

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

September 24, 2005 · 89 West Carlton Rd., Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org כ"א אלול שבת פרשת כי תבא

ערב שבת פרשת כי תבא
הדלקת נרות: 6:33 PM
מנחה: 6:40 PM

שבת פרשת כי תבא
שחרית 8:45 AM
סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:47 AM
פרקי אבות 4:45 PM
גמרא שיעור 5:35 PM
מנחה 6:20 PM
סעודה שלישית
מעריב 7:32 PM
סליחות 1:00 AM

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM

Weekday סליחות ושחרית

Mon. and Thurs.: 5:55 and 7:20 AM

Tues., Wed. and Fri.: 6:05 and 7:20 AM

Weekday מנחה-מעריב

Sunday – Thursday 6:30 PM

ערב שבת פרשת נצבים

הדלקת נרות: 6:22 PM

מנחה: 6:30 PM

Shiurim

Sundays at 8:30 AM – **מסכת עבודה זרה** – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Mondays at 6:30 PM – **מסכת ברכות** – Rabbi Chaim Wein
Mondays at 8:00 PM - Hachnosas Kallah of Monsey sponsors lectures for women of all ages.
Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Partners in Torah
Wednesdays at 8:15 PM - **ספר עזרא** - Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Monday through Friday after the second **שחרית-ההנוך** – Rabbi Yosef Fischer
Monday through Thursday at 9:45 AM - **גמרא נמרא** shiur - Rabbi Leibel Reznick
דף היומי I, Monday through Friday 5:25 AM and Sunday at 6:30 AM – Mordechai Rudman
דף היומי II, Monday through Thursday after **מעריב** and Sunday at 9:30 AM – Rabbi Yosef Fischer
Women's **תהלים** group meets on **שבת** 45 minutes before **מנחה**.

Shul Announcements

We are pleased to invite you to hear renowned motivational speaker and author **Rabbi Hanoach Teller** lecture in our shul on the first night of Slichos, this Motzoei Shabbos, September 24th at 12:00 midnight. Rabbi Teller's topic will be, "Repent Now and Avoid the Yom Kippur Rush." All are invited to attend.

Sen. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Jon Kyl will be the featured speakers at the **HUVPAC dinner** on Sunday, September 25th. Honorees are Phyllis Wind and Estelle and Allen Eisenkraft. For further information, go to www.huvpac.org or call 845.364.9375.

The shul needs **five more members** attending the HUVPAC dinner in order to have a full exclusive table representing Bais Torah. Please inform Peter Katz if you can join him and Rabbi Gottlieb at the Shul table at the dinner on Sunday

Bais Torah is pleased to announce its first ever **online kibud auction**. It's easy to participate! Just go to www.baistorah.org, click on **Resources**, and then click on "**e-bays Torah Auction**." You'll find a list of kibudim and directions on how to bid. You can also bid on this year's kibudim by calling Raizie Lutwak at 425-5816 or e-mailing her at raizie@optonline.net.

Rabbi Gottlieb will be escorting us this winter on a **Mission to Israel**. If you are interested in what promises to be a very exciting trip, please contact our office right away or email rabbigottlieb@yahoo.com asap to indicate your interest. A minimum number of participants is needed to make the trip viable.

We are looking for **Shabbos morning group leaders** 10th grade and up for children ages 4 through 8 from 10 AM until shul ends, twice a month or alternating Shabbosim. Please call Felise Katz at 357-0129 if you or someone you know may be interested.

The **Board of Directors' next meeting** will be Thursday night, September 29, at 8:00 PM. All are invited.

Keep us informed. Our shul secretary, Esther Garber, is in the office Mon. through Thurs., 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Kindly **assist** us by making sure to return your Siddurim, Chumashim and other seforim to the bookcases or cart next to the Bimah.

Save the date: Bais Torah Sisterhood invites men and women to see **Dudu Fisher Live** at the Helen Hayes Performing Arts Center in Nyack, New York. Sunday, November 13th, curtain time 7:00 PM. Details to follow.

The gabboyim have completed the **Yom Tov seating** requests and kibbud distribution. They thank all of our members who responded in a timely fashion. Please see a gabbi immediately if you have not yet responded or need to make changes.

Mazel Tov

Zvi and Minca Szachtel on the birth of a grandson, born to Yossi and Shana Szachtel.
Gerry & Suzie Kirshenbaum on the birth of a grandson, born to Josh and Courtney Gelernter of Bergenfield.

