



# Congregation Ohr Torah

## Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi

Allen Kessel - President

*Parshas Vayetze*

7 Kislev 5768

November 17, 2007

Candlelighting: 4:21PM  
 Mincha & Kabbolas Shabbos: 4:30PM  
 Shacharis: 7:45 & 9:00 AM  
*Rabbi Hoffman's Gemara Avoda Zara Shiur – After Hashkama*  
 Z'man Krias Shma (G'RA): 9:14AM  
 Early Mincha: 1:30 PM  
*Rabbi Luban's Gemara Yoma Shiur 3:30 PM*  
 Mincha: 4:15 PM  
*Shalosh Seudos Speaker: Rabbi Gross*  
 Maariv: 5:25PM  
**Weekday Shacharis:**  
 Sun & Thurs(Thanksgiving) 7:15, 8 & 9 AM  
 Mon: 6:20, 7:05 & 8AM  
 Tues. Wed. & Fri 6:30, 7:10 & 8AM

Weekday Mincha/ Maariv: 4:25 PM  
 Weekday Maariv: 7:30 & 10:10 PM  
*Tuesday Tehillim 9:50 PM*  
*Rabbi Luban's Halachic Responsa Shiur: 8:50 PM on Tuesday*  
*TOPIC: Halachos of Thanksgiving*  
 NOTE RABBI LUBAN'S SHIUR THIS WEEK IS ON TUESDAY INSTEAD OF MONDAY AT AN EARLIER TIME TO ACCOMMODATE TEHILLIM  
**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

**KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP**

Kiddush sponsorship is available for:

Dec 8th & 22nd and January 5th, 12th, 19th & 26<sup>th</sup>.

To sponsor a Kiddush or reserve the Kiddush room, please contact Mel Barenholtz in person, by phone or email: [mbarenh@yahoo.com](mailto:mbarenh@yahoo.com).

To sponsor a Shalosh Seudos, please contact Moshe Wiesel

**LOCAL ERUV**

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

**OHR TORAH NEWSLETTER**

To subscribe to the Weekly Announcements by email, please send an email to [info@ohrtorah.net](mailto:info@ohrtorah.net) and request to be added to the distribution list.

**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 inquiries and 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 at the next Ritual Committee meeting, please E\_mail Rabbi Israel Poleyeff

<[rispol@optonline.net](mailto:rispol@optonline.net)>

**NEW MEMBERS**

Congregation Ohr Torah extends a warm welcome to Rabbi and Mrs. Eric and Jeanne Lankin.

**MAZEL TOV**

...to Miriam and Shmuel Weiss on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Shaje.  
 Mazel Tov to the grandparents, Frida Weiss and Dr. Norton and Roslyn Nesis, siblings Malia and Mordechai; and to Shaje's Uncles and Aunts, Ruchi and Yossi Stern and Lieba and Jack Halpern.  
*The entire congregation is invited to Kiddush after davening to celebrate Shaje's Bar Mitzvah.*

...to Honey & Max Wisotsky upon the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Zachary Shane Prezant, son of Elyse & Robert Prezant.

...to Glenda and Moshe Sherman on the aufruh of Glenda's son, Daniel Weiss.  
 Mazel Tov and welcome to relatives and friends from Detroit and Montreal.

...to Liz and Murray Katz on the engagement of their son Doni to Stephanie Shelan. Mazel Tov to her parents Debbie and Evan Shelan and the entire Katz, Shelan and Levin families.

...to Toby and Michael Eleff on the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Avigael to Ariel Fogel.

**OHR TORAH YOUTH PROGRAM EVENTS**

On Sunday morning December 2nd Ohr Torah will head to New Jersey Paintball in Butler, NJ (Grades 8, High School, College and Dads) for an exciting half day of paintball. This event, for boys only, will meet at Ohr Torah at 6:15 AM for Shacharit followed by a 6:45 AM departure for the paintball facility. The cost of \$60 per attendee includes the following: R/T Bus transportation from the Shul, 4 hours of playing time on private courses w/350 paintballs per participant, all safety equipment provided and a BBQ lunch afterwards. We will return to the Shul at approximately 1:45 PM. Advance reservations are required.

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 5:20 PM..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.

**OHR TORAH ANNUAL YOUTH RAFFLE**

Please help support Ohr Torah's youth groups by purchasing raffle ticket(s). The cost of the tickets are one for \$36, two for \$70, or 3 for \$100. The drawing will be

held at the annual Shul dinner in December. Please contact Barry Siegel, Charlie Gershbaum, Lyndon Goldsmith or Meir Berg to purchase tickets.  
 All proceeds support the OT Youth programs.

