

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

November 4, 2006 89 West Carlton Road, Suffern, NY 10901 (845)352-1343 www.baistorah.org יג חשוון שבת פרשת לך לך

ערב שבת פרשת לך לך

הדלקת נרות 4:32 PM

מנחה 4:40 PM

שבת פרשת לך לך

8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb

8:45 AM שחרית

9:05 AM סוף זמן קריאת שמע

3:35 PM גמרא שיעור

4:20 PM מנחה

סעודה שלישית

5:30 PM מעריב

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM

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.: 4:30 PM

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

ערב שבת פרשת וירא

הדלקת נרות 4:24 PM

מנחה 4:30 PM

Shiurim

שבת at 8:00 AM – דף היומי - Rabbi Gottlieb

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. – Rabbi Nissel – “MY PERSONAL AKEIDA”

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 רש"י - 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 10:00 AM 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 first **Oneg Shabbas** of the new year will take place this Friday night, November 3rd, 8:00 PM at the home of Yussie and Fayge Deutsch, 93 Highview Road. 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.

To help prevent traffic accidents while walking at night, Jennifer Herrmann has procured enough **reflectors** for everyone to wear on the way home from shul on Friday night (and of course to and from the oneg.) A box of the reflectors will be located in the alcove adjacent to the Simcha room. During the week, please return them, so they will be available for the following Friday night.

Our annual **Avos U'Banim** learning program begins this Motzoei Shabbos, November 4th at 6:30 PM and is being sponsored by David and Ruth Lehmann. 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.net for information.

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 or visit our website at www.baistorah.org.

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. Bais Torah is putting together a few tables for members at the dinner and anyone wishing to join us should please contact Michael or Peter. For reservations or more information, please see Max Thurm or Michael Kronenberg.

Reserve December 8th for our second annual **Carlebach Shabbos** with Elli Kranzler. Details to follow.

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

The Rebbetzin Wein Sefer Torah Project is moving forward successfully. 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.net. 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

Marvin and Sally Borgen on the engagement of their grandson, Adam, son of Roiz and Simmy Lauer, to Dania Lichtiger, of Englewood, New Jersey

Avi and Nechama Becker on the birth of a granddaughter.

Michael and Leni Loebenstein on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Mordechai, son of Larry and Chavi Stern of Wesley Hills.

Refuah Shelaimah

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

Mr. Shapiro - חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה -

Ben Zauderer - בנימין בן בילה -

Shirlee Aaronson - שרה חנה בת בלומא -

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

Chevre 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.

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 – 5767 – The Spiritual Journey of Terach, Father of the “Avot”

Parashat Lech-Lecha begins with the command of HaShem to Avram, “Go for your own benefit from your land, and **from your birthplace**, and from your father’s house, to the Land that I will show you.” (Bereshit 12:1) Now this verse already requires some explanation. For the origin of Avram’s journey would indeed not be his birthplace, Ur Kasdim, but rather Charan, as the Chumash informs us in Bereshit 12:4, “And Avram went as HaShem had commanded him, and Lot went with him, and Avram was seventy five years old **when he left Charan.**”

Every child knows the Midrash that Avram smashed all the idols except the largest in Terach’s store, and placed the ax he had used in the hands of the only idol left standing. When Terach returned to the store, Avram said, “Father, I cannot tell a lie; it was this idol who did the damage.” The Midrash doesn’t tell us whether Avram’s sarcastic words made any positive impression on his father, but we do know that Terach, in his rage, reported Avram to Nimrod as a heretic, for his clearly demonstrated contempt for the King’s culture of idolatry.

Terach then observed the miraculous survival of his son when he was thrown into Nimrod’s furnace, due to his steadfast belief in a single, omnipotent, albeit invisible G-d. As well as the death of his son Haran, in the same furnace, because his belief was weak, and he just wanted to be “on the winning side.”

It is clear that these observations made a deep impression on Terach. **For he was the one** who initiated the journey to the Land of Canaan, as is reported at the end of Parashat Noach, “And Noach took his son Avram, and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and his daughter-in-law, Sarai, the wife of his son, Avram, and together they left Ur Kasdim **to go to the Land of Canaan**; but when they reached Charan, they stayed there.” (Bereshit 11:31) And in fact, Terach never resumed his journey, as we see from the final passuk in Parashat Noach, “The days of Terach were two hundred and five years, and Terach died in Charan.” (Bereshit 11:32) Apparently, Terach saw a glimmer, had a sense of the holiness, emanating from the Land of Canaan. Why he stopped in Charan is unknown. Also, why he did not resume and complete his journey, remains a mystery.

The Gematria of the name “Terach” is 608. Now this number is close to 613, but one might have shrugged and said, “Close, but no cigar!” Except that Avram had a letter added to his name, so that he would be called, “The Father of a multitude of nations” (Bereshit 14:5); the letter “Heh,” the Gematria of which is five, the number that “Terach” needed to achieve unity with the Torah. Perhaps this can be seen as a gift from father to son.

The Midrashim are united in their assessments of Terach’s latter years. “Terach repented,” states the Midrash Tanchuma in Shemot 18. Bereshit Rabbah declares, “Terach has a share in the World-to-Come” (38:12). And, most tellingly, we find in Midrash HaGadol (Bereshit 11:27), “Terach decided to choose the Land of Israel even before the Jewish People were commanded regarding it.”

There is a slight resemblance in the story of Terach’s interrupted journey followed by Avraham’s full embrace of Eretz Yisrael to the desire of David HaMelech to build the “Beit HaMikdash,” for he sensed the absurdity and expressed it in words to Nathan the Prophet, “...See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the Ark of the L-rd dwells within a curtain!” (Shmuel Beit 7:2). And HaShem rewarded him for his noble thought with the promise of an eternal dynasty, but says of Shlomo, David’s son, “**He will build the house for My Name**, and I will make firm the throne of his kingdom forever.” (Shmuel Beit 7:13)

However, there is a crucial difference. David HaMelech inspired and taught Shlomo, his son. Whereas, Avraham Avinu was the iconoclast, the breaker of idols, who recognized his Creator at the age of three. In a very unlikely, indeed miraculous manner, he inspired and taught his father, as well as the rest of humanity.

However, despite that major difference, there is a common denominator in both cases, which is indeed universal. A parent begins a journey, but given his mortality, cannot complete it. His fondest wish, and that of his spouse, is that their offspring follow in their footsteps, and continue their journey toward its goal. As indeed, they attempted to do for their parents. And so on, backwards in time. The goal is closeness to HaShem, Whom we can only approach, but Who allows us to narrow the gap with each generation. PF