

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

November 3, 2007 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org · שרה חיי פרשת חיי שבת מרחשון

Bar Mitzvah of Yitzi Landa

ערב שבת פרשת חיי שרה

הדלקת נרות 5:33 PM

מנחה 5:40 PM

שקיעה 5:51 PM

שבת פרשת חיי שרה

דף היומי 8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb

שחרית 8:45 AM

סוף זמן קריאת שמע 10:05 AM

Lecture by Rabbi JJ Schacter 4:15 PM

מנחה 5:20 PM

סעודה שלישית

שקיעה 5:50 PM

מעריב 6:32 PM

שחרית 7:45 AM

שחרית

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

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

מנחה-מעריב

Sun. through Thurs.: 4:35 PM

מעריב 8:00 PM

ערב שבת פרשת תולדות

הדלקת נרות 4:25 PM

מנחה 4:30 PM

שקיעה 4:43 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

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

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

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 45 minutes before מנחה.

Shul Announcements

The entire congregation is invited to a **Kiddush** given by Bob and Rita Landa in honor of Yitzi's bar mitzvah.

סעודה שלישית is being sponsored by the Landa family in honor of Yitzi's bar mitzvah

This Friday night, Shabbos and Motzoei Shabbos November 2nd and 3rd please join us for the **Scholar in Residence** Weekend, featuring the renowned author and lecturer, Rabbi Dr. J.J. Schacter. See our web site www.baistorah.org for details.

We turn our **clocks back** one hour on Sunday morning at 2:00 AM.

Please join us for our first **Oneg Shabbos** and Hilchos Shabbos Shiur of the season, next Friday night, November 9th at the home of Yussie and Faye Deutsch.

We're pleased to announce that Bais Torah's popular **Avos U'Banim** program will resume on Motzoei Shabbos, November 10th at 6:15 in the Library. Bring your children or grandchildren each week - everyone is welcome! There will be hot pizza on hand and a chance for participants to win prizes. Sponsorships are invited at \$50 per session and all information will be listed on our website. For further details, please contact Michael Kronenberg at mkron1950@optonline.net or call 368-1064.

There will be a **general membership** meeting on Sunday 10:30 AM, 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 December 14th and 15th for our **Carlebach Shabbos**. Dr. Eli Kranzler and Rabbi Abraham Twerski will be joining us for davening, the seudah Friday Night, zmirot and 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

Bob and Rita Landa on the bar mitzvah of their son, Yitzi.

Ken and Judy Gribetz on the birth of a grandson, born to Vicki and Avi Witkin of Maale Adumim, Israel.

Charlene Herman on the engagement of her son, Benzi, to Rivka Salesky of Bergenfield, NJ

Shloime and Chaya Pollak on the engagement of their daughter, Sara, to Tevie Kagan.

Manny and Chana Mayerfeld on the engagement of their grandson, Avrohom Aharon Mayerfeld, son of Zvi and Dena Mayerfeld.

Yosi and Debbie Rosenberg on the marriage of their children, Surie and Gershon Barkany.

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 פיגל 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

Eiruv 362-4302

Chosh Levy, 425-6827

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

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.

Parashas Chaye Sarah – 5768 – Eliezer and Tevi – Two Faithful Servants

Much of Parashas Chaye Sarah concerns itself with the mission of Eliezer, the servant of Avraham, to bring back a suitable wife for Yitzchak from Avraham's ancestral home. In Bereshis Rabbah (60:7), we find that although he was indeed **Canaan himself**, and had been cursed by his father Noach, his faithful service to Avraham enabled him to leave the status of "accursed" and enter the status of "blessed." In Midrash Tanchuma on Parashas Lech-Lecha, we find that in the War against the Four Kings, an announcement was made that any soldier who knew that he had sinned, should not go to war. All 318 soldiers withdrew from the ranks, leaving only Avraham and Eliezer. HaShem said to Eliezer, "By your life, I will give you the strength of the 318, which is the 'Gematria' of Eliezer."

