



Congregation Ohr Torah

Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi

Russell Adler- President

Parshas Miketz

30 Kislev 5776

December 12, 2015

Candlelighting:	4:12PM
Mincha:	4:20 PM
Shacharis:	7:45, 9 & 9:15 AM
<i>Rabbi Hoffman's Halacha Iyun Shiur after Hashkama</i>	
Sof Z'man Krias Shma (GR"A):	9:31AM
<i>Rabbi Luban's Taanis Shiur – 3:15 PM</i>	
Mincha:	1:45 & 4:05 PM
<i>Shalosh Seudos Speaker: Josh Rapps with remarks by Ted Stahl</i>	
Maariv:	5:15 PM
Weekday Shacharis:	
Sun.	7:15, 8 & 9 AM
Mon. (Zos Chanukah)	6:10, 7:05, & 8AM
<i>Earliest Talis and Tefillin: 6:14 AM</i>	
Tues, Weds., Fri.	6:30, 7:10 & 8 AM
Thurs.	6:20, 7:05 & 8 AM
Weekday Mincha/ Maariv:	4:20 PM
Late Maariv:	7:30 & 10:10 PM
<i>R. Luban's Sheilos Uteshuvos Shiur- Mon. 9:10 PM</i>	
<i>Rabbi Akiva Sauer's 7:45 Sunday AM, Daf Yomi Halacha class is cancelled this week for Channuka</i>	
<i>Rabbi Billowitz' Halacha Shiur – Sunday after 8 AM Shacharis</i>	
<i>Tuesday Night Tehillim – 9:50- 10:10 PM</i>	
<i>Kollel Learning: Wednesday 8-10:10 PM</i>	
Daf Yomi	
Friday night-after Kabolos Shabbos/Maariv Shabbos- 8:15 AM	
Sunday-after 8 AM Shacharis	
Monday-Thursday -after 7:30 PM Maariv	
DAF YOMI STARTS MASECHES GITTIN ON TUESDAY 12/15.	

RABBI YONI DANZGER SHIUR

Rabbi Yoni Danzger will be giving a Shiur after Hashkama (9:40AM – 10:20AM) and is entitled "Chanuka Presents: Tradition or Prohibition".

KIDDUSH

Kiddush this week is sponsored by Sari and Michie Klerer in honor of their daughter, Hannah's, Bat Mitzvah. Kiddush sponsorship is available for Dec 19th & 26th and Jan 23rd & 30th.

SHALOSH SEUDOS

Shalosh Seudos is co-sponsored by; -Debbie and Moshe Schneider in memory of the Yahrzeit of Debbie's father, Emanuel ben Shimon A"H. -Ted Stahl in memory of the Yahrzeit of Doug Stahl A"H.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Governing Board election membership meeting will be December 15, 8-9:15 PM. Absentee ballots may be printed from the Shul website, placed in a sealed envelope signed on the outside by the member and dropped in the shul mailbox at any time prior to 8:30 PM on December 15. Full members in good financial standing are eligible to vote.

If you any questions about your financial standing, please contact Brian Allen prior to the meeting.

SPECIAL LEARNING INITIATIVE

B"H all of the Chofetz Chaim, A Daily Companion Seforim that were distributed last week have been taken. Additional Seforim have been purchased and are available at the back of the Shul. May our daily learning of this Sefer together as a Kehila be a Zechus for a Refuah Shelema.

