

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

December 15, 2007 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org · כ"ח טבת שבת פרשת ויגש

ערב שבת פרשת ויגש

הדלקת נרות 4:10 PM

מנחה 4:15 PM

שקיעה 4:28 PM

שבת פרשת ויגש

היומי 8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb

שחרית 8:45 AM

סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:33 AM

גמרא שיעור 3:15 PM

מנחה 4:00 PM

שקיעה 4:28 PM

סעודה שלישית

מעריב 5:10 PM

שחרית 7:45 AM

שחרית Weekday

Mon. and Thurs.: 6:10 and 7:35 AM

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

Wed.: 6:10 and 7:45 AM (Fast Day)

מנחה-מעריב Weekday

Sun. through Tues. And Thurs.: 4:20 PM

Wed. 4:00 PM (Fast Day)

Second מעריב 8:00 PM (Mon.-Thurs..)

ערב שבת פרשת ויחי

הדלקת נרות 4:13 PM

מנחה 4:20 PM

שקיעה 4:31 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

היומי II, Monday through Friday 7:00 AM – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

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 III, 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

This Shabbos is our **Carlebach Shabbos**. Dr. Elli Kranzler and Rabbi Abraham Twerski will be joining us for davening, the seudah Friday Night, zmiros and an oneg. All are welcome. Dinner is by reservation only. Please join us for a special presentation to Rabbi Dr. Abraham and Dr. Gail Twerski around 7:30 PM.

סעודה שלישית is being sponsored by Yehuda Eliezri

Bais Torah's popular **Avos U'Banim** program continues this Motzoei Shabbos, December 15th at 6:15 in the Library. Last week's Avos U'Banim sponsors were Max and Sandra Thurm. Their names were inadvertently omitted from the Bulletin and we would like to belatedly thank them for their sponsorship. This week's program is being sponsored by the **Pomeranzes**. 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.

Wed., Dec. 19 is **עשרה בטבת**. The fast begins at 6:05 AM and ends at 5:10 PM.

Reserve Thursday evening, December 20, at 8:15 PM for a lecture given by **Dr. Yehuda Eliezri** on the occasion of the first yahrzeit for his father, Rabbi Abraham Eliezri, z'l. The topic is "Thoughts on Parshas Vayechi; Yaakov Avinu's last words to Yosef, Ephraim and Menashe."

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).

Please reserve Motzoei Shabbos, January 5th, for a presentation of the movie "**Inspired Too - Kiruv Across America**." Rabbi Eliyahu Bergstein will speak after the movie about his experiences in kiruv and Project Inspire, the movement to share the beauty and wisdom of our heritage with our fellow Jews.

Cubbies must be cleaned out or made presentable by December 21 or face the exterminator.

The dvd of the Hachnosas Sefer Torah is available upon request. Suggested donation is \$10. Email mkron@optonline.net or call 368-1064 to place your order.

Mazel Tov

Moshe and Eveline Kranzler on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Mayer Yaakov, son of Jo and Sarah Kranzler.

Marvin and Sally Borgen on the birth of a grandson, born to their children Melissa and Lazer Borgen of Teaneck.

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 - אהרן יואל בן מירלא

שמואל בן שרה רחל - Sam Colman

אביה בת שרה - Kathy Resnick

יעקב יונתן בן חנה רייזל - Tova Eizik's grandson

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 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.

Vayigash - Chanukah – 5768

The Origin of Exile and the Redemption of Chanukah

In the course of reading the final parashiot of Sefer Bereshit, which lead to bitter Exile and Slavery in Mitzrayim, our first national Exile, the narrative is carried forward by the story of Yoseph and his brothers, in their basically negative and hateful interaction, at least in the direction of the brothers towards Yoseph. By contrast, we celebrate the Holiday of Chanukah, also the story of a set of brothers, the Maccabim, interacting positively and heroically, in their military and spiritual struggle against the Hellenistic Jews and the Syrian Greeks, which resulted in the purification of the Temple.

The sale of Yoseph into slavery is held up as a negative paradigm of behavior, of “Sinat Chinam,” “Hatred Without a Cause,” which underlay countless Jewish tragedies, and for which the “Asarah Harugei Malchut,” the “Ten Martyrs of the Roman Government,” bore the guilt, and for which they and millions of Jewish martyrs went to their deaths. One difficulty is the expression “**Without Cause.**” Because the Torah in Parashat Vayeshev and earlier parashiot provided multiple causes: the greater love of Yaakov for Rachel, Yoseph’s mother, compared to his other wives, Yoseph’s involvement in “LaShon HaRa,” Slander, against his brothers, Yaakov’s visible preference for Yoseph, marked by his presentation to Yoseph alone of all the brothers, of a multi-colored tunic, and finally – **his dreams!** In each of the dreams that the Torah describes, the main theme is Yoseph’s rule over his brothers. How’s that for chutzpah from the kid brother! Causes, indeed, for a large degree of resentment and intense dislike, but certainly not the **murderous** hatred exhibited by the brothers.

Perhaps we can see the full measure of “Sinat Chinam,” in the behavior of the brothers many years later, when they go down to seek food, propelled by the famine, and by a secret double mission, to search for Yoseph. But they seek **Yoseph the Slave**, and are in no way able to accept the idea that Yoseph’s dreams were true, and that **he is the leader** in Mitzrayim. Because for many reasons, they should have recognized him. First of all was his voice, “HaKol Kol Yoseph!;” it should have given him away. Second was the biography of the great leader, who had indeed, as was well known, risen from his initial status of a slave brought to Egypt from the Land of the Ivrim. Then there were his features which, according to the Midrash, resembled their father’s. He knew their birth order. There were so many reasons that they should have recognized him! But “Sinat mekalkalet et ha-shurah;” “Hatred deprives a person of logic and sound reason.” They were so convinced that Yoseph had been wrong – dead wrong, that his dreams of superiority were utterly false, that this man who stood before them, who was unmistakably Yoseph, **could not be Yoseph!** Until Yoseph shattered their illusions – “*And Yoseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Yoseph; Is my father still alive?...’*” and again, “*...And he said, I am Yoseph your brother, whom you sold to Mitzrayim.’*” (Bereshit 45:3-4) For they had borne their hate-filled grudge all these years, that nothing else could have awakened them to the truth. The Torah commands, “*Do not hate your brother in your heart.*” (VaYikra 19:17) Hatred had clogged their spiritual arteries. That was the **great sin of these great men**; not to forgive, after all these years.

On Chanukah, we meet another group of great brothers, Kohanim, sons of Matityahu, men of courage and faith in HaShem. They were only five, also led by a Yehudah. The others were Shimon, Yochanan, Elazar and Yonatan. They faced an enemy far superior in every traditional military category: numbers, armament, animal support (the Maccabim had mules; the Syrian-Greeks had elephants). They were fully aware of this imbalance, but their great love of HaShem enabled the principle of “Ahavah mekalkalet et ha-shurah,” “**Love deprives a person of logic and sound reason**” to become operative and give them the decisive advantage.

And they also affirmed the main lesson of Chanukah, spoken by the Angel to Yehoshua the High Priest, “*This is the word of HaShem to Zerubavel, saying, ‘Not through armies and not by might, but through My Spirit, says HaShem, Master of Legions. Who are you? O great mountain – before Zerubavel you shall become a plain! He shall bring forth the main stone to shouts of ‘Beauty, Beauty to it!’*” (Zechariah 4:6-7) PF