

CONGREGATION TORAH OHR

MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI THOUGHTS ON OUR ANNIVERSARY



This Shabbat, Parashat Mishpatim, will be the 37th anniversary of the first official minyan held at the newly formed Congregation Torah Ohr. Much has changed over the years. Ask **Sid Perris** how many times he stood in front of what was, at first, the Shul/ Clubhouse building, trying to convince one or two people heading to Clubhouse activities to attend Shul instead and complete the minyan. Back then, we had only one minyan on Shabbat morning. Now, in season we have four minyanim, Hashkama, Main Shul Minyan, Nusach Sefard and the 9:00am Auditorium Minyan with hundreds of participants! Last week's Parasha (Yitro) recorded another anniversary, that of Matan Torah, the Revelation at Mount Sinai. The Abarbanel asks, why did HaShem wait to give the Torah? Why wasn't the Torah given to Adam or Noach or to the Patriarchs, Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov who, according to hints in the Torah and open statements from our Sages, already knew the mitzvot and observed them! The Abarbanel answers that the timing of the Revelation was dependent not on the human emissary (Moshe Rabbainu), rather on the recipients. The Torah was reserved to be given B'Rov Am, to a populace, great in number and also great in quality. One crucial quality is found in last week's parasha and a second in next week's portion. Leading up to Revelation at Mount Sinai, we are told:

וַיֵּצְאוּ מִרְפִּידִים וַיָּבֹאוּ מִדְבַר סִינַי וַיִּחַנו בְּמִדְבַר יִשְׂרָאֵל נֹגֵד הַהָר

They journeyed from Rephidim, they entered the wilderness of Sinai and they encamped in the wilderness; Israel encamped there in front of the mountain. (Shemot 19:2)

There are four verbs in the above verse. The first three are conjugated in the Hebrew plural format. The fourth changes to singular even though the subject is the same! Rashi quotes the Midrash Mechilta explaining the significant change as reflecting the state of the Jewish nation being

כְּאִישׁ אֶחָד בְּלֵב אֶחָד

Like one person, with one heart

This is the desired state of a Torah community, united as one. Unity emerges as a pre-requisite to receiving Torah. At the very beginning of Parashat Teruma, Moshe relates the command from HaShem:

וַיִּקְחוּ לִי תְרוּמָה *they shall take a gift*, dedicated to Me. Normally, we would say "give a gift". Indeed, by the compulsory Half-Shekel, the command is וְנָתַנוּ, they shall give. But by the voluntary contribution to the building of the holy Sanctuary, the focus is not on the giving; rather, HaShem is calling attention to our thoughts during the very moment we separate our funds and dedicate them for the Sanctuary, also known as the "home" of HaShem. While our act of giving can be witnessed by others, the act of וַיִּקְחוּ, taking/dedicating is an act and thought done privately, reflecting humility, the second crucial trait necessary to merit Torah and our relationship with HaShem.

As we prepare to welcome Congregation Torah Ohr's anniversary Shabbat, let's reflect on the unity, humility, sincerity and generosity of our members throughout our 37 years. These traits and the people practicing them have created a vibrant home for us to encounter HaShem.

Happy Anniversary and Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Benjamin S. Yasgur

B'Ezrat HaShem, Barbara and I will spend Shabbat with our daughter and family in Coral Springs. We look forward to the Shalom Zachar and hopefully the Bris, as well

Sisterhood invites you to join us for a Shabbat Mevorchim Kiddush

Immediately following the Main Sanctuary Shacharit
(please wait for Kiddush to be said in the Sanctuary)

Thank you to our sponsors:

Andrea & David Dolny, Marsha Federbush, Jackie Fruchtman, Judith & Michael Poretsky, Sholom Sanders, Miriam & Michael Schiffer, Shirley & Shimi Storch



Monthly Bulletin

FEBRUARY 17, 2023 26 SHEVAT 5783

PARASHAT MISHPATIM

SHABBAT SHEKALIM

SHABBAT MEVORCHIM

SHUL ANNIVERSARY

SHABBAT TIMES

Candle Lighting

Earliest with bracha	5:04 pm
Standard	5:56 pm
Mishna Yomit	5:40 pm
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Ma'ariv	5:55 pm

SHABBAT

Shacharit—Beit Midrash	7:30 am
Shacharit—Main Sanctuary—D'var Torah by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky: "The Orthodox Community's Responsibility to Tikkun Olam"	8:30 am
Shacharit (Nusach Sefard)—Upstairs	8:30 am
Shacharit—West Wing Sanctuary—D'var Torah by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky: "The Orthodox Community's Responsibility to Tikkun Olam"	9:00 am
Latest Shema	9:44 am
Daf Yomi—Main Sanctuary	3:55 pm
Mishna Yomit—Main Sanctuary	4:55 pm
Shiur with Rabbi Shimon Green	5:10 pm
Mincha in the Main Sanctuary followed by Seudah Shlisheet (D'var Torah will be given by Asher Herzberg)	5:40 pm
Ma'ariv—Main Sanctuary	6:45 pm
Shabbat ends	6:51 pm

This Shabbat is Shabbat Mevorchim.

Rosh Chodesh Adar is on Tuesday, Feb. 21 and Wednesday, Feb. 22. The new moon will make its first appearance on Monday afternoon, 40 minutes and 11 chalakim after 12:00 pm Jerusalem time.

WEEKDAY TIMES

Earliest Davening: 5:46 am (Fri-Thurs)*

Earliest Tallit/Tefillin: 6:13 am (Fri-Thurs)*

Shacharit: 7:00 am—Beit Midrash,

7:30 am—Main Sanctuary,

8:00 am (Nusach Sefard)—West Wing Sanctuary

8:30 am Upstairs Sanctuary

Daf Yomi: following the 7:30 am Minyan—Beit Midrash

Mishnah Yomit: 15 minutes before Mincha

Mishna Berurah: 35 minutes before Mincha—Daf Room

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 6:00 pm—Main Sanctuary

Plag (Sun-Thurs): 5:05-5:07 pm

Shkiah: (Sun-Thurs): 6:16-6:19 pm

Daven Mincha prior to: 6:16 pm

Repeat Kriat Shema: after 6:53 pm*

(*Latest time during the week)



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT DAVE CHESLOW

Since not everyone was able to attend the Annual Dinner, I thought I would share my remarks in this space:

BRUCHIM HABA'IM, **welcome everyone!** Tonight's dinner will be an outstanding event in the life of Torah Ohr. We have terrific honorees, three couples who are leaders, workers, and community members par excellence. The dinner committee has put together a wonderful evening for us to enjoy.

