

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



June 18, 2022

BeHa'alotcha

19 Sivan, 5782

An Only Child

Are you an only child? If not, did you ever wish you were?

For people from multi-sibling families, being an only child conjures up images of having your parents' undivided attention, not having to share your possessions, having your own bedroom, not needing to lobby in order to decide where to go on family outings.

On the other hand, the life of an only child can also be a bit boring. There are no "live-in" friends to play with or to make long, rainy Sunday afternoons a little more exciting. No co-conspirator for family pranks. No one to complain to when Mom and Dad are being "unreasonable." No big brother or sister to stick up for you in school or little sibling to show off to your friends.

There are certainly benefits and disadvantages to being either an only child or one of many. However, there is a kind of mystique that goes with being an only child. And though, of course, we know that in families blessed with more than one child, love is not "divided" amongst the children, still, somehow, we can also appreciate that when there is a situation of an only child, the parents' love, aspirations, attention, and hopes are highly concentrated on that one child.

The Baal Shem Tov said that every Jew is as precious to G-d as if he or she were G-d's only child. And not just any "only child"!

"G-d loves every Jew more than parents love an only child born to them in their old age" taught the Baal Shem Tov. (Keter Shem Tov)

"That sure sounds nice," one might think, "but what does it do for me and what does it require of me?"

Being an "only child" has a lot of pluses. It means that G-d is always there and always listening. It means that I can ask for a lot of things (though G-d is not over-indulgent and sometimes the answer will be "no"). It means that I am very important and what I do makes a difference, as the Talmud teaches; "Every person is an entire world." It means I can hold my head up high, I'm "somebody."

Being an "only child" also brings with it responsibility. G-d is counting on me, He's putting His hope in me and I have to try to live up to G-d's expectations.

Remember, though, that the Baal Shem Tov said that every Jew is an only child. So, a huge part of this very nice teaching is that there are a lot of other "only children" out there. And each one of them is an entire world, each one is a "somebody." Each one deserves respect and love (which, as noted above, are unlimited).

Children in general, and an only child in particular, play "make-believe," creating invisible friends and fantastic situations. The Rebbe said that we are poised at the threshold of the Redemption. When we cross that threshold, it will come naturally to respect and love not only every Jew, but all of creation. Until then, may it commence very soon, let's be "childish" and make-believe.

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

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 supports 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.

Always on the Move

How did the Jewish people navigate their way through the desert? They didn't have the Waze app, but they had their own form of GPS – a G-d Positioning System. G-d surrounded them with clouds called the Ananei HaKavod – the “Clouds of Honor” throughout their journey. “When the cloud would rise above the tent [of the Tabernacle], after that the Children of Israel would travel, and in the place that the cloud settled, there the Children of Israel camped. By the word of G-d the Children of Israel traveled, and by the word of G-d they camped. (Numbers 9:17-18).”

There were times they stayed in one place for years, and at other times they would move on after only a day. They also did not know how long they would sojourn in any location ahead of time. Each encampment meant pitching tents for their families and erecting the Holy Tabernacle to bring the daily offerings of the Temple service. As they went through the trouble of setting up the camp for millions of men, women and children, they knew that the next morning G-d might lift the cloud again and direct them to travel further. Nonetheless, they dutifully set up camp each time, and then broke it down to follow Him onwards.

We might consider such a life unsettling; not knowing where they would be, and how much physical work would be expected from one day to the next. But the truth is, our own lives are not much different. Do we know what tomorrow, or even today, will bring? We don't, and often it's not what we expected or prepared for. The fear of the unknown is real, even when we follow our daily routine of “eat, sleep, repeat.”

If we want to not merely survive, but thrive in this world, we should keep one thing in mind: “By the word of G-d they traveled, and by the word of G-d they camped.” Only G-d knows how our day is going to go. We just have to follow His lead and know that we are in His protective hands. His roadmap, not ours, leads us through life, and remembering and accepting that is the guarantee for a safe and meaningful trip. Enjoy the ride!

(by Rabbi Mordechai Dixler from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)



We happily wish Mazel Tov to
Rabbi Shmuel and Rebbitzin Rochelle Kaplan
 on the **Birth of a Grandson, Yisroel**, born to their children
Rabbi Moishe ad Esther Kavka.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Marsha Blumberg 24 Sivan - Wednesday night / Thursday for mother Nechomo bas Elchonon

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, 6/17 — 18 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 6/18 — 19 Sivan
 Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:21 a.m.
 Minchah — 8:05 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 9:20 p.m.

Sunday, 6/19 — 20 Sivan
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Father and Son Learning — 6:00 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:20 p.m.

Monday, 6/20 — 21 Sivan
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:20 p.m.

Tuesday, 6/21 — 22 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:20 p.m.

Wednesday, 6/22 — 23 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:20 p.m.

Thursday, 6/23 — 24 Sivan
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:20 p.m.

Friday, 6/24 — 25 Sivan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 8:18 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.