



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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

VAYISHLACH 16 - 22 Kislev, 5780 December 14 - 20, 2019

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

SHABBAT KIDDUSH is sponsored by the Shul. **SEUDAH SH'LISHIT** is sponsored by Howard Charish on the occasion of his father's yahrtzeit, Avraham Leib Ben Chaim, Abraham Larry Charish.

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

FAMILY SHACHARIT MINYAN: This Shabbat at 9:30am in the Beit Midrash.

MISHNA B'RURA CLASS with Rabbi Grosberg after Shabbat Mincha will not be held this week.

RABBI SPIVAK'S WEEKLY CLASS will meet this Wednesday evening Maariv.

מזל טוב: Mazal Tov to Jamie Rubin on his engagement to Sehara Goldzal, to Jamie's parents Deena and Reuven, to his siblings Ali, Elizabeth, Eitan and Lisa Rubin, grandmothers Leila Shultz and Malka Rubin, to Sehara's parents Shari & Chaim Goldzal of Brooklyn, NY, Sehara's grandmother, Greta "GG" Bachenhiemer, and her siblings, nieces and nephews.

THANK YOU: In recent weeks we needed to replace one of our refrigerators and our ice machine. Thank you to the following people for their various roles in this project: Marty Moskovitz, Stuart Rosenblum, Raphie Sharret, Mark Grebenau and Marc Goldberg. Thank you to the Sisterhood and Men's Club for their support on this project as well and a special thank you to Jay Goldberg for driving this project and making it all happen.

LEARN CPR: Sunday January 5, 2020, 9:15AM-12:15PM at Congregation Ohr Torah, 270 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange. "HeartSaver Class" led by Lisa Ashur, RN, and certified CPR instructor by the American Heart Association. Be prepared for emergencies and learn CPR, how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED), and basic first aid and Heimlich maneuver for adults, children and infants. Upon successful completion, participants receive a course completion card, valid for two years. Course includes first aid instruction book, and hands on experience with mannequins to practice CPR. Cost: \$65.00. Open to adults aged 18+. Group size limited to 12. Must RSVP by December 26th. Call or email Deborah Druce at 973-609-6339 or at deborahdruce@gmail.com. Bring a check payable to the "American Heart Association" to the class. Sponsored by the Ohr Torah Sisterhood.

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 21st**. This is a fun event featuring good food (including thirst-inducing pretzels and soup for you and everyone), and more

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Schedule 12/13 - 12/20

Friday (12/13)

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

Shabbat (12/14)

Shacharit	9:00am
Shacharit - Family Minyan	9:30am
Latest Shema	9:32am
Mincha	4:05pm
Maariv	5:09pm
Shabbat ends	5:16pm

Sunday - Thursday (12/15 - 12/19)

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 (12/20)

Shacharit	6:10am
Light Candles	4:13pm
Mincha	4:20pm
Shkia	4:31pm

Eruv Hotline:

(973) 736-1407 x6



Yaakov meets Esav

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 14 - December 20

16 KISLEV: Bracha bat Feiga, Beatrice Sorkin, on Shabbat, December 14.

17 KISLEV: Murray Laulicht for his Father, Avraham Yechezkel ben Moshe Halevi, Abraham Goldwasser, on Sunday, December 15.

21 KISLEV: Jacki Routhenstein for her Grandmother, Esther bat Michael, Esther Brooks, on Thursday, December 19.

22 KISLEV: Glenn Goldberg for his Mother, Malka bat Shimmon, Maude Dresden Goldberg, on Friday, December 20.

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

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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.congregationohratorah.org/festivus>

FOR SENIORS: Together on Tuesdays. Tuesday, December 17. "Mrs. Maisel and the Catskill Mountains" by Janice Michaelis, Hirschhorn scholar. Now that "Mrs. Maisel" is a popular program to watch, this presentation will highlight the history of the Catskills' American Jewish Vacationland; 1890's-1960's, including sharing memories of the hotels and bungalow colonies and analyzing how this history reflects a venue for the assimilation of the Jewish immigrant to the "Golden Medina." At AABJ&D Sephardic Wing. 12:30-1:00pm- Light lunch of soup, salad, dessert, coffee and tea (Cost \$3.00). 1:00-2:15pm- Featured Program. In case of inclement weather and the possibility of cancelling a program, call (973) 736-1407 x240. and listen for the recorded message. **Thursday, December 19, 2019,** 12:30-2:00PM, Chanukah Klezmer Music Concert by the *Klezmatiks* Cost: JCC members-free, non-JCC member-\$12.00. Refreshments. RSVP: reserve ticket, and to car-pool. Call: 973-736-1407x240

