

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
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September 17, 2016

Ki Tetze

14 Elul, 5776

The Birthday Bandwagon

Would you consider turning your yard into a petting zoo complete with a camel, a draft horse, a bull, ponies, two llamas, a yak, a goat, a chicken, a turtle and a boa constrictor?

One grandmother in the mid-West did, for the joint first birth day celebration of her two granddaughters. The \$1,200 price tag included entertainment, gifts and decorations.

Or maybe your child would prefer a party at a ski resort, or having his or her friends brought to the party in a chauffeured limo for only \$150 an hour?

These are just a few examples of recent children's birthday parties that, as one psychologist notes, "set up lifelong expectations that might be unrealistic. It is important during birthdays to help a child avoid valuing materialism over family and friends."

In a drive to reinstate good, old-fashioned values and, at the same time, keep expenditures down, many parents are opting to get off the birthday bandwagon while they still can.

A little over seven years ago, the Rebbe started an innovative campaign to make birthdays meaningful for both children and adults.

The Rebbe encouraged people to celebrate their birthdays in the traditional Jewish manner.

Jewish teachings explain that a birthday is a time when mazalo gover - the particular spiritual source of a person's soul shines most powerfully. The Divine energy that was present at the time of your birth is once more present and dynamic on the anniversary of your birth each year.

Therefore, your birthday is a perfect time to enhance the quality of your life in the year to come. Things you can do on your birthday to get the most out of your soul-power. These include spending time in self-evaluation, making a positive resolution for the coming year, giving charity, studying Torah, and organizing a birthday party with friends and family. At the gathering make sure to share with friends some of what you learned on your birthday.

After hearing about the Rebbe's suggestions for birthdays, one public school teacher was so taken with this meaningful way to celebrate that she incorporated some of these recommendations into her students' classroom birthday parties. She asked each child to make a positive resolution and to share with the other students something meaningful and valuable they had recently learned.

This coming Wednesday is the 18th of the month of Elul, the birthdays of Rabbi Yisrael Baal Shem Tov - founder of Chasidism in general, and Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi - founder of the Chabad-Lubavitch Chasidic philosophy.

On this day, their spiritual sources shine powerfully. We, today, can key into the extra measure and quality of Divine energy that is present on the 18th of Elul.

Consider taking advantage of that energy this year by increasing in Torah study and mitzvot (commandment) performance.

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

The Two-Way Mouth

One day, Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov instructed several of his disciples to embark on a journey. The Baal Shem Tov did not tell them where to go, nor did they ask; they allowed divine providence to direct their wagon where it may, confident that the destination and purpose of their trip would be revealed in due time.

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After traveling for several hours, they stopped at a wayside inn to eat and rest. Now the Baal Shem Tov's disciples were pious Jews who insisted on the highest standards of kashrut; when they learned that their host planned to serve them meat in their meal, they asked to see the shochet of the house, interrogated him as to his knowledge and piety and examined his knife for any possible blemishes. Their discussion of the kashrut standard of the food continued throughout the meal, as they inquired after the source of every ingredient in each dish set before them.

As they spoke and ate, a voice emerged from behind the oven, where an old beggar was resting amidst his bundles. "Dear Jews," it called out, "are you as careful with what comes out of your mouth as you are with what enters into it?"

The party of chassidim concluded their meal in silence, climbed onto their wagon and turned it back toward Mezhibuzh. They now understood the purpose for which their master had dispatched them on their journey that morning.

(by Yanki Tauber at www.chabad.org)

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to **Yehudah Buchwalter** on the loss of his mother, **Florette Buchwalter**.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים



Sponsorship is available for two flower displays on the Bima during Rosh Hashanah. Please consider sponsoring the flowers in honor or in memory of someone. Please email Allan Genut at agenut@gmail.com to make arrangements. Thank you to the anonymous sponsor of flowers for Yom Kippur.

High holiday seating forms are now available on the shul website. If we have your e-mail address, forms were sent to you by e-mail. If you do not have e-mail, there will be a few printed versions available in the vestibule of the Shul. If we do not have your e-mail address, please send your e-mail address to agenut@gmail.com and the appropriate forms will be sent to you via e-mail.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Marvin Pazornick 17 Elul - Monday night/Tuesday for mother Zelda Pazornick

SHUL DIRECTORY

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Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday 9/16 — 13 Elul

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
 Candles — 6:55 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.

Shabbat, 9/17 — 14 Elul

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:53 a.m.
 Berachot Gemora Shiur — 5:45 p.m.
 Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 6:45 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 7:56 p.m.

Sunday, 9/18 — 15 Elul

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Shulchan Aruch Shiur — 8:45 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:45 p.m.

Monday, 9/19 — 16 Elul

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

Tuesday, 9/20 — 17 Elul

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, 9/21 — 18 Elul

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, 9/22 — 19 Elul

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:45 p.m.
 Tanya Shiur — 9:00 p.m.

Friday, 9/23 — 20 Elul

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
 Candles — 6:42 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:45 p.m.