

# SPOTLIGHT

MAY 2025/5785

## JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

**ORTAL'S ISRAEL CELEBRATION FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS**  
Thursday, May 1, 4:00 pm

**SPRING CLASS WITH MARC ASHLEY**  
Sunday, May 4, 10:00 am, Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 pm,  
Sunday, May 18, 7:00 pm

**SHABBAT IN THE ROUND, HONORING SIGAL**  
Saturday, May 17

**ISRAEL DAY ON FIFTH - MARCH WITH US!**  
Sunday, May 18 - Stay tuned for stepoff time

**ROOFTOP PICNIC AND ANNUAL MEETING**  
Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 pm picnic, 8:00 pm meeting

**HEBREW SCHOOL END OF YEAR SIYYUM**  
Wednesday, May 21, 5:00 pm

**CELEBRATE SHAVUOT WITH OR ZARUA - SEE TIMES ON PAGE 9**  
Sunday, June 1 - Tuesday, June 3

**SHAVUOT TIKKUN**  
**"TZEDEK, TZEDEK TIRDOF, CHASING JUSTICE"**  
Sunday, June 1, 7:30 pm

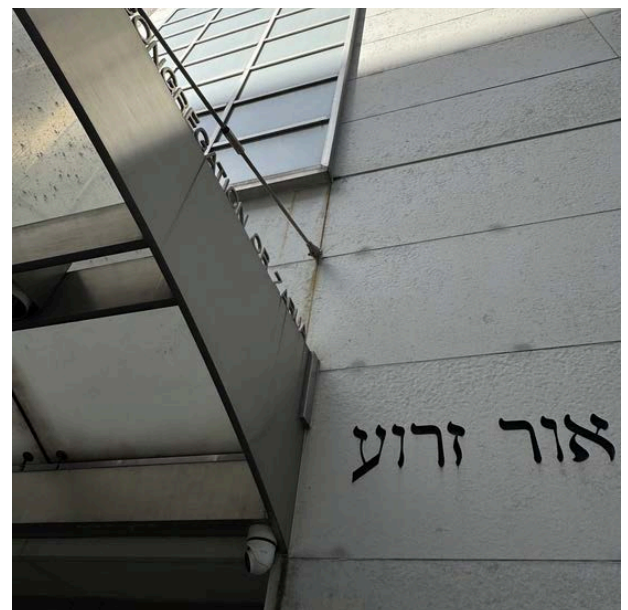
## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**HONOR SIGAL'S 10 YEARS AT OZ**  
*Saturday, May 17 - Page 5*

**MARCH UP 5<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE FOR ISRAEL**  
*Sunday, May 18 - Page 6*

**OZ ANNUAL MEETING**  
**WE NEED YOUR PROXIES!**  
*Tuesday, May 20 - Page 7*

**CELEBRATE SHAVUOT TOGETHER**  
*Sunday, June 1 - Tuesday, June 3*  
*Pages 8-9*



# LEARN WITH US

SEE CALENDAR FOR CLASS MEETING DATES.

**COMMUNITY TORAH STUDY, MONDAYS, 12:00 PM, ZOOM ONLY**

Zoom: <http://tinyurl.com/OZMondayTorahStudy>

Rabbi Sacks & His Sources - Ethics

**TALMUD CLASS, WEDNESDAYS, 7:00 PM, HYBRID**

Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/OZWedTalmudClass>

Talmudic Route 66: The Top Sixty-Six Sugiyot (Passages) Every Educated Jew Must Know

**SIDDUR AND PRAYER CLASS, THURSDAYS, 8:45 AM**

**CLASS AND DISCUSSION GROUP**

Shabbat Liturgy & 20th-Century Philosophers of Prayer Life

**LEARNING HEBREW AND BIG JEWISH IDEAS, MONDAYS, 5:00 PM**

Register: <http://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/Learning-Hebrew-and-Big-Jewish-Ideas>



# PRAY WITH US

SEE THE CALENDAR ON PAGE 11 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

## RABBI SCOTT BOLTON

rabbibolton@orzarua.org, 212-452-2310 x12

## HELENE SANTO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

hsanto@orzarua.org, 212-452-2310 x14

## SIGAL COHEN, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING

scohen@orzarua.org, 212-452-2310 x15

## DEBORAH WENGER, ASSISTANT TO RABBI BOLTON

dwenger@orzarua.org, 212-452-2310 x12

## ANNIE SIGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

asigal@orzarua.org, 212-452-2310 x10

# 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?**

Three remaining classes: Sunday, May 4, 10:00 am, Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 pm, Sunday, May 18, 7:00 pm; To watch recordings of previous sessions visit our YouTube channel. Please join us on Zoom for 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.*

