



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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

Korach 3 - 9 Tammuz, 5779 July 6 - 12, 2019

Rabbi Marc Spivak, President David Goldstein

Schedule 07/05 – 07/12

Friday (07/05)

Shacharit	6:10am
Mincha/Maariv	7:00pm
Light Candles	7:10pm
Candle-Lighting B'zman	8:13pm
Shkia	8:31pm

Shabbat (07/06)

Rabbi's Shi'ur	8:30am
Shacharit	9:00am
Latest Shema	9:16am
SAY SHEMA BEFORE COMING TO SHUL	
Mincha	8:10pm
Maariv	9:15pm
Shabbat ends	9:22pm

Sunday - Thursday (07/07 - 07/11)

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

Friday (07/12)

Shacharit	6:10am
Mincha	7:00pm
Candle-Lighting	7:10pm
Candle-Lighting B'zman	8:11pm
Shkia	8:29pm

Eruv Hotline: (973) 736-1407 x6

UPCOMING:

Fast 17th of Tammuz	Sun	Jul 21
Rosh Chodesh Av	Fri	Aug 2
Tisha B'av Observed	Sun	Aug 11
Tu B'Av	Fri	Aug 16

SHABBAT KIDDUSH is sponsored by Faygah and Jed Linfield and family in honor of the aufruf and forthcoming marriage of their son Moshe to Rachael Lerner of Teaneck, NJ

SEUDAH SH'LISHIT is sponsored by the Shul.

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

RABBI'S SHI'UR: Rabbi Spivak will give a class at 8:30am preceding Shacharit this Shabbat.

MISHNA B'RURA CLASS with Rabbi Grosberg will be held this Shabbat after Mincha.

RABBI SPIVAK'S WEEKLY CLASS will meet this Wednesday at 7:30pm in the Beit Midrash.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: This Shabbat, July 6th, Yosef Condiotti, the Manager of First Station in Jerusalem, is scheduled to be our guest speaker at Seudah Sh'lishit. Yosef is also the founder of the Young Forum of Jerusalem which is led by Mayor Moshe Lion. Yosef will speak about how businesses became communities in Israel.

מזל טוב: Mazel tov to Shani and Harvey Okin on the birth of a grandson, to parents Rabbi Avi and Devorah Tova Okin, Uncle Yoni, Tante Dassie and great grandparents Lillian and Joseph Rosen.

מזל טוב: Mazal Tov to Faygah and Jed Linfield and family on the aufruf and forthcoming marriage of their son Moshe to Rachael Lerner of Teaneck, NJ

ברוך דיין האמת: We regret to inform you of the passing of David Nachmany, father of Tsilla Weber and grandfather of Leron

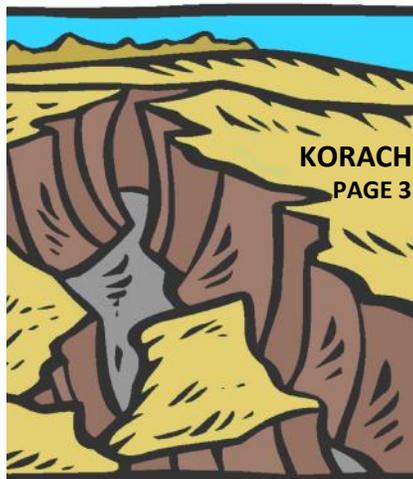
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Sisterhood Events and Donations

THE CINDY TURKELTAUB GROSBERG WOMEN'S LIBRARY is available for all Ohr Torah members. It's a wonderful place to find books on many subjects that relate to us as Jewish women. There are books on family dynamics, halachot, the Jewish woman in society, and so much more. All books are free for the taking on an honor basis. Simply borrow what you like and return it at your leisure. All Women's Library books are marked with a green decal on the spine in the Beit Midrash. Please avail yourself of this wonderful resource. Remember to email the names of any books that you borrowed to rsharret@hotmail.com.

