



CONGREGATION OHR TORAH Weekly Newsletter

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

Vayikra 3 - 9 Nissan, 5780 March 28 - April 3, 2020

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

SHABBAT KIDDUSH and SE'UDAH SH'LISHIT - CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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



Due to the Corona Virus, the Ohr Torah Board has decided to close the Shul down. This includes all minyanim on Shabbat and during the week. If you have not picked up your t'fillin, taleitim or other personal items, please reach out to Rabbi Spivak or David Goldstein to arrange a pick-up time. Information from the Shul in regard to the Corona Virus Crisis can be found at: <https://www.congregationohrtorah.org/corona>

Schedule 03/27 - 04/03

ALL SERVICES CANCELLED HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Friday (03/27)

Light Candles 6:59pm
Shkia 7:17pm

Shabbat (03/28)

Latest Shema 9:54am
Shabbat ends 8:00pm

Friday (03/27)

Light Candles 7:06pm
Shkia 7:24pm

Eruv Hotline: (973) 736-1407 x6

DAVENING GUIDELINES: During the entire month of Nissan we do not say Tachanun. On Shabbat we do not say צדקתך צדק. We don't recite קל מלא. There is no recitation of שבת on אב הרחמים through the end of פסח. Fasting and eulogies are prohibited this month. Some have the custom that during the first twelve days of Nisan they read after שחרית each day, the section from the end of Parshas Naso that describes the offering of the corresponding Nasi.

VIRTUAL OHR TORAH

During the Corona Virus Emergency, Ohr Torah will continue to function on-line, offering daily virtual Shacharit, Mincha/Maariv, and Shi'urim. There will be no Kaddish, Kaddusha, or Torah Layning. However, Rabbi Spivak will include brief Shi'urim and commentary for Shacharit and Mincha / Maariv. Here are links to the various functions offered via the Zoom App, available for your PC, Android, or iPhone:

Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat Lite: 6:35pm, Fri. 3/27. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/130259963>

Shacharit: 8:15am, Sunday 3/29: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/130259963>

Shacharit: 7:30am, Monday - Friday 3/30 - 4/03: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/130259963>

Mincha/Maariv: 7:05pm, Sun. - Thu. 3/29 - 4/02: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/663709194>

Rabbi Spivak's Class: 8:00pm, Wednesday 4/01: The Rabbi's Shabbat HaGadol 'Speech'

<https://zoom.us/j/368558996?pwd=MOJiajBJVVFrMENzM2w2MFAyMUI5Zz09>

The **Siyum Bechorim** will take place after the 7:30 AM Zoom davening on Erev Pesach, Wednesday, April 8.



מזל טוב Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Fernand and Marcia Schoppik on the birth of twin grandsons to Tamar and Ben Amoyal. We apologize for the misprint last week.

SEE PAGE TWO FOR YOUR PESEACH GUIDE AND FORM TO SELL YOUR CHAMETZ.

Sisterhood Events and Donations

Sisterhood Tribute Fund:

CHUMASH: Given in memory of Dr. Mark Grebenau by Arlene and Sam Kaye. Given in honor of Howard Charish by Arlene and Sam Kaye.

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 March 28 - April 03

- 4 NISSAN:** Arnold Barton for his Mother, Leah bat Dov Be'er, Lillian Barton, on Sunday, March 29.
- 4 NISSAN:** Bennett Degen for his Grandfather, Yechiel Dov ben Avraham Gershon, Robert Degen, on Sunday, March 29.
- 4 NISSAN:** Barry Schwartz for his Mother, Leah bat Avraham Eliezer, Elaine H. Schwartz, on Sunday, March 29.
- 5 NISSAN:** Aryeh Kurz for his Father, Daniel Leib ben Yisrael, Daniel Kurz, on Monday, March 30.
- 5 NISSAN:** Roberta Schwartz for her Father, Tzvi ben Dov, Henry Krebs, on Monday, March 30.
- 6 NISSAN:** Annie Goldfischer for her Grandmother, Dina bat Menachem Mannes, Dina Schwartzstein, on Tuesday, March 31.
- 8 NISSAN:** Sam Goldfischer for his Aunt, Shoshana bat HaRav Yehudah Leib, Shoshana Landsberg, on Thursday, April 2.
- 8 NISSAN:** Debby Stiel for her Mother, Tzivia bat Yehoshua, Herma Leitner, on Thursday, April 2.
- 9 NISSAN:** Fredda Katcoff for her Father, Dovid ben Yehuda Zev, David Goldsmith, on Friday, April 3.
- 9 NISSAN:** Linda Laulicht for her Mother, Liebe Rachel bat Nachum Yitzchak Halevi, Rae Kushner, on Friday, April 3.

