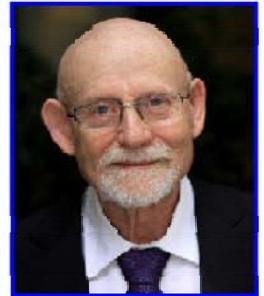


*From Rabbi Eugene A. Wernick --*



Dear Friends,

Between Purim and Passover

It is perhaps no accident that both the holidays of Purim and Passover deal with redemption. Together they show the two faces of Jewish religion and culture. Judaism is the religion of the Jewish people who appointed themselves long ago to follow the mission offered to them by God and Moses in the desert. Since that time, Jews have been subject to centuries of prejudice, hatred, persecution and genocide. After suffering the “slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,” it is no accident that such a people would celebrate the overthrow of those who would destroy them. So the raucous holiday of Purim fits the bill whether it is historically correct or not. The people of Israel live!

But the religion and the people do not live in a vacuum, cut off from the lives of other peoples and cultures.

Following the celebration of one’s own ability to survive against those who would destroy us comes the holiday of Passover. Its main purpose is to teach us that the ultimate destiny of any and all people is to be free to work out the contours of their own lives and to strive to achieve their individual and collective potential. The poet Heinrich Heine stated that wherever freedom is spoken of it has a Hebrew accent. Not only the Jews but - we are told - a “mixed multitude” went with them up from Egypt. Passover teaches that we cannot celebrate freedom alone! From that time and ever onwards, Jews must be dedicated to the liberation of every human being. The international aspect springs from the spirit of our prophets who taught us to work to achieve a world where all can live in peace and comfort.

The goal still looms ahead. So every Seder night we open the door for Elijah. The dream has not evaporated – it’s ours to make it a reality!

Hag Sameach from  
Irene and Gene

## Opportunities to Study with Rabbi Eugene A. Wernick

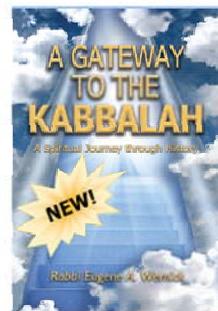
**Monday evening classes at 6:30pm.** Rabbi Wernick will explore the parsha preview of the week with modern and medieval commentary.

**Tuesday evening classes at 6:30pm** is on the Kabbalah using the rabbi's book, *A Gateway to the Kabbalah*, as a text.

**Thursday classes at 12:30pm.** This class will go through the Maimonides Code of the Jewish law.

Please feel free to attend classes when you can.

*Rabbi Wernick's book is available at Amazon.com*



### ~~~ Special Kiddushim ~~~

**April 2nd**

**Harold Griffel** will sponsor the flowers to celebrate his 92nd birthday.

**April 30th**

**Bob & Bonnie Cooperman** will sponsor the Kiddush and Flowers in loving memory of his father, Albert Cooperman.

### Morning Minyan

One of my goals is to ensure a full minyan every morning so we can support those among us who are saying Kaddish and conduct a full service.

Morning Minyan is 8:00 am on most weekdays, 9:00 am on national holidays. The service runs approximately 30 minutes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 40 minutes on Mondays and Thursdays when we read Torah.

Can you try to attend one morning a week? One morning a month? Can we contact you when we have a special need for a Minyan?

Please contact the rabbi at 212.752.1200 or [rabbi@east.55.org](mailto:rabbi@east.55.org) to discuss.

--Rabbi Eugene Wernick

### Message from the Rabbi --

**If you or anyone you know is ill or incapacitated and you would like a home or hospital visit, please notify the office or Rabbi Wernick.**

## **Bluegrass-Flavored Musical Kabbalat Shabbat April 15, 2016 at 6:00pm**



Next month Cantor Kidron and Rabbi Wernick will be joined on the Bima by **Matt Check**, founder of The Bluegrass Kabbalat Shabbat Experience. Matt, whose day job is Director of Jewish Education at the 92<sup>nd</sup> St. Y, formed his group in 2013 and has been performing Friday night Shabbat music in performance spaces and synagogues around the country since then to great acclaim. We're fortunate to get him at Or Olam and hope you will all join us and bring your friends. As always, Musical Kabbalat Shabbat is free and open to all, and followed by a festive reception.

