



Congregation Ohr Torah

Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi

Allen Kessel - President

Parshas Ki Tisa-Parah

18 Adar 5769

March 14, 2009

Candlelighting: 6:44PM
Mincha: 6:50PM
Shacharis: 7:45 and 9:00AM
*Rabbi Hoffman's Pesachim Shiur-
 After Hashkama*

Z'man Krias Shma (G'RA): 10:08AM
Early Mincha: 1:45 PM
Rabbi Luban's Shiur in Megillah 5:50 PM
Mincha: 6:40 PM

*Shalosh Seudos speaker:
 Dr. Moshe Sherman*

Maariv: 7:50 PM
Weekday Shacharis:

Sun 7:15, 8 & 9AM
Mon & Thur 6:20, 7:05, 8 AM
Tue, Wed, Fri 6:30, 7:10, 8 AM
Weekday Mincha/ Maariv: 6:55 PM
Weekday Maariv 10:10 PM

*Monday evening, 9:10 in Bais Medrash, Rabbi
 Luban's shiur in She'eilos Uteshuvos (respona)
 Tuesday Tehillim 9:50 PM*

DAF YOMI

Monday -Thursday- after maariv
 Friday - after kabolos shabbos.

If there are two minyanim, after the first minyan.

Shabbos - one hour before mincha

Sunday- after 8 am shacharis. In addition, this shabbos the daf will meet one hour before mincha rather than at 8:15 am or after the hashkama minyan

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 Mar. 14, & 28th. 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 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.

HASHKAMA KIDDUSH

Kiddush at the Hashkama minyan is sponsored by Karen and Yoel Schwartz in memory of Yoel's mother, Chana Naomi b. Elchanan, z"l.

SHALOSH SEUDOS

Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Barbara and Allen Kessel to commemorate the Yahrzeit of Barbara's father Chayim Shlomo ben Rav Asher Zelig Z"L.

MAZEL TOV

....to Moish Levy on the birth of a great-grandson on March 3rd to his grandchildren Yahuda and Chaya Shinesky of Silver Spring, MD, and on the marriage of Moish's granddaughter Neflaah to Barak Cohen in Israel.

OPEN LETTER TO SHUL COMMUNITY:

The news is filled with reports about the deepening recession in the U.S. and rising unemployment rates. Our community is certainly not insulated from the recession and too many of our neighbors are victims of job cuts and some are now struggling with maintaining their critical needs, such as food, heat, and maintaining a roof over their head. Unfortunately, it is anticipated that the economic problems may even get worse before they get better.

In light of this growing crisis, our community rabbinic leadership and a number of concerned lay people have joined forces to raise significant sums during Chodesh Adar/March from the community to assist struggling families with food, utilities, medical insurance, and other basic needs. Fund distribution is being coordinated by the Vaad Harabonim of Raritan Valley in consultation with lay leadership on a confidential basis.

Now in full swing is our campaign fund raising effort to solicit the Ohr Torah shul community. We hope you can join us and participate in the fundraising effort.

Please respond generously. Now is the time to make your pledge. Donations are tax deductible. Checks marked Ohr Torah-Community Chesed Fund may be mailed or given to Michael Samel, Yoel Schwartz, Robert Kreitman, Joel Paul or Rabbi Yaakov Luban. We thank you for your generosity and kindness.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next General Membership Meeting will take place Tuesday, March 24th at 8:00PM. Agendas will be mailed shortly.

NOTE FROM THE SISTERHOOD

The sisterhood would like to thank all those who participated in the mishloach manot program. While providing beautiful baskets to the entire Ohr Torah community, the project also allows the sisterhood to sponsor the break-fast following megillah reading, an event open to all, free of charge. Additionally, this year, the sisterhood will donate all remaining proceeds to the community unemployment fund. Yasher Koach to all participants and a special thanks to the delivery volunteers!

