

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

November 12, 2005 · 89 West Carlton Rd., Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org ג' מרחשון שבת פרשת לך לך

Bar Mitzvah of Efraim Cooper

ערב שבת פרשת לך לך

הדלקת נרות: 4:23 PM

מנחה: 4:30 PM

שבת פרשת לך לך

שחרית: 8:45 AM

9:10 AM סוף זמן קריאת שמע

גמרא שיעור: 3:25 PM

מנחה: 4:10 PM

סעודה שלישית

מעריב: 5:22 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

Weekday מנחה-מעריב

Sunday -Thursday: 4:25 PM

Second מעריב: 8:00 PM

ערב שבת פרשת וירא

הדלקת נרות: 4:17 PM

מנחה: 4:25 PM

Shiurim

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

Mondays at 6:30 PM – מסכת ברכות – Rabbi Chaim Wein

Mondays at 8:00 PM - Hachnosas Kallah of Monsey sponsors lectures for women of all ages.

Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Partners in Torah

Wednesdays at 8:15 PM - ספר עזרא - Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

Monday through Friday after the second שחרית - ספר מדע - מסנה תורה להרמב"ם, ספר מדע - Rabbi Yosef Fischer

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

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

II דף היומי, Monday through Thursday at 7:00 PM and Sunday at 9:30 AM – Rabbi Yosef Fischer

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

Shul Announcements

Bais Torah is pleased to announce that on November 18th and 19th, we will once again be hosting a **Scholar in Residence** weekend. This year, we are privileged to have Rabbi Dr. Marc Angel with us. He will be addressing us on Friday night at 8:00 p.m. and delivering the sermon on Shabbos. He will also be speaking at 1:15 p.m. on Shabbos afternoon. If you'd like to join us for the 12:00 noon Seudas Shabbos, please contact Jennifer Herrmann at 845.356.9583 or write to baistorah@aol.com. Sponsors are entitled to two luncheon reservations at no additional cost. Further information can be found on our website.

Our third annual **Avot U'Banim Learning Program** continues this Motzoei Shabbos, at 6:30 PM in the library. Fathers and grandfathers, bring your progeny to the library, learn together and reward yourselves with a pizza melave malka. Sponsorships (\$36 per session) are invited. Contact Michael Kronenberg at 845.368.1064 or mkronenberg@advgi.com to donate or obtain further information. This weeks program is sponsored by David and Ruthie Lehmann.

This Sunday, at 10:30 AM, the Geshar Foundation invites the community to a Conversation with **Natan Sharansky**. It will be held at Pomona Middle School, Pomona Road, Suffern. For further information, call 646-472-5380.

The next **board meeting** will be on 11/17 at 8:15 PM, after the second Maariv. Members are invited to attend and to address the board during the open discussion period at the beginning of the board meeting.

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

The entire congregation is invited to a **Kiddush and shalosh seudos** by Shlomo and Yehudis Cooper in honor of Efraim's bar mitzvah.

Due to popular demand, Rabbi Gottlieb will be leading a **mission to Israel** in January. The final reservations are being made shortly. If you wish to join the tour, please contact Rabbi Gottlieb by phone or email within the next week.

Rabbi Gottlieb will be making a **siyum** on Maseches Avoda Zara at Shalosh Seudos next week, November 19. He will be starting Maseches Sanhendrin, Sunday morning, November 20, at 8:30 AM, right after davening.

Mazel Tov

Alan and Malkie Zamore on the birth of their first grandchild, a daughter, born to Donny and Arielle Rosenberg of Alon Sh'Vut.

Barry and Emily Lifschitz on the birth of a granddaughter, Daniella Leah, born to Ari and Michelle Lifschitz.

Shlomo and Yehudis Cooper on the bar mitzvah of their son, Efraim.

Manny and Chana Mayerfeld on the engagement of their granddaughter, Meira Mayerfeld, daughter of Zvi and Dena Mayerfeld, to Chaim Dovid Bauminger.

Barry and Emily Lifschitz on the birth of a grandson, born to Gila and Zev Prince of Israel.

Happy ??th birthday to Mordy Appleton.

Refuah Shelaimah

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

Michael Rossman's mother, Ilse Rossman - יעמץ 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

Phil Holzer - ירוחם פישעל בן שרה רבקה

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.