Take a moment to look around and see what we have achieved together. Not just the gorgeous physical building, but also the warm, friendly spirit of Achdus in our Kehila. Our **daily** and **Shabbat Minyanim** are packed, our classes are full, our **events** sell out, and we have added 80 new members, that's correct, 80 new members in the last 12 months. We have never added so many new members in a single year.

We need to thank Rabbi Yasgur, Gabai, Rabbi Zvi Karpel and his team, the officers, the directors, the committees, our beautiful Sisterhood, our dedicated Men's Club, our generous financial supporters-all those who give so freely of themselves and their resources to grow and maintain this fantastic institution.

Our accomplishments are many. Since we gathered here for last year's banquet we redecorated the main Shul, the Bet Medrash, the Daf room, and the administrative offices. We installed clean **Air scrubber systems** throughout the building, built the safety railing along the sidewalk, the men's club initiated their Sefer Torah project, we started a well-received singles group, and Torah Ohr partnered with Yad Vashem for a unique holocaust memorial program. Torah Ohr TV is a monthly video series featuring committees like Chevra Kadisha, Volunteers on Standby, the Education committee, the Library, etc. Our good friend Fred Hadley, who is my guest tonight is the professional videographer. The videos which get hundreds of views are available on Torah Ohr's YouTube channel.

Friends, Burn the Mortgage campaign is shifting into high gear. Our beautiful Sisterhood kicked off the campaign with a 25,000 check; and, along with that generous check, this fund-raising powerhouse is supporting the Shul's operation this year to the tune of 56,500. Thank you to our **amazing Sisterhood!**

We have done a lot, but we are not finished. Next on the agenda, with your help will be renovating the upstairs social hall and paying off that pesky mortgage.

For the first time Torah Ohr is being recognized beyond the borders of the community. This year's tribute book contains a letter from the governor as well as messages from other senior political leaders acknowledging the success and importance of our Shul to the life of the state of Florida. **Congratulations! Torah Ohr is on the march, Torah Ohr is on the map!**

With all we have achieved we recognize that a strong and efficient professional staff provides the backbone to keep everything running. Our custodial staff of Juste and Celissa maintain the order, the beauty and cleanliness of our facilities and meet the frequent challenges posed by the many programs we provide. An efficient and smooth-running office like ours is essential to the success of any organization. For several years Amy Jacobson has been our bookkeeper. Recently Amy was offered the position of director of finance in a 550-family synagogue in Fort Lauderdale. This is a personal and professional opportunity for Amy, and she has accepted the new job. We will miss Amy and wish her all the best. As soon as Amy notified us of her intention the search committee of Chaim Reiss, Michael Poretsky and Willie Hochman swung into action. Through their efforts we have been able to hire our new bookkeeper, Shira Cohen. Shira is QuickBooks certified and has started to take on her new position Shira says that she has big shoes to fill, and she is up to the task. Andrea Mass will soon be getting a new title which is more reflective of her many varied duties and responsibilities. Thank you, Andrea, Judy, and Chari for all you do for us. We have a great office staff and look forward to continuing to work together.

Last but certainly not least thank you to Giselle and Phyllis for all the hard work of putting this dinner together, and to Bella for keeping the program fast paced and fun. Kol Hakovod!

Editor's Corner

Welcome to our **ELECTION** issue. Included you will find 2 lists of people running for the Torah Ohr Board of Directors. Please see **pages 14-18** for all the important details about the candidates and the conduct of the vote, which will be online except for those who do not have access to email.

We hope to put out a Purim edition. If you have Purim Torah you would like to share, please send it to me at KarGreene@aol.com as soon as possible.

Volunteers Needed!

We have many unsung heroes in our Shul who help to keep things running, but we need more people to pitch in. **Helen and Adir Gottesman** have been handling Seudah Shlisheet for a number of years with help recently from Volunteers on Standby. It has become too difficult for Helen to handle all parts of the job. If a few people would volunteer to be part of a committee which would regularly check supplies, shop, pick up from the caterer, and set up Shabbat afternoon with the help of the custodian, it would be a great help to the Shul. Please call or text Helen at 561-676-2078 to offer your help. Seasonal and non-seasonal helpers needed.

SINGLES MINGLE

By Marilyn Sprecher

Congregation Torah Ohr has organized an active singles group. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. We have had a successful breakfast, a luncheon at Orchids Garden, a trip to the Boca Raton Historical Society and most recently a Waffle Lunch. Presently, we are attempting to organize a trip to the Norton Museum as well as a boat cruise from Delray Beach. We have members from both Century Village as well as other communities. We welcome new ideas and new members. We hope that all singles will come and join.

FAREWELL FROM LARRY FISH

As my term as Second Vice-President comes to an end this week, I want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve the congregation. I particularly want to thank the office staff and Juste who have consistently helped and supported me in maintaining the operations of our Shul.

For the past 10 years, I have been responsible for the technical operations of the building. Our Shul has moved into the 21st Century with sophisticated electronic systems which not only enhance our security, but also enable us to reduce our electrical power consumption and subsequent costs.

The technical and electronic systems essential to the daily operations of the Shul include: the Internet Service which is the essential back bone for the Telephone Services, the Environmental Controls, the Lighting Controls in both the East and West wings, the Wifi System, the Cell Phone Signal Amplification System, the Security Systems, the Card Access System, the Video Surveillance System, the Audio-Visual Presentation Equipment as well as the Office Computers, Copiers and Printers. I look forward to guiding the next person who assumes these responsibilities and facilitating a smooth transition.

May our Shul continue to grow with hatzlacha and bracha. Purim Sameach! —Larry Fish

שְׂנֵי אָדָר מְרַבֵּין בְּחֵדוּת!
“When Adar comes in, we increase our joy!”



Need a special Megillah Reading?

