

**The Shul**  
at the Lubavitch Center  
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April 16, 2016

Metzora – Shabbat HaGadol

8 Nisan, 5776

## Shining Days

When Reb Pinchas Horowitz first became a disciple of the Maggid of Mezritch, the Maggid advised him to study with Reb Zusha of Anapoli.

Reb Pinchas went to Reb Zusha and told him of the Maggid's advice. Reb Zusha humbly replied that he could not understand why the Maggid would send anyone to study with him, but that he would be happy to join as great a sage as Reb Pinchas in his studies.

"What should we study?" Reb Pinchas asked.

"Whatever you are studying," Reb Zusha replied.

Reb Pinchas took out a volume of Talmud and began explaining the following passage. "When there are only nine people in the synagogue, there is an opinion that the ark of the synagogue can be counted to complete the quorum of ten necessary for prayer.

As Reb Pinchas stated this, Reb Zusha interrupted: "What does the Talmud mean: 'Is the ark a person?' Everyone knows the ark is only an object."

Reb Pinchas was puzzled; the question was obviously rhetorical. Didn't his partner appreciate that?

Reb Zusha continued: "Maybe the intent is that a person can be an ark in which the Torah is contained, a veritable repository of knowledge, but unless he is a person, unless that knowledge is integrated with his humanity, there is a question if he can be counted among the community."

Reb Pinchas understood that this was the lesson the Maggid had wanted him to learn from Reb Zusha: not how to augment his knowledge, but how to use his knowledge to refine himself and change his character.

Judaism considers personal growth a lifelong task for each of us, 365 days a year for every year of our lives. Nevertheless, every year, a period of time is set aside when these efforts become the focus of our attention. This reflects the spiritual significance of Sefirat HaOmer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot.

The Hebrew word "sefira" means, "counting." Every night we count one of these 49 days. But sefira also means, "shining." During these 49 days, we should endeavor to make our personalities shine.

According to Jewish mystical teachings, we have seven fundamental emotional qualities. These qualities then interrelate, combining each one with another to form the full range of human feeling. Seven times seven equals 49, the number of days mentioned above. This is not coincidental, for the cultivation of our spiritual personalities during these 49 days involves the refinement of our emotions, eliminating their coarseness and directing them to G-dliness. As we work to upgrade our emotional potential, we prepare ourselves to relive the experience of the giving of the Torah on the holiday of Shavuot.

The ultimate experience of personal refinement will come in the era of the Redemption, when "there will be neither envy nor competition..." For then the G-dly spark that is latent within every person will be revealed. At present, effort is necessary to look beyond our fundamental self-concern and appreciate the inner, spiritual core that exists within ourselves and within others. In the era of the Redemption, such an endeavor will not be necessary; it will be the way we naturally view things.

What can we do to hasten the coming of this era? Conduct ourselves at present in a manner that demonstrates our awareness of this inner G-dliness. When we show genuine love to another person, we are highlighting the G-dly spark that both we and the other person possess and are establishing a connection between the two. How more Messianic can one be?

(by Rabbi Eliyahu Touger from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

## Not Too Far

*"This is the law of the metzora . . ." (14:2)*

The Gemara (Erachin 15b) elaborates: "This is the law of the motzi shem ra /one who speaks evil of another." [The Gemara is reading the word "metzora" as an abbreviation of "motzi shem ra" in order to teach that tzara'at is a punishment for speaking lashon hara.]

The Chafetz Chaim writes that one may transgress as many as 31 of the 613 commandments with one act of speaking lashon hara. A partial list of these includes: the prohibition on being a gossip; the commandment to avoid tzara'at; the prohibition on placing a stumbling block before another (because the one who speaks lashon hara causes others to listen to lashon hara, which also is a sin); the prohibition on forgetting G-d (because a person who speaks lashon hara thereby demonstrates haughtiness, whereas a person who remembers G-d is aware of his own faults and is never haughty); the two prohibitions on taking revenge and bearing a grudge; the prohibition on giving false testimony; the prohibition on following in Korach's footsteps (i.e., by bringing about hostility between people); and others.

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



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**Rabbi and Mrs Eli Solomon**  
are sponsoring the kiddush this Shabbat  
in honor of the birth of their daughter  
**Chaya Mushka.**  
May she grow up **לתורה לחופה ולמעשים טובים**



### Yahrzeits This Week:

Rabbi Fred Iewin      11 Nisan - Monday night/Tuesday      for mother      Bosya bos Aryeh Lev

### SHUL DIRECTORY

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### Davening and Shiurim Schedule

**Friday, 4/15— 7 Nisan**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, 4/16 — Shabbat HaGadol — 8 Nisan**

Shacharit — 8:40 a.m.  
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:45 a.m.  
Shabbat HaGadol Drasha — 6:00 p.m.  
Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 7:15 p.m.  
Ma'ariv — 8:28 p.m.

**Sunday, 4/17 — 9 Nisan**

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
Shulchan Aruch Shiur — 8:45 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:25 p.m.

**Monday, 4/18 — 10 Nisan**

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:25 p.m.

**Tuesday, 4/19 — 11 Nisan**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:25 p.m.

**Wednesday, 4/20 — 12 Nisan**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:25 p.m.

**Thursday, 4/21 — 13 Nisan**

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:25 p.m.  
Tanya Shiur — 9:00 p.m.

**Friday, 4/22 — Erev Pesach — 14 Nisan**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
Last Eating Chometz — 10:48 a.m.  
Last Sell and Burn Chometz — 11:56 a.m.  
Candles — 7:33 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:30 p.m.