

‘Abominable Heresies and Monstrous Acts’: Spinoza’s Jewish Roots and Legacy

Marc Ashley’s adult education course between Pesah and Shavuot
Three Sundays: May 15, 22 and 29, 10:00 am

Zoom ID: 868 6523 4271; Passcode: 613

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/AshleyMay2022>



Three days before Tisha B’Av in 1656, at just 23 years old, Baruch Spinoza—the son of former Marranos who would later emerge as among the most important

Western philosophers—was excommunicated and expelled by his Amsterdam Jewish community. Up until a year prior to his banishment, Spinoza was a dues-paying member of his Sephardic synagogue. Yet the rabbinical council that soon excommunicated Spinoza accused him of “abominable heresies” and “monstrous acts,” forbidding all interaction with him and his writings.

Strikingly, almost four centuries later, that sweeping ban is still in effect today in the Orthodox Amsterdam community.

Spinoza’s rupture with his people was a watershed moment in Jewish intellectual history, with significant antecedents and repercussions. Modern Jewish history and identity can be defined by the aftermath of Spinoza’s excommunication. His momentous

life constituted a bridge from the old to the new, a transition for many to a realm beyond tradition.

In this year’s installment of Marc Ashley’s annual adult education course between Pesah and Shavuot, entitled ‘*Abominable Heresies and Monstrous Acts*’: *Spinoza’s Jewish Roots and Legacy*, we will explore the fascinating Jewish roots and legacy of Spinoza’s heretical views. What led to Spinoza’s radical thinking, and what imprint did it leave in the Jewish world?

Spinoza’s pioneering ideas had authentic foundations in Jewish thought, and his bold perspectives have influenced diverse Jewish thinkers through the current day. We will highlight certain Jewish aspects of Spinoza’s dissident views, focusing on his cutting-edge biblical criticism and conception of God.



**Portrait of
Benedictus de
Spinoza
(1632-1677)**
Artist not known

Contrary to the believing Jews of his time, Spinoza argued that Moses was not the singular author of the Torah and that God was not the activist custodian of human history. Both components of Spinoza’s heterodox thought were traceable to legitimate strands in classical Jewish sources, but he prefigured modern elaborations in novel and challenging ways.

Through the centuries, Spinoza has been regarded as intellectual hero by some Jews, and as subversive villain by others.

His provocative views have been an enduring source of both inspiration and disparagement. On three Sunday mornings in May, please join our discussion on Zoom of one of the most controversial, influential and unforgettable Jews of all time.



**Spinoza and the
Rabbis by Samuel
Hirszenberg (1907)**

Celebrate Shavuot: Three Generations of OZ Congregants to Speak at our Annual Tikkun Panel

*Festival Ma'ariv Service begins at 9 pm, Saturday June 5
followed by our Tikkun Panel and Dairy Desserts of Cheesecake and Ice Cream!*

This year our panel members are:

Barry Feldman, Sharon Shorofsky Mack, and Ziv Bolton.

They will address the power and purpose of formal and informal Jewish education in

Activating Our Roots: The Power and Purposes of Jewish Education & Learning Our History

We look forward to our dynamic presenters sharing personal insights and reflecting on educational experiences they have been part of, managed, created or facilitated.



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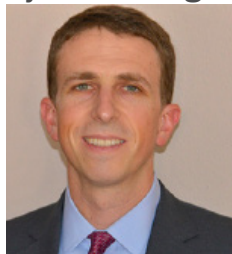
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If you are interested in serving on a synagogue committee, please contact the office.

President's Message

by Isaac Nagiel



Shalom!
At the time of publication, this week's parsha is Emor, the eighth within the Book of Leviticus. The second part of

the parsha lists the annual Mikra'ei Kodesh or "times we appoint and call holy," which presents the most full accounting of our holidays in the Torah, including specific times at which they must occur. The parsha establishes Shabbat, Pesach, the Omer, Shavuot, Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. This sacred calendar, derived from our Torah, is a central part of our lives and of increased significance as we were spread across the globe. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel described the centrality of time beautifully, noting that "Judaism is a religion of time aiming at the sanctification of time. Unlike the space-minded man to whom time is unvaried, iterative, homogeneous, to whom all hours are alike, quality-less, empty shells, the Bible senses the diversified character of time. There are no two hours alike. Every hour is unique and the only one given at the moment, exclusive and endlessly precious." Jews are often referred to as the people of the book but perhaps it is just as apt to call us the people of the time.

I was also struck by a beautiful D'var Torah published on the USCJ website by a Yeshiva student named Josh Cohen who wrote that "Parashat Emor teaches that the holiness with which we are charged is not a stable state of being, it is an elevated status that requires perpetual safeguarding and sanctifying." The process of marking and celebrating our holidays at their due times elevates our consciousness and helps us appreciate the beauty of our lives.

