

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



May 8, 2021

Behar-Bechukotai — Shabbat M'vorchim

26 Iyar, 5781

MERON. We will never forget you

All the roses were plucked on the holy day of Lag Baomer. HKBH chooses the roses.

Forty-Five. Every age group, every segment of Jewish observance. United souls bequeathed to The Almighty at the resting place of the holy sage, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai.

Love, brotherhood, self-sacrifice, unity, soul-searching- all playing out, crying out, pouring out for our lost family, torn asunder, rising heavenward to the gates of heaven in holy ecstasy.

Children pre-bar mitzvah, post-bar mitzvah, bochurim, brothers, friends, engaged, yungerleit with young families: single digits, teens, 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's- a whole spectrum of life.

A colorful bouquet, a spectrum of Rabbi Akiva's students: Shalavim, litvish, Mir, Chabad, Satmar, Vishnitz, Gur, Bobov, Breslov- united In Echad.

As I watched funerals, heard painful cries, observed mournfully the loss of so many heartbroken bereft family members, awoke to expressions of Bitochon and Emunah young and old, I have never felt more closely aligned with Klal Yisroel.

To see this tragedy of our people as an outsider - different colors and stripes - is nothing short of pitiful. The very fabric of "Jewish" is the enduring soul: individual bodies but one intrinsic soul. To feel a part of the Jewish nation - its beating heart - is to connect, to accept, to embrace, and to love each and every difference.

Forty-Five reasons multiplied by families and friends - every bit of Jewish blood is our bloodline from the beginning of creation to eternity. We have one Father in Heaven.

The Rashbi together with his student Rabbi Akiva, master this oneness on Lag Baomer - Meron - forever in our hearts - we will never forget you.

(by Rebbitzin Rochel Kaplan)

Being Right

It's a drug. It's intoxicating. It tastes better than wine. It's so seductive it makes smart people go nuts, desperate for another fix. It's today's drug of choice.

It's the drug of being right.

Such simple words - "I'm right and you're wrong"- and we're off to the races. Hide the children. "I'm right and you're wrong," and boom-just like that-I'll break my own rules. I'll hit you where it hurts most, I'll break your heart.

Religious vs. secular, left vs. right, businessman vs. poet, politician vs. politician, spouse vs. spouse, parents vs. kids, driver vs. driver, it doesn't matter whom, it doesn't matter where: being right seems to give people a severe case of amnesia. Suddenly, when they're right, Torah scholars forget the Torah. Noble people can make ignoble statements. Sweet people can say bitter words. Humility? Gone. Dignity? Gone. Ahavat Yisrael (love of your fellow Jew)? Gone. All in the name of being right.

When one is wrong, humility comes cheap. It's no big deal to be humble when the judge is about to nail you in traffic court. But how about when your spouse or friend is an hour late with no good excuse? Or when we feel so terribly right about an issue because we have the law, the facts, the Torah, history, science or whatever, squarely on our side?

Can we then resist the irresistible? The rush to anger, the urge to throw stones, the love to dominate?

Rabbi Shneur Zalman, the Alter Rebbe, told his son, Rabbi Dov Ber: "Zaide (the Baal Shem Tov) said that we must exercise self-sacrifice for Ahavat Yisrael, even for a Jew whom one has never seen."

Not letting "being right" trap us into hostility would seem like a delicious self-sacrifice. "I'm right and you're wrong, but I'll still treat you with humility." How courageous. How powerful!

(continued on the other side)

But it don't come easy: there's no 12-step program for Self-Righteous Anonymous. It's more a matter of reprogramming our mindsets to always remember the Big Picture. When all else fails, when issues tear people apart, humility is the great disarming agent, the Divine force that can save the day.


Can you imagine what would happen if humility and intellect were the new weapons of choice in trying to influence the "other side" to one's view? If we learned to disagree without being disagreeable? If we could all remember that the most "right" Jew of all-Moses-was also the most humble?

The Lubavitcher Rebbe taught us to dream big, to act big and to boldly promote what we believe is right-but to do it all with goodness and kindness. He taught us that acting right is the essence of being right.

(by David Suissa from www.chabad.org)

We extend a special **Thank You**
to the generous sponsors of the hugely successful Lag B'Omer Event:
**Anonymous, Mr. & Mrs. Eli Atias, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Berkovitz, Mr. & Mrs. Reuven Frank,
Mr. & Mrs. Nechemia Gertner, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Gutman, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Kaplon,
Mr. Steven Kaplon, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Pazornick, Mr. & Mrs. Shmuel Siegel, Solomon Counseling,
Mr. Wes Wilson and Mr. & Mrs. Dovi Ziffer.**

We also want to thank those who gave of their time and energy
to help make this event enjoyable for everyone:
Nechemia Gertner, Ben Gutman, Tzvi Levine and Shmuel Tarshish.
Thanks also to Ahron Berry, Joe Ezra Gertner, Levi Levine and Baruch Slatkin.
And a special shout-out to Yitzchak and Mordechai Allan who built the majestic bonfire!!



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>

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE	
<p>Friday, 5/7 — 25 Iyar Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Shabbat Candles — 7:48 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Shabbat, 5/8 — 26 Iyar Shacharit — 9:00 a.m. Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:29 a.m. Berachot Gemora Shiur — 6:35 p.m. Minchah — 7:35 p.m. Ma'ariv — 8:51 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, 5/9— 27 Iyar Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. Mincha / Ma'ariv — 7:55 p.m.</p> <p>Monday, 5/10 — 28 Iyar Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:55 p.m.</p>	<p>Tuesday, 5/11 — 29 Iyar Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:55 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday — Rosh Chodesh Sivan, 5/12 — 1 Sivan Shacharit — 6:40 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:55 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 5/13 — 2 Sivan Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:55</p> <p>Friday, 5/14 — 3 Sivan Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Shabbat Candles — 7:54 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p>