

SPOTLIGHT

JANUARY 2026/5786

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

KIDDIE CAFE

Friday mornings, 9:00 am, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30

SHALOM TODDLER

Monday and Wednesday mornings, 9:30 am
Mondays, Jan. 5, 12, 26, Wednesdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28

CHABURAH WITH JOSHUA MORIARTY

Saturday, January 10, following Kiddush

STROLLER SQUAD

Tuesday mornings, 10:00 am, starting January 13

OPEN MAH JONGG

Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 13, 27 & Feb. 3, 17, 7:00 pm

CLASSES WITH RABBI BOLTON

See page 2 for January dates

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUSHI & STUDY WITH RABBI BOLTON

Monday, January 12, 5:00 pm

TORAH ON TAP

Tuesday, January 20, 8:30 pm

HIGH SCHOOL GRILL & JEWISH GREATS WITH RABBI BOLTON

Thursday, January 29, 6:00 pm

BOOK DISCUSSION

Sunday, January 25, 10:00 am

ANNUAL LUCY DAWIDOWICZ LECTURE WITH CELEBRATION TO FOLLOW

Monday, January 26, 7:30 pm

SHABBAT SHIRAH AND KIDDUSH IN THE ROUND

Saturday, January 31

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 8

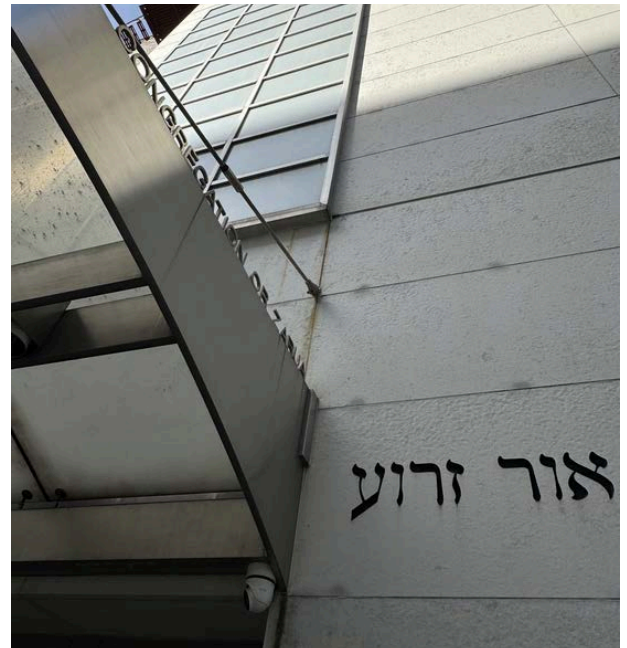
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ANNUAL LUCY DAWIDOWICZ LECTURE WITH CELEBRATION TO FOLLOW COMPLETING OZ'S 36TH BIRTHDAY YEAR OF CELEBRATION

Monday, January 26, 7:30 pm

SHABBAT SHIRAH AND KIDDUSH IN THE ROUND WITH JEREMIAH LOCKWOOD

Saturday, January 31



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. **Jan. 5, 12, 26**

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. **Jan. 5, 12**

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, **Jan. 14, 21, 28**

SIDDUR AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE, THURSDAYS, 8:45 AM

Explore 20th-century philosophers and liturgies important to those Jewish thinkers. **Jan. 8, 15, 29**



PRAY WITH US

SEE THE CALENDAR ON PAGES 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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DEBORAH WENGER, ASSISTANT TO RABBI BOLTON

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ANNIE SIGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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>>> ORZARUA.ORG

KIDDIE CAFE

Friday mornings, 9:00 am

Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30

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

[HISAWYER.COM/MARKETPLACE/ACTIVITY-SET/1622713](https://www.hisawyer.com/marketplace/activity-set/1622713)

SHALOM TODDLER

Monday and Wednesday mornings, 9:30 am

Recommended for toddlers 1 to 3 years old

Mondays: Jan 5, 12, 26

Wednesdays: Jan 7, 14, 21, 28

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

[HISAWYER.COM/MARKETPLACE/ACTIVITY-SET/1676818](https://www.hisawyer.com/marketplace/activity-set/1676818)

STROLLER SQUAD

ARE YOU A MOM LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY?

