

**The Shul**  
at the Lubavitch Center  
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February 13, 2016

Terumah

4 Adar I, 5776

### Routine or Rut

What's the difference between a routine and a rut? We don't say about a car, for example, that it needs a rut maintenance. It needs a routine maintenance. The same thing applies to things we do on a daily basis, like brushing our teeth or eating breakfast. It's a routine, not a rut.

But if we ask for a definition, we'll get something similar. A rut is being stuck and not going anywhere. A routine is doing the same thing over and over again. But being in a rut can involve 'going through the motions' - doing something over and over again.

Of course, we recognize the difference. A routine has a purpose. We don't take the car in for routine maintenance just because. We do it because we want the car to function properly. The same is true for daily activities. We brush our teeth so they will be healthy. We eat breakfast so we can have energy to do what we need to during the day.

We have routines at work to maintain efficiency and to make sure things get done properly. Athletes have routines, certain things they do when practicing, so that they can perform during the game.

Routines also have what we can call intention. Even if we're going through a routine automatically, we do it with intention. There's a conscious effort, a will, behind a routine. We gear ourselves up: now I am going to do this, now I am going to do that.

The intention that drives a routine may be only semi-conscious at some points. But there is an awareness that we're doing this repetitive activity for a purpose. We have a goal in mind.

When dealing with a bureaucracy or a company that has to go through its process, its routine, we can get annoyed at the length of time and the layers we have to go through, but sometimes (not always) that routine is a safeguard, not just for them, but for us. And we go through the process because, again, we have a purpose.

Routines can be annoying and it often takes an effort to get into one, to get started. But they're important for organizing our lives.

A rut, on the other hand, is a repetitive process without intention. We do it because we have to. There's a sense of purposelessness, of why bother. This occurs not only before we start doing the activity, but continues while we're doing it. When we're in a rut, we don't act with intention. We have a feeling of helplessness, even despair.

The thing is, the same activity can be a routine or a rut. When we pray, for example, it can be an important part of our daily routine. Or it can be a 'going through the motions,' an activity we do but without any sense of purpose, any real intention behind the words.

It's easy to slip from routine into rut. It's hard to go from rut to routine. Both are repetitive activities, so maintaining a sense of purpose, maintaining intention, becomes the difference maker. And that's hard to do, because it requires a conscious effort.

But to accomplish something, to create significance, we need routines. Routines help build dedication. Ruts, on the other hand, keep us from achievements.

However, since the same activity can be a routine or a rut, clearly the difference is in our minds. Because routines have a purpose, because they exist to take us elsewhere, they let us perform. Therefore, routines lead us outward, towards others, and a significance greater than ourselves. Ruts lead us inward, to self-absorption and an inability to get beyond the ego. How we think about something, how we approach it, can make all the difference in the world.

(by Rabbi David Y.B. Kaufmann from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

## Make Way!

"Will whoever left two shopping carts in aisle three, please come and move them. No one can get through."

"In the rings of the ark shall be poles: they shall not be removed." (Shemos 25:15) The Chizkuni says that the ark was in the "Holy of Holies", which was entered by the Kohain Godol (High Priest) once a year. Therefore the poles sticking out of the side wasn't a public nuisance. However, the poles on the brass alter were where many people walked by, so the Torah had the poles removed after they were brought into the Mishkan.

Too many ladies with strollers walk on the street because cars are parked on the sidewalk.

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

### Community Information of Interest

**FEBRUARY 13: Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz - The Last Years of the Old Order: Israel and the Jews 1962-1966.** *Radical Impact: Jews and the "Sixties Revolution."* *The "Sixties Revolution" and the Jews.* This lecture will begin at 8:00 p.m. and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah.

**Yechiel and Rochelle Rubin** invite everyone to **Kiddush** after davening in memory of Yechiel's mother, **Etel Ruchama Bas Yehoshua**, whose yahrzeit is this Shabbat, 4<sup>th</sup> of Adar. Also, next Shabbat, parshat Tetzaveh, February 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Adar, the **Mizamrim** will be davening in the Shul for Minchah/Kabalat Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., Shacharit/Musaf at 8:40 a.m. and Minchah/Seudeah Shilishit at 5:05 p.m. Let your friends and neighbors know so they can join us in the Shul.



We happily wish Mazel Tov to **Hirsh and Daniella Feierstein** on the birth and brit of a baby boy!  
Also Mazel Tov to grandparents  
**David & Nancy Feierstein** and **David & Shanie Spiegel**  
and great grandmother **Millie Shapiro!**

### Yahrzeits This Week:

Laurie Margolies	4 Adar - Friday night/Shabbat	for father	Ze'ev ben Yitzchak
Yechiel Rubin	4 Adar - Friday night/Shabbat	for mother	Etel Ruchama bas Yehoshua

### SHUL DIRECTORY

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### Davening and Shiurim Schedule

<p><b>Friday, 2/12 — 3 Adar I</b>          Shacharit — 7:00          Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.          Candles — 5:21 p.m.          Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:20 p.m.</p> <p><b>Shabbat, 2/13 — 4 Adar I</b>          Shacharit — 8:40 a.m.          Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:40 a.m.          Berachot Gemara Shiur — 4:40 p.m.          Minchah &amp; Seudah Shilishit — 5:10 p.m.          Ma'ariv — 6:22 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 2/14 — 5 Adar I</b>          Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.          Shulchan Aruch Shiur — 8:45 a.m.          Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:25 p.m.</p> <p><b>Monday, 2/15 — 6 Adar I</b>          Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.          Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.          Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, 2/16 — 7 Adar I</b>          Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.          Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.          Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, 2/17 — 8 Adar I</b>          Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.          Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.          Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.</p> <p><b>Thursday, 2/18 — 9 Adar I</b>          Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.          Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.          Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.          Tanya Shiur — 9:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday, 2/19 — 10 Adar I</b>          Shacharit — 7:00          Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.          Candles — 5:29 p.m.          Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:30 p.m.</p>
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