



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

270 Pleasant Valley Way □ PO Box 6169 □ West Orange, NJ 07052

VAYETZEI 9 - 15 Kislev, 5780 December 7 - 13, 2019

Rabbi Marc Spivak, President David Goldstein, Rabbinic Intern Matt Lubin

SHABBAT KIDDUSH and SEUDAH SH'LISHIT are sponsored by the Shul.

To sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush or Seudah Sh'lishit at the Shul, please contact Tami Puder at office@congregationohrtorah.org.

SHABBAT SHI'UR: This Shabbat at 8:30am from Rabbinic Intern Matt Lubin.

MISHNA B'RURA CLASS with Rabbi Grosberg after Shabbat Mincha will be held in the Beit Midrash.

RABBI SPIVAK'S WEEKLY CLASS will meet this Wednesday evening at 7:30pm.



מזל טוב: Mazal Tov to Karen Barrow Thumim who accepted a Jewish All-Star Award in Manhattan this past week from *Jew in the City* and *Project Makom*. The award celebrates the professional accomplishments of observant Jews. Since she was unable to get a selfie with Mayim Bialik, a photo with herself will have to do.

FOR SENIORS: Together on Tuesdays Tuesday, December 10 features two programs: 11:30-12:15PM, Intergenerational Chanukah Olive Oil Making Workshop with Rabbi Yisroel Rosenblum, Chabad Living Legacy and Elise Bier Nursery School Children. 12:30-1:00PM there will be a light lunch (cost \$3.00). 12:30-2:15PM "Evolution of 1950's-1960's Pop and Rock including Chanukah Songs and Humorous Jewish Shtick" by Ron Farber, experienced music radio announcer and musicologist. At AABJ&D Sephardic Wing. In case of inclement weather and the possibility of cancelling a program, call (973) 736-1407 x240 and listen for the recorded message.

SEFER HACHINUCH MITZVAH PROJECT: We have had a great response on sign ups to study the 613 mitzvot with the Sefer Hachinuch. We are on track to have a shul wide siyum at the end of the month. If anyone else is interested in signing up to learn some mitzvot please email Rabbi Spivak rabbi@congregationohrtorah.org and you too will be able to be apart of this great learning project.

FESTIVUS FOR THE REST OF US: The Men's Club is looking for sponsors for our annual Festivus Kiddush to be held on December

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Schedule 12/06 – 12/13

Friday (12/06)

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Shacharit | 6:10am |
| Light Candles | 4:11pm |
| Mincha | 4:15pm |
| Shkia | 4:29pm |

Shabbat (12/07)

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Shabbat Shi'ur | 8:30am |
| Shacharit | 9:00am |
| Latest Shema | 9:27am |
| SAY SHEMA BEFORE COMING TO SHUL | |
| Mincha | 4:05pm |
| Maariv | 5:08pm |
| Shabbat ends | 5:15pm |

Sunday - Thursday (12/08 - 12/12)

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Shacharit Sun | 8:15am |
| Shacharit Mon/Thu | 6:00am |
| Shacharit Tue/Wed | 6:10am |
| Mincha/Maariv Sun | 4:15pm |
| Maariv Mon-Thu | 7:30pm |

Friday (12/13)

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Shacharit | 6:10am |
| Light Candles | 4:11pm |
| Mincha | 4:15pm |
| Shkia | 4:29pm |

Eruv Hotline:

(973) 736-1407 x6



There are always new members or visiting guests in attendance that you may not have met. Let's take every opportunity to welcome these people to Ohr Torah! (After davening, of course).

Sisterhood Events and Donations

Sisterhood Tribute Fund:

Please consider making a donation to honor or in memory of someone in any of the following categories. Tributes—\$5; Sefer Fund—\$10; Youth Fund—\$18; Siddur or Machzor—\$40; Chumash—\$60. For more information, please contact Debbie Druce deborahdruce@gmail.com

Yahrzeits December 7 - December 13

11 KISLEV: Deborah Druce for her Great-Uncle, Baruch ben Moshe, Bernard Kesten, on Monday, December 9.

11 KISLEV: Stuart Rosenblum for his Mother, Sara bat Yaakov Dovid Ha'levy, Sara Rosenblum, on Monday, December 9.

12 KISLEV: Pearl Perlstein for her Mother, Yente Rive bat Chaim, Edna Lichtman, on Tuesday, December 10.

12 KISLEV: Alan Routhenstein for his Grandmother, Chanah bat Mor-dachai, Helen Block, on Tuesday, December 10.

13 KISLEV: Sam Goldfischer for his Uncle, Moishe Eliyahu ben Ha'Rav Yehudah Leib, Moishe Isseroff, on Wednesday, December 11.

14 KISLEV: Howard Charish for his Father, Avraham Laib ben Chaim, Abraham Charish, on Thursday, December 12.

14 KISLEV: Jordan Fersel for his Mother, Chana bat Shlomo Beryl, Harriet Fersel, on Thursday, December 12.

14 KISLEV: Leslie Kallus for her Mother, Golda Leah bat Rachel, Gilda Hecht, on Thursday, December 12.

14 KISLEV: Elaine Scherman for Yosef ben Ze'ev, Joseph Pakowitz, on Thursday, December 12.

15 KISLEV: Robert Grosberg for his Grandmother, Genedel bat Yisrael Ha'Levi, Gizella Schiffer, on Friday, December 13.

For changes/corrections to this list, please contact Elia Weixelbaum or send an e-mail to : ShabbatNewsletter@congregationohrtorah.org

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21st. This is a fun event featuring good food (including thirst-inducing pretzels and soup for you and everyone), and more Seinfeld references than you can shake a stick at. Sponsorship levels: \$36 -- Aired of Grievances, \$54 -- Contribution to the Human Fund, \$72 -- A Feat of Strength, \$90 -- A Festivus Miracle. Your sponsorship will ensure that this event is a success. The event is free for the congregation to attend. To make your donation go to:

<https://www.congregationohrtorah.org/festivus>

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY MESSAGE: WestOrangeShuls Yahoo Group is moving from Yahoo to groups.io. All members who want to continue participating in this community email list need to sign up for the new group. The changeover will take place on Sunday, December 15 when posting to YahooGroups will be disabled, and the new list on groups.io will be opened for messages. Don't be left out! To sign up, follow the detailed instructions at <http://bit.ly/wos-gio-instructions>. Any problems please check our Frequently Asked Questions at <http://bit.ly/wos-gio-faq>. If you still need help, contact the admin team at

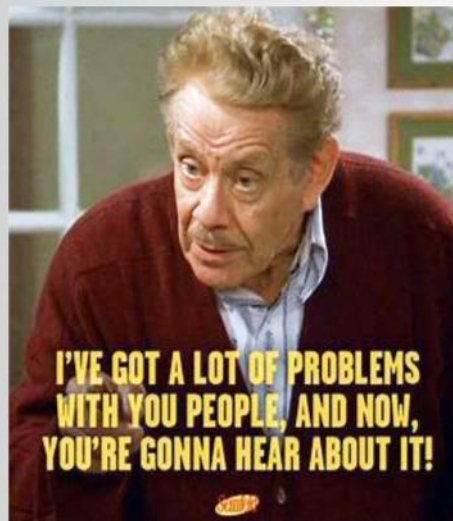
westorangeshuls+owner@groups.io.

OT SECURITY: Thank you to our security volunteers this week who stepped up to keep us all safe. **We need volunteers for December.** Even if you've never volunteered in the past, please try it out! Sign up by sending Dov Chelst an email message at dnchelst@gmail.com and he can tell you what is required.

FESTIVUS RETURNS

TO OHR TORAH

SHABBAT, DECEMBER 21



A KIDDUSH FOR

THE REST OF US

SPONSORS NEEDED:

\$36 - Aired of Grievances, \$54 - Contribution to the Human Fund, \$72 - A Feat of Strength, \$90 - A Festivus Miracle.

DONATE AT:

<https://www.congregationohrtorah.org/festivus>

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: Items for the Newsletter must be submitted **before 4:00pm on the Wednesday before publication.** Anything submitted after that time will be considered for the following issue.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rabbi Marc Spivak rabbi@congregationohrtorah.org

Office: Tami Puder office@congregationohrtorah.org

Board: board@congregationohrtorah.org

Men's Club President: Larry Freedman, larry@18thstory.com

Sisterhood President: Bertha Sharret, rsharret@hotmail.com

Chesed: Rabbi Spivak, Tami Puder

Shiva Assistance: Rabbi Robert Grosberg

Shiva Meals: Gail Bukiet

Building Committee: Arnold Barton

Subscription Requests: listserv@congregationohrtorah.org

Monthly Calendar: Elia Weixelbaum

Newsletter: ShabbatNewsletter@congregationohrtorah.org

Reading Torah: Avi Klein, otlaining@congregationohrtorah.org

Scheduling Calendar: Tami Puder, e-mail to

Schedule@congregationohrtorah.org

Tributes/Siddurim/Chumashim/Machzorim Donations: Debbie Druce

Bookplate Design-Bar, Bat Mitzvah Inscriptions: Debbie Druce

Yahrtzeit/Tree of Life Plaques: Jack Rosen

Youth Committee: Leron Thumim and Chavi Trenk (co-chairs)

leron.Thumim@gmail.com and ebtrenk@gmail.com

Youth Director: Rivky Balsler Youth@congregationohrtorah.org

Newsletter Advertising: Howard Charish

advertising@congregationohrtorah.org



**ALEXANDRA &
LEVI HERMAN**

TORAH THOUGHT:

