

SPOTLIGHT

FEBRUARY 2026/5786

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

**LECTURE: DON'T DELEGATE YOUR SOUL:
PRESERVING HUMAN AUTONOMY IN THE AI ERA**

Monday, January 26, 7:30 pm

MAZEL TOV FOR 36 YEARS!

Monday, January 26, following the Lucy Lecture

SHABBAT SHIRAH - KIDDUSH IN THE ROUND & EVENING CONCERT

Saturday, January 31

FAMILY TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

Monday, February 2, 5:00 pm

MAH JONGG OPEN PLAY

Tuesdays, February 3 & 17, 6:00 pm

OR ZARUA SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 8, 4:45 pm

ISRAEL PROGRAM: LOSING IS NOT AN OPTION

Thursday, February 12, 6:30 pm

YP SHABBAT DINNER & GAME NIGHT

Friday, February 20, 6:00 pm services, dinner to follow

ZAYIN ADAR DINNER

Monday, February 23, 6:00 pm

PURIM LECTURE BY MARC ASHLEY

Wednesday, February 25, 7:00 pm

FAMILY PURIM PARTY

Sunday, March 1, 3:00 pm

CELEBRATE PURIM WITH OR ZARUA

Monday, March 2 - Tuesday, March 3

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**LECTURE: DON'T DELEGATE YOUR SOUL:
PRESERVING HUMAN AUTONOMY
IN THE AI ERA**

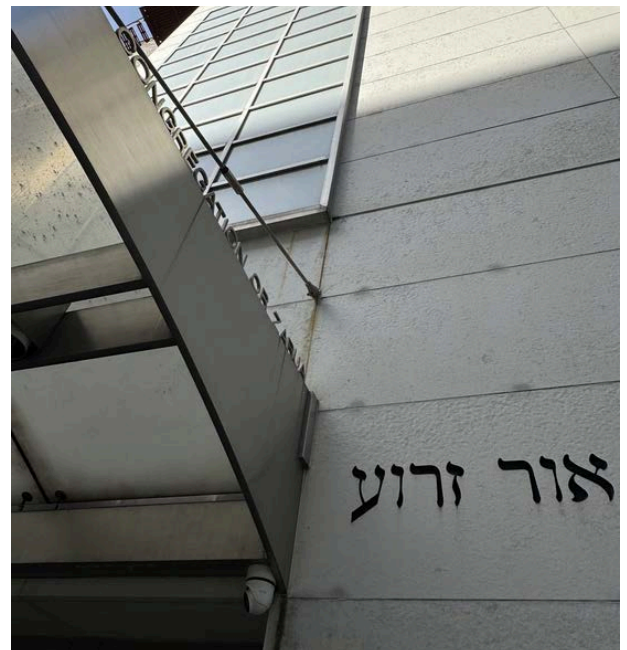
Monday, January 26

OZ'S ANNUAL SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 8

CELEBRATE PURIM WITH OR ZARUA

Monday, March 2 - Tuesday, March 3



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. **Feb. 2, 9, 23**

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. **Feb. 2, 9, 23**

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, **Feb. 4, 11**

SIDDUR AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE, THURSDAYS, 8:45 AM

Explore 20th-century philosophers and liturgies important to those Jewish thinkers. **Feb. 5, 12, 26**



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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EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS



SHALOM TODDLER

Monday and Wednesday mornings, 9:30 am
 Recommended for toddlers 1 to 3 years old
 Mondays: Feb. 2, 9, 23, Wednesdays: Feb. 4, 11, 25
 Come for Mondays and/or Wednesdays

Or Zarua's Shalom Toddler program follows a play-based model that allows children to gradually experience their first taste of education, in a warm, nurturing Jewish environment. Through play, art, music, and read alouds, children will begin to spread their wings, expand their social-emotional intelligence, and first encounter early literacy concepts.

