

**Save the Date: Tuesday, June 6, 7:30 pm**  
**Jews and Genes**  
**Editing, Ethics and New Frontiers**  
with Dr. Barry Collier and Rabbi Elliot Dorff

**A**dvances in knowledge and technology have brought molecular and cellular biology to the point where genes can be sequenced and manipulated easily and rapidly. Such abilities have opened the door to a variety of approaches for the treatment of human disease. However, with that potential benefit comes a variety of ethical concerns, which, given the history of eugenics and other nefarious approaches to control human biology, make many people wary of our biological future.

To help us understand the promises and ethical challenges of gene biology, Or Zarua has invited congregant Dr. Barry Collier, the David Rockefeller Professor of Medicine and Physician-in-Chief at Rockefeller University Hospital and Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Professor of Jewish Theology at the American Jewish University (California) to discuss this topic.

Dr. Collier recently co-authored a new report on human gene editing as part of the Committee on Human Gene Editing sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Medicine. A past president of the American Society



for Hematology and a leading researcher in platelet physiology, he has made significant contributions to the understanding and treatment of disorders of the blood. Among these contributions is the development of a monoclonal antibody that is used clinically to inhibit platelet function in order to prevent blood clots. He has received many awards and honors including the Stratton Medal

(2005); Karl Landsteiner Award (2013) and The Gill Heart Institute Award (2006). He is a member of both the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences.

Rabbi Dorff is a leading thinker in the Conservative Movement on medical ethics. He has studied Judaism's approach to science. He is co-editor of a new book,



"Jews and Genes," (2015; Jewish Publication Society) which contains three essays that suggest varying answers as to why Jewish input on genetic developments should matter to both

Jews and non-Jews. He has served on the ethics committee of Hillary Clinton's Health Care Task Force, testified on ethical considerations for human cloning and stem cell research before the president's National Bioethics Advisory Commission, served on the National Human Resources Protections Advisory Commission, charged with reviewing and revising the federal guidelines on research on human beings. He is now on the California Ethics Advisory Commission for embryonic stem cell research done within the state.

Dr. Collier will discuss the Human Gene Editing report and share reflections about the science and medical ethics questions that were grappled with. Rabbi Dorff will then reflect on what the Jewish tradition has to say about new genetic technologies. A moderated discussion, led by Rabbi Bolton, will ensue after the presenters share their perspectives and insights. Join us on Tuesday, June 6 for what will be a dynamic evening. This presentation is open to all.

**Our Meaningful  
Megillot  
Tikkun Leyl  
Shavuot**

**Tuesday night  
May 30**

**8:00 pm Ma'ariv**

**8:30 pm Tikkun  
followed by  
dairy desserts**

**The Teen & College Tikkun Leyl  
Shavuot begins at 10:00 pm**

This year's Tikkun Leyl Shavuot will feature Congregants Sarah Klagsbrun and Louis Barash as well as Rabbi Bolton reflecting on the Megillot — finding the meaning in the various scrolls that are included during our holidays. On Shavuot we read Ruth; on Sukkot, Ecclesiastes; on Passover, we chant Song of Songs. Purim requires us to read Esther twice, and on Tisha B'Av we chant Lamentations. While we include these Megillot in our ritual lives they often pass us by without comment or much notice. Join us after Ma'ariv to engage with the texts that travel with us throughout the Jewish year. Cheesecake and ice cream, of course, after the study!

**Or L'Atid Gallery Show  
Sunday, May 7, 4:00 pm**

See "Or L'Atid Gallery Opening" on page 9

**Lag B'Omer Havdalah & Study  
Saturday, May 13th, 9 pm**

See "Lag B'Omer" on page 3

**Celebrate Israel Parade  
Sunday, June 4**

See "Celebrate Israel" on page 3



A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE  
FOUNDED 1989

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New York, NY 10028  
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*If you are interested in serving on a synagogue committee, please contact the office for the committee chair's email address.*

# President's Message

by Marc D. Ashley



This is my final newsletter message as Or Zarua president. It has been my privilege serving in that role for the past three years, and a pleasure writing

this bi-monthly column as one of my ongoing duties. I will miss Charlie's polite reminders of my newsletter deadlines.

