

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

Dec. 16, 2006 89 W. Carlton Rd., Suffern, NY10901 (845)352-1343 www.baistorah.org כ"ה כסלו שבת פרשת וישב שבת חנוכה

ערב שבת פרשת וישב שבת חנוכה

הדלקת נרות 4:11 PM
מנחה: 3:00 PM & 4:10 PM
שבת הלכות 8:15 PM – Rabbi Gottlieb

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM

Weekday שחרית

Mon. thru Wed.: 6:20 and 7:45 AM
Thurs. and Fri.: 6:15 and 7:35 AM (ראש חודש)

שבת פרשת וישב שבת חנוכה

8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb
דף היומי שחרית 8:45 AM
9:34 AM סוף זמן קריאת שמע
מברכים החודש טבת
3:15 PM גמרא שיעור
4:00 PM מנחה
שלישית סעודה
5:11 PM מעריב

Weekday מנחה-מעריב

Sun. through Thurs.: 4:20 PM
Second מעריב Mon. through Thurs.: 8:00 PM

ערב שבת פרשת מקץ שבת חנוכה ב'

הדלקת נרות 4:13 PM
מנחה: 3:00 PM & 4:10 PM

Shiurim

שבת at 8:00 AM – דף היומי - Rabbi Gottlieb
Sundays at 8:30 AM – מסכת סנהדרין – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Mondays at 7:30 PM – מסכת ברכות – Rabbi Chaim Wein
Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Partners in Torah
Wednesday at 8:15 PM – קהלת – Rabbi Gottlieb
Monday through Friday after the second שחרית עם רשי' - Rabbi Yosef Fischer
Monday through Thursday at 9:45 AM - גמרא shiur - Rabbi Leibel Reznick
דף I, Monday through Friday 5:25 AM and Sunday at 6:30 AM – Mordechai Rudman
דף II, 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

To help prevent traffic accidents while walking at night, please wear **reflectors**.
Shalosh seudos is being sponsored by Michael and Sharon Kronenberg commemorating her mother's yahrzeit, רבקה בת הרב שמאון אשר.
Our weekly **Avos U'Banim** learning program continues this Motzoei Shabbos, December 9nd at 6:15 PM and is being co-sponsored by The Kronenbergs & The Levis. 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.
Save the Date! Bais Torah Sisterhood is sponsoring a trip to **Avery Fisher Hall** on Tuesday, January 2nd to experience Peter Schickele and "The Very Least of P.D.Q. Bach." "Professor" Schickele is one of the today's most versatile composers, writers and humorists and "discovered" P.D.Q. Bach, the last and least son of J.S. and composer of the "1712 Overture," the "Schleptet in E-Flat" and "Eine Kleine Kiddiemusik." The fun begins at 7:30 PM and tickets are \$60. Contact Betty Schloss at 369-1833 or at bbless613@gmail.com for tickets or more information.

Mazel Tov

Philip and Pessie Strenger on the engagement of their daughter, Aidy, to Eliyahu Solomon of Har Nof, Israel.
Mel and Betty Sinowitz on the birth of a grandson, born to Ephraim and Rivka Sinowitz.
Marty & Carol Ginsberg on their daughter, Laura, publishing her first book, *Moving Up: An Aliyah Journal*.
Shira Steinberg on the engagement of her son, Avi, to Suri Schneck of Miami Beach.

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
Miriam Schiffer's son, Zev Kessin - זאב דוד בן מרים
Ed Furman's sister, Marjorie Schwartz - מאשע בת שימה
Ken and Judy Gribetz's grandson, Eitan Witkin - איתן אפרים בן נחמה יטה
Yoel Adler - יואל בן מירלא

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 Judy Scheiner 352-1343 judyscheiner@baistorah.org

Simcha Room Reservations/Kiddushim Jack Gross, 357-4121

Bikur Cholim Eveline Kranzler, 352-8410 and

Eiruv 362-4302

Chosh Levy, 425-6827

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, 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 Vayeshev – 5767 – Yosef HaTzaddik and Yehudah

The only Biblical figure who is given the title of “HaTzaddik,” “The Righteous,” by Chaza”l, is Yosef. Why is this so? The most obvious answer is that the term “Tzaddik” is applied only to someone who displays self-control on a nearly super-human level, and the only one whom the Torah portrays in that light is Yosef. He controlled his passion to such an extent, summoning up the image of his father to support him, that he was able to resist the ongoing attempt by the wife of Potiphar to seduce him, and even when nobody but he and she were present in the master’s house, he was able to hold himself in check when perhaps no one else could have.