Sign up at hisawyer.com/marketplace/activity-set/1676818



KIDDIE CAFE

Friday mornings, 9:15 am
 Feb 6, 13, 27

Join us for our free Kiddie Cafe on Friday mornings.
 Kids can enjoy open play, while parents enjoy a cup of coffee.
 Sip, schmooze, and ease into Shabbat.

Sign up at hisawyer.com/marketplace/activity-set/1622713



STROLLER SQUAD

Are you a mom looking for community?

Tuesday mornings, 10:00 am
 Feb. 3, 10, 24
 Babies welcome!

Or Zarua's Stroller Squad is geared towards mothers in the Jewish community of the Upper East Side. Together, we will discuss the challenges and little victories of this exhausting, confusing and beautiful phase of life.

Contact Elyse at elyse@orzarua.org for more information and to register.

Moms need a little kibbutz to raise a child.

Let's build one.

COMPLETING OZ'S 36TH BIRTHDAY YEAR OF CELEBRATION AFTER THE LUCY LECTURE

Monday, January 26, following the Lucy Lecture



Join us in the OZ Gallery on Monday, Jan. 26, the night of the Lucy Dawidowicz lecture, as we conclude our celebration of Or Zarua's "Twice Chai Anniversary" with the opening of a new display about the founding and history of our unusual synagogue. We will toast our inspiring journey with champagne and birthday cake.

Back in 1989, with vision and courage, we established a brand new place of prayer and community on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. It was an amazing feat—some might say a miracle!

The new display will trace the initial concept of the synagogue, the purchase of the site of our first building, and the design and construction of our beautiful spiritual home on East 82nd Street. It will include the clever ads, flyers, and brochures, created by Aaron Sheldon, to announce our opening and attract congregants, as well as reminders of our special events, lectures and holidays.

**LET'S SHARE THE PRIDE OF OUR SUCCESSFUL 36 YEARS OF PRAYER,
LEARNING, CONNECTION, AND COMMUNITY.
L'CHAIM!**

LECTURE BY RABBI DANIEL NEVINS

DON'T DELEGATE YOUR SOUL: PRESERVING HUMAN AUTONOMY IN THE AI ERA

Monday, January 26, 7:30 pm

If you cannot come in person you may Zoom. Please see eblast for link.



Rabbi Daniel Nevins is one of the most compelling thinkers and teachers of our time regarding the intersection of technology and Judaism. Rabbi Nevins, who recently published "Torah and Technology: Circuits, Cells, and the Sacred Path," is dedicated to exploring the sacred realm of Torah and its intersection with contemporary ethics, culture, and technology.

Ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary, he also holds a MA in Jewish studies from JTS, and earned his bachelors in history from Harvard College. Jewish education is the centerpiece of his rabbinate, with a focus on training the head, heart and hands to engage with Jewish wisdom, create compassionate communities, and pursue justice.

Rabbi Nevins has led three Jewish organizations: Golda Och Academy as Head of School; the Jewish Theological seminary's Division of Religious Leadership as the Pearl Resnick Dean of the Rabbinical School; and Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, MI, serving first as Associate and then Senior Rabbi.

He has been a member of The Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards since 1999 and has also served on its Executive Council and Joint Placement Commission. He writes responsa on topics of contemporary halakhah, essay, prayers, and Torah commentaries, many of which can be viewed online. Rabbi Nevins has been elected as Senior Rabbi of the New North London Synagogue, a flagship congregation of the Masorti Movement in the United Kingdom, starting in July, 2026.

The lecture series is in memory of Lucy S. Dawidowicz, z"l, noted author and early member of Or Zarua.



SHABBAT SHIRAH WITH JEREMIAH LOCKWOOD

THE SOUNDS AND SPIRIT OF CHAZANUT

Saturday, January 31, with Kiddush Luncheon

Tot Shabbat will meet at 11:15 am

Havdalah & Concert following Shabbat at 6:30 pm



Musician, scholar and record producer Jeremiah Lockwood will present a unique Shabbat morning experience by leading Mussaf, presenting a lecture in song after Kiddush and giving a concert after Havdalah.

