

SPOTLIGHT

MAY 2026/5786

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING CLASS WITH MARC ASHLEY

Sunday, May 3, 10:00 am - FINAL SESSION!

YP SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, May 8, services 6:30 pm, dinner 7:15 pm

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE, RABBI DAVID HOFFMAN

Saturday, May 9

EXCLUSIVE BRIEFING ON ISRAEL

Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 pm

JERUSALEM-THEMED KIDDUSH

Saturday, May 16

TOT SHABBAT WITH PAIGE

Saturday, May 16, 11:15 am

BRUNCH HONORING HELENE SANTO

Sunday, May 17, 11:00 am

OZ BOOK DISCUSSION, "THE POSTCARD"

Sunday, May 17, 7:00 pm

OZ ANNUAL MEETING AND ROOFTOP PICNIC

Tuesday, May 19, Picnic 6:30 pm, Meeting 8:00 pm

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

Thursday, May 21, 7:30 pm

TORAH ON TAP

Tuesday, May 26, 8:00 pm

SHABBAT PIZZA PARTY FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

Friday, May 29, 5:00 pm

ISRAEL ON FIFTH PARADE

Sunday, May 31

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MARCH WITH US!

Sunday, May 31

Sign up to march with us in the Israel on Fifth Parade and reserve a shirt!

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SHAVUOT TIKKUN AND SERVICES

Thursday, May 21 - Saturday May 23

See page 13 for more details

MAH JONGG OPEN PLAY

Tuesdays, 7:00 pm

See page 6 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. **Last class May 11**

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. **Last class May 11**

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 **Last class June 17**

SIDDUR AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE, THURSDAYS, 8:45 AM

Explore 20th-century philosophers and liturgies important to those Jewish thinkers. **Last class May 21**



PRAY WITH US

SEE THE CALENDAR ON PAGE 17 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

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ANNIE SIGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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27TH ANNUAL SPRING CLASS WITH MARC ASHLEY

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

May 3, 10:00 am, Zoom only (final of 4 sessions)

Recordings of the first three sessions can be found on our YouTube page.

<https://www.youtube.com/@congregationorzarua8110>



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://www.youtube.com/@congregationorzarua8110)**

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, May 8, Services 6:30 pm, Dinner 7:15 pm

Bring yourself and a friend!

After Shabbat Services at 6:30PM, we will have a delicious Kosher meal with an open bar! All those in their 20s and 30s are invited to celebrate Shabbat with us. *Services begin at 6:30pm, followed by dinner.*

\$30 for members and \$40 for non-members

For questions or more information, contact OZYoungPros@gmail.com.

**SIGN UP AT
ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD
.COM/FORM/YP-
MAYDINNER.HTML**



JEWISH REALITY CHECK

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES AND LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI DAVID HOFFMAN

Saturday, May 9

Sponsored by Lynn and Dan Beller in honor of Rabbis Wechsler and Bolton for their enduring contributions to the vitality of Congregation Or Zarua.



Rabbi Hoffman will deliver the sermon:

**Do We Need Balance or Do We Need Loyalty?
Thoughts on the role of Jewish Particularism**

Following kiddush, Rabbi Hoffman will speak:

**We Need a New Torah: Jewish Creativity in the
State of Israel After October 7**

Rabbi David Hoffman is the President of the Honey Foundation for Israel. He was an Assistant Professor for Jewish Law and Talmudic Studies at JTS and served as Vice Chancellor and Chief Advancement Officer.

COME ENJOY A DELICIOUS SIT-DOWN LUNCH WITH OUR GUEST OF HONOR.



MAH JONGG OPEN PLAY NIGHTS!



All Members and Their Friends Are Welcome!

Tuesdays, May 12 and 26, June 9 and 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)**

EXCLUSIVE BRIEFING

ISRAEL, WAR & THE MIDDLE EAST WITH ALEX TRAIMAN OF JNS

Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 pm (no Talmud Class)



Hear from one of Israel's leading journalists, Alex Traiman, on the security, diplomacy, and political developments of the multifront war Israel is waging. Traiman has been at the forefront of defending and explaining Israel in the media, giving nearly 3,000 mainstream media interviews since 10/7. Traiman's access to top officials and strategic thinkers as part of the Prime Minister's press corps gives him direct access to leaders who are making the decisions about Israel's future and war in the Middle East.



