

"...and wash your feet..." (18:4)

This week's parsha highlights Avraham's tremendous zealotry in the performance of "hachnasas orchim" - "hospitality to guests". The Torah records that Avraham, recuperating from circumcision, spared no effort making the angels who were in the guise of men comfortable. When the angels took their leave of Avraham and continued on to destroy S'dom, they encountered Avraham's nephew Lot at the gate of the city. He too extended himself to perform the mitzvah of hachnasas orchim.

Contrasting the actions of these two men, Rashi notes a subtle discrepancy in their routine. Avraham offered his guests water to wash their feet prior to inviting them to enter his home, while Lot did so only after they entered his home. Citing the Midrash, Rashi offers the following explanation: Avraham thought that the men were Arabs who were accustomed to serving the dust upon their feet. This was a form of idol worship, and since he did not want to bring such an abomination into his home, Avraham asked them to wash their feet prior to entering. Lot, who did not possess this sensitivity, requested that they bathe their feet only after entering his home. Lot's complete exposure to this mitzvah was due to observing Avraham for many years. Why would he have missed this nuance in Avraham's performance of the mitzvah?

In Moshe's blessing to the tribe of Levi, he identified two of their exemplary attributes, their aversion to idolatry and their adherence to the precept of circumcision. Since these two concepts are juxtaposed, it is logical that they are connected. Circumcision represents the covenant which unites the Jewish people with their Creator and expresses their awareness of the exclusionary nature of this covenant. Therefore, by definition, circumcision is the antithesis of idolatry, which denies the exclusionary nature of Bnei Yisroel's relationship with the Almighty.

Avraham's prohibiting people from entering his home prior to washing their feet, denotes a heightened awareness concerning idolatry. It was only after Avraham underwent circumcision that he acquired this additional sensitivity. Lot, who took leave of Avraham prior to Avraham's entering into the covenant of circumcision, was not able to mimic this behavior, for he was not exposed to it.

Adapted from <http://www.torah.org/learning/rabbizweig/5772/vayera.html> by Rabbi Zweig.

בס"ד

## Young Israel of the Main Line

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Parshas Vayera

פרשת וירא

Stone Chumash page 78; Haftarah, page 1134.

November 11-12, 2011

ט"ו חשוון תשע"ב



### Shabbos Schedule



Light Candles, Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos: 4:30pm

Parsha Chaburah by Drew Dorman: 7:55am

Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur: 8:15am

Shacharis: 8:45am

Sof Zman Krias Shema: 9:13am

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

Kiddush is community sponsored.

Mincha: 4:25pm

Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.

Chabura given by Rabbi Josh Weinberger on the topic of The Lomdus behind Kosher and Non-Kosher Birds (with an obligatory reference to turkey, given the time of year).

Maariv: 5:32pm

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

### **Weekday Davening Times**

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday:	4:30pm
Maariv:	Monday through Thursday:	7:45pm
Candle Lighting, Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos:		4:24pm

### **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 Leon and Tova Wertheimer and Family on the upcoming marriage of Cookie Wertheimer and Yehoshua Richards.
- Mazel Tov to Lion and Sara Sassoon on the birth of a baby boy! The shalom zachor will take place this Friday night at the home of Mr and Mrs Elan Sassoon, 4 Hardie Way, apt A1. The bris, bezrat Hashem, will take place on Sunday at Aish at 9am.
- Mazel Tov to Rabbi Chaim and Andrea Diamond on the birth of a granddaughter, born in Yerushalayim to Ari and Sarah Fenton.

### **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. Please pay yearly membership (\$36/girl). Contact Meira Friedman: 610-617-9529. 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

### **Community Announcements**

Save the date: Sunday, November 13... come cheer the GHS students and supporters as they trek from Wynnewood to Lower Merion at the annual Friends of GHS Walk-a-thon. We will be meeting at TAGHS at 11am. Sponsors welcome, please make this a success! For info, Yana Weiser 610- 617- 0505.