



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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

VAYAKHEL 25 Adar I - 2 Adar II, 5779 March 2 - 8, 2019

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

Schedule 03/02 – 03/08

Friday (03/01)

Light Shabbat Candles	5:30pm
Mincha/Maariv	5:35pm
Shkia	5:48pm

Shabbat Mevarchim (03/02)

Shacharit	9:00am
Latest Shema	9:19am
SAY SHEMA BEFORE COMING TO SHUL	
Mincha	5:20pm
Maariv	6:23pm
Shabbat ends	6:30pm

Sunday - Friday (03/03 - 03/08)

Shacharit Sun	8:15am
Shacharit Mon	6:00am
Shacharit Tue/Wed	6:10am
Shacharit* Thu/Fri	5:50am

*ROSH CHODESH

Mincha/Maariv Sun	5:35pm
Maariv Mon to Thu	7:30pm

Erev Shabbat - Friday (03/08)

Light Candles	5:37pm
Mincha	5:40pm
Shkia	5:55pm

Eruv Hotline: (973) 736-1407 x6

UPCOMING:

Fast of Esther Wed	Mar 20
Purim Thu	Mar 21
Rosh Chodesh Nissan Sat	Apr 6
Erev Pesach Fri	Apr 19

YO-YO AT PURIM! Get the young ones ready for some fun during the third Megillah reading on Purim, Thursday, March 21st, between 10:15 and 11:15am. See the Ad on page 4.



VAYAKHEL

KIDDUSH: Celebrating this week's Shabbat Mevarchim Kiddush are Mark Grebenau in honor of his 25th birthday (as opposed to being 25 years of age), Rabbi Marc Spivak, in honor of Rebbetzin Debra Spivak's birthday on March 10, and Sharon and Howard Charish in honor of their birthdays in March. **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.

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



SEUDAH SH'LISHIT will feature a talk from Rabbi Cary (Avraham Peretz) Friedman from Heart, Mind, and Soul who will be speaking about his new book, "Setting a Table for Two", a lively, no-holds-barred guide to marriage based entirely on a profound understanding of Torah as the ultimate guide to life.

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

מזל טוב Mazal Tov to Davida and Gary Stadtmauer on the birth of a grandson; to parents Tali and Izzie Steckler of Montreal, to brothers, Naftali and Yakov; Great Grandparents Marilyn Stadtmauer, Margie Block and Arthur and Shoshana Steckler; and to the entire Stadtmauer, Steckler, Block and Bloom families.

Well known lecturer **NECHAMA PRICE** will speak after Shabbat services this 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."

Ohr Torah is pleased to welcome this weekend, the **HEART, MIND & SOUL RE-TREAT**. HMS helps people enjoy life to the fullest, helping people deal with issues and relationships, exploring and eliminating limiting beliefs that may be preventing them from feeling happy and satisfied. HMS has melded the best of today's secular world personal development programs with an Orthodox Shabbaton experience. It is the only program of its type.

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

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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

about this event! People can go to the following <https://www.discoverwestorange.com/contact> or go to <https://www.discoverwestorange.com/> for more information.

ICE SKATING: Save the date - Sunday, noon, May 19th, for the Second Annual Ohr Torah Ice Skating Event. Watch this notice for more information coming soon!

TOGETHER ON TUESDAY: Tuesday March 5, "Everyone with diabetes counts" by Lauren Marcus, Education and Outreach coordinator, Quality Innovation Network, Medicare and Medicaid services. An introduction to a national initiative to raise awareness and educate self-management skills for diabetes. 12:30 - 2:30pm at Congregation AABJ&D, Sephardic Wing.

JKHA's SHABBAT ON SUNDAY: Sunday March 10, 10am- noon. All children ages 3-10 are invited to join Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy for a special hands-on Shabbat experience complete with Chesed and art projects, gym activities, and a delicious "kiddush," followed by a *zemirot* concert performed by JKHA students. Any questions please contact Allison Lyons, Director of Admissions, alyons@jkha.org or 862-437-8050. This program is funded through a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest.

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://congregationohratorah.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.



SMILE TIME: Little David returns home from Hebrew school and his father asks, "David, what did you learn today?" He answers, "The Rabbi told us how Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt." "Really! How?" The boy says "Moses was a big strong man and he beats Pharaoh up and knocks him to the ground. While he was down, he got all the people together and runs towards the sea. When he gets there, he has the Corps of Engineers build a huge pontoon bridge. Once they got on the other side, they blew up the bridge while the Egyptians were trying to cross." The father was shocked, "Is *that* what the Rabbi taught you?" The young boy replies, "No, but you'd never believe the story he *DID* tell us!"

