

SPOTLIGHT

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025/5786

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, October 24, 7:00 pm

HEVRA KADISHA PROGRAM

Thursday, October 30, 7:00 pm

TOT SHABBAT AND KIDS SHABBAT

Saturday, November 1, 11:00 am

36TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH & LEARN

Saturday, November 1, following services

SHABBAT ACROSS OZ

Friday, November 7

TOUR OF JTS MANUSCRIPT EXHIBITION

Tuesday, November 11, 3:00 pm

MAH JONGG OPEN PLAY

Tuesday, November 18

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PAINT & SIP

Wednesday, November 19, 6:30 pm

OR ZARUA FAMILY KABBALAT SHABBAT AND DINNER

Friday, November 21, 5:15 pm

GUIDED NATURE WALK

Sunday, November 23, 11:00 am

BOOK DISCUSSION

Sunday, November 30, 7:00 pm

OR ZARUA'S 36TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Monday, December 8, 6:30 pm

OR ZARUA FAMILY HANUKKAH PARTY

Monday, December 15, 5:00 pm

HANUKKAH DINNER

Friday, December 19, 6:30 pm

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

OZ'S 36TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS!

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.

We hope you will join us for our final two double-chai events of the year as we celebrate Or Zarua's 36th Birthday!

Learn more about the events and how you can help us reach our \$3.6 million fundraising goal on pages 5-7.



LEARN WITH RABBI BOLTON

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

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

Explore the weekly Torah reading through the lens of "I Believe," by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, z"l. **Oct. 27, Nov. 17 & 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22**

LEARNING HEBREW AND BIG JEWISH IDEAS, MONDAYS, 6:00 PM

Looking to build your Jewish literacy, start your Hebrew journey or simply deepen the Jewish conversation? Join this class to understand Hebrew roots, words and phrases to grow your Jewish literacy. **Oct. 27, Nov. 17 & 24, Dec. 1, 15, 22**

TALMUD CLASS, WEDNESDAYS, 7:00 PM, HYBRID

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

Route 66: The Top Sixty-Six Sugiyot (Passages) Every Educated Jew Must Know, **Oct. 29, Nov. 19, Dec. 3, 10, 17**

SIDDUR AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE, THURSDAYS, 8:45 AM

Explore 20th-century philosophers and liturgies important to those Jewish thinkers. **Oct. 30, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, 11, 18**



PRAY WITH US

SEE THE CALENDAR ON PAGES 18-19 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

SHALOM COHEN, HEBREW SCHOOL DIRECTOR

shalom@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

THE ETERNAL MITZVAH - PRESERVING OUR CEMETERIES



**A CONVERSATION WITH RABBI ANDREW SCHULTZ,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CAJAC, THE COMMUNITY
ALLIANCE FOR JEWISH-AFFILIATED CEMETERIES**

