



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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

YITRO 20 - 26 Shevat, 5779 January 26 - February 1, 2019

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

Schedule 01/26 – 02/01

Friday (01/25)

Light Shabbat Candles 4:47pm
Mincha/Maariv 4:50pm
Shkia 5:05pm

Shabbat Mevarchim (01/26)

Shacharit 9:00am
Latest Shema 9:41am
Mincha 4:40pm
Maariv 5:44pm
Shabbat ends 5:51pm

Sunday - Friday (01/27 - 02/01)

Shacharit Sun 8:15am
Shacharit Mon/Thu 6:00am
Shacharit Tue/Wed/Fri 6:10am
Mincha/Maariv Sun only 4:55pm
Maariv Mon to Thu 7:30pm

Erev Shabbat - Friday (02/01)

Light Candles 4:56pm
Mincha 5:00pm
Shkia 5:14pm

Eruv Hotline: (973) 736-1407 x6

UPCOMING:

Rosh Chodesh Adar 1 Tu/We Feb. 5, 6
Fast of Esther Wed Mar 20
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.

YITRO



KIDDUSH is sponsored by Mark Grebenau in commemoration of the Yahrzeits of his great-Uncle, Josef Grebenau, Yosef ben Kalonimus Z"l who was murdered on this day, the 20th of Shevat; his father, Franz Grebenau, Chaim ben Mordechai, Z"l whose 19th Yahrzeit is tomorrow, the 21st of Shevat; his mother, Gisela (Glueck) Grebenau, Gittel bas Moshe Z"l, whose 2nd Yahrzeit is this Friday, the 26th of Shevat; his grandmother, Brucha (Steinhart) Glueck, Brucha bas Shmuel Schmerel Z"l whose Yahrzeit is next Shabbos, the 27th of Shevat; and his grandmother Jeanne (Oppenheimer) Grebenau Z"l whose Yahrzeit is a week from Monday, the 29th of Shevat. **SEUDAH SH'LISHIT** is sponsored by the Shul.

To sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush or Seudah Sh'lisheit 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.



מזל טוב Mazal Tov to Gail and Bruce Bukiet on the birth of a granddaughter, Tehilla Bayla, to parents Elisheva and Nathan Ziegler in Jerusalem, to big brother Shimi, to great grandparents Ted and Joyce Besdine and to aunts, uncles and cousins Etan, Penina, Nava, Adina, Meira, Aviva and Steven and the entire Bukiet and Ziegler families.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT: Dinner at Ohr Torah. Friday, February 8th, 6pm. Adults \$18, Children \$10, with a maximum per family of \$50. RSVP to office@congregationohrtorah.org. Sponsorships requested for \$72. For more information contact leron.thumim@gmail.com.

CELEBRATE a Birthday or an Anniversary at our monthly Shabbat Mevarchim for Adar I. If you, or a family member, or a friend are celebrating The next Mevarchim Kiddush is February 2nd for the month of Adar I so you must sign up by January 29th. See page 2 for the details.

SAVE THE DATE: 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 come on out to the Wild West (Orange) and 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.

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD IN PUBLIC SCHOOL? Please join Kulanu for a focus group for a new and exciting program launching in Fall 2019. Working in partnership with local shuls, yeshivas and institutions, Kulanu's goal is to inspire children to feel more connected to their Jewish heritage and grant them the opportunity to live committed Jewish lifestyles. Sunday, 7:30pm. January 27th at the home of Renee and Moshe Glick, Nicholas Avenue. Attendance is very

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

limited, so please RSVP to any of the following people: (See the ad on page 4). Ira Bloom, (973) 868-9051, ibloom6@gmail.com, Moshe Glick, (973) 865-2446, mglickus@gmail.com, Larry Rein, (973) 714-3951, or reinlawrence@gmail.com

FEATURED TALK: Ohr Torah is pleased to have Jonah Ottensofer of the Star-K speak at Ohr Torah, Sunday evening, February 24, 7:30pm on the topic *Technology and the Orthodox Jew*. Please note the new date. Mr. Ottensofer 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.

TOGETHER ON TUESDAY: Tuesday, January 29, 12:00 Noon: "Can You Hear Me?" by Dr. Judy Levitan, audiology supervisor, Audiology Hearing Center, St. Barnabus Ambulatory Care Center, Livingston, N.J. An Interactive presentation on hearing loss. Topics include signs of, types of and causes of hearing loss, age related issues, and ways to cope with hearing loss. As a clinical audiologist, Judy works with patients of all ages to provide educational testing and fitting of hearing aids and cochlear implants. (Refreshments 12 noon, Program 12:30PM).

