



Congregation Ohr Torah

Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi

Russell Adler- President

Parshas Tazria/Hachodesh

27 Adar II 5774

March 29, 2014

Candlelighting: 7:00 PM
Mincha: 7:10 PM
Shacharis: 7:45, 9 & 9:15 AM
Rabbi Luban's Sotah Shiur : 6:05 pm
Mincha: 1:45 & 6:55 PM
Shalosh Seudos Speaker:
Dr. Moshe Sherman
Maariv: 8:05 PM
Z'man Krias Shma (G'RA): 9:54 AM
Weekday Shacharis:
Sunday 7:15, 8 & 9 AM
Rabbi Sauer's Daf Yomi lyun Shiur after 7:15 Shacharis
Mon. & Thur 6:20, 7:05 & 8 AM
Wed., & Fri. 6:30, 7:10 & 8 AM
Tues. (Rosh Chodesh) 6:10, 7:05 & 8 AM
Weekday Mincha/ Maariv: 7:10 PM
Weekday Maariv 10:10 PM
Rabbi Luban's Sheilos U'teshuvos Shiur: Monday 9:10 PM Tuesday Tehillim: 9:50 PM Wednesday Night Kollel Learning: 8-10:10 PM
DAF YOMI SCHEDULE
 Friday - After Kabbolas Shabbos. Shabbos – One hour before Mincha (no Shiur at 8:15 or after Hashkama). Sunday- After 8 AM Shacharis Monday – Thursday: after Zman Maariv

KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP

Kiddush sponsorship is available for April 5th & 26th. To sponsor a Kiddush or reserve the Kiddush room, please contact Mel Barenholtz in person, or 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 see the Ohr Torah website: www.ohrtorah.net

BUILDING DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Moshe Schneider at 732-618-4702 or at 8848 (cell), reenagreenspan@yahoo.com or Gene Wasserman 732-397-0130 or genew@compugene.com or mschneider19@yahoo.com.

TREE OF LIFE and/or YAHRZEIT PLAQUES

To dedicate a Yahrzeit Plaque or a Leaf for the Lobby EitzChayim Tree, please contact Moish Nat by sending a detailed fax with all dedicatory wording to 732-759-8558. For more info, call Moish at 732-759-8070 during work days or 732- 572-4132 in the evening.

SEFORIM DEDICATIONS

Book/Seforim Dedications of all types are available contact Barry Siegel siegeldad@optonline.net.

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 RefuahShleimah for members of our shul and community.

FUNERAL/ SHIVA ANNOUNCEMENTS

For funeral and Shiva email and phone mail announcements contact Reena Greenspan 732-828-5642 (home) 732-678-8848 (cell), reenagreenspan@yahoo.com or Gene Wasserman 732-397-0130 or genew@compugene.com

E-MAIL LIST

To get on the Ohr Torah e-mail list, please contact Gene Wasserman at genew@compugene.com.

MAZEL TOV

...to Lori and Jonathan Caplan on the engagement of their son Adam to Melissa Sheps, daughter of Larry and Lynn Sheps of Tampa, Florida. Mazel Tov to Joey's grandparents, Philip and Lola Caplan, and to his uncle and aunt, Joshua and Naomi Caplan.

... to Sue & Alan Redlich and Family, Shira & Ari Neuman and their son Moshe, on Ari receiving Smicha in the Chag HaSemikah at Yeshiva University last Sunday. Ari is the JLIC Rabbi at the University of Maryland.

...to Chaya Gurkov on the birth of a great-grand daughter, Chana, to her grandchildren Esti and Shaya Cohen. Mazel Tov to the grandparents Rabbi David and Faigie Newman and all the siblings and entire family.

... Esther and Yonatan Rosenberg on the engagement of their daughter, Ruchi, to Yehuda Sahar of Yerushalayim.

...to Rebecca and Keith Peckman on the birth of a boy and a girl. The Shalom Zochor will be Friday night, 9:15 pm, at the Elbaum residence, 301 Harrison Ave., Highland Park.

SHALOSH SEUDOS

Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Rebecca and Israel Rivkin in memory of their respective mothers and Israel's paternal grandmother whose Yahrzeits are in Nisan.

RABBI'S PESACH SHIUR FOR WOMEN

Rabbi Luban's annual Pesach Halacha Shiur will take place Tuesday, April 1 at 8 PM in the Beis Medrash.

SELLING CHOMETZ

Rabbi Luban will be available to sell Chometz after all three Shacharis Minyanim for the next three Sundays before Pesach. The Rabbi is also available at home but please call first 732-236-1382 to make sure he will be there.

