

## **The Last of the Miracles: Did God Retire After Hanukkah?**

**Zoom Lecture by Marc Ashley  
Sunday, December 5, 10:00 am**

Zoom Meeting ID: 283 908 873; Zoom Passcode: 613



**M**iracles apparently were plentiful in the early development of Judaism, yet seem to have faded with time. Were the events of Hanukkah during the second century B.C.E. the last miracles in Jewish history? Did God retire from miracle-making when those initial Hanukkah lights were extinguished more than two millennia ago?

In this age of skepticism, it may be spiritually challenging to relate to the historical events of Hanukkah as miraculous in nature. Indeed, there is not even Jewish textual consensus as to which primary miracle Hanukkah commemorates, pivoting between the wondrous nature of the long-lasting Temple lights and the Maccabees' underdog military victory. As the certainty of miracles has faded, however, our persistent recollection of the Hanukkah miracle(s) continues to be a potent repository and facilitator of Jewish identity.

Our understanding of how God may operate within history can shape our perception of what is possible in the natural world. The Torah depicts God's intervention in human affairs as fairly commonplace. Biblical Jews saw miracles and believed. We modern Jews, in contrast, are arguably expected to believe without having seen.

The "problem" of miracles has exercised the minds of great thinkers through time, particularly since Enlightenment thinking began to privilege reason in the quest for knowledge and truth. The philosopher David Hume declared that "a wise man proportions his belief to the evidence," and our empirical observations seem to discredit the plausibility of miracles. For many modern thinkers, supposed miracles have been deprived of their miraculous import, presumably to be stranded in the realm of crude religious aspiration and even delusion.

But perhaps irrelevance need not be the fate of miracles for modern Jews. Confronting the possibility of miracles in human experience can continue to inspire and engage our religious imagination.

Hanukkah represents a critical juncture in Jewish thinking, as it may constitute the last residue of God's miraculous intervention in history. This festive rabbinic holiday, which we may take for granted as one marked only by bright lights and fun gifts, can challenge us to consider whether miracles could yet occur in our contemporary world. Perhaps, for example, achievements embodied in the modern state of Israel reflect miraculous divine action hiding in plain sight amid the ordinary course of historical events, possibly as grand as those of Hanukkah.

Please join congregant Marc Ashley via Zoom on Sunday morning, December 5 at 10 am, for an illuminating discussion (perfect for the seventh day of the holiday!) of Hanukkah's place in the miraculous trajectory of Jewish history.

## **Dairy Dessert & Turkey Grown In a Lab: New Jewish Thanksgiving Frontiers**


**with Rabbi Bolton, Wednesday, November 24, 7:00 pm**

Zoom Meeting ID: 858 1909 5662; Zoom Passcode: 613



### **Dairy Pumpkin Pie After Turkey Grown In a Lab? A Jewish Thanksgiving Question.**

Can I eat turkey grown in a lab, then eat dairy pumpkin pie for dessert? Synthetic beef and fowl may be a game changer! Are cheeseburgers on the Jewish horizon? Cream of Turkey soup? Dairy desserts after chicken parmesan? Is it in the spirit of our tradition and American ingenuity to innovate to such a degree that we design ways around the plain sense of dietary restrictions in Jewish law? How does science and Torah meet to create new possibilities for embracing our Thanksgiving feasts?


  
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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 Isaac Nagiel



Israel is often referred to as the “start-up nation.” Its well-deserved moniker stemming from the highest per capita number of tech start-ups of any

country on the planet. Israeli innovation has been responsible for a wide variety of technological advancements including the Intel 8088 chip, designed at Intel’s Haifa laboratory in 1979. The chip powered the first personal computer ever produced by IBM and established the use of x86 architecture, which is still the de facto standard today. On the software side, where would we be (literally) without Waze, a start-up out of Israel, guiding us most efficiently to our destination. Lastly, Israel has been a leader in cybersecurity with a whole host of start-ups becoming key leaders in the space including Checkpoint, CyberArk, and Cato Networks.

Israel has perhaps the most vibrant venture capital and entrepreneurial scene of any place on the earth. In the first three quarters of 2021 alone, Israeli high-tech companies raised almost \$18 billion in financing, almost double the amount from the same period last year. This success is striking and there have been books written on the topic suggesting many theories as to why, including Israel’s highly educated English-speaking skilled workforce, the leadership and practical training coming from compulsory military service especially out of Israel’s famed unit 8200, and even the constant existential threat from its neighbors that make the risk of building a start-up seem relatively inconsequential.

But maybe the roots of the “start-up nation” go much further back. Was Hashem the world’s first venture capitalist? The idea struck me as we read through the first three Torah

portions of Bereshit. Hashem is busy creating the world but the story is often one of backing the wrong entrepreneurs and having to go back to the drawing board.

