

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

November 18, 2006 89 West Carlton Road, Suffern, NY10901 (845)352-1343 www.baistorah.org שרה חיי פרשת חיי שבת

ערב שבת פרשת חיי שרה

הדלקת נרות 4:18 PM
מנחה 4:25 PM

שבת פרשת חיי שרה

8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb
8:45 AM שחרית
9:14 AM סוף זמן קריאת שמע
מברכים החודש כסלו
3:20 PM גמרא שיעור
4:05 PM מנחה
שלישית סעודה
5:19 PM מעריב

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM

Weekday שחרית

Mon.: 6:20 and 7:45 AM
Fri.: 6:30 and 7:45 AM
Tues. and Wed.: 6:15 and 7:35 AM (ראש חודש)

Weekday מנחה-מעריב

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

ערב שבת פרשת תולדות

הדלקת נרות 4:13 PM
מנחה 4:20 PM

Shiurim

ערב שבת at 8:00 PM – הלכות שבת - Rabbi Gottlieb
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
Thursday at 8:15 PM - עובדיה - Dr. Avi Becker – Cancelled this week
Monday through Friday after the second שחרית עם רשי - פרשת השבוע עם רשי - Rabbi Yosef Fischer
Monday through Thursday at 9:45 AM - גמרא shiur - Rabbi Leibel Reznick
I, Monday through Friday 5:25 AM and Sunday at 6:30 AM – Mordechai Rudman
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

Rabbi Gottlieb is giving his **hilchos shabbos shiur** in the shul, Friday night at 8:00 PM. All are urged to attend; the continuing success of the shiur depends on our participation.

Shalosh Seudos this week is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Phil Holzer and Dr. and Mrs. Seymour Lutwak To help prevent traffic accidents while walking at night, please wear **reflectors** at night while walking on the street.

Our weekly **Avos U'Banim** learning program continues this Motzoei Shabbos, November 18th at 6:15 PM and is being sponsored by The Pomeranzes. 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.

Ronnie & Jennifer Herrmann would like to express **hakoras hatov** to the Bais Torah family for their outpouring of support and generosity. Thank you for making the Migdal Ohr dinner such a resounding success. Pictures of the dinner are posted on Bais Torah's website, www.baistorah.org

Join Us - Friday evening, December 8, 2006 – Parshas Vayishlach for Inspirational and Joyous Zemiros and Divrei Hisorerus **CARLEBACH SHABBOS** with Elli Kranzler Seudas Shabbos followed by Around the Rebbe's Tisch with Rabbi Mayer Schiller, Elli Kranzler and Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb Seudas Shabbos - \$36.00 per person prepaid by November 26th \$50.00 per person after November 26th For reservations, please call Rachel Gross 845-357-4121 or email rchlgrss@gmail.com Hospitality for Shabbat is available!

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.

Now on our **website**: Seuda Shlishis availability, shiurim, calendar of events, Avos Ubanim and more. Visit www.baistorah.org for all the latest updates.

Mazel Tov

Manny and Chana Mayerfeld on the marriage of their granddaughter, Shoshana, to Ari Lob of Chicago. Shoshana is the daughter of Uri and Esther Mayerfeld of Los Angeles.

Jay and Hida Kimmel on Tuvia passing both New York and New Jersey Bar Exams.

Steven and Haley Frist on the engagement of their son, Ayal.

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.

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 Chaye Sarah – 5767 - Two Tracks and the Third Rail

(minimally revised since original appearance in 5759)

Our mother Sarah died in Hebron, and Avraham came to be "maspid," to eulogize, her and to weep over her passing. Avraham is offered a burial plot, by Ephron HaChiti, its present owner, as a gift. But Avraham refuses to accept it on those terms, knowing full well that his claim to the Land in the eyes of the world will have no hope of being recognized as valid unless he purchases it. He pays four hundred silver shekels, an exorbitant price, to Ephron, thus affirming his faith in the promise by G-d to give the Land of Israel to the Jewish People.

