

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

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BeHa'alotcha

19 Sivan, 5776

Vacation Packing Tips

Have you made your summer plans yet? If you're intending to go away, you might already have started packing or thinking about what you'll take along with you.

Usually, before we go anywhere - even if it's just a day trip to the country - we need to know what the weather is going to be like, what kind of activities we're going to be involved in and how long we'll be staying. This information makes our packing easier and the trip more pleasant.

Imagine the ordeal of packing for a surprise, mystery trip. You'd have to take your whole wardrobe along - not knowing whether you're going to a hot or cold climate, to casual or elegant affairs, or taking walking tours or sightseeing buses.

Each and every mitzva we do is a journey - an excursion to self-betterment, an adventure to a heightened relationship with G-d, our fellow man, and ourselves.

Mitzvot are not many people's typical idea of a vacation, though, certainly not the kind of lazy, laid back, relaxing vacation many of us envision when we're at the height of a frenzied, hectic day.

They are a different kind of vacation, however, a kind of vacation you can go on every day of your life, every minute of your day. Because who doesn't want to take a vacation where you can visit new sights, reconnect to your past, carve out for yourself a place in history, experience something eternal.

One of the greatest things about vacation via Torah and mitzvot is that because of the diversity of each mitzva, you can experience the whole spectrum of vacations each and every day that you do different mitzvot. Relax by communicating with G-d (praying in the vernacular), putting on tefilin, lighting Shabbat candles. Bathe in the vast sea of Torah that is available through attending classes, reading books, or listening to pre-taped lessons in the privacy of your home. Be dazzled by the bright lights of the Infinite Light (Ohr Ein Sof) when you contemplate G-d's greatness and the purposefulness of the world and its every creation. Wine and dine at sumptuous banquets on Shabbat and holidays. Exercise your conscience and workout on your self-control by fulfilling the mitzvot between one person and another: not being jealous; loving your fellow man; judging everyone favorably; honoring your parents. The list goes on.

But, what kind of packing should you do for a vacation of mitzvot? The rule of thumb that the better you've packed the more you'll enjoy your vacation applies to mitzvot as well. Ask questions! Find out why, when, and how to do each mitzva. Learn the significance and the inner meaning behind the customs. Pack in all of the knowledge you can as you go along.

But, don't hesitate to do a mitzva just because you think you might not be properly prepared. After all, would you pass up a surprise, mystery trip just because preparing is a hassle or you didn't have a chance to pack?

Enjoy your vacation!

(from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

The Eternal Light

King Shlomo writes in Mishlei (13:9), "The light of the righteous will rejoice, but the lamp of the wicked will flicker out." Rabbeinu Bachya ben Asher z"l (Spain; 14th century) explains: King Shlomo compares the soul of a tzaddik to light because the soul, like the concept "light," is eternal and is independent of the life-span of the tzaddik's body. In contrast, the soul of a rasha is like the light of a lamp; when the candle or wick is snuffed out, the light is gone. So, too, when the rasha's body dies, nothing remains of him.

In reality, R' Bachya continues, a soul never dies. But, the soul of the wicked will suffer eternal punishment, which is a fate worse than death. This comes about because the rasha did not pursue "light" during his lifetime. Therefore, King Shlomo says that the lamp will "flicker out." A faint memory of the light that could have been will remain, but it will not give light.

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In contrast, "the light of the righteous will rejoice." This rejoicing is the tzaddik's reward, and it refers to attaining levels of understanding of G-d that one could not attain in his lifetime. Because tzaddikim serve Hashem with joy, they to rejoicing in the World-to-Come, for the trait of happiness causes the soul to draw sustenance and exist forever.

R' Bachya continues: Another reason the soul is compared to light is that they both were created on the first day of Creation. Unlike man, who lights a candle from an existing flame, Hashem created light out of nothing. Nevertheless, though He is "light" and doesn't need our light, He commanded us to light a menorah in His Temple for the honor of the Shechinah, as described in our parashah. (Beur Al Ha'Torah)

(by Mr. Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

Worldly Occupation — Plumbing

Making a living is all about plumbing. You've got a reservoir up there, a water tank down here, and you need some way to connect the two.

The reservoir of life up there can't be changed or moved. As for the water tank down here, that is your career, and it only receives what is decided from Above.

But you also have a second career—your principal career—and that is to bring more good into this world.

In that career, you are a plumber. You can open faucets, widen pipelines, drain all you can from an Infinite Source. It will overflow into the water tanks of your material career. It might even increase their volume.

The flow of life is in your hands.

(from *Likutei Sichot*, vol. 6, pg. 193 at www.chabad.org)

Bikur Cholim of Baltimore will be hosting its third annual "**Biker Cholim Event**" a men's bike a thon on **Sunday, July 17th, 2016** with the start/finish line at Beth Tfiloh. **3 route options- 10, 25, or 50 miles (25 & 50 miles- brand new routes!!)**. **Family Fun and BBQ lunch following the ride**. To register and/or join a team, or details about our father/son special pricing, and incentive prizes, log on to www.bikercholim.org or email bike4bikur@gmail.com for additional information.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Marsha Blumberg 24 Sivan - Wednesday night/Thursday for mother Nechomo bas Elchonon

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Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 6/24 — 18 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 6/25 — 19 Sivan
 Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:23 a.m.
 Berachot Gemora Shiur — 7:05 p.m.
 Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 8:05 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 9:22 p.m.

Sunday, 6/26 — 20 Sivan
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Shulchan Aruch Shiur — 8:45 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

Monday, 6/27 — 21 Sivan
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

Tuesday, 6/28 — 22 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

Wednesday, 6/29 — 23 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

Thursday, 6/30 — 24 Sivan
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.
 Tanya Shiur — 9:00 p.m.

Friday, 7/1 — 25 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
 Candles — 8:19 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.