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

IMPORTANT LINKS

PESACH GUIDE: Thank you AABJ&D for sharing your annual Pesach Guide. It can be found here at: <https://images.shulcloud.com/416/uploads/Pesach/PesachGuide2020-5780-updated.pdf>

SELL YOUR CHAMETZ: This year, it is done only online for all MetroWest Shuls at: <http://tiny.cc/chometzsaleshortform>

TIPS FROM THE CDC

- Avoid **close contact** with people who are sick, and **avoid shaking hands** with others.
- When you are sick, **keep your distance** from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
- **Washing your hands** often will help protect you from germs.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose or mouth.
- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- **Contact your health provider** immediately if you think you've been exposed to COVID-19.
- **Stay at home** if you believe you might be sick.

Practice other **good health habits**. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

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

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://congregationohratorah.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@congregationohratorah.org

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Board: board@congregationohratorah.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@congregationohratorah.org

Monthly Calendar: Elia Weixelbaum

Newsletter: ShabbatNewsletter@congregationohratorah.org

Reading Torah: Avi Klein, otlaining@congregationohratorah.org

Scheduling Calendar: Tami Puder, 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 Balsler Youth@congregationohratorah.org

Newsletter Advertising: Howard Charish

advertising@congregationohratorah.org



Rabbi Frand

TORAH THOUGHT:

Vayikra: The Superiority of the Poor Man's Offering

Rabbi Yissocher Frand is an American Charedi Orthodox rabbi and author. He is a senior lecturer at Yeshivas Ner Yisroel in Baltimore, MD. Raised in Seattle, Washington, he attended Ner Yisrael as a student and progressed to become a maggid shiur (lecturer).

The Torah writes in this week's parsha regarding the offering of the Korban Mincha: "When a soul (nefesh) will bring a meal-offering to Hashem, his offering shall be of fine flour; he shall pour oil on it and place frankincense on it" [Vayikra 2:1]. This is in contradistinction to the expression used at the start of the parsha in connection with the animal offerings: "When a person (adam) from among you will bring an offering to Hashem from the animals..." [Vayikra 1:2].

Rashi comments that by the Mincha flour offering, which is the least expensive of all sacrifices, the Torah uses the expression "when a soul will bring". This, Rashi says, is the only offering by which the Torah refers to the one who brings the korban as a nefesh (soul). Rashi explains that typically poor people bring flour offerings in lieu of more expensive animal sacrifices. The Almighty therefore emphasizes: "I give him credit as if he offered his soul."

A rich person pays \$1500 for an ox and slaughters it for the Mizbayach [altar]. The Torah says "very nice", but it is not the same as the flour offering of a poor person who may have paid \$3.50 for the combination of a little flour and a little oil. The poor person's offering is treated with greater respect, so to speak. Why is that?

Rav Elya Meir Bloch says the simple interpretation is that the \$1500 for the rich person may be a smaller percentage of his net worth or his disposable income than the much smaller amount spent by the poor person is, as a total of the latter's net worth or disposable income. Relatively speaking, the poor person made a larger contribution of his wealth than the rich person.

But, says Rav Elya Meir, this is not the correct way to interpret these pasukim [verses]. Rav Elya Meir sees a deeper interpretation.

The Ramban writes that when a person offers an

animal sacrifice, he is really supposed to think that the slaughtered animal on the mizbayach should really be him. As it is with so many Mitzvos, the Torah desires one's heart, not just the hollow act of bringing a sacrifice. The Torah wants the intent of what he is doing to penetrate into the deepest recesses of a person's personality. The Torah is interested in the person achieving the feeling of what bringing a korban is supposed to be about.

When a wealthy person plunks down his \$1500 for his offering, he has the attitude that "I certainly did my share. This animal cost me 1500 bucks! What more do You want?" Therefore, he lacks the requisite humility appropriate for one who is supposed to be seeking atonement. But the poor man knows that all he is bringing is a minimal korban – a little flour, a little oil. He knows that he does not earn atonement for \$3.50. He understands that his offering is just symbolic and is supposed to represent a deeper emotion that emerges from the recesses of his soul. He puts his heart and soul into the offering because he clearly realizes that it is not the flour and the oil that will gain him atonement.

