



Congregation Ohr Torah

Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi

Allen Kessel - President

Parshas Vayeitzei

9 Kislev 5769

December 6, 2008

Candlelighting:	4:12PM
Mincha:	4:20PM
Shacharis:	7:45 and 9:00AM
Rabbi Hoffman's Pesachim Shiur- After Hashkama	
Z'man Krias Shma (G'RA):	9:27AM
Early Mincha:	1:30 PM
Rabbi Luban's Shiur in Megillah at 3:15PM	
Mincha:	4:05 PM
Shalosh Seudos speaker: R. Lewis	
Maariv:	5:15 PM
Weekday Shacharis:	
Sun	7:15, 8 & 9AM
Mon & Thur	6:20, 7:05 & 8AM
Tue., Wed & Fri	6:30, 7:10 & 8 AM
Weekday Mincha/ Maariv:	4:20 PM
Weekday Maariv	7:30 PM and 10:10 PM
<i>Monday evening, 9:10 in Bais Medrash, Rabbi Luban's shiur in She'eilos Uteshuvos (responsa)</i>	
<i>Tuesday Tehillim 9:50 PM</i>	
WINTER SCHEDULE FOR DAF YOMI	
Monday-Thursday after 7:30pm Maariv	
Friday-after Maariv	
Shabbos-After Hashkama and also at 8:15am	
Sunday-after 8am Shacharis.	

This year's Shul Dinner will take place on Sunday December 14, 2008. Mazel Tov to Fay and David Moskovic, the Guests of Honor, and Shelley Schoenfeld and Matthew Holland, this year's Service Awardees. Please return your response cards ASAP.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

There will be a General Membership Meeting on December 16, 2008 at 8:00PM. Agendas have been mailed.

KIDDUSH

Kiddush is sponsored by Mira and Mark Epstein in commemoration of the Yahrzeit of Mark's mother, M' Tzippah Hana Bas R' Moshe Meir, A"H and by Shmully and Fran Leitman in celebration of their grandson's Bris.

MAZEL TOV

...to Fran & Shmully Leitman on the birth of a son to their children Chavi & Gavi Berkovits. Mazel Tov to Gavi's parents, Lea & Shim Berkovits, and to the Great-Grandparents Ruth Fortgang, Eugene & Helen Leitman, Bernard & Rona Raskin, and the entire Berkovits/Leitman families. The Shalom Zachor will be at the Leitman home, 21 Celler Road at 8 PM. The Bris will IY"H take place this Shabbos at the main minyan. ...to Rabbi Dr. Bernhard and Charlene Rosenberg and Alan and Jackie Kelin on the marriage of their children Yaakov Rosenberg to Avital Kelin. Mazel Tov to the entire Rosenberg and Kelin families. ...to Miriam and Shlomo Ziegler on Yonatan's aufruf this Shabbos at the Hashkama Minyan, and his forthcoming marriage to Atara Nussbaum.

SHALOSH SEUDOS

Shalosh Seudos is co-sponsored this week by Rivka and Joel Adler to commemorate the Yahrzeit of Joel's father Zev ben Shmuel Halevi Z"L and Mimi and Charles Gershbaum to commemorate the Yahrzeit of Charlie's father Dr. Joseph Samuel Gershbaum Z"L

SHABBAT CHEVRON WITH RAV SIMCHA HOCHBAUM

This Shabbos morning, Rav Simcha Hochbaum will be a scholar in-residence at OT. Rav Simcha Hochbaum was a long time student and *musmach* of Reb Shlomo Carlebach, z"l. Before making aliya, he was the Rabbi of The Eldridge Street Synagogue in New York City and a Judaic Studies instructor at Bi-Cultural Day School in Stamford CT. Rav Simcha now resides in the Avraham Avinu neighborhood of Chevron and teaches at Reishit Yeshiva in Beit

Shemesh and the Tferet Center in Ramat Beit Shemesh. In addition to his educational activities, he is the Director of Tourism for the Hebron Fund, and gives spiritual and insightful tours of Chevron, the Old City of Jerusalem, the Kotel Tunnels as well as neighborhoods throughout Yehuda and Shomron. In addition, please join Rav Simcha Motzai Shabbos for a very inspiring Melavah Malaka with divreh torah, stories and singing in the main shul starting at 7:00 PM.

