

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

410-486-2666

www.chabadshul.org



March 16, 2019

YaYikra — Parshat Zachor

9 Adar א, 5779

Supposed to Be Joyful?

The bills are due - yesterday, the payment was due - last week, you've got the sniffles which you just know will turn into a nasty two week cold and the car is long overdue for an oil change. You decide to relax but the phone rings; it's that salesman you told to call back last month.

And you're supposed to be joyful?

You decide to go for a walk, even though it's cloudy outside. You put on a jacket, go outside and look at the sky. Maybe the walk isn't such a good idea, either. Just to the end of the block, since you're already here. And cowering down into your jacket, you think of the overdue project and the upcoming confrontation with cousins.

And you're supposed to be joyful?

Two houses from the end of the block, you hear sounds. Young children. Oh, yes, you know that family. Moved in a few months ago. Never properly introduced yourself.

Something about the children attracts your attention. You stop walking and watch. There's a boy about five and a girl maybe two. There are toys in the driveway, a three-wheeler bike and a little doll carriage. The boy's riding up and down the driveway on his bike and the girl is playing with something you can't see. Suddenly the girl drops what she's playing with and sits in the carriage. She's small, but not that small.

The boy, seeing her, gets off his bike and comes to her, swaggering rather officiously as only a big brother with a little sister can. He directs her how to sit. She complies and he starts pushing her.

The corners of your mouth begin to smile, just a little.

The boy pushes her up the driveway. Or tries to. About halfway up, he says, "You're too heavy," and abandons her. She looks after him for a moment, watching as he gets back on his bike. Then with a determined set to her face - mimicking his swagger - she strolls over to where he's riding in circles. She stands and waits. He circles a couple more times, then stops. She gets on the stand connecting the back wheels and he starts riding again, constantly making sure she's all right and having fun.

And you find yourself smiling and you find yourself joyful.

And that joyfulness lasts the whole walk back to your house, back to the bills and the phone calls and the confrontations - and the coming cold.

Joy is an attitude. It doesn't change the external facts - though it may of course lead to actions that will change them. Nor does joy come from the outside - though an outside event may stimulate it, act as a catalyst.

Rabbi Shlomo of Karlin would say that depression is considered the threshold of all evil.

Joy, even in the face of difficulties, even - paradoxically - after sinning is the antithesis and antidote to depression.

When are we truly joyful? When we know things are under control, when we have confidence that things will turn out right, when we can see the interconnectedness and feel the outreachings of love (like that of the children at play). True joy comes from an experience, an assurance of Divine Providence - that G-d guides all of creation in all its details.

Of course it is sometimes a struggle to be joyful - even when the blessings and the Providence are manifest. But that is our struggle - to be joyful and create joyfulness. Especially in the month of Adar, the month of transformations, of turning upside down, we should respond to an inkling of depression with an excess of joy.

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

AN EVENING OF
Soul Music
FOR WOMEN

Reservations \$25
EARLY BIRD BY MARCH 20

Entry fee \$36

FOR RSVP & INFO
410.486.1959
alephjli@gmail.com
alephlearninginstitute.org

SPONSORS ARE WELCOME

ALL PROCEEDS TO
SUPPORT ALEPH LEARNING
INSTITUTE

Rabbi Kaplan will be leading a trip for Matzah baking in Brooklyn, New York on Monday, March 18. Anyone interested in participating should please contact Yehudah Buchwalter.

Community Information of Interest

March 16: Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz. **Democracy, Peace, and its Discontents: The State of Israel and the Jewish World in the late 1970s.** *From Then till Now: How Events of the Late 70s Affect Us Today.* This lecture will begin at **9:00 p.m.** and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah.

We happily wish Mazel Tov to **Chaim and Debbie Eisenberg** on the **Birth of a Grandson**, born to their children **Mikey and Rena Lev** of Modiin, Israel. Mazel Tov also to the siblings Zachy and Abby.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to **Laura Kurcfeld (Leventhal)** on the loss of her father, **Michael Merims**.
 Laura is sitting shiva at 26 Jones Valley Circle until the evening of March 19.
 Shiva hours: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Motzei Shabbat hours: 8:30 to 10:00 p.m.
המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Yahrzeits This Week:
 Rochelle Rubin 13 Adar II - Tuesday night / Wednesday for father Chaim Dovid ben Yaakov

Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 3/15 — 8 Adar א
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 6:55 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.

Shabbat, 3/16 — 9 Adar א
 Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:14 a.m.
 Berachot Gemora Shiur — 5:45 p.m.
 Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 6:45 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 7:56 p.m.

Sunday, 3/17 — 10 Adar א
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:05 p.m.

Monday, 3/18 — 11 Adar א
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:05 p.m.

Tuesday, 3/19 — 12 Adar א
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:05 p.m.

Wednesday — Taanis Esther, 3/20 — 13 Adar א
 Fast begins — 5:46 a.m.
 Shacharit — 6:35 a.m.
 Minchah — 6:40 p.m.
 Fast Ends — 7:46 p.m.
 Ma'ariv and Megillah — 7:50 p.m.

Thursday — Purim, 3/21 — 14 Adar א
 Shacharit and Megillah — 6:15 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.
 Minchah — 4:50 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 7:50 p.m.

Friday — Shushan Purim, 3/22 — 15 Adar א
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 7:02 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.