CONDOLENCES

Congregation Ohr Torah extends sincere condolences to Rena Greenspan on the recent loss of her father, Refael Braver, z"l.

RABBI'S SHABBOS DRASHA

In order to achieve greater decorum during the Rabbi's Shabbos Drasha, the Board has determined that both the Front and Rear Doors to the Shul will be locked during the Rabbi's weekly presentation. This action will prevent any entry into the Shul but will still allow anyone to exit the Shul. Immediately after the Drasha's completion, the back doors will be unlocked and operate normally.

MISSING BEIS MEDRASH

LIBRARY BOOKS

The 3rd volume (Vayikrah) of the Netivot Shalom has been missing from the Beis Medrash for at least a month – Please check if inadvertently someone took it home and return it ASAP.

SHAIMOS COLLECTION

Congregation Ohr Torah will hold this years community Shaimos Collection on Sunday, March 15 from 9 AM to 5 PM. The cost is \$20 per large garbage sized bags. Please make all checks out to Congregation Ohr Torah. (Coordinator/Questions) Barry Siegel, siegeldad@optonline.net

YACHAD SHABBATON

RPRY is hosting a Yachad Shabbaton this Shabbos. We welcome the Yachad Shabbaton to our shul for davening and Kiddush this Shabbos.

BIRCHAS HACHAMA VIDEO

We are looking for someone to show the video for Birchas Hachama on March 15 and the video for Tisha Baav, from the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation. If you are interested in this please contact Debbie Schneider at 732 572-4713 or Allen Kessel at 732 572-9493.

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMERGENCY PARNOSAH INITIATIVE - Employment Network of Raritan Valley

* If you know of any job openings, please e-mail the information to enrv@verizon.net and rkreitman@sidley.com. Jobs can be professional, part-time, or temporary.

* If you are looking for a job and need assistance with your resume, interviewing or networking, contact enrv@verizon.net and go to www.enrv.org and sign up to receive job postings.

MISHMAR

Mishmar learning program is held at RPRY this Motzei Shabbat @ 7:45 Please bring your own seforim. Cost is still only \$2.00 which includes, pizza, donuts, prizes and raffles

LOST AND FOUND

If anyone found a gold earring that was recently lost please call Sharon Chesner at 732-572-4045. Thank you.

NORPAC

Concerned about Israel's safety and security? Do something about it: **NORPAC Mission to Washington May 20, 2009.** Buses leave for Washington 6:15 am and return between 9-10 pm. There will be briefings on each bus. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided - all meals are glatt kosher. Early registration discounts are offered if completed on or before March 10th - rates are \$75 for students and \$125 for adults. After March 10, rates will be \$125 for students and \$175 for adults. Visa or MasterCard accepted. Refund requests must be received in writing by May 5, 2009. Must be 12 years of age or older to attend. Those under 18 MUST be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Contact: H. Atlas, Elie Borger, Allen Kessel, Barry Wolf, Marc Hanfling dccdad@aol.com Register at www.norpac.net or call 201-788-5133.

BIKUR CHOLIM HEALTH FAIR

This Sunday, March 15, 1PM - 5PM at RPRY. Bikur Cholim of Raritan Valley County, in conjunction with St. Peter's University Hospital, will be hosting a health fair featuring informational booths and exhibits for the entire family. There will be a fire safety house, karate, bicycle registration, ambulance, balloon animals, and other exciting activities for children. Adults can learn about weight control, recognizing anxiety disorders, memory training, teen stress, ADHD, effective parenting strategies, basic 1st aid, and much, much more. Also at the health fair: "Ask the Doctors", bone density, blood sugar, cholesterol screenings, and blood pressure. Massage therapists, chiropractic care / holistic medicine, postural screenings, organic skin care, whole food and other healthcare products. Children should bring their bicycles and / or helmets to register with the Edison Police Department in case of theft / loss. For more info to volunteer (adults and children 7th grade and up), please call Cindy 732-985-4501 or Susan 732-266-1324.

