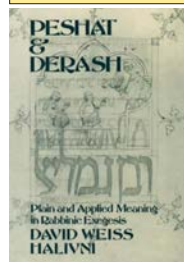


A Certain Amount of Harmony: The Life and Learning of David Weiss Halivni

**Marc Ashley's Adult Education Course Between Pesah and Shavuot
Three Sundays on Zoom: April 23, April 30 & May 7, at 10:00 AM
Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/MarcAshley
(Zoom ID: 816 4004 3826; Passcode: 613)**



The sporadic tension between tradition and truth has always represented a challenge for the committed Jew. In the modern period, advances in critical scholarship about classical Jewish texts have greatly

exacerbated that friction, posing formidable threats to traditional religious beliefs, observance and community.

No individual in contemporary times has more poignantly and brilliantly embodied that tension than the recently deceased David Weiss Halivni z"l, perhaps the greatest Talmudic scholar of the last 100 years.

Halivni was identified as an *illui* (child prodigy) growing up in Sighet, Romania in his grandfather's home as a childhood friend of Elie Wiesel; memorized hundreds of pages of Talmud and mastered its commentaries by the age of nine; was ordained as a rabbi at 15; somehow survived the unimaginable trauma of concentration camps during the Shoah; and then arrived in New York in early 1947 as an orphaned teenage rabbinic scholar. After a stint at an ultra-Orthodox Brooklyn yeshiva, he quickly learned English and attended Brooklyn College, earned a master's degree in philosophy from NYU, and then went on to become a longtime professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at JTS and subsequently, following JTS's contested decision to ordain female rabbis, at Columbia University.

In 2008, Halivni was awarded the Israel Prize, the state's highest cultural honor, for his groundbreaking Talmudic scholarship. At his passing last year in Israel at age 94, Halivni was regarded in both academic and many religious circles as arguably the world's foremost Talmudic scholar.

I have a deep personal connection to Dr. Halivni. In my mid-20s, I became his teaching assistant as a Religion PhD student at Columbia, where he became for me a valued teacher, mentor and role model. I not only was in awe of Halivni's enormous knowledge of all things Jewish, but also recognized that he personified the modern predicament for the faithful Jew; he epitomized what is most compelling about both Jewish scholarship and traditional observance. Indeed, during my graduate program I assisted Halivni in his evolving work as he struggled to reconcile that fateful tension in his own life. Joanne and I were privileged to have Dr. Halivni deliver a d'var Torah at our 1991 wedding, which was the first in the then-fledgling Or Zarua community.

Halivni wrote in his memoir that he had achieved "a certain amount of harmony" between his competing existential commitments to religious faith and scholarly truth. He sought through his prodigious knowledge and provocative creativity to forge viable bridges between his innovative scholarship that defied Orthodox views of the textual development of the Talmud and Torah, on the one hand, and his abiding commitment to Jewish law and practice, on the other. It is precisely in his relentless pursuit of that fragmentary and fragile

harmony that Halivni literally embodied our greatest challenge as committed Jews.

Can traditional Judaism overcome the thorny theological and halakhic problems posed by modern critical scholarship (such as Halivni's) that has exposed textual blemishes in both the Torah and Talmud? Can we continue to owe allegiance to those classical texts – to which Judaism traditionally ascribed divinity – if they bear historical hallmarks of defective human transmission and development? These consequential questions should engage all modern committed Jews, as they so preoccupied Halivni's mind and soul throughout his adult life.

Please join us on Zoom as we honor Halivni's blessed memory by exploring his trailblazing thought in three Sunday morning sessions between Pesah and Shavuot. From Halivni's inspiring life and learning, we can gain insight and guidance into navigating the daunting clash between tradition and truth in the modern world.

-Marc Ashley



Dr. Halivni presenting the d'var Torah at the wedding of Marc and Joanne Ashley

Cubism and the Trompe l'Oeil Tradition

Exhibition Talk with Dr. Emily Braun

Thursday, March 30, 7:00 PM, see page 3



A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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

President's Message

by Isaac Nagiel



The recent Parasha Terumah delves into minute detail on building the Mishkan (Tabernacle) during the Israelites' journey through the wilderness. From the

exact positioning of the Cherubim and their wings to the exact colors of blue, purple, and crimson wool for the ten curtains. Essentially, the whole Parasha is a detailed and precise guide to building the Mishkan. It struck me that we only have 54 parashot in the Torah and an entire one was dedicated to this detailed construction manual (and, indeed, most of those construction details are also repeated later in the Torah). It begs the question why did the building of the Mishkan need to be so complex and prescriptive?

I think it is in response to what had transpired earlier in the Book of Exodus where the Jews were slaves in Egypt taking orders from their task masters. They did rote work without any sense of pride or ownership in the outcome of their labor. The generations of slavehood drudgery had sapped the Jewish people of a sense of

national pride and accomplishment.

