

# **CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter**

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

NOACH

4-10 Cheshvan, 5780 November 2 - 8, 2019

Rabbi Marc Spivak, President David Goldstein, Rabbinic Intern Matt Lubin

**SHABBAT KIDDUSH** is sponsored by new young family/ Beit Midrash minyan. **SEUDAH SH'LISHIT** is sponsored by the Shul.

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

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

RABBI SPIVAK'S WEEKLY CLASS will meet this Wednesday evening at 7:45pm.

**ED CROMAN'S KABBALAH CLASS:** The next class in the Fall session is this Thursday, 7:30 - 9:30pm, November 7<sup>th</sup> in the Beit Midrash and continues on the following Thursdays: November 21<sup>st</sup>, and December 5<sup>th</sup>.

מזל טוב: Mazal tov to Mali and Steve Schwartz on the birth of a grandson. Mazal tov to parents Tani and Aaron Herman and big brother Michael of White Plains, NY.

**HOST NEEDED:** Heart Mind & Soul will be hosting their next Shabbaton here at Ohr Torah the weekend of November 8-10. If anyone can host an attendee for November 8-9, please call Sandy Trencher of HM&S at 860-922-8336. All meals are furnished by the Shabbaton, so they only need beds.

RKYHS OPEN HOUSE: Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School invites all 8th graders and their parents to join us at our Open House on Motzei Shabbat, November 16th at 7:30 pm. Experience RKYHS during an inspirational evening as we highlight the vast opportunities for students, demonstrate our values, and define our difference. Come see the dynamic and innovative academic and Judaic programs, first-rate educational initiatives and co-curricular opportunities. Registration begins at 7:30pm followed by the program at 8:00pm. Please register at

#### www.rkyhs.org/RKYHSOpenHouse

For more information, please contact Allison Lyons at <a href="mailto:alyons@rkyhs.org">alyons@rkyhs.org</a> or 862-437-8050.

**OT SECURITY:** Thank you to our security volunteers this week who stepped up to keep us all safe. *We need volunteers for November*. Even if you've never volunteered in the past, please try it out! Sign up and send Dov Chelst a message at <a href="mailto:dnchelst@gmail.com">dnchelst@gmail.com</a> and he can tell you what is required.

**FROZEN** 

ON BROADWAY
See page 6

**LEARN TO KNIT** 

FREE WORKSHOP
See page 4

**YOUR NUTRITION** 

INTERACTIVE TALK
See page 6

#### Schedule 11/01 - 11/08

#### Friday (11/01)

Shacharit 6:10am Light Candles 5:35pm Mincha 5:40pm Shkia 5:53pm

#### **Shabbat (11/2)**

Shacharit 9:00am
Shacharit -Teen Minyan 9:30am
Latest Shema 10:04am
Mincha 5:25pm
Maariv 6:28pm
Shabbat ends 6:35pm

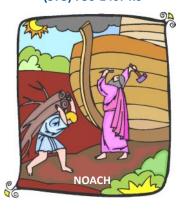
#### Sunday - Thursday (11/03 - 11/07)

Shacharit Sun 8:15am Shacharit Mon/Thu 6:00am Shacharit Tue/Wed 6:10am Mincha/Maariv Sun 4:40pm Maariv Mon-Thu 7:30pm

#### Friday (11/08)

Shacharit 6:10am Light Candles 4:27pm Mincha 4:30pm Shkia 4:45pm

Eruv Hotline: (973) 736-1407 x6



#### **Sisterhood Events and Donations**

**SAVE THE DATE:** Ohr Torah Sisterhood's Annual Membership Brunch will be on Sunday morning, **December 8th**. Our guest speaker this year is nutritionist Michelle Routhenstein. Flyer and details to follow in the coming weeks.

LEARN TO KNIT: Sunday November 17 at 10:00 am. Free workshop. See ad on page 4 for more information.

#### **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 <a href="mailto:deborahdruce@gmail.com">deborahdruce@gmail.com</a>

#### Yahrzeits November 02 - 08

**4 CHESHVAN:** Annie Goldfischer for her Grandfather, Shmuel Kalman ben Eliezer, Samuel Schwartzstein, on Shabbat, November 2.

**4 CHESHVAN:** Florence Schlanger for her Brother, Zerach Hillel ben Mordechai HaLevi, Gerald Leff, on Shabbat, November 2.

