

Young Israel of the Main Line Weekly Update

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Stan Sved, President



Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
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Rabbi Avraham Steinberg

February 16-23, 2007

Parshas Mishpatim

פרשת משפטים

Shabbos Davening Times

Candle lighting:	5:19 p.m.
Mincha - Friday:	5:20 p.m.
Shacharis:	8:45 a.m.
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:33 a.m.
Mincha for Shabbos:	5:15 p.m.
Maariv:	6:23 p.m.

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis- Sunday:	8:00 a.m.
Mincha- Sunday:	5:30 p.m.
Shacharis- Mon (Rosh Chodesh Adar), 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:	5:27 p.m.
Mincha - Friday:	5:30 p.m.

Chevra Mishnayos

The Chevra Mishnayos siyum on Seder Moed **has been postponed until next** Shabbos, Parshas Teruma (Feb. 24). Don't forget to finish up your masechtos.

Minchas Chinuch Chabura this Shabbos (following Mincha)

Now studying Mitzva #26. This week's discussion will be about:

- * Is a Jew Also a Ben Noach?
- * What is a Blind Person's Obligation in Mitzvos?
- * A Controversial Statement of the Minchas Chinuch
- * An Unknown Chiddush of Rav Moshe Feinstein

New Advanced Gemora Shiur

We hope to begin a new advanced gemora shiur/chabura led by Rabbi Steinberg on Tuesday evenings from 9-10 p.m., starting soon, in Gemora Kesuvos. **Mareh mekomos will be distributed via email prior to the shiur.** Please send your email address to halpern@comcast.net if you wish to participate.

Seforim Dedication Opportunities

The Shul has purchased new sets of Minchas Chinuch, to enrich our study of this sefer. If you would like to dedicate a set/sets (at \$60 each) of this wonderful book, please contact Dr. Daniel Eisenberg at eisenber@pol.net (include dedication text).

YIML Members to be Honored at Local Dinners

Congratulations to...

...Mrs. **Risa Goldman**, who will receive the Excellence in Education 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.

Special Lecture

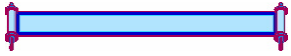
There will be a special lecture on the topic of Global Terrorism with guest speaker, Alan Dershowitz and opening remarks by Malcolm Hoenlein at the Annenberg Center for Performing Arts at the University of Pennsylvania on March 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. General/Student Admission: \$20/\$5 in advance, \$30/\$15 at the door. YIML is a co-sponsor of this event.

Pirchei of Philadelphia

Pirchei of Philadelphia will meet this Shabbos at Lower Merion Synagogue from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Additionally, there will be an Oneg Shabbos this Friday night at the home of Rabbi Silver (151 Highland Circle), for all Pirchei boys from 8:15-about 9:30. Fathers are welcome to come and participate. There will be food, singing and stories.

B'nos of Bala Cynwyd

B'nos of Bala Cynwyd will meet this Shabbos in the upstairs classrooms at Lower Merion Synagogue from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Please remind your daughters that this Shabbos is 'BUBBY AND BABY' week at B'nos! (The youngest group, nursery-kindergarten, and the oldest group, 5th-6th grade, should come dressed as babies; and the 2 middle groups, 1st-4th grade should come dressed as Bubbies.)



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> See back of <u>Update</u> for details
Shabbos	Between Mincha and Maariv	The Chabura	Rotating	<u>UPCOMING!</u>
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	
Thursday night	10:15 p.m.	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	Possible cancellation TBA

*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

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Where the War is Fought

By Rabbi Label Lam

Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe will blind those who see and corrupt words that are just. (Shemos 23:8)

The word in Hebrew for bribery is "shochad". Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch points out that the Hebrew word helps to explain the dynamic of the concept. A person is caused by some level of self-interest to look at a situation with one "chad" eye instead of with the balance of the two eye approach.

It is for this reason that a person has a hard time evaluating himself. Since we have various biases, objectivity becomes an almost impossible mission. The Talmud says it best, based on the premise that a relative is not a valid source of testimony, "A man is a relative to himself."

Continued on facing page

The famous psychiatrist and author of many Torah books, Rabbi Abraham Twersky had just finished telling us that he had not written fifty some odd books, but he had only written one book fifty different ways. His singular and constant theme is the idea of authentic self-esteem. I asked him for a working definition of self esteem. He said simply, "Knowing your good points and your bad points simultaneously!"

It took a bit of good thinking to come to appreciate how wise these words were. If a person looks at himself alternately as good or bad then the score is always lopsided. If I am only aware at a given moment of my good points, I'll likely become intoxicated with my own success and fall prey to the ills of hubris. If I see my faults and failures alone, I am a serious candidate to become lazy and depressed. If however a person sees both simultaneously, one cures the other.

King Solomon opens the conversation in Proverbs (1:8) speaking as a father would caution his own child. "Listen my son to the admonitions of your father and do not abandon the Torah of your mother." Two different types of requests are being made. In one case, the child is being called to listen and grow up to the standards of a father's vision. This is an endless unfolding ladder of expectation. The one with his eye to sky may grow discouraged by feelings of inadequacy. The task may seem too tall at times.

On the other hand, in the same breath, that same child is being told not to abandon that which is inherently good. It only needs protection that piece of perfection. The mandate is only not to jettison those qualities which, either acquired or inherited are considered worthy.

Every person has a little of both. There are points that need constant improvement and at the same time there are sterling qualities that are installed as part of the furniture of our being. King Solomon seems to be cautioning for the need to look with both eyes.

One of the great experiences in Yeshiva was when a new fellow would arrive that unfortunately didn't know Hebrew from Hieroglyphics. When any of us would be given the chance to begin to learn with such a novice there was an instant sense of accomplishment. Six months earlier I didn't know which way to hold the siddur and now I'm capable of coaching him on a thing or two. This was a simple way to measure growth and progress.

Lest we delude ourselves and presume that we had graduated to prophecy and were ready to hang a shingle, Talmud class was a taste of humble pie. By observing the Rabbis and their children who knew more at a tender age than even we with advanced degrees was a swift reminder of how far we were from the goal.

Holding those two pictures simultaneously may not give us the perfect picture of self but it helps avoid the problems associated with over and under estimating ourselves. It also serves to keep us appropriately motivated as one constantly bridges the healthy tension between the "is" and the "ought". That's where the war is fought.

Taken from torah.org