If physical limitations or (non-contagious) illness prevent you from joining us in Shul on Purim night/day, let us know if you need a condo-based reading of the Megillah. We will do our best to schedule extra readings. Let us know if you are able to join a nearby neighbor or if you are willing to host others in your condo. Please call or text Rabbi Zvi Karpel at 201-341-4255

If you can read the Megillah for those who need a condo-based reading, please call or text Rabbi Zvi Karpel at 201-341-4255

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Men's Club Book Review—Monday, 2/20 at 8:00 pm—In the Auditorium

Helen Garfinkel will review "A Fortress in Brooklyn: Race, Real Estate, and the Making of Hasidic Williamsburg" by Michael Casper & Nathaniel Deutsch

Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Davening & Pushka Party—Tuesday, 2/21 at 9:00 am—In the Auditorium

Bring your full pushka or a check for \$18

Congregation Torah Ohr's Annual Meeting —Sunday, 2/26 at 10:30 am—In the Auditorium

Refreshments at 10:30, meeting at 11. Committee & Budget presentations; Election results (Please see pages 14-18 for all election related information)

Siyum Mishnayot—Sunday, 2/26 at 4:00 pm—In the Auditorium

Guest Speaker Dr. Shnayer Leiman. Includes a memorial to all who passed in the last year. [Click here](#) to reserve

Men's Club Book Review—Monday, 2/27 at 8:00 pm—In the Auditorium

Mira Sennett will review "The Journey to the End of the Millenia" by A.B. Yehoshua and "The Bridal Canopy (Hachnasat Kallah)" by S.Y. Agnon - Sephardic and Ashkenazic traditions in the face of the loss we experienced post WWII

Sisterhood Boutique—Wednesday, 3/1, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm—In the Auditorium

Jewelry, Hats, Cosmetics, Clothing, Serving Pieces, and More!

Purim Seudah & Shpiel—Tuesday, 3/7 at 4:30 pm—In the Auditorium

Come One, Come All to the Sisterhood Masquerade Ball! [Click here](#) to print form. RSVP by 2/22

Weitman Memorial Lecture—Sunday, 3/12 at 7:30 pm—In the Auditorium

Ira Epstein will give a multi-media presentation on The Israeli Philharmonic

Art in the Lobby with Phyllis Nissel—Wednesday, 3/15 at 2:00 pm—In the New Lobby

"Fun with Lines and Circles" - Limited to 35 participants. \$15- Supplies included, no knowledge of art necessary. [Click here](#) to print a flyer

The Hattie Thum Women's Tehillim Group meets Sundays at 9:15 am in the Daf Room.

Sisterhood invites you to join us for the Ruth Fruchter/Berdie Schiffenbauer Women's Amen

Rosh Chodesh Adar Davening & Pushka Party:

Tuesday, February 21st at 9:00 am in the West Wing Sanctuary

Bring your full pushka or a check for \$18

D'var Torah will be given by **Barbara Gononsky**

Current Classes:

Mondays:

10:00 am—Rabbis On Rotation: — Rabbi Kenneth Greene "Abortion in Light of the Overturning of Roe vs. Wade: Can Jewish Legal and Ethical Values Influence American Public Policy?"

11:00 am—Robin Einbinder "Three Episodes in Shoftim" beginning this week: Pesel Micha, Micha's Idol. Men and women are welcome to attend. - Beit Midrash

Tuesdays:

11:15 am—Dave Cheslow "Women's Wisdom Series — Talmud for Women" - Beit Midrash

Wednesdays:

10:00 am—Marty Levine "Women in Tanach: The Good, The Bad, and The In-Between" - Beit Midrash

11:00 am—Rabbi Mordechai Eskovitz "The Good, The Bad, and The Amazing" - Beit Midrash

7:30 pm—Evening Beit Midrash: — Rabbi Yehonatan Drory "From Shushan to Boca: A Deeper Look into Purim's Laws and Lessons"

Thursdays:

10:00 am—Malka Morris "The Development of the Oral Law: 17th to 18th Centuries" - Beit Midrash

11:00 am—Rabbi Benjamin Yasgur "Parshat HaShavua Investigations (P.I.)" - Beit Midrash

Did you miss a class?

Find it here:

<https://www.torahohrboca.org/learn.html>

Watch your email every Sunday for education updates!

Our 5783 Education Brochure is now available! Pick

up a copy in the lobby or click here: [https://](https://images.Shulcloud.com/590/uploads/5783/Education/EducationBrochure5783.pdf)

images.Shulcloud.com/590/uploads/5783/Education/EducationBrochure5783.pdf

PESACH WINE

CLICK TO OPEN FORM



Kosher Food Pantry Drive

Accepting food donations which are:

**non-perishable
unexpired
unopened**

**Questions: call Sharon Segal
at (561) 477-2951**

**The Food Drive benefits the Jacobson Family Food Pantry
of Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services.**

Snowbirds

Please remember to advise the office when you are back in Boca, and when you depart as well. This notification will simplify the often tricky address decisions for mailings.

Please share your noteworthy publications, awards, interviews, etc.

Deadline for next Monthly Bulletin (Nissan):

Thursday, March 9

Email only: Karen Greene kargreene@aol.com

If you wish to honor someone, mark a simcha celebration or just make an announcement, please sponsor our CTO Shul Bulletin:
Weekly Timesheet: \$50.00 Monthly Full Bulletin: \$75.00
Contact Andrea in the office: torahohr72@gmail.com

Men's Club Sefer Torah Campaign

**To participate in the mitzvah of writing a new Sefer Torah
and for**

Dedication opportunities

Contact

Martin Fisch, Chair

917-613-5148

martinjfish@gmail.com

Flyers are available by the Shul Office and in the West Wing Lobby

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Rhoda was a consummate professional. She had all the normal realtor skills down pat. Her unique differentiation was her attitude and sense of humor and her willingness to pitch in to help get things done. We were so happy with the results. We could not recommend her more highly.

Review submitted by Ken and Barbara Horner (Seller) on 3 Jan 2023

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Service above and beyond Rhoda was with me in every way literally from start to finish. I cannot imagine a better buying experience.

