

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

May 13, 2006 · 89 West Carlton Road, Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org ה' אייר שבת פרשת אמור

Aufruf of Ilan Rosenrauch

ערב שבת פרשת אמור

* מנחה: 7:00 PM

** הדלקת נרות: 7:20 PM

Regular Candle Lighting 7:47 PM

שבת פרשת אמור

שחרית 8:45 AM

סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:17 AM

פרקי אבות 6:00 PM

גמרא שיעור 6:50 PM

מנחה 7:35 PM

סעודה שלישית

מעריב 8:48 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

Sun., through Thurs.: 7:55 PM

ערב שבת פרשת בהר-בחקתי

* מנחה: 7:00 PM

** הדלקת נרות: 7:20 PM

Regular Candle Lighting: 7:54 PM

* Early mincha for the summer

** Shul Accepts Shabbos

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 lectures for women. –This week's speaker is Rabbi Yakov Horowitz.

Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Partners in Torah

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

Monday through Friday after the second - פרשת השבוע עם רשי' – Rabbi Yosef Fischer

Monday through 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 1 hour before מנחה and Sunday at 9:30 AM – Rabbi Yosef Fischer

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

Shul Announcements

The entire congregation is invited to a **kiddush** sponsored by Yechiel and Shiela Rosenrauch celebrating the aufruf of their son, Ilan.

On Sunday, May 14th we will be honoring Steve and Jackie Fessel, Moe Tilson, Betty Schloss and Michael Rossman at the CrossRoads Sheraton. Bais Torah needs your support and Chizuk – please attend. For last minute reservations or changes, please call Felise at 845-729-3071 or Ruthie at 917-902-9877. The reception starts at 5:30, Mincha is at 6:15 and the dinner begins promptly at 6:30.

Please reserve June 24 for the **Simcha Tea**. Details to follow.

Keep us informed. Are you planning a simcha or special event? To avoid scheduling conflicts, please call Esther Garber, our shul secretary. She is in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

The shul now has a **box to drop off checks**. It is in the coat room on the wall. It is not for outgoing mail.

Thanks to Ruth and David Lehmann and the entire adult education committee for all their efforts in bringing the Gesher sponsored film "USHPIZIN" to the shul last Sunday evening. The evening was a great success and was well received by the almost 100 people who attended. Thanks also go to Rabbi Randy Eaton for his help in presenting some of the background details about the film and the work that Gesher does in helping to "bridge" the gap between secular and Chareidi Jewry in Israel. For Further information about Gesher, please contact Leslie Ackerman, Rabbi Gottlieb or Sandy Thurm.

Mazel Tov

Kenny and Judy Gribetz on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Yonatan Elazar, son of Vicki and Avi Witkin of Maale Adumim, Israel. Yechiel and Sheila Rosenrauch on the aufruf of their son Ilan.

Hamakom Yenachem

Risha Hirsch on the p'tira of her mother, Anne Anes. Shiva is through Mon. morning at 2 Windmill Lane.

Gail Tuchman on the p'tira of her mother, Gertrude Hochberg. Shiva is through Mon. morning at 9 Miriam Lane.

Refuah Shelaimah

Michael Rossman's mother, Ilse Rossman - יעמץ בת שרה -

Mr. Shapiro - חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה -

Ben Zauderer - בנימין בן בילה -

Shirlee Aaronson - שרה חנה בת בלומא -

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

Sara Markowitz's father, Eli Muller - חיים אליעזר בן בתיה -

How to Reach Us

Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb 357-3913, rabbigottlieb@yahoo.com – Daytime emergency 362-8362

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

Chevr 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.

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 Emor – 5766 – Shimon bar Yochai and the “Zohar”

In Parashat Emor (VaYikra 23:15), we are commanded to count Sefirat HaOmer for seven weeks, or forty-nine days, beginning with the second night of Pesach, and continuing through the night before Shavuot. Two great giants of Jewish History are directly involved in the observance of the Days of Sefirat HaOmer. They are Rabbi Akiva and his student, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. This essay will focus on the student, bar Yochai.

