

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

November 29, 2008 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org ב' כסלו שבת פרשת תולדות

ערב שבת פרשת תולדות

הדלקת נרות 4:11 PM

מנחה 4:20 PM

שקיעה 4:29 PM

שיעור הלכות שבת 8:00 PM

שבת פרשת תולדות

דף היומי 8:00 AM

שחרית 8:45 AM

סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:22 AM

גמרא שיעור 3:15 PM

מנחה 4:00 PM

שקיעה 4:29 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

Sun. through Thurs.: 4:15 PM

Mon. through Thurs.: 8:00 PM

ערב שבת פרשת ויצא

הדלקת נרות 4:09 PM

מנחה 4:15 PM

שקיעה 4:27 PM

Shiurim

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

Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Partners in Torah

Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Ladies Mishnayos Class- Rabbi Avromy Fein

Wednesdays at 8:15 PM – מלכים א – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb.

שיעור הלכות שבת 8:00 PM – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

דף I, Monday through Friday 5:25 AM and Sunday at 6:30 AM – Mordechai Rudman

דף II, Monday through Friday 7:00 AM – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

דף III, Sunday through Thursday 9:45 AM – Rabbi Yosef Fischer

Monday through Friday at 7 AM - ירושלמי - ברכות – Mordechai Rudman

Monday through Friday after the second שחרית עם רשי - פרשת השבוע עם רשי – Rabbi Yosef Fischer

Monday through Thursday at 9:45 AM - גמרא שיעור - Rabbi Leibel Reznick

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

Shul Announcements

סעודה שלישית this week is being sponsored by Seymour and Raizie Lutwak.

Avos U'Banim meets this Motzoei Shabbos at 6:15 PM in the Library and is being sponsored by The Rhines. Bring your children and grandchildren for hot pizza and a chance to win prizes. Weekly sponsorships are invited at \$50 per session and all information is listed on our website. For details, contact Jonathan Rosenstock at (845)369-6349.

Now through Dec. 4th: Get an early bird discount on our **Carlebach Shabbos** December 19th and 20th. Yisroel Williger and Rabbi Eliyahu Bergstein will join us Friday night for an evening of joyous zemiros, divrei hisorerus and a delicious Seudas Shabbos. Prepaid reservations through December 4th are \$36 per person and can be made by contacting Aviva in shul at 352-1343. Discounted sponsorships starting at \$100 are available before December 4th by calling Rachel Gross at 357-4121.

Reminder: December 12th Oneg Shabbos, at the home of Ruth and Edwin Levi, 7 Wendover Lane, at 8:00 PM.

Sisterhood's Ladies Night Out will feature dinner and Zumba dancing and great prizes! Lovely hats will also be sold and those proceeds will go for tzedakah in Israel. Let Hinda Kimmel (357-9571) know you'll be there (6:30 p.m. on December 15, 2008 at Max and Sandra Thurm's home).

The narrative of the memorable events in the life of **Henry Shapiro**-as detailed by him at his 91st birthday seudah- is now available on loan to our members. See Jack Gross for details.

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

Ken and Judy Gribetz on the marriage of their children, Lisa and Jeff Lederer.

Alan and Malkie Zamore on the birth of a grandson, Simcha Yonatan Yaakov, born to Donny and Arielle Rosenberg.

Seymour and Raizie Lutwak on the birth of their granddaughter, Ayla Marley, born to Moshe and Shana Lutwak.

Esther Lutwak on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Ayla Marley, born to Moshe and Shana Lutwak.

Morty and Phyllis Appleton on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Ayla Marley, born to Moshe and Shana Lutwak.

Henry and Anne Shapiro on the engagement of their grandson, David Levy, to Sarah Schlagman of Rochester.

Refuah Shelaimah

Henry Shapiro- חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה

Manny London מנחם מונש בן חנה פרידא

Tova Eizik's grandson - שלמה 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

פסע לאה בת שפרינצא

Ben Zauderer - בנימין בן בילה

Lenny Wulwick - לייב יוסף בן חיה

Larry Seligson - אריה לייב בן רבקה

Leni Loebenstein - הלני בת רחל

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

Chosh Levy, 425-6827

Eiruv 362-4302

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 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.

TOLDOS

The conflict between Yitzchak and Rivkah over the future of their oldest son Eisav is reflected in the dramatic story of the blessings of Yitzchak. Yitzchak is apparently convinced that his blessings may yet transform Eisav and save him from the abyss of Hell where he is heading. Rivkah, a more realistic pragmatist, performs an act of triage in sending forth Yaakov to obtain his father's blessings at almost all cost.

Yaakov is a very reluctant participant in the struggle against Eisav. He does not raise his claim to his father that Eisav had in fact sold to him the rights to the blessings. He does the bidding of his mother and wears the clothing of Eisav, thus misleading his father as to who is actually appearing before him. And when Yitzchak asks Yaakov "who are you?" Yaakov answers "I am your eldest son Eisav."

Apparently this statement of Yaakov's contradicts his entire essence of being a truthful, serene simple person. Rashi interprets Yaakov's statement as being divided into two distinct parts. One is "I am" and the second part is "Eisav is your eldest son." Everything in this formulation is absolutely true, though it is obvious that this interpretation is not the literal simple explanation of the verse.

Nevertheless, Rashi seems to insist that this formulation of the words of Yaakov is the correct one and should be adopted when studying this parsha and its deeper meaning. What does Rashi see in the verse that allows him to offer up this interpretation as the mandatory one of the verse?

I have always felt that the interpretation lay in the first part of Yaakov's answer "I am." The core of Judaism is that a person must have an acute and accurate awareness of one's self. If a person feels that he or she is only part of the herd and has little or no self-awareness then it is impossible to grow spiritually and intellectually.

We have a tendency to judge ourselves through the prism of external factors. Wealth, age, appearance, career success, public opinion, and other factors completely external to our true selves blind us to our true essence. The great rebbe of Kotzk, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Morgenstern (Halperin) stated: "If I am I and you are you, then I am I and you are you. But if I am you and you are me then I am not I and you are not you."

Yaakov tells his father "I am" – I am I and not a creature of external forces, drives and ambitions. I am here because through me the Jewish people will be built. That is my essence and my soul and my mission in life. Eisav on the other hand is formed by purely external factors – jealousy, physical desires, violence, greed and station in life. His claim to fame is that he is your son but that is an external accomplishment not related to his true identity. The blessing to which I am entitled can in no way help Eisav for he has no permanent deep self-identity. He will live by the sword but no lasting holy people with a divine and eternal mission can be built from him.

So "I am" is the correct response of Yaakov to his father Yitzchak.

Shabat shalom.

Rabbi Berel Wein