



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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

SHEMOT 21 - 27 Tevet, 5780 January 18 - 24, 2020

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

SHABBAT KIDDUSH and **SEUDAH SH'LISHIT** this week are sponsored by the Shul. Rabbi Etan Tokayer will address the shul this Shabbat.

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 this week in the Beit Midrash.

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

MINYAN HELP NEEDED: Many people will be away for Yeshiva Week and we will need help for the minyanim for this week. Please make note of the scheduled times and do your best to attend.

תודה רבה THANK YOU to Yaakov and Rivka Moradi for donating a Kisei shel Eliyahu chair to the shul.

מזל טוב MAZAL TOV to Mark and Rebecca Altabe on the birth of a son.



THANK YOU: A heartfelt thank you to the Ohr Torah congregants and the West Orange Community for their sincere condolences to me and my family following the loss of my beloved mother Sara. Your participation in assisting us with Minyans, meals, visits to our home, and overwhelming participation in the shiva fund made our sorrow more bearable. Bertha Sharret and family.

The new **OHR TORAH DIRECTORIES** have been mailed to members of the Congregation and you should have received yours by now. If any member did not receive the booklet please contact Bertha Sharret, rsharret@hotmail.com.

OHR TORAH CHINESE FOOD SHABBAT DINNER: Friday, January 31, following Kabbalat Shabbat. Come for a Shabbat Dinner with good friends, good fun, and delicious Chinese food from Glatt Fusion! \$18 per adult; \$10 per child; \$72 Family Maximum. Sponsorship levels are also available -- please consider sponsoring to help cover costs. Babysitting will be available. Questions? Contact Leron Thumim: Leron.Thumim@gmail.com. Please register at:

<https://www.congregationohrtorah.org/event/shul-winter-shabbat-dinner.html>.

SAVE THE DATE: There will be a Melaveh Malka on **February 8th** at the shul celebrating the completion of the Sefer HaChinuch Mitzvah project. More details will follow.



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.,

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Schedule 01/17 - 01/24

Friday (01/17)

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

Shabbat (01/18)

Shacharit	9:00am
Latest Shema	9:42am
Mincha	4:30pm
Maariv	5:35pm
Shabbat ends	5:42pm

Sunday (01/19)

Shacharit	8:15am
Mincha/Maariv	4:45pm

Monday - Thursday (01/20 - 01/23)

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

No Mincha Service Mon-Thu

Friday (01/24)

Shacharit	6:10am
Light Candles	4:46pm
Mincha	4:50pm
Shkia	5:04pm

Eruv Hotline: (973) 736-1407 x6



Sisterhood Events and Donations

SAVE THE DATE for an upcoming Sisterhood program on Sunday morning, February 16. Join us for a royal icing cookie decorating class! Learn how to make gorgeous professional-looking sugar cookies for your next event! See our Ad on Page 4.

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 18 - 24

22 TEVET: Barbara Bortniker for her Father, Avraham Shlomo ben Yaakov Baruch, Sam Israel, on Sunday, January 19.

23 TEVET: Mark Altabe for his Father, Menachem Yosef ben Chaim, Mel Altabe, on Monday, January 20.

23 TEVET: Louraine Eagle for her Mother, Chaya bat Pinchas, Harriet Mogel, on Monday, January 20.

24 TEVET: Marvin Weintraub for his Father, Moshe Yitzhak ben Yaakov, Morris Weintraub, on Tuesday, January 21.

26 TEVET: Tsilla Weber for her Mother, Aviva bat Yaakov, Aviva Nachmany, on Thursday, January 23.

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

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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.congregationohrtorah.org/hatchet>

FOR SENIORS: Together on Tuesdays. Tuesday, January 21, 12:30-1:00pm - light lunch (cost \$3.00), 1:00-2:15pm - "Seeing Eye Presentation" by Sharon Kessel, experienced Seeing Eye Puppy Raiser and Trainer. Among Sharon Kessel's many roles in the community, she is an experienced Seeing Eye Puppy Trainer. Sharon will bring her latest puppy, Nancy, to this session. She will show us basic commands and explain how the puppies are reared the first 18 months at home for socialization and then returned to Morristown Seeing Headquarters for more training to qualify for guiding the blind. 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 also invited to share their feedback by e-mailing to 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.