At the very beginning, Hashem creates Adam and Eve and establishes one rule (not to eat from the tree of knowledge), which Adam and Eve promptly violate. For that, they are banished from the Garden of Eden. Later on, we have Hashem effectively re-doing all of creation almost from scratch, leaving only Noah and his family to re-populate the world. But even Noah, hand-selected by Hashem and described at first as “righteous” and “blameless,” turns out to not be the visionary that Hashem had hoped with his family tainted by drunkenness. Picking the right entrepreneurs, even for Hashem, wasn’t easy but like any good venture capitalist, Hashem was relentless and unfazed.

After many attempts at finding that right messenger, Hashem finds Abraham. Abraham, of course, has his flaws but the striking story of the Akedah has parallels with the qualities of the best entrepreneurs. Venture capitalists often say the best entrepreneurs are those who have an unwavering, even maniacal, focus on their product and mission. Abraham was so committed to the mission that he was even willing to go so far as to sacrifice his own son, Isaac.

There are many lessons for us as we continually work to build a better and stronger community. There will no doubt be our fair share of initiatives and projects that don’t end up as hoped, but even Hashem had missteps. Like the “start-up nation,” we need not be afraid to attempt new paradigms of engagement. Let’s all be Or Zarua venture capitalists!

Happy Hanukkah!

# More Opportunities for In-Person Services!

## Let's Reclaim In-Person Services! Friday Night In Person Services At Or Zarua Join Us For Kabbalat Shabbat

Pre-registration is not required for members of OZ

Non-members must be vaccinated and are required to sign up here:

<https://tinyurl.com/InPersonServicesOZ2021>

Please See Calender for Service Times

## IN-PERSON MINYAN IS BACK! Sundays and Mondays!

We are re-dedicating ourselves to IN-PERSON MORNING MINYAN.  
**BEGINNING** Sunday, November 28 8:45am  
and Monday, November 29 the first day of Hanukkah, 7:15am

**Come make the minyan!**

**Breakfast is back, because with vaccinations it's time for bagels or a nosh.**

We know for some the transition back to in-person minyan will be neither easy nor convenient, but we are committed to bringing our community together in an authentic expression of our commitments both to our tradition and to being with each other for sacred and social experiences.

No registration is needed, but our minyan leaders would love to know you're coming.

You can write to Deborah Wenger ([dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org)) or to Gerry Solomon ([gsolomon2@aol.com](mailto:gsolomon2@aol.com))  
or Burt Biderman ([bbiderman@libertyumbrella.com](mailto:bbiderman@libertyumbrella.com))

### In-Person Services

Sunday, 8:45 am, beginning November 28  
Monday, 7:15 am, beginning November 29  
Wednesday, 7:15 am (Hybrid Service)  
Friday night, Candlelighting time (see calendar)  
Saturday, 9:00 am

Pre-registration is not required for members of OZ  
Non-members must be vaccinated and are required to sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/InPersonServicesOZ2021>

### ZOOM Services

Shaharit Monday-Friday, 7:15 am (Final Monday Zoom November 22)

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZZoomDaily>  
Zoom ID: 518 639 181, Passcode: 613

Shaharit Sunday, 8:45 am through November 21

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZZoomSunday>  
Zoom ID: 283 908 873, Passcode: 613

Zoom INTO Shabbat (Abbreviated) Friday at 4:00 pm (Nov. & Dec.)

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



**For additional Hanukkah Programs see page 6.  
Be sure not to miss Sufganiyot to Go or  
Zoom Latka Making with Sigal!**



**A Once in a Lifetime Hanukkah Magic Show  
that is a Funny, Crazy, and Mind-Blowing  
Experience with Or Zarua's own Ziggy Bornas**

**Sunday, November 14, 12:00 pm and 12:45 pm**

Join the entire OZ community for a Members and Community Get-Together (more information on page 3), from 11:30 am–1:30 pm. Featured at the event is a one-of-a-kind magic show by Ziggy Bornas, getting us all ready for Hanukkah! Ziggy will perform two unique sets, at 12:00 pm and 12:45 pm. Kids of all ages (and adults) won't want to miss this!

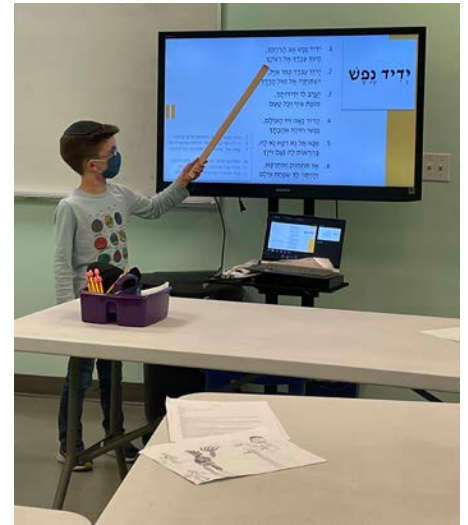
We'll also have a fun Hanukkah craft so kids can create Hanukkah decorations for your celebrations.

