

A Jewish Community Welcoming All...

Congregation Ahavas Torah



CALENDAR:

All events held at 2935 Onyx St. unless otherwise noted

All events FREE unless noted, donations accepted

Shabbat:

Every Friday night 7:30pm:
Kosher Vegan dinner in honor of Shabbat, RSVP 541-844-1340

Every Saturday morning,
Shabbat services at 9:30am followed by **lunch** at 12:30, vegan options available, children welcome
Saturday after services and lunch, **learn with the Rabbi at 2:30-3:30pm** (approximately)

Classes:

Thursday, September 10, 7pm, starting weekly **group study** facilitated by Rabbi Derfler. Learn in the New Year! "**Love Your Neighbor**"...in Jewish law. To be held in the community room upstairs at Market of Choice at 29th and Willamette,

Starting Tuesday, September 15, **Hebrew School after school classes** ages 9-12 3:30-4:30, contact 844-1340 for details. Free to members, sliding scale

Weekly **Hebrew classes for adults** will be offered with minimum 5 students, call to register minimal cost 844-1340

In the works: women's weekly study group

Requests for classes gladly accepted

A Match Made in Heaven

Hashgacha Pratit, or synchronicity, is the theme in the Derfler family story. Rabbi Moshe Yaakov Derfler, born in Philadelphia and raised in New Jersey, wanted to study law. Before the term started, he went to Israel to learn Hebrew and stopped for a short program at Yeshiva Ohr Sameyach. He never went to law school in the states. He learned Talmudic law in Israel instead.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Tehila Derfler, born Hiilawe Mitchell in Hawaii and raised in Eugene, Oregon, was trying to find her place in the Jewish world. While finishing her degree in fine art at the University of Oregon Tehila was inspired by Rabbi Asi and Aviva Spiegel to turn to Orthodox Judaism. Her Uncle Daniel and Aunt Loren had it all planned out how to lure her to seminary in Israel.

Tehila willingly put her career on hold and took the bait.

Fast forward a year. Tehila was dating unsuccessfully. Uncle Daniel and Aunt Loren planned a trip to Israel. As the time grew shorter they lost hope of attending Tehila's wedding during that visit. One Friday morning: Rabbi Derfler ran into his chavruta on the street who invited him for Shabbat dinner. Tehila attended her friend's wedding and was invited to attend sheva brochot near the Nachlaot area. Shmuel Cohen (also of Eugene) found her a meal at the aforementioned chavruta's house. The host and hostess had the shidduch idea when another guest asked if they were related.

Needless to say, the rest



is history. They were married in Jerusalem a mere 6 1/2 weeks later with Uncle Daniel and Aunt Loren attending. Tehila's mother, Dr. Miriam Mazure-Mitchell and sister Yris Mitchell also came. Leah Sand, formerly of Eugene and an early member of the Halachic Minyan now known as Ahavas Torah, decorated

the Kallah's bridal chair. Was it a sign that they would go serve the community in Eugene?

continued...

Practicing Kindness

Have you ever noticed that when you get angry and you raise your voice that it *doesn't help*? Sometimes when the children are overtired, hungry, and screaming because of it, and we're

trying to get "just one more thing" done, grumpiness seems to be the order of the day. In Elul, we're often reminded that we should take stock of ourselves. We watch how we

behave; we try to smile more, to think of how we would like to be treated.

What if we were to *practice* kindness?

The root of the word

Continued...



CALENDAR:

Rosh HaShana:

Friday, September 18,
6:45 pm **Erev Rosh
HaShana services**

Saturday, September 19,
9am **Rosh HaShana
Shacharit** (morning)
services

Saturday, September 19,
6:45 pm **Rosh HaShana
Mincha/Maariv** (evening)
services

Sunday, September 20,
9am **Rosh HaShana 2nd
day services, Shofar at
11am**

Sunday, September 20,
5pm **Tashlich** Ritual

Yom Kippur:

Sunday, September 27,
6:45pm **Erev Yom
Kippur (Kol Nidre)**
Service

Monday, September 28,
9am **Yom Kippur
Shacharit**(morning)
service, 11am **Yizkor**

Monday, September 28,
6:45pm **Ne'ila Service,
break-fast after services**

Succot:

Friday, October 2, 6:30pm
Erev Shabbat/Succot
Services

Saturday, October 3,
9:30am **Succot** Services

...Practicing Kindness

"Ahava" (love) is "Hav" (to give). When we give to others, we love them more. That's why when you borrow sugar or a hex wrench from your neighbor, they slowly become the "best neighbor" you ever had!

