AHAVAS ACHIM NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 7, 2018 | **מקץ/ראש חודש/חנוכה** | **ל' כסלו תשע"ט**

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

שבת חנוכה ראש חודש טבת

Friday Candlelighting.....4:12 p.m.
Friday Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv .....4:20 p.m.

*Followed by Dinner with YStuds **(by reservation only)** and Dessert Oneg (open to all).*

Shacharit ..... 7:00 & 8:45 a.m.
Pre-Group Babysitting .....9:00 a.m.
Latest Shema.....9:29 a.m.
Teen Minyan.....9:30 a.m.
Youth Groups.....10:00 a.m.
Baby Group .....10:30 a.m.

Kiddush is sponsored by the Sisterhood.

Daf Yomi (Chullin 11) .....3:20 p.m.
Mincha.....4:10 p.m.
Seudah Shlishit.....4:30 p.m.
Maariv .....5:17 p.m.
Motzei Shabbat .....5:21 p.m.
Rabbi Reisman .....7:30 p.m.

חנוכה ראש חודש טבת

Sunday Shacharit..... 8:00 & 9:00 a.m.

חנוכה

Monday Shacharit .... 6:15 & 7:45 a.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday Shacharit .....6:35 & 7:45 a.m.
Thursday Shacharit .. 6:25 & 7:45 a.m.
Sunday-Thursday Mincha/Maariv..... .....4:20 p.m.
Monday-Thursday late Maariv..... .....9:30 p.m.

יוגש

Friday Candlelighting.....4:13 p.m.
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv ....4:20 p.m.

North Side Minyan December/January
Alan and Bernice Shapiro
135 North 8th Avenue, Highland Park

ברוך הבא

Ahavas Achim would like to warmly welcome all newcomers, visitors and guests who are joining us for Shabbat. If **President Josh Ostrin** or **Rabbi Steven Miodownik** don't get a chance to greet you personally, please come up and introduce yourself. We'd like to meet you!

SYNAGOGUE NEWS

מזל טוב

Mazel Tov to **Ira and Heidi Rosen** on the engagement of their daughter, **Rachel Leora** to **Eliyahu Muszkat** of Detroit. Mazel Tov to Eliyahu's parents, **Dr. Yakir and Rena Muszkat**.

המקום ינחם

The Congregation extends its condolences to **Rebbitzen Annette Kroopnick** on the loss of her husband, **Rabbi Dr. Milton Kroopnick z"l.** Shiva will be held through **Tuesday night** at **123 S. Adelaide Ave. #2F, Highland Park. Mara Margolin** is organizing Shiva meals. Please contact her, to contribute: **732-710-9910.** May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome **Ari and Rachel Podhorcer** who recently joined the shul as Full Members. We look forward to their active participation and a warm and mutually supportive relationship.

AHAVAS ACHIM WELCOMES YSTUDS

Ahavas Achim welcomes the **YSTUDS this Shabbat, December 7-8** for our third annual musical celebration of Shabbat Chanukah.

Friday Evening: Menorah Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat; Musical Dinner *(by reservation only);* Dessert/Oneg Shabbat (open to all).

Shabbat Day: Shacharit & Musaf beginning at 8:45 a.m. Celebratory Kiddush following Services; Musical Seudah Shelishit; Havdalah.

KIDDUSH WILL BE DOWNSTAIRS

The shul's membership has spoken quite clearly and many expressed a strong preference for keeping the shul's kiddush

(Continued on page 2)

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רפואה שלמה

Please include the following חולים in your תפילות.

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הרב שמואל בן רבקה בֵּיילה

ליבה שיינדל בת חוה

Morty Godlas - מרדכי בן פסל

Barbara Kritz - ביילה בת חסי

Please note: This list of names has been reset, and all names have been erased from this list. If you would like to resubmit a name for the cholim list, call the Shul office: 732-247-0532 or email: secretary@ahavasachim.org.

