

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

410-486-2666

www.chabadshul.org



December 5, 2020

VaYishlach

19 Kislev, 5781

Dust Particles

You're sitting on your favorite chair, admiring the sun streaming through the window. Suddenly you notice those shimmering particles gracefully dancing in the sunlight.

It's easy to spot the dust that seems to collect just moments after the furniture has been cleaned, but in the air it's only noticeable once in a while, when the light streaming in from outside hits the dust particles at just the right angle. Nevertheless, those dust particles are always there.

Every single detail of our lives is directed by Divine Providence. "The feet of man are directed by G-d," the Torah teaches. Chasidic philosophy explains that nothing, absolutely nothing in this world happens by chance or coincidence; every event, great or small, has G-d's fingerprint on it.

Often, like the ever-present, but infrequently sighted, dust particles, we do not notice this Divine involvement in our personal lives and the world around us.

Sometimes, once in a while, we see the Divine workings and apprehend G-d's involvement in even the most minute part of our lives. At those moments, it's as if a stream of sunlight is shining on the glimmering specks at just the right angle to reveal them to us.

It happens when we least expect it and it might seem so trivial that we don't even notice it for what it truly is - Divine Providence: You're running an errand for a friend (and you're running late, as well) and a car pulls out of a parking space - in the area where you can never find a space - just as you approach.

Someone who moved and whose phone number changed calls you just as you were about to give up finding the scrap of paper on which you wrote the new phone number.

You're driving in the car, as thirsty as anything, but without anything (to drink). Suddenly you remember that a bottle of Seltzer had rolled out of the shopping bag under the seat and you hadn't bothered to retrieve it when you unloaded the rest of the groceries.

The pile of leaves your children just raked together make the perfect soft-landing for a neighbor's toddler who squiggles out of his stroller - head first.

These "coincidences" are hardly coincidental. They are all Divine acts of G-d's intervention and involvement in our lives, even in the seemingly inconsequential.

Like the particles of dust, they are always there. Like the particles of dust, they often seem unimportant. But they are a constant reminder of G-d's presence in our lives, if we are willing to "let the sun shine" on them and if we are willing to recognize their true source.

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

Jewish History — Yud-Tes Kislev — Rosh Hashana of Chassidism

Liberation of R. Schneur Zalman of Liadi (1798)

On the 19th of Kislev of the year 5559 from creation (1798), Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi – a leading disciple of Rabbi DovBer of Mezeritch and the founder of Chabad Chassidism – was released from his imprisonment in the Peter-Paul fortress in Petersburg, where he was held for 53 days on charges that his teachings threatened the imperial authority of the Czar. More than a personal liberation, this was a watershed event in the history of Chassidism heralding a new era in the revelation of the "inner soul" of Torah, and is celebrated to this day as "The Rosh Hashanah of Chassidism."

(from www.chabad.org)

The Ponevezher Rav Learns a Lesson from This Week's Parsha

The Ponevezher Rav (Rav Yosef Shlomo Kahaneman 1888-1969) was once on a trip to New York. He was riding the subway when he found himself in a car with a bunch of hoodlums that he feared might have their eye on him with the intent of attacking him. Besides being an outstanding Talmudic genius and besides being one of the greatest fundraisers in the history of Yeshivos, it is clear from many stories told about him that the Ponevezh Rav was very fast on his feet as well.

The Ponevezher Rav was alone on a subway car with hoodlums eyeing him. He was in fact carrying a lot of money on him. What is he going to do? (Today we cannot imagine someone like the Ponevezher Rav travelling around New York City in the subway, but this story took place well over fifty years ago!) The Ponevezher Rav took out a slip of paper from his pocket that had an address written on it. He went over to these hoodlums and said to them "Can you help me find which stop I get off at for this address?"

The hoodlums wink to themselves and say, "We'll take you there. Get off at the next stop with us and we'll take you to that address." The train pulled into the next stop, the doors open, the hoodlums walk out. The Ponevezher Rav walks slowly behind them. He exits from the car, but as the doors are about to close, he steps back in and the train pulls away with the gang of hoodlums left behind at the station.

The Ponevezher Rav, in telling over the story, explained: "Where did I come up with this idea? I got it from Parshas Vayishlach!" How? Eisav said to Yaakov, "Come with me to Seir." Yaakov agreed. He said, "Yes. I will go with you, but I need to walk at my own pace..." Eisav heads off to Seir and Yaakov is still headed there to this very day. The Ponevezher Rav said, "I learned from this incident in Chumash that in a time of danger, it is best to let the person think you are going with him and then you wave good-bye."

(by Rabbi Yissocher Frand from Project Genesis at 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.

| DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE | |
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| <p>Friday, 12/4 — 18 Kislev Shacharit — 7:00 Candles — 4:25 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:25 p.m.</p> <p>Shabbat, 12/5 — 19 Kislev Shacharit — 9:00 a.m. Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:32 a.m. Beitzah Gemora Shiur — 3:45 p.m. Minchah — 4:10 p.m. Ma'ariv — 5:27 p.m. — ותן טל ומטר starts tonight</p> <p>Sunday, 12/6 — 20 Kislev Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:25 p.m.</p> <p>Monday, 12/7 — 21 Kislev Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:25 p.m.</p> | <p>Tuesday, 12/8 — 22 Kislev Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:25 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, 12/9 — 23 Kislev Shacharit — 7:00a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:25 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 12/10 — 24 Kislev Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:25 p.m. First Chanukah Candle — at night</p> <p>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.</p> |

Today!!

אבות ובנים

Father-Son Learning Event

This Sunday, Nov. 29!

יום ראשון לפי וישלח י"ג כסלו

At The Shul In Beis Lubavitch

6701 Old Pimlico Rd.

After Maariv (5:00 PM)

Stories!

Masks Required!

Raffles!

Prizes!

This week is sponsored

לעלוי נשמת ר' יהושע בן ר' מיכאל