

SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 2026/5786

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATE PESAH WITH OR ZARUA

Pesah begins Wednesday, April 1

COMMUNITY SEDER - SECOND NIGHT OF PASSOVER

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm

PESAH CHABURAH WITH RABBI BOLTON

Saturday, April 4, following kiddush

SPRING CLASS WITH MARC ASHLEY

Sundays, Apr. 12, 19, 26 & May 3, 10:00 am

YOM HASHOAH U'GEVURAH

Monday, April 13, 7:00 pm

ISRAEL BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

Sunday, April 19, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

YOM HAZIKARON/YOM HAATZMA'UT COMMEMORATION & CELEBRATION

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00-8:30 pm

ISRAELI KIDDUSH IN THE ROUND AND TOT SHABBAT

Saturday, April 25

SAVE THESE MAY DATES

OZ ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 19

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

Thursday, May 21

ISRAEL DAY ON FIFTH

Sunday, May 31

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CELEBRATE PESAH WITH OR ZARUA

Pesah begins Wednesday, April 1

OZ Community Seder, Thursday, April 2

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PESAH CHABURAH WITH RABBI BOLTON

Saturday, April 4, following kiddush

See page 5 for more details

MAH JONGG OPEN PLAY

Tuesdays, 7:00 pm

See page 8 for more details



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.

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.

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

SIDDUR AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE, THURSDAYS, 8:45 AM

Explore 20th-century philosophers and liturgies important to those Jewish thinkers.



PRAY WITH US

SEE THE CALENDAR ON PAGE 16 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

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CELEBRATE PESAH WITH OR ZARUA

SERVICE AND EVENT SCHEDULE

Pesah begins Wednesday night, April 1

Wednesday, April 1, Erev Pesah

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

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

10:50 am Last time to eat hametz

11:55 pm Biur hametz (burning/nullification of hametz)

7:02 pm Candle Lighting

Thursday, April 2, First Day of Passover

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

7:00 pm OZ Community Seder - Register by March 27

See next page for more details

Light candles after 8:04 pm

Friday, April 3, Second Day of Passover, Erev Shabbat

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

6:15 pm Shabbat evening services, Oneg to follow

7:04 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 4, Shabbat Hol HaMoed

8:45 am Services with Hallel and Shir HaShirim
Kiddush after services, followed by Chaburah learning with Rabbi Bolton, "Creatures, Caps and Bottles"

8:06 pm Havdalah

Sunday, April 5, Hol HaMoed

8:45 am Hol HaMoed Services with Hallel, breakfast to follow

Monday, April 6, Hol HaMoed

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

Tuesday, April 7, Hol HaMoed, Erev Seventh Day of Passover

7:10 am Zoom Hol HaMoed Services with Hallel

7:08 pm Candle Lighting

Wednesday, April 8, Seventh Day of Passover

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

Light Candles after 8:10 pm

Thursday, April 9, Eighth Day of Passover

9:00 am Festival Services with Hallel and YIZKOR (around 10:45 am), Kiddush to follow

8:11 pm Passover ends

8:12 pm Hametz reverts to seller

For questions about Passover, whether about Halakhic details or how to make a seder night engaging and joyful, write to Rabbi Bolton at RabbiBolton@orzarua.org with your questions or to set up a time to speak.



SECOND NIGHT COMMUNITY SEDER

"FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH"

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm

From the journey out of Egypt to heroes in every generation, the Children of Israel rise! While the Haggadah notes that in every generation we come against those who seek to destroy us we find inner strength and affirm the allies we need to go from strength to strength. Come join Or Zarua's second Seder and celebrate together the Jewish People's journey strength to strength! We will highlight stories, illuminations, and photographs that affirm our power to overcome those who seek our destruction.



Gift of Jack Hyman

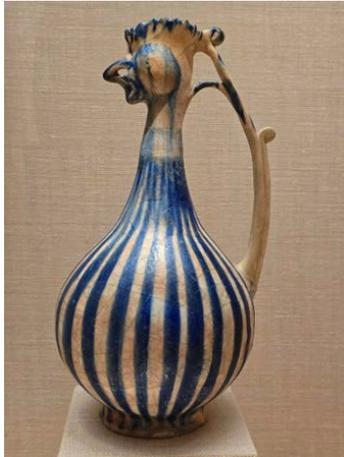
Seder in Luxembourg 1945

**SIGN UP AT
ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/SEDER.HTML**

POST-KIDDUSH CHABURAH WITH RABBI BOLTON

PESAH LECTURE: CREATURES, CAPS & BOTTLES

Saturday, April 4, following kiddush



Join Rabbi Bolton after kiddush as he explores the creatures mentioned in sacred sources and their appearances on every day and sacred vessels and dishes throughout history.