Yahrzeit 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 Lech-Lecha - 5766

“And I will Set My Covenant between Me and You...” (Bereshit 17:2)

In Parashat Lech Lecha, we find the “Brit bein HaBetarim,” the Covenant Between the Parts, in which HaShem promised Eretz Yisrael to the true heirs of Avram, and “Brit Milah,” the Covenant of Circumcision, in which HaShem laid down the first requirement for a man to achieve physical holiness. In fact, “Brit” is a central theme in Sefer Bereshit, in that it represents the means by which a relationship can be established between HaShem and humanity, between the infinite and the finite, between the Eternal and the mortal.

(The following are thoughts on the nature of the covenantal relationship between G-d and Man, as cited by Rabbi Samuel Avraham Adler in his compendium “Aspaklarya.”)

What was the first “Brit” between HaShem and His Creation? In Zohar Chadash (Bereshit 274), we find, in the name of Rabbi Abba, that the first “Brit” was with “Eish,” Fire, as it says in our Parshah, with regard to the “Brit bein HaBetarim,” “...Behold a smoking furnace and a burning torch that passed between those pieces” (Bereshit 15:17). And this is indicated clearly in the first word of the Torah, “Bereshit,” where the third and fourth letters, “Aleph” and “Shin,” spell “Eish,” Fire, which is surrounded by the first and second, “Beit” and “Reish,” and the fifth and sixth, “Yud” and “Toff,” spelling “Brit.”

The RADAK comments on the verse in Yeshayahu 42:6 “And I will make you a covenantal nation” – “For the continued existence of the nations, for every ‘Brit’ involves preservation, and Israel will cause the continued existence of the nations by means of the era of universal peace that will be inaugurated by the Mashiach, and also because of the positive moral influence of the Jewish People, that the nations will observe the ‘Seven Commandments of the Sons of Noach.’”

Sefer Halkarim (Maamar 4, Chapter 45), in his comments on the “Brit bein HaBetarim,” writes that a connection is established by the “Brit” between the two parties, the closeness of which is suggested by the metaphor of the parts of the animals, whereby “...nothing was able to separate between these parts of the living organisms, besides death.”

The MAHARAL writes in Chidushei Aggadot Nedarim 31:2, “And Rabbi Yishmael continued to speak, ‘Great is the Covenant of Circumcision, for thirteen covenants were established in connection with it’ (the word ‘Brit’ is mentioned by HaShem thirteen times in the Section where HaShem introduces the idea to Avram, corresponding to the Thirteen Attributes of Mercy. – PF) ‘And this is because the foreskin is like a shell, as we have said, and the shell constitutes a separation, and when the foreskin is removed, there remains a complete covenant with HaShem, Blessed is He... That is to say, a complete covenant from all sides, and this reflects the fact that this covenant is complete with a Singular Being Who is a source of love, and a complete covenant is not possible to be made with two lovers... And the ‘gematria’ of the word “Echad,” One, is in fact, thirteen.’”

The Ktav V’HaKaballah (Bereshit 15:18) cites the GR”A (the Vilna Gaon), who describes the role of the Torah as a “covenant” by the following metaphor: “Someone who loves another with all his heart, whom he wants not to leave him, but it is impossible for them to actually be together, gives his beloved friend something in which he has invested all his longing and desire, and they are connected by means of that gift. And even though the giver is separated from his gift, all his thoughts are centered in it. And that is the meaning of “Brit;” that is to say, a ‘Promise,’ that through the existence of the Gift of the Torah, G-d will never separate Himself from His beloved friend, Israel.”

Rabbi Shimshon Rephoel Hirsch writes in his commentary on Bereshit 6:18, regarding the verse in connection with Noach, “But with you will I establish My covenant,” as follows: “... A covenant is an unconditional promise; it will be fulfilled without any dependency on external factors, and even in the face of external factors. The promise of a ‘Brit’ is absolute...”

At this point in history, characterized by great potential as well as great danger for the Jewish People, as well as all of humanity, we offer again a Prayer of Rosh HaShanah:

“Remember for us, HaShem, our G-d, the covenant, the kindness and the oath, that You swore to our father Avraham on Mount Moriah. For it is You Who eternally remembers all forgotten things, and there is no forgetfulness before Your Throne of Glory. And may You mercifully remember today the Akeidah of Yitzchak for the sake of his offspring. Blessed are You, HaShem, Who remembers the covenant.” (from the “Zichronot Prayer” of the Rosh HaShanah Mussaf Service)