

BAIS TORAH BULLETIN

פרשת בראשית - שבת מברכים מרחשון

October 16, 2020

Candle Lighting 5:55 הדלקת נרות

כ"ח תשרי תשפ"א

ערב שבת בראשית

Mincha and Kabbolas
Shabbos 6:00
Candle Lighting 5:55
Sh'kiah..... 6:13

שבת בראשית

Daf Yomi..... 8:00
Shacharis..... 8:45
Sof Z'man K'Shema 9:56
Mincha 5:00
Ma'ariv 6:53
Shabbos Ends 7:01

Zoom ID# 249-721-2330, Code Bais
Havdalah Ceremony ... 7:30

Zoom ID# 590-354-028, Code Bais
Halacha Shiur 7:45

Weekday Schedule via Zoom
October 18 - 23

Rabbi's Daf Yomi
Zoom #266 109 506, Code Bais

Sunday (ר"ח)..... 7:00
Monday (ר"ח) 6:50
Tuesday - Friday..... 7:00

Shacharis
Zoom #790 613 352, Code Bais

Sunday (ר"ח)..... 7:45
Monday (ר"ח) 7:35
Tuesday - Friday..... 7:45

Mincha-Ma'ariv
Zoom #790 613 352, Code Bais
Sunday to Thursday.... 5:50

what's new



TOMCHE SHABBOS
of Rockland County

The proceeds of this year's Shmini Atzeres Yizkor appeal are going directly to **Tomche Shabbos**. Now more than ever, our community's needs are great, and not just for food deliveries. Finding jobs for the unemployed, financial counseling and more are some of the vital services Tomche Shabbos provides every day. You

can make your donation via credit card on our website. Please be sure to indicate you are earmarking funds for Tomche Shabbos. Funds pledged for aliyos or kibbudim over Yom Tov can also be paid via the website. Please indicate which aliya or kibbud you are paying for.

Rabbi Gottlieb will be giving his Weekly Halacha Shiur via Zoom on Motzoei Shabbos at 7:45 p.m. This week's topic is **"The Truth About Mesirah: Is It Ever Okay To Call the Authorities?"** The Zoom ID is #590-354-028, code Bais.



NEW Please join us Wednesday nights at 8:00 p.m. for Rabbi Gottlieb's shiur on **"Insights into the Book of Shmuel."** The Zoom ID is #590-354-028 and the passcode, if requested, is Bais.



The **Torah Conferencing Network** schedule resumes on Motzoei Shabbos with Rabbi Yisroel Reisman live streaming his shiur to our Simcha Room at 9:00 p.m. Masks are required as well as social distance seating. All are welcome to attend.

Rabbi Gottlieb's Daf Yomi shiurim are streamed on Zoom every morning and are also available on our website, www.baistorah.org. Next week's shiurim are being dedicated by Kreindy Stern in memory of her mother, Fraida Rivka bas Yosef.

mazel tov

Ben and Fran Horwitz on the bas mitzvah of their granddaughter, Zehava Leba, daughter of Alisa and Rabbi Moshe Tzvi Weinberg of Bergenfield.

Diane Schmeltz on the engagement of her grandson, Eitan Menachem Schmeltz to Serena Steinmetz.

Jossi and Sandy Lieder on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Daniel Peikes, son of Noam and Brocha Peikes.

Dovid and Rena Bussu on the marriage of their son Refael to Shaindy Sperka.

nichum aveilim

Yosi Rosenberg on the petirah of his brother, Dr. Abraham A. Rosenberg ז"ל
Max Rubinstein on the petirah of his brother, Chaim Rubinstein ז"ל

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GENESIS AND JUSTICES
by Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

Refuah Shelaima

- Pinky Frankel פינחס מנחם בן דבורה
- Gordons' daughter-in-law שולמית בת מירל
- Katie Tannenbaum's grandson יהונתן משה בן דבורה טובה
- Rosalie Kallner שיינה רחל בת שרה הודל
- Larry Seligson's son רפאל אפרים בן סימא פריעדל
- Manny Mayerfeld מנחם בן קילה
- Ruth Malinowitz רבקה בת פריידא
- Andy Yuowitz אליהו זבי בן חנה
- Goldress grandson אילן רפאל בן טובה רבקה
- Jennifer Herrmann's mother שרה צירלא בת ידיל

Bikur Cholim

Please call

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Shul Bulletin
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Genesis and Justices

There seems to be no off-season for the three-ring-circus of Washington DC politics. The only thing that seems to change is which performance gets the privilege of the center ring. For this week, it is the senate's Amy Coney Barrett confirmation hearings that highlight the show.

