

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

September 10, 2005 * 89 West Carlton Rd., Suffern, NY 10901 * (845)352-1343 * www.baistorah.org * כ"ט אלול שבת פרשת שופטים

ערב שבת פרשת שופטים

הדלקת נרות: 6:57 PM

* מנחה: 7:00 PM

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM

Weekday שחרית

Mon. and Thurs.: 6:20 and 7:45 AM

Tues., Wed. and Fri.: 6:30 and 7:45 AM

שבת פרשת שופטים

שחרית 8:45 AM

סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:42 AM

פרקי אבות 5:10 PM

גמרא שיעור 6:00 PM

מנחה 6:45 PM

סעודה שלישית

מעריב 7:56 PM

Weekday מנחה-מעריב

Sunday – Thursday 6:55 PM

ערב שבת פרשת כי תצא

הדלקת נרות: 6:45 PM

מנחה: 6:50 PM

* Early mincha for the summer

Shiurim

Sunday at 8:30 AM – **מסכת עבודה זרה** – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

Monday at 6:30 PM – **מסכת ברכות** – Rabbi Chaim Wein

Tuesday at 8:15 PM – Partners in Torah

Wednesday at 8:15 PM – **ספר עזרא** - Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

Monday–Friday after the second **ספר החנוך-שחרית** – Rabbi Yosef Fischer

Monday-Thursday at 9:45 AM - **גמרא** shiur - Rabbi Leibel Reznick

דף היומי I, Monday through Friday 5:25 AM and Sunday at 6:30 AM – Mordechai Rudman

דף היומי II, Monday through Thursday, one hour before and Sunday at 9:30 AM – Rabbi Yosef Fischer

Women's **תהלים** group meets on **שבת** 45 minutes before **מנחה**.

Shul Announcements

Bais Torah's **Ulpan** resumes classes on September 11th. Rachel Kushner will once again teach 2 levels. The cost for 8 sessions is \$100 and advance registration is required. E-mail Sandy Thurm at sfthurm@optonline.net or call 368-3418 for more info.

Rabbi Yisroel and Amy Gottlieb would like to invite the entire congregation to their new home, 115 West Carlton Road, for an **Oneg Shabbas dessert**, this Friday eve, Shabbos Parshas Shoftim, 9:30 PM. They look forward to welcoming you.

Reserve Sunday eve, Sept. 18th for **Rachel Friedman**, director of the Yesodot Program at Drisha Institute, who will speak on "Shedding Sin: The Scapegoat Ritual of Yom Kippur, Its Meaning and Relevance to the Process of Repentance."

Tuesday evening, September 20th, Mayor of Gush Etzion, Shaul Goldstein will speak on, "**Expulsion from Gaza: Where Do We Go from Here?**" He will provide an eyewitness account on the withdrawal and evacuation of our brethren in Israel.

The **Board of Directors' next meeting** will be Thursday night, September 29, after Maariv.

Bais Torah is now on the web. Visit www.baistorah.org to get zemanim, event information and schedules. Your comments and feedback are welcomed and can be sent to baistorah@aol.com or via the fill-in form on the "Contact Us" page.

Keep us informed. Our shul secretary, Esther Garber, is in the office Mon. through Thurs., 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

Kindly **assist** us by making sure to return your Siddurim, Chumashim and other seforim to the bookcases or cart next to the Bimah.

Tzeschem L'Shalom to our students learning in Israel this year - Dovid Katz, Basya Lieder and Josh Rossman.

Youth Group Leaders (must be 10th Grade and up) needed for Shabbos mornings from 10 AM until shul ends for children ages 4 to 8. Can be once or twice a month. Please call Felise Katz 357-0129.

This week's **סעודה שלישית** is co-sponsored by Charlie Grandovsky in memory of his father and Marty Ginsberg in memory of his daughter.

Mazel Tov

David and Soshi Mayerfeld on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Menachem Weiss, son of Eli and Tova Weiss.

Carl and Sara Markowitz and David and Ruthie Lehmann on their respective 35th wedding anniversaries.

Jack and Rachel Gross on their upcoming 20th wedding anniversary.

Michael and Helen Loebenstein on the birth of a great-grandson, born to Tuvia and Rivkah Breuer of Woodmere, L.I.

Hamakom Yenachem

Rhoda Burstein on the p'tira of her son-in-law, Volvi Sanger of Hendon, London.

Rivkah Genuth on the p'tira of her brother, Volvi Sanger of Hendon, London.

Refuah Shelaimah

Ellie Arnot's mother, Rachel Arnot - **חיה רחל בת שושנה**

Michael Rossman's mother, Ilse Rossman - **יעמט בת שרה**

Shirlee Aaronson - **שרה חנה בת בלומא**

Mr. Shapiro - **חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה**

Jerry and Roz Seigel's son, Yoni - **יהונתן בן שושנה**

Joel Rosenwasser's mother - **פשע לאה בת שפרינצע**

Helen Loebenstein - **הילני בת רחל**

How to Reach Us

Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb 357-3913, rabbigottlieb@yahoo.com

President Peter Katz, 357-0129 peter@pkatech.com

Treasurer Barry Lifschitz, 352-0226, Fax 352-0841 or barry@lifschitz.net

Maintenance Yis Helprin 494-7446

Chesed Committee Charlie Grandovsky, 425-4683

Bikur Cholim Eveline Kranzler, 352-8410 and

Chosh Levy, 425-6827

Shul Secretary Esther Garber, 352-1343

Sisterhood Liaison Betty Schloss, 369 – 1833

Lost and Found Michael Loebenstein, 425-8895

Chevra Kadisha Steve Fessel, 425-1713, Ephraim Pessin, 914-420-6714 or Gloria Gordon, 425-1276

Sisterhood Tribute Cards Esther Garber, 352-1343

Bais Torah Bulletins Email baistorah@taxprof.net, Fax (845) 368-4172, or call (845) 368-2222. To receive e-mail updates, write to baistorah@aol.com. This bulletin is now downloadable from the web at www.baistorah.org.

