



Tikkun Leyl Before Shavuot
with Congregants Bobbi Coller & Roberta Hufnagel and Rabbi Bolton
The Art and Setting of Revelation

The Aesthetics and Experience of The Giving of The Torah

Zoom in on Saturday Night, May 15, 9:00 pm

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZTikkun21>

Zoom ID: 775 962 249; Zoom Passcode: 613



Bobbi Coller

What a scene, and what a setting! Revelation in the Torah happens in the wilderness. The Torah's visual language is stunning. This year, we will be hearing and seeing two engaging presentations from fellow congregants for our expanded Shavuot celebration.

Congregants Bobbi Coller and Roberta Hufnagel will speak at our Zoom-based **Tikkun Leyl Before Shavuot** on *The Art and Setting of Revelation: The Aesthetics and Experience of The Giving of the Torah*. Their talks will be visually stirring and thought-provoking.

Bobbi will explore how wilderness and desert landscapes have been represented in art over the ages, and Roberta will reflect on just why the Torah was given on a mountain, in the desert.

Bobbi is a masterful art historian, teacher, and heads our Gallery Committee, as well as being a serious student of Torah and Talmud. Additionally, she is an independent curator and art educator. With her BS in Education from New York University and a PhD in Art History from the Graduate



Roberta Hufnagel

Continued on page 8

Shavuot Begins Sunday Night, May 16

Erev Shavuot: Sunday, May 16

**6:30 pm: Zoom Yizkor and
Zoom INTO Shavuot**

Register in advance using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/OZShavuotYizkor2021>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Light Candles on Sunday Night
for the first night at 7:47 pm**

Shavuot Day 1: Monday, May 17

No In-Person or Zoom Services

**Light Candles on Monday Night
for the second night after 8:47 pm**

Shavuot Day 2: Tuesday, May 18

**9:30 am: In-Person Service with Yizkor
No Zoom Service**

Register in advance using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/InPersonServicesOZ2021>

Shavuot ends at 8:49 pm



CONGREGATION OrZarua

 LEARN • PRAY • PARTICIPATE • CONNECT

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
 FOUNDED 1989

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 New York, NY 10028
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 www.orzarua.org

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 DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, *Rabbi Emeritus*
 DIANE OKRENT, *President*
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AESTHETICS	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
ART GALLERY	<i>Bobbi Collier</i>
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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



Dear Members:

This is the second time I am writing a final newsletter column as president of Congregation Or Zarua. In 2014, at the end of my first presidency, I never imagined that

I would be president again four years later. Now, after a total of six years as president, it is time for me to pass the baton, once again, to my successor. The next president will be elected at our annual meeting on May 26th.

It has been my profound honor and privilege to lead this wonderful community through good times and challenging ones. During my first presidency (2011-2014), Rabbi Wechsler retired and we welcomed Rabbi Bolton. The transition from our founding rabbi was very successful. As I took office in 2011, we were forced, with very little notice, to change the location of our High Holy Day services (after 19 years in the same place). In 2013, we were very fortunate to hire Helene Santo as our Executive Director. Helene is an invaluable asset to the Congregation.

When I became president again in 2018, I expected to serve only two years but then there was COVID! The pandemic presented a host of challenges – how to hold a community together without being together, physically. How would we conduct services? How would we educate our children and our adults? How would we be Or Zarua? Well, we Zoomed! We became Or Zoom-arua!

Or Zarua continued and continues to be open for community and connection, for minyan, and education for adults and children—serving our community with vitality and warmth.

Rabbi Bolton, Sigal Hirsch, and Helene Santo and many members have been resourceful and creative, producing opportunities for all of us to learn, pray, participate, and connect—via Zoom. Look through this newsletter and read our weekly e-blasts to see the wide-ranging programs and services we are providing—virtually.

We are slowly returning to our building. Shabbat services will resume a weekly schedule this month. Eventually, we will have more and more gatherings in the building. Until then, we 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.

Or L'Atid, our youth education program, under Sigal Hirsch's inspired and enthusiastic leadership, has been very successful on Zoom. However, the children (and their parents and teachers) are eager for a return to the actual classroom. Plans are underway to be in person in the Fall.

