

All is well that ends well is a popular and well known aphorism. Apparently that should be the case here in this week's parsha when Yosef and his family are at last reconciled after over twenty years of pain and estrangement. Yaakov comes down to Egypt to embrace his long lost beloved son and the Jewish people begin the long sojourn in Egypt with the first century of that sojourn being successful and benign.

However, as is the case with many a popular saying or belief, the aphorism stated above is not exactly accurate. The enmity, discord and bitterness of the dispute of decades between Yosef and his brothers is not easily forgotten. We will see in next week's parsha how the brothers still suspect Yosef of ill intentions towards them and how Yosef after the death of Yaakov subtly distances himself from them.

Wounds may heal but they always leave their marks and scars. And the competition between Yosef and Yehuda, which is the centerpiece of the first part of this week's parsha. This continues for millennia in Jewish history almost splitting the Jewish people as a whole and not just its kingdom into two warring factions.

So, even though the affair of Yosef and his brothers appears to end well and satisfactorily in the narrative of this week's parsha, the residue of suspicion, competitiveness and bitter memories remain. This is so very evident as the story continues and clouds any truly rosy assessment of the conclusion of this gripping family tale of ours.

Every human event has consequences that are much more long lasting and important than originally thought. Since we all live in a time range that is limited, far reaching results of our behavior are naturally hard to discern and appreciate. If the brothers of Yosef would have realized that their behavior towards him would, centuries later, lead to the breakup of the Jewish kingdom in the Land of Israel, perhaps they would have acted differently. And, perhaps Yosef himself might have acted differently towards his brothers as well.

It is not for naught that the rabbis taught us that the true wise man is the person who can realize the future consequences of present policies and behavior. This idea is also the basic underpinning of the rabbis' other comment that even the wise must be very cautious in their statements, to guard against the unintended consequences that may result.

Many times consequences are exactly the opposite of what is originally desired. The rabbinic ban on Spinoza immortalized him, and the ban against Chasidut translated into the most popular Jewish religious movement in Eastern Europe.

Yosef and his brothers, like all of us, are powerless to undo the past. But, in realizing the fissure that the events of the past created in Jewish life, a special attempt at true reconciliation must be attempted. It would take the slavery of Egyptian exile and the redemption that followed to achieve this unity that was expressed at the moment of revelation at Sinai. Troubles unite us. We should learn to live together in harmony even in more trouble-free times.

Adapted from "To Live in Harmony During Peaceful Times" by Rabbi Berel Wein
<http://www.torah.org/learning/rabbiwein/5771/vayigash.html>

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Parshas Vayigash
December 10-11

פרשת ויגש
ד' טבת



Shabbos Schedule



Candle lighting:	4:17pm
Mincha - Friday:	4:17pm
Parsha Chaburah by Simcha Pechter:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:33am
Kiddush is community sponsored. There will be a Chevra Mishnayos Siyum at Kiddush.	
Mincha:	4:05pm
Shalosh Seudos is community sponsored.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	5:20pm

Asarah b'Teves is this Friday, December 17th.
Fast Begins 6:04am and Ends 5:22pm

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday and Wednesday:	6:50am
	Friday (Asarah b'Teves):	6:30am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday:	4:25pm
Maariv:	Monday through Thursday:	7:45pm
Mincha:	Friday (Asarah b'Teves):	4:05pm
Candle Lighting	Friday:	4:19pm

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.

Women's Learning Experience - Fall Session

Mon at 9:00am: Tehillim for Cholim, at the Eisenberg home.
Mon at 9:30am: Parsha HaShavua class has been cancelled.
Tues at 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman teaches Tehillim at LMS.
Tues at 8:30pm: Stacey Goldman teaches about the Imahot at the Werrin home, 161 Highland Circle, Bala.
Wed at 9:00am: Rachael Biberfeld teaches Michtav M'Eliyahu.
Thurs at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg teaches The 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.

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



- Mazel Tov to Ronald and Marguerite Werrin upon the birth of a granddaughter in Israel to their children Anna and Binyamin Simon.
- Mazel Tov to Mrs. Cheryl Epstein on the birth of a grandson, born to Dov and Baila Epstein. Mazel Tov also to the great-grandmother, Mrs. Suri Rabinovici

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd from 2:45 to 3:45pm at LMS. Please pay yearly membership dues (\$36 per girl) if your daughter attends Bnos. Contact Meira Friedman 610-617-9529 for information.

Pirchei of Bala Cynwyd from 2:45 to 3:45pm at LMS in the Social Hall. Grades K-8th. If you would like to help sponsor a Shabbos or want more information contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-6686-6833 or SilverDollar@verizon.net

The Chevra Mishnayos is having a siyum on Seder Zeraim this Shabbos at Kiddush. The siyum is being co-sponsored by Sid and Susan Laytin in memory of their mother Devorah bas Shimon Yosef, Dorothy Laytin, and Richard and Janice Fine in memory of their mother Edith Fine, Eta bas Eliyahu Asher. Now is the time to sign up to join in the learning of 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.

We regret to inform you of the passing of the mother of Rabbi Bram Greenberg (former Gabbai of YIML). Shiva will be in Lawrence until Monday night and begin in Lakewood Tuesday morning through Thursday morning. The address in Lakewood is 555 Hope Chapel Road, 732-370-3542. May the family be comforted among the aveilei Tzion veYerushalayim.

Questions? Comments! Sponsorships\$ weeklyupdate@yiml.org