



# Congregation Ohr Torah

## Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

**Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi**

**Jeff Klein- President**

**Rabbi Sariel Malitzky – Assistant Rabbi**

*Parshas Ki Tisa - Parah*

20 Adar 5777

March 18, 2017

<b>Candlelighting:</b>	<b>6:48 PM</b>
<b>Mincha:</b>	<b>6:55PM</b>
<b>Shacharis:</b>	<b>7:45, 9:00 &amp; 9:15 AM</b>
<i>Rabbi Hoffman's Halacha B'iyun Shiur after Hashkama</i>	
<b>Sof Z'man Krias Shma (GR"A):</b>	<b>10:04 AM</b>
<i>Rabbi Luban's Taanis Shiur – 5:55 PM</i>	
<i>Rabbi Malitzky's Mishnayos Shiur for 6-8 grade boys – 6:15 PM</i>	
<b>Mincha:</b>	<b>1:45 &amp; 6:45PM</b>
<i>Shalosh Seudos speaker: Rabbi Israel Rivkin</i>	
<b>Maariv:</b>	<b>7:55 PM</b>
<b>Shabbos Ends:</b>	<b>7:58 PM</b>
<b>Weekday Shacharis</b>	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7:15, 8 &amp; 9AM</b>
<b>Mon. &amp; Thur</b>	<b>6:20, 7:05, &amp; 8 AM</b>
<b>Tues, Weds. &amp; Fri.</b>	<b>6:30, 7:10, &amp; 8 AM</b>
<b>Weekday Mincha/ Maariv:</b>	<b>6:55PM</b>
<b>Late Maariv:</b>	<b>10:10 PM</b>
<i>Tuesday Night Tehillim – 9:50- 10:10 PM</i>	

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.

### MAZEL TOV

...to Leslie and Jeff Silber on the birth of their first grandchild - a boy (Itai Amikam) to their children Ariel and Yedidya Rothner of Jerusalem, Israel. Mazel Tov to the extended Silber, Horwitz, Rothner and Leibtag families. ...to Bonnie and Motty Schwartz on the birth of a son, Binyamin Gershon, to their children.

### CONG. OHR TORAH ANNUAL DINNER

Please join us Sunday, April 30, 5:30pm at the Rutgers Chabad House, as we honor two very special couples:

Debby & Arthur Atlas and Chani & Eli Wiesel

### LUNCH AND LEARN RESCHEDULED FOR TUES, MAR 21<sup>ST</sup>

-The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler. How did one woman save 2500 Children? This movie is based on the remarkable true story of World War II hero Irena Sendler, who rescued over 2,500 Jewish children during the German occupation of Poland. Intro by Dr. Michael Wasserman D'var Torah by Mr. Michael Samel This program will include a light lunch from our very own Jerusalem Pizza. It is open to all retirees in the community and will be a wonderful opportunity to socialize with each other in a meaningful way. There will be a charge of \$10 per person to help defray the cost of the meal. Location: Ohr Torah Synagogue, 48 Edgemount Rd, Edison, NJ Date: Tue, March 21<sup>st</sup> Time: 12:00 noon RSVP Bella blerner18@optonline.net 732 317-1786, Mildred 732 572-1712, or Marcia pphaffer@verizon.net 732 572-5998 -Tuesday, May 2nd (Yom Ha'atzmaut) will be the next Lunch and Learn. Please record the date on your calendar.

### YOUTH EVENTS

On Sunday March 19th at 11AM Cong Ohr Torah will be going by school bus from the Shul to the Circus located at the Sun National Bank Center in Trenton, NJ. We will return to the Shul at 3PM. This program is for children and parents. All children six and under must be accompanied by an adult. Prepare to blast off on an intergalactic adventure for space-age family fun as the ultimate circus experience launches into the future as Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® Presents Out Of This World™. Children of all ages will be amazed by the cosmic voyage as you discover the wonders of gravity-defying acrobats, orbital aerialists,

majestic animals, fearless daredevils and humorous clowns. The show runs 1 hour and 45 minutes including a 15-minute intermission. Cost is \$27pp including transportation for all reservations made in advance. On day of event, price goes up to \$30pp. Max \$100 per immediate family. ---On Sun April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2PM until 5:30PM come to Cong Ohr Torah @ 48 Edgemount Rd in Edison, NJ for the Walt Disney experience. We will be showing two Walt Disney movies, awarding Disney store gift cards redeemable for Disney tickets or Disney branded merchandise by answering Disney trivia questions and there will even be snacks given out similar to those available at Walt Disney World! Cost is just \$10 per child for all this fun and excitement!