This parsha resonated with me as we prepare for a key event within our

own Or Zarua calendar, which occurs every May (we aren't as precise as the Torah in deeming a specific date within the month), our Annual Meeting. Our Annual Meeting will take place on May 25th at 8:00 pm, preceded by a picnic dinner on our rooftop at 6:30 pm. At the Annual Meeting, we will review the prior year as well as look ahead and identify challenges and opportunities.

Importantly, we also elect our newest members of the Board of Trustees as well as Officers. I'm very excited about our newest slate of Trustees, who I know are eager to bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to our community. I like to think it is unprecedented but this year we asked six members to join the Board, and we batted a thousand with all gladly accepting the offer to join the Board. Thank you for the tireless efforts of our wonderful Nominating Committee co-headed by Laurie Dien and Natalie Friedman. We will all get a chance to get to know our newest Board members better in the next Newsletter, where we will publish brief bios and photos.

In terms of the Officers of the Board, over the past couple years we had suspended the three-year term limits due to the ongoing upheaval caused by the COVID pandemic. We made a strategic decision this year that we are no longer going to waive term limits, an acknowledgement of our desire to return to a sense of post-pandemic normality and to allow for new leaders to emerge and invigorate our community.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the dinner and Annual Meeting on May 25th. We will have a virtual option as well for those who are unable to make it in person. If you are unable to attend, please send your proxy using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/OZProxy2022>

A Poetry Happening Part Deux: *Prayer and Inspiration* Thursday, June 23, 7:00 pm

Reading, writing, and contemplating poetry is a sacred endeavor in our tradition. From the Siddur to Torah, Yehuda Amichai to Zelda, Robert Frost to Emily Dickinson, we include great books of our canon as well as writers of the world.

The relationship between fixed prayer (keva) and inspiration (kavanah) is essential to Judaism, its culture and our innate striving to explore the Divine.

We invite you to share poems from our siddur or elsewhere that inspire you or to bring a poem you have written that is your own unique prayer or musing.

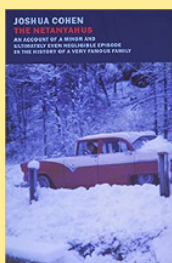
Maybe inspiration in nature or in settings other than the synagogue inspire prayerfulness and meditation. As before, we will sip wine in an informal setting and share the experience of hearing poetry from participants. You do not need to be a poet to participate, but you could bring your own writing if you wish. Shelley will share a few related meditations on the craft of writing poetry, and both she and Rabbi Bolton will read personal poems as well as found work.

Contact Rabbi Bolton for more information:
RabbiBolton@orzarua.org.

Or Zarua Summer Learning *Jewish Law Seminar:* *Abortion, Privacy and Halakhah* Three Wednesdays at 7:00 pm June 29, July 6 & 13

Or Zarua Book Discussions

The Netanyahus
by Joshua Cohen
Sunday, May 15, 7:00 pm
Discussion Leader: TBA
Meeting will be held via Zoom
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZBookMay15>



THIRTY THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 25
6:30 pm Tar Beach Picnic
8:00 pm Meeting

We will:

- Elect trustees and officers
- Review Treasurer's Report
- Hear remarks from the President and Rabbi Bolton

According to the By-Laws, we need a quorum to conduct synagogue business at our Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Please make reservations for dinner and submit your proxy using this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/OZProxy2022>
You must be logged into your ShulCloud Account

To Attend the meeting via Zoom use this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/OZAnnualMeeting2022>

Join The Few The Proud The Minyan

For information about the daily minyan at Or Zarua
Contact Sheldon Adler at:
sadler568@gmail.com



Israeli Mesibah with Or L'Atid
Thursday, May 5, 4:30 pm

OZ families, celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day, with Or L'Atid! Join us at OZ for a fun-filled mesibah (a party!). Enjoy Israeli food, crafts, music, and more! Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousin sand friends are all invited!

Cost is \$9/person, with a maximum of \$36/household. Sign up on Shulcloud:
<https://tinyurl.com/IsraeliMesibah>

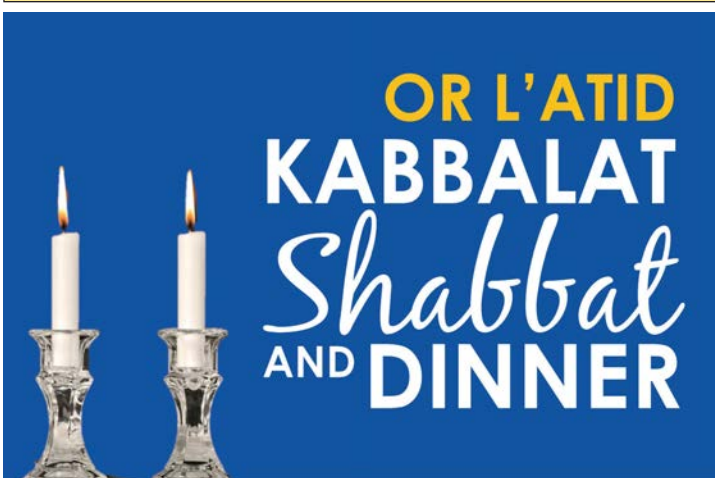
Hebrew School
Elementary School Siyyum
Monday, May 23, 5:00 pm

Elementary School parents, siblings, grandparents and other family members are invited to join us at the end of the school day on Monday, May 23 for our end-of-year celebration! Please RSVP to Sigal for planning purposes. Our final day of Hebrew School will be Wednesday, May 25.

