

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

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June 22, 2019

BeHa'alotcha

19 Sivan, 5779

Melting Pot, Smelting Pot

You've probably heard of the term "melting pot" - a pot where everything melts together and becomes one. The term was used as a metaphor for America and assimilation during the period of great immigration from about 1880 to 1920. The argument went that America was a "melting pot" - a place where different cultures and ethnicities could come for refuge and opportunity, and yet "melt" into the American culture, which meant adopting the customs, beliefs, views, practices and lifestyles of White Anglo-Saxon Protestants from the north of Europe.

And for many of us Jews, that's what happened. As we became successful, our Jewishness "melted away."

So perhaps we should change the metaphor a bit - from melting pot to smelting pot. For smelting is the opposite of melting: melting blends everything together, whereas smelting separates the mineral from its ore. Smelting extracts the essence and pours off the dregs and useless parts.

(It's a thought for summer, too: instead of melting in the heat, smelt away the extra pounds and toxins with exercise.)

But back to our topic. We can "smelt" ourselves in two ways, externally and internally.

If we look at the values, customs and ideas that seem to predominate in the secular world, we have to admit that while there's much of worth, there's also much that is not only useless, but harmful. To take an obvious example, the internet - the world wide web - provides a wealth of information and opportunity - ways to learn, to connect, to do business. It also provides a stew of sites, repulsive, negative, morally debilitating. What we have to do, then, is "smelt" it - visit sites of Jewish content and eschew - stay away from - those that corrupt and corrode. (And even some "neutral" sites do that!)

Internally, we can "smelt" our personal character traits. Each emotion or character trait has a precious inner core - the "metal" - and the coarse admixture of impurities - the ore in which it's buried - that needs to be smelted away.

The famous Jewish scholar, physician, philosopher Moses Maimonides discusses the nature, development and refinement of our characters and personalities in the second section of his Mishneh Torah, where he discusses the Laws of Personal Development. It's worthwhile to quote a few salient points:

"Everyone possesses many character traits, each trait very different and distant from the others.

"One type of man is ... constantly angry ... the calm individual is never moved to anger ... All other traits follow the same pattern of contrast ...

"The two extremes of each trait ... do not reflect a proper path ... one should not behave in accordance with these extremes ... the straight path, involves discovering the midpoint temperament of each and every trait...

"Therefore, the early Sages instructed us to evaluate our traits, to calculate them and to direct them along the middle path, so that we will be sound of body."

Now's as good a time as any to "smelt" our minds and souls, as Maimonides instructs. So join a class, get an RSS feed or daily email. Check in with your local Chabad House. It's a great way to "smelt away" all kinds of excesses.

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



The Shul thanks the following contributors to the Security Guard Fund:

Mr. and Mrs. Josh Volosov, Mr. and Mrs. Shmuel Siegel, Mr. and Mrs. Chaim Kahn, Mr. and Mrs. Judah Buchwalter, Moishe Bergman, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Bernstein, and Sally Friedman.

Additional sponsors are needed to cover the \$120 weekly cost of the guard over the summer months. To add your name to the list of contributors, please contact Judah Buchwalter or Jay Bernstein.

Rebbetzin Rochel Kaplan will be giving two Shabbat Day Shiurim for women this summer from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Memory and ל"נ her Mother **הנהגת בת הנוך הענוך הכהן** .

These will be on: (1) July 6 – 3 Tammuz – Shabbat **פרשת קרח** and
(2) August 31 – 30 Av – Shabbat **פרשת ראה** .

Please call 443-220-9124 or email chabadpikesville@gmail.com, to reserve.

All women are welcome. Classes to be held at Rabbi and Rebbetzin Kaplan's Residence.



We happily wish Mazel Tov to
Chaim and Rachel Rabenstein
on the **Birth of a Daughter**.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to **Marvin Itzkowitz**
on the loss of his mother, **Estelle Itzkowitz (Esther Seryl bas Mordechai Markel)**.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to **Chaim Leventhal**
on the loss of his mother, **Elaine (Yitta) Leventhal**.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Yahrzeits This Week:

Marty Lazarus	21 Sivan - Sunday night / Monday	for father	Mordechai ben Aharon
Marsha Blumberg	24 Sivan - Wednesday night / Thursday	for mother	Nechomo bas Elchonon

SHUL DIRECTORY

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 6/21 – 18 Sivan

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

Shabbat, 6/22– 19 Sivan

Shacharit – 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema – 9:22 a.m.
Beitzah Gemora Shiur – 7:05 p.m.
Minchah & Seudah Shilishit – 8:05 p.m.
Ma'ariv – 9:20 p.m.

Sunday, 6/23 – 20 Sivan

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

Monday, 6/24– 21 Sivan

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

Tuesday, 6/25– 22 Sivan

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

Wednesday, 6/26 – 23 Sivan

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

Thursday, 6/27 – 24 Sivan

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

Friday, 6/28 – 25 Sivan

Shacharit – 7:00 a.m.
Candles – 8:19 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv – 7:00 p.m.