CONDOLENCES

Congregation Ohr Torah extends sincere condolences to Nachum Sorkin on the passing of his mother, Ruth Sorkin. Shiva will take place at his home on 200 Central Ave from Motzei Shabbos through Wednesday morning. Davening will be at 8 AM on Sunday, 6:20 AM on Monday, 6:30 AM on Tuesday and Wednesday. May you be comforted among the mourners of Tzion and Yerushalayim.

YEAR END STATEMENTS

End of Year account statements were recently mailed. Please make sure to remit your payments before the end of December to qualify for a tax deduction in 2008. Thank you all again for your continued support.

OHR TORAH YOUTH EVENT

Calling all sports enthusiasts! Come to Ohr Torah at 6PM sharp on Saturday night December 20th as we head via coach bus to the NJ Nets state of the art practice training facility for one hour of playing time followed by the NJ Nets vs Miami Heat basketball game. All tickets for this event are \$45. Snacks and drinks will be provided. This evening has been designated by the NJ Nets as Jewish Family night and there will be a kosher stand available at the Izod center. There are only 50 seats available. First come first serve! You can sign up at our Shul website ohrtorah.net or by calling Mayer Berg @ (732) 572-3429.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDISON SCHOOL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND REFERENDUM

This Tuesday, the Township of Edison will be conducting the special school construction bond referendum which was originally scheduled for Rosh Hashanah. The election was postponed to give members of our community the opportunity to vote. **Polls will be open this Tuesday December 9 from 12-9 PM. Note that polls are not open in the morning.**

GUEST SPEAKER

The PTA's of Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva and Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion are proud to present "Staying Focused: Building and Maintaining a Healthy Relationship with Your

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 December 20th & 27th and January 3rd & 24th. To sponsor a Kiddush or reserve the Kiddush room, please contact Mel Barenholtz in person, by phone or email: 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 Natby 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 ludeeju@gmail.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.

ANNUAL OHR TORAH DINNER

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

Child" with Rabbi Dov Brezak, Principal and Director, Talmud Torah Ezrat Torah, Yerushalayim. Rabbi Dov Brezak (author of Artscroll's "Chinuch in Turbulent Times") is a mechanech par excellence. Rabbi Brezak will be speaking on Wednesday, December 10th at 8:00 p.m. at Congregation Ohr Torah. Suggested donation is \$10 per person. For more information please call Bonnie Steinhart 732-745-4913, Ida Scheiner 732-247-3073, Sandi Dube 732-339-1649, or Mira Septimus 732-514-9154.

ACTT

ACTT says THANK YOU! Thank you to all the sponsors and attendees for making the ACTT Nov 22nd event with Rabbi Gedaliah Jaffe, for our current module, Judging Favorably - Module 3, so successful and meaningful! Save the date: Motzei Shabbos, Feb 21, 2009 - next Community Wide event. More details to follow. To volunteer or for more info on ACTT, 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, Alice Gordon (732) 985-6848, Michael Lafond (732) 432-9860, Phil Rosen (732) 572-8762, or Aviva Siegel (732) 572-4408.

RPRY SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST

Please help support Yeshiva education for local families in need. The difficult financial times have adversely affected the ability of many community members to manage the costs of Yeshiva Education. Despite the increased need, RPRY remains committed to offering a Yeshiva education to every Jewish child, irrespective of financial means. While OT has always responded generously to this campaign, the challenging economic situation means your help would be as valuable as ever and would be deeply appreciated. The campaign culminates in a breakfast at RPRY on December 21 honoring Rabbi Eliyahu Hirsch with the teacher excellence award. As the breakfast has been donated, all funds go directly to support scholarships and keep tuition more affordable. Please respond generously and feel free to speak with Russell Adler, Josh Caplan or Michael Kaplan with any questions.

