

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

June 23, 2007 · 89 West Carlton Road · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org · ז' תמוז שבת פרשת חקת

Welcome Yachad

ערב שבת פרשת חקת

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

שבת פרשת חקת

8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb
שחרית 8:45 AM
סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:11 AM

פרקי אבות 6:30 PM
גמרא שיעור 7:20 PM
מנחה 8:05 PM
סעודה שלישית 9:15 PM

Shiurim

at 8:00 AM – דף היומי – Rabbi Gottlieb
Sundays at 8:30 AM – מסכת סנהדרין – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Mondays at 7:30 PM – מסכת ברכות – Rabbi Chaim Wein
Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Partners in Torah
Wednesdays at 7:30 PM – קהלת – Rabbi Gottlieb
דף היומי I, Monday through Friday 5:25 AM and Sunday at 6:30 AM – Mordechai Rudman
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
דף היומי II, Monday through Thursday 10:00 AM and Sunday at 9:30 AM – Rabbi Yosef Fischer
Women's תהלים group meets on שבת right after the שיעור אבות פרקי אבות.

Shul Announcements

Bais Torah is hosting **11 Yachad members** this Shabbos and we will be honored to hear Divrei Torah from them throughout Shabbos. Please join us at a special Seudas Shlishis. It is co-sponsored by Carl Markowitz and David Abramczik in honor of the Yachad members.

New! The Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation presents **Rabbi Yissochor Frand** and Mr. Raymond Beyda speaking in our shul on the topic of "Ahavas Yisroel" this coming Monday evening, June 25th. Mincha will be at 7:45 p.m. and the presentation will follow at 8:00 p.m. Admission is free. The Chofetz Chaim Foundation will be filming the presentation for future distribution.

We're pleased to announce that the **Sefer Torah written in memory of Rebbetzin Jackie Wein a"h** is nearly complete. The Hachnosas Sefer Torah is planned for October 14th. If you would like to dedicate a Mantel, please contact Michael Kronenberg at mkron@optonline.net.

Are you aware that Bais Torah has a fully stocked **Torah Cassette Library**? This Torah Audio Library, which is located in the back of the main hallway, is open to the entire Monsey community. You can borrow cassettes by visiting the shul and speaking with Rabbi Gottlieb, Yis Helprin, Doniel Cohen, or Jonathan Rosenstock.

Planning a simcha? To avoid choosing a date that **conflicts** with other events, please notify our shul secretary, even if your simcha is not taking place at Bais Torah. Aviva can be reached at 352-1343 or write to aviva@baistorah.org.

The next issue of our **shul newsletter** is about to be published. Anyone interested in placing an advertisement should contact Ruthie Lehmann at baberruthfive@aol.com or 426-6499.

Mazel Tov

Michael and Sharon Kronenberg on the birth of a grandson, Mordechai Yosef, born to Yocheved and Dovid Lisker.
Brian and Debbie Raice Fox on the engagement of their daughter, Batya Raice to Yosef Shuart.
Manny and Marcia Frankel on the engagement of their granddaughter, Batya Raice to Yosef Shuart.

Refuah Shelaimah

Michael Rossman's mother, Ilse Rossman
יעטע בת שרה
Mr. Henry Shapiro
חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה
Ben Zauderer
בנימין בן בילה
Manny London
מנחם מונש בן חנה פרידא
Rachel Gross' sister
לאה בת חנה

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

Sun. through Thurs.: 8:20 PM

ערב שבת פרשת בלק

מנחה: 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:20 PM **
Regular Candle Lighting: 8:15 PM
* Early mincha for the summer
** Shul Accepts Shabbos

זאב דוד בן מרים
Miriam Schiffer's son, Zev Kessin
Ken and Judy Gribetz's grandson, Eitan Witkin
איתן אפרים בן נחמה יטה
Yoel Adler
יואל בן מירלא
Renee Rosenbaum's mother, Fanny York
רחמה פיגל בת רבקה

How to Reach Us

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

President Peter Katz, 357-0129 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-F 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 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

Reb. Wein Sefer Torah Project 368-1064

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.

