

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

February 18, 2005 · 89 West Carlton Road, Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org י"ג שבט שנת פרשת יתרו

ערב שבת פרשת יתרו

הדלקת נרות: 5:15 PM

מנחה: 5:20 PM

Rabbi Gottlieb's הלכות שבת shiur at 8:30 PM

שבת פרשת יתרו

שחרית 8:45 AM

סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:29 AM

נמרא שיעור 4:20 PM

מנחה 5:05 PM

סעודה שלישית

מעריב 6:16 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 lectures for women. This week's lecture is by Rabbi Aaron Fink.

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 - Rabbi Yosef Fischer

Monday through Thursday at 9:45 AM - נמרא shiur - Rabbi Leibel Reznick

Friday night at 8:30 PM – Hilchos Shabbos shiur – Rabbi Gottlieb

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 **Avot U'Banim Learning Program** continues this Motzoei Shabbos at 7:15 PM in the library. Parents, children and grandchildren are invited to enjoy the learning, the pizza and the prizes. This week's program is sponsored by the Kronenbergs.

Bais Torah invites everyone to "see the stars appear after Shabbos" at a fun-filled **melave malka** on March 25th. There will be a delicious buffet, a live performance by comedian Marc Weiner and music by Omek Hadavar. Our own rav, Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb will be the emcee. To order tickets to the Melave Malka, send a check payable to Congregation Bais Torah to Ruth Lehmann, 5 Ruth Court, Monsey, NY 10952. Tickets are \$36 each in advance and \$45 at the door. Sponsorships are welcome at \$50 each or \$100 per couple.

For details and further information on shul events, be sure to visit our **website**, www.baistorah.org. To subscribe to **e-mail updates** on late-breaking shul news, write to baistorah@aol.com.

Keep us informed. Are you planning a simcha or special event? To avoid scheduling conflicts, please call Esther Garber, our shul secretary. She is in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

Please reserve Sunday May 14th (Mothers Day) for the shul **Annual Dinner** honoring Steve and Jackie Fessel. Further details and journal ad blanks will be forthcoming shortly. Kindly see Laurence Gordon or Moe Tilson, Dinner Co-Chairs, for further info.

Our twenty-seventh Annual **Siyum Mishnayos** will be celebrated on Sunday evening, March 5th at 6:00 p.m. Guest speaker is Rabbi Yosef Viener, Mora D'Asra of Agudath Israel of Flatbush. He will speak on the topic, "How to Prevent Headaches and Cure the Common Cold: A Torah Hashkofo on Trading in Your Aggravations." For reservations or further information, call Yossi Fischer at 425-2785 or Moshe Kranzler at 352-8410.

Calling all singles 25-35: Sign up for a March 24th-25th **Shabbaton** at Bais Torah sponsored in conjunction with End the Madness. The Shabbaton will be limited to 24 young men and 24 young women hosted by Bais Torah families, but all singles are invited to join the Shabbos luncheon and attend the Motzoei Shabbos Melave Malka at a special rate. For further details, please visit our website, write to baistorah@aol.com or call 426-6499. To register for the Shabbaton, write to SALK1111@aol.com.

Akiva Werber will be the **speaker at sholosh seudos** in shul on Feb 25. This is a non-fund-raising presentation by WZO-Jewish Agency to publicize Aliyha to Israel Programs and Akiva Werber will discuss what's going on and the various Aliyah programs that are available.

The shul will be **baking matzos** on Sun., Feb. 26 at 2:00 PM. If interested in purchasing any, sign up in the shul. If you want to help bake, contact Jossi Lieder at 352-0122 or Jay Kimmel at 357-9571.

Mazel Tov

Ari and Adina Halpert on the engagement of their daughter, Gitty, to Yossi Preiserowicz of Flatbush.

Arthur and Shirley Landau on the birth of a grandson, born to Dena and Kenny Landau.

Hamakom Yenachem

Arthur Landau on the p'tira of his mother, Suri Landau. He will be sitting shiva at his mother's home, 96 College Road, until Tuesday AM.

Due to circumstances, Sunday AM services at the shiva home, will be limited to family members only.

Refuah Shelaimah

Ruth Levi - שרה בת קילה

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

Sandy Rosenwasser - שולמית חנה בת מטל

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.

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 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.

