



Congregation Ohr Torah

Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi

Allen Kessel - President

Parshas Vayigash

9 Tevet 5770

December 26, 2009

Candlelighting:	4:18PM
Mincha:	4:25PM
Shacharis:	7:45, 9:00 and 9:15 AM
<i>Rabbi Hoffman's Pesachim Shiur - After Hashkama</i>	
Z'man Krias Shma (G'RA):	9:39AM
Early Mincha:	1:30 PM
<i>Rabbi Luban's Maseches Megillah Shiur – 3:20 PM</i>	
Mincha:	4:10 PM
<i>Shalosh Seudos speaker: Henry Schanzer</i>	
Maariv:	5:20 PM
Weekday Shacharis:	
Sunday-	see box
Mon, Thur	6:17, 7:05 & 8AM
Tue, Weds	6:30, 7:10 & 8 AM
Fri (New Years Day)	7:15, 8 & 9 AM
<i>Note earliest Talis And Tefillin: 6:21 Monday, 6:22 Thursday</i>	
Weekday Mincha/ Maariv:	4:25 PM
Weekday Maariv	7:30 & 10:10 PM
<i>Rabbi Luban's She'eilos Uteshuvos Shiur: Monday 9:10PM</i>	
Tuesday Tehillim 9:50 PM	
DAF YOMI SCHEDULE	
Monday-Thursday after 7:30 Maariv. Friday after Maariv. Shabbos 8:15 AM or after Hashkama Schacharis. Sunday after 8 AM Minyan.	

MAZEL TOV
... to Leah and Harvey Paretzky on the Aufruf and forthcoming marriage of their son Mordechai to Ruthie Goldstein of Skokie, Illinois. Mazel tov to Mordechai's sisters Adina and Shoshana, and grandmother, Mrs. Cicely Paretzky. The Paretzky's are sponsoring kiddush after the Hashkama minyan.

KIDDUSH
Kiddush is sponsored by the Board in appreciation of Allen Kessel and his many achievements during the past four years as President. It is co-sponsored by Clara and Jonas Waizer in memory of Moshe ben Yisroel HaCohen Grosberg, Clara's father A"H. We also wish to acknowledge the Young Family Minyan, which is inaugurated this Shabbos.

SHALOSH SEUDOS
Shalosh Seudos this week is sponsored by Sheila and Henry Schanzer in memory of his fathers Yahrzeit, Brachya ben Dov, Z"L.

ASARAH BETEVES SCHEDULE

Fast Starts:	6:08 AM
Shacharis:	7, 8 & 9 AM
Early Mincha:	12:30 PM
Regular Mincha/ Maariv:	4:05 PM
Fast Ends:	5:28 PM

EPI YEAR-END UPDATE
The Emergency Parnasah Initiative committee that was formed to assist members of our community who have been affected by recent economic turmoil would like to inform you that to date 31 families in our community have received assistance. Please do your very best to redeem the remainder of your pledges by year end or under the schedule you originally pledged. The committee thanks you for your extremely generous support.

YOUTH RAFFLE
Congratulations to the OT Youth Raffle winning families: Kreitman, Kaye, and Atkin families.

-Thanks to Barry Siegel, Charles Gerschbaum and Lyndon Goldsmith for selling the raffle tickets.

-Thanks to Yoel Schwartz for handling the OT billing superbly.

-Thanks to all Raffle ticket buyers for supporting the youth program fundraiser. All the raffle tickets were sold for the benefit of the OT youth programs.

TAX YEAR END DEADLINE
To secure a charitable tax deduction in 2009, please submit all payments to Congregation Ohr Torah by Thursday, December 31, 2009.

Open outstanding balance payments as well prepayments of 2010 dues and Building Fund obligations will qualify for 2009 if received by the year end deadline. Thank you all for generously supporting our Shul.

YOUNG FAMILY MINYAN
This Shabbos, December 26th, Cong. Ohr Torah is pleased to introduce the Young Family Minyan which will meet each Shabbos morning at 9:15am in the Beis Medrash. For more information, please see Neer Even-Hen, Jeff Klein or Evan Orgel.

