

SPOTLIGHT

MARCH 2026/5786

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

FAMILY PURIM PARTY

Sunday, March 1, 3:00 pm

CELEBRATE PURIM WITH OR ZARUA

Monday, March 2 - Tuesday, March 3

OR ZARUA PURIM SPIEL

Monday, March 2, following Megillah reading

CIVICS SHABBAT WITH CHARLIE SAVENOR

Saturday, March 7

GALLERY TALK WITH BARBARA WOLFF

Sunday, March 8, 6:00 pm

TORAH ON TAP

Tuesday, March 10, 8:30 pm

LECTURE BY RABBI WECHSLER

Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 pm

FAMILY SHABBAT PROGRAM

Friday, March 13, 5:00 pm

LECTURE BY BENJAMIN MARCUS

Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 pm

MAH JONGG OPEN PLAY

Tuesdays, March 17, 24, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

KIDDUSH IN THE ROUND WITH TOT SHABBAT

Saturday, March 21

BOOK DISCUSSION

Sunday, March 22, 7:00 pm

BOOK TALK: HOLOCAUST MEMOIR

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 pm

CELEBRATE PESAH WITH OR ZARUA

Pesah begins Wednesday, April 1

COMMUNITY SEDER - SECOND NIGHT OF PASSOVER

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PURIM AT OR ZARUA

FEATURING THE OZ PURIM SPIEL!

Monday, March 2 - Tuesday, March 3

LEARNING AT OZ

Civics Shabbat, page 5

Lecture by Benjamin Marcus, page 9

Book Discussion, page 12

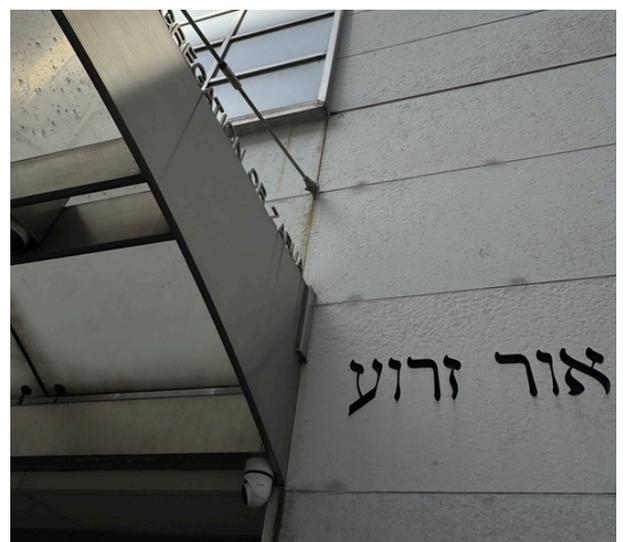
Chaburah with Rabbi Bolton, page 16

CELEBRATE PESAH WITH OR ZARUA

Pesah begins Wednesday, April 1

OZ Community Seder, Thursday, April 2

Pages 14 - 16



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

Come for special learning opportunities on the following Wednesday nights instead of Talmud:

Rabbi Wechsler: March 11, pg. 6; Benjamin Marcus: March 18, pg. 9; Charlie Scheidt: March 25, pg. 13

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 18 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

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ANNIE SIGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

asigal@orzarua.org, 212-452-2310 x10

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!

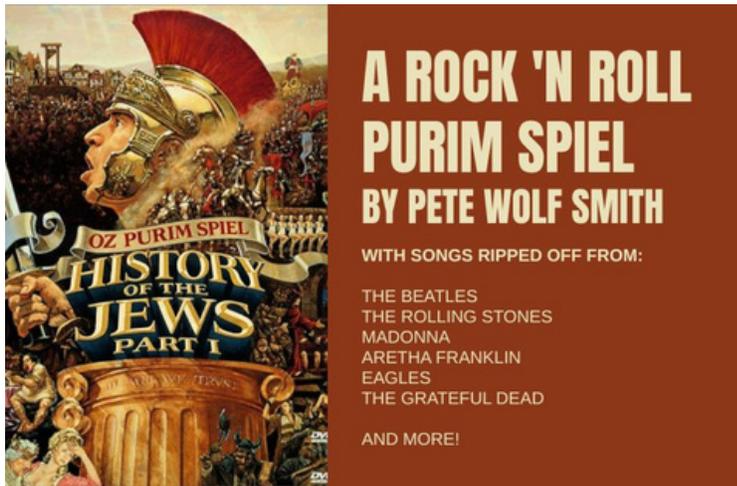


**NO CHARGE FOR MEMBERS, \$5 FOR NON-MEMBERS
SIGN UP AT [TINYURL.COM/FAMILY-PURIM-PARTY](https://tinyurl.com/family-purim-party)**

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!