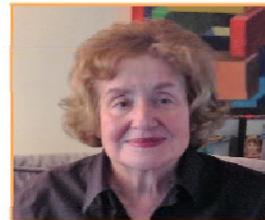
### **Torah Fund Dinner Women's League of Or Olam**

Please join us in honoring our member **Florence Diller** at the MetroNorth Region/Metropolitan Area Women's League for Conservative Judaism

#### **Torah Fund Dinner**

**Monday, May 16, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.**

Sutton Place Synagogue, 225 East 51st Street, New York, NY



Please RSVP Forms available on our website or in the office.

**Please note that any and all reservations for Kiddushim, Flowers, Haftorah Readings, Auf Rufs, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Brises, Baby Namings etc. must be made through the Office.**

**Please email - [office@east55.org](mailto:office@east55.org) or phone the office (212)752-1200**

**All requests must be received and confirmed by the office.**

✂

**SALE OF CHAMETZ**

I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi Eugene A. Wernick to act in my behalf to sell all chametz possessed by me – knowingly or unknowingly – as defined by Torah and rabbinic law, and to lease all places wherein chametz owned may be found. This transaction will be in effect for the duration of the removal of hametz, which this year begins at 11:00am on April 22, 2016 and runs through an hour and 20 minutes after sundown on April 30, 2016. And to this I hereby affix my signature on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year 2016.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Address 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the sale of Chametz.  
Please make your check payable to the Or Olam The East 55th Street Synagogue.

✂

**Matzah Fund**

**100% of the Matzah Fund Money is applied to community purposes.**

Our Synagogue funds needy Jewish families for Passover necessities and Pesah foods. We also provide Haggadot for Jewish patients in hospitals and other institutions. In these difficult times, the "MITZVAH OF GIVING" will enable you to sit down at your Seder table with a heart full of joy knowing you gave to those less fortunate than you the opportunity to observe the holidays and experience the Warmth of Pesah.

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the MATZAH FUND.  
(Make check payable to Or Olam - The East 55th Street Synagogue "MATZAH FUND").

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_

Ciy, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Passover 2016/5776 – Schedule of Services

### **Friday, April 22 Eve of Passover/Fast of the First Born**

Morning Service followed by *Siyum* 8:00 am

Latest time to eat Chametz 10:13 am

Latest time to destroy Chametz 11:24 am

**Evening Service at 5:00pm**

### **Saturday, April 23 First Day of Passover**

Morning Service 9:30 am

### **Sunday, April 24 Second Day of Passover**

Morning Service 9:30 am

### **Monday, April 25 Intermediate Day of Passover**

Morning Service 8:00 am

### **Tuesday, April 26 Intermediate Day of Passover**

Morning Service 8:00 am

### **Wednesday, April 27 Intermediate Day of Passover**

Morning Service 8:00 am

### **Thursday, April 28 Intermediate Day of Passover**

Morning Service 8:00 am

Festival Evening Service 6:00 pm

### **Friday, April 29 Seventh Day of Passover**

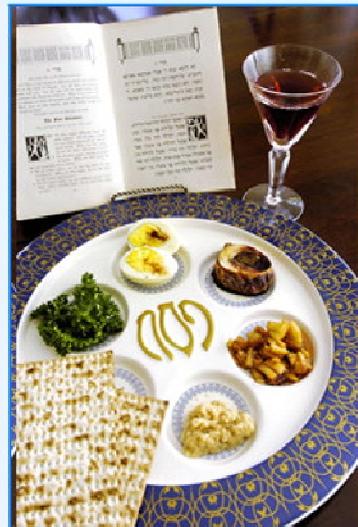
Morning Service 9:30 am

Festival Evening Service & Shabbat 6:00 pm

### **Saturday, April 30 Eighth Day of Passover/Yizkor**

Morning Service 9:30 am

*Yizkor* to begin at approximately 11:00 am



#### **Ashkenazic Charoset Recipe**

Makes 3 cups

Ingredients:

6 peeled apples, finely diced

2/3 cup chopped almonds

3 tbsp sugar, ot to taste

1/2 tsp cinnamon

grated rind of 1 lemon

4 tbsp sweet red wine

#### **Directions:**

Combine all ingredients, mixing thoroughly. Add wine as needed. Blend to desired texture - some like it crunchy, others prefer it smooth.