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.



27TH ANNUAL SPRING CLASS WITH MARC ASHLEY

EXILED BECAUSE OF OUR SINS: JEWISH PERSPECTIVES ON EVIL AND SUFFERING

Four class sessions on Sunday mornings at 10 am
April 12, April 19, April 26, and May 3 (Zoom only)



Is God fair? Classical Jewish thought posits a God that is omnipotent, omniscient and wholly good. Yet the enduring existence of evil and suffering in the world, on both individual and communal levels, poses a formidable challenge to the logic and viability of religious faith. How can a wholly good and just God allow the wicked to prosper, the righteous to suffer, and injustice to prevail? Even more pointedly, how can a merciful and attentive God – who established a special covenantal relationship with Jews – allow his chosen people to experience innumerable calamities?

Jewish thinkers have grappled with the thorny persistence of bad people doing evil things, causing distress to those who deserve a better fate. Jewish tradition, reflected in festival liturgy we continue to chant at Or Zarua, has often rationalized Jewish suffering as punishment for sinning. Yet cumulative atrocities – most recently the Holocaust and October 7th – make that causal connection appear theologically obscene. The perennial problem of seemingly ineradicable evil and resulting heartrending suffering can threaten Jewish belief in a caring God and puncture simple optimism in a bright future. Justice in the world may seem remote or illusory; traditional Jewish texts may offer a measure of clarity and comfort.

Please join congregant Marc Ashley as he explores these pressing issues, an inescapable feature of our fraught times, on four successive Sunday mornings between Passover and Shavuot.

**JOIN ON ZOOM:
[TINYURL.COM/OZ-ASHLEY-SPRING2026](https://tinyurl.com/oz-ashley-spring2026)**

YOM HASHOAH U'GEVURAH

CEREMONY FOR REMEMBRANCE AND RECALLING HEROISM

Monday, April 13, 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.



MAH JONGG OPEN PLAY NIGHTS!

All Members and Their Friends Are Welcome!

Tuesdays, Apr. 14, Apr. 28, May 12, May 26, Jun. 9, Jun. 23, 7:00 pm

Whether you're a seasoned player or brand-new to the tiles, we'd love to have you join our friendly Mah Jongg Open Play evenings. Let us know if you would like guided play. Drop in anytime between 6:00 and 7:00 pm and enjoy a relaxed, social atmosphere where everyone can play together.

Bring a friend—or two! It's a wonderful way to introduce others to our community and to the joy of the game.



**\$10/MEMBER, \$15/NON-MEMBER, PER NIGHT
IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, PLEASE RSVP AT
[ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/MAHJONGG.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/mahjongg.html)**

ISRAEL BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

Sunday, April 19, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Come celebrate the birthday of Israel! The muzika will be on!

Take a journey through Israel, without leaving the Upper East Side. Paint a hamsa in Tzfat, go to the shuk in Jerusalem, dig for coral in Eilat, end the night with a dance party in Tel Aviv!

Geared towards children aged approximately 1-7 years old.

\$10/family

Sponsorships available: Please contact us if you would like to dedicate part of the party in someone's honor.

**SIGN UP AT [ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/
FAMILY-ISRAEL-PARTY.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/family-israel-party.html)**



YOM HAZIKARON/YOM HAATZMA'UT COMMEMORATION & CELEBRATION

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 - 8:30 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. This moment of collective memory connects us across generations, communities, and continents. If you have someone in particular to remember at this ceremony, please contact Rabbi Bolton to be included in the program.

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 78th anniversary of Israel's independence.