---And last but certainly not least, there will be several entertainers Purim night Motzei Shabbat March 11th@ Ohr Torah starting at 7:30pm. Details to follow.

### OHR TORAH ANNUAL YOUTH RAFFLE

Please help support Ohr Torah's youth groups by purchasing raffle ticket(s). Cost of the tickets are one for \$36, two for \$70, or 3 for \$100. Drawing will be held at the annual Shul dinner April 30th. Please contact Barry Siegel, Charlie Gershbaum, Jason Jurkevich or Mayer Berg to purchase tickets. All proceeds support the OT Youth programs.

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### TOMCHEI SHABBOS PESACH CAMPAIGN

With Pesach less than one month away, there are families in our community for whom the thought of purchasing even the basic necessities is a crushing financial burden. Tomchei Shabbos helps ease this burden, and provide peace of mind, by ensuring that these families' basic needs are met. Families are counting on this food but to make it happen requires your support. Donations can be made through our website at [www.tomcheimc.org](http://www.tomcheimc.org). Checks can also be sent to Tomchei Shabbos of Middlesex County, c/o Cong. Ohr Torah, 48 Edgemount Rd, Edison, NJ 08817.

#### YACHAD

Join us on Sunday, March 19th at 8PM for a dessert buffet & parlor meeting to benefit YACHAD. Enjoy a fun and delicious night out with friends while learning more about what Yachad does here and across the country. At the home of Srulee and Alisa Hercman, 9 Ryan Rd

#### TEAM YACHAD QUEENS 5K RUN/WALK

4/2/17 – Join us in Flushing Meadows Corona Park # \$200 to raise, \$20 to register. Free shirt and swag to be given out. Registration bib pick up 7:30AM. Start time 9AM For info contact Shoava Berezin-Bahr 212-613-8105 or Shoava@ou.org

#### ACTI

The ACTT (Achieving Change Through Torah) program helps individuals succeed in making meaningful and lasting changes in their

### SHIURIM

*Rabbi Luban's Monday night Shiur – Monday 9:10 PM*

*Daf Yomi Iyuni Shiur with Rabbi Sauer – after 7:15 minyan*

*Gemara with Rabbi Malitzky: Tuesday Night 9:20 PM*

### Daf Yomi

*Daylight savings schedule:*

Shabbos- one hour before Mincha

Sunday-after 8am Shacharis

Monday -Thursday-after Zman Maariv

Friday night -after Kabollas Shabbos

### KIDDUSH

Kiddush is sponsored by Susie and Barry Wolf in memory of the Yahrzeits of Barry's mother Chaye Rochel bas Moshe Zelig and Susie's mother Batsheba bas Rav Yaakov A"H and for Refuah Shelaimah for the Cholim in our community.

Kiddush sponsorship is available for April 1st & 29th and May 6th & 20th.

### SHALOSH SEUDOS

Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Rebecca and Israel Rivkin in memory of Rebecca's parents Rabbi and Mrs Jacob and Yehudis Bulka, Harav Chaim Yaakov ben Yitzchak and Harabanis Yehudis bas Reuven Pinchas, and Israel's mother, Chaya Chasha bas Tzvi Zev, Ida Rivkin, A'H.

### SHAIMOS COLLECTION

Cong Ohr Torah will hold this year's community Shaimos Collection this Sunday, March 19 from 9:30AM to 5PM. 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](mailto:siegeldad@optonline.net)

**REMINDER: Emergency Defibrillators are located on the upstairs wall hallway & the entry hallway downstairs. Please note the location of the new First Aid Kits mounted on the wall below/above each Defibrillator.**

CHEVRA HATZOLAH OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY 732-456-6666

lives. Previous ACTT module: "Kiddush Hashem 1"; Source book: "Living Kiddush Hashem" by Rabbi Shraga Freedman. "A Powerful Segulah for Yom Hadin", speaker Rabbi Dovid Goldwasser, can be downloaded or listened to from the Audio page of the ACTT web site at: [www.actt613.org/3.html](http://www.actt613.org/3.html) For more info, see the ACTT web-site, [www.actt613.org](http://www.actt613.org), e-mail [info@actt613.org](mailto:info@actt613.org) or call Phil Rosen (732) 572-8762.

