## BETH OHR NEWSLETTER

Vol. 64 Issue 10

October 2018

Tishri'/Chesvan 5779

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**Synagogue Office:** 732-257-1523

#### **Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah**



Shemini Atzeret literally means "the assembly of the eighth (day)." Rabbinic literature explains the holiday this way: our Creator is like a host, who invites us as visitors for a limited time, but when the time comes for us to leave, He has enjoyed himself so much that He asks us to stay another day. Another related explanation: Sukkot is a holiday intended for all of mankind, but when Sukkot is over, the Creator invites the Jewish people to stay for an extra day, for a more intimate celebration.

Simchat Torah means "Rejoicing in the Torah." This holiday marks the completion of the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings. Each week in synagogue we publicly read a few chapters from the Torah, starting with Genesis Ch. 1 and working our way around to Deuteronomy 34. On Simchat Torah, we read the last Torah portion, then proceed immediately to the first chapter of Genesis, reminding us that the Torah is a circle, and never ends.

This completion of the readings is a time of great celebration. There are processions around the synagogue carrying Torah scrolls and plenty of high-spirited singing and dancing in the synagogue with the Torahs. Drinking is also common during this time; in fact, a traditional source recommends performing the priestly blessing earlier than usual in the service, to make sure the kohanim are not drunk when the time comes! As many people as possible are given the honor of an aliyah (reciting a blessing over the Torah reading); in fact, even children are called for an aliyah blessing on Simchat Torah. In addition, as many people as possible are given the honor of carrying a Torah seroll in these processions. Children do not carry

or of carrying a Torah scroll in these processions. Children do not carry the scrolls (they are much too heavy!), but often follow the procession around the synagogue, sometimes carrying small toy Torahs (stuffed plush toys or paper scrolls).

In some synagogues, confirmation ceremonies or ceremonies marking the beginning of a child's Jewish education are held at this time. Other customs is to honor the last Torah portion Aliyah and first Torah portion Aliyah of the year with a deserving man and woman of the synagogue.

#### Join Congregation Beth Ohr for Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah:

Morning October 1st at Congregation Beth Ohr at 9:30AM (Yizkor approximately at 10:30AM) Monday Evening October 1st at Etz Chaim at 7:00PM for dancing with the Matzah Ball Group Tuesday Morning October 2nd at 9:30AM Temple Beth Ahm of Aberdeen

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

All Friday evening services begin at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated, Saturday morning Shabbat services begin at 9:30 a.m., Sunday morning minyan begins at 9:00 a.m.

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<b>Schedule</b>	ot s	Services	and	Events
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	vices and Events	
Mon. Oct. 1	Shemini Atzeret Service	9:30AM
	Yizkor Approx.	10:30AM
	Erev Simchat Torah at Etz Chaim, Monroe, NJ	7:00PM
Tues. Oct. 2	Simchat Torah Service at Temple Beth Ahm	9:30AM
Fri. Oct. 5	Friday Evening Service	7:30PM
Sat. Oct. 6	Shabbat/Morning Service	9:30AM
Sun. Oct. 7	Sunday Morning Service	9:00AM
	Joint Mens Club/Sisterhood	
	Program and Brunch	
Tues. Oct. 9	Rabbi's Book Discussion	11:00AM
Wed. Oct. 10	Jewish Humor	10:00AM
Wed. Oct. 11	Jewish Prayer	10:30AM
Fri. Oct. 12	Friday Evening Service	7:30PM
Sat. Oct. 13	Shabbat Morning Service	9:30AM
	and Kiddush Lunch in Honor of Linda & Allen	
	Skupp's grandson, Zachary's, Bar Mitzvah	
Sun. Oct. 14	Sunday Morning Service	9:00AM
	Followed by Men's Club Breakfast	
Tues. Oct. 16	Talmud Class	9:30AM
	Talmud Class	7:30PM
Wed,. Oct. 17	Jewish Humor	10:00AM
	Sisterhood Board Mtg.	7:30PM
Thurs. Oct. 18	Jewish Prayer	10:30AM
Fri. Oct. 19	Friday Evening Service	7:30PM
Sat. Oct. 20	Shabbat Morning Service & Simcha Shabbat	9:30AM
Sun. Oct. 21	Sunday Morning Service	9:00AM
	Followed by Men's Club Breakfast	
Tues. Oct. 23	Rabbi's Book Discussion	11:00AM
Thurs. Oct. 25	Talmud Class	9:30AM
	Jewish Prayer	10:30AM
	Temple Executive Board Meeting	7:30PM
	Temple Board of Directors Meeting	8:00PM
Fri. Oct. 26	Friday Evening Service	7:30PM
Sat. Oct. 27	Shabbat Morning Service	9:30AM
Sun. Oct. 28	Sunday Morning Service	9:00AM
	Followed by Men's Club Breakfast	2
Tues. Oct. 30	Talmud Class	7:30PM



#### Kol Nidre "Teach Your Self Well"

"The Shema declares in the first paragraph: "V'shinantam levanecha v'dibarta bam," "You shall take to heart these words which I command you this day. You shall teach them diligently to your children." From this one verse the Jewish ideal of education springs forth. Although the words reflect the message that parents should teach their children the Torah, that value is broadened to mean that education, in and of itself, is a precious and cherished obligation for everyone. Now imagine a world where this was not the benchmark and you would find yourself in the world in which Tara Westover, author of the book, "Educated, A Memoir" was born.

What was that world like? Tucked away in the mountains of Idaho, Tara was born to Mormon parents who devoutly believed that one day soon the world would end and that their family had better be prepared for its end. Rather than attend public school Tara and her siblings received the barest dose of home-school learning. Her parents were far too busy supporting the family to worry about education. And so Tara was seventeen-years-old the first time that she set foot in a classroom. Before that she helped her mother, a self-taught midwife and healer, stew herbs in the summer and worked for her father salvaging junk metal in the winter.

Her father deeply distrusted the public school system. He believed that public school was a plot by the Government to lead children away from God. He often said, "I may as well surrender my kids to the devil himself, as to send them down the road to that school." But school was not the only institution that he distrusted. He was equally suspicious of the medical establishment, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse while growing up. Whatever injuries she, her siblings and her parents suffered - and there were many - gashes, concussions, even burns from explosions, they were all treated at home with herbs.