CIVICS SHABBAT WITH RABBI CHARLIE SAVENOR

Sermon and Post-Kiddush Chaburah

Sermon: From Sinai to the Public Square: Covenant as Civic Commitment

Post-Kiddush Chaburah: Restoring Faith in Democracy Through Civic Spirit

Saturday, March 7



Judaism and other faiths elevate the transmission of tradition from one generation to another. With political polarization challenging American society, we will learn how civic education prepares the next generation to participate in democracy and its vital role in rebuilding trust in the system and in each other.



Rabbi Charles E. Savenor is the Executive Director of Civic Spirit. Founded in 2017, Civic Spirit provides training in civic education to Jewish, Catholic, and Christian day schools to prepare students to be informed and engaged members of American democracy. Before Civic Spirit, he worked as the Director of Congregational Education at Park Avenue Synagogue in New York.

GALLERY TALK WITH BARBARA WOLFF

A TENT FOR THE SUN
HEBREW POETRY OF MUSLIM SPAIN (950—1140)

Sunday, March 8, 6:00 pm



This manuscript of a shared cultural richness and innovation reflecting the legacy of Convivencia, the cultural interaction between Muslims, Jews and Christians in 10th and 11th century Iberia.

LECTURE BY RABBI WECHSLER

ON THE PERPLEXING POETRY OF ISAIAH

Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 pm



On February 23, 2026, President Isaac Hertzog presided over the international opening of the Great Isaiah Scroll at the Israel Museum. Celebrating the Museum's 60th Anniversary, the Isaiah Scroll is the oldest Biblical manuscript in existence, dating from approximately 125 BCE.

Rabbi Wechsler will focus on Chapter 6 of Isaiah, showing the complex poetry of the prophet and illustrating how Isaiah's poetry has been interpreted and misinterpreted, sometimes with disastrous consequences for the Jews and other times as a source of comfort and strength.

TORAH ON TAP @ CRAFT & CARRY

A SOCIAL NIGHT OUT WITH A SHORT STUDY

Tuesday, March 10, 8:30 pm

Cheers! Raise a glass with us. Between trips to the well for great microbrew beer at Craft + Carry (open your own tab), we'll spend 20 minutes with Rabbi Scott Bolton for Talmud and Torah study on this month's theme:

“Shouldn't Pesah Come Before Purim in the Jewish Calendar Year?”

Nice way to make a Tuesday night holy, social, and fun.



FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, March 13, 5:00 pm

Get ready to bring a little summer camp magic into the winter! Join us for a joyful Family Shabbat Dinner that will feel just like Shabbat at camp—songs, community, and plenty of food!

Families are invited to come early, sing loudly, and settle in for a relaxed, ruach-filled evening together.