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



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Thumim. The funeral took place in Herzliyya, Israel. May the mourners be comforted together with the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

ברוך דיין האמת: We regret to inform you of the passing of Miriam Berger, mother of Jack Rosen. The funeral took place in Rockville Centre, NY. Shiva will continue at the Rosen home, 4 Howell Drive, Thursday until Sunday Morning. May the mourners be comforted together with the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

HELP KEEP OHR TORAH CLEAN: Please return Siddurim and Chumashim to the shelves in the lobby after davening and remove any tissues or papers around your seat in the Sanctuary. And please do not take food out of the Kiddush Room into other parts of the Shul. We also ask that you tell your children not to run in the Sanctuary as this disturbs the worshippers. Thank you.

THIS WEEK IN WEST ORANGE

ART LESSIONS: Tuesday, July 9th at 2 different times: 5:30pm or 7:30pm. Includes all supplies, acclaimed artist, \$30 each class. At Cafe Klarbucks @the Lubavitch Center on Pleasant Valley Road.

VEGAN COOKING LESSONS and Cook-Along, Thursday, July 11th and Friday, July 12th with Master Chef and Health Coach, Rabbi Donn Gross. At the Shabbat House on Eagle Rock Road.

SUCCESSFUL AGING SEMINAR: July 10, 2019, 11:00 AM at the West Orange Public Library. Registration is required Call Susan at (973) 325-4131 to register.

WhatsApp Ohr Torah General Announcements: To join this important announcement group, sign up at <http://congregationohrtorah.org/whatsapp>

on your mobile phone (install WhatsApp first), tap the "Join Chat" button. Alternatively, you can email Anna at (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.

HELP US MAKE A MINYAN by joining 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, please go to the following site:

<http://congregationohrtorah.org/minyanwhatsapp> on your mobile phone with WhatsApp already installed and tap the "Join Chat" button. Alternatively, you can email either 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.

Yahrzeits July 6 - July 12

5 TAMMUZ: Bob Eagle for his Grandfather, Chaim ben Laizer, Chaim Eagle, on Monday, July 8.

6 TAMMUZ: Mortimer Cohen for his Mother, Rose bat Tzvi Aryeh Halevi, Rose Cohen, on Tuesday, July 9.

7 TAMMUZ: Fernand Schoppik for his Grandmother, Rachel bat Eliyahu, Rachel Piotrkowska, on Wednesday, July 10.

8 TAMMUZ: Marilyn Croman for her Mother, Henya bat Yitzchak, Helen Kaplan, on Thursday, July 11.

8 TAMMUZ: Deborah Druce for her Great-Aunt, D'vorah bat Yehudah, Dovly Kesten, on Thursday, July 11.

9 TAMMUZ: Cecile Loewy for her Husband, Ephraim ben Yitzchak Tzvi Ha'Lavi, Harry Loewy, on Friday, July 12.

9 TAMMUZ: Eric Nadel for his Father, Zvi ben Shimshon Ha'Cohen, Howard Nadel, on Friday, July 12.

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



SMILE TIME: A shnorer goes from door to door asking for tzedakah because his house was destroyed in a fire. He knocks on a door in a wealthy neighborhood in Livingston, New Jersey where he is greeted by the Jewish homeowner with, "Do you have a document from your rabbi affirming that your story is true?" "Oy," he replies, "That, too, was destroyed in the fire!"

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:

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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

TORAH THOUGHT:

Korach: Ground-Breaking News



Stephen Loeb

Stephen Loeb has lived in West Orange with his wife Joanne for almost 20 years. Together they have raised four daughters who have been attending Ohr Torah since infancy and have all led youth groups and most likely babysat your children. He is a practicing attorney, licensed in New Jersey and New York.

This week Parsha is about rebellion. On the face of it Korach asks Moses: Why is it that if the entire nation of Israel is all to be considered Holy, does Moses hold himself out above everyone else? In a modern understanding of Labor Law, not only does Korach have a point, he is making a legal claim! Nepotism! Tyranny! The nascent nation is certainly no Democracy of the people

Korach stages an insurrection and the answer came with swift justice - as it is said according to the text "The earth opened up" and swallowed Korach and his 250 followers whole.

