

וְיָקָחוּ אֵלֶיךָ פָּרָה אֲדָמָה



Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by the Eisenberg Family in honor of Moshe's bar mitzvah and **will be held at the Philadelphia Community Kollel.**

Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by the Eisenberg Family in honor of Moshe's bar mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to...

...**Jon and Jessica Erlbaum** on the bris of Hillel Levi.

...**The Eisenberg Family** on the siyum mishnayos and bar mitzvah of Moshe Yechiel.

Chevra Mishnayos

The Chevra Mishnayos has started learning Seder Kodshim. Please sign-up by putting your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or speak with Moshe Eisenberg.

Lost Raincoat

A khaki Burberry raincoat with a Burberry plaid inside, about size 40, was lost at YIML on Shavuot night. A similar raincoat is hanging on the coat-rack (and may belong to the person who accidentally switched coats). If you have the coat, please return it to YIML or call 610-937-3717 with any questions.

Tzeischem L'Shalom

We wish a heartfelt tzeischem l'Shalom to Donna Geller as she moves to Israel. We will miss her.

Condolences

YIML extend condolences to Mrs. Terry Blynn on the loss of her father, Mr. Joe Peyser. Terry will be sitting shiva at her home, **264 Brookway Rd.** (second house on left off of Montgomery Ave.) from 10 AM- 10 PM through Monday (Terry gets up from shiva on Tuesday morning).

וְיָפֶתַח ה' אֶת פִּי הָאֲתוֹן



All submissions, suggestions, sponsorships, and advertisements should be directed to Moshe Eisenberg, creator of this Weekly Update.

Young Israel of the Main Line Weekly Update

273 Montgomery Ave.
(610) 667-3255
Stan Sved, President



Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
www.yiml.org
Rabbi Avraham Steinberg

July 7-14, 2006

Parshas Chukas-Balak

פרשת חקת-בלק

Shabbos Davening Times

Earliest Candle lighting:	7:00 p.m.
Candle lighting:	8:15 p.m.
Mincha - Friday:	7:00 p.m.
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:23 a.m.
Shacharis:	8:45 a.m.
Mincha- Shabbos followed by Shalosh Seudos:	8:00 p.m.
Maariv:	9:17 p.m.

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis - Sunday:	8:00 a.m.
Shacharis- Monday:	6:40 a.m.
Shacharis- Tues, Wed, Fri:	6:50 a.m.
<u>Shiva Asar B'Tammuz (Thursday, July 13)</u>	
Fast Begins/Ends:	4:31 a.m./9:15 p.m.
Shacharis:	6:30 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv:	8:00 p.m.
Mincha /Maariv- Sun-Wed:	8:20 p.m.

Tefillah Initiative

Please join us in implementing the Shul's new **D-I-E-T Plan**:

Decorum
Initiative to
Enhance
Tefilah

by focusing on keeping children quiet during davening. (See Rabbi Steinberg's letter -- posted in Shul -- for details.)



Don't Forget: Thursday is Sheva Asar b'Tammuz which starts the three weeks.

The YIML Weekly Update is sponsored this week by the Novick Family in honor of Moshe Yechiel Eisenberg's bar mitzvah.



Shiurim*



DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	8:15 a.m.	Parshas Hashavua	Rabbi Steinberg	
Shabbos	45 minutes before Mincha	Gemara Sukka	Rabbi Steinberg	
Shabbos	Between Mincha & Maariv	Medical Ethics Chabura	Dr. Daniel Eisenberg	
Sunday Morning	After Davening	Sefer Hachinuch	Dov Gottlieb	
Mon., Wed.	After Maariv	Mishna Berura Hilchos Shabbos	Eli Back	
15 minutes before Shacharis on Sun.-Fri.		Shaarei Teshuva	Rabbi Steinberg	
Monday	9:45 a.m.	Women's Tehillim Group		At the Eisenberg home
Wednesday	8:30 p.m.	Practical Halacha Shiur for Women	Rabbi Steinberg	
Thursday night	10:15 p.m.	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	

*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

R' Steinberg Info: Home: 610-664-3796 E-mail: rabbi@yiml.org
Stan Sved, President Info: Home: 610-660-5002

Parshas Balak

By Rabbi Yaakov Menken

"And Balak saw..." (22:2)

Rabbi Tzvi Elimelech Hertzberg writes: In this parsha, we see the vast chasm between what some might call the "natural" outlook of man, and that which the Torah expects of a spiritual individual. Balak saw the great Nation of Israel, and what he saw aroused within him hatred and jealousy, a desire to curse and murder them. The Torah outlook accepts jealousy only within the context of "the jealousy of scribes increases wisdom" - by seeing the accomplishments of others, one desires to learn more himself. [Even in that case, of course, the Torah condemns one who uses his scholarship to put down others.]

Balak should have known that Israel would not harm him, because they had been commanded not to interfere with his nation (Moab). Nonetheless, Balak saw Israel's victory over Sichon and Og, and he worried. Why?

Continued on facing page

The answer is that Balak was a militaristic ruler, living and interacting with other militaristic rulers in a society that was essentially devoid of what we understand to be moral values. In his world, a mighty nation simply ran from one victory to the next, and would not stop unless beaten back. No nation emerging from a successful campaign against Sichon and Og would lay down its weapons when facing Moab. Balak was afraid, because he could not comprehend the idea of a nation that would refuse to wage war merely because someone (even G-d) told them to stop. [To the extent that we see national leaders no longer behaving in this fashion, it is evidence of the extent to which Jewish values have spread, directly and via Christianity and Islam.]

Another example of differences in outlook: Rashi quotes a Midrash regarding the verse, "Bilaam arose early in the morning, and saddled his donkey." (22:21) The Midrash says that G-d spoke concerning Bilaam: "Wicked one! Their forefather Avraham preceded you, as it says 'And Avraham arose early in the morning, and saddled his donkey.'" (Breishis 22:3 [Akeidas Yitzchak - the sacrifice of Isaac])

Again, the difference between the two is without limit. Bilaam arose early in order to run after his desires for wealth and glory, and his donkey was a tool to help him realize those desires, to destroy his imagined enemies and to build on the downfall of others. Avraham, on the other hand, arose early in order to sacrifice that which he held most dear.

For those who know Hebrew, the word for "saddled", "yachvosh", is closely related to the verb "to conquer". The word for "donkey" used in Breishis regarding Avraham is "chamor", which is related to the word for the physical - "chomer." Avraham arose early, and conquered his desires in service of G-d - conquering those same desires which Bilaam arose early in order to satisfy.

The Jewish Nation described in the Bible is not one that desires to rule the world, or to take that which is not theirs. Those who look only at the cases where G-d commanded conquest and use them to accuse Israel of being itself a militaristic nation, ignore the many cases where G-d ordered Israel to live in peace and not attack another nation - even though it was clearly within their power to do so.

The Torah tells us that our ultimate goals must not be material wealth, glory or honor - and certainly not ill-gotten gain. Rather, we are asked to deliberately put aside our own desires, in order to better pursue our spiritual destiny.

Taken from torah.org