**4 CHESHVAN:** Raisa Sverdlov for Gershon's Grandfather, Levi Yitzchak ben Yoseph, Itzhak Alter, on Shabbat, November 2.

**6 CHESHVAN:** Murray Laulicht for his Father, Feivel Shrage ben Chaim Ovadyahu, Philip Laulicht, on Monday, November 4.

**7 CHESHVAN:** Margot Freedman for her Father, Lev ben Shmuel Dovid, Lyle Stanway, on Tuesday, November 5.

**7 CHESHVAN:** Joel Katcoff for his Father, Shimon ben Nachman, Seymour Katcoff, on Tuesday, November 5.

**9 CHESHVAN:** Elia Weixelbaum for his Mother, Chava bat Eliyahu, Evelyn Weixelbaum, on Thursday, November 7.

**9 CHESHVAN:** Elia Weixelbaum for Stephanie's Father, Yitzchak Ber ben Yisroel Binyamin, Irving Shatkin, on Thursday, November 7.

**10 CHESHVAN:** Stephen Flatow for his Grandfather, Shmuel Mordechai ben Shaul, Samuel Flatow, on Friday, November 8.

**10 CHESHVAN:** Rhonda Lillianthal for her Father, Slomo Dov ben Yosef, Sidney Arbeit, on Friday, November 8.

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



# **DST** ends **2AM Sunday Nov. 3**Turn your clocks back

Turn your clocks back one hour.



# **Culprits of the Nuremberg Trials**

presented by Dr. William Reszelbach

Tuesday, November 12th at 1 PM

Dr. Reszelbach will be discussing who these men were, how they fit into the Nazi regime, and whether or not they faced justice after Germany's defeat in the Second World War.



West Orange Public Library 46 Mt. Pleasant Ave, West Orange, NJ 07052 973-736-0198 www.wopl.org

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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, <a href="mailto:larry@18thstory.com">larry@18thstory.com</a>
Sisterhood President: Bertha Sharret, <a href="mailto:rsharret@hotmail.com">rsharret@hotmail.com</a>

**Chesed:** Rabbi Spivak, Tami Puder **Shiva Assistance:** Rabbi Robert Grosberg

Shiva Meals: Gail Bukiet

**Building Committee:** Arnold Barton

Subscription Requests: <a href="mailto:listserv@congregationohrtorah.org">listserv@congregationohrtorah.org</a>

Monthly Calendar: Elia Weixelbaum

Newsletter: ShabbatNewsletter@congregationohrtorah.org
Reading Torah: Avi Klein, otlaining@congregationohrtorah.org

Scheduling Calendar: Tami Puder, 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)

<u>leron.Thumim@gmail.com</u> and <u>ebtrenk@gmail.com</u>

Youth Director: Rivky Balser Youth@congregationohrtorah.org

Newsletter Advertising: Howard Charish

advertising@congregationohrtorah.org

#### **TORAH THOUGHT:**

# Noach: The Tower of Babel

Howard Sragow did graduate work in Ancient Jewish History at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University before pursuing a career in health care technology. You can find him early most mornings practicing Toradojo martial arts in the Redwood School parking lot.

**Howard Sragow** 

The Tower of Babel is taught to very young children. It's a simple story with just nine verses, 121 Hebrew words. It answers the conundrum of how humans could descend from a common ancestor, yet speak unfamiliar languages. Yet its simplicity hides a subtle art that makes the story even more compelling upon a second read.

This story is useful for studying the Torah's narrative art because it is mostly independent. Most stories in the Torah have connections that reach forward and backward through the larger narrative. But these nine verses have no recurring characters. Earlier chapters don't explicitly anticipate its events. It appears to be a mostly self-contained microcosm, with a clear beginning and end. It seems valid to analyze it as a unit.

The Dutch scholar Jan Fokkelman did so in 1975. And he demonstrated that this small story has an unusual structure. Certain motifs repeat: the phrase "kol haaretz" (the entire earth) - occurs in verses 1, 4 and 9. The word "safah" (language) occurs five times; the verb "hefitz" (scatter) occurs in verses 4, 8 and 9. And the word "havah" (let's) occurs in verses 4 and 7. Word repetitions in Torah narrative often highlight ironic contrast (compare Joseph's interpretation of the baker's dream, which starts exactly like his interpretation of the butler's dream, but ends violently); the repetitions here are no exception.

And the story's perspective shifts: the first four verses describe human action; and the last four verses describe Divine action. But the fifth verse, exactly in the middle, contains a transition: G-d came down in order to see the city. This is one reason Fokkelman describes the structure as having chiastic symmetry: four verses at the beginning with a "down" perspective (the people acting on earth), four verses at the end with an "up" perspective (G-d acting in heaven), and one verse in the middle which bridges from the "down" part to the "up" part.

Repetition of the word "havah" provides another key chiastic point, taking place once in the people's ideation "let's build a city" and once in G-d's hortatory "let's go down." When a word is repeated, it makes a listener focus briefly on their prior experience of the word. The listener is likely to remem-

ber: "The last time I heard that word, the people were speaking, and they were intending to make sure the people wouldn't be scattered." A careful listener is likely to anticipate that G-d is going to act against the people's intent.

The larger phrase "scattered over the entire earth" also provides a key chiastic point, since it is found at the end of both sections, in verses 4 and 9. The first time, "scattered over the entire earth" is what the people seek to avoid; they build the city and tower so that they can stay together. But the second time, "scattered over the entire earth" is what G-d does to the people. The people tried to accomplish a goal, and in pursuing that goal, they thwarted it. The story implies an irony: had the people been less industrious, lazed around and not built a city instead of trying to avoid being scattered, they actually might have achieved their goal and stayed together.

The sequential listener would also hear in the sixth verse allusion to a phrase found earlier in Genesis: "hen echad" (behold, one). The last time we'd heard that, G-d was taking proactive action against a rebellious Adam: "Hen adam haya k'echad mimenu" (the man is going to be one like us). This recognition forces G-d to take initiative and banish Adam from the Garden of Eden before he can consume from the Tree of Life. Similarly here, man desires to be just a bit too similar to G-d; as a result, G-d must subvert the people's goals, and prevent them from being "echad." A careful listener would hear those foreboding implications immediately upon hearing the word "hen," and certainly upon hearing "hen am echad."

The chiastic structure of the story also reflects the G-dly ethic of "midda k'neged midda" (measure for measure). Just as the story's verse structure is symmetric, so is G-d's justice symmetric too. The people tried to rebel against G-d's planned dispersion by building towards G-d's heavenly domain; G-d therefore prevented them from continuing to build the city, and scattered them.

I hope this brief analysis inspires you to read the Torah more carefully. Just when you think you know it, a new perspective can cause you to see even more. **Shabbat Shalom**.

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 <a href="Rabbi@congregationohrtorah.org">Rabbi@congregationohrtorah.org</a> 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

# FREE WORKSHOP Sunday November 17 at 10:00am At the home of: Nancy Perl 52 Cummings Circle in the Woodlands Light refreshments You will be provided with needles and yarn. RSVP to knittingnachus@aol.com Sponsored by the Ohr Torah Sisterhood

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.

**SENDING IN A CHECK FOR A PAYMENT TO OHR TO-RAH?** Assist us in our record keeping by writing on the memo line or include a note about the reason for the check. Also, remember that mail should always be sent to PO Box 6169, West Orange, NJ 07052, and <u>not</u> to 270 Pleasant Valley Way. Thank you!

**SMILE TIME:** Sarah Nomberg is hanging up her husband's jacket when suddenly she becomes enraged. Spotting a long grey hair on the garment's shoulder she yells, "You were at your mother's to get sympathy again!"

## AROUND OUR TOWN

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS: (MTA): Join their Open House on Sunday, November 10th, 9:30 am to learn more about our warm, personalized, and inspiring approach to Torah, academic, and extracurricular programs. To RSVP, please visit yuhsb.org/openhouse. Questions? Contact Rabbi Yoni Stone at 646-994-0441 or <a href="mailto:ystone@yuhsb.org">ystone@yuhsb.org</a>.

COMEDY AT KUSHNER: The annual Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy/Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School ATID SO-CIETY Event will be on Sunday, November 24. This year, the ATID SOCIETY will present the stand-up comedy of MODI, voted one of the "Top 10 comedians in NYC" by Hollywood Reporter & Backstage. The performance will take place at JKHA/RKYHS, 110 South Orange Avenue in Livingston, at 7:30 PM and will be followed by a deluxe dessert reception. A pre-concert dinner reception for all members of the ATID SOCIETY will take place at 6:00 PM. Please visit <a href="www.jkha.org/atid">www.jkha.org/atid</a> to purchase tickets and join the ATID SOCIETY. For more information, please contact: <a href="slevinson@jkha.org">slevinson@jkha.org</a> or 862-437-8001.