By all indications, Ms. Coney Barrett is an ideal candidate to fill the vacancy left by the demise of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She possesses a brilliant legal mind and has spent the better part of the week calmly, coolly, and dispassionately schooling many members of the senate on the proper role and place of the judiciary. In her personal life as well, Ms. Coney Barrett, with her closet free of skeletons, seems unassailable. She is a wife and a mother who has adopted two children from Haiti to go along with her five natural-born children. She is a woman of compassion, principles, morals, and faith, and it is that last item, faith, that has the liberal left up in arms.

The anti-Coney Barrett narrative is not new to American politics. She is not the first person of faith to be subjected to accusations that she will place her loyalty to her faith over her duty to discharge the mandate of her office properly. Those accusations have always proven to be, to paraphrase Mark Twain, greatly exaggerated.

The Wall Street Journal last week ran an article that highlighted the disproportionately high number of Catholics on the Supreme Court. That article saw the phenomenon as a function of a more conservative judiciary appointed by republican administrations. I might suggest that it says more about the faith community and their higher calling to public service.

New York Times bestselling author and self-proclaimed atheist, AJ Jacobs, hilariously chronicled his year-long attempt to live the Bible as literally as possible in *The Year of Living Biblically*. There, he reports on his volunteering in a Catholic-run soup kitchen and he notes that *The Atheists of America* do not run a parallel soup kitchen to help the poor. There is something about faith, Jacobs observes, that drives people to selflessness and altruism.

That something is well-captured in Thomas Cahill's fabulous work, *The Gifts of the Jews*. In the words of the back jacket of the book:

"Within the matrix of ancient religions and philosophies, life was seen as part of an endless cycle of birth and death; time was like a wheel, spinning ceaselessly. Yet somehow, the ancient Jews began to see time differently. For them, time had a beginning and an end; it was a narrative, whose triumphant conclusion would come in the future. From this insight came a new conception of men and women as individuals with unique destinies--a conception that would inform the Declaration of Independence--and our hopeful belief in progress and the sense that tomorrow can be better than today."

The opening three words of this week's *Parsha* are, perhaps, the three most important words in the history of mankind. "In the beginning, G-d created" paved the way for a life of meaning, purpose and destiny. Instead of an endless, meaningless circle, history took the shape of a straight line, one with a clear, defined beginning and with a destiny, one that we, humanity would help to mold and shape.

Much of the last fifty-plus years in America has been spent trying to break the biblical hold to the American mind and to return us to the chaos and meaninglessness of the ancient world. Is it any wonder that public service has become a casualty of the assault on the foundational principles that have driven humanity to altruism and self-sacrifice?

For members of the faith-community such as Ms. Coney Barrett, the echo of the seminal words "In the beginning" still ring in their ears and drive their day-to-day life to a higher calling. The fact that there is a beginning to and a Beginner of the universe infuses life with meaning and purpose. For Ms. Coney Barrett, that purpose has driven her to raise her own family, to adopt two children and to eschew the highly lucrative private sector of the legal profession in favor of service to the public.

The three most important words in human history will be read from the Torah this Shabbos morning. Don't come late this week. Everything else depends on these three simple words.

I write this week as a place-holder for our dear Pinchas Frankel until he returns to continue his regular column and I dedicate it as a z'chus for a Refuah Sheleimah for him, Pinchas Menachem ben Devorah, and, YBCL "C, l'ilui nishmas Aharon Baruch Mordechai ben Pinchas Menachem.

Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb