



# Congregation Ohr Torah

## Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi

Jeff Klein - President

Rabbi Sarel Malitzky – Assistant Rabbi

Parshat Vayetzei

9 Kislev 5758

December 7, 2019

**Candlelighting:** 4:12 PM  
**Mincha:** 4:20 PM  
**Shacharis:** 7:45, 9 & 9:15 AM

*Hashkama Speaker - David Waizer*  
*Rabbi Hoffman's Halacha B'iyun Shiur after Hashkama*

**Sof Z'man Krias Shma (GR"A):** 9:28 AM

*Rabbi Luban's Moed Katan Shiur - 3:15PM*

**Mincha:** 1:45 & 4:05 PM

*Shalosh Seudos Speaker: Rabbi Humener*

**Maariv:** 5:20 PM

**Shabbos Ends:** 5:21 PM

**Weekday Shacharis:**

**Sun.** 7:15, 8 & 9 AM

**Mon. & Thurs.** 6:20, 7:05, 8 AM

**Tues., Wed., & Fri.** 6:30, 7:10, 8 AM

**Early Mincha Sun.** 1:00 PM

**Mincha/Maariv:** 4:20 PM

**Late Maariv:** 7:30 & 10:10 PM

*No 7:30 Maariv on Sunday*

**Shiurim:**

- Rabbi Akiva Sauer's Shiur on Daf Yomi Be'iyun :

Sunday after 7:15 AM Shacharis

-Rabbi Luban's She'eilos Uteshuvos Shiur Monday

9:10PM.

-Semichas Chaver Program with Rabbi Malitzky,

Tuesday 8:00 PM in YFM

**Daf Yomi (EST)**

Monday-Thursday-after 7:30 Maariv

Friday night after Maariv

Shabbos morning -8:15 am

Sunday-after 8am Shacharis

### **KIDDUSH**

Kiddush is co-sponsored by:

-Mira and Mark Epstein in commemoration of the Yahrzeit of Mark's mother Tzippa Hana bas R' Moshe Mayer A"H.

-Mimi and Charlie Gershbaum in memory of Charles father Dr. Joseph Gershbaum A"H, -

- Bruria Shabbaton.

Kiddush sponsorship is available January 4, 25 and February 1.

### **SHALOSH SEUDOS**

Shalosh seudos is sponsored by Tmima and Symcha Klerer in commemoration of the Yahrzeit of Symcha's mother Hinda bas Mordechai A"H.

### **LUNCH AND LAUGH**

Lunch and Laugh presents the movie The Frisco Kid, an oldie but funny. Enjoy our pre-Chanukah with us. Harrison Ford and Gene Wilder star as a taciturn gunslinger and a clueless immigrant rabbi traveling across the Wild West in the comic adventures of The Frisco Kid. Ranked 87th out of 88 in his rabbinical class, Avram Belinski accepts a posting to Gold Rush-era San Francisco. Date: Tuesday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Time: 12:00 noon. Dvar Torah by Gene Wasserman

Cost \$12 to defray cost of food

RSVP by Dec 13th to Bella

[blerner18@optonline.net](mailto:blerner18@optonline.net) or 732 317-1786

Mildred 732 572-1712 or Marcia

[ppheffer@verizon.net](mailto:ppheffer@verizon.net) or 732 572-5998

### **MAZEL TOV**

... to Naomi and Josh Caplan on the recent engagement of their son Dani to Rina Wachsstock of Netanya. Mazel Tov to Rina's parents, Miriam and Eddie Wachsstock, to Dani's grandmother, Iola Caplan, aunt and uncle, Lori and Jonathan Caplan, and the entire Caplan and Wachsstock families.

### **SEFORIM DONATIONS**

Thanks to the following for their generous Seforim donations:

-Michael & Penny Kaplan in memory of Harry Chefitz's brother David Chefitz Z"L

-Michael & Penny Kaplan in memory of Gedalia Reiss's mother Gladys Reiss Z"L

-Moshe & Susan Wiesel in memory of Charlene Rosenberg's father Jack Weinstein Z"L

-Moshe & Susan Wiesel in memory of Gedalia Reiss's mother Gladys Reiss Z"L

### **CONDOLENCES**

Ohr Torah extends sincere condolences to:

-Harry Chefitz on the loss of his brother, David Chefitz, A"H, son of Bernice Chefitz. Bernice and Harry will be sitting Shiva in Edison at 11 Perry Road. Shacharit Sunday at 8:00 AM.

