

# CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

November 19, 2005 · 89 West Carlton Rd., Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org י"ז מרחשון שנת פרשת וירא

## Scholar in Residence – Rabbi Dr. Marc Angel

### ערב שנת פרשת וירא

הדלקת נרות 4:17 PM

מנחה 4:25 PM

### שנת פרשת וירא

שחרית 8:30 AM

9:15 AM סוף זמן קריאת שמע

גמרא שיעור 3:20 PM

מנחה 4:05 PM

סעודה שלישית

מעריב 5:16 PM

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM

### Weekday שחרית

Mon.: 6:20 and 7:45 AM

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

Thurs.: 7:45 AM - Thanksgiving

### Weekday מנחה-מעריב

Sunday -Thursday: 4:20 PM

Second מעריב 8:00 PM

### ערב שנת פרשת חיי שרה

הדלקת נרות 4:13 PM

מנחה 4:20 PM

## Shiurim

Sundays at 8:30 AM – מסכת סנהדרין – 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 - משנה תורה להרמב"ם - 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

This Shabbos, we welcome Rabbi Dr. Marc Angel as our **Scholar in Residence**. He will be speaking Friday night at 8:00 PM on, "Reaching Beyond Ethnicity." On Shabbos morning, Rabbi Angel will deliver the sermon on, "Reaching Beyond Our Community." The Seudas Shabbos at noon will follow and then Rabbi Angel will lecture at 1:15 PM. on, "Reaching Beyond Conformity." Everyone is invited to attend.

Friday evening, Dec. 2nd, Bais Torah will sponsor a special **Carlebach Shabbos with Elli Kranzler**. Join us for a spirited Carlebach-style Kabolos Shabbos and at 5:45 PM, a lively Seudas Shabbos. At 7:30 PM, everyone is invited to "Around the Rebbe's Tisch" with guest speaker Rabbi Abraham Twerski and zemiros led by Elli Kranzler. The Seudah is \$30 per person prepaid and the deadline is Nov. 27th. To reserve, please call Shirley Landau at 352-9092 or Ruthie Lehmann at 426-6499.

Our third annual **Avot U'Banim Learning Program** continues this Motzoei Shabbos, at 6:15 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 week's program is sponsored by Josh and Miriam Pomeranz.

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

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.

The Sunday morning shiur will be making a **siyum** on Maseches Avoda Zara at Shalosh Seudos this Shabbos.

Please reserve Saturday night, Dec. 10th for a fascinating lecture by Professor **Yaffa Eliach**. She will be speaking on, "Recreating Life in the Shtetl."

## Mazel Tov

Irving and Eudice Rohinsky on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Sarah Leah, born to Steven and Allison Rohinsky.

Irving and Eudice Rohinsky on the birth of a great-grandson, Yonah Elisha, born to Michael and Aviva Rohinsky.

Jossi and Sandy Lieder on the birth of a grandson, born to Deena and Aaron Bodenheim.

Josh and Gloria Riber on the birth of a grandson, born to Meir and Penina Riber.

Kate Tannenbaum on the engagement of her grandson, Jeremy, son of Elliot and Debbie Tannenbaum, to Teley Yogel.

Kate Tannenbaum on the birth of twin great-grandchildren, a boy and a girl, born to Arlene and Jay Shiner.

## 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 Hatzoloh 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 Hatzoloh phone.

## Parashat Vayera - 5766 - And the Movie "Ushpizin" (*If you intend to see the movie and would rather not know the plot beforehand, print the Dvar Torah and put it aside, till after you see the movie*)

Not long ago we celebrated the Holiday of Sukkot. An important feature of that Holiday is the construction of the Sukkah, a temporary dwelling in which the Jew is commanded to spend the bulk of his time for seven days. An important "minhag," or custom, is to invite seven great historical guests to dinner, the "Ushpizin," each on his own night as the Guest-of-Honor, with the others also present. They are Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov, Yosef, Moshe, Aharon and David. This allows the owners of the Sukkah to participate in the great practice of "Hachnasat O'rechim," Welcoming Guests, whether or not they have actual guests in the Sukkah. Currently circulating is a popular Israeli movie, also called "Ushpizin," about the Chassidic community of Rav Nachman of Breslov, in the neighborhood of Me'ah Shearim, in Jerusalem. One might say that the movie is based on the principle of "Ma'asei Avot Siman LeBanim," "What happened to our forefathers are indicators of what will happen to their descendants," in an unusual and highly creative way.