It was not until she was well into her teens and one brother left the family to get an education that it ever entered Tara's mind that this was a way out for her. And so before work with her father every day, Tara would rise to study at 6 each morning, preparing for the ACTs so that she could attend university without any prior education. To glimpse just how under-prepared Tara had been for school we need only witness one anecdote she shares as she began her studies at Brigham Young University. She was attending the first day of a class on Western Art when the professor showed an image on a projector. It was of a man in a faded hat and overcoat, holding a small paper near his face. Tara could not make out the words on the paper.

As she tells it, "So I opened the picture book I'd purchased for the class so I could take a closer look. Something was written under the image in italics but I couldn't understand it. It had one of those blackhole words, right in the middle, devouring the rest. I had seen other students ask questions, so I raised my hand. The professor called on me, and I read the sentence aloud. When I came to the word, I paused. "I don't know this word," I said. "What does it mean?"

There was silence. Not a hush, not a muting of the noise, but utter, almost violent silence. No papers shuffled, no pencils scratched. The professor's lips tightened, "Thanks for *that*," he said, then returned to his notes."

Tara did not move for the rest of the lecture. She stared at the floor but every time she raised her eyes she noticed there was always someone staring at her as if she were a freak. After the class, the girl next to her said, "You shouldn't make fun of that. It's not a joke." Tara did not understand.

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"I stayed in my seat until everyone had gone, pretending the zipper on my coat was stuck so I could avoid looking anyone in the eye. Then I went straight to the computer lab to look up the word, "Holocaust." I don't know how long I sat there reading about it, but at some point I had read enough. I leaned back and stared at the ceiling. I suppose I was in shock, but whether it was the shock of learning about something horrific, or the shock of learning about my own ignorance, I'm not sure."

As you read these words, you have to wonder how on earth did this young woman receive a BA at Brigham Young University, a Gates Cambridge Scholarship comparable to a Rhodes scholarship, a Master of Philosophy from Trinity College, Cambridge and finally, a Doctorate in History in 2014?

While it defies belief, the truth of the matter is that Tara Westover accomplished this because, as the old saying in the Merrill Lynch commercial goes, she "earned it the old-fashioned way." She studied day and night for the ACTs and took them several times so that she would finally earn the necessary score for entrance to Brigham Young University. While at the University she was noticed by a professor for her innate intelligence and remarkable drive who then convinced her to further her education. While at Cambridge she studied with another top professor who saw her for the gifted student she was. And through it all she discovered that she had to unlearn what her father had taught her so that she would be open the world of learning.

"From my father I had learned that books were to be either adored or exiled. Books that were of God - books written by the Mormon prophets or the Founding Fathers - were not to be studied so much as cherished, like a thing perfect in itself. Books that were not of God were banished; they were a danger, powerful and irresistible in their cunning."

As she read the works of Edmund Burke, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay for the first time, "where every moment my eyes were open, I was either reading or thinking about those texts," she finally understood that "books were not tricks and that she was not feeble."

These professors and advisors taught her something far more important than the subject matter. They taught her the ability to believe in herself. Her professor thought of *Pygmalion* when he thought of Tara: "The most powerful determinant of who you are is inside you. This is Pygmalion. Think of the story Tara." She was just a cockney in a nice dress. Until she believed in herself. Then it didn't matter what dress she wore."

Now perhaps you are wondering what all of this has to do with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement and why Tara Westover is a worthy subject for us to discuss on the evening of Kol Nidre. It is because what she accomplishes during her pursuit of an education is not only inspiring and admirable, but it is also at risk of being forgotten, both in this country and in the Jewish community.

This evening we need to ask ourselves, when are we going to begin valuing education for what it should be, an education? The other day columnist Frank Bruni described St.Johns, a tiny prestigious college where students have no major, but take only "the program," an exploration of the Western Canon implemented in 1937. He explains, "It's intense. Learning astronomy and math, you don't merely encounter Copernicus' conclusions. You pore over his actual words. You're not simply introduced to the theory of relativity. You read, "Relativity," the book that Albert Einstein wrote."

Diversions are limited. You go to St. Johns College for one reason - to learn. No swim team, no pool, dorms and dining are functional at best. You're not here for banh mi, (which by the way, is a Vietnamese sandwich). You're here for Baudelaire." Bruni is blown away by the college's philosophy of education. The president of the college is clear: "Education should prepare you for all of your life. It should make you a more thoughtful, reflective, self-possessed and authentic citizen, lover, parent and member of the global economy."

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Bruni is equally dazzled by the students. Three dynamics stand out. The first is how articulate they are. "Something happens when you read this ambitiously and wallow in this many words. You become agile with them. The second is the students' focus. A group discussing Homer's "Iliad" spent more than 20 minutes on the phrase - of someone having his "fill of weeping." If digital devices and social media yank at people from one trumpet blast to the next, St. John trains them to hold a note - caress it, pull at it, see what it's worth." And the third dynamic was humility. The students weren't wedded to their initial opinions. They were not allowed to be. And they moved toward not the best answer, but toward better questions "

We live in a much different world than that. A world where learning, if it is not directed for a career path or for a vocational skill, is often denigrated. We live in a world where education is far too frequently still considered a perk for the privileged and not as necessary for the masses. We live in a world where reading, writing, reflection and serious thought are dismissed. When will we realize every human being is not only entitled to such an education but will become infinitely more enriched by such an education?

And this is not only true of general education, it is equally true of Jewish education and Jewish literacy. But here is the good news as proven by her memoir, "Educated." It's never too late. It wasn't too late for Tara Westover even though she never walked into a classroom until she was seventeen years old and it is never too late for each and every one of us who would like to become a better Jew, which in part means, **becoming a better-educated Jew**, and what better time to make such a commitment than on the evening of Kol Nidre?

If you had to ask me what was the proudest day of my rabbinate since coming here to Congregation Beth Ohr, my answer might surprise you. It happened to be just this this past year on the first day of Shavuot. On that day we gathered to celebrate "a coming of age of sorts" for four adult women. They came to the synagogue to read a section of a Haftorah, receive an Aliyah for the first time in their lives, interpret the Torah, and announce to the members of our congregation that they were now B'not Mitzvah. Why did this one particular cause me to beam with pride like no other day? It was because none of those ladies had basically known how to read single word of Hebrew before starting their studies. Imagine these women deciding to learn not only a foreign language, but also encounter the whole tapestry of our tradition at a time in their lives when the majority of their peers are preoccupied with activities of leisure and recreation.

And yet each one of them, in preparation for that day, chose to be in the synagogue, each and every single Thursday morning, meeting with their deeply dedicated teacher. They made such impressive strides forward that their accomplishments on that day proclaimed a message to the entire congregation, a message that someone like Tara Westover came to understand - it is never - I repeat - never too late - to learn, to grow - to stretch yourself - and to enrich your life. How did they do this? Well, first of all they had the support of friends and family members as well as their teachers. They even had three additional students join them even though those students had already had b'nai-mitzvah.

Dear friends, if I have learned one thing from my four years at Congregation Beth Ohr, it is the strong feeling of fellowship that exists among our members. There is a genuine caring that is a part of our weekly rituals here. There is nothing artificial or forced about it. In a world that is far too often marked by competitiveness, envy, and at times, animosity - to have a sacred place you can go to, for friendship, for serenity and for support is precious and available to all. Just take that first step, the rest will follow. I wish you all a meaningful fast.

Rabbi Joel Mishkin

#### Shana Tova



I have now been President of Congregation Beth Ohr for almost 15 months. This past year seems to have just zipped by. I am not sure where the time has gone. In fact I remember when my first grandchild was born and just last weekend we attended his Bar Mitzvah. I was told time would seem to pass more quickly as you got older and it definitely seems true.

As I proceeded to do last year I want to thank those who helped to make the High Holiday Services as successful as they are. Before I do that there is something the Rabbi said last year that really stuck with me and needs to be repeated. Look around the Sanctuary and Social Hall and you need to realize that the changes in preparation for the Holidays did not just happen by themselves. Torah covers were changed, silver was polished, High Holiday tickets printed and distributed, books changed, sliding doors opened and chairs set up just to name a few. I hope everyone involved realizes how much I appreciate all their hard work.

A special thanks to Rabbi Mishkin, Mark Chassen for returning as our Cantor, the Ritual Committee, Financial Secretary, Office Administrator, Fund Raising, Men's Club and Sisterhood. It is really great to know we can count on you.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I have been asked to discuss the financial status of the Synagogue. The Board again did a great job of controlling expenses. Our deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> was just over \$18,000 which may seem like a lot but we had budgeted a deficit of greater than \$26,000. This fiscal year our budget has a deficit in excess of \$27,000. With your support we can reduce the deficit and maybe one day my hope is to have a balanced budget. I do at this time want to thank Sisterhood for their continued support as during the 2017 -2018 fiscal year they again made a large donation to the Synagogue.

In case you are wondering our main source of income is dues which I am sure is no surprise. Following dues are fund raising, Kol Nidre pledges and High Holiday tickets not necessarily in that order which account for 44% of our total income. That is why it is critical that we support each of these. I ask that you try and increase your Kol Nidre pledge over last year and as stated last year I will "walk the talk". I won't ask you to do anything I am not willing to do. In line with this I have increased my Kol Nidre pledge over last year.

As I'm sure you understand we cannot go on forever running an annual budget deficit. Therefore last year a program referred to as "Securing Our Future" was initiated to provide for our long term survival. At that time we had just surpassed 50% of our financial goal and now I am happy to report we are at 80% based on commitments by approximately 30% of our membership. I want to reach or surpass our financial goal and also reach 100% participation. This is our Synagogue and family and it requires our support. Remember Kol Nidre pledges are for this fiscal year and Securing Our Future is for our long term survival.

Looking back over the past fiscal year I feel great as there have been many accomplishments. Looking around the Sanctuary I want to point out that we added a second railing to the Bema, the stained glass window wall was beautified by adding the Shema in both Hebrew and English, the defibrillator is now operational as the pads and battery were replaced, the kitchen was professionally cleaned and the floor in the Social Hall refinished. As a side note I am happy to report that there there was defibrillator training on Sunday morning, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. During this past year we knew three of our Torahs were kosher but were unsure about the other five. Of the five we were able to have three repaired and now we have six kosher Torahs. The other two are beyond repair. All of the previously stated improvements with the exception of the Social Hall floor and kitchen cleaning were financed by donations and therefore at no expense to the Synagogue.

The Board has worked very hard this past year and it is due to their dedication, commitment and love for Beth Ohr which makes me optimistic about our future. To make our future a reality, however, we require not only your financial support but need you to volunteer to run programs and participate in fund raising activities. We cannot continually rely on the same group of people. Next year I want to see new blood on the Board. It is very important for many reasons but definitely it would bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the Board.

Linda and I and our whole family would like to wish each and every one of you a healthy, happy New Year.

G'Mar Tov

## DAYTIMERS NEWS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018 TOUR OF DELICIOUS ORCHARDS



Delicious Orchards is a famous 107 -yearold country food market visited by over
2.5 million people during the year. Join
the Daytimers for a free private behindthe-scenes tour of Delicious
Orchards. The tour will include the
produce and bakery departments. After a
lunch break, we will return to Delicious
Orchards for time to access their recipe
archive and shop.

Please RSVP to Ira (732-679-2652) or Linda (609-642-8182) by Sunday, October 14.

#### **ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

MARK THE DATES:

**NOVEMBER 2-3 – SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE SHABBAT** 

Join us for a wonderful Shabbat weekend with guest speaker, Rabbi Seth Frisch. Rabbi Frisch will speak at Friday evening services to be followed by Shabbat dinner, and again Saturday morning after services during a Kiddush lunch. Details to follow.

## NOVEMBER 11 AT 2 P.M. OUR 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING!

Join Rabbi Mishkin as he once again moderates a discussion with three Rabbis – Rabbi Eric Eisenkramer of B'nai Shalom, Rabbi Jeff Pivo of East Brunswick Jewish Center, and Rabbi Efraim Unterman of Young Israel.