ANNUAL CHAI LIFELINE CHANUKAH TOY DRIVE

Thru Mon. Dec. 8, 2008 Only New, Unwrapped Gifts are acceptable See Flyers for Gift suggestions @ local stores, schools & Synagogues Drop Off in RPRY School Lobby Questions Contact Bobbi Engel 732-819-7842.

ORTHODOX FORUM

The Orthodox Forum presents Mr. Julius Berman, past president of the Orthodox Union and former chairman of the President's Conference, Motzei Shabbos December 13 at 8 PM. He will be discussing: *Issues in Diversity and Community Policy: Personal Reflections*. The event will take place at OT, and is chaired by Dr. William Gewirtz. Admission to all Orthodox Forum presentations are free.

RABBI HOFFMAN'S SHIURIM

Rabbi Yisroel Hoffman's Choshen Mishpat Hilchos Dayanim shiur Takes place Wednesday nights at the Agudah at 8:30 pm. To download previous shiurim, please visit <http://csisol.com/shiurim.aspx>

RPRY MISHMAR PROGRAM

Mishmar learning program is held at RPRY every Motzei Shabbat @ 7:00. Please bring your own

seforim. Cost is still only \$2.00 which includes, pizza, donuts, prizes and raffles

COMMUNITY ONEG

All high school girls in the community are invited to an oneg titled "Decisions, Decisions" with Mrs. Karen Hochhauser on Friday night, December 12th. Formerly of Edison, Mrs. Hochhauser lives in Beit Shemesh and teaches at Tiferet and Machon Maayan. The oneg will take place at the home of Debbie and Alex Diamant, 3 Opatut Court, at 8:30. Following the program Karen will introduce the Touray International Beit Midrash Experience, a unique summer program in Israel for North American high school girls. For more information about Touray IBME, please visit www.youngisrael.org/touray.

ERUV VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Looking for a volunteer to check the eruv in the Donaldson Park area - see Israel Rivkin or call at 732-572-0184

AHAVAS ACHIM UNIVERSITY

AA University and the Torah Conferencing Network present Rabbi Yissocher Frand, every Thursday at 9pm, live via satellite from Baltimore. Join the most popular shiur in the country, broadcast to the AA Beis Medrash every week, for halachic insights into the parsha and a meaningful dvar Torah at the end. After the Yomim Tovim, Rabbi Yisroel Reisman's Saturday Night Navi shiur resumes. Admission: \$5.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Active Zionist Orthodox cong seeks same dynamic individual or couple for part time youth director position. Must be college grad with previous youth exp. Supervisory position requires strong organizational skills; Shabbat and holiday attendance in Highland Park. Competitive salary. Fax resume to (732)-247-6739 or email imalevenst@verizon.net attention Debra L.

EMUNAH'S SPECTACULAR CHANUKAH EVENT!!!

Join us in our first TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT WITH A SURPRISE "SPIN" UNLIMITED BUY-INS Or GOOD OLD FASHION BINGO WITH GREAT PRIZES !!! 50/50 RAFFLE Come socialize with friends and have some fun while helping raise money for needy children in Israel. As an optional extra to help support Emunah we are asking for your participation in some additional Chanukah fun we are going to have a Mystery Auction. Please bring a wrapped gift and indicate if for Men, Women or Neutral And who knows what you'll leave with. Just another chance to raise more money for the needy Emunah Children in Israel (minimum gift should be \$10.00) Taking Place At Ephraim and Gila Gerzbergs New Home 459 Lincoln Avenue, DECEMBER 20th at 8PM AWESOME PRIZES AND TREATS. Donation per person: \$ 25.00 RSVP: Sue Redlich 732-558-4917

CHULENT CONTEST

In the spirit of "Krav Sakinin", the Men's Club of Congregation Ahavas Achim is pleased to announce it's 3rd Annual Battle Chulent, which will take place at Ahavas Achim Stadium (aka, the shul social hall) on Friday evening, January 2nd starting at 8:00 PM.

