

Congregation Ohr Torah

270 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, Web: www.congregationohrtorah.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6169, West Orange, New Jersey 07052

Rabbi Marc Spivak, Shul President: Ed Croman

Sisterhood President: Jacki Routhenstein, Men's Club President: Michael Diamond

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Weekly Newsletter – Ekev

20-26 Av, 5770, July 31- August 6, 2010

Kiddush Sponsor

Kiddush this Shabbat is co-sponsored by Arlene and Dr. Sam Kaye in commemoration of the yahrzeits of Arlene's mother Henya bas Yaakov HaKohan on the 22nd of Av, and Sam's mother Sarah Tzipah bas Yosef Chaim on the 26th of Av,

And by

Marilyn and Ed Croman in commemoration of the yahrzeits of Ed's mother Chaya bas Moshe on the 23rd of Av and Ed's sister Adal Leah bas Ephraim Moshe HaKohan on the 30th of Av.

To sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush or Seudah Shlishit, please contact Jay or Debbie Goldberg.

Seudah Shelishit

Over the next three weeks, during the Rabbi's vacation, different members from the Shul will be giving divrei torah at Seudah Shlishit. This week, Rabbi Robert Grosberg will be speaking.

Daily Minyan

During the Summer vacation season, some of the men who regularly attend daily minyan at Ohr Torah will be away. In order to ensure that we have a minyan in both the morning and evening, we respectfully ask all OT men and teens to attend an extra minyan or two per week throughout the Summer.

Thank you. Have a great and safe summer!

Sit and Shmooze, Swim and Snack with Sisterhood

At the home of Jennifer and Jonathan Sharret, 11 Howell Drive, Sunday, August 1st, 10:30AM.

Schedule, Week of July 31-Aug. 6

Friday Evening

Mincha 7:00pm
Candle Lighting 7:10pm
Candle Lighting bi-Zeman 7:56pm
Sh'kia 8:14pm

Shabbat Day, Ekev

Shacharit 9:00am
Sof Z'man Kriat Sh'ma 9:27am
Youth Groups 10:00-11:30am
Mincha 7:55pm
Maariv 8:54pm
Shabbat Ends 9:01pm

Weekday

Sun. Shacharit 8:15am
Mon./Th Shacharit 6:00am
Tue./Wed./Fr. Shacharit 6:10am
Sun-Th. Mincha/Maariv 7:55pm

Next Friday Evening

Mincha 7:00pm
Candle Lighting bi-Zeman 7:48pm

Janice Michaelis will be giving a brief and fascinating presentation on the Crypto Jews.

Why do Mexican Americans in Texas and in the Mexican province of nearby Monterrey eat "Semitic bread" on Lent? If you go shopping in Mexico you are likely to find tops that look like dreidels. Why? A Methodist minister became a Rabbi. Why? What do all these incidents teach us? That there have been Jews in the South West for centuries – only most of them didn't know they were! Join us as we talk about Columbus, Queen Isabella, Elie Wiesel and Crypto Jews!

We hope to see you there! Women Only.

Please respond to:

Bertha Sharret at 973-736-1661 or rsharret@hotmail.com

Blood Drive

There will be a community-wide Blood Drive at AABJ&D on August 1st from 9am – 1pm (16 years old and up; those who are 16 need signed parental consent). A \$15 Shoprite gift card will be given to all donors. Please make every effort to attend.

Book Club

The Book Club of the Sisterhoods of AABJ&D & Ohr Torah is reading *Pictures At An Exhibition*.

by Sara Houghteling

Early on in Sara Houghteling's captivating first novel, the protagonist, Max Berenzon, receives a music lesson from his concert pianist mother. Playing some chords from "Pictures at an Exhibition," she explains how each movement represents an artwork from an actual show. "Mussorgsky wrote this for the painter Victor Hartmann, who died young," she says. "This is the closest you can ever get to that exhibition. They say all of Hartmann's paintings have been lost, so there is only the music."

Houghteling's own "Pictures at an Exhibition" was also written for lost paintings: it tells the story of the art looted from Parisian galleries and museums under Nazi occupation, and much of it subsequently destroyed or smuggled out of France. This is a sensuous novel of a son's quest to recover his family's lost masterpieces, which were in his father's art gallery and were looted by the Nazi's during the occupation.

The book discussion will take place on Monday August 23, 2010, 8PM, at the home of Daryl Shapiro, 42 Mullarkey Drive, West Orange.

