

## Thought of the Week

The Torah's concept of cleanliness and uncleanness, of purity and defilement, differs greatly from our ordinarily accepted notions and definitions. We appreciate the necessity for physical cleanliness. So does the Torah. Having a clean body is one of the prerequisites for acceptable prayer and performance of any of the mitzvot. It is also part of our requirement to honor our bodies and to show respect and consideration for other human beings as well.

But that is not the thrust of the cleanliness and purity that the Torah indicates in this week's parsha. The Torah speaks of a type of uncleanness of spirit and soul that somehow manifests itself physically. This type of spiritual uncleanness stems from human behavior that violates Torah principles and values – especially evil speech.

This type of behavior sullies our souls. In Biblical times the physical effects of such behavior could literally be seen on one's body. Painful and ignominious as the skin eruption was, it had a positive result of warning one as to the consequences of one's negative behavior and speech.

In our time this physical manifestation and warning is no longer present. But the dreadful process of damaging our souls by such behavior and speech continues to apply even today. We say in our prayers daily that the L-rd granted us at the beginning of our lives a soul that was pure. When we return it to our Maker we should try to return it as close to its original state as possible. That is in effect what the entire parsha of Tazria is about.

The task entrusted to the kohein was to somehow assess the damage, if any, done to the soul. He had the expertise to be able to do so simply by examining the physical body of the person. It was one of the gifts of the kohein. He possessed such an ability to discern spiritual damage from viewing external symptoms. Apparently a holy person is able to do so.

Legend has it that the famed ARI (Rabbi Isaac Luria of sixteenth century Safed) was able to tell a person what one's sins and spiritual defects were simply by looking at the person's face. Legend also tells us that, because of this power, people rarely visited or conversed with him. We are reticent to know the real truth about ourselves and the state of our souls.

In Biblical times the L-rd, so to speak, forced us by physical symptoms to come to the kohein and confront our true spiritual state. This was a blessing, albeit in disguise, for it allowed for the necessary diagnosis that could eventually lead to spiritual repair, improvement and advancement. This is the supreme task of the kohein in helping others achieve their betterment. It was therefore a spiritual experience of advancement for the kohein as well. Helping others always helps to cleanse one's soul and advance one's spirit.

Adapted from <http://www.rabbiwein.com/Weekly-Parsha/2011/04/526.html> by Rabbi Wein.

בס"ד

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Parshas Tazria

פרשת תזריע

Stone Chumash page 608; Maftir, page 348 (12:1-20);  
Haftarah, page 1218.

April 1-2, 2011

כ"ז אדר ב' תשע"א



### Shabbos Schedule Shabbos HaChodesh



Candle lighting and Mincha Friday:	7:06pm
Parsha Chaburah by Drew Dorman:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:53am
Kiddush is community sponsored.	
Mincha:	7:00pm
Chabura given by Rabbi Yehuda Seif on the topic of The Posture of Freedom: The Nature of Haseiba.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	8:10pm

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

### **Weekday Davening Times**

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday (Rosh Chodesh):	6:30am
	Wednesday and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Monday through Thursday:	7:15pm
Mincha and Candle Lighting	Friday:	7:13pm

### **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.  
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.

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



### **Mazel Tovs**



- Mazel Tov to Drew and Holly Dorman on the birth of a granddaughter, born to Uri and Shira Malachevsky.
- Mazel Tov to Rabbi Dr. Chaim and Andrea Diamond on the recent marriage of Shira Gidding to Shay Shaul

### **Pirchei and Bnos**

Pirchei and Bnos will meet from 4:30 to 5:30pm at LMS. For Bnos info or to pay yearly dues, contact Meira Friedman at 610-617-9529. For Pirchei info or to help sponsor, contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-668-6833 or [silverdollar@verizon.net](mailto:silverdollar@verizon.net)

### **Maos Chittim**

With the beginning of the month of Nissan, we observe the age-old custom (Maos Chittim or Kimcha D'Pischa) of giving extra money to the needy to help with their Pesach expenses. Please make checks to the YIML Rabbi's Discretionary Fund with memo "Maos Chittim". To ensure the tzedaka monies reach the recipients in time, make your contributions soon.

### **Cholim List Refresh**

The cholim list will be refreshed this Tuesday, Rosh Chodesh Nissan. Please submit names to [yimlcholim@gmail.com](mailto:yimlcholim@gmail.com) or the gabbaim or visit the website to add the name directly to the list

### **Mechiras Chometz**

Copies of Rabbi Steinberg's Shtar for Mechiras Chometz are available on the website. Rabbi Steinberg will be available for mechiras chometz starting Rosh Chodesh Nisan, Tuesday.

### **Community Announcement**

Ari Weintraub is preparing a group order for sefarim from Z. Berman Books. To join in the significant discounts or for more information, please email [aweintra@umaryland.edu](mailto:aweintra@umaryland.edu).