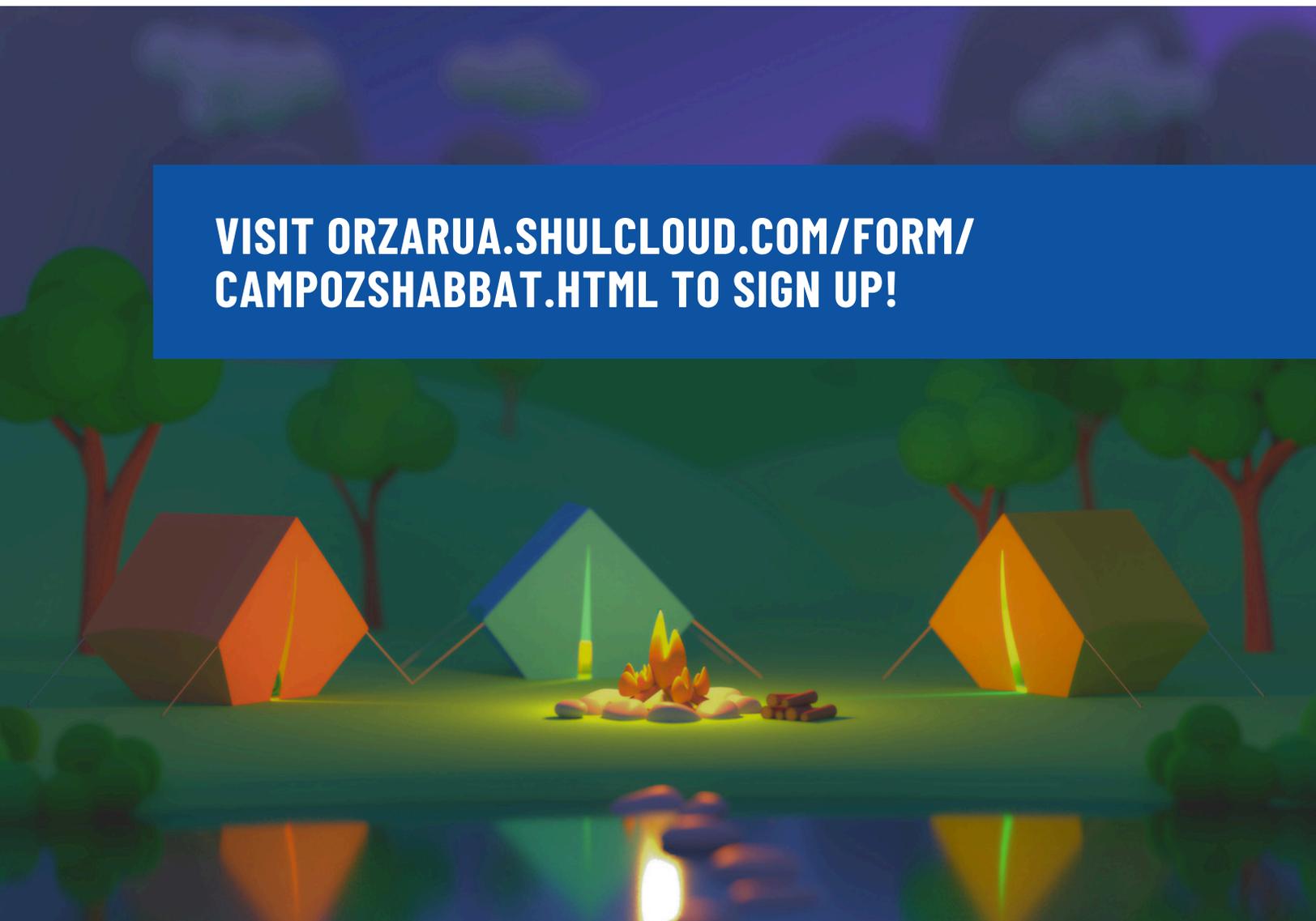
5:00 pm: Families arrive for a Shabbat celebration, camp-style songs led by Paige Borden

5:45 pm: Kiddush and camp-style dinner

6:45 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv in the Sanctuary

8:00 pm: Dessert and community Oneg

VISIT [ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/CAMPOZSHABBAT.HTML](https://www.orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/campoZshabbat.html) TO SIGN UP!



VISUAL MIDRASH: PSHAT, PLOT & ALLEGORY IN TWO MEGILLOT

Lecture by Benjamin Marcus

Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 pm

On Purim we read Megillat Esther. And on Passover - always 30 days later - we read Song of Songs. Both holidays mark crucial events of our redemption by G-d from imminent genocidal annihilation by the rulers of our exilic host nations. But the stories we read could not be more different in tenor from the events we make it a duty to remember, and they could not be more different from each other in their narrative structures.



Illustrated megillot that fellow congregant Benjamin Marcus has produced as he presents his own visual interpretations in a short talk about the work.

MAH JONGG OPEN PLAY NIGHTS!

All Members and Their Friends Are Welcome!

Tuesdays, March 17 & 24, 6:00 pm to 9:00 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.



\$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](mailto:HSANTO@ORZARUA.ORG).



Want to learn to play Canasta?

We are putting together a series of 4 classes to take place over the summer.

The cost will be \$180 for the series.

If you are interested, please let Ronni Myers or Helene Santo know.

KIDDUSH IN THE ROUND

**JOIN US FOR SHABBAT SERVICES, FOLLOWED BY
A SIT-DOWN KIDDUSH LUNCHEON.**

Saturday, March 21, 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.

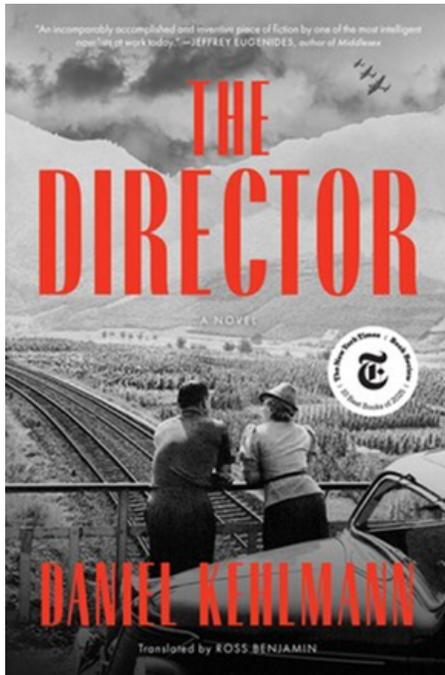


**SIGN UP AT [ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/
FORM/MARCHKIDDUSH.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/marchkiddush.html)
BY TUESDAY, MARCH 17.**

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Director by David Kehlmann

Sunday, March 22, 7:00 pm



This book explores the life of film director G.W. Pabst, navigating themes of art, morality and the complexities of power during the rise of the Nazi regime.