MAOS CHITIM

Rabbi Luban is now collecting Maos Chitim. Checks should be made to Congregation Ohr Torah and write Maos Chitim in the memo line

SEFORIM DONATIONS

Thanks to the following for their generous Seforim donations:

-Ted and Shoshana Diskind in honor of the occasion of Rebecca & Israel Rivkin's grandsons becoming Bnei Mitzvah
 -Brian and Shoshana Allen in honor of Marion and David Kornfeld's 50th wedding anniversary.

-Joseph & Cheryl Strauch in memory of Heshey Gottlieb's father Joseph Gottlieb Z"L
 -Myron and Sheila Bursky in memory of Heshey Gottlieb's father Joseph Gottlieb Z"L
 -Peter & Rachelle Kassai in memory of Peter's father Meir Kassai Z"L
 -Edward & Sharon Lowinger in memory of Sharon's grandfather Abraham Cooperberg Z"L.

YAHRZEIT DATABASE

The Shul's database is now operational so we remind you to send in the forms to Ralph Dessau at r2d22009@hotmail.com. You may also use the following link to a Google form to complete the information.

<http://www.Tinyurl.com/ot613>

TORAH TAPE LIBRARY

The Torah Tape Library will be closed from April 11-28.

TOUR OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE

We are planning to travel to the Lower East Side on May 4th. We would leave at 12:15 and return at about 5PM. The trip is being organized by Diane Mael at the JCC and will cost apx \$45 for transportation, snacks and admission fees. Dr. Moshe Sherman, Teacher of Jewish History at Touro University, has graciously volunteered to be our tour guide. Many of you benefited from his expansive knowledge when he spoke about "The World of Sholom Aleichem." We will learn about the history of the Jews who lived in the area and will visit the Eldridge St Synagogue. If you are definitely interested in joining this tour please email me or contact Diane at 732 494 3232 ext 3614. This tour is limited to 30 people. If many more are interested there may be another tour on a different date. This is primarily a walking tour. Bella Lerner blerner18@optonline.net or 732 317-1786

CONDOLENCES

Ohr Torah extends deepest condolences to Ricky Nat on the loss of her father Mr. Shmuel Kadry, in Israel. Ricky can be reached at her parents apartment, 011 972 3 619 0069 or on her cell, 011 972 54 715 7780. May you be comforted among the mourners of Tzion and Jerusalem.

SISTERHOOD NEWS:

Please note that Dr. Peter and Rachelle Kassai's names were left off the list of participants in the Mishloach Manot program. Thanks again to all who participated and helped make the program so successful.

POLAND PILGRIMAGE

REMINDER: The emergency Defibrillator is mounted on the wall in the hallway. PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR MORE OHR TORAH INFORMATION

OT is excited to announce its First Community Poland Pilgrimage Journey, July 21-29. The intensive 7 day journey will focus on the rich life and heritage of Polish Jewry as well as very meaningful visits to the major sites of the Shoah. Join Rabbi Luban and other community members on this memorable journey. For more details contact Nitza Adler at 732-819-9294 or email at morahnitza28@gmail.com or Rachele Stern at 732-247-0766 rachele_stern@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEACE OF MIND

Peace of Mind parlor meeting at the home of Marcia and Barry Levinson (419 Becker Street, Highland Park) at 8 PM on March 31st. Please show your support and Hakarat Hatov to soldiers who have risked their lives for our homeland and for our friends and families living in Israel. RSVP to Barbara Strassman (barbara.strassman@gmail.com or [732/545-3931](tel:7325453931)). If you are unable to attend this meeting but would like to support the program, please send donations made out to American Friends of Herzog Hospital c/o Rosanne Koenigson at 221 Washington Ave. Edison, NJ 08817.

NORPAC MISSION

Join us on our annual Mission to Washington event to support the U.S.-Israel relationship on Wednesday, April 30, 2014. On a single-day trip you will meet with Members of Congress and their staff, and share your concerns with them about foreign aid to Israel, Iran sanctions, security cooperation, and more. Help us make a difference once again! Buses leave for Washington from our area at 6:30 AM and return between 9-10 PM. There will be briefings on the bus. All meals will be provided. Register now for the early bird discount: www.norpac.net or call (201) 788-5133 Adults - \$125, Students - \$75 (must be over 12. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian). Contact Marc Hanfling docdad@aol.com for more info.

COMMUNITY-WIDE TEHILLIM

A community-wide Tehillim gathering will take place at OE (415 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park) on Wednesday evening, April 2nd at 7:45 PM following Mincha/Maariv at 7:05 PM in the Main Sanctuary for the zechus of a refuah shleima for Sara Nechama bas Rus Malka and Rus Malka bas Sara, community members, who will both be undergoing serious operations on Thursday April 3rd. They are in desperate need of our tefillos and we ask that everyone daven for them for a refuah shleima.