Judaism, The Deep Dive
with Rabbi Bolton
Thursday, May 6, 6:00 pm

Middle School and High School students, join Rabbi Bolton for the final class of Judaism, the Deep Dive! Celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut together with festive Israeli fare as we explore: *Israel: Our Home, Our Rights, Our Responsibilities*

All are welcome, even if you haven't participated for the rest of the year. RSVP to Sigal:
sigalhirsch@orzarua.org.



Or L'Atid Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner
Friday, June 10, 7:30 pm

The entire OZ Community is invited to welcome Shabbat with a very special Kabbalat Shabbat. Sign up using this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/OLShabbatDinnerJune>

Hebrew School families, join us as we welcome Shabbat together so that the angelic voices of our children can be added to our communal song. Together we'll celebrate the conclusion of a wonderful year of learning. Students will be invited to join Sigal on the bimah to help lead Kabbalat Shabbat, which we've been learning in Hebrew School for the past two years. Following Kabbalat Shabbat, families with children of all ages, join us for our first in-person Shabbat dinner in 2 years!

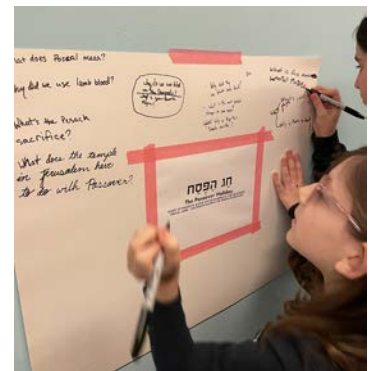


Celebrate Israel Parade

Sunday, May 22
OZ will meet on East 52nd St
between 5th and Madison
at 1:20 pm.

RSVP to Deborah, dwenger@orzarua.org.
 Include names of each marcher and their T-shirt sizes

After three years away, the JCRC-NY Celebrate Israel Parade has returned! Join Or Zarua as we safely gather to march, cheer, and show our support for Israel. Together Again! For information about this year's parade go to <https://celebrateisraelny.org/>.



Photos: Students prepared for Pesah, making Mah Nishtanah boxes, and writing questions to bring to their family sederim. For Yom Ha'Atzmaut, we made a giant Israeli flag, reflecting all the things that make Israel special to us. Together, we made an Omer counting chart so that we can count together!



4th Annual Smash the Stigma

A Jewish Communal Conversation on Mental Illness & Suicide

Monday, May 23, 7:00 pm, In person at Shearith Israel
(following 6:30 pm evening services)

Cosponsored by Congregation Or Zarua

Register at:

<https://shearithisrael.shulcloud.com/form/smash-the-stigma-2022>

Held annually during Mental Health Awareness Month and co-sponsored by a consortium of neighborhood synagogues and Jewish institutions, these profoundly important *Smash the Stigma* events help to raise awareness and facilitate conversation about the difficult realities of mental illness and suicide in the Jewish community.

We hope you'll join us in support of the 1 out of 5 of us who live with mental illness and the other 4, who are our friends, family, fellow congregants, colleagues, neighbors, and more. These issues affect us all.

This year's presenters will include:

Andrew Danzig, Upper West Sider and Member, Congregation Or Zarua, will share his experience and perspectives of losing his son, Theo, to suicide.

Sarina Hilowitz, Co-President, Active Minds, Yeshiva University, will discuss her personal struggle and the epidemic on college campuses.

Rabbi Scott Bolton, Congregation Or Zarua, will present his his insights as a pastor and spiritual guide.

Moderated by Dr. Rachel Levine, clinical psychologist and respected leader at the Jewish Center.

Closing remarks by Matt Kudish, Executive Director, NAMI NYC: National Alliance on Mental Illness

Congregant Naomi Fabes on Israel

People are often shocked to hear my answer to the question, "How many times have you been to Israel?" I pause briefly and look up to the sky while my fingers quickly extend upright, counting each unique set of circumstances that brought me halfway across the world to a place that most people will never visit in their lifetime.

Seventeen times. That's 375 hours on an airplane, approximately 192,000 miles, hundreds of photographs, and even more memories that I carry with me each day. I've stood atop the Golan Heights learning about her strategic military importance; I've welcomed in Shabbat in the mystical city of Tzfat; I've marvelled at the breathtaking array of flowers in the Bahai Gardens in Haifa; I've satiated my appetite in the burgeoning culinary scene that is Tel Aviv; I've gone scuba-diving alongside dolphins in the Red Sea; I've stuffed a note filled with my hopes and dreams into the crevices of the Western Wall; I've confronted the horror and pain of the Jewish people in the halls of Yad VaShem; I've harvested kumquats at a kibbutz; I've admired the lanterns in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Christianity's holiest site; I've climbed Masada in the early hours of the morning to watch the sun rise over the Dead Sea.