*(**Kiddush,** continued from page 1)*

downstairs. At the same time, through the efforts of our fearless leader and round the clock renovator (Shul President Josh Ostrin), we have implemented a *short-term solution* to make our activity in the downstairs social hall less transparent (the white paper on the windows) and we are on the road to a longer-term solution.

Accordingly, as President Ostrin proudly proclaimed in his presidential pronouncements last week, the Shul's Kiddush is now restored to its rightful place in the downstairs social hall. We thank you for your patience as we took this trial step and weighed the benefits as well as shul members' responses.

RIVER RIDGE LECTURE

Ahavas Achim University's annual **River Ridge Lecture** will take place **next Friday, December 14** at **8:30 p.m.** in the community room at **30 S. Adelaide Ave.** All are invited to hear **Rabbi Miodownik's** presentation on **"Bentching Bloopers: Common Errors in Birkat Hamazon."**

AAU PRESENTS RABBI DR. JJ SCHACTER

Ahavas Achim University presents **Rabbi Dr. JJ Schacter next Sunday, December 16** at **8:00 p.m.** He will be speaking on the topic: **"The Fast of Asarah B'Teiveit: B'zman Hazeh B'yamim HaHeim."** Prepare for Asarah B'Teiveit (which will be observed on Tuesday, December 18) with Rabbi JJ Schacter's historical and halachic analysis. *The program is sponsored by **Rabbi Ronald and Judy Schwarzberg** in honor of his 60th birthday.*

Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter is University Professor of Jewish History and Jewish Thought and Senior Scholar at the Center for the Jewish Future at Yeshiva

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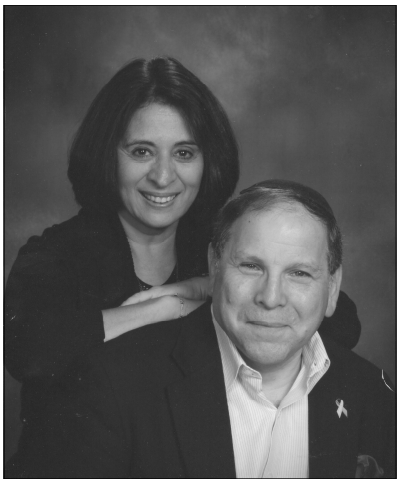
INTRODUCING SOME OF OUR SHUL MEMBERS



This Week – Debbie & Milton Erdfarb

Debbie and Milton Erdfarb were married in Highland Park on June 1, 1980. They were already quite familiar with the town because Debbie's parents lived here. They found the community inviting because of the kosher Deli King and affordable real estate, as compared to Kew Gardens Hills, NY, where they first lived after getting married. They moved to Highland Park in December 1984.

They joined Ahavas Achim because the location was ideal (their home is right next door to the shul) and because local friends were talking about an exciting new Rabbi and Rebbitzen who were in the process of moving a Congregation from New Brunswick to Highland Park. They moved into their house a year before AA was completed in its current location. They witnessed the hands-on involvement of Rabbi Schwarzberg during the shul's construction phase, so much so that one of their daughters, at the age of 2, was looking out a window and started shouting "Wabbi on the Woof, Wabbi on the Woof."

Their three daughters—Shira, Leora, and Adina—are all graduates of the Nursery School of the YMHA of Raritan Valley and the Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva. In age order, their careers are Physical Therapist, Speech Pathologist, and Actuary. They are members of the Highland Park, Dallas, and Englewood communities.

Debbie is a Jewish Enrichment Specialist and Music Teacher at Above and Beyond Childcare Center and the Child Development Center at Parker. In her role as Morah Debbie, she has touched the lives of many Highland Park/Edison children, many of whom greet her warmly on a Shabbat morning in AA.

Milton started his career as a NYC Teacher, working in the same schools he attended in the Bronx. He has been working for the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities since July 1977. He is now a Benefit and Entitlements Specialist and Capital Finance and Property Analyst.