# Please join us for STRICTLY BUSINESS 2019

Friday, **November 15**, 2019 Nosh and Networking **7:30 a.m.** Program **8:30–10:00 a.m.** 

#### The Wilshire Grand Hotel

350 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange

Tickets: \$75.00/person
Table Sponsorships and Corporate Sponsorships are also available.

For more information, please visit jvsnj.org/event/strictlybusiness2019 or call 862-704-2262.



Featuring Special Guest Speaker:

## THE HONORABLE JACOB J. "JACK" LEW

76th United States Secretary of the Treasury (2013-17)

#### "The Global Economy and Geopolitical Forces: A Look Ahead"

The Honorable Jacob J. "Jack" Lew serves as a partner at the private equity firm Lindsay Goldberg and is a visiting professor of international and Public Affairs at Columbia University. As U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, he helped shape policies that drove the longest economic recovery in American History and oversaw all aspects of international and domestic fiscal policy, including issues related to financial regulation, global sanctions regimes, tax policy, debt management, and trade.

> Secretary Lew's appearance made possible thanks to the generosity of the Kosloski Family Foundation in memory of Helene Kosloski.

#### EVENT COMMITTEE

Fotini Allteni Raymond Blau Robert Francis Michael Goldberg Howard Jacob Barry Milstein Ken Peskin David Picon

# WELCOME TO THE WOODLANDS I



#### **72 SULLIVAN DRIVE**

Much sought after Cypress with master bedroom on main level. End unit. Multi-zone heating. 5 bedroom, 5 bath. \$585,000



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#### 94 SULLIVAN DRIVE

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bath. Great location!
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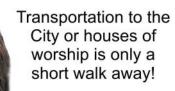
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Renee **201-259-5353** mobile Office: 973-992-6363 spear@bhhsnj.com



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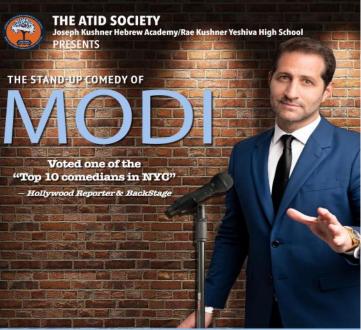
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Call the Spear Team for all your real estate needs!





### Sunday, November 24, 2019 · 26 Cheshvan 5780 7:30pm

Dr. Morris Epstein-Bernard Stein Auditorium Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy • Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School 110 South Orange Avenue, Livingston, New Jersey

For ticket and sponsorship information: www.jkha.org/ATID

For additional information please contact the Development Office; development@ikha.org • 862-437-8001

ATID SOCIETY chairs: Bat Sheva and Murray Halpern





# Interactive talk about Nutrition & health for your family

MICHELLE ROUTHENSTEIN, MS RD CDE CDN PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY DIETITIAN



DEC 8 · 10:00 AM

AT OHR TORAH 270 PLEASANT VALLEY WAY WEST ORANGE NJ

NON-MEMBERS \$10 DONATION RSVP TO RSHARRET@HOTMAIL.COM BY DECEMBER 4TH.

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Kovea itim/frum professionals (Modern Orthodox to Yeshivish) are invited to a Shabbos filled with fun, Hishtadlus, and Tachlis.

The event will be run in a respectful and tznius forum, catered to singles who may not feel comfortable attending other events due to hashkafic concerns.

Registration Fee: \$30 Full Weekend: \$425 Early Bird Rate: \$325



Keynote Speaker: David J. Lieberman, Ph.D. From Simcha to Sasson rnessing the joy of Sukkos towards the rest of the year.

n is an award-winning author and internati nslated into 26 languages and include two New York estsellers, have sold millions of copies worldwide.



World-renowned Singer



Mike Fine

November 15th-17th Princeton Doubletree (New Jersey)

Recommended ages: Women 27-42 · Men 30-45

For more info or to sign up, please visit www.theshadchanit.com/shabbos or email events@theshadchanit.com

Rabbi Shmuel Yudel ben Biryomin Ya