



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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

PEKUDEI 2 - 8 Adar II, 5779 March 9 - 15, 2019

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

Schedule 03/09 – 03/15

Friday (03/08) ROSH CHODESH

Light Shabbat Candles	5:37pm
Mincha/Maariv	5:40pm
Shkia	5:55pm

Shabbat (03/09)

Shacharit	9:00am
Latest Shema	9:13am
SAY SHEMA BEFORE COMING TO SHUL	
Teen Minyan	9:45am
Mincha	5:25pm
Maariv	6:31pm
Shabbat ends	6:38pm

Sunday - Friday (03/10 - 03/15)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Shacharit Sun	8:15am
Shacharit Mon/Thu	6:00am
Shacharit Tue/Wed/Fri	6:10am
Mincha/Maariv Sun-Thu	6:45pm

Erev Shabbat - Friday (03/08)

Light Candles	6:45pm
Mincha	6:50pm
Shkia	7:03pm

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 FIRST SEDER	Apr 19
Pesach –last 2 days Fri/Sat	Apr 26, 27
Rosh Chodesh Iyar Sun/Mon	May 5, 6

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



KIDDUSH is sponsored by the Shul. **SEUDAH SH'LISHIT** is sponsored by Gail and Bruce Bukiet in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Bruce's mother, Belle Bukiet, Baila bat Avraham .

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.

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

KABBALAH CLASSES RETURN with Ed Croman. The Spring Session starts this Thursday, March 14th at 7:30pm in the Beit Midrash.

מזל טוב Mazel Tov to Daryl and Edward Shapiro on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Sienna Shapiro of Los Angeles; to parents David and Sylvie Shapiro and sister Alexis; to Aunt Lauren and Uncle Marc Shapiro and family.

מזל טוב Mazel Tov to Anna & Steve Kirshblum on the birth of a grandson to Rena & Jonathan Eskowitz.

מזל טוב Some of our readers may not have gotten this message last week due to a problem with our email and it was added into the Newsletter very late: Mazal Tov to Adley Mandel on the birth of a granddaughter (named after Susan) and to Gitty & Micha Mandel on their new niece, and to parents Yardena & Alain Mazaud and to the entire extended Mandel family.

ברוך דיין האמת We regret to inform you of the passing of Elise Chamama, mother of Roland Chamama. The last Shiva Minyan is Friday morning (March 8) at 6:15am, 7 Woodland Avenue. Shiva ends Friday afternoon. May the mourners be comforted together with the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

THE DISCOVER WEST ORANGE SHABBATON is this weekend. We would like to extend our welcome to those visitors from out of town and hope you decide to make West Orange your home. We are a tight-knit, diverse community with great schools and houses that give you more for your money. Commutable to NYC. There are 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.

The annual **CASINO NIGHT, SUSHI AND WINE TASTING** to benefit Ohr Torah, AABJ&D, Chabad of West Orange and the Iris Berman 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.

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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

ICE SKATING: Save the date - Sunday, noon, May 19th, for the Second Annual Ohr Torah Ice Skating Event. Last year's event was extremely popular. Watch this notice for more information coming soon!

TOGETHER ON TUESDAY: Tuesday March 12, -"A Taste of Food Photography" by Steve Wien, photographer and musician for B'nai Jazz. A look into the world of food photography. Tricks and techniques used by professionals to transform an idea into a visual reality. Lunch at 12:30PM, Speaker at 1:00-2:00PM at Congregation AABJ&D, Sephardic Wing. For information and to check for cancellation on account of inclement weather, call (973) 736-1407 x240.

JKHA's SHABBAT ON SUNDAY: This 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, the Director of Admissions at JKHA, 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: It was Sadie's turn to take the wheel, driving down Interstate Highway 95 on their way to Florida for the winter - the back seat and trunk packed to the hilt with clothes and belongings. Moshe sat in the passenger seat, non-stop complaining about her driving. There's a sound of siren and a police officer from the Georgia Highway Patrol pulls them over. "What's a matter officer? I wasn't speeding. Did I do something wrong?" "It's not that," replied the man in blue, "it's your husband. He fell out of your car about five miles back!" "Thank heavens," replies Sadie, "I thought I had gone deaf!"

Yahrzeits March 9 - 15

- 3 ADAR:** Rabbi Marc Spivak for his Grandfather, Baruch ben Tzvi, Bernard Fliegelman, on Sunday, March 10.
3 ADAR: Elia Weixelbaum for Stephanie's Mother, Chaya Leah bat Yudel, Lillian Shatkin, on Sunday, March 10.
4 ADAR: Elliot Grossman for his Mother, Etta bat Eliyahu, Ethyl Grossman, on Monday, March 11.
4 ADAR-II: Jack Rosen for his Grandfather, Avraham ben Benjamin Ha'Cohen, Abraham Perel, on Monday, March 11.
4 ADAR: Jacki Routhenstein for her Grandmother, Sarah bat Yaacov, Sally Wagner, on Monday, March 11.
5 ADAR-II: Sam Goldfischer for his Uncle, Dovid ben Yosef Ha'Levi, David Goldfischer, on Tuesday, March 12.
6 ADAR-II: Elihu Feldman for his Father, Reb Chaim ben Kolumonus Kalmen, Eugene Feldman, on Wednesday, March 13.
6 ADAR: Jacki Routhenstein for her Grandfather, Yehoshua ben Menashe, Osias Wagner, on Wednesday, March 13.
7 ADAR-II: Jack Rosen for his Uncle, Moshe ben Yehuda, Morris Sheps, on Thursday, March 14.
8 ADAR-II: Irwin Krasna for his Grandfather, Binyamin ben Avraham, on Friday, March 15.
9 ADAR-II: Naomi Berg for her Father, Tuvia ben Menachem, Hyman Bell, on Shabbat, March 16.
9 ADAR: Adley Mandel for his Brother, Zelig Yitzchak ben Ephraim, Stewart Mandel, on Shabbat, March 16.
10 ADAR: Jeff Carmeli for his Mother, Yaffa bat Yitzhak, on Sunday, March 17.
10 ADAR-II: Fernand Schoppik for his Grandfather, Shabtai ben Tzvi, Shabtai Piotrkowky, on Sunday, March 17.
12 ADAR-II: Susan Lando for her Mother, Rochel bat Yosef, Ruth Frommell, on Tuesday, March 19.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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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
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Lea-Nora Kordova

