

# CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

October 28, 2006 89 West Carlton Road, Suffern, NY 10901 (845)352-1343 [www.baistorah.org](http://www.baistorah.org) ו' חשוון שבת פרשת נח

## Aufruf of Akiva Horowitz

### ערב שבת פרשת נח

הדלקת נרות 5:40 PM

מנחה 5:45 PM

### שבת פרשת נח

8:45 AM שחרית

10:01 AM סוף זמן קריאת שמע

מברכים החודש חשוון

4:40 PM גמרא שיעור

5:25 PM מנחה

סעודה שלישית

6:39 PM מעריב

**Sunday** שחרית 7:45 AM (EST)

**Weekday** שחרית

Mon.: 6:20 and 7:45 AM

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

**Weekday** מנחה-מעריב

Sun. through Thurs.: 4:40 PM

Second מעריב Mon. through Thurs.: 8:00 PM

**ערב שבת פרשת לך לך**

הדלקת נרות 4:32 PM

מנחה 4:40 PM

## Shiurim

Sundays at 8:30 AM – מסכת סנהדרין – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

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

Monday at 8:10 PM - Hachnosas Kallah of Monsey lectures for women. – Mrs. Rebecca Skaist – “Tehillim”

Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Partners in Torah

Wednesday at 8:15 PM – קהלת – Rabbi Gottlieb

Thursday at 8:15 PM - עובדיה - Dr. Avi Becker

Monday through Friday after the second שחרית עם רשי - Rabbi Yosef Fischer

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

Monday through Friday 5:25 AM and Sunday at 6:30 AM – Mordechai Rudman

Monday through Thursday following מעריב and Sunday at 9:30 AM – Rabbi Yosef Fischer

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

## Shul Announcements

Shlomo and Shifra Horowitz invite the entire shul to a **Kiddush** after davening in honor of the aufruf of their son, Akiva.

This week's סעודה שלישית sponsored by Yehuda Eliezri in honor of his wife's birthday.

Move your **clocks back** one hour on Sunday morning at 2:00 AM

Esther Garber, our **shul secretary** will be leaving us this week. We thank her for her many years of dedicated service to Bais Torah and wish her and her family all the best.

Bais Torah's first **Oneg Shabbas** of the new year will take place next Friday night, November 3rd, 8:00 PM at the home of Yussie and Fayge Deutsch. Rabbi Gottlieb will begin his popular Friday night Hilchos Shabbos shiur with an introduction to the practical and timely issues related to melachos. Everyone is welcome.

Our annual **Avos U'Banim** learning program begins Motzoei Shabbos, November 4th at 6:30 p.m. Parents and grandparents are invited to bring the kids and enjoy a pizza Melave Malka each week. Contact Michael or Sharon Kronenberg at 845-368-1064 or mkron@optonline.com for information. Sponsors are welcome.

Save the Date! Congregation Bais Torah's annual **Scholar in Residence** weekend will be held November 10th and 11th. Rabbi Dr. David Pelcovitz will speak on, "Dealing with Life: The Secular and Jewish Views." For further information, or to be listed as a sponsor, please contact Dr. Moshe Kranzler at 352-8410.

Congratulations to Ronnie and Jennifer Herrmann who are being honored at this year's **American Friends of Migdal Ohr** Gala Dinner which will be held on Sunday Evening, November 12, 2006 at Pier Sixty in New York. All are invited to attend. For reservations or more information, please see Max Thurm or Michael Kronenberg.

Anyone interested in **knitting scarves** for the IDF, please contact Rena Wilen at 357-1588 for instructions and information.

Thanks to the support of many of our members and friends, **The Rebbetzin Wein Sefer Torah Project** is moving forward successfully. Over 40 parshios and all 5 seforim have been sponsored and the sofer is making excellent progress in writing the Torah. If you have not yet made a contribution or would like to increase the amount of your donation, please contact Michael or Sharon Kronenberg at 845-368-1064 or mkron@optonline.com. There are still many dedication opportunities available. Visit our website or stop by the shul bulletin board for a list of remaining sponsorships.

## Mazel Tov

Ralph and Esther Gable on the marriage of their children, Achiezer and Aviva Gable.

Shlomo and Shifra Horowitz on the aufruf of their son, Akiva, and also Akiva's grandfather, Herman Fialkoff.

## Refuah Shelaimah

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

חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה - Mr. Shapiro

בנימין בן בילה - Ben Zauderer

שרה חנה בת בלומא - Shirlee Aaronson

## How to Reach Us

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

**President** Peter Katz, 357-0129 president@baistorah.org

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

**Maintenance** Yis Helprin 494-7446

**Shul Secretary** 352-1343

**Simcha Room Reservations/Kiddushim** Jack Gross, 357-4121

**Bikur Cholim** Eveline Kranzler, 352-8410 and

Chosh Levy, 425-6827

**Eiruv** 362-4302

**Mikvah** 425-6101

**Chesed Committee** Charlie Grandovsky, 425-4683

**Youth** Felise Katz 357-0129

**Sisterhood Liaison** Betty Schloss, 369 – 1833

**Hachnosas Orchim Facility** for homeless, Shea Jacobs 425-9617

**Lost and Found** Michael Loebenstein, 425-8895

**Reb. Wein Sefer Torah Project** 368-1064

**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@gmail.com. This bulletin is now downloadable from the web at [www.baistorah.org](http://www.baistorah.org).