Vayeitzei: Serving HaShem Differently

Alexandra and Levi Herman serve as the West Orange NCSY City Directors. NCSY is an international organization focused on Jewish education for high schoolers both in Public School and Yeshiva Day School. They are dedicated to connecting, inspiring and empowering Jewish teens through Torah and Tradition. Levi is originally from Los Angeles, and Alexandra from Twin Rivers/East Windsor, NJ. They moved to West Orange in 2017. They are excited to continue their work for years to come and get to know all our teens through NCSY's programming and incredible work.

Parshas Vayeitzei is the first of the last six Parshios in Sefer Bereishis, all of which are about the life of Yaakov. As we see here and throughout the rest of the Sefer, Yaakov was the first and only Patriarch who succeeded in raising all of his children according to the Torah, completely committed to Hashem and His mission of bringing Godliness into the world. It is for this reason that we as the Jewish people are also known as, "B'nei Yisrael," descendants of Israel, Yaakov's other name.

All 3 of the Avos served Hashem in different ways: Avraham was known as an "Ish Chessed", a man of kindness, he was a man a "kiruv," bringing people closer to Hashem and His divinity whether they were qualified and no matter how they dressed or acted, but he lacked that final push to bring them fully to the Torah. Yitzchak was known as a man of restraint and strength, "Gevurah," lifting those around him bringing them closer to Hashem, like Yaakov and Esav, but he didn't get to that mark of having everyone around him reach Hashem on their own. Yaakov encompassed both these traits, known as a man of "tiferet", harmony, he brought the Oneness of Hashem down to reach the lowest levels, as we see from his journey to Egypt and how he changed a country, and in his own home with his 12 sons and one daughter all being in the ways of Hashem, no matter the challenges. So too their beliefs in G-d and relationship with Him all came in different ways.

Avraham's belief stemmed from logic, he came to his own awareness through logic and convinced others that logically there is a G-d in the world. From Avraham, Yitzchak came to that same belief in Hashem, that the only logical explanation for this reality and the world created is a G-d. Yaakov, on the other hand, related to Hashem in a more calculated yet naïve way. Because of this belief, putting aside the logics and rationality, his commitment and love to Hashem was unconditional and due to his great and strong belief, he was able to inspire others to feel the same way. He was therefore able to raise all his children to serve and believe in Hashem, putting aside their differences, and bringing the high levels of divinity into the mundane world around them. Therefore, we are B'nei Yisroel, Yaakov/Yisrael is the last of the three patriarchs yet the most modeled one, it is his life, more than Avraham's or Yitzchak's, that we strive to fashion our own lives similar to.

We see an incredible similarity and difference in Parshas Vayeitzei regarding the passing of the torch from father to son. We see this week Yaakov does as his father said, gets married, builds his family, while establishing great wealth as well. Yaakov pursued these in a different way than Yitzchak did, however. Whereas Hashem told Yitzchak not to leave Israel, he allows Yaakov to do as he wishes; whereas Yitzchak was told to marry one wife, Yaakov married two, and eventually their handmaids as well. Whereas Yitzchak avoided any detractors, Yaakov takes them head on. We notice here, Yaakov is a lot more like Avraham than Yitzchak. On this, we see how just like Avraham in all his journeys, Yaakov was not fazed by anyone and went out into the world on his own. He took the challenge in order to spread the message of Hashem as widely as possible.

We learn an incredibly strong message from the words in Parshas Vayeitzei, meaning, "He went out." In order for Yaakov to start his own chapter and spread out into the world, he had to leave and go out, leaving the spiritual and physical comforts of his home, and facing the challenges of the hostile and outside world, both physically and spiritually when it comes to praising G-d and raising His awareness and love. Only at that point was Yaakov able to mature and become the ultimate forefather, setting examples of how to live a life of physical and spiritual Godliness, and raising his family capable of setting the chosen people on to who they are and will be.

