

Thought of the Week

"...according to the number of names..."(1:3)

Chazal refer to the fourth book of the Torah as Sefer HaPekudim - The Book Of Counting. Presumably this is because of the census found in this week's Parsha. However, this is not the first census Bnei Yisroel took. We find a similar census in Sefer Shemos. What is unique about this census that Chazal would define an entire Sefer by it?

Counting can be used for two purposes. One purpose for counting is to combine individual elements as a group. The other purpose for counting is to give each of the different elements within a group its own identity, giving the individual the feeling that "he counts". This is accomplished by focusing on each individual separately, rather than on the group as a whole. The purpose of the counting found in Sefer Shemos is to unify the Jews as a nation following their exodus from Egypt. In Sefer Bamidbar we find the expression "bemispar shaymos" - "they were counted according to their names". The reason for this is that the focus of the counting is to emphasize the individuality of each person within the group. Identifying a person by his name is a way of focusing upon his individuality. This expression does not appear in Sefer Shemos, for if the function of the counting is to unify the people as a nation, there is no need to identify individuals by name.

Very often when a person is part of a large group, he senses a loss of his individuality and self-expression. To compensate for this, he has a tendency to break away from the group. The message of the counting in Sefer Bamidbar is that there is room for individuality and self-expression within the confines of the group. Indeed, interpersonal relationships within the group can enhance individuality and offer the opportunity for self-expression..

This explains why the division of tribes and their banners are mentioned in the census of Bamidbar, and not in that of Shemos[1]. The ability to identify oneself in connection with a particular tribe and represented by a particular banner, further enhances a person's sense of individuality.

1. See 1:20-44, 2:2

Adapted from <http://www.torah.org/learning/rabbizweig/5771/bamidbar.html> by Rabbi Zweig.

Young Israel of the Main Line

273 Montgomery Ave
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
www.yiml.org
www.chaseplanet.us/yiml

Rabbi Avraham Steinberg
610-667-3255
rabbi@yiml.org

Sherman Frager, President
610-667-7063



Parshas Bamidbar

פרשת במדבר

Stone Chumash page 726; Haftarah, page 1180.

May 27-28, 2011

כ"ד אייר תשע"א



Shabbos Schedule Mevorchim haChodesh



Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos:	7:00pm
Candle Lighting:	8:01pm
Parsha Chaburah by Israel Pendrak:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:17am
Kiddush is co-sponsored by Rabbi and Dini Steinberg, in honor of Elisha's upshurin, and Sandy and Margie Bruck to commemorate the yahrzeit of Margie's father, Albert Kraftsow, Avraham ben Moshe a"h.	
Mincha:	7:45pm
Shalosh Seudos is community sponsored.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	9:05pm

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis:	Sunday and Monday:	8:00am
	Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday and Wednesday:	6:50am
	Friday (Rosh Chodesh):	6:30am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday through Thursday:	8:10pm
Mincha Friday, and Kabbalas Shabbos:		7:00pm
Candle Lighting Friday:		8:06pm

Weekday Shiurim

Daily Mussar Shiur:	15 minutes before Shacharis
Mishna Brura:	Mon and Wed after Maariv
Melachim Aleph Shiur:	Monday at 8pm
Halacha Shiur:	Tuesday at 8:30pm.
Nefesh HaChaim:	Thursday at 10:10pm

Women's Learning Experience – Spring Session

Mon at 10:30am: Tehillim for Cholim.
Mon at 11am: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha haShavua.
Tues at 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman - Sefer Tehillim, at LMS.
Tues at 8pm: Stacey Goldman - Ruth, at 161 Highland Circle.
Wed at 9am: Mrs. Biberfeld - Michtav M'Eliyahu.
Thu at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Geshet HaChaim.
Classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted. For information or free babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.

We have many volunteers who do critical work for the Shul, but special mention goes out this week to Israel Pendrak (our PhD in Cholent Chemistry). The Pendrak Family will iy"H be in Israel for Shavuot. We wish them a fun and enriching trip and a safe return. In the meantime, we need a Cholent Chef. Professor Pendrak has offered his secret recipe to a willing volunteer. Also, kudos to Len Ladenheim for filling in for Stan Sved in making the Shalosh Seudos tuna this week.



▪ Mazel Tov to Rabbi Dr. Chaim and Mrs. Andrea Diamond on being honored at this year's Etz Chaim Center for Jewish Studies Gala. It will take place on Wed, June 1 at 6pm at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Contact Janis Fine, Sherman Frager, or Naftoli Perlberger for details or etzchaimcenter.com.

Pirchei and Bnos

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will meet from 4:30 to 5:30pm at LMS. For Bnos info contact Meira Friedman at 610-617-9529.
Pirchei will meet from 4:30 to 5:30pm at LMS. For info, contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-668-6833 or silverdollar@verizon.net.

Chevra Mishnayos

The Chevra Mishnayos is learning Seder Nezikin. See shul bulletin board to sign up or email eisenber@pol.net with your name and the masechta (and chapters) you intend to learn.

Shavuot 5771

This Year's Learning Focus: Shulchan Aruch - Even HaEzer. Between Mincha and Maariv on Shavuot, all 3 nights, 3-Part Shiur Series: Novel Halachic Insights in the Laws of Yichud. All Night Learning Program, 12am: Waters that Have No End...: A Glimpse at the Rabbinic Responsa - Freeing Women Whose Husbands Had Disappeared. 1-4am: Open Bais Medrash, Refreshments available throughout. 4am: Actual Cases: 9-11, the Yom Kippur War, the Holocaust...A Look at the Poskim's Methodology in Heter Agunos. 4:55am: Shacharis

Community Announcement

YIML and Torah Academy PTO proudly present MURRAY THE SOCKMAN for all your camp and summer needs! Sun, May 29 from 12 to 5pm at Torah Academy (Argyle and Wynnewood Rd, Wynnewood). For info call Janet Eisenberg 610-664-8554.