

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

December 17, 2005 · 89 West Carlton Rd., Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org מ'ז כסלו שבת פרשת וישלח

ערב שבת פרשת וישלח

הדלקת נרות: 4:11 PM

מנחה: 4:20 PM

Rabbi Gottlieb's שבת הלכות shiur 8:00 PM at the oneg.

שבת פרשת וישלח

שחרית 8:45 AM

סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:34 AM

גמרא שיעור 3:15 PM

מנחה 4:00 PM

סעודה שלישית

מעריב 5:11 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

Sunday -Thursday: 4:20 PM

Second מעריב 8:00 PM

ערב שבת פרשת וישב

הדלקת נרות: 4:14 PM

מנחה: 4:20 PM

Shiurim

Sundays at 8:30 AM – מסכת סנהדרין – 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. Rabbi Luchins is speaking.

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 - ספר מדע - משנה תורה להרמב"ם, ספר מדע – Rabbi Yosef Fischer

Monday through Thursday at 9:45 AM - גמרא 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 at 7:00 PM and Sunday at 9:30 AM – Rabbi Yosef Fischer

Women's תהלים group meets on שבת 45 minutes before מנחה.

Shul Announcements

The next **Oneg Shabbos** is this Friday night, at the home of Ed and Ruth Levi, 7 Wendover Lane at 8:00 PM including Rabbi Gottlieb's שבת הלכות shiur.

Our third annual **Avot U'Banim Learning Program** continues this Motzoei Shabbos, at 6:15 PM in the library. Fathers and grandfathers, bring your progeny to the library, learn together and reward yourselves with a pizza melave malka. Sponsorships (\$36 per session) are invited. Contact Michael Kronenberg at 845.368.1064 or mkronenberg@advgi.com to donate or obtain further information. This week's program is sponsored by the Rosenstocks.

Bais Torah Sisterhood invites all women to a Vital Movement Class and Membership Brunch on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 9:45 a.m. The class will be taught by our inimitable Judith Rose. Vital Movement is a unique program for health and well being for people of all ages and movement capacities. The benefits of regular Vital Movement work include increased flexibility, expanded range of motion, improved balance and coordination, physical strengthening, and stress management.

On Sat. night, Jan. 7, at 8:30 PM, the shul will hear from Philip Rosenthal of the County Sheriff's department about "**Controlling the Internet before it Controls Us: Internet Safety and Tips for Parents and Users.**"

The Deutschs are sponsoring this week's **seudas shlishis** as a hakoras hatov.

Keep us informed. Our shul secretary, Esther Garber, is in the office Mon. through Thurs., 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

Max and Sandra Thurm invite the entire congregation to a kiddush this shabbos, in honor of the engagement of their daughter, Ahuva, to Michael Fichtenberg.

Mazel Tov

Judah and Suzette Munk on the engagement of their granddaughter, Chani Diskind, to Yakov Glazer of Phoenix.

Gerry and Suzie Kirshenbaum on the birth of a grandson, born to Karen and Chayim Kirschenbaum.

Shaul and Kreindy Stern on the engagement of their daughter, Ruchie, to Eli Yurowitz.

Jackie and Diane Schuster on the engagement of their son, Gavriel.

Hamakom Yenachaim

Hinda Kimmel on the p'tira of her mother, Ann Aufrichtig. She will be sitting at home, 15 Pine Road, on Motzei Shabbos only.

Refuah Shelaimah

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

Phil Holzer - ירוחם פישעל בן שרה רבקה

How to Reach Us

Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb 357-3913, rabbigottlieb@yahoo.com – Daytime emergency 362-8362

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

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

Maintenance Yis Helprin 494-7446

Chesed Committee Charlie Grandovsky, 425-4683

Bikur Cholim Eveline Kranzler, 352-8410 and
Chosh Levy, 425-6827

Shul Secretary Esther Garber, 352-1343

Sisterhood Liaison Betty Schloss, 369 – 1833

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.

