



Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Drew and Holly Dorman in memory of Drew's mother, Sarah Sophia bas Shmuel HaLevi.

Women's Wednesday night Halacha Shiur

The Wednesday night women's shiur given by Rabbi Steinberg is cancelled this week.

Guest Lecturer- Rabbi Moshe Zauderer

Rabbi Moshe Zauderer will be giving a lecture entitled "The Devil Made Me Do It?, Exploring genetic, mazal, and behavioral influences upon moral decision-making" at YIML on Shabbos, May 13, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. Mincha following at 7:35.

Mazel Tov to...

...Moshe and Elana Buchbinder on the birth of a baby boy. The Shalom Zachor will be at the Buchbinder residence -- One Montgomery, Apt.# 314 this Friday night, starting 9:30 PM.

... Gary and Andrea Diamond on being picked as honorees at the upcoming National Council of Young Israel Annual Dinner.

B'nos of Bala Cynwyd

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will meet this Shabbos at Lower Merion Synagogue from 4-5 p.m. Please reserve June 18th for the B'nos end-of-the-year event.

Softball News

This Sunday, May 7, Four Corners vs. defending league champs Beth David at Gladwyn Field. See bulletin board for directions and to sign up for fan club emails.

Aish Philadelphia Annual Community Gala

Aish Philadelphia is holding its annual Community Gala on Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:00 PM at the Natural History Museum. Honorees this year include our own members, **Janis and Richie Fine**. The guest speaker will be Rabbi Lawrence Keleman speaking on *Good to Great: Why Some People Make the Leap...and Others Don't*.

Shiva Chairs

Please be aware that the YIML now has comfortable chairs for shiva, *lo alenu*. We are indebted to Dennis and Eve Rosen for this generous and thoughtful gift.

Young Israel of the Main Line
Weekly Update

273 Montgomery Ave.
(610) 667-3255
Stan Sved, President



Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
www.yiml.org
Rabbi Avraham Steinberg

May 5-12, 2006

Parshas Achrei- Kedoshim פרשת אחרי-קדשים

Shabbos Davening Times

Candle lighting:	7:41 p.m.
Mincha - Friday:	7:00 p.m.
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:26 a.m.
Shacharis:	8:45 a.m.
Mincha- Shabbos followed by Shalosh Seudos:	7:25 p.m.
Maariv:	8:45 p.m.

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis -Sunday:	8:00 a.m.
Shacharis- Mon and Thurs:	6:40 a.m.
Shacharis- Tues, Wed, Fri:	6:50 a.m.
Mincha /Maariv- Sun-Fri:	7:50 p.m.

Sefer Hamitzvos Shiur- This Shabbos

Rabbi Steinberg will give a Sefer Hamitzvos Shiur 1 hour before Mincha this Shabbos. The topic will be, "Is an Issur D'rabanana an "Issur Cheftza?"

Book-signing

The community is invited to a dessert buffet on Sunday, May 7 at 8:30 p.m. at the home of Stan and Jillyan Sved (296 Sycamore Ave.) to celebrate the publication of Rabbi Steinberg's book, "The Year in Drashos".

Chevra Mishnayos

The Chevra Mishnayos has started learning Seder Nezikin. Please sign up by putting your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or speak to Moshe Eisenberg.

R' Steinberg Info:
Stan Sved, President Info:

Home: 610-664-3796
Home: 610-660-5002

E-mail: rabbi@yiml.org



Shiurim*



DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	8:15 a.m.	Parshas Hashavua	Rabbi Steinberg	
Shabbos	45 minutes before Mincha	Gemara Sukka	Rabbi Steinberg	CANCELLED Sefer Hamitzvos Shiur instead
Shabbos	Between Mincha & Maariv	Chabura Topic and speaker vary from week to week.	TBA	
Sunday Morning	After Davening	Sefer Hachinuch	Dov Gottlieb	
Mon., Wed.	After Maariv	Mishna Berura Hilchos Shabbos	Eli Back	
15 minutes before Shacharis on Sun.-Fri.		Shaarei Teshuva	Rabbi Steinberg	
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Women's Tehillim Group		At the Eisenberg home
Wednesday	8:30 p.m.	Practical Halacha Shiur for Women	Rabbi Steinberg	CANCELLED
Thursday night	10:15 p.m.	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	

*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

Pirchei of Philadelphia

Pirchei of Philadelphia will meet this Shabbos at Lower Merion Synagogue from 4-5 p.m.