MAZEL TOV

...to Briendy and Neil Pomper and Sue and Alan Redlich on the birth of a son to their children, Chani and Kivi Neuman. Mazel Tov to the entire Neuman, Redlich and Pomper families. Shalom Zachor will be held at the Redlich residence, 437 Harrison Ave, Highland Park, beginning at 7:30 PM. ...to Sari and Michie Klerer on their daughter, Hannah, becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Mazel Tov to Hannah's great-grandmother, Fay Baumfeld and to Hannah's grandparents Symcha and Tmima Klerer and Michael and Penny Kaplan and to the entire Klerer, Kaplan and Broder families.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Srulee Hercman for organizing this week's amazing Shlomo Katz Chanukah Concert which was filled with Ruach and inspiration. Yasher koach

ENHANCING OUR TEFILLA EXPERIENCE

Fully concentrate on the Tosfos Yom Tov's mishabarach for those who refrain from talking during davening. Help to bring our davening to a higher level and focus on the many benefits enumerated in this mishabarach. Truly live by: When it comes to talking during davening, silence is golden. Use the gold tassel OT mishabarach bookmark as a constant reminder for maintaining a high level of Kedushah in the shul. The bookmarks are in memory of Joel Adler, a"H, who embodied through his actions the way we should respectfully conduct ourselves in shul. If you did not receive a bookmark, please speak with Shelley Schoenfeld or email: TefillahExperience@OhrTorah.net.

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are able to help count votes at the Dec 15th governing board election, please contact Harvey Atlas or Russell Adler. Anyone other than the person running in the election or someone related to that person is eligible to be a volunteer.

GRAND CHANUKAH CELEBRATION AND CHILDREN'S CHINESE AUCTION

Ohr Torah is hosting a Grand Chanukah Celebration and Children's Chinese auction on Sunday morning Dec 13th starting at 10:30AM lasting until 1PM. Children, parents & grandparents are all invited. Included is brunch and lots of entertainment such as spin art, face painting, a balloonist, a dazzling children's magic show plus fun, games and giveaways from the Jeff Wilks orchestra. In addition, children will have the opportunity to decorate their own Chanukah donut (frosting and sprinkles provided) and there will be a children's Chinese auction with great prizes. Cost is \$15 a person or \$40 per family. Sponsorships of \$72 and \$100 are available as well. Questions: Contact Mayer Berg by email -- marcberg@verizon.net or by cell – 732-207-9992. Please share the attached flyer to further promote this OT extravaganza! Chag Urim Sameach to all!

UPCOMING OT EVENTS

- December 13 Grand Chanukah Celebration and Children's Chinese Auction
- December 19 Progressive Dinner featuring hypnotist/mentalists Ronnie Baras
- December 20 Rabbi Pesach Krohn Special Shiur and Community Tehillim

OT PROGRESSIVE DINNER FEATURING

HYPNOTIST RONNIE BARAS

We are very excited to announce that the Shul's progressive dinner will be Dec 19th at 7:30pm! The progressive dinner will be a very enjoyable evening replete with good food, the opportunity to meet members of our shul that you may not know as well and fun entertainment. The progressive dinner format is designed to facilitate this as all participants will have the opportunity to enjoy the first two fully catered courses at different host's homes with three other couples. Everyone then meets back at the shul for a sumptuous dessert sponsored by the sisterhood and fun entertainment featuring renowned hypnotist /mentalists Ronnie Baras! For reservations at \$25 per person or any questions, please contact any committee member: Nitza Adler, Gila Ginsberg, Lois Goldsmith, Alisa Hercman, Riki Kreitman, Chani Wiesel, or Honey Wisotsky or visit the shul website, ohrtorah.net.

SPECIAL SHIUR BY RABBI PESACH KROHN

As a zechus for a refuah shelema for all the cholim in our community and for the

REMINDER: The emergency Defibrillators are located on the wall in the upstairs hallway and on the wall in the downstairs entry hallway. CHEVRA HATZOLAH OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY 732-640-5545

imminent threat facing our brothers and sisters in Israel, a special shiur will be delivered by renowned lecturer and author, Rabbi Pesach Krohn, on Sunday, Dec 20th at 8pm at Ohr Torah. The title of the shiur is "Tefillah: A Way of Connection. Connecting Above and Connecting to Each Other." In conjunction with the shiur, there will be a communal recitation of Tehillim.

