

### Thought of the Week

The events described in this week parsha occur on the eighth day – after the seven day dedication period of the Mishkan and the installation of the kohanim/priests that would serve in that sanctuary. And this eighth day turns into a day of challenge and eventually sad tragedy. By emphasizing that all of this occurred on the eighth day, the Torah teaches us a vital lesson in life.

The seven days of dedication are days of exhilaration and accomplishment. But such feelings and emotions cannot usually be maintained indefinitely. In life there always is the day after, the eighth day, which is one of challenge, struggle and even of pain. This day, though, can define and determine one's life and future.

I have often thought that this is perhaps one of the more subtle messages implied by the Torah when fixing the day of circumcision of a Jewish infant boy to be on the eighth day of his life. It is the day that imprints on him his Jewishness forever. It is a day of joy and commemoration for parents and the family, but also one of pain – with the drawing of blood from the infant.

It is therefore a day of solemnity and dedication and it teaches that sacrifice, consistency and determination all are part of one's lot in life. One of my revered teachers in the yeshiva put it to us starry eyed teenagers quite succinctly, if not somewhat ironically, many decades ago. He said: "Life is like chewing gum – a little flavor and the rest is simply chew, chew, chew." And so it is.

My beloved grandson, Binyamin Gewirtz, the youngest of all of my beloved grandsons, is celebrating his Bar Mitzva this Shabat. Happily, parshat Shmini was also my bar mitzvah parsha. I remember that my father of blessed memory said to me in his synagogue sermon that Shabat, that what I would make out of my life on the eighth day – after all of the bar mitzvah celebrations had receded - was the important challenge in life.

It is certainly correct that the challenge of the eighth day is the true test in life. I pray that the L-rd grant my Binyamin all of the blessings of life but my main prayer is that he, like all of us, realizes that the challenges of life lie in the everyday mundane behavior which we can, if we so desire, transform with...

[ continued inside... ]

בס"ד

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Parshas Shmini

פרשת שמיוני

Stone Chumash page 588; Maftir, page 838 (19:1-22);  
Haftarah, page 1216.

March 25-26, 2011

כ' אדר ב' תשע"א



### Shabbos Schedule Shabbos Parah



Candle lighting and Mincha Friday:	6:59pm
Parsha Chaburah by Reuven Kovacs:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	10:00am
Kiddush is community sponsored.	
Mincha:	6:55pm
Chabura given by Ari Weintraub on the topic of Delaying a Bris for a Sick Baby.	
There will be no Medical Halacha Shiur this Shabbos.	
Maariv:	8:03pm

### **Weekday Davening Times**

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Monday through Thursday:	7:05pm
Mincha and Candle Lighting	Friday:	6:59pm

### **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.	

### **Chevra Mishnayos**

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

### **Women's Learning Experience - Winter Session**

Mon at 10:30am: Tehillim for Cholim.  
Mon at 11:00am: 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 10:00am: Rabbi Gold - Haggadah Highlights.  
Thu at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Geshet HaChaim.  
All classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted. For information or free babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.

Questions? Comments! Sponsorships\$ [weeklyupdate@yiml.org](mailto:weeklyupdate@yiml.org)

### **Thought of the Week, continued...**

purpose and holiness.

That is the message that is transmitted here in the parsha to Aharon and his sons. Steadfastness, belief, obedience to Torah law and Jewish values is what is asked of them. The seven days of celebration and dedication have ended and now the task of caring for the holy Mishkan is entrusted to them.

And perhaps that is what the rabbis meant when they indicated that the two sons of Aharon who were killed in the Mishkan died because they were inebriated from wine. They were still in the seven days of celebration mode which had ended and not in the eighth day mode which now descended upon them. Such errors in life can be fatal and often disastrous.

Adapted from <http://www.rabbiwein.com/Weekly-Parsha/2011/03/525.html> by Rabbi Wein.

### **Pirchei and Bnos**

Bnos 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 in the downstairs level of LMS. Torah Youth is sponsored by the Zeffren family in appreciation to all of those that help run the Pirchei. For information, contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-6686-6833 or [SilverDollar@verizon.net](mailto:SilverDollar@verizon.net)

### **Community Announcements**

Kohelet Yeshiva High School will be having their annual women only Mother/Daughter Purim Chagiga on Sunday, March 27th at 5:30pm. The evening will include a musical production as well as dinner and dancing. For information or to make a reservation, please contact the school office at 610-667-2020 or office@koheletyeshiva.org.

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<http://mail.chaseplanet.us/mailman/listinfo/yiml>