The chefs' entrance fee is \$36, which will include a new crock pot, and the knowledge that they were brave enough to face the public with their culinary skills. To the victor will go the coveted "Battle Chulent" ladle, and a year's

worth of bragging rights. Fressers/judges are asked to reserve a place in advance so we can be sure to have enough cholent and refreshments (and beer - what else would one expect with chulent) to go around. Admission is \$5 in advance, \$8 without a reservation. Event sponsors are also welcome. Sponsors of \$180 will receive admission for four to the event, their name in the event program, our gratitude, and the opportunity to help select the beer. To reserve a chef or attendee space, discuss sponsorship (and beer), or for more info, please contact Ira Rosen at battlechulent@yahoo.com or 732-393-1018.

WOMEN'S GROUP FORMING

Looking for women to be part of a group of 40 saying Shir Hashirim Friday night after licht bentchen and/or baking challah Thursday nights or Fridays in the zechus of a refuah shleimah for Menachem Mordechai ben Ophira. If you would like to be included in one or both of these segullahs, please contact E.J. Berman at EJPartyworks@aol.com or call 732-985-2118.

AA Yom Iyun

All women and girls are invited to Ahavas Achim University's annual Women's Yom Iyun on Thursday, Dec 25, sponsored by AA Sisterhood Entitled "Discovering Hava Shapiro" and featuring Professor Wendy Zierler. Admission is \$12 (Free for AAU Sponsors: Dean, Torah Builder, President) and the registration deadline is Monday, Dec 22.

Men's Yom Iyun

AA University presents our first ever Men's Yom Iyun on Thursday, Jan 1, 2009, sponsored by the AA Men's Club. This will be a wonderful morning featuring a sumptuous brunch buffet and intense training in Nusach Hatefillah. The Nusach Seminar, with Yeshiva University's Belz School of Music, will teach YOU how to lead the Shabbat services. Featuring Cantor Bernard Beer, Dir of the Belz School, and other cantors, the seminar will offer intensive training in proper tunes, pronunciations, and nusach patterns for Shabbat prayers, from Kabbalat Shabbat through Mussaf. Admission \$25 (Free for AAU Sponsors Dean, Torah Builder, President) and the deadline for registration is Dec 29.

CHANUKAH OPEN HOUSE

Our local Jewish Community Relations Council is sponsoring a Chanukah Open House on December 16th, at 7:30 PM at the offices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, 230 Old Bridge Turnpike, South River. Come meet with the JCRC leadership, listen to the following speakers discuss current events which affect all of us: Andi Milens, Associate executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Andrew Silow-Caroll, the editor-in-chief of the New Jersey Jewish News, and Jac Toporek, Executive Director of the NJ State Association of Federations. There will also be music and refreshments. RSVP: Andrea Lockhart at 732-432-7711 x18 or alockhart@jf-gmc.org. All attendees are encouraged to bring donations of food (cans, boxes) for the Jewish Family and Vocational Service Food Bank, which is in dire need of supplies.

THE MAN WITH THE TRUCK

"The Man With The Truck" is coming to the YST Preschool on Monday December 15 at the Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion Preschool building, 425 Cleveland Avenue (right off of Madison, last building on the left). Tzitzis, Robes, Boys, Girls and Baby Clothes,

Kippot, Men's Shirts, Linens, Towels, and more. He will be open from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm. For more information, call the YST Preschool at 732-819-7083.

