



# Congregation Ohr Torah

## Weekly Announcements

<http://www.ohrtorah.net>

48 Edgemount Road Edison, NJ 08817

Rabbi Yaakov Luban – Rabbi

Payam Hanian - President

Rabbi Sarel Malitzky – Assistant Rabbi

Parshat Shoftim

6 Elul 5781

August 14, 2021

### Pre-Plag Mincha

5:45 PM

**Candlelighting:** 7:39 PM

**Mincha/Kabolas Shabbos:**

7:00 (Main Shul), 7:45 (Beis Medrash)

**Shacharis:**

7:45 (Social Hall), 9:00 AM (Main Shul)

Hashkama speaker: Rabbi Luban

9:30 AM (Teen Minyan, RPRY)

Sof Z'man Krias Shma (GR'A)

9:34 AM

**Mincha:** 1:45, 6 & 7:15 PM (Main Shul)

Rabbi Luban's Chagigah Shiur at 5:40 PM

(Note earlier time to accommodate Scholar in Residence shiur)

Shalosh Seudos speaker: Scholar-in Residence Rabbi Yechiel Spero

**Maariv:** 8:45 PM

**Shabbos Ends:** 8:46 PM

**Weekday Shacharis:**

**Sunday:** 7:15, 8 & 9 AM (Main Shul)

**Mon. & Thurs** 6:20, 7:05 & 8 AM (Main Shul)

**Tues., Weds. & Fri** 6:30, 7:10 & 8 AM (Main Shul),

Shimon Daniel BM Program 9-10 PM Wed.

**Early Mincha-Sunday (Main Shul)** 1:45 PM

**Weekday Mincha:** 7:35 PM

**Late Maariv:** 10:10 PM

**DAF YOMI SCHEDULE**

Friday night - after 7 pm minyan. Shabbos -after 6 pm Mincha

Sunday -after 8 am Shacharis

Monday-Thursday - 7:30 pm

### HASHKAMA KIDDUSH

Hashkama Kiddush is sponsored by Karen and Yoel Schwartz in honor of Josh's Aufruf.

### KIDDUSH

Kiddush is sponsored by the Zinkin, Ornstein and Gerszberg families in memory of Aryeh Zinkin's 5th Yahrzeit

### SHALOSH SEUDOS

Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Fran and Shmully Leitman as a Seudas Hoda'ah in appreciation of Fran's recovery from Covid last year.

### TUESDAY NIGHT TEHILLIM

The Ohr Torah Tuesday night Men's Tehillim group meets (virtually) starting at 9:30PM. For a ZOOM invitation weekly, please email [dralsansinger@gmail.com](mailto:dralsansinger@gmail.com).

### SEATS FOR YOMIM NORAIM 5781 (2021)

Please review the list of families who registered for seats, which is posted in back of the Shul.

Corrections should be communicated to the Seating Committee: David Waizer, Arthur Atlas or Srulee Hercman.

Final 15ncial issues should brought to the attention of Brian Allen. The seat assignments will be posted shortly.

### MAZEL TOV

... to Naomi & Josh Caplan and Miriam & Eddy Wachsstock on the birth of a granddaughter, ליאורה ברכה, to their children Rina and Dani Caplan of Yerushalayim. Mazel Tov to great grandmother Iola Caplan, Dani's siblings, Aunt & Uncle Lori & Jon Caplan, and the entire Caplan and Wachsstock families.

...to Raquel and David Dessau on the upcoming marriage of their daughter. Aleeza to Yakov Redisch son of Susan and Mitchell Redisch of Wesley Hills NY. Mazel Tov to siblings Benji, Miriam, and Shayna and to Aleeza's grandparents Ralph and Rochelle Dessau and Herman and Henie Frances and to the entire Dessau, Frances, Allen, Bachrach, Gersten, Piekarz and Banner families.

...to Karen and Yoel Schwartz on Josh's Aufruf this Shabbos and upcoming marriage to Ariella Himelstein. Mazel Tov to Josh's siblings, and the Schwartz/Kessler/Himelstein families.

### SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE- RABBI YECHIEL SPERO

Shabbos Parshas Shoftim I August 13th-14th Shabbos Morning Derasha after Mussaf:

*What Does It Take To Be A Leader?*

Shabbos Afternoon Shiur, 6:30 in the Main Shul:

*Elul: Home Sweet Home*

After Mincha and quick Shalosh Seudos - Approximately 8:05 PM.

*Bitachon: Trust The Process.*

Rabbi Yechiel Spero is a native of Cleveland, Ohio He is a graduate of both the Hebrew Academy and Telshe Yeshiva of Cleveland. He has been teaching for the past 25 years and is currently an 8th grade Rebbe at Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim/Talmudical Academy of Baltimore. Rabbi Spero is a prolific speaker on both the national and international circuit and the author of the Artsroll's Touched by a Story series - 32 books in all, as well as numerous private biographical works on family legacies. His most recent book, "Yoshev Be'seiser-The Prayer of Protection", touched the hearts and souls of thousands, both young and old alike.

