

The Shul

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



December 19, 2015

VaYigash

7 Tevet, 5776

Do it, Jewish It

Judaism doesn't believe in asceticism. Torah does not consider it a lofty goal to totally separate oneself from the world and its pleasures. Rather, we are encouraged to enjoy life, but in a uniquely Jewish fashion.

Maimonides writes in his Mishne Torah: "A person may desire ... not to eat meat, nor to drink wine, live in a pleasant home, or wear fine clothing ... This is a wrong path and it is forbidden to follow it ... Our Sages directed man to abstain only from those things which the Torah forbids him and not to deny himself those which are permitted."

We are all going to partake of this world no matter what, as we should. So we might as well do it Jewishly.

The Talmud states that when one is surrounded by beautiful objects and furnishings it expands the mind and relaxes the person. One can therefore study Torah more assiduously. So when you re-decorate or purchase artwork, consider whether this color paint or that artist's work of art, are mind expanding or stress reducing.

Don't deny yourself "meat" or "wine" or any of the delicacies in-between. But do make sure that it's kosher. Additionally, remember our body is on loan to us from G-d, so eating healthy enables us to return it in as good shape as possible.

Wear fine clothes and keep up with the fashion - if you can afford to. But while you shop, keep in mind that you want to dress Jewishly, with dignity. And if you can't afford or have no interest in dressing on fashion's cutting edge, dress with just as much dignity, but less expensively.

At an international Chanukah gathering - connecting together people on five continents by satellite - the Rebbe expressed the above concepts and brought them one step further. With an awareness of the purpose of creation for all material things, we can use them toward their proper purpose. He said:

"Our involvement with material things should be motivated by more than a desire for self-gratification. This involvement should be purposeful in nature and ultimately directed toward serving G-d.

"In this manner, not only does this satellite-link communicate spiritual truth: it expresses it itself. For satellite communication, like every other creation brought into being by G-d, exists for a purpose. As our Sages declare, 'Whatever the Holy One, blessed be He, created in His world, He created solely for His glory.' In this instance, G-d revealed the wisdom for this and other technological advances that unite different parts of the world so that we could better appreciate the oneness that pervades all existence.

"But Judaism never allows anything to remain in the theoretical. Practical application and an orientation toward action are the backbone of Judaism:

"The oneness achieved through satellite communication allows one person to share with another not only in the realm of thought, but also in a tangible way. For example, charitable funds can be transferred from one account to another regardless of the geographic distance, and in this manner, a needy person can be promptly given the wherewithal to purchase his physical necessities," the Rebbe concluded.

We are physical people in a physical world. That's the way G-d created us and that's the way He wants it. But He also "wants" us to reveal the true purpose of everything physical and use it for its G-dly purpose.

As we approach the Messianic Era, when the Divine purpose for everything will be fully revealed, it becomes easier to achieve the goal of using the pleasures of the world to bring pleasure to ourselves and ultimately to G-d.

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

Standing left to right:

Rebbetzin Rochel Kaplan, Mrs. Yumi Hogan, Governor Larry Hogan, Rabbi Shmuel Kaplan and Yaakov Yehuda Kaplan
at the Governor's Chanukah Party held at
the Maryland State House.



Community Information of Interest

The Last Years of the Old Order: Israel and the Jews 1962-1966. Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz.
December 19: *"Secret-Service and Secret Diplomacy: Israel's Unconventional System of Foreign Relations 1962-66, Part II.* This lecture will begin at 8:00 p.m. and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah.



We wish Mazel Tov to **Stan and Judy Beitsch**
on the **engagement of their son Alan to Devorah Bergman**
of Silver Spring, Maryland.

We wish both of you much mazel, simcha and a long life together.
We also wish Mazel Tov to Devorah's parents **Ronnie and Shulie Bergman.**
The Vort is Sunday, December 20 at the Beitsch home, 2311 Farringdon Road from 1 to 3 p.m.

Kiddush after davening this Shabbat is being sponsored by
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Terry Frank in memory of the **yahrzeit** of Michael's father
Ephraim Mordechai Ben Shlomo, on this Monday – the 9th of Tevet;
and by **Howard and Judy Elbaum, Galya Elbaum and Shirley Elbaum Avron**
in memory of the **yahrzeit** of **Yaacov Kopel ben Avraham Menachem**
this Wednesday – the 11th of Tevet. May their neshamas have an aliyah!



Yahrzeits This Week:

Allan Berman	9 Tevet - Sunday night/Monday	for mother	Malka bas Avraham
Michael Frank	9 Tevet - Sunday night/Monday	for father	Ephraim Mordechai ben Shlomo
Toby Epstein	10 Tevet - Monday night/Tuesday	for father	Asher ben Yaakov
Howard Elbaum	11 Tevet - Tuesday night/Wednesday	for brother	Yaacov Kopel ben Avraham Menachem

Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 12/18 — 6 Tevet

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Candles — 4:27 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.

Shabbat, 12/19 — 7 Tevet

Shacharit — 8:40 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:42 a.m.
Berachot Gemara Shiur — 3:45 p.m.
Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 4:15 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 5:29 p.m.

Sunday, 12/20 — 8 Tevet

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Shulchan Aruch Shiur — 8:45 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.

Monday, 12/21 — 9 Tevet

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.

Tuesday — עשרה בטבת, 12/22 — 10 Tevet

Fast Begins — 5:27 a.m.
Shacharit & S'lichot — 6:35 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.
Fast Ends — 5:17 p.m.

Wednesday, 12/23 — 11 Tevet

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.

Thursday, 12/24 — 12 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, 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.