The complexity and exacting detail of the Mishkan was a purposefully difficult task designed to help restore the Jewish people's sense of pride and take a first step in the rebuilding of a nation. If the Mishkan had been a simple build, would it have engendered the same sense of national accomplishment?

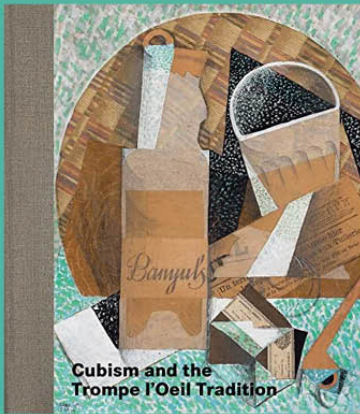
I couldn't help but think of the famous words in a speech by John F. Kennedy at Rice University in 1962 in which he said, "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard." The "goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills."

I think back to our founding Rabbi, Rabbi Wechsler, and the founding families who took on the complex and difficult task of building a new community from scratch. They did not shy away from the challenging mission and built this wonderful community of Or Zarua. Our community is forever thankful to those original builders for creating the blueprint and starting to build the Mishkan of Or Zarua. We continue to build upon that foundation in our relentless pursuit of an ever greater Mishkan Or Zarua!

Isaac Nagiel



Congregants Arthur Rosenbloom and Evelyn Kenvin catch up with Rabbi Wechsler in Jerusalem.



Exhibition TALK

Cubism and the Trompe l'Oeil Tradition

Exhibition Talk with Dr. Emily Braun

Thursday, March 30, 7:00 PM



Critics hailed the exhibition *Cubism and the Trompe l'Oeil Tradition*, recently held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, for offering a new understanding of Cubism. This exhibition of still life demonstrated the transhistorical connections between the tradition of

visual deception and the meaning and method behind Cubist collages by Georges Braque, Juan Gris and Pablo Picasso. Paradoxically, the Cubist dialogue with trompe l'oeil began just as these three artists began to dismantle the conventions of Western illusionism. Yet both trompe l'oeil and cubism engaged in issues of truth and falsehood, originality and authenticity—in art and in life. Please join us when Co-Curator of the exhibition Dr. Emily Braun (a fellow Or Zarua member) will give a talk on the exhibition, its themes, and the logistics involved in organizing an international loan exhibition.

Dr. Braun will present an overview of the exhibition with images and a talk that highlights the reception of the exhibition, as well as further thoughts about the movements she connected.

Emily (Mimi) Braun is Distinguished Professor at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, CUNY and the Curator of the Leonard A. Lauder Collection. She is known internationally as an expert in two fields: modern Italian art and Cubism. Braun has organized several award-winning exhibitions, among them *Gardens and Ghettos: The Art of Jewish Life in Italy* (The Jewish Museum, 1989); *The Power of Conversation: Jewish Women and their Salons* (The Jewish Museum, 2005); *Cubism: the Leonard A*

Lauder Collection (The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2014) and *Alberto Burri: The Trauma of Painting* (Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 2015). Her essays have been included in catalogues published by museums across North America and Europe, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the MoMA, the Morgan Library, the Neue Galerie, the Tate Gallery, the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Palazzo Reale Milan. Her research has been supported by Fellowships from the Getty Foundation and the New York Public Library Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. In 2020 she held the Edmond J. Safra Professorship at CASVA, The National Gallery of Art Washington. Her lecture this evening relates to the recent exhibition, *Cubism and the Trompe l'Oeil Tradition*, which she co-curated with Elizabeth Cowling for The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Join us for what will be a spectacular presentation. Refreshments to follow.



Graphic credit: Emily Braun and Elizabeth Cowling, *Cubism and the Trompe l'Oeil Tradition*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 2022.



Yom HaAtzmaut with Ivy Halpern Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 pm

immediately after Yom HaZikaron memorial service

Save the date for our Yom HaZikaron ceremony which moves right into our Yom HaAtzmaut program and celebration. This year we will hear from Ivy Halpern, OZ member and high school student leader in Stand With US. Come in blue and white and to hear from the next generation about letting love for Israel lead the way to even brighter times in our homeland.

Ivy Halpern, senior at Stuyvesant High School, is a proud member of Or Zarua. Over her high school career, she has pursued Israel activism and education. In 2020 Ivy participated in the Zioness Fellowship and interned at OpenDor Media in Jerusalem this past summer. Currently, Ivy is an intern at StandWithUs and the President of Stuyvesant's Jewish Student Union.

OZ Gallery News

Congregant Benjamin Marcus's latest article, *The Persistence of Wonder* for online *White Rose Magazine*, where he is art and architecture critic, is an interview with artist Barbara Wolff.

Picking up and expanding on Or Zarua's current gallery exhibit, the conversation reveals new details about Wolff's process, and explores the endurance of both the ancient texts and the artform that keeps them relevant to modern eyes.

