

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

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February 6, 2021

Yitro — Shabbat M'vorchim

24 Shevat, 5781

L'Chaim - to Life!

Welcome. Come right in. We're so happy you could make it. We're celebrating with a farbrengen (that's Chasidic jargon for a "warm gathering") and you are invited to participate. As is done at all Chasidic farbrengens, we'll say a few "l'chaims," discuss some thoughts from the Torah, make some good resolutions, give charity, and scrutinize ourselves a little.

Is your glass ready? (Crystal-clear water will do just fine if you'll be driving after the farbrengen.)

May we all live long, happy, fulfilling, healthy lives. May we be rich materially and spiritually. May we be redeemed from our personal and our national exiles! L'chaim, l'chaim.

Now that we've loosened up with a few l'chaims, let's sing a Chasidic tune - a nigun. What's a nigun? you ask. Well, it's a wordless tune that proves the teaching, "Music is the pen of the soul."

Do you know the "Marseillaise," the French national anthem? In 1973, with the arrival of the first large group of French Jews to Lubavitch World Headquarters, the Rebbe encouraged the singing of the "Marseillaise" in a Shabbat farbrengen. The lively march was quickly adopted within Lubavitch circles and frequently sung at gatherings. So hum it now, a few times, or sing it using "di-di-di" instead of words.

By now you're surely getting into the swing of things. But, since some of our guests might need to leave soon, let's discuss some Torah thoughts while everyone's still here; we can save the resolutions, charity and introspection for a little later.

Concerning our ancestor Jacob it says: "Just as his seed are alive, so, too, is he alive." Most commentators interpret "seed" as "children." But seed can also mean any positive thought, word, or deed that a person plants, nurtures and brings to fruition.

When a person thinks of doing something positive, speaks about it with others, makes practical plans, and then actually executes those plans, he brings his "seeds" to life. And when the good of these deeds continues on after the person passes from this world, then, in a very real sense that person is still alive.

Each one of us can resolve to bring to fruition each kernel of good thought, each bud of positive discussion, to nurture and carefully tend each productive action until they affect not only our own lives, but also the lives of everyone around us.

Let's move on to sincere introspection that should, hopefully, lead to improvement in all areas, we'll pause now for a few minutes.

Time's up!

But, before you go, please join us in one last l'chaim:

May we all merit to greet Moshiach and go together, as one, to the Holy Land, NOW. L'chaim!

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

Take the Next Step

What happens when you hear something that truly inspires you? What do you "take home" afterwards?

I once heard that there are three possible reactions people might have. Some will simply shrug it off, thinking, "it really wasn't important to me, and won't affect me tomorrow." Another group will share it with others — they'll "like" it on Facebook, perhaps even create a meme to share it with their contacts. Then there's the last and smallest group: those who, upon hearing something that strikes them, will ponder the importance of what they've heard, and take action steps to internalize and live by the lessons they just learned.

(continued on the other side)

Sharing is admirable, but we cannot imagine that we have “fulfilled our responsibility” by disseminating newfound wisdom to the rest of the world. Our first and foremost obligation is to change ourselves.

This week’s Torah portion begins with Yisro (Jethro), the father-in-law of Moshe (Moses), hearing about the Jews’ Exodus from Egypt. The Talmud says that he was particularly moved by the splitting of the sea and the Jewish victory over Amalek. The news of these events inspired him to leave his home in Midian, and join Moshe and the Jewish people in the desert.

Now in reality, news of the Jewish Exodus and the miraculous events that followed had spread throughout the world. But the Torah says “And Yisro heard,” implying that others didn’t hear. What was different about Yisro?

Yisro had a sincere desire for the truth. The Midrash describes how Yisro explored all the faiths in the world, hoping to be convinced of the truest and purest form of spiritual service, and was left unsatisfied. So when he heard what G-d did for the Jewish people in Egypt and the subsequent miracles, he was impressed. Even more, he made a change.

Every day we are inundated with news and information from around the world. Now, more than ever, it is unreal how much we can read and study. So it is naive to imagine that we can capitalize on every thought, take inspiration from each and every story, and change ourselves.

Perhaps, though, we can find one thing we hear in the average week which strikes a chord. Yisro teaches us to ponder that thought, not to ignore it, or even share it, but to ask ourselves, “So what am I going to do about it?” When we learn from events and make changes, that is when we have truly “heard.”

(by Rabbi Yaakov Menken from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to **Mrs. Rivka Hain**
on the loss of her mother, **Chaya bas Chaim**.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Yahrzeits This Week:

Rivka Hain 28 Shevat - Tuesday night / Wednesday for father Yaakov Chaim ben Dovid Tzvi

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE 322996

Friday, 2/5 — 23 Shevat
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 5:14 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:15 p.m.

Shabbat, 2/6 — 24 Shevat
 Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z’man Kriat Shema — 9:42 a.m.
 Beitzah Gemora Shiur — 4:30 p.m.
 Minchah — 5:00 p.m.
 Ma’ariv — 6:15 p.m.

Sunday, 2/7 — 25 Shevat
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:20 p.m.

Monday, 2/8 — 26 Shevat
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:20 p.m.

Tuesday, 2/9 — 27 Shevat
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:20 p.m.

Wednesday, 2/10 — 28 Shevat
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:20 p.m.

Thursday, 2/11 — 29 Shevat
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:20 p.m.

Friday — Rosh Chodesh Adar, 2/12 — 30 Shevat
 Shacharit — 6:40 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 5:22 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:20 p.m.