



# CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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

**Beha'alotcha** 19 - 25 Sivan, 5779 June 22 - 28, 2019

Rabbi Marc Spivak, President David Goldstein

## Schedule 06/21 – 06/28

### Friday (06/21)

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

### Shabbat (06/22)

Shi'ur by Rabbi Spivak	8:30am
Shacharit	9:00am
Latest Shema	9:12am
<b>SAY SHEMA BEFORE COMING TO SHUL</b>	
Mincha	8:10pm
Maariv	9:16pm
Shabbat ends	9:23pm

### Sunday - Thursday (06/23 - 06/27)

Shacharit Sun	8:15am
Shacharit Mon/Thu	6:00am
Shacharit Tue/Wed	6:10am
Mincha/Maariv Sun-Thu	8:20pm

### Friday (06/28)

Shacharit	6:10am
Mincha	7:00pm
Candle-Lighting	7:10pm
Candle-Lighting B'zman	8:14pm
Shkia	8:32pm

**Eruv Hotline: (973) 736-1407 x6**

### UPCOMING:

Rosh Chodesh Tammuz We/Th	Jul 3, 4
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 Annie and Sam Goldfisher in celebration of their new granddaughter, Leyla Alexandra.

**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](mailto:office@congregationohrtorah.org).

**SHABBAT SHI'UR** at 8:30am by Rabbi Marc Spivak.

**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.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** This Sunday, June 23 at 9:00 pm

**מזל טוב:** Mazal Tov to Annie and Sam Goldfisher who are sponsoring our Kiddush this week in celebration of their שלום בת, welcoming their granddaughter, Leyla Alexandra, אליה ליאור daughter of Beth and Jared Balavram, to our family and community.



**מזל טוב:** Mazal Tov to Ruth and Mark Grebenau and family on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Baila Grebenau in Jerusalem. Mark took this picture of her giving her Bat Mitzvah speech this past week.

**מזל טוב:** Mazal Tov to Gabrielle and Jacob Moskovitz on the birth of a son Noah Lev and to Grandparents, Boni and Martin

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Sisterhood Events and Donations

**THE CINDY TURKELTAUB GROSBURG 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](mailto:rsharret@hotmail.com).

### Sisterhood Tribute Fund:

**SIDDUR** dedicated in memory of Yoli Frankel, beloved mother of Esti Frankel by Ed and Marilyn Croman

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](mailto:deborahdruce@gmail.com)

Moskovitz and Cheryl and Lee Lasher, to Great-Grandparents Judith Moskovitz, Carol Lee Loebenberg, Peggy and Phil Zimmerman, Doreen Casella and Jeanette and Howard Lasher and to the entire Lasher/Moskovitz Family.

**מזל טוב:** Mazal Tov to Dr. & Mrs. Irwin Krasna on The wedding last week of their granddaughter Hadassa Levenson to Emanuel Korn.

**A HEARTFELT GOOD BYE AND OUR THANKS** to Rabbinic Intern Shlomo David who finished his term this past Shabbat. We wish him well and a great future.

**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.

#### SOME KASHRUT LINKS FOR NORTH AND CENTRAL NJ

**Vaad Harabonim of MetroWest NJ:**

<http://www.metrowestvaad.org/>

**Kof-K:** <https://www.kof-k.org>

**Jersey Shore Orthodox Rabbinat (JSOR):**

<https://jsor.org>

**Rabbinical Council of Bergen County:**

<https://www.rcbcvaad.org/>

**Passaic-Clifton Kashrus:** (973) 553-6940

**The Vaad HaRabonim of Raritan Valley:**

P.O. Box 4119, Highland Park, NJ 08904

**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](mailto:office@congregationohrtorah.org)) or David Goldstein ([davesmail@golddave.com](mailto: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](mailto:Bruce.Schlanger@gmail.com), or David Goldstein [davesmail@golddave.com](mailto:davesmail@golddave.com) with the phone number you

#### Yahrzeits June 22 - 28

**19 SIVAN:** Glenn Goldberg for his Father, Meir Yaakov ben Shlomo, Milton J. Goldberg, on Shabbat, June 22.

**21 SIVAN:** Robert Rubin for his Father, Ha'Rav Avroham ben Ha'Rav Issacher Berish, Abraham Rubin, on Monday, June 24.

**23 SIVAN:** Sam Goldfischer for his Uncle, Yaakov ben Ha'Rav Yehudah Leib, Jacob Isseroff, on Wednesday, June 26.

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



**SMILE TIME:** This week's really oddball humor:

[1] Thatchery Street in Livingston was originally supposed to be called Zachery Street, but the contractor that built the road had a lisp.

[2] I had this light switch on my wall that seemed to do nothing. One Friday afternoon, I sat there playing with it until I got a call from a Shabbas Goy in Israel screaming, "My neighbor says cut it out! It's Shabbat!"

[3] It has been proposed that all the orthodox synagogues in West Orange combine into one Mega-Shul to be named AABJDOTBIES&ETC.