Milton was the first winner of the Annual Ahavas Achim Men's Club Cholent cook-off (using Debbie's famous recipe). He displays his ladle proudly. Milton served as President of the shul for four years and as Vice-President for House, Membership, Fund-Raising, and Finance. He has chaired several committees including Rabbinic Selection, Board Nominations, Israel Bonds Annual Appeal and High Holiday Seating and served on many others.

Debbie has been a recipient of the AA Sisterhood Aishet Chayil award. She is a Past President of the Sisterhood. She has participated in the High Holiday seating committee and the Annual Shabbat Chanukah Concert committee. Debbie and Milton have been honorees at two Ahavas Achim Annual Dinners.

Their most frequent involvement has been (*until recently*) the knock on their front door at all hours of the day or night from someone who needed a key to get into the building, whether it was to get a tallit and tefillin or a gemach tablecloth, or a favorite stuffed animal, sippy cup or baby bottle or caterer needing to set up for a Simcha. Public Notice: They no longer have a key.

They'll go almost anywhere whenever they are invited to a destination wedding. This has included Miami Beach, Indianapolis, Kansas City, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Jerusalem and Haifa. However, the top of their list will always be vacationing in Israel, especially with the AA Annual Mission.

***(Rabbi Schachter,** continued from page 2)*
University. From 2000-2005 he served as Dean of the Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Institute in Boston. He was the first Rabbi of the Young Israel of Sharon, MA, from 1977-1981, creating a new, vibrant and committed community. From 1981-2000, he served as Rabbi of The Jewish Center in New York City, moving his congregation from 180 to over 600 members over the course of his tenure, and also served as Rabbi of the Maimonides Minyan in Brookline, MA, from 2000-2005.

Dr. Schacter holds a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages from Harvard University and received rabbinic ordination from Mesivta Torah Vodaath. He is co-author of the award winning *A Modern Heretic And a Traditional Community: Mordecai M. Kaplan, Orthodoxy, and American Judaism* published by Columbia University Press in 1996, and he is author of close to fifty articles and reviews in Hebrew and English.

FRIDAY NIGHT LEARNING SERIES

All are invited to our **AAU Friday Night Learning** program, meeting at various member homes. Join us for an Oneg Shabbat and a shiur from Rabbi Miodownik.

The next two events will be held on:

December 21 at the home of Teri and Ari Sofair-Fisch, 261 S. Adelaide Avenue

January 11 at the home of Sara and Rob Haarburger, 284 Crowells Road, #D

PESACH SEDARIM AT AHAVAS ACHIM?

Are you interested in participating at one or two **Pesach Sedarim** here at your very own **Congregation Ahavas Achim?** We are currently assessing interest in catered meals on one or two of the first nights of Pesach 2019. If you would consider joining us, please email **secretary@ahavasachim.org** before **January 1** indicating how many people, and also if you would like to work on a planning committee.

SUPPORT AHAVAS ACHIM UNIVERSITY

Please become a sponsor of our adult education program, Ahavas Achim University. Your generous donation enables us to provide a wide variety of shiurim, lectures, Shabbatonim, and other events throughout the year. We truly appreciate your assistance in making AAU a reality. Information about all our programs can be found in our AAU program catalog. To receive a catalog, contact the shul office. Sponsorship checks made out to **"Ahavas Achim University,"** along with completed forms, may be sent to the shul office. We look forward to a wonderful year of learning together.