Red Cross will be conducting a blood drive from 11AM - 4PM. Any questions, please call Ira Rosen at (732) 393-1018.

In addition, the HLA Registry, part of the National Marrow Donor Program, the largest bone marrow donor registry in the United States, will be performing simple cheek swabs for bone marrow typing to benefit those needing bone marrow

transplants or stem cell transplants. Please increase the odds of finding a match - come and be tested. If you would like to help defray the cost of the screening, make checks payable to Bikur Cholim of Raritan Valley and send to Judy Chanowitz, 153 North 8th Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904. If you have any questions or for more info, please call Judy Chanowitz at (732) 261-5170.

YESHIVAT NETIVOT MONTESSORI: "A GLIMPSE OF UPPER ELEMENTARY"

Netivot continues to grow! Join us for a preview of the Upper Elementary program, opening in the fall of 2009. This session will explain how the curriculum continues from Lower to Upper Elementary, providing a rigorous academic experience at the appropriate developmental level for nine to twelve year-olds. We will provide a general overview of the nine to twelve scope and sequence, highlighting certain curricular areas and demonstrating how they extend and develop from one level to the next. This session is recommended for all intrigued parents. Location: Netivot Lower Elementary, 33 Lakeview Blvd., Edison Tue, March 24, 8pm.

PESACH BOUTIQUE

Pre-Pesach Extravaganza for all your holiday needs! One stop shopping! featuring Tabeetz Clothing of Lakewood Hats, Kippot, Judaica, Accessories, Seder Table Centerpieces, Pesach Treats, Raffles, and much more! Wednesday, March 18, 2009. 7-10pm. Young Israel of East Brunswick 193 Dunhams Corner Road, E. Brunswick Sponsored by Moshe Aaron Yeshiva High School and Young Israel of East Brunswick Questions? info@mayhs.org

CHUG IVRIT CLUB

The next meeting of Chug Ivrit (Hebrew speaking club) for intermediate to advanced speakers will be on Sunday, March 22, at 10am, (Please note new earlier time) at the home of Justin & Susan Hornstein, 701 S. 2nd Ave., Highland Park. We chat in Hebrew and read a short Hebrew article or story. 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 more information, contact: Rachel Weintraub at rachel@weintraubworld.net or 732-819-9298.

EMUNAH COOKING EVENT

Sharon Starr Heyden, author of the spectacular cookbook, "A Culinary Journey: Exotic Kosher Cuisine," will demonstrate an entire meal for us (applicable to Pesach, too) at 8 pm on March 18 in the home of Adrienne Orani, 292 North 5th Avenue, HP. Sharon will make a soup appetizer, a meat main dish, a vegetable side dish and a fruit dessert. A graduate of EMUNAH's summer cooking week in Tuscany, Sharon will share her recipes and give us each a taste. Please reserve so we know how much to prepare. The evening's \$18 donation helps our projects for the needy in Israel in these very difficult times. Join us! RSVP by email to maydl49@aol.com or to 732 846 8990 (Sue Redlich's office number).

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. 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).

RABBI HOFFMAN'S SHIUR

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>

MAZAL SHIDDUCH GROUP

Please email Sharon at Shuch18@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.

Important Beginning Sunday night, March 8th, Sun-Thur nights, hours are 9-11pm. Saturday nights in March, the mikvah opens at 9pm.

ATTENTION ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women's 'Amen' group will continue to meet Sunday, March 15, 9:30 - 10:00 AM at the home of Dorene Schwartz-Weitz, 2 Opatut Court, Edison. All women and girls are invited to join. The format of the group is to say the morning Brachot and respond 'Amen' 100 times, followed by Tehillim, MeShebayrach for the Cholim, reading the day's Chofetz Chaim, and a prayer for Siyata D'Shmaya. All are welcomed and encouraged to join in davening in the zechus of Menachem Mordechai Ben Ophira, Fruma Sarah Bas Devorah Rachel, and other Cholim whose names you wish mentioned. We will need a new home for a one month stint beginning March 22- if you are interested in hosting this group for one hour on Sunday morning, please contact E.J.

