

## Thought of the Week

The Torah describes for us in detail the visit of Yitro to the encampment of the Jewish people in the desert of Sinai. It also details for us the advice given to Moshe by Yitro as how to organize the justice system of the Jewish people.

Though there is a divergence of view among the rabbinic scholars as to whether Yitro came before or after the revelation and the granting of the Torah at Mount Sinai, there is general agreement that Yitro remains the template and role model for converts to Judaism.

Part of the reason is not only Yitro's sincerity in joining the Jewish people and his abandonment of the pagan gods that he had worshipped earlier in his life but in his willingness to give advice and counsel for the benefit of the administration of justice in his newly adopted society.

Many times a new convert is most hesitant to give advice or counsel to the Jewish society. After all, the word "ger"- convert - in Hebrew, has the connotation of being a stranger, an outsider, someone who is only a sojourner and not yet necessarily a full fledged citizen. Therefore it is most understandable that such a person may feel somewhat reticent at giving suggestions and advice to those who have been Jews for generations and since their birth.

Yitro's boldness in asserting himself immediately into advising and improving Jewish society is a testimony to his comfort level, sincerity and commitment regarding the Jewish people and its Torah values and strictures. That is why he is given so much respect and prominence in the Torah of the Jewish people.

Converts bring with them a different range of experience and mindset to Jewish life than do generational and born Jews raised exclusively in a Jewish society. In Yiddish there is a famous phrase that "a guest for a while sees for a mile." Jewish society always needs constant revitalization and freshness. Our Torah is eternal and ageless but the tactics for promoting and teaching it vary from time to time and from locality to locality.

Many times it is the newcomer, the former stranger that has newly entered the fold of Judaism and Jewish society that provides that new spark of energy and innovativeness that powers Torah Judaism forward even more. It is no coincidence that the Gaon of Vilna is buried next to the grave of the Ger Tzedek – the righteous convert to Judaism in eighteenth century Vilna.

The Gaon was an innovator, a departure from the other scholars of ...

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## Young Israel of the Main Line

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Parshas Yisro  
January 21-22, 2011

פרשת יתרו  
י"ז שבט תשע"א



### Shabbos Schedule



Candle lighting:	4:48pm
Mincha - Friday:	4:48pm
Parsha Chaburah by Ron Werrin:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:45am
Kiddush is sponsored by Dennis and Eve Rosen to commemorate the yahrzeit of Dennis' father Avraham Beryl ben Yisrael.	
Mincha:	4:45pm
Chabura given by Levi Ocken on the topic of Ger Katan.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	5:52pm

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

### Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis: Sunday:	8:00am
Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv: Sunday:	4:55pm
Maariv: Monday through Thursday:	7:45pm
Mincha and Candle Lighting Friday:	4:56pm

### Weekday Shiurim

Daily Mussar Shiur:	15 minutes before Shacharis
Mishna Brura:	Mon and Wed after Maariv
Melachim Aleph Shiur:	Monday at 8pm
Halacha Shiur:	Tuesday at 8:30pm.
Nefesh HaChaim:	Thursday at 10:10pm

Check with Dr Daniel Eisenberg to confirm.

### Chevra Mishnayos

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

### Women's Learning Experience - Winter Session

Mon at 10:15am: Tehillim for Cholim.  
Mon at 10:45am: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha haShavua.  
Tues at 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman - Sefer Tehillim, at LMS.  
Tues at 8:00pm: Stacey Goldman - The Imahot, at the Werrin home, 161 Highland Circle, Bala.  
Wed at 9:00am: Rachael Biberfeld - Michtav m'Eliyahu.  
Thu at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Chazon Ish: Faith and Trust.  
All classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted. For information or free babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.

Questions? Comments! Sponsorships\$ weeklyupdate@yiml.org

### Thought of the Week, continued...

his time and even from many of those who preceded him. Converts on the whole – those who are sincerely attracted to Judaism and not influenced by other factors or are converted by ersatz methods and insincere and non-observant courts – are an inspiration to Jewish society and a prod for further progress and accomplishments.

This is also an important lesson that we can glean from the events described in this week's parsha. Proper treatment of the convert is mentioned thirty six times in the Torah – more than any other commandment or value. We should take heed of this and assess the new convert correctly and not condescendingly.

Adapted from <http://www.rabbiwein.com/Weekly-Parsha/2011/01/509.html> by Rabbi Wein.



- Mazel Tov to Sam and Rivka Ross on the birth of a baby girl.

### Pirchei and Bnos

Pirchei will meet from 3 to 4pm at LMS in the Social Hall.  
Contact Rabbi Ari Silver at silverDollar@verizon.net.

Bnos will meet from 3 to 4pm at LMS. Please pay yearly dues: \$36 per girl. Contact Meira Friedman at 610-617-9529.

### Community Announcements

There is an ad being placed in the ad journal for Torah Academy's dinner in memory of Risa Goldman, z"l. To contribute to the ad, please contact Mira Korn 610-617-9552.

### Sefer Dedications

Dedications for Rabbi Steinberg's sefer -- to be published soon, be"H -- are available and will serve as a fundraiser for the Shul. If you are planning to dedicate, please contact Rabbi Steinberg directly or take a dedication form from Shul (they were also sent out by e-mail). Submission deadline is Tuesday, January 25th.