Every day is a challenge and one we are always to be facing head on. We must accept the challenge of maturity and contribute to the world, whether understanding Hashem through logic like Avraham and Yitzchak, or spreading the love of Hashem like Yaakov, regardless of any rationalities. We shall always look at every corner of life working ourselves to make this Hashem's true home, through our businesses, relationships, and all else. This is what we live for, this is our passion in NCSY, for Jews to understand what it means to be Jewish, to live a healthy and meaningful Jewish lifestyle, while incorporating fun and Jewish knowledge into everything we do. We should be able to continue to inspire each other and bring G-d into all our lives, serving and loving Hashem through Torah and Middos for many years to come.

Shabbat Shalom.

A regular feature of the newsletter is to have *different people write a D'var Torah for the newsletter. The goal is to hear words of Torah from other Ohr Torah members and learn a little about who they are. I encourage everyone to participate. Please email me at Rabbi@congregationohratorah.org if you would like to volunteer to share your ideas with us. Torah unites our nation. We are really excited about this project and I hope it will strengthen our bonds as a community.* **Rabbi Marc Spivak**

- AROUND OUR TOWN -

FESTIVUS KIDDUSH RETURNS: Complete with the Aluminum pole and all the fun of prior years. Great food. Since it's Shabbat, there will be no airing of grievances. Find out if Seinfeld, Kramer, George, Elaine, and Newman will be there! Shabbat December 21st, following morning prayers.

CHANUKAH ON ICE: Or is the Hanukkah on Ice, or maybe Hanukah on Ice? Whichever way you spell it, it looks like it will be the best of the best this year. Bring your skates, or rent them there. There will be refreshments so you don't need to bring on your latkes. Saturday, Motzei Shabbat, December 28th at 6:30pm. Clary Anderson Arena in Montclair.

CONCERT: World renown vocalist Simcha Leiner is coming to Teaneck, NJ on this Motzei Shabbat, December 7th. He will be performing at 8 PM at the Congregation Bnai Yeshurun. 641 W Englewood Ave, Teaneck, NJ 07666. Tickets are available at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/simchaleiner/321770#>



SMILE TIME: Sarahlei, from a small town just West of West Orange, New Jersey goes shopping in Manhattan and on her way back home on the train, sits next to an elderly woman. They get to talking about this and that and husbands and work, and the old woman looks at the brown bag Sarahlei is carrying and asks, "What's in the bag?" Sarahlei replies, "It's just a bottle of wine I got for my husband." There is a minute of silence and then the woman looks at the bag again and again and then pauses for another minute and then says, "Good trade!"

WHATS APP GROUPS: General Announcements: To join the Ohr Torah General Announcements group, go to <http://congregationohrtorah.org/whatsapp>. on your mobile phone (be sure WhatsApp is installed first) and tap the "Join Chat" button. Alternatively, email Tami (office@congregationohrtorah.org) or David Goldstein (davesmail@golddave.com) with the phone number you use with WhatsApp and they will add you to the group.

MINYAN HELP: Help us make a minyan by joining the WhatsApp group for alerts when the shul needs help. To join this group, please go to: <http://congregationohrtorah.org/minyanwhatsapp> (be sure WhatsApp is installed first) and tap the "Join Chat" button. Alternatively, you can email Bruce Schlanger (Bruce.Schlanger@gmail.com) or email David Goldstein (davesmail@golddave.com) with the phone number you use with WhatsApp and they will add you to the group.

SENDING IN A CHECK FOR A PAYMENT TO OHR TORAH? Assist us in our record keeping by writing on the memo line or include a note about the reason for the check. Also, remember that mail should always be sent to PO Box 6169, West Orange, NJ 07052, and not to 270 Pleasant Valley Way. Thank you!

NEED TO DAVEN MAARIV?

JOIN US AT 7:30pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY

Sundays and Holidays - check our schedule on Page 1

Ohr Torah
CHANUKAH ON ICE
Shul, Youth, Sisterhood, and Mens club Event

GET YOUR SKATES ON!

PRIVATE SKATING RINK!
Ugly Chanukah Sweater Contest
Refreshments, Prizes, and More!
Fun for the whole family!

Member: \$ 10 Per child, \$12 Per Adult
Non- Member: \$12 per child, \$15 Per Adult
\$5 entrance fee for Non-skaters

Saturday Night December 28th 2019
6:30PM-8:00PM
CLARY ANDERSON ARENA
41 Chestnut St. Montclair NJ 07042
RSVP @ Youth@congregationohrtorah.org

Join us for an evening with author Jack J. Hersch

Death March Escape tells the story of Jack's survivor father, who escaped the Nazi Holocaust twice



Jack will present aspects of the story his father never revealed

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 7pm
Location: Congregation Beth Sholom
354 Maitland Avenue, Teaneck

Suggested Donation: \$10 per person
Books available for purchase

Please RSVP to groups@jfcnsnj.org or 201-837-9090

