

SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 2025/5785

PASSOVER IS COMING!!

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

OZ GALLERY OPENING

Sunday, April 6, 5:30 pm

OR L'ATID PRE-PESAH PROGRAM

Monday, April 7, 5:00 pm

TORAH-ON-TAP

Tuesday, April 8, 8:30 pm

GET READY FOR SEDER: HAGGADAH HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 pm

CELEBRATE PASSOVER WITH OR ZARUA

Pesah begins Saturday night, April 12

COMMUNITY SECOND NIGHT SEDER

Sunday, April 13, 7:30 pm

CHABURAH WITH RABBI BOLTON

Saturday, April 19, following kiddush

YOM HASHOA U'GEVURAH

Wednesday, April 23, 7:00 pm

SPRING CLASS WITH MARC ASHLEY

Sunday, April 27, 10:00 am, Sunday, May 4, 10:00 am,
Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 pm, Sunday, May 18, 7:00 pm

OR L'ATID YOM HA'ATZMAUT PARTY

Wednesday, April 30, 5:00 pm

YOM HAZIKARON AND YOM HA'ATZMAUT TEKES MA'AVAR

Wednesday, April 30, 7:00 pm

ORTAL'S ISRAEL PARTY

Thursday, May 1, 4:00 pm

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CELEBRATE PASSOVER WITH OR ZARUA

*Pesah begins Saturday night, April 12
Pages 5-9*

SAVE THESE MAY DATES

**ILLUSTRATING ESTHER AND RUTH
A PRESENTATION BY OZ CONGREGANT
BENJAMIN MARCUS**

Thursday, May 8, 7:00 pm

OR L'ATID SHABBAT IN HONOR OF SIGAL

Saturday, May 17

ANNUAL MEETING & TAR BEACH PICNIC

Tuesday, May 20



Dear OZ,

The Seders are soon coming, and I wish each and every one of you blessings as much for a wonderful preparation as for the hag itself.

Join me on Wednesday, April 9th, at 7pm either in the library at OZ or over ZOOM to get set for Seder. What ideas are in the Sacks Haggadah that can help us have engaging Seders? What's the minimum I need to do to make it kosher? What if we don't do all the parts after the meal? What's not to miss?

This year the communal seder is back to second night. In the past some have set aside the cooking and left the delicious menu planning to Ember Kosher catering. Come set up a table with family or join our communal Pesah celebration yourself.

From our family to yours, a hag kasher v'sameyach,
Rabbi Bolton



PRAY WITH US

SEE THE CALENDAR ON PAGE 15 FOR ALL SERVICE TIMES.

SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday Services: See calendar

Saturday Services: 9:00 am

WEEKDAY MINYAN

Sunday: 8:45 am

Monday - Friday: 7:15 am (Tuesday Zoom only)

CONNECT WITH US

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OR ZARUA'S



CELEBRATION IN 2025!

CELEBRATE DOUBLE CHAI AT EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

For 36 years, Or Zarua has been a pillar of strength, spiritual growth, and community for all who have entered its doors. As we look back on our history and the lasting impact our congregation has had on so many of our lives, we now have a wonderful opportunity to build on this legacy.



To ensure the continued success and vibrancy of Or Zarua, we are embarking on our campaign to raise \$3.6 million. These funds will allow us to expand our staff and programming, support the enhancement and maintenance of our building, and ensure we can continue to meet the evolving needs of our congregation for years to come.

We hope you will join us for many events throughout the year as we celebrate Or Zarua's 36th Birthday!

- >>> Or Zarua Gallery Opening: The Art of the Gallery
Sunday, April 6, 5:30 pm**
- >>> Or L'Atid Shabbat Celebration in Honor of Sigal Cohen
Shabbat in the Round, May 17th**
- >>> Brunch Celebrating the Minyan Founders
Sunday, September 14**
- >>> Shabbat Lunch and Learn
Saturday, November 1**
- >>> Happy 36th Birthday Party
Monday, December 8th**

Help us continue to grow and thrive, ensuring that our community remains strong for generations to come. To make a donation, visit tinyurl.com/OZ36TH. Be in touch with Hannah Kranich, hannah.kranich@gmail.com or Rabbi Bolton, rabbibolton@orzarua.org, if you have questions or would like to make a multi-year pledge.