Gedalia Reiss and Hennie Gruberger on the loss of their mother, Mrs. Gladys Reiss, A"H. Gedalia will be sitting shiva at his home, 215 Washington Ave, Edison, NJ. Shiva is thru Monday after Shacharit. Sunday 8AM, Monday 7:05AM. Mincha and Maariv 4:20pm.

May you be comforted among the mourners of Tzion and Yerushalayim.

### **WELCOME RABBI HUMENER**

Please welcome Rabbi Humener of Rechovot Israel who returns to grace us with his presence at Ohr Torah. Rabbi Humener is the founder of Chasdai Akiva, an organization similar to Yad Eleizer for the Rechovot community. It provides food and other financial support for the needy of that city. Rabbi Humener is an accomplished Ba'al Tefilah, who will speak at Shalosh Seudos. Please join him at a Melava Malka at the Kamelhar home, 22 Perry Rd. Edison at 8:00 PM Motzai Shabbos. While in Edison he will be at the Schneiders 19 Harrison St. Edison on Sunday. Please help Rabbi Humener to support the needy of Rechovot. Checks can be made out to Chasudim Tovim.

### **YEAR END STATEMENTS**

Get Your 2019 Tax Deduction! Year end statements were mailed out recently to those members with outstanding balances. Please settle your account by the end of the year. If you have any questions regarding your account, please email financial secretary, Brian Allen, at [kiddydent1@gmail.com](mailto:kiddydent1@gmail.com)

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Kudos to members of the SCP for taking their first quiz on hilchos shabbos. Special congratulations to Yaakov Farkas (top score), Russel Adler (2nd highest score), and Kivi Neuman (3rd) for their amazing performance!

### **OT ANNUAL CHANUKAH CHAGIGA**

The annual OT Chanukah Chagiga will be taking place Sunday, December 22nd from 10:30am until 1:00pm at RPRY.

There will be a photo booth, donut decorating, face painting, a mad science show, music, prizes and much more!

Admission for members is \$15 per person or \$40 for a family, for non members it is \$20 per person or \$50 for a family. Each admission includes one Chinese Auction ticket per family member. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$3 each, or you can purchase 10 tickets for \$20.

You are not going to want to miss it!

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **AVOS UBANIM MOTZEI SHABBOS**

#### **FATHER & SON LEARNING**

Avos Ubanim Motzei Shabbos Father & Son Learning is back! From 6:45 - 7:45 at Agudah. All boys that attend get a slice of pizza and a raffle ticket for a chance to win great prizes! This program is absolutely free of charge! All are welcome regardless of school and Shul affiliation. required. A light dinner will be served.

### **ACTT**

ACTT says THANK YOU! Thank you to all the sponsors and attendees for making the ACTT Nov. 24th event with Rabbi Rabbi Daniel Staum so successful and meaningful! The current source book is: Artscroll's "A Life Worth Living - Stories and Ideas for Constant Kiddush Hashem" by Rabbi Shraga Freedman. The audio of Rabbi Staum's insightful and inspiring "Kiddush Hashem: the kiddush that never ends" presentation is now available for listening or downloading from the Audio page of the ACTT website: [www.actt613.org/6.html](http://www.actt613.org/6.html) or <https://www.torahanytime.com/#/lectures?v=95621>. For more info, e-mail [info@actt613.org](mailto:info@actt613.org) or call Phil Rosen (732) 572-8762.

### **AN UNORTHODOX PROFESSION**

The Orthodox Forum of Edison/Highland Park presents the Honorable Gary Schaer, Deputy Speaker, NJ State Assembly, on Saturday night, December 21, at 8pm at Congregation Ohr

**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

Torah. He will discuss his personal political journey as the first and only Orthodox Jew to serve in the New Jersey State Legislature. He will also share his thoughts on a number of topics: the fight for State funding of education services for Jewish day school students and families, security of Jewish institutions in the age of terrorism and mass school shootings, the growth of anti-Semitism in NJ and the country as a whole, and how an Orthodox Jewish legislator deals with policies that conflict with personal religious beliefs. The program is free of charge. The Orthodox Forum gladly accepts season sponsorships, as well as program sponsorships. For more info go online to [www.orthodoxjewishforum.org](http://www.orthodoxjewishforum.org)

#### **RABBI WEISS'S SHIUR**

Rabbi Weiss's shiur on Tehillim for men and women: Wednesday evenings 7PM at 154 N. 10th Ave, HP. Info, Marsha Eiserman at 347-203-7906.