There are a handful of reasons as to why I continue to choose Israel as my travel destination. I grew up with an Israeli father who nurtured a strong sense of

Zionism within our home through music, food, and cinema along with countless family vacations to his homeland. I became very involved in Jewish life on campus, affording me the opportunity to travel as a participant on a variety of organized trips, from Birthright to the AJC's Project Interchange Student Leader Seminar. I chose to spend a summer studying Hebrew at the University of Haifa in an effort to learn the language of my people. In Tel Aviv I've visited my sister who chose to raise her three beautiful children in the Jewish people's ancestral homeland. And right before the pandemic, I celebrated my mom's Israeli citizenship as we welcomed my parents into their new home just a few minutes away from the sandy beaches of Tel Aviv. Israel is the backdrop for some of the most cherished moments in my life, and not just because they serve a mean falafel. My connection to her goes deeper than any of these memories can fully express, but we have to go back almost ninety years to fully understand why.

My grandmother, Zahava, was born in the Polish town of Rovno in the early 20th century. In 1933, at the very young age of 17, she sensed that her Jewish community was in serious peril. Guided by her dream of a Jewish state, she left her family to move to Palestine where she served as one of the chalutzim - pioneers - who built the state of Israel. My grandfather, Joseph, felt compelled to follow the woman he loved, and inspired by her courage and conviction,

chose to leave his family behind and join Zahava on an adventure of a lifetime. Their friends and family thought they were crazy, but in the end, it was their dream and love that saved them. Neither of their parents or their combined ten siblings would survive Nazi Europe. Because of Israel, my grandparents were given a second chance at life. They chose to dedicate that life to cultivating the desolate deserts of Tel Aviv into an oasis of culture, art, technology, and democracy. Soon after, my father was born and like every Israeli, served in the IDF where he defended Israel in the Yom Kippur War.

I never met Zahava or Joseph as they both passed away before I was born, but I feel them from the moment that the airplane touches ground at Ben Gurion Airport. My eyes fill with tears every time I gaze at the skyline of Tel Aviv, the rich, cosmopolitan city that my grandparents helped build from nothing. My heart fills with pride every time I see an IDF soldier, knowing that my father risked his life to protect the people of Israel and her right to exist. My soul fills with comfort every time I breathe in the Israeli air that breathed life into my grandparents, my father, my sister and her children, and now my mother. Because without this air, without this land, without this dream, I simply would not be here today.

-Naomi Fabes



Naomi Fabes with her husband, Sherman, at the Western Wall

Israel Opportunities & News

See Magen David Adom's lifesaving response to a recent Tel Aviv terror attack

Link: <https://vimeo.com/697406778>



Israeli artist David Gerstein creates his works with people in mind

Link: <https://www.jpost.com/jerusalem-report/article-702795>



David Gerstein visits his Peloton Wave sculpture outside the sports stadium in Hsinchu, Taiwan, in 2019.

Israel Evacuates Ukrainian Boy for Eyesight-Saving Treatment

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/SavingEyes1>

Glenn Close Is Fierce in Season 2 of this Thrilling Israeli Show



Link: <https://tinyurl.com/IsraeliTV041922>

Slice of Life

Israeli Astronaut Brings Special Prayer to Outer Space

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/IsraeliAstronaut1>



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AICF



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קרן התרבות אמריקה-ישראל

The America-Israel Cultural Foundation funds young Israeli talent by opening necessary doors for young artists to develop their skills in Israel and

worldwide. By encouraging creative excellence in today's youth from all backgrounds and supporting artistic organizations and programs across Israel, AICF unites Israel with the rest of the world through a shared passion for arts and culture. See their website: <https://aicf.org>

Innovation and entrepreneurship with the IAC Eitanim program. For information go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/ConnectIsrael032022>

Celebrating Israel Throughout the Year

The Best in Israeli Film

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/IsraeliFilm040522>



Netflix's Most Jewish Original Show Is Finally Coming Back for Season 2

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/Show030922>



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 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>.

Keep Up With News In Israel

THE JERUSALEM POST

<https://www.jpost.com/>

For Information on Accusations Against Israel

Ben and Jerry's and BDS

<https://tinyurl.com/BenJerryVideo032022>

The Amnesty Report

<https://tinyurl.com/AIReport032022>

The UN

<https://tinyurl.com/UN032022>

Am Yisrael Chai!