Looking for women to say Shir Hashirim (in your own home) this Friday night after licht bentchen. Please contact E.J. Berman at EJPartyworks@aol.com.

If you would like to be included in a challah baking segullah for this coming Shabbos on Thursday night or Friday (hafrasha should be done Thursday night after dark or Friday) please contact E.J. at the above e mail address. It should be 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.

RUTGERS HILLEL NEEDS SEFORIM

The Jewish community at Rutgers Hillel needs Sefarim to support the expanding Jewish community on campus. We are looking for any Sefarim, Hebrew and English, used or new, to help provide for the learning needs of the community, including a new open Beit Midrash program on Mon. nights. If you wish, you can dedicate the Sefer in the honor or memory of the person you choose. To arrange a pick-up or drop-off, please call Sammy Sacks: (732) 735-3848.

REBBETZIN EICHENSTEIN'S NAVI CLASS

Rebbitzin Eichenstein will be having her Navi class on Sefer Tehillim, Sunday morning, March 15 at 10:00 AM at Cong. Agudath Israel and Parsha

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

class, Monday evening, March 16 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

MIRI COHEN'S PARSHA CLASS

Mrs. Miri Cohen's ladies Parsha class will meet Wednesday morning, March 18 at 9:15 AM at the home of Rosa Katz, 132 North 8th Avenue, Highland Park. For more information, please call Azriella Jaffe 732-985-7613.

JR NCSY INFO

-Want to stay updated with Jr. NCSY? Join our mailing list! Updates go out as often as we get them, so please email jrnscyhp@gmail.com with your child's name, grade and school. 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 night after dark or Friday) please contact E.J. at the above e mail address. It should be 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

LOCAL ERUV

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

Parshas Vayakhel-Pekudei

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|---------------------------|---------|
| • Candlelighting | 6:52 PM |
| • Mincha/ Kabolos Shabbos | 7:00 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...

by Rabbi Israel Poleyeff

Tannaim and Amoraim: R. Elazar ben Pedath

If ever there was an *amora* who lived in abject poverty it was R. Elazar b. Pedath. He would rather eat garlic peel than accept charitable gifts. In response to offers of gifts he would ask the donor why he didn't want him to live. After all, he added, it reads "*sonei matanot yichyeh*"- one who hates gifts shall live. It is said that once R. Elazar lost a coin and it was found by R. Shimon b. Abba. After determining who had lost it R. Shimon attempted to return the coin to R. Elazar but the latter refused to accept it saying "*hityaashti*" - I had given up all hope of recovering the coin. Therefore it is legally yours. R. Elazar, a second generation *amora* (about the year 240 C.E.) was originally a bavli but went to Eretz Yisroel where he later became the *rosh yeshiva* in Tveriah (one account has it that he was the yeshiva's leader for less than a year, having died shortly after his appointment). Though in Israel R. Elazar continued an extensive correspondence with the scholars in Bavel to the extent that when the *gemara* uses the expression *shalchu mitam* - halachic letters were sent from "there" (Israel) - it refers to R. Elazar b. Pedath. R. Yochanan wanted to teach him the intricacies of the *maaseh hamercavah* (Yechezkel 1-3) but he refused saying that he was still not the proper age for its study. R. Elazar must have had a sense of humor because once when he had severe bad back pains R. Yochanan asked him if his pain was beloved to him ("*chavivim olecha*"). R. Elazar's response was essentially 'I don't want the pain and I am *mochel* its reward. R. Elazar left thousands of pronouncements. Among his best is one that reflected his supreme love for the land of Israel: 'Everyone who lives in Eretz Yisroel is completely without sin'. In R. Elazar's view that dictum still applies today.