



CONGREGATION SONS OF ISRAEL

SHEVAT - ADAR TORAH SCHOLAR WEEKEND SERIES

Join Congregation Sons of Israel as we welcome Torah Scholars throughout the month of February

These Torah Scholars will be Davening, Laining, Teaching Classes, and sharing words of Torah throughout their stay over Shabbos with us.

Leora and Zack Orenshein – February 3 – 4

Leora and Zack Orenshein are from Teaneck NJ, and currently live in Washington Heights. Zack is in his last year of the Semicha program at YU and is simultaneously doing a Ferkauf program in mental health counseling. Leora is in her second year of GPATS (Graduate Program for Advanced Talmudic Studies), working towards a Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation. Leora and Zack have been involved in a number of teaching and educational programs including an Azrieli education fellowship in LA and Seattle, teaching fellowships in Memphis and Silverspring, and this past summer, Leora served as the director of Chinuch at Camp Moshava Ba'ir NJ. Leora and Zack are both passionate about Torah and Jewish education, and hope to go into education in the classroom and the community at large.



Noah & Atara Notis – February 10 - 11

Atara Kelman is a Judaics teacher at Ramaz Upper School in New York. Originally from Toronto, Canada, Atara studied for two years in the Beit Midrash in Migdal Oz before completing her undergraduate degree in Jewish Studies at Stern College. Atara joined the GPATS program, where she earned a Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation and taught Tanakh at Stern College as an adjunct professor. She is also a student in Nishmat's Miriam Glaubach Center and U.S. Yoatzot Halacha Fellows Program. Her other interests include long hikes in the outdoors and practicing Hebrew calligraphy.

Hailing from Allentown, Pennsylvania, Noah Notis studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion for two years before pursuing a degree in physics at Princeton University. He is now in a PhD program at Columbia studying plasma physics. Noah's Torah interests include the application of Jewish Law to modern contexts, such as technological advancements and social shifts. In his free time, Noah is a frequent sourdough baker, occasional mushroom hunter, and, seasonally, a gardener.

Rabbi Michael & Shoshana Belgrade – February 24 - 25



Rabbi Belgrade serves as shul Rabbi on Shabbat at Care One in Teaneck, New Jersey, where he provides pastoral care for Jewish residents. Rabbi Belgrade provides shiurim in Teaneck (including daf yomi), answers halachic questions, and has served as a source of advice for people in the community who are either dealing in crisis or need to make significant life decisions. Rabbi Belgrade is also a chazzan with over 25 years of experience leading High Holiday services. He served as a Rabbinic Intern for the United Synagogue in London (Orthodox) where he spoke and led services at a number of synagogues including Ilford, Kinloss (Finchley), Stanmore and Canons, and Cockfosters and N Southgate.

Rabbi Belgrade served in the diplomatic corps of the United States Department of State in Israel, Australia, and the United States. He is an attorney for the United States Department of Homeland Security and lectures as an adjunct law professor at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York. He is an expert in diplomacy, international relations and law, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, immigration and citizenship, litigation, and education.

Rabbi Belgrade began his career as a Foreign Service Officer with the United States Department of State in 2002. His work focused primarily on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Rabbi Belgrade's postings included serving as vice-consul in U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Deputy Coordinator of the Iraqi Task Force in Washington, DC during the Iraq War, Political/Economic Officer in U.S. Consulate General Sydney and finally Global Affairs and later Economic Officer in the Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs in Washington, DC. Rabbi Belgrade attended the Annapolis Peace Conference and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for Palestinian Economic Development at the United Nations in New York, where Rabbi Belgrade drafted Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's speech on Palestinian economic development.

Rabbi Belgrade received a number of commendations during his time with the State Department including the Benjamin Franklin Award for his work with U.S. victims of terror in Israel, Group Superior Honor Award for his analysis of the Australian parliamentary elections, and the Certificate of Appreciation from the Executive Secretariat for his work on the Iraqi Task Force during the Iraq War.

Rabbi Belgrade moved to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in 2008 serving as an attorney handling immigration matters. He also began teaching at American University's Washington College of Law regarding the legal and policy aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on his experiences at the State Department. In 2017, Rabbi Belgrade transferred to Homeland Security's New York office.

Rabbi Belgrade received semicha from Kollel Agudath Achim, under the tutelage of Rabbi Aharon Ziegler, a noted author on the Halachic findings of Rav Soloveitchik. Rabbi Belgrade received training as a coach from the U.S. Department of the Treasury Executive Institute. He is an honors graduate of the joint law and international relations program (JD/MA) at American University. He graduated with honors from Yeshiva University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He currently resides in Bergen County, New Jersey with his wife, Shoshana, and their three children: Netanel, Judah, and Reeva.

Chaim & Rena Fruchter – Date TBD



Chaim Fruchter grew up in Memphis Tennessee, his father, a chazan, was a neighbor who influenced Elvis Presley. Chaim Fruchter was part of the Jewish Band in the 70's & 80's called Ruach and formed his own band Kol Chaim that plays simchas throughout Maryland and beyond. Chaim is also a talented chazan and Bal Korei, and has taught many Torah Classes while living in Silver Spring, MD. Chaim was also a podiatrist by profession, but is now enjoying his retirement living in Philadelphia.

Rena Fruchter is a talented artist. She has been a teacher of art in many schools and her art has graced many musical album covers.

She has recently branched out her art talents and is now doing Glass mosaics for many Jewish organizations and synagogues across the country. During COVID both Rena & Chaim started a Jewish Children's Storytelling Channel on YouTube to excite children about the Parsha and other Jewish Subjects combining the talent of Chaim's music and Rena's art.

Chaim & Rena have been guests in Allentown several times for speaking and for one of our first Annual Chanukkah Concerts.