Alex Traiman is CEO and Jerusalem Bureau Chief of the Jewish News Syndicate. A veteran Israeli journalist, radio-show host, documentary filmmaker and startup consultant, he writes on Israeli politics and U.S.-Israel relations. He has conducted one-on-one interviews with Israeli officials, among them Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose recent speech to a joint session Congress he attended and covered. Other key figures include members of the Knesset, government and War Cabinet. He has also interviewed U.S. senators, congressmen, ambassadors, former CIA heads and national security advisers. He interviewed then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on an official visit to Jerusalem.

Traiman has appeared on the BBC, Bloomberg, CBS, NBC, FOX, News Nation and Newsmax, and is a frequent guest on WABC and CBS radio. An NCAA champion fencer in the Yeshiva University sports hall of fame, he moved to Israel in 2004, and lives in Jerusalem with his wife and five children.

JERUSALEM-THEMED KIDDUSH



Saturday, May 16

Friday, May 15 is Yom Yerushalayim, a holiday commemorating the reunification of Jerusalem and the establishment of Israeli control over the Old City in June 1967 during the Six-Day War. To honor the day, we will be having a Jerusalem-themed kiddush following services.

Enjoy some yerushalmi kugels and halva along with Israeli salad, dips and foods.

Bir'nana will perform at Kiddush.



IDF Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren holding a Torah scroll and blowing a Shofar next to the Western Wall, June 1967 (IDF Archives)

From website

blogs.timesofisrael.com/liberating-the-western-wall-with-a-prayer-book/

[RSVP AT ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/JERUSALEMKIDDUSH.HTML](https://www.orzarua.org/shulcloud.com/form/jerusalemkiddush.html)

MUSICAL TOT SHABBAT

Saturday, May 16, 11:15 am-12:00 pm

Introduce your children to Shabbat in a fun and joyful way!



Musical Tot Shabbat will be led by Paige Borden.

Paige is a Jewish children's musician with over 15 years of experience, teaching and performing for young audiences.

She is passionate about creating joyful, meaningful worship experiences that engage even the youngest children and help them connect to Jewish music and tradition.

Followed by kiddush lunch.

PLEASE JOIN THE OR ZARUA
COMMUNITY AS WE HONOR

Helene Santo

AND CELEBRATE HER YEARS OF
DEDICATION, CARE, AND LEADERSHIP.

SUNDAY, MAY 17TH AT 11 AM
BRUNCH CELEBRATION
CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

Delicious food, sweet memories,
and lots of love!

Helene has touched so many lives
at Or Zarua, helping to shape the warm and
vibrant community we cherish today.
As she begins this next chapter, we gather with
gratitude and love to wish her all the best.

KINDLY RSVP BY MAY 10
**[ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/
FORM/BRUNCHCELEBRATION.HTML](https://orzarua.shulcloud.com/form/brunchcelebration.html)**