KIDDUSH IN THE ROUND



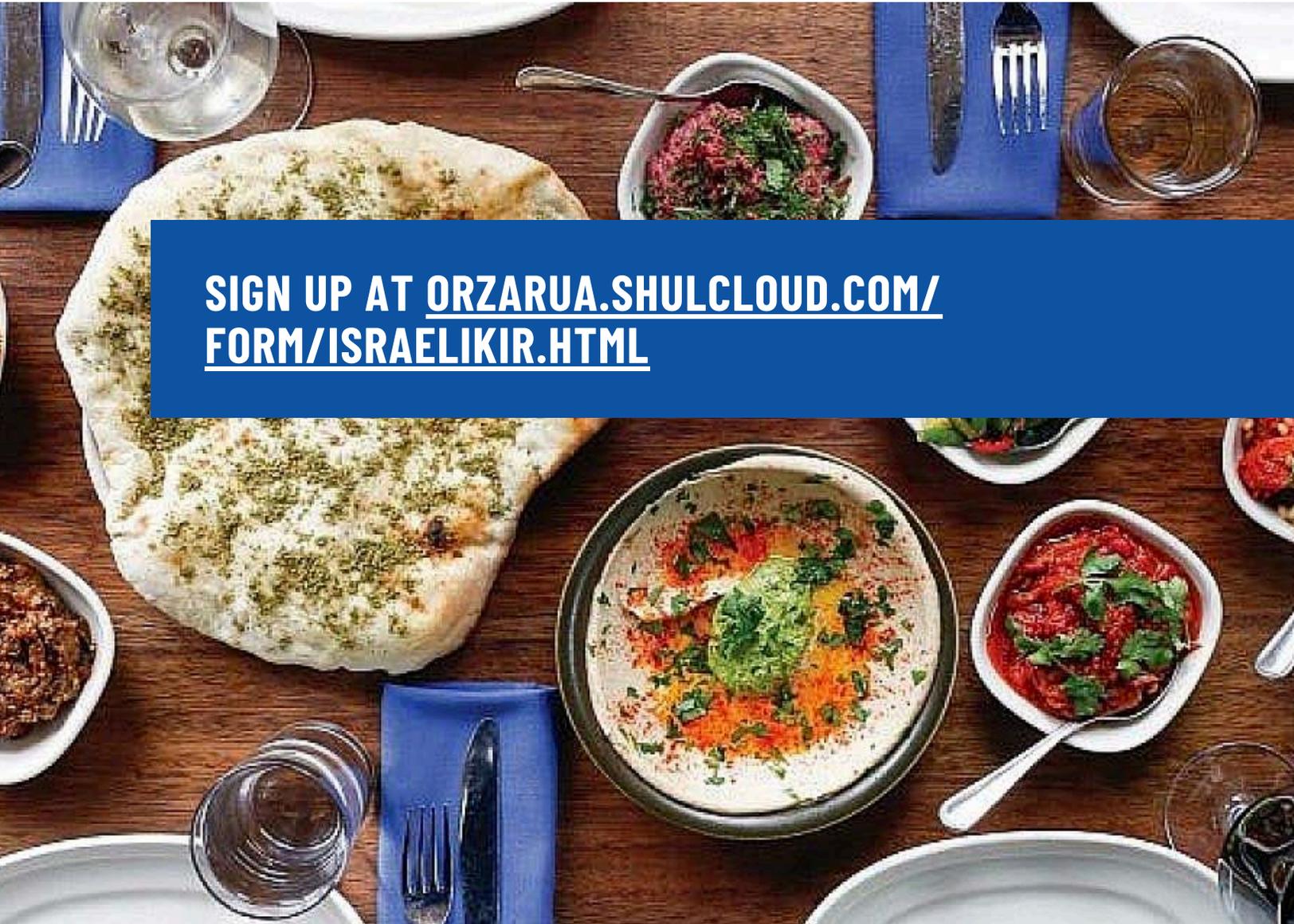
JOIN US FOR SHABBAT SERVICES, FOLLOWED BY A SPECIAL SIT-DOWN ISRAELI KIDDUSH LUNCHEON

Saturday, April 25, following services
Tot Shabbat meets at 11:15 am

Stay after services and take a seat at the table—literally! Kiddush in the Round is a warm, sit-down kiddush luncheon designed to bring our community closer together. Instead of a quick bite and dash, join us for a relaxed, welcoming meal where conversation flows, friendships grow, and everyone has a place.

Gather around round tables, enjoy delicious food, and connect with old friends and new faces in an atmosphere of joy and community. Whether you come with family, friends, or on your own, you'll leave feeling nourished—in body and in spirit.

Pull up a chair. Stay awhile. Let's make Shabbat afternoon meaningful together.