**CONDOLENCES**

...on the passing of Mrs. Bertha Turitz, the mother of Mrs. Lynn Rappaport.  
 ...on the passing of Phyllis Arnow, the sister of Barry Arnow.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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.

**RJJ LUNCHEON**

RJJ announces that its Annual Ladies Luncheon will be dedicated to the memory of Rose Goldsmith, A"H. The guest of honor is Irene Siegelman. The luncheon will take place on Sunday, December 16, 12 Noon at Congregation Ohr Torah. All women in the community are invited to attend. For more info, please call RJJ Yeshiva (732) 985-6533.

**ACTT**

The ACTT organization (Achieving Change Through Torah) is sponsoring an inspirational evening, Saturday night, Nov 17, 2007 at 8:30 PM at Cong. Etz Chaim for the Judging Favorably Module 2 Kickoff event. Rabbi Steven Miodownik, Moreh D'Asra, Congregation Ahavas Achim, will be the featured speaker. 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](http://www.actt613.org), e-mail [info@actt613.org](mailto:info@actt613.org), or call (732) 993-5376.

**RJJ HALACHA SERIES**

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

**JR NCSY EVENTS**

The Highland Park Jr. NCSY Shabbaton is this Shabbos at Ohav Emes. We would like to thank all the families that have opened their homes to all the guests this Shabbos. If you would like to sponsor an event or drop-in-zone, please contact Moshe or Phili.

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

Also if you have not signed up for membership yet, you can sign up online at [www.njncsy.com](http://www.njncsy.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.

#### CONCERT IN HIGHLAND PARK

On Motzei Shabbos Chanuka, December 8, 2007 @ 8 PM there will be a concert at Highland Park High School starring acclaimed Jewish music star, Eitan Katz. All proceeds from ticket sales will be going to Bikur Cholim of Raritan Valley. Tickets are now available for purchase online at either [www.eitankatz.com](http://www.eitankatz.com) or [www.hpconcert.com](http://www.hpconcert.com). This concert will sell out so please buy your tickets early. Receipts for your donation will be available at the concert.

#### HP STORE BOYCOTTS ISRAEL

Please note that the store on Raritan Avenue "10,000 Villages" boycotts Israel. Consider your patronage accordingly. For more information, see last week's Jewish State.

#### RABBI TWERSKI TO SPEAK

On Sunday, December 2, 2007, Khal Chasidim of Highland Park will present an evening with acclaimed scholar and author, Dr. Abraham J. Twerski. Dr. Twerski will be discussing his most recent publication "Happiness and the Human Spirit." The lecture will take place at 7:30 pm in the RPRY Bais Medrish. The lecture is provided as a community service and is free of charge.

#### SENIOR NCSY EVENT

We will be going to see the New York Rangers play the Dallas Stars on Sunday November 25th. The cost is \$40 which includes the game ticket and the train ticket. (A REALLY GREAT DEAL) We will meet at the train Edison Train Station at 10:40am and returning around 8:00pm. We hope to see you there! Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan on coming, because there are limited spots. For more info please call, Avi Eserner 732 718 4786 Shira Lankin 732 406 3844 Zahava Singer 732 421 4559.

#### FAIGIE REINITZ, Z" L

#### WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Welcome to the second shiur of the Faigie Reinitz z"l Memorial Women's Study Group... Please join the women of the Highland Park and Edison communities for an insightful shiur... "Positive Tfillot: Building a Broadband Connection with G-d" Speaker: Rabbi Motti Miller November 27, 2007 Time: 8:30PM at the The Heideman's 19 Ryan

Road Edison. Admission is free, but we want to make sure you have a seat! Please email [sschoenfeld@physicianspractice.com](mailto:sschoenfeld@physicianspractice.com) with your name, email, and phone number to register. We will be collecting names for a refuah shelaimah list that will be read at the beginning of the shiur. This program is funded through an endowment by the Pfeffer and Reinitz families in memory of Faigie Reinitz, z"l.

#### CUB SCOUT MEETING

If you have any questions about Cub Scouts in general, please feel free to call Lawrence Margolin, Pack CubMaster, at 732-777-1589.

#### BIKUR CHOLIM FORMING MINYAN

Bikur Cholim is attempting to compile a list of men who may be available to participate in minyanim at the local area hospitals on an "as needed" basis. A list such as this would make it easier to put together a minyan quickly when the need arises. In addition, it could also be helpful for minyanim at a shiva home, rachmana letzlan, especially on short days during the winter months. Anyone who can be available for tefillos either during the week (winter or summer seasons) or who may be available to walk to RWJ Hospital on a Shabbos or Yom Tov to make a minyan should either contact Larry Greenspan at 732-828-5642 (home) or 732-501-5455 (cell) or Mordy Brill either by e-mail ([mordb@msn.com](mailto:mordb@msn.com)) or by phone at 732-819-8351.

