

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
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July 14, 2018

Matot – Masei

2 Av, 5778

Unconditional Love

"No more pencils, no more books, no more teachers ..." It's summertime and the last thing on most people's minds is being a student.

Even if you're not in summer school, there is one type of student that we should all strive to be - fall, winter, spring and summer - a student of Aaron (brother of Moses and the first High Priest of the Jewish people).

Why? Because the students of Aaron love peace and pursue peace, love one's fellow creatures, and endeavor to bring them closer to G-d.

This Shabbat afternoon, we study once again the first chapter of Pirkei Avot - the Ethics of the Fathers. We read there: "Be one of the students of Aaron - loving peace and pursuing peace, loving your fellow creatures, and bringing them near to the Torah."

Aaron's uniqueness can be seen not only in his lifetime, but in his passing, as well.

Aaron's death was mourned by the entire Jewish people, men and women, for everyone appreciated his patient endeavors to spread peace and harmony among them.

At times, the Midrash tells us, Aaron would even bend the truth a little in order to engender peace between friends, relatives, husbands and wives.

This teaching is directed to every member of the Jewish nation; every Jew is urged to emulate Aaron's behavior and to reach out to others with love and care. But unlike many of the other teachings in the Ethics which are merely conveyed as suggestions, this teaching is phrased as a command. Thus, it is something every one of us should aspire to.

As professional students of Aaron, our study doesn't end here, however. For, the teaching is worded, "Be one of the students of Aaron." This serves as a reminder that one must realize that there are other "students," and one's own favorite path in bringing about love and unity among the Jewish people is not the only possible approach.

The Talmud teaches us that every person has his own unique personality, thus every person will have his own unique way to generate peace, love and inspiration. Part of our responsibility in this area is to remember that while we are carrying out the teachings of Aaron, we must show respect and love for those who are working toward the same goal but in a different manner.

"Loving your fellow creatures," is a surprising choice of words, for Hebrew has many words that mean "person." Chasidic thought explains that the word "creatures" refers to human beings whose only redeeming feature is that they are G-d's creations; this is their sole virtue. Thus, even "creatures" are deserving of our love.

The Rebbe explained that this teaching is particularly relevant today, for we need to accustom ourselves to the spirit of the Redemption.

In the past, love of one's fellow creature was necessary as a preparation for the Era of Redemption. Since the exile came about because of unwarranted hatred, we would nullify the reason for the exile by spreading love among our people. This in turn would cause the exile itself to cease.

Since, however, we have already completed all the spiritual matters necessary to bring Moshiach, "We can assume that the reason for the exile has also been already eradicated," the Rebbe stated. At present, therefore, the emphasis on love of your fellow creatures comes primarily as a foretaste of the Era of the Redemption.

And through living in the spirit of the Redemption, accustoming ourselves to this way of thinking, and more significantly, to this form of conduct, we will hasten the actual coming of the Redemption. May this take place in the immediate future.

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

From the Depths of Your Heart

"We all davened (prayed) for that sick boy; so why is Yaacov still davening?"

"Before Yaacov davens for a sick person, he thinks about the pain and suffering of that person and his family. That makes his prayer more powerful."

When Moshe sent 12,000 soldiers out to battle (Bimidbar 31:4) he also had 12,000 other soldiers pair up with them to daven for them (Bimidbar Rabba 22:3). Rav Yerachmiel Chusid of the Mirrer Yeshiva asks why was it necessary to have special people davening, wasn't everybody praying? He answers that the more attached one is to the one he is praying for, and the closer one is to the danger, the greater the depths of his prayers.

Do your prayers emanate from the depths of your heart??

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

With immense joy and thanks to Hakadosh Baruch Hu,
Mr. Yitzchak and Mrs. Frannie Jakobi invite you to join them this Shabbat
 to celebrate **their daughter, Navah, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.**
 Yitzchak and Frannie are marking the event with a Kiddush following davening.



This Summer, **Join ladies of our community for weekly** Shabbat afternoon Torah Learning and Refreshments.
 Presented by **Mrs. Rochel Kaplan** at 6509 Deancroft Road (corner of Hanway Rd)
from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. RSVP 410-486-1959
לעילוי נשמת חיה יוטא בת חנוך הענוך הכהן ה.ב.צ.ג.ת

Yahrzeits This Week:			
Bluma Lewin	2 Av - Friday night / Shabbat	for mother	Anyah Dansah bas Yosef
Ben Gutman	6 Av - Tuesday night / Wednesday	for mother	Ahuva bas Mordechai HaLevi

SHUL DIRECTORY	
<p>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</p>	<p>Gabbaim: Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net Allan Genut agenut@gmail.com Ephraim Siff Mikvah Mei Menachem 410-415-5113 Aleph Learning Institute . Mrs. Rochel Kaplan, Director www.alephlearninginstitute.org / email: alephjli@gmail.com</p>

Davening and Shiurim Schedule	
<p>Friday — Rosh Chodesh Av, 7/13 — 1 Av Shacharit — 6:40 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Shabbat, 7/14 — 2 Av Shacharit — 9:00 a.m. Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:29 a.m. Berachot Gemora Shiur — 7:05 p.m. Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 8:05 p.m. Ma'ariv — 9:17 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, 7/15 — 3 Av Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:10 p.m.</p> <p>Monday, 7/16 — 4 Av Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:10 p.m.</p>	<p>Tuesday, 7/17— 5 Av Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:10 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, 7/18 — 6 Av Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:10 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 7/19 — 7 Av Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:10 p.m.</p> <p>Friday, 7/20 — 8 Av Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Candles — 8:10 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p>