Sponsorship Levels (with donations received as of this printing):

Sapphire - $2000 or more: *Includes reservations for a full table at the Friday night Musical Seudah with the Y-Studs on Shabbat Chanukah, December 7* **- Mrs. Janis Cohen, Dr. Elliot and Mrs. Susan Frank, Mr. and Mrs. David Goldberg, The Abraham and Bessie Hann Charitable Foundation, Mrs. Rachel Lefkovits, Mr. Kenneth and Dr. Barbara Strassman**

Empire - $1000: *Includes reservations for six at the Friday night Musical Seudah with the Y-Studs on Shabbat Chanukah, December 7* **- Dr. Barry and Mrs. Marcia Levinson, Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Ostrin, Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Renna, Mr. Marc and Dr. Debbie Turansky**

Surefire - $613: *Includes reservations for four at the Friday night Musical Seudah with the Y-Studs on Shabbat Chanukah, December 7* **- Mr. and Mrs. Barry Leskowitz, Ms. Arlyne Lookstein**

Livewire - $360: *Includes reservations for two at the Friday night Musical Seudah with the Y-Studs on Shabbat Chanukah, December 7* **- Mr. and Mrs. George Blank, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Caplan, Mr. and Mrs. Avi Freidenreich, Mr. and Mrs. Barry Katz, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Levenstein, Rabbi Steven and Mrs. Gila Miodownik, Mr. Alan and Ms. Karen Novick, Mr. and Mrs. Abe Schwartzbard, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Silbiger, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Strub**

Esquire - $250: *Receive free admission to Whiskey and Wisdom on January 4* **- Mr. and Mrs. Mark Abraham, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Beberman, Mr. and Mrs. Steven Leskowitz, Mrs. Sylvia Leskowitz**

Spitfire - $100: *Receive free admission to Whiskey and Wisdom on January 4* **- Mr. and Mrs. Shlomo Aronoff, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Epstein, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Erdfarb, Mrs. Susan Haber, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Klaver, Drs. Irving and Jenny Mandelbaum, Mr. Avi and Dr. Lauren Maza, Mr. and Mrs. David Miodownik, Mr. Walter Rogers and Ms. Sally Klinger Rogers, Mr. Gerald Silverstein, Mr. and Mrs. Giyora Simantov, Dr. Michael and Mrs. Marsha Wasserman, Mr. and Mrs. Yussie Weiss, Mrs. Evelyn Weitzer**

YAHRZEITS

12/8	Diane Mael	Father
	David Seiden	Father
12/10	Bat-Sheva Arnold	Mother
	Mina Bodner	Mother
	Michael Seidemann	Brother
12/11	Susan Haber	Husband
	Susan Hornstein	Mother
12/14	Deborah Erdfarb	Father
	David Friedman	Mother
	Gustine Matt	Husband
	Myra Shrier	Father

AAU SHIURIM

Monday-Thursday after 9:30 p.m. Maariv Chug Mishnayot

Monday 8:30 p.m. Advanced Talmud Arvei Pesachim with Rabbi Miodownik

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. Torah Gems with Rabbi Moshe Goldberger *(for men only)*

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. Mishnah Avodah Zarah with Rabbi Yehoshua Weitzner *(for men only)*

Tuesday 8:45 p.m. Practical Halacha

Wednesday 1:15 p.m. Sefer Shmuel with Rabbi Miodownik *(for women only)*

Thursday 9:30 a.m. Gemara Brachot with Rabbi Eli Reisman *(for men only)*

Thursday 9:00 p.m. Parshat Hashavua with Rabbi Yissocher Frand via TCN *(No charge; donations welcome!)*

Shabbat 9:30 a.m. *(after 7:00 a.m. Shacharit)* "Jewish Values in a Changing World" by Rav Yehuda Amital

Shabbat 50 minutes before Mincha Daf Yomi with Judah Abraham

Motzei Shabbat Navi with Rabbi Yisroel

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Please patronize our sponsors!

*(**Shiurim,** continued from page 3)*
Reisman via TCN ***(7:30 p.m. through January 26;*** *No charge; donations welcome!)*

LEARNING SEUDAH SHLISHIT

Ahavas Achim University proudly presents the **Fall 2018 Learning Seudah Shlishit.** This is your weekly opportunity to elevate the last minutes of Shabbat with learning, and transform the end of the day into moments of study and growth. We cordially invite you to select from the buffet of refreshments, and then select one of the following groups to join! You are welcome to sample all of the learning options, or stay with the same facilitator throughout the semester.