#### **RPRY**

-SOS Mishmar Parent Child Learning Program Open to All grades in the RPRY Beit Medrash Every Motzai Shabbat at 7PM. Pizza, Refreshments, Prizes

-Helene Lockspeiser to be Honored at RPRY Scholarship Breakfast Please join RPRY in its mission to provide a stellar Jewish education for all students, by donating generously to the RPRY Scholarship Fund. The Toby Mayer Memorial Scholarship Breakfast honoring Morah Helene Lockspeiser will be held at RPRY 2 Harrison St Edison Sun, Dec 15, 9:30am. There will also be a special pop up museum celebrating RPRY's 75th Year. To give a gift to the campaign and RSVP, visit: <https://www.rpry.org/support-rpry/scholarship-campaign> or contact Josh Caplan at [jcaplan@rpry.org](mailto:jcaplan@rpry.org) or 732-572-5052 ext.207.

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

Looking for work? We can help. Email Bob Lansey at [ENRVInfo@gmail.com](mailto:ENRVInfo@gmail.com) if you would like to receive our job postings and/or would like help with your resume and search strategies. Please help: If you know of any professional, part-time, or temporary job openings, please e-mail the information to [ENRVInfo@gmail.com](mailto:ENRVInfo@gmail.com).

#### **LEVAVI**

All women of the community are invited to the launching of a new organization, Levavi, providing support for pregnancy and infant loss in the Edison/HP community. Rochel Leah Eisner and Sharon Golubchik will share their personal stories, with introductions by Teri Sofir-Fisch. Event will be held at Ahavat Achim at 216 South 1st Ave. Highland Park Sun Dec 8 at 7:30pm. Info email [LevaviNJ@gmail.com](mailto:LevaviNJ@gmail.com)

#### **NEFESH B'NEFESH**

Join Nefesh B'Nefesh and Real estate attorney, Debbie Rosen Solow, who will walk you through the ins, outs and pitfalls of renting or purchasing a home in Israel: lease agreements, hidden costs and fees, financing and transferring funds, and differences between the US and Israel. Sunday, December 15th from 7:30pm-9:00pm at Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe Please register in advance at [WWW.NBN.ORG/IL/FALL2019](http://WWW.NBN.ORG/IL/FALL2019)

#### **PARLOR MEETING**

JEC Parlor meeting at the home of Jenny and Joshua Fine, 611 South 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Highland Park on Monday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at 8PM. Questions and to RSVP email: [Highschool@theJEC.org](mailto:Highschool@theJEC.org). Meet the Principal, Rabbi Ami Neuman, Asst. Principal, Rabbi Noach Sauber, Dir. Of Recruitment, Rabbi Sarel Malitzky, together with faculty, students and parents for an informal discussion: Is JEC the best fit for your son?

Learn about the student-centered learning, dynamic Rebbeim and Teachers and their warm and nurturing environment.

#### **YESHIVA SHAAREI TZION**

Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion PTA presents: "It's Time to Talk About It: Body Image and Eating Disorders - A Slippery Slope. What Every Mother Needs to Know". Speakers: Dr. Susan Brill, pediatrician specializing in adolescent medicine; Dina Cohen, MS, RDN, nutrition therapist specializing in eating disorders, women's health, and pediatric nutrition. Introductory remarks: Tamar Feldman, RDN. Presentation will be followed by Q&A. Questions can be emailed to [YSTPTA@ystnj.org](mailto:YSTPTA@ystnj.org). Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 PM at YST Boys school, 71 Ethel Road, Piscataway. For women only. Suggested donation: \$5.