While the COVID pandemic has presented unimaginable challenges, the usual issues facing synagogues remain. In 2011, I wrote the following: "Every Or Zarua president has faced similar issues: How can we grow our membership? How do we retain our current members? How do we maintain the quality of our Hebrew School? How do we maintain our building? How do we provide new and attractive programs, lectures, and courses? How do we keep our services vibrant while remaining traditional? And, how do we finance it all? The Board and its officers will continue to address these challenges in the years to come." Those words ring as true today as they did 10 years ago. And, as I did then, I know we are all up to those challenges and ready to continue the adventure that is Or Zarua.

As I leave office, I thank you, the members, for your encouragement and support. I appreciate the time, creativity, and resources so many of you bring to OZ. I want to give special thanks to the committee chairs and their members, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Trustees for all their hard work to make this a vibrant, thriving organization. I am particularly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Rabbi Bolton to enhance what Or Zarua offers its members and the larger Jewish community.

With all good wishes,
B'Shalom!

Diane

**In-Person Services for May are scheduled
for each Shabbat beginning with May 8 at 9:30 am
Wednesday Mornings at 7:15 am
Second Day of Shavuot with Yizkor, Tuesday, May 18, at 9:30 am
Pre-Registration on ShulCloud for each day is Required
Link to Sign Up: <https://tinyurl.com/InPersonServicesOZ2021>**

On the following Shabbatot OZ will have an in-person service beginning at 9:30 am and ending at approximately 12 noon: May 8, 15, 22, & 29, and June 5

In addition there will be an in-person service for the second day of Shavuot on Tuesday May 18 beginning at 9:30 am. See page 1 for additional information regarding Shavuot at OZ for this year.

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

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/InPersonServicesOZ2021>

For in-person services on Shabbat after June 5, 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 both in-person and 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 a service in person you must pre-register using the following link:

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/InPersonServicesOZ2021>

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 check off the days you and your group plan to attend and please answer two questions regarding attendance.
- Everyone is required to wear a face mask covering their nose and mouth at all times while within the building.
- The plexi-glass barriers are no longer being used.
- Each service will begin promptly at its scheduled time. Please plan to arrive early so the congregation can be seated comfortably and with ample social distancing among the Sanctuary pews before services begin.
- Please note, at present due to occupancy restrictions, only registered members and their guests may attend services. Please do not bring any additional people not listed on the registration form.
- Be sure to bring your own tallit, tefillin, and head covering as these items will not be provided.

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

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

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

OZ Congregants will package and deliver food for the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter's East 81st Street Residence from 5:00 to 5:45 pm on the the third and fourth Thursdays of each month. Donations to the Hessed Fund are also 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.

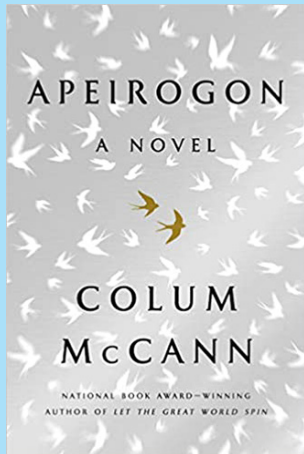
Our next session will meet on Sunday, May 23, 11 am.

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



Above: Or Zarua Congregants volunteering at the MET Council Project

Or Zarua Book Discussions



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.

Celebrating Israel Throughout the Year

It is never too late to celebrate Israel's Independence Day. If you missed this year's celebration, you can view it online using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsOgP5W9-eQ>.

The CEO of pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, Albert Bourla, was thanked during the official Israeli ceremony. Bourla, the son of Greek Jews who survived the Holocaust, spoke in response and praised the nation's achievements in science and innovation, calling the rapid pace of the vaccination campaign "another ground-breaking achievement." To pay tribute to the immunization campaign, Israeli military officers demonstrated maneuvers forming a moving syringe alluding to the COVID-19 jabs, along with a number one changing to number two, symbolizing both doses administered as part of a full treatment regimen.

Fourteen people were selected to light the symbolic torches marking the transition between Israel's Day of Remembrance for Fallen Soldiers and Independence Day marking the country's founding in 1948. You can read about some of these amazing people here: <https://tinyurl.com/IsraelTorchLighters>.

Koolulam, a social musical initiative, had all the health care professionals singing together, honoring those on the front lines who fought against the pandemic over the past year.

You don't have to wait until next year, Thursday night, May 5th 2022, to celebrate Israel. Here are a few ways to celebrate year-round:

1) The Consulate General of Israel, New York, sends out a weekly email, Israeli Culture in North America. The email provides links to a whole calendar of art, music, and film events that you can join in to

watch. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/CGIsraelSignUp>.

2) American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic sends out a weekly email detailing talks and recordings of wonderful performances. Sign up here: <https://afipo.org/>.

3) American Jewish University sponsors weekly seminars with Israeli top artists and curators. Join their mailing list at: <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1861357/1771533/>.

4) The Creative Community for Peace is an organization that promotes the arts as a bridge to peace, counters antisemitism within the entertainment industry, and galvanizes support against the cultural boycott of Israel. They sponsor many Zooms that include members of the entertainment industry who host discussions and take you behind the scenes of the entertainment world. Subscribe here: <https://www.creativecommunityforpeace.com/newsletters/>.

5) Joining the Times of Israel allows you to experience Israel virtually while supporting Israeli tour guides. With over a dozen online experiential tours scheduled over the course of the year—from November 2020 through August 2021—you can visit Israel twice a month...without the jet-lag. Join by signing up on their site: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-unlocked/>.

6) JNF provides virtual tours. Also, check out the Israel Museum, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, and the Tower of David Museum who all offer virtual tours of their exhibits. Go to their website: <https://tinyurl.com/JNFVirtualTours>.

Am Yisrael Chai!

-Reena Levine Seltzer

Annual Meeting and Proxy

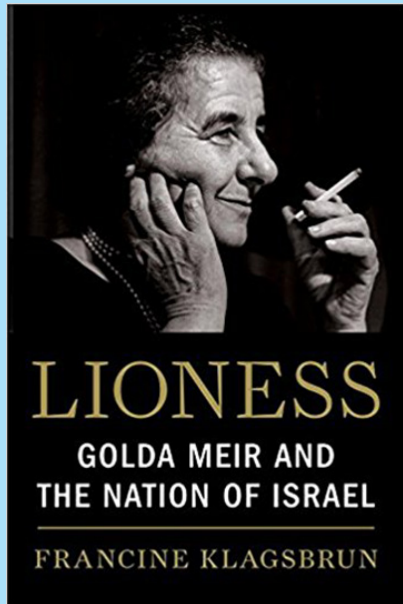
Please submit your Annual Meeting Proxy by Monday, May 24
Annual Meeting (Zoom): Wednesday, May 26, 8:00 pm

The agenda for Congregation Or Zarua's 32nd Annual Meeting will include: The election of Officers; The election of Trustees; Treasurer's report; and Remarks from the President, Rabbi, and Director of Youth Education and Programming. The notice of the Annual Meeting includes the slate of Officers and Trustees. According to the By-Laws, we need a quorum to conduct synagogue business at our Annual Meeting. This means we need approximately 170 members to attend or to provide a proxy. A link to the electronic proxy is below. All adult members and their children between the ages of 18 and 22 are eligible to vote.

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, please submit your proxy, via ShulCloud using this link: <https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/2020-21-annual-meeting-proxy.html> by Monday, May 24 (via ShulCloud). You must be logged into your ShulCloud account to access the proxy form.

Zoom into the Annual Meeting with the Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZZoomAnnualMeeting2021>
Zoom Meeting ID: 876 4950 8256; Zoom Passcode: 613

LIONESS: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel



The Book *LIONESS, Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel* by OZ Congregant Francine Klagsbrun is being made into a mini series.

The series will star Shira Hass. Barbara Streisand and Eric Tuchman are the 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.



Bir'nana sings L'cha Dodi on YouTube! Hear & See Them: <https://tinyurl.com/BirnanaLChaDodi032021>



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

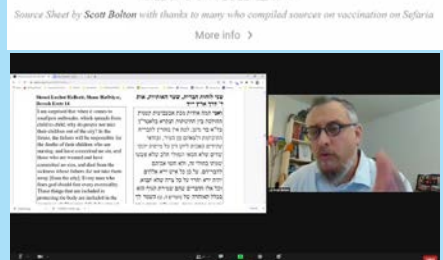
עבדו אתה' בשמחה באו לפניו ברננה
Worship the Lord in gladness;
come before the Divine Presence with joy!
-Psalm 100:2

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

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
Sharon Seiler ז"ל

Miraculous Medicine: Vaccinations, Midrash and Jewish Law



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=VlH1kdxAw>

"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

OZ has a YouTube Channel! Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/OZonYouTube>

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.