## 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 Noach – 5767 – Mass Extinctions and Mass Redemption

In Parashat Noach, Sefer Bereshit relates an account of a worldwide destruction, basically by a global flood, a “Mabul.” The physical cause of the “Mabul” was forty days of uninterrupted torrential rain, descending through the “windows of the Heavens” and also the “bursting forth” of “all the foundations of the great deep” (Bereshit 7:11). The moral cause is also described, “The earth had become corrupt before G-d, and the earth had become filled with violence.” (Bereshit 6:11) One individual, Noach, and his family, were saved from the human population of the world, and samples of the animal kingdom were assembled and taken on board “Noah’s Ark,” and the inhabitants of the Ark repopulated the earth after the world-destroying flood.

Paul D. Ward, in an article “Impact from the Deep,” appearing in the October, 2006 issue of Scientific American, reviews the “recent” history of mass extinctions, and presents an alternative theory as to the cause of many of them. Evidence has been found of five mass extinctions over the past 500 million years, including one that occurred between the Permian Period and the Triassic, some 251 million years ago. The evidence suggests that 90% of inhabitants of the sea and 70% of plants, animals and insects on land were wiped out then. Dinosaurs disappeared some 65 million years ago in the mass extinction that occurred at the end of the Cretaceous Period.

In fact, these five mass extinctions separate six geologic Ages, which one is tempted to take as the six “Days of Creation” spoken of in Parashat Bereshit. Bit of course, that would be mere conjecture, since who knows how much further back the chain of mass extinctions goes? These may be the **most recent** six periods. However, one does seem to find here evidence of another aspect of the activities of the Creator of the Universe, here on earth; namely, that **“He created worlds and destroyed them.”**

The disappearance of the dinosaurs some 65 million years ago came swiftly due to a catastrophic impact with the earth of an asteroid. This theory was put forth by a team from the U. of California, Berkeley, led by geologist Walter Alvarez, and supported by his physicist father, Luis W. Alvarez. Initial evidence of an impact with an asteroid some 10 kilometers in diameter, the environmental effects of which eliminated more than half of all species, was a thick layer of iridium, an element rare on earth, but found more commonly in extraterrestrial materials, such as meteors, that was deposited worldwide, at that time. And when about ten years later, the “killer’s thumbprint” turned up in a giant crater in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, there was general acceptance of the theory.

Dr. Ward presents evidence of another mechanism that is a likely suspect in the other mass extinctions; namely, a process initiated by intense **global warming**, due to volcanic activity. Without going into details of the new theory or the evidence supporting it, the mechanism is basically as follows: A warmer ocean absorbs less Oxygen from the atmosphere, the boundary between oxygenated water and water permeated with Hydrogen Sulfide rises to the point where that gas diffuses into the air, killing animals and plants on land. The author sees a possible threat to our world in the rising concentration of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere, which is part of the modus operandi of Hydrogen Sulfide in poisoning the world, **G-d Forbid**.

Last week, we read in Parashat Bereshit, “HaShem took Adam and placed him in Gan Eden to work it and **to guard it.**” (Bereshit 2:15) “Adam HaRishon,” First Man, was commanded to be the first environmentalist!

So now we must speak of a matter which, unlike the mass extinctions that appear in the geologic record of this planet, which were indeed “Acts of G-d,” undertaken to control the development of life on earth, we may have come again to a time when the “corruption” of our greed and stupidity may threaten us with self-destruction. We have heard many warnings regarding the process of global warming. Some of the already visible effects are the shrinking of glaciers and the measurable rise in the depth of the oceans. We continue to destroy Oxygen-generating forests at an alarming rate. We seem wedded to gas-guzzling vehicles and refuse to focus our attention and resources on developing alternate energy sources, both contributing to the developing “greenhouse effect” on this planet, related to global warming.

Another alarming trend in our world is the rapid spread of the knowledge of nuclear weapons technology. For the beleaguered State of Israel, the major threat in this area comes from the rogue Islamic state of Iran. There is a Haftarah recited on Succot which, if only from the **physical events** described, might be seen as a description of the aftermath of a nuclear exchange: “And it will happen on that day that there will be neither clear light nor heavy darkness... This will be the plague with which HaShem will smite all the nations that rallied against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they still stand erect; their eyes will rot in their sockets and their tongues will rot in their mouths...” (Zechariah 14:7, 12)

Sages of the Talmud have said, “We pray for the arrival of the Mashiach, but we don’t want to be there for the events that precede his coming,” referring to “Milchemet Gog U’Magog,” prophesied in the Haftarah cited. Perhaps we can place our hope, as we already hear the “footsteps of the Mashiach,” and as events on the world stage grow grimmer, in the principle that by Teshuvah we may mitigate the harshness of a negative prophecy, that “Milchamah” will be turned into “Shalom,” ushering in the “Era of Mashiach.” PF