OZ BOOK DISCUSSION

"THE POSTCARD," BY ANNE BEREST

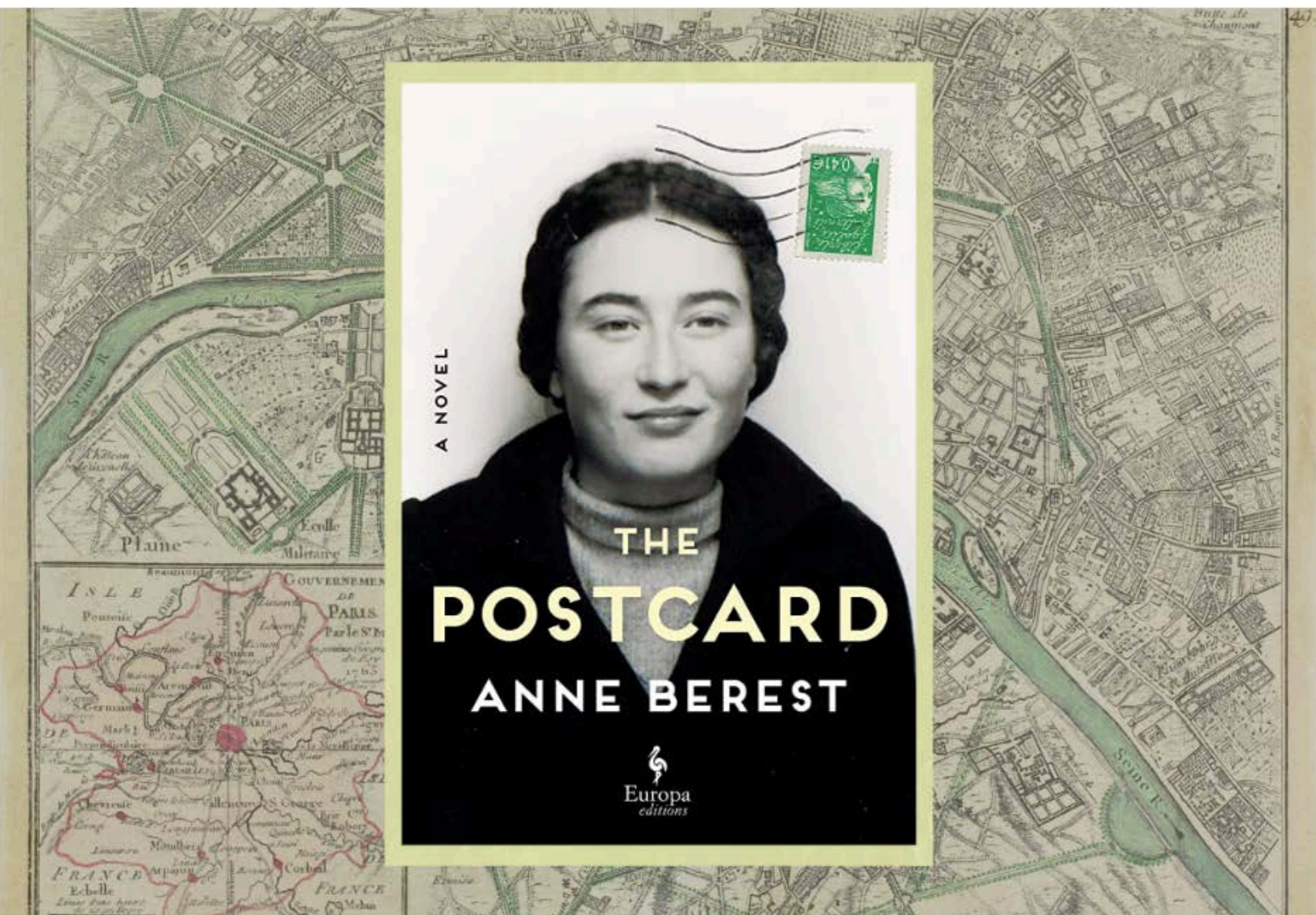
DISCUSSION LED BY IRA GLAUBER AND ANDREW DANZIG

Sunday, May 17, 7:00 pm

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

If you can't make it in person, join by Zoom

Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/BookDiscussionOZ>



ROOFTOP PICNIC AND OZ ANNUAL MEETING


**SIGN UP - WE NEED YOUR PROXY TO REACH
OUR ANNUAL MEETING QUORUM**

Tuesday, May 19, Picnic 6:30 pm, Meeting 8:00 pm

Join us for conversation, sandwiches, wine and beer on the roof before the meeting.

According to the By-Laws, we need a quorum to conduct synagogue business at our Annual Meeting. This means we need approximately 140 members to attend or to provide a proxy. A link to the electronic proxy is below. All adult members and their children between the ages of 18 and 22 are eligible to vote.

See page 12 for the slate of Officers and Trustees for the upcoming year.

An aerial photograph of a city rooftop, showing various buildings, water towers, and greenery. A large blue rectangular overlay is positioned in the center, containing white text. The text is bold and reads: "WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PROXY BY MAY 18 AT ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/OZANNUALMTG.HTML. YOU MUST BE LOGGED INTO YOUR SHULCLOUD ACCOUNT TO ACCESS THE PROXY FORM. YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR THE PICNIC USING THE SAME LINK." The background image shows a dense urban environment with many multi-story buildings and a clear sky with some clouds.

**WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE
MEETING, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PROXY BY MAY 18
AT ORZARUA.SHULCLOUD.COM/FORM/
OZANNUALMTG.HTML. YOU MUST BE LOGGED INTO
YOUR SHULCLOUD ACCOUNT TO ACCESS THE
PROXY FORM. YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR THE PICNIC
USING THE SAME LINK.**

The following is the proposed slate of Officers and Trustees:

Officers:

President:	Hannah Kranich
Treasurer:	Rhonda Sherwin
Secretary:	Natalie Friedman
Vice Presidents:	
Administration:	Pamela E. Gold
At-Large:	Sheldon Adler
At-Large:	Charles Spielholz
Facilities:	Alan Ilberman
Leadership/Nominating:	Isaac Nagiel
Programming:	Marc Ashley

Board of Trustees, Class of 2029:

An asterisk indicates first-time election to the Board:

Natalie Friedman
 Rachel Friedman*
 Ira N. Glauber*
 Ellen Hawa*
 Alan Ilberman
 Jonathan Mishkin
 Ronni Myers*
 Tyler Silver*

Board of Trustees, Class of 2028:

Sheldon Adler
 Laura Fisher
 Roni Greene
 Yarden Greenfeld
 Joe Griminger
 Dana Gross
 Cary S. Gunther
 Aliza Kaplan
 Isaac Nagiel
 Sharon Shorofsky Mack
 Brian R. Sahn
 Keely Zaiantz

Board of Trustees, Class of 2027:

Benjamin Charkow
 Betsy Dizengoff
 Pamela E. Gold
 Hannah Kranich
 Diane Okrent
 Amy Saks
 Eric Schmitter
 Rhonda Sherwin
 Gerry Solomon
 Charles Spielholz
 Aliza Yaillen

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

“WHO OWNS IT? DOES THAT MATTER?”

Thursday, May 21, 7:30 pm

Join us on Shavuot evening:

7:30 pm Blintzes and Sushi and Schnapps

8:00 pm Festival Ma'ariv Services

Annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot (study on Shavuot)

Cheesecake and ice cream (following the Tikkun)

On the first night of Shavuot, after a blintz, sushi and festival Ma'ariv, join us for the Or Zarua Shavuot Tikkun.

Torah, IP, Art and Beyond: Who Owns It? Why Does It Matter?



Supposedly Moses received all Torah that would ever be taught at Mt. Sinai. Why are certain Sages named as having taught lessons if Moses already “owns” them?

The United States was set up with intellectual property laws; the Constitution gives a reason. How do these apply to agencies granting kosher supervision? Is there evidence in the Torah of an intellectual property laws framework?

And with art, is an artist’s style protected? The visual image? Is who painted it and or who owned it more important to collectors? Does an art movement in the style of an artist

increase or decrease the value of certain artpieces, because of the borrowing of the styles and palettes?

Come learn with our panel:

Rabbi Bolton, Ben Charkow, partner at Maschoff Brennan focusing on intellectual property law, **Martin Schott**, International Head of Creative, Production & Proposals at Phillips Auctioneers.

Service times for the two days of Shavuot at a glance:

Thursday, May 21, 7:30 pm: Blintzes, Festival Ma'ariv Services, Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Friday, May 22, 9:00 am: Yom Tov Services

Friday, May 22, 6:30 pm: Shabbat and Festival Services

Saturday, May 23, 8:45 am: Yom Tov Services, including Megillat Ruth and Yizkor

TORAH ON TAP

A SOCIAL NIGHT OUT WITH A SHORT STUDY

Tuesday, May 26, 8:00 pm at Craft & Carry, 1630 2nd Ave.

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.



SHABBAT PIZZA PARTY

Friday, May 29

Sauce, songs, and spirit!

Welcome Shabbat in a casual, relaxed, and joyous way.

5:00-5:45pm Shabbat songs, led by Paige Borden

5:45pm Pizza dinner

Geared towards children aged birth-8.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



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

ISRAEL DAY ON FIFTH PARADE

MARCH WITH US!

Sunday, May 31

Reserve your T-shirt when you register; size based on availability. (All parade participants must wear this year's parade T-shirt available only through Or Zarua.)

Join with Or Zarua and the greater UJA Jewish community to march in this year's Celebrate Israel Parade.

"Proud Americans, Proud Zionists"

OZ Members:

RSVP as soon as possible to march in the parade and to select your T-shirt size.

Information about picking up T- shirts and assembly to come.