TORAH THOUGHT:

Pekudei : Counting on You

Lea-Nora Kordova has been teaching Hebrew, Judaic subjects and English language arts for well over thirty years to students from age 2 to eighty(ish). She taught at Dov Revel, SAR, Yavneh Academy, 20 years at JKHA and at the community preschools. "What I love best is integrating the curriculum and teaching to the whole Jewish child," she says. For the last ten years Lea-Nora has been privately providing Jewish education for children who are not in yeshiva and working with Bar and Bat Mitzvah students.

Sefer Shmot, Exodus, concludes with *Parshat Pekudei*. Pekudei, which means "accounting," reviews all that was done in the creation and completion of the Tabernacle (*Mishkan*) and enumerates all the materials and associated expenditures. Even with tax season upon us, we wonder why this accounting is necessary. After all, Moshe, the architects, Bezalel and Oholiab, and B'nei Yisrael were following God's explicit directions.

Every free society needs to have trust in its leaders. In order to function effectively as a free, open society, a nation has to trust its leaders. Leadership is not for the empowerment or the aggrandizement of any one individual. Without the morality of public life, society can become demoralized.

In *Parshat Pekudei*, transparency in governance is noted by the fact that the Tabernacle was constructed in minute detail according to God's instructions to Moshe-- **כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה ה'** **אֶת מֹשֶׁה** which was stated over a dozen times throughout the *Parsha*. There can be no lingering doubt regarding Moshe as a trustworthy leader.

Equally important is the participation of the people in the construction of the *Mishkan*. The Israelites gave so much more than needed that Moshe announced that all contributions should cease (*VaYakhel* 36:5-6). By detailing all the materials and expenses the people could see their tax dollars at work. By giving to the building of the *Mishkan*, each member of B'nai Yisrael became partners in the process, and each had a vested interest in its construction. The Ohr HaChaim points out that in giving to the *Mishkan*, the Jewish people were all blessed and viewed as equally crucial in fulfilling this mission.

We also see this idea in the description of the completion of the work done for the Tabernacle. The wording seems a bit awkward.

Thus was completed all the work of the Tabernacle of the tent of the meeting: and the children of Israel did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so did they. (39:32)

It could have stated that work of the Tabernacle was completed according to all that the Lord commanded Moses. By emphasizing "the children of Israel" with the phrase "so did they" we can understand that the work was completed because the Jewish people were able to work together toward the common goal. They were involved in the details of the construction and took pride in the culmination of their work.

The placement of the *Mishkan* in the center of the camp is as important as it was then for B'nei Yisrael as it is now, in a more figurative sense, for successive generations. Belief in Hashem is central to the existence of the Jewish people. By placing the Tabernacle in the midst of the camp for all to see, we have a literal reminder of *yirat shamayim*.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks says that "Divine presence symbolized in the *Mishkan* at the heart of the camp brings *yirat shamayim* to the people."

"That is why Exodus culminates in the construction and placement of the Tabernacle at the center of the camp. Without the physical presence of God, There is no justice. Without justice, there is no human equality and dignity. Without reverence for heaven, society becomes the rule of the strong over the weak." (Covenant and Conversations: Exodus)

Parshat Pekudei ends the book of Exodus. What message can we derive?

Many commentators noted the similarities in the language between the Creation of the universe in Genesis (1:31, 2:2-3) and the construction of the Sanctuary in Exodus (40:33-34). There are seven verbs, **saw**, **all**, **made**, **behold**, **finished**, **work** and **blessed**, occurring in both passages. This is not happenstance. We can learn that just as God created order in the universe so too we should create order in our own personal lives and in society, by following God's laws.

As the *parsha* concludes we see "the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle" (40:34) and it is stated that Moshe is no longer allowed into Ohel Moed. Hashem's glory is for all B'nei Yisrael and no individual has exclusive rights.

The cloud lifted to signal the Israelites to continue with their journeys. The word **נסע** (travels) is reiterated in the very last *pasuk* where it states that "God's cloud... was visible to the entire family of Israel, in all their travels," (40:38). Why the reiteration? The word **נסע**, in the first instance, refers to the travels of the Israelites in the desert.

The second time, the usage of the word can also refer to the personal journeys that each one of us takes in life. We, as Jews, must keep sight of God's laws. We need the presence of God in our midst to survive as a society. We are each accountable for our own actions. **Lea-Nora Kordova**

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 Shabbot 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

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