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 26 - February 1

20 SHEVAT: Mark Grebenau for his Great-Uncle, Yosef ben Kalonimus, Joseph Grebenau, on Shabbat, January 26.

20 SHEVAT: Raphael Sharret for his Aunt, Ester bat Raphael, on Shabbat, January 26.

20 SHEVAT: Deborah Weintraub for her Mother, Bryna Rivka bat Meir Shalom, Blanche Meth, on Shabbat, January 26.

21 SHEVAT: Mark Grebenau for his Father, Chaim ben Mordachai, Franz H. Grebenau, on Sunday, January 27.

21 SHEVAT: Debra Spivak for her Grandmother, Sara bat Yaakov HaKohen, Shirley Basevin Billauer, on Sunday, January 27.

22 SHEVAT: Richard Kirsch for his Mother, Basha Esther bat Avraham, Beatrice Kirsch, on Monday, January 28.

22 SHEVAT: Bernard Schanzer for his Mother, Beila bat Yitzchak, Bella Schanzer, on Monday, January 28.

22 SHEVAT: Elaine Scherman for Chana bat Yisroel, Anna Parker, on Monday, January 28.

24 SHEVAT: Renee Spear for her Mother, Faigel bat Mordechai, Frances Goodman, on Wednesday, January 30.

25 SHEVAT: Irwin Krasna for his Grandson, Eliezer Zev ben Moshe Yishaya, Eric Levenson, on Thursday, January 31.

26 SHEVAT: Mark Grebenau for his Mother, Gittel bat Moshe, Gisela G. Grebenau, on Friday, February 1.

26 SHEVAT: Irwin Krasna for his Brother, Avraham Yitzchak ben Asher Zeleg, on Friday, February 1.

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

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

TORAH THOUGHT:

Yitro: The Puzzle



Mark D. Grebenau

Mark D. Grebenau, AA, BA, MS, MBA, JD, MD, PhD is a shamash. When he is not going to school, he does stuff. He also recycles, and hopes you do the same. He would like to dedicate this Dvar Torah to the memories of the people for whom he is sponsoring Kiddush (see page 1).

The opening of Parshas Yisro contains a puzzle – in the first posuk (Shemos 18:1) it says that “Yisro, priest of Midian, father-in-law of Moshe, heard all that Elokim did for Moshe and Israel His people, because HaShem brought Israel out of Egypt.” That Yisro would have heard about the events of last week’s parsha, that occurred about 300 miles away, is not surprising; the Meam Loez (R. Yaakov Choli, Constantinople, 17th – 18th century CE) explains that when the Yam Suf split, all the waters of the world, including water in cups, split as well. Note that the posuk says that Yisro heard that “Elokim” – meaning “Powers” – did the deed for Moshe and b’nai Yisroel; in a later aside, the posuk comments that it was done by HaShem (the Name that Moshe had revealed to Pharaoh, with which the ruler of Egypt was not familiar [Shemos 5:2]).

In response to this news, Yisro packs up his daughter and grandchildren and comes to join Moshe at Sinai. He sends word ahead, and Moshe comes out to meet him with the honor befitting his father-in-law. In his tent, (Shemos 18:8) Moshe tells his father-in-law “...all that HaShem did to Pharaoh and Egypt on behalf of Israel...” At which point (18:9) Yisro rejoices over the saving of the people, and (18:10) blesses HaShem for doing it, and (18:11) acknowledges HaShem as the greatest of all the Elokim/powers. All of this seems rather delayed; Yisro (and everyone else – except maybe Amalek who didn’t get the memo) already knew that the only superpower in the world (at that time) had just been soundly beaten by whatever Power was working on behalf of Israel (18:1, above). Why make a big deal out of it now?

To answer this question, I make reference to an issue of The Strand magazine, published in London in July of 1891 CE, in which the story A Scandal in Bohemia appeared. In the story, Arthur Conan Doyle’s creation, Sherlock Holmes, is demonstrating to his comrade, Dr. Watson, his powers of observation:

[Holmes:] “...you have frequently seen the steps which lead up from the hall to this room.’

[Watson:] “‘Frequently.’

“‘How often?’

“‘Well, some hundreds of times.’

“‘Then how many are there?’

“‘How many? I don’t know.’

“‘Quite so! You have not observed, and yet you have seen. That is just my point. Now, I know that there are seventeen steps, because I have both seen and observed.’”

