



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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

Behar 20 - 26 Iyyar, 5779 May 25 - 31, 2019

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

Schedule 05/24 – 05/31

Friday (05/24)

Shacharit	6:10am
Mincha/Maariv	7:00pm
Early Candle-Lighting	7:10pm
Light Shabbat Candles	7:57pm
Shkia	8:15pm

Shabbat (05/25)

Shacharit	9:00am
Latest Shema	9:12am
SAY SHEMA BEFORE COMING TO SHUL	
Mincha	7:55pm
Maariv	8:59pm
Shabbat ends	9:06pm

Sunday - Thursday (05/26 - 05/30)

Shacharit Sun/Mon	8:15am
Shacharit Thu	6:00am
Shacharit Tue/Wed	6:10am
Mincha/Maariv Sun-Thu	8:05pm

Friday (05/31)

Shacharit	6:10am
Mincha	7:00pm
Early Candle-Lighting	7:10pm
Candle-Lighting	8:03pm
Shkia	8:21pm

Eruv Hotline: (973) 736-1407 x6

UPCOMING:

Yom Yerushalayim Sun	Jun 2
Rosh Chodesh Sivan Tue	Jun 4
Shavuot Sun/Mon	Jun 9, 10
Rosh Chodesh Tammuz We/Th	Jul 3, 4



OHR TORAH ANNUAL BBQ
SEE THE AD ON PAGE 5

COUNTING THE OMER



Friday Evening May 24 th	35
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SHABBAT KIDDUSH is sponsored by Jill and Rabbi Richard Kirsch in honor of Joshua's bar mitzvah. **SEUDAH SH'LISHIT** is sponsored by Mark Grebenau in commemoration of the Yahrzeit this coming Friday of his uncle, Sami D. Gluck, Shmuel Dovid ben Moshe Z"L.

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 after Minchah.

RABBI SPIVAK'S WEEKLY CLASS will meet this Wednesday at 7:15pm in the Beit Midrash.

KABBALAH CLASS: Ed Croman's Kabbalah class scheduled for Thursday, May 16 has been rescheduled for Thursday, June 13th at 7:30pm in the Beit Midrash. It will be the final class of the season. The class scheduled for this May 30th remains as scheduled.

מזל טוב: Mazal tov to Jill and Rabbi Richard Kirsch on their son Joshua's bar mitzvah, to grandparents Pearl and Philip Perlstein, to siblings Joey, Sara, Jonathan and Hannah and the entire Kirsch and Perlstein families.

THANK YOU: Debby and Marvin Weintraub recently received a lifetime achievement award from AABJ&D and they wish to thank the members of Ohr Torah for their generous contributions that made their dinner the most successful ever financially. Over four hundred people attended.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING



OHR TORAH ANNUAL BBQ: Bring your appetite! This Sunday, May 26th at 4:00 at the home of Rabbi Spivak on Cunningham Drive. Rain date: Monday, May 27th. If you can assist, please call (973) 731-1982. See the ad on page 5.

TOGETHER ON TUESDAY: The Felice Blank Senior Program at Congregation AABJ&D, Sephardic Wing, Tuesday, May 28, "Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day June 6, 1944; the Historic Battle and Significance" by Dr. Ed Shapiro, Professor Emeritus, American History, Seton Hall University, NJ. Lunch: 12:30-1:00pm, Presentation: 1:00-2:15pm

HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTARY: The Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy will be screening the student-produced Holocaust documentary "Names, Not Numbers" on Wednesday, May 29 at 7pm at the school, 110 South Orange Avenue, Livingston, NJ. The JKHA eighth graders interviewed Holocaust survivors, preserving their stories for posterity. The students researched, filmed, and edited the survivors' stories.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Sisterhood Events and Donations

CINDY TURKELTAUB GROSBERG WOMEN'S PIRKEI AVOT STUDY: This week's Shabbat study, May 25, Perek Dalet, is led by Gail Bukiet. 5:15-6:00PM in the Beit Midrash.

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

ries. Their finished product will be screened along with a documentary following the students throughout the year-long process. Admission is free and open to the community. One of the people interviewed in the Kushner *"Names Not Numbers"* documentary is our own Dr. Sam Kaye. Questions? Contact sbohbot@jkha.org

ANNUAL GOLDSTEIN/SHAPIRO LECTURE: Professor and Author Marc Shapiro will be speaking between Mincha and Maariv on Shabbat June 1st. The topic: *"The Philosophy of Rav Kook: Is It Still Relevant?"* Everyone is welcome.