SEFORIM DONATIONS

Thanks to the following for their generous Seforim donations:

- Moshe & Susan Wiesel in memory of Alex Diamant's mother Goldie Diamant Z"L
- Moshe & Susan Wiesel in memory of Rabbi Shmully Leitman's mother Helen Leitman Z"L
- Dr. Pinchas & Malkie Ackerman in memory of Rabbi Aaron and Rebbetzin Lillian Chomsky Z"L

SAVE THE DATE!

OHR TORAH ANNUAL DINNER

Please save the evening of March 27 for our annual dinner at which time we will have the opportunity to pay tribute to two very special couples, Henry and Sheila Schanzer and Ami and Bracha Avraham. Details to follow.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

RPRY MISHMAR

RPRY Mishmar learning program is held at RPRY every Motzei Shabbat @ 7PM Please bring your own seforim. Cost is still only \$3.00 which includes, pizza, donuts, prizes and raffles

AVOS UBANIM

Avos Ubanim (father & son motzei shabbos learning) is back! The learning will take place in the Agudah every Motzei Shabbos from 6:45 - 7:45. Every boy that attends will get a slice of pizza and a raffle ticket for a chance to win some great prizes. This program is absolutely free!!

ACTT

"The Secret to More Powerful Prayer" with Rabbi Heshy Kleinman can be downloaded from Audio page of ACTT website: www.actt613.org/6.html. Current ACTT module is "Kavanah during Davening". Source book: Praying with Meaning by Rabbi Kleinman For more info, email info@actt613.org, see www.actt613.org, or call Phil Rosen (732) 572-8762

BIKUR CHOLIM

-Save the date! Bikur Cholim Annual Event Sun, March 6th at the Pines Manor at 9:30AM (more details to follow)

-VISITORS WANTED--Bikur Cholim is seeking volunteers to visit Ms. Mollie Reuben and Ms. Esther Tucker at the Regency nursing home on DeMott Lane. If you are able to help out, please call Rahel Baruh at [732-672-4673](tel:732-672-4673) or email rbaruh@yahoo.com. Tizku l'mitzvot!

-COORDINATORS AND DRIVERS NEEDED FOR BIKUR CHOLIM TRANSPORTATION: The Bikur Cholim Transportation Committee coordinates rides to and from medical appointments. The coordinator matches requesters with an available driver. Each coordinator serves for two weeks at a time. To volunteer to coordinate or drive, contact the Bikur Cholim hotline at [732-572-7181](tel:732-572-7181) or fill out the volunteer form on the website bikurcholimrv.org.

OE CHANUKAH CONCERT

Presented by OE Youth Dept: **Y-Studs** Yeshiva University's premier on-campus a cappella group. Sun Dec 13th. Doors Open 6:30PM. Concert Begins 7PM. Tickets on Sale Now! \$18 by Dec 12th; \$20 at door. Sponsorships avail: \$250 - 6 tickets, premium seats, free CD & name in program; \$200-4 tickets, premium seats, free CD & name in program; \$150-4 tickets & name in program. You may purchase tickets online ohavemeth.org and click on "Donate" tab. Please select "Other" from drop down-write "Chanukah Concert" for purpose. Questions - oechildren@gmail.com or [732-247-3038](tel:732-247-3038).

YESHIVAT NETIVOT MONTESSORI IN E.B.

Yeshivat Netivot Montessori in East Brunswick will be having a school tour on Thur, Dec. 24 from 9:15-11AM. Come see our beautiful classroom where child enjoy freedom of movement, an integrated curriculum, and individual and small group lessons. Sign up on our website www.mynetivot.com or call [732-985-4626](tel:732-985-4626).

TABC PARLOR MEETING

TABC PARLOR MEETING is scheduled for Tue, Dec 15th 8pm, at the home of Michele & Michael Meiner (484 Lincoln Ave., Highland Park). Meet current parents, students and administrators to learn more about our outstanding yeshiva high school. For info email Donna.Hoenig@tabc.org

ECHOES OF THE HOLOCAUST

"Echoes of the Holocaust" edited and composed by Rabbi Dr. Bernhard Rosenberg is a riveting collection of real stories and memoirs. These real stories depict real people, families, friends and the tragic reality they faced during the deluge of Nazism and WWII -- loss of innocence and peace shattered by the Nazi machine.

