

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

June 27, 2009 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org קרח תמוז שבת פרשת קרח

Aufruf of Eli Katz

ערב שבת פרשת קרח

מנחה 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:20 PM **
Regular Candle Lighting 8:15 PM
שקיעה 8:33 PM

שבת פרשת קרח

היוםי 8:00 AM
שחרית 8:45 AM
סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:12 AM

פרקי אבות 6:30 PM
Contemporary Halachic Issues 7:20 PM
מנחה 8:05 PM
שקיעה 8:33 PM
סעודה שלישית
מעריב 9:15 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. thru Thurs.: 8:20 PM

ערב שבת פרשת חקת-בלק

מנחה 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:20 PM **
Regular Candle Lighting 8:14 PM
שקיעה 8:32 PM

* Early Mincha for summer

** Shul Accepts Shabbo

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- **Will resume in the fall.**

Wednesdays at 8:30 PM – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb.- **Will resume in the fall.**

Friday at 6:25 PM - Rabbi Yosef Fischer - Parshas Hashavua. **Will resume in July.**

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 חלה - גמרא מסכת חלה - 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 מנדל בת מנחם meets on שבת 45 minutes before פרקי אבות

Shul Announcements

Peter and Felise Katz invite the entire congregation to a **kiddush** this shabbos, in honor of the aufruf of their son, Eli.

סעודה שלישית this week is being sponsored by Carl Markowitz and David Abramczik .

Ladies: **Zumba** will be continuing for 5 Tuesday evenings in the Multi-Purpose Room starting June 23rd at 8:15 PM. Call 357-9571 or 369-1833 with any questions.

Bais Torah Adult Education Committee has obtained a limited number of orchestra seats for the **New York Philharmonic** Summertime Classics Russian Fest. Program: Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff and Khachaturian. Guest pianist Vladimir Feltsman. Conducted and hosted by Bramwell Tovy. Tuesday June 30th at 7:30 p.m. at Avery Fisher Hall. Tickets are \$54.00 each. For more information and reservations contact Sandra Thurm 368-3418 or sfthurm@optonline.net.

New date for **Kosher Food Pantry**: Friday, July 3rd. Please bring your cans of fruit by that day and drop it into the bin in shul.

The **Adult Education** Committee has planned several special events for the upcoming weeks. On Sunday, July 12th, view a special movie in our Simcha Room entitled "My Father, My Lord." A visit to the Holocaust Center in Spring Valley is planned for July 19th and on Sunday, July 26th, there will be a Yom Iyun and light breakfast in shul. Stay tuned for further details.

New **Kosher Discount Card** is now available. Cost is \$18.00. It benefits Bais Torah and Jewish Family Service. Contact Aviva at 352-1343 or Leslie at 352-3257.

Thank you to all those who came and participated in the packing and distribution of the food packages at the JFS Kosher Food Pantry last Sunday.

Those who joined us for a private tour of the **Gomez Mill House** last Sunday were treated to a fascinating trip back into Hudson Valley Jewish history - and even the sun came out for the occasion. Special thanks to Gomez Mill House (www.gomez.org) and also to Kedem Winery, where we went afterwards to sample various wines in the tasting room. Visit our shul website, www.baistorah.org to see photos from our trip.

Mazel Tov

Jack and Rachel Gross on the engagement of their daughter, Maytal to Oren Hassan from Fairlawn, NJ.

Fishel and Pessy Strenger on the marriage of their children, Chaim Ezra and Tzipora Strenger.

Yossie and Carol Stern on the birth of a grandson, born to Aviva and Matthew Braunshweiger of West Hartford, CT.

Allen and Miriam Nussbaum on the birth of a grandson, born to Jeremy and Keren Nussbaum.

Peter and Felise Katz on the aufruf of their son, Eli.

Josef and Barbara Fischer on the birth of a great grandson, Ori Harel, born to Yishai and Tal Weissman, children of Atara and Chaim Weissman.

