael Schwartz** will speak about the religious significance of the Allied victory in WWII. OZ member **Daniel Panner**, Principal Violist of the New York City Opera Orchestra, recorded moving selections that will frame our evening. **Rabbi Bolton** will reflect on spiritual heroism and finding strength in dark times. Memorial prayers will be chanted in memory of our loved ones and all those millions who have no one to say Kaddish for them.

Bir'nana sings L'cha Dodi on YouTube!

Hear & See Them: <https://tinyurl.com/BirnanaLChaDodi032021>



לְכָה דוּדִי – L'cha Dodi
Welcoming the Shabbat Bride
 Composed by Aaron Bensoussan
 Arranged by Scott Stein

בְּרִנָּה – Bir'nana
*The A Cappella Group of
 Congregation Or Zarua, New York, NY*

עֲבֹדוּ אֲתֵיךָ בְּשִׂמְחָה בְּאוֹ לְפָנָיו בְּרִנָּה!
 Worship the Lord in gladness;
 come before the Divine Presence with **joy!**
-Psalm 100:2

Singers
 Amy Bolton, Music Director
 Judy Buchman-Ziv
 Dore Hollander
 Aliza Kaplan
 Marcia Kalin
 Terry Krulwich
 Susan March
 Shelley Saposnik
 Aaron Shelden
 Vera Horn Silver
 Pete Wolf Smith
 Alan Yaillen

Edon Valdman, Audio/Video Production

In Loving Memory of Sharon Seiler ז"ל

Online OZ Gallery For April

Counting, Commemorations, and a Celebration



Photograph Taken after Signing the Declaration of Independence of Israel, May 14, 1948
 Photograph by Frank Shershel, courtesy of the Israel Government Press Office

Counting Forward, Looking Back

This month of April (Nissan/Iyar on the Hebrew calendar) is a time of counting, commemorations and a celebration of the birth of the State of Israel. During the month we count the Omer as we mark the days toward Shavuot. On the 9th of April (27 Nissan), we observe Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, in memory of the almost six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. A week later, April 15 (4 Iyar) is Yom Hazikaron, Memorial Day for those who lost their lives in the struggle for Israel's independence and for all those military personnel killed while on active duty in Israel's armed forces. (In more recent times, this remembrance also includes victims of terrorism.) The next day, April 16 (5 Iyar) is Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, celebrating the formal establishment of the State of Israel.

In the above photograph, taken on May 14, 1948 (5 Iyar 5708), Golda Meir is seen shaking hands with Moshe Sharett, who became the second Prime Minister of Israel, as David Ben-Gurion, who became the first Prime Minister of Israel, looks on, after the reading and signing of the Declaration of Independence. It was a profound moment, one of jubilation and also sadness. In her luminous, definitive biography, "LIONESS Golda Meir And The Nation of Israel" writer Francine Klagsbrun, our OZ Congregant, captures the jubilant, deeply emotional sense of that historic time:

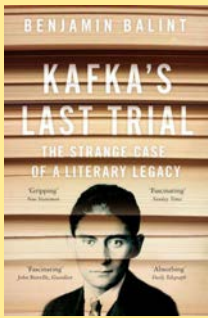
"After the entire proclamation was read and adopted, signers walked to the desk one by one in alphabetical order to write their names on a sheet of parchment Moshe Sharett and Ben-Gurion held between them. Golda's hands shook and tears flowed from her eyes as she signed 'Golda Meyerson' [her American name]. She thought about the signers of the American Declaration of Independence she had learned about as a child, and about her journey from Russia to this moment. She thought about people who were missing, who should have been there, and she couldn't stop weeping...When asked in later years what her most important day in Israel was, Golda replied without hesitation, 'Friday afternoon, when the State was declared. It was the greatest moment.'"

Seventy-three years later, it still is.

More about how Francine Klagsbrun's biography is being made into a mini-series, produced by Barbra Streisand and starring Shtisel's Shira Haas, can be found on Page 8.

-Gerry Solomon

Or Zarua Book Discussions



Kafka's Last Trial by Benjamin Balint

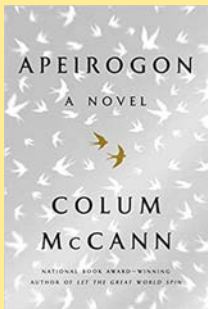
Sunday, April 18, 7:00 pm

Moderator: Rabbi Bolton

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

Meeting ID: 853 2936 2449, 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

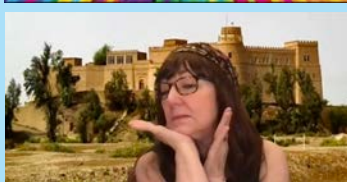
Moderator: Pat Davidson

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

Meeting ID: 853 2936 2449, 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.