Topic of Discussion: THE CHALLENGES WE FACE – JUDAISM IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Each Rabbi will discuss the 3 greatest challenges he sees for his movement in particular and Judaism in general.

We will meet at the East Brunswick Library meeting room. Bring your friends!
Coffee and cake to follow.

## START THE NEW YEAR WITH **NEW CHOICES OF CLASSES** FOR OUR FALL ADULT EDUCATION SERIES:

#### **Jewish Humor – Wednesday 10:00** beginning October 10

Teacher: Stan Perlman

The course on Jewish Humor will use the book <u>Jewish Humor</u>: What the Best Jewish <u>Jokes Say About the Jews</u> by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin as its main source. We will discuss the aspects of our humor as it relates to Jewish character, family love and torments, relations with God, etc. Throughout history humor often relates our feelings and beliefs towards life and our neighbors. We will have deep discussions about Judaism and have many laughs along the way.

Jewish Prayer – Linda Benish – Thursday 10:30 beginning October 11 Join me in a discussion based on topics such as why we pray, the different kinds of prayer, formal and informal ways of praying, and the importance of prayer in one's life. We will talk about the meaning of many of the prayers we read at services and discover the logic, structure and beauty of the services we attend.

Rabbi Mishkin will be continuing his wonderful variety of classes -

Treading Water in the Sea of Talmud – alternate Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. beginning October 16 and Thursday mornings at 9:30 beginning October 11 Book Discussion Group – alternate Tuesday mornings 11:00 a.m. beginning October 9

**Judaic Potpourri** - **alternate Tuesday mornings 11:00 a.m.** beginning October 16 which will continue the study of Pirkei Avot, the Teachings of the Fathers. Join us for any or all of these wonderful opportunities! Contact Linda Benish at 609-426-8727 for information.

# Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

We honor the memories of our loved ones whose Yahrzeits were observed during the months **August and September** We acknowledge the following for their contributions to the Yahrzeit Memorial Fund:

#### **DONATED BY:**

Barbara & Mel Feder & Family

Chuck Rogol

Zelie & Mel Prussack & Family

Rita & Bernie Selden Ellie & Bob Honig

Sara Ullman

Bob, Lori, & Emma Peppler Arlene & Nelson Silver

**Bob Nagler** 

Doris Schulsinger Stuart & Gail Rizick

Richard Gold

Frances & Richard Gold Seymour Nussenbaum Wilma & Allen Appel

Doris Schulsinger & Family

Elias Engber

Marilyn & Morty Kamenitz

Roberta & Ralph Karpel

#### IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Carol Berman

Florence Schnitman, Morton Schnitman

Ted Rogol

Jack Prussack

Irving Kestenberg

Bertha Ruchelman

Erika Ettner

Larry Garfinkel

Jeanette Schenker

Otto Nagler

Irving Schulsinger

Abraham Joseph Rizick

Debbie Gold, Sam Gold, Isidore &

Eva Mann, Abraham & Rebecca Mann,

Michael Mann, Esther Beer

In memory of family

Leo Ribet

Meyer Davis

Sadie Wishnick

Donald Kaminsky

Molly Sackaroff

Alice & Henry Nehman



#### **BETH OHR CEMETERY**

Congregation Beth Ohr owns and operates a cemetery which is located on Ernston Road in Sayreville. The cemetery is a non-profit entity using existing funds and fundraising as its source of operating revenues. Membership in Beth Ohr entitles each congregant to one individual plot which must be reserved at a cost of \$50 All other costs such as perpetual care, administrative fee, funeral, plot opening, headstone, etc. are borne by the family of the deceased. Please call Phyllis Greenberg in the office at 732-257-1523 for further details

#### October Yahrzeits

The actual date that the Yahrzeit is observed is to the right of the name. It is customary to light a memorial candle on the eve of this date and to give tzedakah in memory of the Yahrzeit. One should recite the Mourner's Kaddish at services the evening before as well as the day of the Yahrzeit. Please call Phyllis in the Synagogue office at 732-257-1523, if you need information about the schedule of worship. The name of your departed will be read at the Friday evening and Shabbat morning services the week before the Yahrzeit date which are represented by the dates in the columns which are in bold print.

October 5/6		<b>October 19/20</b>	
Joseph Barkoe	10/6	Evelyn Barsky	10/20
Bertha Weitzenkorn Hollander	10/6	Pinchas Beer	10/20
Ada Ackerman	10/7	Martin Silverberg	10/20
Khava Barkan	10/7	Lillie Winter	10/20
Rose Finkelstein	10/7	Hilda Fuhrman	10/21
Joseph Newman	10/7	Lillian Kosser	10/21
Joyce Torchin	10/7	Ida Orenstein	10/21
Ethel Czortkower	10/8	Hannah Rothenberg	10/21
Seymour Gold	10/8	Pauline Schwartz	10/21
Arthur Mendlowitz	10/8	Leah Weiss	10/21
Dorothy Rubrum	10/8	Sadie Wishnick	10/21
Philip Ribet	10/9	Juana Levit	10/21
William Sass	10/9	Norman Schwartz	10/22
Gabriel Weiss	10/10	Sylvia Albert	10/22
Maurice Zeltzer	10/10		10/23
Bernard Kantrowitz	10/11	Ten conen	10/23
Henry Nehman	10/11	Eugene muutei	10/23
Milton Dubin	10/12	Cui yii itutz	10/23
Murray Woodman	10/12	Robert Solomon	10/23
	- 0,	Mildred Sommers	10/23
<b>October 12/13</b>		Rebecca Silberstein	10/25
Mae Kantor	10/13	Sol Czortkower	10/25
Rubin Reich	10/13	William Steinberg	10/26
Shirley Litwak	10/14	William Stemberg	10/20
Henry Lynn	10/14	October 26/27	
Hyman Schlissel	10/14	Hyman Cohen	10/27
Rose Bloom	10/15	Arthur Rhodes	10/27
Sarah DeMayo	10/15		10/28
Donald Kaminsky	10/15	Bennie Winter	10/28
Paul Stern	10/15	Moses Greenspan	10/29
Marion Davidson	10/17	Molly Sackaroff	10/29
Fay Cohen	10/18	Irving Weisgold	10/29
Milton Lubitz	10/18	Lewis Woods	10/29
Isidore Mann	10/18	Eva Blumenthal	10/30
Norman Melnick	10/18	Jerry Lustgarten	10/30
David Rankowitz	10/18	Irving Weiner	10/30
Barry Fass	10/19	Lewis Woods	10/30
Hank Jeret	10/19	Martin Goldberg	10/31
Leonard Pollack	10/19	Ida Birnbaum	11/1
		Flora Helmlich	11/1
		Rose Wexlin	11/2
		11000 11 011111	11/2

#### **BETH OHR NEWS**



#### Thank You

Linda and Allen Skupp want to thank the congregation for all their New Year's wishes. May the year ahead be healthy and happy for all. The Skupp's would also like to thank everyone for their good wishes on their grandson Zachary's Bar Mitzvah.

