

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



June 3, 2017

Naso

9 Sivan, 5777

Back Up

Funny how expressions have different meanings, depending on what we're talking about. For instance, take the expression "back up." In baseball or other sports, it means "provide support." You back up the player when the ball is hit; in case he doesn't catch it or it gets by him, you're there to provide support, to get the ball and throw it in.

In a ballgame, the "backup" only provides support. He doesn't do the job of the other player. We assume and expect each player to do his job. It's just that sometimes, by mistake or misjudgment, it doesn't get done.

The same applies in Judaism. No one can do our mitzvot (command-ments) for us or get a Jewish education for us. We each have to do our "Torah jobs" ourselves. But we can always make sure to provide support, to "back up" each other Jewishly. In a ball game, each player plays with more confidence knowing the other players will back him up. In Judaism, we can learn Torah and do mitzvot with confidence, knowing that our fellow Jews will be there to back us up, to help us if we get stuck.

"Back up" also means to move something backward. In a heated debate, for instance, we might say, "back up," meaning let's retrace our steps, re-discover the true issue, and start again. In this sense, "backing up" Jewishly means going back to the original situation, the original status. We call that teshuva.

We also use the term when the normal flow is obstructed. The sink is "backed up" - clogged with debris; the water behind a dam is "backed up." And in a similar sense, sometimes our Judaism gets "backed up." Things get in the way - work, worries - and we get behind. Instead of learning the daily section of Torah and Rashi each day, we skip a day and catch up. Our mitzvot get clogged, log-jammed. Which to do first?

Of course, we unstop our Judaism the same way we unstop the sink - we pull out the obstruction - and often we only need to pull out a little bit, just enough to get the water - or mitzvot - flowing again - and whoosh! - the blockage is swept away, resulting in a strong, steady flow.

"Back up" has another meaning, namely, to provide proof. When we make a claim, we have to back it up with evidence, to prove that it's true. The same thing in Judaism: it's beautiful and important to "feel Jewish" or have a "Jewish heart." But we have to "back it up" with proof, with evidence, with action - the action of mitzvot.

There's one other meaning of "back up," a fairly recent one. Nowadays, when we say "back up" we're often referring to our computers and the procedure of making a copy of our data in case something goes wrong. If the original file gets corrupted, if the computer crashes, if any number of disasters strike, we always have the "back up" - the extra copy.

What does this teach us? The value of duplicating and double-checking. Almost all computer users have experienced the crisis and panic that follows the loss of important data not backed-up.

So, too, in Judaism: it's important to pay attention to the details, to double-check that the product is still under kosher supervision, that there are enough candles for Shabbat before it's time to light them. When taking an account of where we are and where we are headed Jewishly, we have to double-check our self-assessment, make sure we haven't overlooked anything.

And doing a mitzva once is a good start. But it doesn't end there. We need to duplicate it - in ourselves, and encourage others to do so, as well.

So however we look at it, it's time to "back up" our Judaism.

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

The Sefer Torah Was Waiting For Them At The Right Spot

I heard the following story during Pessach and I saved it for Parshas Nasso. There was a Yeshiva bochur who went on a trip to Eastern Europe before Pessach. He took a tour of Vilna, Minsk, Lublin, and other cities with long Jewish histories. It was the month of Nissan. Chassidim have a custom that every day after davening during the first 12 days of Nissan they read the Torah portion of that particular day from Parshas Nasso. The dedication of the Mishkan started on Rosh Chodesh Nissan and every day for the first 12 days the prince of a different tribe offered his Korbonos as described at the end of the parsha.

The fellow who was leading the tour was a Chassidic Jew and he wanted to observe this custom of reading the "chapter of the princes" during the first days of Nissan. On Rosh Chodesh, they were in Vilna and they found a Sefer Torah in a shul, they took it out and read the section of the first day. The next day they were in Minsk. They went to a shul, they took out a Sefer Torah and they read the section from the second day. On the third day they were in Lublin, but they could not find a Sefer Torah. So they had to skip the reading that morning. Outside of Lublin was one of the Concentration Camps and they took a tour of the camp. Attached to the Concentration Camp was a Judaica museum in which they displayed artifacts from the Polish Jewish community. Lo and behold in this museum enclosed in a plastic case was a Sefer Torah ... opened to Parshas Nasso: "On the third day the prince of the children of Zebulun, Eliab son of Helon ..." [Bamidbar 7:24]

(by Rabbi Yissocher Frand from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

Girl Scout Open House — Serving K - 12 Grades

Sunday June 11, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

At the Ner Tamid Synagogue, 6214 Pimlico Road (please park in lower lot).

For more information email to girlscoutnertamid@gmail.com Or call 410-764-6241.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to **Binyomin Gutman and Family**
on the loss of his brother, **Dovid Gutman**.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

SHUL DIRECTORY

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

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

Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 6/2 — 8 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 6/3 — 9 Sivan
 Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:20 a.m.
 Berachot Gemara Shiur — 7:00 p.m.
 Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 8:00 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 9:12 p.m.

Sunday, 6/4 — 10 Sivan
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Monday, 6/5 — 11 Sivan Iyar
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Tuesday, 6/6— 12 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 6/7 — 13 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, 6/8 — 14 Sivan
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Friday, 6/9 — 15 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 8:14 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.