Yahrtzeit Tikun Moshe Tilson, 426-0976

Simcha Room Reservations/Kiddushim Jack Gross, 357-4121

Eiruv 362-4302

Mikvah 425-6101

Youth Felise Katz 357-0129

Hachnosas Orchim Facility for homeless, Shea Jacobs 425-9617

In Case of Emergency

The Red Hatzolah Phone is in the hallway on the wall between the rear washing station and the Simcha Room.

The Defibrillator is in a cubby in the coat room opposite the Hatzolah phone.

Parashat Shophtim - 5765 - "A Tale of Two Cities"

At the beginning of Parashat Shophtim, the Torah sets a very high standard of incorruptibility for Jewish leadership, as a condition for receiving and succeeding in the Land of Israel, "*Judges and officers shall you appoint in all your cities which HaShem, your G-d, gives you, for your tribes; and they shall judge the People with righteous Judgment. You shall not pervert Judgment, you shall not favor the powerful or the weak, and you shall not accept a bribe, for the bribe will blind the eyes of the wise and make just words crooked. Righteousness, righteousness shall you pursue. So that you will live and possess the Land that HaShem, your G-d, gives you.*" (Devarim 16:18-20) Unfortunately, doubts have arisen as to whether the leadership of the State of Israel and the leadership, for that matter, of the United States, measure up to those high standards, especially with regard to the pursuit of Righteousness.

The Month of Av has certainly lived up to its reputation as the saddest month of the Jewish Calendar. On the tenth of Av, the anniversary of the main burning of the Second Temple by the Romans in 70 C.E., a political firestorm took hold of Neve Dekalim, the "capital" of Azza, and the rest of that region, held by the Jewish People and the modern State of Israel since the Six Day War of 1967. This was due to its designation as the first step on the so-called "Roadmap to Peace" between Israel and the Palestinians. As of now, Neve Dekalim and the rest of the southern coastal area wrested from the desert by the faith and hard work of the Jewish settlers who made their homes there, **encouraged by the Israeli Government**, since '67, have been abandoned. Some 9,000 settlers have had their lives uprooted, forced by the Israeli Government, under tremendous pressure from the West, especially from the United States, to abandon their homes and livelihoods, their Synagogues and Yeshivot, to move to an uncertain existence, financially and spiritually, elsewhere in the Jewish State. This uprooting was performed by the Israel Defense Forces, a task forced on them by the government, against a background of peaceful resistance and a stream of tears.

The Holiday of Shemini Atzeret is already visible among the great Holidays that we are approaching. We recite then "Tefilat Geshem," the Prayer for Rain, which concludes, "For You are HaShem, our G-d, Who causes the Wind to Blow and the Rain to Fall – For Blessing and not for Curse, For Life and not for Death, For Plenty and not for Scarcity." But in the Haftarah of Parashat Shophtim, we find a verse that should sound an alarm, "*And I am HaShem, your G-d, Who stirs up the sea, and its waves rage – HaShem, Master of Legions, is His Name.*" (Yeshayahu 51:15)

At the end of the Month of Av, a Category 4 Hurricane called Katrina came howling out of the Gulf of Mexico, packing sustained winds of 131 M.P.H. and gusts of 161 M.P.H. Katrina also delivered torrents of rain which were enough to flood the Gulf Coast Region, but combined with the fierce wind, a 30-foot storm surge was generated that breached several of the levees that held back the waters of Lake Pontchartrain; resulting in the near-total inundation of the City of New Orleans, that had been constructed below sea level. Chaotic conditions, including raging fires, existed for several days and it was only after the passage of about a week, that emergency relief measures began to take effect. But as of now, the City of New Orleans has virtually ceased to exist, with a feared loss of a minimum of 10,000 lives, reflecting the largest natural disaster in the history of this country.

We have entered the Month of Elul, when we begin to contemplate the "Yamim Noraim," the Day of "Din," Judgment – Rosh HaShanah, and of "Kapparah," Atonement – Yom Kippur. On Rosh HaShanah, we recite the Prayer "U'Netaneh Tokef," "Let us now relate the power of this Day's Holiness, for it is Awesome and Frightening... It is true that You Alone are the One Who Judges, proves, knows and bears witness... On Rosh HaShanah will be inscribed and on Yom Kippur will be sealed ...**who will live and who will die...who by water and who by fire...who by famine and who by thirst, who by storm, who by plague...**"

For a religious President of the United States to allow even the perception of arrogance of power, and to exert undo pressure upon the State of Israel, and for the Prime Minister of Israel to deceive his followers, those who believed passionately in the principles he once espoused, would seem to be very serious sins, punishable, perhaps, by loss of entire cities and parts of coastlines, and of their reputations in history. But a fundamental principle of Judaism and of the High Holy Days is Repentance. And we recite, at the end of "U'Netaneh Tokef," confident in the Mercy of HaShem on all his creatures, and united as a prayerful community, "**But Repentance, Prayer and Charity remove the evil of the decree.**"

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