Review submitted by Carol Wolintz

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF MY SALES FOR 2022

267 Suffolk

1083 Wolverton

4034 Yarmouth

3041 Rexford

1027 Lincoln

4093 Yarmouth

1090 Yarmouth

304 Preston

3085 Wolverton

1040 Rexford

4046 Ainslie

2041 Rexford

4041 Rexford

96 Suffolk

2084 Yarmouth

2811 Sommerset

2030 Wolverton

4001 Newcastle

4052 Ainslie

55 Suffolk

3059 Guildford

Paid advertisement

REFUAH SHELAYMAH

Sam Colman
Joel Flamholz
Walter Fried
Jay Goldberg
Barry Gore
David Heiblum
R' Michael Kanterovitz
Michael Kessler
Eugene Kowalsky
Art Kraut
Howard Lerner
Charles Meyers
Mitchel Nerenberg
Norman Nissel
Jay Rosenfeld
Chazan Michael Schiffer
Marvin Weinstein
Reuven Eliyahu ben Shaindel Malka
Elchanan Yisrael ben Devora Leah
Aharon Dov ben Tiferet Chana
Yaakov David ben Chana Adel

Shmuel ben Sarah Rachel
Yoel Refael ben Gittel
Ze'ev ben Dinah
Yosef Leib ben Devorah
Baruch ben Elka
David Aryeh ben Tova
Rav Michael ben Batia
Moshe ben Raisel
Yehuda ben Faiga Bayla
Eliezer Anshel ben Perl Gittel
Tzvi Hersch ben Toba
Meier ben Chava
Menachem Mendel ben Leah
Nisan Zev ben Machla Miriam
Yehuda Baruch ben Golda
Elimelech Zev ben Chaya Hudis
Mordechai ben Faiga

Ohra Hahn
Susan Heiblum
Rivka Sicherman
Rachelle bat Chana
Bracha Devorah bat Sarah Hena
Kadimah Nechamah bat Chava
Chaya Leah bat Leiba

Ohra Miriam bat Sarah
Tzivia Brina bat Kayla Gisha
Rivkah bat Sarah Leah

Please call us when you are feeling better and are ready to have your name removed.

We are so proud of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of members of our community currently serving in the IDF. Please have them in mind:

Soldiers

Pacey Blacher
Chaim Edery
Shaya Hain
Nechemiah Katz
Noah Chesir
Boaz Simentov
Arad Fruchter
Ben Garfinkel
Hodaya Garfinkel
Gili Garfinkel
Tani Greenwald
Zachary Max Kohn
Avrami Kaplan
Yonatan Plotsker
Racheli Avruch
Shmuel Avruch
Adiv Mensh
Mikey Nadrich
Royee Schacham
Zachary Felder
Zachary Lauderdale
Daniel Yishai Prince
Gabiella Prince
Chezi Levin
Yonatan Schickman
Yonatan Herzfeld
Max Schuster
Jodi Saltzman
Eitan Libin
Hillel Benayahu
Benzion Zimmerman

Families

Hedy and Terry Augenbraun
Hedy and Terry Augenbraun
Hedy and Terry Augenbraun
Rosanne and Howard Benn
Barbara Galandauer
Karla Gross
Esther and Irving Fruchter
Helen Garfinkel
Helen Garfinkel
Helen Garfinkel
Corinne Greenwald
Tamar and Gerry Goldfischer
Judy and Stanley Kaplan
Shoshana Love
Gail and Milton Meller
Gail and Milton Meller
Joan and Norman Mensh
Sonja and Gary Nadritch
Joseph Peleg
Allen and Eunis Penn
Eunice Pivovitsch
Sheila and Jack Prince
Sheila and Jack Prince
Sheila and Jack Prince
Elaine and Bernie Schickman
Rita and Martin Schiller
Dassie Schuster
Linda Suss
Sheryl and David Wyszowski
Sheryl and David Wyszowski
Sheila and Eli Zimmerman

GRANDPARENTS and GREAT-GRANDPARENTS OF IDF SOLDIERS

If you have grandchildren or great-grandchildren currently serving in the IDF, please let us know their names so we can include them in our list of treasures in our Monthly Bulletins.

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MAZEL TOV

Barbara and Rabbi Benjamin Yasgur on the birth of a grandson in Coral Springs, FL.

Zahava Baum on the birth of a great-grandson in Israel and on the birth of a granddaughter in Monsey, NY.

Evy and Allen Oppenheimer on the birth of their first great-grandchild, Liam Gabriel.
Parents are Jocelyn & Joshua Schub.

Carol & Bernie Lebovic on the birth of a great-granddaughter.
Parents are Mimi & Yisroel Meir Lebovic of Yerushalayim.

Miriam & George Goldschmied on the birth of their first great-grandson, Shmuel Dov,
to Atara & Avi Goldschmied.

Gail and Willie Hochman on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Mendy.
Parents are Shifra & Daniel Hochman from Lakewood, NY.

Cheryl and Mike Tuckman on the marriage of their grandson, Jonathan Haller of Woodmere, NY
to Lily Polonetsky of Teaneck, NJ.

Clara and Jonas Waizer on the engagement of their grandson, Matthew Waizer to Shayna Davis of NY, NY.
Parents are Mindy and David Waizer.



Lost & Found Policy at Congregation Torah Ohr

According to the ruling of Rav Moshe Feinstein (IG”M, Chosen Mishpat Vol. 2:45), an institution may announce its policy that articles found on its premises, including those bearing unique identifying features (*simanim*), will be kept for a limited time only. Once that time has elapsed, unclaimed articles may be donated, discarded, etc. by the institution.

This notice will serve as a public announcement that **Congregation Torah Ohr reserves the right to limit the term of storing unclaimed articles to thirty (30) days.** A list of unclaimed articles is listed below. **Please claim your lost item(s) in a timely fashion.**

items:	Woman’s black cardigan w/ trim	Tefillin bag
Pouch with rain jacket	Heart earring	Silver necklace
Chain bracelet	Tallis bag	Keys
Eyeglasses		as of 2/17/2023

HAKARAT HATOV

Thank you to **Phyllis Solomon & Giselle Lazarowitz** and all the volunteers who made our Shul’s Annual Dinner such a big success!

I want to thank Bikur Cholim for providing me with Shabbat meals after my surgery, and all of my many friends for their help, good wishes and tefilot.

