

Dear Pikesville Jewish Congregation Members,

I was asked to give some background information about myself and what I hope to accomplish through this Parsha Shiur, and am pleased to oblige. I see the teaching of Torah as part of a personal mission, and my life experiences have definitely shaped my perspective. I grew up as a son of a pulpit Rabbi in Modern Orthodox congregations, and learned to relate to a broad range of congregants on both a personal level and in the context of Torah learning. As I matured into adulthood I had the privilege of studying Torah in depth within a Yeshiva setting in numerous venues, and at the same time gave much thought to the relationship of the Torah Jew to the Western contemporary setting that he or she lives within.

It is my firm belief that adherence to a Torah-true tradition does not contradict meaningful contemplation of the multiple challenges a Jew encounters in the modern, secular society around him. Ultimately, it is through the study of Torah in a relevant and meaningful fashion that gives one the proper tools to deal with these challenges. I look forward to studying Parsha with the PJC group, and will not hesitate to segue into relevant, contemporary discussions that augment the ideas discussed in the subject matter of the Parsha.

In more recent years I have developed numerous relationships through Torah study groups that span a cross-section of the Baltimore Jewish community. I enter this newest Shiur with much enthusiasm, and it would be highly gratifying if I am able to share with you the relevance of our eternal tradition.

Sincerely Yours,
Yossi Rosenfeld