**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 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](https://tinyurl.com/OZ36TH). Be in touch with Hannah Kranich, [hannah.kranich@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.kranich@gmail.com), or Rabbi Bolton, [rabbibolton@orzarua.org](mailto: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](mailto:hsanto@orzarua.org).*

# OR L'ATID SHABBAT CELEBRATION SHABBAT IN THE ROUND

## CELEBRATING SIGAL COHEN

Saturday, May 17, services begin at 8:45, Torah Tots and Kids begin at 11:00 am  
Arrive by 10:30 to hear Sigal speak from the bimah.



Join us in celebrating Sigal Cohen, the Director of Youth Education & Programming, as she marks 10 years of inspiring leadership and commitment at Or Zarua. Sigal has profoundly impacted children and families through her passion, vision, and dedication to creating enriching Jewish educational experiences. As Sigal moves on to new endeavors, we reflect on the lasting legacy she leaves behind.

*Sponsored by Jonathan Mishkin in memory of his parents, Esther and Eliezer Mishkin, z"l*

In honor of this incredible milestone and her departure from Or Zarua, we invite you to make a donation to support the continued growth and success of Or L'Atid. Your contribution will help ensure that Sigal's legacy of service thrives for many years to come.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us celebrate Sigal's decade of service! Donate to the 36th Anniversary Campaign in support of Jewish literacy, learning and continuity: [tinyurl.com/OZ36TH-OrLAtid](https://tinyurl.com/OZ36TH-OrLAtid)

We're putting together a special memory book filled with stories, notes, and reflections from students and families. We would be so grateful if you would take a moment to write a short memory or message to include in this book. If you have any photos we'd love to include them, too!

**Please send your memory (a few sentences to a short paragraph is perfect!) by May 12 to Helene Santo, [hsanto@orzarua.org](mailto:hsanto@orzarua.org), or Amy Saks, [amysaks@gmail.com](mailto:amysaks@gmail.com).**

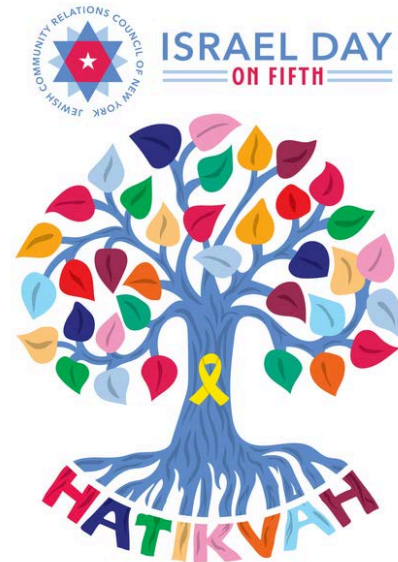
# ISRAEL DAY ON FIFTH

## MARCH WITH US IN THE PARADE!

Sunday, May 18, Stay tuned for stepoff time and location

### Join us as we show our love and support for Israel!

Since 1965, hundreds of thousands of people have come together annually to march in the JCRC-NY Celebrate Israel Parade expressing their love and support for the State of Israel. This mega-event embraces both Jews and non-Jews from all over the world and all walks of life, much like the country it celebrates. The JCRC-NY Celebrate Israel Parade is the world's largest expression of solidarity with the Jewish state.



*Today, more than ever, it is important for American Jews to show our solidarity with Israel. Marching with fellow Or Zarua congregants each year has always been an exciting, joyful and uplifting experience for our family. Seeing grandparents, parents and kids of all ages joyfully celebrating their shared love and pride of Israel demonstrates the fulfillment of our commitment to L'dor v'dor – “from generation to generation”. What better way to teach our children to be proud of being Jewish and of our Jewish homeland! Please join us on May 18th!*

Laura Fisher

**T-SHIRTS ARE FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE.  
SIGN UP TO RESERVE YOUR PREFERRED SIZE!  
RSVP AT [ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/  
ISRAEL-PARADE.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/israel-parade.html)**