In a *community* this is even more important, the best way to build the community is to do things, projects that bring people together. A plant or a community grows when it receives nourishment, but also thrives when it receives love. Something that starts as an obligation becomes a joy through acting kindly.

Little acts can go a long way.

Instead of just asking, nay, *begging*, this Rosh Hashana for another year of life, health, wealth, and success, let's remember to say and internalize "THANK YOU" to G-d for all of the millions of undeserved kindnesses

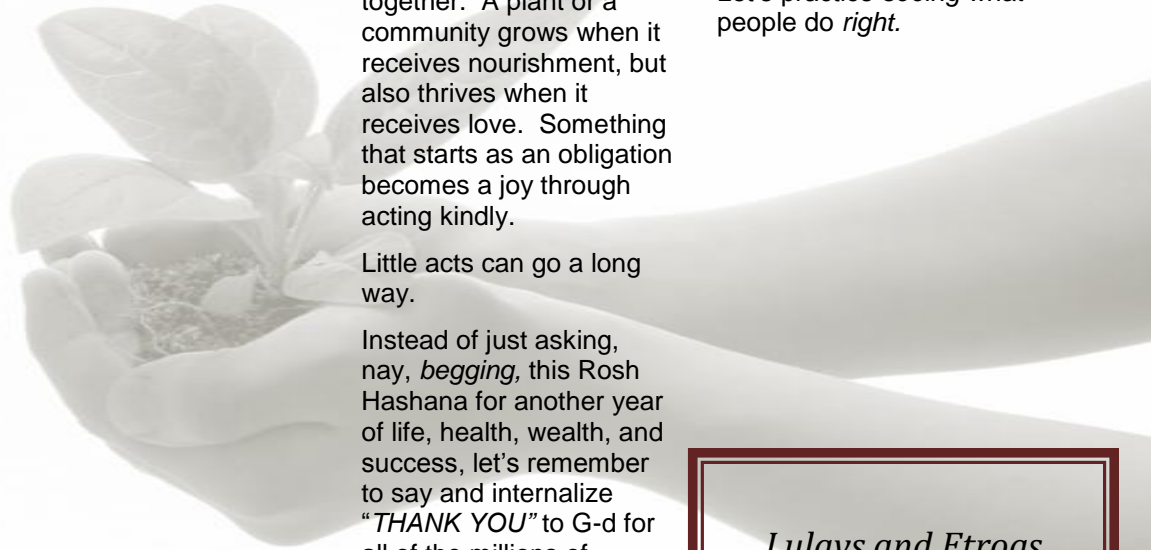
He did for us this past year!

We can use this Elul as an opportunity to recognize kindnesses of our community, our friends, and even our family, and especially how much G-d has done for us.

May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life with hearts full of appreciation and love for the Almighty.

Let's practice *seeing* what people do *right*.

Rabbi Shlomo Wolbe writes, "Gratitude awakens love in the receiver and naturally inspires it in the giver as well".



...A Match Made in Heaven

Was it coincidence that when Rabbi Derfler finished his Rabbinical training at Ohr LaGolah and was looking for a job, that Eugene, the place his wife was from, had an opening for a community

Rabbi? "We knew it was meant to be," said Rabbi Derfler, "just like I am my wife's bashert (and she is such a Eugenie) so I am bashert for Ahavas Torah."

