

YOUNG ISRAEL OF THE MAIN LINE

Weekly Update

Rabbi Avraham Steinberg
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Parshas Vayetzei

פרשת ויצא

ז' כסלו תשס"ח—16-17 November

Shabbos Davening Times

Earliest candle lighting:	3:42pm
Candle lighting:	4:26pm
Mincha - Friday:	4:25pm
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:17am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishis:	4:10pm
Maariv:	5:29pm

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis Sunday:	8:00am
Mincha/Maariv Sunday:	4:30pm
Shacharis (Mon.):	6:40am
Shacharis (Tue., Wed., Fri.):	6:50am
Shacharis Thanksgiving Day:	8:00am
Mincha/Maariv Thanksgiving Day:	4:30pm
Maariv (Mon.-Wed.):	7:45pm

Next Shabbos Times

Candle lighting:	4:22pm
Mincha - Friday:	4:20pm

Calendar of Shiurim

DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	7:55am–8:15am	Parsha Chabura	S. Sved	ROTATES
Shabbos	8:15am	Parsha Shiur	R. Steinberg	
Shabbos	After Mincha	Minchas Chinuch Shiur	R. Steinberg	OFF WEEK
Shabbos	After Mincha	Chabura	J. Weinberger	OFF WEEK
Shabbos	After Mincha	Medical Halacha	D. Eisenberg	OFF WEEK
Sunday	After Shacharis	Sefer Hachinuch	M. Buchbinder	
Mon., Wed.	After Maariv	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 and Shalosh Seudos:

Kiddush this week is being sponsored by Henya and Shmuel Novick on the birth of their grandson, Noach.

Seudah Shlishis is sponsored by Arthur and Sandie Rosenthal in memory of Sandie's father, Yisroel ben Peretz.

Bnos and Pirchei:

Both Bnos and Pirchei will IY"YH meet this week from 2:30pm to 3:30pm at LMS.

MAZEL TOV!

To Shmuel & Henya Novick...

... on the birth of their grandson, Noach.

To Terry & Alex Blynn...

... on the birth of Tuvia Lev to Lina and Eli Fleminger in Baltimore.

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

Rabbi Steinberg Away:

Please note that Rabbi Steinberg will be away from Sunday, Nov. 18—Monday, Nov. 26. If the need to reach him arises, please leave a message at his home.

Calendars:

The next three months of Young Israel calendars are available online. Look for them in the mail this week.

Bnos Reminder:

Unfortunately, Bnos can not currently accommodate children below the age of 4-year nursery. We are attempting to recruit additional Bnos leaders to allow younger children to participate, however, in the meantime, please do not send your daughter to Bnos if she is not yet in 4-year nursery.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Melava Malka for Women:

Join us at the YIML for a Melava Malka and film for women: *Inspired Too, Kiruv Across America*. December 1 at 7:30pm at the Young Israel. The cost is \$5. Please RSVP to Janis Fine: 610-617-0913 or jfine@comcast.net.

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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Rashi points out for us in the beginning of this week's parsha (really at the conclusion of last week's parsha) that Yaakov stopped at the study house of Shem and Ever for fourteen years on his flight from Eisav to his uncle's house in Aram. This seems to be a strange stopover at first glance.

How will the instruction that he received in the school established by Shem and Ever contribute to his survival and success at the house of Lavan, the master conniver and duplicitous character? The question is phrased in a more current if blunter fashion in the Talmud itself—of what value are the Torah students to society at large?

To meet Lavan, Yaakov apparently needs to train in different forms of legal, commercial and worldly pursuits. Studying Torah is all well and fine, but how does it prepare one for the real world? This question is heard today in thousands of Jewish households and is a most vexing one. Our world today is one of Lavan compounded.

Where does Torah study and Torah knowledge fit into our milieu, into solving our problems and difficulties, in facing down our enemies? Yet, we find that on the whole Yaakov was quite successful in the house of Lavan. He acquires his wives there and his children are born and raised there. He waxes wealthy in spite of all of Lavan's efforts to cheat him out of his just payments and wages. What courses of study did he take and master in the school of Shem and Ever that enabled him to so succeed?

I have always felt that the answer lies in understanding the place and goals of a Torah education in one's life. Most people, especially those who view it from the outside looking in, think that Torah education is purely a matter of material covered, of knowledge of facts, of understanding complex and difficult Talmudical concepts and statements. In truth it is all that but it is much more.

A proper Torah education, a study course at the school of Shem and Ever, is meant to impart life-long values and a world view in which to fit the events of one's life in a proper and moral fashion. One has to learn how to deal effectively with Lavan but one has to be very cautious not to become Lavan in the process.

Self-defense and protection of one's own interests is part of the Torah value system. But pleasantness, sensitivity, faith in God's justice and promises, and a willingness to tolerate and accommodate others (even unpleasant others) are also a part of the value system of the Torah.

Yaakov enters the school of Shem and Ever to absorb the Torah value system that will allow him to survive Lavan and not to fall spiritually and become Lavan in the form of Yaakov. One of the most difficult tasks that faces Jewish society today is to remain a kingdom of priests and a holy people even when struggling with Lavan, Yishmael and Eisav for our very existence. Our schools have to teach Torah values and not be satisfied merely with knowledge, grades and test scores.

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