



Congregation Ohr Torah

Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi

Robert Kreitman - President

Parshas Pekudei/Shekalim

29 Adar I 5771

March 5, 2011

Shabbos Candlelighting: 5:34PM
Mincha: 5:40PM
Shacharis: 7:45, 9:00 & 9:15 AM
Rabbi Hoffman's Minchas Chinuch Shiur
CANCELLED THIS WEEK
Z'man Krias Shma (G'RA): 9:17AM
Rabbi Luban's Maseches Rosh Hashana Shiur - 4:40 PM

Mincha: 1:30 & 5:30 PM
Shalosh Seudos Speaker: Allen Weitz

Maariv: 6:40 PM

Weekday Shacharis:
Sun (Rosh Chodesh) 7:00, 8 & 9AM
Mon (Rosh Chodesh) 6:10, 7:05, 8AM
Thur 6:20, 7:05, 8AM
Tues. Weds, Fri 6:30, 7:10, 8 AM
Weekday Mincha/ Maariv: 5:40PM
Weekday Maariv 7:30 & 10:10 PM
.Rabbi Luban's Shailos Uteshuvos Shiur:
Monday 9:10 PM
Tuesday Tehillim – 9:50 PM
DAF YOMI SCHEDULE
 Shabbos 8:15 AM and after Hashkama Minyan
 Friday night after Maariv. Sunday morning after
 8 AM Minyan. Weekdays after 7:30 Maariv
*Next Friday March 11, the daf yomi will be
 starting a new Masechta, Maseches
 Menachos. This Masechta includes the topics on
 Tefillin & Tzitzis. All are encouraged to attend.*

BARUCH HABAH

Ohr Torah would like to welcome newcomers, visitors and guests who are joining us. If our President, Robert Kreitman 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 March 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th. 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 732-759-8558. 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 by contacting Barry Siegel at siegelad@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.

MAZEL TOV

...to Anna and Charles Plittman on the engagement of their son Yaakov to Aviva Zahan of Passaic. Mazel Tov to Aviva's parents, Varda and Eliezer Zahan, to siblings, Bracha and Mayer Berg, Dinah and Judah Miller, Baila, Yosef, Rivky and Mechi and to the entire Plittman and Zahan families.

SHALOSH SEUDOS

Shalosh Seudos this week is being sponsored by Allan Weitz on the occasion of his grandparents' Yahrzeit – Yitzchok ben Elazer and Faige bas R' Meir.

CONGREGATION OHR TORAH BOARD MEETING

There will be a Congregation Ohr Torah meeting for all Board members on Tuesday, March 8th at 8:30 PM.

CONGREGATION OHR TORAH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, March 22nd at 8:30 PM

CONDOLENCE

The entire Shul mourns the passing of Rebbitzin Hannah Raymon and extends sincere condolences to her son, Hillel Raymon and granddaughter Deena Klaven. Hillel will sit Shiva at his home, 461 Harrison Ave, Highland Park, through Wednesday morning. Shacharit will be at 8:00 AM and Mincha/ Maariv will be at 5:40 PM.
May you be comforted among the mourners of Tzion and Yerushalayim.

ORTHODOX FORUM

This Motzei Shabbat March 5, 8:30 PM at Congregation Ohr Torah, The Orthodox Forum of Edison/Highland Park, presents Rabbi Dr. Barry Freundel on the topic: "Modern Orthodoxy at the Crossroads". Rabbi Dr. Freundel is the spiritual leader of Keshet Israel: The Georgetown Synagogue. He received his smicha from Yeshiva University and his PhD from Baltimore Hebrew University where he serves as an Assistant Professor of Rabbinics. He has also served as an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Maryland, an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University, and a Consultant to the Ethics Review Board of the National Institute of Aging of the National Institutes of Health. Rabbi Dr. Freundel heads of the conversion committee of the Rabbinical Council of America. Rabbi Dr. Freundel is Vice-President of the Rabbinical Council of Greater Washington and is very involved in community issues in the Greater Washington area. He is regarded as a resource and authority on eruvim, and has assisted in their construction in a

number of cities, including Washington. He is the author of Contemporary Orthodox Judaism's Response to Modernity published by KTAV in 2003 as well as numerous scholarly articles. The program will be chaired by Mrs. Marcia Levinson. A Q&A session will follow the presentation. For more information, please email hpedisonorthodoxforum@gmail.com.

