

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

November 24, 2007 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org · י"ד כסלו שבת פרשת וישלח

ערב שבת פרשת וישלח

הדלקת נרות 4:14 PM

מנחה 4:20 PM

שקיעה 4:32 PM

Rabbi Gottlieb's שבת הלכות shiur 8:15 PM

שבת פרשת וישלח

היומי 8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb

שחרית 8:45 AM

סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:19 AM

גמרא שיעור 3:15 PM

מנחה 4:00 PM

שקיעה 4:31 PM

סעודה שלישית

מעריב 5:13 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 מעריב

Sun. through Thurs.: 4:20 PM

Second מעריב 8:00 PM (Not Sun.)

ערב שבת פרשת וישלח

הדלקת נרות 4:11 PM

מנחה 4:20 PM

שקיעה 4:29 PM

Shiurim

Sundays at 8:30 AM – מסכת סנהדרין – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

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 - 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

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 shul is invited to a Kiddush co-sponsored by Manny and Marcia Frankel on the marriage of their grandchildren, and by Yossie and Barbara Fischer on the birth of a great granddaughter.

סעודה שלישית is being sponsored by Bryan and Debbie Fox on the marriage of their children Shayndi to Jeremy Sigall.

Bais Torah's popular **Avos U'Banim** program continues this Motzoei Shabbos, November 17th at 6:15 in the Library. This week's program is being sponsored by the Rosenstocks. 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@gmail.com or call 368-1064.

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, zmiros and an oneg. To make reservations, please call Aviva in our shul office at 352-1343, Monday through Thursday between 9 and 3.

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).

All **coats left** in the coatroom from last year will be given away after November 30. Please check that there is nothing that you want in the coatroom that belongs to you.

Nefesh B'Nefesh Presents - PRE-ALIYAH SEMINAR: Short & Long Term Aliyah Planning - Wednesday, November 28th, 2007 • 8:00PM-10:00PM. Holiday Inn Suffern. Meet with our professional staff and get practical information and advice on Aliyah. For more information and to register for this event, please visit: www.nbn.org.il. PERSONAL MEETINGS - Holiday Inn Suffern. One-on-One Employment and Pre-Aliyah Counseling meetings. Call 1-866-4-ALIYAH to schedule an appointment.

Mazel Tov

Yossie and Aviva (our shul secretary) Schmutter on the marriage of their children, Tzipporah and Refoel Simcha Stefansky.

Eli and Bea Hirsch on the marriage of their grandchildren, Tzipporah and Refoel Simcha Stefansky.

Ralph and Esther Gable on the birth of a granddaughter, born to Larry and Naomi Soloman.

Steven and Barbara Marburger on the birth of a grandson, born to Eliezer and Malka Marburger.

Moshe and Eileen Frommer on the marriage of their children, Tzivi and Yoni Frommer.

Jossi and Sandy Lieder on the marriage of their children, Basya and Menachem Brickman.

Pinky Raice and Bryan and Debbie Fox on the marriage of their children, Shayndi and Jeremy Sigall.

Manny and Marcia Frankel on the marriage of their grandchildren, Shayndi and Jeremy Sigall.

Yosi and Debbie Rosenberg on the birth of a grandson, born to Josh and Tova Zern.

Nechemia and Pesi Zyskind on the birth of a granddaughter, born to Dovi and Eti Zyskind.

In Memoriam

Leni Loebenstein regrets to announce the death of Nanny Staal who saved her life during the Holocaust. She died Friday in Hilversum, the Netherlands, at the age of 90. She was recognized by Yad Vashem as a righteous gentile-with all attendant honors-

Hamakom Yenachem

Bracha Olech on the p'tira of her father, Marvin Hochbaum.

Refuah Shelaimah

Mr. Henry Shapiro -

חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה

Ben Zauderer - בילה בן בנימין

Manny London - מנחם מונש בן חנה פרידה

Ken and Judy Gribetz's grandson, Eitan Witkin -

איתן אפרים בן נחמה יטה

יואל בן מירלא -

יעקב יונתן בן חנה רייזל - Tova Eizik's grandson

Renee Rosenbaum's mother, Fanny York -

רחמה פינגל 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 Schmutter 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.