A great big thank you to all those congregants who helped Phyllis in the office getting ready for the High Holidays in September: Ira and Lee Donenfeld, Meryl Finkelstein, Paula Yourman, Linda Garfinkel, Ann Branfman.

Linda Benish wants to give a very special thank you to all the people who are so willing to help when we have special programs. Beth Ohr would be a much less interesting, less "heimisch" place, if you weren't willing to say yes when asked to give of your time and work. These programs were possible and as successful as they were because you said, "Yes, I'll help." Thank you, thank you on behalf of all of us who enjoyed these programs.

#### Pizza Shabbat:

Linda and Allen Skupp, Ira Donenfeld, Joyce Silberstein, Allan Benish,
Sisterhood.

#### **Slichot**

Lee and Ira Donenfeld, Allen Skupp, Ann Branfman, Elliott Leibowitz, Lisa Mason, Joyce Silberstein, Harriet Feld, Allan Benish

#### **Mazel Tov**

To Harriet Cohen on the marriage of her son Mitchell to Shelly Whidden, on September 11, 2018

Roberta & Larry Fachler on the engagement of their granddaughter Katie Coco to Justin Gerchalk

#### **SAVE THIS DATE**

Sunday, December 2nd
Ricki Pen is coming to Beth Ohr.
Light Brunch followed by Entertainment.
More details to follow



### **YOU ARE INVITED**

Linda and Allen Skupp would like to invite the Congregation to join them Saturday morning, October 13th, when their grandson, Zachary, is called to the Torah in honor of his Bar Mitzvah.

Kiddush will follow Services.

#### OCTOBER CELEBRATION OF BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OTHER SIMCHAS

#### RITUALLY SPEAKING SHARE A SIMCHA

The Ritual Committee will honor members celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or other simcha once a month at a Shabbat service.



Mazel Tov to the following congregants who will be celebrating their simcha on Saturday, October 20.

#### Birthdays:

Roza Kikirov, Herbert Goldenberg, Andrew Mendlowitz, Philip Rabinowitz,
Sylvia Kagan, Stuart Rizick, Rochelle Boshak, Marilyn Gilbarg, Mark Atzbi,
Barbara Schneider, Robert Szegeti

#### **Anniversaries:**

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Karpel



Congregation Beth Ohr has partnered with Community Recycling and their Shoe-Box Recycling program. Together we are on a mission to help promote the importance of shoe recycling while raising funds to help further our efforts. ShoeBox Recycling is easy, engaging and rewarding for everyone involved.

Participating is simple. We are collecting gently used shoes for reuse, meaning all the shoes we recycle as a group are destined for another home. From South America and Africa to areas right here in the United States, our ShoeBox Recycling efforts will go to help people and communities in over 50 countries.

And what's even better is the many ways that our community benefits as well. Not only will your recycled shoes help Congregation Beth Ohr raise funds, it will also help keep usable shoes out of our local landfills. ShoeBox Recycling also gives us a chance to connect with the people and places that receive our recycled shoes. By writing a SoleMate Note to include with your shoes, you can let their new owner know about where they came from, what they were used for, or even any special memories attached to them. In return, they can write back to us and we can make a SoleMate connection.

So start cleaning out your closets and start looking under your bed for gently used shoes. Every pair you recycle means extra funds for us, less landfill waste and the potential to connect us to a SoleMate!

For more information contact Allan Benish at <a href="mailto:abenish@aol.com">abenish@aol.com</a> and check out Community Recycling online at <a href="https://www.communityrecycling.biz">www.communityrecycling.biz</a>.

You can drop off your shoes at the synagogue and place them in the box labeled "SHOES" in the lobby during regular office hour of 9:00AM to 3:00PM.

Please see next page for What Is and What Is Not allowed

## ShoeBox Recycling

RECYCLE YOUR SHOES, FIND YOUR SOLEMATE.

## YES

**GENTLY USED PAIRS** 

MENS/WOMENS/KIDS

I

**SOCCER CLEATS** 

**CASUAL SHOES** 

**DRESS SHOES** 

**WORK BOOTS** 

**SNEAKERS** 

**SANDALS** 

**HEELS** 

## NO<sup>®</sup>

DAMAGED/HOLES

WET/MILDEWED

SINGLE SHOES

**METAL SPIKES** 

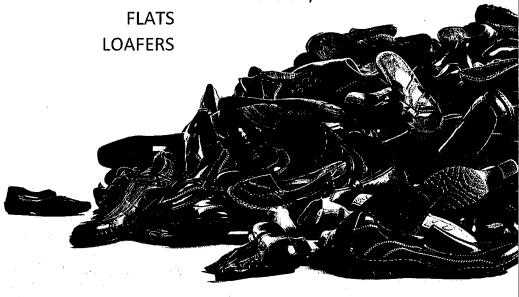
FLIP FLOPS/PLASTIC SHOES

**SLIPPERS** 

**DRESS BOOTS** 

**SKI/WINTER BOOTS** 

SKATES/BLADES



#### **CONGREGATION BETH OHR MEMORIAL FUNDS**

The following is a listing of the Memorial Funds to which tax deductible donations may be made.

