

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

October 27, 2007 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org · וירא שבת פרשת וירא

ערב שבת פרשת וירא

הדלקת נרות 5:42 PM

מנחה 5:50 PM

שקיעה 6:00 PM

שבת פרשת וירא

היומי 8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb

שחרית 8:45 AM

סוף זמן קריאת שמע 10:01 AM

גמרא שיעור 4:45 PM

מנחה 5:30 PM

סעודה שלישית

שקיעה 5:59 PM

מעריב 6:41 PM

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM

Weekday שחרית

Mon. and Thurs.: 6:20 and 7:45 AM

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

Weekday מנחה-מעריב

Sun. through Thurs.: 5:40 PM

Second מעריב 8:00 PM

ערב שבת פרשת חיי שרה

הדלקת נרות 5:33 PM

מנחה 5:40 PM

שקיעה 5:51 PM

Shiurim

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 8:15 PM – מלכים א – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

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

Monday through Friday at 7 AM – גמרא מסכת ברכות - ירושלמי – Mordechai Rudman

Monday through Friday after the second שחרית עם רשי – פרשת השבוע עם רשי – Rabbi Yosef Fischer

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

היומי 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

סעודה שלישית is being sponsored by

Please reserve November 2nd and 3rd for our **Scholar in Residence Weekend**, featuring the renowned author and lecturer, Rabbi Dr. J.J. Schacter. For further information, please contact Rabbi Moshe Kranzler.

There will be a **general membership** meeting on Sunday evening, November 11th. There is a full agenda of important topics to be considered and voted upon. All full members in good standing are urged to attend.

Save the date **Carlebach Shabbos** December 14 and 15th. Dr. Eli Kranzler and Rabbi Abraham Twerski will be joining us for davening, the seudah Friday Night, zmirot and oneg. More Information to follow.

Get great discounts with the **Ultimate Kosher Discount Card** for \$18. Available from Aviva at our shul office (352-1343) or Leslie Goldress (352-3257).

Mazel Tov

Moishe & Eileen Frommer on the birth of a granddaughter, Ahuva Leah, to Yossi & Shoshana Sheinfil

Refuah Shelaimah

Mr. Henry Shapiro -

חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה

Ben Zauderer - בנימין בן בילה

Manny London - מנחם מונש בן חנה פרידא

Ken and Judy Gribetz's grandson, Eitan Witkin -

איתן אפרים בן נחמה יטה

Yoel Adler - יואל בן מירלא

Tova Eizik's grandson - יעקב יונתן בן חנה רייזל

Renee Rosenbaum's mother, Fanny York -

רחמה פייגל בת רבקה

Yossie Stern's granddaughter -

ציפורה יהודית בת דינה רבקה

How to Reach Us

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

President Allen Nussbaum president@baistorah.org

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

Maintenance Yis Helprin 494-7446

Shul Secretary Aviva Schmitter 352-1343 aviva@baistorah.org M-TH 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 Michael Kronenberg 368-1064

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 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.

Vayera - 5768 – “L’Havdil Eleph Havdalot,” “Sodom” and Yankee Stadium; Avraham “Avinu” and Joe Torre

One of the pivotal events in this week’s parashah, “Vayera,” is the confrontation between Avraham “Avinu” and HaShem regarding the fate of Sodom. HaShem has decided that the People of Sodom have descended below any reasonable measure of evil in their behavior, and Sodom must be destroyed. What was the nature of the evil of Sodom? There is the famous Midrash that Sodom was very hospitable to guests. Only every guest had to fit the one bed in the guest-house of Sodom. If the guest was too short, his body would have to be stretched to fit the bed. If he were too tall, his body had to be shortened, and an amputation was performed. Clearly an exaggeration, but the Midrash means to capture the extreme selfishness of the Sodomites, as indeed is portrayed in our parashah when the people of Sodom became an angry mob when they saw that Lot had taken in the two angels as guests. Pirkei Avot (5:13) gives us another insight into the character of the citizens of Sodom. The Mishnah begins, “There are four types of people: One who says, ‘What’s mine is mine and what’s yours is yours;’ this describes the character of the average person. But some say, ‘This was the character of Sodom...’” This can only mean that Sodomites took this attitude to such a harsh extreme, that it completely suppressed any charitable impulse.

When Avraham learned that the Creator planned to destroy Sodom, “Avraham approached and said, ‘Will You destroy the righteous along with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Would You still destroy it rather than spare the place for the sake of the righteous people within it? It would be sacrilege for You to do such a thing! To bring death upon the righteous along with the wicked...Shall the Judge of all the earth not do Justice?’ And HaShem said, ‘If I find in Sodom fifty righteous people...then I would spare the entire place on their account.’ Avraham responded and said, ‘Behold now, I desired to speak to the L-rd, although I am but dust and ash. What if the fifty righteous people should lack five? ...And He said, ‘I will not destroy it if I find forty-five...’” And the dialogue continued till they reached ten. And HaShem said, “I will not destroy it because of the ten.”

We see in this account that Avraham possessed two conflicting traits: tremendous self-confidence and “Bitachon,” Trust in HaShem, that enabled him to debate with the Creator, combined with humility that reached the point of self-nullification of his physical existence, “...I am but dust and ash.”

To go to an infinitely smaller, but still significant, stage, it is quite seldom that events in our everyday lives rise to the level of morality plays, where forces of “Good” confront forces of “Evil.” Nevertheless, it is true that a fine gentleman, who had worked for a certain employer for more than a dozen years, earning the respect and admiration of all who worked for and with him, had his job taken away because this year, he did not achieve the highest goal in his profession. I refer to Joe Torre, manager of the NY Yankees baseball team, who with great skill guided his team from far back in the standings in the first half of the season to a terrific second half, which enabled the team to qualify for the playoffs. Which the Yankees might have won, were it not for a freakish event that saw one of their best pitchers surrounded by a swarm of gnats at a crucial point in one of the games, unnerving him, and causing him to pitch far below his usual level. It was almost as if the Yankees just **weren’t supposed to** win the World Series this year.

But the principal owner of the Yankees, George Steinbrenner, labors under the delusion that his team must win the championship every year. And even though Torre had been spectacularly successful as a manager, guiding the Yankees into the playoffs a dozen years in a row, including four World Series wins, it wasn’t enough for George. In his arrogance, he thinks his money can buy him the championship every year, and every time the team fails to achieve that goal, the manager’s job is on the line. It seems that Mr. Steinbrenner and his cohorts simply do not understand certain values, such as loyalty and gratitude.

I’ve been a Yankees fan all my life (back into the fifties, the days of Mickey Mantle and Yogi Berra). But although I may change my mind before next year, right now I think that the “fire and brimstone” of finishing in last place next year would be an appropriate punishment for the misguided Yankees’ owner. PF