OZ Purim Spiel 5781/2021 Zoom



From Compassion to Action: OZ Hessed Opportunities

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

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



New York Common Pantry Helping the Hungry

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

You can also donate needed pantry staples—particularly rice and pasta—via the Pantry's Amazon list. While Or Zarua has not resumed in-person Hessed activities due to the pandemic, please note that NYCP posts its volunteer shifts at www.nycommonpantry.volunteerhub.com. 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 reinstated 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 Hessed Fund are 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 Hessed Fund

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

New York Common Pantry:

<http://nycommonpantry.org>

Met Council for Jewish Poverty:

<https://www.metcouncil.org>

Project ORE:

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

Food Bank for New York City:

<https://www.foodbanknyc.org>

UJA Federation of New York:

<https://www.ujafedny.org>

Leket, Table to Table (Israeli):

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

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 Hessed 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, April 25, 11 am.**

Individuals and families are welcome to volunteer. If interested please contact Jeff Haberman at: jeff32449@verizon.net or (917) 697-1677.

Yom Ha'atzmaut Israel's Independence Day Celebrating 73 Years of Religious Diversity in Israel

Guest Speakers Listed Below

**Thursday, April 15, 2021
9:30 - 10:45 am**

**Register using the following link:
<https://tinyurl.com/OZandAJCApril2021>**



Rabbi David Rosen
AJC Director
International Interreligious
Affairs



Christopher White
National Correspondent
National Catholic Reporter



**Moderated by
Dr. Saba Soomekh**
Associate Director
AJC Los Angeles &
Scholar of Religious Studies

**Kol Hakavod
to our
Executive Director
Helene Santo!**



In March, the North American Association of Synagogue Executives (NAASE), the professional organization for synagogue administrators within the Conservative Movement, awarded Helene Santo certification as a Fellow in Synagogue Administration (FSA). FSA certification formally recognizes Helene's commitment to the highest standards of professional skill and ongoing professional growth in the field, as well as longevity in the field, participation and leadership in NAASE, and an advanced understanding of the required knowledge to be a successful synagogue executive.

NAASE has formally recognized what we at Or Zarua have learned in Helene's almost 8 years of service and leadership here, including the unprecedented challenges of the current pandemic. Executive Directors serve as role models for their Congregants and the local Jewish community. As we know, Helene fulfills a role that involves synagogue administration, budget and finance, human resources, membership, facility management and ritual knowledge, and—especially this year—state-of-the-art videoconferencing and computer skills. Through this certification, NAASE acknowledges our Executive Director's commitment to knowledge, personal growth and improved professional performance in these areas and more.

We are proud of Helene, and pleased to see that NAASE appreciates Helene's service, leadership and expertise as we at Or Zarua do. Helene, may you go from strength to strength!

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**Ma'ariv for Yom HaAtzmaut
Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 7:00 pm
Join the service via Zoom
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZMYH2021>
Zoom ID: 867 3593 0122
Zoom Passcode: 613**

Join us for the Ma'ariv service on-line that will include the special prayer for Israeli Independence Day. Bring a l'chaim of your choice, to lift a glass for Israel's 73rd birthday. We'll chant a psalm from Hallel, as well. Come share in the inspiration and affirm our eternal connection to the Jewish State, our homeland.

LIONESS

Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel

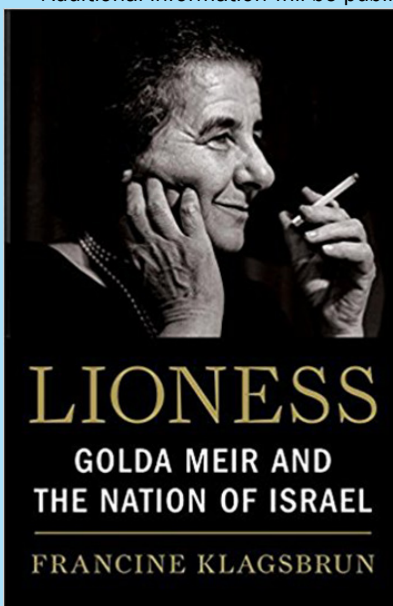
**Book by OZ Congregant
Francine Klagsbrun**

is being made into a mini series

Starring Shira Hass with Barbara Streisand and Eric Tuchman as executive producers.
You can read more about this event here:

<https://tinyurl.com/LIONESSMiniseries1>

Additional information will be published in future issues of the OZ newsletter.



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:

- April 3
- April 10
- April 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.

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=VlhH1kdlxAw>.

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>
Zoom ID: 283 908 873
Passcode: 613

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.