CHINESE AUCTION/MELAVE MALKA

On Motzai Shabbos, March 5 at Congregation Ohr Torah, there will be a fun filled evening of entertainment / Chinese Auction / Melave Malka to benefit Kollel America, a Tzedakah organization which supports Americans living in Israel. This event will be featuring RABBI JOSHUA HILL, filmmaker and son of TV / movie star personality, STEVEN HILL, star performer in Law and Order and Mission Impossible. Chinese Auction – for viewing and to enter tickets, doors will be open on Friday, March 4, 12:00 – 2:00 PM. Doors will also open early this Motzai Shabbos at 7:30 PM. Men and Women are invited. Any questions, call Chani at 732-985-1866.

NEW MEMBER

Congregation Ohr Torah welcomes new member:

- Mrs. Laya Litton

SHAIMOS COLLECTION

Congregation Ohr Torah will hold this year's community Shaimos Collection on Sunday, March 27 from 10AM to 5:00PM. The cost is \$20 per large garbage sized bag. Coordinator: Barry Siegel, siegelad@optonline.net

CLOTHING DRIVE

In conjunction with the Shaimos drive, there will be a clothing drive to benefit Israel. To offset shipping costs, donors must leave a \$20 donation per large trash size bag to cover shipping.

SEFORIM SALE

There will also be a used Seforim sale at this time, Great Bargains!!! Come find your hard-to-find and/or out-of-print books and stock up your home libraries.

UNCLAIMED SEFORIM

In preparation for the Shaimos drive on 3/27, All Seforim left in the Shul over the year and "extra" Seforim have been placed in the book cart by the office. Please look over and claim or take what is yours or that is Hefker/ownerless.. – Thanks – Barry Siegel

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

HP PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION AND BUDGET

The Highland Park Board of Education Election and vote on the 2011-2012 School Budget are

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

scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, (the day after Pesach). Polls will be open from 2PM to 9PM in three voting locations: Reform Church of Highland Park, Senior/Youth Center, and Congregation Ohav Emes. A copy of the proposed Highland Park Public School District Budget may be found online at <http://highlandpark.k12.nj.us>.

BIKUR CHOLIM ANNUAL EVENT

The Bikur Cholim of Raritan Valley cordially invites you to attend the 16th Annual Event on Sunday, March 6, 2011 at 6PM in the evening at the Pines Manor, 2085 Route 27, Edison. The guest speaker is Rabbi Benjamin Yudin, spiritual leader of Congregation Shomrei Torah in Fair Lawn, NJ and a noted educator and lecturer. A buffet dinner will be served. Invitations have been mailed. If you did not receive an invitation or if you are not on our mailing list and would like to be included, please call 732-572-7181.

ROSH HAYESHIVA OF YESHIVAS MIR YERUSHOLAYIM VISITING

The Edison-Highland Park Community is honored to welcome Maran Rosh HaYeshiva of Yeshivas Mir Yerusholayim Harav Nosson Tzvi Finkel Shlit"á Who will be spending Shabbos Parshas Pikudei Parshas Shekolim -(March 5th) at the home of Mr. & Mrs. A. Joseph Stern 19 Brookdale Court — Highland Park.

For further information or to set up a personal appointment with the Rosh HaYeshiva, please contact the Stern residence at: 732-247-1919

NEW SEFER TORAH PLANNED

The Young Israel of East Brunswick community invites you and your family to participate in the writing of a new Sefer Torah, in loving memory of our dear friend and member, Taly Cohen a"h. Dedication opportunities are available. All funds collected will be designated towards the Taly Cohen Memorial Fund to support the writing of the Sefer Torah and an annual scholar-in-residence program in Taly's memory. Please join us at the Young Israel of East Brunswick on Sunday, March 6, 2011 at 10am, for the "Hatchala" (Beginning) of the writing of the Sefer Torah. Please RSVP for the Hatchalat Sefer Torah on March 6, 2011 to talytorahdedication@yieb.org. For more info or questions regarding dedication opportunities, please contact Jeff Perlman 732-257-7746 jeff.perlman@novartis.com or Elyse Tuchman 732-613-6095 elysetuchman@comcast.net. Thank you.

YA'AD JUNIORS DROP-IN

On Tuesday evening, the YA'AD Chessed Committee held the first ever YA'AD Juniors Drop-In. 5th-8th graders came and were tutored by Teen mentors on their school work. The Program will continue to run every Tuesday, from 6:45-8:30pm. Please drop your child off with their homework and leave the mentoring to us. After your child completes their work, they are welcome to use our game room which is stocked with ping pong tables, billiards, air hockey table, and much more. There is a nominal charge for pizza. Snacks and drinks are free. We look forward to seeing your kids.

