



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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

KI TISA 18 - 24 Adar א, 5779 February 23 - March 1, 2019

Rabbi Marc Spivak, President David Goldstein, Rabbinic Intern Shlomo David

Schedule 02/23 – 03/01

Friday (02/22)

Light Shabbat Candles	5:21pm
Mincha/Maariv	5:25pm
Shkia	5:39pm

Shabbat (02/23)

Shacharit	9:00am
Latest Shema	9:25am
SAY SHEMA BEFORE COMING TO SHUL	
Mincha	5:10pm
Maariv	6:16pm
Shabbat ends	6:23pm

Sunday - Friday (02/24 - 03/01)

Shacharit Sun	8:15am
Shacharit Mon/Thu	6:00am
Shacharit Tue/Wed/Fri	6:10am
Mincha/Maariv Sun	5:30pm
Maariv Mon to Thu	7:30pm

Erev Shabbat - Friday (03/01)

Light Candles	5:30pm
Mincha	5:35pm
Shkia	5:48pm

Eruv Hotline: (973) 736-1407 x6

UPCOMING:

Rosh Chodesh Adar II Th/F	Mar 7,8
Fast of Esther Wed	Mar 20
Purim Thu	Mar 21

Looking for help with housing for the Heart, Mind and Soul weekend of March 1-2-3. (Housing only; no Meals). Call Sandy Trencher at (860) 922- 8336 or email her at

sandytrencher@gmail.com

Any help is greatly appreciated.

KI TISA



KIDDUSH and SEUDAH SH'LISHIT are sponsored by the Shul

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

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

RABBI SPIVAK'S WEEKLY CLASS will meet Wednesday at 8:00pm.

MURDER MYSTERY RETURNS TO OHR TORAH! Not since the last night of intrigue three years ago this very month, has there been such an event at Ohr Torah. So here is your reminder if you bought tickets to the Wild West (Orange) night, then join us for a night of suspense and fun. Saturday February 23rd, starting at 7:30pm. Hosted by the Shul, Sisterhood and Men's Club.

FEATURED TALK: Ohr Torah is pleased to have Jonah Ottensoser of the Star-K speak at Ohr Torah, this Sunday evening, February 24, 7:30pm on the topic *Technology and the Observant Jew*. Mr. Ottensoser has been an engineering consultant with the Star-K for over 20 years. He has consulted with many of the large appliance manufacturers and it is partially thanks to him that we have the availability of so many **Sabbath Mode** appliances. Light snacks will be served at the end of the presentation. For further information, please see the flyer on page four of the newsletter. We thank the following people who provided sponsorship for this talk: Karen Berger & Elia Weixelbaum, Gail & Bruce Bukiet, Dina & David Goldstein, Susan & Rabbi Robert Grosberg, Rachel & Avi Klein, Lisa & Aryeh Kurz, Boni & Martin Moskovitz.

The next **SHABBAT MEVARCHIM KIDDUSH** will be on Shabbat Parshat Shekolim, March 2, and in addition to individual \$36 contributors noting a birthday or other simcha during Adar II, during the same week, the Kiddush will be supported by the Franz & Gisela Grebenau Memorial Kiddush Fund. The plaque honoring contributors to the fund will be updated at that time, reflecting donations made since the beginning of calendar year 2019. If you would like to participate and have your dedication listed, please send your shekels contribution (about 650 shekels or \$180 suggested) to the shul, or visit the new shul website under Sponsor a Kiddush or Shalosh Seudot - Congregation Ohr Torah and click the "Contribute to the Grebenau Memorial Kiddush Fund" radio button.

