

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

July 4, 2009 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org י"ב תמוז שבת פרשת חקת-בלק

ערב שבת פרשת חקת-בלק

מנחה 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:20 PM **
Regular Candle Lighting 8:14 PM
שקיעה 8:32 PM

שבת פרשת חקת-בלק

8:00 AM דף היומי
8:45 AM שחרית
9:15 AM סוף זמן קריאת שמע

6:25 PM פרקי אבות
7:15 PM Contemporary Halachic Issues
8:00 PM מנחה
8:32 PM שקיעה
סעודה שלישית
9:14 PM מעריב

Sunday שחרית 7:45 AM

Weekday שחרית

Mon.: 6:20 and 7:45 AM
Tues., Wed. and Fri.: 6:30 and 7:45 AM
Thurs.: 6:20 and 7:45 AM (Fast Day)

Weekday מעריב

Sun. thru Wed.: 8:20 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM

ערב שבת פרשת פינחס

מנחה 7:00 PM *
הדלקת נרות 7:20 PM **
Regular Candle Lighting 8:12 PM
שקיעה 8:30 PM

* Early Mincha for summer

** Shul Accepts Shabbos

Shiurim

Sundays at 8:30 AM – מסכת סנהדרין – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Partners in Torah
Tuesdays at 8:15 PM – Ladies Mishnayos Class- Rabbi Avromy Fein- **Will resume in the fall.**
Wednesdays at 8:30 PM – Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb.- **Will resume in the fall.**
Friday at 6:25 PM - Rabbi Yosef Fischer - Parshas Hashavua.
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 - גמרא מסכת חלה - ירושלמי - 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 פרקי אבות.

Shul Announcements

Times for י"ז בתמוז Thurs. July 9. Fast begins: 4:20 AM Fast Ends: 9:10 PM
סעודה שלישית this week is sponsored by Ron Loewenstein and Gerry Kirshenbaum.
There is a **Board of Directors** meeting Monday evening, after mariv
Ladies: **Zumba** will be continuing for 5 Tuesday evenings in the Multi-Purpose Room starting June 23rd at 8:15 PM. Call 357-9571 or 369-1833 with any questions.
New date for **Kosher Food Pantry**: Friday, July 3rd. Please bring your cans of fruit by that day and drop it into the bin in shul.
The **Adult Education** Committee has planned several special events for the upcoming weeks. On Sunday, July 12th, view a special movie in our Simcha Room entitled "My Father, My Lord." A visit to the Holocaust Center in Spring Valley is planned for July 19th and on Sunday, July 26th, there will be a Yom Iyun and light breakfast in shul. Stay tuned for further details.
New **Kosher Discount Card** is now available. Cost is \$18.00. It benefits Bais Torah and Jewish Family Service. Contact Aviva at 352-1343 or Leslie at 352-3257.
On Tuesday night, nearly 40 Bais Torah members and friends had the pleasure of attending the opening night of "Russian Fest" at Lincoln Center. The program of works by Russian composers was enthusiastically received - and the conductor's introductions were both humorous and informative. **Thanks** to Sandra Thurm and the Adult Education Committee for this lovely evening.

Mazel Tov

Abe and Phyllis Frankel on the birth of a granddaughter, born to Daniel and Anita Frankel.
Chatz and Libby Lazarus on the engagement of their son, Ezra, to Ruthi Itzkowitz of Kew Gardens.
Yosef and Barbara Fischer on the birth of a granddaughter, born to David and Tanya Fischer of New Haven, CT.

Refuah Shelaimah

Henry Shapiro - חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה
Manny London - מנחם מושג 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

Ben Zauderer - בנימין בן בילה-
Joel Rosenwasser's mother -
פשע לאה בת שפרינצא
Larry Seligson - אריה לייב בן רבקה
Leni Loebenstein - הילני בת רחל
Eileen Frommer's father - חיים יונה בן חנה
Irwin Citron - יצחק מרדכי בן בלימה

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.