Since 1965, hundreds of thousands of people have come together annually to march in the JCRC-NY Celebrate Israel Parade expressing their love and support for the State of Israel. This mega-event embraces both Jews and non-Jews from all over the world and all walks of life, much like the country it celebrates. The JCRC-NY Celebrate Israel Parade is the world's largest expression of solidarity with the Jewish state.

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

MAY 2026/5786 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 · 14 Iyyar Pesah Sheni 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 6:30p Shabbat Services 7:34p Candle Lighting	2 · 15 Iyyar Parashat Emor 9:00a Services 8:35p Havdalah
3 · 16 Iyyar 8:45a Minyan 10:00a Adult Education Class w/ Marc Ashley (Zoom)	4 · 17 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p Comm Torah Study 4:00p Heb School 6:00p Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas	5 · 18 Iyyar Lag BaOmer 7:15a Minyan (Zoom)	6 · 19 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Talmud Class	7 · 20 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	8 · 21 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 6:30p Shabbat Services YP Dinner after Services 7:41p Candle Lighting	9 · 22 Iyyar Parashat Behar-Behukotai 9:00a Services Lunch & Learn w/ Rabbi David Hoffman after Services 8:42p Havdalah
10 · 23 Iyyar 8:45a Minyan	11 · 24 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 12:00p <i>Last Day of Comm Torah Study</i> 4:00p Heb School 6:00p <i>Last Day of Hebrew & Big Jewish Ideas</i>	12 · 25 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 7:00p Open Mah Jongg	13 · 26 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Discussion w/ Alex Traiman, JNS <i>No Talmud Class</i>	14 · 27 Iyyar 7:15a Minyan 8:45a Siddur & Prayer Class	15 · 28 Iyyar Yom Yerushalayim 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 6:30p Shabbat Services 7:48p Candle Lighting	16 · 29 Iyyar Parashat Bamidbar 9:00a Services 11:15a Tot Shabbat Jerusalem-themed Kiddush 8:49p Havdalah
17 · 1 Sivan Rosh Hodesh 8:45a Minyan 11:00a Brunch Celebrating Helene Santo 7:00p OZ Book Discussion	18 · 2 Sivan 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 4:00p <i>Last Day of Hebrew School</i>	19 · 3 Sivan 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 6:30p Rooftop Picnic 8:00p Annual Meeting	20 · 4 Sivan 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 7:00p Talmud Class	21 · 5 Sivan Erev Shavuot 7:15a Minyan 8:45a <i>Last Day of Siddur & Prayer</i> 7:30p Blintzes, Sushi & Schnapps 8:00p Festival Ma'ariv & Tikkun Leil Shavuot 7:54p Shavuot Candle Lighting	22 · 6 Sivan Shavuot Day 1 9:00a Yom Tov Services <i>No Kiddie Cafe</i> 6:30 Shabbat & Festival Services 7:54p Candle Lighting Office Closed	23 · 7 Sivan Shavuot Day 2 8:45a Yom Tov Services w/ Megillat Ruth & Yizkor 8:56p Havdalah
24 · 8 Sivan 8:45a Minyan	25 · 9 Sivan Memorial Day 8:45a Minyan <i>No Shalom Toddler</i> Office Closed	26 · 10 Sivan 7:15a Minyan (Zoom) 7:00p Open Mah Jongg 8:30p Torah on Tap	27 · 11 Sivan 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler <i>No Talmud Class</i>	28 · 12 Sivan 7:15a Minyan	29 · 13 Sivan 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 5:00p Shabbat Pizza Party for Young Families 6:30 Shabbat Services 8:00p Candle Lighting	30 · 14 Sivan Parashat Naso 9:00a Services 9:02p Havdalah
31 · 15 Sivan 8:45a Minyan 11:00a Israel Day on Fifth Parade	1 · 16 Sivan 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler	2 · 17 Sivan 7:15a Minyan (Zoom)	3 · 18 Sivan 7:15a Minyan 9:30a Shalom Toddler 7:00p Talmud Class	4 · 19 Sivan 7:15a Minyan	5 · 20 Sivan 7:15a Minyan 9:15a Kiddie Cafe 6:30 Shabbat Services 8:05p Candle Lighting	6 · 21 Sivan Parashat Beha'alotkha 9:00a Services 9:06p Havdalah