

# The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

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www.chabadshul.org



March 23, 2019

Tzav

16 Adar א, 5779

## Inside Outside

Purim is the holiday of opposites. Historically it's the day Haman's plans were overturned. In fact, that's the term used in the Megila of Esther - "overturned."

This concept of "out of order" pervades many, if not all, aspects of Purim. In the story, Esther needs to appear before the king and win his favor. Instead of putting on make-up (a mask), she fasts for three days. (Not likely to make her look her best!) Yet the king is immediately moved to grant her request.

And part of our Purim celebration is dressing up - masking. Even the staid and serious rabbi often gets into the spirit. One of the mitzvot (commandments) of the day is a "Purim feast," celebrating until we don't know the difference between "Blessed is Mordechai" and "Cursed is Haman."

We can find other examples of reversals, opposites associated with Purim. For instance, the Megila is the only book in which G-d's Name does not appear.

Clearly, then, there's an underlying theme to Purim - an "inside-outside," if you will. But why? Why is Purim not only a holiday where the inside is outside, and the outside inside, but the only holiday where we find this pattern of ideas and mitzvot?

The answer comes from first understanding why we have parties - the different reasons for celebrations. And then we can see how Purim uniquely expresses the spiritually highest reason for celebration.

We party for one of two reasons: as a diversion, a way of letting go, to take our minds off our troubles. The source for the party or celebration is external. There's something outside of us that offers an attraction, that excites us, that "takes us out of ourselves."

There's a danger, though, if the only reason for a celebration or party is to "take us out of ourselves," sometimes such partying can lead to inappropriate behavior. Once the emotional or intellectual restraints are removed, the physical restraints might also be "let loose."

But we also celebrate, have a party, for a different reason: when we reach a stage of transition, when we've accomplished something, when there's a deep internal joy - say, from an intensifying or realization of a relationship - then that joy "breaks out" and in our fullness we celebrate - we share the joy with others.

Most Jewish holidays and life-cycle celebrations are of the second kind. Either the Jewish people as a whole or individuals transition into a new stage (receiving the Torah), accomplish something significant (raising a child to the age of mitzvot), or intensify the relationship with G-d (finish studying a section of Torah).

Purim is unique among Jewish holidays in that while it has a spiritual source, and thus is celebrated through mitzvot (charity, hearing the Megila) which recognize that level of significance, it expresses its source at the most physical. On Purim, we don't eat and drink because ... (pick the reason for a holiday). On Purim we eat and drink because eating and drinking is the whole point!

And that's because Purim celebrates a purely physical rescue. Purim, though it involves spiritual elements such as faith, self-sacrifice and Torah study, was a war to save the physical lives of the Jewish people.

And so we have a "Purim party" - a feast, a physical celebration Ad Lo Yada - until we don't know - within the spiritual (which therefore keeps the party within bounds). It's part of the paradox of Purim that what appears to be an external - a purely physical - reason to party, is actually the most spiritual.

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



<p>Reservations <b>\$25</b> EARLY BIRD BY MARCH 20</p> <p>Entry fee <b>\$36</b></p>	<p>FOR RSVP &amp; INFO <b>410.486.1959</b> alephjli@gmail.com alephlearninginstitute.org</p>	<p>SPONSORS ARE WELCOME</p> <p>ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT ALEPH LEARNING INSTITUTE</p>
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<p>Wednesday April 3, 2019 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Sarah Hecht</b> Star Singer and Songwriter</p>	<p>Aleph Learning Center 6701 Old Pimlico Road Baltimore, Maryland 2109</p>
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The **Matzah Order** and **Sale of Chometz** Forms will be available on the Shul Website soon – [www.chabadshul.org](http://www.chabadshul.org)

**SHUL DIRECTORY**

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Davening and Shiurim Schedule

<p><b>Friday – Shushan Purim, 3/22 – 15 Adar</b> ☞          Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.          Minchah / Ma’ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Shabbat, 3/23 – 16 Adar</b> ☞          Shacharit – 9:00 a.m.          Sof Z’man Kriat Shema — 10:07 a.m.          Berachot Gemora Shiur — 5:50 p.m.          Minchah &amp; Seudah Shilishit — 6:50 p.m.          Ma’ariv — 8:03 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 3/24 – 17 Adar</b> ☞          Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.          Minchah / Ma’ariv — 7:10 p.m.</p> <p><b>Monday, 3/25 – 18 Adar</b> ☞          Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.          Minchah / Ma’ariv — 7:10 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, 3/26 – 19 Adar</b> ☞          Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.          Minchah / Ma’ariv — 7:10 p.m.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, 3/27 – 20 Adar</b> ☞          Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.          Minchah / Ma’ariv — 7:10 p.m.</p> <p><b>Thursday, 3/28 – 21 Adar</b> ☞          Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.          Minchah / Ma’ariv — 7:10 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday, 3/29 – 22 Adar</b> ☞          Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.          Candles — 7:09 p.m.          Minchah / Ma’ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p>
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