CHUG IVRIT TO MEET

The next meeting of Chug Ivrit (Hebrew speaking club) for intermediate to advanced speakers will be on Sunday, December 14, at 11:00 a.m., at a Highland Park area home. This month, we will watch a U-Tube video of a famous Israeli satirical song from the 1970's entitled "Mechakim Lemashiach" and then read the song and discuss its meaning. Chug Ivrit is sponsored by the Raritan Valley Chapter of Hadassah. It is free and open to both men and women. You do not have to be a member of Hadassah to join us. For location and more information, contact: Rachel Weintraub at rachel@weintraubworld.net or 732-819-9298.

CLOTHING DRIVE

A Yad Leah clothing drive will Be'ezras Hashem take place on Sunday December 21st at Congregation Ohav Emeth (O.E.), main entrance on Dennison Ave. in parking lot, from 9:30 A.M. until 12:30 P.M. Please donate clothing in good wearable condition only. Shoes only in new or like new condition. Linens, towels, tablecloths, handbags, cosmetics & hair accessories are also accepted in good condition. Bring all in tied garbage bags. Yad Leah will distribute to over 15 communities throughout Israel. We kindly request that a monetary donation (\$18 or more to American Friends of Yad Leah) be made to help defray shipping costs. Receipts will be provided by Yad Leah for the money & clothing (&/or miscellaneous items) contributions.

RPRY COOKBOOK DEBUTS

The RPRY PTA is excited to announce the upcoming arrival of their extraordinary cookbook, Culinary Temptations. Culinary Temptations is a unique collection of kosher recipes that will surely tempt your palate. This cookbook will make a perfect Chanukah gift for grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunts, daughters and all balabustas and chefs. For more info contact Michele Meiner (732) 819-8292 or Ida Scheiner (732)247-3063.

CHANUKAH BOUTIQUE

Ahavas Yisrael will be having a Chanukah Extravaganza on Motzoi Shabbat, Saturday, December 6th, starting at 7:30 p.m. There will be vendors selling hand-crafted decorative accessories & Judaica, Lia Sophia jewelry, Discovery toys, Tupperware, etc. The event will be at Ahavas Yisrael 1587 Rt. 27, Edison. For more info, call Mara Margolin 732-777-1589

Sof Davar...

SENIOR NCSY EVENTS

This year, regional will be held from December 4th-7th at the newly renovated Berkley Carteret Hotel in Asbury Park. Latte and learning is back!! Come to Starbucks on Rt. 18 (Mid-State mall) every Wednesday night at 7:30 for good conversation, great friends, oh yeah, and FREE coffee! We hope to see everyone there each week! Avi Eserner (732) 718-4786 Jordana Goldberg (718) 926-8195

JR NCSY ONEG

Jr NCSY is having their first Oneg of the year. This shabbat at Chana Lustiger's house 8 Price Drive All Jr. NCSYers welcome. Bring your friends and their friends and their imaginary friends. We would also like to announce the Regional Lock In at Fun Time America, a night filled with fun, friends, and plenty of food. Did I mention lazer tag?? Motzie shabbat December 20 until Sunday the 21. For more info please contact Tzvi Hametz or Chana Lustiger. We are also looking for sponsors or partial sponsors for our Chanukah Chaggiah if anyone would like to be involved please contact us.

ISRAELI ARTIST HAS DISPLAY

The Israeli-American artist, Ellen Miller Braun will be displaying her unique micro-calligraphy art work, right here in Highland Park, for one night only, on Sunday, December 28, 2008. Ellen brings her artwork of biblical scenes and more, directly from the hills of the Shomron. This is your chance to meet the artist, and even pick up a Chanukah present or two. There will be a special Chanukah sale - Purchase 2 prints, receive a third as a gift. To see Ellen's work, visit her website - <http://www.nishmati.co.il/> Ellen will be at the home of Leora Bar-Lev in Highland Park, from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm, on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008 (2 Tevet - 8th candle of Chanukah). For more information, please contact Leora at ramaz.alumni@gmail.com or at (732) 589-8108. Chag Orim Sameach!! See you then!

