



# CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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

**Yitro** 20 - 26 Shevat, 5780 February 15 - 21, 2020

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

**SHABBAT KIDDUSH** is sponsored in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Diamond by her proud parents, Sarah & Michael. **SEUDAH SH'LISHIT** is sponsored by the Shul.

To sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush or Seudah Sh'lshit at the Shul, please contact Tami Puder at [office@congregationohrtorah.org](mailto:office@congregationohrtorah.org).

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

**RABBI SPIVAK'S WEEKLY CLASS** will meet this Wednesday evening at 7:45pm following Maariv in the Beit Midrash.

**ברוך דיין האמת** We regret to inform you of the passing of Herbie Raskin, beloved son of Lori Raskin and beloved brother of Bobbi Luxenburg and Jeffrey Raskin. The funeral took place on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Shiva concluded this past Friday afternoon. May the mourners be comforted together with the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

**מזל טוב** Mazal Tov to Leora and Zev Weiner & Joshua on Kayla's Bat Mitzvah last week.

**מזל טוב** Mazal Tov to Sophie Diamond on her Bat Mitzvah, to proud parents Sarah and Michael Diamond, big sisters Abigail and Lea, and to Sophie's grandparents Ed Studnitzer and Linda and Barry Diamond, as well as her aunts, uncles and cousins.

**KABBALAH CLASS:** Ed Croman's Kabbalah classes return for the Spring on the following days: March 5th and 19th, April 2nd and 23rd, and May 7th and 21st. Classes meet on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00pm in the Beit Midrash.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Thursday nights this month, to help with the kiddush preparations each week. Volunteer adults, teens and pre-teens will be in the shul kitchen starting at 6:00pm each Thursday night (February 20 and February 27). If you can offer assistance at any time between 6:00 and 8:45pm, it would be much appreciated. Please text Rebbetzin Spivak at 917-957-3782 if you are available to assist.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** Daughters of Israel Orthodox Shabbat Minyan. Meet at Congregation AABJD lobby at 8:00am to walk with group leaving at 8:10am. Services and Kiddush in the DOI chapel. For information and to RSVP contact: Alan Rubin at 862-485-7736.

**FOR THE LADIES:** We need you! Become part of our Sisterhood programming committee. Sisterhood would love to have your input in the scheduling and programming of Sisterhood events. Please contact Bertha Sharret at [rsharret@hotmail.com](mailto:rsharret@hotmail.com) or give her a call.

**"BURY THE HATCHET":** For those that signed up, axe throwing is this **Saturday, Feb. 15**, at 9:15pm, at Bury the Hatchet, 672 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield.

**FOR SENIORS:** **Tuesday, February 18**, 12:30-1:00pm - light lunch (cost \$3.00), 1:00-2:15pm - "Down the Stairs" creative writing and photography by Lewis Smiler. Listen to Lewis read his latest story and share his photos of his recent trip to Cuba. At AABJD's Sephardic Wing. In case of inclement weather and the possibility of cancelling a program, call (973) 736-1407 x240. and listen for the recorded message. **Thursday, February 20**, 12:30-2:00pm - B'nai Jazz concert featuring musicians Steve Wein, Josh Marcus, Seth Chosak sponsored by JCC Margulies Center. RSVP: (973) 736-1407 x240.

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## Schedule 02/14 - 02/21

### Friday (02/14)

Shacharit	6:10am
Light Candles	5:12pm
Mincha	5:15pm
Shkia	5:30pm

### Shabbat (02/15)

Shacharit	9:00am
Latest Shema	9:31am
<b>SAY SHEMA BEFORE COMING TO SHUL</b>	
Mincha	5:00pm
Maariv	6:07pm
Shabbat ends	6:14pm

### Sunday (02/16)

Shacharit	8:15am
Mincha/Maariv	5:20pm

### Monday - Thursday (02/17 - 02/20)

Shacharit Mon	8:15am
Shacharit Thu	6:00am
Shacharit Tue/Wed	6:10am
Shacharit Thu	6:00am
Mincha/Maariv Mon	5:20pm
Maariv Tue -Thu	7:30pm

**No Mincha Service Tues -Thu**

### Friday (02/21)

Shacharit	6:10am
Light Candles	5:20pm
Mincha	5:25pm
Shkia	5:38pm

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



**THIS WEEK: YITRO  
GIVING OF THE TEN  
COMMANDMENTS**

### TEHILLIM STILL NEEDED:

Ohr Torah Gabbai Mark Grebenau is still in critical condition at St. Barnabas Hospital. Mark still needs our prayers. Please say Tehillim for Mordechai Dovid ben Gittel for a complete recovery and return to his Gabbai duties at Ohr Torah.