A Ban on Plastic Shopping Bags? Exploring the Concept of "Tikkun Olam" *with Rabbi Ronald Schwarzberg;*—Jews have an obligation to "fix the world." What is the source of this concept and how do we go about doing this?

Into the Depths of Sefer Yonah *with Rabbi Daniel Loew;*—How do the commentaries understand the mysterious text of this important sefer in Tanach?

"Tzelem Elokim:" Practical Applications of Being Created in God's Image *with Rabbi Steven Miodownik;*— Tzelem Elokim is more than a lofty theological concept. It influences Jewish law in multiple ways. (alternating with The World of Mussar)

The World of Mussar *with Rabbi Shmuel Lesher;*—Meet the major mussar personalities and sample their teachings which have revolutionized the Torah world. (alternating with Tzelem Elokim)

SISTERHOOD NEWS

BOOK CLUB PLEASE NOTE:

The selection for the next book club has changed! We will be discussing the book ***Orphan # 8*** by Kim van Alkemade. The date and home will remain the same: **Tuesday, January 8** at **8:30 p.m.** at the home of **Marsha Wasserman, 24 Grant Avenue, Highland Park.** We apologize if this has caused a problem.

KIDDUSH REMINDER

The Kiddush committee for **this Shabbat** is: **Haarburger, Cohen/Moed** and **Schwartz.** The Kiddush committee for **Shabbat, December 15** is: **Horowitz, Huberman** and **Hornstein.** The Kiddush committee for **Shabbat, December 22** is: **Jacobs, Karpoff** and **Rafi and Lisa Katz.** The Kiddush committee for **Shabbat, December 29** is: **Barry and Rosa Katz, Kinzbrunner** and **Kean.**

YOUTH NEWS

JUMPING JELLYBEANS

Children ages 0-5 *with a parent* are invited to join **Jumping Jellybeans** on **Sunday, January 6** at **10:30 a.m.** with **Tova Halpern** of **Fresh Theatre Arts.** Jumping Jellybeans is a program geared towards our youngest members. Using drama, movement and music, children explore their surroundings in a fun, energetic, and exciting environment. Cost of **$5** per child includes a snack. *Parents must attend with child.* RSVP to **Chani** at **aayouth100@gmail.com.**

*Save the dates! **Sundays, February 3, March 3** and **April 7** for future Jumping Jellybeans.*

SHABBAT GROUPS BIRTHDAY PARTY SPONSORSHIP

Celebrating your child's birthday? Sponsor a birthday party for your child's Shabbat morning group: includes birthday game, birthday hats, and special snacks. Sponsorships start at **$25.** For more information, contact **Kivi and Chani** at **aayouth100@gmail.com!**

TEEN MINYAN KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP

If you'd like to sponsor Teen Kiddush, email **Kivi** at **aayouth100@gmail.com.**

COMMUNITY NEWS

RPRY OPEN HOUSE

Join **RPRY** for their annual **Open House next Sunday, December 16!** Parents are invited to learn about their stellar general and Jewish education, from pre-nursery (age 2) through 8th grade. Attend mini-lessons taught by Early Childhood, Lower School, and Middle School teachers. Tour and meet administrators, teachers, as well as current parents. Discover the warmth of RPRY! RSVP: **www.rpry.org.**

Happy Chanukah!

OHR TORAH GRAND CHANUKAH CELEBRATION THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday, December 9 from **10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Ohr Torah** is hosting a **Grand Chanukah Celebration** and **Children's Chinese Auction.** Children, parents and grandparents are all invited. Join them for brunch and lots of entertainment including face painting, a mentalist and hypnotist show for older children and a magic show for younger children plus fun, games and giveaways from the Jeff Wilks orchestra. In addition, children will have the opportunity to decorate their own Chanukah donut (frosting and sprinkles provided), and there will be a children's Chinese auction with great prizes. Cost is **$15** per person; **$40** per family max. Sponsorships of **$72** and **$100** are available as well.

