

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

August 30, 2008 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org כ"ט אב שבת פרשת ראה

ערב שבת פרשת ראה

מנחה 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:15 PM
שקיעה 7:33 PM

ראשית שבת פרשת ראה

דף היומי 8:00 AM
שחרית 8:45 AM
סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:39 AM
מברכים החודש אלול
פרקי אבות 5:25 PM
גמרא שיעור 6:15 PM
מנחה 7:00 PM
שקיעה 7:32 PM
סעודה שלישית 8:14 PM

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM (ראש חודש)

Weekday שחרית

Mon.: 7:45 AM (ראש חודש) (Begin Shofer) (Labor Day)
Tues., Wed. and Fri.: 6:30 and 7:45 AM
Thurs.: 6:20 and 7:45 AM

Weekday מנחה-מעריב

Sun. through Thurs.: 7:10 PM

ערב שבת פרשת שופטים

מנחה 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:04 PM
שקיעה 7:22 PM

* Early Mincha for the Summer

Shiurim

Sundays at 8:30 AM – סנהדרין – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Partners in Torah
Tuesdays at 8:00 PM – Ladies Mishnayos Class - **Rabbi Avromy Fein - Beginning September 9 – New Class**
Wednesdays at 8:15 PM – מלכים א – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb – Will resume in the fall.
דף היומי I, Monday through Friday 5:25 AM and Sunday at 6:30 AM – Mordechai Rudman
דף היומי II, Monday through Friday 7:00 AM – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
דף היומי III, Sunday through Thursday 9:45 AM – Rabbi Yosef Fischer
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
Women's תהלים group meets on שבת 45 minutes before מנחה.

Shul Announcements

סעודה שלישית is sponsored by Yis Helprin commemorating his father's yahrtzeit.

There will be a **Seudah Shelishis** on September 6, a farewell to Murray and Phyllis Kuhr who are moving to Israel.

Please reserve Sunday morning, September 7th, 10:00 a.m. for a Breakfast Lecture and Book Signing with Rabbi Berel Wein, who will be speaking on "The Story of the Mishna: Its Relevance to Our Times." Rabbi Wein will also autograph his new book, "The Oral Law of Sinai." The book retails for \$39.99 but will be available at the breakfast for a special book signing price of \$25. All are welcome to attend.

Bais Torah is **selling wine** for Yom Tov. You will soon receive the wine list in the mail. Orders can be placed through Sunday, September 14 and delivery to shul should take place within one week after that.

An entertaining and informative day awaits those who sign up for Bais Torah's "**Memories of the Lower East Side**" on Sunday, September 14th. Participants will visit the landmark Lower East Side Eldridge Street Synagogue and go on a Tenement Museum walking tour. Round trip transportation from Bais Torah is included in the cost, which is only \$40 per person. Lunch at a local restaurant of your choice is additional. Since only a limited group can be accommodated on this special trip, be sure to contact Doris Newman promptly at 352-2816 or email dorison0805@aol.com to reserve your place.

The new **Ultimate Kosher Discount Card** is here and ready for you. There are wonderful discounts for Ruthie's Unique Boutique, Dunkin' Donuts, The Purple Pear, Wesley Kosher, and much more! They are available with Aviva in our shul office (352-1343) or Leslie Goldress (352-3257). Each card is \$18 (made payable to Jewish Family Service--Bais Torah makes \$5/card). The card is good for one year.

The shul has acquired **new seforim** that are available for sponsorship. See our web site, www.baistorah.org and click on resources and then seforim for the list or contact Jack Gross.

Mazel Tov

Jack and Rachel Gross on Meytal making Aliyah.

Marvin and Sally Borgen on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Shimmy, son of Reva and Yumi Borgen of Cedarhurst.

Stuart and Pamela Erdfarb on the birth of a grandson, born to Ari and Ilana Erdfarb.