While your gift, no matter the size, will make a lasting impact, we ask that you make a gift that is meaningful to you. We are deeply grateful for your support, and your generosity will help us ensure that Or Zarua remains a vibrant and welcoming place for generations to come.

To make a contribution through a stock transfer or IRA distribution, please contact Helene Santo, hsanto@orzarua.org.

OR ZARUA GALLERY OPENING

THE ART OF THE GALLERY

Sunday, April 6, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

As part of OZ's 36th anniversary celebration and the 20th anniversary of the OZ Gallery, please join us for a luminous review of the OZ Gallery's meaningful contribution to Or Zarua!

Remarks by the renowned graphic designer and artist, Rudi Wolff, creator of the OZ logo.

Light refreshments will be served.



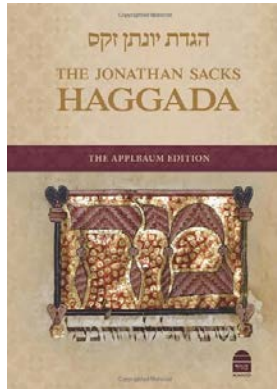
PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN IN HONOR OF THE GALLERY COMMITTEE'S CONTRIBUTIONS AND THIS MILESTONE.
TINYURL.COM/OZ36TH-GALLERY



GET READY FOR SEDER

HAGGADAH HIGHLIGHTS WITH RABBI BOLTON

Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 pm



Join Rabbi Bolton to explore highlights of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' Haggadah, sent to all members to enhance your seder.

The gift of the Haggadot has been made possible through the generosity of the Roizen Family in memory of loved ones.

OR L'ATID PRE-PESAH PROGRAM

PREPARE FOR PASSOVER WITH RABBI BOLTON AND SIGAL

Monday, April 7, 5:00 pm

Hebrew School families are invited to a pre-Pesah program as we explore different sections of the seder. Bring home what you learn to enhance your family experience!



TORAH-ON-TAP @ CRAFT & CARRY

A SOCIAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, April 8, 8:30 pm

Cheers! Raise a glass with us. Between trips to the well for great microbrew beer at Craft + Carry (open your own tab), we'll spend 20 minutes with Rabbi Scott Bolton for Talmud and Torah study on this month's theme:

Strange Seder Tales

A nice way to make a Tuesday night holy, social, and fun



CELEBRATE PASSOVER WITH OR ZARUA

SERVICE AND EVENT SCHEDULE

Pesah begins Saturday night, April 12

Thursday, April 10

7:15 am Shahrith with bagel breakfast & Siyyum for Ta'anit Bekhorot (breaking the Fast of the Firstborn)

Friday, April 11, Erev Shabbat

10:00 am Deadline to sell hametz through Rabbi Bolton (form enclosed or on ShulCloud/in E-blast)

6:15 pm Shabbat Services

7:12 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 12, Shabbat & Erev Pesah

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Services with Kiddush to follow

10:43 am Last time to eat hametz

11:50 am Bittul hametz (nullification of hametz)