Terri Farkas

BRUCHIM HABA’IM

Welcome to our CTO Family
Rivka and Irving Fuchs of Suffolk B



CONDOLENCES

to **Deslie Paneth** and to **Keith Zauder** on the passing of their mother, our member, **Helene Zauder ה'נ**

Memorial Funds

It is a tradition at Congregation Torah Ohr to honor our departed members by establishing a named fund in their memory. These funds support Torah learning and educational programs at our Kehilla. We invite you to contribute to these funds by making donations online or by check, payable to Congregation Torah Ohr, and marking them with the name of the memorialized member.

LEARNING SPONSORSHIPS

Year of Learning

Isaac and Evelyn Blachor in memory of his sister,
עיה רחל בת איסר עיה

Friends of Leonie Meiselman,
Leah Sabra bat Chanoch Zundel עיה

Friends of Mel Askotzky
Moshe Zelig ben Mordechai עיה

Martin Lipman and family in memory of his wife,
Malka Chana bat Pinchas עיה

Month of Learning

Perry and Jill Meltzer
in memory of his mother, *Malka bat Baruch* עיה
and his sister, *Golda Leah bat Duvid HaLevi* עיה

Tova and Leo Zimmer
in memory of her mother, *Henya bat R' Beryl* עיה
and her father, *Aharon ben Yosef Mordechai* עיה

Bea Peyser
in memory of her husband,
HaRav Yisroel Chaim ben David עיה

Stanley Presser
in memory of his mother, *Leah bat Yehuda* עיה
his mother-in-law, *Golda bat Lebor* עיה
and his wife, *Ruchel Mincha bat Moshe* עיה

Rabbi Dr. Yankie and Malke Hoenig
in memory of his mother,
Rabbanit Hentche Ita bat Chaim Yehuda עיה

David and Sharon Karpel
Rabbi Zvi and Robin Karpel
in memory of David and Zvi's father,
Zev Moshe ben Shlomo Yaakov עיה

Carol and Josh Samborn
in memory of her father,
Yehoshua (Shia) ben Moshe Yehuda HaCohen עיה

Sarah Alpert and family
in memory of her husband, הרב צבי ליפע בן הלל עיה

Josh and Carol Samborn
in memory of his mother, *Chienna bat Aryeh Leib* עיה
and his father, *Shmuel Aryeh ben Baruch* עיה

Bea Peyser
in memory of her mother, *Reizel bat Shammai* עיה

Leo and Tova Zimmer
in memory of his father, *Tzvi ben Ezriel* עיה and
his mother, *Yocheved bat Yaacov Menachem Mendel* עיה

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Charlie Gelfenstein
in memory of his wife, *Menucha Sara bat Yechiel Mical* עיה

Michael and Judith Poretsky
in memory of his brother, *Chaim Zvi ben Gershom* עיה

Mark Linder
in memory of his father, *Chaim ben Yechezkel Elimelach* עיה

Barbara Hollander
in memory of her father,
Shmuel Shlomo ben Yehudah Baruch עיה

Judi and Jack Schiff
in memory of her mother,
Chaya Chava bat Menachem Mendel עיה

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On the occasion of
Shirley & Philip Levitan's wedding anniversary

2/18 **Natalie Goldstein**
in memory of her father-in-law,
Eliyahu Hersh ben Kalman HaLevi עיה

2/18 **Jack Kaufman**
in memory of his father-in-law, *Mordichei Tzvi ben David* עיה
Zahava Baum
in memory of her grandmother, *Sarah bat Meier Elchonon* עיה

2/20 **Mel Grossman**
in memory of his wife, *Rochel bat Moshe* עיה

2/20 **Sharon Sytner**
in memory of her father,
Yosef Mordechai ben Yaakov Leib עיה

2/20 **Alizah Poleyeff**
in memory of her brother,
Yerachmiel Dan ben Avraham Yitzchok HaLevi עיה

2/21 **Sandy and Jack Friedman**
in memory of her father, *Natan ben Moishe* עיה

2/22 **Florence and Jay Levy**
in memory of her father, *Menachem Mendel ben Dovid Tzvi* עיה

2/23 **Pearl and Milton Frank**
in memory of their son, *Chaim Matityahu ben Moshe* עיה

2/23 **Raiselle Garfield**
in memory of her husband,
Dov Baresh Nucham ben Yehudah עיה

2/23 **Gloria and Asher Herzberg**
in memory of her mother, *Esther bat Shlomo* עיה

2/23 **Ruth and Edward Goldberg**
in memory of her father, *Dovid Zvi ben Moshulam* עיה

2/24 **Judah Klein**
in memory of his mother-in-law,
Tziporah Sheindel bat Moshe עיה

2/24 **Sid and Sandi Goldschmidt**
in memory of his father,
HaChover Efraim ben HaChover Moshe Yehuda עיה

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George Trager, father of **Lesley Schuchman** from **Carol & Joshua Samborn**

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Donations made to ANY of our Shul's funds (including, but not limited to: Baby Gemach, Bikur Cholim, Chevra Kadisha, Expansion, Library Fund, Shiva Committee, Seudah Shlisheet Fund, Tomchei Yisrael, Torah Fund, and the Rabbi's Chesed Fund) are listed in The Monthly Bulletin.

Dedications may be made for occasions such as: thanking someone, in appreciation, in celebration, in honor, in memory, or for a Refuah Shelaymah.

Forms are available on our website (under printable forms) and in the Shul lobby—or [click here](#) to print.



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Sisterhood Happenings

by **Andrea Dolny, Shoshanna Kimmel & Giselle Lazerowitz**

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Mishe nichnas Adar, marbim b'simcha. We, at Sisterhood, wish you a very happy and joyous Adar.

This has been a very busy and active time for Sisterhood. Our **Luncheon and Fashion Show**, which was on February 15th, was a great success. Our models were dressed in fashions by Sondro and they all looked so very elegant and beautiful. Thank you to our chairwomen, **Marcia Schrager** and **Sonja Nadritch**, and to the entire committee who worked tirelessly to give us a glamorous and very tasteful event.

Each month, throughout the year, our Sisterhood has a morning of davening for women on Rosh Chodesh. For Adar, on February 21st at 9:00 am, the Ruth Fruchter/ Berdie Schiffenbauer Amen Rosh Chodesh Group is combining **Rosh Chodesh Davening with a Pushka Party** in the Simcha Hall. **Barbara Gononsky** will be giving a D'var Torah and refreshments will be served. Admission is one full pushka or \$18.00. Please fill out the lavender form in the lobby to let us know that you will be participating.

