



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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



6 - 12 Shevat, 5779 January 12 - 18, 2019

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

Schedule 01/12 – 01/18

Friday (01/11)

Light Shabbat Candles	4:31pm
Mincha/Maariv	4:35pm
Shkia	4:49pm

Shabbat Mevarchim (01/12)

Shacharit	9:00am
Latest Shema	9:43am
Mincha	4:25pm
Maariv	5:29pm
Shabbat ends	5:36pm

Sunday - Friday (01/13 - 01/18)

Shacharit Sun	8:15am
Shacharit Mon/Thu	6:00am
Shacharit Tue/Wed/Fri	6:10am
Mincha/Maariv Sun only	4:40pm
Maariv Mon to Thu	7:30pm

Erev Shabbat - Friday (01/18)

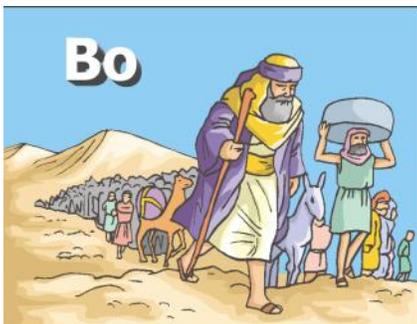
Light Candles	4:39pm
Mincha	4:45pm
Shkia	4:57pm

Eruv Hotline: (973) 736-1407 x6

UPCOMING:

Tu B'Shevat Mon	Jan. 21
Rosh Chodesh Adar 1 Tu/We	Feb. 5, 6
Purim Thu	Mar 21

WEEKDAY MINCHA: During Eastern Standard time, Ohr Torah only holds weekday Maariv Services and not Mincha, Monday through Thursday, except on legal holidays. Mincha is available in West Orange on these days at Congregation AABJ&D and Chabad of West Orange.



We complete the plagues, establish a calendar, and leave Egypt.

KIDDUSH AND SEUDAH SH'LISHIT THIS WEEK 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 following Mincha.

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

THANK YOU: We have one more sponsor to add for last week's Shabbat Mevarchim Kiddush that came in after deadline: Kerry & Evan Bell, in honor of their 12th wedding anniversary. We thank everyone for sponsoring this happy event!

CONGREGATION OHR TORAH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: This Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 8:00 pm. This meeting will include a membership vote on whether Congregation Ohr Torah should enter into a new contract negotiation with Rabbi Marc Spivak.

מזל טוב Mazal Tov to Suzanne and Dr. Elliot Grossman on the birth of a grandson and forthcoming Brit Milah of the young one.

מזל טוב Mazal Tov to Linda and Murray Laulich on the recent wedding in Israel of their granddaughter, Joy Davis to Rami Fischberger, and to the parents Shellie & Eric Davis and Elana & Michael Fischberger.

FEATURED TALK: Ohr Torah is pleased to have Jonah Ottensoser of the Star-K speak at Ohr Torah, Sunday evening, February 10, 7:30pm on the topic *Technology and the Orthodox 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. Sponsorships are available. For further information, please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

OHR TORAH MEMBER TO BE HONORED: Please join BINA, Stroke and Brain Injury Assistance, in honoring Dr. Steven Kirshblum with the Physician Leadership Award at their Annual Dinner on Sunday, January 13, 2019, at the El Caribe Country Club in Brooklyn. For journal advertising and/or dinner reservations, please go to www.binausa.org/dinner or call 718-645-6400.

TOGETHER ON TUESDAY: Tuesday, January 15 at 12:30PM- In honor of the upcoming holiday, *Tu B'Shevat*, the Jewish New Year for the Trees, enjoy a festive lunch with olive tasting, and hear guest speaker, Barbara Israel Bortniker, JNF board member for Central NJ, Makor Speaker and artist, present, "How JNF partners with *Hashomer Hachadash* to revitalize Zionism amongst Israeli youth to protect the land and farmers of Israel." Barbara will de-

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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

scribe her recent visit to Israel with photos and drawings that highlight an olive harvest celebration attended by thousands of Israelis at an agricultural high school in the Northern Galilee. Please RSVP by Friday Jan. 10. Cost \$8.00.

ESCAPE THE ROOM! Last chance to reserve for a night out filled with puzzles, challenges and a lot of laughs... Sat, Jan 12, 2019 at 8:45PM. Join Ohr Torah at Last Minute Escape in Wayne, NJ. Find out if you and your fellow teammates can solve the clues, piece together the mystery and escape the room in under an hour. (If you've attended this event in previous years, new challenges await!) Children ages 10 and up can attend if accompanied by their parents. Only \$23 per person. Spots are now extremely limited and we once again expect to sell out, so sign up asap!

<http://congregationohrtorah.org/escape>.
Questions? Karenbbarrow@yahoo.com.

ISRAEL SECURITY UPDATE with IDF Retired Colonel Dany Tirza, Ph.D., expert in strategic planning, security, and defining and protecting borders. You won't want to miss this talk! The program is January 16th between 3 and 4pm, at the home of the sponsors, Nancy and Richard Perl, 52 Cummings Circle. There is no solicitation and the event is free. Your RSVP is appreciated to rprangers@aol.com.

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 February 2nd for the month of Adar I so you must sign up by January 29th.

AMAZON SMILE: Your Amazon purchases can help Ohr Torah through the Amazon Smile program. To set up your account go to

<https://congregationohrtorah.org/amazon>

and follow the instructions. 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.