Perhaps ambitiously, I have aimed through these articles to inspire greater engagement by congregants in the daily activities and rhythms of our extraordinary synagogue and a deeper attachment to Or Zarua's unique culture and mission. I hope I have succeeded in fulfilling those objectives, at least in some small measure. Knowing that even a few of you have regularly paid attention to these words has made the effort worthwhile.

If nothing else, putting hands to keyboard every two months for this column and ruminating about what makes Or Zarua so special has been inspirational and invigorating for me. Or Zarua has been an immense presence in my life for almost the entirety of its existence and for most of my adult years. It's hard for me to imagine the course of my life without Or Zarua. But conveying the uniqueness of the institution we've built together has reinforced my own commitment to it. Being obliged to articulate the distinctiveness of our shul, and why the Jewish world needs us, has enriched my appreciation for our venerable past, enlivened my celebration of our vibrant present, and bolstered my hopes for our prosperous future.

From past to present and towards the future. The trajectory of Or Zarua's institutional history is often on my mind. We have moved from modest beginnings to larger scale, and with that transition of time and space have come challenges, opportunities and successes.

When Joanne and I first encountered Or Zarua on Shabbat Shirah in early 1990, we found an unelaborate service in a small second-floor music room at the 92nd Street Y, followed by a spartan, but warm and welcoming, kiddush behind the last row of chairs. The Shabbat service, despite its small quantitative size, was – as is still true today – impressively marked by the high

quality of its full Torah reading, competent lay-led davening, and sophisticated rabbinic teaching. The excitement of those early days of a pioneering shul that was both entrepreneurial and traditional was contagious. In ensuing years, our numbers grew as our services migrated among locations, finally achieving permanence as we built our current elegant building.

We have maintained our communal enthusiasm and momentum despite the passage of time and the abandonment of our nomadic ways. As we move into our second generation and beyond our start-up phase, our heimish synagogue ambience still remains inviting to those who venture into our midst. We are now more established, but we cannot be complacent.

Rabbi Bolton has followed in Rabbi Wechsler's footsteps in prudently perpetuating our one-of-a-kind culture, yet has successfully paved a distinctive path of his own. Our Torah learning remains top-notch, even as the musicality of our services has improved over time. We have diverse activities for congregants of all ages, from toddlers through retirees; we are indeed a multi-generational shul community. Our youth education programs have been reinvigorated and refined, and young member families are numerous. Our synagogue building sturdily supports a plethora of programming on almost every day of the calendar year. Of course, to sustain all that activity, our building will require administrative care and financial attention as it ages. Collectively, we must abundantly support the special community we have nurtured.

The most resonant portion for me of our Shabbat service, when we are at our musical best, is our rousing collective prayer as we stand together to return the Torah to our (soon to be refurbished) ark: "Turn us to you Lord, and we shall return; renew our days as of old." That productive and inspirational blend of past and future, of both tradition and renewal, epitomizes Or Zarua's essence. We must be mindful of and respectful toward our past while always planning for an even brighter future. May we continue to fulfill that essential mandate in the years ahead. Blessed is God who has sustained us to this day.

## Poetry Club

### with Rabbi Scott Bolton and Nir Yarden

#### Inaugural Theme: Loss and Coping

#### Thursday, May 11, 6:30 pm

**T**hroughout history poetry has made people reflect in unique ways on key aspects of their lives. From its use in the Bible to today, poetry has inspired and enriched its listeners and readers.

On Thursday, May 11, Rabbi Scott Bolton and Nir Yarden will host a new poetry club at Congregation Or Zarua dedicated to reading and discussing works of poetry that have a common theme on important aspects of our lives.

The theme for our first poetry reading and discussion will be "loss and coping". What do the great poets and poems throughout history teach us about losses in our lives and how we cope with those losses, be it loss of life, loved ones or faith?

Join us for a stimulating evening of readings and discussion. Or just come to listen and be inspired. All poems to be read will be distributed at the meeting so no need to bring anything.