SHABBAT GRADUATION KIDDUSH: Saturday, June 15th. Celebrate your graduate! Only \$18 per name. Be sure to mention their school or program. This is a project of the Ohr Torah Sisterhood. Questions to rsharret@hotmail.com. See the ad on page 4. Sign up by June 11th at:

congregationohratorah.org/gradkiddush

7:45 SHACHARIT? There is interest in starting a Monday through Friday 7:45am Shacharis minyan at Ohr Torah. Before the shul will schedule this minyan, it requires that enough men commit to attend on a daily or almost daily basis without interfering with attendance of the current early minyan. If you are interested in regularly attending a 7:45 Shacharis minyan at OT, please send an email to rich.maron@gmail.com.

CELEBRATE a Birthday or an Anniversary at one of our monthly Shabbatot of Mevarchim HaChodesh. If you, or a family member, or a friend are celebrating a birthday or anniversary during a particular month, you can co-sponsor a kiddush in their honor for just \$36 per occasion. Contact Anna, at office@congregationohratorah.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 Birthday/Anniversary Kiddush is June 8th for the month of Sivan. It is being delayed one week due to a scheduled Bar Mitzvah. You must sign up by June 1st.**

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

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

Yahrzeits May 25 - 31

21 IYAR: Adley Mandel for his Father, Ephraim ben Yitzchak Tzvi, Joseph Mandel, on Sunday, May 26.

21 IYAR: Raphael Sharret for his Grandmother, Beila bat David, Belha Chaitin, on Sunday, May 26.

22 IYAR: Stephanie Becker for her Mother, Bayla bat Velvel Lev, Betty Foss, on Monday, May 27.

24 IYAR: Lauren Poleyeff for her Mother, Chana Feige bat Yitzchak Ephraim, Anita Hamburg, on Wednesday, May 29.

26 IYAR: Louraine Eagle for her Father, Yaakov ben Yosef, Jack Mogel, on Friday, May 31.

26 IYAR: Mark Grebenau for his Uncle, Shmuel Dovid ben Moshe, Sami Glück, on Friday, May 31.

26 IYAR: Avrum Weiser for his Father, HaRav Eliezer ben Yehuda Tzvi, on Friday, May 31.

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



SMILE TIME: A UFO lands in the parking lot of Aron's and the aliens start filing out one by one. A shopper comes out of the store and says to the one who looks like the leader. "Do you all have those big green eyes?" Answering in a robotic like drone, the alien reacts, "Yes, we all have green eyes." He then inquires, "and everyone has those antennae on their head?" "Yes we all have antennae on our heads." And says the shopper, "and those long black coats?" The alien shakes his head, "No, only the Chassidim."

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:

Rabbi Marc Spivak rabbi@congregationohratorah.org

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 Balser Youth@congregationohratorah.org

Newsletter Advertising: Howard Charish

advertising@congregationohratorah.org



David Gleaner

TORAH THOUGHT: BEHAR: PROCLAIM FREEDOM

David Gleaner is a Dentist in Bayonne, and has lived in West Orange for almost twenty-five years with his wife Leslie and their three children, who mostly come home now only to do their laundry and give us naches with our granddaughter. He is a proud member of Ohr Torah, B'nai Shalom, and an active participant of almost every other minyan in West Orange that will tolerate him.

This week's Torah portion, Behar, contains 24 mitzvot, and on the surface, it could be said almost all of them have no direct correlation to our life in the 21st century. It is not surprising that over 40 years ago this young bar mitzvah boy who was lucky enough to get one of the shortest parshiot in the Torah chose the laws of shmita in his d'var torah, as well as the yovel, the Jubilee year. The latter was only deemed to be followed if the majority of the Jews lived in Eretz Yisrael. This has actually been discussed recently by halachic authorities as to whether the yovel, the 50th year after seven shemita years should be followed, now that Israel is where the majority of the Jews live.

The laws of shmita are agricultural laws, which actually help the environment by replenishing nutrients and lead to more successful crop production. The difficulty of strictly practicing the shmita year has led to many halachic "work arounds" which allow, for the most part, agriculture to continue in the land of Israel without major economic or commercial problems. We can read all about these factors and their halachic solutions during the next shmita year in 2021. My dvar Torah, however, was written in the seventies, a time when "Earth Day", talk of ecology and saving the planet was the rage. There was an obvious connection to tie in the concepts of respecting the environment with the shemita year. However, as I re-read the parsha, I recognize a much deeper connection to all the mitzvot in Behar. Besides the laws of shemita and the yovel, laws of fair trade practices, rules against charging interest, treating slaves fairly, and prohibitions of idol worship are also included.

