



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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

VAYECHI 14 - 20 Tevet, 5780 January 11 - 17, 2020

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

SHABBAT KIDDUSH and **SEUDAH SH'LISHIT** this week are sponsored by the Shul.

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

SHABBAT FAMILY MINYAN: This Shabbat at 9:30am in the Beit Midrash.

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 and will feature a Shi'ur by Rabbinic Intern Matt Lubin.

ברוך דיין האמת We regret to inform you of the passing of Sara Lelchuk, beloved mother of Bertha Sharret, grandmother of Jonathan Sharret. Shiva is at the Sharret home, 17 Sherwood Place in West Orange. The remaining Shiva times are Friday from 10am-2pm and Motzei Shabbat starting at 7pm. May the mourners be comforted together with the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

מזל טוב Mazal Tov to Davita & Tzvi Robinson on the birth of a daughter, Ella Pearl.

TIME TO "BURY THE HATCHET": Want to learn how to throw an axe? You need a good target, a coach, your friends and spouses and maybe a little bit to drink. On Saturday, Feb. 15, at 9:15pm, Ohr Torah will be tossing some axes in a grown-up version of darts, sponsored by the Men's club. Please join us at Bury the Hatchet, 672 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield. Members: \$20 per person, Non-members: \$30 per person. Open to people 14 and older. Spots are limited, so please reserve ASAP at

<https://www.congregationohratorah.org/hatchet>

FOR SENIORS: Together on Tuesdays. Tuesday, January 14, 12:30-1:00pm - light lunch (cost \$3.00), 1:00-2:15pm - "Be informed about the upcoming World Zionist Congress elections and the ZOA" by Yank Poleyeff, ZOA volunteer and Elizabeth Berney, Director of Special Projects. Yank will present a history of the World Zionist Congress and the time between January 21 to March 11, 2020 for you to participate in elections to choose delegates to the October 2020 Convention. Yank will explain more about the Zionist Organization of America, its coalition, accomplishments and platform to support Israel and current issues facing World Jewry. 12:30pm at AABJ&D'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.

WOMEN'S SURVEY: The West Orange Mikvah is a cornerstone of our community with a pivotal role to play in Jewish family life in West Orange. The Mikvah Board is committed to serving the members of the community. We are reaching out to all women who have ever used our mikvah, both in the past and in the present. We respectfully request your feedback to help us become better acquainted with the community's needs. We would greatly appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to answer this anonymous survey with as many details and as much honesty as possible. Please complete the Mikvahsurvey using this link: <https://forms.gle/eTR2XkKiqZvSydMc7>. At this time, we are only surveying the WOMEN who use our mikvah. Men are invited to share their feedback by emailing womikvah@gmail.com and may be surveyed separately at a later date. In appreciation for your support, you will receive \$5 off a \$15 purchase at the West Orange Bake Shop. We thank the West Orange Bake Shop for their generosity.

Schedule 01/10 - 01/17

Friday (01/10)

Shacharit	6:10am
Light Candles	4:30pm
Mincha	4:35pm
Shkia	4:48pm

Shabbat (01/11)

Shacharit	9:00am
Shacharit Family Minyan	9:30am
Latest Shema	9:43am
Mincha	4:25pm
Maariv	5:28pm
Shabbat ends	5:35pm

Sunday (01/12)

Shacharit	8:15am
Mincha/Maariv	4:35pm

Monday - Thursday (01/13 - 01/16)

Shacharit Mon/Thu	6:00am
Shacharit Tue/Wed	6:10am
Maariv Mon-Thu	7:30pm

No Mincha Service Mon-Thu

Friday (01/17)

Shacharit	6:10am
Light Candles	4:38pm
Mincha	4:45pm
Shkia	4:56pm

Eruv Hotline: (973) 736-1407 x6

Yaakov blesses Menashe and Efraim



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

Yahrzeits January 11 - 17

14 TEVET: Jordan Fersel for his Grandmother, Goldie bat Yechezkel, Goldie Fessel, on Shabbat, January 11.

15 TEVET: Ethan Kra for his Father, Harav Michael Aharon ben Nachman Yehuda, Rabbi M. Aaron Kra, on Sunday, January 12.

15 TEVET: Rabbi Marc Spivak for his Grandmother, Esther Faiga bat Yishayahu, Florence Fliegelman, on Sunday, January 12.

17 TEVET: Jordan Fersel for his Grandfather, Chayim Mordechai ben Yehuda Zundl, Max Fessel, on Tuesday, January 14.

17 TEVET: Alitta Irwin for her Husband, Avraham ben Tzvi, Abraham Irwin, on Tuesday, January 14.

18 TEVET: Jacob Poleyeff for his Father, HaRav Yisroel ben HaRav Moshe Aharon, Rabbi Israel Poleyeff, on Wednesday, January 15.

