



Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Ron & Marguerite Werrin in memory of Ron's mother, Shaindel bas Beryl.

Women's Wednesday night Halacha Shiur

The Wednesday night women's shiur given by Rabbi Steinberg will meet this week at 8:30 PM on the topic of "*The Omer.*"

Memorial Hazkara for Mr. Sam Back z"l

The Back family invites the community to a Memorial Hazkara for Mr. Sam Back z"l, this Tuesday night at 8:00 PM at YIML.

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".

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.

Chevra Mishnayos

The Chevra Mishnayos is 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.

Sefirat Haomer Parenting Seminar

Torah Academy of Greater Philadelphia presents a special presentation by Philip M. Rosenthal entitled, "What is Really Happening on the Internet" at Lower Merion Synagogue on Sunday, April 30, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

R' Steinberg Info: Home: 610-664-3796 E-mail: rabbi@yiml.org
 Stan Sved, President Info: Home: 610-660-5002

Young Israel of the Main Line
Weekly Update

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 Rabbi Avraham Steinberg

April 28-May 5, 2006

Parshas Tazria-Metzora פרשת תזריע-מצורע

Shabbos Davening Times

Candle lighting:	7:34 p.m.
Mincha - Friday:	7:00 p.m.
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:31 a.m.
Shacharis:	8:45 a.m.
Mincha- Shabbos followed by Shalosh Seudos:	7:20 p.m.
Maariv:	8:38 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:	7:40 p.m.

Sefer Hamitzvos Shiur- Next Shabbos

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

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Shiurim*



DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	8:15 a.m.	Parshas Hashavua	Rabbi Steinberg	
Shabbos	45 minutes before Mincha	Gemara Sukka	Rabbi Steinberg	
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	Topic: The Omer
Thursday night	10:15 p.m.	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	

*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

<u>Pirchei of Philadelphia</u>	<u>B'nos of Bala Cynwyd</u>
Pirchei of Philadelphia will meet this Shabbos at Lower Merion Synagogue from 4-5 p.m.	Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will meet this Shabbos at Lower Merion Synagogue from 4-5 p.m.

The Meaning of Life

By Rabbi Chaim Dovid Green

"When a woman will conceive and give birth..." (Leviticus 12:2). This week's parsha continues the detailed discussion of ritual disqualification. There are times when entering certain places of sanctity and eating certain sanctified foods are prohibited, those times being when we find ourselves in a state of ritual disqualification. The Torah notes that this is the case for a woman after giving birth to a child.

These verses lead the midrash into the discussion of the purpose of the creation of humankind. "This is what is stated: 'You have formed the front and back of me...' (Psalms 139:5). Reish Lakish said: "The front," this is (refers to) the first day (of creation), and "the back" this is the last day (of creation). If one merits he is told "you have preceded the entire creation." If not, he is told (even) a mosquito preceded you in creation."

The Yalkut Lekach Tov quotes several questions on this midrash.

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Firstly, mankind was created on the 6th day of creation. Why is he told (if he merits) that he was created before everything else? Secondly, why is it so terrible to be created last? We save the best for last.

The work Bais Yitzchok quoted by the Yalkut Lekach Tov, explains as follows. Once many great philosophers joined together to contemplate the world and everything therein. Their goal was to come to understand the purpose that every creature serves, and the benefit that each one brings to the world. After long and arduous work, they indeed found a purpose for everything. Some things are for food. Other things serve as cures. Some things serve mankind, such as horses and donkeys, etc. They concluded that nothing however minute is created for naught.

After their study was concluded, they celebrated its success with a great feast. Amidst the drinking and celebrating, one of the wise philosophers turned to the others and stated: "We have indeed labored and succeeded in finding the purpose of all there is in the world. However, there is one creature which we have missed completely. We have not given any thought as to its purpose; MANKIND! What need does the world have for us?" No one could come up with the benefits which mankind brings to the world. On the contrary, the more they delved into the subject, the more they realized that he does only damage, and no real good. They chop down trees, slaughter and eat animals and fowl and fish, and they destroy and eat plant life to name just a few things. Everything mankind does is only for his own good, and selfish needs.

The conclusion that they subsequently reached is that mankind has a higher purpose than other forms of life in the creation. This also brought them to the conclusion that there is a soul which lives beyond the lifespan of the body.

The conclusion of the team of philosophers coincides with the Torah perspective. We possess this knowledge from our Torah and our sages who taught us that everything in the world was created to aid us in doing G-d's will. That is the fulfillment of its purpose in this world, when we utilize the world with for that end.

When a person works, for example, in a field, he does all of the necessary jobs which cause the earth to yield its harvest. Afterwards, he refines the produce, and he scrupulously separates and distributes the tithes required by the Torah. That act gives a new and higher dimension to the entire process. When he eats the food he has grown, he recites a blessing to G-d, and recognizes his Benefactor. The produce becomes a vehicle through which he serves G-d. That is its intended purpose, and its life's mission. It has realized its true potential. Consequently, mankind is not destroying, but elevating the entire creation. This is the meaning of telling him that "you have preceded the entire creation." You were the original thought for which all things were created, and you have lived your life according to G-d's expectations and elevated the entire creation.

On the other hand, when a person acts irresponsibly, and does not use the world for its intended purpose, then he is indeed destroying the creation for his own selfish purposes. In that case he is told: "the mosquito preceded you." You have lowered yourself to the level of a thief and a force of destruction.

We are here for a reason. Let us take it to heart and utilize the creation in a way that elevates it. Let us not use our good fortune for our own ends, but rather in a way through which we can show our gratitude to our Creator.

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