

# Young Israel of the Main Line Weekly Update

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Rabbi Avraham Steinberg

## New Program for Women – Lamdeini

The Sisterhood of the Young Israel of the Main Line is proud to present **Lamdeini**, a new monthly Shabbos shiur for women. The shiur will start **Shabbos Parshas Ki Savo, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. at the home of Julia Strassman (335 Bala Ave)**. Shalosh Seudos to follow. Speaker: Rabbi Steinberg. This shiur series is dedicated in loving memory of Mrs. Naomi Zeiger z"l.

## Rabbi Pliskin Lecture – A Great Success

Thank you to Sid Laytin for coordinating the very inspiring and well attended lecture by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin this past Sunday morning in our shul. The attendees were very moved by Rabbi Pliskin's words and had an opportunity to meet with him privately in the afternoon.

## Advanced Beginner's Gemora Shiur

The Tuesday night Advanced Beginner's Gemora Shiur will resume on September 13<sup>th</sup>, following Maariv. Participants are asked to spend a little time in advance of each week's shiur preparing the Gemora, so we will get the most out of the Shiur. Please speak to Rabbi Steinberg if you would like to attend.

## Chevra Mishnayos

The YIML Chevra Mishnayos is learning Seder Tohoros. Please sign up to participate.

## Tefillin and Mezuzah Checking

Rabbi Shmuel Bodenheim will be in our Shul on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> starting after davening.

## Women's Choir

There is a women's choir being organized by Ellen Weiss. Rehearsals start this week. Call 610-649-4869 for information.

## CHELKEINU- SAVE THE DATE!!!

Rav Hershel Schachter shlit"a will be speaking at LMS on Sept. 11 at 7:45 p.m. on the topic of, "When Kids Are No Longer Kids: Kibbud Av ve-Em as Families Grow Older." The event is jointly sponsored by Chelkeinu, LMS, and YIML, with food provided by Yi-tzi Peking and Acme Markets. For more info, please contact Rabbi Judah Goldberg at 610-664-3474 or at [chelkeinu@gmail.com](mailto:chelkeinu@gmail.com).

## Ezer L'chinuch

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the "**Seri Friedman Memorial Scholarship Fund**." There are still families with significant need for the upcoming school year. Please consider making a tax deductible contribution now. For more info, e-mail: [eisenber@pol.net](mailto:eisenber@pol.net).

All submissions, suggestions, and sponsorships should be directed to Moshe Eisenberg, creator of this Weekly Update.

September 2-9, 2005

Parshas Re'eh

פרשת ראה

## Shabbos Davening Times

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Candle lighting:</b>                              | <b>7:14 p.m.</b> |
| <b>Mincha - Friday:</b>                              | <b>7:00 p.m.</b> |
| <b>Sof Zman Krias Shema:</b>                         | <b>9:46 a.m.</b> |
| <b>Shacharis:</b>                                    | <b>8:45 a.m.</b> |
| <b>Mincha- Shabbos (followed by Shalosh Seudos):</b> | <b>7:00 p.m.</b> |
| <b>Maariv:</b>                                       | <b>8:16 p.m.</b> |

## Weekday Davening Times

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Shacharis –Sun, Mon (Rosh Chodesh Elul, Labor Day):</b> | <b>8:00 a.m.</b> |
| <b>Shacharis I– Thursday:</b>                              | <b>6:40 a.m.</b> |
| <b>Shacharis I- Tues, Wed, Fri:</b>                        | <b>6:50 a.m.</b> |
| <b>Shacharis II- Tues-Fri:</b>                             | <b>8:00 a.m.</b> |
| <b>Mincha/ Maariv (Sun-Thurs):</b>                         | <b>7:10 p.m.</b> |

## Topic for the Sefer Hamitzvos Shiur:

### **A Fundamental Machlokes Rishonim Regarding the Relationship Between Mitzvos and Middos**

Shabbos, 6:00 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.

## Shloshim of Naomi Zeiger

There will be a program at the Kollel on Monday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. to commemorate the shloshim of Naomi Zeiger A"H. Mincha will be at 5:00 p.m. with the program to follow.

## Are you on our Email list?

To subscribe to the YIML email list simply send a message to [majordomo@chaseplanet.us](mailto:majordomo@chaseplanet.us) with the following single line body:  
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# Shiurim\*



| DAY                                      | TIME             | TOPIC   | SPEAKER                  | NOTES                                |
|--|------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Shabbos                                  | 8:15 a.m.        | Chumash Shiur                                   | Rabbi Steinberg          |                                      |
| Shabbos                                  | 6:00 p.m.        | Rambam Sefer Hamitzvos Shiur                    | Rabbi Steinberg          |                                      |
| 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          |                                      |
| <b>Monday</b>                            | <b>8:00 p.m.</b> | <b>A Conceptual Look at the Jewish Calendar</b> | <b>R' Judah Goldberg</b> | <b>NEW SHIUR!! Starting Sept. 12</b> |
| Tuesday                                  | 9:45 a.m.        | Women's Tehillim Group                          |                          | At the Eisenberg home                |
| Tuesday night                            | After Maariv     | Gemora Sukka Shiur                              | Rabbi Steinberg          | <b>Resumes 9/13</b>                  |
| Wednesday                                | 8:00 p.m.        | Women's Pirkei Avos Shiur                       | Rabbi Steinberg          | 8:00 p.m. through September          |
| Thursday night                           | 10:10 p.m.       | Nefesh Hachaim                                  | Rav Sholom Kamenetsky    | <b>RESUMES THIS WEEK!!</b>           |