The movie is set in modern-day Israel, on Sukkot. It depicts how a "Chozer BiTeshuvah," a Penitent, Reb Moshe Balanga, and his wife, Maali, struggling to make ends meet, obtain some funds and a beautiful Sukkah. One of the impressive aspects of the film is the way in which it depicts Moshe and Maali speaking to HaShem, praying intensely for a miracle, at one point, in a manner reminiscent of "Yitzchak poured out prayers to HaShem, opposite his wife, for she was barren, and HaShem responded to him, and his wife conceived (Bereshit 25:21). Here Moshe and Maali were praying primarily for financial resources, to purchase the "Four Species," and to put food on the table, but we will see that later their prayers for children will also be answered. HaShem provides hidden miracles and they obtain funds, a beautiful Esrog and a lovely Sukkah.

Two former friends of Moshe, secular Jews, escape from prison, and seek out Moshe. As Moshe and Maali bemoan the fact that they have no guests for the Holiday, these two appear, to the delight of their hosts. Eventually, however, Moshe learns their secret, that they are fugitives. Moshe tells them that Maali and he are going to visit Maali's parents in Gedera. The escaped prisoners believe this and depart. Meanwhile, Moshe learns that the Sukkah he obtained from a friend, was acquired from the original owner based on a false assumption. This upsets him greatly and he goes to request forgiveness from the original owner. One of the convicts has grown suspicious of Moshe's Gedera story, and they have returned to verify it. Finding it not to be true, they take their hosts' possessions into the streets and stage a drunken party with them. When Maali returns home, she is unable to cope with the situation alone. She discovers that the men are escaped convicts, that Moshe had told them an untruth to get them to leave, and is overcome by frustration over not being able to bear a child. When Moshe returns, she informs him that she is leaving him, and advises him to find a new wife and make a family with her. Moshe is unable to convince her to stay with him, and she leaves.

The Rabbi of the community, concerned about Moshe, asks his Gabbai to bring Moshe to pray with him. In the course of those prayers, he emphasizes the idea that one should avoid becoming angry at all cost.

The convicts, who remember Moshe as quite a different person, now become convinced that he is genuine and decide to make him a special meal, to compensate him for their earlier suspicions. Naturally, one of the ingredients required is a lemon and, not knowing the significance of Moshe's Esrog, they use it as such. When Moshe learns of the loss of his Esrog, he struggles with his old demons of anger, and seems ready to kill them both, but he is able to suppress his anger, and pass this test. They tell him that they had thought that he was a faker, but had become convinced that his repentance is genuine. He says that it doesn't matter to him what they think, because they and their thoughts are of no significance. Taken aback, they ask him, "What about you?" He responds that he too is nothing, and that the only reality is G-d. This is very reminiscent of Avraham Avinu's speech, in his pleas for Divine Mercy for Sodom, "*Behold now, I desired to speak to my L-rd, although I am but dust and ash.*" (Bereshit 18:27)

Moshe is resigned to the loss of Maali. He is shown on a ladder, dismantling his Sukkah after the Holiday, when Maali approaches with a radiant smile on her face. "I want to call him Nachman," after the great Chassidic Rebbe, Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, the Rebbe of Laughter, whose main theme was "It is an Important Command to be happy at all times." Moshe at first doesn't realize that she has returned to him and is speaking of their son, but eventually he understands and pronounces a Blessing of HaShem. Reminiscent of Yaakov's dream of a ladder connecting heaven and earth, and of the moment in Parashat VaYera when HaShem informs Avraham and Sarah in their elder years that they will have a son, whose name they shall call "Yitzchak," the name whose root is joyous laughter. The movie ends with the Brit of Nachman, with the convicts in attendance.

Stepping back, I think the movie is a good instrument for promoting Ahavat Yisrael; in particular, between the Charedi and Secular Communities in Eretz Yisrael. Because it portrays just such a reconciliation, by showing that the Charedi Community is "normal;" they just have a strong and real relationship with HaShem. And the representatives of the Secular Community, though portrayed to some extent as caricatures, because certainly not all secular Jews are criminals, but the characters in the movie are basically good-hearted, and are able to appreciate their common humanity with their Charedi counterparts.