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

OT SECURITY: Thank you to our security volunteers this week who stepped up to keep us all safe. **We need volunteers for January.** Even if you've never volunteered in the past, please try it out! Please sign up by sending Dov Chelst an email message at dncchelst@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) or David Goldstein (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) or email 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 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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rabbi Marc Spivak rabbi@congregationohrtorah.org

Office: Tami Puder office@congregationohrtorah.org

Board: board@congregationohrtorah.org

Men's Club President: Larry Freedman, larry@18thstory.com

Sisterhood President: Bertha Sharret, 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

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)

leron.Thumim@gmail.com and ebtrenk@gmail.com

Youth Director: Rivky Balsler Youth@congregationohrtorah.org

Newsletter Advertising: Howard Charish

advertising@congregationohrtorah.org



AABJ&D and Ohr Torah Youth Departments present

BUBBLE SHOW

January 12th
4:00-5:00 pm
Ohr Torah
270 Pleasant Valley way

Get put into a giant bubble!
Bubble magic - Bubbletricks

2 yrs - 3rd grade
\$8 PER CHILD CASH ONLY

RSVP encouraged to youth@aabjd.org

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Louraine & Bob Eagle

TORAH THOUGHT:

Vayeichi: What is in a Blessing?

Louraine and Bob Eagle are long term West Orange residents and members of Ohr Torah. They have three children and fourteen grandchildren who are their pride and joy.

This week we have the opportunity to observe the interaction of Yaakov Avinu with not only his children before his Petira (death), but also with his grandchildren Menashe and Ephraim. This is one of only two such instances in the Chumash. In the other instance we find Noach cursing his grandson C'naan for his actions, after Noach himself veered off the path and drank too much wine. Fortunately this story has a much better ending and a much finer lesson for us all.

To set the stage, an aging and frail Yaakov calls upon Yosef to bring his children to him for a blessing. Prior to this episode, Yaakov has asked Yosef to swear to him that that he will bury Yaakov in the Meorat Hamachpeila with Avrohom and Yitzhak, and not in Egypt. He also explains to Yosef why he did not bury Rachel there to make it more likely that Yosef would agree.

When Yaakov sees Yosef's sons, it seems as if he does not recognize them as he asks Yosef "mi eileh" who are these people? Rashi explains that Yaakov was startled to realize that there would be wicked descendants from Menashe and Ephraim. He thus lost the Ruach Hakodesh – divine spirit- with which he was to bless them, as the Ruach Hakodesh rests only out of Simcha- joy. Yosef responded "Banai heim" They are my children, and he asked for mercy on their behalf, and the Ruach Hakodesh returned.

The story continues with a multilayered bracha that Yaakov gives to Yosef as well as to Menashe and Ephraim. It starts with the familiar Bracha (and song) HaMalach Hagoel – May the angel who redeems me from all evil bless the lads and may my name be declared upon them, and the names of my forefathers Avrohom and Yitzhak. This is to say, may they continue in their tradition, and may they merit to be associated not only with me, but also with Avrohom and

Yitzhak.

There follows an interlude in which Yosef tries to correct Yaakov to direct the primary bracha to Menashe the elder of his sons, and the secondary bracha to Ephraim the younger brother. Yaakov insists that he knows what he is doing, and that Ephraim is the intended recipient of the greater bracha.

The bracha then continues with an echo of an earlier bracha to Avrohom "Bicha yivorech Yisrael Iaimor, Yesimcha Elokim K'Ephraim VeK'Menashe" by you shall Israel bless saying, "May Hashem make you like Ephraim and like Menashe." This is reminiscent of the bracha to Avrohom, "Vinivrichu vica kol mishpichos ha'adama" And all the families in the land shall bless themselves by you – meaning they will say may we be like Avrohom and his family.

It is interesting to note that Rashi points out that while Menashe spent his time helping Yosef with his administrative duties over Egypt, Ephraim spent his time studying with Yaakov. The duality and shared responsibility is reminiscent of the arrangement between Yissachar and Zevulun. In that case, Yissachar received top billing because Zevulun's study was made possible only through Yissachar's work.

Yosef was distressed that Yaakov chose to place greater importance on Ephraim, however Yaakov, in laying down the formula by which generations of Jewish children would be blessed knew that as important as it is to work to make a living, it is of utmost importance to value Torah.

Finally, we can only really consider ourselves successful if we are truly K' Ephraim VE K' Menashe – if we have both Torah and livelihood. May we all be zoche – worthy to have children and grandchildren who make us proud, and may we also make our parents and grandparents proud of us, all the way back to Avrohom, Yitzhak, and Yaakov. **Shabbat Shalom**

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 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**