COMMUNITY-WIDE CONCERT

A community-wide concert featuring **Benny Friedman,** to benefit **Tomchei Shabbos of Middlesex County** and **RPRY** will be held **next Motzei Shabbat, December 15** at **7:30 p.m.** at the **Highland Park High School.** Ticket prices available are:

- Sponsor $100
- VIP $50
- General admission $36

To purchase tickets, please email: **mcjewishevents@gmail.com** or visit: **tomcheimc.org.**

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 **Rabbi Steven Miodownik** will be held on **Sunday, December 23** at **9:30 a.m.** To make a donation and/or RSVP, please visit: **www.rpry.org/support-rpry/scholarship-campaign**. Thank you!

REBBITZEN EICHENSTEIN

Tefillah will ***not*** meet this Sunday, December 9. **Parsha** will meet **this Monday, December 10** at **8:00 p.m.** at **Ohr Torah.** For more information, please contact **Aviva** at **732-672-7104** or **siegelmom@gmail.com.**

SHAIMOT COLLECTION AT OHAV EMETH

Ohav Emeth is now collecting **Shaimot through Wednesday, December 26.** Drop off hours are **9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. daily.** They must be in tied garbage bags; limit of 50 lbs per bag. **$18** donation for small bags; **$36** for large bags. For more information, please contact **Michael Garber** at **mdgarber@live.com** or **732-322-0503.**

CHUG IVRIT THIS SUNDAY

Chug Ivrit, for intermediate to advanced Hebrew speakers, will meet **this Sunday, December 9** at **11:00 a.m.** at the home of **Rachel Weintraub, 120 Highland Ave., Edison.** They chat in Hebrew and read a short Hebrew story or article. Please join them! Contact **Rachel** at **732-819-9298** or **rachel@weintraubworld.net** to RSVP.

SHIUR FOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS AT OHR TORAH THIS SHABBAT

Ohr Torah invites **9-12 grade girls** to a shiur given by **Eliana Moss this Shabbat, December 8** from **3:15-4:00 p.m.** Her topic is: "**Seven Nights of Chanukah."**

PARK MIKVAH HOURS

Park Mikvah hours are: **Sunday-Thursday 8:00-10:30 p.m.; Motzei Shabbat** through end of **December: 7:30–10:00 p.m.; Friday nights** *by appointment only* by leaving a message at **732-249-2411,** via the website: **www.parkmikvah.org** or call/text **732-221-8155.**

UNARMED RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTER

Eilon Even-Esh of **Shomer 360** will teach **Unarmed Response to Active Shooter next Sunday, December 16** from **11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** at **Chabad of Rutgers University,** 170 College Ave., in the Main Ballroom. This program is for men, women and teens ages 13 and up. What if you can't run or hide? What do you do when the shooter is right next to you? What do you do when your children can't escape? What do you do when the shooter breaks through your safe room? Learn the systematic and logical way to fight a gunman. Cost **$10;** free with Rutgers Student ID. RSVP to: **917-834-6665.** For more information, please visit: **www.shomer360.com.**

RJJ LADIES LUNCHEON & CHINESE AUCTION

Rabbi Jacob Joseph School will hold their annual **Ladies Luncheon & Chinese Auction next Sunday, December 16** at **12:00 p.m.** at **Ohr Torah.** This year, they are honoring **Rachel Silber** and **Fraidi Silberberg.** The Guest Speaker will be **Rabbi Shmuel Silber** of Baltimore, MD. For more information, contact **RJJ** at **732-985-6533** or **rjj@rjj.edu.**

HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY KOLLEL BREAKFAST

The **Highland Park Community Kollel** is pleased to announce that the Guests of Honor for this year's **Breakfast** will be **Akiva & Sara Scott.** The breakfast will take place at **Ohr Torah** on **Sunday, December 30** at **9:30 a.m.** Formal invitations to follow in the mail.