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>

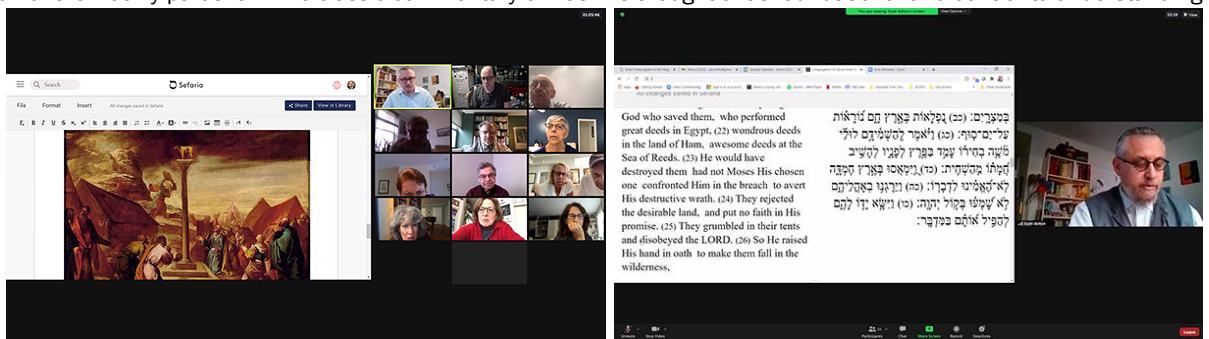
Zoom ID: 8152 249 6147; Passcode: 613

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: Ki Tissa. Above right: Vayikra.



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 I 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@orzaru.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.



Looking Ahead to Hebrew School this April What are we making this month...?

Omer Counter
Jewish Star Mosaics
Shabbat Candlesticks and Challah Cover
Havdalah Candle and Holder, and Besamim Spice Bag

Be sure to check out the May Newsletter for photos of the finished products!



Blue & White Picnic for Yom Ha'atzmaut

Sunday, April 18, 12:30 pm

OZ families, celebrate Israeli Independence Day with Or L'Atid!
Join us in Central Park for a picnic lunch with an Israeli twist!
Sign up by Tuesday, April 13 to reserve your lunch and picnic blanket.
Put Israel on **YOUR** map with unique activities for kids of all ages!
Stay tuned for more information.

Save the Date: Friday, May 14

Zoom into Shabbat Or L'Atid Siyyum

Save the date for a Zoom into Shabbat end-of-year celebration
for the children of Or Zarua.

Students of all educational backgrounds will be celebrated (Hebrew School, Day School, Public School, etc.). Please send photos to Sigal (shirsch@orzarua.org) to be included in a special presentation. Take photos of your kids during Hebrew School, during cooking classes, holding projects they've made throughout the year, or any other photos you've taken of your kids learning with Or Zarua this year!



**Thursday,
April 8**

**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 Next Date!
Thursday, 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>

**Our new semester is underway!
It's not too late 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.

**April 1: Passover Chocolate Mousse Pie
April 8: Bourekas
April 15: Krembos
April 22: Black & White Cookies
April 29: S'mores Tart**

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!

Pre-Pesach Sunday with Or L'Atid in Central Park

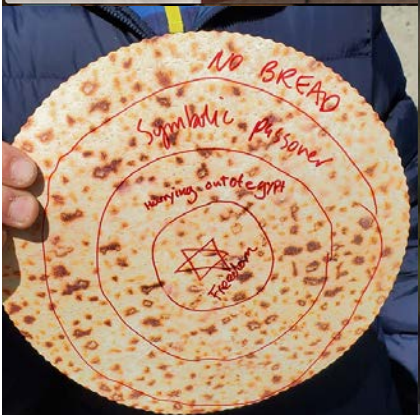
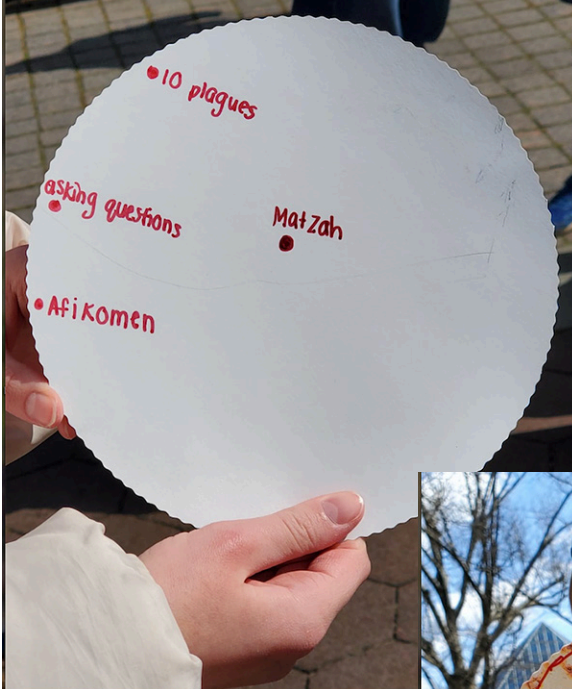
Or L'Atid אור לעתיד