Among the selections we'll be reading together on loss and coping will be:

**Psalms 137:** "By the rivers of Babylon..."

**Yehuda Amichai:** *Jews in the Land of Israel*

**John Milton:** *Prayer to Light (Paradise Lost); Satan's Opening Speech (Paradise Lost); On His Deceased Wife*

**Emily Dickinson:** *After great pain, a formal feeling comes*

**Robert Frost:** *Not to Keep*

**Percy Bysshe Shelley:** *Music, When Soft Voices Die*

**Philip Sidney:** *Leave me, O Love*

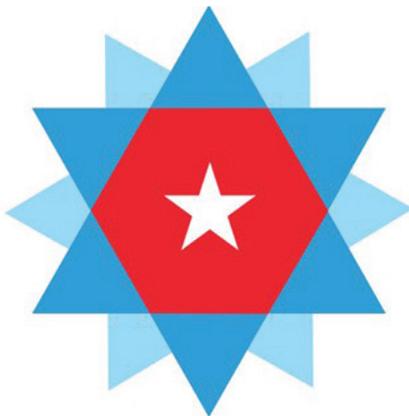
**Leigh Hunt:** *Jenny Kiss'd Me*

**John Keats:** *When I have Fears that I May Cease to Be*

**Alexander Pope:** *Know Then Thyself*

The OZ Poetry Club is open to all. For additional information, call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext 12.

## Celebrate Israel All Together!



# CELEBRATE ISRAEL

will not be available at the parade. Assembly location, step-off time and other details will be available as the parade date approaches.

The Celebrate Israel Parade will be held on

**Sunday, June 4, 2017**

on Fifth Avenue beginning at 57th Street and culminating on 74th Street.

The Parade theme this year is **Israel All Together - Kulanu B'yachad!** Our Congregation will focus on the amazing work that the Jewish National Fund does to make nature in Israel accessible to people of various abilities. Join us for this spirited and exciting show of support for our precious Israel.

**Sign up and claim your t-shirt!** Contact: Deborah Wenger ([dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org)) to obtain a t-shirt in your size. *T-shirts*

## TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 23

6:30 pm Dinner

7:30 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 the meeting through your ChaverWeb account or by calling the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext 39, by Thursday, May 18.

## Lag B'Omer

### Havdalah & Study

Saturday Night, May 13, 9 pm



Lag B'Omer is the Lamed-Gimmel (Lag), that is, the 33rd day, of the Omer — the period between Passover and Shavuot.

Traditionally we commemorate the yahrzeit of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai on Lag B'Omer. Rabbi Yochai was author and inspiration of the Zohar, one of Judaism's core mystical texts. The evening is characterized by a lifting of spirits and a kindling of Jewish spirit. Join us as we bless flames for havdalah, sing songs and study a passage from the Zohar. Israeli wines and finger foods served!

**Smile for Tzedakah** Help support OZ by shopping at AmazonSmile! When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to OZ. Here's how:

- 1) Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and search for Congregation Or Zarua
- 2) Shop for your favorite items any time of the year through AmazonSmile!

# Or Zarua's Young Professionals

## Upcoming Events OZ's Young Professionals

**Friday, May 19, 6:30 pm  
Shabbat Dinner**

**Thursday, June 8, 6:30 pm  
Happy Hour with  
Drinks and Desserts**

**Friday, June 16, 6:45 pm  
Shabbat Dinner**

Special Pricing for First Timers  
Invite Your Friends

OZ's Young Professionals are a group in their 20s and 30s committed to building a welcoming and vibrant Jewish community within Or Zarua. For more details follow their Facebook page (Or Zarua's Young Professionals). Contact OZ's Young Professionals with any questions, suggestions or just to say hi via email: OZYoungPros@gmail.com.

**The Or Zarua Social Hall** is available to rent for appropriate functions. Contact Helene Santo, 212-452-2310, ext 14, for information.



**OZ's Young Professionals** have had an excellent turnout for a variety of programs including Shabbat dinners, happy hours, and celebrations for Sukkot, Purim and Hanukkah. If you are in your 20s or 30s and are looking for Jewish Community, contact them at OZYoungPros@gmail.com.



**Torah maintenance.** Our sofer repaired and patched our Sifrei Torah. As scrolls become older and stitches looser, we invite an expert to make sure that our Torahs remain kosher and ready to read. Letters, too, were re-drawn in order to ensure that our Torah readers could see each word clearly; one letter missing or having a missing part invalidates a Torah for use during services. If you would like to contribute tzedakah for keeping our Torahs beautiful and in service please send a tzedakah contribution with a note on the check: Kosher Torahs.

## Rabbi Bolton's Source Sheets are on Sefaria

Sefaria is a web-based program of Jewish texts that allows users to prepare source sheets. Rabbi Bolton has used the platform to prepare lecture handouts and class supplements. Go to: <https://www.sefaria.org/> search for "**Scott Bolton**", click "**Sheets**" and you will find Rabbi Bolton's collection of materials.