WOMEN'S LEARNING INITIATIVE

For status of **Shimirat Haloshon** class by **Leah Drillman this Monday, December 10,** please call **Ellen Smith** at **201-410-1893** or **732-777-6787.**

Parsha class by **Miri Cohen** will meet **this Tuesday, December 11** at **9:30 a.m.** at the home of **Leah Epshtein, 253 Lawrence Avenue, Highland Park.** Babysitting is now available at the shiur. Please contact **Leah** at **917-763-1848** for more information and/or to reserve babysitting.

AHAVAS YISRAEL SISTERHOOD MELAVE MALKA

The 11th annual **Ahavas Yisrael Sisterhood Melave Malka** presents **Edison/Highland Park's Got Talent 2.0!** Join them for a special evening of amazing talent from the women in our community. Enjoy various performances, by women, for women, all while getting a chance to spend time with friends and enjoy dinner together.

Save the date: **Motzei Shabbat, December 29** at **8:00 p.m.** It will take place at the **Greenhouse Loft, 431 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park** (2nd floor entrance in the back). All women in the community college age and up are invited. Register at **AYedison.org.** If you would like to perform, contact **Rivky Arnow** at **732-986-3153.** Email **Sisterhood@AYedison.org** for questions.

LUNCH AND LEARN

The next **Lunch and Learn** will be held **this Tuesday, December 11** at **12:00 p.m.** at **Ohr Torah.** With their use of Yiddish, their distinctive clothes and their strict observance of Jewish ritual and law, the Hasidim are considered by many an insular people with little connection to mainstream America. ***A Life Apart: Hasidism in America,*** narrated by Leonard Nimoy and Sarah Jessica Parker takes us on an illuminating journey into a beautiful, mesmerizing and mysterious world of a community kept distinct from its surrounding culture for generations. Cost for lunch: **$12.** RSVP to **Bella** at **732-317-1786** or **blerner18@optonline.net, Mildred** at **732-572-1712** or **Marcia** at **732-572-5998** or **ppheffer@verizon.net.**

MITZVAH OF LOVE BRUNCH

Raritan Valley Chapter of Hadassah invites the community to their **Mitzvah of Love Brunch** benefiting Hadassah Medical Organization **next Sunday, December 16** at **10:00 a.m.** at the **Highland Park Conservative Temple-Congregation Anshe Emeth.** *Brunch is catered by Jerusalem Pizza.*

They are proud to honor **Sheryl Olitzky,** founder of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom (sosspeace.org). Sheryl's idea to fight hatred by small-group interaction has led to the creation of some 150 groups of Muslim and Jewish women across the United States and Canada. Come to hear how SOSS combats negative stereotyping. Couvert: **$50.** Send RSVP to: **Susan Baron, 61 North 6th Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904.** For questions, please contact **Bonnie Freidenreich** at **732-572-2568** or **bonnief363@gmail.com** or **Susan Baron** at **732-572-7710.**

FUTURE OF A CHALLENGING RELATIONSHIP

The **Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life** presents The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture **this Thursday, December 13** at **7:30 p.m.** at the **College Avenue Student Center,** 126 College Avenue. **Yehuda Kurtzer,** President, Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, will speak on: **"Israel and American Jews: The Future of a Challenging Relationship."**

CHANUKIAH LIGHTING PARTY

The entire community is invited to a **Chanukiah Lighting Party this Motzei Shabbat, December 8** at **6:15 p.m.** at the **Himber home, 6 Perry Road, Edison.** Come help them light the big chanukiot, play dreidel and enjoy Chanukah music. Please contact them at **718-986-8171** to RSVP so they can make sure to have enough sufganiot.

WHEN DID TIKUN OLAM BECOME A JEWISH VALUE?