8:10 pm Shabbat ends; First Night of Passover begins

Sunday, April 13, Yom Tov - First Day of Passover

9:00 am Festival Services with Hallel, Kiddush to follow

7:30 pm OZ Community Seder - Register by April 7

See next page for more details

8:11 pm Second Night of Passover begins

Monday, April 14, Yom Tov - Second Day of Passover

9:00 am Festival Services with Hallel, Kiddush to follow

8:12 pm Yom Tov ends

Tuesday, April 15 - Hol HaMoed

7:15 am Zoom Hol HaMoed Services with Hallel

Wednesday, April 16 - Friday, April 18 - Hol HaMoed

7:15 am Hol HaMoed Services with Hallel, breakfast to follow

Friday, April 18 - Shabbat and Erev Yom Tov

6:15 pm Shabbat & Festival Evening Services, Oneg to follow

7:20 pm Shabbat and Seventh Night of Passover begin

Saturday, April 19

8:45 am Shabbat & Festival Services with Hallel & Shir HaShirim

Kiddush and Chaburah with Rabbi Bolton to follow

8:18 pm Shabbat ends; Eighth Night of Passover begins

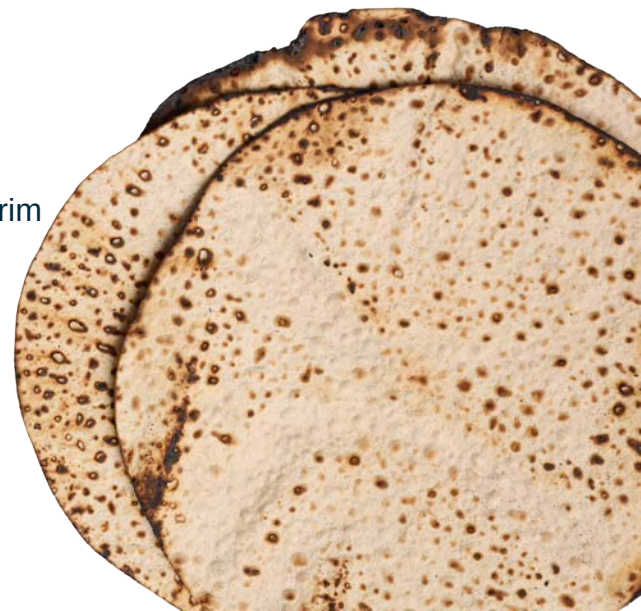
Sunday, April 20

9:00 am Festival Services with YIZKOR & Hallel

Kiddush to follow

8:19 pm Passover ends

Rabbi Bolton is open to any questions about Passover, whether about Halakhic details or how to make a seder night engaging and joyful. Write to him at Rabbibolton@orzarua.org with any questions or to set up a time to speak.



OR ZARUA SECOND NIGHT COMMUNITY SEDER

“HEROES OF THE HAGGADAH”

Sunday, April 13, 7:30 pm, Second Night of Passover



You're invited to our Second Night Community Seder.

Join us this Passover as we celebrate cherished traditions, sing through the seder and honor the heroism of those who've journeyed from darkness to light, inspiring us to appreciate our freedom.

With hope in our hearts, we look forward to the day when the only empty seat is for Elijah, as we pray for the return of all hostages.

Come enjoy the gourmet catering from Ember. We look forward to celebrating with you!

**VISIT [TINYURL.COM/OZSEDER2025](https://tinyurl.com/ozseder2025)
TO REGISTER BY MONDAY, APRIL 7.**

**MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS: \$90, NON-MEMBERS: \$130,
CHILDREN 5-8 YO: \$60**



AFTER-KIDDUSH LEARNING PASSOVER CHABURAH WITH RABBI BOLTON

WHEN ELIJAH CAME WITH A BARREL AND A JAR: A BIBLICAL PASSAGE ABOUT OUR SEDER GUEST

Saturday, April 19, following Kiddush

You're invited to the Chaburah study by Rabbi Bolton after kiddush on the Shabbat of Passover presented in memory of Stewart Bolton, z"l. This short study will focus on the powerful story of Elijah and the widow in the Book of Kings Aleph. In this moving passage, a simple jar and a barrel become symbols of God's provision in desperate times. What is the deeper symbolism for us, if we are not miracle workers like God or Elijah? Why are those packages at the center of this chapter?



This annual lecture is in memory of Rabbi Bolton's father, Stewart Bolton, z"l, who was a packaging engineer and designer and taught at Rutgers University School of Packaging Engineering.

YOM HASHOA U'GEVURAH

CEREMONY FOR REMEMBRANCE AND RECALLING HEROISM

Wednesday, April 23, 7:00 pm

This year our Holocaust and Heroism Day is ever more important as we will gather to read the names of our own beloved family members who were murdered and who rose against evil as heroes in that nightmare of a time for the Jewish People. Live musical selections uplift our hearts at our service, and we include poetry and accounts from the terrible chapters of history that must be read and witnessed so we can proclaim "Never Again." A collective Kaddish is recited after we read the names of our community members' loved ones and acquaintances from the bimah. If you have names of loved ones who perished during the Holocaust or during World War II in service please contact Deborah Wenger in our office so we may add your loved ones, z"l names to our Or Zarua Scroll of Honor.



SPRING CLASS WITH MARC ASHLEY

“FROM MOSES TO MOSES, THERE AROSE NONE LIKE MOSES”: WAS MAIMONIDES THE GREATEST JEW OF ALL TIME - OR A HERETIC?

Sunday, April 27, 10:00 am, Sunday, May 4, 10:00 am,
Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 pm, Sunday, May 18, 7:00 pm

Please join us on Zoom for four thought-provoking sessions on classical Jewish thought; no prior knowledge is required.