### **EMPLOYMENT NETWORK OF RARITAN VALLEY**

Looking for work? We can help. Go to [www.ENRV.org](http://www.ENRV.org) or contact Bob Lansley at [ENRVInfo@gmail.com](mailto:ENRVInfo@gmail.com). We post over 100 jobs monthly, and help people with resume and search strategies. Please help: If you know of any professional, part-time, or temp job openings, please e-mail info to [ENRVInfo@gmail.com](mailto:ENRVInfo@gmail.com).

### **YESHIVAT NETIVOT MONTESSORI IN E. BRUNSWICK**

Yeshivat Netivot Montessori in East Brunswick will be having a school tour on Thursday, Mar. 23 from 9:15-11:00. Come see our beautiful classrooms where child enjoy freedom of movement, an integrated curriculum, and individual and small group lessons. Sign up on our website [www.mynetivot.com](http://www.mynetivot.com) or call [732-985-4626](tel:732-985-4626) or email [operations@mynetivot.com](mailto:operations@mynetivot.com).

### **JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES**

-To help alleviate hunger in our community, Jewish Family Services of Middlesex County (JFS) once again, is coordinating a special Passover Food Appeal. JFS is asking for monetary gifts and accepting food during March and April, to benefit 700 members of our community who celebrate Passover; individuals and families who are experiencing difficult financial times in today's economic environment. Each dollar raised and every box, can or container of food collected goes to the people who need it the most. You can participate in one of the following ways • donate kosher food for Passover by March 26\* • assemble food packages by March 26\* • deliver food packages on April 2\* JFS is excited to partner with Cong Beth Ohr in Old Bridge, the host site for this year's Passover activities for the 2017 Passover Food Appeal. We are counting on you for your support this Passover! Without your help, people simply may not be able to celebrate their traditions. This Passover, when you give up bread, please give it up with generosity as many people in our community are relying on you. Kindly use the enclosed form to indicate how you will help our community this 2017 Passover season. Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy Passover!

-JFS has job openings for Licensed Clinical Social Workers and for an Exec Dir. Please visit their website at [www.jfsmiddlesex.org](http://www.jfsmiddlesex.org) for more info.

### **GENESIS OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY**

A new book edited by Rabbi Dr. Bernhard Rosenberg has been published entitled *Genesis of the Palestinian Authority*. For 2 decades, the PLO and the UN have promoted the idea that The Palestinian Authority and UNRWA constitute innocuous entities which advocate peace in the Middle East. Few voices have shown the courage to challenge that narrative. One voice of courage in the media is David Bedein, who has worked with the visiting press in Jerusalem since 1987 presenting another point of view, conducting hundreds of news investigations which unmask the real policies that the mainstream media neglect to cover in the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA.

### **CLOTHING SALE**

A Pre-Yom Tov clothing sale is scheduled at the home of Chani Wiesel, 16 Harrison St. Modest Necessities of Woodmere will be coming from 5-9

PM this Monday March 20. They will be selling clothing for children of all ages, teens and women. Brands include Baby O., Bella Donna, Leo & Zachary, MM June jr and more.

### **BIKUR CHOLIM:**

**HOSPITALITY ROOM** at RWJ Univ Hospital! Located on main floor. Go thru main entrance and bear left towards gift shop. Turn right through double doors. Follow hall and turn right. Room is located opposite surgical intensive care unit. Its fully stocked with food and any items that you might need. There is a microwave, urn, sink, table & chairs, as well as two reclining chairs. For inquiries, call helpline at 732-572-7181.

- **MOTHER'S HELPERS:** Bikur Cholim is looking for Mother's Helpers to help with a special need's 5yr old girl. Volunteers are needed for any time, Mon thru Fri We are looking for girls 10<sup>th</sup> grade and up. If you can help, even for a few hours, call Mrs. Rivka Teresh directly at 347-598-9448.

- **HOMEBOUND VISITATION:** Seeking adults and 11th graders and older who would be interested in volunteering to visit homebound people in our community. For more info, please call Bikur Cholim at 732-572-7181.

- **NURSING HOME VISITATION:** Seeking volunteers to visit at the Regency nursing home on DeMott Lane in Somerset. For more info, please call Rahel Baruh at 732-672-4673 or email [rbaruh@yahoo.com](mailto:rbaruh@yahoo.com)

-**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).

- **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:** Drivers and coordinators needed. Coordinate rides to and from medical appts - match requesters with an avail driver. Each coordinator serves for 2 weeks at a time. To volunteer to coordinate or drive, call Bikur Cholim hotline at 732-572-7181 or fill out the volunteer form on the website [bikurcholimrv.com](http://bikurcholimrv.com)

- **WEBSITE:** [bikurcholimrv.com](http://bikurcholimrv.com). The website provides info regarding Bikur Cholim services, including how to access our local hospitals on Shabbat, how to borrow medical equipment, and how to get prescription medication on Shabbat.