EEMA AND ME AT RPRY

Eema and Me at RPRY with Morah Helen Lockspieser. For 12-24 month olds and and Eema, Abba or other loving adult. Jewish programming, dance, music, arts and crafts, free play, snack. Held at RPRY, 2 Harrison St, Edison. \$50.00 for a five week session – 9am-10am between Tuesday

March 1st and Tuesday March 29th. Call 732-572-5052 Ext 215 to register.

GUEST SPEAKER

Raphaella Segal, Assistant Mayor of Kedumim in Samaria, will give a talk on recent events in Israel and their Ramifications on Judea and Samaria. Event: Thursday, March 10th Arrive: 8pm, Program start: 8:30pm (about 45 mins followed by questions) RSVP: by Wed 3/9 and for Highland Ave. address Steve Urow 732-514-1066

GUEST SPEAKER AT AA

The AA Environmental Committee invites you to a presentation by Ora Sheinson, president of the Torah-based environmental organization Canfei Nesharim. Mrs. Sheinson will speak on "Am I My Neighbor's Keeper? The Torah Perspective on Modern Environmental Issues," this Sunday, March 6, at 10am at the home of Heidi and Ira Rosen, 120 Highland Ave., Highland Park. Refreshments will be served. For more info please contact Phil Reiss at 732-828-6317 or reissphil@gmail.com.

MISHMAR

Mishmar learning program is held at RPRY every Motzei Shabbat @ 8:00. Please bring your own seforim. Cost is \$3.00 which includes, pizza, donuts, prizes and raffles.

ACTT

The ACTT (Achieving Change through Torah) organization helps individuals succeed in making meaningful and lasting changes in their lives. The ACTT web-site contains the audio of the shiurim from the ACTT program and the corresponding module packets. For more info, e-mail info@actt613.org or call Phil Rosen (732) 572-8762 or Aviva Siegel (732) 572-4408.

MA'AYANOT YESHIVA ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND DINNER

Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School invites the community to attend our Annual Scholarship Fund Dinner on Saturday evening, March 12, 2011, at Congregation Keter Torah in Teaneck. Dr. Hillel Cohen & Linda Moed Cohen of Highland Park will be honored at the dinner, as will Dr. Howie & Paula Friedman, Abie & Dena Feigenbaum, and Mrs. Shayna Goldberg. Our annual dinner is dedicated to underwriting Ma'ayanot's scholarship program and is the only major fundraising campaign for the year. To make reservations or place an ad, please call 201-833-4307 ext 110.

VISITING SOFER

The sofer will be at Judaica Gallery, 300 Raritan Avenue, this Sunday, March 6, 2011. Store hours are 10am to 5pm. Although walk-ins are welcome, it is helpful if you call 732-828-7722 and let us know you will be coming.

THE HOLINESS OF PURIM

Mishanichnas Adar Marbin BeSimcha!! Usher in the month of Adar with a dancing and singing morning together with the Mekor Chaim/Steinsaltz Ambassadors! Sunday, March 6, at Cong. Ahavas Achim 216 South First Ave. Highland Park, NJ 8:00—Preparation and Study before Tefila 8:30—Tefilat Shacharit - Joyous Hallel with Song and Dance Musaf 9:45-10:45—Bagel Breakfast Shiur with Rabbi/Dr. and Captain in the IDF Maoz Kahana "The Holiness of Purim" For More Info Please Call Avner Segal at 732-485-4556

FILM SCREENING

One film that must be seen ... IRANIUM

Sunday, March 13th at 7pm at EBJC. Iranium is about the history of the current leadership in Iran, their involvement in international terror and domestic oppression, and the regime's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. It will be followed by discussion with former U.S. Ambassador to the E.U. Kristin Silverberg. Sunday, March 13th, 7pm, East Brunswick Jewish Center, 511 Ryders Lane, E. Brunswick. \$10. (Students are welcome, no Charge.) Refreshments served.

PURIM CARDS AVAILABLE FROM CHILDREN'S FUND

Newly designed Purim Mishloach Manot Cards are available for purchase for \$2.00 each from the Children's Fund in Memory of Dina Eisner. All proceeds from the sale support a very worthy local charity. To obtain the cards, send e-mail to: childrensfundhp@gmail.com or contact: Tova Josefovitz (732) 572-9432 or Janice Lustiger - (732) 819-4919. We will be happy to deliver the cards to you.

BIKUR CHOLIM OF RV NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Bikur Cholim of Raritan Valley cordially invites you to attend the 16th Annual Event on Sunday, March 6, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the evening at the Pines Manor, 2085 Route 27, Edison. The guest speaker is Rabbi Benjamin Yudin, spiritual leader of Congregation Shomrei Torah in Fair Lawn, NJ and a noted educator and lecturer. A buffet dinner will be served. Invitations have been mailed. If you did not receive an invitation or if you are not on our mailing list and would like to be included, please call 732-572-7181. - Bikur Cholim is looking for men who are able to read the Megillah on Purim for people who are in the hospital or home-bound. Please call Ronnie Shilcrat- (732) 690-7193, or (732) 572-5140. -Please note, the need for volunteers has increased greatly over the last year. We urge you to please contact the organization with whatever resources you may have available. Contact: volunteers@bikurcholimrv.org . Hotline number: 1-732-572-7181

PARLOR MEETING

On Sunday, March 13th at 11:00AM, there will be a parlor meeting at the home of Rifky and Jack Atkin, 16 Hamlin Road, Edison, to welcome Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, Executive Director and Founder of Nefesh B'Nefesh. Rabbi Fass will describe the organization's Lone Soldier Program. Each year, approximately 400 soldiers ("chayalim bodedim") come to Israel entirely alone and commit to the full three year army service as the beginning of their Aliyah experience. Please join us on March 13th and help show your support for these brave soldiers. A light brunch will be served. For further information, please contact Rifky and Jack Atkin or Riki and Robert Kreitman.

AHAVAS ACHIM BLOOD DRIVE

A blood drive will take place Sunday March 27, from 9-3, will take place in the synagogue, 216 S. First Ave., HP Please contact Eli, Ira or Heidi Rosen at 732-393-1018 or ira_rosen@yahoo.com to reserve a slot (walk-ins are gladly accepted).

AHAVAS ACHIM ANNUAL DINNER

Cong. Ahavas Achim will be holding its 122nd Annual Dinner on Saturday night, March 12, 2011 at 8:30PM at Ahavas Achim. The guests of honor this year are our associate members, Lori and Jonathan Caplan. The young leadership award will be given to Cheryl and Michael Kornfeld, the children of our members, Marion and David

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

Kornfeld. For further info, please call the AA office at (732) 247-0532.

There will be a special tribute in the dinner journal in memory of Imre Lefkovits z"l (father of Susie Wiesel) and Ernest Gottdiener z"l (father of Susie Raymon). For further information on participating in this tribute please contact Josh Caplan before the end of this weekend at (732) 572-5991 or by e-mail (jcaplan0264@aol.com) as the ad deadline is fast approaching.

POILE ZEDEK ANNUAL DINNER

Poile Zedek will be holding their annual dinner at the Regency in Somerset NJ on March 13th, 2011. Reception is at 5:30pm and Dinner at 6:30pm. Couvert is \$160.00 per person. The Dinner is dedicated to the memory of Harry Shopowich, z"l. Guest of honor is Dora Shopowich. Keter Tov Award honorees are Morton and Judith Evans, Chesed Shel Emet Award is Kevin Leff and Bedek Habayit Award is Moshe Kreydi, David Shparber. The journal deadline is March 3rd. Various ads are available. Fax all ads to 732-545-0394 or email to admin @poilezedek.org. Please make all checks payable to Cong. Poile Zedek

NORPAC MISSION TO WASHINGTON

Participate in the NORPAC Mission to Wash DC, Wed. April 6. Register online at www.NORPAC.net or by phone at 201-788-5133. For more info contact Marc Hanfling, Barry Wolf, Harvey Atlas, Eli Borger

WINE & CHEESE TASTING EVENT

Motzei Shabbat Saturday evening, March 12th at 8:30 pm at Cong Etz Ahaim 230 Denison St. Featuring the fine wines of Royal Wine Corp. (OU) and the hand-made artisanal cheeses of 5 Spoke Creamery (Kof-K). The tasting will be led by Jay Buchsbaum, International Director of Fine Wine Education at Royal Wine. Cost is \$13 per person /\$20 per couple if paid by March 2nd and \$18 per person/\$30 per couple afterwards. Please note that no one under 21 will be admitted. Make checks payable to Congregation Etz Ahaim (include the number of people attending) or place reservations online at www.etzahaim.org/tasting. Please contact Richard Shakarchi at rjshak@yahoo.com.

EMUNAH PURIM CARDS

EMUNAH Purim cards are now available. Purchase cards at the EMUNAH art auction on February 26 or by contacting Sharon Hirt: 732-777-0462 or Sharon.Hirt@Pfizer.com. \$2.00/card

CHUG IVRIT

For location and more info, contact Rachel Weintraub at 732-819-9298 or rachel@weintraubworld.net.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

- Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion Girls' School is proud to present their 7th-8th grade play entitled HINDSIGHT on Sunday, March 6, 2011 at 1:00 PM. The performance will be held at the Piscataway HS at 100 Behmer St in Piscataway and is open to Women & Girls Only. Tickets are \$12/\$15 for advance tickets or \$15/\$18 at the door. Sponsorships are available as well. For more information, call Mrs. Esther Komet at 732-339-0677.

-All women in the Highland Park – Edison Community are invited to a shiur on Shabbos, March 19th at 4:30 PM at Miriam Widofsky's house, 145 North 10th Avenue, Highland Park, in memory of the four Seidenfeld children from Teaneck, who lost their lives due to a house fire in March of 2005. To mark the Yartzheit, their mother had requested that people come together to learn in their memory. Please come and bring a friend. The inspiring shiur is being led by Mrs. Miri Cohen, who gives a regular parsha shiur in our community, and gives shiurim in other communities. For more info, please email Vicky at vickykrief@gmail.com.

-Rebbitzen Eichenstein will be having her Navi class on Sefer Tehillim, Sunday morning, March 6 at 10:00 AM at Cong. Agudath Israel and Parsha class on Monday evening, March 7 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah. Classes are for women only. For more info, please contact Aviva Siegel at 732-572-4408 siegelmom@optonline.net, Ricki Stern 732-828-6939 rickistern@yahoo.com.

-Mrs. Miri Cohen's ladies Parsha class will meet Wednesday morning, March 9 at 9:15 AM at the home of Rikki Samel, 427 Dennison St, Highland Park. Please bring a Chumash Shemos.

-The Women's AMEN Group will meet on Sunday at 9:30 AM at the home of Rebecca Rivkin, 1

Opatut Court, Edison. To participate in challah baking or saying Shir Hashirim in the zechus of a refuah shelaimah for Menachem Mordechai ben Ophira, please contact E.J. Berman at 732-991-8090 or EJPartyworks@aol.com.

RABBI HOFFMAN'S SHIUR

Rabbi Hoffman has resumed his shiur on topics in Masechta Brochos on Wednesdays evenings at 8:30 pm at the Agudah. For more info or to be added to the e-mail list to receive notifications of weekly topics, please contact Russell Adler at radler@ebglaw.com

PARK MIKVAH

The Edison/Highland Park Mikvah will be open Saturday-Thursday, 8:30-10:30pm. Friday nights are by appointment only, and must be made by Thursday night at 8:30pm. Fee \$15. OUT OF HOURS: additional \$20. You must arrive and leave during regular mikvah hours. Standard time hours END Saturday night March 12th. BEGINNING Sunday night March 13th, hours are: Sunday-Thursday 9-11pm

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.

LOCAL ERUV

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

Shabbos Vayikra	
Candlelighting	5:41 PM
Mincha	5:50 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

Amoraim: R. Yochanan

Unquestionably R. Yochanan ranks among one of the top three *amoraim* ever in the talmudic period. He lived in Eretz Yisroel in the 200s. His early life was difficult. His father, Nafcha, died when his mother was pregnant and his mother died in childbirth. He was raised by his grandfather and studied under Rabbi in the yeshiva in Tziporei. R. Yehuda haNassi predicted that he would become among the *gedolei hador*. His life was made more difficult by the deaths of all ten of his sons in his lifetime. Yet he persisted in his learning and teaching of Torah. R. Yochanan established a yeshiva in Tveriah which soon gained the reputation of being an outstanding yeshiva. His most famous student was his son-in-law, Reish Lakish. R. Yochanan's name and reputation grew rapidly until his "torah" was considered the norm. His *maamorim* in *halacha* are found everywhere throughout both talmudim, *bavli* and *yerushalmi*. He set many rules for the study of *halacha*. For example, if you have an anonymous statement (*stam*) followed by a dispute on the same subject the *halacha* does not follow the *stam*. If the situation is reversed and a dispute is followed by *stam* then the *halacha* does follow the view of the *stam*. Similarly, the *halacha* always follows an anonymous *mishna*. It was R. Yochanan who gave us the account of kamtza and bar kamtza that led to the destruction of the *bais hamikdosh*. He was respectful of all human beings including non Jews and would often stand in the presence of an aged non Jew. R. Yochanan was also knowledgeable in the field of medicine and recommended that one should not drink water that was not previously boiled. With the passing of Rav and Shmuel he became the single undisputed leader in both Eretz Yisroel and in Bavel, a status he held until his passing in 279.