

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209
410-486-2666
www.chabadshul.org



October 17, 2015

Noach

4 Cheshvan, 5776

Umbrellas

Umbrellas have been around for over 2,000 years. The umbrella, typically referring “to a device used for protection from rain” according to Wikipedia, hasn’t changed much over the past two millennium!

Most of us don’t spend much time thinking about umbrellas, unless we’re stuck without one when it’s raining. But, if you’ve ever had the edifying opportunity to contemplate an umbrella, you might come to realize the similarity between umbrellas and Jewish education.

The obvious place to start is at the level of not having any umbrella (or Jewish education). We don’t even realize the deficiency until we need it. This usually doesn’t happen until we are stuck in a storm. A raging storm of emotions can be set off by a tragedy, or on a more positive note, a Jewish simcha such as a wedding, brit, Bar/Bat Mitzva. In many of these cases, without a sound Jewish background, we have no idea of customs, laws, history, protocol, etc.

Then, of course, there is the umbrella that you pick up on the street for \$3.99 when it is already raining. Even if it doesn’t last more than a week, at least it will keep me dry today, we think. But with strong winds it turns inside out, or the spokes start coming undone from the cloth. It’s not much use, but it gives us a false sense of security.

That’s the Jewish education we get when we begrudgingly attend Sunday school or Hebrew school just until the Bar/Bat Mitzva or Confirmation. It gives us a sense of security to think that at least we know something about our 3,300 year old Jewish heritage.

Then there is the sturdy, long lasting umbrella, the kind we might even go back for if we think we may have left it behind. Once upon a time, this umbrella came only in basic black. But today, you can find it in every shapes and color.

Once upon a time, a Jewish education might in fact have seemed rather dull and stodgy, like the basic umbrella. But today it comes in every version one can imagine. Exciting teachers, innovative material, reputable schools, and a plethora of courses for adults and children who can’t study full time all contribute to the wealth of Jewish educational opportunities available in the 90s and into the next millennium.

Today, more than ever, there is no reason whatsoever, for any Jew to be stuck at a bus shelter waiting for a storm to pass. Pick up a sturdy Jewish education. You’ll be amazed at how it’s always there when you need it.

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

What Was Noach’s Greatest Legacy?

The sequence of expression in the opening pasukim [verses] of our parsha [Bereshis 6:9-10] is noteworthy. The Torah begins “And these are the offspring of Noach” (Eleh toldos Noach), which would lead us to expect that we will be immediately told the names of Noach’s children. However, the Torah first says, “Noach was a righteous man, perfect in his generations”. Only after that does the Torah continue, “Noach had begotten three sons: Shem, Cham, and Yafes.” It seems that the description of Noach’s righteousness is out of place in the narrative. Rashi comments on this unusual sequence and says this teaches that the main offspring (i.e. creations) of righteous people are their good deeds. The true descendants of a Tzadik are not the physical children he leaves behind, but his acts of kindness.

This is truly an amazing statement. Each of us is here because of Noach. What is the greatest legacy that Noach left the world? I would say that the answer is simple: humanity! The fact that there are people in this world is the greatest legacy that Noach could leave. Yet Chazal explain that the pasuk is teaching us that this is not true. Noach’s greatest legacy (as is the case with all Tzadikim) is his good deeds! We are commanded to have children but children are also human beings. They are not eternal. They will die and ultimately leave this world. However, there is something we can do in this world that is eternal and never ceases to exist, namely our good deeds! This is an amazing statement.

(continued on the other side)

The Medrash says that the wife of Noach was Naamah, a descendant of Kayin. We are told about some of Cain's other descendants [Bereshis 4:20-22]. One was Yaval, who founded the cattle and shepherd industry, which has been around for thousands of years. Another was Yuval. He was the first musician. A third descendant, Tuval Kayin, was the first metalworker. He fashioned metal into swords. All of these individuals died. The flood wiped out their descendants and their legacies. Naamah, on the other hand, is the only descendant of Kayin to survive. Why did she survive? Chazal say that she was called Na'amah because her actions were "Naim u'neimim" – they were pleasant and brought pleasure to others.

The point is that accomplishments, even creating major industries, music, and so forth are all fine and good but they are not eternal. They do not last forever. The only thing in this world that is truly eternal is spirituality and good deeds. This is the point of the aforementioned teaching of our Sages: The major offspring of the righteous is their good deeds.

(by Rabbi Yissocher Frand from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

Community Information of Interest

The Last Years of the Old Order: Israel and the Jews 1962-1966. Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz.

October 24: *From the Basement to the Closet: Israel and the A-Bomb 1962-66*

This lecture will begin at 8:30 p.m. and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah.

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 or go to Hadassah Greater Baltimore or Jake's Barber Shop.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Laurie Margolies

8 Cheshvan - Tue night/Wed

for Mother

Sheindel bas Avraham

PLEASE NOTE: This Shabbat - Parshat Noach - Shacharit will begin at **8:40 a.m.** שוכן עד at **9:20 a.m.**

SHUL DIRECTORY

Rabbi: Shmuel Kaplan . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com

Treasurer: Michael Frank . . . shul.chabad@gmail.com

Membership: Jay Bernstein . . . bernstein1@msn.com

Kiddush: Reuven Frank rfrank82@gmail.com

Bulletin: Howard Kaplon hkaplon@towson.edu

Website: Shoshana Zakar sue.zakar@gmail.com

Gabbaim:

Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net

Allan Genut agenut@gmail.com

Ephraim Siff

Arnie Gittleson arnoldgittleson@yahoo.com

Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 10/16 — 3 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.

Candles — 6:07 p.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:10 p.m.

Shabbat, 10/17 — 4 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 8:40 a.m.

Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:05 a.m.

Berachot Gemara Shiur — 4:55 p.m.

Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 6:00 p.m.

Ma'ariv — 7:08 p.m.

Sunday, 10/18 — 5 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.

Shulchan Aruch Shiur — 8:45 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:00 p.m.

Monday, 10/19 — 6 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.

Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 10/20 — 7 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 10/21 — 8 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 10/22 — 9 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.

Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.

Tanya Shiur — 9:00 p.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:00 p.m.

Friday, 10/23 — 10 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.

Candles — 5:58 p.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:00 p.m.