David Benish Memorial Fund
Stephen Edwards Memorial Youth Fund
Elaine Leibowitz Memorial Fund
Beautification Fund
Herman & Frieda Lipp Memorial Fund
Mindy Nightingale Memorial Fund
Stuart Polovsky Memorial Fund
Herb Reinstein Memorial Fund
Heidi Rogol Memorial Fund

Donations made to the fund during the month of September:

To the David Benish Memorial Fund Linda & Allan Benish in honor and in memory of friends

To the Heidi Rogol Memorial Fund Chuck Rogol in memory of friends and family

Thank you to the Elaine Leibowitz Memorial Fund for providing Selichot Service refreshments

The following Memorial Plaques have been placed on the Memorial Wall. May their memory be for a blessing.

> Steven Hilman Melvin Belsky Ruth Jane Risman Yetta Morris

\*\*\*When donating to these funds, please make your checks out to *CONGREGATION BETH OHR* and write the fund's name in the memo portion of the check.

For your convenience, we have included this **YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUE FORM**. If you would like to order a plaque, please fill out and return this form with a check in the amount of \$300 to the Synagogue office. If you have any questions about Hebrew names and/or dates, please call Phyllis at the office at 732-257-1523.



(Print Name in Hebrew Here)

(Print Name in English Here)

(Date in English)	(Date in Hebrew)
I hereby authorize you to supply a plate <i>in memory of</i>	PLEDGE and maintain permanently on your Memorial Tablet, a name
NAME IN FULL	
	It is mutually agreed that each year, on the Yahrzeit of the ate occasions in accordance with Jewish custom a Memoria
Signed by Date	
	Tree of Life

to honor or memorialize a loved one Leaf - \$118.00



## MEN'S CLUB Minyan Every Sunday. All are welcome.

#### **Great Big Thank You!**

The Men's Club assisted the Congregation Ritual Committee in setting up the chairs, books and ark and Torah covers for the High Holidays and then putting them away afterwards. These thanks go to everyone that helped including:

Rabbi Mishkin, Allen Skupp, Herb Goldenberg, Harvey Cohen, Joe Shafran, Paul Singer, Linda Benish, Allan Benish, Harriet Rabinowitz, Phil Rabinowitz, Ken Deitz, Chuck Rogol, Mark Atzbi, Morty Kamenitz, David Honig, Allen Appel, Wayne Harrison, Ira Donenfeld, Andy Mendlowitz, Ed Mendlowitz, Stan Perlman, Lisa Mason, Bob Weiss, Stuart Rizick, Elliot Leibowitz.

#### Special Extra Thanks to the Sukkah Brigade

Harvey Cohen, Herb Goldenberg, David Honig, Wayne Harrison, Allen



#### Men's Club Happenings!

The above photos show the Sukkah Brigade, completed Sukkah, Work in Progress at the Sukkah and a typical Sunday breakfast following the Minyan. All are always welcome to the Minyan and bagel breakfast afterwards.

On Sep 23 we had a defibrillator training session led by Dr. Ira Shapiro and two training specialists from First Aid and CPR LLC. See photo and info on following page. Over 30 people attended. We will be having a CPR course at Beth Ohr. Email or tell me if you are interested in attending. We will be making arrangements for this in the near future based on the number of people that would attend.

Participate with the Men's Club any Sunday morning. Shul, Schmooze and Schmear!

#### Men's Club Program of Events (partial listing)

Oct 7 - Sisterhood / Men's Club Joint program Movie: Loving Leah will be viewed

Oct 21—FLU shots by Bonnie and Steve Lerner from Walgreens

Nov 25 – Men's Club Mensch Award & Gift Book

Ed Mendlowitz, Men's Club President, emcpa1@aol.com tel 732 890-3344

If you don't usually attend, try coming once in a while and see what we have to

#### **Beth Ohr Photo Gallery—1**



#### **Photos**

Top: Mala and Bob Simon and their happy grandchildren and with the parents of their grandchildren—Michael, Naomi and Howard who all had their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs at Beth Ohr and are graduates of our Hebrew School. The photos were taken at Mala and Bob's 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration. Mazel Toy!

2nd row: Sue and Herb Goldenberg's granddaughter Grace Ann and their daughter Aileen shown rainbow trout fishing; and Herb with granddaughters Addie, Grace and Danielle on a fishing and hiking trip.

### Beth Ohr Photo Gallery—2



#### **Photos**

Top 2 rows: The High Holidays at Beth Ohr require a lot of work by a lot of dedicated people. Besides the Rabbi and Ritual Committee and financial secretary and Phyllis Greenberg many others helped out to get the all purpose room ready, set up the chairs, put away the Shabbos prayer books and Chumashes and bring out the High Holiday Machzors, change the Torah covers and Ark curtains and many other functions. Shown are some photos of just a few of the many people that pitched in.

Bottom row: The Havdalah service following Neilah after Yom Kippur. A lot of fun and very spiritual and a great ending to this year's Yom Kippur.

#### The Weekly Parsha

On Shabbos, October 6, 2018 we start reading from the beginning of the Torah. Following is a brief explanation of the name of each regular weekly Torah parsha. You can find out more by reading the parsha in your Chumash or by coming to Shabbos services. The summaries were written by Edward Mendlowitz and solely express his opinions and not that of our Synagogue, Rabbi or anyone else. If you do not have a Chumash in your house and would like one – for free – come to any Sunday Minyan and ask Ed, Harvey or Chuck for a used Hertz Chumash. If you cannot come, you can send an \$18.00 contribution check to Men's Club Congregation Beth Ohr, P.O. Box 206, Old Bridge, NJ 08857 and one will be mailed to you.

#### **Book of Genesis**

Bereshith In the beginning. ...and G-d was already there! What a great way to begin a story of G-d's might, wonder and creation.

**Noach** The man's name. These are the generations of Noach.

**Lech Lecha** Literal translation: Go for yourself. Go away. This has a dual meaning. Travel from your homeland to the new land G-d will give to you; and go away from all prior value systems

Vayyera Appeared. G-d appeared three days after Abraham's circumcision while he was still recovering.

**Chayye Sarah** Lifetime of Sarah. Sarah dies. This parsha develops from Sarah's purpose of life – to provide a beginning of the Jewish people, a wife for Isaac with the right ethical and spiritual values and a suitable "replacement" for Sarah as a mother in Israel, and the first ownership of land in Eretz Yisrael.