Go to this link to read the interview:

<https://whiterosemagazine.com/the-persistence-of-wonder/>



Or Zarua's Young Professionals

March 28th: Rugrats Passover movie night

April 22nd: Kiddish picnic in Central Park

May 19th: Shabbat dinner

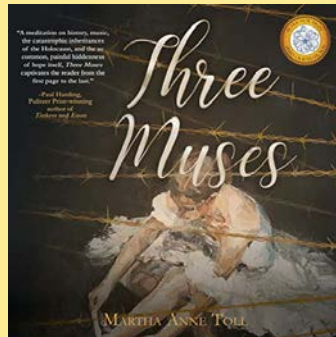
Check their Facebook page for information.

Or Zarua Book Discussions

The Three Muses
by Martha Anne Toll

Sunday, March 19
7:00 pm
In the OZ Library

Discussion Leader:
Aliza Kaplan



Yom HaShoah u'Gevurah,
Holocaust Remembrance
and Heroism Day

Monday, April 17, 2023, 7:00 pm

Save the date for our annual Yom HaShoah u'Gevurah ceremony with instrumental music, readings and our Or Zarua Scroll of Remembrance naming those who we lost and who we love.

Daily Shaharit at OZ

The Morning Minyan during Nissan

by Rabbi Scott N. Bolton

Nissan is the Jewish month for redemption. So come make the minyan! It is a strong move to get up for services. It is meditative and a mitzvah. You help people remember loved ones who need to say kaddish. Our own memories and reflection come amidst the leader's chanting. You don't have to know every prayer or be on the same page as the service leader every minute. And people who have a spiritual community and coffee together live better and feel less loneliness. At this time, I am

looking to expand our group of committed minyan-goers especially on Mondays and Thursdays. Men and women count. We daven in Hebrew. Choose to use the Sim Shalom or the Koren siddur. We repeat the full Amidah. Bagels and schmoozing afterwards. Come belong, be strengthened and make the minyan stronger. If you're not in the area or able to come to us, I'm sure there's a minyan nearby who would love to see you there!

Currently our daily Shaharit service, the morning minyan, meets in person Sunday through Friday except Tuesday; Tuesday remains a Zoom meeting. The minyan starts at 7:15 am Monday through Friday and 8:45 am on Sunday. Contact Shelly Adler at: sadler568@gmail.com to discuss options for yahrzeits or about which days need your help making the minyan.

For Kids and Families

Prepare for Pesah with Or L'Atid

Monday, April 3, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

All OZ families are invited to join Rabbi Bolton and Sigal as we prepare for Pesah together.

Hebrew School students will have an adjusted schedule, and then participate in the program. Parents, grandparents, siblings and friends are all invited to join us.

This program is for ALL families - not just Hebrew School families.

RSVP to Sigal.



Mondays, 10:00 am

Our signature Early Childhood program is back in full swing! Join Hannah weekly on Monday mornings to start the week off right!

Enjoy songs, puppets, stories, and of course, bubbles! Children will learn simply Hebrew language, get ready for upcoming holidays, learn about Jewish values and so much more.

Sign up on Shulcloud, Kidpass, or Sawyer.

orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/shalom-sing-along

Save the Date Or L'Atid

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Party!

Wednesday, April 26, 6:00 pm

Stay tuned for more information!

Join us on Shabbat morning for Kids' Programs and Kiddush!

Celebrate Shabbat with Or Zarua. Little ones sing, pray and play in Torah Tots. Elementary School kids learn and pray a shortened Shabbat Shacharit service and have a great time performing the weekly Parashah Play!

All come together for a story and grape juice, before we head down to the sanctuary together for the end of services with the community.

Upcoming dates include:

April 1 & April 22

On April 1, we'll celebrate Rabbi Wechsler's 80th Birthday as a community.

On April 22, join us after services for a sit-down kiddush lunch at our monthly Kiddush in the Round!



For more information about Hebrew School or Or Zarua's various programs for all kids and families, contact Sigal, sigalcohen@orzarua.org

Story of Our Lives

OZ's first Kids' Purim Spiel

A note from Sigal:

Judaism is a religion of action. We shake the lulav, dance with the Torah, eat matzah, dip our apples in honey... you get the idea.

It's also a religion of storytelling. We read from the Torah weekly. We sit down at our Passover seders to tell the story of the Exodus from Egypt. And of course, we read Megillat Esther on Purim. So, what a perfect invention – the Purim Spiel, where we can act (in both senses of the word) and tell our story.