CONDOLENCES
We mourn the loss of our very dear member and friend, Fran Herman, A"H. Fran and her late husband, Bernie, were among the pillars and builders of our shul. May Hashem provide comfort to their children, Larry and Mitchell, among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

OHR TORAH YOUTH EVENTS
--This Motzei Shabbat December 26th at 5:45PM sharp at Ohr Torah, come join us as we head to the New Jersey Nets vs Houston Rockets game at the Izod Center with a special visit to the NJ Nets Practice Training Facility beforehand. The training facility is a replica of the Izod Center with the same flooring, lighting and much more!

SEFORIM DONATIONS
Thanks to the following for their generous Seforim donations:
-Chaya Gurkov in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Moshe & Eva Weisz.
-Chaya Gurkov in recognition of Charles & Mimi Gershbaum being honored at the Ohr Torah dinner.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY KOLLEL
The Highland Park Community Kollel is pleased to invite the entire Community to the 2nd Annual Kollel Breakfast, which will take place at Congregation Ohr Torah on Sunday Morning, January 3rd 2010 at 9:30am. The Guests of Honor will be Mr. & Mrs. William Bogner. The Ahavas HaTorah Award will be presented to Mr. Solomon Blumenfeld. For further information, please contact the Breakfast Chairman, Mr. Avi Kamelhar at (917) 597-0932 or avi@eastchestercenter.com - We look forward to greeting you there!

RABBI HOFFMAN'S SHIUR
Rabbi Hoffman has resumed his Wednesday night shiur. This year, the shiur will learn mesechta brochos with rishonim, acharonim and halacha l'maisseh. Please join this wonderful learning opportunity. 8:30-9:15 at the Agudah.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

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 January 9th, 23rd and 30th. 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.

REFUAH SHLEIMAH LEARNING
Please see the Ohr Torah website, www.ohrtorah.net, for the various schedules of learning as a Z'chus for a Refuah Shleimah for members of our shul and community.

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

Next blood drive, scheduled for Sunday, January 3, 2010. Donors are welcome from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM. We'll have fresh baked cookies and child care will be available. Please contact Heidi, Ira or Natasha at 732-393-1018 to schedule a donation slot (walk-ins are also welcome).

GUEST JOURNALIST & AUTHOR TO SPEAK

Yeshivat Netivot Montessori and The Mekor Chaim/Steinsaltz Ambassadors program presents a lecture by the journalist and author Chayuta Deutsch on "Nechama Leibowitz: A Revolution in Tanach Study." Monday, December 28th, 8PM, at Yeshivat Netivot Montessori, 91 Jefferson Blvd., Edison. Mrs. Deutsch is an expert on the life and work of Nechama Leibowitz. Her book, "Nechamah: The Biography of Nechama Leibowitz," was published in 2008. Please RSVP if you plan to attend this event: rabbishmulie@steinsaltz.org--

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.

CHUG IVRIT TO MEET

The next meeting of Chug Ivrit (Hebrew Club) for intermediate to advanced Hebrew speakers will be on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010, at 11am at a private Highland Park area home. Chug Ivrit is sponsored by the Raritan Valley Chapter of Hadassah. It is free and open to both men and women. You do not need to be a member of Hadassah to attend. We chat in Hebrew and read a short Hebrew story or article. We will also do a Hebrew crossword puzzle. For location and more info, contact Rachel Weintraub at 732-819-9298 or rachel@weintraubworld.net

UPCOMING EMUNAH ART AUCTION

EMUNAH's annual art auction will take place Saturday night, January 9, 2009, at Ohr Torah. Dinner (for sponsors) 8pm; General Admission 8:30 pm; Auction 9pm. General admission \$5.00; Sponsors (includes dinner for 2): \$36, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$18 (includes dinner for 1). Special this year, for sale: Framed lithographs by Micki Caspi and Yonah Weinrib, Judaica, Unique personal and decorative giftware by premier artists, Original handcrafted sterling silver/semi-precious stone

jewelry. A portion of all sales will support EMUNAH programs in Israel. Please RSVP to Sharon Hirt 732-777-0462 or Pauline Mykoff 732-572-0457.

ORTHODOX FORUM SPEAKER

The Orthodox Forum presents Mr. Mutty Weiss and Rabbi Yosef Blau to speak on the topic of Facing Up to Sexual Abuse in the Orthodox Community: A Survivor and Rabbinic Leader Speak Out, on Motzei Shabbos, January 9, 2010, 8PM, Congregation Ohr Torah.