**Congregation Or Zarua's a cappella group Bir'nana, conducted by Judy Buchman-Ziv and Rabbi Amy Bolton, performed a Hamilton inspired Purim spiel (photos above), written by both Judy Buchman-Ziv and Susan March. True to the original music, replete with some political satire while incorporating the story of Purim, the spiel was accompanied by professional pianist Jonathan Segal and was well received. On erev Yom Hashoah, Bir'nana offered Rossi's Barkhu to the memorial service.**

# Hesed Programs

Get involved through Or Zarua and help others in need

## Be Part of the Solution

Feed the hungry in our community by donating to or volunteering with New York Common Pantry. OZ volunteers are needed the first Wednesday of each month, 9:00 am to noon, in NYCP's distribution center, 8 East 109th Street. Contact Lesley Palmer (lesleypalmer123@gmail.com) to sign up for May 3, June 7 or July 5. Collection bins are in the Social Hall for food donations of healthy (low-sodium, whole wheat, low-fat or nonfat) packaged grocery items.

## Home Visit Volunteers

Volunteer to visit and bring cheer to ill or home-bound OZ Congregants. Contact Deborah Wenger: dwenger@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310, ext. 12, if you are interested.

## South Bronx Salvation and Deliverance Church

Pre-owned adult and children's clothing, toys, dolls, games, and related items can

be put to good use by the many transitional homeless residents in the South Bronx, including single, jobless mothers and their children, as well as unemployed men. OZ partners with South Bronx Salvation and Deliverance Church, whose members are housekeepers caring for their own local needy. Contact Richard Stadin at (212) 879-0448 or stadin1@aol.com to arrange for donations.

## Monday Night Pasta and Salad at NCS

OZ congregants serve hot food and good cheer at the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter's East 81st Street Residence from 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm on the last two Mondays of each month. Contact Jeffrey Haberman, jeff32449@verizon.net, for information.

*For information about Hesed programs, please contact Susan J. Lorin, Hesed Committee Chair, at [lorin@sewkis.com](mailto:lorin@sewkis.com) or 212-717-4647.*



## IDF Br. General Bentzi Gruber spoke about ethics in the field at Or Zarua on Thursday, April 27.

Br. General Bentzi Gruber is Vice Commander (reserves) of Division 252, an armored division of 20,000 soldiers. As an entrepreneur, he has established internet startups, been a real-estate developer and initiated biotech research. He is founder of "Chesed in the Field," a non-profit that brings together IDF reservists and chronically ill and disabled children for special events throughout the year instilling the values of community and social responsibility in the hearts of thousands of soldiers. Br. General Gruber also established "Ethics in the Field" to shatter myths and present the facts missing in today's discussion of Israeli counter terrorism. His website is <http://ethicsinthefield.com>. The Israel Committee will be inviting other interesting guests to Or Zarua to speak about Israel. Pictured above are Rabbi Scott Bolton, Br. General Bentzi Gruber, and Israel Committee Chair Aliza Kaplan.



**Hesed Purim Party at Project ORE.** The OZ Hesed committee celebrated Purim with Project ORE. The celebration included reading parts of the Megillah, singing, eating and spending time with members of Project ORE. Project ORE (Outreach to the Elderly) has served emergency kosher meals and provided counseling, case management, and other support services to isolated, poor, homeless, and mentally ill Jews as well as classes in art and poetry, educational trips and programs for health and wellness including mental health issues.



## KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP

Consider sponsoring a Shabbat kiddush or minyan breakfast to support Or Zarua.

The custom of sponsoring a kiddush can be a meaningful way to remember your loved ones or celebrate a birthday or anniversary with fellow Congregants while enhancing the community's Shabbat experience. The three levels of kiddush sponsorship through donations are \$180, \$360, and \$540; a donation of \$125 sponsors a minyan breakfast. To sponsor a standard kiddush or minyan breakfast, contact Deborah Wenger (212-452-2310, ext 12) in the synagogue office. To make special arrangements or add a little extra something to the standard sponsorship offering, please speak with Helene Santo.