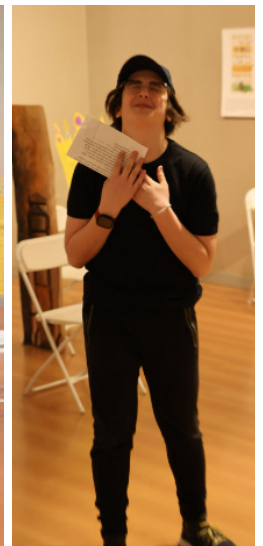
When we talk about our goals here at Or Zarua with respect to the kids in our community, I often say that we aim to give them as much Jewish knowledge as we can, with the skills to support that knowledge, so that they can go on to live full lives as Jewish adults. But, how can we tell if it's working? We're still a few years away from seeing what kinds of Jewish lives our students will lead. Thankfully, there are signposts along the way – most notably, in my opinion, when a child takes ownership of a Jewish practice, idea or story, and chooses to engage with it more deeply.

On Sunday, March 5, we had 12 amazing kids doing just that. When Ziggy asked me, last year, if he could write a Purim Spiel for OZ kids to perform, I thought "how could I possibly say no to this? This is the DREAM for a Jewish educator!" Little did I know the impact this would have on our little cast and their families. These kids were given an opportunity that they might not have in other settings – to be on a stage, performing in a musical. They were given a new perspective on the Purim story, through the eyes of the characters they play. They were given a new "spiel" community, one filled with song, laughter and friendship.

And, they were given a role model, in Ziggy, an incredibly talented 15-year-old kid, who believed in them, treated them with respect and kindness, and gave them this beautiful gift.



Thanks to all who helped support our kids by attending the spiel, and of course, to Ziggy, for writing original music and lyrics, and for an experience we'll always remember.



Israel Opportunities & News

**70,000 Immigrated
to Israel**

From 95 Countries in 2022

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/Aliyah032023>



**Researchers Verify
Written Records of King David,
Corresponding
to Hebrew Bible**

Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/Proof032023>



**Israeli Breakthrough: Spread of
Breast Cancer Halted with New
Treatment**

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/BCIS032023>



**Video: Sky High Goals for
Israeli Space Technology!**

<https://tinyurl.com/BlastOff032023>

**Photo: The Beresheet
Spacecraft**



**Israeli Companies
Make Flying Cars a Reality**

Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/FC032023>



Celebrating Israel Throughout the Year

Eight Teens With Cerebral Palsy Inducted into IDF

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/365090/>



The Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) is a leading international Jewish human rights organization founded in 1977 by Rabbi Marvin Hier. For updates and news go to: <https://www.wiesenthal.com/>

**STOP THE
MAINSTREAMING OF
ANTI-SEMITISM**

StandWithUs Files Complaint Against GWU Over Prof Allegedly Targeting Jewish Israeli Students

<https://tinyurl.com/SWU032023>



Ivory Treasure: First Temple-Era Relics

Discovered in Jerusalem

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZ092022>



<https://tinyurl.com/IsraelBonds0922>

Keep Up With News In Israel THE JERUSALEM POST

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

AIFL Young Professionals is a New York City-based apolitical community of young individuals, both American and Israeli, of all faiths and backgrounds:

<https://aifl.org/program/young-professionals/>

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://signupe2ma.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>.

Am Yisrael Chai!

-Reena Levine Seltzer

Learning with Rabbi Bolton

Community Torah Study Mondays on ZOOM

Mondays, noon
Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZMondayTorahStudy>

Leadership: Searching the Weekly Torah Portion for Inspiration

Join the community to explore the weekly Torah portion and essays by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks that pertain to leadership. We honor the memory of Rabbi Sacks by engaging with his materials, and we expand the learning by adding classic and other modern commentary. Make it your lunch & learn or set aside the noon hour on Mondays to participate and learn in this dynamic, online, community Torah study. Check the calendar and eblasts for exact schedule.

OZ Talmud Class: Masekhet Makkot Continued

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm
In the OZ Library and Zoom

Punishments In Search of Crimes & Wisdom for Developing Moral Citizenship

Exercise your mind and mine insights from the world of our Sages. Join the Or Zarua Talmud class this year on Wednesday nights over ZOOM or in person for further exploration of Masekhet Makkot - so relevant to big questions of modern societies and our lives. When does someone get a "get out of jail free" card? What does a criminal justice system look like in the Rabbis' minds and what are the value concepts it functions with that inform modern systems of punishment and/or rehabilitation? Along the way there are always expansive discussions about familiar and not so familiar Jewish customs and culture, and anyone with any background adds to our class. Class meets from 7:30 to 9pm most Wednesdays. Check the calendar and eblasts for exact schedule.

OZ Siddur and Prayer Class & Discussion Group

Thursdays, 8:45 am
In the OZ Library

Lekha Dodi - Meeting the Mystical Sabbath Queen and Other Evening Prayers

Come explore the mystical poetry of Kabbalat Shabbat. Our first major area of focus will be Lekha Dodi. This 16th century addition to the siddur took off like wildfire around the Jewish world. We'll sing it with many different tunes, discuss the content and expand the ongoing conversation among class participants about prayer experiences. Over the year we will compare the weekday and Sabbath evening services. Classes include general explorations of Jewish spirituality and the prayer experience. Careful attention to the language of prayers is a focus. Class meets in person only at OZ 8:40am on Thursdays after morning minyan.

