



Congregation Ohr Torah

Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi

Allen Kessel - President

Parshas Vayeshev

23 Kislev 5769

December 20, 2008

Candlelighting:	4:15PM
Mincha:	4:25PM
Shacharis:	7:45 and 9:00AM
Rabbi Hoffman's Pesachim Shiur- After Hashkama	
Z'man Krias Shma (G'RA):	9:36AM
Early Mincha:	1:30 PM
Rabbi Luban's Shiur in Megillah at 3:10PM	
Mincha:	4:00 PM
<i>Note earlier time to accommodate Scholar in Residence</i>	
Shalosh Seudos speaker: Rabbi David Fohrman	
Maariv:	5:20 PM
Weekday Shacharis:	
Sun	7:15, 8 & 9AM
Mon – Fri (Chanukah)	6:15, 7:05 & 8AM
<i>Note earliest Talis and Tefillin between 6:19 and 6:21</i>	
Weekday Mincha/ Maariv:	4:25 PM
<i>NOTE: Next Friday Chanukah (December 26), there will be an early mincha minyan at 3PM to accommodate those who daven mincha before lighting candles</i>	
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) 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.	

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.

WINTER HOURS FOR THE TORAH TAPE LIBRARY

The torah tape library will be open on Sundays from 10:00 AM until after maariv. It **will not** be open when there is a simcha in the OT kiddush room. The weekday hours are Monday - Thursday, 7:15 PM - 8:15 PM.

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.

Baruch Dayan Emet

Riva (nee Colton) Koschitzky, the sister of Arye Colton, formerly of Edison, now living in Ramat Chen, Israel, was niftar early Friday morning. There will be a service Motzei Shabbat at 7:30pm at the Plaza Memorial on the West Side at 630 Amsterdam Ave corner 90th. The funeral will be in Bet Shemesh Eretz Hachaim, 2 hours after landing of flight 008. Shiva will be at 29 Yair in Ramat Gan. Telephone number in Ramat Gan (DSL line) 201-379-5342.

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.

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

Friday night 8:00 pm Dec. 19
Seudah Shlishis after Mincha Dec 20

Rabbi Dr. David Fohrman teaches Biblical themes as an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University and is also a Yeshiva University faculty member. He served for seven years as a Senior Editor/Writer for the Artscroll Talmud. He received his M.A. in the History of Ideas from Johns Hopkins University and doctorate in Talmudic law from the Ner Israel Rabbinical College. His

weekly classes in the Five Towns are standing-room-only. He is a much requested speaker, including as part of Gateways, and serves as a teacher trainer for Torah U'Mesorah. His new book is entitled, *The Beast that Crouches at the Door: Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, and Beyond*. Charismatic, insightful, a master of text, Rabbi Fohrman will speak at Ohr Torah twice: Friday night 8:00 pm: "Twelve Brothers, A Coat and a Pit: Understanding the Sale of Joseph" Seudah Shlishis following early 4:00 Mincha: "Stories they never taught you in high school: Understanding Yehudah and Tamar." Don't miss this wonderful opportunity.

MAZEL TOV

... to Toby and Michael Eleff on the birth of a son, to their children Avigail & Ariel Fogel. The Shalom Zachor will take place at the Eleff home, 20 Edgemount Road, after 8:00 p.m.

...to Rochelle and Jerold Blum on the Bas Mitzvah of their daughter Samantha this Sunday. Mazel Tov to sisters Jamie and Brooke, to grandparents Melvin Blum, and MR. & Mrs. Guzman, to aunt and uncle Suri and Jay Blum, and the entire Blum and Guzman families.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

Blood Donations needed: A member of our community, who is being treated for cancer, has been receiving regular blood transfusions at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, and will continue to need them for the foreseeable future. We have been asked to assist in ensuring that an adequate supply of O+ blood is available, especially through the winter holidays when the blood supply typically runs quite low. Donations may be made at the Blood Center, 4th Floor, Clinical Academic Building 125 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901, (732) 235-8100 (reservations preferred, although walk-ins are welcome).

HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY KOLLEL BREAKFAST

The Highland Park Community Kollel is pleased to announce that its Inaugural Breakfast will be held on January 4, 2009 at 9:30 A.M. at Cong. Ohr Torah. They look forward to personally greet you at the breakfast.