The stories are infused with aspirations, defiance; will to live, survival, search for survivors and occasional reconnections. The uncanny tenacity and perseverance, not without a struggle, to move on with their lives and build/re-build their family lives.

The stories are written simplistically, but very captivating with very powerful imagery and episodes that capture each moment effectively. An atmosphere of hope surrounds many events. The book is divided into several very well organized chapters that make it an easy read. No history book can tell a story such as this one.

FUNDRAISING/ MITZVAH OPPORTUNITIES

SHOP FOR PEACE OF MIND AT GLATT 27

Let Glatt 27 give you Peace of Mind for Shabbat Dec 24th and 25th. Buy from their prepared deli section on these two days and a portion of your sale will go to Peace of Mind, a unique program designed to help IDF combat veterans transition to civilian life. Additional donations can be mailed to American Friends of Herzog Hospital c/o Rosanne Koenigson 221 Washington Ave Edison, NJ 08817

MEMORIAL FUND FOR EZRA SCHWARTZ Z"L HY"D

A Fund is being established to memorialize Ezra Schwartz z"l HY"D, of Sharon, Mass, grandson of Laurie and Al Senecal, of Edison. Ezra was murdered by terrorists in Israel on Nov 19th. The Fund will purchase a Yahrzeit wall plaque for the Young Israel of Sharon where the Schwartz family davens. Please send contributions made out to The Young Israel of Sharon and send the checks to Marcia Pheffer 14 Ely Place, Edison, NJ 08817. For further info please call [732-572-5998](tel:732-572-5998).

BLOOD DRIVE

Just as your calendar begins to free up, here come Thanksgiving, Chanukah, and yes, another blood drive.. On Sun, Dec 20th, we will be holding our next community blood drive from 9AM to 3PM, at Congregation Ahavas Achim, 216 S. First Ave., HP. Babysitting available, and donors can be as young as 16 (with parental permission and meeting weight requirements). As an added chesed, New York Blood Center will contribute \$1 to Global Blood Fund for every pint donated at this drive to refurbish and transport a Bloodmobile to Mexico. For further info, please contact Ira Rosen at [732-393-1018](tel:732-393-1018) or ira_rosen@yahoo.com.

DONATE TO AND VOLUNTEER FOR THE HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

The Highland Park Community Food Pantry is a volunteer-run organization established by the Borough of HP in 2000 to provide non-perishable food to residents in need. Last year, the Food Pantry served more than 300 families and need is increasing. The Food Pantry is supported by donations come from individuals, organizations, and businesses in Highland Park and nearby, with some additional emergency food donations from the county, state, and federal governments. It does not receive any local tax dollars. Donations may be made payable to the Borough of Highland Park with "Food Pantry" in the memo field, and mailed to HPC Food Pantry, 220 S. 6th Ave, Highland Park, NJ. To volunteer for the Food Pantry, please call [732-819-0052](tel:732-819-0052) or send an email to highlandparkfoodpantry@gmail.com with your contact info, tasks you would like to help with, any special skills you have, and the hours you are available.

CHAI LIFELINE

- Chanukah Toy Drive now through Wednesday Dec.16th. Only new, unwrapped Toys. Drop off locations are RPRY, Shaarei Tzion schools & Glatt 27. Any questions, call Bobbi at [732-819-7842](tel:732-819-7842) -Please support Yaakov Siegel as he runs in the Miami Half-Marathon for Chai Lifeline on Jan 24, 2016. His goal is to raise \$3,600. Tax deductible donations can be made at <http://www.teamlifeline.org/my/61569>. Checks can also be dropped off at the Siegel house, 16 Edgemount Rd, Edison. Thank you! -Please support Avital and Mark Goldblatt as they run in the Miami Half Marathon on Jan 24, 2016 in support of Chai Lifeline. Tax deductible donations can be made at <http://www.teamlifeline.org/my/61830> or checks to Chai Lifeline can be dropped off at the Goldblatt house, 27 Edgemount Rd in Edison. Thank you so much for your support.