Yahrzeits March 2 - 8

25 ADAR-I: Howard Berg for his Mother, Elka bat Avraham Abish, Elka Berg, on Shabbat, March 2.

25 ADAR: Raphael Sharret for his Grandfather, Raphael ben Tzvi, Raphael Chaitin, on Shabbat, March 2.

25 ADAR-I: Debra Spivak for her Grandfather, Shlomo ben Shmuel Binyamin, Stanley Billauer, on Shabbat, March 2.

26 ADAR: Bruce Bukiet for his Mother, Bayla bat Avraham, Belle Bukiet, on Sunday, March 3.

26 ADAR: Deborah Druce for her Cousin, Yaakov Leib ben Tzvi Hirsch, Jack Kesten, on Sunday, March 3.

28 ADAR: Phil Perlstein for his Mother, Tillah bat Pesach Michel, Tillie Perlstein, on Tuesday, March 5.

28 ADAR: Barry Schwartz for his Father, Gershon Henech ben Baruch Mordechai, Gerald E. Schwartz, on Tuesday, March 5.

29 ADAR-I: Joseph Falkenstein for his Mother, Gedilcha bat Yosef, Erna Falkenstein, on Wednesday, March 6.

29 ADAR-I: Raphael Sharret for his Mother, Leah bat Raphael, Leah Sharret, on Wednesday, March 6.

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

The annual Casino Night, Sushi and Wine Tasting to benefit Ohr Torah, AABJ&D, Chabad of West Orange and the Iris Ber- man Early Childhood Center will take place on March 9th at 8 pm at Congregation AABJD, 700 Pleasant Valley Way. Sushi and Wine Tasting \$20; Casino, Sushi and Wine Tasting \$50 (includes free chips to play). There will be representatives from multiple wineries and over 60 wines available for tasting.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: Items for the Newsletter must be submitted before 4:00pm on the Wednesday before publica- tion. Anything submitted after that time will be considered for the following issue.

Email to: shabbatnewsletter@congregationohratorah.org

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Office: Anna Chosak office@congregationohratorah.org

Board: board@congregationohratorah.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@congregationohratorah.org

Monthly Calendar: Elia Weixelbaum

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

ShabbatNewsletter@congregationohratorah.org

Reading Torah: Avi Klein, otlaining@congregationohratorah.org

Scheduling Calendar: Anna Chosak, e-mail to

Schedule@congregationohratorah.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@congregationohratorah.org

Newsletter Advertising: Howard Charish

advertising@congregationohratorah.org

Vayakhel : Please Leave a Message

We begin this week's Parsha with a similar refrain, **וּבְיוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי יְהִי לָכֶם קֹדֶשׁ שַׁבַּת שַׁבְּתוֹן לַיהוָה** **:כָּל-הָעֹשֶׂה בּוֹ מְלָאכָה יוּמָת:** "The 7th day will be Sabbath for you- all who do Melacha are liable to death." This prohibition of Sabbath desecration is mentioned many times throughout the Torah and carries with it the ultimate punishment in each instance. Chilling, as the general assumption is that the Torah does not add even a single letter without good reason, and yet over and over do we find the severity of Kol HaOseh Melacha Mos YuMas- All who do Melacha shall face certain death.

However, Rabbi Akiva Tatz points out, that more than the explicitness and severity of Sabbath desecration is the difficulty with which it is to actually become convicted of this crime! The judicial process of the Torah makes it nearly impossible for the death penalty to be carried out. For starters, there need to be two witnesses present the moment *before* the potential violator carries out the act. The Gemara tells us that these witnesses are required to warn the desecrater *toch cdai dibbur* (a few moments) before he carries out the act. This warning must include the nature of the crime, the punishment it incurs, and receive an affirmative response of rebellion from the desecrator. The chances of this happening are astronomically small, to the extent that the Gemara tells us that a court that administers the death penalty once in 70 years is considered a bloodthirsty courtroom.

The above description begs the following question: If Sabbath violation is SO bad that it carries the death penalty, then why did G_d make it nearly impossible to actualize? It doesn't seem like a very effective judicial system.

Rabbi Tatz answers and says that we have been making a fundamental error in our understanding of the Torah's justice system. The goal was never to punish but rather to convey to us, G_d's children that the action you did was made with in-

credibly poor judgment such that it carries the weight of death. Hashem is telling us however, that that is not what I want! I want you to understand what you did, learn from it, and be better in the future.

