

Thought of the Week

This is the 'law and order' parsha of the Torah, so to speak. Implicit in studying it is the realization of the delicate balance between an ordered society, with some restraints on personal freedom and expression, and, on the other hand, a society of complete personal freedom but also of anarchy and chaos.

The judges and police that the Torah commands and authorizes are to be the arbiters that decide the rules of society and the acceptable behavior of its citizens. But, they are merely the enforcers of the law. It is the citizenry itself that sets the limits and mores of the society.

As we have recently seen, thousands of police cannot, by themselves, stop looting, rioting and other forms of social mayhem. There has to be an agreed upon social imperative within the society to make for order. Traffic flows because there is an unwritten but nevertheless binding agreement among drivers to observe traffic signals and stop lights.

Police can be a deterrent to law breakers but police do not guarantee a civil or lawful society. Eventually all societies based purely upon police power falter and fail. Again, witness what is happening in the countries that surround us. Police states cannot control beliefs, ideas and human longings. These eventually rise to the fore, unfortunately many times violently and in revolution, and assert themselves to be stronger than the power of the police state. Police are only valid as the enforcers of the public will. When they overstep that boundary they can become a very negative force in society.

The Torah bids judges and courts to rule fairly, justly and righteously. There is no judge in the world that enters the courtroom without personal prejudices and preconceived beliefs. Yet, the Torah still demands that this judge, burdened by this weight, weigh the matters before him fairly and decently. The pursuit of true justice is a never ending one.

The rabbis of the Talmud advised us to choose a court that has the established reputation for being fair, just and wise. The Talmud lists for us courts and judges that met this description in the early centuries of the Common Era. Being a judge is always a ...

[continued inside ...]

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Parshas Shoftim

פרשת שופטים

Stone Chumash page 1024; Haftarah, page 1199.

September 2-3, 2011

ד' אלול תשע"א



Shabbos Schedule



Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos:	7:00pm
Candle Lighting:	7:14pm
Parsha Chaburah by Dennis Rosen:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:45am
Kiddush is communally sponsored.	
Mincha:	7:00pm
Shalosh Seudos is communally sponsored.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	8:15pm

BBQ Thank You!

Thank you to Israel Pendrak and Family and the other volunteers, for making our Annual BBQ such a success

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis:	Sunday and Monday (Labor Day):	8:00am
	Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday to Thursday:	7:10pm
Mincha Friday, and Kabbalas Shabbos:		7:00pm
Candle Lighting Friday:		7:02pm

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.

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). If any women are still interested in attending, please let Janis Fine know (jfine@comcast.net).

Tefilin and Mezuzah Checking

Rabbi Shmuel Bodenheim, our Shul's sofer sta"m (scribe) will be coming to YIML, be"H, on Sunday, September 18th, following 8am Shacharis and staying for as long as is needed, usually a few days, to check tefilin and mezuzos. If you'd like to reach him in advance of his visit, please call (212) 781-5385.

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

Thought of the Week, continued...

lonely, difficult position. No one will be completely satisfied with a judge's decision. There always are perceived slights and injustices that occur in all legal proceedings.

The Torah bids all of us - judges, litigants, witnesses and the general public – to somehow rise above these inescapable human failings and continue to pursue justice and righteousness as best we can. The prophet challenges us “to create justice.” All human creations have an element of imperfection incorporated within them. We should not allow the presence of this unavoidable imperfection to cloud our general view of the necessity for the pursuit of justice to continue. Judges may falter and be found wanting, but the Torah's insistence upon the rule of justice and right in society is never ending. Both judges and police when set upon the Torah's path of pursuing justice and a moral society fulfill a vital role in society and government.

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

Shabbos Groups at YIML

We are excited to announce the beginning of Shabbos groups at Young Israel of Main Line.

Where: YIML Upstairs at the end of the hall on your right

When: Shabbos Mornings starting at 9:45-until kiddush

Who: Boys and Girls starting at age 2 (also there is a baby/nursing room available). (Children under the age of 2 must be supervised by a parent.)

What: Games, toys, parsha, davening and snacks.

If you have any questions regarding the Shabbos program please contact Karen Kraftmann at kkraftmann@gmail.com.

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.

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