Well known lecturer **NECHAMA PRICE** will speak after Shabbat services on Saturday morning March 2 at Ohr Torah on the topic of *"The Humanity of Halacha: Through the Perspective of a Yoetzet."* At Seudat Sh'lishit she will speak at AABJ&D with the topic, *"Vashti: The Heroine of the Megillah?"* Nechama will also give a shiur at 8 p.m. at AABJ&D titled, *"Superwomen from Past to Present: The Evolution of Women's Education."*

COME FOR SHABBAT and see what makes West Orange Shabbaton so special! A tight-knit, diverse community. Great schools. Houses that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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

give you more for your money. Commutable to NYC. And exciting incentives for new, young families - over 30 new families have moved in recently! Discover West Orange is a partnership between Congregations AABJ&D and Ohr Torah. The two largest Orthodox synagogues in town are separated by only a mile, creating a one neighborhood feel. We invite you to come experience a vibrant Shabbat. March 8th and 9th, 2019. Let your friends and relatives from out of town know about this event! Sign up at <https://www.discoverwestorange.com/contact> or go to <https://www.discoverwestorange.com/> for more information.

WhatsApp for Ohr Torah General Announcements: To join this new announcement group, just hop on over to <http://congregationohrtorah.org/whatsapp> on your mobile phone with WhatsApp already installed and tap the "Join Chat" button. Alternatively, email Anna Chosak (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. Thank you to all those who suggested this idea. Secondly, there is a WhatsApp group for alerts when the shul needs help making a minyan. This group has been very successful in its mission, but we can always use more help. If you would like to be added to the group, go to <http://congregationohrtorah.org/minyanwhatsapp> on your mobile phone with WhatsApp already installed and tap the "Join Chat" button. Alternatively, you can email Bruce Schlanger, Bruce.Schlanger@gmail.com, or David Goldstein davesmail@golddave.com with the phone number you use with WhatsApp and they will add you to the group.

JKHA invites prospective and current West Orange parents to an evening featuring Ms. Abbey Roth, JKHA Media Specialist, on "Library as the Center for Interdisciplinary Learning." Hear about how Judaics, social studies and STEAM come together at JKHA, and the role of the library in the development of multi-disciplinary student programs and projects. Tuesday, Feb 26th, 8pm at the home of Allison and Seth Lyons. For questions, please Email: alyons@jkha.org.



SMILE TIME: In a slalom race the skier must pass through about 20 "gates" in the fastest time. In the Olympics one year, it happened that Israel had the fastest slalom skier in the world and had great expectations for an Olympic gold medal. Came the day of the final, the crowd waited in anticipation. The French champion sped down the course in 38 seconds. The Swiss in 38.7 seconds, the German in 37.8 seconds, the Italian in 38.1 seconds, and then came the turn of the Israeli...the crowd waited, and waited... finally after Five Minutes he finishes! His trainer screams, "What happened to you?" Replied the exhausted Israeli: "Which of those no-goods fixed a mezuzah to each gate?"

Yahrzeits February 23 - March 1

- 18 ADAR-I:** James Geller for his Mother, Tzipora bat Baruch, Fanny Geller, on Shabbat, February 23.
19 ADAR-I: Sam Goldfischer for his Brother, Shalom ben Ze'ev Ha'Levi, Sholom Goldfischer, on Sunday, February 24.
19 ADAR: Deena Rubin for her Father, Baruch Benzion ben Yehuda, Bernie Shultz, on Sunday, February 24.
19 ADAR-I: Florence Schlanger for her Father, Mordechai ben Avraham Yaakov Halevi, Max Leff, on Sunday, February 24.
21 ADAR: Susan Lando for her Father, Asher Chaim ben Aaron Dovid, Oscar Frommell, on Tuesday, February 26.
21 ADAR: Barry Rubin for his Father, Shmuel Binyamin ben Asher Tzvi, Cyril Rubim, on Tuesday, February 26.
22 ADAR-I: Simi Schwartz for his Mother, Chana Naomi bat Elchanan, Naomi Schwartz, on Wednesday, February 27.
23 ADAR: Morris Bocian for his Father, Yerachmiel Yisroel Yitzchak ben Moshe Chaim, Raymond Bocian, on Thursday, February 28.
24 ADAR: Arlene Kaye for her Sister, Sarah bat Hillel Halevi, Charlotte Shevick, on Friday, March 1.
24 ADAR: Raphael Sharret for his Aunt, Hana bat Raphael, Hannah Weinstein, on Friday, March 1.

