

### Thought of the Week

The opening commandment in this week's parsha deals with shemitta – the sabbatical year for the Land of Israel when the ground was to be allowed to lie fallow and the farmer abstained from his regular routine of work. The traditional commentators to the Torah emphasized that even though the ground and farmer would benefit in the long run from the year's inactivity this was not the reason for the commandment.

There are always side benefits from obeying the commandments of the Torah but these are never the reason or the basis for the commandment itself. The underlying lesson of the sabbatical year is its obvious kinship to the weekly Sabbath. Just as every seven days brings with it a holy day of rest, so too does a holy sabbatical year bring with it a rest for the earth itself.

And, to continue this obvious comparison between these two Sabbaths, just as the weekly Sabbath is meant to remind us of G-d's creation of the universe so too does the seven year Sabbath testify to G-d's omnipotence and presence in all of our human affairs.

The foundation and basis of all of Jewish faith and belief in its Torah is the necessity of human acknowledgment of G-d's role in our lives and in His ability to instruct us how to live. Since the weekly Sabbath sometimes is taken for granted for it becomes such an accustomed and regular part of our existence, the seven year Sabbath comes to jolt us out of our complacency and to have us recognize clearly, once again G-d's rule over us.

Shemitta has always been a difficult test of faith for the Jewish people. Even in Temple times it appears that the commandment was never fully fulfilled. There are many reasons for this apparent laxity in observance, the most obvious one being the seeming impracticality of its observance.

The Torah promised prosperity because of shemitta observance but the people feared the practicality of observing this commandment properly. In our time the shemitta remains a contentious topic with various halachic solutions being advanced and implanted, all in effect circumventing the true basic observance of the commandment itself.

Apparently the commandment was meant for a more perfectly faithful society than the one we have ever been successful in achieving. Nevertheless, the challenge posed by the shemitta remains omnipresent in Jewish life. As long as there is not a proper balance between human effort and ultimate faith in the Almighty we remain a somewhat dysfunctional society.

The shemitta reminds us of our dependence upon G-d and on factors that are not within our human power to control. It forces us to renew our weekly sabbatical testimony as to the creation and guidance of our world and its events. Even if we are unable to fulfill the shemitta commandment fully as of yet, the idea behind it demands our discipline and understanding. The weekly Sabbath is the basic day of Jewish observance. The seven year Sabbath reinforces this basis of all Torah observance.

Adapted from <http://www.torah.org/learning/rabbiwein/5771/behara.html> by Rabbi Berel Wein.

בס"ד

## Young Israel of the Main Line

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Parshas Behar

פרשת בהר

Stone Chumash page 696; Haftarah, page 1177.

May 13-14, 2011

י"א תשע"א



### Shabbos Schedule



Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos:	7:00pm
Candle Lighting:	7:48pm
Parsha Chaburah by Dennis Rosen:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:21am
Kiddush is co-sponsored this Shabbos. See the special announcement inside for details.	
Mincha:	7:35pm
Shalosh Seudos is community sponsored.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	8:52pm

To subscribe to the YIML email list, visit  
<http://mail.chaseplanet.us/mailman/listinfo/yiml>

### **Weekday Davening Times**

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday through Thursday:	7:55pm
Mincha Friday, and Kabbalas Shabbos:		7:00pm
Candle Lighting Friday:		7:55pm

### **Weekday Shiurim**

Daily Mussar Shiur:	15 minutes before Shacharis
Mishna Brura:	Mon and Wed after Maariv
Melachim Aleph Shiur:	Monday at 8pm
Halacha Shiur:	Tuesday at 8:30pm.
Nefesh HaChaim:	Thursday at 10:10pm
Check with Dr Daniel Eisenberg to confirm.	

### **Chevra Mishnayos**

The Chevra Mishnayos is learning Seder Nezikin. See shul bulletin board to sign up or email eisenber@pol.net with your name and the masechta (and chapters) you intend to learn.

### **Women's Learning Experience – Spring Session**

Mon at 10:30am: Tehillim for Cholim.  
Mon at 11am: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha haShavua.  
Tues at 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman - Sefer Tehillim, at LMS.  
Tues at 8pm: Stacey Goldman - Ruth, at 161 Highland Circle.  
Wed at 9am: Mrs. Biberfeld - Michtav M'Eliyahu.  
Thu at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Geshar HaChaim.  
All classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted. Free babysitting is available, reservations must be made in advance.  
For information or babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.

Questions? Comments! Sponsorships\$ weeklyupdate@yiml.org



▪ Mazel Tov to Rabbi Shmuel and Ruthi Lynn, Directors of the Maimonides Program at the University of Pennsylvania, who will be receiving the Educators of the Year Award at the Meor Annual Dinner Event at the New Meadowlands Stadium this Sunday. Yasher Kochachem!

### **Kiddush Sponsorship**

Kiddush this Shabbos is co-sponsored by:

Ari and Diane Weintraub on the occasion of the bas mitzvah of their daughter Shoshana. Mazel Tov!

Ron and Marguerite Werrin on the occasion of the 8th yarzeit of Ron's mother, Sophie Werrin, Shaindel bas Berel, z"l.

Drew and Holly Dorman on the occasion of the yarzeit of Drew's mother, Evelyn Dorman, Sarah Sophia bas Shmuel haLevi.

### **Pirchei and Bnos**

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will meet from 4:30 to 5:30pm at LMS. For Bnos information or to pay your yearly membership dues, contact Meira Friedman at 610-617-9529.

Pirchei will meet from 4:30 to 5:30pm on the downstairs level at LMS. Grades k-8th. Come welcome the new Pirchei leaders! To help sponsor a Shabbos or for more information contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-668-6833 or silverdollar@verizon.net.

### **Community Announcement**

Yom Iyun l'iluy nishmat Risa Goldman, a"h, on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1 to 4pm at Lower Merion Synagogue. "Learning - At The Table And In The Classroom." Men and women invited. Babysitting available with reservations. Speakers: Mrs. Cheryl Epstein, Mrs Nechama Goldman Barash, and Steve Goldman. RSVP to Janis Fine 610-888-0477 or jfine@comcast.net.