

Young Israel of the Main Line Weekly Update

Shovavim Shiur Series

As part of the *Irgun Shiurei Torah - Worldwide Shovavim Project* (over 50,000 participants!), Rabbi Steinberg will be delivering review classes on the Laws of Family Purity (for married people) on the following dates:

For Men

Feb. 1 – 8:15-9:30 PM
Feb 8 – 8:15-9:30 PM

For Women

Feb. 15th – 8:15-9:30 PM

Chevra Mishnayos

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

L'Chaim Shidduch Meeting

There will be a L'Chaim shidduch meeting on Rosh Chodesh Shevat, January 29, 2006 at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda Eichler (246 Lloyd Lane, Wynnewood, PA 19096). L'Chaim invites mothers, relatives, and friends of singles to participate in a women's Philadelphia-wide inter-community Shidduch Meeting. Focus on all ages and backgrounds. Please come prepared with information about the single and the kind of person he or she is seeking. Share this info with other women at the meeting. For further information, please call: Linda Eichler (610-642-8410) or Khana Globman (215-477-6469).

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YOU@YOURMAIL

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Stan Sved, President



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

January 20-27, 2006

Parshas Shemos

פרשת שמות

Shabbos Davening Times

Candle lighting:	4:47 p.m.
Mincha - Friday:	4:50 p.m.
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:45 a.m.
Shacharis:	8:45 a.m.
Mincha- Shabbos:	4:35 p.m.
Maariv:	5:51 p.m.

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis –Sunday:	8:00 a.m.
Mincha- Sunday:	4:55 p.m.
Shacharis- Mon, Thurs:	6:40 a.m.
Shacharis- Tues, Wed, Fri:	6:50 a.m.
Maariv (Mon-Thurs):	7:45 p.m.

There will be no weekday Mincha in shul until the spring.

Installation Banquet – A Great Success

Baruch Hashem, our Installation Banquet this past Sunday was a great success. It was a rousing and unifying moment for our Shul and community, and it also raised a good deal of funds to help support the Shul. A big Yasher Koach to all of the many people who helped in the myriad details of the banquet and journal, and, of course, special thank you to **Julia Strassman**, dinner chair, for her phenomenal coordination of the whole project. It was truly an inspiring evening!

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



Shiurim*



DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	8:15 a.m.	Parshas Hashavua	Rabbi Steinberg	
Shabbos	Between Mincha & Maariv	Gemara Sukka	Rabbi Steinberg	
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	8:00 p.m.	A Conceptual Look at the Jewish Calendar	R' Judah Goldberg	
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Women's Tehillim Group		At the Eisenberg home
Wednesday	8:15 p.m.	Practical Halacha Shiur for Women	Rabbi Steinberg	CANCELLED
Thursday night	10:15 p.m.	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	

*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

Pirchei of Philadelphia

There will be no Pirchei this Shabbos. Instead, there will be a father-son oneg on Friday night, at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Jonathon and Nomi Levene (158 N. Latches Lane.) For more info, contact Rabbi Sruli Schwartz at 610-668-1506.

B'nos of Bala Cynwyd

B'nos of Bala Cynwyd will meet this week at Lower Merion Synagogue from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

A Panoramic View of Life

By Tzachi Rosman

"An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire out of a bush. He gazed, and there was a bush all aflame, yet the bush was not consumed. Moses said, 'I must back away to look at this marvelous sight; why doesn't the bush burn up?'" (Exodus 3:2-3)*

**Translation of the hebrew word sar as noted in the Kli Yakar.*

Kli Yakar explains the need for Moshe to back away in order to comprehend the scene at hand: "The further a person stands from a given location, the greater is his view of that scene." Moshe, upon seeing the bush up close, realized that he could only truly understand what was happening if he stepped back and looked from afar. This provided him with a more complete view of the bush, thus enabling him to adequately assess the scenario.

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Often times the only way one can understand a situation is by viewing it within a greater framework. The following story illustrates this point:

Four blind men living in India encounter an elephant for the first time. One of the men, holding the elephant's trunk, concluded that an elephant is very much like a snake. Another, feeling the elephant's leg, disagrees, stating that the elephant resembles a tree. The third man, feeling the body of the elephant, maintains that the elephant is similar to a wall. The last man, holding on to the tail, insists that an elephant is like a rope. Each, man, experiencing only a small portion of the elephant, came to his own conclusion regarding the elephant's appearance. It was only after a sighted-man, who was able to see the whole elephant at once, explained to them how each of their parts combined to form the entire elephant that the four blind men were able to truly understand the elephant's form.

We often act similar to these blind men. Refusing to set aside the time to contemplate how each isolated event in our lives interconnects to form the ideal experience *Hashem* intends for us, we are quick—when things “go wrong”—to accuse Him of abandoning us. Should we allow ourselves adequate time to evaluate our lives as a whole, we would realize that such isolated events are in fact serving as key connectors which hold our lives together.

Living in an era of specialization, few people focus their attention on the big picture. Most doctors, teachers, scientists, and even students, focus on one specific aspect of their field of interest. Although this mentality may be necessary for success in many professional fields, it is nothing but detrimental in the field of religion. This is because all facets of religion are part of a greater whole. Focusing on only one aspect to the exclusion of all others is similar to a blind man trying to understand how an elephant looks by touching its tail—simply preposterous.

Judaism is not simply a religion made up of rules and restrictions. It is a script for sanctifying life and elevating mundane actions into exceptional spiritual endeavors. This is achieved only when one allows religion to permeate his entire being. Not only one's actions must follow the guidelines of the Torah, but his thoughts and mindset as well. Only when one embraces Judaism in its entirety can he begin to fully understand and appreciate what it has to offer. Only then does religion leave the realm of a theoretical philosophy and enter the realm of practical blueprint for life.

May we always realize the applicability of Torah to every aspect of our lives, and through this understanding continue to envelope ourselves in the cloak of Torah, thus ensuring that every moment of our lives are infused with holiness and spirituality.