The major role in Jewish History played by the G-dly Tanna, as he is called, aside from his prominence on the pages of the Talmud Bavli, is as the author, according to Jewish Tradition, of the “Zohar,” meaning the “Brilliance.” This work is the basis of that aspect of Torah known as “Torat HaSod,” the “Torah of the Secret Wisdom,” also known as “Kabbalah,” or, more roughly, as Jewish Mysticism. While this is the most esoteric branch of Torah study, it also has, paradoxically, the greatest appeal for the masses. “Kabbalah” is one of the intellectual foundations of “Chassidut,” the great religious Movement within Judaism begun by the Baal Shem Tov in the eighteenth century.

Below is introductory material to “Kabbalah,” from the website www.learnkabbalah.com, created by Jay Michaelson, a “teacher and student” of Kabbalah; now a doctoral candidate at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The concept of “G-d” is a problematic and difficult one for the **general student** of mysticism, but Michaelson makes a crucial distinction: “For most Kabbalists, the situation was very different. The concept and reality of G-d were felt and known from their earliest memories. These were, by and large, rabbis soaked in the G-d of Judaism, which they experienced and related to all the time; traditional Jewish practice puts one in constant relationship with G-d...” (from “The Meaning of G-d,” one of 24 overview introductions to Kabbalah on the site cited above).

Michaelson cites a short text by Moshe Cordovero, one of the greatest Kabbalists, who lived in Tzefat in the sixteenth century and was at the center of a group of Kabbalists including Rabbi Yoseph Caro, the author of the “Shulchan Aruch,” Rav Shlomo Alkavetz, author of “Lecha Dodi,” and the Ari, Z”L:

“An impoverished person thinks that G-d is an old man with white hair, sitting on a wondrous throne of fire that glitters with countless sparks, as the Bible states: ‘The Ancient-of-Days sits, the hair on his head like clean fleece, his throne – flames of fire.’ Imagining this and similar fantasies, the fool corporealizes G-d. He falls into one of the traps that destroy faith. His awe of G-d is limited by his imagination.”

“But if you are enlightened, you know G-d’s oneness; you know that the divine is devoid of bodily categories – these can never be applied to G-d. Then you wonder, astonished: Who am I? I am a mustard seed in the middle of the sphere of the moon, which itself is a mustard seed within the next sphere. So it is with that sphere and all it contains in relation to the next sphere. So it is with all the spheres – one inside the other – and all of them are a mustard seed within the further expanses. And all of *these* are a mustard seed within further expanses.”

“Your awe is invigorated, the love in your soul expands.”

Michaelson comments, “This is a remarkable teaching. Of course, Cordovero uses his scientific framework – the idea that the universe is comprised of concentric spheres – instead of ours. But the principle is the same. G-d is not some old man in the sky who makes sure that only good things happen to good people, and bad things happen to bad. The universe doesn’t work that way. In fact, the universe is inconceivably vast, and every subatomic particle of it is filled with G-d...” Chassidut expresses this idea in these words, “Les Asar Panui Minei,” “There is no place where He is not.”

According to Jewish Tradition, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai died on “Lag BaOmer,” the 33rd Day of the Omer. There is a custom to celebrate on the “Yahrtzeit,” the anniversary of his death, at Meron, the burial place of the great rabbi and his son, Rabbi Elazar bar Shimon, with torches, song and feasting, which may seem somewhat odd, but was a specific request of Rabbi Shimon of his students.

In Judaism, the “Torat HaSod,” the study of Kabbalah, coexists with the Revealed Torah, the “Torah she-BiK’tav,” the Written Torah, and the “Torah she-B’Al Peh,” the Oral Torah. Together, they make a unique tapestry, “Nigleh,” Revealed and “Nistar,” Hidden, which define the “Mitzvah” of “Talmud Torah,” the Study of Torah, for the Jew. PF