#### **RJJ LADIES LUNCHEON**

Rabbi Jacob Joseph School Annual Ladies Luncheon & Chinese Auction. Mrs. Elie Lieblich Hostess. Guest Speaker - Rabbi Shlomo Landau Torah Links of Middlesex County. Sunday December 22nd, 12:00 noon Cong. Ohr Torah.

#### **YESHIVAT NETIVOT MONTESSORI**

Yeshivat Netivot Montessori in East Brunswick will be having a school tour on Tuesday, December 17, from 9:15am-11:00am. Come see our beautiful classrooms where children 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 or email [operations@mynetivot.com](mailto:operations@mynetivot.com).

#### **RJX**

RJX invites the entire community to an art auction/sale and cafe night, in tribute to Harvey Paretzky Z"L, Motzai Shabbos, Dec 14, 7:30 PM. At Congregation Ohr Torah, 48 Edgemount Rd. Edison. Tickets can be purchased at [rutgersix.com](http://rutgersix.com)

#### **RARITAN VALLEY HADASSAH**

#### **EVENTS & NEWS**

-Chanukah is coming! And that means Installation too...Celebrate a Pre-Chanukah Party with **Raritan Valley Hadassah** Wed Dec 18, 7pm. **Highland Park Community Center** 220 S. 6th Ave, HP **Please bring an object or a tradition that makes Chanukah special in your family to share with our Chapter. Meet Hadassah's brand new Board.** Info? Roselyn Bell: [roselynbe@aol.com](mailto:roselynbe@aol.com) or 848-248-7060. Your \$10 contribution is valued.  
-Chug Ivrit, for intermediate to advanced Hebrew speakers, will meet on Sun, Dec 22 at 11am. at the home of Rachel Weintraub. We chat in Hebrew and read a short Hebrew story or article. We'd love to have you join us! Please contact Rachel at (732) 819-9298 or [rachel@weintraubworld.net](mailto:rachel@weintraubworld.net) to RSVP.

-The Chicks with Sticks Hadassah Knitting Group's next meeting Wed, Jan 22, 2020 from 1pm-3pm. at the home of Phyllis Pollak, 209 North 4 Ave, HP. If the weather is inclement, call Phyllis at 732-853-6058 to check if meeting is postponed. We always welcome new members. Any questions, call 732-853-6058 or email [phypollak@yahoo.com](mailto:phypollak@yahoo.com).

#### **FOR WOMEN**

-Collecting Sheitels: 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. Sheitels can be dropped off to Aviva, 16 Edgemount Road, Edison. Info, Aviva Siegel at [sieglmom@gmail.com](mailto:sieglmom@gmail.com)  
-Tiferes: DVD for women Motzai Shabbos, Dec 7 at 8:30 PM at the Siegel house. Weekly teleconferences with topics such as shalom bayis and parenting are available to Tiferes members. Current teleconference: "Mastering your emotions

- How your emotions serve you" with Mrs. Dina Friedman. Info or to become a member, please contact Aviva at [sieglmom@gmail.com](mailto:sieglmom@gmail.com). The Highland Park / Edison group of Tiferes is zecher l'nishmas Malka bas Shalom.

-Enhance your Relationships! New Mrs. Tammy Karmel video series on Relationships: Tammy is a young mother from Yerushalayim who is living – and thriving – with the debilitating disease of ALS. Hear Tammy's unique take on relationships and be surprised at how easy it is for anyone to improve any relationship. Wednesday, Dec 11, Monday, Dec 16 at the home of Debbie Schneider, 19 Harrison St, Edison at 9:00 PM sharp. Minimum donation: \$10 per person. For more info, please call Zehava Feuer 917-583-2756

- Women's Learning Initiative: Offers customized Torah learning partners / chavrusas! For a personalized study program of your choice, email your contact information to [womenslearninginitiative@gmail.com](mailto:womenslearninginitiative@gmail.com)

- Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: Please call/text Aviva at 732-672-7104 or [sieglmom@gmail.com](mailto:sieglmom@gmail.com) for status of classes on Sunday, Dec 8 and Monday Dec 9

-Parsha class by Mrs. Miri Cohen: Class on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 9:30 AM at the home of Leah Epshtein, 253 Lawrence Avenue, Highland Park. Please call / text Leah to confirm. Babysitting is now available at the shiur; call / text Leah at 917-763-1848 to reserve.