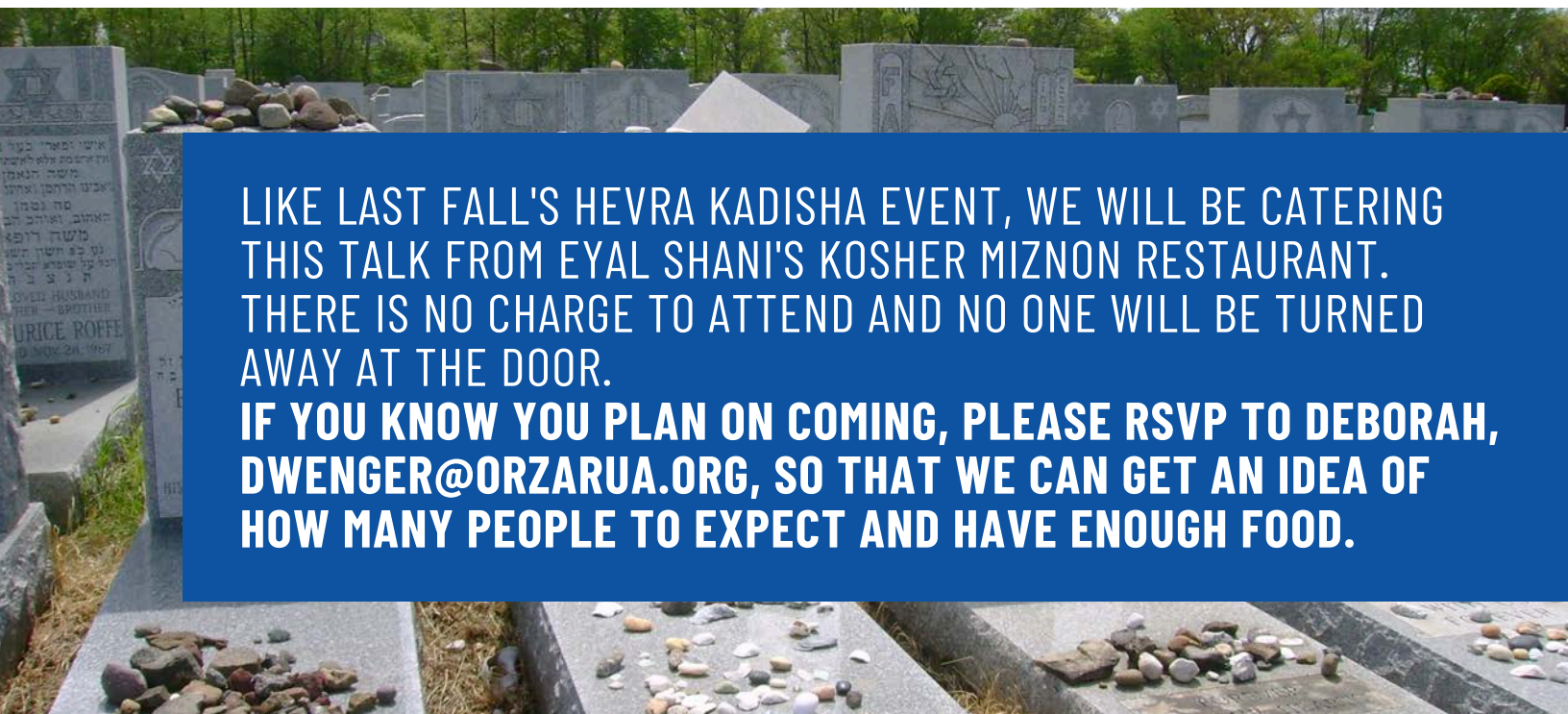
Thursday, October 30, 7:00 pm

At this stage in our lives, most of us have had the experience of visiting a Jewish cemetery and learning that "perpetual care" does not mean that a cemetery or its plots stay maintained forever. The first thing Jews did when they came to this country was purchase land for cemeteries and establish burial societies, but we have now been here a long time, and some of those cemeteries and graves are at risk of being forgotten. On October 30, we will hear from Rabbi Andrew Schultz of the Community Alliance for Jewish-Affiliated Cemeteries ("CAJAC"). Since its founding, CAJAC has restored over 60,000 graves with the help of more than 5,000 volunteers. CAJAC presently takes care of over 10,000 graves, managing a number of cemeteries and partnering with organizations throughout the tri-state area to provide the critical link in setting standards, developing strategies, and assisting those tasked as fiduciaries for Jewish cemeteries. These standards help to fulfill the sacred task of preserving sanctity, ensuring physical well-being, and providing for financial stability into perpetuity. Rabbi Schultz will talk to us about CAJAC's work. We will also talk about Or Zarua's cemetery plots, situated in a Congregational section of Beth El Cemetery in Paramus, New Jersey.

At the end of the program, we will recite a psalm, which will provide an opportunity for anyone in mourning or observing a yahrzeit to say Kaddish.

LIKE LAST FALL'S HEVRA KADISHA EVENT, WE WILL BE CATERING THIS TALK FROM EYAL SHANI'S KOSHER MIZNON RESTAURANT. THERE IS NO CHARGE TO ATTEND AND NO ONE WILL BE TURNED AWAY AT THE DOOR.

**IF YOU KNOW YOU PLAN ON COMING, PLEASE RSVP TO DEBORAH,
DWENGER@ORZARUA.ORG, SO THAT WE CAN GET AN IDEA OF
HOW MANY PEOPLE TO EXPECT AND HAVE ENOUGH FOOD.**



CELEBRATE DOUBLE CHAI AT EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
AS PART OF OUR 36TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN CELEBRATIONS,
JOIN US FOR A

SHABBAT LUNCH & LEARN - YOU'RE INVITED!