**Toledoth** Descendants. Family of Isaac – Esau and Jacob. The story begins...

Vayyetze Departed. Jacob departed – actually ran away to escape vengeance form Esau.

Vayyishlach Sent. Then Jacob sent messengers to Esau. The brothers meet after 34 years – in peace.

Vayyeshev Settled. Jacob settles in Canaan.

**Mikketz** At the end. The portion begins "It was at the end of two years of days" referring to getting on with the story – the end of days; the end of Joseph's exile and beginning of the events leading to the Jews' journey to Egypt so they could then be redeemed.....Comment: This was exactly two years since the release of the butler whose dream Joseph favorably interpreted. Joseph was imprisoned ten years before then and was eighteen when sold into slavery. He is about thirty, Jacob 120, and Isaac 180 and died around now. Jacob lived to 147.

Vayyiggash [Judah] came near him - Judah approached Joseph.

**Vayyechi** And he [Jacob] lived...in the land of Egypt 17 years, and died. The parsha tells about Jacob's death and the surrounding events. The parsha name of Jacob having "lived" signifies that his life and good works will be continued through his descendants. The true commitment someone has to Judaism shows when their children carry on their love and study of Torah.

#### **Book of Exodus**

**Shemoth** Names. The parsha starts with the names of the eleven sons of Jacob that went with him to Egypt with their families; a total of 70 people.

**Va-ayra** I have revealed Myself. This reminds Moses that He did not forget the covenant, and is ready for the redemption from Egypt. The redemption is to lead to a spiritual freedom.

**Bo** Come [Go]. Go to Pharaoh.

**Beshallach** Sent away – let them go. Pharaoh more likely sent the Israelites away rather than letting them go. Letting them go could infer that they wanted to go, but not everyone wanted to leave and based on the way they acted after they left, it appears to be the case for many of them.

**Yithro** Name of a non Jew. Yithro or Jethro was considered the most learned of the non Jews who worshipped and studied every known idol. When he abandoned idol worship for G-d it was an informed and honored decision.

**Mishpatim** Laws. Many laws in this reading -53.

**Terumah** Contributions. Each person had a direct involvement in the construction of the Temple because of their contributions.

Tetzaveh Command: The commandment of Ner Tamid – keeping the lamp lit. Israel is to be a light of the nations.

Ki Thissa When you take [a head count]. A census.

**Vayyakhel** Assembled. Moses assembled the people immediately after his descent from Mt. Sinai on the 11<sup>th</sup> of Tishri (the day after the Day of Atonement) to build the Sanctuary.

Pekudey The accounts or reckoning. Moses orders an accounting – an audit.

#### **Book of Leviticus**

Vayyikra "And He called" [to Moses]. G-d spoke to Moses to tell him what he should say to the people. This book contains many laws and little story.

Tzav "Command" Aaron. The Kohanim are anointed.

**Shemini** is the third word and the number eight. A new chapter begins just after instructions for seven days. This could signify a separation and transition from the cycle of the natural world to the spiritual.

**Thazria** "She conceives." This refers to the birth of a male child who is then circumcised on the eighth day. There is a relationship here between this and the leprosy mentioned in the rest of the parsha. Neither refers to a medical condition but to a religious activity.

Metzora "Sufferer" The person that has Thazria, the condition described in the previous parsha.

Acharey mos "After the death." This refers to the two sons of Aaron who died when they approached before Hashem and died

**Kedoshim** Holy. You [the congregation] shall be holy.

Emor "Say" to the Kohanim – Laws of the Priests.

Behar Mountain. G-d spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Bechukosai "Decrees" Laws. If you pursue my laws...

#### **Book of Numbers**

**Bemidbar** The original name of this book was "the Fifth of the Musterings" referring to the book that numbers the Israelites. "Bemidbar" ("In the [Sinai] Wilderness") comes from the fourth word of the portion giving a place to what occurs in this Book. The English name "Numbers" comes from the Septuagint (the oldest Greek translation of the Bible). It also gets its name from the census that is the opening action of the parsha.

Naso Take. G-d commands Moses to take another census.

Baha'alosecha When you kindle [the lamps]. Introduction to the Menorah.

Shelach lecha Send for yourself. This refers to the spies Moses sent to search the Land of Canaan.

**Korach** Named for the leader of the rebellion.

**Chukkas** I looked at five Chumashim and found five different translations for this word. Talk about things being complicated and difficult to understand. The translations are "statute" (Hertz), "ritual law" (Etz Hayim), "decree" (Stone Edition), "requirement" (NIV), and "super-rational command" (Gutnick Edition). The bottom line is that this is a lead in to the story of the red heifer which story defies understanding; so perhaps the lack of clarity of the preamble of this parsha is appropriate.

Balak The first word. The name of a wicked anti-Semite, but he represents the eventual transformation of evil into good.

**Pinchas** Pinchas redux. Pinchas is an example or a symbol for the conversion of the Israelites toward lives of virtuousness with this parsha containing many ways to bring this about.

Mattos Tribes. Moses speaks to tribal heads.

Massey Journeys. Recap of 40-year journey.

#### **Book of Deuteronomy**

**Devarim** Words. Moses tells the story of the past forty years.

**Va-ethchanan** And I requested. And I beseeched. And I besought the L-rd. Moses pleading to be permitted to enter Eretz Yisrael was done choosing words that indicated that he did not believe he merited it, but that he was asking G-d for an unearned gift. Some commentators do not consider this a prayer by Moshe. Nevertheless, G-d became angry at the repeated pleads and told Moshe to stop it already.

Ekev "Because" or "as a result of." What will happen to you because of or as a result of you listening to these laws.

**Re'eh** "See" or "Behold." First word in parsha. The word refers to the choices being set before us. Blessings and curses. We cannot accept the blessings without a vision of their benefits or consequences of failing to accept them.

**Shofetim** "Judges." First word. "You shall appoint judges..." This is commanded! Righteous judges are paramount to orderly society

Ki Thetze "If you go out" Preparation for war and rules to follow with captives when victorious.

Ki Thavo The Parsha's opening words "when you come into the land" sets the stage for what we will read in the parsha.

**Nitzavim** "Standing firm." Prelude to entering Eretz Yisrael the Israelites are united and are standing firmly together. Should be the same today!

