

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



December 12, 2020

VaYeshev – Chanukah – Shabbat M'vorchim

26 Kislev, 5781

### Being P.C. or C.P.

Potato latkas. Dreidels. Judah the Maccabee. Judith the Heroine. The Chanukah menorah. Blue cardboard boxes of all different colored candles. (As a kid did you try to create an interesting pattern each night?) Chocolate Chanukah coins. The song, Maoz Tzur. "I had a little dreidel..." Clay menorahs made in Hebrew school.

Chanukah is made of memories and for memories. Taste the latkas and jelly donuts. See the candles burn brightly in the menorah. Hear the singing of the blessings over the menora. Touch the letters engraved on the dreidel: nun, gimmel, hay, shin - "A Great Miracle Happened There."

Chanukah is a special time for family, friends and children. Chanukah is a Jewish holiday celebrating the victory of the weak (militarily) over the mighty, the few (in number) over the many.

Chanukah is a celebration of the re-dedication of the Holy Temple after it had been defiled - but not destroyed - by the Greeks. For the Greeks did not wish to destroy the Holy Temple nor the Torah; they wished only to defile the mitzvot (commandments).

The Greeks attempted to lessen their holiness, their uniqueness, their impact on our Jewish lives. "We too, have wisdom," they declared. "We, too, have gods. We, too, have holidays. Know that your Temple is like our temples. The wisdom of your Divine Torah is like our man-made wisdom. There is nothing particularly holy about them."

So what do you say to a child who wants a "Chanukah bush," or who wants a photograph with Santa? What do you do about the pressure of giving Chanukah presents instead of the Jewish custom of giving Chanukah gelt (money)?

The easiest response might be: "They have their holiday and we have ours - Chanuka."

That response might be on the verge of being P.C., but it's certainly not C. P. - Chanukah Perfect. You see, as soon as we start comparing Chanukah with the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, or when we try to turn Chanukah into the Jewish equivalent of that day, it is as if we are handing over a victory to the "Greeks."

Celebrate Chanukah in the true spirit of the holiday - not as a consolation or a competition - but as an opportunity to prove in our own lives that the ancient battle and victory over the Greeks was not in vain.

Explore the themes of Chanukah, including the idea of dedication (the actual meaning of the Hebrew word Chanukah) and Jewish education (or "chinuch" in Hebrew, from the same word as Chanukah).

Light the Chanukah menorah each night of Chanukah and watch Jewish pride grow as the numbers and strength of the Chanukah lights increase.

Let the lights of the Chanukah menorah - and all of the beautiful and unforgettable Chanukah traditions, customs, mitzvot and memories - add their pure, holy light to the world until the G-dly light is revealed in all its glory in the Third and Eternal Holy Temple.

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

### The Missing Jewel

Last week's Parashah ended with a list of Esav's descendants and their family groupings. Our Parashah opens (37:1): "Yaakov settled in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan." Rashi writes: "After the Torah has described the settlements of Esav and his descendants in a brief manner . . . it explains clearly and at length the settlements made by Yaakov and his descendants and all the events which brought these about, because these are regarded by the Omnipresent as of sufficient importance to speak of them at length. Thus, too, you will find that in the case of the ten generations from Adam to Noach it states, 'So and so fathered so and so,' but when it reaches Noach it deals with him at length. Similarly, of the ten generations from Noach to Avraham it gives but a brief account, but when it comes to Avraham it speaks of him more fully. This may be compared to the case of a jewel that falls into the sand; a man searches in the sand, sifts it in a sieve until he finds the jewel; when he has found the jewel, he throws away the pebbles and keeps the jewel."

*(continued on the other side)*

What is Rashi adding with the parable about the lost jewel? Moreover, couldn't the Torah have told us the history of Yaakov's family without telling us the history of Esav's family?

R' Tzaddok Hakohen z"l (1823-1900; Rebbe in Lublin) explains: Yaakov's family is discussed alongside Esav's family to allude to the Jew who is lost among the gentiles – the jewel lost in the sand. Even that "jewel" still sparkles with the glow leftover from the revelation at Har Sinai, Rashi is telling us. Even that Jew is not really lost, for he will someday return to us. (Quoted in Mi'gedolei Ha'chassidut Vol. VII, p.61)

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



Rebbetzin Rochelle Kaplan has recently published a book of poetry titled, **"G-d in the Details."**

It is obtainable for a check of \$16.95 made out to Chabad of Maryland and picked up from Rebbetzin Kaplan.



The last ten months have been an interesting time, to say the least. Rabbi Kaplan has agreed to hold a **weekly Thursday evening 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. If you or someone you know is interested, please sign-up using the following site: <https://cutt.ly/bitachon>. Additional details to follow.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to **Shimon Hoffman** on the loss of his sister, **Rena Hoffman**.

המקום ינחם ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

**Yahrzeits This Week:**

Ethel Fischer	26 Kislev - Friday night / Shabbat	for father	Avrohom ben Moshe
Irving Hain	28 Kislev - Sunday night / Monday	for father	Uri ben Hechover Moshe
Chaim Kahn	1 Tevet - Tuesday night / Wednesday	for father	Rav Nachman ben Rav Meir
Deborah Eisenberg	1 Tevet - Tuesday night / Wednesday	for mother	Sheva bas Rav Chaim Elazar
Rebetzin Rochel Kaplan	3 Tevet - Thursday night / Friday	for father	Rav Peretz ben Yehoshua

**DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE**

**Friday – Chanukah, 12/11 – 25 Kislev**

Shacharit — 6:45 a.m.  
 Second Chanukah Candle — 4:20 p.m.  
 Shabbat Candles — 4:25 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:25 p.m.

**Shabbat – Chanukah 12/12 – 26 Kislev**

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:36 a.m.  
 Beitzah Gemora Shiur — 3:45 p.m.  
 Minchah — 4:15 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv — 5:27 p.m.  
 Third Chanukah Candle — after Havdallah

**Sunday – Chanukah, 12/13 – 27 Kislev**

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.  
 Fourth Chanukah Candle — at night

**Monday – Chanukah, 12/14 – 28 Kislev**

Shacharit — 6:45 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.  
 Fifth Chanukah Candle — at night

**Tuesday – Chanukah, 12/15 – 29 Kislev**

Shacharit — 6:45 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.  
 Sixth Chanukah Candle — at night

**Wednesday – Rosh Chodesh Tevet – Chanukah, 12/16 – 1 Tevet**

Shacharit — 6:35 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.  
 Seventh Chanukah Candle — at night

**Thursday – Chanukah, 12/17 – 2 Tevet**

Shacharit — 6:45 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.  
 Eighth Chanukah Candle — at night

**Friday – Chanukah, 12/18 – 3 Tevet**

Shacharit — 6:45 a.m.  
 Shabbat Candles — 4:27 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.