

CONGREGATION BAIS TORAH

January 29, 2010 · 89 West Carlton Rd · Suffern, NY 10901 · (845)352-1343 · www.baistorah.org ד' שבט ערב שבת פרשת בשלח

AUFUF OF MICHAEL SELZER

ערב שבת פרשת בשלח
הדלקת נרות: 4:51 PM
מנחה 5:00 PM
שקיעה 5:09 PM
Shiur at ONEG**

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 בשלח
דף היומי 8:00 AM
שחרית 8:45 AM
סוף זמן קריאת שמע 9:39 AM
Shiur גמרא 3:55 PM
מנחה 4:40 PM
שקיעה 5:11 PM
מעריב 5:53 PM

מנחה-מעריב Weekday
Sun. thru Thurs.: 5:00 PM
Mon. thru Thurs.: 8:00 PM

ערב שבת פרשת יתרו
הדלקת נרות 5:00 PM
מנחה 5:05 PM
שקיעה 5:18 PM

Shiurim

Women's group 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 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 נבאים - Rabbi Yosef Fischer
Monday through Thursday at 9:45 AM - גמרא שיעור - Rabbi Leibel Reznick

Shul Announcements

The **KIDDUSH** is sponsored by Murray and Mona Selzer in honor of the Aufuf of their son, Michael.

סעודה שלישיית is available for sponsorship

** Join us for the **ONEG SHABBOS this week** hosted by Arthur and Shirley Landau at 8:15 p.m. Come enjoy our Rav's divrei Torah, delicious refreshments and good company.

AVOS UBANIM: Meets Motzoei Shabbos at **7:00 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 Lehmanns in memory of Ruth's father, Yehuda Ben Eliezer.

Be sure and join us on Motzoei Shabbos, **February 6th** for a special presentation by Dr. Mordechai Kedar, lecturer in the Department of Arabic Studies at Bar Ilan University. Dr. Kedar speaks widely about the Middle East, Islam, the Arab world and Jerusalem. His topic will be, "**WHAT IS THE STRUGGLE OVER JERUSALEM ALL ABOUT?**" Arutz Sheva said that Dr. Kedar was "Eloquent and Unafraid" in his interview on Al Jazeera about the right of Jews to build in Jerusalem. The video can be seen on youtube.com. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHPmHAzj-Tk>) Donation: \$10 for non-members.

Pesach already? **MATZAH BAKING** with Bais Torah, Sunday February 14.

Please reserve Sunday evening, **February 21st for our THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SIYUM MISHNAYOS.** This year's featured speaker is Rabbi Ben Zion Shafier, the founder of Tiferes Bnai Torah and TheShmuz.com. His topic is "They Don't Make Anti-Semites Like They Used To." Couvert is \$25 per person. For reservations, please call the shul office, 352-1343, Yossi Fischer, 425-2785, or Moshe Kranzler, 352-8410.

SHALACH MANOS lists are in the mail, and hopefully at your door!! Please fill out the list and return it to the shul office as soon as possible so that the **PURIM COMMITTEE** can get to work!!! If you did not receive the list, or if you have questions, call Hinda Kimmel at 357-9571.

PLEASE NOTE: On page two of the Purim mailing, the date is incorrect. Please indicate if you will be home on **February 25** NOT March 9. We regret the error.

SAVE THE DATE: THE BAIS TORAH ANNUAL DINNER is April 25 -Guests of honor - Bayla and Moe Tilson, Keser Shem Tov Award-Mr. and Mrs. Ben and Hilda Zauderer and the Eishes Chayil Award -Mrs. Hinda Kimmel

New collection date for **KOSHER FOOD PANTRY** February 3rd

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

Mazel Tov

Tzvi and Minca Szachtel on the engagement of their daughter, Devorah to Yaakov Connor
Mendel and Renee Rosenbaum on the engagement of their son, Avi to Riva Perry of Queens
Dr. Moshe Baum on the engagement of his son, Avraham to Chani Davis
Jack and Rachel Gross on the marriage of their children, Maytal and Oren Hason.

Refuah Shelaimah

Katie Tannenbaum's
Grandson-טובה- יהנתן משה בן דבורה
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
Eddie Tager – צחק אייזק שמחה בן פייגא בילא

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
Bella Helprin's mother- פיגע בת חיה 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, To receive e-mail updates, write to baistorah@gmail.com

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 Bulletin Email baistorahbulletin@gmail.com, or call (845) 371-5337. All submissions are subject to review and must be submitted by 9pm Wednesday evening.. 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.