ACTT

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-

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 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 mmschneider19@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

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

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.

RPRY OPEN HOUSE

RPRY is having an Open House on Thursday Dec. 25th at the Edison campus as well as the Young Israel of East Brunswick. Any questions please call Honey at 732-572-5052

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://cjsisol.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

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 Sakinim", the Men's Club of Cong Ahavas Achim is pleased to announce it's 3rd Annual Battle Chulent, which will take place at AA Stadium (aka, the shul social hall) on Friday evening, Jan 2nd starting at 8PM. 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. 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 AMEN GROUP

The women's ongoing weekly tefillah and tehillim "Amen group" will meet this Sunday December 21 from 9:30 until 10:00 am at the home of REBECCA RIVKIN, 1 Opatut Court, Edison. All women and girls are invited to join. It should be in the zechus of a refuah shleimah for Menachem Mordechai ben Ophira. For more information please call E.J. at 732-985-2118 or e mail EJPartyworks@aol.com.

WOMEN'S GROUP FORMING

Looking for women to say Shir Hashirim (in your own home) Friday night after licht bentchen and/or baking challah on Thursday nights or Fridays (hafrasha should be done Thursday night after dark or Friday) in the zechus of a refuah shleimah for Menachem Mordechai ben Ophira. Remember to please say a tefillah for Menachem Mordechai when you do the hafrasha AND when the dough is being kneaded. It could be your own personal tefillah or tehillim. If you would like to be included in either one or both of these segullahs, please call E.J. at 732-985-2118 or e mail EJPartyworks@aol.com.

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.

CHUG IVRIT TO MEET

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 info, contact: Rachel Weintraub at 732-819-9298 or rachel@weintraubworld.net

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 9:30AM until 12:30PM. 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 Weiner (732) 819-8292 or Ida Scheiner (732)247-3063.

SENIOR NCSY NEWS

NOTE DATE CHANGE* Next Motzei Shabat, December *27th, we will be going to Bridgewater Sports Arena for laser tag and ice skating! We will meet at the rink, (1425 Frontier Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807) at 7PM. The event will be \$15 for lazer tag, ice skating and skate rental. Come see if you can beat David Prince in a race! Call if you need a ride. Also, if there are a few parents that would be able to drive as well, it would be a huge help. Please let us know. 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

This Shabbos, Dec 20, Jr. NCSY will be having an AWESOME oneg at our one and only Tzvi Hametz's house! The oneg will take place at 3PM Shabbos day at Tzvi' house, 22 Fairhill Road. It's going to be incredible, so we hope to see you all there! This Motzei Shbbos, Dec 20-21, Jr. NCSY is having it's REGIONAL LOCK-IN at Funtime America! Thank you to everyone who signed up -- it's going to be a BLAST! The busse to Funtime America will be leaving RPRY at 11:30PM and returning Sunday morning at 8AM. We will also be making a stop at the Young Israel of East Brunswick, so if that is

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

more convenient for you, please contact Chana or Tzvi as soon as possible. Also, IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR ALL BOYS OVER BAR MITZVAH -- Please remember to bring your tefillin! We will be davening Shacharis before returning home on Sunday morning.

Get excited for Chanukah! Jr. NCSY will be having our very own, unbelievable, fantastic, stupendous Chanukah Chaggigah featuring the GREAT MENORAH BUILD-OFF! Start coming up with the craziest, wackiest designs for YOUR menorah to submit it to our contest! The winner will receive a 15 DOLLAR ITUNES GIFT CARD! Start designing NOW!! The chaggigah will take place on Dec. 24 at Ahavas Achim from 7:30-10:30 and there will be food, raffles, Chanukah craziness and a whole lot of fun! Just start concocting menorah designs--as long as it's kosher and functional (no ice cream menorahs, sorry!) we want to see it! Start designing an GET EXCITED Admission is 10 dollars -- bring all of your friends! Any questions on any of the above announcements or anything having to do with Jr. NCSY, please contact Chana Lustiger at 908-209-1820 or Tzvi Hametz at 732-991-2252

VISITING SOFER

The Sofer will be at Judaica Gallery, 300 Raritan Avenue, this Sunday December 21st. Those who need to check their mezuzot and tefillin should come down. If you know you are coming, please call to let us know, at 732-828-7722 but drop-ins are welcome. Store hours are 10am to 5pm.