*Enter Central Park at 79th Street.  
We'll meet on the grassy area to the  
left when you enter.*



**Hebrew School Hanukkah Candle Lighting**  
**Monday, November 29, 5:30 pm**  
Hebrew School parents, siblings and other family members are invited to join our students at the end of the Hebrew School day to light Hanukkah candles together!

**Judaism, the Deep Dive, with Rabbi Bolton**  
*Great Jewish Debates on Fundamental Jewish Values*  
**For Middle School and High School Students**  
**Monday, December 6, 6:00 pm**  
Join Rabbi Bolton for our second class as we delve into our next topic:  
**On Right and Wrong: Which is better—never to do wrong or to exercise self-control?  
What is our understanding of yetzer hara?**  
Weather permitting, we'll meet up on the roof and enjoy dinner. Be sure to bundle up!  
Not enrolled? Contact Sigal to sign up for the class!



Hebrew School is off to a great start! Students are loving t'filah, learning Hebrew, explorations about Tanakh and the Jewish calendar. Plus, there's no better way to study the parashah then our new Minute to Win It parashah competitions!



# Celebrate Hanukkah WITH OR ZARUA



## Monday, November 29

### Torah Study with a Hanukkah Twist

12:00 pm

Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/OZMondayTorahStudy>  
ID: 8152 249 6147; Passcode: 613

### Candlelighting for Hebrew School families

5:30 pm, see Page 4

### Candlelighting and Sufganiyot to Go!

6:30-7:30 pm

Bring your Hanukkiyah and light the candles with us in the Social Hall. Grab your Sufganiyot to Go on your way out! Candlelighting will be at 6:30 pm, but feel free to come any time between 6:30 and 7:30 pm.

## Wednesday, December 1

### Talmud Class in the Library

7:30 pm

We will light the menorah and have latkes to enhance our learning!

Come whether you have been studying all year or just want to celebrate Hanukkah in person. Being together at Or Zarua is a way that we dedicate ourselves to learning and the Jewish people.

Zoom option available:

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

## Thursday December 2

### Siddur Class

8:40 am

Highlighting the Hanukkah holiday liturgy.

On Zoom:

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

### Latka-making with Sigal for the whole community

5:00 pm

Cook along or watch and make your own later.

To register and receive the ingredient list go to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/LatkaswithSigal2021>

## Friday, December 3

### Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ari

4:10 pm

In-Person Service

## Saturday, December 4

### Shabbat Services

9:00 am

Kiddush in honor of Anthony Banfield  
Performance by Bir'nana.

12:00 pm

See page 14 for a letter about Anthony's service to Or Zarua



## Sunday, December 5

The Last of the Miracles:  
Did God Retire After Hanukkah?

10:00 am, see Page 1

Zoom lecture by Marc Ashley

Click to join Zoom meeting:

<https://tinyurl.com/Hanukkah2021with-Marc>  
Meeting ID: 283 908 873; Passcode: 613

# Classes with Rabbi Bolton

## You May Join Any of These Classes At Any Time

### Zoom Torah Study

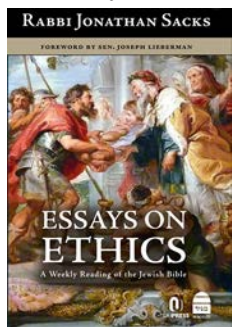
*Jewish Ethics, Jewish Wisdom*

The Weekly Parsha in Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' Thought

Mondays, 12 Noon

Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/OZMondayTorahStudy>  
ID: 8152 249 6147; Passcode: 613

Make time for Torah study during your busy week! Join Rabbi Bolton and Or Zarua community members to explore essays



by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, z"l, on the weekly Torah portion. Not only will Rabbi Sacks' big ideas be our focus, but we will examine the classical sources that Rabbi Sacks raises to build his unique and poignant messages.

Through his books, recorded lectures, and syndicated columns, Rabbi Sacks, z"l, shared his exquisite understanding of Torah for the modern world as the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth (UK). After stepping down as Chief Rabbi he served as Ingeborg and Ira Rennert Global Distinguished Professor of Judaic Thought at NYU. His recent death in November, 2020, caused many

to reflect on his profound impact in America, in the UK and globally. Come study

Torah as an expression of how much we value learning and to honor Rabbi Sacks' memory.



### Talmud Class 5782

*Punishments in Search of Crimes, Souls in Search of Expiation, & Society in Search of Justice*

Tractate Makkot

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm

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

The chapters of Tractate Makkot deal with laws of the Jewish beit din and the punishments they may administer. The Talmudic discourse moves us into concerns about false witnesses and laws about manslaughter versus murder.