Yahrtzeit Tikun Moshe Tilson, 426-0976

Simcha Room Reservations/Kiddushim Jack Gross, 357-4121

Eiruv 362-4302

Mikvah 425-6101

Youth Felise Katz 357-0129

Hachnosas Orchim Facility for homeless, Shea Jacobs 425-9617

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 Vayishlach – 5766 **Learning Self-Reliance from the Avot**

When Yaakov's messengers returned with the announcement that Eisav was coming to greet him with four hundred armed men, Yaakov grew very fearful and he prayed to HaShem. (Bereshit 32:10-13) In addition to praying, Yaakov prepared for battle and sent presents to appease Eisav. The fundamental question that arises is why Yaakov did anything besides pray to Hashem. At the beginning of last week's parashah, Hashem told Yaakov, "Behold I am with you; I will guard you wherever you go." (Bereshit 28:15) Why didn't Yaakov rely on Hashem's promise? Rashi explains that Yaakov took these practical precautions because he couldn't rely on his personal merit to consider himself worthy of Hashem's continuous protection.

This is a recurring theme in the lives of the Avos. When Avraham and Sarah went to Egypt (Bereshit 12:10) and to Gerar (Bereshit 20:1), and when Yitzchak and Rivkah went to Gerar (Bereshit 26:1), Avraham and Yitzchak feared for their lives if their hosts were to find out that the women they brought with them were their wives. In each case, they chose to rely on the ruse of saying "she's my sister" rather than call on Hashem to intervene. And indeed, in Bereshit (12:10), the RAMBAN does take Avraham to task for his behavior, "Know that Abraham our father unintentionally committed a great sin by bringing his righteous wife to a stumbling-block of sin on account of his fear for his own life. He should have trusted that G-d would save him and his wife and all his belongings for G-d surely has the power to help and to save..." (trans. by C. Chavel). When Avraham is informed (Bereshit 14:14) that his nephew Lot was captured in the war between the four kings and the five kings, he took action for which he is not criticized at all; namely, he took a battalion of 318 men (or, according to another opinion in the Midrash, he just takes his servant, Eliezer), to fight against the four kings and to retrieve Lot.

Similarly, Yaakov took matters in his own hands when he withheld a bowl of lentil soup from his starving brother until Eisav swore to give him the birthright (Bereshit 25:31) and, at the urging of Rivkah, he wore goatskins to deceive Yitzchak into giving him the blessings that Yitzchak intended for Eisav (Bereshit 27:16). When Lavan tried to rob Yaakov of his fair wages, Yaakov undertook a novel breeding method, possibly learned at the Yeshiva of Shem and Eiver, where he learned how to deal with a hostile world, to make pure white and pure black animals give birth to spotted and speckled offspring (Bereshit 30:37).

What lessons should we take from these stories of the Avos to guide our own lives? Should sick people go to doctors? Should poor people seek a livelihood? Or should they rely on Hashem for support? After all, when Yitzchak and Rivkah were childless for twenty years, one might have thought that Rivkah would have done what Sarah did in the preceding generation, and what both Rachel and Leah did in the succeeding generation; namely, providing a handmaiden for the purpose of having children. Yet the only action that Yitzchak and Rivkah took that is recorded in the Torah is that they prayed to Hashem.

The answer is that both approaches are right and necessary. Yaakov best exemplified this in the way he dealt with Eisav upon returning home: "Doron, Tefilah U'Milchamah," presents, prayer to Hashem and, as a last resort, battle. Other examples are the two Rabbinic Holidays: Chanukah and Purim. Chanukah, now fast approaching, embodies the idea, because the Priests lit the small amount of oil that they had found with great faith that it would last for the full eight days required, by virtue of a Miracle from HaShem. And the Chashmonaim also took their lives in their hands in their military struggle with the far superior military forces of Antiochus. And regarding Purim, we find in Megilat Esther, Mordechai and Esther, acting in tandem, using a two-pronged approach to save the Jewish Community from destruction at the hands of Haman. One prong is public prayer and fasting; the other is the entrapment of Haman by Mordechai and Esther using the human weaknesses of rage, wine, ego and jealousy. Following the examples of our ancestors, we should deal with life using all the natural means at our disposal while all the time relying on Hashem to complement our self-reliance with Divine aid. PF