*This Shabbos has been generously sponsored by the Zinkin, Gerszberg, and Orenstein families in loving memory of Aryeh Zinkin Z"L whose 5th Yahrzeit is being commemorated.*

### FAREWELL

The entire community & all the "mamesh gevaldik" RPRY alumni are invited to participate in a "gevaldik" Kiddush in honor of Rabbi and Mrs. Shraga Gross making Aliyah Kiddush at Cong. Ohr Torah – Shabbos Aug. 21st- 12PM

### ANNUAL

### I. DAVID AND MIRIAM GOLDSTEIN TESHUVA DRASHA

Kindly join us on Sunday evening, September 5, Rosh Hashana Eve, 7:30PM. We will be welcoming Rabbi Ya'akov Trump, Rabbi Young Israel Lawrence Cedarhurst to deliver the annual I. David and Miriam Goldstein Teshuva Drasha at Congregation Ohr Torah. This event is run in conjunction with American Friends of Yad Eliezer. Donations will be used to provide Yom Tov food to the impoverished in Israel.

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NETIVOT 1ST ANNUAL DR ARYEH ZINKIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH

Netivot presents the first annual Dr. Aryeh Zinkin Memorial Scholarship brunch. Featuring renowned Jewish Montessori educator, Rabbi Jonathan Rietti. Honoring Morah Niza Kassin with the faculty award, and Ms. Rhea Zucker with the volunteer award. Sunday, Aug 15, 10am at Congregation Ohr Torah. To RSVP please visit [mynetivot.com.scholarship](http://mynetivot.com.scholarship).

### TIFERES

Chodesh ELUL DVD on Motzai Shabbos, AUGUST 14 at 10PM at the Siegel house: "Reaching for Renewal: Return, Reset, Renew", featuring Mrs. Dina Friedman and Rebbetzin Slovie Jungreis-Wolff. For women only. Weekly teleconferences with topics such as shalom bayis and parenting are available to Tiferes members. Current teleconferences: Mrs. Chaya Hinda Allen ("From Being Overwhelmed to Feeling Connected") and Mrs. Shaindy Bilgri (Revealing Malchus Hashem through Marriage). For more info or to become a member, contact Aviva at [sieghmom@gmail.com](mailto:sieghmom@gmail.com). The Highland Park / Edison group of Tiferes is zecher l'nishmas Malka bas Shalom.

### SHNAINU SHIDDUCH GROUP

The Shnainu Shidduch Group of Edison & Highland Park, a volunteer Shidduch group to assist Orthodox Jewish singles of all ages and hashkafot, is proud to wish a Mazal Tov to Josh Schwartz and Ariella Himelstein on their upcoming marriage! We continue to welcome and accept shidduch profiles. For info or to submit your profile, email: [shidduchedisonhp@gmail.com](mailto:shidduchedisonhp@gmail.com)

### BIKUR CHOLIM

**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

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.

#### **WOMEN'S LEARNING INITIATIVE:**

-Parsha class by Mrs. Miri Cohen on ZOOM Tuesday mornings. Text (732) 710-6932 for the time and zoom link.

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

The Mikvah is appt only. All appts should be made via [MikvahCloud.com](http://MikvahCloud.com) or via the MikvahCloud app. Regular services, baths and showers, are being offered. Please see [mikvahcloud.com](http://mikvahcloud.com) for mikvah hours. A face mask should be worn at the mikvah. 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/>.

-DIABETIC SUPPLIES GEMACH: Providing diabetic Supplies- Insulin, test strips, meters etc. for those who ran out/waiting for insurance approval or guests who left supplies at home. Please text Deutsch family at 646-683-7394.

- Lev Lenefesh centerpiece Gemach number ha

-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 also avail. 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 m/o 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, [ginatonkonog@gmail.com](mailto:ginatonkonog@gmail.com). Also contact for no-charge Kallah Classes, as originally taught by Rebbetzin Tehilla Abramov.

-Re-Pleat - Gemach of outfits for dressy occasions! New in Edison/HP! Have something to donate? Have a special occasion and need something to wear? Open by appt only. Text 732-267-3216

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

**E-MAIL 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, 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 [siegelddad@gmail.com](mailto:siegelddad@gmail.com).

**HOUSEKEEPING:** Housekeeping issues and inquiries contact Lou Smith [ludeeju@gmail.com](mailto:ludeeju@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 Aaron Breslin at 908-907-7308.

**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 732-678-8848 (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 the Members tab and then click "Register for OT Yahrzeit Notification" or speak with Ralph Dessau or Gene Wasserman.

**LOCAL ERUV:** Find out the status of the eruv by

**Email:** We send out an email within 30 minutes after the eruv's status has been determined. You can sign up to this service by sending a blank email to [hperuv+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:hperuv+subscribe@groups.io).

**Twitter:** This is our official notification channel. Follow [@hp\\_eruv](https://twitter.com/hp_eruv) to get the eruv status as soon as it has been determined.