Another idea, that would also help us understand why Yosef, once having attained nearly supreme power in Egypt, presumably having the ability to travel to his family, at least to make contact with them, remained seemingly aloof from his family, allowing his father to continue grieving for him, is the following: Yosef was a dreamer of sublime dreams; he was on the level of “Ruach HaKodesh,” if not Prophecy itself. He knew from his youth that great things were in store for him. **But he also knew that about his brother Yehudah.** He realized that the ultimate “Malchut,” Kingship, was reserved for Yehudah. And he knew that his brothers were potentially holy individuals who had “fallen from grace,” so to speak, when they sold him to the slave-trading Yishmaelim, with whom he had “gone down” to Egypt (not insignificantly, a similar expression is used with regard to Yehudah after the sale of Yosef, and when the tragic effect upon Yaakov became clear, “*Yehudah went down in the estimation of his brothers*” (Bereshit 38:1)). Yosef now saw as his most sacred obligation to restore his brothers to their true selves, and especially his brother Yehudah, to a level of holiness that would allow him to realize his destiny.

The Torah also describes the deterioration of Yehudah’s family life. His first-born son, Er, is married to the beautiful and virtuous Tamar. He has marital relations with her, but in such manner that guarantees that no children will result from their union, and HaShem punishes him by taking his life. His brother, Onan, totally insensitive to the reason for his brother’s sad end, duplicates his action, and meets the same fate. Yehudah promises Tamar that she will be given in marriage to his third son, Shelah, who is still too young for marriage. But, unaware of his sons’ misdeeds, and fearful that Shelah will also die, Yehudah holds back on his promise. Meanwhile, his own wife, Bat-Shua, dies (Bereshit 38:12).

Tamar, desperately wishing to become a mother in Israel, realizing that Yehudah has no intention of letting Shelah marry her, and sensing Yehudah’s great loneliness after the death of his wife, conceives a scheme. She poses as a harlot on the cross-roads on the way to Timna. Yehudah turns in to her and leaves with her in lieu of payment his signet ring, a garment and his staff (Bereshit 38:18). When it is reported to him that Tamar is pregnant, he self-righteously demands, “*Take her out and let her be burnt*” (Bereshit 38:24). Before the punishment is administered, she reveals to her father-in-law, “*I am pregnant by the man who gave me these...Look carefully, whose signet ring, garment and staff are these?*” (Bereshit 38:25). Yehudah immediately recognizes the items, rises to the occasion, refusing to let Tamar die on his account, and says, “*She is more righteous than I...*” (Bereshit 38:26). Twins are born, Peretz and Zorach (Bereshit 38:29-30), and they become, if Yehudah will go on to perform complete “Teshuvah,” Repentance, the first branches of the family tree that will ultimately lead to David.

The Rambam in “Hilchot Teshuvah” (2:1), defines “Teshuvah Gemurah,” Complete Repentance, as occurring when the sinner, in the same physical, mental and emotional state as he was at the time of the original sin, when faced with a similar decision, this time decides not to fall again into the same pit, but rather makes a supreme effort and changes his behavior. Yosef had to wait 22 years for the proper moment to bring his brothers and particularly, his noble brother, Yehudah, to the level of “Teshuvah,” so that they would become again the “Shivtei Kah,” the “Tribes of G-d,” and Yehudah would reclaim the leadership that was rightly his. With his brother Binyamin playing his role, Yosef engineers events so as to place Binyamin in jeopardy of remaining his slave in Egypt, until Yehudah rises to meet his destiny and steps forward to confront Yosef.

In Messianic times, there will be two “Meshichim” – “Mashiach ben Yosef” and “Mashiach ben David.” Except that “Mashiach ben Yosef,” according to Jewish Tradition, will be killed in “Milchemet Gog U’Magog,” replaying the role of Yosef “HaTzaddik,” who sacrificed himself by foregoing the precious “Mitzvah” of “Kibbud Av,” of honoring his beloved father for 22 years by relieving him of his grief, in order to elevate his brothers and contribute to the establishment of the “Malchut Beit David,” that would emerge from Yehudah. PF