RPRY NEWS & EVENTS

-RPRY will be holding its annual Toby Mayer Memorial Scholarship Fund Breakfast Sunday, Dec 20th at 9:30AM. This year's deserving honoree is Mrs. Tobi Schilowitz, who will be presented with the Educator Excellence Award. All funds collected go directly to the scholarship fund. Please contact Yehuda Kohn at ykohn@rpry.org for reservations. -The whole community is cordially invited to RPRY's Family Chanukah Party on Thursday, December 10th, 6:30-8:00pm at YIEB in East Brunswick. Bring your thinking cap...and get ready to celebrate the light!! For more info, please contact Ida Scheiner at imscheiner@aol.com.

MA'AYANOT YESHIVA HS DAY OF BIG IDEAS

The entire community is invited to attend Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School's Day of Big Ideas

Fri, Dec 25th, 9:30AM– 12:30PM, at Ma'ayanot (1650 Palisade Ave Teaneck). Program begins with keynote address by Dr. Jeremy Dauber (Atran Prof of Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture & Dir, Institute of Israel and Jewish Studies, Columbia Univ) on the topic *Frightening Jews: What Makes a Jewish Horror Story?* Keynote address will be followed by addt'l lectures by Ma'ayanot faculty on advanced topics in liberal arts and sciences. Men & women welcome. For more info contact Pam Ennis at [201-833-4307](tel:201-833-4307), ext. 265.

ULPAN

"Interested in learning Hebrew through a professional 'World Zionist Organization' course? Always dreamed of experiencing Hebrew in a fun & engaging method like never before? Now is your chance to sign up for an amazing 10 week course starting December - right here in Highland Park!

First class: Wednesday 23rd of December 8:15-9:45pm @ Congregation Ohav Emeth. Don't miss the boat!!! For more info & to sign up click here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/qo/30e0d4ea9ac2fa2f49-december>. Or contact Yair: yairbj@gmail.com 516-727-3291

RARITAN VALLEY HADASSAH

- General Meeting: One of the Very First Humanitarian Missions to the Jews of Cuba Tues, Jan 5, 2016, 7:30PM Cong Ahavas Achim "*Kol Yisrael areivim ze laze.*" (Every Jew is responsible for one another.) Join us at our January General Meeting, the first of a continuing series about Areivut, when Rabbi Ronald Schwarzberg, Rabbi Emeritus of Cong AA shares his experience accompanying Sheila Kossof Goldberg and her brother, Stanley Kossof, to Cuba in the early 1990s to trace the tracks of Sheila and Stanley's father, George Kossof z"l, who escaped Nazi Germany by immigrating to Cuba.

YST PTA

After the resounding success of the Rebbitzin Sima Spetner parenting workshops this past summer, the YST PTA is proud to present "The Science of Parenting from a Torah Perspective" by Rebbetzin Ruthi Lynn, a renowned expert in the field, specially trained and highly recommended by Rebbetzin Sima Spetner. A sample class can be accessed at:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6CKN9Wv4ZCAYIVGV19pTG8yS00>

The classes are scheduled as follows: 1) 12/27-emotional needs and motivation; 2) 01/03-praising properly and increasing positivity 3) 01/10-Creating a balance in the home 4)01/17 reducing negativity , increasing cooperation 5) 01/31-picking battles 6) 02/14-defining issues 7) 02/21-giving consequences 8) 02/28-giving consequences etc. 9) 03/6-Sibling atmosphere 10) 03/13-Wrap up class. Recordings of each class will be available as well. This 10 part series is open to everyone and will begin on Sunday 12/27 at 10:00 AM in the 2nd floor Aguda classroom. Limited scholarships are available to YST parents. Spots are limited and enrollment will be on a first come first serve basis. For more info and to register, please call 732-986-3153 or

email srhakimi@hotmail.com Cost: \$225 for 10 sessions or \$115 for either the first 5 or last 5 classes. Please contact ASAP to reserve spot!