Check the Or Zarua calendar in each issue of the newsletter to confirm days that each class meets.

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.
- 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.

From Compassion to Action: OZ Hased 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 remained open and was 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 Hased 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 Hased 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 Hased 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.

Upcoming Dates: Tuesdays, March 28 and April 25; 4:00 pm to pack the groceries; 5:30 pm (approx.) distribution at the building

Individuals and families are welcome to volunteer. However, all volunteers coming to the building or the pantry need to be fully vaccinated; wearing a mask is optional but recommended.

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 Hased 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. Note that masks are required.

Or Zarua Hased Fund

Please consider making a donation to the OZ Hased 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):

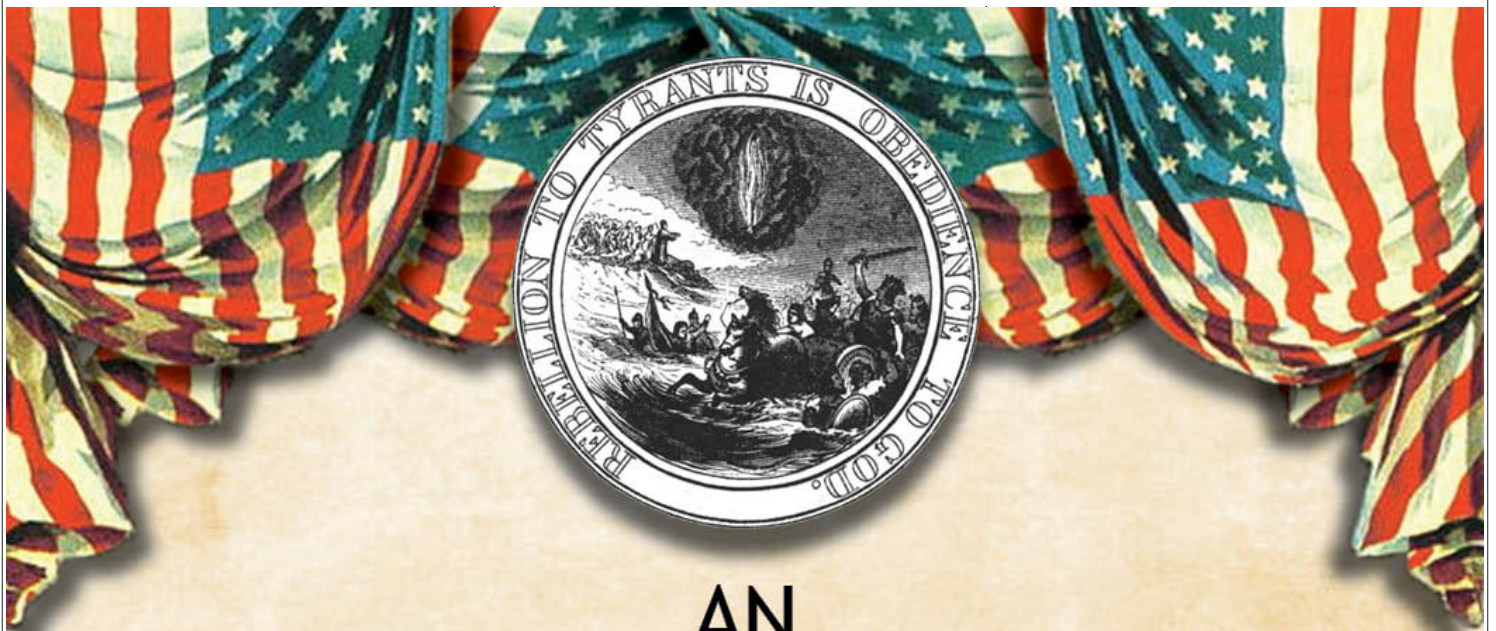
<https://www.leket.org/en/>

Capital Campaign

We are excited to announce the launch of our Or Zarua Giving Campaign for the Future! Through June 30th, the entire congregation is invited to contribute to our capital campaign, as we mark 30+ years as a thriving, vibrant community, which for the last 10 years has been led by our esteemed Rabbi Scott Bolton. On May 9th, we will all gather at a party to honor Rabbi Bolton for his decade of inspiring rabbinic leadership at Or Zarua, to celebrate a successful campaign, and to raise a toast to our exciting and dynamic future.

Thanks to a small group of generous members, including our Board of Trustees, we have already raised \$600,000 towards our goal of One Million Dollars. If you have not yet contributed, please help us reach our ambitious goal and to honor Rabbi Bolton. Your dollars will help support dynamic programs and services and infrastructure improvements. If you are able to consider a larger contribution but would prefer to make your payments over two or three years, we’d be happy to arrange that for you. Thank you for caring about our Kehillah Kedoshah (holy congregation).