Online OZ Gallery For May

Shavuot, Rembrandt and the Artist's Jewish Connections

PICTURE THIS. Fifty days after the Exodus from Egypt. The Jewish people are gathered at Mt. Sinai. Moses has ascended the mountain. On the mountaintop, God speaks to Moses with the words of the Ten Commandments and inscribes them on the tablets. Moses remains on the mountaintop for forty days and nights learning the law. Down below, the Jewish people become restless and fearful. The Golden Calf is created. Moses descends with the tablets in his arms and sees the people dancing around the statue.

In the image at the right, Rembrandt van Rijn, the Dutch master painter, engraver and draftsman, depicts what happened next. Using rich, deep colors, broad brushstrokes and a theatrical use of lighting, Rembrandt evokes this monumental, emotional moment when Moses smashes the tablets. Against a rich gold background, light seems to emanate from Moses' face. You can almost feel his anger and exhaustion. It is a masterpiece.

Rembrandt, a Christian, created many works—drawings, paintings, and prints—on Jewish Biblical subjects. According to University of Pennsylvania professor of art history Larry Silver, “Rembrandt was heavily influenced by the Bible.” Among his other works are: *Abraham Sacrificing Isaac*; *The Condemnation of Haman*; *Esther Preparing to Intercede with Ahasuerus*; and *Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph*. Also there are paintings and drawings such as *Jews in the Synagogue*, *Portrait of a Young Jew*, *The Jewish Bride*, and *Portrait of a Rabbi*. Rembrandt's first wife, Saskia Uylenburgh, is reported to have been the model for the print, *The Great Jewish Bride*, as well as the model for Rembrandt's depiction of Queen Esther.

It's also important to note Rembrandt's Dutch nationality. Holland at that time was a haven for Jews who had escaped from persecution or had been expelled from much of Europe. Sephardic Jews began settling in the Netherlands after 1600 and Ashkenazic Jews somewhat later. From 1633 to 1635 and from 1639 to 1658 Rembrandt lived in the Jewish Quarter of Amsterdam, coincidentally also the home to many other artists. Additionally, Rembrandt was said to be friendly with several prominent, well-to-do Sephardic Jewish doctors and merchants. He was also said to be familiar with Jewish environments such as synagogues and private homes; some may have been portrayed in his artwork.

In his carefully-researched 2003 book *Rembrandt's Jews*, author Steven Nadler examines a “popular and romantic myth” about Rembrandt and the Jews that implies that Rembrandt—through his sympathetic portraits of Jewish faces and numerous use of Jewish themes—had a special affinity for Judaism. In Nadler's view, the relationship was much more nuanced. While benefitting from the financial support of his wealthy neighbors, Rembrandt often had contentious dealings with many in this community.

Nonetheless, his art is a blessing for the ages. We are pleased this month to highlight one of Rembrandt's masterpieces that reminds us of a foundational event in Jewish history.

From the OZ Gallery Committee, **Chag Shavuot Sameach!!**

-Gerry Solomon



REMBRANDT VAN RIJN
Moses With the Tablets of the Law, 1659
Gemaldegalerie, Berlin, Germany

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Tikkun Leyl Before Shavuot
 with Congregants **Bobbi Coller & Roberta Hufnagel** and Rabbi Bolton
The Art & Setting of Revelation

The Aesthetics and Experience of The Giving of the Torah

Zoom in on Saturday Night, May 15, 9:00 pm

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

Zoom ID: 775 962 249; Zoom Passcode: 613



Bobbi Coller

Center of CUNY, she has taught Modern and Contemporary art history at Long Island University, CW Post Campus. Bobbi has curated over thirty exhibitions including "The Artist's Mother: Portraits and Homages" shown at the National

Portrait Gallery, and several others which were circulated throughout the United States by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibitions Service. She currently directs the OZ Gallery which specializes in art relating to Jewish themes including culture, social history, and philosophy.