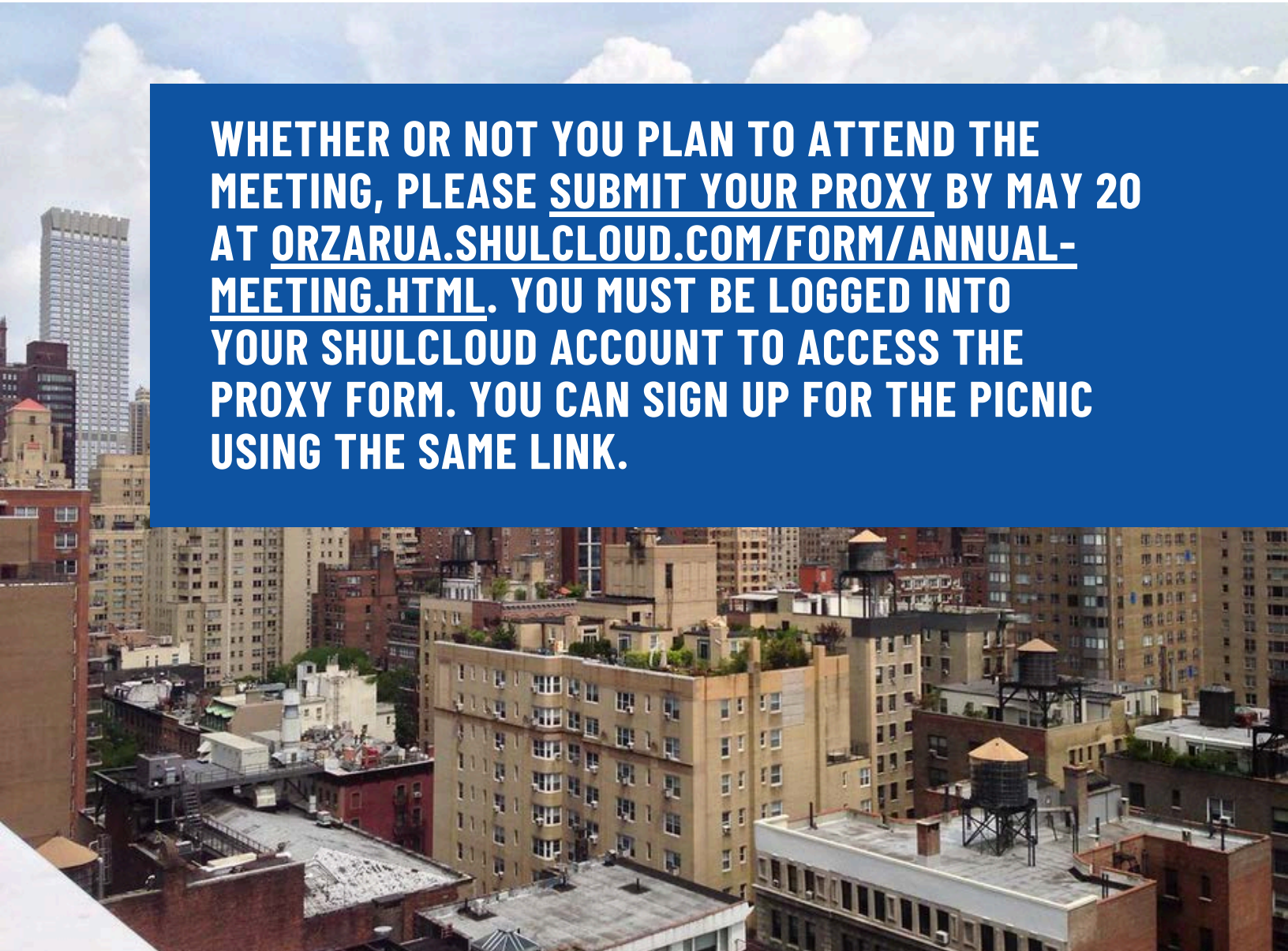
# ROOFTOP PICNIC AND OZ ANNUAL MEETING

## SIGN UP - WE NEED YOUR PROXY TO REACH OUR ANNUAL MEETING QUORUM

Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 pm picnic, 8:00 pm meeting

According to the By-Laws, we need a quorum to conduct synagogue business at our Annual Meeting. This means we need approximately 140 members to attend or to provide a proxy. A link to the electronic proxy is below. All adult members and their children between the ages of 18 and 22 are eligible to vote.

See page 10 for the slate of Officers and Trustees for the upcoming year.



**WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PROXY BY MAY 20 AT ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/ANNUAL-MEETING.HTML. YOU MUST BE LOGGED INTO YOUR SHULCLOUD ACCOUNT TO ACCESS THE PROXY FORM. YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR THE PICNIC USING THE SAME LINK.**

# TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

**"TZEDEK, TZEDEK TIRDOF - CHASING JUSTICE!"**

-DEUTERONOMY 16:20

**WITH CONGREGANT PANEL FEATURING:**

**DENA ADLER, SHELLY ADLER AND OWEN PELL**

Sunday, June 1, 7:30 pm, *see page 9 for full schedule*

On the first night of Shavuot, after a blintz, a nosh and festival Ma'ariv, join us for the Or Zarua Shavuot Tikkun. This year's congregant panel features three dynamic speakers. Dena Adler, Shelly Adler and Owen Pell are experts who can help explicate, explain and apply this central Jewish teaching. Each is a *mentsch*, lawyer and deep thinker about Judaism and justice issues within our society, for humanity and our planet.

Dena is an environmental lawyer and think-tank specialist who will address our responsibilities as keepers of the Earth. She will describe how the Talmud allocates liability for environmental damage and compare and contrast that with the treatment of environmental regulation in American law.

Shelly was a partner at Skadden Arps and teacher at Yale Law School and will address Jewish commentaries' views regarding Deuteronomy's message and the concept of justice in modern legal philosophy.

Owen was a partner at White & Case and is the President of the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocity. He is a sought-after lecturer regarding the responsibilities of corporations' and nation-states' pursuits of justice. He will be addressing issues of justice that arose in Apartheid South Africa and an unsung hero of that time, Rev. Leon Sullivan.



**PLEASE VISIT THE OZ  
WEBSITE TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT THE  
SPEAKERS AND THEIR  
PRESENTATIONS.  
CHEESECAKE,  
ICE CREAM, AND  
SORBET TO FOLLOW.**



# CELEBRATE SHAVUOT AT OR ZARUA

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT, SERVICES,  
AND LOTS OF ICE CREAM AND CHEESECAKE!

Sunday, June 1 - Tuesday, June 3

## Sunday, June 1, Erev Shavuot

**8:45 am** Regular Sunday morning minyan

**7:30 pm** Blintzes, nosh and schnapps, generously sponsored by Shelly Adler and family

**8:00 pm** Festival Ma'ariv Services followed by Tikkun Leil Shavuot (see page 8) followed by cheesecake and ice cream!

**8:02 pm** Candle lighting for 1st night Shavuot

## Monday, June 2, First Day Shavuot

**9:00 am** Yom Tov Services

**9:05 pm** Second night of Shavuot begins

## Tuesday, June 3, Second Day Shavuot

**8:45 am** Yom Tov Services with Megillat Ruth and Yizkor

**9:06 pm** Yom Tov ends



***The following is the proposed slate of Officers and Trustees:***  
*An asterisk indicates first time election to the Board*

**Officers:**

President: Hannah Kranich  
 Treasurer: Joe Griminger  
 Secretary: Cary S. Gunther  
 Vice Presidents:  
 Administration: Pamela E. Gold  
 At-Large: Sheldon Adler  
 At-Large: Charles Spielholz  
 Development: Jonathan Mishkin  
 Facilities/Security: Alan Ilberman  
 Programming: Marc Ashley and Isaac Nagiel

*Please note: According to our By-Laws, additional nominations for trustee or officer may be made by petition signed by at least twenty-one (21) members in good standing, provided such petitions are filed with the Secretary of the Board of Trustees at least seven (7) days prior to the Annual Meeting.*

**Board of Trustees, Class of 2028:**

Sheldon Adler  
 Laura Fisher  
 Roni Greene\*  
 Yarden Greenfeld\*  
 Joe Griminger  
 Dana Gross  
 Cary S. Gunther  
 Said Hawa  
 Aliza Kaplan  
 Isaac Nagiel  
 Sharon Shorofsky Mack  
 Brian R. Sahn  
 Keely Zaiantz

**Board of Trustees, Class of 2027:**

Benjamin Charkow  
 Betsy Dizengoff  
 Pamela E. Gold  
 Hannah Kranich  
 Diane Okrent  
 Amy Saks  
 Eric Schmutter  
 Rhonda Sherwin  
 Gerry Solomon  
 Charles Spielholz  
 Eric Weinstein  
 Aliza Yaillen