### **LARGE PRINT HAGGADAH AVAILABLE**

For over 85 years, the JBI Library has enabled visually impaired people all over the world to participate in the most treasured of Jewish rituals, the Passover Seder, by providing FREE Large Print Haggadah. If you or someone you know needs a Large Print Haggadah, please call JBI toll-free [1-800-999-6476](tel:1-800-999-6476) before April 3 and they will be happy to send you a Large Print Haggadah, free of charge. Enjoy the Seder! JBI is the largest library of Jewish interest in the world for the visually impaired with over 13,000 Talking Book titles. All JBI services are free to the user and are delivered to the individual at his/her home.

### **MA'AYANOT**

-Adult Education Haggadah Series with Rabbi Donny Besser Thursdays, March 23, 30, & April 6 at 9:45 am-10:45 am @ Ma'ayanot Open to the community. Free of charge. For more info, please contact Pam Ennis at [ennisp@maayanot.org](mailto:ennisp@maayanot.org).

-Nutrition Series, Part II: Healthy Pesach, Tues., March 21, 8 PM at the home of Dr. Jeff and Shara Paley, 285 Briarcliffe, Teaneck, NJ. For grandmothers, mothers, daughters, and friends--join us for a fun, educational, interactive, and tasty evening with our Nutrition teacher, Mrs. Rivki Berman, MS, RD. Learn how to menu plan, read a nutrition label, shop & cook healthy food for Pesach. Recipes included! Open to the community.

-Ma'ayanot Drama Production: "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" Mon. & Tues., March 26 & 27, 7:30 PM @ Ma'ayanot Join us for a night of theater featuring our electrifying cast of 14, directed by Black Box Studios Artistic Director Matt Okin, student directed by Ma'ayanot senior Shoshana Dimbert and asst directed by freshmen Avital Herman and Tzivia Major. Tickets, available in advance, are \$10 each, on sale now a <http://www.blackboxnynj.com/>. Open to the community. Viewer discretion advised as some content might not be suitable for those under 13.

### **GCCJ**

The next meeting of the Genealogy Club of Central Jersey (GCCJ) will be on Thursday, April 20 at 7pm. at Ahavas Achim, 216 South 1st Ave., HP. [Please note that this is the third Thursday, rather than the second Thursday, due to Pesach in the previous week.] Our speaker will be Sheila Small who will discuss her Visit to an Ancestral Village in Poland. Sheila, whose parents were holocaust survivors, tells the story of her trip to Poland with her extended family. The Polish heritage trip was many years in the making and thirteen family members took part. In her presentation, she will trace the steps of the survivors and of those who perished during the holocaust. The over 700 miles that they traveled took them from cities like Lodz and Katowice, to small villages in the Kielce Valley. Original homes were located, and there were chance encounters with elderly Poles who knew her grandparents. Sheila will share a fascinating story of heroism and survival, and the incredible moment of recognition 45 years later.

### **AY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Team AY is once again in formation for 2017. The HP 5K will be held Sun May 7th, And we are looking for volunteers to help lead the team this year.

- Mets Game / Celebrate Israel Night on Yom Yerushalayim on Wed May 24th, at Citi Field @ 710PM. Please join AY President Bruce Jacobi and friends in Field Box section 110. Tickets can be purchased at this URL: [Mets.com/Israel](http://Mets.com/Israel)

- March 26, 10AM – 3PM A.Y.'s annual community clothing giveaway. Location: Ahavas Yisrael. Come get new to you clothing for free. For info or to make a clothing donation please contact Ida Scheiner [917-439-6163](tel:917-439-6163) or Rivka Jaffe [732-762-0490](tel:732-762-0490). Please note: only clothing in excellent condition will be accepted.

### **FOR WOMEN**

-Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class resumes after Pesach.

- Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: Tefillah class on Sunday, March 19 at 11AM at the Aguda shul; Parsha class on Monday, March 20 at 8 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah. For more info, please contact Aviva at [732-572-4408](tel:732-572-4408) or [sieglmom@optonline.net](mailto:sieglmom@optonline.net)

-Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha class will take place Tuesday, March 21 at 9:30 AM at the home of Leah Epshtein, 253 Lawrence Avenue, Highland Park. For more info, please call 732-966-6503.-- The Women's AMEN Group meets monthly on the Sundays following the Shabbos in which one benschos Rosh Chodesh, at 9:30 AM in a downstairs classroom at Congregation Ohr Torah. The group meets in the zechus of a refuah shelaimah for Menachem Mordechai ben Ophira and the other Cholim in the community.

