

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

410-486-2666

www.chabadshul.org



January 19, 2019

Beshalach — Shabbat Shira

13 Shevat, 5779

Creating Leaders

Throughout Jewish history there were great leaders. But I know of no precedent for one who transformed, visibly and substantively, every single Jewish community in the world - including many parts of the world that never had a Jewish community before.

It was 1968, I was a sophomore at Cambridge University. I had already encountered Chabad. They were among the very first to go out to university campuses and I was one of the very first beneficiaries. I came to America to meet great rabbis of the day. Every single rabbi that I met said, "You must meet the Rebbe!"

Eventually the moment came when I was ushered into the Rebbe's study. I asked him all my intellectual, philosophical questions; he gave intellectual, philosophical answers.

And then he did what no one else had done. He did a role reversal. He started asking me questions. How many Jewish students are in Cambridge? How many get involved in Jewish life? What are you doing to bring other people in?

I'd come to ask a few simple questions, and suddenly the Rebbe was challenging me!

I answered the Rebbe, "In the situation in which I find myself..." - and the Rebbe did something which I think was quite unusual for him, he actually stopped me in mid-sentence. He said, "Nobody finds themselves in a situation; you put yourself in a situation. And if you put yourself in that situation, you can put yourself in another situation."

That moment changed my life. Here I was, a nobody from nowhere, and here was one of the greatest leaders in the Jewish world challenging me not to accept the situation, but to change it. And that was when I realized what I have said many times since: That the world was wrong. When they thought that the most important fact about the Rebbe was that here was a man with thousands of followers, they missed the most important fact: That a good leader creates followers, but a great leader creates leaders. That's what the Rebbe did for me and for thousands of others.

There was a point when the Rebbe developed a very interesting campaign - the Seven Noachide Laws campaign - to reach out not just to Jews, but also to non-Jews.

I realized that in my new position as Chief Rabbi I could do just that. So I started broadcasting on the BBC, on radio, on television, writing for the national press. I wrote books read my non-Jews as well as Jews and the effect was absolutely extraordinary. The more I spoke the more they wanted to hear. The more I wrote the more they wanted to read.

That experience showed me not only the wisdom, the vast foresight of the Rebbe in understanding that the world was ready to hear a Jewish message. It taught me something else as well.

Non-Jews respect Jews who respect Judaism. And non-Jews are embarrassed by Jews who are embarrassed by Judaism.

The Rebbe taught us how to fulfill the verse, "Let all nations see that the name of G-d is called upon you." Let all the world see we are never ashamed to stand tall as Jews.

(by Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

**The first day of Shevat is the New Year for the tree, according to Beit Shammai.
Beit Hillel says it is on the 15th of Shevat. (Rosh Hashanah 2a)**

Question: Why is it necessary for us to know the date of the New Year for trees?

Answer: The Hebrew calendar is set up according to a seven-year cycle, and the seventh year is known as the Shemittah year. During this year the land is left idle, and no work is done in the fields. In the first, second, fourth and fifth years of the seven-year cycle, the farmers have to set aside maaser rishon (first tithe) for the Levi, and maaser sheni (second tithe) is brought to Jerusalem to be eaten. In the third and sixth years, maaser ani is given to the poor people in lieu of maaser sheni.

Maaser must be given from the fruits which grow on the tree each year. One cannot give from produce of the current year for another year. For purposes of maaser from trees, the new year is calculated from the time when the fruits of the trees begin to blossom. Tu B'Shevat is the cutoff date between one year and the next. In the year which follows Shemittah, fruits which blossomed before Tu B'Shevat belong to the first year of the cycle, and fruits which blossom after Tu B'Shevat belong to the second year of the cycle.

(from www.chabad.org)

Community Information of Interest

January 19: Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz. **Democracy, Peace, and its Discontents: The State of Israel and the Jewish World in the late 1970s.** *The Iranian Revolution and the State of Israel.* This lecture will begin at **8:00 p.m.** and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah.



The Rav's next "Hashkafa Q&A Shiur for Men" will take place **this Friday night (Beshalach, January 18th) at 8:00 p.m.** at the home of Rabbi & Mrs. Larry Ziffer, 2530 Farrington Road.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Ethel Fischer	15 Shevat - Sunday night / Monday	for husband	Yaakov Mordechai Ben HaRav Zev Yehudah
David Feierstein	17 Shevat - Tuesday night / Wednesday	for father	Chaim Mordechai ben Rav Naftoli Hertzfel

SHUL DIRECTORY

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

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

Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 1/18 — 12 Shevat
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 4:53 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:55 p.m.
 Father & Son Learning (& Chollent) — 7:45 p.m.

Shabbat, 1/19 — 13 Shevat
 Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:48 a.m.
 Berachot Gemora Shiur — 4:10 p.m.
 Minchah & Seudah Shilshit — 4:40 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 5:55 p.m.

Sunday, 1/20 — 14 Shevat
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:00 p.m.

Monday — Tu b'Shevat, 1/21 — 15 Shevat
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Tuesday, 1/22 — 16 Shevat
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 1/23 — 17 Shevat
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, 1/24 — 18 Shevat
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Friday, 1/25 — 19 Shevat
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 5:01 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:00 p.m.
 Father & Son Learning (& Chollent) — 7:45 p.m.