-Reena Levine Seltzer

Online OZ Gallery for May and June

Meaning and Beauty in the Counting of the Omer

In this edition of the OZ Online Gallery we examine the expanse of time and observance that begins at the Second Seder and continues until Shavuot, a 49-day period that transports us on a calendar journey from Nisan to Iyar to Sivan. It is a time of anticipation and devotion that has inspired some Jewish artists to create beautiful works to guide us on this journey.

We begin with teaching from Rabbi Bolton. "The Omer period between the Second Seder and Shavuot connects us to our historical and agricultural roots," he writes. "Barley was the first to produce fruit, and the Omer recounts the wave offering of the first harvest. Counting the days from the second night of Pesah aligns us with the Rabbinic intercalation of the Jewish calendar, as there was disagreement among Jewish groups (so, what's new?!) about when to make the offering start the counting. Since the Rabbinic era the Omer period has provided the opportunity for an extra blessing a day especially throughout the entire month of Iyar, when we also harvest the light of Torah's teachings even prior to Shavuot, the holiday celebrating the giving of the Torah. Through daily study of Pirke Avot, traditionally learned between Pesah and Shavuot during the Omer, we concentrate on character refinement. We seek meaning in our lives by doing the act of counting." (We will have more teaching from Rabbi Bolton later in this article.)

The Counting of the Omer is an act of devotion, reminding us each day of the Exodus from Egyptian slavery to the redemption at Sinai. We shall now see some works created by Jewish artists as an expression of their devotion. Our guide through this collection is artist and writer Richard McBee. The comments accompanying each image are from McBee's 2002 article, "Counting", in the publication *Contemporary Jewish Art*.

Maurice Mayer

Omer Calendar, c.1870

Hebrew Union College, Skirball Museum, Los Angeles



The impressive and joyful Omer Calendar made by Maurice Mayer, a French artist, around 1870 gives us a visual focus as we make the bracha and count each day. The elaborate box is decorated in Rococo swirls and is topped by the Ten Commandments and palm branches reminiscent of the Aron Kodesh in the Rue de la Victoire Synagogue in Paris. Along the left side are the Sephardic designations for each row. An "H" marks the top row that designates "homer" in Ladino for the daily Omer count. "S" should occupy the middle row, designating the week or "semanas" of the count. And finally "D" stands for "dias" or the day of the specific week. Although these details have been lost or rearranged in this artwork, the overall effect of the careful workmanship and loving attention to detail allows us to see how important the counting was to the owner of this object. Each succeeding day becomes a specific visual delight as a newly decorated number advances the Omer, the week and the day of the week.

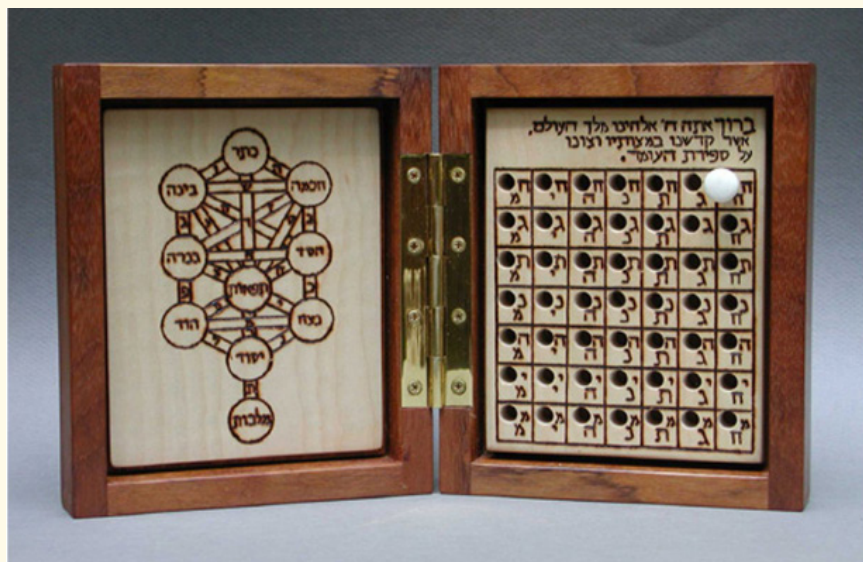
Online OZ Gallery for May and June continued on the next page

