

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



May 28, 2022

Bechukotai — Shabbat M'vorchim

27 Iyar, 5782

The River Flows

Rivers fascinate. And rivers are like thoughts. Not the other way around, as we'll discuss.

First, some facts about rivers: Rivers always flow downhill. They begin in mountains or, paradoxically, spring from underground. Rivers begin in hidden places.

And rivers flow in ways we don't usually consider. We see the river flowing in its channel, between its banks. What we don't see is the river flowing beneath the substrate, the bottom of the river. We don't see is the river flowing beneath the ground of its own banks. The area where the water flows between the crevices and rocks is call the hyporheic zone.

Sometimes rivers flow swiftly; sometimes they surge; sometimes they cascade; sometimes they run their course; and sometimes they drift in a lazy rhythm. Sometimes a river is rapid, sometimes it meanders.

Rivers collect rivulets. Rivers change constantly. They change the land through which they flow.

Rivers can erode the land, pulling rocks, soil or vegetation from its land channel and transporting them down stream. And as rivers change the land through which they flow, they change their own course, find new channels in which to flow.

And thoughts: They also flow. They flow "downward," from the inner resources of our minds, from our souls. Thoughts flow downward into speech, and then action. And there is much beneath the flowing thoughts that we don't "see," don't realize is there.

Where do our thoughts come from? For they exist in the "subconscious," in a mental - or spiritual "hyporheic zone" - and emerge into our awareness. Thoughts spring from hidden resources of mind and soul, cascading from the higher "mountains" or emerging from the underground "springs."

Sometimes thoughts flow swiftly, like rapids, chaotic. Sometimes, thoughts overwhelm us, so that we are awed by what has appeared in our minds - like watching a cascading waterfall. Our thoughts cut deep channels into the "landscape" of our being, creating the canyons and flood plains of our interactions and reactions.

And our thoughts can change course. They do find new channels. Sometimes the change is rapid; sometimes the change meanders. But our thoughts are redirected - by our experiences, yet also by our conscious choices: we can gather the rivulets and carve out the canyons - the deep commitments - and flood plains - the actions with which we engage and transform the world.

Rivers have long been a symbol of life. But when they overflow their banks, they can wipe out all that has flowed from and through them, all the life that depends on them. Thoughts, too, give life. But when they overflow their "banks," when our thoughts overflow with negative character traits and destructive emotions, our thoughts can destroy all that depends on us - all those who depend on us.

We can control our thoughts, re-channel them, give them a new course to follow. For will - our soul-directed desire - is higher than thought. No, it's not easy. Rivers are stubborn things. They have their passages. They are conduits - and they narrow. After all, "narrows" refers to a channel connecting two bodies of water.

Still, just as G-d directs rivers, we direct our thoughts. And that's why rivers resemble thoughts, not the other way around - even though we make the analogy the other way around.

How flows your river?

(by Dovid YB Kaufmann obm from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)



Lag B'Omer at the Shul at the Lubavitch Center was a huge success!

A very Special Thank You to

Nechemia Gertner,

Shaul, Yitzi and Mordechai Allen and

Ben Gutman.

Without their planning, dedication and tireless working before and during the evening, this beautiful event would not have been possible.

Thank you to
Iilana Rubin and Sadya Allen
for the face painting booth.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the food, and everything else.

And a special thank you to all of the sponsors.

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 |

Yahrzeits This Week:

Joseph Zakar 4 Sivan - Thursday night / Friday for father Emanuel ben Shabsi

SHUL DIRECTORY

Rabbi: Shmuel Kaplan . . . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com
Treasurer: Michael Frank . . . shul.chabad@gmail.com
Kiddush: Reuven Frank rfrank82@gmail.com
Website: Shoshana Zakar sue.zakar@gmail.com

Gabbaim:
 Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net
 Allan Genut agenut@gmail.com
 Ephraim Siff
Bulletin: Howard Kaplon hkaplon@towson.edu

DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 5/27 — 26 Iyar
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 5/28 — 27 Iyar
 Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:21 a.m.
 Minchah — 7:50 p.m.
 Ma'ariv— 9:08 p.m.

Sunday, 5/29 — 28 Iyar
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Father and Son Learning — 6:00 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:10 p.m.

Monday — Memorial Day, 5/30 — 29 Iyar
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:10 p.m.

Tuesday — Rosh Chodesh Sivan, 5/31 — 1 Sivan
 Shacharit — 6:40 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:10 p.m.

Wednesday, 6/1 — 2 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:10 p.m.

Thursday, 6/2 — 3 Sivan
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:10 p.m.

Friday, 6/3 — 4 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 8:10 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.