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

ADVERTISE IN THE OHR TORAH NEWSLETTER AND REACH HUNDREDS OF JEWISH FAMILIES!

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.

Email to: shabbatnewsletter@congregationohrtorah.org

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rabbi Marc Spivak rabbi@congregationohrtorah.org
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Board: board@congregationohrtorah.org
Men's Club President: Larry Freedman, larry@18thstory.com
Sisterhood President: Bertha Sharret, rsharret@hotmail.com
Chesed: Rabbi Spivak, Anna Chosak

Shiva Assistance: Rabbi Robert Grosberg, Judy Carmeli, Stuart Rosenblum

Building Committee: Arnold Barton

Subscription Requests: listserv@congregationohrtorah.org

Monthly Calendar: Elia Weixelbaum

Newsletter: all submissions must be emailed by Wed., 4:00PM to:

ShabbatNewsletter@congregationohrtorah.org

Reading Torah: Avi Klein, otlaining@congregationohrtorah.org

Scheduling Calendar: Anna Chosak, 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

Ki Tissa: The Chet Ha'Egel or Fool's Gold



**Karen Berger &
Elia Weixelbaum**

Elia Weixelbaum works in technology at Morgan Stanley. He is a former President for a blinking moment at Congregation Ohr Torah. Karen Berger is an attorney specializing in disability work. Karen and Elia got married in 2005 and moved to West Orange with 6 children creating their own Brady Bunch and are now empty nesters with kids and grandchildren here and in Israel.

In this week's Parsha, Ki Tissa, there are a number of prominent subjects discussed, among them the Machatzit Hashkel, a continuation of the building of the Mishkan, and Shabbat.

However, arguably the most prominent topic in this week's Parsha is the Chet Egel Ha'Zahav, the sin of the Golden Calf. It is so prominent that the organization of the 7 Aliyot is completely driven by this. The Kohen Aliya is 45 P'sukim, the Levi Aliya is 47 P'sukim and the remaining 5 Aliyot are 47 P'sukim combined. We give the Levi the topic of the Chet Ha'Egel as we do not want to embarrass a Yisrael by calling attention to a sin that the Yisraelim were involved in. Similarly, we do want to give this Aliya to a Kohen so as not to call attention to Aharon's involvement with the Chet.

Briefly recounting the story, as Moshe prepares to descend Mount Sinai, Hashem expresses His anger to Moshe telling him that He will destroy the B'nai Yisrael for building the Golden Calf. Specifically, Hashem tells Moshe **לך רד כי שחת עמך** "Go, descend, for **your** people that **you** have brought up from the land of Egypt have acted corruptly" (Shemot 32:7). Hashem calls Moshe's people a stiff-necked people and is ready to annihilate them and make Moshe a great nation anew. [Spoiler alert: Hashem does not destroy the B'nai Yisrael.]

Moshe then pleads with Hashem to spare His people arguing that (a) It wouldn't look very good taking out the B'nai Yisrael from Mitzraim with incredible miracles only to destroy them in the Midbar. (b) He promised the Avot that their offspring would grow for eternity: **ארבה את זרעכם ככוכבי השמים** "וּכְל הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר אִמַּרְתִּי אֲתֶן לְזֶרְעֲכֶם וְנָחֳלוּ לָעַלְמִים" "I shall increase your offspring like the stars of heaven, and this entire land of which I spoke, I shall give to your offspring and it shall be their heritage forever" (Shemot 32:13). Moshe reminds Hashem of the commitment he made to the Avot; that these were indeed Hashem's people.

Moshe descends the mountain holding the Luchot, sees the Golden Calf and the people dancing, and in a fit of anger, throws the Luchot shattering them. The question naturally arises; if Moshe was pleading with Hashem to hold his anger and not destroy the people, why does Moshe then display such anger as he approaches the people and if he were to get so angry, why did he not get angry when Hashem first told him. There are several reasons that we can attribute to this. I

want to focus on one in particular.

