

# CONGREGATION Bais TORAH

January 1, 2010 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · [www.baistorah.org](http://www.baistorah.org) טו' טבת ערב שבת פרשת ויחי

## ערב שבת פרשת ויחי

הדלקת נרות 4:20 PM  
מנחה 4:25 PM  
שקיעה 4:38 PM  
Shiur הלכות שבת 8:15 PM

## שחרית Weekday

Sunday 7:45 AM  
Mon. and Thurs.: 6:20 and 7:45  
Tues., Wed., and Fri.: 6:30 and 7:45 AM

## שבת פרשת ויחי

דף היומי 8:00 AM  
שחרית 8:45 AM  
סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:41 AM  
Shiur גמרא 3:25 PM  
מנחה 4:10 PM  
שקיעה 4:39 PM  
סעודה שלישיית מעריב 5:21 PM

## מנחה-מעריב Weekday

Sun. thru Thurs.: 4:35 PM  
Mon. thru Thurs.: 8:00 PM

## ערב שבת פרשת שמות

הדלקת נרות 4:27 PM  
מנחה 4:35 PM  
שקיעה 4:45 PM

## Shiurim

Women's תהלים group מנדל בת מנחם לז'נ פייגל meets on שבת 45 minutes before מנחה.  
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  
Wednesdays at 8:15 PM – מלכים ב' – 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  
גמרא מסכת סוכה - ירושלמי - Monday through Friday at 7 AM – Mordechai Rudman  
נבאים - שחרית - Monday through Friday after the second  
גמרא שיעור - Monday through Thursday at 9:45 AM - Rabbi Leibel Reznick

## Shul Announcements

סעודה שלישיית is available for sponsorship

**Avos U'Banim:** Meets Motzoei Shabbos at **6:30 pm.** in the Bais HaMedrash. Bring your children and grandchildren for a wonderful evening of Torah learning, hot pizza and prizes for all. This week's learning is sponsored by the Kronenbergs, in memory of Michael's father, Rabbi Mordechai Joseph Kronenberg z"l.

New collection date for **Kosher Food Pantry** is Wed., Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>

Please join us in the Simcha Room for a **breakfast on January 17th** featuring Rabbi Binyamin Hamburger, founder of Machon Moreshes Ashkenaz, who will speak about Minhagei Ashkenaz, the history and source of Ashkenazic tradition, which he has researched extensively and actively supports through his organization. Donation \$10, free to Bais Torah members.

If you would like to add a d'var torah, or sponsor the **Bais Torah Youth Newsletter, Toras Habayis**, please send all submissions to: [torashabayis.baistorah@gmail.com](mailto:torashabayis.baistorah@gmail.com)

## Mazal Tov

Shira Steinberg on the marriage of her children, Mattis and Shira Steinberg.

## Refuah Shelaimah

חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה - Henry Shapiro  
מנחם מונש בן חנה פרידא - Manny London  
שלמה יעקב יונתן בן חנה רייזל - Tova Eizik's grandson  
אסתר מלכה בת קילה - Esther Lutwak  
חיים ראובן בן הענדל יהודית - Bob Schore  
יוסף בן שרה - Suzie Kirshenbaum's father  
יצחק אייזק שמחה בן פייגא בילא - Eddie Tager  
בנימין בן בילה - Ben Zauderer  
מנחם בן קילה - Manny Mayerfeld

Joel Rosenwasser's mother -  
פשע לאה בת שפרינצא  
אריה לייב בן רבקה - Larry Seligson  
הילני בת רחל - Leni Loebenstein  
חיים יונה בן חנה - Eileen Frommer's father  
יצחק מרדכי בן בלימה - Irwin Citron  
פיגע בת חיה רבקה - Bella Helprin's mother

## **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 baistorahbulletin@gmail.com, or call (845) 371-5337. To receive e-mail updates, write to

baistorah@gmail.com. This bulletin is downloadable from the web at [www.baistorah.org](http://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.

## **Parshas Vayechi - 5770 A Prayerful Thought for Year 2010**

In the last verse of "Shlishi" in Parshas Vayechi, Yaakov says to Yoseph regarding the City of Shechem, a city that has been a thorn in our side from ancient times till the present, "which I conquered from the Emorites with my sword and my bow." This is quite strange, in that it was not Yaakov who conquered that city at all - it was the two brothers Shimon and Levi - and they were roundly condemned by their father for their ferocity in that conquest! However, Onkelos translates figuratively, using in place of "my sword and my bow" "my prayers and my requests."

In light of this statement by Yaakov, it is quite possible that Shimon and Levi might not have been as "successful" as they were - in killing all the males of that city in bloody retribution for the violated honor of their sister, Deena, for they executed their vengeance and emerged unharmed - were it not for the prayers and requests that they, in effect, "forced" their father, Yaakov Avinu, to make in their behalf!

The Brisker Rav explains this somewhat unusual translation of "sword" and "bow" as referring to two aspects of prayer. One aspect is that of the prayers formulated and enacted by the Men of the Great Assembly, in the years preceding the Destruction of the Second Temple (perhaps anticipating the greater need the Jewish People would have for means of worshipping Hashem even without a Temple). These prayers have the power of a sword. A sword can easily be used effectively by (almost) anyone, as can the prayers which these great Torah Scholars enacted. Also like a sword, they don't require great precision. A little "kavana," attention to meaning, during the opening three blessings of the "Shemoneh Esray," the central prayer for the Jew in the morning, afternoon and evening of each day, and one has fulfilled the obligation of prayer!

However, the second aspect of prayer, personal requests, "tefilot" unique to the individual, require a higher standard. Jewish Tradition and Law advise "Anyone who has a sick relative in the house should approach a wise man to ask for mercy." These requests, though of a personal nature, are paradoxically most effective when delivered by an expert. These are the ones compared to the arrows shot by an archer. My personal experiences with archery were great fun, but not too effective in terms of producing "bulls' eyes." (The above, of course, is not to imply that one should not pour out one's heart before the Almighty in Prayer for one's own personal needs, and indeed that is the majority of the content of the "Shemoneh Esray.")

Just as a bow requires great physical strength to pull back the bowstring, so does making a personal request of the King of Kings require great spiritual strength. In addition, just as great precision is required of the archer to hit his or her target, so also is great "precision" in the form of "kavana" required of one who stands before Hashem to ask for a personal response. A prayer for a personal need is accepted by Hashem only if a person puts "nafsho bechapo," his or her whole being concentrated in their hand, as it were, outstretched for "Tzedakah," as we are taught by Chana, through her anguished prayers for a child.

At this time, near the beginning of Year 2010, it wouldn't hurt us to do some national introspection as well. Now, as perhaps throughout our history, the greatest need of our People is Unity - in all arenas of conflict. If we could only silence the "noise" of Religious and Secular Jewry banging against each other in Israel, and the cacophony created by the different factions within Judaism in the United States and elsewhere in the Diaspora! Then we might be able to create a single voice, or at least harmony within the Jewish choir.

If somehow we can restore the "Kol Yaakov," the authentic spiritually modulated "Voice" of our People, we can hope to produce meaningful and effective "Tefilot," and be like the Temple Choir of Leviim that celebrated each day with a Psalm, "and then we will find favor and be appreciated for our clear reasoning, in the eyes of G-d and Man."