*Lulavs and Etrogs
will be available for
sale
Pre-order preferred*

*Portland Kollel will be
selling easy-to-
assemble Succahs*

Contact Portland Kollel

Phone: 503-245-5420

eFax: 734-345-5420

info@portlandkollel.org

Donation Card

I _____ am donating \$ _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In celebration of _____

I would like to become a member, please contact me!

*“Malachi the prophet challenges us to give charity and reap the dividends that G-d will repay us **in this world**”*



Please give us your name, address, and phone number so we may thank you for your donation.

Name & phone number _____

Address & email _____

A Jewish Community Welcoming All...

From: Ahavas Torah
2935 Onyx St.
Eugene, Oregon 97403

Place stamp here

To: _____





CALENDAR:

Chol HaMoed:

Sunday, October 4, 3pm

Bar-B-Q Party

Shmini Atzeret:

Friday, October 9, 6:15pm

Erev Shabbat/Shmini

Atzeret Services

Saturday, October 10,

9:30am **Shmini**

Atzeret/Shabbat Shacharit

Services

Saturday, October 10,

6:15pm **Erev Simchat Torah**

Services

Sunday, October 11, 9:30am

Simchat Torah Services

Ahavas Torah

2935 Onyx St.
Eugene, Oregon
97403

Phone 541 844 1340

E-mail

rmd@portlandkollel.org for
Rabbi Derfler, or
tderfler@portlandkollel.org
for Rebbitzin Derfler

We're on the Web!

www.minyan.us

**Ahavas Torah
Preschool**

Ages 2 ½-5, 7:30am-12:30pm

Kosher Food provided

Will be starting after Rosh
Hashana / Yom Kippur

Registration begins now!

A Struggle to Succeed...

Preparing to blow the Shofar for Rosh Hashana was a great struggle. 5 people told me 5 different ways how to do it. I even bought 2 Shofars as one was supposed to be easier than the other. Even though I practiced hours over the course of weeks it did not result in the most pleasing sound.

Eventually, and with great satisfaction, joy, and relief I finally was able to blow the Shofar well enough to do it for Rosh Hashana.

I might be tempted to attribute my new ability to hard work.

Really, Hashem just gave me the ability. Hashem requires us to make an effort, to struggle in our endeavors. For some things we might have more natural talent, in

others we may have to struggle a great deal. Ultimately, our success is a *gift* from Hashem. We shouldn't fall prey to the temptation to believe that it was our efforts that made us a success.

Rosh HaShana is the beginning of the year, the day we recognize the Kingship of Hashem, that Hashem runs the world and decides whether we will succeed or fail. A successful Rosh HaShana is internalizing this idea. In the Shulchan Aruch it says, "a fundamental principle in Torah is 'I have placed Hashem before me, always.'" This is the beginning of the Shulchan Aruch, and this is how we should begin the Jewish year.

May we all have a successful New Year!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank you to our Members, our Board, and our Donors for welcoming us to the community. Please let us know if we can acknowledge you publicly when you give your donations.

Donations can be requested to be used for specific purposes.

If anyone would like to join a Chessed (acts of kindness or aid) team, or if anyone needs Chessed please let us know and we will try to match you up appropriately!

We are starting our NCSY chapter, if you or anyone you know is of high school age and would like to join other Jewish youth in exciting activities like vacations in the Northwest, please contact Rabbi or Rebbitzin Derfler at 541-844-1340, let's have an amazing year together!

The Goal of Charity...

Is it better to give than to receive? King Solomon tells us that giving to a poor person is really lending to G-d. We will be paid back in this world!

There are millionaires who give huge amounts of their income to learning institutions, one such man spoke to us. He emphasized, *yelling with enthusiasm*, that it was the best investment he **ever made**. He had figured that G-d had paid him back billions of dollars and that he wouldn't have been a

millionaire without this mitzvah.

So, give before you're asked, with a smile! Help someone be self-sufficient. Put a little in a tzedaka box before praying.

Give in someone's honor, or in their memory before Yizkor.

Give, because it makes us reach out beyond our own limited world.

We will reap benefits of priceless caring.