Similarly, King David purchases the Place of the Altar, though he is also offered it as a gift, from Arnon HaYevusi, for fifty silver shekels, as recounted in Shmuel Beit (24:25). Subsequently, he collects fifty gold shekels from each of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, and purchases with those six hundred gold shekels the entire city of Yerushalayim, causing the Holy City to become the common property of the People of Israel.

Thus, we see that the mechanism of purchase of land is one "track," which the Jewish People used in ancient times, and which was used as well in modern times, at the time of the establishment of the State of Israel, to establish possession of the land.

Another "track" is diplomacy, accomplishing goals by persuasion; by logic, rather than by force. This sounds wonderful, in principle. The only problem is that it doesn't work consistently. King David tried it three thousand years ago, and his reaction to the experience is conveyed in Chapter 120 of Tehilim:

"A song of ascents. To Hashem, in my distress I cried, and He answered me.

Hashem, rescue my soul from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.

What can it give to you, and what can it profit you, the deceitful tongue.....

Woe unto me, for my drawn-out sojourn, I dwelt with those who inhabit the tents of Kedar.

Long has my soul dwelt with those who hate peace; I am for peace! But when I speak, they are for war."

In our century, diplomacy had some success. Herzl, the reporter turned diplomat, was, to outward appearances, an assimilated Jew. He was therefore a most unlikely source (excepting from the perspective of Rav Kook), for the role which he actually played, which was to unite the sparks which were already burning for a return to Zion.

In 1917, diplomacy achieved the Balfour Declaration by the British, almost immediately rescinded, but too late, for it had accomplished its purpose of giving nascent Zionism the support, if only for a historical "instant," of the then-mighty British Empire. Dr. Chaim Weitzmann prevailed upon President Truman to vote for the partition of Palestine, and Abba Eban argued eloquently in behalf of the State of Israel at the United Nations.

But, on the other hand, Israel sued for peace, *fruitlessly*, after each of its victorious wars with the Arabs, from Israel's War of Independence in 1948, the Sinai Campaign in 1956, the Six-Day War in 1967, through the Yom Kippur War of 1973. Israel sat down for a "Peace Process" with the Palestinians at Oslo, and withdrew; perhaps better, evicted, thousands of Jews from Gaza, hoping to stimulate some movement towards peace, but we found that the experience of King David had repeated itself: "I am for peace! But when I speak, they are for war."

A number of years ago, a "drive-by" shooting occurred, in which two Israeli soldiers were victims, and the perpetrators fled into areas of Hebron which had been "turned over" to the Palestinians!

Hebron! Where all of our Avot and Imahot, except Rachel, in addition to Adam and Chava, Abba and Imma of all of humanity, lie buried. Where King David began his reign, by serving as King for seven and a half years.

Hebron! Where last century, there was a thriving Jewish community until 1929, when the community was destroyed and many students of the famous Hebron Yeshiva were murdered by Arabs, fathers and grandfathers of our present-day enemies, with the result that the city became nearly empty of Jews. Where, under Arab control, Jewish access to the Meorat HaMachpelah was restricted to the seventh step of an outside staircase.

Hebron! Where now a small community of brave settlers attempts to re-create and re-establish Jewish roots in this ancient *Jewish city*, attempting to live "normal lives," educating their children, amidst a hostile sea of Arabs!

Fortunately for us, in addition to the two "tracks" mentioned, there is also, to extend the somewhat crude analogy, a "third rail," charged with transcendent power, the power of the covenant, the "brit," which G-d made with our Avot for their descendants. This "third rail" is charged with the "power of His deeds which He told His people," mentioned in the first RASHI in Bereshit, where this "argument" is used to silence all criticism and debate regarding the title of Eretz Yisrael in this world. For the world was created in its entirety by G-d, Who thereby owns it all, and His allocation of the Land of Israel to the Jewish People is *by definition* legitimate. PF