

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

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www.chabadshul.org



June 8, 2019

Bamidbar — Shavuot

5 Sivan, 5779

Objective Standards

"I am a good person at heart. I want to help others; that's what's important. Let me concentrate on doing good for my fellow man. When I'm finished with that, I'll worry about doing what's good for G-d."

This is not a new argument. On the contrary, we hear it surfacing many times throughout our history. Yet, from the earliest times, Judaism has not accepted this approach. On the upcoming holiday of Shavuot we celebrate the Giving of the Torah. On Mount Sinai, when G-d gave us the Ten Commandments, He divided them up into two groups: The first four commandments focus on our relationship with G-d: to believe in Him, not to worship idols, not to take His name in vain, to keep the Shabbat. The remaining six speak about our relations with our fellow man: honoring your father and mother, not killing, not stealing, and not committing adultery, not bearing false testimony, and not to covet.

The two groups are given together and the commandments between man and G-d come first. Why? Because on our own, we can't be sure we will always be good people. We need an objective standard governing our conduct. A person can have the best intentions and yet when it comes to his actual conduct, he may harm others severely.

How could that possibly happen? Because "love covers all blemishes," and self-love is the most powerful form of love there is. Because of a person's preoccupation with himself, what he likes, and what he thinks is right, he may lose sight of what is happening to another person. Even though he is harming another person, he might think that he is doing good.

A little bit more than a generation ago, this thesis might have been contested on the battlegrounds of logic. But today, we are all witness to what happens when the need for a G-dly standard is ignored. In the early 1900s, the paragon of civilization, the master of science, culture, philosophy and ethics, was Germany, and as a nation she pointed to the success of man's efforts to better himself.

And yet this nation perpetrated the most hideous crimes and atrocities in history - and all in the name of humanity's advancement. Moreover, it was not only the rabble in the street that supported these deeds. By and large, the champions of science and culture did not stand up against the Nazi regime. Indeed, the overwhelming majority collaborated with it.

Left to his own devices, man may not perceive the motivation for his actions, or their consequences. That's why the Torah gives us objective standards of justice and good. A person should uphold them, not because he thinks they're valuable or beneficial, but because they are G-d's law, immutable and unchangeable.

This perspective also protects us from the other extreme: individuals who claim to be religious, but have no conception of dealing fairly with their fellow man. When ethics are understood as G-d's law, such people will not be able to continue their double standard. They can't hide behind the cloak of holiness while they act dishonestly. For, on the contrary, the Torah leads us not only to spiritual development and connection to G-d, but also to growth as people and advanced interpersonal relationships.

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

**The Congregation wants to wish mazel tov to Rabbi Shmuel Kaplan
on the occasion his special Birthday.**

We welcome all who are here for the occasion.

**On behalf of the entire congregation, we look forward to your learning,
leadership, advice and good humor until 120.**





Sponsorship Opportunities: The cost to the Shul for the security guard that patrols the premises each Shabbat is \$120. The Shul is soliciting individuals or families to underwrite these costs. If interested in a sponsorship, please contact Jay Bernstein or Judah Buchwalter. Thank you.

Sponsorship for two flower displays on the Bima during Shavuot is available at \$200. Consider sponsoring the flowers in honor or in memory of someone. Please contact Allan Genut at 410-486-8435 or agenut@gmail.com to sponsor.



Thank you **Louis Leder** for making the delicious cholent this year, and helping to procure the food for the “sumptuous and beautifully prepared” Seudah Shelishit each week. Also thank you to **Reuven Frank** for coordinating and preparing the kiddushim for Shabbat and Yom Tovim. And we also thank those volunteers who help in all of these activities – cutting and putting our cake, cookies, crackers and vegetables, setting tables, buying and bringing food to Shul, etc.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Binyomin Gutman	7 Sivan - Sunday night / Monday	for brother	Dovid ben Avraham
Marsha Blumberg	8 Sivan - Monday night / Tuesday	for father	Nathan Brenner

SHUL DIRECTORY

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 6/7 — 4 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat - Erev Shavuot, 6/8— 5 Sivan

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:20 a.m.
 Beitzah Gemora Shiur —cancelled this week
 Seudah Shilishit — at home before 5:28 p.m.
 Minchah — 8:05 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 9:15 p.m.
 Candles — 9:21 p.m.
 Tikun Layl Shavuot — 12:00 to 5:00 a.m.

Sunday — Shavuot, 6/9 — 6 Sivan

Shacharit — 5:03 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:20 a.m.
 Minchah — 8:15 p.m.
 Candles — 9:22 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 9:22 p.m.

Monday — Shavuot, 6/10— 7 Sivan

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:20 a.m.
 Yiskor — after 10:45 a.m.
 Minchah — 8:15 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 9:22 p.m.

Tuesday, 6/11— 8 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:20 p.m.

Wednesday, 6/12 — 9 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:20 p.m.

Thursday, 6/13 – 10 Sivan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:20 p.m.

Friday, 6/14 — 11 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 8:16 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.