



Congregation Ohr Torah

Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi

Allen Kessel - President

Parshas Shemini, Parshas Parah

22 Adar II 5768

March 29, 2008

Candlelighting: 7:00PM
 Mincha & Kabolos Shabbos: 7:10 PM
 Shacharis: 7:45 & 9:00 AM
Rabbi Hoffman's Gemara Avoda Zara Shiur – after Hashkama

Z'man Krias Shma (G'RA): 10:00AM
 Early Mincha: 1:45 PM
Rabbi Luban's Gemara Yoma Shiur: 6:00 PM
 Mincha: 6:45 PM
 (Note earlier time to accommodate future Kel Maleh's for four weeks)

Shalosh Seudos Speaker: Jonathan Caplan
 Maariv: 8:05 PM

Weekday Shacharis:

Sun 7:15, 8 & 9 AM
 Mon., Thurs. 6:20, 7:05, 8 AM
 Tue., Wed, Fri. 6:30, 7:10 & 8 AM

Weekday Mincha/ Maariv: 7:10 PM

Weekday Maariv: 10:10 PM

Tuesday Tehillim 9:50 PM

Rabbi Luban's Halachic Responsa Shiur is cancelled for this Monday.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME DAF YOMI SCHEDULE

Monday – Thur: After Maariv, Fri: After 1ST

Minyan, Shabbos: 1 hour before Mincha

Sunday: After 8 AM Shacharis

The Gabbaim request that all Kaddish sayers gather around the Bimah. This will allow kaddish to be said out loud and answered in unison as befits the sanctity of Kaddish. Thank you for your cooperation.

BARUCH HABA

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 April 5th & 12th. 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.

BUILDING DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Moshe Schneider at 732-618-4702 or at mschneider19@yahoo.com

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.

SEFORIM DEDICATIONS

Book/Seforim Dedications of all types are available by contacting Barry Siegel at siegeldad@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.

OHR TORAH YOUTH PROGRAM EVENTS

Children can register for events on Ohr Torah's website "ohrtorah.net" or by calling Mayer Berg at 732-572-3429.

MAZEL TOV

...to Marcia and Phil Rosen on the Shabbos Sheva Brachos of their children Esti and Reuven Rosen. Mazel Tov to Esti's parents Avi & Connie Lazar of Baltimore; to the grandparents, Mac & Florence Rosen and Yekutiel & Fruma Lazar; and to their extended families.

....to Martha and Moishe Greenblatt on the engagement of their son Jonathan Greenblatt to Sarit Itenberg.

...to Raquel and David Dessau on the upcoming Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Aleeza. Mazel tov to grandparents Rochelle and Ralph Dessau, Herman and Henie Frances of Toronto, and Great-grandmother 'Oma' Sitta Dessau. Mazel Tov to siblings Benji and Shayna and the entire Dessau, Gersten, Allen, Bachrach, Citron, and Frances families.

....to Mira and Mark Epstein on the occasion of their children Kara and Oren Epstein being honored for their achievement in young leadership at the annual dinner of the West Side Institutional Synagogue on April 13, 2008. Congratulations to his family, Tali and Joe Smith, and Donny Epstein.

...Anat and Hy Applebaum on the birth of a son to their children Shira and Daniel Huff.

...Janice and Arnie Lustiger on the engagement of Rena to Shmuel Kaplan of Detroit. Mazel Tov as well to Rena's grandmother Edie Baldinger and the entire Lustiger family.

RABBI LUBAN'S PRE-PESACH SHIUR

This annual shiur for women will take place Wednesday April 2, 8PM in the Beis Medrash.

SHALOSH SEUDOS

Shalos Seudos is sponsored this week by Lori & Jonathan Caplan to commemorate the Yahrzeit of Lori's father Mr. Joseph Bitterman Z"l

WOMEN'S HAGGADAH SHIUR & TEA

Congregation Ohr Torah Sisterhood cordially invites you to a Women's Haggadah Shiur and Tea. Panelists from our community will share Haggadah insights that can be retold at your own Seder! Please join us on Shabbos, April 12 at the home of Penny Kaplan, 6 Opatut Court. Edison, 4:30 PM Please RSVP by Tues., April 8 via email to Shelley.Schoenfeld@CMPMedica.com or call 732-572-5808.