Come One and Come All to the **Sisterhood Masquerade Ball / Purim Seudah** on Tuesday, March 7th at 4:30 PM. Our entertainment will be provided by our Torah Ohr Players with prizes for best costume. Food choices are available and reservations must be received by February 22nd. Look for the bright pink flyer and sign up to have a ton of fun!

Our **Sisterhood Mishloach Manot** project is ready for your participation. This is one of Sisterhood's major fundraisers and one that will bring a smile to your face. Please look for the pale pink flyer that explains the details. Our chairpersons are **Laurie Kaufman** and **Robin Karpel**. Please contact them or drop off your form at the office before February 23rd.

On March 1st, from 10 to 1, we will be having another exciting opportunity to shop and to support Sisterhood in the process. That is the day of our **Sisterhood Spring Boutique**. Thanks to **Lenny Behar** and **Roz Hamada** who spend much time and effort searching for new and outstanding vendors that sell at our boutiques. Admission is free so please come. You may be one of our raffle winners on March 1st!

Also on March 1st at 4:00 pm., we invite all Sisterhood members to come to our **Open Board Meeting**. It is here where you can learn what we are planning, make suggestions and get involved. Bring your ideas and your energy to our meeting.

We, in Sisterhood, are always looking for simple ways to have fun. On March 15th at 2:00 PM in the Simcha Hall, we will be learning how to have **Fun With Lines and Circles**. Our instructor, **Phyllis Nissel**, will bring out the artist in us using basic supplies which are included in the \$15 admission price. Light refreshments will be served and admission is limited. Please pick up the yellow flyer and reserve by March 10th. Contact **Sharon Karpel** or leave your reservation in the Sisterhood box at the office.

Wishing you a Freiliche Purim,

Andrea, Shoshanna, Giselle

We continue to sell beautiful **tribute cards**. These are all-occasion cards that have ample room inside for you to write a personal note. Please support our Sisterhood by buying these versatile cards to wish your friends and family Mazel Tov, to honor others, or to send condolences.

Cards come in packs of **3 for only \$10/pack**. Purchase them in the Shul Office during regular business hours.



Men's Club Update

by **Dave Love**

Men's Club President



The Men's Club special project of writing a Sefer Torah to be donated to the Shul is now underway. Many individuals have already dedicated pesukim, aliyos, sedrahs, and letters for the new Torah. The campaign, which is being chaired by **Martin Fisch**, is designed to enable EVERY member to be able to participate. So if you have not as of yet been in contact with Martin, please do not delay. You may have a particular posuk or phrase you wish to commemorate or a sedra that has special meaning for you and/or your family. Take this opportunity to contact Martin at 917-613-5148 so we can share the mitzvah of writing a Sefer Torah together.

Our book review series, under the chairmanship of **Sam Colman**, has been very well attended and the topics raised most interesting. **Marty Levine**, once again, piqued our attention with his presentation of a book detailing what is purported to be the real location of Mt. Sinai - just a few days after the reading of the Ten Commandments. This Monday, **Helen Garfinkle** will finally make her presentation of the Chassidic community of Williamsburg and how they have been able to preserve their community despite the trials and tribulations that confronted them.

The Men's Club, in cooperation with the Second Generation, was able to secure the appearance of the "real" Mordechai, the subject of the acclaimed award winning movie "iMordechai" film as well as his son who produced and directed the film and who explained his motivation in making the movie, which many of you have already seen.

We remind everyone that the wine list is out and that the deadline is February 28th. The list is available in the lobby and [online](#).

The first Seder this year will be on a Wednesday evening and past experience indicates that most of us will try to be Pesachdik by the prior weekend. Towards that end, plans are underway to have catered meals for Shabbos Hagadol, if there is sufficient interest. Please watch your email for details and sign-up.

Lastly, as we all prepare for Purim and Pesach, we remind you to purchase GIFT CARDS. They are available for AROMA, GROVE, GLICK'S as well as CENTURY GRILL. It's a win-win situation as we all patronize these establishments on a regular basis and your purchases enable us to realize 10%. The cards are available from the office.



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For more information,
please contact David Dolny, 914-414-1449.

Please make checks payable to Torah Ohr Men's Club.

As required by Article IX, Section f of the By-Laws of Congregation Torah Ohr, I hereby present the names of all nominees for Officers and Directors. This year, I have also received a list of candidates nominated “by petition of members in good standing”, which has met all of the requirements specified in Article IX, Section d of the By-Laws.

The Nominating Committee’s list of nominees for Officers and Directors is:

Position	Name	Years in Term
President	David Cheslow	2
1st VP	Ralph Cheifetz	2
2nd VP	Michael Poretsky	2
3rd VP	William Hochman	2
Treasurer	Vacant*	2
Gabbai	Zvi Karpel	2
Recording Secretary	Shoshanna Kimmel	2
Corporate Secretary	Judy Zauder	2
Corresponding Secretary	Michael Glass	2
Financial Secretary	Chaim Reiss	2
Board Member	Dov Bodlander	2
Board Member	Bob Bromberg	2
Board Member	Harriet Goldman	2
Board Member	Sid Goldschmidt	2
Board Member	Avi Kuperberg	2
Board Member	Marci Kurtz	2
Board Member	Marcia Schragar	1
Board Member	Barbara Galandauer	1
The following Continuing Board Members have another year to serve in their terms and will NOT be on the Ballot		
Continuing Board Member	Rita Geller	
Continuing Board Member	Jay Goldberg	
Continuing Board Member	Peter Horvath	
Continuing Board Member	Ted Spar	

*Note: The Treasurer's position is vacant. Michael Poretsky has agreed to serve as Acting Treasurer until a suitable candidate can be identified.