Parashat Yitro – 5766 – “Intelligent Design” and a Great Lady

This Shabbat, we read Parashat Yitro, which contains the Shemot version of the Ten Utterances or the Ten Commandments. These correspond to the Ten Utterances by which the world was created, which can be found in the first chapter of Bereshit and Bereshit 2:18, where the first woman is created.

The Fourth Utterance deals with the observance of the day of Shabbat. The text reads, *“Remember the day of Shabbat to sanctify it. Six days you are to work and accomplish all your tasks. But the seventh day is the Shabbat of HaShem, your G-d; you may not do any work – you, your son, your daughter, your manservant, your maidservant, your animal and the convert within your gates – for in six days, HaShem made the heavens, the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and He rested on the seventh day; Therefore, HaShem blessed the day of Shabbat and sanctified it.”*

Recently, there has been a controversy about the idea of “Intelligent Design.” It seems clear to me that anyone who believes that there is a “Borei Olam,” a Creator, “ipso facto,” by that very fact, must believe that the world was designed not only with intelligence, but with wisdom that is infinite.

I just returned from the “levaya” of Mrs. Sarah Landau, Sarah bat Aharon Tzvi who, together with her beloved husband, Yisrael ben Yissachar Dov HaLevi, A”H, was one of the founders of our shul. The “Maspidim” recalled the fact that she had survived the Holocaust, although most of her family perished in that enormous tragedy that befell our people. After the war, she married her husband, they eventually arrived in the States, and rebuilt their lives.

She was at the center of everything good that happened in our shul, and an excellent example of that was the “mantle,” the decorative cover, that lies on the “bimah,” from which the Torah is read. That cover contains knit duplicates in miniature of the twelve beautiful pictures of symbols of the “Shivtei Kah,” the Tribes of G-d. She assigned one of the miniatures to each of twelve women and then she knit the background, uniting them. As she knit those individual pieces together, it might be said that she knit the shul together.

Arthur, her son, expressed gratitude to his wife, Shirley, for the years of love and loyalty that she displayed first, to her in-laws and afterwards, to her mother-in-law alone, as next-door neighbors. Mrs. Landau loved her family dearly, and she lived to see many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. At the end of her life, she suffered from a disease that usually claims the lives of its victims in a matter of several painful months. She survived with it, without pain according to her physician son, for five years, quite likely due to the “z’chusim,” the merits that she had built up over her lifetime, in which she embodied the “middah,” or characteristic of kindness. One of her granddaughters was pregnant and Sarah expressed the strong desire to live to see the child born. HaShem, the “Meimit U’Mechaye,” who takes life and gives life, allowed her to survive to witness the birth of the first boy born to Kenny and his wife, Dena, after four girls. His “Brit” will occur in a few days, IY”H, during the shivah of his righteous great-grandmother. If that isn’t “Intelligent Design,” what is?

HaShem is the “Tzayar Ha’Olamim,” the Artist of the Worlds, who paints the sunset and the beautiful flowers of spring, and who forms, in the definition of the gemara, one exquisite form within another in the creation of a child. As a Creator, He established the values of physical constants and the strength of nuclear forces with amazing precision, such that if they varied just infinitesimally, the solar system or even galaxies could not exist, much less life on earth. He is the one who designed and fashioned the human body, about which we recite several times a day, “Blessed are You, HaShem our G-d, King of the Universe, Who fashioned Man with wisdom, and created within him many openings and many cavities. It is obvious and known before Your Throne of Glory that if but one of them were to be ruptured or but one of them were to be blocked, it would be impossible to stand before You. Blessed are You, HaShem, who heals all flesh and acts wondrously.” He is also the creator of the spiritual and moral universe, as is laid out in the Ten Utterances of Sinai. He is the one who fashioned the human soul and moral conscience, in accordance with the verse, *“The soul of man is the lamp of G-d, searching out all the chambers of one’s innards” (Mishlei 20:27)* - and designed it such that it can respond to the challenge of *“... You shall be holy for I, HaShem your G-d, am holy.” (VaYikra 19:2)*

And the physical world and the spiritual world are intimately related, in accordance with the verse, *“Thus said HaShem, if not for my brit, my covenant of Torah, I would not have established day and night and the laws of heaven and earth.” (Yirmiyahu 33:25)*

Heartfelt condolences to the Landau Family, scions of the great Noda Bi’Yehudah, Rav Yechezkel Landau, on the loss of their matriarch, Mrs. Sarah Landau, and joyous mazal tov to them for the new arrival, and upon his forthcoming brit, his covenant with the “Ribbono shel Olam” and with his people.

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