

Thought of the Week

People who are released from bondage or any other type of incarceration usually find their adjustment to freedom difficult if not even very problematic. More often than not the look on their newly freed faces is one of bewilderment – of being in a dazed condition – rather than one of pure joy.

Past unpleasant and painful experiences are not easily forgotten, or sublimated and assigned purely to one's subconscious. When the Exodus from Egypt finally occurs in this week's parsha, the Jewish people leave "with a high hand" but with weakness of spirit. They will despair of their future.

When Pharaoh continues to pursue them to the shores of the Yam Suf sea and throughout their forty year sojourn in the desert of Sinai, they are always on the verge of abandoning their special mission and returning somehow to the accustomed bondage and servitude of Egypt.

In the past generation of our people, many of the survivors of the Holocaust faced enormous challenges after being liberated from Nazi tyranny. The adjustment of most of them to freedom and to their ability to rebuild their lives is a testimony to the greatness and resilience of the Jewish spirit. But it was not an easy journey back to normalcy in a free society.

The Jewish people after leaving Egypt would require forty years and a new generation of Jews before they were ready and able to undertake the task of building a free Jewish society in their own land and under their own rule and sovereignty. As the old paraphrase goes "You can take the Jew out of exile and bondage but it is much more difficult to remove the mentality of exile and bondage from within the Jew."

The Torah seems to indicate to us quite clearly that the Lord has the ability to save us from bondage and destruction. Beginning with the Exodus from Egypt throughout the generations, God has performed this miraculous task for us many times over. But it is also clear from the Torah that once that has been accomplished, the Lord intends for us to take over and finish the task.

He will supply us with food and water, physical sustenance and spiritual and temporal leadership but what we do with those blessings is purely up to us. We are taught that "when the Lord returns the captivity of Zion we will be as dreamers." A dreamer is in a dazed state of being. But once being awakened we are bidden to act and build and accomplish – to be bold and courageous and of optimistic heart.

The great Rav of Ponivezh, Rabbi Shlomo Yosef Kahaneman told me numerous times that "I am a dreamer but I do not allow myself to sleep." The Exodus from Egypt is not the end of the story of the Jewish people or of Moshe. It is only the beginning, for freedom is a never ending challenge fraught with difficulties, naysayers and doomsday pessimists.

The Lord took us out of Egypt forcibly for we would have remained there – as we say every year in the Hagada of the Pesach Seder. But then it was up to us. That remains the same situation in today's Jewish world as well.

Adapted from <http://www.rabbiwein.com/Weekly-Parsha/2011/01/506.html> by Rabbi Berel Wein

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Parshas Bo
January 7-8

פרשת בא
ג' שבט



Shabbos Schedule



Candle lighting:	4:33pm
Mincha - Friday:	4:33pm
Parsha Chaburah by Drew Dorman:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:45am
Kiddush is community sponsored.	
Mincha:	4:20pm
Shalosh Seudos is community sponsored.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	5:37pm

Bnos will NOT meet due to the high school Shabbaton.
Pirchei from 3 to 4pm at LMS on the upper level. Contact
Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-6686-6833 or silverDollar@verizon.net.

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis: Sunday:	8:00am
Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv: Sunday:	4:40pm
Maariv: Monday through Thursday:	7:45pm
Mincha and Candle Lighting Friday:	4:40pm

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

Check with Dr Daniel Eisenberg to confirm.

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

Women's Learning Experience - Winter Session

Mon at 10:15am: Tehillim for Cholim.
Mon at 10:45am: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha haShavua.
Tues at 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman - Sefer Tehillim, at LMS.
Tues at 8:00pm: Stacey Goldman - The Imahot, at the Werrin home, 161 Highland Circle, Bala.
Wed at 9:00am: Rachael Biberfeld - Michtav m'Eliyahu.
Thu at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Chazon Ish: Faith and Trust.
All classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted. For information or free babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.

To subscribe to the YIML email list, visit
<http://mail.chaseplanet.us/mailman/listinfo/yiml>



- Mazel Tov to Janis and Richie Fine on the birth of a granddaughter, born to Batsheva and Noach Bernstein.
- Mazel Tov to Len and Mila Ladenheim and family on the engagement of Mark Ladenheim to Erica Kamish of Los Angeles.

Dear Members and Friends of Young Israel of the Main Line, I am pleased to announce that, be"H, I hope to be publishing a sefer in the near future.

The content of this Hebrew sefer will be based on some of the shiurim given at YIML – some originally delivered as ongoing series and others as special lectures on Shabbosos and Yomim Tovim, etc. There will be a section on the laws of tzedaka, another on the laws of damages (nizkei mammon), and another section containing miscellaneous halachic and aggadic insights, and some Rabbinic correspondences.

Dedications for the sefer are available and will serve as a fundraiser for YIML. Dedication texts can be in Hebrew or English. Texts can be e-mailed to me at rabbi@yiml.org and the monies can be sent to the Shul or given to Sid Laytin. (Checks should be made to the Young Israel of the Main Line, and have a memo: "Sefer Dedication.")

Half page: \$250

Full page: \$500

Thank you very much, and may the love of Torah continue to grow and radiate in our community. Warmly, Rabbi Steinberg

Updated Kiddush Options and Prices:

Basic kiddush with veggie cholent: \$225 and a bottle of booze
Upgrade to meat cholent: + \$50
Kugels: + \$54
Platters (Vegetables, Israeli Salads, or Fruit): + \$48 each
Sheet Cake: + \$36