

YOUNG ISRAEL OF THE MAIN LINE

Weekly Update

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Parshas Bamidbar

פרשת במדבר

May 30–31—כ"ו אייר תשס"ח

Shabbos Davening Times

Earliest candle lighting:	6:50pm
Candle lighting:	8:04pm
Mincha - Friday:	7:00pm
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:16am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishis:	7:50pm
Maariv:	9:08pm

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis Sunday:	8:00am
Shacharis (Mon., Thu.):	6:40am
Shacharis (Tue., Fri.):	6:50am
Shacharis Rosh Chodesh Sivan (Wed.):	6:30am
Mincha/Maariv (Sun.–Thu.):	8:10pm

Next Shabbos Times

Candle lighting:	8:09pm
Mincha - Friday:	7:00pm

Calendar of Shiurim

DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	7:55am–8:15am	Parsha Chabura	S. Sved	ROTATES
Shabbos	8:15am	Mishlei Shiur	R. Steinberg	
Shabbos	7:05pm	Chabura	J. Weinberger	
Shabbos	After Mincha	Medical Halacha	D. Eisenberg	
Sunday	After Shacharis	Sefer Hachinuch	M. Buchbinder	
Mon., Wed.	After Maariv	Mishna Berura	Eli Back	
Sun.-Fri.	15 min. before Shacharis	Chovos haLevovos	R. Steinberg	
Monday	9:00pm	Advanced Gemora: Makkos	R. Steinberg	
Thursday	10:10pm	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	

* All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

THIS SHABBOS

Kiddush and Shalosh Seudos:

Kiddush is being sponsored by Sherman & Susan Frager to commemorate the Jahrzeit of Sherman's father Max Frager, ז"ל.

Seudah Shlishis is community sponsored.

Bnos and Pirchei:

Both Bnos and Pirchei will א"י meet this week from 4:00pm to 5:00pm at LMS.

THE ANNUAL YIML COMMUNITY PICNIC!

This Sunday, June 1, 2008
11:00am–2:00pm at General Wayne Park
Cost: \$18 per Adult, \$7 per Child (2–12)
Gourmet Food!!! Bring Baseball Gloves, Frisbees, etc. . .

All submissions, suggestions, and sponsorships should be directed (by Wednesday evening) to the editor of the Weekly Update, פלוגי בן פלוגי (weeklyupdate@yiml.org).

MAZEL TOV!

To Rabbi & Mrs. Lichtenstein and family...

...on the birth of granddaughter Leah Roiza, to Barzilai and Yehudis Goldfarb.

To Mr. & Mrs. Eli Back and family...

...on the engagement of their son, Menachem Back to Rina Botnick of Toronto.

SHAVUOS

We are pleased to announce that the all-night learning program *Leil Shavuos* will be held at the YIML in conjunction with the Philadelphia Community Kollel.

There will be shiurim by Rabbi Steinberg, Rabbi Biberfeld and others of the chavrei kollel.

Full details and schedule will be announced next week. Start your coffee pots now!

THANK YOU!

A Big YIML Thank You to...

...**Janet Eisenberg** for coordinating and running the “Murray the Sockman” fundraiser for our Shul and Torah Academy, and...

...the YIML Volunteers who helped Janet with this project: **Yaakov Spitzer, Lynn Clamage, Denise & Rachel Gorlechen, and Joan Betesh.**

ONGOING EVENTS

Chevra Mishnayos:

The Chevra Mishnayos is now learning Seder Nezikin.

See the shul bulletin board to sign up.

Women's Tehillim Group:

The Tehillim Group meets Mondays at 9:45am at 345 Bala Ave.

Women's Chovos haLevovos Group:

The Chovos haLevovos Group meets Tuesdays at 9:30am at 8 Concord Circle.

D'VAR TORAH by Rabbi Berel Wein

It is interesting to note that the count of the Jewish people in the desert that appears in this week's parsha is a count of each of the tribes of Israel individually—with the entire population of the Jewish people divided into four separate groupings, and the kohanim and Levites forming another separate grouping completely. Why all of this particularism? Why is the Torah not contented to give a single population figure for the entire Jewish nation?

I believe that the underlying message here is the reinforcement of the Torah's view of the Jewish people and in fact of all of humankind, as many different individuals and never as a monolithic whole. In fact, this is the origin of the Torah's opinion that one should never count people individually in a direct and personal fashion. No two people are alike, and no two people are bound to hold exactly like opinions.

There are groupings and tribes that make up the Jewish people today and throughout all of Jewish history. This realization should make for a more tolerant and less bitterly divisive Jewish society. The Torah is therefore determined to treat the count of the Jewish people as a count of individuals instead of as a count of a large group or whole nation. It wishes us to realize that the Jewish people really are made up of so many different components and differing individuals and personalities and the Torah demands of us a maturity to deal with this omnipresent situation of the human condition.

Another point that strikes me about this week's parsha is the relative smallness of today's Jewish population relative to the total count that appears in this week's parsha. The numbers that appear in the parsha indicate a total population of about three million people—old, young, men and women. Three millennia later the Jewish people worldwide appear to constitute approximately fifteen million people. Natural growth alone over such a long period of time should provide us with a much more numerous Jewish people. Yet the Torah itself predicted that the Jewish people would always be the smallest in numbers of all peoples.

Exile, pogroms, assimilation, conversions and the Holocaust have all taken a depressing toll on our numbers. Yet in spite of our lack of numbers we have never lost our influence and effect on world society and civilization. The Torah teaches us that numbers are necessary—there can be no Judaism without live Jews—but numbers are not everything. It is noted that the Torah already indicated in the desert that population growth is problematic with the Jewish people.

During the forty years in the desert the Jewish population did not increase. The count at the end of the forty years eerily remained similar to the count in this week's parsha. Individuals matter greatly. That is only one of the many contributions of the Jewish people to the human story.

From: <http://www.rabbiwein.com/Weekly-Parsha/2008/05/262.html>