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

SAVE THE DATES

ROOFTOP PICNIC AND ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 19

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT
THURSDAY, MAY 21

ISRAEL DAY ON FIFTH
SUNDAY, MAY 31

SIGN UP AT

[ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/ISRAEL-DAY-PARADE.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/israel-day-parade.html)



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

SHALOM TODDLER

Monday and Wednesday mornings, 9:30 am

Come for Mondays and/or Wednesdays

Recommended for toddlers 1 - 3 years old

KIDDIE CAFE

Friday mornings, 9:15 am

See calendar on page 16 for April dates.

**Visit orzarua.org/connect/upcoming-events/
for more information and to sign up!**

APRIL 2026/5786 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 · 14 Nisan Fast of the First-born/ Siyyum Erev Pesah 7:15a Minyan <i>No Shalom Toddler</i> 10:00a Deadline to sell Hametz 10:50a Finish eating Hametz 11:55a Nullify Hametz <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Talmud Class</i> 7:02p Candle Lighting	2 · 15 Nisan Pesah Day 1 <i>No Siddur & Prayer Class</i> 9:00a Pesah Services 7:00p OZ Community Seder Candle Lighting after 8:04p <i>Office Closed</i>	3 · 16 Nisan Pesah Day 2 9:00a Pesah Services <i>No Kiddie Cafe</i> 6:15p Shabbat Services 7:04p Candle Lighting <i>Office Closed</i>	4 · 17 Nisan Shabbat Hol Hamoed 8:45a Shabbat & Pesah Services 1:00p Chaburah w/ Rabbi Bolton 8:06p Havdalah
5 · 18 Nisan Hol Hamoed Pesah 8:45a Hol Hamoed Services	6 · 19 Nisan Hol Hamoed Pesah 7:15a Hol Hamoed Services <i>No Shalom Toddler</i> <i>No Comm. Torah</i> <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i>	7 · 20 Nisan Hol Hamoed Pesah 7:10a Hol Hamoed Services (Zoom) 7:08p Candle Lighting	8 · 21 Nisan Pesah Day 7 9:00a Pesah Services <i>No Shalom Toddler</i> <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Talmud Class</i> Candle Lighting after 8:10 <i>Office Closed</i>	9 · 22 Nisan Pesah Day 8 <i>No Siddur & Prayer Class</i> 9:00a Pesah Services w/ Yizkor 8:11p Yom Tov Ends 8:12p Hametz reverts to sellers <i>Office Closed</i>	10 · 23 Nisan 7:15a Minyan <i>No Kiddie Cafe</i> 6:15p Shabbat Services 7:12p Candle Lighting	11 · 24 Nisan Parashat Shmini 9:00a Services 8:13p Havdalah
12 · 25 Nisan 8:45a Minyan 10:00a Adult Education Class w/ Marc Ashley (Zoom)	13 · 26 Nisan 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Heb School <i>No Heb & Ideas</i> 5:00p MS Class w/ Rabbi Bolton 7:00p Yom HaShoa u'Gevurah Ceremony	14 · 27 Nisan Yom HaShoah 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 7:00p Open Mah Jongg	15 · 28 Nisan 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	16 · 29 Nisan 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	17 · 30 Nisan Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 6:15p Shabbat Services 7:19p Candle Lighting	18 · 1 Iyyar Rosh Hodesh Parashat Tazria-Metzora 9:00a Services 8:21p Havdalah
19 · 2 Iyyar 8:45a Minyan 10:00a Adult Education Class w/ Marc Ashley (Zoom) 3:00p Israel Party for Young Children	20 · 3 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p Comm Torah Study 4:00p Heb School 6:00p Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	21 · 4 Iyyar Yom HaZikaron 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 7:00p Yom HaZikaron/ Yom Ha'Atzmaut Program	22 · 5 Iyyar Yom Ha'Atzmaut 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	23 · 6 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class 6:00p HS Class w/ Rabbi Bolton	24 · 7 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 6:15p Shabbat Services 7:26p Candle Lighting	25 · 8 Iyyar Parashat Aharei Mot-Kedoshim 9:00a Services 11:15a Tot Shabbat Israeli Kiddush in the Round 8:28p Havdalah
26 · 9 Iyyar 8:45a Minyan 10:00a Adult Education Class w/ Marc Ashley (Zoom)	27 · 10 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Heb School 5:00p MS Class 6:00p Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	28 · 11 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 7:00p Open Mah Jongg 8:00p Torah on Tap	29 · 12 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	30 · 13 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class		