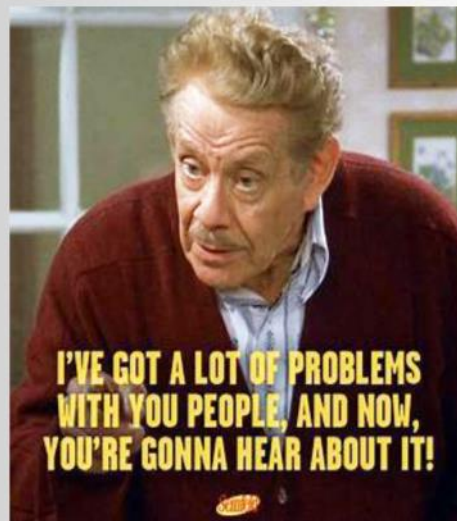
IMPORTANT COMMUNITY MESSAGE: WestOrangeShuls Yahoo Group is moving from Yahoo to groups.io. All members who want to continue participating in this community email list need to sign up for the new group. The changeover will take place on **Sunday, December 15** when posting to YahooGroups will be disabled, and the new list on groups.io will be opened for messages. Don't be left out! To sign up, please follow the detailed instructions at <http://bit.ly/wos-gio-instructions>. Any problems please check our FAQs 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 dnychelst@gmail.com and he can tell you what is required.

FESTIVUS RETURNS

to OHR TORAH

SHABBAT, DECEMBER 21



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.congregationohratorah.org/festivus>

A KIDDUSH FOR

THE REST OF US

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@congregationohratorah.org

Office: Tami Puder office@congregationohratorah.org

Board: board@congregationohratorah.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@congregationohratorah.org

Monthly Calendar: Elia Weixelbaum

Newsletter: ShabbatNewsletter@congregationohratorah.org

Reading Torah: Avi Klein, otlaining@congregationohratorah.org

Scheduling Calendar: Tami Puder, e-mail to

Schedule@congregationohratorah.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 Balser Youth@congregationohratorah.org

Newsletter Advertising: Howard Charish

advertising@congregationohratorah.org



MESSAGE FROM OUR CONGREGATION OHR TORAH PRESIDENT

The unfortunate increase in violent antisemitic acts over the last few years is disheartening. For many of us, it has changed some of the ways we interact with the society we live in. At the very least, it has changed the way we approach the simple act of coming to shul.

At Ohr Torah, we have had an armed security guard at the front door on Shabbat for the last few years. Since the Congregation Tree of Life shootings in Pittsburgh a little over a year ago, we have augmented the security with volunteers who play a critical role in helping to identify and report potential threats, screen access, and direct emergency response. Thankfully, we have not had any incidents in which a threat has entered the building and have only had to turn someone away once.

We are most thankful to each person who has volunteered, and those who continue to volunteer regularly, for their role in making Ohr Torah a safe place for us all to come daven and socialize with our fellow Jews. But while this system has worked, it can only continue to be effective with a large base of volunteers who regularly participate in both shifts and regular training.

With the events in Jersey City this week, we can no longer say that this kind of incident cannot happen here, not in our home. It just happened in our back yard. With this in mind I appeal to everyone to participate in our security program and volunteer to take a shift on a Shabbat morning. You will be trained in everything you need to know to do an effective job. Both men and women are eligible, and age is not an issue.

Please help us be sure that we are all safe every Shabbat. **David Goldstein**

OHR TORAH SISTERHOOD BRUNCH

DECEMBER 8TH AT OHR TORAH



The topic was "Nutrition and Health for Your Family" and presented by Preventative Cardiology Dietitian Michelle Routhenstein (shown at left). Above: Members of Congregation Ohr Torah listen as Michelle gives her presentation. Pictures thanks to Bertha Sharret.

CHANUKAH ON ICE: Bring your skates, or rent them there. There will be refreshments so you don't need to bring your latkes. Saturday, Motzei Shabbat, December 28th at 6:30pm. Clary Anderson Arena in Montclair. See page 5.



YOU CAN BE A 'HEART-SAVER'

Sunday Jan. 5th 9:15am

CERTIFIED CPR INSTRUCTION FROM THE
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Be prepared for emergencies and learn CPR, how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED), and basic first aid and Heimlich maneuver for adults, children and infants. Class size limited to 12.

\$65 includes materials and course completion certificate



RSVP by December 26th.

Call or email Deborah Druce at 973-609-6339 or deborahdruce@gmail.com

SPONSORED BY THE OHR TORAH SISTERHOOD

Must be at least 18 years old to attend. Bring check payable to "American Heart Association" to the course.

**CONGREGATION OHR TORAH
270 PLEASANT VALLEY WAY, W.O.**



**AMALIA &
STEPHEN LOEB**

TORAH THOUGHT:

Vayishlach: The Struggles of Israel

Amalia Loeb is a 10th grader at Kushner Yeshiva High School. This is her second D'rash for the Ohr Torah community. Her first was delivered at her bat mitzvah. She also likes basketball and soccer and plays on the varsity at her high school. Her father, Stephen Loeb, is also a prolific writer. A lawyer by profession, he is a writer by passion and is authoring a weekly D'var Torah column this year as a project, reviewing and analyzing the weekly Haftorah.

It's been an eventful 20 years. Not only has Jacob fled his childhood home, but after having deceived his brother Esav, he too was deceived by his uncle Laban who switched Rachel with Leah without informing Jacob. It appears that Jacob understood that it was a fair price to pay for the manner in which he conspired with his mother Rebecca to take the blessing that his father Isaac had intended for Esav.

