

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

July 26, 2008 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org כ"ד תמוז שבת פרשת מטות

מטות ערב שבת פרשת מטות
מנחה 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:20 PM **
Regular Candle Lighting 8:01 PM
שקיעה 8:19 PM

מטות שבת פרשת מטות
היוםי 8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb
שחרית 8:45 AM
סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:25 AM
מברכים החודש אב 6:15 PM
פרקי אבות 7:05 PM
גמרא שיעור 7:50 PM
מנחה 8:18 PM
שקיעה 8:18 PM
סעודה שלישית 9:00 PM
מעריב 9:00 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-מנחה מעריב
Sun. through Thurs.: 8:00 PM

ערב שבת ראש חודש פרשת מסעי
מנחה 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:20 PM
Regular Candle Lighting 7:54 PM
שקיעה 8:12 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 – Will resume in the fall.
היוםי I, Monday through Friday 5:25 AM and Sunday at 6:30 AM – Mordechai Rudman
היוםי II, Monday through Friday 7:00 AM – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
היוםי 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 תהלים group meets on שבת 45 minutes before מנחה.

Shul Announcements

סעודה שלישית is being co-sponsored by Moe and Bayla Tilson commemorating the yahrtzeit of their fathers, and Sara Markowitz commemorating the yahrtzeit of her father, חיים אליעזר בן בחיה, לייב

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. As in the past, Bais Torah has planned a full schedule of events for **Tisha B'Av**. Rabbi Gottlieb will be reading and explaining Kinot beginning at 8:40 AM. Video presentations begin at 1:05 PM with "Six Days in June: The War that Redefined the Middle East" followed by "Diameter of a Bomb," "Smimming in Auschwitz," "Life in a Jar," and this year's Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation video, "Leaving Envy Behind: Decency, Derech Eretz and the Destruction of the Temple." Admission to the entire day of films is \$10 for members, \$13 for non-members and \$4 for children under 15. The full Tisha B'Av schedule has been mailed and can also be found on our website, www.baistorah.org.

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 dorism0805@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.

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

Yussie and Barbara Fischer on the birth of a granddaughter, Shayna Noa, born to Elia and Adina Fischer.
Yussie and Barbara Fischer on the marriage of their grandchildren, Yishai Avraham and Tal Bracha Weissman in Israel.

Refuah Shelaimah

חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה - Henry Shapiro
מנחם מונש בן חנה פרידא - Manny London
Ken and Judy Gribetz's grandson, Eitan Witkin - איתן אפרים בן נחמה יטה
יעקב יונתן בן חנה רייזל - Tova Eizik's grandson
אסתר מלכה בת קילה - Esther Lutwak
חיים ראובן בן הענדל יהודית - Bob Schore
Bella Helprin's mother, Fay Roitman - פיגע בת חיה רבקה

Joel Rosenwasser's parents- שמעון בן בלומא רבקה - Seymour
פשע לאה בת שפרינצא - Pasha
Ben Zauderer - בנימין בן בילה
Lenny Wulwick - לייב יוסף בן חיה
Larry Seligson - אריה לייב בן 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.

Parashas Matos – 5768 - Speech Therapy

Rabbi Chanina said, “The seal of the Holy One, Blessed is He, is Truth.” Regarding His most-favored creation, the human being, we find in *Bereshis* (2:7), “...and He blew into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a (*nefesh chayah*, generally translated as a living being.” Onkelos, however, translates the expression as a “*ruach melalela*,” a “speaking being” – implying that the primary distinction between the human race and the animal kingdom is the human capacity for speech. Although we have seen in a recent parashah a case of a donkey speaking, that was a special case, an intervention in nature by HaShem to teach a lesson to a human being who had badly abused his power of speech.

There is a hierarchy in types of speech. We will proceed from the worst to the best, thereby illustrating the pattern of improvement required in our behavior as we approach Tisha B’Av, the tragic anniversary of the destruction of both of our Holy Temples.

The worst form of speech for the ordinary human being is “Lashon HaRa,” Slander, which is closely related to the sin of “Sinat Chinam,” Causeless Hatred, which has bedeviled our People over the centuries, and is held directly responsible for the destruction of both Temples.

We find in Midrash Tanchuma the following discourse on the severity of “Lashon HaRa,” based on the verse in which HaShem says to the Heavenly Court, after Adam and Chava have eaten from the “Eitz HaDa’as,” “...Behold Man has become like us, knowing Good and Evil...” (*Bereshis* 3:22): “Teach us, our Masters, regarding one who engages in ‘Lashon HaRa,’ what is his punishment? Our Masters taught us: ‘The one who engages in Evil Speech is worse than one who performs an evil act...’ Rabbi Mana-Dishav said in the name of Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi, ‘No one would come to speak ‘Lashon HaRa’ unless he **denied the Existence of G-d**, as it says, “...With our tongue we will prevail; our lips are our own – **who is lord over us?**’ (*Tehilim* 12:5)

We now come to the category of Vows and Oaths. “Daf Yomi” groups recently learned Masechet Nedarim, which deals basically with Vows. One lesson that came through loud and clear was the heavy responsibility one takes when he or she utters a vow or an oath. This message is brought home in this week’s Parashah, “Matos,” in *Bamidbar* (30:3), “If a man takes a vow to HaShem or swears an oath to establish a prohibition upon himself, **he shall not desecrate his word; according to whatever comes from his mouth, shall he do.**”

One type of “Neder,” or Vow, can be used to change the status **of an object**, say a tomato, from permitted to prohibited, for a stated period of time. A “Nazir,” is a special case of a “Noder,” whose vow has made the fruit of the vine prohibited to him, in general, for thirty days. Chaza”l look askance at such an individual. Did the Torah not provide him with enough prohibitions that he had to create a new one, against wine in the case of the “Nazir” and the tomato, in the first example. The Torah does not believe in a lifestyle of asceticism. **The “Shevuah,”** or Oath, **prohibits oneself** or **requires oneself** to perform an act. Here the prohibited or required act is an obligation **upon the individual**, rather than upon an object. The prohibition is an “**issur gavra**,” a prohibition upon the person, rather than an “**issur cheftsa**,” which prohibits an object.

The general attitude towards Oaths and the positive form of a Vow is stated in *Koheles* (5:3-4), “When you vow a vow to G-d, do not defer to pay it, for He has no pleasure in fools; pay that which you have vowed. Better it is that you should not vow than that you should vow, and not pay.”

The desirable type of speech is called “lashon nekiah,” clean, or pure language. One form of this type of speech is to call a “lie” an “untruth;” the offense against one’s sensibility and that of others is less in this case. Or, as the Torah itself illustrates, in its description of the animal occupants of Noah’s Ark, in *Bereshis* (7:2), “Of every pure (*tahor*) animal take seven pairs, a mate with its mate, and of the animal that is **not pure** (**lo tahor**’ rather than **tamei**,’ impure) two, a mate with its mate.”