**Vayyelech** "And he went." Moses goes to the people with his final exhortations. He tells the people to "be strong and of good courage" because the L-rd will be with you.

Haazinu Give ear; Listen. The word Haazinu is used when speaking to someone who is nearby.

**Vezoth Ha-Berachah** "And this is the Blessing." Moshe gives his final blessing before his death. Have you ever thought what your final blessing would be? Have you thought about what people would say at your funeral? Now would be a good time to jot down a few thoughts – and then look at it to see if that is how you live your life, how you ascribe importance to what you do and the example you set. If there is a divergence, why not start to bring your thoughts and actions closer together.

## Final Notice before going to printer. Absolute deadline October 3rd

#### Kristallnacht Remembrance Booklet



Beth Ohr will be publishing a Kristallnacht Remembrance Booklet on Friday Nov. 9, 2018 to memorialize Beth Ohr members, families and friends that were subjected to the Nazi led inhuman barbaric treatment of Kristallnacht and the Holocaust solely because of being Jewish or their family's Jewish background. It must never happen again and remembering is a way to stop it from reoccurring. If you have a story to tell about yourself, a family member or friend, let us capture it in this booklet.

This is the last chance you will have to have your family's story included in our booklet.

We want and need your story to tell.

Contact Ed to arrange for your story to be told. Tel 732.890.3344

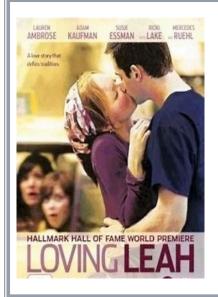
### Flu Shots at Beth Ohr By Walgreens

Sunday October 21 from 10:15 to Noon.

Administered by Bonnie and Steve Lerner, long time Beth Ohr members.

Bring your insurance card. No RSVP.





#### Joint Sisterhood and Men's Club Program

Sunday October 7, 2018

We will present the movie

## LOVING LEAH

9:00 Minyan 9:50 Bagel breakfast 10:15 Movie presentation



What a wonderful start for Sisterhood. It was heartwarming to see so many familiar faces at our first meeting. A BINGO / Ice Cream Social which was a lovely way to start the year. I want to thank Ashna Pincus, Monica Atzbi and Lisa Mason for all their help & hard work. Our next meeting will be a Brunch with Men's Club on October 7th.

I'd like to take the opportunity along with my Co - President, Harriet Rabinowitz to wish everyone and their families a very Happy, Healthy New Year.

- Cheryl Cadel

### **Sisterhood Bricks**

Bricks are available @ \$6.00 to send to anyone to commemorate a death, birth, in honor of, or good wishes.

Call Ronnie at 732-254-1135 or send info to emrmcats@aol.com



### **SCRIP**

Sisterhood sells Shoprite, Stop 'n' Shop, and Acme Supermarket Gift Cards. This ongoing fundraiser helps support Oneg Shabbat and other activities of our congregation. (Sisterhood members receive donor credit equal to 5% of their scrip purchase.)

Your contacts are the following people for purchasing scrip and/or information:

Monica Atzbi 732-390-5890 Sharen Silverman 732-266-2389 Marcia Trechak 609-655-9507 (summer months) Phyllis Greenberg --Temple Office 732-257-1523

When ordering from Phyllis at the temple office, please try to call in your order at least one day earlier and pick up your order during the following hours: 10 am-12 noon or 1:30 pm -3:00pm.





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Edwards	Sue			0.5	Karlstein	Marilyn			1.5
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## Discover the Joy of Being a Hospice Volunteer



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VNA Health Group's Hospice Team will provide you with training and support to help you bring your gifts of compassion, commitment and companionship to those nearing end of life. Volunteers are needed in various counties throughout New Jersey.

We are looking for volunteers to bring a supportive presence and companionship through home visitation, comfort and bereavement calls in our office, or provide administrative support on a variety of projects that enhance our patients' care. If you have an interest or expertise in any of these areas, please consider sharing your time and talents as part of our Volunteer Hospice Team.

> please contact: Pauline DePalma, BSW, Director of Volunteers at 732,224,6933 or

Pauline.DePalma@vnahg.org

\* We encourage volunteers to wait one year following the death of a loved one.



VNA Health Group 23 Main Street, Suite D1 | Holmdel, New Jersey, 07733 800.862.3330 | www.vnahg.org

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#### SISTERHOOD OF CONGREGATION BETH OHR

#### ANNUAL DUES STATEMENT

2018 - 2019

TEMPLE MEMBERS \$30

NON-TEMPLE MEMBERS \$39

DONOR CREDIT OF \$5 WILL BE AWARDED TO MEMBERS WHO PAY THEIR DUES ON OR BEFORE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT REJOINED SISTERHOOD BY DE-CEMBER 31, 2018 FORFEIT ALL PREVIOUSLY ACCUMULATED DONOR CREDIT.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO:

ESTEE SPIEGEL 9 NORTH STREET OLD BRIDGE, NJ 08857

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS AND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS. WE WOULD LIKE TO UPDATE OUR SISTER-HOOD LIST. IF YOU HAVE A WINTER ADDRESS, PLEASE INCLUDE THAT AS WELL.



The deadline for the next newsletter will be Fri. October 12, 2018

Please send all of your thanks, articles and announcements via e-mail to:

#### congregationbethohr@gmail.com

or call

Phyllis in the Synagogue office at 732-257-1523

### "Ritually Speaking" Sponsor a Kiddush

If you are interested in sponsoring a Kiddush to celebrate a simcha, commemorate the Yahrzeit of a loved one, or "just Because," contact Phyllis in the office at 732-257-1523.

If you need to reach Rabbi Mishkin, please use any of the following:

Office Phone # 732-257-7031

**Home phone** #732-967-6710 after hours for emergencies

e-mail address: rabbijoelmishkin@gmail.com



Congregation Beth Ohr P.O. Box 206 Old Bridge, NJ 08857

## **Shabbat Candle Lighting Times For October, 2018**

Oct. 5, 2018	6:15
Oct. 12, 2018	6:04
Oct. 19, 2018	5:53
Oct. 26, 2018	5:44