CLOTHING DRIVE

The entire community is invited to come to A.Y.'s pre Pesach clothing giveaway and get new / gently used clothing for free. Sunday March 30 10A.M.-2 P.M. volunteers are needed to set up and help at the giveaway. To volunteer please contact Rivka Jaffe 732 762 0490

VISITING SOFER

The sofer will be at Judaica Gallery, 300 Raritan Avenue, this Sunday, March 30, 2014 to check mezzuzot and tefillin. Store hours are 10am to 5pm. Although walk-ins are welcome, it is helpful if you call [732-828-7722](tel:7328287722) and let us know you will be coming. If you need him to check mezzuzot in your home, please call [732-828-7722](tel:7328287722) to set up an appointment.

THANK YOU

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

Thank You from Local Participant in Jerusalem Marathon Thank you for all of your support in helping me meet my goals and raising money for Shalva. I completed the Jerusalem Half Marathon in 01:53:54 and the Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School team raised over \$84,000 for Shalva. Visiting Shalva facilities and participating in the marathon was an inspirational and moving experience. Thank you, Chaim Reiss.

YACHAD

Join Yachad for a Matza Baking Workshop to get into the Pesach spirit! When: Sunday, April 6th Time: 11:30- 1:00PM Where: Chabad of North Brunswick, 1 Riva Ave. Cost: \$5 a person. RSVP: Middlesexyachad@ou.org For more information, please contact Bracha Avraham, Yachad Outreach Coordinator of Middlesex County, at 718.440.0099

ACTT EVENT

It will be a great honor for ACTT (Achieving Change Through Torah) to host a very inspirational evening with Rabbi Paysach Krohn on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at Congregation Ohr Torah at 7:30 PM. A record crowd is expected. More details to follow. The source book for the entire year is: Step by Step – A Weekly Program for Self-improvement, an anthology. See the ACTT web-site, www.actt613.org, for the current Learning Schedule (Modules page) and for all the event audio presentations. For more info, e-mail info@actt613.org or call Phil Rosen (732) 572-8762..

FOR WOMEN

-The Women's AMEN Group meets weekly on Sundays at 9:30 AM in a downstairs classroom at Cong Ohr Torah. The group meets in the zechus of a refuah shleimah for Menachem Mordechai ben Ophira and other Cholim in the community.

-Tiferes, a Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation program for women, provides weekly teleconferences with topics such as shalom bayis and parenting to its members. Current teleconference: "Building Healthy Self-esteem". Speaker: Mrs. Tammie Karmel. For more information or to become a member, please contact Aviva siegelmom@optonline.net. The Highland Park / Edison group of Tiferes is zecher l'nishmas Malka bas Shalom.

-The Women's Learning Initiative can conduct a women's Torah class in your home. For more info on how to initiate a class, call [908-208-7144](tel:9082087144).

-Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: Tefillah class on Sunday, March 30 at 10:00 AM at Aguda shule; Parsha class on Monday, March 31 at 8:00 PM at Congregation Ohr Torah. These will be the last classes until after Pesach. For more info, please contact Aviva Siegel at 732-572-4408 siegelmom@optonline.net, Ricki Stern 732-828-6939 rickistern@yahoo.com.

-Rebbetzin Eichenstein will be giving a special class on "How to prepare for Pesach" this Sunday evening, March 30 at 8:30 PM at the home of Sheri Degani, 10 Cleveland Avenue, Highland Park. For women only. For more info, please call Sheri 732-937-6823

-Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class will resume after Pesach. For more info, please call Ellen [201-410-1893](tel:2014101893) or [732-777-6787](tel:7327776787).

-Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha class will resume after Pesach.

-SemPlus shiur for post seminary girls will resume after Pesach. For more info, please call [908-420-0253](tel:9084200253).

-Rabbi Bassous: class for women on the sefer, "The Six Constant Mitzvos" by Rabbi Yitzchak Berkowitz class on Sunday, March 30 at Cong. Etz Ahaim, 230 Dennison ST, Highland Park 10-11 AM.

YACHAD MATZA BAKING WORKSHOP

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JRECOVERY: A JEWISH SELF-HELP GROUP TO COMPLEMENT 12-STEP PROGRAMS

Sponsored by Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County (JFVS) JRecovery is a Jewish self-help group whose purpose is to support recovery from various addictions using spiritual insights from Jewish tradition. JRecovery complements 12-step recovery programs by nurturing the spiritual needs of those with active addictions or in recovery, and their families and friends. JRecovery participants include alcoholics, drug addicts, gamblers, overeaters, sex addicts, and their loved ones. Group discussions focus on the challenges of recovery. The discussions use the language and concepts of 12-step programs and a broad spectrum of Jewish spiritual teachings from every generation. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2014, 7:30-8:30 pm at the JFVS office, 32 Ford Ave, 2nd Floor (United Way Building), Milltown, NJ. The group will meet weekly at the same time and same location. JRecovery charges no dues for participation; all Jews are welcome. Similar to 12-step meetings, our meetings will be safe, secure and anonymous. For more information, contact JFVS at [732-777-1940](tel:7327771940) or www.jfvs.org/JRecovery

PARK MIKVAH

The Edison/Highland Park Mikvah will be open Sunday-Thursday 9-11pm. SATURDAY NIGHTS, March 29 and April 5, hours are 9:15-11:15pm. Saturday nights April 12-22, hours are 9:30-11:30pm. Friday nights and PESACH are by APPOINTMENT ONLY, and should be made by the day before. You must arrive and leave during regular hours. To schedule an appointment, please call 732-249-2411.