Jacob seemed to have it all: Wealth, wives, birthright and family. But looks can be deceiving, and Jacob was severely distressed. We get insight into Jacob's state of mind on two occasions in this week's Parsha. As he is heading back to Eretz Yisrael, Jacob realizes he will be crossing paths with his brother Esav. Fearful, he sends messengers and gifts to his brother in anticipation of coming across his extreme anger - even after all this time.

Meanwhile, in a sleepless night, Jacob lays down but cannot sleep. And as the Torah says, וַיָּקָם בַּלַּיְלָה "He arose in the night." וַיֵּתֶר יַעֲקֹב לְבֶדֶד וַיֵּאָבֶק אִישׁ עַד עֲלֹת הַשָּׁחַר "And Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn." Why does the Torah say "Jacob was left alone" but yet it describes him "wrestling with a man?"

One way to interpret this is to conclude that the man was not a man but an angel of Hashem. The wrestling became so intense that the socket of Jacob's hip became dislocated as he wrestled with "the man."

Towards morning Jacob asks for a blessing and the Torah describes how the struggle lasts until the morning where his adversary asks to be let go because the dawn has come. Jacob says he will not let go until his adversary gives him a blessing. His adversary does so, renaming Jacob with the name "Israel." Explaining the meaning of his new name: "He has wrestled with angels of Gd and prevailed."

But is it possible that it was not necessarily a spirit that Jacob was wrestling with, but rather he, "alone" - as the Torah says was wrestling with himself? The struggle was internal! We get a further hint of the self-perpetuating war between Jacob and his rival, from the way Esav and Jacob interacted with each other when their meeting was to become inevitable.

Esav sent a return message that he planned to meet his brother with a delegation of 400 people. Jacob fearful of this response was expecting war. He prepared by dividing his camp into four different groups. To make it harder to attack them all. But when Esav arrived Jacob was greeted with a different response:

וַיֵּרָץ עֵשָׂו לִקְרֹאתוֹ וַיִּסְבְּקֵהוּ וַיִּפֹּל עַל-צְוֹאָרָיו וַיִּשָּׁקֵהוּ וַיִּבְכּוּ
"Esav ran toward him and embraced him, and he fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept." It was apparent that the Jacob's true rival was himself. And all of his fear of two decades was self-imposed. All of that missing time lost.

Although Jacob's entrenched fear had permeated into his psyche, it hijacked the reality that Esav had moved on. Jacob harbored ill will toward his brother, and Esav did well for himself. He thrived. It is only by confronting the past that Jacob was able to move forward as Israel. His struggles with his brother, with angels and most importantly with himself forecasted the many struggles that the Nation of Israel would have both in its near and distant future from the point that Jacob was blessed with the birthright but finalized in the confrontations he faced. Israel might be bloodied, it might suffer a limp but he had the strength to struggle and prevail.

Our hardest struggles are the ones we encounter on a daily basis but we carry on the name and blessing of Israel, as such our strength and destiny is to seek to prevail in a likewise manner, as the dark night is long, but the dawn is coming. **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@congregationohrortorah.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. As an extra bonus, the youth of Ohr Torah will be performing a small chanukah performance after morning services. 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 your latkes. Saturday, Motzei Shabbat, December 28th at 6:30pm. Clary Anderson Arena in Montclair.



SMILE TIME: Which hand is it better to light the menorah with? Neither, it's best to light it with a candle.

☆ Everyone thought little Yankel wasn't too bright. They would offer him a choice between a nickel and a dime and Yankel always chose the nickel. One day his Uncle Eli pulls him aside and tries to explain to him what is going on, "You know, Yankel, everyone is making fun of you. Even though the nickel is bigger, the dime is worth more." Yankel laughs and says, "I know that, but if I took the dime, they'd stop doing it. So far, I've made \$20!"

☆ I asked the waiter if my latkes would be long. He said, "No sir, they'll be round."

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!

If you davened at Ohr Torah on Rosh Hashanna and/or Yom Kippur, please take a moment to provide your feedback in our Yomim Noraim Survey at <https://congregationohrtorah.org/survey>. Results of the survey will help us plan for improvements next year.

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

קבעו שבת ימי חנוכה להודות ולהלל
CONGREGATION AABJ&D PRESENTS
CHANUKAH WITH MIAMI
YERACHMIEL BEGUN THE MIAMI BOYS CHOIR

 SHIRAIHU ORCHESTRA

2ND NIGHT OF CHANUKAH
MONDAY DECEMBER 23, 7:15PM
JKHA/AKYHS AUDITORIUM
110 SOUTH ORANGE AVE, LIVINGSTON, NJ

TICKETS: AABJD.ORG/MIAMI
ROWS 1 - 4, \$75 • ROWS 5 - 8, \$54 • ROWS 9 - 24, \$25
30 MIN. FROM TERNECK/FREE PARKING

ALSO STARRING
DOVID PEARLMAN

MIAMI LEGACY

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