

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209
410-486-2666
www.chabadshul.org



October 26, 2019

Bereshit — Shabbat M'vorchim

27 Tishrei, 5780

We are at the close of 'Chodesh Hasheviei' (the seventh month), also read haseviei "a month satiated with kedusha" and special activity. And what a special month it has been. I trust that each one of us will carry forward the inspiration we experienced in all of the varied aspects of the month, throughout the coming year.

I believe we will all agree that the tefilos and kiddushim (particularly the Kiddushim of Simchas Torah) in our Shul were all quite exceptional.

Since we are a relatively small Shul all of these arrangements are made by dedicated volunteers. I therefore want to take this first opportunity to express a special 'yasher koach' to the following individuals who made it all happen:

Gabboiyim: Alan Genut, Ephraim Siff and Yehuda Buchwalter.

Kiddushim: Reuven Frank (a one man wonder).

General: Shmuel Tarshish, Michael Frank, Nechemia Gertner, Howard Kaplon and Wes Wilson.

Baalei Tefilah: Shimon Hoffman and all the others.

Baalei Kriah: Jay Bernstein, Shmuel Siegal and Shaul Alan.

May Hashem repay all of them with abundant bracha during the year.

Rabbi Shmuel Kaplan

Collecting Leaves

Many folks from the East Coast to the Rocky Mountains will be going on nature walks, drives through the mountains, or strolls in parks over the next few weeks to enjoy the change of colors and scenery that autumn affords. Kids in particular enjoy collecting the fallen autumn leaves.

Sometimes it's for a school project (having to identify which leaves came from which trees?), an art project, or a personal project (trying to find leaves in as many different colors and shapes as possible?).

Do you remember one of those "nature/art projects" that many of us did as kids? You took leaves and put them under a sheet of paper. With the edge of a crayon you rubbed the paper over the leaf and were able to recognize not only the shape of the leaf but even its main stem and veins. You couldn't rub it too lightly or too firmly, though, or it wouldn't work.

Jewish life is like one big leaf collecting project if you consider that mitzvot are very much like leaves. They come in all different colors and shapes and sizes and textures. And, as Jewish teachings explain, just as no two faces are exactly the same neither are there two temperaments or opinions that are exactly the same.

Thus, individuals are attracted to different mitzvot. But, despite one's propensity for a certain shaped or colored leaf, if the teacher said you had to collect ten different leaves you had to collect TEN different leaves.

Similarly, though we might enjoy doing one mitzva over another mitzva, or five mitzvot rather than 13 mitzvot, when the Teacher says to collect 13, you gotta collect 13.

Similar to the way we execute the art project, we should be neither too firm nor too light in doing these mitzvot, but should follow the rules and tread the middle path; if we don't then the project won't work. It's not a punishment either, it just won't work.

Often people ask, "But isn't the main part of the mitzva the intent? After all, G-d desires the heart!"

Intent and sincerity are a major part of the mitzva but not the main thing. The actual doing of the mitzva, and doing it according to the rules, is the major part.

(continued on the other side)

If you do it wrong, you won't get punished, it just won't come out right. Like the art project with the leaf which doesn't work if you rub too hard or too soft (or not at all), there won't be an image on the paper. And with the mitzva, if it's not done right there won't be an image on your soul, or on the environment, or on the world. That's not a punishment, it's simply a fact. Too little or too much, too light or too hard, too hot or too cold. If you don't do it right it just won't work.


But, there's always next time to try again.

Keep on collecting those leaves and those mitzvot. Enjoy them. Appreciate them. Have favorites that you especially treasure and look for at every opportunity. Eagerly anticipate the times of year when certain mitzvot are more readily available or easily discernible than at other times.


Take a stroll, or a walk or a drive through the glorious colors and scents and textures of mitzvot every single day of your life.

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

As the days get shorter, and it is dark both on the way to Shul in the morning and going home after Ma'ariv; please wear reflective clothing, bands, belts, vests, etc. when walking to and from Shul.



Thank you to all who participated in the auction and to everyone who contributed both financially and spiritually to making this Succot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah very meaningful.

Kiddush this Shabbat is sponsored by **Dr. Moshe and Mrs. Maggie Silver** in commemoration of Moshe's father **Binyomin ben Mordechai's** yahrzeit on the 30th of Tishrei. 

Yahrzeits This Week:

Rebetzin Rochel Kaplan	30 Tishrei - Monday night/Tuesday	for mother	Chaya Yutta bas Chanoch Henech HaKohen
Dr. Moshe Silver	30 Tishrei - Monday night/Tuesday	for father	Binyomin ben Mordechai

SHUL DIRECTORY	
<p>Rabbi: Shmuel Kaplan . . . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com</p> <p>Treasurer: Michael Frank . . . shul.chabad@gmail.com</p> <p>Security: Jay Bernstein . . . jaybernsteinesq@gmail.com</p> <p>Kiddush: Reuven Frank rfrank82@gmail.com</p> <p>Bulletin: Howard Kaplon hkaplon@towson.edu</p> <p>Website: Shoshana Zakar sue.zakar@gmail.com</p>	<p>Gabbaim:</p> <p>Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net</p> <p>Allan Genut agenut@gmail.com</p> <p>Ephraim Siff</p> <p>Mikvah Mei Menachem 410-415-5113</p> <p>Aleph Learning Institute . Mrs. Rochel Kaplan, Director www.alephlearninginstitute.org / email: alephjli@gmail.com</p>

DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE	
<p>Friday, 10/25 — 26 Tishrei</p> <p>Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.</p> <p>Candles — 5:55 p.m.</p> <p>Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:55 p.m.</p> <p>Shabbat, 10/26— 27 Tishrei</p> <p>Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:07 a.m.</p> <p>Beitzah Gemora Shiur — 4:45 p.m.</p> <p>Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 5:45 p.m.</p> <p>Ma'ariv — 6:56 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, 10/27 — 28 Tishrei</p> <p>Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.</p> <p>Monday, 10/28 — 29 Tishrei</p> <p>Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.</p> <p>Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.</p>	<p>Tuesday — Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan, 10/29 — 30 Tishrei</p> <p>Shacharit — 6:40 a.m.</p> <p>Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday — Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan, 10/30 – 1 Cheshvan</p> <p>Shacharit — 6:40 a.m.</p> <p>Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 10/31 – 2 Cheshvan</p> <p>Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.</p> <p>Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.</p> <p>Friday, 11/1 — 3 Cheshvan</p> <p>Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.</p> <p>Candles — 5:47 p.m.</p> <p>Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.</p>