CONGREGATION  
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New York, NY 10028 • 212-452-2310

# May 2017 • Iyyar/Sivan 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>7 • 11 Iyyar</b> 8:45a Shaharit 10:30a Marc Ashley's Class <i>Reward and Punishment in Jewish Thought</i> 4:00p Or L'Atid Student Art Gallery Opening 7:00p Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>1 • 5 Iyyar</b> <b>Yom Hazikaron</b> 7:15a Shaharit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Rock-Ivrit 7:00p UES Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration, Temple Emanuel/Skirball Center</p>	<p><b>2 • 6 Iyyar</b> <b>Yom Ha'atzmaut</b> 7:15a Shaharit</p>	<p><b>3 • 7 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 9:00a NYCP 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class</p>	<p><b>4 • 8 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class</p>	<p><b>5 • 9 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:39p Candlelighting</p>	<p><b>6 • 10 Iyyar</b> 9:00a Shaharit Aharei Mot/Kedoshim 11:00a Torah Kids 1:1:00a Mah Zeh Shabbat?! 1:1:15a Torah Tots 8:44p Shabbat Ends</p>
<p><b>7 • 11 Iyyar</b> 8:45a Shaharit 10:30a Marc Ashley's Class <i>Reward and Punishment in Jewish Thought</i> 4:00p Or L'Atid Student Art Gallery Opening 7:00p Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>8 • 12 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Rock-Ivrit</p>	<p><b>9 • 13 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit</p>	<p><b>10 • 14 Iyyar</b> <b>Pesah Sheini</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class</p>	<p><b>11 • 15 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class 6:30p OZ Poetry Group</p>	<p><b>12 • 16 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 5:30p Shabbat &amp; Me 6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:46p Candlelighting</p>	<p><b>13 • 17 Iyyar</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Emor Bar Mitzvah Julian McElroy 1:1:00a Torah Kids 1:1:15a Torah Tots 8:51p Shabbat Ends 9:00p Lag B' Omer Havdalah and Study</p>
<p><b>14 • 18 Iyyar</b> <b>Lag B'Omer</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 8:45a Shaharit 8:00p Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>15 • 19 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Rock-Ivrit</p>	<p><b>16 • 20 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit</p>	<p><b>17 • 21 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 7:30p Talmud Class</p>	<p><b>18 • 22 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class</p>	<p><b>19 • 23 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30p Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner 7:52p Candlelighting</p>	<p><b>20 • 24 Iyyar</b> <b>Shabbat HaYeled</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Behar/Behukotai 10:30a Shabbat &amp; Me 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Mah Zeh Shabbat?! 8:57p Shabbat Ends</p>
<p><b>21 • 25 Iyyar</b> 8:45a Shaharit 7:00p Marc Ashley's Class <i>Reward and Punishment in Jewish Thought</i> No Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>22 • 26 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 6:00p B'nei Mitzvah Scholars 6:30p Sushi &amp; Study with Rabbi Bolton 7:30p Rock-Ivrit Last Monday of Hebrew School</p>	<p><b>23 • 27 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 6:30p OZ Annual Meeting Dinner 7:30p OZ Annual Meeting</p>	<p><b>24 • 28 Iyyar</b> <b>Yom Yerushalayim</b> 7:15a Shaharit 4:00p Hebrew School 2.0 Last Day of Hebrew School No Talmud Class</p>	<p><b>25 • 29 Iyyar</b> 7:15a Shaharit 8:40a Siddur Class (Last Day of Siddur Class)</p>	<p><b>26 • 1 Sivan</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh</b> 7:00a Shaharit 6:30p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:59p Candlelighting</p>	<p><b>27 • 2 Sivan</b> 9:00 am Shaharit Bemidbar No Torah Kids/Tots 9:04p Shabbat Ends</p>
<p><b>28 • 3 Sivan</b> 8:45a Shaharit No Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>29 • 4 Sivan</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> 8:45a Shaharit No Shalom Sing-A-Long OZ Office Closed</p>	<p><b>30 • 5 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shaharit <b>Erev Shavuot</b> 8:02p Candlelighting 8:00p Ma'ariv 8:30p Tikkun Leyl Shavuot followed by dairy desserts 10:00p Teen &amp; College Tikkun Leyl Shavuot OZ Office Closes at 1:00p</p>	<p><b>31 • 6 Sivan</b> <b>Shavuot First Day</b> 9:00a Shaharit Light candles after 9:07p No Talmud Class OZ Office Closed</p>			

**Congregation Or Zarua Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday 9:00 am-5:00 pm; Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm. The office is closed Saturday and Sunday, as well as on Jewish and federal holidays

