

YOUNG ISRAEL OF THE MAIN LINE

Weekly Update

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Parshas Pinchas

פרשת פינחס

כ"א תמוז—7-6 July

Shabbos Davening Times

Earliest candle lighting: 7:00pm
Candle lighting: 8:15pm
Mincha - Friday: 7:00pm

Sof Zman Krias Shema: 9:23am
Shacharis: 8:45am
Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishis: 8:00pm
Maariv: 9:18pm

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis Sunday: 8:00am
Shacharis (Tue., Wed., Fri.): 6:50am
Shacharis (Mon., Thu.): 6:40am
Mincha/Maariv (Sun.-Thu.): 8:20pm

Next Shabbos Times

Earliest candle lighting: 6:58pm
Candle lighting: 8:12pm
Mincha - Friday: 7:00pm

Calendar of Shiurim

DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	7:55am-8:15am	Parsha Chabura	T. Poe	ROTATES
Shabbos	8:15am	Parsha Etymology	R. Steinberg	
Shabbos	7:15pm	Minchas Chinuch Chabura	R. Steinberg	Can You do a Mitzva as a Kattan and be Motzei Yourself as a Gadol?
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.

Women's Learning Experience:

Please note that the WLE classes will NOT meet in the summer.

We hope to start again in the fall.

Special thanks to Janis Fine and Elana Avis for all of their work in coordinating this special Torah-learning program for women.

Kiddush and Seudah Shlishis

Kiddush this week is being sponsored by Dennis and Eve Rosen to commemorate the yearzeit of Dennis' mother, Sarah bas Nissim.

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.

Community Chesed

The Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) desperately needs volunteers for tomorrow's distribution. Each month, JRA delivers boxes of food to well over 2000 needy Jewish families. This is a great activity for all ages over 3 (packaging is fun, delivering is a chesed). Come together with 300-500 other volunteers. Visit www.jewishrelief.org.
Next deliveries: July 8 & August 5.

Community

The new community-wide listserv is now available to the Orthodox community in the Lower Merion area. Among the services that could be posted to this list are: community events, job postings, houses for rent or sale, shiva notices, requests for rides to funerals and other carpools, garage sales, lost and found items, sports leagues, and childcare notices. The listmaster is Eitan Dvir.

To subscribe (at no cost) to this new service, log onto www.LowerMerionShuls.com and follow the prompts. If you would like more information, contact LMShuls Project Coordinator, Hannah Lee, at hannah@barzel.org or (610) 668-8590.

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`

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D'VAR TORAH by Rabbi Berel Wein

Parshat Pinchas

Pinchas is not an overly popular figure in Jewish life and among his own generation. The people of Israel were angered by his act of violence in killing the head of the tribe of Shimon without giving the matter due judicial process. It is because of this type of murmuring that the Lord Himself, so to speak, blesses Pinchas personally and grants him the gift of priesthood and of peace.

Pinchas motives are challenged by the people but they are vindicated by God. But it takes God himself, so to speak to quiet the objections to Pinchas and his behavior. And it is noteworthy therefore to emphasize that we do not find any other further act of holy zealotry mentioned in the Torah or approved of by Jewish tradition

Pinchas and his behavior become the exception and not the rule in Jewish life and tradition. Zealotry is a very difficult characteristic to gauge correctly. How much are personal quirks involved in such zealous behavior? Jewish history and society is littered by the victims of religious zealotry who were felled by personal attacks clothed in the guise of religious piety and zealotry.

The zealot often covers his own weaknesses and self-doubt by attacking others. That is why the people of Israel questioned the motives of Pinchas in killing Zimri. Because of this, it is obvious that only God, so to speak, could save Pinchas from unwarranted criticism and public disapproval. But in so doing, God, again so to speak, warns us of the dangers of zealotry. He will not step in again to rescue the zealot from public and historical disapproval.

We meet Pinchas again later in Jewish history, again at a moment of personal tragedy. He is the High Priest and head of the Sanhedrin at the time of Yiftach, the judge of Israel. Yiftach has made a foolish vow that whatever or whoever comes forth first from his house to greet him upon his return from the successful war that he waged to save Israel from the oppression of Bnei Ammon will be sacrificed to God.

The daughter of Yiftach, not knowing of her fathers vow, rushes out of the house to welcome home the returning hero. Eventually Yiftach fulfills his vow and kills her on the altar. This entire horrible story could have been averted.

The rabbis in the Talmud tell us that Yiftach could have had the vow annulled retroactively by appearing before Pinchas and his court and requesting such an annulment. But ego and hubris interfere, even at the cost of the life of ones own child. Yiftach refuses to humble himself after all he is the leader of Israel to appear before Pinchas and ask for the annulment.

Even though Pinchas is aware of the vow, he also refuses to lower himself after all he is the high Priest and the head of the Sanhedrin to travel to Yiftach to effect the annulment. As the Talmud ruefully observes, because of this display of personal pique and ego, an innocent person is killed. Pinchas reputation is therefore tarnished by this incident. Perhaps this is another reason that we do not find the zealotry of Pinchas repeated and complimented again in the Torah.

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