When a person is poor and cannot afford to buy his way out of his iniquity, the only thing he has going for him is his nefesh – his soul. Therefore, he puts his heart and soul into the offering. The Torah highlights this idea by the use of the word nefesh in connection with the flour offering.

Shabbat Shalom.



KASHERING KAYLIM

Due to the current public health crisis, Rabbi Spivak will be doing "drive thru" kashering of kaylim for Pesach in order to minimize the number of people at the shul building. Please read this message completely in order to understand what this means and what the process will be. Also, there will not be an opportunity to ask Rabbi Spivak any questions at kashering time. Please reach out to him at a different time if you have any questions.

Considering that many people will be home for the first time in a while and the volume of things needed to be kashered will be higher than normal, kashering will be done in two separate sessions. Both sessions are by appointment only so please be sure to read this message until the end so you know how to book your appointment.

Purpose: Any other items you may need for Pesach.

Date: Sunday, March 29

Time: 9:30 am to 11:30 am



Please note that no one will be allowed inside the Shul building. Please be sure to enter the parking lot through the Pleasant Valley Way side of the building and drive around toward the back parking lot. You will be asked to leave your things to be kashered at the first table you see and to find a parking spot. Once your things have been kashered, you will be asked to pick them up at a second table and drive away on the Woodland Avenue side of the parking lot.

(Note: The direction of traffic is very important. If you enter on the wrong side, you will be asked to turn around and re-enter on the PVW side.) For a more detailed version of this process (including an image illustrating the traffic flow) go to <https://www.congregationohrtorah.org/kaylim2020>

As mentioned above, these sessions are by appointment only. To sign up for an appointment, go to <http://congregationohrtorah.org/kashering>.

Note that the signups for both sessions are on the same page. If we fill up the slots on either of these days, we will try to extend the hours. If you know someone who is not inclined to book their appointment online, please have them contact Jay Goldberg or David Goldstein.

MAOT CHITIM NOTICE: URGENT

Please donate to our Maot Chitim campaign. Your donation will go to help those in our neighborhood who are in need in this troubled time. We are looking to provide meals for people who have lost their jobs due to quarantine and the elderly who are most vulnerable to the current health threat. To donate, please go to:

<https://www.congregationohrtorah.org/maotchitim>

KEEPING BUSY



Take a Torah Course: <https://www.webyeshiva.org/course/?topic=554>

Learn in a class from Aish.com: <https://www.aish.com/jw/s/aish-live.html>

Take a virtual field trip:

Visit the San Diego Zoo: <https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/>

Tour Yellowstone: <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtours.htm>

Explore the surface of Mars: <https://accessmars.withgoogle.com/>

See what the Pandas are up to at the Atlanta Zoo: <https://zooatlanta.org/panda-cam/>

Checkout the Georgia Aquarium: <https://www.georgiaaquarium.org/webcam/jelly-webcam/>

W.O. MIKVA UPDATE

- ◆ According to the psak of Rabbi Herschel Schachter shlit" a and due to the curfew imposed on New Jersey residents, women should try and make appointments with Sheina, our Mikva attendant, for the time of z'man until 8PM. As the curfew is suggested and not mandated, they may make an appointment with Sheina for later that evening. If they feel more comfortable, Sheina is available for daytime appointments. This means women should go during the day of the eighth day of their count. This ruling only applies during this period due to extenuating circumstances. Please phone Sheina's cell phone number at 718-404-4438 to schedule an appointment.
- ◆ The Mikva water will be filtered for additional hours on a daily basis. The Mikva water will be emptied, cleaned and refilled multiple times per month. We are also increasing the number of times that each Mikva room will be deep cleaned by a professional. In addition, Sheina will be disinfecting each room after each user.
- ◆ Sheina, our Mikva attendant, will maintain social distancing protocols while attending to users.
- ◆ All users are asked to take their temperature at home before coming to the Mikva. We ask users to exercise good judgement and not visit the Mikva if the feeling even remotely sick.

Previous Mikva Protocol changes still in effect:

- ◆ Men will no longer be permitted to use the Mikva for any purpose.
- ◆ Women are required to do ALL preparation at home. No baths or showers will be taken in the Mikva. Women are requested to enter, wash hands promptly, and immerse.

All of the above was instituted with Rabbinic guidance. There is no known indication that the Covid-19 virus spreads through water. We continue to clean, chlorinate and filter as advised. Please email Rivka Hindin with questions rivka.hindin@gmail.com.

SMILE TIME