Tuesday mornings, 10:00 am, starting January 13

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.

**Moms need a little kibbutz to raise a child.
Let's build one.**

**CONTACT ELYSE AT ELYSE@ORZARUA.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.**



MAH JONGG OPEN PLAY NIGHTS!

Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 13, 27 & Feb. 3, 17, 6:00-9:00 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**

CHABURAH WITH JOSHUA MORIARTY

THE DISPUTATION THAT WASN'T: MOSES MENDELSSOHN'S DEFENSE OF JUDAISM IN THE GERMAN ENLIGHTENMENT

January 10, following kiddush



Josh Moriarty our member and Harvard U PhD student will present a lecture and discussion regarding Moses Mendelssohn's response to a Swiss theologian's request that he convert to Christianity or engage in a disputation.

Moses Mendelssohn (1729-1786) was a singular figure in eighteenth century Germany. At a time when Jews were largely excluded from universities, he was a mostly self-taught prodigy who became one of the most prominent philosophers of the German Enlightenment. For many, he was the only visible Jew in “enlightened” intellectual circles. Because of this unique position, he was often held up as an example by defenders of religious toleration—living proof that Jews, too, were capable of wisdom and virtue. But he also posed a problem for many Germans: they

assumed that the “enlightenment” of Jews would inevitably lead to their conversion to Christianity, yet the unquestionably “enlightened” Mendelssohn didn’t convert.

In 1769, a pastor publicly challenged Mendelssohn to either refute Christianity philosophically or convert to it. This class will focus on Mendelssohn's response, a refusal to engage in the proposed disputation. Through a close reading of Mendelssohn’s brilliant letter, we will learn about the position of Jews and Judaism in the German Enlightenment; the connections between philosophy, religion, and politics in this period; and how to read authors who wrote in contexts of persecution and censorship.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES WITH RABBI BOLTON

Middle School class meets on Monday, January 12, 5:00 pm

High School class meets on Thursday, January 29, 6:00 pm

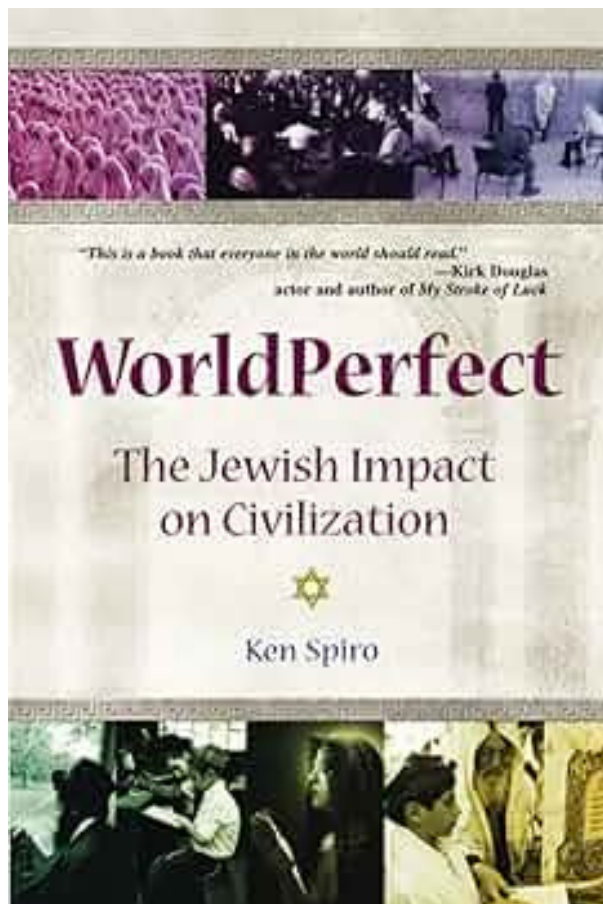
MIDDLE SCHOOL SUSHI & STUDY

A little parsha and focus on Jewish current events.

A time to connect youth with Rabbi Bolton and socialize with each other.

HIGH SCHOOL GRILL & JEWISH GREATS

Dinner from Grill Point and parsha study. Plus a look at great Jews over the ages who helped build our people and advance our world.