# June 2017 • Sivan/Tammuz 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>4 • 10 Sivan</b> 8:45a Shahrarit 11:00a Celebrate Israel Parade 7:30p Bir'nana Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>5 • 11 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long</p>	<p><b>6 • 12 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit 7:30p Jews &amp; Genes with Rabbi Elliot Dorff &amp; Dr. Barry Collier</p>	<p><b>7 • 13 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit 9:00a NYCP 7:30p Talmud Class and Siyyum (Last Day of Talmud Class)</p>	<p><b>8 • 14 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit 6:30p Young Professionals Happy Hour</p>	<p><b>9 • 15 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit 6:45p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:08p Candlelighting</p>	<p><b>10 • 16 Sivan</b> 9:00a Shahrarit Beha'lotekha 11:00a Torah Kids 11:15a Torah Tots 9:13p Shabbat Ends</p>
<p><b>11 • 17 Sivan</b> 8:45a Shahrarit 7:00p Bir'nana Rehearsal and end of year dessert reception</p>	<p><b>12 • 18 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long</p>	<p><b>13 • 19 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit</p>	<p><b>14 • 20 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit</p>	<p><b>15 • 21 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit</p>	<p><b>16 • 22 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit 6:45p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:45p Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner 8:12p Candlelighting</p>	<p><b>17 • 23 Sivan</b> 9:00a Shahrarit Shelah 10:30a Shabbat &amp; Me 11:00a Torah Kids 11:00a Mah Zeh Shabbat?! 9:17p Shabbat Ends</p>
<p><b>18 • 24 Sivan</b> <b>Father's Day</b> 8:45a Shahrarit</p>	<p><b>19 • 25 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long</p>	<p><b>20 • 26 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit</p>	<p><b>21 • 27 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit</p>	<p><b>22 • 28 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit</p>	<p><b>23 • 29 Sivan</b> 7:15a Shahrarit 6:45p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13p Candlelighting</p>	<p><b>24 • 30 Sivan</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh</b> 9:00a Shahrarit Korah 9:18p Shabbat Ends</p>
<p><b>25 • 1 Tammuz</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh</b> 8:45a Shahrarit</p>	<p><b>26 • 2 Tammuz</b> 7:15a Shahrarit 11:00a Shalom Sing-A-Long</p>	<p><b>27 • 3 Tammuz</b> 7:15a Shahrarit</p>	<p><b>28 • 4 Tammuz</b> 7:15a Shahrarit</p>	<p><b>29 • 5 Tammuz</b> 7:15a Shahrarit</p>	<p><b>30 • 6 Tammuz</b> 7:15a Shahrarit 6:45p Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13p Candlelighting</p>	<p><b>1 July • 7 Tammuz</b> 9:00a Shahrarit Hukkat 9:18p Shabbat Ends</p>



# Upcoming Events and Ongoing Programs with Or L'Atid

## Community and Learning for OZ's Youth

**Shalom Sing-A-Long**  
**Mondays, 11:00am-11:45 am**  
**Recommended for ages 1-4**

Spread the word: Or Zarua's new **Early Childhood music class is here!** Join us every Monday for song, stories, fun and games! Sing, dance and play while learning simple Hebrew, Jewish values and favorite tunes!

**Sign up or drop in anytime for a class!**  
 Sign up at [www.orzarau-ortalid.org/Shalom-sing-a-long/](http://www.orzarau-ortalid.org/Shalom-sing-a-long/)

**Sushi & Study with Rabbi Bolton**

**Monday, May 22, 6:30 pm**

**Sinai: Mayhem, Mitzvahs and Mountain Climbing**

According to Jewish tradition Mount Sinai is the spot on Earth where we received the Torah. To prepare for Shavuot, the festival that celebrates the giving of the Torah, we will focus on this humble desert mountain and its ongoing centrality in our Jewish story.