Discussion led by:

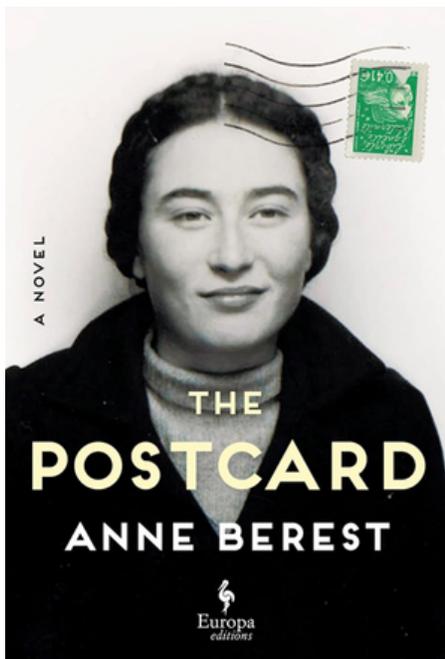
Esther Krell and Ronni Myers

To join on Zoom, visit
tinyurl.com/BookDiscussionOZ

Start reading our next book:

The Postcard by Anne Berest

Sunday, May 17, 7:00 pm



This book is an enthralling investigation into family secrets, a poignant tale of a mother and daughter, the story of a family devastated by the Holocaust and partly restored through the power of storytelling, and a vivid portrait of twentieth-century Parisian intellectual and artistic life.

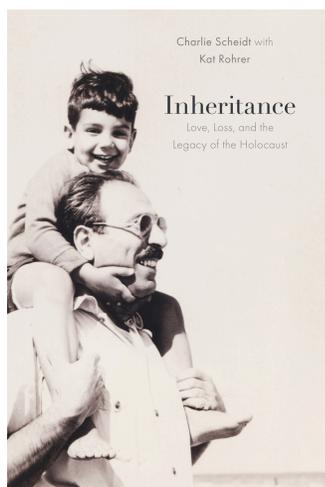
Discussion led by:

Ira Glauber and Andrew Danzig

BOOK TALK: ECHOES ACROSS GENERATIONS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BOOK TALK FOR
INHERITANCE: LOVE, LOSS AND THE LEGACY OF THE HOLOCAUST

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 pm



The evening will include a talk with author and Or Zarua member Charlie Scheidt followed by a book signing and reception. Fellow member Owen Pell will interview and dialogue with him.

Inheritance is the story of two very different German Jewish families, uprooted by war, scattered across two continents, and reformed in America. It is the story of how a person sets about rebuilding a family history after an unspeakable trauma and ends up building community.

“Scheidt, with Rohrer, debuts with a powerful tribute to his family’s experiences during the Holocaust, born from the letters and documents he uncovered after his mother passed away.

My mother had bequeathed these stories to me, and the voices of the dead were waiting to be heard,’ he writes, revealing the lives of his Jewish family of German descent during the Second World War while spotlighting how their legacy was shaped by persecution and displacement. His unusual partnership with Rohrer, whose grandfather abandoned his family to join the Nazi Army, symbolizes the book’s profound exploration of complex familial, national, and political ties, made starkly real by the letters and records that bring ordinary people who lived through extraordinary terror to vivid life.”

Charlie Scheidt was born in New York City to parents who had escaped Nazi-occupied Europe. Growing up in a close knit, German-Jewish refugee community, Charlie witnessed firsthand the traumatic effects of persecution and exile. Following his father’s untimely death, Charlie stepped in to lead Roland Foods, the business his parents had founded, honoring their legacy and growing it into the leading imported specialty food company. After nearly five decades as CEO, Charlie retired and turned his focus to supporting universities and NGOs that advocate for refugee rights.

Books will also be available for sale at the event.