Please make your check payable to: Congregation Or Zarua, note Capital Campaign in the memo line, and mail to Congregation Or Zarua, 127 E. 82nd Street, New York, NY 10028 or click <https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/giving> to contribute online.



AN
**AMERICAN HERITAGE
 FIRST SEDER**
 WITH RABBIS AMY & SCOTT BOLTON
 CELEBRATE PESAH AT OR ZARUA · APRIL 5, 7:00 PM

**Or Zarua Community First Seder
An American Heritage First Seder
 Wednesday night, April 5, 7:00 pm
 with Rabbis Amy & Scott Bolton**

Did you know that Ben Franklin proposed a seal for the United States which incorporated Moses parting the Red Sea? Alongside the traditional haggadah we will explore documents of American history that have made their way onto seder tables over the last two-hundred or so years.

Come express gratitude for our People's freedom from slavery and for the blessing of living in this generation on the shores of the "Land of the Free." The seder experience helps us recall bitter times in our People's history and the sweetness of redemption and freedom in every generation.

Please make reservations by Thursday, March 30, through ShulCloud:
<https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/seder.html>
 or at 212-452-2310, ext. 39, or email Deborah Wenger at dwenger@orzarua.org

OZ Members and Guests: \$85 per adult; \$55 per child aged 8 and under. Nonmembers: \$125 per adult
 If finances are keeping you from joining the first Seder at Or Zarua,
 write to Rabbi Bolton at rabbibolton@orzarua.org.

Siyum Wednesday, April 5 Ta'anit Behorot Immediately Following Shaharit (morning service)

Rabbi Bolton will lead a siyum on Wednesday morning, April 5 after the completion of the Shaharit service (which begins at 7:15 am).

Everyone who attends the siyum will join in a festive meal. All are invited to attend the siyum.

Ta'anit Behorot Fast of the Firstborn Wednesday, April 5

What is the Fast of the Firstborn?

Ta'anit behorot, the Fast of the Firstborn, is a custom observed on the day before Pesah to commemorate our gratitude for surviving the pre-Exodus tenth plague, which smote all firstborn Egyptians but spared all firstborn Hebrews. It is a dawn-to-dusk fast, which this year falls on Wednesday, April 5.

Who is considered a firstborn?

For this fast, a firstborn is a male child who is the first child born either to his mother or to his father. Having an older brother or sister, by either parent, precludes his firstborn status—he is not the first child.

Why only the male firstborn?

In the ancient world, male firstborns were subject to Temple service. It was this hierarchy that was the target of the tenth plague.

How can a firstborn avoid fasting?

The mitzvah of attending a siyum—a completion of the reading of a tractate of Talmud—overrides the mitzvah of observing this fast. Firstborns can opt to attend a siyum, which is followed by a festive meal. The meal is part of the deal, so the fast is legitimately broken. Synagogues facilitate this choice for firstborns by scheduling a siyum for the morning before Pesah.

Colors, Containers and Cardboard Cans: Packaging Passover for American Grocery Stores

**Post-Kiddush Chaburah
with Rabbi Bolton
In Memory of his father
Stewart Bolton, z"l
Saturday, April 8, after kiddush**

Unique Passover packaging developed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries in America as Pesah food was mass produced and grocery stores catered to the North American Jewish community.



Manufacturers were challenged to understand Passover laws and apply them to the mass production of food yet were equally as challenged in rising to the occasion to design the packaging materials. Design of packaging material had to satisfy both religious concerns and cultural appeal. The art of package engineering and design took on new meaning both in Jewish and non-Jewish food and provisions companies alike. Rabbi Bolton will explore the history of Passover packaging and Jewish laws that concerned manufacturers, as well as ideas about "religious" package design, in memory of his father, Stewart Bolton, z'l who was a packaging engineer for Warner Lambert Parke-David and a professor of the discipline at Rutgers University School of Packaging Engineering.

**Guidelines for Passover
See Page 15**

Sell Your Hametz

Rabbi Bolton will arrange the transaction

Before Passover, we are required to "sell" any hametz in our possession to a non-Jew. The transaction is arranged by the rabbi, to ensure compliance with the requirements of halakhah. The completed form, below, must arrive at

the synagogue office no later than noon on Tuesday, April 4, or email a scan of the signed form to dwenger@orzarua.org. **Please be sure to sign the form.** It is customary to enclose a contribution to Or Zarua's Ma'ot Hittim Fund with your authorization.

Authorization for the Sale of Hametz

In accordance with Jewish law, I/we authorize Rabbi Bolton to sell all hametz in my/our possession at the locations listed below. Enclosed is my/our contribution to Or Zarua's Ma'ot Hittim Fund. **Note that this authorization must be signed; this authorization is NOT valid without your signature.**

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____ Apt # _____

City/State/Zip _____

Other Locations (vacation home, office, etc):

Address _____

Address _____

Address _____

Signature _____

Please note that this authorization must be signed.