Online OZ Gallery for May and June Continued

Arnold Schwarzbart

Omer Counter, 2001

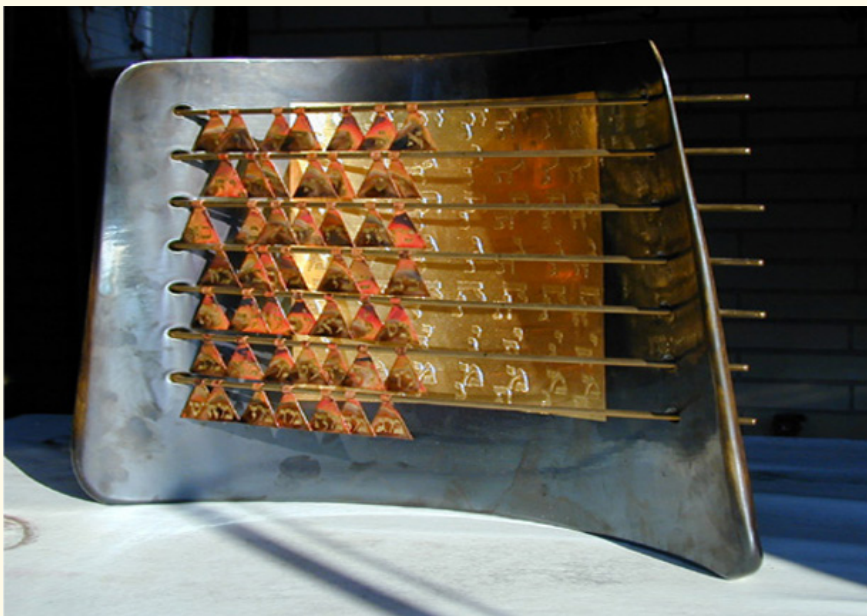
Studio of Arnold Schwarzbart, Knoxville, TN



Arnold Schwarzbart

Omer Counter, 1993

The Belle Rosenbaum Collection, Monsey, NY



Arnold Schwarzbart, a contemporary Judaic artist of ritual objects, has given us a completely different understanding of counting the Omer. For him, the meditations on the forty-nine sefirot, the Kabbalistic ascent out of bondage to revelation, was the motivating factor to make Omer counters. We can immediately see in his box-like Omer counter the sefirah tree that embodies the ten sefirot, the divine manifestations of God, opposite the forty-nine peg holes with which to advance the Omer count....As we count each day and plug in to the specific sefirah; *hesid s'behesid, gevurah s'behesid* and so on down the first row and then up to the top of the next and down again, we understand that the counting is a process of discovery of different aspects of God as He descends, as it were, to our earthly realm...On the forty-ninth day God is manifestly King over the whole world and ready to give us the Torah. Once complete we close the silver-on-black-enamel box cover and view a simultaneous vision of the parting of the sea and the giving of the Law, the beginning and end of our journey

Schwarzbart's ceramic Omer counter approaches the task before us in yet another provocative way. This simple curved glazed ceramic slab, suggestive of Har Sinai, supports seven horizontal bronze rods. Each rod, a physical symbol of one week, bears seven movable copper triangles, marking each day. On the rear wall of the ceramic slab is a gold leaf square with each day's sefirah marked out in low relief. On the first day of Passover all the copper tabs are arranged on the left side of the rods. Day by day, one by one, as we count the omer, they are moved to the right to visually correspond with the sefirah on the gold leaf plaque behind them. Finally, on the day before Shavuos, they are now all properly aligned on the bronze rods, only inches from their original position. Amazingly similar to a Chinese abacus, Schwarzbart has created a celestial calculator, an accumulation of days, of brochos and sefirot that are, visually speaking, no less than a transfer from heaven. If we have meditated each day on the forty-nine permutations of the Divine sefirot, we have moved physically almost imperceptibly, and yet we have been transformed into a people ready to receive the Torah," says artist Richard McBee.

The last words belong to Rabbi Bolton. "Sefirah, the word for counting, shares a root with Sippur, to tell a story. And when we make each day count and account for our time during prayer, we find inspiration in the story of our lives and we are to express gratitude as well as hope in the name of Adonai. A nightly counting of the Omer for our family has always been a time of togetherness in front of our Omer counter that I brought home from Jerusalem." As it says in Psalms 90:12: Teach us to number our days, that we may attain a heart of wisdom. למנות ימינו כן הודע ונבא ללב חכמה:.

From the OZ Gallery Committee, Hag Shavuot Sameach!



Congregation Or Zarua commemorated Yom Ha'Zikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) and the transition to Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) with a very moving and inspiring program. The Knesset recognized the day preceding Israel's Independence Day to be a Memorial Day for those who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the State of Israel and is now also dedicated to all military personnel who were killed protecting Israel while serving in the Israel Defense Forces and to Israeli victims of terror. Or Zarua's service of prayers, poetry and song was accompanied by moving comments by the Rabbi about the importance of Jewish peoplehood and of our eternal connection to Israel, the Jewish homeland. The transition in Israel and in the diaspora from Yom Ha'Zikaron to Yom Ha'Atzmaut reinforces the crucial lesson that Jews owe the independence, existence and security of the Jewish state to the heroic soldiers who sacrificed their lives for Israel and for the Jewish people.

Members of all ages enjoyed the program which was followed by a delicious Israeli dinner on the roof accompanied by a fun and informative wine-tasting of Israeli reds and whites led by the Rabbi. A fun time was had by all. -Laura Fisher

CPR and AED Trained Members at OZ

Additional trained OZ members are welcome

Several members of Congregation Or Zarua are trained to perform CPR and to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). OZ maintains three AEDs in the synagogue building. These devices are located in alarmed cabinets in the back vestibule of the building on the first (Social Hall), second (Sanctuary), and sixth (Hebrew school) floors.