#### **LEFKOVITS FAMILY PARK MIKVAH**

- Lefkovits Family Park Mikvah presents an evening with famous Israeli news anchor and lecturer, Mrs. Sivan Rahav Meir, popular Israeli news anchor and journalist who gives a weekly Torah shiur to 1000 people in Israel, at the annual Women's Melavah Malka on February 29, 2020 at 8:30 PM at Congregation Ohr Torah. To learn more about Sivan, please

visit: <https://www.sivanrahavmeir.com/home-en/>. Event Chairs: Racheli Atlas, Leechen Gluck, Sharon Golubchik. Advanced registration is requested. Couvert is \$36. Sponsorship is available at the following levels: \$50- Bronze Sponsor, \$100- Silver Sponsor, \$180- Gold Sponsor, \$250- Platinum Sponsor, \$360- Friends of the Mikvah, \$500- Mikvah Donor. Join us in supporting the one organization in the community that benefits all women of the community! To register or to become a sponsor, visit <https://parkmikvah.org/> or email [hpmikvah@gmail.com](mailto:hpmikvah@gmail.com).

#### **LEFKOVITS FAMILY PARK MIKVAH**

-Support the mikvah while purchasing on Amazon Use link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/237037953> A donation will be made to Lefkovits Family Park Mikvah.

- December Hours:

- Sunday – Thursday: 8:00 PM – 10:30 PM
- All Motzai Shabbos 7:30 – 10:00

All out of hour and Friday night appointments should be made online at [www.parkmikvah.org](http://www.parkmikvah.org). Alternatively they can be made by texting/calling (732) 221-8155 or emailing [hpmikvah@gmail.com](mailto:hpmikvah@gmail.com). Please be reminded that out of hours appointments incur an additional \$20 fee. During the winter months the out of hours fee is waived for appointments occurring between nightfall and opening time. For all comments and questions, please email [hpmikvah@gmail.com](mailto:hpmikvah@gmail.com).

#### **GEMACHS**

Etz Ahaim has a complete listing of all local area gemachs at <https://www.etzahaim.org/local-gemachs/>.  
- Lev Lenefesh centerpiece Gemach number has changed to (732) 630-9148.

-Sheitl Gemach: Brayla Custom Wigs is also a sheitl gemach. Wigs of all conditions accepted. All welcome-any location for drop off/pick up.  
[Renee@braylawigs.com](mailto:Renee@braylawigs.com) 908-208-5738. Edison, NJ  
 -Diaper Gemach HP/Edison: Diapers, pullups, wipes needed Email [diapergemach@gmail.com](mailto:diapergemach@gmail.com).  
 -The Edison/HP gown gmach has a large variety of gowns for all ages. Some toddler boys tuxedos are also available. Text 5165260941 for more info.  
 -Kittel gemach. To borrow a kittel, call Jeff or Lee Ann Schein 732-545-9353. Four sizes avail. Kittel gemach in memory of Lazar Lipman ben Chaim Yitzhak.  
 --Head Covering Gemach: Snoods, hat, accessories, sheitles. Donate and receive. Contact: call, text or email. Mrs. Gina Gittel Tonkonog 347-615-3294, [gintonkonog@gmail.com](mailto:gintonkonog@gmail.com). Also contact for no-charge Kallah Classes, as originally taught by Rebbetzin Tehilla Abramov.

**OHR TORAH NEWSLETTER:** Subscribe to Announcements, go to [www.ohrtorah.net](http://www.ohrtorah.net)  
**E-MAIL LIST:** To join OT email list, contact Gene Wasserman at [genew@compugene.com](mailto:genew@compugene.com).  
**KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP:** To sponsor Kiddush or reserve Kiddush room contact Russell Adler or Elie Wiesel at [reservations@ohrtorah.net](mailto:reservations@ohrtorah.net)  
**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 email with all dedicatory wording to