**Facebook:** Join the Facebook Group [hperuv](https://www.facebook.com/hperuv) and get the eruv notifications within 30 minutes after our Twitter update.

**Website:** Our Website at <https://hperuv.org> will show the eruv's status on the top of the main page. The website also has an up to date map of the entire eruv.

**Hotline:** Of course, there is always our Eruv Hotline at 732-487-ERUV which is updated as soon as the eruv's status has been determined.

Questions?: David Weintraub@  
[David@weintraub.name](mailto:David@weintraub.name)

#### **Parshas Ki Teitzei**

Candlelighting:	7:29 PM
Mincha:	6:45 & 7:35 PM

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

#### **R. Mendel Kaplan (1913 - 1985)**

Yisrael Mendel Kaplan was born in Baranovich, Poland, (now Belarus) in 1913. Unlike most promising young Talmud scholars, who left their family and residence to study at larger yeshivos, the young Yisrael Mendel attended the local Yeshiva Ohel Torah in Baranovich, headed by the eminent R. Elchanan Wasserman. Though still quite young, Yisrael Mendel demonstrated considerable promise, and R. Elchanan Wasserman assigned his son, Naftali, as a study partner-chavruta, with the gifted young boy.

Mendel Kaplan left Baranovich, during the early 1930s, to study at the Mir Yeshiva. Like several yeshivos in inter-war Europe, the Mir yeshiva was divided between those who promoted the study and practice of musar and those who did not endorse musar study. The Mir yeshiva did have a highly distinguished mashgiach, R. Yeruchem Levovitz, who had studied at the [yeshivos of Slobodka](#) and [Kelm](#), and was an ardent disciple of R. [Nosson Tzvi Finkel](#), and R. [Simcha Zissel Ziv](#) of [Kelm](#). R. Mendel Kaplan was influenced by R. Yeruchem Levovitz, and adopted the study and teachings of musar. In 1935, he married the daughter of R. Zvi Gutman, administrator of the Baranovich yeshiva, and eventually returned to his native town, Baranovich. From late 1937 through early 1939, when R. Elchanan Wasserman travelled to the United States to raise funds for the yeshiva, he assigned R. Mendel Kaplan the responsibility of giving shiurim at the Baranovich yeshiva, in his absence.

In late 1939, when the Nazi invasion overtook Poland, many Jews of Baranovich fled for their lives. R. Elchanan Wasserman advised his yeshiva students to regroup, in what was still independent Vilna. Rabbi Mendel Kaplan and his family moved to Vilna in early 1940, but in June 1940, when Soviet Russia occupied Vilna, Jewish life became increasingly worrisome and difficult. Many Jews seeking to flee further westward, required several visas to allow them to cross Russia. R. Kaplan succeeded in obtaining visas for his family from the Dutch Consulate, but was unable to obtain the necessary entry visa from the Japanese Consul, [Chiune Sugihara](#) that would allow his family to detour through Japan, while awaiting travel to their final destination in Curacao.

The Kaplan family decided to board the train, nonetheless, to the [Russian](#) port city of [Vladivostok](#), where they embarked on a Japanese boat without valid visas to Japan. R. Kaplan well understood the risk of possible deportation back to Russia, but the Japanese officials were not interested in returning his family to Russia. They accepted his visas to Curacao, and together with other Jewish refugees were sent first to Kobe, Japan, and then to Shanghai, where they spent the balance of the war years.

Following the Second World War, R. Mendel Kaplan made his way to Chicago, where his older brother, R. Herzl Kaplan had become a *maggid shiur* at Beit Midrash I'Torah - Hebrew Theological College, in Chicago. Around 1946, with the assistance of his older brother, R. Mendel Kaplan also became a *maggid shiur* at the Chicago yeshiva. From the numerous stories and anecdotes retold about R. Kaplan, he had an engaging personality, particularly with his students. He always complemented his students to make them feel good about themselves. He had an incisive understanding of personality, and made every effort to comprehend the needs and concerns of each individual student. He also had a realistic, down-to-earth character with no pretensions. He would on occasion spend some time in class reading the *Chicago Tribune*, asking his students to help him with the English language, while he offered thoughts on the larger meaning of current events.

R. Kaplan remained in Chicago for almost two decades, but when his daughters were old enough for high school, his wife moved with them to [Brooklyn](#), so they could attend a girls yeshiva high school in [Williamsburg](#). In 1965, R. Kaplan left Chicago, to join his family in New York, whereupon shortly thereafter, he was invited to become a *maggid shiur* at the Talmudical Yeshiva of Philadelphia. Notably, R. Kaplan retained his residence in Brooklyn. Every Sunday morning, he drove to Philadelphia, gave shiurim throughout the week, slept in a dormitory room at the yeshiva, and returned home to his family to spend Shabbos. For the next 20 years, at the Philadelphia yeshiva, R. Kaplan's broad curiosity, endearing manner, impactful character, and influential relationship with his students became legendary. His legacy has been well captured by an ArtScroll collection of inspiring stories of his influence on several generations of young yeshiva students.