Dr. Coller has been involved with the legacies of Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner for many years. She currently is the Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Pollock Krasner House and Study Center in Springs, N.Y., the landmarked home and studio of both artists. She curated two exhibitions for that site: "The Persistence of Pollock" in 2012, which marked the hundredth anniversary of the artist's birth, and "Pollock's Champions" in 2014, the first exhibition to focus on Pollock's relationships with his three lifetime dealers.

Dr. Coller and her husband, Dr. Barry Coller, created an innovative semester-long course for medical students and health professionals entitled "The Pulse of Art: Connections Between the History of Art and the History of Medicine" offered at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Using both iconic and contemporary works of art, the course is designed to hone observation skills, enhance empathy, and increase knowledge of the history of medicine and scientific discovery. The Collers partner with the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum where Bobbi Coller is on the Education Committee.

Roberta Hufnagel is a lifelong Torah and Jewish Studies learner, and she has hiked, travelled, and contemplated Torah on journeys around the world. Photos from her travels are sure to delight and stir our midrashic imaginations.

Roberta wrote, "While I wasn't raised with much Jewish tradition I yearned for it since childhood and began exploring ways to connect early on. In 1959 having heard about kibbutz living while in college, I took off a year to spend in Israel where I developed a more complex relationship with my Jewishness, as well as a little conversational Hebrew."

A return to New York City was short-lived, because Roberta could not stay away from Israel and went to Hebrew University in Jerusalem to complete her undergraduate degree in Psychology and English Literature. But New York is home. She holds a masters degree in elementary education, and an MSW in Clinical Social Work from NYU. Her private psychotherapy practice since 1984 was part of a healing and holistic approach to life.

Roberta is open about sharing that it was a breast cancer diagnosis in 1977 that led her to new wildernesses in life, literally and religiously. "A threefold need emerged - the need for greater immersion in my Jewishness, the need to begin a new career as a psychotherapist, and the need to spend time living in the wilderness," she explained. "In time I won't have the strength to continue backpacking or the ability to continue working, but I can't imagine there will ever be a day when my Jewish journey will come to an end."

Summer camp canoe trips put the outdoors on her map, but it was not until she was an adult that Roberta realized her passion for mountains and global travel. It happened on the last day of a two-week trip to the High Sierra in California when she felt actual grief over the trip coming to an end. Recognizing she needed mountains and wilderness to be more than a place to visit through re-reading Torah, travelling to hike,

bike, climb and wander became an integral part of her life. She had no formal training for wilderness activity but like parenting took the learn-as-you-go approach. "Spending 3 to 5 weeks each year off the grid forces one to think



Roberta Hufnagel

creatively about everything from blisters to bear encounters to poison ivy. Not to mention dealing with human interactions during physically stressful times," she said.

"The mountains and desert in this country are truly amazing and could keep one busy for many lifetimes but I wanted to experience wilderness in some of the rest of the world and thus my travels. Some places were chosen for expediency, like a wedding in Ireland, and Nepal for it having the highest mountain, but I chose Ethiopia because of the emotional pull of Jews having ancient roots there."

"The most important reason I'm drawn to wilderness is very primal. There's something about being away from civilisation, from ownership, from permanence, that I treasure. It keeps me on course. It works hand in hand with my Jewish identity and values."

Bicycling to backpacking in the wild nature of North America, Central and South America, Europe, Israel, Africa and Asia has gained Roberta perspective on why Torah was given on Mt. Sinai, in the wilderness.

Come, gather on the Saturday night before Shavuot, May 15, at 9:00 pm to extend our hag celebration and hear from two dynamic fellow Congregants. Bring your own cheesecake and ice cream!