PESACH WINE ORDER

You should have received the Ohr Torah Pesach wine order list. Please order all your Pesach and all year around wine needs through this service. All orders benefit Congregation Ohr Torah. For further information, please see Terry Walzman.

Scholar in Residence

Cong. Ohr Torah will be hosting Rabbi Moshe Taragin, RAM at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Gush Etzion, as a scholar in residence, for the Shabbat of April 4-5. Details to follow.

OHR TORAH YOUTH EVENTS

On Sunday evening April 6th Ohr Torah will take a NJ Transit train to New York City to the NY Knicks vs Orlando Magic basketball 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 \$30 and ONLY 30 seats are available...first come first serve! Snacks will be provided. Advance reservations are required.

-The Ohr Torah Youth Program is having their annual fundraiser for Kids Opening Weekend at Shea featuring the NY Mets vs Milwaukee Brewers baseball game on Sunday April 13th. Game time is at 1:10 PM. All tickets are \$10 for Upper Reserved seats! You will need to provide your own transportation. Please contact Lyndon Goldsmith or Mayer Berg if you are interested in purchasing tickets. Please register by emailing Mayer Berg at mgberg@optonline.net or by phone at (732) 572-3429.

CONDOLENCES

Congregation Ohr Torah expresses sincere condolences to Ken Lieblich and family on the loss of his father, Allen Lieblich, z"l. May you be comforted among the mourners of Tzion and Yerushalayim.

KADDISH

Kaddish is a very emotional and sanctified tefillah that must be said with absolute kavanah and religious fervor. It is that special time that an aveil or person observing a yahrzeit connects to Hakadosh Baruch Hu and his or her dearly departed loved one. We, the current aveilim at OT, would like to take this opportunity to thank the Gabbaim and Decorum Committee for organizing kaddish at the bimah and ensuring that kaddish is said in synchrony without background noise or disturbance. We especially appreciate the respect and consideration shown to us by the entire OT Congregation and thank each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts. May we only share smachot together with you and all of Klal Yisrael.

signed : Barry Siegel, Lyndon Goldsmith, Heshy Granek, Danny Rosenblatt & Gedalia Reiss

SEFORIM DONATIONS

Thanks to the following for their generous Seforim donations:

-Mel Barenholtz in memory of Mynda Kate Barenholtz Z"l

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

-David and Fay Moskovic in memory of Max Schlusberg Z"L
 -David and Fay Moskovic in memory of Morris Moskovic Z"L
 -David and Fay Moskovic in memory of Rose Moskovic Z"L
 -David and Fay Moskovic in memory of David's grandparents who perished in the Holocaust Z"L
 -David and Fay Moskovic in honor of Sabina Schlusberg
 -David and Fay Moskovic in honor of Briana Moskovic
 -David and Fay Moskovic in honor of Etan and Adina Moskovic
 -David and Fay Moskovic in honor of Deena Moskovic
 -David and Fay Moskovic in honor of Boomie and Esther Chopp
 -David and Fay Moskovic in honor of Alan and Barbara Kessel on the birth of twin grandchildren
 -David and Fay Moskovic in honor of Israel and Rebecca Rivkin
 -David and Fay Moskovic in honor of Michael and Penny Kaplan
 -Gedalia & Phyllis Reiss in memory of Phyllis's father Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky Z"L
 -Moshe & Leah Levy In honor of the birth of their great Grandson Lavi Nachum Shollar

Chumash Dedication Opportunity

All 100 of the Teen humashim/siddurim have been dedicated. Many (100 fold) thanks to the generosity of the "kehal" donors. These Seforim have proven very successful in the teen minyan davening, laining and overall decorum. Mayer Berg, Ami Avraham, Barry Siegel and the minyan goers extend their thanks to all.

LIBRARY CARDS FOR THE RARITAN VALLEY TAPE LIBRARY

The grand reopening of the vastly upgraded tape/cd library is around the corner! If you or your family intend to use the library, they will need a Bar Coded library card. Please call Larry Greenspan at 732-828-5642 or 732-501-5455 email him at: genew@compugene.com to have a laminated card produced for your family. Tapes/cd's can only be borrowed if you have a valid Raritan Valley Tape Library card.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIGHLAND PARK SHAATNEZ LAB

We are pleased to announce that the Highland Park Shaatnez Lab under the direction of Moshe Eisner operates at the following times:
 Wednesday evenings -- 8:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
 Sunday mornings -- 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.
 The drop-off for clothing to be tested is at the Agudah 1st Floor (bear right in the lobby to the classroom past the elevator).