-Tiferes DVD for women Motzai Shabbos, March 18 at 9PM, at the Siegel house: "Peer Pressure – Does it ever end?" Speakers: Rabbi Ariel Shoshan and Mrs. Ayala Berney. Weekly teleconferences with topics such as shalom bayis and parenting are available to Tiferes members. Current teleconference: "Smile- A Happiness Plan for You and Your Family"

with Mrs. Chani Juravel, LCSW. For info, please contact Aviva [siegelmom@optonline.net](mailto:siegelmom@optonline.net). The HP/Edison group of Tiferes is zecher l'nishmas Malka bas Shalom.

-Donations of diapers, pull-ups, and wipes are currently being accepted for the new HP/Edison Diaper Gemach. Please email [diapergemach@gmail.com](mailto:diapergemach@gmail.com) for more info.

-The Edison/HP gown Gemach, L'iluy Nishmas R' Yitzchok Ben Binyomin, is open for business! 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 please call Sara Scott at 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 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 Road, Edison. For more info, please see contact Aviva Siegel (732) 572-4408 [siegelmom@optonline.net](mailto:siegelmom@optonline.net)

- Hat Sale is taking place THIS Sunday, March 5, from 11AM-1PM at the home of Samara Goldrich, 11 Raritan Ave, #E8, Highland Park. Come check out Bella's Hats, a new collection of trendy and affordable hats, baseball-style caps, beanies, fascinators, and other accessories. A contribution to RPRY will be made from the proceeds.

#### **PARK MIKVAH NEWS**

-The HP mikvah is ready to be transformed into a most beautiful, inviting facility, one which the entire community can be proud of! *It is now*

*closed; anticipated reopening before Pesach 2017.*

The Young Israel of East Brunswick is extending their hours throughout the duration of Park Mikvah renovations: Sat – Thur: 8PM – 11PM. Please check website for more info regarding fees, and for changes in schedule due to inclement weather. YIEB: 193 Dunhams Corner Road, East Brunswick, [732-257-4121](tel:732-257-4121) or <http://www.yieb.org/mikvah.html>

*The YIEB mikvah strongly encourages women to prepare at home, due to the expected high volume of patrons.* Pending volunteer availability, Park Mikvah will endeavor to provide transportation to or from the YIEB mikvah, as a free service. Please email Aviva at [siegelmom@optonline.net](mailto:siegelmom@optonline.net) to volunteer as a driver, or 2 days prior to your visit, to request a ride to the mikvah.

*Fundraising campaign to finance the renovations has begun! Dedication opportunities are now available!* To make a donation, checks can be mailed to Park Mikvah, 36 Skyview Terr, Highland Park, NJ 08904 or payment by credit card or PayPal via [PayPal.Me/parkmikvah](http://PayPal.Me/parkmikvah) For more info, email [hpmikvah@gmail.com](mailto:hpmikvah@gmail.com) or [www.parkmikvah.org](http://www.parkmikvah.org).

**OHR TORAH NEWSLETTER:** To subscribe to these Announcements, go to [www.ohrtorah.net](http://www.ohrtorah.net)

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

**KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP:** To sponsor Kiddush or reserve the Kiddush room, please contact Mel Barenholtz by email: [mbarenh@yahoo.com](mailto:mbarenh@yahoo.com).

**SHALOSH SEUDOS SPONSORSHIP:** To sponsor Shalosh Seudos, contact Moshe Wiesel.  
**BUILDING DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES** Contact Moshe Schneider at 732-618-4702.

**TREE OF LIFE / YAHRZEIT PLAQUES:** To dedicate a Yahrzeit Plaque or Leaf for the Lobby Eitz Chayim Tree, contact Moish Nat by sending

detailed fax with all dedicatory wording to 732-759-8558. For more info, call Moish at 732-759-807 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](mailto:siegeldad@optonline.net).

**HOUSEKEEPING:** For housekeeping issues and inquiries contact Lou Smith at [ludeeju@gmail.com](mailto:ludeeju@gmail.com) or 732-572-5633.

**OHR TORAH YOUTH PROGRAM EVENTS:** Children can register for events on Ohr Torah's website "[ohrtorah.net](http://ohrtorah.net)" or call Mayer Berg at 732-572-3429.

**REFUAH SHLEIMAH LEARNING:** Please see the Ohr Torah website, [www.ohrtorah.net](http://www.ohrtorah.net), for the various schedules of learning as a Z'chus for a Refuah Shleimah

**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](mailto:reenagreenspan@yahoo.com) or Gene Wasserman 732-397-0130 or [genew@compugene.com](mailto:genew@compugene.com)

**YAHRZEIT DATABASE:** To register a family member in the Yahrzeit database, go to [ohrtorah.net](http://ohrtorah.net) and click "Register for OT Yahrzeit Notification" or speak with Ralph Dessau or Gene Wasserman.

**LOCAL ERUV:** Call 732-247-ERUV for status

#### **Parshas Vayakhel-Pekudei**

Candlelighting:	6:56pm
Mincha:	7:05pm

Ohr Torah can be found at <http://www.ohrtorah.net>. Join the email list for Weekly Announcements. Announcements should be sent to [announcements@ohrtorah.net](mailto:announcements@ohrtorah.net) by 7PM Wed. Please make sure to leave a contact/callback name and phone number.

Sof Davar

#### **Rabbi Chaim Heller (1879-1960)**

Moshe Sherman

Throughout his life, Rabbi Chaim Heller attempted to avoid attention. He became a rosh kollel, a rosh yeshiva, sought after for speaking engagements, and considered for the position of succeeding Rav Avraham I. Kook during the 1930s. The Rav, R. Yoseph Dov Soloveitchik z"tl regarded him as a Torah genius, with a breadth of scholarship in both Torah and secular subjects. His preference for anonymity has largely been fulfilled. Today his name is hardly known.

Born in Bialystok, Poland, in 1879, Chaim Heller was almost entirely self-taught. He had little formal elementary schooling, nor did he attend any of the famous yeshivas of Europe. Instead, he studied privately with the occasional help of tutors who answered his questions and monitored the progress of his work. In time, the young boy was regarded as a *illuyi* by many great rabbonim of Eastern Europe. Following years of privately studying gemara and halacha, R. Heller was eager to broaden his knowledge. He traveled to Germany, where he completed a doctorate at the University of Wurzburg.

After concluding his work in Germany, R. Chaim Heller moved to Warsaw, Poland before accepting, what became, a short-lived position as rav/av beit din of Lomza, Poland in 1912. The tumult and danger of World War I precipitated his move to Homel, Belorus, and in 1917, he returned to Germany. Five years later in 1922, R. Chaim Heller established the Beit Hamidrash Ha-Elyon, a yeshiva-kollel in Berlin. As founder and Rosh Kollel, he accepted only outstanding students of Talmud into the kollel program. Unlike most yeshivas of the time, Rav Heller did not object to the yeshiva students supplementing their Talmud study with formal university education. Though not a formal student at the kollel, Rav Yoseph D. Soloveitchik davened and learned Torah at R. Chaim Heller's Beit Hamidrash Elyon, during his years at the U. of Berlin.

In 1937, with the rise of Nazism, R. Heller fled Germany for the United States, where he joined the faculty of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) in New York. Preferring a private life of study and research, Rav Heller served at the yeshiva not as a regular rosh yeshiva, but as a casual maggid shiur. He also gave occasional classes and lectures at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University, though he never served as a full-time professor.

R. Heller's vast erudition combining traditional knowledge of Talmud and codes with expertise in modern methods of research resulted in the publication of several important works of halacha and commentary. In matters of Jewish law, R. Heller's two-volume *Chikrei Halakha*, on Choshen Mishpat, and his critical edition of the Rambam's, *Sefer ha-Mitzvot*, based on the original Arabic, two translations and several early printed editions, was widely hailed by roshei yeshiva and academic scholars alike, as an important contribution to the study of Maimonides. Rabbi Israel Meir HaCohen, (the Chofetz Chaim) is reported to have relied exclusively on R. Heller's edition of the *Sefer ha-Mitzvot*. In addition to his work on Maimonides and halachic material, R. Heller published several works of biblical scholarship, including an annotated edition of the Peshitta on Bereshit and Shemot, and several important essays on the Yerushalmi Targum. R. Heller's work has been regarded as sufficiently significant, that for the past 40 years, a modest collection of supercommentary has emerged based on his published editions and writings.

R. Chaim Heller died in New York on April 10, 1960. The Rav travelled from Boston to attend the funeral, and later published a *hesped* in memory of R. Chaim Heller.