



Congregation Ohr Torah

Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi

Allen Kessel - President

Parshas Veyechi

13 Tevet 5768

December 22, 2007

Candlelighting:	4:16PM
Mincha & Kabbalos Shabbos:	4:25PM
Shacharis:	7:45 & 9:00 AM
<i>Rabbi Hoffman's Gemara Avoda Zara Shiur – after Hashkama</i>	
Z'man Krias Shma (G'RA):	9:37AM
Early Mincha:	1:30 PM
Rabbi Luban's Gemara Yoma Shiur: 3:00 PM	
Note: Rabbi Luban's shiur and Mincha will be advanced in order to accommodate R. Horowitz, who will speak after Mincha	
Mincha:	3:45 PM
Maariv:	5:20 PM
Weekday Shacharis:	
Sun	7:15, 8 & 9 AM
Mon & Thur:	6:17, 7:05, 8 & 9AM
Note earlier Mon & Thu Shacharis	
Talis & Tefilin: 6:20 AM Mon, 6:21 Thu	
Tues (Sunday Schedule):	7:15, 8 & 9AM
Wed. & Fri:	6:30, 7:05 & 8AM
Weekday Mincha/ Maariv:	4:25 PM
Weekday Maariv:	7:30 & 10:10 PM
<i>Tuesday Tehillim 9:50 PM</i>	
Rabbi Luban's Halachic Responsa Shiur: 9:10 PM	
Monday, Topic: Learning Torah on Nittel Nacht	
WINTER DAF YOMI SCHEDULE	
Monday – Thur: After 7:30 Maariv, Fri: After Maariv, Shabbos: 8:15 AM or after Hashkama	
Minyan, Sunday: After 8 AM Shacharis	

BARUCH HABAH

Ohr Torah would like to welcome newcomers, visitors and guests who are joining us. If our President, Allen Kessel or Rabbi Yaakov Luban does not get a chance to welcome you personally, please come up and introduce yourself.

KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP

Kiddush sponsorship is available for: Jan. 5th, 19th & 26th and Feb. 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd. To sponsor a Kiddush or reserve the Kiddush room, please contact Mel Barenholtz in person, by phone or email: mbarenh@yahoo.com. To sponsor a Shalosh Seudos, please contact Moshe Wiesel

OHR TORAH NEWSLETTER

To subscribe to these Announcements, please email info@ohrtorah.net and request to be added to the distribution.

TREE OF LIFE and/or YAHRZEIT PLAQUES

To dedicate a Yahrzeit Plaque or a Leaf for the Lobby Eitz Chayim Tree, please contact Moish Nat by sending a detailed fax with all dedicatory wording to 732-442-8022. For more info. Call Moish at 732-442-5751 during work days or 732-572-4132 in the evening.

RITUAL COMMITTEE

If you have any Ritual Committee issues or questions that need to be addressed, please E_mail Rabbi Israel Poleyeff <rispol@optonline.net>

SEFORIM DEDICATIONS

Book/Seforim Dedications of all types are available by contacting Barry Siegel at siegelad@optonline.net or 732-572-4408.

HOUSEKEEPING

For housekeeping issues and inquiries contact Lou Smith at louis.w.smith@verizon.com or 732-572-5633.

TEEN KIDDUSH

The Ohr Torah Teen Minyan tries to have a Teen Kiddush every week. However, sponsors are needed to make this happen. If you would like to sponsor a teen kiddush, please contact Mayer Berg at mberg@optonline.net.

MAZEL TOV

...to Mina & Larry Tiefenbrunn on the marriage of Chana to Josh Gopin of Teaneck. Mazel Tov to Chana's grandmother, Mrs. Deborah Tiefenbrunn, and the extended Tiefenbrunn and Gopin families who are here for the Shabbos Sheva Brachos.

...to Marcia and Phil Rosen on the engagement of their son Reuven to Esti Lazar of Baltimore. Mazel Tov to Connie & Avi Lazar, and to the grandparents, Florence & Mac Rosen, Moshe Reznick, and Fruma & Yekutiel Lazar.

...to Mel Barenholtz on the Bar Mitzvah of his grandson Yehuda Zev in Lakewood last Shabbos.

...to Lilly and Bruce Jacobi for their daughter Chevi, who will IY"H be making Aliyah with Nefesh B'Nefesh next week. Chevi joins her brother David and sister Gila b'Aretz.

