

YOUNG ISRAEL OF THE MAIN LINE

Weekly Update

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Parshas Vayera פרשת וירא

ט'ו חשוון תשס"ח—26-27 October

Shabbos Davening Times

Earliest candle lighting: 5:00pm
Candle lighting: 5:49pm
Mincha - Friday: 5:50pm

Sof Zman Krias Shema: 10:05am
Shacharis: 8:45am
Mincha: 5:45pm
Maariv: 6:51pm

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis Sunday: 8:00am
Mincha/Maariv Sunday: 5:50pm
Shacharis (Mon., Thu.): 6:40am
Shacharis (Tue., Wed., Fri.): 6:50am
Maariv (Mon.-Thu.): 7:45pm

Next Shabbos Times

Candle lighting: 5:40pm
Mincha - Friday: 5:40pm

Calendar of Shiurim

DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	7:55am–8:15am	Parsha Chabura	B. Weiss	ROTATES
Shabbos	8:15am	Parsha Shiur	R. Steinberg	
Shabbos	After Mincha	Minchas Chinuch Shiur	R. Steinberg	OFF WEEK
Shabbos	After Mincha	Chabura	J. Weinberger	
Shabbos	After Mincha	Medical Halacha	D. Eisenberg	
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	9:00pm	Advanced Gemora: Makkos	R. Steinberg	
Thursday	10:10pm	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	

*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

THIS SHABBOS

Kiddush:

Kiddush is sponsored by Stan & Jillyan Sved and family to mark the yarzeit of Jillyan's brother z"l; as well as by the Steinberg and Weinberger families in appreciation of the Chosson Torah and Chosson Beraishis honors given respectively to Rabbi Steinberg and Josh Weinberger this past Simchas Torah.

Special Chabura:

This Shabbos between Mincha and Maariv: *Akeidas Yitzchak and the Mitzvah to Bring Korbanos in the Bais HaMikdash*, given by Josh Weinberger.

Bnos and Pirchei:

Both Bnos and Pirchei will IY"YH meet this week from 3:45pm to 4:45pm at LMS.

New Pirchei Group:

There is a new group in Pirchei for 6th—8th grade boys. A gemara shiur, learning Gemara Ta'anis. If you are interested in sponsoring a Pirchei Shabos please contact Rabbi Ari Silver, 610-668-6833.

All submissions, suggestions, and sponsorships should be directed (by Wednesday evening) to the editor of the Weekly Update, פלוגי בן פלוגי (weeklyupdate@yiml.org).

Hakaras Hatov:

Please join us in thanking all of the women who take care of arranging the kiddush at YIML every week, and Gershon ben Shalom for the splendid chullent we have the pleasure of consuming.

Thanks also to all the post-kiddush and post-shabbos elves who work tirelessly to remove potato chips from the shul carpet.

Advanced Gemora Shiur:

The Advanced Gemora Shiur with Rabbi Steinberg, now learning Masseches Makkos, meets on Monday nights at 9:00 PM. Mareh Mekomos are sent out by e-mail in advance of the shiur. To join the e-mail list, contact Rabbi Steinberg: rabbi@yiml.org.

CONDOLENCES

YIML extends heartfelt condolences to Mr. Milt Waxman on the passing of his brother, Mr. Gerald Waxman.

Milt is sitting shiva (through Monday morning) at his home, 23 Bryn Mawr Ave. Weekday davening times at the shiva house will be at the same times as at the YIML (through Monday Shacharis).

Hamakom yenachem oso b'soch she'ar availei Tzion v'Yerushalayim.

ONGOING EVENTS

Chevra Mishnayos:

The Chevra Mishnayos is now learning Seder Zeraim.

See the shul bulletin board to sign up.

Women's Tehillim Group:

The Women's Tehillim Group meets Mondays at 9:45am at 345 Bala Ave.

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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Most commentators dwell upon the compassion for sinners demonstrated by our father Avraham in this week's parsha. Though this message is undoubtedly the important one, as relating to the tragedy of Sodom, there is an important peripheral lesson, of perhaps equal importance, involved there as well. And that lesson is that a few good people make all the difference in human society and in the fate of mankind.

Sodom is not destroyed because of the thousands or even millions of evildoers in its midst. It was destroyed simply because it lacked ten good people in its society. And this is God's message to Avraham as well. Avraham is a lonely person—he is on one side and everyone else in the world is seemingly on the other side.

Lonely people oftentimes are beset by doubts as to their course in life. "Fifty million Frenchmen can't be wrong!" But history has shown us time and again that the lonely individual is proven correct and the behavior and opinions of the many are proven to be wrong and even dangerous. Avraham becomes the paradigm for the lonely righteous in a world that envies, imitates and glorifies Sodom. He is the father of the Jewish people especially in this regard.

The Jews are a small and lonely group in our world. Their values and way of life are in opposition to those of the many. Yet even our enemies admit—and in fact object to the prevalence of our contributions, influence and vitality as regards human civilization and history.

The destruction of Sodom leaves a deep imprint on Avraham. It helps shape his attitude towards his son Yitzchak. He eschews the choice of the many—of Yishmael and the children of Keturah—in favor of the lonely good and pious son Yitzchak. That is perhaps the message of God to Avraham when He told him: "For through Yitzchak [alone] will you have true descendants."

One Yitzchak eventually is able to counter—in God's inscrutable reckoning of merits and salvation millions of evildoers—no matter how well pedigreed those evildoers claim to be. Sodom eventually is destroyed by its own innate lack of goodness and of a dearth of pious citizens. But Avraham and Yitzchak, small in numbers and opposed by most of the world, will continue to flourish and proclaim the values of goodness and righteousness in the general world.

The prophet Yeshayahu characterizes Avraham as *echad*—one, unique, alone, singular. That description is to be interpreted positively and not as a complaint or source of weakness or pessimism. In a world of the many it is the few that really matter. The Lord told us long ago in the book of Dvarim that we would be the fewest of all people. Yet in our influence and strength of spirit we are as numerous as are the stars in heaven.

This inner realization of ourselves and our role in God's plan for human existence and growth marks us as the true children of Avraham and gives us hope even in a world where Sodom appears all powerful.

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