FOR WOMEN

-Bikur Cholim OWLS (Overnight Women Labor Support): A complimentary service for maternity situations whereby volunteers will come to stay with your kids during the night. For more info on receiving this service or becoming a volunteer, please contact Rikki at [732-249-5116](tel:732-249-5116). Thank you. -Tiferes DVD for women: Motzai Shabbos, Jan. 2 at 8:30PM at the Siegel house. Current weekly teleconferences series: "Our Parents and In-laws" with Mrs. Seryl Berman. *The teleconferences are FREE to all women in the month of Kislev!* [212-444-9898](tel:212-444-9898), Pin # 5775. For more info, please contact Aviva siegelmom@optonline.net. The Highland Park / Edison group of Tiferes is zecher l'nishmas Malka bas Shalom.

-Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha class Thursday 10AM at Riki Samel's house. Please call the hotline to confirm at [206-666-8911](tel:206-666-8911).

-SemPlus evening shiur for post seminary girls meets Wednesday evenings. SemPlus will be on Sunday evenings starting Dec 20. Please call the hotline to confirm at [732-841-1885](tel:732-841-1885).

-Rebbitzen Eichenstein's classes for women: No classes Sun Dec. 13 & Mon Dec. 14. For more info, please contact Aviva at [732-572-4408](tel:732-572-4408) or siegelmom@optonline.net

-Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimras Haloshon class: Mon, Dec 14 at 7:30PM at the home of Ellen Smith, 407 No Eighth Ave., Edison. For more info, Ellen at [201-410-1893](tel:201-410-1893) or [732-777-6787](tel:732-777-6787).

-The Edison/Highland Park gown Gemach, L'iluy Nishmas R' Yitzchok Ben Binyomin, is open! The Gemach houses a wide selection of gowns for children, pre-teen, teens and adults. Please note the Gemach is still looking for donation of gowns in very good condition. Tax deduction is given and pick up of the gowns can also be arranged. For more info and/or to schedule an appt call Sara Scott at [516-526-0941](tel:516-526-0941).

-Collecting Sheitels: Keren Kol Kallah - established to provide orphan and destitute kallahs in Israel with essential needs. Donated custom sheitels, some brand-new, some gently worn, are sold to women in Israel who would not otherwise have the funds to buy a quality wig. All the money raised at the sale goes towards a hachnasas kallah fund which helps needy brides in Eretz Yisrael. Sheitels can be dropped off by Aviva, 16 Edgemount Rd, Edison. For more info Aviva Siegel [732-572-4408](tel:732-572-4408) siegelmom@optonline.net

HIGHLAND PARK MIKVAH

Mikvah hours for Standard Time: Sunday–Thur evenings 8PM–10:30PM; Friday nights by appt only. Dec. 12, 19, 26: 7:30–10PM. Please arrive with enough time to be out before closing time. More info, [732-249-2411](tel:732-249-2411) email hpmikvah@gmail.com.

PARK MIKVAH Event: Cooking demo and food tasting with Victoria Dwek, Managing Editor of Ami's Whisk Magazine and author of many cookbooks in the "Made Easy" and "Secret Restaurant" series, to benefit the Park Mikvah. Motzei Shabbos, Feb 6th at 8:15PM at Yael

Kamelhar, 22 Perry Rd. For women only. More details to follow.

OHR TORAH NEWSLETTER: To subscribe to these Announcements, please see the Ohr Torah website: www.ohrtorah.net

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

KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP: To sponsor a Kiddush or reserve the Kiddush room, please contact Mel Barenholtz by email: mbarenh@yahoo.com.