...to Charyn and Harvey Atlas on the birth of a daughter, Tsofia Tova, to their children Zehava and Michael Atlas. Mazel Tov to uncle Bezalel, aunt Jessica and uncle Jason, and great grandma Ruthie.

...to Helena and Stanley Benzel on the Auf Ruf of their son Irwin this Shabbos, at Ohav Emeth, and his forthcoming marriage Sunday, to Melissa Enbar in Baltimore.

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

Rabbi Yaakov Horowitz
Director, Project Y.E.S.
Menahel, Yeshiva Darchei Noam,
Monsey
Program

Friday Evening Oneg Shabbat 8:00 p.m.
"Building a Lasting Relationship With Your Children"

Shabbat Morning Drasha
 Shabbat Afternoon Mincha 3:45 pm
 Following Shalosh Seudos
 (in the Main Sanctuary)

"Developing a Nurturing Home Environment"
 Men and Women Invited

CHUMASH/SIDDUR OPPORTUNITY

The teen minyan has outgrown the OT Beis Medrash and now davens in the RPRY Beis Medrash on Shabbos. There is a great need to provide that minyan with proper Chumashim & Siddurim. OT has purchased 100 of the ArtScroll

travel size combination Stone Chumash & Siddur. Dedications are available for \$30 per Chumash/siddur. Please let Barry Siegel (siegelad@optonline.net), Meir Berg or Harvey Atlas know if you would like to dedicate these. Thanks for your help! 53 of the 100 Chumashim have already been dedicated.

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Yasher Koach to the members of the Election Committee for all their work during the Ohr Torah elections: Harvey Atlas, Naomi Auman, David and Rachel Callen, Joshua Caplan, Zena Freundlich, David Goldman, Michael Kaplan, David Katz, Hillel Raymon, and Terry Walzman

YOUTH RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the OT Youth Raffle winning families: Howard Hirt, Hillel Cohen and Seth Gertzberg families.

Thanks to Barry Siegel, Charles Gershbaum and Lyndon Goldsmith for selling the raffle tickets, and to Yoel Schwartz for handling the billing.

2008 Membership Directory

We are currently preparing the 2008 Ohr Torah Membership Directory.

1. Please send name, address, and phone number updates to memberdirectory@ohrtorah.net.
2. We will be publishing email addresses and children's names this year.

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK ALL SPELLINGS BEFORE SUBMITTING.

OHR TORAH YOUTH PROGRAM EVENTS

On Sunday evening December 23rd Ohr Torah will take a NJ Transit train to New York City to the NY Rangers vs Ottawa Senators hockey game (Grades 3 - 8). We will be meeting at the Edison Train Station starting at 5:20PM...train departs at 5:38 PM! We will return back to the Edison Train Station at 10:45 PM. The cost is \$40 and ONLY 20 seats available...first come first serve! Snacks will be provided. Advance reservations are required. Children can register for these events on Ohr Torah's website "ohrtorah.net" or by calling Mayer Berg at 732-572-3429.

ANNOUNCING OT BEIS MEDRASH PROGRAM

We would like to open the Shul and the Beis Medrash each evening of the week, and invite the members of the congregation and general community (Olam) to come and learn there so the "Kol Torah" will be heard emanating from the Shul's Beis Medrash on a nightly basis. There is a special beauty and kedusha in learning with a group in a Beis Medrash. Currently, the Beis Medrash is accessible from the 7:30 Maariv through the learning of Daf Yomi on Monday through Thursday evenings, and this is a wonderful thing, but we would like to expand the hours. Many of us are koveiah itim latorah in our homes, yet if the Beis Medrash were accessible each evening for learning from 8:15 to 10:10, more members would begin to make use of the Beis Medrash. This will in turn hopefully inspire others to avail themselves of the wonderful array of Sefarim in the Beis Medrash and create a

REMINDER: The emergency Defibrillator is in the Beis Medrash Chazzon's shulchan. PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR MORE OHR TORAH INFORMATION

powerful learning environment throughout the evening.

