

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



April 24, 2021

Acharei Mot-Kedoshim

12 Iyar, 5781

Postage Due

Have you ever submitted something through the post office - an application, a refund form, contest answers - and then waited anxiously for the response? You calculate the days. How long should it take to get from here to there? Five to 10 business days. And how long should it take for them to read it, process it, approve it, accept it (write the check)? At the most, say, three days. Another five to ten days on the way back.

Two weeks. For two weeks you try to put the anxiety out of mind, to think of other things. It can't come sooner, can it? There's no sense in counting yet, is there?

But of course you still worry, still review, still mentally redo and regret. Did I include this information? I should have told them about this event or that action. Did I include a return envelope?

And so you go over every step, wonder about every nuance - did they get it? And several times a day, you check for the mail, even when it's too early. If the mail is usually delivered at 11 a.m., by 10:45 you're waiting.

Days pass, there's no news, and you begin to worry. Did it get lost in the mail? And then, to your chagrin, the letter comes back - postage due. You forgot to put a stamp on the letter! Is it too late? You get a new envelope, hurry to the post office, and pay for overnight shipping. Oh, please let it be on time.

Sometimes we might feel our prayers come back "postage due." We do everything right - go to synagogue, get a prayer book, follow along, say the words, etc. But we don't "pay" for them to go anywhere. We don't "pay" attention, focusing on the meaning of the words. We don't pray with intention, with love and fear of G-d. Indeed, we may even allow thoughts foreign to the purpose of prayer to not only enter but to dominate our minds. (Will my ball team win? How will that presentation go?)

In such a case, we may feel that our prayers come back "postage due." We did not pray with the proper intention. We had no kavana, no focusing of the mind on G-d's greatness, on our love and fear of Him. Indeed, would that we had prayed with no intention at all, rather than ally our prayers with distracting, foreign thoughts.

Are such prayers useless? Should we throw them away, so to speak, as "postmarked" past the deadline?

No, for there is no deadline for prayers, even those said without proper concentration or full focus. As explained in the Tanya (the basic book of Chabad Chasidism) when we pray without intention, "entertaining alien thoughts," we can still "mail" our prayers heavenward. For, since our intention is for Heaven, that is, even though our thoughts may have wandered, we still prayed to G-d and only to G-d, therefore we can easily "put a stamp" on our prayers. When later we do "pray with proper intention, [then] even one full prayer [properly prayed] gathers from the prayers of the whole year" and elevates them all with itself.

And since G-d has no deadline, so to speak, once we pay the "postage due" - pray with intention - our prayers are postmarked and received.

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

The Shul will be having a **Lag Ba'omer event** on this Thursday evening, April 29th, with some changes this year for COVID safety, including masks and distancing. There will be music, a bonfire, snacks and entertainment. See poster on page 3.

Please contact Shmuel Tarshish (samuel.a.tarshish@leidos.com) to sponsor and/or help.





Rabbi Kaplan is holding a weekly Thursday evening (8:30pm) online shiur on the Shaar HaBitachon section of Chovos Halivavos. Shaar HaBitachon has been effective in giving strength and encouragement to people facing difficult and challenging situations in everyday life. What a perfect topic, presented by a gifted teacher, for these times. This online shiur is open to anyone who would like to attend and can be joined at: <https://cutt.ly/join-shiur>

Dan and Chaya Morasha Berkovitz
are sponsoring a Kiddush after davening this Shabbat
in honor of the
birth of their daughter, Esther Raisa.
May they raise her L'Torah Chuppah uMaasim Tovim.



We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to **Jay Bernstein**
on the loss of his father, **Henry Bernstein.**

Minyanim/Shiva at 6310 Ivymount Rd, Baltimore, MD 21209.
COVID guidelines followed. Please attend minyan/shiva **only**
if you are two weeks out of 2nd vaccination and are wearing a mask.

Minyanim:

Sunday 4/25, Shacharis 8:00 am, Mincha/Maariv 7:00 pm
Monday 4/26- Wednesday 4/28, Shacharis 7:00 am, Mincha/Maariv 7:00 pm
Thursday 4/29, Shacharis: 7:00 am

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Yahrzeits This Week:

Aaron Margolies 15 Iyar - Monday night / Tuesday for father Horav Yitzchok Asher ben R' Yosef Meir

SHUL DIRECTORY

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 4/23 — 11 Iyar
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Shabbat Candles — 7:34 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 4/24 — 12 Iyar
Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:38 a.m.
Berachot Gemora Shiur — 6:20 p.m.
Minchah — 7:20 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:36 p.m.

Sunday, 4/25— 13 Iyar
Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Mincha / Ma'ariv — 7:40 p.m.

Monday — Pesach Sheni, 4/26 — 14 Iyar
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:40 p.m.

Tuesday, 4/27 — 15 Iyar
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:40 p.m.

Wednesday, 4/28 — 16 Iyar
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:40 p.m.

Thursday, 4/29 — 17 Iyar
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:40

Friday — Lag B'Omer, 4/30 — 18 Iyar
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Shabbat Candles — 7:41 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.



Lag
B'omer
Celebration

