

# Young Israel of the Main Line

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Parshas Miketz

פרשת מקץ

Stone Chumash page 222; Maftir: 770; Haftarah: 1210.

December 14-15, 2012

ב' טבת תשע"ג

## Weekday Shiurim

**Mussar Chabura:** 15 minutes before Shacharis

**Mishna Brura:** Monday and Wednesday after Maariv, given by Eli Back.

**Ruach Chaim:** Thursday at 10:15pm, given by Rav Sholom Kamenetsky.

## Chevra Mishnayos

The Chevra Mishnayos will be celebrating its Siyum on Seder Zera'im be"H at Shalosh Seudos this Shabbos (Miketz-Chanukah) at YIML.

Participants in the limmud are kindly reminded to complete the study of their pledged massechtos.

To sponsor the siyum, please contact Chevra Mishnayos Coordinator, Moshe Eisenberg at eisenber@pol.net .

**Bnos** will NOT meet this Shabbos. Contact Meira Friedman 610-617-9529 or dmf201@gmail.com.

**Torah Youth** will NOT meet this Shabbos. Contact Rabbi Schwartz at sruli@torahyouth.org or Rabbi Silver at 610-668-6833 or SilverDollar@verizon.net.



## Shabbos Schedule Chanukah 7



Light Candles:	4:18pm
Mincha, followed by Kabbalas Shabbos:	4:18pm
Parsha Chaburah given by Richie Fine:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:36am
Shabbos Groups, upstairs, for ages 2 and up.	9:45am
Kiddush is community sponsored.	
Mincha:	4:05pm
Shalosh Seudos. Mazal Tov to the Chevra Mishnayos on their siyum on Seder Zera'im at Shalosh Seudos!	
Maariv:	5:21pm

**Rabbi Steinberg's Mussar Shiur will not meet this Sunday morning.**

## YIML Chanuka Party – Thank You!

Yasher Koach to Rebbetzin Dini Steinberg and Rabbi Moshe Rudenstein and all who helped coordinate this year's YIML Chanukah Party. Special thank you to Kutest Kids - Early Intervention Agency for their sponsorship and a special thank you to Rabbi Lynn for providing musical accompaniment.

Sun, Dec 16	Mon, Dec 17	Tue, Dec 18	Wed, Dec 19	Thu, Dec 20	Fri, Dec 21
<i>Chanukah 8</i>	Shacharis 6:40am Maariv 7:45pm	Shacharis 6:50am Maariv 7:45pm	Shacharis 6:50am Maariv 7:45pm	Shacharis 6:40am Maariv 7:45pm	Shacharis 6:50am Light Candles 4:21pm Mincha 4:21pm
<b>Shacharis I 7:10am</b> Shacharis II 8:00am Mincha/Maariv 4:25pm					
3 Tevet	4 Tevet	5 Tevet	6 Tevet	7 Tevet	8 Tevet

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- Mazel Tov to Chaim Shalom and Rivka Kineret Holczer on the bris of their son, Shlomo Yehuda.
- Mazel Tov to Rabbi Ephraim and Bracha Goldfein on the upcoming wedding of Heshie Goldfein and Malka Grosh.

### Thought of the Week

We gaze at the delightful dancing lights as we sit before the menorah and sing the traditional songs associated with the festival. Many observe a special ritual of lingering in the delicate radiance of the menorah lights while reflecting on their sublime message. But what precisely is that message? What insights are the tiny flames meant to trigger?

Perhaps the very word "reflect" serves as a signpost on our journey toward internalizing Chanukah's spiritual treasure. To reflect does not simply mean to contemplate or ponder. It also means to mirror, or to reverberate. When we gaze deep into the menorah lights, what we should see is a genuine reflection of our true selves. The concept of facing the deeper truth about one's true self comes to the fore in this week's Torah portion, as well. This concept is embedded in two words that are seemingly out of place with the flow of the narrative. Yaakov's sons face Yosef, the Egyptian viceroy, who treats them with unreasonable hostility. He accuses them of being spies and throws them into prison, allowing only one of the brothers to return home and prove their collective innocence by bringing back Binyomin.

Yosef unexpectedly relents a few days later and announces that the brothers can all return home, except for Shimon who will be detained until their return.

The Torah records the brothers' response to Yosef's surprising change of heart and generous gesture, as "Vayaasu kein," and they did so. The verse gives no further explanation about what the brothers actually did. Instead the Torah continues to tell us that the brothers immediately examined their past behavior and severely reproached themselves for not being sensitive to Yosef's distress when they sold him into slavery. They now assumed that their present misfortune was a direct result of their past callous behavior.

The commentaries explain that Vayaasu kein - 'they did so' indicates that Yosef's brothers followed Yosef's lead in reevaluating the truth of their own personal conduct.

As viceroy, Yosef ruled Egypt with complete, undisputed authority. He was a powerful unchallenged leader who could do whatever he pleased. From the pedestal of absolute power he decreed that all the brothers would be imprisoned until proven innocent. Yet, without explanation he backed down. What was behind this sudden reversal?

Great people recognize that everything that transpires in life is a message from Heaven that needs to be carefully appraised. The brothers saw Yosef's about-face as a clear message from Hashem. If the all-powerful viceroy could have a change of heart and mind, they too should reexamine their convictions, especially their firm belief in their innocence.

Even if it involved an ego-bruising realization, it was an exercise they needed to engage in. "Vayaasu kein" .... Like Yosef, the brothers pondered their conduct and motives and found them wanting.

The word 'kein' means authentic and genuine - a state of existence in which the external is a perfect reflection of the internal.

When gazing at the light of the menorah we are looking at a reflection of our inner self and beyond, to our very soul and the G-dliness within us. Removing the obfuscating presence of our ego and negative character traits enables the inner glow of the neshama to radiate through the body and light up its surroundings.

When we gaze at the menorah lights, we are internalizing the message of Chanukah-to bring the awareness of G-d's loving hand directing all aspects of our existence. Hopefully that will lead to take a more inspired role in our daily lives. All too often, we are too invested in our professed opinions and public persona to acknowledge our shortcomings. By letting go of self-justification as did Yosef's brothers, and being emotionally honest with ourselves, we will be connecting to the message of the Chanukah lights, ensuring that they genuinely reflect our deepest self.

When that self is aligned with the awareness of G-d's loving presence in all of life's dimensions, the Chanukah message will burst forth and illuminate all the inner and outer shadows of our existence.

Wishing you a delightful and Freilichen Shabbos Chanukah.

Adapted from <http://torah.org/learning/legacy/5773/miketz.html> by Rabbi Naftali Reich.