As he arrived in Aram Naharayim, Eliezer formulated the following prayer: "*HaShem, G-d of my master Avraham, May You so arrange it for me this day that You do Kindness to my master Avraham...*" When Rivkah's actions measured up to, even exceeded his expectations, the Chumash describes his expression of gratitude, "*So the man bowed low and prostrated himself before HaShem. He said, 'Blessed is HaShem, G-d of my master Avraham, Who has not withheld His Kindness and Truth from my master. As for me, HaShem has guided me on the way to the house of my master's brothers.'*"

Tevi was the servant of the second Rabban Gamliel. Although the latter had taught that it was inappropriate for a master to accept condolences upon the death of his servant, Rabban Gamliel did so upon Tevi's death. When his students pointed out the inconsistency between his teaching and his behavior, he replied, "My servant Tevi was unlike other servants; he was an upright man." (Berachos 16b) The Talmud records a discussion among the Sages as to whether someone who sleeps under a bed in the Sukkah has fulfilled his obligation (of living in a Sukkah). Rabbi Shimon said, "Once Tevi, the servant of Rabban Gamliel slept under a bed in the Sukkah, and Rabban Gamliel said to the Elders, 'Do you see my servant Tevi who is a Torah scholar worthy of rabbinic ordination; he knows that non-Jewish servants are exempt from the Mitzvah of Sukkah, and therefore he is sleeping under a bed.' And thus we learned indirectly that someone who sleeps under a bed in a Sukkah has not fulfilled his obligation."

The Talmud asks, "Why is it that Man was created as a single individual?" And answers, "So that no one can say, 'My ancestors were greater than yours.'" Indeed, the fact that Judaism accepts converts from all nations – Chinese, Germans, Eskimos (but not penguins) proves that the Jewish People doesn't consider itself ethnically superior. Some of the greatest scholars of the Talmud, such as Rabbi Meir and Onkelos, were converts. Even King David and his scion, the Messianic King, trace their roots to the humble convert, Ruth, who joined our nation from Moav.

If so, what is the meaning of "*My son, My first-born son, is Israel.*" (Shemot 4:22) And why are we the "Chosen People?" Why did HaShem command us, and no other people, "*You shall be holy*" (VaYikra 19:2) In short, as a twentieth century wag put it, "Why did G-d choose the Jews?" But we responded that he had it backwards, for in fact, "the Jews chose G-d." Regarding the fundamental religious principle of Free-Choice, the Talmud says, "Everything is in the hands of Heaven, except for 'Fear of Heaven.'" Our great forefathers Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov discovered the One G-d, and dedicated their lives to His Service, to the point of self-sacrifice, as Avraham did when he allowed himself to be cast into Nimrod's furnace and sacrifice of their destiny, as he and Yitzchak did at the time of the Akeidah. "*And because He loved your fathers, He chose their descendants after them.*" (Devarim 4:37)

But being the first-born means that we have siblings, created from the same earth from which we were created, and who have the same spiritual make-up, "*Tzelem E-lohim,*" "*the image of G-d,*" (although it may be **extremely difficult** to see that at this time). As King Solomon prayed at the Inauguration of the Temple, "*...Also a gentile who is not of Your People Israel, but will come from a distant land for Your Name's sake – for they will hear of Your Great Name and Your Strong Hand... – and will come and pray towards the Temple – May You hear from Heaven, the foundation of Your Abode, and act according to all that the gentile calls out to You, so that all the peoples of the World may know Your Name, to Fear You as does Your People Israel...*" (I Kings 8:41-43) And as we say at the end of our Selichot Prayers, "*And I will bring them to My holy mountain, and I will gladden them in My House of Prayer; their elevation-offerings and their feast-offerings will find favor on My Altar, for My House will be called a House of Prayer, for all the nations.*" (Yeshayahu 56:7)

PF