Yahrzeits January 12 - 18

- 6 SHEVAT:** Bob Eagle for his Father, Avrohom ben Chaim, Abraham Eagle, on Shabbat, January 12.
6 SHEVAT: Elaine Scherman for Herman's Mother, Liba bat Ze'ev Wulf, Luba Scherman, on Shabbat, January 12.
7 SHEVAT: Lee Alexander for her Brother, Reuven Tzvi ben Nachman, Reuven Gross, on Sunday, January 13.
7 SHEVAT: Beverly Barton for her Mother, Sarah Breindel bat Avraham HaLevi, Sally Feigen, on Sunday, January 13.
7 SHEVAT: Debby Stiel for her Father, Avraham ben Eliezer, Arthur Klein, on Sunday, January 13.
10 SHEVAT: Sidney Sayovitz for his Mother, Dvora Henya bat Shlomo Tzvi, Joan Sayovitz, on Wednesday, January 16.
10 SHEVAT: Chesky Trenk for his Mother, Chaya bat Alexander, Chaya Trenk, on Wednesday, January 16.
11 SHEVAT: Sam Goldfischer for his Mother, Hadassah bat Ha'Rav Yehudah Leib, Hadassah Goldfischer, on Thursday, January 17.
11 SHEVAT: Sam Goldfischer for his Grandfather, Yosef ben Yaakov Ha'Levi, Joseph Goldfischer, on Thursday, January 17.
12 SHEVAT: Fernand Schoppik for his Grandfather, Uri ben Eliahu, Fernand Schoppik, on Friday, January 18.

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

LAST YEAR, 2018, THERE WERE 137 DAYS OF MEASURABLE PRECIPITATION AND OVER 70 INCHES OF EQUIVALENT RAINFALL IN WEST ORANGE

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

Office: Anna Chosak office@congregationohrtorah.org

Board: board@congregationohrtorah.org

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

Sisterhood President: Bertha Sharret, rsarret@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

PARSHAT BO - NATION BUILDING



**David and Barbara
Bortniker**

Dr. David Bortniker graduated from the Yeshiva of Hudson County, now relocated to Bergen County, and Yeshiva University High School for Boys in Manhattan. He is a graduate of Rutgers College and Einstein College of Medicine. He is a practicing Otolaryngologist in Somerville, NJ. Barbara is an accomplished artist. The pair has lived in West Orange for twenty years, and met at Rutgers Hillel. They have four children, and B'ezrat HaShem they will celebrate the wedding of a daughter this spring.

Parshat Bo describes the events leading to the emancipation of the Israelites as well as the process of nation building that successfully allowed the “taking of one nation from the midst of another nation.”

According to modern commentators the very detailed laws of the Korban Pesach represented the birth of Halacha. Judaism, a religion of mitzvot as well as faith, was to consist of a myriad of detailed laws representing the oral and written Torah clearly embedded in a spiritual and philosophical foundation. Furthermore, Jewish survival was to be guaranteed by active intergenerational education of the Halacha and its spiritual and philosophical foundations.

However, the nation also required a psychological, sociological and cultural maturation in addition to being introduced to Torah.

I believe this was the result from the otherwise highly problematic and enigmatic thrice repeated references to the Israelites “plundering” / “asking” / “borrowing” gold and silver utensils from their Egyptian neighbors. Noteworthy these morally challenging actions were initiated by divine command.

Traditional commentaries believe these actions represented a divine sanctioned form of “reparations” for servitude and represented a legitimate form of compensation to the former slaves.

However, Rabbi Shai Held suggests two alternative understandings of these events which can result in an environment necessary for nation building.

There are modern commentators who envision “a general change of heart within some Egyptians.” Their gifts represented a divinely inspired moral change; “the receptive hearts of some Egyptian people were now contrasted to the hard heart of their Pharaoh”.

He also cites Rabbi Benno Jacob (1862-1945) who adds another dimension. God also worked on the hearts of the Israelites. God wishes to win the Israelites to a more generous point of view.

According to Rabbi Held, these gifts were meant to ensure “a mandate of love rather than hate as a lesson of their time in Egypt”.

This change of heart by both the Israelites and the Egyptians culminates in the divine commandment in Deuteronomy to the next generation about to enter the land of Israel: “You shall not abhor an Egyptian for you were a stranger in his land.”

The Jewish nation was not only established on the foundation of an ethical monotheism defined within a framework of Mitzvot and Emunah but also on an individual and national commitment to establish a peace loving, generous civil society.

Because of these lessons, the resulting Exodus to freedom was remarkably free of violence, recriminations, corruption or lawlessness and has served as a saga of freedom that has been universally admired. **David Bortniker**

*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***



SMILE TIME: It was the day of the big sale. Rumors of the sale (and some advertising in the local paper) were the main reason for the long line that formed by 8:30, the store's opening time, in front of the store.

A small man pushed his way to the front of the line, only to be pushed back, amid loud and colorful curses. On the man's second attempt, he was punched square in the jaw, and knocked around a bit, and then thrown to the end of the line again.

As he got up the second time, he said to the person at the end of the line... “That does it! If they hit me one more time, I won't open the store!”

TECHNOLOGY AND THE ORTHODOX JEW



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

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 7:30PM

**Come hear from one of the major
consultants on Shabbat Appliances**

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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.

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OHR TORAH**

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office@congregationohrtorah.org

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