BOOK DISCUSSION

***SONGS FOR THE BROKEN HEARTED* BY AYELET TSABARI**

Sunday, January 25, 10:00 am

In person and by Zoom

Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/OZ-Book-Discussion>

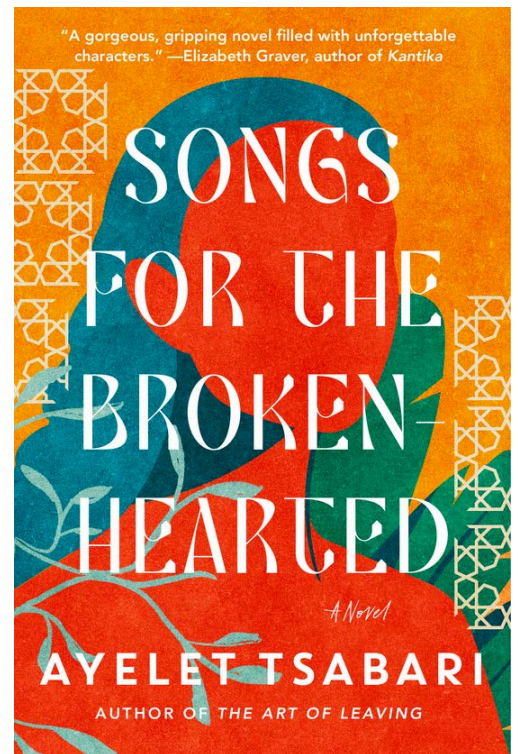
A young Yemeni Israeli woman learns of her mother's secret romance in a dramatic journey through lost family stories, revealing the unbreakable bond between a mother and a daughter—the debut novel of an award-winning literary voice.

"A gorgeous, gripping novel filled with unforgettable characters."

—Elizabeth Graver, author of *Kantika*

WINNER OF THE NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD'S JJ GREENBERG MEMORIAL AWARD

1950. Thousands of Yemeni Jews have immigrated to the newly founded Israel in search of a better life. In an overcrowded immigrant camp in Rosh Ha'ayin, Yaqub, a shy young man, happens upon Saida, a beautiful girl singing by the river. In the midst of chaos and uncertainty, they fall in love. But they weren't supposed to; Saida is married and has a child, and a married woman has no place befriending another man.



