

YOUNG ISRAEL OF THE MAIN LINE

Weekly Update

Rabbi Avraham Steinberg
273 Montgomery Ave.
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19044



Stan Sved, President
(610) 667-3255
www.yiml.org

Parshas Vaera

פרשת וארא

כ"ח טבת תשס"ט—January 23–24

Shabbos Davening Times

Earliest candle lighting: 4:07pm
Candle lighting: 4:51pm
Mincha - Friday: 4:50pm

Sof Zman Krias Shema: 9:44am
Shacharis: 8:45am
Mincha followed by Chabura: 4:45pm
Maariv: 5:55pm

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis Sunday: 8:00am
Shacharis (Mon.—Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat): **6:30am**
Shacharis (Tue., Wed., Fri.): 6:50am
Shacharis (Thu.): 6:40am
Mincha/Maariv Sunday: 5:00pm
Maariv (Mon.—Thu.): 7:45pm

Next Shabbos Times

Candle lighting: 4:59pm
Mincha - Friday: 5:00pm

Calendar of Shiurim

DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	7:55am–8:15am	Parsha Chabura	D. Rosen	ROTATES
Shabbos	8:15am	Mishlei Shiur	R. Steinberg	
Shabbos	After Mincha	Chabura	R. Y. Seif	
Shabbos	After Mincha	Medical Halacha	D. Eisenberg	
Mon., Wed.	After Maariv	Mishna Berura	Eli Back	
Sun.–Fri.	15 min. before Shacharis	Sefer Hamaspik L'Ovdei Hashem	R. Steinberg	
Tuesday	9:00pm	Choshen Mishpat	R. Steinberg	
Thursday	10:10pm	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	

*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

THIS SHABBOS

Kiddush:

Kiddush is being sponsored by Steve & Denise Gorlechen in honor of their daughter Rachel becoming a Bat Mitzva.

Bnos and Pirchei:

Bnos will *ה'א* meet this week from 3:00pm to 4:00pm at LMS.
Pirchei will *not* meet this week.

Chabura:

The Shabbos Afternoon Chabura will be given this week by Rabbi Yehuda Seif:

*Shliach She'Taah and Ona'ah:
Fiduciary Responsibility and the limits of Fraud*

This will be the continuation of the Chabura which Rabbi Seif began on Shabbos Shemos.

MAZEL TOV!

To Rabbi Baruch & Mrs. Miriam Lichtenstein and Family...

...on the bris of their new grandson, Eitan Simcha, born last week to Mordechai & Vicki Lichtenstein.

To Steve & Denise Gorlechen and Family...

...celebrating Rachel Gorlechen's recent Bas Mitzva, with a Kiddush this Shabbos at YIML.

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

SPECIAL EVENT

Special Parenting Class—This Motzai Shabbos:

We are very pleased to announce a very precious opportunity coming to our kehilah from Jerusalem. Rebetzin Sima Spetner, world-renowned expert in Jewish parenting, will be presenting an evening's symposium this Motzei Shabbat, January 24, at the home of Stacey and Amir Goldman, 325 Sycamore Ave. The shiur will begin promptly at 8:30pm.

At present, Rebetzin Spetner gives shiurim twice daily in Jerusalem, with a two-year waiting list for enrollment, and is a premier Yoetzet Chinuch (educational consultant) for girls' schools across Israel.

This class is for women only, and there will be a \$20 cover charge.

COMING EVENTS

Shovavim 5769 Shiurim by Rabbi Steinberg at the Young Israel of the Main Line

For Women: Wednesday February 4 at 8:30pm

- Taharas Hamishpacha Review Pointers
- *Tzenius and the Jewish Home: a Fundamental Hashkafic Discussion*

For Men: Tuesday, February 10 at 9:00pm

- An Iyun Shiur (sources distributed in advance by e-mail)

שיעור הלכה בענין: בדיקות יום ראשון ויום שביעי

ONGOING EVENTS

Chevra Mishnayos:

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

Women's Tehillim Group:

The Tehillim Group meets Mondays at **10:45am** at 8 Concord Circle.

Women's Chovos haLevovos Group:

The Chovos haLevovos Group meets Tuesdays at 9:30am at 8 Concord Circle.

D'VAR TORAH by Rabbi Berel Wein

The process of the redemption of Israel from Egyptian bondage is long and slow. The Jews suffer eighty years of bondage and persecution, humiliation and murder before the redemption takes place. Many Jews waver, understandably so, under the impact of the bad times. Some become informers (Datan and Aviram), others lack courage (the seventy elders of Israel who drifted away from accompanying Moshe to warn Pharaoh) and still others castigate Moshe for the apparent lack of progress in their redemption (the Jewish overseers employed by the Egyptians.)

Then there will be large sections of the Jewish people who simply give up on the entire enterprise of freedom and redemption. They will not merit to live to see and be part of the actual redemption and exodus from Egypt when it occurs. Even Moshe himself is ruefully criticized by God at the beginning of this week's parsha for his complaints to Heaven about the apparent lack of progress on the redemption and freedom front.

It is obvious that staying power and almost infinite patience are requirements for Jews hoping to see better times. The story of the plagues and the events of the parsha illustrate for us the necessity of a long range view in dealing with events in Jewish life. Great things take time to develop and unfold. Sudden and immediate proposed solutions to longstanding problems and challenges rarely are effective or beneficial. The Lord, so to speak, counts infinite patience as one of His attributes. Our task is to somehow emulate Him in this characteristic.

Pharaoh, the enemy of Israel, is the prototype of all later enemies of the Jewish people. No logic or facts can persuade him to abandon his irrational hatred and self-destructive behavior towards the Jews. Even when his closest advisers exclaim to him: "Are you not aware that Egypt is doomed because of your intransigence?" Pharaoh remains unmoved. He is willing to soldier on till the last Egyptian is destroyed in the series of plagues that are visited upon him and them.

The hatred of Jews is unreasoning and totally irrational. Yet it remains the constant in world history for millennia on end. Let Gaza be totally destroyed but no one will step back and ask why did we allow this to happen? The spirit and unreasoning stubbornness of Pharaoh lives on in all later haters and murderers of Jews. Moshe engages in negotiations with Pharaoh but Pharaoh never honors the agreements achieved by these negotiations.

Pharaoh is already preparing for the next round as soon as the physical pressure of the plague is relaxed. And God tells Moshe in advance that this will be the scenario until the final blow is delivered. Pharaoh will remain Pharaoh until the end, even after the exodus from Egypt takes place.

Even though this is completely illogical, the Lord realizes, so to speak, that evil people behave this way and oftentimes cover their evil in the cloak of piety. In any event this week's parsha illustrates for us once more that the parshiyot of the Torah deal not only with the past but illuminate for us our present situation and our future hopes and triumphs.

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