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

Ben Zauderer - בנימין בן בילה

Joel Rosenwasser's mother -

פשע לאה בת שפרינצא

Larry Seligson - אריה לייב בן רבקה

Leni Loebenstein - הילני בת רחל

Eileen Frommer's father - חיים יונה בן חנה

Irwin Citron - יצחק מרדכי בן בלימה

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 Korach – 5769 – Korach, Obama and the Distortion of Unity

This is going to be a stretch. For in this essay, I will try to draw a comparison between the ideas of Korach, who, as Chaza"l say, was a "Pikeach," a very clever man, and our president, also for sure a "Pikeach." Both of them have profound arguments underlying their world views, but both of them have a fatal flaw in their conclusions. I read through Obama's "Speech to the Muslim World," and though much of what he says is very laudable, there is a flaw in his reasoning, as there was in Korach's, referring to a distortion of the Idea of Unity and Equality, among individuals, in Korach's case, and among nations and religions, in Obama's.

Let me start with Korach, proceeding chronologically. Korach and his 250 distinguished followers appeared before Moshe and declared, "You have assumed too much for yourselves, for the entire congregation is holy, and HaShem is among them. Why then do you elevate yourselves above the entire congregation of G-d?" (BaMidbar 16:3) Rabbi Yoseph Y. Jacobson, in identifying Korach as "The Father of Spiritual Anarchy," writes as follows:

"These are powerful words. They resonate to many a mind. G-d is within each and every person... Holiness, truth, grace, depth, integrity and transcendence are imbedded in each and every heart... Within every pulsating heart flows the spiritual light, so why is Moses telling people what G-d wants? Why is Aharon serving as the exclusive High Priest of G-d? Why does a Jew need Moses to teach him the word of G-d and Aharon to perform the service in the Holy Temple in his stead, when he himself possesses a soul that is a spark of the divine flame? Why can't he realize his relationship with G-d on his own, without teachers, leaders and priests in his spiritual life?"

"Korach is the father of spiritual anarchy...We are all divine, and hence we are all one. Imagine there were no Moses, no Aharon, no Sanctuary, no Kohanites, Levites or Israelites, and no religious authorities too... And the Jews would live as one. And then from the Jews, Korach believed, the holistic energy-flow would travel to all mankind. And the world would live as one."

Korach's error is his assumption of the spiritual equality of all Jews. Each Jew is born with the gift of "Bechirah Chofshit," Freedom of Choice. What he or she does with that gift differentiates between Jews. One individual may exert himself-or-herself to the utmost, and rise to the level of Moshe or Miriam. He may do "Teshuvah," and become as great as Rabbi Akiva. Or he may be driven by his ego and be pulled down to the level of Yeravam ben Nevat.

Barak Hussein Obama is without doubt a very brilliant individual. He was able to inspire an entire generation of Americans, not to mention the world, with his romanticized view of Unity. **All nations and all religions are equal.** He does not (yet) recognize the greater holiness of Judaism, and its role in teaching and uplifting the two younger, and far less sophisticated religions.

This led him to a distortion of history in his "Speech to the Muslim World." Where he could have educated his tremendous audience as to the primacy of the claim of the Jewish People to the Holy Land by virtue of Divine promises to give the Land to the People of Israel, and their living in the Land for a thousand years under the rule of many Kings, inspired by some fifty Prophets, with two glorious Temples, and never totally abandoning the Land for a moment during all of its history, all he could say was that "**the aspiration for a Jewish homeland is rooted in a tragic history that cannot be denied.**"

Thus, he failed in his one historic test so far. Hopefully, he will have other opportunities to rectify that error, and he will be able to play a role in the historical process of the restoration of the "House of David" and the unification of all of the nations, as it says, "And HaShem will become King over all of the World; on that day, HaShem will be One and His Name One." (Zechariah 14:9) PF