**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](mailto:shabbatnewsletter@congregationohrtorah.org)

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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**Men's Club President:** Larry Freedman, [larry@18thstory.com](mailto:larry@18thstory.com)

**Sisterhood President:** Bertha Sharret, [rsharret@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:listserv@congregationohrtorah.org)

**Monthly Calendar:** Elia Weixelbaum

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

[ShabbatNewsletter@congregationohrtorah.org](mailto:ShabbatNewsletter@congregationohrtorah.org)

**Reading Torah:** Avi Klein, [otlaining@congregationohrtorah.org](mailto:otlaining@congregationohrtorah.org)

**Scheduling Calendar:** Anna Chosak, e-mail to

[Schedule@congregationohrtorah.org](mailto: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](mailto:leron.Thumim@gmail.com) and [ebtrenk@gmail.com](mailto:ebtrenk@gmail.com)

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**Newsletter Advertising:** Howard Charish

[advertising@congregationohrtorah.org](mailto:advertising@congregationohrtorah.org)

## Beha'alotcha THE RELEVANCE OF MOSHE'S HUMILITY

*Bruce Schlanger grew up in West Orange and lives in the Redwood Section with his wife and family.*



**Bruce Schlanger**

In this week's parasha we see B'nei Yisrael (the Children of Israel) complaining to Moshe, who turns to Hashem in what appears to be a resignation of sorts. In response, Hashem does not appear to be upset with Moshe and provides Moshe with a solution – 70 elders to help him carry the burden. This is puzzling. First of all, why now? Haven't B'nei Yisrael complained before? Why would the elders offer a solution? Hold the thought.

Jumping to the end of the parasha we have the incident involving Miriam's conversation with Aaron regarding Moshe and his wife. In defense of Moshe, Hashem takes Miriam and Aaron aside and rebukes them. In the narrative the Torah adds that Moshe is the most humble of all men. The obvious question is why is this relevant? The Ramban provides two answers (one from Ibn Ezra) – (i) the accusations or inferences regarding Moshe's character, which suggested self-importance or self-aggrandization, could not possibly have been true because of his modesty, and (ii) given his modesty, Moshe could never stand to defend himself.

There is a very interesting quote I saw from a non-Judaic source: "a humble person is simply someone who is naturally honest about their own truth". The concepts of honesty of one's self and the reality of one's situation were integral to Moshe's core being and identity, and I believe this provides insight into my earlier questions.

When B'nei Yisrael complained in Parasha Beshalach following the splitting of the Red Sea, their provisions actually ran out. Rashi shows how the dough they took out of Egypt covered them for 61 meals, and how that literally ran out. A gap in faith, perhaps, but until this point, Hashem had yet to rain down the Manna, so it was an honest concern. In the next Perek, B'nei Yisrael complain that they need water. Here too the Torah says ואין מים לעם to tell us that their water literally ran out. Similarly, in the episode of the bitter waters in the Perek preceding the Manna, the Torah informs us that the Nation could not drink from the water. Again, a legitimate concern, even if their approach or delivery by complaining wasn't perfect.

Here in Parashat Beha'alotcha however, it is a year later, and their complaints lack honesty and legitimacy. Hashem has fully sustained them through the miracles of

the Manna that they continue to receive. Yet they complain about how good they had it in Egypt with the fish, cucumbers/squash and melons. They even argue that these items were provided for free, and Rashi points out the absurdity - they had to pay for everything, including the straw to make the bricks! This falsification of past history is intellectually dishonest.

The word for falsehood or lies in Hebrew שקר (sheh-ker) is comprised of only letters from the end of the Hebrew alphabet (and even mixes that up along with dropping the final ending). שקר in its worst ignores and reinvents what came before (the past history). We see this very clearly today from the Enemies of Yisrael that deny the holocaust, ignore our irrefutable historical link to Eretz Yisrael and recast the migratory Arabs as the indigenous "Philistines" through mythology invented by KGB/PLO propaganda in the 1960s. By contrast, the Hebrew word for truth and the signature of the Shema which we recite, אמת (eh-met) is comprised of the first, middle and end of the Hebrew alphabet. Truth, by definition, can never reinvent any part of history. We must remember and learn from the past without distortion in order to live the present with a better hope for the future.

This Intellectual dishonesty exhibited by B'nei Yisrael in the Parsha runs so counter to the intrinsic essence of Moshe that he could no longer relate to (let alone lead) B'nei Yisrael by himself. By the same token, the masses could no longer relate to Moshe who was on such a high level of character and holiness. Recognizing this reality, Hashem provided him with the additional support of 70 elders imparted with רוח הקודש (ru-ach ha-kodesh) Holy Spirit, and qualities similar to Moshe, albeit at a derivative and lower level which the masses could better relate to. Later, in Parashat Shofatim additional lower court judges and officers were appointed to help lead and administer the people as purveyors of Torah values and leadership that B'nei Yisrael could learn from.

Indeed, sometimes our greatest sources for inspiration and growth come not from the lofty elite i.e., גדולי הדור, whose piety and knowledge are perceived as unobtainable, but from our friends and neighbors who serve as role models that we can relate to and emulate. We are fortunate to live in a community that has so much to offer in that regard. Shabbat Shalom. **Bruce Schlanger**

*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](mailto: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**



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