

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center
6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



April 17, 2021

Tazria-Metzorah

5 Iyar, 5781

One Shabbat, One World

Shabbat Shalom. Gut Shabbos. Let's recite the Kiddush sanctifying the seventh day - Shabbat.

"And the heavens and the earth and all their hosts were completed."

Can we grasp with our minds, with our hearts, with all our senses, the majesty of Creation? We've pictured the farthest regions on a computer, telescoped the universe, viewed the vastness like a photo, and still the galaxies of time elude us.

"And the children of Israel shall observe the Shabbat..."

We search the cosmos for an inner certitude. We are looking for forever.

"And G-d finished by the Seventh Day His work which He had done, and He rested on the Seventh Day from all His work which He had done."

But how can G-d rest and the universe exist? For G-d continually creates creation. And what kind of "rest" is this when the stream of life pours forth from the Source of life?

"...establishing the Shabbat throughout their generations as an everlasting covenant."

The realm beyond this realm, the story after the end, the eternal of being - to paraphrase Jacob, G-d was in this moment, and I did not know it.

"And G-d blessed the Seventh Day and made it holy (kadosh)..."

This business of holiness I do not understand. I know the word, and its Hebrew, kadosh, separated. But let's face it, this lofty spirituality just doesn't fit with working, paying bills, driving a carpool and whatever else it takes to get through the day.

"It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel for all time..."

What do we mean by a "sign"? Let's think of some signs. A smile is a sign of affection. What we see is evidence of something we don't see. Perhaps a sign is a symptom of an underlying cause. A yawn is a symptom of fatigue. It signals a weariness. Are we not tired of exile?

"...for on it He rested from all His work which G-d created to function."

Have you ever heard the expression, "at one with..."? Perhaps herein lies the contrast: work requires separation, a moving away, outward, forward (at least in time). We cannot be doing and be one with. But we do in order to be one with. We go to work in order to come home and be one with our family.

G-d, so to speak, "goes to work" for six days to be one with His people.

"...for in six days the L-rd made the heavens and the earth..."

Oh, very nice, but what has that to do with us? Do we make the heavens and the earth? Do we make anything? Well, yes, in six days we make a world. It's a sign, you see, a symptom of something else, some underlying cause.

"...and on the seventh day He ceased from work and rested."

This is the holiness, this is the rest, this is the sign: that on Shabbat, the oneness is revealed.

And so we come back to a paraphrase of our Sages' statement: "Just one Shabbos and we'll all be free..." Free of what? Free of exile, of course. For, as the Talmud puts it, "If all Israel kept one Shabbat together, Redemption would come."

(continued on the other side)

Because Shabbat - Shabbos - is a sign, a sign of oneness - the Oneness of G-d the Creator, and the oneness of G-d and the Jewish people, a oneness of the soul. But there is yet another sign, another oneness which must, in a sense, precede the oneness of which Shabbos - Shabbat - is the sign.

And that is the oneness of the Jewish people themselves. Unity of the Jews is a sign of our oneness with G-d.

And how do we transcend our differences - make a sign symptomatic of our underlying oneness?

One Shabbat, One World.

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



The Shul will be having a **Lag Ba'omer event** on 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.

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

We happily wish Mazel Tov to
Dan and Chaya Morasha Berkovitz
 on the **Birth of their Daughter**
Esther Raisa.



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>

Yahrzeits This Week:

Helen London	7 Iyar - Sunday night / Monday	for father	Dovid ben Meyer
Rabbi Fred Lewin	8 Iyar - Monday night / Tuesday	for brother	Yoel ben Shmuel
Marvin Itzkowitz	11 Iyar- Thursday night / Friday	for father	Chaim Dov ben Yoseph Tzvi

DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 4/16 — 4 Iyar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 7:27 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 4/17 — 5 Iyar

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:44 a.m.
 Berachot Gemora Shiur — 6:15 p.m.
 Minchah — 7:15 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 8:28 p.m.

Sunday, 4/18— 6 Iyar

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Mincha / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

Monday, 4/19 — 7 Iyar

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

Tuesday, 4/20 — 8 Iyar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

Wednesday, 4/21 — 9 Iyar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

Thursday, 4/22 — 10 Iyar

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35

Friday, 4/23 — 11 Iyar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 7:34 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.