ISRAELI ARTIST 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, 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 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 6pm until 9pm, on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008 (2 Tevet - 8th candle of Chanukah). For more info, please contact Leora at ramaz.alumni@gmail.com or at (732) 589-8108. Chag Orim Sameach!! See you then!

MAZAL SHIDDUCH GROUP

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.

N'SHEI AGUDAH PRESENTS FILM

The N'shei Agudah will be presenting a comedy film "The Chairlady" on the second night of Chanukah, Monday Dec. 22nd at 8pm at the Agudah. Price per person \$15.

All women and teenage girls invited.

BIKUR CHOLIM HEALTH FAIR

RESCHEDULED

The Bikur Cholim Health Fair, cosponsored with St. Peters, is being rescheduled to March 15th, 1PM-5PM at RPRY. More info will follow. Any questions, please call 732-985-4501.

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

Our next job networking session will be on Wednesday, January 14th at Cong 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 info. Be prepared to present a 20-30 second elevator pitch summary and bring about 15 copies of your resume.

Informal networking begins at 7:30pm; the program begins at 8 pm and ends at 10 pm. For more info, go to www.ENRV.org, or contact Bob Lansey at ENRV@verizon.net or 732-819-8651.

REBBITZEN EICHENSTEIN'S CLASSES FOR WOMEN

Rebbitzen Eichenstein will be having her Navi class on Sefer Tehillim, Sunday morning, Dec 21 at 9AM at Cong. Agudath Israel. The Parsha and Sefer Tomer Devorah classes will not be held on Monday evening, Dec 22. 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.

MIRI COHEN'S PARSHA CLASS

Mrs. Miri Cohen's ladies Parsha class will meet Wednesday morning, Dec 24 at 9:15 AM at the home of Lynn Hanfling, 47 Leslie St., Edison. For more info, please call Azriella Jaffe 732-985-7613.

LOCAL ERUV

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

Parshas Mikeitz

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| • Candlelighting | 4:24 PM |
| • Mincha/ Kabolos Shabbos | 4:30PM |

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 (110)...

by Rabbi Israel Poleyeff

Tannaim and Amoraim: Acheir

What impelled Elisha b. Abuyah to become the talmud's most infamous renegade is a matter of dispute. One intriguing *agada* has it that his mother, while pregnant with Elisha, passed a house of idol worship and inhaled the scent of their incense. This, it was said, poisoned the mind of her unborn child forever. The well-known reason has it that Elisha watched a young child, at the behest of his father, climb a tree to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *shiluach haken*. The child fell from the tree (or was bitten by a snake) and died. When Elisha saw this he asked, "Is this the reward for fulfilling two *mitzvot* at the same time?" and renounced Jewish life. Whatever the reason, Elisha, a renowned third generation *tanna* and *rebbe muvhak* of R. Meir, had his name expunged from the talmud and his pronouncements were recorded as being said by "acheir", the other one. Through it all R. Meir remained steadfastly loyal to his beloved *rebbe*, saying that it is like eating a pomegranate, you leave the peel and eat the fruit. He continued learning from him hoping that he would some day return. Once R. Meir was giving a *drasha* on *shabbat* in Tiberius when Elisha rode by on a horse. R. Meir stopped his *drasha* and walked alongside Elisha discussing what he had just said. When they reached a point outside the town Elisha told R. Meir that he could go no further for they had reached *techum shabbat*. How did you know, R. Meir inquired? Elisha responded that he had counted the steps of his horse. R. Meir then pleaded with him, "You have all this knowledge and yet you won't return?" Elisha countered, saying that he had heard a *bat kol* declare that everyone may return except for Elisha b. Abuyah. Nevertheless, R. Meir never gave up on his *rebbe*. When Elisha was gravely ill R. Meir visited him and implored him once again to return. Elisha asked, if I did would they accept me? R. Meir quoted a *pasuk* in *tehillim* indicating that *teshuva* is accepted even at the last moment. Elisha burst into tears and passed away shortly after. R. Meir felt comforted in the belief that his beloved *rebbe* had indeed returned a moment before he died.