**Board of Trustees, Class of 2026:**

Natalie Friedman  
 Alan Ilberman  
 Marcia Kalin  
 Jonathan Mishkin

# MAY 2025/5785 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1 · 3 Iyar</b> <b>Yom Ha'Atzmaut</b> 7:15a Minyan 9:00a Siddur Class 4:00p Ortal's Israel Party	<b>2 · 4 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan 6:30p Shabbat Services 7:34p Candle Lighting	<b>3 · 5 Iyar</b> <b>Shabbat Tazria-Metzora</b> 9:00a Services 11:00a Torah Tots & Kids Israeli Kiddush 8:34p Havdalah
<b>4 · 6 Iyar</b> 8:45a Minyan 10:00a Marc Ashley Class (Zoom)	<b>5 · 7 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan 12:00p Torah Study 4:00p Heb. School 5:00p Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas 6:00p MS Class with Rabbi Bolton	<b>6 · 8 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan (Zoom)	<b>7 · 9 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Heb. School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p Talmud Class	<b>8 · 10 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan & Siyyum 8:45a Siddur Class	<b>9 · 11 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan 6:30p Shabbat Services 7:42p Candle Lighting	<b>10 · 12 Iyar</b> <b>Shabbat Aharei Mot-Kedoshim</b> 9:00a Services 8:42p Havdalah
<b>11 · 13 Iyar</b> 8:45a Minyan	<b>12 · 14 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan 12:00p Torah Study 4:00p Heb. School 5:00p Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	<b>13 · 15 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 7:00p Marc Ashley Class (Zoom)	<b>14 · 16 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Heb. School 5:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 7:00p Talmud Class	<b>15 · 17 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur Class	<b>16 · 18 Iyar</b> <b>Lag BaOmer</b> 7:15a Minyan 6:30p Shabbat Services 7:49p Candle Lighting	<b>17 · 19 Iyar</b> <b>Shabbat Emor</b> 8:45a Services 11:00a Torah Tots & Kids Shabbat Celebration in honor of Sigal Cohen 8:50p Havdalah
<b>18 · 20 Iyar</b> 8:45a Minyan Israel Day on Fifth Parade (stepoff time TBD) 7:00p Marc Ashley Class (Zoom)	<b>19 · 21 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan 12:00p Torah Study 4:00p Heb. School 5:00p Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	<b>20 · 22 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 6:30p Rooftop Picnic 8:00p Annual Meeting	<b>21 · 23 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Last Day of Hebrew School 5:00p Hebrew School Siyyum - For All Hebrew School Students 7:00p Talmud Class	<b>22 · 24 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur Class	<b>23 · 25 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan 6:30p Shabbat Services 7:55p Candle Lighting	<b>24 · 26 Iyar</b> <b>Shabbat Behar-Behukotai</b> 9:00a Services 8:57p Havdalah
<b>25 · 27 Iyar</b> 8:45a Minyan	<b>26 · 28 Iyar</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> 8:45a Minyan No Torah Study No Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas  Office Closed	<b>27 · 29 Iyar</b> 7:15a Minyan (Zoom)	<b>28 · 1 Sivan</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh</b> 7:15a Minyan No Talmud Class	<b>29 · 2 Sivan</b> 7:15a Minyan No Siddur Class	<b>30 · 3 Sivan</b> 7:15a Minyan 6:30p Shabbat Services 8:01p Candle Lighting	<b>31 · 4 Sivan</b> <b>Shabbat Bemidbar</b> 9:00a Services 9:03p Havdalah
<b>1 · 5 Sivan</b> <b>Erev Shavuot</b> 8:45a Minyan 7:30p Blintzes, Nosh and Schnapps 8:00p Festival Ma'ariv and Tikkun Leil Shavuot Panel 8:02p Shavuot Candle Lighting	<b>2 · 6 Sivan</b> <b>Shavuot Day 1</b> 9:00a Yom Tov Services 9:05p Light candles after this time  Office Closed	<b>3 · 7 Sivan</b> <b>Shavuot Day 2</b> 8:45a Yom Tov Services with Megillat Ruth and Yizkor 9:06p Yom Tov ends  Office Closed	<b>4 · 8 Sivan</b> 7:15a Minyan 7:00p Final Talmud Class of the year	<b>5 · 9 Sivan</b> 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Final Siddur Class of the year	<b>6 · 10 Sivan</b> 7:15a Minyan 6:45p Shabbat Services 8:06p Candle Lighting	<b>7 · 11 Sivan</b> <b>Shabbat Naso</b> 9:00a Services 9:09p Havdalah

Rabbi Bolton's Monday classes, Torah Study and Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas will meet on June 9, before breaking for the summer.