Amid passages about offenses and their consequences we find theological and sociological reflections about crime, criminals and criminality. As policy for Jewish courts is derived, our Sages discuss the place of retribution, rehabilitation and restorative justice. Which offenses are minor breaches? Which more serious infractions? And do more lashes mean more expiation of guilt? Does receiving lashes somehow reverse the severe punishment of excommunication? While the Torah outlawed self-flagellation, Hanina ben Gamliel said, "If by the commission of a sin one forfeits his soul before God, so much the more reason is there for belief that, by a meritorious deed, such as voluntary submission to punishment, his soul is saved." The possibilities that Talmudic literature raises sometimes lead to particular laws and other times stand as thought exercises to explore important concepts or concerns. Makkot is about crime and punishment, and Makkot is about human nature, sin and pursuing justice.

### Siddur Gems

Go to

<https://tinyurl.com/OZSiddurGems> for the



first video in a new series: Siddur Gems—Modeh Ani: A Soulfelt Attitude of Gratitude. Siddur Gems are teachings about Jewish

liturgy and our prayer-lives. I'll explore the language of tfillot, music for our prayers, the history of liturgy and the themes and ideas behind our sacred poetry.

### Siddur Class 5782

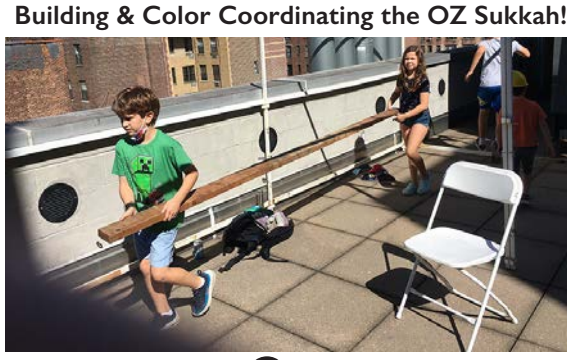
*Hear Our Sabbath Prayers*

Thursdays, 8:40 am

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

Candlelighting, Kabbalat Shabbat, Lekha Dodi and Ma'ariv (The Evening Service), Shalom Aleichem...Did we always say the unique psalms that make up the preliminary service on Friday night? Sing for our Sabbath meal? Which prayers were central to our ancestors' experiences of Shabbat? How did poetry woven together from biblical allusions and medieval mystical texts become central to Jewish worship throughout both Ashkenaz and Sephardic lands? How do modern prayerbooks compare to siddurim from ages past, when it comes to Sabbath evening services and table liturgy for Shabbat dinners? Come explore the history of Shabbat over the Jewish ages and the liturgies that were recited, in addition to those we use today. During Siddur Class we explore the prayers' language, discuss their meanings and dig into their histories. Our conversations this year will surely take us into exploring the meaning of Shabbat in our lives and what the liturgy suggests as points of focus. Class meets at 8:40 am on Thursday mornings. ZOOM participants are encouraged to have their cameras on, to add their presence on screen to the learning community.

### Building & Color Coordinating the OZ Sukkah!

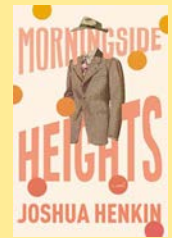


# Or Zarua Book Discussions



**Antiquities**  
by Cynthia Ozick  
Sunday, November 14, 7:00 pm  
Discussion Leader: Pat Davidson  
Zoom Meeting ID: 842 1564 6300  
Zoom Passcode: 613

**Morningside Heights**  
by Joshua Henkin  
Sunday, February 13, 7:00 pm  
Discussion Leader: TBA



**People Love Dead Jews**  
by Dara Horn  
Sunday, March 27, 7:00 pm  
Discussion Leader: Rabbi Scott Bolton

**The Netanyahus**  
by Joshua Cohen  
Sunday, May 15, 7:00 pm  
Discussion Leader: TBA



## Members and Community Get-Together

Sunday, Nov. 14, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Enter Central Park at 79th Street. We'll meet on the grassy area to the left when you enter.

All OZ members are invited to come together as a community in Central Park to enjoy a multi-generational gathering.

**It's been far too long since we've met up and mingled!**

**Not quite ready to attend services or programs indoors? Join your OZ family outdoors!**

Don't miss this opportunity to reunite with friends and meet new members. Enjoy the brisk, autumn Central Park air, unmasked (if you choose), while spending time together as a community.

**Bring your own lunch, drinks, picnic blankets and chairs, and enjoy a sweet treat on us.**

RSVP to Deborah ([dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org)) by noon Friday, Nov. 12.

We will send an email update to those who RSVP if there are any changes to the plan due to weather.

**All OZ members are invited to this multi-generational gathering.**

**Have friends interested in Or Zarua? Invite them along!**

Contact Sigal ([sigalhirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:sigalhirsch@orzarua.org)) if you cannot locate the group, or if you have any questions about the event (and to RSVP) after noon on Friday.