"OR ZARUA: LIGHT IS SOWN FOR THE RIGHTEOUS"

Saturday, November 1, following services

Tot Shabbat and Kids Shabbat will meet at 11:00 am

The Or Zarua community first crystallized around sacred prayer and Talmudic learning. Our study of a yearly Bible commentary to Talmud Class to Jewish Thought seminars and history lessons by congregants has been a central part of the Or Zarua culture for 36 years. Join us at a Shabbat Lunch & Learn to continue that tradition and celebrate our double-chai anniversary.

From the first verses of creation to the poetry of the Psalms, light illuminates our sacred sources. Marc Ashley and Rabbi Bolton will guide us through Torah, Talmudic, and liturgical texts that reference, interpret and present the enduring metaphor of light.

Enjoy a delicious Shabbat lunch with lively discussion, learning, and inspiration.

This gathering is part of our 36th Anniversary Campaign. Please contribute generously in honor of Torah Learning and Or Zarua's commitment to authentic and meaningful study.

Visit tinyurl.com/OZ36TH-Learning to make a donation.

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





*Let's
Celebrate!*

**OR ZARUA'S
36th Birthday Party**
HONORING OUR PRESIDENTS

Monday, December 8, 2025
THE JEWISH MUSEUM
1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street

6:00 PM - Private Gallery Tour
6:30 PM - Live Music,
Strolling Dinner, Drinks & Dessert
Festive Attire

RSVP by November 14 for
tickets, journal ads, and raffle tickets
orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/36Birthday

SHABBAT ACROSS OZ

AT CONGREGANTS' HOMES

Friday evening, November 7

Shabbat Across Or Zarua will return to honor Parashat Vayera.

In the parasha, Abraham welcomes strangers to his home.

At OZ, members will welcome other members to their homes.

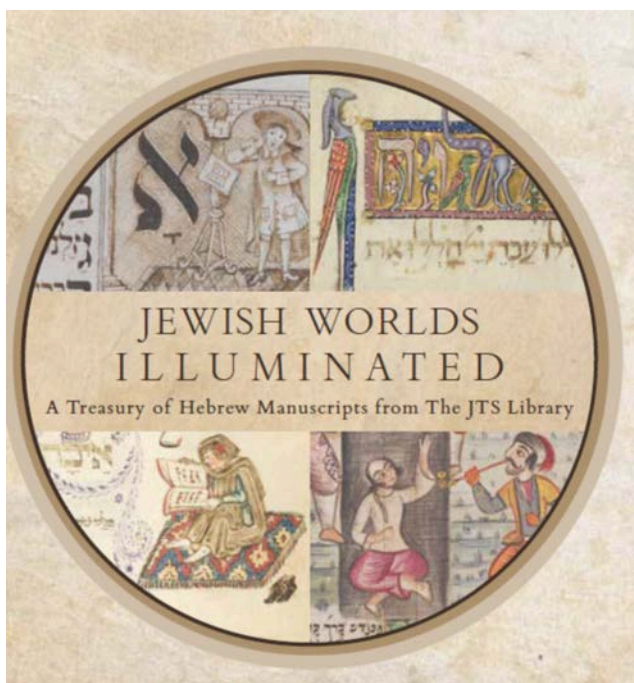
Shabbat Across Or Zarua is a warm and wonderful way for members to get to know each other. Guests enjoy the gracious hospitality of host families and everyone shares Shabbat joy, delicious food, and stimulating conversation.

VISIT [ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/
SHABBAT-ACROSS-OZ.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/shabbat-across-oz.html)
TO SIGN UP AS A HOST OR AS A GUEST.



PRIVATE TOUR OF JTS EXHIBITION: JEWISH WORLDS ILLUMINATED

Tuesday, November 11, 3:00 pm



Or Zarua has arranged for a private guided tour of the JTS exhibition called “Jewish Worlds Illuminated: A Treasury of Hebrew Manuscripts from the JTS Library.” It has over 100 manuscripts and books that show the diversity of Jewish cultures over time and countries. It is the largest exhibition ever of the rare manuscripts from the JTS library.