Refuah Shelaimah

Ellie Arnot's mother, Rachel Arnot - **חיה רחל בת שושנה**
Michael Rossman's mother, Ilse Rossman - **יעמץ בת שרה**
Shirlee Aaronson - **שרה חנה בת בלומא**
Mr. Shapiro - **חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה**
Jerry and Roz Seigel's son, Yoni - **יהונתן בן שושנה**
Joel Rosenwasser's mother - **פשע לאה בת שפרינצע**
Helen Loebenstein - **הילני בת רחל**

How to Reach Us

Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb 357-3913, rabbigottlieb@yahoo.com

President Peter Katz, 357-0129 peter@pkatech.com

Treasurer Barry Lifschitz, 352-0226, Fax 352-0841 or barry@lifschitz.net

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Yahrtzeit Tikun Moshe Tilson, 426-0976

Chesed Committee Charlie Grandovsky, 425-4683

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

Shul Secretary Esther Garber, 352-1343

Youth Felise Katz 357-0129

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 Esther Garber, 352-1343

Bais Torah Bulletins Email baistorah@taxprof.net, Fax (845) 368-4172, or call (845) 368-2222. To receive e-mail updates, write to baistorah@aol.com. This bulletin is now 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.

Parashat Ki-Tavo – 5765 – Horror, Consolation and Joy

The most striking feature of Parashat Ki-Tavo is the “Tochachah,” the terrifying litany of curses that Moshe Rabbeinu, A”H, warns the Children of Israel will befall them if they abandon the Torah, *“Accursed will you be in the city and accursed will you be in the field... HaShem will cause you to be struck down before your enemies; on one road will you go out against them, but on seven roads will you flee before them... Your carcass will be food for every bird of the sky and animal of the earth, and nothing will frighten them... HaShem will strike you with madness and with blindness, and with confounding of the heart... Your sons and daughters will be given to another people – and your eyes will see and pine in vain for them all day long, but your hand will be powerless... because you did not serve HaShem, your G-d, amid gladness and goodness of heart, when everything was abundant. So you will serve your enemies whom HaShem will send against you in hunger and in thirst, in nakedness and without anything... You will eat the fruit of your womb – the flesh of your sons and daughters – which HaShem had given you – You will be left few in number, instead of having been like the stars of heaven, for you will not have hearkened to the voice of HaShem, your G-d...”* (Devarim 28:16-62...)

And yet, the Haftarah of Ki-Tavo is one of the Seven Haftarot of Consolation. *“Arise! Shine! For your light has arrived, and the Glory of HaShem has shined upon you... Lift your eyes about you and see, all of them assemble, they come to you; your sons from afar shall come, and your daughters shall be brought alongside... Who are these? Like a cloud they fly, like doves to their cote-windows. For unto Me shall the island-dwellers gather, and the ships of Tarshish, as in earlier times, to bring your children from afar, their gold and silver with them, for the sake of HaShem, your G-d, and for the Holy One of Israel, for He has glorified you... No longer shall violence be heard in your Land, nor plunder and breakage within your borders, but you shall call G-d’s salvation your protective walls, and His praise your gateways. You shall no longer have need of the sun for light of day, nor for brightness the moon to illuminate for you; rather HaShem shall be unto you an Eternal Light, and your G-d shall be for your Glory...”* (Yeshayahu 60:1-19...)

We have indeed experienced the horrors of history, in the Holocaust and other torments of our oppressors. And we are beginning to see the light promised by Yeshayahu in the Haftarah in the establishment of the State of Israel, and the return of our children and, in many cases, ourselves, to its borders.

I would like to mention a recent experience that is not unrelated to the idea of “Me’Afelah L’Ohr Gadol,” From Thick Darkness to Bright Light – to exaggerate slightly – or, better, to the idea of “Mitzvah Gedolah Li’heyot BeSimchah Tamid,” It is a Great Command to Always Be Happy. For one can, to a great extent, create his own mood, independent of external circumstances. A concert had been arranged here in Monsey, scheduled to begin at 8 in the evening. As is my wont, I arrived about fifteen minutes late, expecting to find a seat somewhere in the back of the hall. When I did arrive, there was **no one there**, except the owner of the house and the musicians, who were readying themselves for the concert, as if there were a full house! I know that if I had been in their place, I would have felt a combination of feelings of rejection, depression, resentment and anger, which would have rendered me incapable of playing up to my ability. And yet, here were three musicians and three members of the audience (another individual had arrived in the interim). But the band played with joy and fervor, and even rose to dance with the members of the “audience.” They did in fact play the song that is the motto of the Chassidim of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, “It is a Great Command...”

To connect (if somewhat tenuously) the three parts of this essay: the Tochachah, the Haftarah and the concert, I would say that an essential ingredient in “Teshuvah,” Repentance, is to never allow oneself to be deluded into thinking that he or she is estranged from HaShem. It was important for those musicians to play with as much fervor for a tiny audience as for a sellout crowd. For, in the context of sinners, where one has inflicted the injury upon oneself, no matter how far one has fallen away from Him, no matter how lonely or rejected one may feel, it is important to remember that “Les Asar Panui Minei,” There is **No Place** Absent of Him – and the Hand of HaShem is always extended towards the sinner – “If he repents, You will accept him at once.”