JEWISH FEDERATION

The Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County (our local Federation) is sponsoring the following events, in honor of Israel's 60th anniversary: On Thursday, May 8 at 8PM - a lecture by Prof. Alan Dershowitz at the Nicholas Music Center in New Brunswick. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available in the OE office, as well as Trio Gifts on Raritan Avenue, and the Federation Office.

On Thursday, May 22 at 7:45 PM – a musical celebration at the State Theater in New Brunswick. Tickets are free but must be reserved in advance. Contact Abby Hochhauser or the Jewish Federation office.

Sunday, June 1 - Support the Salute to Israel Parade in NYC either by marching or as a spectator. All shul members are invited to march with the Middlesex County contingent. Pre-registration is required in order to march. Among those marching with our Federation will be MAYHS, RPRY, Young Israel of E. Brunswick, Solomon Schechter of E. Brunswick, the East Brunswick Jewish Center, and many other local Jewish organizations. Please come and show your support and be counted – participants are counted by our legislators and others. For more information, contact Abby Hochhauser (abby.hochhauser@gmail.com) or the Federation Office (732-432-7711).

OHAV EMETH

You may join PART 2 of Toras Chaim Hashkafa and Kiruv Training Program, a 3-part course combining the ability to explain Judaism's relevance and beauty with "hands-on" kiruv experience. Develop awareness and tools for kiruv r'chokim /and / chizuk k'rovim. Co-sponsored by Project Inspire and Congregation Ohav Emeth at OE, Sundays March 30 and April 6, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Cost: \$25. For *Late* Registration, please call 212-391-6710, ext. 23 or e-mail mtropp@aish.com.

CLOTHING DRIVE

A clothing drive will take place Be'ezras Hashem on April 6th, 10 AM until 4 PM at 236 Highland Avenue (near Marshall) in Edison. Please donate clothing in good wearable condition only and bring in tied garbage bags. Everything will be picked up by Yad Leah & distributed throughout Israel. Receipts will be available. The following will also be accepted: linens, tablecloths, handbags, cosmetics & hair accessories. If anyone is able to defray the cost of shipping & processing money donations would be greatly appreciated (Suggested \$18). If anyone is available, including our young people who may be looking for chesed opportunities, to assist at the collection site, please advise. This is a tremendous opportunity to help our brothers & sisters in Israel and assist you in your pre-Pesach activities. If anyone has any questions or would like to volunteer, please call Mordy Brill at 732-819-8351 or e-mail at mordb@msn.com <mailto:mordb@msn.com> Tizku Lemitzvos

ACTT ORGANIZATION

The ACTT (Achieving Change through Torah) organization helps individuals succeed in making meaningful and lasting changes in their lives. The ACTT web-site contains the audio of the 12 shiurim from the first 2 years of the ACTT program and the corresponding module packets. For more info, e-mail info@actt613.org, see the ACTT web-site: www.actt613.org, or 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.

RJJ DINNER

Please Reserve Sunday, April 6, 2008 Rabbi Jacob Joseph School Annual Dinner at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, Edison. We will

be paying tribute to Rav Yechiel Drillman and our honorees will be Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Lustiger.

FOOD COLLECTION

Looking for a place to give your leftover shaloch manos? Are you trying to get rid of your chametz? We will gladly collect the food to distribute to needy families. Closed packages only; no homemade goods. Drop off location: Bodlander home, 134 North 10th Avenue. For more info, please call Nitza Bodlander (732) 339-0908 or Rikki Samel (732) 249-5116.

PESACH FOOD DRIVE

JFVS (Jewish Family & Vocational Services of Middlesex County) Pantry Needs Your Help- Each week JFVS provides needy families throughout the community with non-perishable food from the JFVS Emergency Food Pantry. With the holidays upon us, the pantry shelves are almost bare. A list of the needed items are in the magazine rack. Please bring your donations to JFVS, 200 Metroplex Drive, suite 200, Edison NJ. For more information, please don't hesitate to call JFVS at 732-777-1940.