#### REBBITZEN EICHENSTEIN'S CLASSES

Rebbitzzen Eichenstein will be having her Navi class on Megillas Esther, Sunday morning, November 18 at 10:00 AM at Cong. Agudath Israel and Parsha class, Monday evening, November 19 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah. Classes are for women only. For more information, please contact Aviva Siegel at [siegelmom@optonline.net](mailto:siegelmom@optonline.net) or Ricki Stern 732-828-6939 [rickistern@yahoo.com](mailto:rickistern@yahoo.com)

#### WOMENS PARSHA CLASS

Mrs. Miri Cohen's ladies Parsha class will meet Wednesday morning, Nov. 21 at 9:15 AM at the home of Azriella Jaffe, 1601 Drier Place, Highland Park (corner of Washington and Drier). For more info, please contact Azriella 732-985-7613.

#### 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.

#### MESIVTHA TIFERETH JERUSALEM

#### MELAVE MALKA

The annual Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem Melave Malka will be held on Motzei Shabbat, December

1, 2007, 8:45 PM at Ohav Emeth. The Guest of Honor is Rabbi Joshua Rapps who will receive the Kesser Shem Tov Award. Hagaon Harav Reuven Feinstein, Shlit'a, will be the guest speaker. Please call Shimon Jakubovic for information and reservations at (732) 246-1037.

#### CARLEBACH MELAVE MALKA

You're Invited To A Melave Malka In Honor of The 13th YAHRZEIT of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach z"l L'zecher Nishmas Rav Shlomo Ben Harav Naftali An evening of Rav Shlomo's Niggunim, Stories, and Divrei Torah. Bring your own musical instruments (no electric) and anecdotes. If You Would Like To Co-sponsor This Community-Wide Event Please Call (732) 572-2707 Or email [RebShlomominyan@aol.com](mailto:RebShlomominyan@aol.com) Saturday Night 11/17/07 Melave Malke 9:30 P.M. at the home of the Wildmans 66 Hamlin Road, Edison.

#### SENIOR NCSY

For more info or questions call Avi Eserner - 732-718-4786 Zehava Singer - 732-421-4559

#### MAZAL SHIDDUCH MEETING

For information on location and to request a form please contact Sharon at [SHCL18@aol.com](mailto:SHCL18@aol.com) (mailto:[SHCL18@aol.com](mailto:SHCL18@aol.com)) and write "MAZAL" in the subject area.

#### SHIDDUCH MEETING

Please call Debbie Schaulewicz at (732) 390-8760 or Leah Weinberger at (732) 613-8797

#### EMPLOYMENT NETWORK OF RARITAN VALLEY

For info, go to [www.ENRV.org](http://www.ENRV.org), or contact Bob Lansey at [ENRV@verizon.net](mailto:ENRV@verizon.net) or 732-819-8651.

#### Parshas Vayishlach

- |                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| • Candlelighting | 4:16 PM |
| • Mincha         | 4:25 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](mailto:webmaster@ohrtorah.net) Announcements should be sent to [announcements@ohrtorah.net](mailto: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...

by Rabbi Israel Poleyeff, research by Henry Lerner

### Strange Minhagim: Oxen in the Cemetery

Oxen in the cemetery is a Jewish "*minhag*"? You must be kidding, Henry, aren't you? Turns out he is not. This *minhag* has its roots in a *halacha* in the Torah that states that a *bechor behaima*, a first born of an animal, must be given to a *kohain* who can eat it only *betahara*. No problem so far. But what happens today when every *kohain* is more than likely *tamei* and there is no *bais hamikdash*. You can't do anything with the animal until it develops a permanent blemish, a *mum kavua*. So the people in many countries during the middle ages came up with an interesting idea. They gave their first born oxen to the caretaker of the local Jewish cemetery and paid him to take care of the animals. What better place to allow animals to wander freely, earing up the grass (an esrly style lawnmower) until they developed a *mum* than a cemetery! Thus the oxen in the cemetery. About 1650 in Frankfurt am Main a workman erecting a monument in a cemetery was gored by one of the oxen and died because of his injuries. The authorities then sent in the army to shoot the ox which upset the Jewish community. By the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the practice was abandoned. So what do people do with their first born oxen today? A new plan was devised to solve this problem of the *bechor beheima* and that is...oh, we don't *pasken she-allot* here. For the answer to this question you must ask one of the rabbis in town. But you have to admit: this was a strange *minhag*.