

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

June 30, 2007 · 89 West Carlton Road · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org · י"ד תמוז שבת פרשת בלק

ערב שבת פרשת בלק

מנחה 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:20 PM **
Regular Candle Lighting: 8:15 PM

שבת פרשת בלק

8:00 AM - דף היומי - Rabbi Gottlieb
8:45 AM שחרית
9:13 AM סוף זמן קריאת שמע
6:30 PM פרקי אבות
7:20 PM גמרא שיעור
8:05 PM מנחה
שלישית סעודה
9:15 PM מעריב

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM

Weekday שחרית

Mon. and Thurs.: 6:20 and 7:45 AM
Tues.: 6:15 and 7:45 AM (Fast Day)
Wed. and Fri.: 6:30 and 7:45 AM

Weekday מנחה-מעריב

Sun. through Thurs.: 8:20 PM
Tues.: 8:00 PM (Fast Day)

ערב שבת פרשת פנחס

מנחה 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:20 PM **
Regular Candle Lighting: 8:14 PM
* Early mincha for the summer
** Shul Accepts Shabbos

Shiurim

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
Wednesdays at 7:30 PM – קהלת – Rabbi Gottlieb
דף היומי I, Monday through Friday 5:25 AM and Sunday at 6:30 AM – Mordechai Rudman
Monday through Friday at 7 AM - ירושלמי - Mordechai Rudman
Monday through Friday after the second שחרית עם רשי - Rabbi Yosef Fischer
Monday through Thursday at 9:45 AM - גמרא שיעור - Rabbi Leibel Reznick
דף היומי II, Monday through Thursday 10:00 AM and Sunday at 9:30 AM – Rabbi Yosef Fischer
Women's תהלים group meets on שבת right after the שיעור אבות פרקי.

Shul Announcements

Times for **י"ז בתמוז** Tues. July 3. Fast begins: 4:16 AM Earliest time for מנחה: 1:38 PM Fast Ends: 9:12 PM
The first of three special **informational meetings** (regarding the Rabbis new contract) with the shul President, Peter Katz, will be held for full members on Sunday, July 1, in the shul multi-purpose room from 8:30 AM until 10:00 AM.

General membership meeting is scheduled for Sunday morning, July 15, 2007, at 9:30 AM in the shul's Simcha Room. Full members will be asked to vote on the proposed slate of new officers and Board of Directors.

We're pleased to announce that the **Sefer Torah written in memory of Rebbetzin Jackie Wein a"h** is nearly complete. The Hachnosas Sefer Torah is planned for October 14th. Please save the date.

Are you aware that Bais Torah has a fully stocked **Torah Cassette Library**? This Torah Audio Library, which is located in the back of the main hallway, is open to the entire Monsey community. You can borrow cassettes by visiting the shul and speaking with Rabbi Gottlieb, Yis Helprin, Doniel Cohen, or Jonathan Rosenstock.

Planning a simcha? To avoid choosing a date that **conflicts** with other events, please notify our shul secretary, even if your simcha is not taking place at Bais Torah. Aviva can be reached at 352-1343 or write to aviva@baistorah.org.

Thank you to all the members who graciously opened their homes last shabbos for housing **Yachad shabbaton** guests and advisors. A wonderful and spiritually enriching time was had by all. For further information about Yachad, please contact Estee Colman, Felise Katz or the OU directly.

Mazel Tov

Yussie and Barbara Fischer on the marriage of their grandchildren, Chava and Rafi Cohen, children of Ariel and Bracha Fischer.
Elliot and Roberta Shapiro on the birth of a granddaughter, Hadassah Ariella, born to Naomi and Kenny Schiff.
Moshe and Eileen Frommer on the engagement of their son, Yoni, to Tzivia Gottlieb.
Max and Sandy Thurm on Sharon being accepted as a Fellow in the Muehlstein Institute for Jewish Professional Leadership.
Moe and Bayla Tilson on the birth of a grandson, born to Yael and Yehuda Jacoby.
Ralph and Esther Gable on the birth of a grandson, born to Bracha and Shlomo Silverstone.

Hamakom Yenachem

Rachel Gross on the p'tira of her sister, Lilian Maman.

Refuah Shelaimah

Michael Rossman's mother, Ilse Rossman
יעטע בת שרה
Mr. Henry Shapiro
חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה
Ben Zauderer בנימין בן בילה
Manny London מנחם מונש בן חנה פרידא
Miriam Schiffer's son, Zev Kessin זאב דוד בן מרים

Ken and Judy Gribetz's grandson, Eitan Witkin
איתן אפרים בן נחמה יטה
Yoel Adler יואל בן מירל לאה
Renee Rosenbaum's mother, Fanny York
רחמה פינגל בת רבקה
Shira Steinberg - שירה רות בת שרה

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 Aviva Schmutter 352-1343 aviva@baistorah.org M-F 9:00-3:00

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, Mona Selzer 356-0129

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 downloadable from the web at www.baistorah.org.