To ensure that we have a sufficient number of people skilled in CPR and the use of an AED, Or Zarua provides a training program to those who are able to learn the requirements and pass a practical exam.

The training standards are those set by the American Heart Association. Each trained person must be recertified and tested every two years.

On Sunday morning, May 1, Miranda Bass, Rabbi Amy Bolton, Rabbi Scott Bolton, Ellen Hawa, Anna Kuljian, Helene Santo, Charlie Spielholz, and Deborah Wenger trained and were certified in CPR and the use of an AED. In addition to CPR and AED skills, this group also trained to help when someone is choking and in situations where EMTs need to rapidly enter and exit the building.

If you suspect someone is not breathing,

is choking, is having a heart attack, or some other emergency medical emergency call 911 and alert one of these trained people.

Or Zarua hopes to schedule the next CPR and AED training program in the next year. We would like to increase the number of OZ members who are certified to perform CPR and use the AED. If you would like to be trained in the next scheduled session, or if you have recently received training in an approved program that meets the standards of the American Heart Association, please contact Helene Santo (212-452-2310, ext 14).



Photos, left to right: Miranda Bass, Charlie Spielholz, and Anna Kuljian each taking their exam while the instructor looks on and grades them. Also shown in photos are Deborah Wenger, Helene Santo, and Ellen Hawa. Other trained members are Rabbis Amy and Scott Bolton,



Ruth R. Wisse, Professor Emerita of Yiddish and comparative literatures at Harvard, reviewed OZ Congregant Johanna Kaplan's book, *Loss of Memory Is Only Temporary*. The review, which appeared in *Mosaic Magazine*, is located on the Mosaic Magazine website at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/RRWreviewsJKBook0422>

Classes with Rabbi Bolton

You May Join Any Of These Classes At Any Time

Our Classes Meet in Different Ways
Weekly Torah Study meets on Zoom
Talmud Class meets on Zoom
Siddur Class meets in person only

Weekly Torah Study

Jewish Ethics, Jewish Wisdom

The Weekly Parsha in Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' Thought

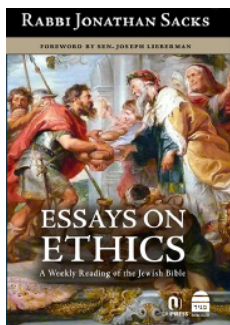
Mondays, 12 Noon

See Calender for dates

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

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

Tractate Makkot

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm

See Calender for dates

Zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/OZWedTalmudClass>

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

Hear Our Sabbath Prayers

Thursdays, 8:40 am

See Calender for dates

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.

From Compassion to Action: OZ Hessed 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 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 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 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 opportunities will be at the pantry on May 24 and June 21 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 or the pantry need to be fully vaccinated and wear a mask. If interested please contact Jeff Haberman at: jeff32449@verizon.net or (917) 697-1677.

Thursday Night Pasta and Salad at the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter

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 Hessed 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.

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/>

Ukraine Relief

Give to the Or Zarua Lights in Ukraine Emergency Tzedakah Campaign. We have exceeded our original goal and raised more than \$23,000! Please help Or Zarua continue to make a meaningful contribution to Ukraine Relief.

Contribute for emergency relief and assistance through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund by noting the funds are for the Ukraine using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/OZUkraine0322>

Funds will given to UJA-Federation relief efforts, Masorti Olami, the United Jewish Communities of Ukraine, IsraAID, the Joint Distrubution Committe, and United Hatzalah.

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

It's Game On for our Super Bowl 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 Super Bowl 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 Super Bowl Tzedakah Fund using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/OZSuper0322>