The **Orthodox Forum** of Edison/Highland Park presents **Rabbi Ronald Schwarzberg** on the topic: **"When Did Tikun Olam Become a Jewish Value? Orthodox American Jewry's Involvement with Social Justice"** on **Motzei Shabbat, December 22** at **8:00 p.m.** at **Ahavas Achim.** Rabbi Schwarzberg will discuss Orthodoxy's relationship with the concept of "Tikun Olam." He will address the ways in which traditional Jewish commentaries from Talmudic times until the present day have instructed Torah observant Jews to interact with the non-Jewish world, to be involved in social justice, and the reasons for doing so.

The program is free of charge. The Orthodox Forum gladly accepts season sponsorships, as well as program sponsorships. Please visit: **www.orthodoxjewishforum.org** For more information.

GENEALOGY CLUB OF CENTRAL JERSEY

The next meeting of the **Genealogy Club of Central Jersey (GCCJ)** will be held **this Thursday, December 13** at **7:00 p.m.** at **Ahavas Achim.** The meeting will consist of an open discussion of questions relating to **"Using DNA Tests to Find Your Relatives."**

TIFERES

The next DVD for women will be shown on **Motzei Shabbat, December 22** at **8:30 p.m.** at the **Siegel** house. ***Teleconferences are open and free to all women during the month of Kislev! Call: 212-444-9898; pin 2018.*** Current teleconference: **"Shalom Bayit—Getting it Right"** with **Rivka Katz.** For more information or to become a member, please contact **Aviva** at **siegelmom@gmail.com.**

ROSH CHODESH SHIDDUCH GROUP

The next meeting is **this Monday, December 10** at **8:00 p.m.** at the **Ravitz** home, 60 Hamlin Road. Please bring a resume and picture if you are presenting.

OHR TORAH GOES ROLLER SKATING

On **Motzei Shabbat, December 22,** children in grades 4 thru 9 are invited to meet at **Ohr Torah** at **6:15 p.m. sharp.** You will go by school bus to **Woodbridge Community Center** (formerly United Skates of America) for a fun evening of roller skating. You will return to **Ohr Torah** at **9:15 p.m.** Cost is **$20** per child in advance; **$25** at the door. Price includes bus transportation, 1 1/2 hour use of roller skating/blading rink, roller skate or blade rentals, $3 game card for use at the arcade games in the arena and snacks/drinks at the facility. Checks can be made out to **Ohr Torah** and provided night of the event.

ISRAEL AND AMERICAN JEWS: THE PARK MIKVAH MELAVE MALKA

SAVE THE DATE: **Motzei Shabbat, February 23** for the **Park Mikvah Melave Malka** for women. The Guest Speaker will be **Charlene Aminoff** from @galicouturewigs. Details to follow.

CPR/AED CLASS

An adult/child **CPR with AED** class will be offered on **Motzei Shabbat, December 22** from **7:30-10:30 p.m.** at **Ohr Torah.** American Heart Association certification will be provided. Cost is **$50.** Class size is limited. Contact **Marc Hanfling** at **docdad@aol.com** for registration and information.

KOL HALAYLA CHANUKAH CONCERT

Kol Halayla, Rutgers' Jewish a cappella group is performing their annual **Chanukah Concert this Motzei Shabbat** at **8:00 p.m.** at **Rutgers Hillel,** 70 College Ave. Cost: **$5** for students, **$8** general admission. For more information, please visit: **www.kolhalayla.com**.

JEWISH FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING & LEGACY CELEBRATION

Join the **Jewish Federation in the Heart of NJ this Thursday, December 13** at **7:30 p.m.** for **Making a Difference Today, Building a Brighter Tomorrow: Annual Meeting & Legacy Celebration** at **Congregation B'nai Tikvah,** 1200 Finnegan's Lane, North Brunswick. Light dinner & cocktails served.

Jewish Federation Legacy Circle Members and all **Life & Legacy team members** are invited to begin the evening at **6:45 p.m.** at an exclusive pre-reception with champagne toast honoring **Sheldon and Bonnie Freidenreich** for their extraordinary leadership. The entire evening is free of charge. Registration is required. Call **Rosalyn** to register at **732-588-1800.**

AHAVAS ACHIM

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