

# CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

November 10, 2007 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org · כ"ט מרחשון שבת פרשת תולדות

## Aufruf of Dov Erdfarb

### ערב שבת פרשת תולדות

הדלקת נרות 4:25 PM

מנחה 4:30 PM

שקיעה 4:43 PM

### שבת פרשת תולדות

דף היומי 8:00 AM - Rabbi Gottlieb

שחרית 8:45 AM

סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:09 AM

מברכים החודש כסלו

גמרא שיעור 3:25 PM

מנחה 4:10 PM

שקיעה 4:42 PM

סעודה שלישית

מעריב 5:24 PM

ראש חודש) 7:45 AM שחרית *Sunday*

*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.: 4:25 PM

Second מעריב 8:00 PM

ערב שבת פרשת ויצא

הדלקת נרות 4:19 PM

מנחה 4:25 PM

שקיעה 4:37 PM

## Shiurim

Sundays at 8:30 AM – מסכת סנהדרין – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Partners in Torah

Wednesdays at 8:15 PM – מלכים א – Rabbi Yisroel 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 - ברכות – 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 45 minutes before מנחה.

## Shul Announcements

Please join us for our first **Oneg Shabbos** and Hilchos Shabbos Shiur of the season, this Friday night, November 9th at the home of Yussie and Fayge Deutsch at 8:15 PM.

The entire congregation is invited to a **Kiddush** sponsored by Stuart and Pamela Erdfarb in honor of the aufruf of their son, Dov.

**סעודה שלישית** is being sponsored by Stuart and Pamela Erdfarb in honor of Dov's aufruf

We're pleased to announce that Bais Torah's popular **Avos U'Banim** program will resume this Motzoei Shabbos, November 10th at 6:15 in the Library. This week's program is sponsored by David and Ruth Lehmann. Bring your children or grandchildren each week - everyone is welcome! There will be hot pizza on hand and a chance for participants to win prizes. Sponsorships are invited at \$50 per session and all information will be listed on our website. For further details, please contact Michael Kronenberg at [mkron1950@optonline.net](mailto:mkron1950@optonline.net) or call 368-1064.

There will be a **general membership** meeting this Sunday 10:30 AM, November 11th. There is a full agenda of important topics to be considered and voted upon. All full members in good standing are urged to attend.

Save December 14th and 15th for our **Carlebach Shabbos**. Dr. Eli Kranzler and Rabbi Abraham Twerski will be joining us for davening, the seudah Friday Night, zmirot and an oneg. More information to follow.

Get great discounts with the **Ultimate Kosher Discount Card** for \$18. Available from Aviva at our shul office (352-1343) or Leslie Goldress (352-3257).

All **coats left** in the coatroom from last year will be given away after November 30. Please check that there is nothing that you want in the coatroom that belongs to you.

## Mazel Tov

Stuart and Pamela Erdfarb on the aufruf of their son, Dov.

Josh and Miriam Pomeranz on the birth of a granddaughter, Malka Yehudis, born to Zev Kalman and Elana Pomeranz.

Irving and Ruth Malinowitz upon the birth of a grandson, born to Yankee and Chavigale Horowitz of Baltimore, Maryland.

Irwin and Eve Hollander on the birth of twin grandchildren, a boy and a girl, born to Pesy and Tobie Hollander.

Richard and Kay Greenblatt on the birth of a granddaughter, Natalie Ann, born to Jennifer and Ayal Korczak.

## Refuah Shelaimah

Mr. Henry Shapiro -

חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה

Ben Zauderer - ביליה בן בנימין

Manny London - חנה פרידא בן מנחם מונש

Ken and Judy Gribetz's grandson, Eitan Witkin -

איתן אפרים בן נחמה יטה

יואל בן מירלא - Yoel Adler

Tova Eizik's grandson - יעקב יונתן בן חנה רייזל

Renee Rosenbaum's mother, Fanny York -

רחמה פייגל בת רבקה

Yossie Stern's granddaughter -

ציפורה יהודית בת דינה רבקה

## 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 Toldos – 5768 – A Mini-Inquiry into the Personality of Yitzchak “Avinu”

The name of this week’s Parashah, *“Toldos Yitzchak”* invites us to focus on Yitzchak “Avinu,” and examine his life based on the following five perspectives:

- 1) The significance of his name
- 2) The effect upon him of the Akeidah
- 3) His unique holiness and the prohibition of him ever leaving Eretz Yisrael
- 4) His relationship with his two sons, Yaakov and Esav
- 5) His relationship with his mother, Sarah and his wife, Rivkah

1) **His Name** – Built on the “shoresh” of “Tzechok,” meaning “Laughter.” We know that there are at least five kinds of laughter, and each kind played a role in Yitzchak’s life:

**Laughter of Amazement with Belief:** As in *“And Avraham fell upon his face and laughed”* (Bereshis (17:17)) out loud when HaShem informed of Yitzchak’s impending birth

**Laughter of Amazement with Disbelief:** As in *“And Sarah laughed inwardly...”* (Bereshis (18:12)) – She had seen and felt too much evidence of impossibility within natural law; she was post-menopausal, felt the impossibility of *“after I have dried up, can I feel delight? - and my master is very old.”*(*ibid.*)

**Derisive Laughter:** As in *“And Sarah saw the son of Hagar, the Egyptian woman, laughing”* (Bereshis (21:9))

**Joyous Laughter:** As in *“The L-rd has performed an hilarious act for me; everyone who hears of it will laugh with me.”*( Bereshis (21:6))

**Laughter of Physical Intimacy:** As in *“...And Avimelech, King of the Philistines looked through the window and behold! Yitzchak was bringing his wife Rivkah to laughter.”* (Bereshis (26:8)) We may gain an insight into how this Tzaddik could have engaged in sexual intimacy in a non-private manner, in the following discussion:

2) **Effect of the “Akeidah”** – Although “Akeidat Yitzchak” is considered the tenth “nisayon,” or test, of the Faith of Avraham “Avinu,” it was Yitzchak who played the role of the “Olah Temimah,” the Perfect Sacrifice. Before he knew that he was to be the sacrifice, the Chumash tells us, *“And they walked together.”* And even after Avraham told him that he would be the sacrifice, we find the same language, *“and they walked together.”* However, the Midrash tells us that as Yitzchak lay on the Altar under his father’s upraised knife, the Angels cried, and their tears entered his eyes. According to that Midrash, it was **those tears that caused his blindness** later in life, when he had to deal with the question of which of his sons to bless, Yaakov or Esav.

3) **His Unique Holiness** – It is quite likely that one of the effects of Yitzchak’s being the intended sacrifice, as indeed, the Test is called “Akeidas Yitzchak,” the Binding of **Yitzchak**, which Yitzchak requested of his father lest he at the last moment move, and render the **sacrifice of himself unfit**. He had the unique status of having been offered on the Altar. It was that holiness that obligated him never to leave the Holy Land. But it was also true that it was only because HaShem cancelled the sacrifice that he survived; that he retained his physical existence. It may be that having been the sacrifice at the Akeidah was a double-edged sword in its effect upon Yitzchak. While it did indeed confer upon him a unique holiness, it also caused an inevitable response from him, of focusing on his physical existence that was nearly lost, and on the physicality of others.

4) **Relationship with Yaakov and Esav** – That may have blinded him, as well, to the negative aspects of Esav’s physicality when the time came to bless the son who would succeed him as the third of the Avot. It was only Rivkah’s clearer perspective regarding her sons’ activities and motherly understanding of their characters, that enabled her to set into motion the plan which avoided the tragedy of Yitzchak blessing Esav. It may also have been the aspect of his personality, triggered by the Akeidah, **that caused him to focus on physicality**, that is responsible for his intimate behavior with Rivkah that Avimelech witnessed.

5) **Yitzchak’s Relationships with Sarah and Rivkah** – Yitzchak had grown up in the home of Avraham and Sarah. It was Sarah who brought out his inner life, who taught him, as Rav Soloveitchik said about his own mother, the inner content of Judaism. According to the Midrash, so great was her holiness that while she lived, a light burned from Erev Shabbos to Erev Shabbos, the dough she baked was invested with blessing and a Cloud of Glory was encamped over her tent. Rivkah had a lot to live up to as she was brought by her husband into the *“tent of Sarah his mother.”*(Bereshit (24:67)) But those signs of holiness which had stopped when Sarah died, returned with Rivkah’s arrival. Perceiving this, Yitzchak was spiritually able to leave the embrace of his mother and enter that of his wife.