Parashat Chukat – 5767 – The “Tragicomic Book of BaMidbar”

It has often been said that the Book of BaMidbar is the saddest of the “Chamishah Chumshei Torah,” the Five Books of Moses. This is because in this Book the account is given of the loss of the dream of an entire generation; namely, the dream of those who had been released from slavery, and who had witnessed the Revelation of HaShem at Mount Sinai when they received the Torah, to enter the Holy Land of Israel. The tragedy of this Generation of the Wilderness goes so far as there is a debate concerning its ultimate fate. In Maseches Sanhedrin, Chapter “Chelek,” we find a discussion concerning whether this Generation, along with others, have a “share in the ‘World-to-Come.’”

Rabbi Akiva is involved with his Rebbe, Rabbi Eliezer ben Hyrkanos, in a dispute concerning the ultimate fate of the Generation of the Wilderness. Rabbi Akiva says they “...have no share in the World-to-Come and will not rise for Judgment, based on the verse, *‘In the Wilderness, they will expire, and there they will die.’* (BaMidbar 14:35) Rabbi Eliezer says, ‘About them it is written, ‘Gather for Me My righteous ones, those with whom I made the Covenant of Sacrifice.’ (Tehilim 50:5)”

Is this the Rabbi Akiva that we know?

Rabbi Akiva's view seems to be totally out of character. Isn't he the one who remarked that the most important principle in the Torah is *“And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* (VaYikra 19:18) The Talmud itself notes the apparent deviation by Rabbi Akiva from his usual pleasant and benevolent demeanor. “Rabbah bar bar Chanah said in the name of Rabbi Yochanan, ‘Rabbi Akiva has abandoned his righteousness, for he ignores the words of HaShem regarding the Generation of the Wilderness, *‘I remember for you the affection of your youth, the love of your engagement time; how you followed Me into the Wilderness, into a land that was not sown.’* (Yirmiyahu 2:2) And if their descendants enter the World-to-Come, shouldn't they as well”

A Possible Explanation

I think that a possible explanation for this opinion of Rabbi Akiva that seems out of character, based on the ideas of the “Kedushat Levi” of Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev, is as follows: Rabbi Akiva had himself risen to tremendous spiritual heights. He had entered the “Pardes,” the mystical “Orchard,” where he had found intimate knowledge of HaShem, similar to that obtained by the “Dor De'ah,” the “Generation of Knowledge,” none other than the “Generation of the Wilderness,” that had come closest to HaShem. And he too had come from nowhere, if not from slavery, then from the slavery of ignorance, as an unlettered shepherd who hated Torah scholars and the Torah World.

In describing the experiences of the Generation of the Wilderness, that give insight into why they are also called the “Generation of Knowledge,” the “Kedushat Levi” says in his writings on Shavuot, “The ‘Generation of the Wilderness’ saw the Miracles that occurred at the Sea and they saw at the Sea the Greatness of the Creator, Blessed is He, as our Sages, Z”L, have said (Mechilta Beshalach, the “Shirah;” 3) ‘The lowly handmaiden saw at the Sea what Yechezkel ben Buzi did not see in his ‘Vision of the Chariot.’ And they said, **‘This is my G-d, and I shall beautify Him.’** (Shemot 9:2) And they also stood at the time of the Giving of the Torah and saw then also the Infinite Greatness of the Creator (“Zohar HaKadosh,” Part 2, 82a). Thus it turns out that there was nothing left for them to see in the ‘World-to-Come’ that they hadn't already seen in ‘This-World.’ See also the ‘Shelah’ on the verse (Devarim 5:21-22), *‘And they said, behold, HaShem has shown us His Glory and His Greatness, and now, why should we die?’*” “Kedushat Levi” also says, in Parshat Shelach, regarding the verse in BaMidbar 20:1 concerning the death of Miriam by a “Mitat Neshikah,” a Divine Kiss, as we learn by a derivation from “shom” – “shom” from the death of Moshe, this applies as well to the Generation of the Wilderness, about whom it is written, “...ve-**shom** yamutu;” the same verse cited by Rabbi Akiva, and there they will die, implying that their deaths were also by “mitat neshikah.” Thus Rabbi Akiva meant his remarks only in their great praise, saying that they had no need to die, rise and be judged in the “World-to-Come,” because they had already experienced that intimate contact with their Creator in “This-World.” PF