Let us go from this documented conversation between two fictional characters to a fictional conversation between two documented individuals, Moshe and Yisro:

[Moshe:] “...and then HaShem split the Yam Suf for us, and after we passed through, the seas fell back on the Egyptian army.”

[Yisro:] “Yes, I know all about it. I was sitting in a restaurant with my friend Immanuel Velikovsky [Google him], and my diet cola split right up the middle.”

“But do you know Who was responsible for the rescue?”

“Certainly, the universal powers were working in your favor; Immanuel explained to me that the comet Venus, that originated from Jupiter, passed close to the Earth, causing all kinds of upheaval, including the plagues and the splitting of the sea [I am not making this up, Velikovsky is], and you were in the right place at the right time...”

“My dear Yisro, you have seen, but you have not observed!”

Moshe then explains that HaShem was the Prime Mover who, by the infinite means at His disposal, orchestrated the exodus and everything involved in it. Only then are Yisro’s eyes opened (it has been said that coincidence is HaShem’s way of remaining anonymous), at which point he is inspired to praise HaShem for what He did.

Humans have a tendency to attribute the events in their lives to “good fortune” or to “coincidence,” in addition to hard work (or lack of same). This is how it appears to them, and they live in the constant hope that things will transpire in their favor. If, however, they are oriented to recognize HaShem’s role in orchestrating the Grand Plan, they will observe the vital role that He plays, and, like Yisro, say brachos thanking HaShem, and be confident that all that HaShem does is for our ultimate benefit. May we all be zoche to observe, in addition to seeing, HaShem’s role in our individual lives!

Good Shabbos!

*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***

TECHNOLOGY AND THE ORTHODOX JEW



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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 7:30PM

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

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
West Orange, NJ 07052**

office@congregationohrtorah.org

SPONSORSHIPS ARE
AVAILABLE FOR \$36 EACH.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



celebrate shabbat!

with

**DINNER AT
OHR TORAH**

friday, february 8th, 6pm

rsvp to office@congregationohrtorah.org

adults \$18 children \$10 family max. \$50

sponsorships wanted \$72 each contact leron.thumim@gmail.com



SMILE TIME: The Art of Archeology: German scientists dig 50 meters underground and discover small pieces of copper. After studying these pieces for several months, Germany announced that the ancient Germans 3,000 years ago had a nationwide telephone network. Naturally, the British government is not that easily impressed. They ordered their own scientists to dig even deeper and went 100 meters down - they found small pieces of glass, and they soon announce that the ancient Brits 3,000 years ago already had a nationwide fiber network. But leave it to Israeli scientists - they dig 50, 100, and 200 meters underground, but find absolutely nothing... thus they conclude that the ancient Hebrews 3,000 years ago had cellular telephones.

Do you have a child in public school?



Then we need **YOUR** input for a dynamic new form of Jewish education...

Introducing **Kulanu**

Kulanu's mission is to provide Torah-based educational, spiritual and social programming to Jewish children in public school, inspiring them to feel more connected to their Jewish heritage. **A dynamic new adaption of the traditional Hebrew school model**, it will work in partnership with local shuls, yeshivas and institutions to inspire children to feel more connected to their Jewish heritage, provide the critical social connection to their Jewish peers, and grant them the opportunity to live committed Jewish lifestyles.

We invite public school parents to join us for a focus group on **Sunday, January 27, 7:30 pm** at the home of Renee & Moshe Glick. The focus group will be limited to 15-20 participants. Please RSVP to any of the co-chairs listed below.

Kulanu Co-Chairs:

Ira Bloom: ibloom6@gmail.com • Moshe Glick: mglickus@gmail.com • Larry Rein: reinlawrence@gmail.com

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

YACHAD SHABBATON RETURNS TO OHR TORAH – FEBRUARY 1-2

Coming up, on Shabbat Parshat Mishpatim (February 1-2), Ohr Torah will be hosting a Shabbaton for members of Yachad, together with advisors and students from the Kushner high school. Yachad is an OU-sponsored organization whose mission is to bring young people with special needs into the mainstream of Jewish life. Yachad members share ongoing Jewish educational, recreational, and social experiences together - *b'yachad* - with their non-handicapped peers in various synagogue and school groups.

We encourage all Ohr Torah members to offer to host some Yachad members and/or counselors and staff for that Shabbat. All meals will take place in the shul. If you would like to participate, please respond to the listserv e-mail you received on Thursday, or contact Yank Poleyeff at 201-218-1954, or send an e-mail to ypoleyef@mony.com.

Editor's Note: Our apologies to Yachad, this item was inadvertently left out of the this week's Newsletter.