-Rabbi Scott Bolton

Or Zarua Community Torah Study

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

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

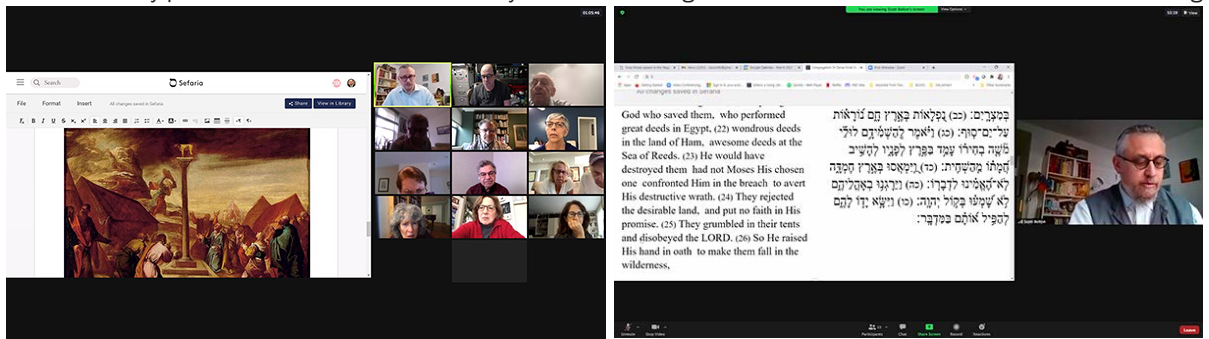
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The mishnah in Avot (1:15) states: “Shammai says: Make your Torah keva” (keva meaning fixed: make your study of Torah a fixed and routine habit!) This is one area of Jewish life when we rule like Beit Shammai! At Or Zarua we not only fix a time for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

Even though we have re-started Shabbat morning services and Torah discussions during the weekly reading of the parsha, 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.

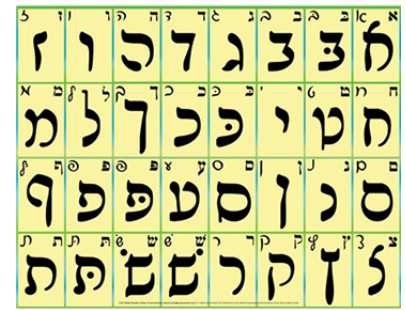


Image above: Did you know that “Rashi Script” was not Rashi’s handwriting but an early printer’s font that differentiated commentary from Torah text in early volumes?

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@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.



Zoom into Shabbat Or L'Atid Siyyum

Friday, May 14, 7:00 pm

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZZoomIntoShabbat>
 Zoom ID: 854 630 476; Passcode: 613

Or L'Atid Families are invited to join us earlier on Zoom at 6:45 pm for a short 15-minute gathering before Zoom Into Shabbat.

Celebrate the children of Or Zarua at our end-of-year celebration! Our students will help lead an abridged Kabbalat Shabbat service for the whole OZ community. Invite grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins as we celebrate our students together!

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 OZ this year!

Looking Ahead to Hebrew School this May

What are we making this month...?

Bonfire Lamps for Lag Ba'Omer

Mini-Torahs for Shavuot

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



Torah Project



Bonfire Project

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



Thursday,
 May 6

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..."

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)!

You can sign up for the last class of the year using this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/StartSpreadingJews>

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.