## 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](mailto:deborahdruce@gmail.com)

## Yahrzeits February 15 - 21

**20 SHEVAT:** Mark Grebenau for his Great-Uncle, Yosef ben Kalonimus, Joseph Grebenau, on Shabbat, February 15.

**20 SHEVAT:** Raphael Sharret for his Aunt, Ester bat Raphael, on Shabbat, February 15.

**20 SHEVAT:** Deborah Weintraub for her Mother, Bryna Rivka bat Meir Shalom, Blanche Meth, on Shabbat, February 15.

**21 SHEVAT:** Mark Grebenau for his Father, Chaim ben Mordachai, Franz H. Grebenau, on Sunday, February 16.

**21 SHEVAT:** Debra Spivak for her Grandmother, Sara bat Yaakov HaKohen, Shirley Basevin Billauer, on Sunday, February 16.

**22 SHEVAT:** Richard Kirsch for his Mother, Basha Esther bat Avraham, Beatrice Kirsch, on Monday, February 17.

**22 SHEVAT:** Bernard Schanzer for his Mother, Beila bat Yitzchak, Bella Schanzer, on Monday, February 17.

**22 SHEVAT:** Elaine Scherman for Chana bat Yisroel, Anna Parker, on Monday, February 17.

**24 SHEVAT:** Renee Spear for her Mother, Faigel bat Mordechai, Frances Goodman, on Wednesday, February 19.

**25 SHEVAT:** Irwin Krasna for his Grandson, Eliezer Zev ben Moshe Yishaya, Eric Levenson, on Thursday, February 20.

**26 SHEVAT:** Mark Grebenau for his Mother, Gittel bat Moshe, Gisela G. Grebenau, on Friday, February 21.

**26 SHEVAT:** Irwin Krasna for his Brother, Avraham Yitzchak ben Asher Zeleg, on Friday, February 21.

**26 SHEVAT:** Jacob Poleyeff for his Grandmother, Rochel bat Avraham Yitzchok, Rachel Poleyeff, on Friday, February 21.

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

### CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Carpool at 12noon. No charge for group. **Thursday, February 27, 1:30pm** - NJSO concert matinee at NJPAC. Violinist Simone Porter. Repertoire: Mozart, Overture, Magic Flute, Mendelssohn violin concerto, Bruckner symphony 6. Tickets-\$20.00, Bus-\$10.00 or carpool. RSVP: (973) 736-1407 x240.

**2020 SINAI SCHOOLS ANNUAL BENEFITS DINNER:** Make a difference in the lives of our community's children with special needs who otherwise could not afford to attend our schools. Without significant financial aid, tuition would be beyond the reach of all but a handful of families. Sinai Schools has a campus in Paramus and a division at Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy in Livingston. Please join us on **Sunday Evening, February 23, 2020** at the Marriott Glenpointe Hotel, Teaneck NJ. Buffet Dinner, 4:45pm. Program Promptly at 6:30pm. To make reservations or a donation, please visit [www.sinaidinner.org](http://www.sinaidinner.org) or call (201) 833-1134 x106.

**תחרות** Join Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy for an exciting Bracha-themed competition at JKHA in Livingston! Students and their families are invited to test their knowledge of Brachot in a special quizzed-themed event on **Sunday, February 23rd, 9:30-11am**. Open to all JKHA current and prospective families.

**OT SECURITY:** Thank you to our security volunteers this week who stepped up to keep us all safe. **We need volunteers for February.** Even if you've never volunteered in the past, please try it out! Please sign up by sending Dov Chelst an email message at [dnychelst@gmail.com](mailto:dnychelst@gmail.com) and he can tell you what is required.