For more Information, please call

Elaine Woods: 973-669-0938

Rabbi Spivak's Wed. Night Parsha Class

Rabbi Spivak's parsha class will resume after the High Holidays.

Parsha Questions

- What does Moshe mean when he uses the word "eikev", saying "eikev you will listen" to describe the reward for observing mitzvot (6 explanations)?
 - Why do we receive the main reward for performing mitzvot in olam haba and not in this world?
 - What 10 benefits will a person receive in this world for performing mitzvot? (Devarim 7:12-17)
- What does Torah mean that we will be rewarded for observing "kol ha-mitzvah" ("the entire commandment") (3 explanations)?
 - Why did Hashem provide man in the midbar, rather than regular food (3 reasons)?
 - (1) When does the Torah require reciting Birchat haMazon? (2) How did Chazal expand the obligation? (3) What are Birchat haMazon's 4 berachot, and who instituted them? (d) Why is it customary: (1) on weekdays, to remove knives or to cover them before Birchat haMazon (2 reasons)? (2) but not on Shabbat and Yom Tov (2 reasons)? (Devarim 8:2-3,10)
- Which 2 factors will: (1) enable Bnei Yisrael to conquer the Canaanites? (2) will not help in conquering them?
 - Why is the word "luchot" (tablets) spelled without a second vav? (Devarim 9:4-5,9)
- On what date did Moshe: (1) go up to Har Sinai asking for a pardon for the cheit ha-eigel? (2) descend after Hashem reconciled with Bnei Yisrael? (3) bring down the 2nd luchot? (b) What was Aharon's sin in the cheit ha-eigel (3 views)? (c) Why did Moshe interrupt recounting the giving the 2 sets of luchot, by recalling Aharon's death (2 reasons)? (Devarim 9:18-20,10:6)
- Which 4 if the 613 mitzvot do we learn from the verse: "Fear Hashem, serve Him, cling to Him and swear by His Name"? (b) Under Torah law: (1) what is the minimum obligation of tefila (prayer)? (2) how often is tefila required (2 views)? (c) In what 2 ways: (1) does tefila benefit us? (2) should someone prepare himself to make his tefilot acceptable? (Devarim 10:20)
- Why does the Torah, in the Shema's 2nd paragraph, command us to serve Hashem "with all your heart and all your soul", since the Shema's 1st paragraph (Devarim 6:5), already gave the same command? (b) Here the Torah says: "You shall gather your grain, wine and oil", while the Navi later states: "This book of the Torah shall not depart from your mouth" (Yehoshua 1:8); may one stop learning Torah to earn

a living (2 views)? (c) Why is the: (1) threat of exile from the land (va'avadetem meheira mei-al ha'aretz ha-tova) followed by the commands of tefilin and mezuzah? (2) command to put mezuzot on one's doorposts followed by "in order to prolong your and your children's lives" (2 explanations)? (Devarim 11:13-14,20-21)

- In the haftara, when speaking about the galut (exile), why does the Navi tell Bnei Yisrael: "Look at Avraham your father and Sarah who bore you" (3 explanations)? (Yeshayahu 51:2)

Questions and answers courtesy of *Alvin Reinstein*.

Answers appear at end of newsletter.

Donations to the Shul and Sisterhood Tributes

Sending tributes and making donations to the Sefer, Youth or Chesed Funds are excellent ways to reach out to others and to support the Shul. Contact Debbie Druce at 973 325-3749 for your order.

Tributes – \$5.00 (cards are designed by Leah Marks)

Sefer Fund – \$10.00

Chesed or Youth Funds – \$18.00

Siddur or Machzor – \$36.00

Chumash – \$54.00

Yahrzeits

Week of July 31-August 6 2010

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| 21 AV | <i>Jack & Linda Rosen for their Son-In Law, Arie'el Tzvi ben Elimalech Ha'Lavi, Arie'el Tzvi Fastag, on Sunday, August 1, 2010.</i> |
| 22 AV | <i>Arlene Kaye for her Mother, Henya bas Yaacov Ha Cohen, Anna Paniitch, on Monday, August 2, 2010.</i> |
| 23 AV | <i>Morris Bocian for his Mother, Tzipora bat Zev, Fay Bocian, on Tuesday, August 3, 2010.</i> |
| 23 AV | <i>Edward Croman for his Mother, Chaya bat Moshe, Harriet Croman, on Tuesday, August 3, 2010.</i> |
| 26 AV | <i>Samuel Kaye for his Mother, Sarah Tzippa bat Yoseph Chaim, Sonia Kace, on Friday, August 6, 2010.</i> |

For changes/corrections to this list, please contact Rich Maron or send e-mail to ShabbatNewsletter@congregationohrtorah.org.