OT SECURITY: Thank you to our security volunteers this week who stepped up to keep us all safe. **We need volunteers for January and 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 [dnchelst@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) 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



TORAH THOUGHT:

Shemot: Six Women - The Making of a Leader

Larry and Margot have been in West Orange for about 20 years. They are now retired and can be seen regularly at the JCC, Aron's and the West Orange Library. They have two sons, Zack and Micah, who both live in Manhattan.

Margot & Larry Freedman We begin this parsha with a continuation of the lives of Jacob's offspring, who are very strong, very powerful and "... the land became filled with them" (1:7). As the generations went on, the new Pharaoh ultimately feared the growing nation and set out to destroy it, while at the same time Moses is born into these chaotic times.

The story of Moses is widely known and broadly learned. As always with Torah, much happens away from the main focus. Moses is our leader, but behind all great leaders are those who bring him to this point, in this case, a group of women.

The generations became so strong and so numerous, that a new Pharaoh must find a solution to his perceived threat of a nation stronger than his own. Among his solutions to controlling the Jewish population is the drowning of all male babies. Here we meet our first heroine, Miriam, who, according to Midrash, bravely beseeches her father and persuades him not to separate from his wife, Yocheved, and not to follow through with the plan to stop having children. In Amram's view, if the Jews separate there won't be male babies to murder. But Miriam wisely said that if they separate, there'd be no Jewish babies at all, a worse outcome in her view. Because of Miriam's brave intervention (who can really stand up to their father at this young age?), Amram and Yocheved have a son.

Yocheved is our second heroine. As we learn, it was at the peak of Egyptian persecution that she and Amram defy orders of the king and have a child. Knowing the perils her family would face if their secret were revealed, Yocheved hid the child for several months before putting him into the river to have a chance at survival. Again, what mother would have the courage to do such a daring thing? It is not as though she gave up a son for adoption; in fact, she literally had no idea what would happen to him. We know that she ultimately nursed the infant and raised him during the earliest years of his life.

As vile as his solution to kill all Jewish males was, the

king appointed Jewish midwives to do the actual killing. Shifra and Puah "feared G_d and did not do as the king of Egypt spoke..." (1:17), thereby saving all the Jewish males. As well, they stood up to Pharaoh's rebuke by telling him the women give birth on their own, unassisted by midwives, thereby defying the king's orders yet again.

As Rabbi Sacks explains, the significance of this story is that power cannot be absolute. There must be a moral element to our actions. He states that, through Shifra and Puah's... "understated courage they earn a high place among the moral heroes of history", teaching "the importance of conscience over obeying orders and the importance of the law of humanity over that of the land."

Moses's wife, Zipporah, was to save Moses' life by circumcising their son, Gershom, at a time of great suffering for the Jewish slaves. Her actions were decisive, fearless and strong.

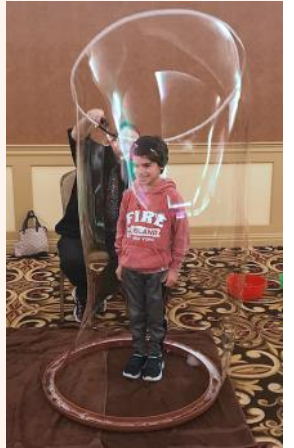
Our final discussion is about Pharaoh's daughter. Who was she? We're not given her name. One of the most influential women in the Torah is unidentified. Why did she save this child, who was clearly Jewish? Why did she take such a risk to bring him into her father's home, at such a precarious time for the Jews? Why was Miriam at the river's edge when the baby in the basket floated by at the precise moment Pharaoh's daughter was there? This is G_d's grand, orchestrated plan to save the Jewish people. Just as Joseph's rise to power in Egypt at the time of severe famine was to save Israel, so too Pharaoh's daughter's importance during her father's power-hungry genocide, was to save Israel. It does not get more heroic.

Miriam and her mother Yocheved, Shifra and Puah, Zipporah and Pharaoh's daughter were all leaders in their own right, but together they were integral for their role in the life of Moses. Each had courage to do what was right and necessary at the time. Without them, there could have been no Moses. **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**

AABJ&D AND OHR TORAH YOUTH DEPARTMENTS BUBBLE SHOW

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH AT OHR TORAH



Pictures thanks to
Rivky Balser



Cookie Decorating Workshop

Sunday, February 16th, 10 a.m.

270 Pleasant Valley Way

Cost: \$12 per person

RSVP by 2/13 to rsharret@hotmail.com

Limited to first 20 reservations

(post bat-mitzvah young women welcome)

Step by step instruction!
All materials provided!
Learn to decorate a set of cookies to take home

Sponsored by Ohr Torah Sisterhood