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 Balak – 5767 – Bilaam's Donkey and Some Other Animals

Chaza"l teach that it is forbidden to make fun of anyone outside the context of "avodah zarah," idol worship. That is why we find the Torah making fun of Bilaam, the idolatrous prophet of Midian, for ignoring the straightforward command of HaShem not to attempt to curse the People of Israel (BaMidbar (22:12)) and also the criticism of his own donkey (BaMidbar (22:28,30)). In the time of the Mishnah, we find an individual, Rabbi Pinchas ben Yair, whose spiritual power was sufficient to transcend species difference and raise his donkey to the level where it refused to eat of produce that had not been properly tithed.

Included with Bilaam's donkey in the list of items created in the twilight of the first Shabbat (Pirkei Avot (5:8)) were the "Shamir," which was used by King Solomon to carve the stones of the Temple when iron tools, which have the characteristic that they take life, were disallowed for use in the Temple, as well as the "Ram of Avraham," which appeared at the precise instant necessary to save Yitzchak at the "Akeidah" (*Bereshit* (22:13)).

The serpent plays the role of villain in Gan Eden (*Bereshit* (3:1-5)), yet it also has great healing power, as we saw in last week's parashah when Moshe held up a serpent of copper to stop the plague that broke out when the People of Israel complained about the Mohn (*BaMidbar* (21:8-9)).

Fish play an important role in the Bible, as when a giant fish swallowed the Prophet Yonah (Yonah(2)), providing him with an ideal environment for prayer; fish represent fertility, and a giant fish, perhaps Yonah's, will be part of the menu for the righteous in "Olam HaBa" (Akdmut, recited on Shavuot).

Goats serve as a major component of the Sacrificial Service and, in particular, provide atonement for the People of Israel on Yom Kippur (*Vayikra* (16:7-30)), and on the other holidays.

Noach sent out a raven to determine whether the Mabul was over, but that raven did not perform its mission, (*Bereshit* (8:7)) because it was fearful that Noach would take its mate. But a descendant of that raven provided food for Eliyahu when he fled to the Wilderness to escape Achav (*I Kings* (17:6)). The dove was the bird sent by Noach to perform the mission that the raven failed to perform (*Bereshit* (8:11)) and symbolizes the People of Israel in *Shir HaShirim* (2:14).

The face of the "nesher," the eagle, is one of the faces on the Throne of Glory, and its outstretched wings symbolize the Redemption of Israel.

The lion, whose face is also on the Throne of Glory, symbolizes "Malchut," Kingship over the animal kingdom, and is the symbol of the Tribe of Yehudah.

We find in Pirkei Avot (5:23), "Yehudah ben Tema said, 'Be fierce as a leopard, light as an eagle, swift as a deer and strong as a lion, to accomplish the will of your Father in Heaven.'"

The lowly ant is the symbol of "zerizut," the opposite of laziness, as Sh'lomo wrote in *Mishlei* (6:6), "Observe the behavior of the ant, O lazy one, and gain wisdom;" "Zerizut" is also considered a trait of the "Kohanim."

The "chilazon," source of the aquamarine-blue color "techeiles" required in the curtains of the "Mishkan," as we find (*Shemot* 26:1), and also in the "Tzitzis," in connection with which we find (*BaMidbar* 15:38), "...And they shall place upon the 'Tzitzis' of each corner a thread of aquamarine-blue wool." And concerning which color, the Talmud gives the following description: "The color 'techeiles' is similar to the sea, which is similar to the sky, which is similar to the Heavenly Throne"

The dog, which withheld its bark during the Plague of the First-Born, regarding which Chaza"l said, "The Holy One, Blessed is He, does not withhold the reward of any creature;" and which was rewarded by the verse in the Torah, with regard to animals which were not kosher, "...throw those carcasses to the dogs" (*Shemot* 22:30)

The cat, which was considered by Chaza"l a model of modesty

The cow and the ox, the face of which was on the Heavenly Throne, which are major components of the Sacrificial Service, and which, as the red heifer, is the eternal source of purification for the Jewish People.

The spider, which spun a web at the mouth of the cave, which protected David, who was hiding from Shaul

The sheep, another major component of the Sacrificial Service, and which provides the wool that keeps us warm

The entire animal kingdom, which HaShem saw fit to create and to save on Noach's Ark, at the time of the "Mabul," which helps us in obvious and in unseen ways, each and every member of which was created for a purpose, for which we should appreciate them, and regarding which King David wrote, "You open Your Hand and provide for the need of every living thing" (*Tehillim* 145:16). PF