Education
& Programming
Congregation Or Zarua



Pre-Pesach Sunday with Or L'Atid in Central Park

Or L'Atid
 אור לעתיד
 Youth
 Education
 & Programming
 Congregation Or Zarua



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 • 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 • 20 Nissan Hol Hamoed Sixth Day of Pesah 7:15a Shaharit 6:00p Zoom into Shabbat & Day 7 of Pesah 7:03p Candlelighting	3 • 21 Nissan 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 No Zoom Out
4 • 22 Nissan Last Day of Pesah 8:00p: Festival Ends No Zoom Services No Bir'nana Rehearsal	5 • 23 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	6 • 24 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	7 • 25 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 Yom HaShoah Program No Talmud Class	8 • 26 Nissan Erev Yom HaShoah 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies 5:00 & 6:00p Start Spread- ing the Jews! Cooking with Sigal and Rabbi Bolton	9 • 27 Nissan Yom HaShoah 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 6:00p Zoom into Shabbat 7:10p Candlelighting	10 • 28 Nissan Shemini 10:00a In-Person Shabbat Service: Pre-registration required (No Zoom Service) 8:07p Shabbat Ends 8:15p Zoom Out of Shabbat
11 • 29 Nissan 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 7:30p: Bir'nana Rehearsal	12 • 30 Nissan Rosh Hodesh 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	13 • 1 Iyar Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	14 • 2 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) 12:00p <i>Women on the</i> <i>Front Lines</i> with Debbie Zimelman 4:00p Hebrew School: 3rd-5th 7:15p 8th-9th Grade Hebrew 7:00p Ma'ariv for Yom Ha'Atzmaut 7:30p Talmud Class	15 • 3 Iyar Erev Yom Hazikaron 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 9:30 am AJC Program for Yom Ha'Atzmaut 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies	16 • 4 Iyar Yom Hazikaron Erev Yom Ha'Atzmaut 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 6:00p Zoom into Shabbat 7:18p Candlelighting	17 • 5 Iyar Bar Mitzvah: Jacob Posner Yom Ha'Atzmaut Tazria-Metzora 8:15p Shabbat Ends 8:20p Zoom Out of Shabbat with Sigal Hirsch
18 • 6 Iyar 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 10:00a <i>Social Justice as</i> <i>Divine Imperative</i> : Class with Marc Ashley 12:30p Blue & White Picnic for Yom Ha'atzmaut 7:00p Book Discussion: <i>Kafka's Last Trial</i> by Benjamin Balint No Bir'nana Rehearsal	19 • 7 Iyar 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	20 • 8 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	21 • 9 Iyar 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	22 • 10 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies	23 • 11 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 6:30p Zoom into Shabbat 7:25p Candlelighting	24 • 12 Iyar Aharei Mot-Kedoshim 10:00a In-Person Service: Pre-registration (No Zoom) 8:23p Shabbat Ends 8:30p Zoom Out of Shabbat
25 • 13 Iyar 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 10:00a <i>Social Justice as</i> <i>Divine Imperative</i> : Class with Marc Ashley 11:00a MET Council Volunteers 7:30p: Bir'nana Rehearsal	26 • 14 Iyar 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	27 • 15 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	28 • 16 Iyar 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	29 • 17 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies	30 • 18 Iyar Lag B'Omer 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Zoom Lag B'Omer Celebration and Into Shabbat 7:32p Candlelighting	1 May • 19 Nissan Emor 8:32p Shabbat Ends 8:40p Zoom Out of Shabbat

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 February 1, 2021 and February 28, 2021

OZ has a YouTube Channel!

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

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

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.



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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
for packing and distributing groceries with the Met Council
See the Hesed Column, Page 7



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 9 for Zoom sign-in details.

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 Shahrarit minyan.
Contact Sheldon Adler: sadler@skadden.com
See Zoom Details on Page 9.

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. Rachele is our assigned bookkeeper and Azi and his team will be working with Rachele to support the needs of our synagogue.

Celebrate a Birthday or Anniversary with OZ and 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.

The Or Zarua Social Hall will be available to rent once NYC is reopened
Contact Helene Santo,
212-452-2310, ext 14, for information.