#### **Sephardic Charoset Recipe**

Makes 3 cups

Ingredients

1 cup pitted dated

1/2 cup dark raisins

1/3 cup sweet red wine

1 large seedless navel orange

1/2 cup flower honey

1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

1/4 tsp ground cloves

1/3 cup whole almonds

1/3 cup walnuts

1/3 cup pine nuts

#### **Directions:**

Soak dates and raisins in wine overnight. Peel orange and cut into chunks. Pulse date mixture, orange, honey, cinnamon, cloves, almonds, walnuts and pine nuts in food processor until mixture is ground to coarse paste, If necessary, add sweet red wine to achieve correct consistency.

## OUR MEMBERS

**Happy Birthday  
to all of our April Birthdays!**

**Sara Markel Altman, Billie Lederman-Bauman, Hannah Bennett,  
Myrna Felder, Harold Griffel, Natalie Katz, Glenn Ostrager,  
Alfred Shamah, Mark Shapiro, Heris Stenzel**

*What a Purim Party!*



### **Birthday Shabbat**

The first Saturday of every month will be Birthday Shabbat. If you're celebrating a birthday in that month, join us for a special blessing on the Bima and help us to cut the monthly birthday cake. You might like to honor any of the monthly birthdays with a donation to the synagogue.





## Co Presidents' Message

from

*Barbara Gerber-Krasner & David Reitner*



Despite the saying “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb,” Or Olam roared like a lion the whole month. We had a fantastic musical Kabbalat Shabbat on March 18 with special musical guest Dimitri Zisl Slepovitch and a very successful Purim celebration on the evening of the 23rd, with 150 attendees.

Upstairs in the Sanctuary, after a Ma'ariv service, our Baalat Koreh, Sherry Fyman, assisted by members Harold Levine and Len Neuhaus, read through Megillat Esther in Hebrew while Rabbi Wernick commented between chapters in English. Then it was down to the Social Hall, where the Japanese-themed festivities included a sake tasting, sushi galore, and wonderful costumes. Cantor Shiree Kidron and Melissa Zimmerman dressed as geishas, Sherry Fyman as a Japanese dragon, Mort Braunstein was a samurai and others were in various kimonos. The rabbi's former student, Elan Bortniker, had several friends with him and provided great music. Our administrative assistant, Mary Boyle, did a great job of decorating the area with Japanese floral arrangements and hanging paper lanterns.

We are already preparing for Pesach, with Rabbi Wernick scheduling a full schedule of classes pertaining to the holiday, morning, noon, and night. Whatever time suits you, we have it. Consult this Bulletin regarding his classes, and check the calendar on our website. We will be asking you soon for contributions to the Matzoh Fund, which provides food for the needy, and for the sale of Chametz.

We were very happy that we met our goal of \$25,000 for the matching grant provided by Mark and Judy Shapiro, and a couple of our members have speeded up their scheduled payments for their pledges, for which we are very grateful.

We expect to complete next phase of work in the Sanctuary – Bima, back wall and supplemental lighting -- in time for the High Holy Days. We have received design proposals from one company located in Israel and are awaiting the proposal from a firm located in Brooklyn. After the High Holy Days we will address the much-needed renovation of the Social Hall.

For those who have been attending the third-Friday Musical Kabbalat Shabbat introduced by Cantor Kidron, you know how spiritually satisfying they are. A special Bluegrass Musical Kabbalat Shabbat is on April 15<sup>th</sup>. We've attracted many new people to our services because of our expanded publicity and media campaign, and we hope that even more of our members will attend.

Thanks to Harold Levine, we are active on Facebook and Google and our website is being kept up to date. Working with a professional graphic designer, we now have an updated logo, new outside signage and event posters, a redesigned brochure, new internal signage and have improved our website and weekly e-mails. We hope that you are as excited by our transformation as we are. Not only have we renovated our physical space and our public presence, but also our spiritual life at the synagogue.

We will be making membership renewal materials available shortly. We hope that you will also renew your membership on a timely basis, and encourage friends in the area who are looking for a synagogue home to join us at Or Olam for the High Holy Days and beyond.

We hope to see you at our next musical Kabbalat Shabbat, if not sooner. In the meantime, we wish you a very sweet Passover.

