

Young Israel of the Main Line

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www.chaseplanet.us/yiml

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Parshas Vayechi

פרשת ויחי

Stone Chumash page 268; Haftarah: 1145.

December 28-29, 2012

ט"ז 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 is learning Seder Moed. Sign up on shul bulletin board or email eisenber@pol.net with your name and the masechta and chapters you intend to learn.

Bnos will meet from 2:45 to 3:45pm at LMS. Please pay your yearly membership if you haven't done so yet! Contact Meira Friedman 610-617-9529 or dmf201@gmail.com.

Torah Youth will meet from 2:45 to 3:45pm at LMS in the Social Hall. Grades k-8. Contact Rabbi Schwartz at sruli@torahyouth.org or Rabbi Silver at 610-668-6833 or SilverDollar@verizon.net.



Shabbos Schedule



Light Candles:	4:25pm
Mincha, followed by Kabbalas Shabbos:	4:25pm
Parsha Chaburah given by Naftali Perlberger:	7:55am
Shiur on Sefer Tehillim with the Malbim's Commentary:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:42am
Shabbos Groups, upstairs, for ages 2 and up.	9:45am
Kiddush is community sponsored.	
Mincha:	4:20pm
Shalosh Seudos.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr. Daniel Eisenberg.	
Gemora Shiur, third chapter of Bava Metzia – Perek Hamafkid.	
Maariv:	5:29pm

Shaatzneez Checking

Be"H, we will have a Shaatzneez Checker at YIML on Sunday January 13th. Details to be announced soon.

New Women's Mussa Shiur

New Women's Mussar Shiur- starting soon. See flyers or speak to Janis Fine for details.

Sun, Dec 30	Mon, Dec 31	Tue, Jan 1	Wed, Jan 2	Thu, Jan 3	Fri, Jan 4
Shacharis I 7:15am Shacharis II 8:00am Mincha/Maariv 4:35pm	Shacharis 6:40am Maariv 7:45pm	Shacharis 8:00am Mincha/Maariv 4:35pm	Shacharis 6:50am Maariv 7:45pm	Shacharis 6:40am Maariv 7:45pm	Shacharis 6:50am Light Candles 4:31pm Mincha 4:31pm
17 Tevet	18 Tevet	19 Tevet	20 Tevet	21 Tevet	22 Tevet

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

Annual Eruv Dues

Please remember your Eruv contribution: \$75 per family. Mail to Eruv of Lower Merion, Inc.; PO Box 221; Merion Station, PA 19066. Or you can give your check to Sherman or Sid.

Community Announcements

The Philadelphia Community Kollel's Twelfth Annual Dinner will take place on Sunday, January 6. This year's honorees are Rabbi and Mrs. Aaron Gold and Dr. and Mrs. Bobby Den. To submit an ad and to make reservations, please see <http://www.phillykollel.org/12th-annual-dinner.html>.

Special Lecture: Medical and End-of-Life Challenges

Awareness and Preparation. A special lecture about the rising medical and end-of-life challenges facing the Torah-Observant community and what we should be doing in response by Rabbi Elchonon Zohn, Director – National Association of Chevros Kadisha (NASCK). (Lecture will include a short video presentation.) Sunday, December 30th at Lower Merion Synagogue, 123 Old Lancaster Ave., Bala Cynwyd. For Men and Women. Shacharis at 8:30 AM, Bagel Breakfast at 9:15 AM, Presentation - 9:30-10:30 AM. Sponsored by: Lower Merion Synagogue, Young Israel of the Main Line, Congregation Beth Hamedrosh, and the National Association of Chevros Kadisha.

Thought of the Week

The holy book of Bereshith comes to its conclusion in this week's parsha. The story of the creation of the Jewish people through the development of one family over a number of generations and by the perseverance of the great personalities of our patriarchs and matriarchs is now complete.

This raises the question originally posed in Rashi's commentary to the very beginning of the book of Bereshith – why does the Torah, which appears to be basically a book of laws and commandments, bother with all of this detailed description of creation and continued familial based narrative? Why is this seemingly anecdotal knowledge of the lives of our ancestors so necessary to be included in the eternal Torah and how does it register in the survival of the Jewish people throughout the ages?

In response to this question of relevance, the rabbis taught us that the events that occurred to our ancestors are indeed the harbingers of happenings that will occur to their descendants. But many times it is difficult for later generations to make this connection, except in the most general way of experiencing historic repetitions of circumstances.

This book of Bereshith, which comprises a substantial part of the entire written Torah, contains within it almost no commandments and is basically a book of narrative tracing the development of one family – eventually seventy in number – and of the difficulties that this family encountered over generations. So what therefore is its main message to us living in a far different world, millennia later?

I think that the message of Bereshith is the obvious one of family and its importance. The Torah purposely and in minute detail describes for us how difficult it truly is to create and maintain a cohesive family structure. Every one of the generations described in Bereshith from Kayin and Hevel till Yosef and his brothers is engaged in the difficult and often heartbreaking task of family building.

There are no smooth and trouble free familial relationships described in the book of Bereshith. Sibling rivalry, violence, different traits of personality, and marital and domestic strife are the stuff of the biblical narrative of this book. The Torah does not sanitize any of its stories nor does it avoid confronting the foibles and errors of human beings.

The greatest of our people, our patriarchs and matriarchs, encountered severe difficulties in attempting to create cohesive, moral and cooperative families. Yet they persevered in the attempt because without this strong sense of family there can be no basis for eternal Jewish survival. There is tragic fall out in each of the families described in Bereshith and yet somehow the thread of family continuity is maintained and strengthened until the family grows into a numerous and influential nation.

This perseverance of family building, in spite of all of the disappointments inherent in that task, is the reason for the book of Bereshith. It is the template of the behavior of our ancestors that now remains as the guideposts for their descendants. The task of family building remains the only sure method of ensuring Jewish survival.

Adapted from <http://torah.org/learning/rabbiwein/5773/vayechi.html> by Rabbi Berel Wein.