With this message, the Torah conveys a perfect balance of justice and reform. It does not sugar coat, and it does not beat around the bush, but it does allow and indeed encourages opportunity for teshuva and self-growth.

I believe that this message of the opportunity to correct ourselves within the punishment has been the exact message of the last five Torah portions, from Teruma through Pekudei. As Rashi points out, the parshiot are all out of order! The episode of the Golden Calf is what prompts the creation of the Mishkan in the first place, not the other way around- and yet G_d says, that is not how I am going to tell the story! I want the Jews to know that no matter how badly they mess up, no matter how far they stray, my goal is not to punish, but rather to reflect and reform; there is always a Mishkan to turn to. There is always an opportunity for teshuva and an outlet to seek G_d. These Parshiot then, are structured as a sandwich, with almost two full portions dedicated to building the Mishkan, followed by a brief few allyiot describing the tragic episode of the Golden Calf and then right back to two more Parshiot of building the Mishkan.

What emerges is the immense sensitivity that Hashem has to his people, the message of hope reigning supreme over the message of fear.

We must always remember that the responsibility and privilege of Shabbos that Hashem has given us can sometimes be a heavy one, but should be treated like carrying a precious diamond, which is sometimes heavy, but never a burden. More importantly, if we mess up, the opportunity for self-improvement is already built into the system!

Good Shabbos! **Rabbinic Intern Shlomo David**

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 26th for the month of Nissan - you must sign up by February 26th.

AMAZON SMILE: Your Amazon purchases can help Ohr Torah with the AmazonSmile 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 AmazonSmile to complete your purchase and support our shul.

WhatsApp Ohr Torah General Announcements:

To join this new announcement group, go to <http://congregationohrtorah.org/whatsapp> on your mobile phone (install WhatsApp first), tap the "Join Chat" button. Alternatively, 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.



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH PRESENTS

PURIM 2019
YO-YO PERFORMER/CIRCUS ARTIST
JUSTIN WEBER

THURSDAY MARCH 21, 2019
PURIM DAY
(DURING THE THIRD MEGILLAH READING)
10:15AM- 11:15AM
Come in Costume!
Ages 3-10
Suggested Donation \$5 per Child
270 PLEASANT VALLEY WAY, WEST ORANGE NJ 07052

Come for Shabbat to see what makes West Orange so special!

**The Discover
West Orange Shabbaton**

March 8-9, 2019

www.discoverwestorange.com

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WEST ORANGE** **WO**

**See why over 30 new families
have moved in recently!**

A Project of Congregations AABJ&D and Ohr Torah

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT AT OHR TORAH

Dateline: Motzei Shabbat, February 23rd. The crowd came to solve the murder of Nathan Dockerfeller, but only one person solved the mystery... and it was the murderer himself - his brother and champion prize-fighter, Duncan, portrayed below by Leron Thumim.



Next to Leron, is his wife Karen who played the part of the maid. Winner of the best actor/actress was our Office Manager, Anna Chosak, (right picture, next to her husband Seth), who wowed the audience as singer and sister to Nathan, Polly Darton. Best costume award went to Margot Freedman, who took the part of Belly Dancer, Serena, another of Nathan's sisters. That's her husband Larry in the picture standing with her. (Almost sounds like a night at the Oscars!) Pic-



tures thanks to Rabbi Marc Spivak who portrayed a jockey - somehow, despite his great acting, maybe he was a little too tall for the part? Ohr Torah would like to thank Jay and Debbie Goldberg, Eli Goldberg, Bracha Balsler, Marc and Andrea Goldberg, Anna Chosak, the Sisterhood and Men's Clubs, Rivky Balsler, Leron Thumim, and Lea-Nora Kordova for their help with this event.



Jonah Ottensoser, technical adviser to the Star-K, presented a lecture on his expertise, Shabbat Appliances, this past Sunday, February 24th, at Ohr Torah. In the center picture (left to right), Past Ohr Torah President Elia Weixelbaum, Jonah Ottensoser, and Rabbi Marc Spivak. His slide presentation for your review is available at:

<https://images.shulcloud.com/1508/uploads/PDFs/Presentations/OttensoserWeb.pdf>

Late Addition to our Newsletter: Mazal tov to Adley Mandel on the birth of a granddaughter to Yardena and Alan Mazaud, and to Uncle Micha and Aunt Gitty Mandel.