

**The Shul**  
at the Lubavitch Center  
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January 11, 2020

VaYechi

14 Tevet, 5780

### One for All and All for...

Can you imagine listening to the Vienna BOY Choir, or reading about the adventures of the ONE Musketeer? Or what if computer hardware and software weren't compatible? So many examples abound of teamwork, cooperation and compatibility that we take many of them for granted.

It shouldn't seem unusual, then, to expect the similar modes of behavior from our fellow Jews. When we're around our brethren, whether at a social or religious function, it's easy to notice the dissimilarities, to get carried away with the differences. He's so tall, she's so skinny. He's dressed rather conservatively, everything she's wearing is designer. She's a lawyer and he's a doctor. He does this mitzva, she doesn't do that one. The list can go on forever.

But once we get past the non-essential components of a person and uncover who he really "is," we come to realize that being Jewish is an integral part of his or her life. We share a common past and a common destiny that binds us together.

Teamwork and cooperation among Jews can produce astonishing results. There is a Chasidic aphorism which declares: "What a Chasidic farbrengen (a gathering permeated with love of one's fellow Jew) can accomplish, even the angel Michael cannot accomplish." Now, the angel Michael is responsible for bestowing upon us the blessings of children, health and wealth. That's a pretty impressive resume! But the aforementioned dictum is teaching us that together, united, we have the power to do even more than what the angel Michael is empowered by G-d to do.

Rabbi Shneur Zalman, founder of Chabad Chasidism, explained this concept with an analogy: Children are naturally possessive of their own belongings. They defend their own property from other children or hoard their possessions in a display of poor character traits. They do not care about others and worry only about themselves and their own things. This greatly distresses their parents and so, their parents put much effort into training the children to share, to be kind and generous, and to have other positive traits and form good habits. Time passes and the parents watch their children and see that they care for others and are not as concerned about their own "stuff" or "space." This gives the parents tremendous pleasure and now they are more likely to grant requests that the children may have.

This is how G-d reacts to us when He sees that we are united and cooperative, and behave in a respectful and dignified manner toward one another. When we act lovingly toward each other, G-d is more likely to grant our requests for health, wealth and children, and our prayers for peace for Israel and the entire world.

In an orchestra, there are dozens of musicians playing tens of different instruments. Each musician has his own personality, temperament, goals. Every instrument has a shape, sound, quality of its own. Somehow, all of these disparities unite to bring music to our ears. If even one instrument is out of tune, or one musician out of synch, the discord is obvious and irritating to the listener. How much more so when we're talking about an entire people.

We Jews often, maybe even always, have differences of opinion. Certainly we look, talk, act and think differently. But the important thing to remember is that we cannot let our numerous differences cause disharmony, dissonance and discord. After all, where would we be without teamwork? The cry of "One for One, and One for One" wouldn't have made the Three Musketeers very famous.

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

### Shabbos Calm

With this week's parashah, the Torah closes the book on the lives of the Avot / Patriarchs. Among the many lessons that we learn from their lives, one is found in the words we recite in Minchah of Shabbat: "A day of rest and holiness You have given Your people—Avraham would rejoice, Yitzchak would exalt, Yaakov and his sons would rest on it." R' Samson Raphael Hirsch z"l (1808-1888; rabbi in Frankfurt, Germany) explains: Avraham was a "prince of Elokim" (23:6), a great personality among men, gladdened by G-d and ennobled by His closeness. His son Yitzchak, in contrast, was forced to fight against the rebuffs of envy and the hostility of jealousy (see Bereishit, chapter 26). The lot of Yaakov was harsher still; it was his fate to have to earn a living for himself and his family

*(continued on the other side)*

by hard labor and servitude in the household of a crafty master. This account has profound meaning for us today, R' Hirsch continues. Regardless of what one's own life portion may be, Shabbat brings us joy. An "Avraham" blessed with happiness will find the pinnacle of his blessings, true rejoicing, only in that awareness of G-d which Shabbat gives him, reminding him that all the good which is his has come from G-d alone. To a "Yitzchak," with not a friend in the world, Shabbat affords ample compensation for the friendship of his fellow man, for Shabbat makes him and his small family circle aware that G-d is near and present in their midst. On Shabbat, even a family of a "Yaakov," laboring under the weight of distress and oppression, finds both physical rest and spiritual calm and serenity. (The Hirsch Siddur p.395)

(by Rabbi Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at [www.torah.org](http://www.torah.org))

### Community Information of Interest

**January 11: Two Parties and a State: Israel and the Jewish People 1980-1983. Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz.** "Too Much" – *The Collapse of Menachem Begin and the End of an Era.* This lecture will begin at 8:00 p.m. and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah



A special thank you to  
**Rivka Goldenberg**  
 for her **eight years** of dedicated service as the  
**Children's Group Leader.**  
 We wish her much mazel in all of her future endeavors!

Kol Hanaarim– Father and Son Learning – every Friday evening during the winter at 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. in The Shul. Chulent and other refreshments are served. Each session is "topped off" at the end with a fascinating story. For any questions, please see Rabbi Itzkowitz.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to **Rabbi Shmuel Kaplan** on the loss of his mother, **Rebbetzin Sarah Pasha Kaplan.**

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

### SHUL DIRECTORY

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### DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

**Friday, 1/10 – 13 Tevet**  
 Shacharit – 7:00 a.m.  
 Candles – 4:44 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv – 4:45 p.m.  
 Father and Son Learning – 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.

**Shabbat, 1/11 – 14 Tevet**  
 Shacharit – 9:00 a.m.  
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema – 9:48 a.m.  
 Beitzah Gemora Shiur – cancelled this week  
 Minchah & Seudah Shilishit – 4:30 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv – 5:46 p.m.

**Sunday, 1/12 – 15 Tevet**  
 Shacharit – 8:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv – 4:50 p.m.

**Monday, 1/13 – 16 Tevet**  
 Shacharit – 6:50 a.m.  
 Kerisus Gemora Shiur – 7:45 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv – 8:15 p.m.

**Tuesday, 1/14 – 17 Tevet**  
 Shacharit – 7:00 a.m.  
 Kerisus Gemora Shiur – 7:45 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv – 8:15 p.m.

**Wednesday, 1/15 – 18 Tevet**  
 Shacharit – 7:00 a.m.  
 Kerisus Gemora Shiur – 7:45 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv – 8:15 p.m.

**Thursday, 1/16 – 19 Tevet**  
 Shacharit – 6:50 a.m.  
 Kerisus Gemora Shiur – 7:45 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv – 8:15 p.m.

**Friday, 1/17 – 20 Tevet**  
 Shacharit – 7:00 a.m.  
 Candles – 4:51 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv – 4:50 p.m.