# Israel Opportunities & News

## Internships in Israel

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For information regarding internships  
in Israel go to the Masa website:  
<https://tinyurl.com/Masa2021>

## Conversations on Zionism Reclaiming the Narrative



Join Jewish National Fund-USA for a series of interviews, panel discussions and more – all meant to facilitate a dialogue and expose the beautiful and diverse facets of modern Zionism, and its positive impact on many aspects of our lives, no matter where we are on the globe. Register at:  
<https://www.jnf.org/events-landing-pages/conversations-on-zionism>



## Celebrate Israel

Travel to Israel with JNF Starting January  
<https://tinyurl.com/JNFTravel012022>

Israel is open for in-person travel and we're planning an unbelievable celebratory trip back to our homeland—one you don't want to miss. Spend a week with us getting to know the country again. Immerse yourself in Israeli culture and heritage. Experience the natural beauty, rich history, and amazing people who call it home. Have the time of your life reconnecting with old friends and making some new ones too.



## 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

# Israel Opportunities & News

## Custom Tours to Israel Jewish National Fund-USA



The Jewish National Fund Mission & Tours and Virtual Conferences: Rediscover a rich history and experience the impact of JNF's groundbreaking work first-hand!  
For information go to:

<https://www.jnf.org/visit-israel/tours>

## Four Virtual Tours Remain for November!

Tel Aviv-Rothschild Boulevard, November 9, 11:00 am

Sign Up: <https://tinyurl.com/VTourSignUp1109>

Old Jerusalem, November 16, 11 am

Sign Up: <https://tinyurl.com/VTourSignUp1116>

Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem, November 23 11:00 am

Sign Up: <https://tinyurl.com/VTourSignUp1123>

Chanukah in Nachlaot, November 30, 11:00 am

Sign Up: <https://tinyurl.com/VTourSignUp1130>

For Information on the Israel On Campus Coalition  
Go To: <https://israelcc.org/>

Business Fellowships in Israel with the Tamid Group  
Business Experiences Designed for College Students

<https://tamidgroup.org/>

Israel's Minister of Defense, Benjamin (Benny) Gantz, will deliver a keynote address on Friday, Dec 10th, at the 2021 IAC National Summit. For Information & Registration go to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/IACInfo2021>



The Israel Summit  
For additional information, registration sign up, and keynote speakers  
Go to:



<https://conventions.theisraelsummit.org/conventions/453>

Israelis secretly evacuated 167 Afghans  
See Jerusalem Post

<https://tinyurl.com/IsraelAndAfghanistan>



## Israeli-American Joshua Angrist wins 2021 Nobel Prize in Economics

See the article in the Jerusalem Post:

<https://tinyurl.com/IsraeliAmericanNobel2021>

Further Reading:  
Maimonides and the Nobel Prize

Go To:

<https://tinyurl.com/MaimoAnd2021Nobel>

## Kol Nidre Appeal: Invest in Sustaining our Community

We need your support to sustain our community in which people of all Jewish backgrounds feel welcome and comfortable to learn, pray, participate and connect. You, our members, make this happen. We cannot do this without you! Your Kol Nidre contribution helps us provide our religious services and programming, educate our children and our adults, maintain our building, support our staff, and support our rabbi and the wonderful work he does to provide leadership and guidance to our community. Membership dues cover only 40% of the cost of operations and programming. Your Kol Nidre contribution provides much-needed funds to fill the dues gap and secure the future of our congregation. Please use this link to donate: <https://tinyurl.com/OZKN5782>

Your generosity is appreciated!

## From Compassion to Action: OZ Hesed Opportunities

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

### New York Common Pantry Helping the Hungry

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

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

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

OZ Congregants package food at 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 Hesed Fund are also needed. To volunteer when NCS is able to resume our usual practice of serving food to the residents please contact Jeff Haberman at [jeff32449@verizon.net](mailto:jeff32449@verizon.net).

### Or Zaruva 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/>

### Erev Thanksgiving and Christmas Gleaning

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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** 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 Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty (Met Council) on a project to bring groceries to Seniors. We will be packing the 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 meetings will be at the pantry on Monday, November 22 and Monday, December 20, at 4 PM to pack the groceries and the distribution at the building will start at approximately 5:30 PM.

Individuals and families are welcome to volunteer. **However, all volunteers coming to the building need to be fully vaccinated and wear a mask.** If interested please contact Jeff Haberman at: [jeff32449@verizon.net](mailto:jeff32449@verizon.net) or (917) 697-1677.



Above: : Or Zaruva Congregants volunteering at the MET Council Project

## Online OZ Gallery for November and December

### *Artistic Adaptations of Thanksgiving and Hanukkah Symbols*

**THANKSGIVING DAY AND THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS:** Thursday, November 25th is Thanksgiving, the quintessential American holiday. Three days later, on the night of November 28, we light the first Hanukkah candle. During this long festive weekend we will gather with loved ones, eat generous meals, and give thanks for our blessings and our freedoms as Americans. This year, as the weekend is ending we will light the first of eight candles (plus the shammes) in observance of Hanukkah, celebrating the victory of the Maccabees and the rededication of the second Temple in Jerusalem.