The accounting when Moshe sees the Golden Calf is a bit different than the account Hashem tells Moshe. Hashem tells Moshe **עָשׂוּ לָהֶם עֵגֶל מִסַּכָּה וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ לוֹ וַיִּבְחָו לוֹ** They have made themselves a molten calf, bowed themselves to it and sacrificed to it ..." (Shemot 32:8). On the other hand, when Moshe descended the mountain, the Torah says **וַיְהִי כַאֲשֶׁר קָרַב אֶל הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיִּרְא אֶת הָעֵגֶל וּמַחֲלָת וַיַּחַר אַף מִשָּׂה וַיִּשְׁלַךְ מִיָּדוֹ אֶת הַלְּחֹת וַיִּשְׁבֵּר אֶתֶּם תַּחַת הַהָר** "It happened as he drew near the camp and saw the calf and **dancing**, that Moshe's anger flared up. He threw down the Luchot from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain" (Shemot 32:19). The key difference was Moshe's witnessing not just the calf, but the dancing. As controlled as Moshe attempted to be negotiating with Hashem, his anger could now not be contained. The Sforno explains that it was not the making of the calf that led to this anger; this was known, but rather it was the people's attitude reveling in their deed without any remorse.

Moshe asks all who are for Hashem to join him. He castigates them for their grave sin and tells them that perhaps he can go back to Hashem and win atonement for them. As angry as he is, he sees a way for atonement for those willing to follow the ways of Hashem.

Hashem then gives Moshe two new Luchot and proclaims the well-known verse: **הָ הָ אֶל-רְחוּם וְחַנּוּן** ... (Shemot 34:6-7). Moshe bows and asks Hashem to forgive the people and make us His heritage. It is at this point that Hashem actually seals his covenant with the people, **אֲנֹכִי כֹרֵת בְּרִית**. The people were Moshe's people, until they truly atoned. It was only then that God seals his Brit; now they are truly Hashem's nation, set apart from all others by the laws He now gives through Moshe.

It was the z'chut of Moshe, his ability to advocate for the people to Hashem, but then discipline the people until they truly atoned for their sin. Hashem's relationship with Moshe saves the people as Hashem says Moshe has found favor in His eyes. He relents and allows Moshe to handle the situation. But clearly, he saw them as Moshe's people who were out of control and unworthy of Hashem's Brit. Only after Moshe worked to gain true atonement, did Hashem seal the Brit – making them Hashem's people. **Elia Weixelbaum and Karen Berger**

Over the course of the next few months, we will 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@congregationohrtorah.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

CELEBRATE a Birthday or an Anniversary at one of our monthly Shabbat Mevarchim. If you, or a family member, or a friend are celebrating a birthday or anniversary during a particular month, for contributing just \$36 per birthday or anniversary, you can co-sponsor a kiddush in their honor. Contact Anna, at

office@congregationohrtorah.org,

or call the office, 973-669-7320 ext. 1. Sign up for sponsorship by the Tuesday night preceding the Shabbat Mevarchim Kiddush so we can list the sponsors in the Weekly Newsletter. The next Mevarchim Kiddush is March 2nd for the month of Adar II so you must sign up by February 26th.

AMAZON SMILE: Your Amazon purchases can help Ohr Torah through the Amazon Smile program. Go to:

<https://smile.amazon.com>

and follow the instructions. Select "Congregation Ohr Torah of West Orange Inc." as your charitable organization. Once your account is set, Amazon will donate a small percentage of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Ohr Torah with no additional charge to you. To start making purchases to benefit Ohr Torah, go to

<https://smile.amazon.com>

and shop. If an item is already in your Shopping Cart or Wish List, you can still go to Amazon Smile to complete your purchase and support our shul.

TECHNOLOGY AND THE OBSERVANT JEW



with **Jonah Ottensoser**
Technical Advisor to the Star-K

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 7:30PM

**Come hear from one of the major
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<https://www.congregationohrtorah.org/ottensoser.html>

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Jonah Ottensoser has a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He worked for 30 years as a civilian engineer for the US Navy working on aircraft and he has been a technical consultant to the Star-K from 1997 until the present.

**CONGREGATION
OHR TORAH**

**270 Pleasant Valley Way
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office@congregationohrtorah.org

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