

# The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

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March 4, 2017

Terumah

6 Adar, 5777

## Send in the Clowns

Once, when Rabbi Beruka met the prophet Elijah in the market-place, Rabbi Beruka asked him, "Can you show me someone who is assured of a place in the World to Come?"

Elijah pointed to two ordinary looking people, whereupon Rabbi Beruka approached them and asked what their occupation was.

"We are jesters who make people laugh when they are sad," they replied.

What exactly is a jester and how did these particular jesters make people laugh when they were depressed? The word "jesters" is defined by Rashi as "one who is joyful and causes others to rejoice."

This word can also be read as "I have given joy to others; consequently, I have also rejoiced." One experiences personal joy only after he dispenses it to others.

The nature of joy is that it permeates a person's entire being. When a person is happy, he lives joyfully. This happiness affects the way he conducts his life and influences everyone with whom he comes in contact. He shares happiness with those around him and his happiness brings him success in all matters.

At the conclusion of a passage in the Torah describing a series of curses to be visited upon the Jewish people, the Torah explains: "Because you did not serve the L-rd your G-d with joyfulness and with gladness of heart ..."

This idea is somehow foreign to the customary notion of happiness. When do we consider ourselves happy? Well, for most of us, happiness connotes some pleasurable situation or occurrence.

Jewish teachings define happiness not only as the feeling of joy that results from pleasure. For the Jew, happiness is itself a form of devotion, of Divine service to the Creator. It is a self-imposed state of mind, which denotes our faith and belief in G-d. We are joyous because we are sure that everything He does is in our very best interest; we are joyous because we are living in accord with G-d's Divine blueprint for universal life, the Torah.

Our joyous state of mind exists regardless of externals, it defines our being Jews. And happiness is also a great mitzva, for it is an affirmation in the truest fashion, of our faith in an omniscient and benevolent G-d, whose plan for us may be unfathomable, but Whom we trust, as a child trusts his mother and father.

Rabbi Yitzchak Luria comments: "Simcha [joy] is fundamental to the service of G-d. Even if our service was lacking in other aspects, if we had been happy while serving G-d, we never would have been exiled."

Of course, the mega-simcha we are all awaiting is the imminent commencement of the Messianic Era. And we can each hasten its arrival by maintaining an attitude of joy, which will most certainly have a ripple effect through our relationships with everyone we encounter on our meandering paths through this world.

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

### "The Rav's Friday Night Hashkafa Q&A Shiur for Men"

The final shiur for this winter will take place this Friday night (Terumah, March 3<sup>rd</sup>) at 8:30 p.m. and will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Gutman at 6618 Shelrick Place (corner Old Pimlico).



We will be baking Matzah on Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup> (9 Adar) in Brooklyn. Anyone who would like to can join us. Please contact Rabbi Kaplan or Judah Buchwalter as soon as possible to make arrangements

## You Can't Take it with You???

Have you ever heard the phrase "you can't take it with you"? Is it true? Let's briefly examine this idea wearing our Jew lenses: is it possible to have money and valuables buried with us in our graves? Sure! Will they be of any use to us on our next leg of the journey? Surely not! I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but we can't send a wire transfer to the next world, and it won't help to write ourselves a check to cash (in hopes of depositing it on the other side). Our financial currency simply has no value in the next world.

But fortunately, an awesome transformation takes place when we give Tzedaka: because it's a Mitzvah, Tzedaka effectively converts our dollars into spiritual currency that has everlasting value in the world to come. The same is true for other Mitzvahs and acts of giving that we perform here: they are redeemable as priceless eternal rewards (which go infinitely further than frequent flyer miles). So is it true that "you can't take it with you"? That all depends on what the "it" is. Ironically, the only money we really CAN take with is the money we give away (or use for Mitzvahs/acts of kindness). One woman – who obviously knew this concept well – requested in her Will to be buried not with her money, but with her charitable receipts. Giving provides the ultimate win-win-win scenario: it allows us to genuinely help those in need, to bolster our bank accounts, and to "take it with us" in the process. ... Which leads us right back to the words of our legendary Fab Four: "and in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make".

*(by Jon Erlbaun from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)*

Kiddush after davening this Shabbat is being co-sponsored by  
**The Tarshish Family** in memory of  
**Rabbi Leon Tarshish, R. Leib Yitzchak ben R. Elazar Halevi, z"l,**  
 whose yarhzeit is this Friday (12 Adar);  
 and is being co-sponsored by  
**Mr. And Mrs. Moshe Berry** in honor of their daughter  
**Rikki's** bas mitzvah.



Yahrzeits This Week:			
Harry Rashbaum	8 Adar - Sunday night/Monday	for father	Jacob Rashbaum
Joseph Hunt	9 Adar - Monday night/Tuesday	for mother	Bayta Hunt
Shmuel Tarshish	12 Adar - Thursday night/Friday	for father	Harav Leib Yitzchak ben Harav Elazar Halevi

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Davening and Shiurim Schedule	
<b>Friday, 3/3 — 5 Adar</b> Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Candles — 5:43 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:45 p.m.  <b>Shabbat, 3/4 — 6 Adar</b> Shacharit — 9:00 a.m. Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:24 a.m. Berachot Gemara Shiur — 5:00 p.m. Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 5:30 p.m. Ma'ariv — 6:44 p.m.  <b>Sunday, 3/5 — 7 Adar</b> Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:45 p.m.  <b>Monday, 3/6 — 8 Adar</b> Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.	<b>Tuesday, 3/7 — 9 Adar</b> Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.  <b>Wednesday, 3/8 — 10 Adar</b> Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.  <b>Thursday — Tannis Esther, 3/9 — 11 Adar</b> Fast Begins — 5:03 a.m. Shacharit / Slichot — 6:30 a.m. Mincha — 5:45 p.m. Fast Ends — 6:35 p.m. Ma'ariv — 6:35 p.m.  <b>Friday, 3/10 — 12 Adar</b> Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Candles — 5:51 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.