To get this project off the ground, we'll need volunteers to commit to learn in the Beis Midrash for one hour, on one night each week so that we will be able to promote to the entire membership that the Shul is open for learning each evening from the Daf Yomi straight through until the Late Maariv at 10:10. We would also like open the Beis Midrash from 8-10:10 on Sunday evenings, so Sunday evening volunteers will be necessary as well. To volunteer to commit to one hour of learning in the Beis Midrash, please speak with Larry Greenman or contact him at 732-306-4850 or at lgreenman@njop.org Tizku L'Mitzvos.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMUNAH ART AUCTION

Jan. 12th Annual Emunah ART SHOW/AUCTION at Ohr Torah. Decorate your house with beautiful art as you support our brothers and sisters in Israel- and have an exciting evening to boot! It's a no-lose proposition. Save the date. Details to follow.

THE Orthodox Forum of Edison/HP

Announces the Winter 2008 Schedule
Motzei Shabbat January 12, 2008 at 7:45pm
Congregation Ohr Torah – 48 Edgemount Rd. Edison, NJ YOSEF PRAGER Session Chair: Rabbi David Moss "High Cost of Jewish Living"
Motzei Shabbat February 9, 2008 at 8:00pm
Cong. Ahavas Achim – 216 South First Ave. HP, NJ Rabbi Elazar Teitz/ Esther Mackner Session Chair: Debbie Teitz "The Agunah Crisis"
The Orthodox Forum gladly accepts sponsorships of \$100-\$200. Please send your tax deductible check, made out to Congregation Ohr Torah Gemach Fund, to Henry Lerner, 1 Celler Rd., Edison, NJ 08817 For more info contact Joel Paul at JHPaul@earthlink.net. The Orthodox Forum of Edison/Highland Park. Chairperson: Dr. Mark Kligman

RPRY SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST

The RPRY Scholarship Campaign is under way. Please help provide a quality Jewish education for every Jewish child in our community, regardless of financial means. All funds raised go directly to scholarships within our community! The campaign culminates in a breakfast on December 23 honoring Mrs. Sari Shalmon with the Teacher Excellence Award. Any questions, please feel free to speak directly with OT co-captains, Russell Adler, Elie Borger or Michael Kaplan.

RPRY MISHMAR PROGRAM

Mishmar learning program is held at RPRY every Motzei Shabbat, This week @ 7:00. Please bring

your own seforim. Cost is \$2.00 which includes, pizza, donuts, prizes and raffles.

ACTT SPONSORS EVENING

The ACTT organization (Achieving Change Through Torah) is sponsoring a community-wide inspirational evening at Congregation Ohav Emeth on Saturday night, January 5, 2008 at 8:30 PM. *Rabbi Yaakov Wasser*, Moreh D'Asra of Young Israel of East Brunswick and Vice President of the Rabbinical Council of America, will be discussing "The Art of Thinking Before Speaking - How to Control Your Tongue Before It Controls You". Admission is free and the entire community is encouraged to attend. Sponsors are welcome. For more info, call Jonathan Abrahams (732) 220-2946, Wendy Bar (732) 220-8765, Joe Friedman (732) 732-985-8014, Michael Lafond (732) 432-9860, Phil Rosen (732) 572-8762, or Aviva Siegel (732) 572-4408. Web-site: www.actt613.org, e-mail: info@actt613.org.

RJJ HALACHA SERIES

Halachos of Shabbos by Rabbi Zvi Goldman on 9:15 AM Sundays at RJJ, 1 Plainfield Rd.

JR NCSY EVENTS

Winter Regional for 6th graders in Springfield has been POSTPONED UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE. Highland Park Jr. NCSY will be having an Oneg this Shabbos Parshat Vayechi, December 22, from 2:30 - 3:30 PM at The Silber's House 35 Brookfall Road, Edison. If you would like to sponsor an event or drop-in-zone, please contact Moshe or Phili. Also if you have not signed up for membership yet, you can sign up online at www.njnscy.com Membership is mandatory to attend any shabbaton but not an event. For more info please call Phili Hernandez at 609-647-6842 or Moshe Stern at 732-777-1325 or check us out online at www.njnscy.com

WOMEN'S POST CHANUKA PACKAGE PARTY

The Neshei Aguda would like to invite the women of our community to a post-Chanuka package party, Saturday night, Dec 22, 7:30 PM at the home of Ruchie Krauss, 1721 Central Avenue, Highland Park (in the triangle). Women are encouraged to bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10 or below. The gifts will then be auctioned off. For more info, please call Rikki Samel 732-249-5116.