NEW FRI. NIGHT ONEG SERIES AT OE

Friday night January 1, 2010 - Rabbi Yehoshua Lewis, director of the Rutgers Jewish Experience program; Friday night January 8th - Rabbi Tzvi Weiss, shiur leader: Friday night January 15th - Rabbi Shlomo Ziegler, baal koreh and shiur leader. More speakers should be scheduled shortly.

Each Friday night Oneg will start at 8pm at the shul with a brief talk by the evening's speaker on a select midrash, followed by a question and answer period. The talk will be accompanied by a light reception. For more info on this Oneg series, speak with Steve Deutsch or send him email at forsang@juno.com

CLASSES FOR WOMEN/GIRLS

-Mrs. Miri Cohen's ladies Parsha class will meet Wednesday morning, December 30 at 9:15 AM at the home of Rikki Samel, 427 Dennison St, Highland Park. For more information, please call Azriella Jaffe 732-985-7613.

-The Women's AMEN Group will be continuing to meet weekly, Sunday mornings at Congregation Ohr Torah, 1st classroom downstairs to the left of the stairway. The group will begin promptly at 9:30 AM. All women and girls are invited to join. The group prays in the 'Zechus' of Menachem Mordechai Ben Ophira and other Cholim on community lists and individual's requests.

-Looking for women to say Shir Hashirim (*in your own home*) this Friday night after light 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 email 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.

TEFILLAH INITIATIVE E-MAILS

Send an e-mail to: tefillah@actt613.org, to receive the Raritan Valley Tefillah Initiative e-mails, including the very informative and inspiring V'ani Tefillah Foundation newsletter "Praying With Passion - A Weekly E-mail Newsletter Focusing on the Meaning Of The Davening".

EMPLOYMENT NETWORK OF RARITAN VALLEY

For more info, go to www.ENRV.org, or contact Bob Lansey at ENRV@verizon.net. Please help: If you know of any job openings, please e-mail the info to enrv@verizon.net. Jobs can be professional, part-time, or temporary.

PARK MIKVAH

The Edison/Highland Park mikvah will be open Saturday-Thursday evenings 8:30-10:30pm. Friday nights by appointment only, and must be made by Thursday night at 8:30pm. Fee \$15. OUT OF HOURS: additional \$20. Call 732-249-2411

LOCAL ERUV

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

Shabbat Vayechi	
Candlelighting	4:23 PM
Mincha/ Maariv	4:30 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: Hillel HaZaken

Even the youngest of children know the story of Hillel who was so poor he could not pay the watchman at the door of the *bet medrash* to allow him to enter. He was forced to climb to the roof and position himself near a skylight in order to hear the discussions taking place below. One day he fell asleep and snow fell and covered him entirely. The next morning the people in the *beis medrash* saw him, took him down, warmed him and declared that someone so dedicated to learning torah be permitted to enter without cost. From these humble beginnings there developed the position of Nasi and Hillel was appointed the first *nasi*. As such he established a chain of *nesiut* that lasted for 15 generations, a period of 450 years. Hillel became the *nasi* when a question arose in regard to the situation of when Pesach occurs on Shabbat. Does the *korban pesach* (pascal lamb) take precedence over *shabbat*? No one knew until Hillel came along and told them that Shmayah and Avtalyon said it does. He was promptly made the *nasi*. Hillel, a descendant of Dovid haMelech and recognized universally as *the gadol beTorah*, was born in Bavel 100 years before the destruction of the second *bet hamikdash*. He emigrated to *eretz yisrael* where he became the student of Shmayah and Avtalyon. Very few *halachot* are recorded in his name. The vast majority are recorded in the name of his school: *bet Hillel*. A number of famous pronouncements, however, are recorded in his name ("*al tudun es chavercha ad shetagia limkomo*") as well as his most famous *takana*: the *pruzbul*, the document that transfers debts during the *shmittah* year to a *bet din*, thus allowing lenders to collect their debts even though *shmittah* normally nullifies all debts. Hillel had many students, the greatest of them was Yonasan ben Uzziel and the "weakest" was R. Yochanan ben Zaccai (Imagine that!) A *mesorah* has it that Hillel lived as long as Moshe Rabbeinu, 120 years. He was 40 when he arrived from Bavel, 40 years he served and learned from the sages and 40 years he was the leader of the entire Jewish people. Truly a remarkable life!