KEYLIM MIKVAH HOURS OF OPERATION

Ohr Torah Keylim Mikvah hours are, officially, 7:15 – 9:45 AM on Sunday mornings. Additionally, the Keylim Mikvah can be used when the Shul is open during Minyan hours. The Shul is locked (for security purposes) during non-Minyan hours. If you need special access, please speak to a Shul Gabbai. Please leave the area clean and neat.

LOCAL ERUV

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

Parshas Metzora

Candlelighting	7:07 PM
Mincha	7:15 PM

Ohr Torah can 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. Please submit all announcements by 7 PM Wednesday.

PLEASE NOTE: Please make sure that you leave a contact/callback name and phone # in case here

is a question regarding the item you wish to be printed, otherwise it may not be included.

Sof Davar

by Moshe Sherman

Abraham Jacob Gershon Lesser (1834-1924)

One of the great rabbonim to arrive in America in the early 1880s was Abraham Jacob Gershon Lesser. Born in Mir, Belarus, he studied at the local Mir yeshiva before leaving for Minsk to continue learning with R. Gershom Tanchum, communal rabbi of Minsk. Lesser later received semicha from R. Yitzchak Elchanan Spektor and R. Yitzchak Charif of Slonim. He served as communal rav of several towns in Europe before immigrating to the United States in 1882. At the invitation of one of Chicago's leading synagogues, he became rabbi of Beth Hamedrash Hagadol-B'nai Jacob. Throughout the 1880s, thousands of Jewish immigrants were arriving in Chicago, and Lesser worked diligently to meet their many needs.

One notable event concerns his participation in William Blackstone's petition to the President for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Blackstone was a Christian evangelist, who in his early career focused much attention on the restoration of Jews to Palestine as a prelude to their conversion to Christianity. It was seen as part of a Protestant desire to hasten the final coming of the Messiah. But Blackstone became genuinely concerned with Czarist inspired pogroms against Jews, and began to call on political leaders to create a Jewish homeland in Israel, in order to save Jewish lives. In 1891, Blackstone gathered hundreds of signatures from prominent individuals, including John D. Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan, senators, congressmen, religious leaders of all denominations, newspaper editors, and more, that called on the President to support a Jewish restoration to land of Israel. Please note that this petition predated, and in some ways presaged, the later ideas of Theodor Herzl in 1896. Apparently, Rabbi Avraham Lesser signed the petition, and remained in communication with William Blackstone. In 1897, with some measure of encouragement from Blackstone, Lesser published a lengthy treatise in Hebrew titled, *Be-Acharit Ha-Yamim*. Written in the style of a dialogue between a father and son, the theme of the work concerned matters of *kibbutz galuyot* and the return of Jews to Israel. The work was printed with an accompanying English translation, and last week, a first edition, Chicago 1897 copy of *Be-Acharit Ha-Yamim* was auctioned at Kestenbaum & Co., Auctioneers of Rare Books, Manuscripts and Fine Art.

Lesser's rabbinic talents were particularly well known in the Midwest, and in 1898, he accepted a prestigious position in Cincinnati as rabbi of a consortium of three shuls, of which the lead synagogue was Congregation Bet Tephila, known as Reb Shachna's shul, in memory of its former dynamic leader, R. Shachna Isaacs.

Cincinnati at the time was the center of Reform Judaism in America, where Isaac M. Wise continued to dominate the leadership of Reform. Lesser would spend the balance of his professional career, trying to maintain Orthodox tradition in a city where Reform Judaism was predominant. Rabbi Abraham Lesser also served as the lead mashgiach supervisor of Manischewicz machine made matzah, at the time located in Cincinnati. In a lengthy article published in Beit Va'ad La'hakhamim I (Shvat 1903), Lesser describes, what was until then, the most detailed description of the machinery and process of factory machine made matzah.

Lesser was one of the founders of the Agudath ha-Rabbonim in 1903, and became its first president. For many years, he served with great distinction on its executive. Attracted to the ideals of religious Zionism, he supported the efforts of Mizrahi and openly disagreed with those rabbinic colleagues who opposed Zionism. Lesser died in Cincinnati on the night of Yom Kippur, 1924.