The list of nominees for Officers and Directors by petition is:

Position	Name	Years in Term
President	Jonas Waizer	2
1st VP (& Co-President)	David Dolny	2
2nd VP	Heni Weisfogel	2
Treasurer	Sheldon Mandelbaum	2
Corporate Secretary	Open	2
Financial Secretary	Michael Poretsky	2
Board Member	Jerry Jacobs	2
Board Member	Robert Rosenberg	2
Board Member	Frieda Spiro	1
Board Member	Phyllis Solomon	1

The petitioners accept the following members of the Committee's slate of Officer nominees:

Position	Name
3rd VP	William Hochman
Gabbai	Zvi Karpel
Recording Secretary	Shoshanna Kimmel
Corresponding Secretary	Michael Glass
Board Member	Sid Goldschmidt
Board Member	Avi Kuperberg
Board Member	Marci Kurtz
Board Member	Marcia Schragar

On the next few pages you will find Policy Position Papers from each of the slates that they have requested be distributed along with this list of candidates.

I wish all of the candidates the best of luck.

Allan Mosak, Chairman of the Nomination Committee, Congregation Torah Ohr

**ELECTRONIC VOTING INFORMATION
CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18**

A Tale of Two Administrations, by David Cheslow 2/14/2023

Dear Friends,

This year's Shul elections offer an unusual opportunity to compare the actual performance of the top candidates. Jonas Waizer served for two years as President from February of 2019 to February of 2021, and Ralph Cheifetz and I are completing our first term.

During Jonas's presidency when he needed to be in New Jersey, I as vice president managed all plans for Shavuot, the High Holidays and Sukkot. Mindle and I, along with the Spars and the Loves did all the plans for the Sukkot meal program. We also raised funds to purchase a portable Sukkah to accommodate the overflow crowd.

Early in my presidency we were advised to halt the expansion project because the previous administration had raised only about one million dollars in pledges, with the bulk unpaid. The expansion project was sold to the membership as one that would cost \$2.8 million. To complete the project appropriately, the final cost was around \$4 million. Our team, assisted by the incoming and outgoing Vice Presidents, the Sisterhood and Men's Club Presidents and Rabbi Yasgur, salvaged the project with an aggressive campaign of video tours, in-person donor tours, extensive phone calling and private solicitations. We brought in \$1,000,000 of real cash money, not just pledges, in eight months and completed the building.

When our administration came into office the leaders of the Nusach Sfarid Minyan asked us where they could daven because the building expansion plan did not include a location for the Nusach Sfarid Minyan. We decided to allocate the second-floor social hall to them and they have flourished there with beautiful services and a weekly Kiddush. I have been gathering bids to renovate the second floor to make it as lovely as the redecorated first floor and have already received private commitments for much of the funding. We intend to do the renovations this year after the current season.

As President, I understood that ultimate responsibility for the Synagogue's finances rested with me; therefore, I obtained online access to the Shul's bank accounts, the payroll service, QuickBooks and ShulCloud. Once we started to look, we discovered that some bookkeeping mistakes were made during the prior administration due to a lack of oversight. Fortunately, we were able to recoup most of the money that had erroneously been paid out. We put in checks and balances, with appropriate oversight, to make sure these errors would not be repeated. Part of the oversight includes the 1st Vice president reviewing and approving weekly payroll before it's sent to the payroll service. I have also improved billing systems to speed up our incoming cash flow.

As you may be aware, the Shul's mortgage has an initial fixed rate of 4.25%. However, in June of 2027 the rate will adjust and if today's interest rates are in effect when our mortgage adjusts in a mere four years and four months, our interest cost will more than double. We probably would need to either raise dues or curtail programs to cover the debt service. We have been doing our best to get the membership involved in the Burn the Mortgage campaign. Ralph and I and our running mates set the example and joined the campaign immediately with our pledges and donations. We hope that all members who are financially able to do so, will join the effort to burn the mortgage.

Under our administration Sisterhood has enlarged the scope of its partnership with the Shul. During the previous administration Sisterhood provided substantial moneys towards the Shul renovation project and contributed generously towards other special projects in the past, but generally has contributed only about \$5,000 per year toward Shul operations. This year Sisterhood is supporting the Burn the Mortgage campaign with a total of \$32,500, and is now contributing \$2,000 per month towards Shul operations. The Sisterhood has keys to the new kitchens they sponsored, and events like the Thanksgiving feast, the Chanukah Party and the Annual Dinner have run smoothly with a spirit of cooperation under the ORB Kashrut guidelines. Our relationship with the Sisterhood is mutually respectful and supportive.

In our two years, this administration has modernized and expanded our Bikur Cholim committee and created Volunteers on Standby to help out members or Shul projects when needed. We introduced the informative Monthly Bulletin. We expanded the parking lot Sukkah; we established a Torah Ohr section in the South Florida Jewish Cemetery, with discounted plots. We partnered with JNF and Yad Vashem for important and timely programming. After completing the West Wing expansion project, we redecorated the main Shul, the Beit Medrash, the Daf Room and the administrative offices. We established our own Singles group. We initiated Torah Ohr TV on the Shul's YouTube channel and Facebook page. We upgraded all lighting to computer-controlled LEDs and increased the safety of our rest rooms by replacing the fixtures with comfort height commodes and installed grab bars. We installed a safety railing across the front of the building. With Ralph's leadership we applied for and were awarded a Homeland Security Grant for \$150,000 to enhance our building's security features.

Your Shul board meets every month, and more than 30 active committees, under the direction of the vice presidents, are working for the Kehila. Communication with the membership has increased through the expanded monthly bulletin, Torah Ohr TV, and our policy of responding quickly to any emails, letters, or calls from congregants. 80 new members have joined the Shul in the past year.

As required by the Bylaws as well as our own personal beliefs, Congregation Torah Ohr's purpose is "To maintain a house of worship and study following the precepts of Orthodox Judaism and Ashkenazi ritual and Halacha (Shul Bylaws, Article II,a)." We are most proud of the happy, positive atmosphere so obvious in our beautiful Shul. Whatever the election outcome, the last two years have been challenging but always rewarding. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to serve and are proud of our accomplishments.

David Cheslow, President

Ralph Cheifetz, First Vice President

MOVING FORWARD: Policies of the Congregation Torah Ohr Alternate Slate

Jonas Waizer (Past President) and David Dolny February 14, 2023

ACCOMPLISHMENTS – LOOKING BACK

Before the present administration, I was President for two years. Since then, hundreds of new Members moved in and joined Congregation Torah Ohr, who might be unfamiliar with what I achieved in my administration. Of note is that my accomplishments were based on teamwork and Member input. Here are highlights.