Parashat Vayishlach - 5768 The Genealogy of Esav

At the end of Parashat Vayishlach, there is a long section that begins, *“And these are the descendants of Esav; he is Edom.”* (Bereshit 36:1) This section is 43 verses long; that is nearly 28% of the number of verses in the entire Parashah! The question arises, why does the Torah, which counts every letter, devote so much space to the genealogy of our enemy? A similar question is asked about the repetition of the account of Eliezer, the servant of Avraham’s experience at the well, where HaShem aided him in verifying Rivkah as the “Bashert” of Yitzchak. And the answer is given, that “the ordinary conversation of servants of the forefathers is considered more significant than the Torah of their descendants.” Obviously, there must be a good reason for this wealth of detail. I considered the remote possibility that it was inserted to make “Ba’alei Kriah” work harder, for this type of text is in fact more difficult to prepare. But I rejected that possibility as being too silly for discussion.

Then I noted the name “Amalek,” the archenemy of the Jewish People in the list, as a grandson of Esav. The Torah commands us in Devarim (25:17-19), in Parashat “Zachor,” to remember our first interaction with the descendants of Amalek. **“Remember what Amalek did to you on your journey, after you left Egypt how, not fearful of G-d, they surprised you on the way, when you were exhausted and weary, attacking the weakest amongst you, straggling behind. Therefore, when HaShem, your G-d, grants you security from all your enemies around you, in the Land where HaShem, your G-d, gives you a permanent inheritance, you shall erase the memory of Amalek from under the heaven. Do not forget!”**

A question that has always bothered me about this Command is the apparent contradiction between “Remembering” and “Erasing the memory!” Clearly there are aspects of Amalek that the Torah wants us to remember as if they happened yesterday, and other aspects of our enemy that we should stamp out and forget!

If we examine the genealogy of Esav, we note that he is the son-in-law of Yishmael. Thus, there is a history of rejection that goes back as far as Avraham who, at the command of Sarah, endorsed by HaShem, ejected Hagar and Yishmael from his household. (Bereshit 21:10-14) Regarding Timna, the concubine of Eliphaz, and the mother of Amalek, the Talmud says (Sanhedrin 99b), “Timna was a daughter of kings... She wanted to convert to Judaism, but when she came to Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov, none of them accepted her. She went and became a concubine of Eliphaz, the son of Esav, saying, ‘It is better to be a handmaiden to this family, rather than a princess in another nation.’ Amalek, who oppressed Israel, came from her. And why did Amalek behave in this manner? Because his mother should not have been rejected.”

Amalek was also the grandson of Esav himself, who considered himself robbed of the rights of the first-born and the accompanying blessing by Yaakov. At that time, the Torah portrays him as one to whom the blessing meant a great deal. When he learned that Yaakov had received the blessing promised to him by his father, the verse says, *“... he cried out an exceedingly great and bitter cry...”* (Bereshit 25:34) And when Mordechai learns of the fate, total genocide, that Haman, a descendant of Amalek, has planned for the Jewish People, he *“went out into the midst of the city, and cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry.”* (Megilat Esther 4:1) And it is hardly likely that Scripture uses the same expression in both contexts by accident or coincidence.

So we have seen numerous reasons why Amalek would be “unhappy” with the Jewish People. Perhaps, this is what the Torah means when it says, **“Remember what Amalek did to you...”** that we should remember and **understand** the basis for the enmity of Amalek. On the other hand, Yishmael, Hagar, Esav and Timna should have examined their characters, and searched for the reasons for their rejection by the “Avot” and the “Imahot.” They should not have let those rejections drive them to paroxysms of uncontrollable, genocidal rage. And they should not have transferred those feelings to Amalek. Because they did, and poisoned his character with hatred, the Torah and its Author dealt harshly with him. Perhaps, 43 verses are not too much to teach the lesson that family life is complex, and that motivations are not easy to discern. Without the psychological insight and “Ruach HaKodesh,” Holy Spirit, of our great ancestors, we should be extremely hesitant to condemn or reject, but we should be prepared to defend ourselves, with all our strength, with “Doron, Tefila, U-Milchamah,” “Gifts, Prayer, or War” with which Yaakov Avinu prepared himself, before his confrontation with Esav.

P.F.