WOMEN'S DANCE CLASSES

Rikki Samel is forming dance classes for adult women, beginners and intermediate levels, Tuesday evenings, 8:00 PM - 8:45 PM. For more info, please call Rikki Samel 732-249-5116.

REBBITZEN EICHENSTEIN'S CLASSES

Rebbitzin Eichenstein will be having her Navi class on *Megillas Eichah*, Sunday morning, December 23

at 10:00 AM at Cong. Agudath Israel and Parsha class, Monday evening, December 24 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah. Classes are for women only. For more information, please contact Aviva Siegel at siegelmom@optonline.net or Ricki Stern 732-828-6939 rickistern@yahoo.com

A TIME ORGANIZATION

The North Jersey Chapter of A TIME invites couples experiencing infertility to, "Overcoming Infertility: How to Measure Success" by Dr. Richard Grazi, Director, Genesis Fertility and Reproductive Medicine, Maimonides Medical Center. Wednesday December 26th, 2007, 8:00 PM Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School 1650 Palisade Avenue Teaneck, NJ For more info, please contact A TIME of NJ at nj@atime.org or 201-289-5872
MRS. MIRI COHEN'S LADIES PARSHA CLASS
Mrs. Miri Cohen's ladies Parsha class will meet Tuesday morning, Dec 25 at 9:15AM at the home of Lynn Hanfling, 47 Leslie St., Edison. For more info, please contact Azriella Jaffe 732-985-7613. Mrs. Miri Cohen's ladies Parsha class will also meet on Wednesday morning, Dec 26 at 9AM at the home of Chana Weinstein, 5 Brookfall Road, Edison. For more info, please contact Chana Weinstein 732-572-0471.

PARK MIKVAH

Highland Park/Edison Mikvah hours are Saturday-Thursday, 8:30-10:30pm. Friday nights are by appointment only (732-249-2411). Fee is \$15. Out of hours: an ADDITIONAL \$20 fee.

EMPLOYMENT NETWORK OF RARITAN VALLEY

For info, go to www.ENRV.org, or contact Bob Lansey at ENRV@verizon.net or 732-819-8651.

LOCAL ERUV

Please call 732-247-ERUV for status of the Eruv.

Parshas Shemot

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|------------------|---------|
| • Candlelighting | 4:20 PM |
| • Mincha | 4:30 PM |

VISIT OHR TORAH ON THE WEB!

Ohr Torah can now be found on the internet at <http://www.ohrtorah.net> You can join the email list for Weekly Announcements. Any ideas and comments about the site can be sent to webmaster@ohrtorah.net Announcements should be sent to announcements@ohrtorah.net Submit all announcements by 7 PM Wednesday.

TELEPHONE: Call 732-777-6840, press Newsletter option (spell all names)

PLEASE NOTE: Please make sure that you leave a contact/callback name and phone # in case there is a question regarding the item you wish to be printed, otherwise it may not be included.

Sof davar (93)...

Are you looking for a way to make your next wedding just a little more exciting? Tired of the same standard practices time and again? Then we suggest you consider the practices of the European and Oriental communities. At the conclusion of their weddings the bride and groom try to stomp on the other's foot. The winner of this curious foot-stomping contest would then be assured that he/she will be the dominant person in their future life together. (You can't make this stuff up.) If this practice seems too radical then why not try the more docile practice of the Jews of Persia? In that country the groom plants three sticks in his courtyard. Then six days after the wedding he would uproot them and throw them behind his back. He did this in order to ward off the evil spirit. Or you might try a variation of a *minhag* observed in Libya. There weddings almost always took place two days before *sukkot*. On the second day of the *yom tov* all the *chatanim* would participate in foot races! No mention is made of what the winners' reward was, but large, elaborate celebrations took place after the 'olympic' events took place in the homes of the grooms. And if you think they pulled this practice out of thin air, think twice. They claim *Tehillim* 19:6 as their source. That verse speaks of a *chatan* who leaves his chamber, then the verse reads "yarutz orach", he runs his course. Makes sense now, right? But if these three unusual *minhagim* are still not to your liking then try the next few in a future sof davar.

By Rabbi Israel Poleyeff, research by Henry Lerner

Strange minhagim: Unusual wedding customs