Executive Board

President..... Ed Croman
First Vice President.....Arnold Barton
Second Vice PresidentMark Grebenau
Secretary..... Richard Maron
Treasurer..... Seth Rinn

President Emeritus Jay Goldberg
Sisterhood President Jacki Routhenstein
Men's Club President Michael Diamond

Membership Plus (2010-2011)

Sustainer

Edward & Marilyn Croman Murray & Linda Laulich
Anonymous

Benefactor

Patron

Sponsor

Arnold & Beverly Barton Moshe & Rivki Weinstein

Donor

Gary & Davida Stadtmauer Eric & Pearl Mattenson
Joel & Shoshana Tenneberg

For further information on Membership Plus, please contact Ed Croman.

Contact Info

Adult Education Programming and Sponsorship: Nachum Amsel, Karen Berger, Irv Cantor, Debbie Druce, Roberta Schwartz, Rabbi Marc Spivak

Bikur Cholim: Rabbi Spivak, Jay Goldberg, Susan Teichman

Bookplate Design-Bar, Bat Mitzvah Inscriptions: Karen Miller

Chesed: Gail Bukiet, Debbie Goldberg, Jacqui Kimmel, Naomi Maron, Jacki Routhenstein

Building Committee: Arnold Barton

Anim Z'mirot Gabbai: Gabriel Maron

Listserv: Marc Goldberg, requests to:
listserv@congregationohrtorah.org

Monthly Calendar: Elia Weixelbaum

Newsletter: Marc Shapiro; all submissions must be emailed by Wed., 4:00PM to:
ShabbatNewsletter@congregationohrtorah.org

Reading Torah: Shlomo Kimmel

Scheduling Calendar: Mark Grebenau, e-mail to
mark.grebenau@prodigy.net

Tributes/Siddurim/Chumashim/Machzorim Donations: Debbie Druce, Karen Miller

Yahrtzeit Information: Rich Maron

Yahrtzeit/Tree of Life Plaques: Jack Rosen

Youth Committee: Debra Goldberg (head of committee), Debra Spivak, Eliot Fishman, Michael Dyckman, Lauren Poleyeff, Holly Sragow

Youth Director: Julie Stiel

Parsha Answers

- (a) Eikev means you will be rewarded: (1) "because" you listen (Ramban). (2) "in exchange for" listening (Targum Onkelos). (3) for "light" mitzvot that people "tread on with their heels", whose fulfillment does not seem worthy of great reward – eikev mean "heel" (Rashi). (4) in "the end" for doing the mitzvot (ibn Ezra). (5) when you are humble as a heel – a heel, following the rest of the foot, signifying humility; (6) by observing the Aseret haDibrot, containing 172 words – eikev's gematria is 172 (Ba'al haTurim). (b) If we saw Hashem's full reward in this world, we would have no choice to do mitzvot; (c) Hashem will: (1) "love you"; (2) "bless you" with material wealth; (3) "multiply you" with many offspring; (4) "bless the fruit of your womb" – you will not miscarry or lose children in your lifetime; (5) "bless your produce – grain, wine and oil"; (6) bless "your cattle's offspring" with no miscarriages; (7) "guarantee that you will be blessed by all the nations"; (8) "assure no barren male or female among you"; (9) "will remove all common illnesses from you"; (10) "will [miraculously] give all the nations into your hand" (Devarim Raba).
- (a) (1) The Torah (Gur Aryeh). (2) All 613 mitzvot (Mizrachi). (3) You will be rewarded not for starting to do a mitzvah but for completing it (Rashi). (b) Mon: (1) was spiritual food, which facilitated Bnei Yisrael's absorbing Torah wisdom (Ba'al haTurim). (2) tested whether Bnei Yisrael would follow Hashem's requirements not to leave any over or collect it on Shabbat (Rashi – Shemot 17:4). (3) taught that "man does not live by bread alone" – in addition to physical nourishment, Bnei Yisrael also needs spiritual sustenance (Da'at Zekeinim). (c) (1) When we have eaten bread and are satiated; (2) we recite it after only a kezayit of bread (Berachot 20b). (3) (i) Birchat haZan (blessing Hashem Who nourishes all), instituted by Moshe when Bnei Yisrael received the manna; (ii) Birchat haAretz (blessing the land), instituted by Yehoshua when Bnei Yisrael entered Eretz Yisrael; (iii) Birchat Yerushalayim (blessing for Yerushalayim's peace), instituted by David and Shlomo; (iv) Birchat haTov ve-haMeitiv (blessing Hashem Who is kind and does good), instituted after the fall of Beitar, when Hadrian forbade burying the corpses of those who died in the revolt, but the bodies miraculously did not decay (Berachot 48b). (d) (1) (i) The table represents the mizbei-ach, whose function was to lengthen one's life through offering korbanot; metal (knives), which shortens life, should not be left on it; (ii) it once happened that a man who was benching reached Birchat Yerushalayim and was so overcome by the churban that he stabbed himself in the stomach; therefore, Chazal decreed that knives should be removed (Mishna Berura 180:5). (2) (i) Since the table represents the mizbei-ach, which could not be built on Shabbat and Yom Tov, we do not cover knives then; (ii) since the stabbing occurred on a weekday, Chazal made the decree for weekdays only (Ba-eir Hei-teiv).
- (a) (1) (i) The Canaanites' evil; (ii) the avot's merit (Rashi). (2) Bnei Yisrael's (i) strength; (ii) virtue (Ramban). (b) It can