The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between February 1, 2022 and March 31, 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1•30 Nissan Rosh Hodesh 8:45a Shaharit 10:15a AED/CPR Training	2•1 Iyar Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Shaharit 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School	3•2 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	4•3 Iyar Yom Hazikaron 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p Yom Hazikaron/Ha'Atzmaut Praogram <i>No Talmud Class</i>	5•4 Iyar Yom Ha'Atzmaut 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 4:30p Or L'Atid Mesibah 6:00p Judaism: The Deep Dive with Rabbi Bolton <i>No Zoom Hebrew</i>	6•5 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 6:15p Zoom into Shabbat 6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:39p Candlelighting	7•6 Iyar Kedoshim 9:00a Shaharit 11:00a Youth Shabbat Program 8:38p Shabbat Ends
8•7 Iyar 8:45a Shaharit	9•8 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School	10•9 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	11•10 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Talmud Class	12•11 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 7:00p Zoom Hebrew	13•12 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 6:15p Zoom into Shabbat 6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:46p Candlelighting	14•13 Iyar Emor 9:00a Shaharit 11:00a Youth Shabbat Program 8:46p Shabbat Ends
15•14 Iyar Pesah Sheni 8:45a Shaharit 10:00a Class with Marc Ashley 7:00p <i>The Netanyahus</i> by Joshua Cohen (Zoom)	16•15 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 3:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School	17•16 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	18•17 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Talmud Class	19•18 Iyar Lag B'Omer 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 5:00p NCS Heses Program 7:00p Zoom Hebrew	20•19 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 6:15p Zoom into Shabbat with Sigal Hirsch 6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:52p Candlelighting	21•20 Iyar Behar 9:00a Shaharit 11:00a Youth Shabbat Program (last for the year) 8:54p Shabbat Ends
22•21 Iyar 8:45a Shaharit 10:00a Classes with Marc Ashley 1:20p Israel Parade; meet on 52nd St between 5th and Madison	23•22 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00 Elementary School Siyyum 7:00p <i>A Jewish Communal Conversation on Mental Illness & Suicide</i> at Shearith Israel	24•23 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p MET Council Volunteers	25•24 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School (last class of the year) 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Tar Beach Picnic 8:00p Annual Meeting <i>No Talmud Class</i>	26•25 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 5:00p NCS Heses Program 7:00p Zoom Hebrew <i>No Siddur Class</i>	27•26 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 6:15p Zoom into Shabbat 6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:58p Candlelighting	28•27 Iyar Bechukotai 9:00a Shaharit 9:01p: Shabbat Ends
29•28 Iyar Yom Yerushalayim 8:45a Shaharit 10:00a Class with Marc Ashley	30•25 Adar II Memorial Day 8:45a Shaharit	31•1 Sivan Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)				Check the next issue of the OZ Newsletter for Bir'nana's summer rehearsal schedule

Be sure to check the Or Zarua Website (www.orzarua.org) and the weekly eblasts for updates to the calendar.

Unless otherwise noted all services are in-person. All non-members must register in advance in order to attend in-person services. For COVID-related policies please see Page ##.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Check the next issue of the OZ Newsletter for Bir'nana's summer rehearsal schedule			1•2 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit 7:30p Talmud Class	2•3 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class	3•4 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit 6:15p Zoom into Shabbat 6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:04p Candlelighting	4•5 Sivan Erev Shavuot Bemidbar 9:00a Shaharit 9:00p Festival Ma'ariv followed by the Tikken Leyl Shavuot Light Candles after 9:07p
5•6 Sivan Shavuot Day 1 9:00a Shaharit Light Candles after 9:07p	6•7 Sivan Shavuot Day 2 8:45a Shaharit Megillat Ruth Yizkor 9:08p Yom Tov Ends <i>No Zoom Torah Study</i>	7•8 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	8•9 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit 7:30p Talmud Class (last class of the year)	9•10 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class (last class of the year)	10•11 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit 6:15p Zoom into Shabbat 6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat with Or L'Atid followed by Or L'Atid Dinner 8:08p Candlelighting	11•12 Sivan Naso 9:00a Shaharit 9:11p Shabbat Ends
12•13 Sivan 8:45a Shaharit	13•14 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit 12:00p Zoom Torah Study (last class of the year)	14•15 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	15•16 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit	16•17 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit 5:00p NCS Hesed Program	17•18 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Zoom into Shabbat 6:45p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:11p Candlelighting	18•19 Sivan Beha'alotcha 9:00a Shaharit 9:14p Shabbat Ends
19•20 Sivan 8:45a Shaharit	20•21 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit	21•22 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p Met Council Volunteers	22•23 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit	23•20 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 5:00p NCS Hesed Program 7:00p A Poetry Happening Part Deux: Prayer and Inspiration	22•21 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Zoom into Shabbat 6:45p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13p Candlelighting	23•22 Nissan Shelah 9:00a Shaharit 9:15p Shabbat Ends
26•27 Sivan 8:45a Shaharit	27•28 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit	28•29 Sivan 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	29•30 Sivan Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Shaharit 7:00p Jewish Law Seminar: <i>Abortion, Privacy and Halakah</i>	30•1 Tamuz Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Shaharit	1 July•2 Tamuz 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Zoom into Shabbat 6:45p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13p Candlelighting	2 July•3 Tamuz Korah 9:00a Shaharit 9:15p Shabbat Ends

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Join The Few The Proud The Minyan

For information about the daily minyan at Or Zarua
Contact Sheldon Adler at:
sadler568@gmail.com

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.



Helping Or Zarua

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

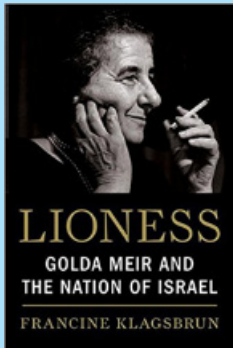
Choose to pay via ACH when paying online. This is a direct debit from your checking account. It saves the congregation credit card transaction fees.

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.

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
Worship the Lord in gladness;
come before the Divine Presence with joy!
-Psalm 100:2

CONGREGATION
OrZarua
LEARN - REVEAL - INSPIRE - 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