

# The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

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May 12, 2018

Behar–Bechukotai — Shabbat M'vorchim

27 Iyar, 5778

## Love to Love

Your best friend loves to play chess. If it were your choice you'd play Othello. But you play chess whenever he wants. After all, that's what he loves to do and you're his good friend.

Your significant other shlepps along with you to an event that is not half as important to her as it is to you. When asked afterward if she had a good time she responds: "If he [the significant other] had a good time, then I had a good time."

Chasidim of the first Chabad Rebbe, Rabbi Shneur Zalman, once asked him: "Which is the superior Divine service, love of G-d or love of the Jewish people?"

Rabbi Shneur Zalman replied: "Both love of G-d and love of the Jewish people are equally engraved in every Jew's soul. It follows that love of the Jewish people is superior, however, for you love whom your beloved loves."

The Baal Shem Tov taught: "Love your fellow as yourself" is an interpretation of and commentary on "Love G-d your G-d." He who loves his fellow-Jew loves G-d, because the Jew has within themselves a "part of G-d above." Therefore, when one loves the Jew - i.e. his inner essence - one loves G-d.

Time and again throughout Jewish history, we see examples of how love of another (which, as indicated above, is a true expression of love of G-d) supersedes the more usual way of expressing our love of G-d.

A prime example is at the very beginnings of Jewish history, when our Patriarch Abraham had just circumcised himself. The Torah tells us that G-d was performing the commandment of "visiting the sick" and was speaking with Abraham. Yet, when Abraham saw travelers in the distance, he immediately asked G-d to "wait" while he attended to the needs of these three strangers traveling in the hot, dry desert.

Another story:

One year on the holy day of Yom Kippur, Rabbi Shneur Zalman suddenly left the synagogue where his Chasidim had gathered to pray and spend the holiday with him. At a distance, a few chasidim followed him and saw that he entered a cabin at the end of town. There lay a woman who had just given birth and was too weak to care for herself. The Rebbe went into the forest, chopped wood, kindled a fire, cooked soup, fed it to the woman, and only afterwards returned to pray with his congregation.

Jewish mystical teachings direct us to verbalize our love and responsibility toward every Jew immediately before we begin expressing our love of G-d (through prayer) by saying: "I take upon myself the mitzva of 'Love your fellow as yourself.' "

Practically speaking, though, it's downright easy to "love" a Jew whom we've never met, or one whom we have met who lives half-way around the world. But ultimately, the primary efforts of our love for another should be focused on Jews in our very own communities.

As Rabbi Shneur Zalman emphasized, loving our fellow Jew extends to any Jew, even if you have never met him. But, how much more so does it extend to every single member of the Jewish community where you live.

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

In the last months of his life Yaakov (Eugene) Fischer expressed a special interest in stimulating the dedication of plaques on the Shul board which is prominently located in the hall at the entrance to the Shul. I believe this would be a most appropriate way for us to honor him and support the Shul as well. Below is the list of items available. Please contact Rabbi Kaplan for more information.

1. Top (large) Plaques \$5,400
2. Medium Plaques \$3,600
3. Small Plaques \$1,000
4. Simcha leaf \$150

## Charity and Empathy

"Isn't it hard being a psychiatrist? Hearing all those people's problems."

"It's no big deal. I don't really care about the people and the pay is great."

"And if your brother becomes poor ... you must help him...that he may live with you (Hebrew 'imoch')." (Vayikra 25: 35) Rav Aharon Walkin, zt"l, explains that "imoch" has the connotation of being concerned for him, not merely handing him money.

Not only do you have to put your money where your mouth is, but you have to put your heart there too!!

*(by Rabbi Chaim Flom from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)*

We extend a special **Thank You**  
to the generous sponsors of the hugely successful Lag B'Omer Event:

**Anonymous, Mr. & Mrs. Nechemia Gertner, Mr. & Mrs. Ariel Goodman,  
Mr. & Mrs. Shooie Grunwald, Mr. & Mrs. Akiva Gross, Mr. & Mrs. Chaim Kahn,  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Kaplon, Mr. Steven Kaplon, Mr. & Mrs. Larry London,  
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Margolies, and Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Pazornick.**

We also want to thank those who gave of their time and energy  
to help make this event enjoyable for everyone:

**The Belinsky kids, The Bendet kids, The Berry kids, The Goodman kids, The Kaplan kids,  
The Levine kids, ET Kaplowitz, Ilana Rubin, Rina Silver, Rabbi Belinsky, Moshe Berry,  
The bochorim of Yeshivas Lubavitch of Baltimore, Nechemia Gertner, Ben Gutman,  
Mike "DJ" Kane, Michael Podolsky, Yechiel Rubin, and the dynamic duo of Shaul and Wes!**

And we especially thank **Shmuel Tarshish** for coordinating the event  
and working tirelessly before, during and after to make it the tremendous success it was.

<b>Yahrzeits This Week:</b>			
Joseph Zakar	4 Sivan - Thursday night / Friday	for father	Emanuel ben Shabsi

<b>SHUL DIRECTORY</b>	
<p><b>Rabbi:</b> Shmuel Kaplan . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Michael Frank . . . shul.chabad@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Membership:</b> Jay Bernstein . . . bernstein1@msn.com</p> <p><b>Kiddush:</b> Reuven Frank . . . . . rfrank82@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Bulletin:</b> Howard Kaplon . . . . . hkaplon@towson.edu</p> <p><b>Website:</b> Shoshana Zakar . . . . . sue.zakar@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Gabbaim:</b> Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net Allan Genut . . . . . agenut@gmail.com Ephraim Siff</p> <p><b>Mikvah Mei Menachem</b> . . . . . 410-415-5113</p> <p><b>Aleph Learning Institute</b> . Mrs. Rochel Kaplan, Director <a href="http://www.alephlearninginstitute.org">www.alephlearninginstitute.org</a> / email: <a href="mailto:alephjli@gmail.com">alephjli@gmail.com</a></p>

<b>Davening and Shiurim Schedule</b>	
<p><b>Friday, 5/11 — 26 Iyar</b> Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Shabbat, 5/12 — 27 Iyar</b> Shacharit — 9:00 a.m. Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:39 a.m. Berachot Gemora Shiur — 6:40 Minchah &amp; Seudah Shilishit — 7:40 p.m. Ma'ariv — 8:52 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sunday — Yom Yerushalayim, 5/13 — 28 Iyar</b> Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:55 p.m.</p> <p><b>Monday, 5/14— 29 Iyar</b> Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:55 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday — Rosh Chodesh Sivan, 5/15— 1 Sivan</b> Shacharit — 6:40 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:55 p.m.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, 5/16 — 2 Sivan</b> Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:55 p.m.</p> <p><b>Thursday, 5/17 — 3 Sivan</b> Shacharit — 6:50 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:55 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday, 5/18 — 4 Sivan</b> Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Candles — 7:58 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p>