*All teens are invited to attend Rabbi Bolton's Sushi & Study class. Teens not registered may join the class.  
 RSVP: [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org).*

**Teens**

**Let us know if you are interested in:**

**An overnight camping trip?**  
**A day trip to Philadelphia?**  
**A weekend college-tour in Boston?**

**Shabbat & Me Friday**

**Friday, May 12, 5:00pm**

**Welcome Shabbat with Shabbat & Me Friday! Usher in Shabbat with a kid-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat, activities, stories, songs and a special snack!**

*For families with children from birth through age 6. Older siblings welcome.*

**Teen and College Tikkun Leyl Shavuot**

**Tuesday, May 30, approximately 10 pm**  
 (follows the congregational tikkun)

**Teens and College Students: Join us for our annual Teen Tikkun for Shavuot!**

**Learn from your peers, our very own college students and high school seniors, about topics of their choosing. If you are interested in teaching, contact Sigal, [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org).**

**June 17**

**Last Youth Shabbat services before summer!**

**Join us for our last day of Shabbat morning Or L'Atid programming before we break for the summer. Enjoy fun and games in Central Park after kiddush!**

**Shabbat HaYeled**

**Saturday, May 20**

**Families and youth of all ages, join us as we celebrate the youth of Or Zarua.**

**10:30 am**  
 Families with children birth to age 5, come together for **Shabbat & Me Saturday!**

**11:00 am**  
 Elementary School students, join us at our special **Hebrew School-led Torah Kids.** Students will then lead the congregation in the concluding prayers at the end of the main service.

**11:00 am**  
**Middle School and High School** students, participate in services, then join us in the library for Torah Talk and Musaf at **Mah Zeh Shabbat?!**

*Parents, grandparents, and community members are invited to sponsor kiddush on Shabbat HaYeled to celebrate the accomplishments of their children and grandchildren, and of all of our youth this year. Contact Deborah Wenger at 212-452-2310, ext 12 or [dwenger@orzarua.org](mailto:dwenger@orzarua.org) to celebrate our children with a kiddush sponsorship!*



# Or L'Atid Gallery Opening

May 7, 4:00pm in the OZ Gallery; Sips and Snacks will be Served  
 4:00pm: View and Meet the Artists; 5:00pm: Celebrating Or L'Atid



Dear OZ Community,

I want to personally invite all of you to join us on Sunday, May 7, for our Or L'Atid Gallery Show opening. This exhibit will showcase our Hebrew School students' learning and achievements throughout this school year.

This is a unique opportunity to see the great successes of our investment in Or L'Atid, our new youth program. Get to know our incredible students and view the impressive

products of their work.

Show your support for our students and their ongoing learning by attending our opening and by making a donation to the Or L'Atid fund in honor of this special event.

Hope to see you there!

## Hebrew School Registration Open for the 2017-2018 School Year

Our Hebrew School year is coming to a close. Our last days for the current school year are Monday, May 22, and Wednesday, May 24.

**Sign up now for the 2017-2018 school year!**

Our course offerings are presented in the chart below.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Hebrew School 2.0		MIDDLE SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL Choose one or both classes	
Kindergarten to 2nd Grade	3rd Grade to 5th Grade	B'nei Mitzvah Scholars	Rock-Ivrit (Hebrew)	Sushi & Study with Rabbi Bolton
<b>MONDAY</b> 4:00-6:00pm	<b>MONDAY and WEDNESDAY</b> 4:00-6:00pm	<b>MONDAY</b> 6:00-8:00pm	<b>MONDAY</b> 5:30-6:30pm	<b>MONDAY (once per month)</b> 6:30-8:00pm

• **Returning students:** Enroll by Memorial Day, Monday, **May 29th**, to receive our **re-enrollment discount**.

• **New and returning students:** Sign up by **July 1st** to receive our **Early Bird rates**.

Contact Sigal Hirsch ([shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org) or 212-452-2310, ext 15) or visit [www.orzarua-ortalid.org](http://www.orzarua-ortalid.org) for more information about Or Zarua's Hebrew School.

For information about Youth Education and Programming please contact Sigal Hirsch at [shirsch@orzarua.org](mailto:shirsch@orzarua.org) or 212-452-2310, ext 15.

# Help Keep Our Daily Minyan Strong



**Would you be willing to donate ONE hour ONE morning a month to attend our morning minyan?** Your hour's time one morning a month will allow members who have lost loved ones to say Kaddish. You'll be doing a mitzvah and helping them to do one, as well. If you choose a Monday or Thursday, having a minyan will allow us to read Torah, something that isn't allowed without a minyan. And so that you leave the shul filled both spiritually and nutritiously there's always a breakfast with cake, coffee and tea, orange juice, bagels, yogurt and cottage cheese. If this is a something you would like to do, please notify Sheldon Adler (sadler@skadden.com) and tell him the day that's best for you. Services at OZ start at 7:15 am on weekday mornings and 8:45 am on Sundays.