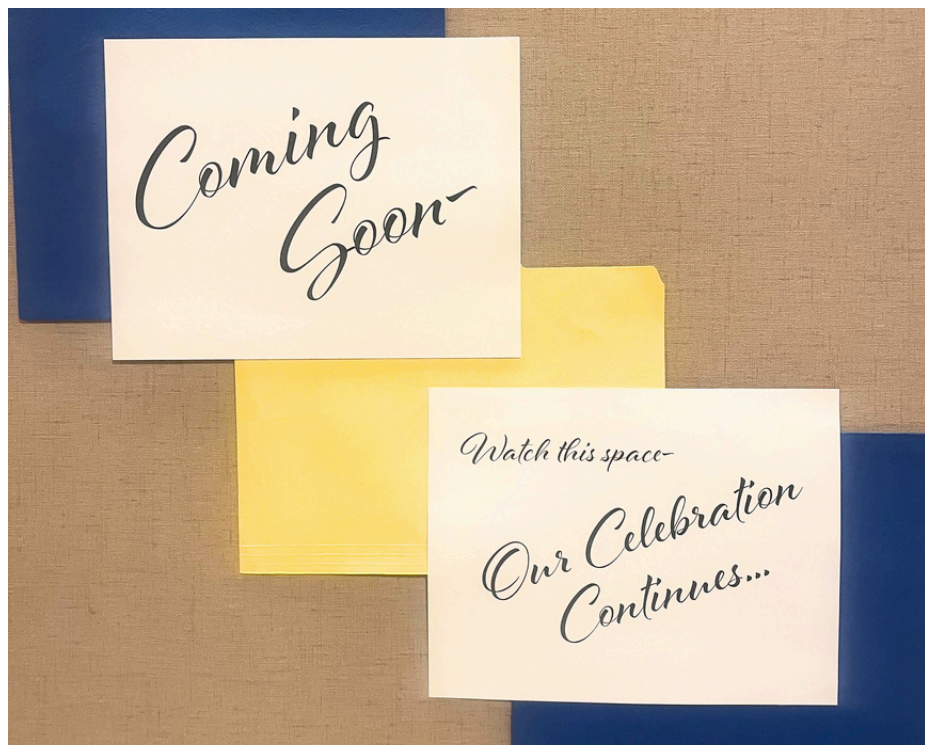
COMPLETING OZ'S 36TH BIRTHDAY YEAR OF CELEBRATION AFTER THE LUCY LECTURE

Monday, January 26, 7:30 pm

The Annual Lucy S. Dawidowicz lecture celebrating Congregation Or Zarua's birthday is held each year at the end of January or beginning of February. The lecture series is named in memory of Lucy S. Dawidowicz, noted author and early member of Or Zarua. She was perhaps the preeminent historian of the Holocaust.

After this year's lecture with Rabbi Daniel Nevins, we will complete our celebration of our 36th anniversary by unveiling a new display in the OZ Gallery charting the history of Or Zarua.

**JOIN US TO SHARE MEMORIES OF OUR JOURNEY, BIRTHDAY CAKE,
AND A CHAMPAGNE TOAST.
L'CHAIM!**



ANNUAL LUCY DAWIDOWICZ LECTURE

WITH RABBI DANIEL NEVINS

DON'T DELEGATE YOUR SOUL:

PRESERVING HUMAN AUTONOMY IN THE AI ERA

Monday, January 26, 7:30 pm



Rabbi Danny 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, essays, prayers, and Torah commentaries, many of which can be viewed on this web site.



SHABBAT SHIRAH WITH KIDDUSH IN THE ROUND

THE SOUNDS AND SPIRIT OF CHAZANUT

SHABBAT SHIRAH AT OR ZARUA WITH JEREMIAH LOCKWOOD

Saturday, January 31, Tot Shabbat will meet at 11:15 am

Luncheon is sponsored by Alan and Laurie Dien 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).



Join us for a dynamic, musical Shabbat Shirah.

Musician, scholar and record producer Jeremiah Lockwood will present a unique Shabbat morning experience at Congregation Or Zarua to celebrate Shabbat Shirah, infused with music, memory and celebratory fantasies about the future of Jewish musical heritage.

Jeremiah Lockwood is a scholar and musician, working in the fields of Jewish studies, performance studies and ethnomusicology. His work engages with issues arising from peering into the archive and imagining the power of "lost" forms of expression to articulate keenly felt needs in the present. Both his music performance and scholarship gravitate towards the Jewish liturgical music and Yiddish expressive culture of the early 20th century and the reverberations of this cultural moment in present day artistic and religious communities. Jeremiah's research considers the work of cantors as arbiters of social, intellectual and aesthetic change in times of crisis and cultural transformation

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
[JEREMIAHLOCKWOOD.COM/
KHAZONESUNDERGROUND.COM/](https://jeremiahlockwood.com/khazonesunderground.com/)**

OZ SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 8

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



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 note that this event is for Or Zarua Members and their Guests. If you are interested in becoming a member of Congregation Or Zarua, please contact Helene Santo at hsanto@orzarua.org.

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

We will be sending what we hope will be large donations, through our community's generosity, to Masbia Soup Kitchen Network and the New York Common Pantry.

Please give generously by going to your Shul Cloud account. 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 make a contribution to this great cause write " Superbowl" in the note, and if you're a quarterback level of donation or more than \$1,000 please include the dedication you wish to add.

**OZ MEMBERS, SIGN UP BY FEB. 2 AT
[TINYURL.COM/OZ-SUPERBOWL26](https://tinyurl.com/oz-superbowl26).
PLEASE REGISTER YOUR GUESTS
THROUGH YOUR OR ZARUA ACCOUNT.**

OZ THANKS THESE BUSINESSES

FOR SUPPORTING OUR 36TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION

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Order discount 10% off entire order, No minimum purchase requirement, No usage limits
Can't combine with other discounts, Active until 31 Dec 2025

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SOUL BY TAPI TAPAN (JEWELRY) SOULBYTAPTITAPAN.COM

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VILLAGE CROWN (CATERERS) VILLAGECROWN.COM/

**WEITZMAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY
MUSEUM STORE SHOP** SHOPTHEWEITZMAN.ORG/

WERNICK OPTOMETRY 943 LEXINGTON AVE WERNICKOPTOMETRY.COM/

OR ZARUA'S 36TH BIRTHDAY PARTY - THANK YOU!