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

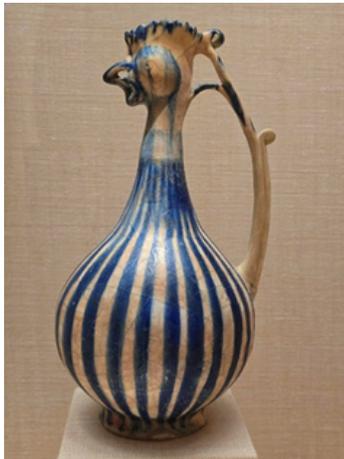
Seder in Luxembourg 1945

**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.



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS



SHALOM TODDLER

Monday and Wednesday mornings, 9:30 am
Come for Mondays and/or Wednesdays
Recommended for toddlers 1 to 3 years old

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

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
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.

MARCH 2026/5786 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 · 12 Adar 8:45a Minyan 3:00p Family Purim Party	2 · 13 Adar Fast of Esther Erev Purim 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler <i>No Community Torah Study</i> <i>No Heb School</i> <i>No Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i> 6:15p Purim Services, Megillah, Purim Spiel	3 · 14 Adar Purim 7:15a Services & Megillah Reading followed by Purim Banquet Breakfast 10:00a Stroller Squad	4 · 15 Adar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	5 · 16 Adar 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	6 · 17 Adar 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 5:34p Shabbat Services 5:34p Candle Lighting	7 · 18 Adar Shabbat Parah Ki Tisa 9:00a Services Civics Shabbat w/ Charlie Savenor 6:36p Havdalah
8 · 19 Adar DST begins 8:45a Minyan 6:00p OZ Gallery-Barbara Wolff "A Tent for the Sun"	9 · 20 Adar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Heb School 5:00p MS Class w/ Rabbi Bolton 6:00p Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	10 · 21 Adar 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 10:00a Stroller Squad 8:30p Torah on Tap at Craft & Carry	11 · 22 Adar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School <i>No Talmud Class</i> 7:00p Rabbi Wechsler Lecture	12 · 23 Adar 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	13 · 24 Adar 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 5:00p Family Shabbat Dinner 6:00p Shabbat Services 6:42p Candle Lighting	14 · 25 Adar Shabbat HaHodesh Vayakhel-Pekudei 9:00a Services 7:44p Havdalah
15 · 26 Adar 8:45a Minyan	16 · 27 Adar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Heb School 6:00p Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	17 · 28 Adar 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 10:00a Stroller Squad 6:00p Open Mah Jongg	18 · 29 Adar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School <i>No Talmud Class</i> 7:00p Visual Midrash w/ Benjamin Marcus	19 · 1 Nisan Rosh Hodesh 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	20 · 2 Nisan 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 6:00p Shabbat Services 6:49p Candle Lighting	21 · 3 Nisan Parashat Vaykira 9:00a Services 11:15a Tot Shabbat Kiddush in the Round 7:51p Havdalah
22 · 4 Nisan 8:45a Minyan 7:00p Book Discussion	23 · 5 Nisan 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Heb School 6:00p Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	24 · 6 Nisan 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 10:00a Stroller Squad 6:00p Open Mah Jongg	25 · 7 Nisan 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School <i>No Talmud Class</i> 7:00p Book Talk: Echoes Across Generations	26 · 8 Nisan 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class 5:00p HS Class w/ Rabbi Bolton	27 · 9 Nisan 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 6:00 Shabbat Services 6:57p Candle Lighting YP Shabbat Dinner after services	28 · 10 Nisan Shabbat HaGadol Tzav 9:00a Services 7:58p Havdalah
29 · 11 Nisan 8:45a Minyan	30 · 12 Nisan 7:15a Minyan 9:30a ShalomTodd 12:00p Community Torah Study 4:00p Heb School 6:00p Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	31 · 13 Nisan 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 10:00a Stroller Squad	Apr 1 · 14 Nisan Fast of Firstborn Erev Pesah 7:15a Minyan 10:00a Sale of Hametz Deadline 10:50a Finish Eating Hametz 11:55a Nulify Hametz 7:02p Candle Lighting <i>No Classes</i>	Apr. 2 · 15 Nisan Pesah Day 1 9:00a Pesah Services <i>No Siddur & Prayer Class</i> 7:00p Community Seder Candle Lighting after 8:04p	Apr. 3 · 16 Nisan Pesah Day 2 9:00a Pesah Services <i>No Kiddie Cafe</i> 6:15 Shabbat Services 7:04p Candle Lighting	Apr. 4 · 17 Nisan Shabbat Hol HaMoed 8:45a Shabbat & Pesah Services 1:00p Chaburah w/ Rabbi Bolton 8:06p Havdalah