

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

December 22, 2007 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org · י"ג טבת שבת פרשת ויחי

ערב שבת פרשת ויחי

הדלקת נרות 4:13 PM
מנחה 4:20 PM
שקיעה 4:31 PM

שבת פרשת ויחי

8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb
8:45 AM שחרית
9:37 AM סוף זמן קריאת שמע
3:10 PM גמרא שיעור
3:50 PM מנחה
4:31 PM שקיעה
5:13 PM מעריב

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 מנחה

Sun. through Thurs.: 4:20 PM
Second מעריב 8:00 PM (Mon.-Thurs..)

ערב שבת פרשת שמות

הדלקת נרות 4:17 PM
מנחה 4:25 PM
שקיעה 4:35 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
דף היומי I, Monday through Friday 5:25 AM and Sunday at 6:30 AM – Mordechai Rudman
דף היומי II, Monday through Friday 7:00 AM – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Monday through Friday at 7 AM - ירושלמי - Mordechai Rudman
פרשת השבוע עם רשי - שחרית ברכות - ירושלמי - Mordechai Rudman
Monday through Thursday at 9:45 AM - גמרא שיעור - Rabbi Leibel Reznick
דף 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

The entire congregation is invited to a **Kiddush** this shabbos co-sponsored by Choson Torah, Rabbi Gottlieb and Choson Beraishis, Avi Rosenbaum.

סעודה שלישיית is being co-sponsored by Stuart Erdfarb to commemorate the yahrzeit of his father, Yaakov ben Moshe; Pinky Frankel, for his mother, Devorah bas Pinchas; and Yossie Stern, for his father, Yitzchak Isaac ben Yosef-Ben Tzion. At this time we will be wishing Josh and Miriam Pomeranz a tzaischem leshalom on their Aliyah with a siyum in Mesechata Kesubos.

Bais Torah's popular **Avos U'Banim** program continues this Motzoei Shabbos, December 22nd at 6:15 in the Library. This week's program is being sponsored by the **Scheinsons**. 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.

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.

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

Pinchas and Miriam Frankel on the engagement of their son, Shimon, to Ayala Stern of Jerusalem and Brooklyn.
David and Carol Abramczik on the birth of a granddaughter, born to Shimon and Huvie Abramczik of LA.

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

Sam Colman - שמואל בן שרה רחל
Kathy Resnick - אביה בת שרה
Tova Eizik's grandson - רחמה פייגל בת רבקה
Renee Rosenbaum's mother, Fanny York -
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 Vayechi - 5768 “Tefilah” and “Torah” for a Jewish “New Year’s Eve”

In the last verse of “Shlishi” in Parshat Vayechi, Yaakov says to Yoseph regarding the City of Shechem, a city that has been a thorn in our side from ancient times till the present, *“which I conquered from the Emorites with my sword and my bow.”* (Bereshis 48:22) This is quite strange, in that it was not Yaakov who conquered that city at all - it was the two brothers Shimon and Levi - and they were roundly condemned by their father for their ferocity in that conquest! However, Onkelos translates figuratively, using in place of “my sword and my bow” “my prayers and my requests.” In light of this statement by Yaakov, it is quite possible that Shimon and Levi might not have been as “successful” as they were - in killing all the males of that city in bloody retribution for the violated honor of their sister, Deena, for they executed their vengeance and emerged unharmed - were it not for the prayers and requests that they, in effect, “forced” their father, Yaakov Avinu, to make in their behalf!

The Brisker Rav explains this somewhat unusual translation of “sword” and “bow” as referring to two aspects of prayer. One aspect is that of the prayers formulated and enacted by the Men of the Great Assembly, in the years preceding the Destruction of the Second Temple (perhaps anticipating the greater need the Jewish People would have for means of worshipping Hashem even without a Temple). These prayers have the power of a sword. A sword can easily be used effectively by (almost) anyone, as can the prayers which these great Torah Scholars enacted. Also like a sword, they don’t require great precision. A little “kavana,” attention to meaning, during the opening three blessings of the “Shemoneh Esray,” the central prayer for the Jew in the morning, afternoon and evening of each day, and one has fulfilled the obligation of prayer!

However, the second aspect of prayer, personal requests, “tefilos” unique to the individual, requires a higher standard. Jewish Tradition and Law advise that in an extreme case, such as when “someone has a sick relative in the house, he should approach a wise man to ask for mercy.” These requests, though of a personal nature, are paradoxically most effective when delivered by an “outside expert source.” These are the ones compared to the arrows shot by an archer. My personal experiences with archery were great fun, but not too effective in terms of producing “bulls’ eyes.” Just as a bow requires great physical strength to pull back the bowstring, so does making a personal request of the King of Kings require great spiritual strength. In addition, just as great precision is required of the archer to hit his or her target, so also is great “precision” in the form of “kavana” required of one who stands before Hashem to ask for a personal response. A prayer for a personal need is accepted by Hashem only if a person puts “nafsho bechapo,” his or her whole being concentrated in their hand, as it were, outstretched for “Tzedakah,” as we are taught by Chana, through her anguished prayers for a child.

One of our most powerful weapons, of course, is Torah. From our point of view, however, Torah is not seen as a weapon; rather, as a sweet exercise of delving into HaShem’s Wisdom. It is only a “weapon” for us in the sense that if our enemies see us engaging in this exercise, it will be a “Kiddush HaShem,” and the nations will be in fear and awe of us. We are a long way from that level at the present time. However, there are many encouraging signs. One is the remarkable “Daf Yomi” taught by Rabbi Meir Pogrow, in Ramat Beit Shemesh in Eretz Yisrael, as described recently in HaModia, which promises **retention and mastery of Shas** if the program is followed. This program requires about twice as much “shiur” time as the regular Daily Daf, and provides for much review, and written tests, and demands a lot of effort. But, as they say, “le’phum tza’ara agra;” **“according to the effort, is the reward.”** This and many similar activities designed to draw our People back to its Source, have appeared recently.

If somehow we can restore the “Kol Yaakov,” the authentic spiritually modulated “Voice” of our People, we can hope to produce meaningful and effective “Tefilos,” and be like the Temple Choir of Leviim that celebrated each day with a Psalm, as well as the source of wellsprings of Torah, and then “we will find favor and be appreciated for our clear reasoning, in the eyes of G-d and Man.”

PF