9:00 am Shabbat Services begin

Jeremiah Lockwood will give a sermon about Jewish cantorial music and the great age of hazanut. He will then lead Mussaf in a cantorial style inspired by his grandfather, Cantor Jacob Konigsberg, z"l, and by cantors of the "Golden Age" of the early 20th century.

Visit khazonesunderground.bandcamp.com/track/adon-olam for a recording of Adon Olam from The Dream Past, Jeremiah's new album. Members of the community are encouraged to learn the melody to sing along with Jeremiah at the conclusion of the Shabbat morning service!

After lunch join us for communal singing and a workshop highlighting the glorious history of the emotive cantorial tradition. The talk will offer special attention to the legacy of the khazntes, pioneering women performers of cantorial music in America in the early 20th century, who are one subject of Jeremiah's current research and book project.

A fleishig lunch will be served. Please let us know by Jan. 27 if you're coming. See link below.

6:30 pm Havdalah & Concert

After Havdalah together at 6:30 pm with finger food, listen to a concert in Jeremiah Lockwood's unique style as a finger-picking blues guitarist. He has reconfigured cantorial standards and Yiddish folk songs in a style all his own.

Watch Lockwood in a solo acoustic concert: tinyurl.com/LockwoodConcert.

To learn more about Jeremiah Lockwood, visit jeremiahlockwood.com.

Luncheon is sponsored by Laurie Dien and Alan Yaillen in loving memory of their parents, Marilyn Dien, z"l, and Earl and Janet Yaillen, z"l, and in commemoration of the first yahrzeit of their dear brother and brother-in-law Bruce Yaillen, z"l.

The concert is sponsored by Laura Fisher and Family in memory of Rosalie Fisher, z"l, and Andrea Fisher, z"l.

**SIGN UP FOR KIDDUSH [ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/
FORM/SHABBATSHIRAHKIDDUSH.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/shabbatshirahkiddush.html)**

FAMILY TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

FAMILIES WITH KIDS OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

Monday, February 2, 5:00 pm

All families (Pre-School, Hebrew School, Jewish Day School, Public School, Private School... kids of all ages and families!) are invited to celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees, together.

We will have an adjusted Hebrew School schedule and begin the program in the Social Hall at 5:00 pm.

Parents, grandparents, siblings and friends are all welcome to participate. Passover isn't the only Jewish holiday with a seder!

NO CHARGE FOR MEMBERS, \$5 FOR NON-MEMBERS
SIGN UP AT [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/TU-BSHEVAT-SEDER](https://tinyurl.com/tu-bshevat-seder)




MAH JONGG OPEN PLAY NIGHTS!



All Members and Their Friends Are Welcome!

Tuesdays, Feb. 3 & 17, 6 pm to 9 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.



 **\$5 PER PERSON, PER NIGHT**
 **IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, PLEASE LET US
KNOW IN THE MAH JONGG WHATSAPP GROUP. TO
BE ADDED TO THE GROUP, EMAIL HELENE SANTO
AT HSANTO@ORZARUA.ORG.**

OZ SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 8

4:45 pm: Minhah, 5:45 pm: BBQ & Sushi Buffet opens, 6:30 pm: Kickoff



OZ Members, sign up by Feb. 2 at

tinyurl.com/oz-superbowl26.

Please register your guests through your Or Zarua account.

Super Bowl LX (60) will be played on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, home of the San Francisco 49ers. The game is scheduled to kick off around 6:30 pm.

Please make a generous contribution this year to our Super Bowl Tzedakah Fund so that we can support the efforts of two organization who are doing outstanding work providing hunger relief for Holocaust survivors and New Yorkers experiencing food insecurity: Masbia Soup Kitchen Network and the New York Common Pantry.