May 6: Jerusalem Bagels

May 13: Mini Oreo Cheesecakes

May 20: TBA

May 27: TBA



May Hebrew School Projects



Shabbat Candlesticks



Omer Counter



Yom Ha'Atzmaut Mosaic



Or L'Atid Blue & White Picnic for Yom Ha'atzmaut in Central Park



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2 • 20 Iyar 8:45a Shahrut (Zoom) 7:15p: Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p>3 • 21 Iyar 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom) 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School: K-5th Grades 6:30p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars: 6th-7th Grades</p>	<p>4 • 22 Iyar 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom)</p>	<p>5 • 23 Iyar 7:15a Shahrut (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</p>	<p>6 • 24 Iyar 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies 5:00 Start Spreading the Jews! Cooking with Sigal and Rabbi Bolton 6:00 Start Spreading the Jews! Class with Rabbi Bolton</p>	<p>7 • 25 Iyar 7:15a Shahrut 7:00p Zoom into Shabbat 7:40p Candlelighting</p>	<p>8 • 26 Iyar Behar-Behukotai 9:30a In-Person Shabbat Service: Pre-registration required (No Zoom Service) 8:40p Shabbat Ends 8:45p Zoom Out of Shabbat</p>
<p>9 • 27 Iyar Erev Yom Yerushayim Mother's Day 8:45a Shahrut (Zoom) <i>No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i></p>	<p>10 • 28 Iyar Yom Yerushayim 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom) 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School: K-5th Grades 6:30p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars: 6th-7th Grades</p>	<p>11 • 29 Iyar 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom)</p>	<p>12 • 1 Sivan Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Shahrut (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</p>	<p>13 • 2 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies</p>	<p>14 • 3 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom) 6:45p Or L'Atid Siyyum Begins 7:00p Zoom into Shabbat 7:47p Candlelighting</p>	<p>15 • 4 Sivan Bemidbar 9:30a In-Person Shabbat Service: Pre-registration required (No Zoom Service) 8:47p Shabbat Ends 9:00p: Tikkun Leyl Before Shavuot with Bobbi Collier and Roberta Hufnagel</p>
<p>16 • 5 Sivan Erev Shavuot 8:45a Shahrut (Zoom) 6:30 pm Yizkor Zoom into Shavuot 7:47p Candlelighting <i>No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i></p>	<p>17 • 6 Sivan Shavuot Day I Candlelighting after 8:47p <i>No Community Torah Study</i> <i>No Hebrew School</i></p>	<p>18 • 7 Sivan Shavuot Day 2 9:30a In-Person Service with Yizkor: Pre-registration (No Zoom Service) 8:49p Festival Ends</p>	<p>19 • 8 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) 4:00p Hebrew School: 3rd-5th 7:15p 8th-9th Grade Hebrew 7:30p Talmud Class</p>	<p>20 • 9 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies 5:00p NCS Hessed Program</p>	<p>21 • 10 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom) 7:00p Zoom into Shabbat 7:53p Candlelighting</p>	<p>22 • 11 Sivan Naso 9:30a In-Person Shabbat Service: Pre-registration required (No Zoom Service) 8:55p Shabbat Ends 9:00p Zoom Out of Shabbat</p>
<p>23 • 12 Sivan 8:45a Shahrut (Zoom) 11:00a MET Council Volunteers 7:00p: Book Discussion: <i>Apeirogon</i> by Colum McCann led by Pat Davidson 7:15p: Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 • 13 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom) 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School: K-5th Grades 6:30p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars: 6th-7th Grades</p>	<p>25 • 14 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom)</p>	<p>26 • 15 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) 4:00p Hebrew School: 3rd-5th Grades 7:15p 8th-9th Grade Hebrew 8:00p Annual Meeting <i>No Talmud Class</i></p>	<p>27 • 16 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class 4:00p Aleph-Bet Cooking & Cookies 5:00p NCS Hessed Program</p>	<p>28 • 17 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom) 7:00p Zoom into Shabbat 7:59p Candlelighting</p>	<p>29 • 18 Sivan Beha'alotekha 9:00a In-Person Service: Pre-registration (No Zoom) 9:02p Shabbat Ends 9:10p Zoom Out of Shabbat</p>
<p>30 • 19 Sivan 8:45a Shahrut (Zoom) <i>No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i></p>	<p>31 • 20 Sivan Memorial Day 8:45a Shahrut (Zoom) <i>No Community Torah Study</i></p>	<p>1 June • 12 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom)</p>	<p>2 June • 22 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Hybrid Service: in-person with pre-registration or Zoom) 7:30p Talmud Class</p>	<p>3 June • 23 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class</p>	<p>4 June • 24 Sivan 7:15a Shahrut (Zoom) 7:00p Zoom into Shabbat 8:04p Candlelighting</p>	<p>5 June • 25 Sivan Bar Mitzvah: Sam Hausen Shelah 9:30a In-Person Shabbat Service: Pre-registration required (No Zoom Service) 9:07p Shabbat Ends 9:15p Zoom Out of Shabbat</p>

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 March 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021

The Community News is continued on the next page



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 3 for Zoom sign-in details.

The Or Zarua Community

Continued from the Previous Page

Or Zarua's Memorial Wall

For information about plaques for our Memorial Wall, please contact Helene Santo at hsanto@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, ext 14. We will place another order when we have sufficient interest.

Order forms are available online at <http://tinyurl.com/OZMemorialPlaque> or from the OZ office by calling Deborah Wenger at 212-452-2310, ext 12.



OZ has a YouTube Channel!
Go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/OZonYouTube>

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.

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

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.

Or Zarua's New Accounting Team, ShulSource, is a firm that specializes in outsourced synagogue financial bookkeeping. 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.

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 3.