Refuah Shelaimah

Henry Shapiro - מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה

Manny London - מנחם מונש בן חנה פרידא

Ken and Judy Gribetz's grandson-

איתן אפרים בן נחמה יטה

Tova Eizik's grandson - יעקב יונתן בן חנה רייזל

Esther Lutwak - אסתר מלכה בת קילה

Bob Schore - חיים ראובן בן הענדל יהודית

Suzie Kirshenbaum's father- יוסף בן שרה

Bella Helprin's mother- פיגע בת חיה רבקה

Joel Rosenwasser's parents-

שמעון בן בלומא רבקה

פשע לאה בת שפרינצא

Ben Zauderer - בנימין בן בילה

Lenny Wulwick - לייב יוסף בן חיה

Larry Seligson - אריה לייב בן 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 Schmitter 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 Re'eh - 5768 - "Ma'achalos Asuros" – Forbidden Foods A Torah and Sociological Perspective

This week's Parshah, Re'eh, opens with Moshe placing, as it were, a classic choice before the Jewish People; namely, to choose between behavior designed to give someone a life of "brachah," blessing, or behavior that would result in a life of "k'lalah," curse. The litmus test would be whether one's behavior was in accord with the "Mitzvos," the commandments of HaShem, or not. One group of commandments presented in this Parshah, and tied in with our holiness as a People, are those relating to "ma'achalos asuros," food items forbidden by the Torah for its adherents to eat.

There are various ways of understanding these Divinely ordained laws based, of course, on the assumption that our understanding is **not necessary** in order for us to obey them. One classic approach, associated with the RAMBAM, Maimonides of the twelfth century, is that they are actually physically harmful. On the other hand, according to the RAMBAN, Nachmanides, of the thirteenth century, the eating of birds or animals of prey is psychologically harmful. And the Midrash emphasizes the aspect of "timtum ha-lev," "hardening," so to speak, of the spiritual arteries, that is a consequence of eating non-kosher foods.

There was an early debate among CHAZAL on the subject of how a Jew should feel when confronted with the smell of, let's say for argument's sake, a basic "treife meichel," bacon and eggs. One opinion is that the Jew should train him/herself to feel repulsed by the smell. The other opinion is that the Jew should be more intellectually honest assuming, of course, that the smell is experienced as being pleasant, and say inwardly, "**I do desire it**, but what shall I do? My Father in Heaven has forbidden it to me."

The OU alone, the largest Kashrus-Certifying agency in the world, supervises over 250,000 food products. That's a lot of cookies and candy bars. Nabisco (including Oreo), Three Musketeers, Godiva Chocolate (given the first three letters of the company name, they really had little choice) have all come, so to speak, "under the wings" of the OU. And even though there is still some opposition (mainly from Jewish quarters), it appears that Kashrus is now accepted as a rational, healthy, even moral, form of diet.

The subject presented here really has major sociological reverberations in the context of early twenty first century America, with Kashrus Organizations growing and proliferating, but remaining part of a picture "even bigger" than Kashrus, of general acceptance of Orthodox Jews at all levels of American society. One of the serious candidates for the Republican Party's nomination for the Second-Highest Office in the Land, Senator Joseph Lieberman, is an Orthodox Jew, with his co-religionists well represented in the scientific community, the legal and medical professions, and the business world.

Large factions of Orthodox Jewish families and individuals are streaming to Israel from America, and from elsewhere in the West, aided in many cases by the organization known as "Nefesh B'Nefesh," "Soul-to-Soul." And the image of the State of Israel as a moral force among the nations, despite relentless negative propaganda issuing from our Muslim enemies, is rising, with its excellence in all areas of medical research, agriculture and the sharing of its knowledge with the "Third World" and its striving for peace.

However, in order to capitalize on this potential "Kiddush HaShem," Sanctification of G-d's Name, the rest of us Jews who claim to be "Orthodox," and attempt to live according to the rules of the Torah, must shoulder the burden that now rests upon us, perhaps now even more than it did in the past. Issues of honesty, morality, ethics, "mentschlich-keit" arise in all of our lives; personal, social, business and professional. We must rise to the challenge of living the way our Father in Heaven wants us to; to act, and to be, "a holy People, to HaShem, your G-d..." our description, in today's Parshah, at the end of the section on "Ma'achalos Asuros." PF