Along with the Star of David, the Hanukkiah (and the seven-branch Menorah) is among the most widely recognized and produced symbols of Jewish ceremonial art. The coincidental (or near-coincidental) observance of Thanksgiving and Hanukkah this year prompts a look at how some artists have adapted the messages from these well-known symbols to inspire, honor the tradition or simply to delight.

Eight years ago, for the first time in more than one hundred years, Thanksgiving and the first night of Hanukkah coincided on Nov. 28, 2013. In anticipation of this once-in-many-lifetimes event, nine-year-old Asher Weintraub of New York and his family produced the Menurkey, or as it came to be dubbed, "Thanksgivukkah."

Aided by exuberant media interest and publicity, the Menurkey was a commercial success. Thousands were sold. Inspired by the theme of gratitude found in both holidays, the family pledged to use their creation as a force for good and donated a portion of their proceeds to various charities. The Menurkey is now included in the menorah collection of the Jewish Museum of New York. (By the way, if you missed it in 2013, it won't happen again for seventy-seven thousand years!)

**This Hanukkah lamp conveys a very different message:** Artist and author Mae Rockland Tupa was born in the Bronx in 1937 and spoke



**Mae Rockland Tupa,**  
***Hanukkah Lamp Miss Liberty, 1974***  
**Collection, The Jewish Museum of New York**

Yiddish in the home until age five. She attended a largely secular Yiddish shul where educators advocated adherence to Jewish customs and traditions as a way of assuring the survival of Judaism. Married to her first husband, a Foreign Service officer, she traveled widely and developed skills as an artist and writer. Her 1973 book, *The Work of Our Hands: Jewish Needlecraft for Today*, was a sensation – teaching readers how to make items such as tallit bags, kippot, and challah covers and how to incorporate Hebrew names and Biblical motifs in the design. The objects Mae Rockland Tupa made and the books that she wrote helped shape the field of Jewish Americana. According to a profile by Keren R. McGinity, PhD, for the Jewish Women's Archive, Tupa's work reflected her view that "just as Jews have become an integral part of the American scene, so can a classical American symbol be used to express a Jewish theme."

A prime example: the *Hanukkah Lamp Miss Liberty* that you see above. According to author and curator Susan Braunstein in her book *Luminous Art: Hanukkah Menorahs of the Jewish Museum*, the artist remembered a special Hanukkah performance at her school that happened when Mae was eight or nine years old. "Eight of us, draped in sheets, wearing paper crowns, holding books in our left hands and candles in our right, were lined up across the stage," Mae recalled. "A ninth child (the shammes) lit our candles one at a time. As she did so we raised our candles in the air and recited a line from Emma Lazarus's poem 'The New Colossus: 'Give me your tired, your poor... ' And we were proud because that poem was us. Our parents had immigrated to the Land of the Free... (and we) were the wretched refuse and we were breathing free."

The adult Mae who created the Hanukkiah moved beyond an innocent childhood memory. She brought current ideas from the contemporary art world to bear on her creation and layered the work with political references to America's treatment of the Jews. The plastic Statues of Liberty and inexpensive flags evoke the work of Jasper Johns and similar artists who worked with found, banal objects, suggesting how overexposure and commercialization can undermine the power of even the most potent symbol. Note how Tupa turned some of the Liberty statues backwards. As Susan Braunstein wrote, "The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France to America in 1886, has stood at the entrance to New York Harbor as a beacon of hope. But there have been times when Miss Liberty looked away and America closed its doors to the persecuted as when the steamship St. Louis was denied haven in Miami and nine hundred Jews were sent back to Nazi Germany." Tupa's Hanukkiah sends two messages: the back of Lady Liberty signals the shutting of the golden door; the statue facing front, its arm holding up the lamp, shows that the welcoming light has not gone completely out.

These iconic symbols of Thanksgiving and of Hanukkah express our gratitude for our blessings and for our victory over the forces of evil; they express our hope for redemption and renewal. May the warmth of Thanksgiving and the lights of the Hanukkiah sustain us and guide us on the right path. Happy Thanksgiving and Hag Hanukkah Sameach from the OZ Gallery Committee.

-Gerry Solomon

# The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between June 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021

Or Zarua Community News  
is continued  
on the next page.

## Join with OZ for Shabbat Saturday, November 13 with Rabbi Ezra Amichai of the Jerusalem Soul Center and the Ramaz HS Chamber Choir

Rabbi Ezra Amichai from the Jerusalem Soul Center (<https://jerusalemsoulcenter.com/>) will lead an uplifting Mussaf When it comes to the Jerusalem Soul Center, there is never a shortage of opportunities to connect and uplift the students. Join us Shabbat morning as Rabbi Amichai leads us in an uplifting Mussaf with tunes from Jerusalem. Rabbi Amichai is the son of Rabbi Emeritus Harlan Wechsler and Mrs. Naomi Friedland-Wechsler.

