

**The Shul**  
at the Lubavitch Center  
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**December 26, 2015**

**VaYechi**

**14 Tevet, 5776**

**On Hold**

"Please listen carefully as our menu has changed: If you are calling to open a new account, press 1; If you are calling to make a payment, press 2; If you are calling about our new features or to add to your service, press 3; If you are calling with a question about a bill, press 4; If you are calling about a technical problem, press 5; If you are calling to speak with a customer representative, press 6; We value your business and appreciate your patience. Please continue to hold."

Cue obnoxious music.

"Please wait for the next available representative. We appreciate your patience. Please continue to hold."

Cue more obnoxious music.

"We are experiencing heavy call volume. We appreciate your patience. Please continue to hold."

Cue even more obnoxious music.

"There may be a delay. Your call will be answered in approximately infinite minutes. In the order in which it was received."

Cue the most obnoxious music.

"We value your business and appreciate your patience. Please continue to hold."

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One of life's little frustrations. We are reduced, it seems, to pick-a-numbers. But what, really, is so annoying about being put on hold?

Well, there's the time wasted - but we could do a crossword puzzle or write a letter or read a book while waiting - if it wasn't for that obnoxious music.

And then there's the impersonal, mechanical, automated system - but so many of our calls are routine that the computer-operation works faster and saves us time. How much do we have in our account? Enter the account number and you've got it.

Perhaps the most annoying - or frustrating - part about being put on hold is that when someone finally gets around to talking to you, he or she is incompetent. The service representative doesn't provide any, can't answer your questions, and puts you on hold - again - while going to search for a manager.

Yet, like so many things in life, being put on hold has a lesson for us. Two lessons, actually.

First, we have to know what we want, know the options the menu provides.

Do we want to "open a new account" - move forward in our Jewish observance?

Do we want to "make a payment" -give extra charity?

Do we want to "find out about new features" - extend our learning, study a text or topic we haven't looked at before?

Do we have a "question about a bill" - is it time for a periodic spiritual accounting?

Do we have a "technical problem" - is there some detail of a mitzva (commandment) we're not getting quite right or could do better?

Do we want to speak to the "Customer Representative" - increase the intensity and focus of our prayers?

And then, when we are put on hold, when our efforts at self-improvement, at increasing our Torah study, our charity, our prayers, our mitzvot, etc., get delayed - we should be frustrated. Because our spiritual time is too important.

*(continued on the other side)*

And we should voice our frustration to the "Customer Representative." For when it comes to being put on hold, we've been on hold for far too long - for over two thousand years, in fact.

It's time to demand better service. It's time to refuse any more automated responses. It's time for G-d to take us off hold - and send Moshiach!

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

### Community Information of Interest

**December 26: The Last Years of the Old Order: Israel and the Jews 1962-1966. Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz.** *Statism and the Economic-Cycle: Israel's Economy 1962-66.* This lecture will begin at 8:00 p.m. and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah.

**December 27: Speical Shiur for Daf Yomi Learners:** *The Borders of Israel*, by Dr. Shalom Kelman, this Sunday Night, December 27, at 8:00 p.m. at Congregation Ohel Moshe (Rabbi Teichman's Shul), 2808 Smith Avenue. This week, Daf Yomi (Gitin 7-8) encountered the difficult sugya regarding the borders of Israel. The main challenge lies in the proper identification of geographic references as they pertain to the Mishna period. With the aid of Google Earth, the shiur provides the geographic insights necessary to understand the Talmudic discussion. The Mishna and Tosefta passages from Tractates Shviis and Challah are analyzed in depth allowing for a deeper grasp of the sugya.

On Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, after 8:00 a.m. Shacharit, Rabbi Kaplan will present Part II of "**Understanding and Applying the Fundamentals of Emunah and Bitachon**", followed by Q&A. Please join us for the shiur and breakfast, sponsored by **Chaim and Esty Kahn**.

### "The Rav's Friday Night Hashkafa Q&A Shiur for Men"

The next shiur will take place **next** Friday night (Parshat Shemot – January 1<sup>st</sup>) at 8:00 p.m. and will be held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ben Gutman at 6618 Shelrick Place (corner of Pimlico Road). Questions can be submitted in advance to [rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com](mailto:rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com) or anonymously in the shul mailbox.

### SHUL DIRECTORY

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### Davening and Shiurim Schedule

**Friday, 12/25 — 13 Tevet**  
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
 Breakfast / Shiur — 8:45 a.m.  
 Candles — 4:30 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.

**Shabbat, 12/26 — 14 Tevet**  
 Shacharit — 8:40 a.m.  
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:46 a.m.  
 Berachot Gemara Shiur — 3:50 p.m.  
 Minchah & Seudah Shilshit — 4:20 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv — 5:32 p.m.

**Sunday, 12/27 — 15 Tevet**  
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
 Shulchan Aruch Shiur — 8:45 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:35 p.m.

**Monday, 12/28 — 16 Tevet**  
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
 Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.

**Tuesday, 12/29 — 17 Tevet**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
 Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.

**Wednesday, 12/30 — 18 Tevet**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.  
 Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.

**Thursday, 12/31 — 19 Tevet**  
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 8:45 a.m.  
 Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.  
 Tanya Shiur — 9:00 p.m.

**Friday, 1/1 — 20 Tevet**  
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
 Breakfast / Shiur — 8:45 a.m.  
 Candles — 4:36 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.