

The words of the rabbis that “One who sees the shame of the woman who was unfaithful should thereupon abstain from consuming wine” are well known and oft-repeated. The obvious meaning of this message is that in life everyone must drive defensively. Let no one allow one’s self to be found in compromising circumstances and to think that somehow one is immune from its consequences.

In our current world there are numerous shameful and sad examples of people in high office and great achievement who have been brought to shame and grief by the revelations of their indiscretions. The rabbis in Avot stated that there always is “an eye that sees us”— a constantly recording surveillance camera, if you will, that captures our movements and behavior.

The public revelation of another’s sin should serve as a reminder to all of the consequences of that sin. The Torah that ordinarily is very protective of one’s right to privacy, even the rights of a sinner, chose to publicize the fate of the unfaithful woman in order to impress upon others the necessity of care and probity in all matters of life.

One should never say that this can never happen to me. When it comes to the areas of human appetites and desires there are no automatic safeguards. Rather, only care, vigilance and avoidance of risk and compromising situations are the unique tools of prevention readily available. Hence the clear connection that the rabbis make between witnessing sin and imbibing too much wine. Just as driving an automobile under the influence of alcohol and drugs is legally forbidden, so is life generally to be lived free those types of influences.

Addiction to alcohol was a rather rare occurrence in Jewish society over the ages. However acculturation and assimilation over the past century have made alcohol a problem in our current Jewish world. The idea of abstinence from wine as described in the parsha regarding the regimen of the nazir is meant to be taken generally as a message of moderation and good sense.

Like many other things in life, a little alcohol can be pleasurable and beneficial but a lot can be harmful and even lethal. The Torah holds up the faithless woman and the nazir as examples of the dangers that lie lurking in everyday life. It is essentially foolish for any human being to ignore these omnipresent temptations and dangers.

Again, we read in Avot that one should not trust one’s self even until the final moment of life. An abundance of over-confidence in one’s ability to withstand temptations of all sorts will always lead to unforeseen problems and sad consequences. All of human experience testifies to this conclusion.

Much of the modern world, including much of the current Jewish world as well, mocks and derides any type of defensive driving in personal life matters. The concept of personal freedom has morphed into a lifestyle where any restraints on personal behavior, reasonable as they may be, are attacked and derided. Well, fashions and mores may change with the times but human behavior does not and therefore the moral restraints the Torah imposes on us remain eternally valid and cogent.

Adapted from <http://www.torah.org/learning/rabbiwein/5771/naso.html> by Rabbi Berel Wein.

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Parshas Nasso

פרשת נשא

Stone Chumash page 748; Haftarah, page 1181.

June 3-4, 2011

ב' סיון תשע"א



Shabbos Schedule



Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos:	7:00pm
Candle Lighting:	8:06pm
Parsha Chaburah by Richie Fine:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:16am
Kiddush is community sponsored.	
Mincha:	7:50pm
Shalosh Seudos is community sponsored.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	9:10pm

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

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday:	6:40am
	Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday and Monday:	8:15pm
Mincha Friday, and Kabbalas Shabbos:		7:00pm
Candle Lighting Friday:		8:10pm

Shavuos Davening Times

Mincha and Candlelighting Tuesday:	8:09pm
Maariv Tuesday:	9:12pm
Shacharis Wednesday:	4:55am and 8:45am
Mincha Wednesday:	8:15pm
Maariv Wednesday:	9:12pm
Candlelighting Wednesday after:	9:12pm
Shacharis Thursday:	8:45am
Yizkor Thursday:	10:30am
Mincha Thursday:	8:15pm
Maariv Thursday:	9:13pm

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.

Graduation Celebration Kiddush

We are scheduling a June 18 Graduation Celebration Kiddush at YIML. If you have graduates and would like to participate, we are looking for donors of \$36 for one graduate or \$50 if you have two or more. Thank you and Mazel Tov!



▪ Mazel Tov to Drs Jay & Mindy Rosenblum on the recent birth of their granddaughter, Miriam Raina, born to Shammai and Tamar Elman.

Pirchei and Bnos

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will meet from 4:30 to 5:30pm at LMS. For information contact Meira Friedman at 610-617-9529.

Pirchei will meet from 4:30 to 5:30pm on the downstairs level at LMS. Grades k-8th. To help sponsor or for information contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-668-6833 or silverdollar@verizon.net.

Shavuos 5771

This Year's Learning Focus: Shulchan Aruch - Even HaEzer. Shiurim by Rabbi Steinberg.

Shiurim between Mincha and Maariv.

A 3-Part Shiur Series: Novel Halachic Insights in the Laws of Yichud

All Night Learning Program.

Refreshments sponsored by Michaela and Dan Perez in commemoration of the Yahrzeit of Michaela's father, Moshe Arye ben Zev, a"h

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