Parshios Chukas-Balak – 5769 – Bilaam and the Source of Evil

Each morning, in “Tefilas Shacharis,” right after “Borechu,” we pronounce the Blessing, “Blessed are You, HaShem, our G-d, King of the Universe, Who forms Light and creates Darkness, Who makes Peace and creates All.” This is based loosely on the verse in *Yeshayahu (45:7)* [I am the One] Who forms Light and creates Darkness, Who makes Peace and **creates Evil**; I am HaShem, maker of all these.” What is most striking in this verse is, of course, that HaShem identifies Himself as the Creator of Evil. One thinks of HaShem as altogether Good, so at first glance, His Being the Creator of Evil is quite puzzling. But upon further reflection, one of the gifts that HaShem gave to human beings was “Bechirah Chofshis,” the Freedom to choose between Good and Evil. Without the above verse in *Yeshayahu*, one might ask, “What is the Source of Evil?” And indeed, without that verse, Moshe’s statement to the People of Israel in his valedictory address, “See – I have placed before you today the Life and the Good, and the Death **and the Evil**,” (*Devarim 30:15*) would be very problematical, for “Whence the Evil?” – Moshe surely did not create it!

This ties in well with the second Parshah that we read this Shabbas. Balak, King of Moav, having seen the fate of Sichon and Og, described at the end of Parshas Chukas, who attempted to confront Israel on the battlefield, and earned ignominious defeat for their efforts, was terrified at the approach of Israel. He attempted to enlist the services of the prophet Bilaam ben Beor, the prophet given by HaShem to the nations of the world to show that he did not play favorites when he gave Moshe, who rose by his own effort to become the “Master of the Prophets,” to the People of Israel. But Bilaam abused his potential for greatness terribly. Whereas Moshe had sought to understand the nature of HaShem, as we find, “And he said, ‘Show me, I beg of You, Your Glory’” (*Shemos 33:18*), Bilaam, instead of following Moshe’s example, which he had the spiritual power to do, sought the infinitesimal moment of HaShem’s Anger, the **Source of Evil in the World** and made his “specialty” the destruction of nations by cursing them at precisely that moment of G-d’s Anger.

Whereas the Torah describes Moshe as, “Now the man Moshe was exceedingly humble, more than any person on the face of the earth” (*Bamidbar 12:3*) – as one who chose to be erased from the Torah as he said in his dialogue with HaShem when the People of Israel sinned with the Golden Calf, “And now if You would but forgive their sin! – but if not, erase me now from this Book that You have written” (*Shemos 32:32*) – a vastly different portrait is painted of Bilaam, who could have been Moshe’s equal. Bilaam is portrayed as a man of tremendous ego, which caused him to over-estimate his worth to ridiculous proportions. He hinted at the price he would demand from Balak upon the success of his mission, “...If Balak would give me his entire palace filled with silver and gold...” (*Bamidbar 22:18*) He shows us a picture of one driven insane by hatred – “Hatred has the power to defy logic” – when he refuses to obey a Command from the Highest Authority, “And Almighty G-d said to Bilaam, ‘Do not go with them; do not attempt to curse the People, for it is blessed’” (*Bamidbar 22:12*). Nor did he listen to an Angel of the L-rd. And he engages in a pathetic dialogue **with his donkey** when she tries to rescue him from disaster.

At the end of the Haftarah, the Prophet Michah summarizes the conclusion we should reach upon considering the Torah’s description of the great brothers and their sister, “When I brought you up from the Land of Egypt and redeemed you from the House of Bondage, I sent before you Moshe, Aharon and Miriam” (*Michah 6:4*). And the evil King and his Prophet: “O My People, remember now what Balak plotted and what Bilaam son of Beor answered him...(*Michah 6:5*) And, spelling out the lesson of the Parshah for us, Michah writes, “With what shall I approach HaShem, to humble myself before the G-d of the Heavens?...He has told you, O man, what is good, and what HaShem seeks from you; only the performance of justice, the love of kindness, and walking humbly with your G-d.” (*Michah 6:6, 8*)