

At the end of the story of Eliezer going to find a mate for Yitzchak, the Torah describes the first meeting of Yitzchak and Rivka [Bereshis 24:62-67]. The narrative begins with the words "Now Yitzchak came from having gone to the Well of L'Chai-Roee..."

Rabbeinu Avraham ben HaRambam wonders regarding the significance of Yitzchak returning from this well. Why does it matter where is coming from when he met Rivka for the first time? The Well of L'Chai-Roee was the place where Yitzchak regularly davened [prayed]. The Torah stresses that this event occurred on his way BACK from the place, not on his way TOWARDS the place. The purpose is to teach us the following lesson: Had Yitzchak been on his way to execute his Service to G-d, even the arrival of Eliezer and Rivka would not have distracted him. It is only because he had finished praying and was now returning from this place that he took note of the arrival of his father's trusted servant and the young woman brought for him from Aram Naharaim to be his future wife.

Rav Moshe Shapiro wonders why it was that in previous generations, Europe produced students who were expert in all aspects of Torah knowledge and in our times, it does not produce such great Torah luminaries. Rav Shapiro suggests that it is because their diligence and focus was so laser-like in their formative years that they grew up to be the people they became later in life. Unfortunately, in our day and age, there are so many distractions to our Avodas Hashem [Service to G-d] and to our learning that we just do not produce the same type of Gedolim.

Rav Shapiro tells the story that Rav Chatzkel Abramsky once went over to a student and asked him where he was during seder [the fixed-time set aside for learning in the Yeshiva]. The young man explained that he went to a wedding and that the wedding was in a different city. The student explained that it took him 3 hours to travel back and forth to the wedding each way. Rav Abramsky was dumbfounded that this student spent so much time just to go to the wedding of a friend. Rav Abramsky told him that he himself went to only two weddings the entire time he was a young man - one was his sister's wedding and one was his own wedding!

When people have that type of intense focus in learning, with an intensity that is so strong that nothing can derail them from Torah study, then they may grow up to be people of the caliber of Rav Chatzkel Abramsky.

This is what the pasuk is emphasizing here by describing the fact that Yitzchak met his bride AFTER have returned from Be'er L'Chai-Roee. On the way there, nothing would have derailed him.

We obviously are not on the level to aspire to such single-minded focus in our Divine Service. However, it is important for us and for our children to understand the significance of any time that we must take off from our learning and our Service to G-d. This is how Gedolim are produced.

Adapted from <http://www.torah.org/learning/ravfrand/5772/chayeisarah.html> by Rav Frand.

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Parshas Chayei Sara

פרשת חיי שרה

Stone Chumash page 106; Haftarah, page 1136.

November 18-19, 2011

כ"ב חשוון תשע"ב



Shabbos Schedule



Light Candles, Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos: 4:24pm

Parsha Chaburah by Israel Pendrak: 7:55am

Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur: 8:15am

Shacharis: 8:45am

Sof Zman Krias Shema: 9:18am

Shabbos Groups, upstairs, for ages 2 and up. Children under 2 must be supervised by a parent. 9:45am

Kiddush is community sponsored.

Mincha: 4:20pm

Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.

Chabura given by Koby Milgraum on the topic of the Halachic fundamentals behind וכל ישראל ערבין זה לזה and making berachos for another Jew.

Maariv: 5:26pm

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

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis:	Sunday and Thursday:	8:00am
	Monday:	6:40am
	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday and Thursday:	4:25pm
Maariv:	Monday through Wednesday:	7:45pm
Candle Lighting, Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos:		4:20pm

Weekday Shiurim

Daily Mussar Shiur:	15 minutes before Shacharis
Mishna Brura:	Mon and Wed after Maariv
Gemora Bekius Shiur:	Tues, Wed, Thurs at 8pm.
Sefer Bereishis Shiur:	Monday at 8pm.
Nefesh HaChaim:	Thursday at 10:10pm

Women's Learning Experience – Winter Schedule

Monday 9:00am: Tehillim for Cholim.
Monday 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Geshet HaChaim.
Monday 10:45am: Rabbi Brisman - Shabbos Kitchen Halachas.
Tuesday 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman - Sefer Tehillim, at LMS.
Tuesday 8:00pm: Stacey Goldman - Women in Tanach, at 161 Highland Circle.
Wednesday 9:30am: Steve Goldman - Sefer Devarim.
Wednesday 2:50pm: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha Va'eschanan.
Thursday 9:30am: Rabbi Gold - Parsha HaShavua.
Classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted.
Suggested donation of \$5 per class. Babysitting is available, reservations must be made in advance. For information or babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477 jfine@comcast.net.

Chevra Mishnayos

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



- Mazel Tov to Rabbi Chaim and Andrea Diamond on the birth of a granddaughter, Nechama Tehila Masha Fenton.
- Mazel Tov to Lion and Sara Sassoon on the bris of their son, Avraham Yosef.
- Mazel Tov to Jonathan and Ilana Gotfried on the birth of a boy. The Shalom Zachar will be Friday night, starting at 8:30pm, at 1 Montgomery, apt 313. The Bris will be be"H at LMS, Wednesday morning, following the 7am minyan.

Tefillin and Mezuzah Checking

Rabbi Shmuel Bodenheim, our Sofer, will be returning to YIML to check Tefillin and Mezuzos, beginning after Shacharis on Sunday, November 20th, and continuing into the week (duration depending on volume of items brought for checking). To speak to Rabbi Bodenheim in advance, 212-781-5385.

Bnos and Pirchei

Bnos will meet from 2:45 to 3:45pm at LMS. Craft Program beginning now for those who registered! Please pay yearly membership (\$36/girl). Contact Meira Friedman: 610-617-9529.
Bnos Pre-Chanukah Carnival on Dec 4, 2 to 3:30pm. Members \$3, non-members \$10. Spin art, moonbounce, prizes and more!
Pirchei will meet from 2:45 to 3:45pm at LMS in the Social Hall. Grades K-8th. To sponsor a Shabbos or for information, contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-668-6833 or SilverDollar@verizon.net

Rabbi Steinberg's Schedule

Please note that Rabbi Steinberg will be away, starting Motzai Shabbos, and until next Monday, Nov 28th. Anyone needing to reach him in case of emergency should speak to Shul President, Sherman Frager