Thank you to our co-chairs of the birthday party, Pamela Gold, Betsy Dizengoff and Laurie Dien, and their extraordinary work to make our 36th birthday party at the Jewish Museum such a success!!

Thank you to our subcommittee, led by Aliza Yaillen with assistance from Rhonda Sherwin and Amy Saks.

We are grateful for everyone who was at the party and for those who have contributed to the 36th Anniversary Campaign.

To watch our 36th Birthday Wishes video visit
tinyurl.com/36thbirthdayvideo.

To browse the journal, visit
tinyurl.com/OZVirtualJournal36.

TORAH ON TAP

A SOCIAL NIGHT OUT WITH A SHORT STUDY

Tuesday, January 20, 8:30 pm at Craft & Carry, 1630 2nd Ave.

"Is Genesis the Greatest Book of the Torah?"

We'll debate the question and hear scholars' reflections in a short study between rounds

Join Rabbi Bolton and friends at Craft & Carry on 2nd between 84th & 85th. We'll meet in the back; patrons are asked to open their own tabs; a two drink minimum is requested by the house. There's non-alcoholic root beer available, alcoholic ciders and beer from local and global breweries.



JANUARY 2026/5786 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 · 12 Tevet New Year's Day 8:45a Minyan <i>No Siddur & Prayer Class</i> Office Closed	2 · 13 Tevet 7:15a Minyan 4:21p Shabbat Services 4:21p Candle Lighting <i>No Kiddie Cafe</i>	3 · 14 Tevet Parashat Vayehi 9:00a Services 5:23p Havdalah
4 · 15 Tevet 8:45a Minyan	5 · 16 Tevet 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 6:00p Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	6 · 17 Tevet 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 7:00p Open Mah Jongg	7 · 18 Tevet 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School <i>No Talmud Class</i>	8 · 19 Tevet 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	9 · 20 Tevet 7:15a Minyan 9:00a Kiddie Cafe 4:28p Shabbat Services 4:28p Candle Lighting	10 · 21 Tevet Parashat Shemot 9:00a Services Chaburah w/ Josh Moriarty 5:30p Havdalah
11 · 22 Tevet 8:45a Minyan	12 · 23 Tevet 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	13 · 24 Tevet 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 10:00a Stroller Squad 7:00p Open Mah Jongg	14 · 25 Tevet 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	15 · 26 Tevet 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	16 · 27 Tevet 7:15a Minyan 9:00a Kiddie Cafe 4:36p Shabbat Services 4:36p Candle Lighting	17 · 28 Tevet Parashat Vaera 9:00a Services 5:37p Havdalah
18 · 29 Tevet 8:45a Minyan	19 · 1 Shevat Rosh Hodesh 7:15a 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	20 · 2 Shevat 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 10:00a Stroller Squad 8:30p Torah on Tap at Craft & Carry	21 · 3 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	22 · 4 Shevat 7:15a Minyan <i>No Siddur & Prayer Class</i>	23 · 5 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 9:00a Kiddie Cafe 4:44p Shabbat Services 4:44p Candle Lighting	24 · 6 Shevat Parashat Bo 9:00a Services 5:46p Havdalah
25 · 7 Shevat 8:45a Minyan 10:00a OZ Book Discussion	26 · 8 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Hebrew School 7:30p Annual Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture <i>No Learning Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i>	27 · 9 Shevat 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 10:00a Stroller Squad 7:00p Open Mah Jongg	28 · 10 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	29 · 11 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class 6:00p HS Class with Rabbi Bolton	30 · 12 Shevat 7:15a Minyan 9:00a Kiddie Cafe 4:52p Shabbat Services 4:52p Candle Lighting	31 · 13 Shevat Parashat Bo Shabbat Shirah-Sounds & Spirit of Chazanut Shabbat with Jeremiah Lockwood 9:00a Services 11:15a Tot Shabbat Kiddush in the Round 5:54p Havdalah