In the first aliya, we read the famous words:

וְקִרְאתֶם דִּרֹר בְּאָרֶץ לְכָל-יֹשְׁבֶיהָ

"You shall proclaim freedom throughout the land for all its inhabitants" which gives us the clue of what connects all of the mitzvot found in Behar. Much discussion in Washington and throughout the world today concerns the vast inequality of income between the top 5% of income earners and the rest of the population. Communism or even the early concepts of Israel's kibbutzim

were meant to avoid such discrepancies, and allow all wealth to be distributed equally. Most would say that that is not a tenable model for our capitalist society today. There is much debate about a "livable wage", which would supplement a family's income to allow them to provide the basic needs for their family. Behar approaches the problem from a different angle. Recognizing from the start that we are only "tenants" in this world, with Hashem ultimately the owner of all we have, we are to return it to Him every seven years. For us to "own" other humans is also contrary to laws found in the parsha, and slaves must be freed in the Jubilee year.

Many of us can admit that money concerns add much stress to our lives, and we only have to look at the continued efforts to keep Jewish education options affordable for our children to see that it is affecting our day to day life. What better way to be truly "free" if we had no debts or financial obligations. Is this really practical in today's world? It is clear that Torah values hard work as we are told to "work for six days, and then rest on the seventh." In Pirke Avot it states, "It is good to combine Torah study with a worldly occupation," and Maimonides wrote in his Mishneh Torah, "Anyone who makes up his mind to study Torah, and not work, but lives on charity, profanes the name of God." This leaves us with a tricky balance in our lives. We should work, try to support our families, pay our debts, but do not become enslaved in doing so. God reminds us in Behar that it is all His, whatever we amass. Freedom should be for *all* the inhabitants, including those less fortunate, to have the opportunities to provide a living wage. We cannot allow people to lose dignity due to their lot in life. Those of us who feel blessed have the responsibility to give tzedakah, not charity, but the "just" thing to do, to help "free" all the inhabitants throughout the land from economic hardship. And for us, on the seventh day, we are reminded that it is not ours anyway, and by the seventh year, we will be returning it to the One that so generously provides us with all the riches that we have received. Shabbat Shalom. **David Gleaner.**

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

Graduation KIDDUSH



June 15

Got a grad who's worked hard for that walk across the stage?

Celebrate their accomplishments at the **Congregation Ohr Torah Graduation Kiddush** on June 15, 2019!

For \$18 per name, your graduate(s) will be listed with their school and the degree received. Graduates from any sphere—college, high school, elementary school, preschool or any other program—are eligible for inclusion. Please sign up by 6/11.

Sign up online at www.congregationohrtorah.org/gradkiddush

Questions? Contact Bertha Sharret at 973-736-1661 or rsharret@hotmail.com

The tassel was worth the hassle!

Please join the Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy for the premiere screening of our eighth grade students' documentary

NAMES, NOT NUMBERS:®

A Movie in the Making®

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29
7:00 PM

JKHA eighth-grade students filmed the stories of Holocaust survivors. In preserving the voices of testimony for the next generation, they found their own perspectives on the Shoah forever changed.

Morris Gliklich Sonia Samuels Paulette Dorflauffer Samuel Kaye
Helen Herman Edith Farben Rachel Rabinowitz Dov Landau

FREE ADMISSION

Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy • Epstein-Stein Auditorium
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OHR TORAH ANNUAL ICE SKATING EVENT - CLARY ANDERSON ARENA, MONCLAIR



Ohr Torah Annual BBQ

*Join us for an afternoon of
food and fun*

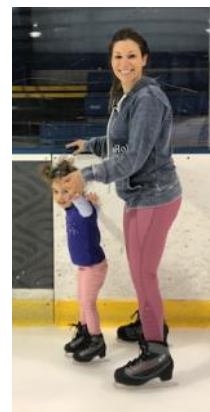
**Sunday, May 26, at
4:00pm**

(Rain date: Monday, May 27th at 4pm)



**Spivak backyard
23 Cunningham Drive**

*If you are available to assist,
please contact: (973) 731-1982*



Pictures thanks to Rivky Balser