REBBITZEN EICHENSTEIN'S CLASSES

Rebbitzin Eichenstein will be having her Navi class on Sefer Tehillim, Sunday morning, Nov 30 at 10AM at Cong. Agudath Israel. The Parsha and Sefer Tomer Devorah classes will not be held on Monday evening, Dec 1. Classes are for women only. For more info, please contact Aviva Siegel at sieglmom@optonline.net, Ricki Stern 732-828-6939 rickistern@yahoo.com, or Atara Degani 732-306-5727 or 732-937-6823.

MAZAL SHIDDUCH GROUP

The Mazal Shidduch group will hold its next meeting on December 16, 2008 at 8:30 PM. Please email Sharon at Shcl18@aol.com to request a form and to find out the location.

KEYLIM MIKVAH HOURS OF OPERATION

The OT Keylim Mikvah will be open Sunday Mornings from 9AM to 12 Noon. Please make sure to leave the area clean and neat.

PARK MIKVAH

The Edison/Highland Park Mikvah is open from 8:30 to 10:30pm. FRIDAY NIGHTS are by APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Call 732-249-2411, Fee \$15. OUT OF HOURS an ADDITIONAL \$20 fee.

EMPLOYMENT NETWORK RARITAN VALLEY

Looking for a job because you are concerned about job security or you are out of work? Attend our job networking session on Wednesday, December 10th at Congregation Ahavas Achim in Highland Park. This free session is an effective way to learn job search strategies, hear about job leads, and share ideas, resources and information. Be prepared to present a 20-30 second elevator pitch summary and bring about 15 copies of your resume. Informal networking begins at 7:30 pm; the program begins at 8 pm and ends at 10 pm. For more information, 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 Vayishlach

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| • Candlelighting | 4:13 PM |
| • Mincha/ Kabolos Shabbos | 4:20PM |

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.

by Rabbi Israel Poleyeff

Tannaim and Amoraim: R. Elazar b. Shamua

R. Elazar ben Shamua, a *talmid chacham* of distinction and a fourth generation *tanna*, was sandwiched between two giants of talmudic history. He was the student of R. Akiva and the teacher of R. Yehudah haNassi, two scholars of great renown. He was one of the five survivors recorded in a well-known talmudic story of Roman oppression. Defying a Roman decree forbidding the study of Torah at the pain of death, R. Yehuda ben Bava took 5 students to an open field where he gave them *semicha*. They were spotted by the Romans, however, and all but R. Yehudah were able to flee. One of those five was R. Elazar ben Shamua. His love for Eretz Yisroel was legendary as illustrated by the story of R. Elazar and a colleague who decided to go to a yeshiva in Netzivim to learn. But when they reached the border of Israel they could go no further and turned back and returned home. A fascinating *agada* is related about R. Elazar ben Shamua. It seems he was strolling along the shores of the Mediterranean when he saw a ship break up and sink. There was only one survivor and he came ashore with no clothes. Everyone on shore ignored him and refused him any assistance. R. Elazar, appalled at what he saw, removed one of his cloaks and covered the man. He then took him home where he fed him, clothed him, gave him some money and accompanied him out of town. Years later this lone survivor became a Roman emperor who imposed severe decrees upon the Jews. R. Elazar was asked to lead a delegation to speak to the emperor on behalf of the Jews. As soon as he arrived he was recognized by the emperor. In recognition of the kindness shown to him years earlier the emperor declared that he will fulfill all of R. Elazar's requests. A nice *agada*. R. Elazar was known to have great love for his students as reflected in one of his most famous pronouncements: "*yehi kevod talmidecha keshelcha*" - May the honor of your students be as dear to you as your own. A great motto for every teacher.



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9 Kislev 5769

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