

# CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

January 3, 2009 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · [www.baistorah.org](http://www.baistorah.org) ז' טבת שבת פרשת ויגש

## ערב שבת פרשת ויגש

הדלקת נרות 4:21 PM

מנחה 4:30 PM

שקיעה 4:39 PM

הלכות שבת שיעור 8:00 PM

## שבת פרשת ויגש

דף היומי 8:00 AM

שחרית 8:45 AM

סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:41 AM

גמרא שיעור 3:25 PM

מנחה 4:10 PM

שקיעה 4:40 PM

סעודה שלישית

מעריב 5:22 PM

שחרית 7:45 AM

## Weekday

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

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

Tues.: 6:15 and 7:45 AM (Fast Day)

## Weekday מעריב מנחה

Sun. Mon., Wed, and Thurs.: 4:35 PM

Mon. through Thurs.: 8:00 PM

Tues.: 4:15 PM (Fast Day)

## ערב שבת פרשת ויחי

הדלקת נרות 4:28 PM

מנחה 4:35 PM

שקיעה 4:46 PM

## Shiurim

Sundays at 8:30 AM – מסכת סנהדרין – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Partners in Torah

Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Ladies Mishnayos Class- Rabbi Avromy Fein

Wednesdays at 8:15 PM – מלכים א – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb.

הלכות שבת שיעור 8:00 PM – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

I, Monday through Friday 5:25 AM and Sunday at 6:30 AM – Mordechai Rudman

II, Monday through Friday 7:00 AM – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

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 מנדל בת מנחם meets on שבת 45 minutes before מנחה.

## Shul Announcements

סעודה שלישית, this week is sponsored by Arthur Landau..

**Avos U'Banim** meets this Motzoei Shabbos at 6:30 PM in the Library and is being sponsored by The Markowitzes.. Bring your children and grandchildren for hot pizza and a chance to win prizes. Weekly sponsorships are invited at \$50 per session and all information is listed on our website. For details, contact Jonathan Rosenstock at (845)369-6349.

**Upcoming events:** On Friday night, January 9th there will be an Oneg Shabbos at the Landaus. On Saturday night, January 24th, Dr. Murray Kuhr will sign his new book and speak on "The Maharal: Lion of Prague." And be sure to save Sunday morning February 15th for a seminar given by Martin Shenkman on Estate Planning.

The shul's **matza baking** will be on Sunday, February 15 at 2:00 PM. Stay tuned for details.

With Bush's term almost over, it might be a good idea to make another request to have **Jonathan Pollard** pardoned. White House phone number is 202-456-1111. Bush's email is [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov).

The shul has acquired **new seforim** that are available for sponsorship. See our web site, [www.baistorah.org](http://www.baistorah.org) and click on resources and then seforim for the list or contact Jack Gross.

## Mazel Tov

Jay and Hinda Kimmel on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Baruch Kimmel, son of Tzvi & Rena Kimmel

Bert and Alice Sirote on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Aharon Mark, son of Beth and Josh Mark.

Manny and Chana Mayerfeld on the birth of a great grandson, born to Avrohom and Nechama Mayerfeld of Yerushalayim, . children of Zvi and Dena Mayerfeld of Passaic.

Michael and Sharon Kronenberg on the birth of a granddaughter, Ayelet Rivka, born to Paul and Rachelle Haimowitz.

## Refuah Shelaimah

Henry Shapiro - חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה

Manny London - מנחם מונש בן חנה פרידא

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

Esther Lutwak - אסתר מלכה בת קילה

Bob Schore - חיים ראובן בן הענדל יהודית

Suzie Kirshenbaum's father - יוסף בן שרה

Bella Helprin's mother - פיגע בת חיה רבקה

Joel Rosenwasser's parents -

שמעון בן בלומא רבקה

פשע לאה בת שפרינצא

Ben Zauderer - בנימין בן בילה

Lenny Wulwick - לייב יוסף בן חיה

Larry Seligson - אריה לייב בן רבקה

Leni Loebenstein - הילני בת רחל

Eileen Frommer's father - חיים יונה בן חנה

## 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 Hatzoloh 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 Hatzoloh phone.

## VAYIGASH

As the story of Yosef and his brothers reaches its climax in this week's parsha it appears that the common thread throughout the incident is the question of accepting responsibility. Heaven demands responsibility from human beings. Irresponsible behavior is seen as sinful in Jewish life and values.

Yosef's irresponsible behavior in his dealings with his brothers when he was yet young, returns to dominate his life all of his years. Even after the reconciliation and forgiveness between the brothers and Yosef, the brothers still are wary of him as Rashi points out in next week's parsha of Vayechi. The results of irresponsible behavior and speech always haunt us to the end.

The brothers' irresponsible behavior in selling Yosef into slavery remains an issue not only for them but for all of Israel even millennia later. The paytan of the liturgy of the ten martyrs of Israel in Roman times recited on Yom Kippur in the Ashkenazic rite cites the sale of Yosef by his brothers as justification for their executions. As far fetched as that reasoning may sound it strikes a chord in Jewish memory and Torah values. The rule in Halacha regarding all matters of torts and damages is that a person is always and permanently responsible for the results of one's actions, behavior and negligence.

There is never any legal or moral way to escape responsibility. The definition in Judaism of being a mature and good person is that one is a responsible person. Responsibility entails commitment, loyalty, sensitivity and deep understanding of surrounding circumstances and challenges. It is therefore a virtue not easily attained and requires constant attention.

The hero who emerges from the narrative in the parsha is Yehuda. He now takes responsibility for not only Binyamin and his return to his father but indirectly for the selling of Yosef into slavery as well. "I am the guarantor of Binyamin's safety," he tells his father and when the moment of crisis and payment arrives he lives up to his responsibility.

It is this sense of responsibility that is recognized by Yaakov when he entrusts the monarchy and leadership of the Jewish people into the hands of Yehuda and his tribe and descendants. The first requirement of leadership is accepting responsibility for one's actions, policies and words. Wisdom, tact, political skills are all necessary ingredients for successful leadership. But, without the overriding characteristic of personal responsibility, all of the above ingredients will not suffice to create positive leadership.

Yehuda explains to Yosef why he, out of all of the brothers, is stepping forth on behalf of the defense of Binyamin. "I am his guarantor," he tells Yosef. "I pledged myself to safeguard his welfare and return him to his father. I am the responsible party." Only when one develops such a sense of responsibility is one entitled to aspire to roles of command and leadership.

In truth, we all occupy such roles in our families, communities, institutions and societies. We cannot avoid the challenge of always being responsible people, answerable to others and to our Creator. That is the essence of one of the great values of Judaism and Jewish life.

Shabat shalom.

Rabbi Berel Wein