SHALOSH SEUDOS SPONSORSHIP: To sponsor a Shalosh Seudos, please contact Moshe Wiesel.

BUILDING DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Moshe Schneider at [732-618-4702](tel:732-618-4702).

TREE OF LIFE / 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 [732-759-8558](tel:732-759-8558). For more info, call Moish at [732-759-8070](tel:732-759-8070) during work days or [732-572-4132](tel: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](tel: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](tel: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](tel:732-828-5642) (home) [732-678-8848](tel:732-678-8848) (cell), reenagreenspan@yahoo.com or Gene Wasserman [732-397-0130](tel:732-397-0130) or genew@compugene.com

YAHRZEIT DATABASE: To register a family member in the Yahrzeit data base, please go to ohrtorah.net and click "Register for OT Yahrzeit Notification" or speak with Ralph Dessau or Gene Wasserman.

LOCAL ERUV: Please call [732-247-ERUV](tel:732-247-ERUV) for status of the Eruv

Shabbos Vayigash

Candlelighting:	4:14 PM
Mincha:	4:30PM

Ohr Torah can be found on the internet at <http://www.ohrtorah.net>. You can join the [email list for Weekly Announcements](mailto:announcements@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 there is a question regarding the item you wish to be printed, otherwise it may not be included.

R. Nissan Yablonski (1877-1928)

To meet the growing needs of Chicago Jewish life, a century ago, a group of rabbis and lay leaders met in 1919 to discuss the formation of a yeshiva rabbinical school. In the fall of 1921, Hebrew Theological College - Beis HaMidrash LaTorah was chartered by the State of Illinois. Established on the West Side of Chicago, a building was soon erected to accommodate the yeshiva. Among the prominent rabbinic founders was R. Chaim Tzvi Rubinstein and R. Shaul Silber. *{In a future Sof Davar, we will consider their story}* It was these two rabbis, most importantly, who invited Rabbi Nissan Yablonski to become the first rosh yeshiva of Chicago's Beis HaMidrash LaTorah.

Rav Yablonski had earned a notable reputation as the interim rosh yeshiva of the famed Slobodka yeshiva, during the difficult years of World War I. During that turbulent time, Slobodka's great rosh yeshiva, R. Moshe Mordechai Epstein along with many students fled the city for safety elsewhere. Rav Yablonski, who had come to Slobodka in 1908, as a dayyan and rabbi of one its synagogues, temporarily assumed leadership of the yeshiva, presenting shiurim to those students who chose not to leave during the tumultuous years of war and revolution.

Indeed, during the war, R. Yablonski endured a personal tragedy, when his entire library of books, together with manuscripts of his own writings, were confiscated by Russian authorities. Yablonski remained the head of the Slododka yeshiva until the return of its rosh yeshiva, Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Epstein in 1920.

When R. Yablonski received an invitation in 1921 to become rosh yeshiva of the newly formed Hebrew Theological College - Beis HaMidrash LaTorah in Chicago, he was pleased to accept the offer. Shortly after arriving in the United States, R. Yablonski published a small treatise called *Davar b'Ito*, (New York, undated, [1923?], where he recounted the economic and spiritual hardships confronting Eastern European Jewry, and called for European Jews to consider America as a destination.

As head of Chicago's Misrad ha-Rabbonim, a small group of learned Talmud scholars who dealt largely with contemporary halakhic problems, R. Yablonski was often called upon to address questions of Jewish law confronting Chicago Jewry. In memory of R. Yablonski, R. Shmuel Aaron Pardes, a colleague and editor of one of America's important rabbinic journals, posthumously published *Nitzanei Nissan*, (St. Louis, 1930) a collection of Yablonski's Talmud lectures and responsa.

R. Yablonski remained rosh yeshiva at Hebrew Theological College-Beis HaMidrash LaTorah, until his untimely death in 1928, when, at the young age of 51, he suddenly died, leaving a wife and three daughters.