

## Thought of the Week

This week's parashah speaks extensively of the praises of Eretz Yisrael. R' Chaim Palagi z"l (1788-1868; chief rabbi of Izmir, Turkey) writes: The sefer Reishit Chochmah [quoting the midrash Kohelet Rabbah] notes that Tanach uses similar terminology to describe the human body and the earth. This is because, just as a person's limbs and organs differ in their qualities, so do various parts of the world differ in their qualities. Some produce iron, some copper, some silver, some gold, and some produce gems. In contrast, Eretz Yisrael's worth is not determined by the minerals it produces, but rather by the fact that it is infused with the Shechinah, which is more precious than gems.

Why then, asks R' Palagi, does our parashah (8:9) seem to praise Eretz Yisrael as: "A Land whose stones are iron and from whose mountains you will mine copper"? He answers: The correct interpretation of this verse is that, after the Torah praised the Land, it added that if we do not observe the mitzvot, the Land will not produce fruits, as if it was made of iron or copper. The reason for this is that Eretz Yisrael does not produce fruits naturally, as do other lands. Rather, as we read later in the parashah (11:13-14), "It will be that if you listen to My commandments . . . then I shall provide rain for your Land in its proper time, the early and the late rains, that you may gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil."

R' Palagi adds in the name of his son, R' Yitzchak Palagi [z"l]: In the verse quoted above, the Hebrew word "Avanehah" / "its stones" has the same letters as "Bana'ehah" / "its builders." The initial letters of the Hebrew phrase, "Avanehah barzel u'mei'hararehah tachtzov" / "its stones are iron and from its mountains you will mine [copper]" spells "Avot" / the Patriarchs. And, "barzel" / "iron" is the initial letters of Yaakov Avinu's four wives: Bilhah, Rachel, Zilpah, and Leah. This teaches that Eretz Yisrael is built on the merits of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs. (Artzot Ha'chaim p.26)

Adapted from <http://www.torah.org/learning/hamaayan/5771/eikev.html> by Shlomo Katz.

בס"ד

## Young Israel of the Main Line

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Parshas Eikev

פרשת עקב

Stone Chumash page 980; Haftarah, page 1197.

August 19-20, 2011

כ' אב תשע"א



### Shabbos Schedule



Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos:	7:00pm
Candle Lighting:	7:35pm
Parsha Chaburah by Richie Fine:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:41am
Kiddush is communally sponsored.	
Mincha:	7:20pm
Shalosh Seudos is communally sponsored.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	8:36pm

### Rabbi - Away

Please note that Rabbi Steinberg will be away from this Sunday through next. Anyone needing to reach the Rabbi (in case of emergency), should contact Shul President, Sherman Frager.

### **Weekday Davening Times**

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday to Thursday:	7:30pm
Mincha Friday, and Kabbalas Shabbos:		7:00pm
Candle Lighting Friday:		7:24pm

### **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:	Will resume after the summer.

### **Women's Learning Experience – August Schedule**

Mondays at 9:45am: Tehillim for Cholim.  
Mondays at 10:15am: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha haShavua.  
Thursdays at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Gesher HaChaim.  
No Gesher HaChaim class the last week of August.  
Classes during August at 403 Bala Circle. Free babysitting is available, reservations must be made in advance. For information or babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.

### **Chevra Mishnayos**

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

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

### **Kivrei Tzadikim Trip For Women**

Visiting the Graves of the Gaonim and Tzadikim buried in Queens, NY. Sunday, September 4th. The trip will begin with a breakfast at YIML at 9am, at which Rabbi Steinberg will speak about the illustrious personalities to be visited. The group will then travel to the Bais HaChaim to learn more, daven, and recite Tehillim. Tentative cost: \$25 (does not include cost of lunch at a Queens restaurant). In order to help us plan, please send an e-mail to Rabbi Steinberg if you think you would like to participate in this trip – [rabbi@yiml.org](mailto:rabbi@yiml.org)

### **YIML Annual Barbeque**

Our Community BBQ will be Sunday, August 21 from 4 to 7pm at South Ardmore Park (near Torah Academy).



Cost, reserved in advance, \$15 single, \$25 couple, \$8 per child (2-12), \$54 family max. Cost at BBQ: \$18 single, \$36 couple, \$10 per child, \$72 family max. Prepayment due Motzai Shabbos, August 20. Give payment to Richie and Janis Fine, Sherman Frager, or Sid Laytin. Gourmet Foods with a Baltic flavor, prepared by Master Chef, Israel Pendrak. Bring baseball gloves, frisbees, etc.  
Please see sign-up sheets around Shul to volunteer to help.

### **New Kosher Restaurant in Philadelphia**

"Chicken.Org," located at 534 South 4th Street in Philadelphia, is newly certified by Community Kashrus of Greater Philadelphia.

Questions? Comments! Sponsorships\$ [weeklyupdate@yiml.org](mailto:weeklyupdate@yiml.org)