

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

February 21, 2009 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org כ"ז שבט שבת פרשת משפטים

ערב שבת פרשת משפטים
הדלקת נרות 5:19 PM
מנחה 5:25 PM
שקיעה 5:37 PM
הלכות שבת שיעור 8:30 PM.

שבת פרשת משפטים
היוםי 8:00 AM
שחרית 8:45 AM
סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:26 AM
מברכים החודש אדר 4:25 PM
גמרא שיעור 5:10 PM
מנחה 5:38 PM
שקיעה 6:20 PM
סעודה שלישית
מעריב 6:20 PM

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM
Weekday שחרית
Mon. and Thurs.: 6:20 and 7:45 AM
Tues. and Wed.: 6:10 and 7:35 AM (ראש חודש)
Fri.: 6:30 and 7:45 AM

Weekday מנחה-מעריב
Sun. through Thurs.: 5:30 PM
Mon. through Thurs.: 8:00 PM

ערב שבת פרשת תרומה
הדלקת נרות 5:27 PM
מנחה 5:35 PM
שקיעה 5:45 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.
שיעור 8:00 PM – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
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 מנדל בת מנחם meets on שבת 45 minutes before מנחה.

Shul Announcements

It is not too late to make your reservations for our 34th Annual Dinner honoring Jack and Rachel Gross. This year, our annual gathering will be a Melave Malka with international flair, held at Shaarei Torah, this motzei shabbos, February 21st. In addition to some special "world-class" touches, we will be hearing from guest speaker Rabbi Yaakov Salomon. We hope to see all of you there.

אהרן בן יעקב, this week is sponsored by Abe Rovner in honor of his father's yarzeit, **סעודה שלישית**.

Avos U'Banim has it's final meeting this Motzoei Shabbos at 7:15 PM in the Library and is being sponsored by Carol Ginsberg commemorating her father's yarzeit and Charlie Grandovsky commemorating his mother's yarzeit. Bring your children and grandchildren for hot pizza and a chance to win prizes.

If you want to purchase **wine** for Purim or Pesach from Bais Torah, please place your order with Miriam Frankel. Thursday, February 26 is last day for Purim wine orders. If you need information, please call Miriam @ 893-4983.

Motzoei Shabbos, February 28th at 8:30 PM., we will have the privilege of hearing **Rabbi Dr. Moshe D. Tendler** speak in our shul on Organ Transplantation: A Matter of Life and Death. Everyone is urged to attend.

The **Annual Siyum Mishnayos** will take place on Sunday evening, March 8th. The featured speaker will be Rabbi Edward Davis. Please save the date and be current in your learning. For further information or reservations, please call David Lehmann at 426-6499 or write to baberruthfive@aol.com.

Calling All Women: If you're interested in an 8-session Zumba class on Monday nights, please call Betty (369-1833) or Hinda (357-9571).

Please be sure to drop off your cans of fruit for the **Kosher Food Pantry**. There are receptacles by the dedication wall in the main lobby and by Aviva's office. Our current deadline is Feb. 20th.

Mazel Tov

Jack and Rachel Gross on their well deserved kovod as guests of honor at this year's dinner.
Moe and Bayla Tilson on the birth of a grandson, born to Yael and Yehuda Jacoby of Boston.

Refuah Shelaimah

חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה - Henry Shapiro
מנחם מונש בן חנה פרידא - Manny London
שלמה יעקב יונתן בן חנה רייזל - Tova Eizik's grandson
אסתר מלכה בת קילה - Esther Lutwak
חיים ראובן בן הענדל יהודית - Bob Schore
יוסף בן שרה - Suzie Kirshenbaum's father
פיגע בת חיה רבקה - Bella Helprin's mother
שפרינצא בת דיחל - David Lehmann's mother

Joel Rosenwasser's parents - שמעון בן בלומא רבקה
פשע לאה בת שפרינצא
בנימין בן בילה - Ben Zauderer
לייב יוסף בן חיה - Lenny Wulwick
אריה לייב בן רבקה - Larry Seligson
הילני בת רחל - Leni Loebenstein
חיים יונה בן חנה - Eileen Frommer's father

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 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.

MISHPATIM

The parsha opens with the issue of slavery. The Torah discusses the laws of servitude, those of a Jewish servant who voluntarily enters slavery or is sold into slavery for his crimes and those of a non-Jewish slave who is involved in a situation of possible life-long slavery.

The Jewish slave is a servant for a limited time – it is as though he hires himself out for a period of time. The non-Jewish servant does not have that definition, he is a servant for life, and can be freed only by his owner's wish. What I find interesting is that the Torah does not address the moral question of slavery itself.

Abraham Lincoln, whose bicentennial is now being commemorated in the United States famously said "If slavery is not wrong, then nothing is wrong." So the presence of the dry laws regarding slaves in this week's parsha strikes the modern sensitivities of Jews as somewhat strange and anachronistic.

Many apologists have attempted to deal with this difficult nettle in the rose garden of the Torah. The Torah constantly reminds the Jewish people of their own miraculous deliverance from Egyptian slavery.

The rule of the Torah is that what is hateful unto you should not be done by you to others. If so, where is there room for slavery in the matrix of Jewish life and values? This problem is as I mentioned above, a very troublesome one. It is an example of our being unable to understand rationally, with human minds and sensitivities, of the eternal Godly laws of the Torah.

The Torah itself seems to limit if not even prevent the practice of slavery among the Jews. The laws that proscribe the keeping of slaves lead to the conclusion that one who owns a slave really owns a master over one's self.

These laws also prevent any violence to be done to the slave so that any form of slavery among Jews certainly was benighted and uplifted in comparison with the usual forms of slavery that existed in the ancient world and that remain in our world even today.

Even so, the matter does not rest easily for us for the concept of slavery itself remains somewhat repugnant to our sensibilities and society. I have no magic solution to this difficulty. My faith is not shaken by it and I can remain puzzled and yet a believer.

Maybe that is one of the lessons that the Torah wishes to impose upon us. There are situations and laws that will appear strange to the human mind and difficult to justify and deal with. We will have to admit that our thoughts are not those of God and that the finite can never understand and appreciate the ways of the infinite.

The Torah does not justify slavery and it does not ban it either. It tells us that there are laws that govern such a situation. But essentially it leaves the matter up to human society to deal with. And so it remains throughout all of human history.

Shabat shalom.

Rabbi Berel Wein