

YOUNG ISRAEL OF THE MAIN LINE

Weekly Update

Rabbi Avraham Steinberg
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Parshas Matos-Masei פרשת מטות-מסעי

כ"ח תמוז—July 13-14

Shabbos Davening Times

Earliest candle lighting:	6:58pm
Candle lighting:	8:12pm
Mincha - Friday:	7:00pm
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:25am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishis:	8:00pm
Maariv:	9:15pm

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis Sunday:	8:00am
Shacharis Mon., Rosh Chodesh:	6:30am
Shacharis (Tue., Wed., Fri.):	6:50am
Shacharis (Thu.):	6:40am
Mincha/Maariv (Sun.-Thu.):	8:15pm

Next Shabbos Times

Earliest candle lighting:	6:55pm
Candle lighting:	8:08pm
Mincha - Friday:	7:00pm

Calendar of Shiurim

DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	7:55am-8:15am	Parsha Chabura	D. Dorman	ROTATES
Shabbos	8:15am	Parsha Etymology	R. Steinberg	
Shabbos	7:15pm	Minchas Chinuch Chabura	R. Steinberg	CNCLD
Shabbos	After Mincha	Medical Halacha	D. Eisenberg	CNCLD
Sunday	After Shacharis	Sefer Hachinuch	M. Buchbinder	
Mon., Wed.	Before Mincha	Mishna Berura	Eli Back	
Sun.-Fri.	15 min. before Shacharis	Chovos haLevovos	R. Steinberg	
Monday	9:45am	Women's Tehillim Group		345 Bala Ave.
Tuesday	9:00pm	Advanced Gemora: Kesubos	R. Steinberg	Resumes in Sept.
Wednesday	8:45pm	Women's Shiur	R. Steinberg	Resumes in Sept.
Thursday	10:10pm	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	Resumes in Sept.

*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

Tefillin and Mezuzah Checking:

Mark your calendar. Rabbi Shmuel Bodenheim, our Sofer Sta"m (scribe) will be in town (at YIML) beginning Sunday, September 2nd, IY"Y, to check your tefillin and mezuzos.

A Nine-Days Lecture for Women:

Connecting to Tragedy
Reflections on the Holocaust, the Kinross, and Jewish Memory
Sunday, July 15, 2007; 7:15-8:00pm at the Young Israel.

Tisha B'Av Video Presentation:

This year's Tisha B'Av videos produced by the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation will be shown at 2:30pm and 5:30pm at the Philadelphia Community Kollel on Tisha B'Av (July 24, 2007).

Kiddush and Seudah Shlishis

Kiddush this week is being sponsored by Barry & Judith Levitt in expression of *hakoras hatov* and farewell to the Young Israel community. Seudah Shlishis is community sponsored.

All submissions, suggestions, and sponsorships should be directed to Moshe Eisenberg, editor of the Weekly Update. This week's edition is guest edited. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Explanatory Kinnos

Please note that on Tisha B'Av morning (July 24), following the 8:00am Shacharis, we will recite Kinnos with brief introductions to each kinnah by Rabbi Steinberg. (More detailed explanations will be offered for select kinnos.)

Tzeis'chem l'Sholom

The Rabbi, President, Board of Directors, and entire membership of the Young Isreal of the Main Line wish a heartfelt *tzeis'chem l'sholom* to **Dr. Barry & Judith Levitt and family** as they leave Bala Cynwyd for Atlanta at the end of this month. The service and support provided by the Levitt family to our shul and community over the years has been immeasurable. You will be greatly missed! *Hatzlacha rabba* in your new home and community!

Condolences

YIML extends heartfelt condolences to Chava Slotoroff on the loss of her mother, Mrs. Muriel Slotoroff.

Chava is sitting shiva (through Monday night) at her apartment, 101 Summit Lane, Apt. A2. Please call before coming: (610) 667-5543.

Hamakom yenachem osah b'soch she'ar avai lei Tzion v'Yerushalayim.

Chevra Mishnayos

The Chevra Mishnayos is now learning Seder Kodshim. See the shul bulletin board to sign up.

Are you on our e-mail list?

To subscribe to the shul mailing list, send a message to majordomo@chaseplanet.us with the following in the message body (all one line): `subscribe yiml YOUR-EMAIL`

Rabbi Steinberg Contact Information

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D'VAR TORAH by Rabbi Berel Wein

Parshat Matot-Maasei

The double parsha of this week pretty much concludes the narrative portion of the Torah. The stops and encampments of the Jewish nation during their forty year stay in the desert of Sinai are dutifully recorded. What is the purpose of this holy travelogue? After all, at first glance it appears to be nothing more than a list of places and oases, most of whose locations are completely unknown to later generations. Even the true location of Mount Sinai, the lowly peak where the Torah was given to Israel and the world, is a subject of archeological and historical disputes.

So of what value are all of the names and places listed in the parsha? This question is certainly not original with me. Over the ages, the scholars of Israel have attempted to unfathom the matter of the names of the places in the Sinai desert that appear in our parsha. Many commentators and the Midrash itself found deeper meanings and moral lessons lurking behind the recitation and spelling of the name of the place itself. Such names as *kivrot hataavah*—the burial place of desire and lust—certainly bear out such understandings.

However, not all of the names and places mentioned in the parsha lend themselves as easily to such explanations and interpretations. The masters of kabala and Chasidut imparted mystical and even prophetic overtones to these names. They gave them an other-worldly dimension. As appealing as such ideas are to our spiritual bent, the rule of Torah interpretation—*ein hamikra yotzei midei pshuto*—the verse in the Torah always means its simple straightforward sense—causes us to remain with the question of why this list of names of places in the Sinai desert is included in such length and detail in the parsha.

Rashi gives us an inkling of the moral lesson that drives the inclusion of this list of names of places in the Torah. It served and serves as a memory book. Much as on occasions of joy and sadness the family gathers round to look at old photographs and to reminisce together about the past, so too does the Torah indulge us in such an experience here in the parsha.

Reminiscences and nostalgia are part of the glue that binds families and generations together. Past experiences recalled become shared family experiences. Without the list of where we were in the Sinai desert and what occurred to us there, all of the great moral challenges, failings and lessons that represent that period of time and formative generations of Israel would be muted if not even lost to us.

I am certain that all of us are aware that the naming of streets in cities all over the world is meant to give life, memory and continuity to the past in order to inspire strength in the present and faith in the future. Throughout our long exile, the Jewish people have always remembered where we were and what occurrences befell us there. To a great extent, this has been part of our arsenal of survival. So pay heed too these names of ancient places. They are our family photographs and grant us guidance for our future.

From: <http://www.rabbiwein.com/Weekly-Parsha/2007/07/173.html>