## Or Zarua's Memorial Wall

For information about plaques for our Memorial Wall, please contact Helene Santo at [hsanto@orzarua.org](mailto:hsanto@orzarua.org) or 212-452-2310, ext 14. We will place another order when we have sufficient interest

## Or Zarua's Cemetery For Members and their Families

The OZ section at Beth El Cemetery is located in Washington Township, NJ, 10 miles from the George Washington Bridge. The cemetery is well maintained, and its design provides a serene and beautiful final resting place that reflects the values and aesthetics of Congregation Or Zarua. Gravesites within the OZ section are available for sale to members of our congregation. Burial is limited to persons of the Jewish faith. For information concerning gravesite purchases, contact Helene Santo at 212-452-2310, ext 14.

### TALMUD CLASS

**The Roots of the Passover Seder, Cups of Wine and Sacred History**

**Most Wednesdays (see calendar), 7:30 pm**

We are now studying the last chapter of Tractate Passover: the how-to guide for the Passover seder in the Talmud. The last chapter deals with the haggadah and Passover rituals as well as everything from demons to desserts to Shabbat rituals! Purchase the third volume in the Artscroll Pesahim Hebrew-English set or the second volume of Pesahim in the Koren Talmud (Steinsaltz) Hebrew-English edition. You may just come to class to listen in, but having a volume in Hebrew-English is recommended. See the calendar for meeting dates.

### Rabbi Bolton's Siddur Class

**Most Thursdays (see calendar), 8:40 am**

We are now discussing the weekday and Shabbat Torah Services. We will study the history of the prayers and ceremonies, as well as the language of the familiar and not so familiar tunes we sing when we take out the Torah and return it to the ark. All necessary texts are provided. Siddur class meets Thursdays from 8:40 am to 9:40 am. See the calendar for dates.

### Rabbi Wechsler Teaches

On SiriusXM Satellite Radio  
Sundays, 4:00 am & 8:00 pm  
Channel 106  
[www.siriusxm.com](http://www.siriusxm.com)

# Or Zarua Book Discussions

Resuming this fall



**A discussion of *The Mystics of Mile End: A Novel*, by Sigal Samuel, led by Rabbi Scott Bolton, was one of many book discussions held this year at OZ. OZ Book Discussions will resume this fall and are open to all. For additional information, call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext 12.**



CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

127 East 82nd Street  
New York, NY 10028-0807

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

MARCH/APRIL 2017

## Elisha's Apostasy: Reward and Punishment in Jewish Thought

Marc Ashley's adult education course between Pesah and Shavuot

Sundays, May 7, 10:30 am & May 21, 7 pm

**T**he second paragraph of the Shema, recited twice daily, stipulates that if we dutifully obey God's commandments we will be amply rewarded with material bounty in this world, and, conversely, that stern divine punishment will flow from our disobedience.

The Torah is full of statements of cause and effect between our human conduct and corresponding divine reactions. The divine math of reward and punishment is straightforward. The same theme is reflected in our High Holy Day liturgy. Yet does that conception of reward and punishment comport with our perspective of a world that often seems chaotic and unfair?

In our complex world, good people sometimes suffer and bad people often thrive. That disconnect between righteousness and reward can lead to a crisis of faith, as it did for Elisha ben Avuya, a respected second-century rabbinic scholar. The Talmud relates that Elisha was led to heresy when he witnessed the seemingly inexplicable death of a boy, who died while

fulfilling two commandments about which the Torah states that their observance will lead to prolonged life. If the fairness of God's methods of reward and punishment cannot be trusted, Elisha concluded, the overall religious system becomes suspect.

In the centuries since Elisha, Jewish thinkers have struggled to reconcile reality with expectation, and thereby to maintain faith in the face of suffering. God's punishments in this world often seem haphazard; divine justice is sometimes inscrutable. This theological challenge is particularly acute in the shadow of the

Holocaust, when millions perished without any apparent justification.

Please join us for the last two sessions (on May 7 and 21) of Marc Ashley's annual adult education course on the important topic of reward and punishment in Jewish thought. You are very welcome to join the class even if you missed the first two sessions, and no prior background is required. We will survey classical Jewish texts and modern commentaries as we together explore the intellectual history and continuing relevance of this provocative doctrine.

