

# The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

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Baltimore, MD 21209

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www.chabadshul.org



September 14, 2019

Ki Tetze

14 Elul, 5779

## What is Your Focus?

Is the glass half empty or half full? That's a typical example used when discussing if someone is a pessimist or an optimist. The pessimist always looks at what's missing, what isn't there, while the optimist looks at what is there, what's positive about the situation.

But are pessimism or optimism the only deciding factor in the way a person perceives the contents of the glass? Is there more to it?

Let's take another example, that of two people standing at the same point in a field. One person sees garbage and refuse in front of him. The second person sees a magnificent mansion, lush gardens, idyllic orchards.

Can these two people possibly be standing in the same location of a field at the same exact moment? Yes. But they are looking in opposite directions. The first person is looking back to where he came from - the city. He is seeing the impoverished neighborhoods and garbage on the outskirts of the city. The second person is looking ahead toward his destination, the palace and his meeting with the king.

In this scenario it matters not whether a person is a pessimist or an optimist. What is important is where the person focuses his attention.

The month of Elul is the time when the King of Kings, so to speak, is in the field. He is available to all, not hidden behind gates and doors and guards and officialdom. So, Elul is a unique time of accessibility and compassion.

As we stand in the field, ready and waiting to greet the King - to ask G-d for our needs for the coming year - to request a good and sweet year, health, peace, financial stability for each individual personally and the world at large - we all stand poised at the same spot in the field. No Jew is closer or further away from G-d at that moment.

The only question might be, "In which direction are we looking?" Are we looking toward the rubbish and refuse of the city whence we came or are we looking toward the palace?

Looking toward the palace is constructive and invigorating in general. And in particular, it is beneficial as well.

When the Lubavitcher Rebbe was asked how could he say that we are now in the time just before the coming of Moshiach, he replied with the above analogy and explained that it depends toward which direction one is looking.

By focusing our sights, goals and actions on the palace, the palace is in the center of our vision; it is our constant goal.

When the Redemption commences, G-d will continuously be "in the field" as G-dliness will be revealed in its totality in the Messianic Era.

Let's cultivate the ability to focus on the true destination, the Divine Palace. And let's do everything we can to continue advancing step-by-step toward our goal by doing good deeds, mitzvot (commandments) and studying Torah until we walk hand in hand to greet Moshiach.

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

**Rebbetzin Rochel Kaplan** will be giving the second of two Shabbat Day Shiurim for women this summer from

5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Memory and ל"נ her Mother חי יוטא בת חנוך הענוך הכהן .

This will be on this Shabbat, September 14 - 14 Elul - Shabbat יכ אצת תשרי .

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

## Priorities

"You can't help her because you don't have a free moment!?! It's taken you two hours to get to level 27 of that PacMan game, and you're still playing!!"


"An Ammonite or Moabite man may never marry into Bnai Yisrael...because they (Ammon and Moab) did not bring you bread and water when you left Egypt and they hired Bilaam to curse you." (Divorim 23:4-5) The Dubno Maggid says that both reasons are connected. If they would try to rationalize their not giving us food because they didn't have money, it's not true—they had plenty of money to hire Bilaam.

To succeed in Judaism you have to have your priorities in order and be honest with yourself.


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

**The Shul is seeking a volunteer to coordinate the occasional rental of the Shul.**

**Please contact Rabbi Kaplan if you are able to do this.**



We happily wish Mazel Tov to **Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Kahn** on the **Birth of their Daughter.**



Sponsorship is available for two flower displays on the Bima during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Please consider sponsoring the flowers in honor or in memory of someone. Please email Allan Genut at [agenut@gmail.com](mailto:agenut@gmail.com) to make arrangements

Yomim Noraim forms are now available on the shul website at [www.chabadshul.org](http://www.chabadshul.org), and there will be a few printed versions available in the vestibule of the Shul. Please fill out and submit all forms at least 10 days before Rosh Hashanah; i.e., on or before September 2, 2019.

**Yahrzeits This Week:**

Marvin Pazornick	17 Elul - Monday night / Tuesday	for mother	Zelda Pazornick
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SHUL DIRECTORY	
<p><b>Rabbi:</b> Shmuel Kaplan . . . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Michael Frank . . . shul.chabad@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Security:</b> Jay Bernstein . . . jaybernsteinesq@gmail.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:alephji@gmail.com">alephji@gmail.com</a></p>

DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE	
<p><b>Friday, 9/13 — 13 Elul</b> Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Candles — 6:59 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Shabbat, 9/14— 14 Elul</b> Shacharit — 9:00 a.m. Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:52 a.m. Beitzah Gemora Shiur — 5:45 p.m. Minchah &amp; Seudah Shilishit — 6:45 p.m. Ma'ariv — 7:59 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 9/15 — 15 Elul</b> Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.</p> <p><b>Monday, 9/16— 16 Elul</b> Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, 9/17— 17 Elul</b> Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, 9/18 — 18 Elul</b> Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.</p> <p><b>Thursday, 9/19 — 19 Elul</b> Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday, 9/20 — 20 Elul</b> Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Candles — 6:48 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:50 p.m.</p>