The party is free. Consider a \$100, \$180 or \$360 donation or becoming a quarterback at \$1,000 (or more). Quarterbacks of the party will be listed and may join the Adler family who is remembering and honoring Shelly's parents z"l by remembering or honoring someone of their own. When you contribute write "Super Bowl" in the note, and if you're a Quarterback level please include the dedication you wish to add.

Sponsored by Shelly Adler in memory of his parents, Belle and Murray Adler, z"l.

"Quarterbacks" with kick-off donations:

Barry and Bobbi Collier in honor of Shelly Adler

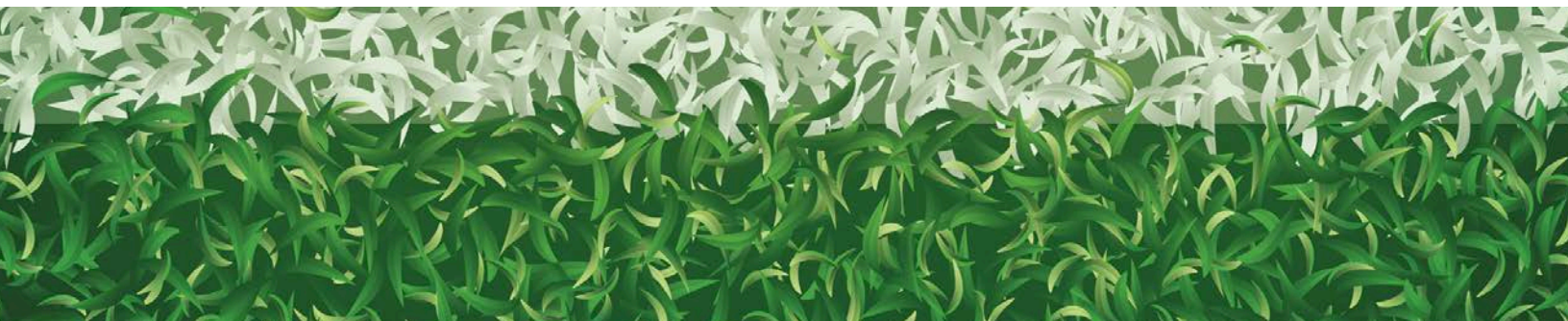
Laurie Dien and Alan Yaillen in honor of Or Zarua

Jennifer Gordon in memory of Bernard Gordon, z"l

Esther Krell in memory of her mother, Lillian Krell, z"l

Phyllis and Gerry Solomon in memory of Marcel Adler, z"l

Charlie Spielholz in honor of Shelly Adler and Gerry Solomon for leading the Minyan Committee



ISRAEL PROGRAM: LOSING IS NOT AN OPTION— A STORY OF GRIT AND RENEWAL

Thursday, February 12, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Losing Is Not an Option is an invitation-only fireside chat with O.R.

It traces a rare arc—answering the call to active duty on October 7, leaving his family to serve for 547 days, and returning to confront the harder task of rebuilding. The evening will look forward as much as it looks back: the quiet work of restoring Northern Israel after prolonged evacuation as CEO of the AgriFood Tech Northern Partnership and supporting veterans via the Battle Diamonds Forum (Yahalomey Krav).

The event and reception are sponsored by the Segal family.



**RSVP AT
[EVENTBRITE.COM/E/LOSING-IS-NOT-AN-OPTION-
TICKETS-1979663622185?AFF=ODDTDCREATOR](https://eventbrite.com/e/losing-is-not-an-option-tickets-1979663622185?aff=oddtcreator)**

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SHABBAT DINNER

JOIN US FOR SHABBAT DINNER & GAME NIGHT

Friday, February 20, services at 6:00 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm

Bring your own game or just bring yourself and a friend!
We will be playing games all night after Shabbat Services,
a happy hour, and a delicious kosher meal with an open bar.



