

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

May 31, 2008 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org במדבר שבת פרשת כ"ו אייר

ערב שבת פרשת במדבר
מנחה 7:00 PM *
נרות: הדלקת 7:20 PM **
Regular Candle Lighting 8:03 PM
שקיעה 8:21 PM

שבת פרשת במדבר
דף היומי 8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb
שחרית 8:45 AM
סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:10 AM
מברים החודש סיון
פרקי אבות 6:15 PM
גמרא שיעור 7:05 PM
מנחה 7:50 PM
שקיעה 8:22 PM
סעודה שליטת 9:04 PM

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM
Weekday שחרית
Mon. and Thurs: 6:20 and 7:45 AM
Tues. and Fri.: 6:30 and 7:45 AM
Wed.: 6:10 and 7:35 AM (ראש חודש)
Weekday מנחה-מעריב
Sun. through Thurs.: 8:10 PM

ערב שבת פרשת נשא
מנחה: 7:00 PM *
נרות: הדלקת 7:20 PM
Regular Candle Lighting 8:08 PM
שקיעה 8:26 PM

* Early Mincha for the Summer
** Shul Accepts Shabbos

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
דף היומי III, Sunday through Thursday 9:45 AM – Rabbi Yosef Fischer
Monday through Friday at 7 AM - ירושלמי - 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
Women's תהלים group meets on שבת 45 minutes before מנחה.

Shul Announcements

סעודה שליטת sponsorship is still available. Contact Jack Gross.

Order your tickets now for Shakespeare's hilarious comedy, "Twelfth Night," to be performed at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival at Boscobel Mansion on Sunday evening, August 31st. Bais Torah has purchased a limited number of discount tickets for what is certain to be another sold out performance. If you're interested in attending, contact Marilyn Sapir asap at 369-3631 or email her at mshs1@aol.com.

Bais Torah annual **Mazel Tov Kiddush** to 2008 Graduates - June 14th - contact Miriam Rosenberg 371-5337 with your graduates - \$60 per family sponsorship.

The new **Ultimate Kosher Discount Card** is here and ready for you. There are wonderful discounts for Ruthie's Unique Boutique, Dunkin' Donuts, The Purple Pear, Wesley Kosher, and much more! They are available with Aviva in our shul office (352-1343) or Leslie Goldress (352-3257). Each card is \$18 (made payable to Jewish Family Service--Bais Torah makes \$5/card). The card is good for one year.

Bais Torah has been able to obtain additional **burial plots** in Eretz Hachaim in Beit Shemesh, Israel. If you are interested, contact Ronnie Herrmann at 356-9583 or email him at rherm@aol.com.

The shul has acquired **new seforim** that are available for sponsorship. See our web site, www.baistorah.org and click on resources and then seforim for the list.

Mazel Tov

Yehuda and Judy Eliezri on the birth of a granddaughter, Yaffa Sarit, born to Elyana and Joe Bednarsh.

Barry and Emily Lifschitz on the engagement of their daughter, Adina, to Hillel Mann of Ranana.

Ronnie and Jennifer Herrmann on the graduation of Simcha from Sacker Medical School in Israel.

Sam & Rena Wilen on the birth of a grandson, born to Ariella and Elliot Kwestel of Israel.

Avromi and Renee Fein on the birth of a grandson, born to Leora and David Neuman.

Refuah Shelaimah

Henry Shapiro - חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה -

Manny London - מנחם מונש בן חנה פרידא -

Ken and Judy Gribetz's grandson, Eitan Witkin -

איתן אפרים בן נחמה יטה

Tova Eizik's grandson - יעקב יונתן בן חנה רייזל -

Pinky and Miriam Frankel's twin grandsons -

תינוק בן אלישבע חיה

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Joel Rosenwasser's father, Seymour Rosenwasser -

שמעון בן בלומא רבקה

Lenny Wulwick - לייב יוסף בן חיה

Ben Zauderer - בנימין בן בילה

Esther Lutwak - אסתר מלכה בת קילה

Sam Colman - שמואל בן שרה רחל

Larry Seligson - אריה לייב בן רבקה

Bob Schore - חיים ראובן בן הענדל יהודית

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.

BaMidbar – 5768 - The Non-Jewish Servant (“Eved Canaani”)

This Shabbos we begin the reading of the Book of BaMidbar, the account of the travels of the fledgling Jewish People through the desert to the Promised Land. This was no ordinary People; it was the People chosen by G-d to be a “Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation.” (Shemos 19:6) They carried a unique message of holiness, the Torah, ultimately to be taught to the world. At the end of the Book of VaYikra, references were made to the institution of slavery. Now Judaism does recognize the concept of slavery, but discourages it strongly, and in its perspective on the matter, stands far above the rest of the world. In this essay we will discuss what the Torah has to say about the Non-Jewish Servant. First of all, the Non-Jewish Servant of a Jew must become a member of the Jewish People. A male must be circumcised, and males and females must be immersed in a Mikvah. The Non-Jewish male servant is obligated in the same Positive Torah Commands as is the Jewish woman; namely, the Non-Time-Dependent ones and in all of the Negative Torah Commands, including the Prohibition of working on Shabbat; thus he and she enjoy a built-in weekly “day off.” In some respects, he is treated as chattel. For example, he is passed in inheritance from father to son. There is a mechanism for release of the “Eved Canaani,” but in general, Judaism is not enthusiastic about the release of “Avadim;” in fact it is forbidden to release a Non-Jewish servant, except, strangely enough, in cases where a “Mitzvah” is involved, such as obtaining a quorum for prayer, where the participation of ten Jewish **men** is required. The Torah speaks in praise of the Non-Jewish servant of Avraham, Eliezer (though Avraham lived before Har Sinai and the birth of the Jewish People), who was the trusted care-taker of the master’s estate, was entrusted to find a mate for Yitzchak and who fought with Avraham in the War of the Kings (Bereshis 14:14-15). And the Talmud speaks highly of Tevi, the Non-Jewish servant of Rabban Gamliel, described by his master in the Mishnah in Berachos 16b as “kasher,” upright, and of righteous and even scholarly maidservants. But the basic outlook of the Torah is that the accumulation of servants should be minimized, because of the inevitable consequences, is expressed by Hillel, in Pirkei Avos 2:8, “...He who accumulates maidservants, the more lewdness, the more man-servants, the more thievery...”

But to describe the Torah’s requirements for the treatment of a Non-Jewish servant by his Jewish master, we will now cite no less an authority than the Rambam (Hilchos Avadim” 9:8): “With regard to a Non-Jewish servant, it is permitted to work that individual with ‘Avodas Parech.’” This term refers to back-breaking work and/or to humiliating work; without time-limit or purpose. The Rambam continues, “**BUT**, even though the Law prescribes that permissibility, the Attributes of Kindness and the Pathways of Wisdom require that a person be merciful and pursue righteousness and not make his yoke heavy upon his servant, and he should not cause him pain, and that he should feed him and give him to drink from every kind of food and drink. The Early Wise Men used to give their servants from every type of prepared food that they themselves would eat...”

“Does not Scripture say, ‘...as the eyes of servants are turned towards their masters and the eyes of the handmaidens towards their mistresses.’ And similarly, he should not humiliate him by striking him with his hand or by words of the mouth. Scripture has assigned these individuals to servitude, but not to humiliation. Neither should he shout at him nor should he be excessively angry; rather he should speak with him with a mild voice and listen to their complaints. And so it is demonstrated in Iyov’s good ways in which he prided himself, ‘If I would reject the judgment of my servants and my handmaidens, in their complaints against me’ (Iyov 31:13), ‘Did my Creator not also Create them, and we all entered the world through the womb.’ (Iyov 31:15)”

“Cruelty and mean-spiritedness can be found only among Non-Jews and Idol-Worshippers, but the Seed of Avraham our Father, the People of Israel, whom the Holy One, Blessed is He, favored with the Goodness of the Torah, and commanded them Righteous Decrees and Laws, are merciful to all. And so it is concerning the Attributes of the Holy One, Blessed is He, Whom we were commanded to emulate, it says, ‘and His Mercies are upon all that He created...’ ”

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