

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
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May 6, 2017

Acharei Mot – Kidoshim

10 Iyar, 5777

An Interactive Possession

Israel. We gobble up all the news about it. Barely a day passes without the land being in the headlines. And day after day we all look in the small print to seek out what's happening.

There is certainly a lot happening. Unfortunately, however, not all of it is positive. Much of our concern for Israel is motivated by apprehension over the fate of our fellow Jews there. For the last 69 years, and even before, there has been a climate of worry and fear caused by the threats and attacks from its Arab neighbors.

However, while concern for our fellow Jews explains much of our interest, there is more.

Many people love their homes and their countries, but once they relocate, they form new allegiances. They cannot trace the ancestral homeland that their families claimed two millennia ago, nor do they continue to long for those places. Yet no matter where they have lived, Jews have continued to dream about the land of Israel.

Our Sages teach that every Jew possesses a portion of Eretz Yisrael, the Land of Israel. The converse is also true. The land possesses a portion of every Jew. Every Jew was allocated a portion of the land. This is "a land which G-d... seeks out; the eyes of G-d are always upon it, from the beginning of the year until the end of the year." And just as G-d seeks out the land, so do we.

And Israel has a unique quality. It is a land that has pulsed with energy and mystery since the dawn of time; a land that has captured the imagination throughout history; a land that breathes with the glory of our past and the dreams of our future.

It is the land from where Creation began; the land upon which our forefathers trod; the land where Abraham offered Isaac; the land that for which our ancestors left Egypt; the land Joshua conquered through miracles; and the land where our holy temples stood; and the land from which were exiled but that we never forgot; the land to which we will return in the times of Redemption.

Yet Israel retains its hold upon our spirit. There is a deep connection that continues to tug at us, a magnetic pull that has not waned even though many have found safe haven elsewhere. Whether Israel makes us feel pride or disappointment, hope or concern, we care about its fate and its future. Whatever our political or religious bent, we know that Israel matters.

The so-called pragmatists urge us to adopt the formula of "land for peace", to see the "two-state solution" as the only way to escape the "cycle of violence" that has preoccupied this small country since its inception. In talk after talk over four decades, the Rebbe campaigned forcefully for another approach - of peace through strength. Concession and perceived weakness invite aggression, he argued, while a steadfast conviction about the righteousness of our claim to the land, coupled with a refusal to compromise on the security of even one of its citizens, actually force the other side to come to terms with reality and learn to live together without loss of life or liberty on either side.

May we merit to see the Jewish people live peacefully in the land and the rebuilding of the temple with the coming of Moshiach.

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

The Omer: Only the Beginning

The Counting of the Omer, the mitzvah in which we engage every night at this time of year, is widely understood as being a countdown from the Exodus to the Giving of the Torah. Literally, however, we are counting the days since the Omer offering, when the first barley of the season was harvested and offered on the Temple altar. What does counting down to receiving the Torah have to do with the barley harvest and Omer offering?

R' Samson Raphael Hirsch z"l (1808-1888; rabbi of Frankfurt am Main, Germany) explains in an essay published in 1855: For agricultural societies, the harvest is the high point of the year, the culmination of all of the year's activities, the ultimate goal of nationalistic endeavor. A successful harvest gives a nation economic independence, which helps assure political independence. Thus, the harvest is the end of secular man's endeavors.

(continued on the other side)

In contrast, we begin on the day of the barley harvest to count toward the Giving of the Torah, the day on which we realized the purpose for which we were taken out of Egypt and (eventually) given political and economic independence in Eretz Yisrael. Indeed, R' Hirsch writes, only as long as we recognized the primacy of Torah did we merit to remain in the Land. And, the ultimate redemption can come about only when understand that the purpose of having independence is to serve G-d, not simply to be a nation like other nations.

(by Rabbi Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

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| <p>Seudah Shlishit סעודה שלישית</p> | <p>Mr. Marvin and Mrs. Sara Itzkowitz are sponsoring Seudah Shlishit this Shabbat in memory of the Yahrzeit of Marvin's father, Chaim Dov ben Yosef Tzvi, z"l, on 11 Iyar, May 7.</p> |
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| <p>With much gratitude to Hashem, Mr. Chaim and Mrs. Estie Kahn are sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbat in honor of the healthy birth of their new granddaughter, Ariella, born to their children Shira and Aryeh Rabinowitz.</p> |  |
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|  | <p>Our annual Lag B'Omer family event will take place on Sunday, May 14th from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. As in past years, we will have BBQ food for sale as well as free moon-bounces, balloons, magic show, and music, followed by a bonfire. We will need HELP from adults and children, before/during/after with table setup, grilling, selling tickets, serving food, running attractions, cleanup, etc. Sponsorships are available at \$250. To sponsor or volunteer please contact Shmuel Tarshish at Samuel.A.Tarshish@leidos.com</p> |
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| Yahrzeits This Week: | | | |
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| Marvin Itzkowitz | 11 Iyar - Saturday night/Sunday | for father | Chaim Dov ben Yosef Tzvi |
| Aaron Margolies | 15 Iyar - Wednesday night/Thursday | for father | Horav Yitzchok Asher ben R' Yosef Meir |

| SHUL DIRECTORY | |
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| <p>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</p> | <p>Gabbaim: Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net Allan Genut agenut@gmail.com Ephraim Siff Mikvah Mei Menachem 410-415-5113 Aleph Learning Institute 410-486-2666 Option 2</p> |

| Davening and Shiurim Schedule | |
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| <p>Friday, 5/5 — 9 Iyar Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Shabbat, 5/6 — 10 Iyar Shacharit — 9:00 a.m. Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:30 a.m. Berachot Gemara Shiur — 6:35 p.m. Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 7:35 p.m. Ma'ariv — 8:48 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, 5/7 — 11 Iyar Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:50 p.m.</p> <p>Monday, 5/8 — 12 Iyar Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:50 p.m.</p> | <p>Tuesday, 5/9— 13 Iyar Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:50 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, 5/10 — 14 Iyar Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:50 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 5/11 — 15 Iyar Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:50 p.m.</p> <p>Friday, 5/12 — 16 Iyar Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Candles — 7:52 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p> |