

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

December 29, 2007 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org · יג טבת שבת פרשת שמות

ערב שבת פרשת שמות

הדלקת נרות 4:17 PM

מנחה 4:25 PM

שקיעה 4:35 PM

Rabbi Gottlieb's שבת הלכות shiur 8:00 PM

שבת פרשת שמות

היומי 8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb

שחרית 8:45 AM

סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:40 AM

גמרא שיעור 3:20 PM

מנחה 4:05 PM

שקיעה 4:36 PM

סעודה שלישית

מעריב 5:18 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 - 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 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

סעודה שלישית is being co-sponsored by Michael Kronenberg and Gerry Kirschenbaum for their respective yahrzeits.

Bais Torah's popular **Avos U'Banim** program continues this Motzoei Shabbos, December 29th at 6:15 in the Library. This week's program is being sponsored by the **Kronenbergs**. 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.

Next Friday night, January 4th, there will be an **Oneg Shabbos** at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Yehuda Eliezri, 14 Carlton Lane. Everyone is invited to attend.

Next Motzoei Shabbos, January 5th, we will present a 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.

On Motzoei Shabbos January 19th at 8:15 PM, everyone is invited to hear Simcha Friedman speak on the topic of "**Where Do We Go from Here?**" He will discuss the Jewish afterlife and beyond based on the thoughts of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, with whom he is writing a book.

On January 25th and 26th, Bais Torah will be hosting a **Shabbaton for Our Way**, an NCSY-affiliated organization for the hearing impaired. If you are able to provide housing for couples or singles that Shabbos, please speak to Moshe Lehmann or write to ourwaymonsey@aol.com.

Save the Date - Sunday, May 18th 2008 - **Annual Bais Torah Dinner** honoring Yis and Bella Helprin.

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).

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

Jack and Betty Schloss on the birth of a grandson, Jonah Samuel, born to Daniel Schloss and Aviva Taubenfeld of Riverdale..

Mel and Betty Sinowitz on the birth of a grandson, born to Yoni and Malya Sinowitz.

David and Chaya Nulman on the birth of a grandson born to Shlomo and Suri Nulman of Toronto.

Ari and Adina Halpert on the birth of a grandson, Boruch Nesanel, born to Mordechai and Elke Pollak of New Hempstead.

Hamakom Yenachem

Paul Goodman on the p'tira of his wife, Naomi.

Max Rubinstein and Faigie Weber on the p'tira of their sister, Naomi Goodman.

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

Sam Colman - שמואל בן שרה רחל

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM

Weekday שחרית

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

Tues.: 7:45 AM (Jan. 1 – Sunday Schedule)

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

Weekday מעריב מנחה

Sun. through Thurs.: 4:25 PM

Second מעריב 8:00 PM (Mon.-Thurs..)

ערב שבת פרשת וארא

נרות הדלקת 4:23 PM

מנחה 4:30 PM

שקיעה 4:41 PM

שקיעה 4:41 PM

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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
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

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 Shemos – 5768 – The Power of Speech

In this week's parashah, Parashat Shemos, in which the status of the People of Israel rapidly descends from privileged citizens to the level of being persecuted and ultimately enslaved by their "hosts," the Egyptians, Moshe is approached by HaShem, and offered the position of being His Messenger in the Redemption of Israel.

At the Burning Bush, Moshe attempts to decline the offer, *"And Moshe said to HaShem, 'I am not a man of words, and I never have been...for I am heavy of mouth and heavy of speech.' Then HaShem said to him, 'Who makes a mouth for man, or Who makes one dumb or deaf, or sighted or blind? Is it not I, HaShem? So now, go! I shall be with your mouth, and indicate what you should say.' He replied, 'Please, my L-rd, send through whomever you will send!' The wrath of HaShem burned against Moshe, and He said, 'Is there not Aharon your brother, the Levite? I know that he will surely speak; behold he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will rejoice in his heart. You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I shall be with your mouth and with his mouth, and teach you both what you are to do. He shall speak for you to the People; and it will be that he will be your mouth and you will be his leader.'"* (Shemos 4:10-17)

How ironic that Moshe "Rabbeinu," our Teacher, the man who will receive the Torah and become its Teacher, par excellence, to the Jewish People, now protests his shortcomings at communication!

When "Adam HaRishon," First Man, is created, the Torah says, *"And HaShem the L-rd, formed the Man of earth taken from the ground, and He blew into his nostrils the soul of life; and the Man became a 'nefesh chayah,' a living being."* Targum Onkelos translates the term **"living being"** as **"ruach me-malela,"** a **"speaking being."** The essence of Man is his rationality and ability to speak, to become a transmitter of a Tradition of Faith embodying Fear and Love of HaShem, and knowledge of His Torah. Incidentally, archaeologists have estimated the first appearance of alphabet-based languages as occurring approximately 6,000 years ago.

The "Daf Yomi" has just begun a new Mesechta, that of "Nedarim," translated roughly as "vows." What the concept means is the ability, by means of speech, to create an "Issur Cheftza," a prohibition of use of an object which was heretofore completely permissible. If, having made a "Neder," the one who established it violates it, there is a difference of opinion among the "Rishonim," the great medieval commentators, as to which Torah Commands he has violated.

According to the Rambam, Maimonides, he has violated all three of the following:

1. The Negative Command, *"He shall not render his words valueless."* (BaMidbar 30:3)

2. The corresponding Positive Command, *"He shall fulfill everything that comes out of his mouth."* (ibid.)

3. The Positive Command, *"Guard what comes out of your lips and be sure to fulfill it."* (Devarim 23:24)

The Ramban's, Nachmonides' opinion, is that he has violated only the second of the Commands listed.

We see, in any case, from the emphasis of the Torah on the idea that a person should keep his word, how important a value **truthfulness** is in Judaism.

Another aspect of proper speech that follows from the Torah's Command, *"You shall be holy"* (VaYikra 19:2) is "lashon nekiah," "pure and clean speech." For example, the Torah, which counts every word and letter, uses the expression *"that is not pure"* (Bereshis 7:2) instead of "impure" in HaShem's instructions to Noach regarding which animals to load onto his ark. People who practice this characteristic will often say, "untruth" rather than "lie." It follows that profanity and loud and ugly speech are, or should be, absent from the speech of a Jew. Then there is the extremely difficult and challenging prohibition against speaking or accepting "lashon hara," "evil or slanderous speech" concerning another human being.

A person's ability to speak should be regarded as a precious and holy gift from HaShem. The ability to organize one's thoughts and express words that are noble, gentle, courteous and well-reasoned, in praise of and **in gratitude to HaShem for His Creation**, are desirable characteristics of human speech.

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