**WHATS APP GROUPS:** General Announcements: To join the Ohr Torah General Announcements group, go to <http://congregationohrtorah.org/whatsapp>. on your mobile phone (be sure WhatsApp is installed first) and tap the "Join Chat" button. Alternatively, email Tami ([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.

**MINYAN HELP:** Help us make a minyan by joining the WhatsApp group for alerts when the shul needs help. To join this group, please go to:

<http://congregationohrtorah.org/minyanwhatsapp>

(be sure WhatsApp is installed first) and tap the "Join Chat" button. Alternatively, you can email Bruce Schlanger ([Bruce.Schlanger@gmail.com](mailto:Bruce.Schlanger@gmail.com)) or email 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.

### SENDING IN A CHECK FOR A PAYMENT TO OHR TORAH?

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 not to 270 Pleasant Valley Way. Thank you!

**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, Tami Puder

Shiva Assistance: Rabbi Robert Grosberg

Shiva Meals: Gail Bukiet

Building Committee: Arnold Barton

Subscription Requests: [listserv@congregationohrtorah.org](mailto:listserv@congregationohrtorah.org)

Monthly Calendar: Elia Weixelbaum

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

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

Scheduling Calendar: Tami Puder, 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)

Youth Director: Rivky Balser [Youth@congregationohrtorah.org](mailto:Youth@congregationohrtorah.org)

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**The Kurz Family**

## TORAH THOUGHT:

### Yitro: A Lesson in Humility

*The Kurz family have been members of Ohr Torah since moving to the West Orange community where 2 of their 4 children were born. Lisa is a pediatrician and is currently working in drug safety. Aryeh is an attorney and also works in the drug safety field. Shoshana, Uriel, Akiva, and Daniela attend RYNJ in River Edge, NJ. Both Akiva and Uriel enjoy playing travel ice hockey and Shoshana is participating in the West Orange soccer club. We are very grateful to be a part of our community.*

The Parshah begins this week recounting to us how Yitro, Moshe's father-in-law, heard about the wondrous miracles that Hashem performed for Moshe and for Bnei Yisrael ("leMoshe uleYisrael,") in taking them out of Mitzrayim. Indicating that the initial reports that Yitro heard were not just about Yisrael, but primarily about the great successes and triumphs of their leader Moshe. However, when Moshe himself relates to Yitro what actually happened, Moshe omits his own name entirely. Everything that had transpired, everything was done by Hashem and Hashem alone, and everything that Hashem had done to Pharaoh and to Mitzrayim was for the sake of Yisrael ("al odot Yisrael").

Moshe was the leader of an entire nation that had done the impossible. What no single slave was able to do - escape from Egypt - Moshe had managed to do - defeat Pharaoh and lead an entire nation out of Egypt. Moshe could have easily developed a conqueror mentality and a sense of arrogance. But as we know, not only was Moshe not arrogant, he was a leader who was able to maintain a profound sense of humility and selflessness throughout his life ("vehaish Moshe anav mikol adam").

Rabbi Lamm suggested that perhaps Yitro's blessing in reaction to Moshe's account can be explained in this manner as well. Yitro pronounced, "Blessed is the Lord who has saved you from the hand of Egypt and from the hand of Pharaoh". There is the physical salvation from Mitzrayim, a harsh nation, and then there is the more subtle but arguably even greater salvation from leaders like Pharaoh, a harsh ruler. Hashem saved Bnei Yisrael "from the tragedy and misfortune of being led by people who are obsessed with their own importance, who become intoxicated with their own egos and their own power, and who rapidly degenerate in character and personality to the point where they become inconsiderate, ungrateful, and insensitive megalomaniacs. The Jews were saved not only from the Egyptians - they were also spared the excruciating burden of a Pharaoh-type leader".

In our turbulent times, where politics and leadership has run amok the selflessness and altruism of Moshe Rabbeinu is something we can all aspire to on our own level. Thankfully, we have unique individuals in our community who exhibit this trait and from whom we can learn a great deal. Even if it does not come naturally. Even if we are engrossed in our own lives and our familial obligations, we can gain tremendous inspiration from those that do so much for our community with no expectation of accolades or recognition. True gemilut hasadim, is the act of losing yourself in an act of helpfulness for someone else. As Rabbi Lamm puts it, "the greatness of man consists in transcending his own petty involvements with his self. This is true greatness - for it is a paradox, yet true: the more you think of yourself, the less there is to think of."

**Shabbat Shalom, The Kurzes**



**FORMER WEST ORANGE FAMILY FEATURED** in the Jerusalem Post. It's about Nachum and Kimberly Amsel and their three children, Benji, Koby and Brittany. They were members of Ohr Torah until making Aliyah in 2012. Seven years after making Aliyah, all three children serve together in the IDF. The article can be found at <https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Seven-years-after-making-Aliyah-all-three-children-serve-together-in-IDF-616778> in the online edition.

A regular feature of the newsletter is to 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](mailto: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**



# MELAVEH MALKA SIYUM CELEBRATION



February 8th, Motzei Shabbat: Ohr Torah holds a Siyum for studying the 613 Mitzvot.



First, let us mention that the participants (shown above) in the celebration were served a great meal from this man, Chef Jay Goldberg and his crew.



It all started because of this man, Rabbi Avrohom Stone, Rabbi of Bnei Torah and Supervising Rabbi for the OU. He received an email about a concept he thought no one would do about a study group on the 613 Mitzvot with a Siyum that would coincide with the Siyum HaShas that concluded on January 1st. He gave the opening statements.



But this man, our own Rabbi Marc Spivak decided to take Rabbi Stone's suggestion and organized a study group on Sefer Hachinuch. He gave out sheets and explained where sources for rules, reasons, and books on the mitzvot could be found.

... and this man, Rabbi Mordechai Becher, a Senior Lecturer for the Gateways Organization, teaches Jewish history and philosophy at YU, noted author, and a lot more, was the Headliner. An amazing speaker, he filled everyone in on the 'Why the Mitzvot'.



Thank you to members of the OT Young Families Minyan for sponsoring the Melaveh Malka Siyum





**SMILE TIME:** Alfie comes home from an exhausting day at work, plops down on the couch in front of the television, and yells to his wife, "Get me a beer before it starts." The wife sighs and gets him a beer. Fifteen minutes later, he repeats, "Get me another beer before it starts." She looks upset, but fetches another beer and slams it down next to him. He finishes that one and again yells to her, "Hurry, get me another beer, it's going to start any minute." The wife is furious by this time. Shouting at him "Is that all you're going to do tonight? Drink beer and sit in front of that TV? You're nothing but a lazy, drunken, fat slob, and furthermore ..." Alfie sighs and says, "It's started..."

B"H  
THE RABBINICAL COLLEGE  
OF AMERICA  
PRESENTS

## YOM IYUN

PRESIDENTS DAY FEB 17  
7:30AM-2PM

GUEST LECTURE 11 AM  
RABBI ELIEZER ZWICKLER  
MSW, LCSW.  
CONG AABJ&D  
SENIOR RABBI

TURN YOUR DAY OFF INTO A DAY OF  
TORAH LEARNING!  
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The World Zionist Congress elections have begun. The major US Orthodox organizations are running together as the **Orthodox Israel Coalition** (Slate 4). The Coalition includes the OU, YU, NCYI, AMIT, RZA-Mizrachi, Bnei Akiva, Torah MiTzion, the RCA, and Touro College. Its representatives include Rabbi Spivak and Rabbi Zwickler with many leading US Roshei Yeshiva, Rabbis, educators, and community leaders of all ages. Rav Hershel Schachter shlita headlines the slate. To watch a short video from him – <https://www.facebook.com/voteoic/videos/151728259604201/>. The election will determine the size of Orthodox representation at the WZC which determines funding for educational activities in Israel and around the globe. Elections occur every 5 years and the ballots are open for 7 weeks of voting. The impact of these elections is huge in many ways, including directly impacting the JNF and their policies and investments. The WZC sets policies in Israel and abroad and the Torah voice needs to be part of that conversation. Please take a moment to register and vote. We have a special link for voting so we can show 100% participation. Our unique link is <https://www.ou.org/vote/Spivak>. Thank you, Rabbi Marc Spivak.