*The tour will begin at 3:00 on Tuesday, November 11 at the Grolier Club, located at 47 E 60th St. **(Please note: it is NOT at JTS.)***

**PLEASE CALL THE OR ZARUA OFFICE TO MAKE A
RESERVATION FOR THE TOUR, 212-452-2310, X 12.
WE ARE LIMITED TO 25 PEOPLE.**



MAH JONGG OPEN PLAY NIGHTS!

November 18, December 2, December 16, December 30, 7:00 pm

Join us for an evening of tiles, fun, and friendly competition.

Whether you're a seasoned player or you just learned, come shuffle, build, and play in a welcoming space.



\$5 PER PERSON



**RSVP TO HELENE SANTO, HSANTO@ORZARUA.ORG,
TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT A TABLE**

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PAINT & SIP

Wednesday, November 19, 6:30 pm

We will supply the canvases and paint supplies, just bring your creativity!

Paint what is on your mind or draw from inspirational images we'll provide, from realistic landscapes to decorative geometric art.

We'll also have pizza and drinks to nourish our stomachs while we nourish our souls.

Interested in helping us sponsor this young professionals night or future events?

Please email us at OZYoungPros@gmail.com.

The background of the flyer is a collage of artistic images. The top half shows several paintbrushes with different bristles and handles, some with gold ferrules, set against a background of colorful, abstract brushstrokes in shades of yellow, green, blue, and pink. The bottom half shows a close-up of several open paint pots in various colors (red, orange, yellow, blue, purple) and several paintbrushes with different handles (wood, metal, plastic) resting on a surface with paint splatters.

**FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT OZYOUNGPROS@GMAIL.COM.
RSVP AT [ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/
FORM/PAINTANDSIP.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/paintandsip.html)**

OR ZARUA FAMILY KABBALAT SHABBAT AND DINNER

FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS OF ALL AGES

Friday, November 21, services at 5:15 pm, dinner to follow

THE ENTIRE OZ COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL KABBALAT SHABBAT!

Join us to build community with other families.

All families are welcome - Hebrew School, Day School, public school and private school!

Together we'll all enjoy the beautiful voices of our children and families while we welcome Shabbat as a community.

AFTER SERVICES, FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR SHABBAT DINNER!



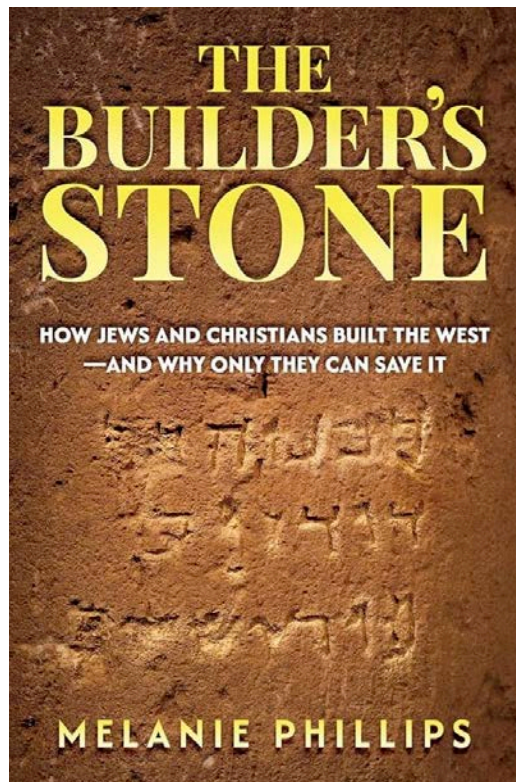
SIGN UP AT [ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/FAMILYDINNERNOV2025.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/familydinnernov2025.html)

Be sure to fill out the signup form for each household attending. The cost of the dinner is \$25/adult and \$10/child, with a maximum of \$70/household.

OZ BOOK DISCUSSION

**THE BUILDER'S STONE ; HOW JEWS AND CHRISTIANS
BUILT THE WEST - AND WHY ONLY THEY CAN SAVE IT
BY MELANIE PHILLIPS
DISCUSSION LED BY ARTIE SELTZER**

Sunday, November 30, 7:00 pm



As the West struggles against attempts to destroy it from within and without, key lessons in resilience from its Jewish parent can enable both Christianity and civilization to survive.