The West Wing – with Josh Samborn and the Board, we determined that the Membership had more than doubled overcrowding the minyanim and making the second floor unsafe. Also, the Shul no longer had a social hall and adequate meeting rooms. We resolved to tear down the old and damaged West Wing and replace it with a new structure. We first raised close to \$1.0 million in donations and pledges. We then initiated a bidding process and selected an excellent builder. We held a ceremony putting the shovel in the ground together with Cen-West. Sisterhood was a major partner in this endeavor.

Mortgage- with David Dolny, we secured a loan of \$1.7 million with Optimum Bank with a fixed rate of 4.25%. David negotiated exceptional terms in that the loan was more like a line of credit, and no interest for 18 months.

Office Administration- with Michael Poretsky, we upgraded the staff office and business software with Shul Cloud and Quick Books, starting a process of improvements that continued to this day.

COVID- with the Rabbi, we dealt with the challenging issues in the first year of the CORONA epidemic. For example, to hold minyanim for the Yomin Noraim, and meet CDC requirements for distant seating, we reached out to Temple Beth Shalom. They graciously gave us use of their social hall at no cost to hold services. This led to improved relations with the Temple throughout COVID and the West Wing construction. We also bought a large tent for more outdoor minyanim which later gave us a bonus of more seats during Succos.

Nusach S'fard Minyanim- with the Rabbi we met the needs of this growing sector of our community. It continues to grow, to our satisfaction.

Grants- with Milton Fischberger, Ralph Cheifetz, Michael Poretsky and David Dolny, we applied for and received numerous grants, some from Homeland Security for the safety of our members, some for construction and others for lost income during COVID.

Bikur Cholim- With Pacy Ackerman we retired without rancor our West Wing tenant, WeCare. Jay Levy maintained an expanded service for handicap equipment throughout COVID.

QUESTION - Why is this second group running for positions at Congregation Torah Ohr?

LOOKING FORWARD: FUTURE POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

Members asked me to expound on the policy positions of the Alternate Slate on key issues of broad interest. David Dolny and I offer the following for open and candid discussions as we move forward together towards a promising and exciting future.

Administration

I believe the Shul President's role is as a public servant. Open dialogue between the President, the Board and Membership is vital. During my past Presidency we held extensive Member and Board town meetings and open debates that led to real solutions. I am dedicated to again implementing widespread involvement in our Shul's decisions with the Shul Board, active committees and public forums. Given the past growth of our Kehilla, we will return to a management style entitled "distributed distribution" where areas of responsibility are assigned to Officers and Committee Heads. And let us anticipate that there will be more growth as new people move in.

Cohesion (Achdus) - One People.

My slate is dedicated to improving the unity and cohesion (achdus) throughout our Kehilla. As a case in point, David D. and I see the inevitable value of parking lot minyanim for some people and for diverse reasons. Some find it too far to walk and have no options. Our immediate interest is to find common ground by seeing if it is possible for parking lot minyanim to be recognized as satellites of the Shul. In return, we would urge that more Members attend Shul services and functions.

I am also committed to continue supporting multiple in-house minyanim to meet the Kehilla's needs. A Kehilla our size must recognize that frum Jews come with many hashkofos, and minhagim. We are pleased to see multiple minyanim, including the growth of the Nusach S'fard minyan and the later starting (9:00 AM) "young people's" minyan. As required in the Bylaws, the Shul is, and will always be, under the auspices of Nusach Ashkenaz.

The Rabbi Search

We are committed to the strong underpinning that ours is a Modern Orthodox and Nusach Ashkenaz Shul. We are allied with the Orthodox Union, the Young Israel movement and Yeshiva University (OU/YI/YU). I emphasize this point of clarification because there has been widespread misunderstanding about our alliances.

Rabbi Yasgur is retiring in the not-too-distant future. We wish him continued good health and Hatzlachah as we owe him enormous Hakoras Hatov. A discussion of the search for a future Rabbi should begin soon. The search will be committed to a candidate with an OU/YI/YU orientation.

The Kitchen - Mashgiachs

For the first time our Shul has a kitchen of splendor and complexity. There have been ongoing challenges and refinements regarding the keys to the kitchen, etc. The administration should be involved along with the Sisterhood and Rabbi to make the kitchen most workable, in accordance with halacha, of course. For example, the OU approves of frum women as mashgiachim when properly trained. That will open us to more options if acceptable to the Board, Sisterhood and Kehilla. We will advocate for better access while maintaining controls.

There is more, but for now this paper should make it clear where David D. and I stand.

We welcome thoughtful emails with questions, suggestions, and polite critiques. Thank you.

Dear Members of Congregation Torah Ohr,

I am pleased to announce that voting for Officers and Board Members will take place next week, beginning on Thursday, February 23. The voting website is open to all regular members of our Shul (not associate members) who are in good standing and have an email address on file with the Shul. You will be emailed a voting invitation on Thursday morning which will include a unique link to the Election Buddy website, where you will be able to access an electronic ballot and vote. Voting will end on Sunday morning, February 26, at 10:00 AM. Husbands and wives will each receive a unique link for voting, even if they share the same email address.

Eligible voters who do not have an email account, or anyone who does not have the ability to use an electronic device to vote, may come to the Shul Office, where they may sign for a paper ballot. Paper ballots must be completed in Shul, be immediately sealed in an envelope and be placed in the ballot box. Voting by paper ballot will be available from Thursday morning, February 23, through Noon on Friday, February 24, during office hours. I will be available outside of the Shul Office on Sunday morning, February 26, from 9:00 to 10:00 AM, to allow for any last minute paper ballot voting.

Here's how voting will work:

For each contested Officer position, two names will be listed. As incumbent, David Cheslow and the candidates associated with him will be listed in the first row, and Jonas Waizer and the candidates associated with him will be listed in the second row. Uncontested candidates will appear in a single row. Voters will have the option to abstain from voting for any particular Officer position.

Voting for Board member will be handled a little differently: Voters will select 6 two-year term candidates out of a field of eight, and 2 one-year term candidates out of a field of four. Their affiliations with one slate or the other (or both) will be clearly indicated on the ballots.

Results of the election will be announced at the Annual Meeting on February 26.

I wish all nominees Hatzlacha Rabba!

Allan Mosak

Chairman, Elections Committee

