

New Shiur Format for Shabbos Afternoons

Rabbi Steinberg is beginning a new Minchas Chinuch Chabura between Mincha and Maariv on Shabbos afternoons. We are also pleased to reintroduce "The Chabura," a forum in which individual members of the kehilla can prepare a shiur on a Gemora/Halacha topic, and present it to the other members of the congregation, often sparking lively *shakla-v'tarya* (give and take), and always engaging and enlightening. We would like to hold the Chabura once every 4-6 weeks (between Mincha and Maariv, in lieu of the Minchas Chinuch Chabura), with prior notice. If you have an *inyan* on which you would like to present, please contact Rabbi Steinberg. Dates, topics, and presenters will be included in announcements and bulletins prior to the date of each Chabura.

PLEASE NOTE: The Minchas Chinuch Chabura with Rabbi Steinberg is beginning this week on the topic of the first of the Aseres Hadibros, the mitzvah of Anochi Hashem Elokecha.

YU Seforim Sale

The Yeshiva University Annual Seforim Sale will ship if a large enough order is placed. If need seforim and are interested in joining in our shul order, please contact Daniel Eisenberg (eisenber@pol.net). You can browse the seforim sale list online at www.soyseforim.org.

YIML Members to be Honored at Local Dinners

Congratulations to...

...Mrs. Risa Goldman, who will receive the Teacher of the Year Award at the upcoming Torah Academy 43rd Annual Dinner.

...Drs. Marguerite and Ronald Werrin, who will be honored at the upcoming Amit Annual Scholarship Dinner- Sunday, March 25, 2007 at Lower Merion Synagogue.

...Orit and Rabbi Yehudah Seif, who will be honored as the Young Leadership couple at the Amit Annual Scholarship Dinner- Sunday, March 25, 2007 at Lower Merion Synagogue.

Mazal Tov to...

...Diane & Howard Okrent on the recent marriage of their daughter, Elana, to Judd Bogdansky.

...Charlotte and Milton Waxman on the engagement of their son, Dov Mendel, to Rochel Walters.

Guest Speaker

Alan Dershowitz will be speaking at the Annenberg Center for Performing Arts at the University of Pennsylvania on the topic of "Global Terrorism: The New World War" on March 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. General/Student Admission: \$20/\$5 in advance, \$30/\$15 at the door. YIML is a co-sponsor of this event.

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

February 2-9, 2007

Parshas Beshalach

פרשת בשלח

Shabbos (Shira/Tu b'Shvat) Davening Times

Candle lighting:	5:03 p.m.
Mincha - Friday:	5:05 p.m.
Shacharis:	8:45 a.m.
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:41 a.m.
Mincha for Shabbos:	5:00 p.m.
Maariv:	6:07 p.m.

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis- Sunday:	8:00 a.m.
Mincha- Sunday:	5:10 p.m.
Shacharis- Mon, Thurs:	6:40 a.m.
Shacharis- Tues, Wed, Fri:	6:50 a.m.
Maariv (Mon-Thurs):	7:45 p.m.

There will not be weekday Mincha until the Spring.

Next Shabbos Davening Times

Candle lighting:	5:11 p.m.
Mincha - Friday:	5:10 p.m.

Upcoming Change in Shabbos Mincha Time

Please note that starting this week, Shabbos Mincha will begin ten minutes closer to sunset than it has in the past. On weeks when there is shul-sponsored Shalosh Seudos, we will maintain the "old schedule." New February calendars are available that reflect this change.

Women's Tehillim Group

Please join us weekly on Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. as we say tehillim on behalf of cholim (the sick). We meet at 345 Bala Avenue. Kids are welcome. For more information, please call Janet Eisenberg (610-664-8554).



Shiurim*



DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	8:15 a.m.	Parsha Etymology Based on the teachings of Rav Shamshon Raphael Hirsch zt"l	Rabbi Steinberg	
Shabbos	Between Mincha and Maariv	Minchas Chinuch Chabura	Rabbi Steinberg	<u>Topic:</u> Aseres Hadibros: Anochi Hashem Elokecha
Shabbos	Between Mincha and Maariv	The Chabura	Rotating	UPCOMING!
Sunday Morning	After Davening	Sefer Hachinuch	Moshe Buchbinder	
Mon., Wed.	Before Mincha	Mishna Berura	Eli Back	
15 minutes before Shacharis on Sun.-Fri.		Chovos Halevovos	Rabbi Steinberg	
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Women's Tehillim Group		345 Bala Ave.
Tuesday	8:00 p.m.	Gemora Kesuvos First Perek	Rabbi Steinberg	
Wednesday	8:15 p.m.	Sefer Shmuel Bais	Rabbi Steinberg	Shiur for Women
Thursday night	10:15 p.m.	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	Possible cancellation TBA

*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

Chevra Mishnayos

The Chevra Mishnayos is currently learning Seder Moed. Please sign up by putting your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. The siyum is planned for Shabbos, Parshas Mishpatim (Feb. 17). For more information, please speak with Moshe Eisenberg.

B'nos of Bala Cynwyd

B'nos of Bala Cynwyd will not meet this Shabbos.

Pirchei of Philadelphia

Pirchei of Philadelphia will meet this Shabbos at Lower Merion Synagogue from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

R' Steinberg Info:

Shul: 610-667-3255 ext. 1

E-mail: rabbi@yiml.org

President Stan Sved Info:

Home: 610-660-5002

Tu B'Shvat- Can A Person Sleep For Seventy Years?

By Rabbi Label Lam

How odd it feels to look out at a frozen landscape of trees standing as skeleton-like statues, knowing that it is time to celebrate the "New Year for Trees"- Tu B'Shevat. It may make us wonder aloud as we crunch on carobs and down some dates, "What's wrong with this picture?"

The appointed season for the "New Year for Trees" is, on a practical level, a fiscal cut off point to determine which fruits belong to which year. It occurs at that time when the trees are ready to blossom as winter's water graduates to become syrup through the xylem and phylum.

The Talmud relates a famous incident regarding Choni Hamagel. He was troubled by a verse we are all familiar with: "Shir Hamaalos...When Hashem returns the captivity of Tzion, we will have been like dreamers." Since the time of the exile between the first Beis HaMikdash to the second was seventy years, Choni Hamagel wondered, "Can a person sleep for seventy years?"

Choni Hamagel met a young man on the road planting a carob tree. He inquired how long it would take for that tree to bear fruit. The man told him, "Seventy years." Choni Hamagel asked him if he thought he would be around to reap the benefits of his labor. The man informed him, "When I came into this world, I found a carob tree that others had planted for me. Just as my ancestors planted for me, I plant this tree for my descendants."

Shortly after that brief encounter, Choni Hamagel fell into a deep slumber. Remarkably, he awoke seventy years later to find the grandchild of that farmer picking carobs from the same tree. Choni Hamagel revisited his own community where he had been presumed dead for many years. He heard his Torah being quoted in the Beis Medrash. He even encountered his very own grandchildren, but nobody believed him to be the real Choni Hamagel. He was in a world not his own, so he prayed to taken from that world and, once again, his wish was granted. (Taanis 23A) We imagine that this should have been a dream come true. In fact, it was an intolerable nightmare. Why?

The first part of the story is perhaps the key to explain the second. The man planting the tree lived with the accepted reality that we are here in this world to plant. "Those who sow with tears, reap in joy!" In this world of action, we perform tasks whose results are beyond our imagination. Just as we enjoy the benefits and the bounty of sacrifices made by previous generations, we too are receiving and passing on dreams to future worlds. It is not our purpose in this place to reap the results of our investments. We are granted just enough nachas to encourage us to keep on moving and doing. To be a mere spectator in life without an active purpose is an exercise in futility and likely yields a lethal dose of frustration.

It is told that Rabbi Shlomo Hyman, zt"l, the first Rosh HaYeshiva at Torah V'Daas, was once giving a shiur on a snowy day. Although there were only two students present, he gave the lesson with the same thunderous enthusiasm as if the room was filled with many more. One of the students told the Rebbe, "There are only two of us here!" Rabbi Hyman answered, "I'm teaching you, your children and all your talmidim. I see thousands here." One of the students was inspired at that moment to begin a dedicated career of education. There were thousands in the room that day.

On Tu B' Shevat, we honor the vision, the process, and the endless possibility for productive living. Since, as King David says, (Psalms 90:10) "The days of our years are seventy" (25,550 days to be exact), we might appreciate that question differently, "Can a person sleep for seventy years?"

Taken from torah.org