Western civilization is facing a critical moment. Foreign enemies sensing its weakness are circling. Internally, the West is being consumed by division, decadence, and demoralization. The October 7 attack on Israel presented it with a choice between civilization and barbarism—a challenge the West has failed. But this damaged society is far from lost if it takes advice from an unexpected source. Western culture is based upon Christianity, whose own foundations in turn lie in Judaism. The unique survival of the Jewish people offers both the West and its struggling Christian church, as well as secular people who shun religion, priceless lessons in resilience that they must learn if their culture is to survive.

**NEXT SELECTION FOR JANUARY 25, 2026, 10:00 AM:
SONGS FOR THE BROKEN HEARTED, BY AYELET TSABARI**

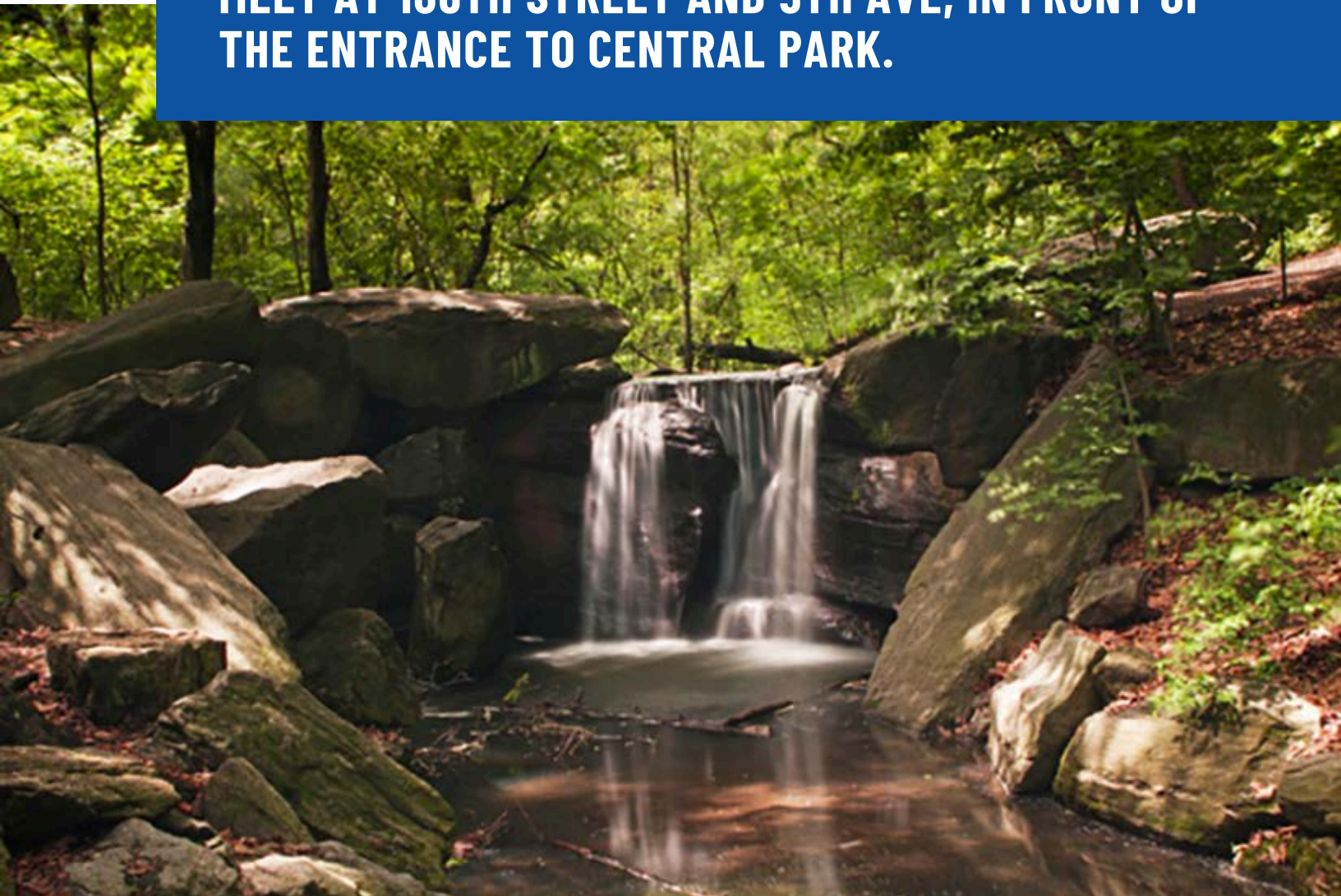
GUIDED NATURE WALK

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

Sunday, November 23, 11:00 am

Join us on a guided nature walk through the North Woods of Central Park. Sometimes, the best place to have a spiritual experience is out in nature. Led by an environmental educator, we'll marvel at Central Park's hidden forest and the colors of autumn together. You won't believe you're still in Manhattan!

