

**The Shul**  
at the Lubavitch Center  
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September 12, 2015

Nitzavim — Rosh Hashana

28 Elul, 5775

### The Silent Shofar and the Smith's Assistant

The synagogue in Radomsk, Poland, was packed. It was Rosh Hashanah, and thousands of chassidim had traveled from far and near to spend the holy day in the presence of Reb Shlomo, the Rebbe of Radomsk. It was a special experience not to be missed, as the rebbe would often lead the prayers, interspersing them with original melodies he himself composed.

When it came time for the shofar-blowing, the learned and pious chassid who'd been carefully selected for the task stepped up onto the raised platform in the center of the sanctuary. He'd been preparing for the entire month of Elul, carefully practicing the shofar blasts and learning the deep Kabbalistic meditations that accompany them. With his tallit draped over his head, he recited the blessings with obvious concentration.

Then he took the ram's horn to his lips, ready to blow. Yet, try as he might, not a sound issued from the horn. He tried turning it this way and that, but he could not coax even the faintest peep from the shofar.

After many long minutes, to the dismay of the erstwhile shofar-blower, a younger man was called up to take his place. He picked up the shofar, and with almost no effort he produced the prescribed series of sharp blasts.

Following the prayer services, Rabbi Shlomo called over the unsuccessful—and crestfallen—shofar-blower and told him the following story:

There was once a nation that coronated a new, beloved king. In order to express their great admiration and devotion for their monarch, they decided to commission a new crown for him, the likes of which had never been seen before.

An extensive search began for the largest, clearest and most beautiful gems to adorn a crown of pure gold. Finally, a fine assortment of gleaming stones was amassed. Yet no craftsman was willing to set them into the crown. Knowing that each gem was precious and unique, the craftsmen were afraid that they'd damage them or otherwise not do justice to their unparalleled beauty.

Finally, one goldsmith accepted the job and asked for a month to work on the crown. For weeks he contemplated the gems and the crown, thinking of the best way to bring them together into a most stunning masterpiece. But he was too scared to actually attach them.

Two days before he was due to deliver the crown, he picked it up with a pounding heart. With trembling hands, he prepared himself to set the precious stones as he'd planned, but he was so nervous that he actually dropped the crown.

Realizing that he wouldn't be able to complete the job, he called his assistant, a simple but capable boy, into his workshop. Showing him the crown and the stones, he told the young fellow what needed to be done. While he stood outside—afraid to look—the assistant deftly followed his master's instructions, and the crown was completed.

*There are many ways of understanding this tale, and many lessons that can be derived. Since the story was recorded by Rabbi S. Y. Zevin with no conclusions, we pass it on to you, dear reader, as we've received it, open to your interpretation and perspective.*

*(by Rabbi Shlomo Yosef Zevin from <http://www.chabad.org/>)*

### The Spiritual Environment

"I can't believe that you spent so much time watching that wrestling show!! You always were so frustrated because it was so dumb and phony!!"

"After I watched it with the gang a few times, I guess it became entertaining."

Hashem tell Moshe and Bnai Yisrael that after we enter Israel "You will have seen their (the nations in the land of Israel) abominable things, their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold... and some of you who will serve the gods of these nations..." (Divorim 29:16-17) If we thought that they were "abominable", why would any Jew eventually worship it? The Brisker Rav said that this is the result of familiarity. First you think it is abominable, then it's an idol, then it seems like wood and stone, and ultimately you think it's silver and gold!! Never think that you aren't affected by your environment and by what you see!!

Even though subtle advertising taught you that your whole toothbrush needs to be filled with toothpaste, a pea's worth is sufficient !!

*(by Rabbi Chaim Flom from Project Genesis at [www.torah.org](http://www.torah.org))*

## Community Information of Interest

Bikur Cholim of Baltimore will be hosting "Biker Cholim" a men's bike-a-thon on Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 with the start/finish line at Beth Tfiloh. To sponsor an individual and/or the Shul @ The Lubavich Center team, go to [http://www.wizathon.com/bikercholim/?p=display&action=team\\_Page&id=1123](http://www.wizathon.com/bikercholim/?p=display&action=team_Page&id=1123) .

**November 8:** For All Tastes will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2015 at Beth Tfiloh Congregation at 6:30 p.m. This two-prong event will include a delightful concert featuring musical selections from Cantors Avi Albrecht, Melvin Luterman, Emanuel Perlman, Avraham Rosenblum the Beth Tfiloh High School Acapella and the HaZamir Choirs followed by a fabulous kosher dairy dessert and wine reception. Tnuva will be donating many food products while Golan Heights Winery will be supplying the wines. All proceeds will benefit Meir Panim; committed to ending hunger in Israel. For more information and to buy tickets, please visit [www.foralltastes.org](http://www.foralltastes.org) or go to Hadassah Greater Baltimore or Jake's Barber Shop.

If you want to be included in the Shul's e-mail list you should send your name and e-mail address to: [shul.chabad@gmail.com](mailto:shul.chabad@gmail.com).

**Mr. Chaim and Mrs. Esti Kahn** are sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbat  
in honor of the Choson Bereshit aliya on Simchat Torah.



**Seudah Shlishit**  
**סעודה שלישיית**

**The Itzkowitz Family** is sponsoring  
Seudah Shlishit this Shabbat  
in honor of **Cantor Alan Berman** and **Mr. Reuven Frank**  
for all they do on behalf of the Shul's Seudah Shlishit program.

### SHUL DIRECTORY

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### Davening and Shiurim Schedule

**Friday, 9/11 – 20 Elul**

Selichot & Shacharit — 6:35 a.m.  
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, 9/12 – 28 Elul**

Shacharit – 8:50 a.m.  
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:54 a.m.  
Berachot Gemora Shiur — 5:50 p.m.  
Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 6:50 p.m.  
Ma'ariv — 8:04 p.m.

**Sunday – Erev Rosh Hashana, 9/13 – 29 Elul**

Selichot & Shacharit — 7:15 a.m.  
Hatoras Nedarim  
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
Candles — 6:59 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:05 p.m.

**Monday – Rosh Hashana, 9/14 – 1 Tishrei**

Shacharit — 8:50 a.m.  
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:54 a.m.  
Shofar — 11:15 a.m.  
Mincha & Tashlich — 5:55 p.m.  
Candles — 8:00 p.m.  
Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday – Rosh Hashana, 9/15 – 2 Tishrei**

Shacharit — 8:50 a.m.  
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:54 a.m.  
Shofar — 11:15 a.m.  
Minchah — 6:50 p.m.  
Ma'ariv — 7:55 p.m.

**Wednesday – Tzom Gedalia, 9/16 – 3 Tishrei**

Fast Begins — 5:28 a.m.  
Selichot & Shacharit — 6:35 a.m.  
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:50 p.m.  
Fast Ends — 7:41 p.m.

**Thursday, 9/17 – 4 Tishrei**

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

**Friday, 9/18 – 5 Tishrei**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
Candles — 6:51 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.