

Young Israel of the Main Line

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www.yiml.org

www.chaseplanet.us/yiml

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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 Zeraim. 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. Ages 3 years through 7th grade. Please pay yearly membership dues. Contact Meira Friedman 610-617-9529 or dmf201@gmail.com.

Torah Youth will NOT be meeting this Shabbos. Contact Rabbi Sruli Schwartz at Sruli@torahyouth.org or Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-6686-6833 or silverDollar@verizon.net

Parshas Vayetzei

Stone Chumash page 144; Haftarah: 1139.

November 23-24, 2012

פרשת ויצא

י" כסלו תשע"ג



Shabbos Schedule



Light Candles:	4:21pm
Mincha, followed by Kabbalas Shabbos:	4:21pm
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:	9:22am
Shabbos Groups, upstairs, for ages 2 and up.	9:45am
Kiddush is community sponsored.	
Mincha:	4:15pm
Special Shiur this Shabbos by Rabbi Michael Taubes on the subject of The Brachos of Neiros Chanukah.	
Rabbi Steinberg's Gemora Shiur and Dr. Eisenberg's Medical Halacha Shiur will not meet this Shabbos.	
Maariv:	5:23pm



▪ Mazel Tov to Zev and Charney Zelman on the bris of their son Shmuel Kalman this past Monday.

Sun, Nov 25	Mon, Nov 26	Tue, Nov 27	Wed, Nov 28	Thu, Nov 29	Fri, Nov 30
Shacharis 8:00am Mincha/Maariv 4:25pm	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 4:18pm Mincha 4:18pm
11 Kislev	12 Kislev	13 Kislev	14 Kislev	15 Kislev	16 Kislev

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Thought of the Week

"And he said, 'Look, the day is still long...' (29:7)

This week's parsha chronicles Yaakov's ascent as Patriarch of the Jewish people in the land of Aram. In Parshas Ki Savo, we encounter the precept of "bikurim" - "the first fruit"; coupled with his gift of first fruits, a Jewish farmer is obligated to relate a short synopsis of Jewish history which begins with Yaakov's subjection to the deceitful Lavan. He declares "Arami oveid avi veyeyered mitzraymah" - "An Aramean attempted to destroy my father and he (Yaakov) descended to Egypt." Why are our experiences in Aram critical to our heritage? Furthermore, why does the Torah juxtapose our Aramean experience with our descent to Egypt? Upon Yaakov's arrival in Aram, the Torah relates a seemingly unnecessary incident concerning the Aramean practice of retiring early to water their flock. Yaakov chides them concerning their work ethic, saying "If these are not your sheep, then you are negligent in your responsibilities to your employers, and if they are yours, then you are lazy." It would appear that Yaakov is behaving rather presumptuously for a stranger in a new city. Why does the Torah deem it necessary to recount this incident?

The Torah describes Lavan as a "ramai" - "confidence man", rather than a thief. Since this was a prevalent quality in the region, the letters of the word "Aram" and "ramai" are the same. A ramai preys upon the basic human desire to gain something for nothing; he takes advantage of his victims by leading them to believe that they are getting the better part of a deal. Once the victims realize that they have been fooled, it is too late and they have only themselves to blame.

The basic quality which predisposes a person to becoming a ramai is not necessary evil. In order to be a successful ramai, a person must possess an inordinate degree of sensitivity, allowing him to perceive the needs and desires of his fellow man. A ramai uses his keen sensitivity to the disadvantage of his victims. It is this predisposition which our Patriarch Avraham and our Matriarchs Sarah, Rivka, Rachel and Leah, all of Aramean descent, incorporate into Bnei Yisroel, and which provides Bnei Yisroel with the sensitivity to perform chesed - acts of kindness, the very fabric of our nation, in the correct manner. True chesed stems from the ability to recognize the needs and feelings of the recipient. The danger that accompanies this trait is the ability to take advantage of one's fellow man. The antidote to this potential threat is offered in the historical synopsis recited by the Jewish farmer.

After recording our Aramean experience, which was critical for it incorporated into Bnei Yisroel the sensitivities inherent in the region, the Torah recounts our descent into slavery. A slave is, by very definition, a person whose existence hinges upon his substantiating himself through his work. Creating a strong work ethic which demands we substantiate everything that is given to us was the only manner to safeguard us from using our new-found talents in a malevolent manner. Ingraining into the very being of the Jewish people that we will accept only those gains for which we have worked, and revile benefiting from others undeservedly, was a necessary progression to prevent the nation from becoming the tricksters and confidence men of society.

Yaakov is aware of the "ramai" quality inherent in the people of Aram. Seeing the shepherds lounging around the well in the middle of the day reflects this trait, which, if used malevolently breeds laziness and encourages a person to seek short-cuts in the manner of his livelihood. What he is teaching them when he enters the city is that by improving their work ethic they can utilize this quality in the greatest possible manner, being sensitive to the needs of others.

Adapted from <http://torah.org/learning/rabbizweig/5773/vayeitzei.html> by Rabbi Zweig.

Women's New Member Event!

Welcome New Members! We would like to meet you! Please join us to meet members of the Young Israel community for a Tupperware Demonstration. At the home of Rivky Milgraum, 221 Edgehill Road, Merion Station, PA. November 27, 2012 from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Please bring your friends! Call Michal Frankel for more information 610.247.7245. Light refreshments will be served

Community Announcements - Yeshiva Banquet

The Annual Banquet of the Talmudical Yeshiva of Philadelphia will take place on December 2nd at the Drexelbrook Corporate Events Center. The Banquet is in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Eisenberg. For ads and reservations please call the yeshiva at 215.477.1000.