be read in the singular, teaching that both tablets miraculously weighed the same, though the first has more words (Rashi).

4. (a) (1) 18 Tamuz; (2) 29 Av; (3) 10 Tishrei – Yom Kippur (Rashi). (b) Aharon: (1) listened to the sinners to make the eigel, although his intent was to delay until Moshe's return (Rashi). (2) publicly sinned and did not sacrifice his life (Rokeach). (3) acted le-sheim shamayim but inadvertently caused Bnei Yisrael's sin (R. Bechaya). (c) Moshe hinted that a tzadik's death: (1) is as tragic as breaking the 1st luchot; (2) atones for the community, just as on Yom Kippur, the 2nd luchot showed Hashem's forgiveness for the cheit ha-eigel (Yerushalmi Yoma 1:5).
5. (a) To: (1) fear Hashem (Sefer haChinuch – Mitzvah 432); (2) pray to Him (Mitzvah 433); (3) connect with talmidei chachamim (Mitzvah 434); (4) swear by His name when required (Mitzvah 435). (b) (1) Address Hashem with a request in one's own words; (2) (i) every day (Rambam – Hilchot Tefila 1:1). (ii) Only in time of trouble (Ramban). (c) (1) It: (i) causes Hashem to grant our requests, if He considers them good; (ii) elevates us spiritually by forcing us to reaffirm that He is all-powerful and able to fulfill our requests (Mitzvah 433). (2) Before davening, one should: (i) cleanse his mind of foreign thoughts and picture himself standing before the Shechina (Hilchot Tefila 4:16). (ii) make sure he knows the tefilot's words' meaning (R. Yona).
6. (a) In the Shema's 1st paragraph, the command is singular and addressed to the individual, who is required to do mitzvot that apply to him or her; in the 2nd paragraph, the command, in the plural, is addressed to the community, to fulfill the communal mitzvot (Rashi). (b) (1) Yes, according to R. Yishmael – in addition to talmud Torah, one should earn a parnasa; otherwise, he will have to abandon his study to beg for tzedaka; a parnasa ensures continued talmud Torah; (2) no, according to R. Shimon bar Yochai – one should spend time only learning Torah; Hashem will arrange that his parnasa is provided by others who will gather his crops for him (Berachot 35b). (c) The Torah teaches: (1) that when in exile, we must continue to perform mitzvot like tefilin and mezuzah, so they will not be new to us when we return to the land (Rashi). (2) (i) observing the mitzvah of mezuzah merits one a long life; (ii) failing to observe mezuzah meticulously can lead to tragic results for one's children (Shabbat 32b).
7. Just as: (a) Hashem exiled Avraham and Sarah from their land and birthplace but later exalted them, so He will exalt Bnei Yisrael after their galut (Rashi). (b) He blessed Avraham and Sarah with many descendents, so will He bless Bnei Yisrael at the end of the galut; (c) Avraham and Sarah despaired of having a child, but He remembered them and gave them a son, so Bnei Yisrael will despair of redemption during the long galut, but He will "remember" and redeem them (Radak).