During Kiddush the Ramaz High School Chamber Choir—which includes our own Ziv Bolton—will be singing a few songs a cappella. For a sample video of their skills go to: <https://www.ramaz.org/page.cfm?p=20998>.



Above: Rabbi Ezra Amichai

## Anthony Banfield Retires

After 18 years with Or Zarua, our valued colleague, Anthony Banfield, has decided to retire as of October 31, 2021. We are most grateful for his many years of tireless service to our community. Anthony has always been trustworthy, reliable and held the interests of Or Zarua foremost in his mind. His numerous contributions to our community are most gratefully acknowledged.

Whether he was behind the scenes as Facilities Manager, preserving the safety, security and integrity of our building, or being present to make sure that our community gatherings ran smoothly, Anthony always demonstrated utmost respect for our rituals and needs as a place for worship, learning and socializing. We will always fondly recall Anthony's big smile, hearty laugh and angelic voice.

We look forward to thanking Anthony in person and celebrating his wonderful service to our congregation at a kiddush in his honor on Saturday morning, December 4.

We wish Anthony the best of health and much joy in his future endeavors.

# 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](mailto:hsanto@orzarua.org) or 212-452-2310, ext 14. We will place another order when we have sufficient interest.

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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>31 Oct • 26 Heshvan</b> 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 7:15p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>1 • 26 Heshvan</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p <i>Judaism, the Deep Dive</i> with Rabbi Bolton OZ Youth Program	<b>2 • 27 Heshvan</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	<b>3 • 28 Heshvan</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid) 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars <i>No Talmud Class</i>	<b>4 • 29 Heshvan</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long (Central Park) 8:40a Siddur Class (Zoom) <i>No Siddur Class</i>	<b>5 • 1 Kislev</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p Zoom into Shabbat (abbreviated) 5:29p Candlelighting	<b>6 • 2 Kislev</b> <b>Toledot</b> 9:00a Shaharit (in person) 11:15a Torah Tots 6:25p Shabbat Ends
<b>7 • 3 Kislev</b> <b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b> 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 7:15p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>8 • 4 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School	<b>9 • 5 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	<b>10 • 6 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid) 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Talmud Class (Zoom)	<b>11 • 7 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class (Zoom) 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long (Central Park) 7:00p Zoom Hebrew	<b>12 • 8 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p Zoom into Shabbat (abbreviated) 4:22p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>13 • 9 Kislev</b> <b>Vayetze</b> 9:00a Shaharit (in person) with Rabbi Ezra Amichai Kiddush with Ramaz High School Chamber Choir 11:15a Torah Tots 5:18p Shabbat Ends
<b>14 • 10 Kislev I</b> 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 11:30a Welcome back in Central Park 12:00p & 12:45p Hanukkah Magic Show with Ziggy Bornas 7:00p Book Discussion: Antiquities by Cynthia Ozick 7:15p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>15 • 11 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School	<b>16 • 12 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	<b>17 • 13 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid) 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Talmud Class (Zoom)	<b>18 • 14 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class (Zoom) 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long (Central Park) 5:00p NCS Hesed Program 7:00p Zoom Hebrew	<b>19 • 15 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p Zoom into Shabbat (abbreviated) 4:16p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>20 • 16 Kislev</b> <b>Vayishlach</b> 9:00a Shaharit (in person) 11:15am Torah Tots 5:13p Shabbat Ends
<b>21 • 17 Kislev</b> 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) 7:15p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>22 • 18 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 4:00p MET Council Volunteers	<b>23 • 19 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	<b>24 • 20 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid) 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p Pre-Thanksgiving Lecture with Rabbi Bolton: Dairy Dessert & Turkey Grown In a Lab: New Jewish Thanksgiving Frontiers (Zoom)	<b>25 • 21 Kislev</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b> 8:45a Shaharit (Zoom) <i>No Siddur Class</i> <i>No Shalom Sing-A-Long</i> <i>No Zoom Hebrew</i>	<b>26 • 22 Kislev</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p Zoom into Shabbat (abbreviated) 4:12p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>27 • 23 Kislev</b> <b>Vayeshev</b> 9:00a Shaharit (in person) 5:10p Shabbat Ends
<b>28 • 24 Kislev</b> <b>Erev Hanukkah</b> 8:45a Shaharit (In-Person) Light 1 Candle at night <i>No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i>	<b>29 • 25 Kislev</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 7:15a Shaharit (In-Person) 12:00p Zoom Torah Study with a Hanukkah Twist 4:00p Hebrew School 5:30p Hebrew School Hanukkah Candlelighting 6:30p Candlelighting & Sufganiyot To Go Light 2 Candles at night	<b>30 • 26 Kislev</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) Light 3 Candles at night				

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# December 2021 • Kislev/Tevet 5782