Parshas Beshalach- 5770

Light and Dark

I'm going back in time by a week, because this past week we were given the negative opportunity to experience, if only for a brief time, and for an infinitesimal extent, one of the Ten Plagues which brought Egypt to her knees. On Monday, there was a brief power outage, and even though we have available battery-powered flashlights and radios, and we were able to light candles to dispel the darkness, and it was broad daylight outside, I found the experience somewhat frightening. How much more so must it have been terrifying for the Egyptians, for whom the darkness was total and palpable, and lasted three days.

The name of this Plague was "Choshech," which means "Darkness." The first mention of darkness in the Torah is at the beginning of "Sefer Bereshis," where we find, *"In the beginning of G-d's creating the heavens and the earth – when the earth was astonishingly empty, there was darkness upon the face of the deep, and the Divine Presence hovered over the waters. And G-d said, 'Let there be light!' and there was light. G-d saw that the light was good, and G-d separated between the light and the darkness. G-d called the light 'Day' and the darkness He called 'Night.'"* (Bereshis 1:1-4)

The Torah describes the conditions in Egypt during the time when "Choshech" prevailed, *"HaShem said to Moshe, 'Stretch your hand toward the heavens, and there shall be darkness upon the land of Egypt, and the darkness will be tangible. Moshe stretched forth his hand toward the heavens and there was a thick darkness throughout the land of Egypt for a three-day period. No man could see his brother nor could anyone rise from his place for that three-day period; but for all the Children of Israel there was light in their dwellings."* (Shemos 10:21-23).

At the time of the Plague of Darkness, it was almost as if HaShem had restored the conditions preceding "Ma'aseh Bereshis," when darkness prevailed in the universe, in Mitzrayim, where darkness also prevailed. In fact, at each of the Plagues, it seemed that a specific Force of Nature, which had been under control, had been allowed to run amok. Water turned to blood, frogs (or crocodiles) suddenly appeared everywhere, wild animals overran the country, natural phenomena, such as hail and lightning, normally kept separate, intermixed with destructive effect, clouds of locusts blew in, did their damage, and just as quickly blew out on the wings of the wind, death struck the first-born throughout the country, and, in today's Parashah, a sea was split, exposing the seabed for the Children of Israel to march across, and upon the completion of their transit, the gigantic walls of water collapsed upon the Egyptian soldiers. It was as if that Aspect of G-d called "Shadd-ai," meaning the One Who imposes limits upon Nature, had temporarily relinquished His Authority.

At the Encounter at the Sea, the Torah paints a picture in light and dark, *"The Angel of G-d Who had been going in front of the camp of Israel moved and went behind them; and the Pillar of Cloud moved also from in front of them and went behind them. It came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel, and there were cloud and darkness..."* - enveloping the camp of Egypt - *"...while the Pillar of Fire illuminated the night..."* – for the camp of Israel – *"...and one camp did not draw near to the other all night."* (Shemos 14:20)

In Megilas Esther, after Haman and his forces are defeated, we find, *"The Jews had light and joy and splendor and honor."* (Esther 8:16) This verse is incorporated into the Havdalah Prayer at the close of the radiant Shabbos, when we declare our faith in HaShem, "Behold, G-d is my Salvation; I trust in Him, and I will not be afraid...For the Jews, there was light and joy and splendor and honor." And at the end of that Prayer, we praise HaShem, "Who distinguishes between the holy and the profane, between light and darkness, between Israel and the nations, between the Day of Shabbos and the six days of labor..."

There are many places in Tanach where we find the word "Ohr," Light, praised: *"And I perceived that wisdom excels folly, as light excels darkness."* (Koheles 2:13), *"Sweet is the light, and it is good for the eyes to behold the sun."* (Koheles 11:7), *"Light is sown for the Righteous"* (Tehilim 97:11), *"It is the destiny of the People of Israel to be a light unto the nations"* (Yeshayahu 49:6)

And ultimately, when the nations do "Teshuvah," recognize and return to HaShem, *"In the dark, a light will shine for the upright."* (Tehilim 112:4)