The story is puzzling and in reading through the text two questions form: If Korach was such an awful person why is he memorialized with the portion named after him? After all we don't call it Meggilat Haman or name other portions after Amalek, Moab or Sodom. The second question was also Korach's: "The entire congregation is holy, and G-d is in their midst. So why do you raise yourselves above G-d's people?" Is it not a fair question? In Judaism we don't use intermediaries. Kedusha is the responsibility of the entire nation, so why was Korach's inquiry worthy of such harsh sanction?

After Korach's insurrection something interesting happens: Moses pleads with G-d not to accept Korach's sacrificial offering. A straight reading of the text suggests that Moses was pleading for his community because he knew that G-d was angry, and would destroy the rebellion. That Moses was acting unselfishly and solely in the interest of the people, including his skeptics.

Commentators personify Moses as humble. Despite all of his great accomplishments in leading a nation out of Egypt and receiving the Torah, Moses somehow still saw himself as a man of the people, no greater, who had to prove his worth. But perhaps it is much simpler than that. Perhaps the description of Moses' anguish is less about Moses and more about humanity. What if the feelings Korach spurred was a moment of self-doubt?

If so, Moses' response would be very relatable as a man with normal concerns and emotions. Perhaps even an ego. Reading Moses' reaction that way suggests that he was perhaps worried that maybe Korach was right.

Let's face it. As miraculous as the Exodus was in the beginning, the nation began a 40-year slog; it might even be concluded that the nation was in a rut. A golden calf, birds that

cause death from the sky, skin diseases, Aaron's sons struck dead, and most recently a failed scouting mission. Maybe Moses not only heard the rumblings but thought maybe Korach had a point.

Of course, we know how the story ends. Korach and his supporters are swallowed and the rebellion is defeated. Moses' leadership is reaffirmed by G-d, and accepted by the people. To use the modern day term, Moses was reset.

But even though the insurrection was quashed, Korach had influence. He was of the Israelite nation, he is of the original generation that came out of Egypt. He saw revelation at Sinai. In short, he was a founding father.

And yet, yet, he chips away at the authority of that leadership—not quietly, nor constructively—but as a rebel. He seeks not to build or renovate, but to destroy the general foundation of G-d's design.

As such, even if the origin of his challenge was in good faith, and let's assume it was, it did tremendous harm. It tore apart the nation, that's why we are told exactly how many rebels followed Korach - there was a schism.

Israel has had enemies in every generation. Some are external—from Amalek to Hamas, but what makes Korach different is that he is challenging the authority of the nation as an insider. An insider can always do more harm as an enemy than someone outside the camp.

When the insider curses us, we can be sure that our enemies will justify their own hatred with the insider's testimony. "I am not a bigot, Korach says the same!"

In this way Korach is a cautionary tale.- and merits memorialization. From time to time we all have complaints. We all need our egos to be fed. We all want to be heard. But in doing so it is extremely important to check our motivations. Are our criticisms fair? Can we do anything to make things better? Is the criticism constructive? Anything that we say can be used to harm: a person, an institution, a congregation, a community or—as in the case of Korach, the nation. Sometimes, we can be our own worst enemy.

That is not to say we should never speak of evil. Sometimes when we see evil it is imperative to report—to scream about it, but we should do so judiciously. We should always be mindful that when we lob bombs, those bombs can end up blowing us all up in the end. **Shabbat Shalom.**

Stephen Loeb

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@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



STUNNING! 50 Mullarkey Drive in the Woodlands. Fantastic Aspen with upgraded kitchen, bathrooms and HVAC system! Only \$489,000.

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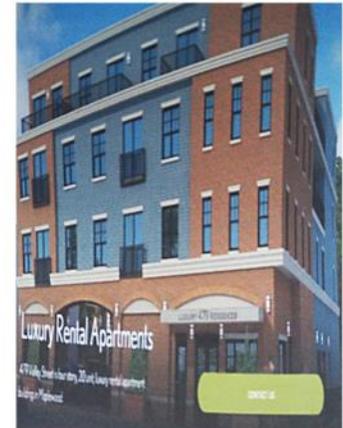
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