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1 • 27 Kislev</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid) 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Talmud Class (In-Person and Zoom with candlelighting & latkas) Light 4 Candles at night	<b>2 • 28 Kislev</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class (Zoom): Hanukkah holiday liturgy 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long (Central Park) 5:00p Latka-making 7:00p Zoom Hebrew Light 5 Candles at night	<b>3 • 29 Kislev</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) Light 6 Candles just prior to Shabbat 4:00p Zoom into Shabbat (abbreviated) 4:10p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>4 • 30 Kislev</b> <b>Hanukkah/Rosh Hodesh Miketz</b> 9:00a Shaharit (in person) Kiddush in honor of Anthony Banfield: Performance by Bir'nana 5:09p Shabbat Ends Light 7 Candles after Shabbat Ends
<b>5 • 1 Tevet</b> <b>Hanukkah/Rosh Hodesh</b> 8:45a Shaharit (In-Person) 10:00a: Zoom Lecture with Marc Ashley: <i>The Last of the Miracles: Did God Retire After Hanukkah?</i> Light 8 Candles at night 7:15p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>6 • 2 Tevet</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 7:15a Shaharit (In-Person) 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p Judaism: The Deep Dive with Rabbi Bolton	<b>7 • 3 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	<b>8 • 4 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid) 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Talmud Class (Zoom)	<b>9 • 5 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long (Central Park) 8:40a Siddur Class (Zoom) 7:00p Zoom Hebrew	<b>10 • 6 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p Zoom into Shabbat (abbreviated) 4:10p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>11 • 7 Tevet</b> <b>Vayigash</b> 9:00a Shaharit (in person) 11:15a Torah Tots 5:09p Shabbat Ends
<b>12 • 8 Tevet</b> 8:45a Shaharit (In-Person) 7:15p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>13 • 9 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (In-Person) 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School	<b>14 • 10 Tevet</b> <b>Fast of Tevet</b> 6:00a Fast Begins 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 5:03p Fast Ends	<b>15 • 11 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid) 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Talmud Class (Zoom)	<b>16 • 12 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class (Zoom) 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long (Central Park) 5:00p NCS Hessed Program 7:00p Zoom Hebrew	<b>17 • 13 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p Zoom into Shabbat (abbreviated) 4:11p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>18 • 14 Tevet</b> <b>Vayechi</b> 9:00a Shaharit (in person) 11:15a Torah Tots 5:11p Shabbat Ends
<b>19 • 15 Tevet</b> 8:45a Shaharit (In-Person) 7:15p Bir'nana Rehearsal	<b>20 • 16 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (In-Person) 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 4:00p MET Council Volunteers	<b>21 • 17 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	<b>22 • 18 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid) 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholar 7:30p Talmud Class (Zoom)	<b>23 • 19 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 8:40a Siddur Class (Zoom) 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long (Central Park) 5:00p NCS Hessed Program <i>No Zoom Hebrew</i>	<b>24 • 20 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p Zoom into Shabbat (abbreviated) 4:14p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>25 • 21 Tevet</b> <b>Shemot</b> 9:00a Shaharit (in-person) 11:15a Torah Tots 5:14p Shabbat Ends
<b>26 • 22 Tevet</b> 8:45a Shaharit (In-Person) <i>No Bir'nana Rehearsal</i>	<b>27 • 23 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (In-Person) 12:00p Zoom Torah Study <i>No Hebrew School</i>	<b>28 • 24 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	<b>29 • 25 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Hybrid) <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Talmud Class</i>	<b>30 • 26 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long (Central Park) <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Siddur Class</i> <i>No Zoom Hebrew</i>	<b>31 • 27 Tevet</b> 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p Zoom into Shabbat (abbreviated) 4:19p Candlelighting Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>1 Jan • 28 Tevet</b> <b>Vaera</b> 9:00a Shaharit (in person) 11:15a Torah Tots 5:20p Shabbat Ends

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Photos Above: OZ's Young Professionals attending an event in teh sukkah. 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's Young Professionals). Contact OZ's Young Professionals via email: OZYoungPros@gmail.com.

## Helping Or Zarua

Or Zarua is a vibrant community, and all communities need their members. Here are some quick and easy ways to help:

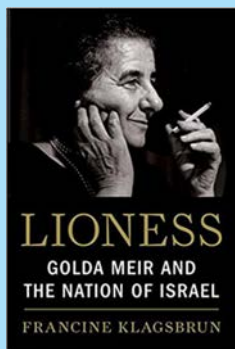
Choose to pay via ACH when paying online. This is a direct debit from your checking account. It saves the congregation credit card transaction fees.

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

Start your shopping at **Amazon Smile!** Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) when you shop on Amazon and choose Or Zarua as your beneficiary. Then shop as usual. OZ earns a percentage of every eligible purchase.

Sponsor a lecture, Shabbat Zoom, or other program. Our online programming has been varied and well attended. This will defray the costs to the congregation of having these wonderful events. Please contact Helene Santo for more information.

## 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

CONGREGATION  
**OrZarua**  
LEARN • TEACH • PARTICIPATE • CONNECT

**L'cha Dodi – לכה 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