NORPAC UPDATE

NORPAC Mission to Washington- Strengthen the American-Israel relationship in Congress. Participate in the NORPAC Mission to Wash DC, Wed. May 21st. Buses leave for Washington at 6:15 am from Edison and Highland Park, NJ. Buses return between 9-10 PM. There will be briefings on each bus. Shacharit davening will be at 5:45 am in Ohr Torah and Ahavas Achim. There will be a minyan for Mincha and maariv on the way home. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided. Rates will be \$125 for students and \$175 for adults. Visa or MasterCard accepted. Participants must be 12 years of age or older to attend. Those under 18 MUST be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Full Refunds available, requests must be received in writing at mailing@norpac.net by May 5, 2008. Register online at www.NORPAC.net or by phone at 201-788-5133. For more info contact Barry Wolf, Harvey Atlas, Elie Borger, or Marc Hanfling (docdad@aol.com).

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR COOKBOOK

Holocaust Survivor Cookbook - RECIPES your family will enjoy...STORIES they will never forget. EMUNAH is very excited to share with you that we have just purchased a bunch of these cookbooks. The Holocaust Survivor Cookbook was recently published and includes stories and recipes from survivors. The authors have requested that when serving a recipe from the cookbook, one should tell the survivor's story. Proceeds from sales go to Carmei Ha'ir, a soup kitchen in Israel. The publishers are selling the books through fundraising organizations like EMUNAH at a reduced price. By purchasing a cookbook (or several!) for \$36 each, you are (1) honoring and memorializing survivor stories (2) benefiting Carmei Ha'ir and (3) benefiting EMUNAH. For more info on the contents and history visit www.survivorcookbook.org. To purchase your copy, contact sharon.hirt@pfizer.com or call Sharon at 917-445-7825.

JR. NCSY ACTIVITIES

If you have not signed up for membership yet, you can sign up online at 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 or check us out online.

RJJ HALACHA SERIES

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

REBBITZEN EICHENSTEIN'S

WOMEN'S NAVI CLASSES

Rebbitzen Eichenstein will be having her Navi class on Megillas Eichah, Sunday morning, March 30 at 10AM at Cong. Agudath Israel. Parsha class will not be

held on Monday evening, March 31. Navi and Parsha classes will then resume after Pesach. For more info, please contact Aviva Siegel at siegelmom@optonline.net or Ricki Stern 732-828-6939 rickistern@yahoo.com

MRS. MIRI COHEN'S LADIES PARSHA CLASS

Mrs. Miri Cohen will not be having classes this week. Parsha classes will resume after Pesach. For more info, please contact Azriella Jaffe 732-985-7613 or Chana Weinstein 732-572-0471.

WOMEN & GIRLS DANCE CLASSES

A new session of Israeli and Simcha dance classes is starting. Separate classes for women and girls. For more information, please call Rikki Samel at 732-249-5116.

WOMEN'S PRESENTATION

The Highland Park Mikvah and Nishmat's Miriam Glaubach Center present Deena R. Zimmerman, M.D., Yoetzet Halacha. "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Taharat Hamishpacha but Were Afraid to Ask". Motzai Shabbos, March 29, 2008, 9:15PM at Cong Ohav Emeth. For women only. Sugg donation \$10. For more info, call Aviva Siegel 732-572-4408.

PARK MIKVAH

PARK MIKVAH HOURS-

Sunday-Thursday evenings: 9pm-11pm. Friday nights. Yom Tov is by appointment only. Call 732-249-2411. Saturday nights in MARCH, the mikvah opens at 9pm. YOU MUST ARRIVE AND LEAVE DURING REGULAR MIKVAH HOURS. Fee \$15. Out of Hours: an additional \$20 fee. Please note the change in wording. Thanks. Shayna Prupis 732-572-3276

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 Tazria

- Candlelighting 7:07PM
- Mincha 7:15PM

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...

