

Young Israel of the Main Line Weekly Update

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Rabbi Avraham Steinberg



Kiddush this week is sponsored by Gary and Andrea Diamond in hakoras hatov.

Shalosh Seudos this week is sponsored by the Yalkut family as a tzeischem l'shalom to our community.

Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to Azriel and Rivki Hirschfeld on the birth of a baby boy this past Wednesday.

Special Shiur

There will be a special shiur this Wednesday night, August 3, from 9:00-9:40 p.m. at the home of Kurt and Melissa Stein (111 Bryn Mawr Avenue) given by Rabbi Steinberg entitled *Realignment: The Avodah of the Nine Days*.

Seri Friedman Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Friedman family has requested that those wishing to make a tax deductible contribution in Seri's memory consider contributing to the "**Seri Friedman Memorial Scholarship Fund**." For more information, please speak with Daniel Eisenberg or e-mail him at eisenber@pol.net.

Second Weekday Minyan at Young Israel

8:00 a.m. daily minyan

YIML Chevra Mishnayos

The *Chevra Mishnayos* is learning *Seder Kodshim*. The siyum is tentatively planned for Shabbos, August 13. If you would like to sign up to learn, put your name on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board or speak to Moshe Eisenberg.

July 29- August 5, 2005

Parshas Matos

פרשת מטות

Shabbos Davening Times

Candle lighting:	8:01 p.m.
Mincha - Friday:	7:00 p.m.
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:33 a.m.
Shacharis:	8:45 a.m.
Mincha followed by <u>Shalosh Seudos</u> :	7:45 p.m.
Maariv:	9:03 p.m.

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis I- Sunday:	8:00 a.m.
Shacharis I- Mon, Thurs:	6:40 a.m.
Shacharis I- Tues, Wed, Fri:	6:50 a.m.
Shacharis II- Sun-Fri:	8:00 a.m.
Mincha/ Maariv (Sun-Thurs):	8:00 p.m.

Topic for the Sefer Hamitzvos Shiur:

Nach: Torah Shebiksav or Torah SheBa'al Peh?

Shabbos, 6:45 p.m.

Take advantage of this opportunity to experience the depth of Talmudic reasoning, while gaining knowledge of some of the most important principles of the Torah's Mitzvos. Each week's shiur is an independent presentation and one can join the shiur at anytime.

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Shiurim*



DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	8:15 a.m.	Chumash Shiur	Rabbi Steinberg	
Shabbos	6:45 p.m.	Rambam Sefer Hamitzvos Shiur	Rabbi Steinberg	Nach: Torah Shebiksav or Torah SheBa'al Peh?
Sunday Morning	After Davening	Sefer Hachinuch Shiur	Rabbi Steinberg	
Mon., Wed.	After Maariv	Mishna Berura Hilchos Shabbos	Eli Back	
15 minutes before Shacharis on Sun.-Fri.		Mesilas Yesharim	Rabbi Steinberg	
Monday	9:45 a.m.	Women's Tehillim Group	--	At the Eisenberg home
Tuesday night	After Maariv	Gemora Shiur, 10 th Chapter of Pesachim	Rabbi Steinberg	ON BREAK!!
Wednesday	9:00 p.m.	Women's Shiur	Rabbi Steinberg	Cancelled, see back page!!
Thursday night	10:10 p.m.	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	ON BREAK!!

*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

Parsha Musings

by Rabbi Steinberg

Repeaters, Leaders, and Deleters

As a dog that returns on its spit does a fool return to his folly.

(Mishlei 26:11)

A dog eats repugnant things that become even more repugnant when he spews them up, and yet he returns to consume them. So is it with the fool; he commits an abhorrent act, and renders it even more abhorrent when he repeats it...

(Shaarei Teshuva of Rabbeinu Yonah, 1:4)

This week's Parsha has three primary sections. The first is a straight halachic section – the laws of a man's ability to annul his daughter's or his wife's vows. The latter two sections are narratives – the story of the war of vengeance against Midian and the story of the request of the tribes of Reuven and Gad to remain on the east side of the Jordan. I believe there is a common thread running through these disparate sections.

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A vow is a statement made in the present that affects the future. Making wise vows therefore requires prudence. One who lacks foresight may very easily make a vow that will ultimately have deleterious effects. The Torah therefore gives a father and a husband – people who are supposed to be “looking out” for those in their family -- the right to ratify or to “delete” the vows of those in their family. But how is the father or husband to determine whether a vow is wise or not?

The ensuing narratives in the Parsha have a common element that may answer this question.

When the Jewish army returns from beating Midian, the Torah tells us: *And Moshe was angry at the commanders of the army...and Moshe said to them, 'Have you let the women live?!' Behold, they caused the Bnei Yisroel to sin against Hashem in the matter of Pe'or!...(31:14-16)* Moshe then commanded to have the captives killed. As the leader of the People, Moshe thwarted their actions when he saw they were mistaken. And he did this by pointing to the past. *Look at the sins these women brought about in the past. Do not repeat the same mistakes.*

We witness a similar rebuke from Moshe in the final story in the Parsha. When the tribes of Reuven and Gad approach Moshe with their request to remain on the east side of the Jordan, Moshe concludes that their intentions are not to join the rest of the nation in the conquest of the Land of Israel, at all. He responds by recollecting the events of nearly forty years earlier: *Why do you dishearten the Bnei Yisroel from crossing to the Land that Hashem has given them? This is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh Barnea to see the Land...and Hashem was angry on that day and He swore saying, 'If these men...will see the ground that I swore to Avraham, Yitzchok, and Yaakov...for they have not followed Me!...(32:7-11)*. Only when Reuven and Gad assure Moshe that they will take the forefront in the battles and not dishearten the nation in the war effort, does Moshe accept their proposal.

Some of the greatest parenting advice I ever received: Let your children make mistakes; it helps them learn. But don't let them make the same mistake twice.

Moshe Rabbeinu, as the “father” and “husband” of the Jewish Nation, reviews his people's every action and nullifies those that he sees bringing negative consequences in the future. He also demonstrates to the people that his projections for the future are based on analysis of the past.

Perhaps it is for this reason that our Parsha begins – uniquely, as the Commentators point out (see *Rashbam* and *Daas Zekeinim*) – with Moshe addressing the “heads of the tribes.” Moshe is imparting the secret of true leadership: *Impart wisdom by teaching people to learn from their mistakes.*

Wishing you a Good Shabbos. Rabbi Steinberg