The tombstone epitaph of Maimonides (1138–1204) declares him to be the greatest post-Mosaic Jew, a title Rambam (also known as “the Great Eagle”) may certainly deserve. There almost surely has been no more well-rounded and accomplished Jew than Maimonides, who in his highly productive lifetime reached the greatest heights in diverse roles as authoritative Talmudic scholar, expert philosopher, widely consulted physician, preeminent astronomer, and influential communal leader. The impact of Maimonides’ systemic rationalist thought on the Jewish world in the last 800+ years has been prodigious and permanent.

Yet despite his massive achievements and status, Maimonides was beset by controversy during his lifetime and engendered fierce opposition in ensuing centuries. Competing excommunication bans, and even the distressing burning of his books by Christian authorities in France in the 1230s, followed in the wake of Maimonides’ ever-spreading influence.

But why was Maimonides so controversial? Was he indeed one of the most impressive and impactful Jews in history – or, rather, an insidious heretic?

Please join Marc, now in his 26th year of teaching classes at Or Zarua, as we explore pivotal issues in Jewish intellectual history. Maimonides’ compelling ideas, and the recurring strident controversies that attended them, encompass foundational topics such as what a Jew must believe; the interplay of reason and revelation; the true nature of God and monotheism; divine providence and God’s role in history; efficacy of prayer; physical resurrection of the dead; messianic era; reality of miracles and angels; scriptural allegory; and the proper curriculum of Torah studies.

What is beyond controversy is that Maimonides’ wide-ranging thought and towering presence should be considered and appreciated. Please join us for an intriguing encounter with arguably the greatest figure in Jewish history.

CELEBRATE ISRAEL WITH OR L'ATID AT TWO GREAT EVENTS!

OR L'ATID YOM HA'ATZMAUT PARTY AND DINNER

Wednesday, April 30, 5:00 pm

For elementary school and up

Celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut with an Israel festival! Enjoy Israel-themed crafts, delicious Israeli dinner, and of course, a visit to the Israeli shuk (marketplace)!

RSVP AT

[ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/OL-YOMHAATZMAUT.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/ol-yomhaatzmaut.html)

ORTAL'S ISRAEL PARTY

Thursday, May 1, 4:00 pm

For babies and toddlers

Celebrate Israel with fun activities for little ones! Bounce, jump and dance to Israeli music. Enjoy Israeli snacks and decorations for little ones!

RSVP AT [ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/ISRAELPARTY.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/israelparty.html)



YOM HAZIKARON COMMEMORATION & YOM HA'ATZMAUT MOVIE NIGHT

Wednesday, April 30, 7:00 pm

Please join us as we come together in solemn remembrance and joyful celebration on these two most important days on the Jewish calendar. At the end of Israeli Memorial Day we move right into the day of celebrating Israel's birthday.



YOM HAZIKARON: A TIME TO REMEMBER

We will begin the evening with a short ceremony in honor of Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror—those who gave their lives for the existence and safety of the Jewish people. Together, we will reflect, remember, and express our deep gratitude for their ultimate sacrifice. This moment of collective memory connects us across generations, communities, and continents.



YOM HA'ATZMAUT: A CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE

As the sun sets and the somber tones of Yom HaZikaron give way to celebration, we invite you to stay for an evening of Israeli culture, resilience, and joy as we mark the 77th anniversary of Israel's independence.



FILM SCREENING: THE WEDDING PLAN

To celebrate the enduring spirit of the Israeli people, we will screen the acclaimed Israeli film *The Wedding Plan* (Laavor Et Hakir, dir. Rama Burshtein).

This heartfelt and humorous film follows Michal, a 32-year-old Jewish woman whose wedding is abruptly called off. Instead of canceling, she continues with all the wedding preparations—without a groom—believing with deep faith that one will appear. It's a moving story of hope, identity, and belief, blending humor and depth in a uniquely Israeli way.



EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSES RESUME AFTER PASSOVER!

SIGN UP FOR THE 6-WEEK SPRING SEMESTER - BEGINS APRIL 22/23

[SIGN UP AT ORZARUA.ORG/OR-LATID/EARLY-CHILDHOOD/](https://www.orzarua.org/or-latid/early-childhood/)



Tuesdays 4:00 pm

Come join our joyful toddler yoga class shalOM Yoga, with Miss Jordyn where movement, music, and imagination come together!



Wednesdays, 4:00 pm

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to introduce your child to the beauty of Hebrew in a lively and engaging environment.

Join us for a Hebrew adventure like no other!

APRIL 2025/5785 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 · 3 Nissan 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 4:00p shalOM Yoga for Toddlers	2 · 4 Nissan 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Heb. School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p Talmud Class	3 · 5 Nissan 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur Class	4 · 6 Nissan 7:15a Minyan 6:15p Shabbat Services 7:05p Candle Lighting	5 · 7 Nissan Vayikra 9:00a Services 8:02p Havdalah
6 · 8 Nissan 8:45a Minyan 5:30p Gallery Opening	7 · 9 Nissan 7:15a Minyan 12:00p Torah Study 4:00p Heb. School 5:00p Or L'Atid Pre-Pesah Program <i>No Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i>	8 · 10 Nissan 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 8:30p Torah-on-Tap	9 · 11 Nissan 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Heb. School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p No Talmud Class 7:00p Rabbi Sacks' Haggadah Highlights	10 · 12 Nissan Fast of the Firstborn/ Siyyum 7:15a Minyan & Siyyum 8:45a Siddur Class	11 · 13 Nissan 7:15a Minyan 10:00a Sale of Hametz Deadline 6:15p Shabbat Services 7:12p Candle Lighting	12 · 14 Nissan Shabbat HaGadol Tzav Erev Pesah 9:00a Services 10:43a Finish eating Hametz 11:50 Nulify Hametz 8:10p Havdalah Candle Lighting after 8:10p
13 · 15 Nissan Pesah Day 1 9:00a Pesah Services 7:30p OZ Community Seder Candle Lighting after 8:11p	14 · 16 Nissan Pesah Day 2 <i>Office closed</i> 9:00a Pesah Services <i>No Torah Study</i> <i>No Heb. School</i> <i>No Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i> 8:12p Yom Tov Ends	15 · 17 Nissan Hol Hamoed Pesah 7:15a Minyan (Zoom)	16 · 18 Nissan Hol Hamoed Pesah 7:15a Minyan <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No B'nei Mitzvah Scholars</i> <i>No Talmud Class</i>	17 · 19 Nissan Hol Hamoed Pesah 7:15a Minyan <i>No Siddur Class</i>	18 · 20 Nissan Hol Hamoed Pesah 7:15a Minyan 6:15p Shabbat Services 7:20p Candle Lighting	19 · 21 Nissan Pesah Day 7 8:45a Shabbat & Pesah Morning Services 1:00p Chaburah w/ Rabbi Bolton 8:18p Havdalah Candle Lighting after 8:18p
20 · 22 Nissan Pesah Day 8 9:00a Pesah Services w/ Yizkor 8:19p Yom Tov Ends 8:20p Hametz reverts to sellers	21 · 23 Nissan 7:15a Minyan 12:00p Torah Study 4:00p Heb. School 5:00p Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas 6:00p HS Class with Rabbi Bolton	22 · 24 Nissan 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 4:00p shalOM Yoga for Toddlers	23 · 25 Nissan 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Ortal's Hebrew Storytime 4:00p Heb. School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p No Talmud Class 7:00p Yom HaShoa u'Gevurah Ceremony	24 · 26 Nissan Yom HaShoa 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur Class	25 · 27 Nissan 7:15a Minyan 6:15p Shabbat Services 7:27p Candle Lighting	26 · 28 Nissan Shemini 9:00a Services Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Saks 8:26p Havdalah
27 · 29 Nissan 8:45a Minyan 10:00a Marc Ashley Class (Zoom)	28 · 30 Nissan Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Minyan 12:00p No Torah Study 4:00p Heb. School <i>No Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i>	29 · 1 Iyar Rosh Hodesh 7:10a Minyan (Zoom) (note time) 4:00p shalOM Yoga for Toddlers	30 · 2 Iyar Yom HaZikaron 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Ortal's Hebrew Storytime 4:00p Heb. School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 5:00p OL Yom HaAtzma'ut Fair <i>No Talmud Class</i> 7:00p Yom HaZikaron/ Yom HaAtzma'ut Program and Film	1 · 3 Iyar Yom Ha'Atzmaut 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur Class 4:00p Ortal's Israel Party		