by Rabbi Israel Poleyeff, research by Danny Schlian

Great historic personalities: Donna Gracia Mendes

Any talk of great personalities in the Middle Ages must include Donna Gracia Nasi Mendes. She was born into a Portuguese marrano family that was hiding their Jewish identity and thus she was named Beatrice de Luna. She married another marrano, a Francisco Mendes, a rather wealthy businessman. After his death in 1537 she took over the management of his business in Antwerp. In 1554 she made her way to Venice where she quickly discarded her Christian façade and became known as Donna Gracia Nassi Mendes. However, her sister (yes, sister!) denounced her to the authorities, charging that she was not a true Christian. As a result her property was taken from her and she was imprisoned briefly. Upon release she settled in the city of Ferrara where she went about assisting Portuguese marranos fleeing the Inquisition. In 1553 she was in Constantinople where she continued to lead various chessed enterprises. These included the establishment of synagogues, yeshivot and other educational academies both in Constantinople and in Salonika. Her fame grew rapidly, especially in the sefardic Jewish world. In 1556 she organized a boycott of the city of Ancona because they had burned 26 marranos at the stake. Her best achievement was yet to come. In 1558 she acquired a grant from the sultan of Turkey (bichvodo uve-atismo) for the purpose of rebuilding the city of Tiberias and for the establishment of a yeshiva there. In recognition of these accomplishments a hotel was established in Tiberias bearing her name, Hotel Donna Gracia, which still exists today. A synagogue in Constantinople also bears her name. When she died in Israel in 1569 she left a legacy of service to the Jewish community unmatched by others of that era.

Congregation Ohr Torah Building Items Dedications UPDATE

Building	\$500,000	
Sanctuary	\$250,000	Dedicated
Kiddush Room	\$200,000	
Main Upstairs Lobby	\$175,000	Dedicated
Kitchen	\$50,000	
Menorah Shaped Window - Sanctuary	\$36,000	Dedicated
Yomim Noraim Paroches - Sanctuary	\$30,000	
Bein Hagevarim – Sanctuary	\$25,000	
Da Lefnai...above Aron	\$25,000	Dedicated
Kotel Hamaravi – Flexible Wall Kiddush Room	\$25,000	
Acoustical Glass - Sanctuary	\$25,000	Unique Item
Aron – Bais Medrash	\$25,000	Dedicated
Aron – Hashkomoh Minyan	\$25,000	Dedicated
Classrooms	\$25,000	each – 1 dedicated - 4 available
Dedication Wall Main Lobby	\$25,000	
Window – Large - Sanctuary	\$25,000	all dedicated
Paroches – Beis Medrash	\$18,000	Dedicated
Lobby- Lower Level	\$18,000	Dedicated
Paroches – Hashkomoh Minyan	\$18,000	Dedicated
Bima – Hashkomoh Minyan	\$18,000	Dedicated
Mechitzah Kiddush Room	\$18,000	for all 8. Price varies by # dedicated
Shul Office	\$18,000	
President's Seat and Cover	\$18,000	
Kiddush Room Main Doors	\$18,000	1 set dedicated - 1 set available
Windows - Sanctuary	\$18,000	4 dedicated 8 available
Cloak Room	\$18,000	Dedicated
Bein Hagevarim Sanctuary Yomim Noraim	\$15,000	
Seat Dedication Wall Main Lobby	\$15,000	
Amud – Bais Medrash	\$12,000	Dedicated
Amud – Hashkomoh Minyan	\$12,000	Dedicated
Seats Main Sanctuary	\$10,000	each (limited number available)
Paroches Yomim Noraim – Hashkomoh	\$10,000	
Bima Yomim Noraim - Hashkomoh Minyan	\$10,000	Dedicated
Kisei Shel Eliyahu – Next to Rabbi	\$10,000	Dedicated
VP Chair – next to President	\$10,000	
Clock – Main Sanctuary	\$10,000	Dedicated
Keylim Mikvah	\$10,000	
Sets of Windows Kiddush Room	\$10,000	3 sets available
Pillars in Kiddush Room	\$10,000	each - 2 Dedicated, 6 Available
Mezuzuahs – Lower Level	\$12,000-\$8000	Some dedicated Some available
Bein Hagevarim Hashkomoh Minyan	\$8,000	Dedicated
Bein Hagevarim Haskomoh Yomim Noraim	\$5,000	

PLEASE HELP KEEP THE SHUL NEAT...PLEASE RETURN SIDDURIM & CHUMASHIM TO THE REAR OF THE SANCTUARY
AFTER DAVENING.