## TODAH RABBAH

We thank the following individuals for supporting our community:

### GENERAL FUND

**Barbara Gerber Krasner & Seymour Krasner**, for Mezzuah for the Social Hall.

**Barbara Gerber Krasner & Seymour Krasner**, in honor of Harold Griffel's 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday

**Barbara Gerber Krasner & Seymour Krasner**, in honor of David Goss's Birthday

**Barbara Gerber Krasner & Seymour Krasner**, in honor of Leo Koppell's Birthday

**Barbara Gerber Krasner & Seymour Krasner**, in honor of all the March Birthdays

**Barbara Gerber Krasner & Seymour Krasner**, in honor of all the April Birthdays

**Nataiya Guttman**

**Jacqueline Heft**, a misheberach for her husband, James Heft

**Harry Levine**, in thanks to Or Olam

**Charles & Jill Love**, in thanks for being called to the Torah

**Ruth Oppenheimer**, in loving memory of Mike Claman

**David Reitner**, in honor of the birthday of David Goss

**David Reitner**, in honor of the birthday of Neal Klein

**David Reitner**, in honor of the birthday of Leo Koppell

**David Reitner**, in loving memory of Mike Claman

**David Reitner**, in honor of our new member, Leonard Neuhaus

**Peggy Wecker**, a misheberach for her friend, Phyllis Shane

**Selma Weintraub**, in appreciation of the Shalach Manot

### Yahrzeit Contributions

**Audrey Citak**, in loving memory of Martha Kahn

**Rhonda DeFabritus**, in loving memory of Sophie Bertan

**Bernard Drucker**, in loving memory of Fanny Drucker

**Seymour Falkow**, in loving memory of Michelle Falkow

**Maxine Goldstein**, in loving memory of Elias Herzog

**Maxine Goldstein**, in loving memory of Gloria Herzog Joffe

**Sheila & Bob Kresch**, in loving memory of Olga Rosenberg

**Sol Matsil**, in loving memory of Lynn Kraidin

**Madeline Mohr**, in loving memory of Sarolta Adler

**Madeline Mohr**, in loving memory of Ida Weinberg

**Jordan Rednor**, in loving memory of Joshua Rednor

**David Rosenberg**, in loving memory of Olga Rosenberg

**Vivian Schwimmer**, in loving memory of Ernest Vermes

**Sheldon Stein**, in loving memory of Anna Stein

### Flower Fund

**Harold Griffel**, to celebrate his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday

**Bernadette Kriftcher**, in loving memory of her husband, Noel Kriftcher

### Kiddush Fund

**Bernadette Kriftcher**, in loving memory of her husband, Noel Kriftcher

**Jacob Suttton**, contribution of Arak for Kiddushim

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Ira & Myrna Epstein**

**Noah Schachtman**, in memory of his mother, Carole Guber

**Gerard Silverman**

### Purim Party

**Martin Akerman**

**Barbara Gerber-Krasner & Seymour Krasner**

**Eric & Sophie Ross**

### Music Fund

**Sandra Serebin**, in honor of Mort Cohen's Birthday

## Capital Campaign 2015-2016

We thank all of you who have already contributed to the Capital Campaign. Some of you have already made the second payment of your pledge or completed your pledge at a faster rate. We'd appreciate any additional contributions you can make during the year and are eager to engage those of you who have not as yet committed to the campaign.

In addition to the bima and wall designs, with coordinated bima furniture, two bookcases will be added in the last row of the sanctuary on both sides, as well as one on the landing, going up to the mezzanine. New doors will be installed for the bookcases on either side of the main entrance door, in the vestibule. We have some additional naming opportunities. You may also wish to have a seat plaque for your pew seat, named in honor or memory of a loved one, or in your own name. We can check the seating chart, to see whether your usual holiday seat is available or if you prefer a different seat.

