

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



June 4, 2022

BaMidbar — Shavuot

5 Sivan, 5782

The First Word

Once, the chasid Reb Mendel Futerfas saw one of his friends coming out of the room in the synagogue where pages of holy books are stored until they are buried (as it is forbidden to dispose of them in a disrespectful manner). The friend had a pile of torn pages in hand.

"What are you doing with those?" asked Reb Mendel.

"I take them home and sew them together and make a book!" the friend answered. (This was during the day of Communist rule in Russia when there was a tremendous shortage of holy books).

"But what kind of book will that be?" Reb Mendel asked. "There will be no beginning and no end, just unrelated pages! How can you read a book like that?"

His friend replied simply, "There are three aspects to the Torah: studying the Torah, understanding the Torah, and the holiness of the Torah. The first two are accessed through wisdom and understanding, but the holiness of the Torah is in the letters themselves, and that's what my book will be about"

The upcoming holiday of Shavuot is one of the most important of all the Jewish Holidays. It celebrates the Giving of the Torah. Without the Torah not only would we not know the commandments, but by now there would be no Jewish people (G-d forbid).

In fact, the famous commentator Rashi states that if the Jews hadn't accepted the Torah on Shavuot, the whole world would have ceased to exist.

If so, Shavuot is actually the most important day in the history of the world.

Yet, if we examine what happened on the day that the Torah was given, it seems anticlimactic: The Jews did not receive the entire Torah or even most of it; they heard only ten simple commandments.

One would think that after 210 years of Egyptian slavery, mind-boggling miracles including the plagues, the splitting of the sea, manna from heaven, and more, they would get something a little more impressive or at least more mystical than ten obvious commandments, Don't kill, Don't steal, etc.; statutes which can be found in even the most primitive of cultures!

But the answer is that on that first Shavuot, G-d gave Himself.

The first word of the Ten Commandments sums it all up: "Anochi."

G-d has many names. Kabalistically, each name corresponds to a different facet of G-d's infinite "personality." But the name "Anochi" ("I") is not one of them. It refers to something that is above all names or facets; it is the essence of G-d Himself. And this is what the Jews received at Mount Sinai - G-d Himself.

The experience was so unique that until this day no one can even begin to understand it. In fact no religion has ever even claimed that such a thing happened to them!

With the first commandment alone, "Anochi - I am the L-rd your G-d" G-d united Himself with each and every Jewish soul for all time. Anochi" became "Elokecha," "your G-d" - singular.

What this means today is that when a Jew studies Torah, any aspect of the Torah, or does any mitzva (commandment), s/he can feel that G-d is very, very close. In fact, closer than we are to our own selves.

It's called "the Jewish feeling" or, the G-dly Soul. It's what draws people to Jewish experiences. That is what we are celebrating on Shavuot.

(by Rabbi Tuvia Bolton from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

Lesson Learned

"Isn't he embarrassed?? He mentioned in his lecture, something he learned from a 10 year old!!"

"And G-d spoke to Moshe in the desert of Sinai." (Bimidbar 1:1) The Medrash Rabbah 1:7 says "whoever doesn't make himself open and free like a desert will not be able to acquire wisdom and Torah." According to the Matnas Kehuna, this refers to humility and the ability to learn from everyone!!

"Who is wise? One who learns from everyone." (Pirkei Avos 4:1)

(by Rabbi Chaim Flom from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)



The beautiful flower arrangements for Shavuot were donated anonymously.
Yasher koach.

Dedication of plaques on the Shul board which is prominently located in the hall at the entrance to the Shul is an appropriate means of Tzedakah and support the Shul as well. Below is the list of items available. Please contact Howard Kaplon at hkaplon@towson.edu for more information.

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Top (large) Plaques \$5,400 | 2. Medium Plaques \$3,600 |
| 3. Small Plaques \$1,000 | 4. Simcha Leaf \$250 |

Yahrzeit Plaques on the Shul's Memorial board are available. Each yahrzeit plaque is \$360.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Binyomin Gutman	7 Sivan - Sunday night / Monday-Shavuot	for brother	Dovid ben Avraham
Marsha Blumberg	8 Sivan - Monday night / Tuesday	for father	Nathan Brenner

SHUL DIRECTORY

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 6/3 — 4 Sivan

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

Shabbat — Erev Shavuot, 6/4 — 5 Sivan

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:20 a.m.
 Minchah — 7:55 p.m.
 Yom Tov Candles — 9:17 p.m.
 Ma'ariv— 9:17 p.m.
 Tikun Layl Shavuot — 12:00 to 5:00 a.m.
 Shacharit after Tikun Layl Shavuot (earliest talis 4:42 a.m.)

Sunday— Shavuot, 6/5 — 6 Sivan

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:20 a.m.
 Minchah — 8:10 p.m.
 Yom Tov Candles — 9:18 p.m.
 Ma'ariv— 9:18 p.m.

Monday —Shavuot, 6/6 — 7 Sivan

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:20 a.m.
 Yizkor — after 10:45 a.m.
 Minchah — 8:10 p.m.
 Ma'ariv— 9:19 p.m.

Tuesday, 6/7 — 8 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 6/8 — 9 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, 6/9 — 10 Sivan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Friday, 6/10 — 11 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 8:14 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.