\*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

## Parsha Musings by Rabbi Steinberg

### ***'Black and White Vision***

*A man once asked the Brisker Rav, "How could G-d have carried out the plague of the death of the Egyptian first-borns at 'exactly midnight'? There is no such moment as midnight. One moment it is before midnight and the next moment it is after!"*

*"True," answered the Rav, "but there is also no such moment as death. One moment one is alive and the next moment he is not!"*

The Torah generally teaches us to view things with sophistication. We are supposed to recognize different shades of meaning and differing perspectives on life. We are not supposed to be simplistic. But, on the other hand, the Torah teaches that at a certain level a person must view his life with polarity – in simple black and white terms. This is the theme of the beginning of this week's Parsha.

Parshas Re'eh begins with Hashem telling us that he has put before us "blessing and curse." The Sforno explains what this means: *Take a look and see that your matters shall not be mediocre like other worshippers, for I place before you today blessing and curse and they are two extremes, as the blessing is bounty beyond what you need, and in the best way, and the curse is a plague of deficiency – that not even the essentials will be achieved, and these are both before you to acquire as per what you decide.*

Continued on facing page

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Please daven for a refuah shelaima for Shabsai Shmuel Eliyahu ben Sarah Esther

The Torah is teaching us that ultimately there is only good and bad, and nothing in between. This, I believe, is the meaning of the ritual at the mountains Gerizim and Eval. Unlike other terrain in which boundaries are not clearly defined, mountains are very obviously separate bodies one from another. Just as two mountains are clearly distinguished, so too the path to blessing and the path to curse are clearly defined and discernible.

This theme is also reflected in the section immediately following. The Torah warns us to destroy and eliminate all idols and instruments of idol worship in the Land of Israel. Then we are told (12,4-5): *You shall not do so to Hashem your G-d. Rather to the place where Hashem your G-d will choose from all of your tribes' [lands] to put His name there – you shall seek His Presence and come there.* There are different ways of interpreting these pesukim (see Rashi and commentaries.) But the simple implication is that we are being commanded not to destroy the instruments of Hashem's service but to rather go to the Temple to serve Him. Is there no mode of behavior between destroying G-d's Temple and serving Him in it? Why does this pasuk present this directive as a matter of one of two extreme choices?

The answer, I believe is that the Torah is further emphasizing the theme of Re'eh – it's either service of G-d or service of idols. It's either good or bad. There is really no middle-of-the-road in life. In every decision we face – even those that do not seem to fall under the jurisdiction of the Torah's commandments or prohibitions, there is still a "right" and "wrong" decision.

But if the Torah does not offer direction, how is one to know how to act?

Rav Yitzchok Hutner, in a characteristically profound insight (See Pachad Yitzchak, Shavuot, 36:2-4), explains that there is a relevant lesson to be learned by drawing a parallel between national decision-making and that of the individual. The Halachic decisions relating to the Jewish Nation are decided by the Sanhedrin. But the king is given authority to implement laws beyond the scope of Halacha. (See Rambam, Hilchos Melachim, chapter IV.) This extra-halachic authority of the king is granted so that he can direct national matters to the service of G-d, even where the Halacha does not explicitly do so. While superficially the authority of the Sanhedrin and that of the king seem independent, they are actually interrelated. The law is that a king may not be appointed without the approval of the Sanhedrin. Thus, although the Halachic and non-halachic decisions of the Nation belong to two different governing entities, ultimately, even the non-halachic is determined by the insight of the Halacha.

Applying this to the individual, Rav Hutner explains that we have two different types of decisions to make in life – those that fall under the rubric of the Torah's laws and those that are not Torah-related. While on the surface it would appear that we apply different modes of thinking for these two different categories, ultimately this should not be so. Even our non-halachic decisions should be influenced by the Torah, just as the king is appointed by the Sanhedrin.

The Gemora (Sanhedrin 7a) says that a judge should always view himself as if a sword lies in front of him and as if hell is open beneath him. (This means that he has the immediate potential to be punished in this World and in the Next.) Rav Yisroel Salanter used to explain (see Me'orei Oros HaMussar vol. IV, pg. 249) that the Gemora is not addressing only a judge. Every person is a judge over himself and must view every decision in life with the Gemora's prescribed severity. Whether it be a question of how we balance our own needs and desires versus those of our spouses, family or friends, or whether it be a question of where we place the emphasis in our careers or leisure activities – every question that arises has correct and incorrect answers. While it can be difficult and even nerve-racking to approach every issue in life as almost a matter of life and death, it is eventually very rewarding as it makes us realize that even the most mundane matters can be a source of reward and blessing if we make the right choice in each of life's decisions.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos, Rabbi Steinberg