Marcia Kerr-Cherbini,  
Capital Campaign Chairperson

## Capital Campaign Contributors

Kenneth Adelsberg & Laurie Newitz  
Lloyd Altman & Sara Markel Altman  
Rhonda Barnat  
Brian Berke & Laurie Berke-Weiss  
Mordecai & Shiela Braunstein  
Richard & Eleanor Brilliant  
Michael & Marcia Cherbini  
Edith Claman  
Audrey Cohen  
Joel Cohen  
Robert & Bonnie Cooperman  
Rosalind Devon  
Florence Diller & William Pollack  
Mr. & Mrs. Sandford Edelman  
Ira & Myrna Epstein  
Barbara Feingold  
Myrna Felder  
Sherry Fyman & Rossella Mocerino  
Burton & Brenda Fine  
Arlene Flohr  
Sheldon Fried  
David & Karin Goss  
Heiman & Marilyn Gross  
Harold Griffel  
Arnold & Harriet Gussin  
Anita Guttman  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Honig  
Norma Hurwitz  
Claudia Justy  
Natalie Katz  
Richard Kaufman & Carole Parnes  
Florence Kavalier  
Martin P. & Barbara Klein  
Irene Kopley  
Leo & Sandy Koppell  
Barbara Gerber-Krasner  
Barbara Gerber-Krasner & Seymour Krasner, in honor of  
Jerry Politzer's Birthday  
Barbara Gerber-Krasner & Seymour Krasner, for the June &  
July Members Birthdays

Barbara Gerber-Krasner & Seymour Krasner, in  
memory of Sandy & Leo Koppell's son-in-law, David  
Rubenstein  
Barbara Gerber-Krasner & Seymour Krasner, in  
honor of the wedding of Alexandra Berke & Spencer  
Soloway  
Barbara Gerber-Krasner & Seymour Krasner, in  
honor of the birth of Eva Young's great granddaughter  
Barbara Gerber-Krasner & Seymour Krasner, a  
refuah shelma for Meryl Levy  
Bernadette Kriftcher  
Barbara Levine  
Peter & Leslie Levine  
Jeffrey Lowitt  
Stephen Meringoff  
Lois Moss  
Melvin & Elaine Nadell  
Ruth Oppenheimer  
Glenn & Stacey Ostrager  
Stanley & Charlotte Plotnick  
Gladys Pruzansky  
Murray Rehner  
David Reitner  
Juliana & Rusty Reno  
Alan Resnick  
Faanya Rose  
David Rosenberg & Eleanor Bucko  
Eric & Sophie Ross  
Arthur Sellner  
Eric Simon & Lisa Baumwell  
David Sokol  
Charlene Soltz-Etkes  
Stuart Stahl  
Heris Stenzel  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Strauss  
Jacob Sutton  
Anna Wolinsky  
Women's League  
Eva Young  
Mr. & Mrs. Sid Zukerman

## CHAG PURIM!

All our energy this past month has been devoted to the Shalach Manot project.

Heris Stenzel, who chaired this event, was amazingly organized.

Without Mary Boyle working quietly in the background, this project would not have been impossible.

This year, after years of needing an

Excel specialist, we found Laurie Newitz,

who never said no to all the crazy requests we made.

We had a team of 25 people fulfilling various needs.

A huge thank you to our congregation family for their support.

Sandy Koppell

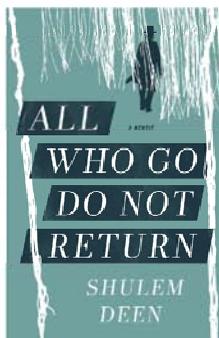
President - Or Olam Women's League



Completed Purim Baskets ready for delivery

The valued volunteers, in alphabetical order, were:

**Billy & Philip Bauman, Mary Boyle, Audrey & Burt Citak, Audrey Cohen, Edith Claman, Sylvia Dudock, Rita Friedman, Terri Gelbart, Irene Gilbert, Rita Greenstein, Harriet & Arnold Gussin, Arielle Koppell, Leo Koppell, Sheila Kresch, Sara Markel Altman, Laurie Newitz, Ruth Oppenheimer, Sophie Ross, Eva Shamah, Lisa Siegal, Heris Stenzel**



**Synagogue Book Club  
Both Men & Women Invited**

**Monday April 11th at 8:00pm  
led by Florence Diller**

***All Who Go Do Not Return*  
by Shelem Deen**



**2015 National Jewish Book Award Winner**

**Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award**

**for Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice**

**Winner of the 2016 Great Lakes College Association**

**New Writers Award for Creative Non-Fiction**

**If you wish to participate please contact Sandy Koppell.**

## Women's League Corner



Onward and upward. Our season is ending with a bang. The Musical Women's Seder, Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, has attracted two tables of Or Olam women. With our own Hazzan, Shiree Kidron, Rabbi Ain and Hazzan Shayna Postman, it is sure to be a wonderful event. There will be singing, dancing, a newly created women's haggadah and a delicious dinner. We are convening at Sutton Place Synagogue, with members of Habonim, Park Avenue Synagogue, Sutton Place Synagogue and Town and Village Synagogue. MetroNorth region president Mindy Steinholtz will also be there.