This completed form must arrive at the OZ office no later than
NOON, Tuesday, April 4:

-You may complete the form online using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/OZ-sell-hametz-23>

-Or you may complete the above form and scan it and email to:

dwenger@orzarua.org

Ma'ot Hittim Fund

Assist needy Jews to prepare for Passover

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

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

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

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

PESAH SCHEDULE 5783/2023

Tuesday, April 4

Submit Hametz Sale Authorization
Bedikat Hametz after 8:00 pm

Wednesday, April 5

Ta'anit Bechorot (Fast of the Firstborn)
Shaharit, Siyum 7:15 am
Finish Eating Hametz before 10:48 am
Sell and Burn Hametz before 11:53 am
Erev Pesah/First Seder
Candlelighting 7:06 pm
OZ Congregational Seder 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 6

First Day of Pesah
Shaharit 9:00 am
Erev Second Day of Pesah/Second Seder
Candlelighting after 8:03 pm

Friday, April 7

Second Day of Pesah
Shaharit 9:00 am
Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15 pm
Candlelighting 7:08 pm

Saturday, April 8

Shabbat Pesah
Shaharit (Song of Songs) 9:00 am
Post Kiddush with Rabbi Bolton
Shabbat Ends 8:05 pm

Sunday, April 9 and Monday, April 10

Fourth & Fifth Day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed
Shaharit 8:45 am & 7:15 am

Tuesday, April 11

Sixth Day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed
Shaharit (Zoom) 7:15 am
Candlelighting 7:13 pm

Wednesday, April 12

Seventh Day of Pesah
Shaharit 9:00 am
Candlelighting after 8:10 pm

Thursday, April 13

The Last Day of Pesah
Shaharit 9:00 am
Yizkor
Festival Ends 8:11 pm
Hametz Reverts 8:12 pm

Guidelines for Passover

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

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

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

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

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

Food Items

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

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

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

Permitted foods that DO NOT require a Kosher le-Pesah label: fresh

fruit, fresh vegetables (for legumes, see above), and eggs.

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

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

Non-Food Items

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

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

Kashering (of hametz items)

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

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

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

Ovens and ranges: Every part that comes into contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned, and then

heated to the highest possible temperature for a half hour. For ovens with no self-cleaning feature, use the broil setting; for self-cleaning ovens, use the self-cleaning feature to achieve the highest temperature. Continuous-cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between November 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022

Community News is Continued
on the Next Page

Or Zarua's Memorial Wall

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. For more information about plaques for our Memorial Wall, please contact Helene Santo at hsanto@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, ext 14.



The Or Zarua Community

Continued From the Previous Page

Did you miss the Or Zarua Purim spiel and would like to see it? Or did you see it and you want to see it again? Well you can see it again because it is recorded and available on the web at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZPurim5783>



March 2023 • Adar/Nissan 5783

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5•12 Adar 8:45a Shaharit 10a Kids' Purim Spiel 7:30p Purim Spiel Rehearsal	6•13 Adar Ta'anit Esther/Erev Purim 5:11a Fast Begins 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Shalom Sing-a-Long 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 6:23p Fast Ends 6:30p Ma'ariv, Megillah & Purim Spiel 8:00p OZ Young Pros Party	7•14 Adar Purim 7:15a Shaharit service for Purim in the Sanctuary in person only	8•15 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Talmud Class	9•16 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class	10•17 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 2:00p NazoOZ After School 5:38p Candlelighting 5:38p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 9:00a Shaharit 6:35p Havdalah	11•18 Adar Bar Mitzvah Jonah Schmutter Shabbat Parah Ki Tissa 9:00a Shaharit 6:35p Havdalah
12•19 Adar <i>Daylight Savings (forward one hour)</i> 8:45a Shaharit No Bir'nana Rehearsal	13•20 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Shalom Sing-a-Long with Tkiya 4:00p Hebrew School No Zoom Torah Study	14•21 Adar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	15•22 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars No Talmud Class	16•23 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 5:00p NCS Hesed Program No Siddur Class	17•24 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 2:00p NazoOZ After School 6:00p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:46p Candlelighting	18•25 Adar Shabbat HaHodesh Vayakhel-Pekudei 9:00a Shaharit 7:42p Havdalah
19•26 Adar 8:45a Shaharit 7:00p Book Discussion: <i>The Three Muses</i> No Bir'nana Rehearsal	20•27 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Shalom Sing-a-Long with Tkiya 4:00p Hebrew School No Zoom Torah Study	21•28 Adar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	22•29 Adar 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars No Talmud Class	23•1 Nissan Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Shaharit 5:00p NCS Hesed Program No Siddur Class	24•2 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 6:00p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:53p Candlelighting	25•3 Nissan Vayikra 9:00a Shaharit 7:50p Havdalah
26•4 Nissan 8:45a Shaharit 7:15p Bir'nana Rehearsal	27•5 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Shalom Sing-a-Long with Tkiya 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School	28•6 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p MET Council Volunteers Young Pros Passover Movie Night	29•7 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Talmud Class	30•8 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 7:00p Art to Inspire with Dr. Emily Braun	31•9 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 6:00p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:01p Candlelighting	1 April•10 Nissan Shabbat HaGadol Tzav 9:00a Shaharit 11:00a Torah Tots with Tkiya 11:00a Torah Kids 7:57p Havdalah

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2•11 Nissan 8:45a Shaharit 7:15p Bir'nana Rehearsal	3•12 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Shalom Sing-a-Long with Tkiya 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p Class with Rabbi Bolton	4•13 Nissan Hametz Sale Authorization Due by Noon Today 7:15a Shaharit After nightfall: Bedikat Hametz (Search for Hametz)	5•14 Nissan Erev Pesah Ta'anit Behorot First Seder 7:15a Shaharit and Siyum 7:06p Candlelighting Congregational Seder <i>No Heb Sch/Talmud Class</i> <i>Office Closes 1:00p</i>	6•15 Nissan 1st Day Pesah Second Seder 9:00a Shaharit Light Candles after 8:03p <i>No Siddur Class</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	7•16 Nissan 2nd Day Pesah 9:00a Shaharit 6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:08p Candlelighting <i>Office Closed</i>	8•17 Nissan Shabbat Hol Hamoad 3rd Day of Pesah 8:45a Shaharit Post-Kiddush Chaburah with Rabbi Bolton: <i>Colors, Containers and Cardboard Cans: Packaging Passover for American Grocery Stores</i> 8:05p Havdalah
9•18 Nissan Hol Hamoad 4th Day of Pesah 8:45a Shaharit 7:15p Bir'nana Rehearsal	10•19 Nissan Hol Hamoad 5th Day of Pesah 7:15a Shaharit 12:00p Zoom Torah Study <i>No Hebrew School</i>	11•20 Nissan Hol Hamoad 6th Day of Pesah Erev Seventh Day Pesah 7:15a Shaharit 7:13p Candlelighting <i>Office closes 1:00p</i>	12•21 Nissan 7th Day Pesah 9:00a Shaharit Light Candles after 8:10p <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Talmud Class</i> <i>Office closed</i>	13•22 Nissan Last Day Pesah Yizkor 9:00a Shaharit 8:11p Pesah Ends <i>No Siddur Class</i> <i>Office closed</i>	14•23 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:16p Candlelighting	15•24 Nissan Shemini 9:00a Shaharit 8:13p Havdalah
16•25 Nissan 8:45a Shaharit <i>Bir'nana Rehearsal TBD</i>	17•26 Nissan Erev Yom Hashoah 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Shalom Sing-a-Long with Tkiya 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Yom HaShoah u'Gevurah, Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism Day	18•27 Nissan Yom Hashoah 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	19•28 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Talmud Class	20•29 Nissan 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 5:00p NCS Hased Program	21•30 Nissan Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Shaharit 6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:23p Candlelighting	22•1 Iyar Rosh Hodesh Tazria/Metzora 9:00a Shaharit 11:00a Torah Tots with Tkiya 11:00a Torah Kids Kiddush in the Round YP Kiddush in the Park 8:21p Havdalah
23•2 Iyar 8:45a Shaharit 10:00a Marc Ashley's Adult Ed Class <i>Bir'nana Rehearsal TBD</i>	24•3 Iyar Erev Yom Hazikaron 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Shalom Sing-a-Long with Tkiya 12:00p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School	25•4 Iyar Yom Hazikaron Erev Yom Ha'Atzmaut 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom) 4:00p MET Council 7:00p Yom Hazikaron Memorial Service/Yom Ha'Atzmaut presentation with Ivy Halpern	26•5 Iyar Yom Ha'Atzmaut 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:00p Or L'Atid Yom Ha'Atzmaut Party 7:30p Talmud Class	27•6 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 5:00p NCS Hased Program	28•7 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 6:15p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30p Candlelighting	29•8 Iyar Bat Mitzvah Abigail Siderow Bar Mitzvah Nathaniel Siderow Aharei Mot/Kedoshim 9:00a Shaharit 8:29p Havdalah
30•9 Iyar 8:45a Shaharit 10:00a Marc Ashley's Adult Ed Class <i>Bir'nana Rehearsal TBD</i>	1 May•10 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 10:00a Shalom Sing-a-Long with Tkiya 12p Zoom Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School	2 May•11 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit (Zoom)	3 May•12 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:30p Talmud Class	4 May•13 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class	5 May•14 Iyar 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:37p Candlelighting	6 May•15 Iyar Bat Mitzvah Margot Miller Emor 9:00a Shaharit 8:37p Havdalah