

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

July 12, 2008 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org ט' תמוז שבת פרשת בלק

ערב שבת פרשת בלק

מנחה 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:20 PM **
Regular Candle Lighting 8:11 PM
שקיעה 8:29 PM

שבת פרשת בלק

פרשת היומי 8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb
שחרית 8:45 AM
סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:18 AM

פרקי אבות 6:25 PM
גמרא שיעור 7:15 PM
מנחה 8:00 PM
שקיעה 8:29 PM
סעודה שלישית
מעריב 9:11 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 מנחה

Sun. through Thurs.: 8:15 PM

ערב שבת פרשת פינחס

מנחה 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:20 PM
Regular Candle Lighting 8:07 PM
שקיעה 8:25 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
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
היומי III, Sunday through Thursday 9:45 AM – Rabbi Yosef Fischer
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
Women's group meets on שבת 45 minutes before מנחה.

Shul Announcements

סעודה שלישית is being co-sponsored by David Abramczik & Carl Markowitz.

The entire membership is invited to a meeting on July 20th, at 10:30 AM for elections of officers and general membership information.

Men and women are invited to attend a special **Yom Iyun** for the Nine Days on Sunday, Aug. 3rd beginning at 10:00 AM. Our Morah D'Asrah, Rabbi Gottlieb, will address us on "Transforming the Ashes of Destruction into the Fertile Soil of Redemption." Shuli Taubes will be speaking on "Rite and Right: Ritual and Responsibility in the Prophecies of Amos" and Rabbi Chaim Jachter will talk about "The Fascinating Life of Yoshiyahu and How it Reverberates for Us Today." Light refreshments will be served. The event is being sponsored by Michael and Miriam Schiffer in memory of their mothers.

Everyone is invited to attend a **Mostly Mozart concert** at Avery Fisher Hall, August 19th at 8 p.m. Osmo Vanska will be conducting the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra in a performance of Mozart's Serenade for Winds in C minor, his Symphony No. 39 in E-flat major and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor. Tickets are \$45 each prepaid and may be obtained by contacting Sandra Thurm at 368-3418 or e-mailing her at sfthurm@optonline.net. Only a limited number of seats are available; they will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

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.

An entertaining and informative day awaits those who sign up for Bais Torah's "Memories of the Lower East Side" on Sunday, September 14th. Participants will visit the landmark Lower East Side Eldridge Street Synagogue and go on a Tenement Museum walking tour. Round trip transportation from Bais Torah is included in the cost, which is only \$40 per person. Lunch at a local restaurant of your choice is additional. Since only a limited group can be accommodated on this special trip, be sure to contact Doris Newman promptly at 352-2816 or email dorish0805@aol.com to reserve your place.

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 rherrm@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 or contact Jack Gross.

Mazel Tov

Ben and Fran Horwitz on the birth of a grandson, born to Cheryl and Aryeh Edelman.

Jossi and Sandy Lieder on the engagement of their daughter, Chana, to Betzalel Sochaczewski.

Hamakom Yenachem

Shirley London on the p'tira of her brother.

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

Joel Rosenwasser's parents-

שמעון בן בלומא רבקה - Seymour

פשע לאה בת שפרינצא - Peshah

Ben Zauderer - בנימין בן בילה

Lenny Wolwick - לייב יוסף בן חיה

Larry Seligson - אריה לייב בן רבקה

Bob Schore - חיים ראובן בן הענדל יהודית

David Lehmann - דוד בן שפרינצא

Moshe Lehmann - משה אליעזר בן רות

Esther Lutwak - אסתר מלכה בת קילה

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.

Haftarah of Parashas Balak – “The Remnant of Yaakov” - 5768

The Haftarah begins with a remarkable expression used by the Prophet Michah, *"She'aris Yaakov,"* "Remnant of Jacob." The word "She'aris" means "Remnant" or "Survivor," in the sense of the surviving remnant of Jewish History – of its towering peaks and its valleys that seemed like the "valley of the shadow of death" (Psalms 23:4). It refers to those who will be "left over" after all the miraculous deliverances and disasters, from the Exodus and the Building of the Temples, to the destruction of those Temples and the Holocaust, from the establishment of the State of Israel and the recapture of Yerushalayim in the Six Day War till our continuing conflict with the myriad descendants of Yishmael, who want to drive the Jewish People out of the Middle East and, if they could have their fondest desire, out of the World.

It also has the connotation of distillation, the purpose of all the effort, the net result, the final product. It has a Messianic connotation, as the Mashiach is the principal fruit of the Remnant of Yaakov, as in the words of Bilaam, *"Darach Kochav MiYaakov,"* "A star has emerged from Jacob..." (Bamidbar 24:7)

The Prophet pictures the "Remnant of Jacob" in two aspects:

Having survived the climactic battle of "Gog and Magog," which will occur, according to Jewish Tradition, just before the appearance of the Mashiach, the People of Israel will be a blessing for the surviving remnant of humanity, like the "dew" and like the "rain." They will also be unconquerable, as the lion, King of the Beasts, from which none can escape.

(Michah 5:6-8)

"My People, remember how Balak, King of Moav, tried to destroy you by hiring the evil, heathen prophet, Bilaam ben Beor, to curse you, and how I converted his curses to blessings at the gateway of his mouth."

The People of Israel respond that they don't know how to serve HaShem, because He is so great and far above them.

"Shall they serve Him by bringing Him thousands of year-old rams, tens of thousands of streams of oil; should they offer Him their first-born to expiate their sins?" (Michah 6:6-7) Michah says that HaShem has told them what He wants of them: *"to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your G-d."* (Michah 6:8)

The basic connection to the Parashah is the failure of Balak, King of Moav, to harm the Jewish People through the Prophet-for-Hire, Bilaam ben Beor, as HaShem turns Bilaam's curses into blessings. When Bilaam asks permission to curse Israel, HaShem says unequivocally, *"You may not curse the People, for it is blessed."* In the opening of the Haftarah, the Prophet describes the Remnant of Jacob in terms of "dew" and "rain," both elements of blessing for the world, as we say in the Shemoneh Esray, "please grant dew and rain for a blessing for the Land."

Bilaam says in his Prophecy (Bamidbar 23:8) *"How can I curse (a nation) that G-d has not cursed, and how can I direct His anger against (a People) for whom He holds no anger!"* The Talmud explains Bilaam's main gift as his being able to divine the precise moments of HaShem's anger and direct that anger against his client's enemies; here he is saying that HaShem has no "anger" for Israel. On the other hand, in the Haftarah, we find *"And I will pour out my wrath and fury against the nations that still disobey me."*

Bilaam refers to Amalek, the archenemy of the Jewish People as "Reshis Goyim," the "First of the Nations," in the sense of crude, primitive and undeveloped in its spiritual values (Bamidbar 24:20). Israel is also referred to in the Tanach as "Reshis," the "First," in the sense of the "first-born," the "first-flowering," the most mature and sophisticated, the holy and the consecrated. Michah refers to the Jewish people as "Shearis Yaakov," the Remnant of Jacob. The words "Reshis" and "Shearis" are closely related, in that "Shearis" is obtained from "Reshis" by the permutation of its three key letters: "Resh," "Aleph," "Shin." But this is only true when the word "Reshis" is used as it is in regards to Israel, where the word spelled "Resh," "Aleph," "Shin" has the meaning of the "Head," the Highest. It will only be then that it will have the ability to survive till the "end of history," for HaShem will elevate Israel above the normal historical laws that have brought down all World Empires that have arisen since ancient times.

Bilaam captures the essence of the modesty of Jewish family life, when he says, at the command of G-d, (BaMidbar 24:5) *"How beautiful are your tents, O Jacob,"* Michah says, as mentioned above, that one of the ways that HaShem wants human beings to serve Him is by *"walking humbly with your G-d"* (Michah 6:8).

This excerpt from the "Tachanun" prayer to the Almighty also speaks of the "Remnant of Israel:" "Guardian of Israel, Protect the Remnant of Israel; Let Israel not be destroyed, Those who say, 'Hear O Israel' " PF