

**The Shul**  
at the Lubavitch Center  
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May 13, 2017

Emor

17 Iyar, 5777

24/7/365

Service providers and merchandisers take pride in advertising that they are 24/7/365. This impressive array of numbers demonstrating reliability and availability consistency and continuity also reflects our society's round the clock addiction to technology an endless vicious cycle that keeps us going round and round without any respite stop or pause as our hours days weeks and years turn into one long run-on-sentence so that when it actually comes down to it this amazing combination of numbers may all add up to one big zero.

Obviously, we need a break! We can't go on and on like this much longer, so let's slow down a bit.

Modern man is so wired up with all kinds of gizmos and contraptions, constantly walking and talking into thin air. Wirelessly tethered to a constant barrage of data streaming in from the office, news, "social" media, and whatever makes him virtual prisoners (no wonder they're called "cell phones").

We need Shabbat (the Sabbath)! Once a week, that 25-hour rest period from Friday evening sunset to Saturday nightfall is an oasis in time. Shabbat tunes out the cacophony of chimes, incoming and outgoing pings and jingles, dial tones, busy signals and the static of computers. Instead, Shabbat tunes us in to the sweetest heavenly melodies.

Technological advances have certainly alleviated many of the menial chores and burdens of our ancestors who labored and toiled back in the shtetls or in the sweatshops. But ironically, we suffer today more from anxiety and hypertension than did our predecessors. Shabbat prevents technology's cutting edge from ripping us to shreds, from enslaving and dominating our spiritual freedom.

People rush to the ends of the earth to find exotic vacation getaways, while Shabbat gets us away from it all without the hassles of airline tickets, airports and security clearance. Instead of seeking elusive peace elsewhere, Shabbat comes to us right in the comfort of our own home, at a fraction of the cost!

We already have our personal days, sick days, and vacation days. Shabbat, however, is not just a break from the daily grind and routine; it offers much more than leisure time to hang around and do nothing. The etymological root of "vacation," from the Latin *vactus*, means emptiness, a blank. Indeed, empty vacations can become so tiring that one needs a vacation from vacation!

Rather than being a day off, Shabbat is actually a day up! The soul of the week, Shabbat infuses spirituality into every part of our being, also illuminating the materialism of the rest of the week. Without Shabbat, we are a body without a soul. Shabbat is our date with G-d, so let's concentrate on our date!

Shabbat gives us quality time with ourselves, our families and our friends. Shabbat is an uplifting and inspirational day of Light, when we can see our soul and purpose. The liberating Shabbat experience returns us to the next week more inspired, newly refreshed, and above all, feeling free!

Shabbat not only transforms our here and now, it also goes above and beyond. The flickering Shabbat candlelights reflect the greater vision and promise of Moshiach, for Shabbat is a foretaste and preview of the world to come, which will be "the full and everlasting Shabbat." Shabbat Shalom!

*(by Rabbi Israel Rubin from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)*

### The Omer

Lag B'Omer means "the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the (counting of the) Omer. This day is observed as a day of rejoicing because on this day, the students of Rabbi Akiva did not die. We therefore are permitted to take haircuts, listen to music, hold weddings etc., because the signs of mourning which we have been observing are not necessary on this day of great happiness.

Lag B'Omer, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of Iyar, also corresponds to the date of the death of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, one of the great sages from the era of the Mishna. Although the death of a great sage is usually not marked with rejoicing, but rather with sadness, we treat Rabi Shimon bar Yochai differently. The Zohar in Parshas Ha'azinu tells us that on the day Rabbi Shimon passed away, a great light of endless joy filled the day, because of the secret wisdom he revealed to his students. That secret wisdom was written down and recorded in the holy Zohar. The happiness on that day was to him and his students like that of a groom while standing under the canopy at his wedding. On that day, the

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sun did not set until Rabbi Shimon had revealed all that he was permitted to. As soon as he was done, the sun set, and his soul returned to its Maker. Because of the happiness back then, we celebrate with happiness now, as well.

In Israel, people flock to the grave of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai in the city of Meron. There is dancing, singing, bonfires are lit. Many people wait until their son is three before cutting his hair, and on the Lag B'omer of his third year, they cut the boy's hair. There is also a custom that children play with bows ("keshet" in Hebrew) on Lag B'omer. A reason given for this is that in all the days of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's life, a rainbow was never seen. A rainbow is a sign that the world was due for a flood of the proportion of that in Noach's time. However, because Hashem promised Noach that such a flood would never be brought again, Hashem lets us know when we are deserving of such punishment by placing a rainbow ("Keshet" in Hebrew) in the sky. In the merit of Rabbi Shimon, the world was never deserving of such punishment in his generation, and the appearance of a rainbow was never necessary. Therefore, children play with bows, which in Hebrew share the same word as rainbow.

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

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to **Mrs. Judy Beitch** on the loss of her mother, **Alaine Dasheiff**.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים



Our annual Lag B'omer family event will take place on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Samuel.A.Tarshish@leidos.com)

**Yahrzeits This Week:**

Jeffrey London	23 Iyar - Thursday night / Friday	for mother	Esther bas Moshe
Larry London	23 Iyar - Thursday night / Friday	for mother	Esther bas Moshe

**SHUL DIRECTORY**

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**Davening and Shiurim Schedule**

**Friday, 5/12 – 16 Iyar**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, 5/13 – 17 Iyar**  
 Shacharit – 9:00 a.m.  
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:26 a.m.  
 Berachot Gemara Shiur — 6:40 p.m.  
 Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 7:40 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv — 8:54 p.m.

**Sunday – Lag B'omer, 5/14 – 18 Iyar**  
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
 Minchah — 8:00 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv — 9:00 p.m.

**Monday, 5/15 – 19 Iyar**  
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, 5/16– 20 Iyar**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, 5/17 – 21 Iyar**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, 5/18 – 22 Iyar**  
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

**Friday, 5/19 – 23 Iyar**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Candles — 7:59 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.