The Power of Rabbi Akiva

By Rabbi Frand

This week's parsha contains the command to "love your neighbor as yourself" [Vayikra 19:18]. There is a very famous Medrash (Sifra) that children sing: "Rabbi Akiva said that the mitzvah to love your neighbor as yourself is the fundamental principle of the Torah." There is a similar Talmudic passage [Shabbos 31a] concerning a gentile who was interested in converting to Judaism. He asked Hillel to teach him the whole Torah "while standing on one foot". Hillel instructed him -- what you would not want done to you, do not do to others.

It is obvious to us that it can be very hard to observe this mitzvah properly. But I have a theory that it is specifically Rabbi Akiva who can justifiably preach to us regarding the importance of this mitzvah.

This time of year - between Pesach and Shavuot - is the period of the Omer Counting, when we observe certain mourning customs in memory of Rabbi Akiva's students. Rabbi Akiva had 24,000 students, a mind-boggling number compared to our current concept of a "big" Yeshiva. Rabbi Akiva was a great Rosh Yeshiva (Dean). Yet during the Omer period, his 24,000 students all died.

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If you or I were Rabbi Akiva and we had a Yeshiva with 24,000 students and our whole Yeshiva died -- due to some character flaw, which ultimately reflected negatively on the Rosh Yeshiva - what would our reaction be? Most people's reaction would no doubt be, "I am not cut out to be a Rosh Yeshiva. I must be doing something wrong." This must have been a devastating experience for Rabbi Akiva. This was his life's work -- and they all died!

What, however, does the Talmud tell us? "When Rabbi Akiva's students died and the world was desolate, he got up and went to the south of Eretz Yisroel and started over again!" [Yevamos 62b]

It seems evident that Rabbi Akiva had unbelievable resilience. He was the type of person who, despite experiencing the biggest disaster, could find something positive within that disaster, providing him with the ability to continue onward. He had an incredible ability to be able to evaluate the worst of situations and believe that "all is not lost".

Another example of Rabbi Akiva's resilience is evident from an incident that occurred following the destruction of the Bais HaMikdash [Holy Temple]. The Talmud tells us [Makkot 24a], that several Tanaim were walking near the area that was once the Holy of Holies. There was total destruction surrounding them. When they saw a fox emerge from the site of the Holy of Holies they all began to cry, except for Rabbi Akiva, who began to laugh. Rabbi Akiva saw the positive in the situation: If the prophecy which predicted the destruction came true literally, then the prophecy which predicted the redemption will also come true literally.

Rabbi Akiva tells us [Yoma 85b] "Happy are you Israel -- Who purifies you? Your father in Heaven".

Rabbi Akiva personally experienced Yom Kippur when the Bais HaMikdash was still standing. He experienced the Kohen Gadol [High Priest] doing the special Service of the Day, as well as the instant knowledge of whether it would be a good year or a bad year. There was nothing more beautiful than the radiance of the Kohen Gadol when he emerged from the Holy of Holies.

But Rabbi Akiva had to deal with a generation that had to experience a Yom Kippur soon after the Temple's Destruction, when there was no Kohen Gadol. Imagine how the people felt! This is a Yom Kippur? And Rabbi Akiva went to them and convinced them that Yom Kippur was still beautiful. We do not necessarily need a Kohen Gadol! We are now purified directly by G-d Himself.

Rabbi Akiva's strength was that he always saw the positive in every situation. That is why he taught: "Love your neighbor like yourself". Every person has SOME positive aspect. The Baal Shem Tov (1698-1760) interprets the word "Kamocho" (as yourself) in this pasuk [verse] as follows: When a person gets up in the morning and looks at himself in the mirror he thinks, "I am basically a good person. I have my faults and foibles; I am not perfect. But I am more good than bad." This, the Baal Shem Tov says, is how we must evaluate our neighbor: He is basically good; I will overlook his faults.

This is not always easy. It requires us to focus on the good, rather than the bad -- to always see the glass as half full rather than half empty. That was the power of Rabbi Akiva and this is the key to the fulfillment of the mitzvah that is called "The fundamental rule of all of Torah".

Taken from torah.org