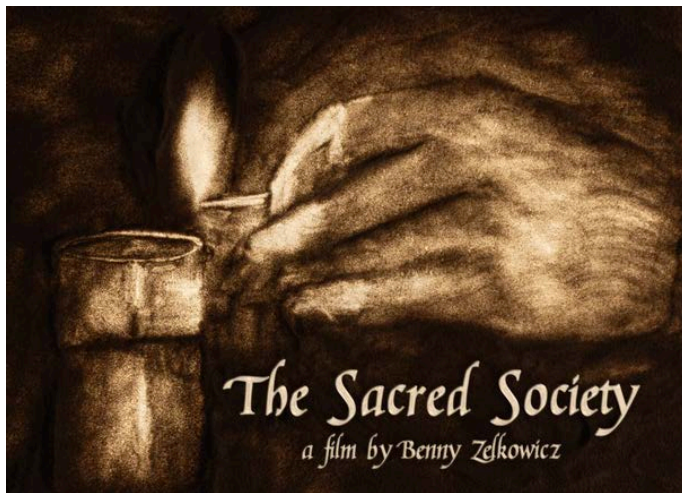
SIGN UP BY FEB. 2 FOR EARLY BIRD RATES
\$18 FOR MEMBERS (\$24 FULL PRICE)
\$25 FOR NON MEMBERS (\$29 FULL PRICE)
[ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/yp-feb-dinner.html)
[YP-FEB-DINNER.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/yp-feb-dinner.html)

**PLUS, DON'T MISS
TORAH ON TAP
WITH
RABBI BOLTON
TUESDAYS
8:30 PM
FEBRUARY 10
MARCH 10**



ZAYIN ADAR DINNER AND SCREENING OF "THE SACRED SOCIETY"

Monday, February 23, 6:00 pm



In honor of Zayin Adar, Or Zarua will be having a dinner, followed by a screening of "The Sacred Society", a haunting, sand-animated documentary about Chevra Kadisha. Through intimate storytelling and ritual, the film explores why people choose this sacred work and how it shapes their understanding of care, dignity, and community at the end of life.

The screening is being organized by Kavod v'Nichum, an organization dedicated to empowering, educating, and training Chevra Kadisha. We will join a live conversation between Kavod v'Nichum and filmmaker Benny Zelkowitz (over Zoom) following the screening with time for audience Q&A.

The dinner is sponsored by Gerry and Phyllis Solomon, in memory of their parents.

The program is sponsored by Ben and Ilona Charkow.

Donations to the Or Zarua Hevra Kadisha are strongly encouraged.

**NO CHARGE FOR MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS \$36.
REGISTER AND DONATE AT
[ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/ZAYINADAR](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/zayinadar)**

MEGILLAT ESTHER AS POLITICAL DRAMA: IS THE DIASPORA GOOD OR BAD FOR THE JEWS?

PURIM LECTURE BY MARC ASHLEY

February 25 at 7:00 pm (Zoom only, see eblast for link)



The frivolity of Purim masks its menacing context. Megillat Esther, which we may read lightheartedly, describes an embattled Jewish community at risk of extermination. Yet the Megillah also insightfully and provocatively encapsulates a fierce ancient debate – with obvious contemporary resonance – about the status, identity and future of Jews in the Diaspora, far from their ancestral

homeland. It is a thoroughly Diaspora-centric story, set within the milieu of the mighty Persian empire, with little regard for conventional Jewish themes, practices and beliefs – including, stunningly, not a single reference to God. It centrally frames a pivotal question with increasing relevance and urgency for disquieted Jews in today's unsettling world: Are we better off living in the Diaspora or Israel? Depending on one's perspective, Megillat Esther's answer may be comforting, confounding or chilling. The issues it raises are certainly timely and consequential.

PLEASE JOIN CONGREGANT MARC ASHLEY FOR AN INTRIGUING DISCUSSION OF AN OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD AND UNDERAPPRECIATED CLASSIC JEWISH TEXT.

FAMILY PURIM PARTY

**FACE PAINTING! MAKE YOUR OWN HAMANTASCHEN!
COSTUME SHOW!**

Sunday, March 1, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

A fun-filled Purim celebration for kids of all ages! Enjoy face painting, hands-on hamantaschen making, and a festive costume show. Bring your best costume and your Purim spirit—fun for the whole family!



**NO CHARGE FOR MEMBERS, \$5 FOR NON-MEMBERS
SIGN UP AT [TINYURL.COM/FAMILY-PURIM-PARTY](https://tinyurl.com/family-purim-party)**

CELEBRATE PURIM AT OR ZARUA

JOIN US FOR CELEBRATIONS IN THE EVENING AND MORNING!

Monday, March 2 - Tuesday, March 3



Monday, March 2, 6:15 pm

Shushan Sushi to break your fast, Evening services, Megillah reading and the annual OZ Purim Spiel!



Tuesday, March 3, 7:15 am

Morning services, Megillah reading and Purim Banquet Breakfast!

FEBRUARY 2026/5786 CALENDAR

16

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 · 14 Shevat 8:45a Minyan	2 · 15 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p Family Tu B'Shevat Seder 6:00p Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	3 · 16 Shevat 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 10:00a Stroller Squad 6:00p Open Mah Jongg	4 · 17 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	5 · 18 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	6 · 19 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 5:01p Shabbat Services 5:01p Candle Lighting	7 · 20 Shevat Parashat Yitro 9:00a Services Bar Mitzvah of Franklin Zaiantz 6:03p Havdalah
8 · 21 Shevat 8:45a Minyan 4:45p Super Bowl Party	9 · 22 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 5:00p MS Class with Rabbi Bolton 6:00p Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	10 · 23 Shevat 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 10:00a Stroller Squad 8:30p Torah on Tap at Craft & Carry	11 · 24 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	12 · 25 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class 6:30p Israel Program	13 · 26 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 5:10p Shabbat Services 5:10p Candle Lighting	14 · 27 Shevat Parashat Mishpatim Shabbat Shekalim 9:00a Services 6:11p Havdalah
15 · 28 Shevat 8:45a Minyan	16 · 29 Shevat Presidents Day 8:45a Minyan <i>No Shalom Toddler</i> <i>No Community Torah Study</i> <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i> Office Closed	17 · 30 Shevat Rosh Hodesh 7:00a Minyan (Zoom) <i>No Stroller Squad</i> 6:00p Open Mah Jongg	18 · 1 Adar Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Minyan <i>No Shalom Toddler</i> <i>No Hebrew School</i> <i>No Talmud Class</i>	19 · 2 Adar 7:15a Minyan <i>No Siddur & Prayer Class</i>	20 · 3 Adar 7:15a Minyan <i>No Kiddie Cafe</i> 6:00p Shabbat Services 5:18p Candle Lighting YP Shabbat Dinner and Game Night after services	21 · 4 Adar Parashat Terumah 9:00a Services 6:20p Havdalah
22 · 5 Adar 8:45a Minyan	23 · 6 Adar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p Zayin Adar Dinner <i>No Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i>	24 · 7 Adar 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 10:00a Stroller Squad	25 · 8 Adar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Marc Ashley Lecture <i>No Talmud Class</i>	26 · 9 Adar 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class 6:00p HS Class with Rabbi Bolton	27 · 10 Adar 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 5:26p Shabbat Services 5:26p Candle Lighting	28 · 11 Adar Parashat Tetzaveh Shabbat Zachor 9:00a Services 11:15a Tot Shabbat 6:28p Havdalah

Upcoming March Events

March 2 & 3: Purim

March 7: Civic Shabbat with Charlie Savenor

March 10: Torah on Tap

March 13: Family Shabbat Dinner

March 18: Visual Midrash: *P'shat Plot & Allegory in Two Megillot* Lecture by Benjamin Marcus