**CONTACT ELYSE@ORZARUA.ORG TO RSVP.
MEET AT 106TH STREET AND 5TH AVE, IN FRONT OF
THE ENTRANCE TO CENTRAL PARK.**



OR ZARUA FAMILY HANUKKAH PARTY

ALL KIDS ARE WELCOME - HEBREW SCHOOL AND BEYOND!

Monday, December 15, 5:00 pm

Bring the whole family and join us for a bright and joyful Hanukkah evening!

Enjoy a delicious dinner featuring crispy latkes and sweet sufganiyot, take part in our festive candle lighting, and have fun with Hanukkah-themed activities for kids of all ages — including a lively dreidel competition!

All families are welcome — whether your children attend Hebrew School or not. Come share in the warmth, light, and laughter of the holiday with our community!

**RSVP AT [ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/
FORM/OZHANUKKAH](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/ozhanukkah)**



ANNUAL HANUKKAH DINNER

CELEBRATE SHABBAT HANUKKAH WITH A DELICIOUS DINNER!

Friday, December 19, 6:30 pm

Come for Kabbalat Shabbat services and stay to hear Bir'nana, OZ's a cappella group. Welcome Shabbat and celebrate the holiday with beautiful harmony. After the performance, our celebration continues with a festive dinner.

Reservations are required for dinner. First-year members are welcome to attend for free, but please sign up by calling or emailing Deborah Wenger so we know how much food to order.

There is no charge for children 4 and under, but please sign them up so we can set a place for them. Families with children between the ages of 5 and 12 only have to pay for 2 children. If you would like to register more than 2 children, please call the office and let us know to add them to your reservation.

**RSVP AT [ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/HANUKKAHDINNER](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/hanukkahdinner) BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16.
REGISTER BY DECEMBER 8 FOR EARLY BIRD PRICING.**



NOVEMBER 2025/5786 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 · 10 Heshvan Shabbat Lekh-Lekha 9:00a Services 11:00a Tot Shabbat & Kids Shabbat Shabbat Lunch & Learn 6:34p Havdalah
2 · 11 Heshvan Daylight Saving Time ends 8:45a Minyan	3 · 12 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School <i>No Community Torah Study</i> <i>No Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i>	4 · 13 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan (Zoom)	5 · 14 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School <i>No Talmud Class</i>	6 · 15 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Rembrandt and the Jews, Dr. Hal Gutstein	7 · 16 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan 9:00a Kiddie Cafe 4:26p Shabbat Services 4:26p Candle Lighting <i>Shabbat Across Or Zarua</i>	8 · 17 Heshvan Shabbat Vayera 9:00a Services 5:26p Havdalah
9 · 18 Heshvan 8:45a Minyan	10 · 19 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School <i>No Community Torah Study</i> <i>No Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i>	11 · 20 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 3:00p Private Tour of JTS Exhibition	12 · 21 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School <i>No Talmud Class</i>	13 · 22 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan <i>No Siddur & Prayer Class</i>	14 · 23 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan 9:00a Kiddie Cafe 4:20p Shabbat Services 4:20p Candle Lighting	15 · 24 Heshvan Shabbat Hayei Sarah 9:00a Services 5:19p Havdalah
16 · 25 Heshvan 8:45a Minyan	17 · 26 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	18 · 27 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) Mah Jongg Open Play	19 · 28 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class 6:30p YP Paint & Sip	20 · 29 Heshvan 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	21 · 1 Kislev Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Minyan 9:00a Kiddie Cafe 4:15p Candle Lighting 5:15p Shabbat Services 6:00p Family Shabbat Dinner	22 · 2 Kislev Shabbat Toldot 9:00a Services 5:15p Havdalah
23 · 3 Kislev 8:45a Minyan 11:00a Guided Nature Walk in Central Park	24 · 4 Kislev 7:15a Minyan 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	25 · 5 Kislev 7:15a Minyan (Zoom)	26 · 6 Kislev 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School <i>No Talmud Class</i>	27 · 7 Kislev Thanksgiving 8:45a Minyan <i>No Siddur & Prayer Class</i> Office Closed	28 · 8 Kislev 7:15a Minyan 4:11p Shabbat Services 4:11p Candle Lighting Office Closed	29 · 9 Kislev Shabbat Vayetze 9:00a Services 5:11p Havdalah
30 · 10 Kislev 8:45a Minyan 7:00p Book Discussion						