The United Nations Tour and briefing from the Israeli Mission, Thursday, April 7, sold out almost as soon as it was mentioned. We will have a delegation from Or Olam in attendance. It is so exciting just to be at the UN. As a Women's League delegate at the UN, I have become aware of the many contributions Israel has made to countries world-wide, and we can all be proud that such a small country has done so much *tikkun olam* for others, in addition to sharing its research in technology and medicine. The General Assembly is the problem; nonetheless, much good work goes on.

On Monday, May 16 at 6:30 PM, we will hold the annual Torah Fund event together with the MetroNorth Region. We will be honoring Florence Diller. Florence is an amazing woman who works and lives in New Jersey and is a part time resident in New York. She makes time to actively support our congregation. She has led many discussions for the Synagogue book group, has volunteered at Synagogue and Women's League events whenever asked and has managed to participate in the Women's League Institute, taking classes at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Florence, our honoree, is an incredibly worthy candidate. Both men and women are invited to this dinner, which is held in support of Torah Fund. The monies raised through Torah Fund contribute to education for rabbis, cantors, and educators at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinics and Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. There are flyers in the Synagogue to register. If you want a flyer on line, e-mail me, [safta18@aol.com](mailto:safta18@aol.com), or find it on the Synagogue website.

On Saturday, June 11 we will be celebrating our annual Women's League Shabbat. Florence Diller and Sheila Kresch will be co-chairing this event. Now is the time we are looking for those who want to participate in this event. We will be honoring all new members.

Thank you all for the incredible support you have given to Women's League throughout the year. If you have not yet become a Women's League member, now is the time to join and be honored June 11. If you join now, \$25.00, your membership will be extended through June 2017.

B'Shalom,

*Sandy Koppell*

## SHABBATOT - April

### **April 1-2 Shemini**

Candlelighting: 7:03pm  
Torah: Leviticus 9:1-11:47  
Maftir: Numbers 19:1-22  
Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-38

### **April 8-9 Tazria**

Candlelighting: 7:10pm  
Torah: Leviticus 12:1-13:59;  
Numbers 28:9-15  
Maftir: Exodus 12:1-20  
Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

### **April 15-16 Metsora**

Candlelighting: 7:18pm  
Torah: Leviticus 14:1-15:33  
Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24, 23

### **April 22-23 Pesach 1**

Candlelighting: 7:25pm  
Torah: Exodus 12:21-51  
Haftarah: Joshua 3:5-7, 5:2-6:1, 6:27

### **April 29-30 Pesach 8**

Candlelighting: 7:32pm  
Torah: Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17  
Haftarah: Isaiah 10:32-12:6

## Tot Shabbat

Join us for our Monthly Tot Shabbat  
With Melissa Zimmerman  
At 10:30 am  
April 2, May 7



2015-2016

## SHABBAT AND DAILY SERVICE TIMES

### SHABBAT SERVICE TIMES

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00pm  
Morning Service 9:30am

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Morning Service (Monday-Friday) 8:00am

### **Or Olam - The East 55th Street Synagogue**

Founded October 30, 1906  
as *Chevra B'nai Leive*

#### Clergy and Officers

Eugene A. Wernick ..... Rabbi  
Shiree Kidron ..... Cantor  
Sherry Fyman ..... Torah Reader  
Marshal Salant ..... Chairman  
Barbara Gerber-Krasner ..... Co-President  
David Reitner ..... Co-President  
Arlene Flohr ..... Vice-President  
Neal Klein ..... Co-Treasurer  
David Sokol ..... Co-Treasurer  
Richard Kaufman ..... Secretary

### **OR OLAM**

### **THE EAST 55<sup>TH</sup> STREET SYNAGOGUE**

308 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street • New York, NY 10022 •  
212-752-1200

office@east55.org www.east55.org