[marty@rivieradoors.com](mailto:marty@rivieradoors.com). For more info, call Moish at 732-759-8070 work days or 732-572-4132 in the evening.  
**SEFORIM DEDICATIONS:** Book/Seforim Dedications of all types are available contact Barry Siegel [siegeldad@gmail.com](mailto:siegeldad@gmail.com).  
**HOUSEKEEPING:** Housekeeping issues and inquiries contact Lou Smith [luddeju@gmail.com](mailto:luddeju@gmail.com) or 732-572-5633.  
**KEILIM MIKVAH HOURS:** Ohr Torah Keilim Mikvah hours are officially Sundays 7AM-10AM.  
**OHR TORAH YOUTH PROGRAM EVENTS:** Children can register for events on OT's website "ohrtorah.net" or call Mayer Berg at 732-572-3429.  
**REFUAH SHLEIMAH LEARNING:** See the OT website, [www.ohrtorah.net](http://www.ohrtorah.net), for 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 Yahrzeit database, go to [ohrtorah.net](http://ohrtorah.net) click "Register for OT Yahrzeit Notification" or speak with Ralph Dessau or Gene Wasserman.  
**LOCAL ERUV:** We have six official ways of alerting you to eruv's status. Be aware and find out eruv status every week before Shabbat and Chaggim.  
 \*Twitter: Eruv's official alerts are sent out via Twitter. Follow @hp\_eruv on Twitter Get updates about eruv's status as it's been determined.

\*Text Messages: Don't have a Smartphone or don't want to use Twitter? Get alerts via text. This involves setting up a Twitter account, but once setup, you can ignore your Twitter account. It gives you immediate alerts without Twitter blather.  
 \*Facebook: Facebook group @hperuv that gets updated when we update Twitter account. Follow Facebook group (don't just "Like" it), and you'll get alerts about the eruv's status via Facebook.  
 \*Email: Go to <http://hperuv.org> and sign up for the email list. The email list checks the eruv's status after 3pm once per hour and sends out an email with updates.  
 \*Eruv Webpage: The eruv webpage at <http://hperuv.org> has the latest Twitter feed displayed on the bottom of the front page. We also have new webpage at <http://hperuv.org> with map of exact eruv boundaries, and where you need to be careful about staying inside eruv. Go to <http://hperuv.org/status> for more info about getting eruv alerts, or contact David Weintraub at [david@weintraub.name](mailto:david@weintraub.name) for help.

<b>Vayishlach</b>	<b>4:13PM</b>
<b>Candlelighting:</b>	<b>4:20PM</b>
<b>Mincha:</b>	

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

by Moshe Sherman

### Paltiel (Phillip) Birnbaum (1904-1988)

Prior to the success of the Art Scroll Siddur, most of us, over 50 years of age, remember the Birnbaum siddur. Well ! Who was Birnbaum ? Paltiel Birnbaum was born in Kielce, Poland in 1904. He was 19 years old, when he came to the United States in 1923. Before the days of Graduate Jewish Studies at American universities, Dropsie College in Philadelphia was one of the foremost institutions for scientific Jewish Studies education and research. Among its many distinguished students were Rabbi Dr. Bernard Revel, later President at RIETS, and [Benzion Netanyahu](#) (1910-2012), father of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Paltiel, now Phillip Birnbaum received a Ph.D from Dropsie College. His dissertation, later published in 1942 was a critical edition of the Arabic commentary of the Karaite, Yefet Ben Ali, on the Book of Hosea. Birnbaum's edition included an English language introduction, a Hebrew translation of the Arabic original, and critical notes on the text.

By the 1930s, it was evident that Phillip Birnbaum was remarkably versatile in languages. His skill and passionate interest in the Hebrew language earned him a place on the board of the *Histadrut Ivrit b'America*, an organization for the promotion of Hebrew language and culture. He became a steady columnist and book reviewer for *Hadoar*, a Hebrew language periodical published by the *Histadruth Ivrit b'America*.

But his noteworthy talent and lasting contribution was in translation. He prepared translated anthologies of the Rambam's *Mishneh Torah* and *A Book of Jewish Concepts* (1975). But it was his well admired Hebrew-English versions of the *Machzor* (1945), *Ha-Siddur Ha-Shalem* (1949) a Pesach *Haggadah* (1953), and the *Five Megillot* (1973) which were widely recognized and commonly found in Orthodox, and many Conservative synagogues, throughout the United States and Canada. Philip Birnbaum died in 1988, at the age of 83.