DECEMBER 2025/5786 CALENDAR

19

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 · 11 Kislev 7:15a Minyan 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	2 · 12 Kislev 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) Mah Jongg Open Play	3 · 13 Kislev 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	4 · 14 Kislev 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	5 · 15 Kislev 7:15a Minyan 9:00a Kiddie Cafe 4:10p Shabbat Services 4:10p Candle Lighting	6 · 16 Kislev Shabbat Vayishlah 9:00a Services Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Wipper 11:00a Tot Shabbat & Kids Shabbat 5:10p Havdalah
7 · 17 Kislev 8:45a Minyan	8 · 18 Kislev 7:15a Minyan 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 6:30p OZ Bday Celebration! <i>No Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i>	9 · 19 Kislev 7:15a Minyan (Zoom)	10 · 20 Kislev 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	11 · 21 Kislev 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	12 · 22 Kislev 7:15a Minyan 9:00a Kiddie Cafe 4:10p Shabbat Services 4:10p Candle Lighting	13 · 23 Kislev Shabbat Vayeshev 9:00a Services 5:11p Havdalah
14 · 24 Kislev First Night of Hanukkah 8:45a Minyan	15 · 25 Kislev Second Night of Hanukkah 7:15a Minyan 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p Or L'Atid Hanukkah Pty 6:00p Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	16 · 26 Kislev Third Night of Hanukkah 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) Mah Jongg Open Play	17 · 27 Kislev Fourth Night of Hanukkah 7:15a Minyan 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	18 · 28 Kislev Fifth Night of Hanukkah 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	19 · 29 Kislev Sixth Night of Hanukkah 7:15a Minyan 9:00a Kiddie Cafe 4:12p Candle Lighting 5:15p Shabbat Services 6:30p Hanukkah Dinner	20 · 30 Kislev Seventh Night of Hanukkah Shabbat Miketz Rosh Hodesh 9:00a Services 5:13p Havdalah
21 · 1 Tevet Rosh Hodesh Eighth Night of Hanukkah 8:45a Minyan	22 · 2 Tevet 7:15a Minyan 12:00p Community Torah Study 6:00p Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas <i>No Hebrew School</i>	23 · 3 Tevet 7:15a Minyan (Zoom)	24 · 4 Tevet 7:15a Minyan <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Talmud Class</i>	25 · 5 Tevet 8:45a Minyan <i>No Siddur & Prayer Class</i> Office Closed	26 · 6 Tevet 7:15a Minyan 4:16 Shabbat Services 4:16p Candle Lighting	27 · 7 Tevet Shabbat Vayigash 9:00a Services 5:17p Havdalah
28 · 8 Tevet 8:45a Minyan	29 · 9 Tevet 7:15a Minyan <i>No Community Torah Study</i> <i>No Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i> <i>No Hebrew School</i>	30 · 10 Tevet Fast of Asarah b'Tevet 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) Mah Jongg Open Play	31 · 11 Tevet 7:15a Minyan <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Talmud Class</i>	Jan. 1 · 12 Tevet 8:45a Minyan <i>No Siddur & Prayer Class</i> Office Closed		



Scott N. Bolton
Rabbi
Dr. Harlan J. Wechsler
Rabbi Emeritus

THIRTY-SIXTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 8, 2025

Thank you for donating to our silent auction and raffle.

Donor name: _____

Business name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Brief description of donated item:

Restrictions:

Expiration date:

Approximate retail value(required): \$

Volunteer name: _____

Phone number: _____

Please email this form to Rhonda Sherwin (rhonda@36raffleauction.org). Once the form is received, Rhonda will be in touch with instructions on how to drop off or pick up the donation. If you have questions, please call Rhonda at 929-201-6112.

127 EAST 82 STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10028 212.452.2310 WWW.ORZARUA.ORG

AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM