

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



October 30, 2021

Chayei Sarah – Shabbat M'vorchim

24 Cheshvan, 5782

Just A Little Reminder

We've come a long way from tying strings around our fingers as reminders that we have something important to do.

You can get patient appointment reminders by text, email or automated phone calls. An e-pill medication reminder will help assure that you take your pills, tablets, vitamins and minerals at the right time.

There are apps that can make your computer or mobile device remind you to practice good work ergonomics and break bad habits.

A peeping sound in our cars when we sit down reminds us to put on our seat belts. Buzzes on our phones can remind us to relax and take a deep breath. And Google or Apple calendars can remind us about everything else in our schedule!

Our souls can also benefit from various kinds of reminders in the way of Jewish observance.

Jewish reminders, a.k.a. mitzvot (commandments), come in all shapes and sizes. Daily mitzvot can take literally a second or as long as you like.

But, in keeping with our fast-paced lives and the quick reminders modern technology and consumerism afford us, we'll mention just a few moment-taking mitzvot that can be done on a daily basis and will enhance our Jewish living.

Consider:

Starting the morning with the short prayer expressing gratefulness for another day. The brief 12-word (In Hebrew) prayer is known as "Modeh Ani."

Putting a coin daily in a tzedaka box (except on Shabbat and Jewish holidays).

Touching or kissing the mezuzah on your front door before leaving or entering your home.

Saying the Shema prayer before retiring at night.

Reciting a blessing before gulping down that coffee, juice, or water (The blessing is "Baruch Ata Ado-ni Elo-haynu Melech Haolam, Shehakol N'hiya Bidvaro - Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the Universe, by whose word everything came into being").

Listening to a Torah pod-cast, or watching a Jewish educational video. (You can visit the chabad.org media section for thousands of fascinating classes and lectures.)

Taking a moment to contemplate the blessings and good you have in your life and thanking G-d for them.

Doing a good deed or kind act specifically to bring the Redemption.

(by from <https://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

Keep the Silver!

Upon hearing of his wife Sarah's death, Abraham returned to his home in Hebron to eulogize his wife, mourn her passing, and arrange for her burial. The plot of his choice was the same cave where Adam and Eve were known to be buried, but to bury Sarah in this cave, he would have to purchase it from its owner, Efron the Hittite.

While Efron initially proclaimed that it would be an honor to give the cave to Abraham at no cost, Abraham insisted on paying for it. To this Efron responded, "What is a land of 400 shekels between me and you?" While this may have sounded like a friendly rejection of Abraham's offer, Abraham understood Efron's real intent — to subtly insinuate that he wanted Abraham to pay a premium for the cave. "And Abraham listened to Efron, and he weighed for Efron the silver (Genesis 23:15-16)."

(continued on the other side)

Efron sought to take advantage during Abraham's time of need. While pretending that he had the utmost respect for Abraham, he demanded an exorbitant price for the land — knowing that Abraham, mourning for his wife and desperate to bury her, would probably pay for it. Abraham understood Efron's scheme, but nonetheless spoke with respect and deference to Efron, and chose to pay the high price instead of confronting Efron on his chicanery.

A well-known adage says that "Common Decency precedes the Torah – Derech Eretz Kadma L'Torah" (Vayikra Raba 9). This means that beyond keeping the Torah, there's an obligation to act with respect to others.

In Abraham's case, I think we can offer another interpretation: "Decency is first, even if you're right." If according to the laws and teachings of the Torah you're right and your opposing party is wrong, you still have an obligation to show them respect and treat them with dignity.

Abraham could have reproached Efron for his lack of empathy, for taking advantage, and his two-faced offer. Instead Abraham chose decency first. While he could have saved a lot of silver fighting back, Abraham felt that being "a mensch" was more valuable.

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

Kiddush after davening this Shabbat is being sponsored by:
Mr. Marvin and Mrs. Mindy Pazornick
 in celebration of **Penina's** birthday.




Rabbi Kaplan is holding a weekly Thursday evening at 8:30 p.m. **in-person** and online shiur on the topic ""Igeret HaTeshuva."" This online shiur is open to anyone who would like to attend and can be joined at: <https://cutt.ly/join-shiur>.

Yahrzeits The Next Three Weeks:			
Mitch Mayer	25 Cheshvan - Saturday night/ Sunday	for mother	Freda bas Yaakov
Chaya Statman	1 Kislev - Thursday night / Friday	for father	Alter Chaim ben Yitzchok Eizek

SHUL DIRECTORY	
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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE	
Friday, 10/29 — 23 Cheshvan Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Shabbat Candles — 5:50 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m. Shabbat, 10/30 — 24 Cheshvan Shacharit — 9:00 a.m. Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:09 a.m. Minchah — 5:40 p.m. Ma'ariv— 6:50 p.m. Sunday, 10/31 — 25 Cheshvan Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. Father and Son Learning — 5:00 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m. Monday, 11/1 — 26 Cheshvan Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.	Tuesday, 11/2 — 27 Cheshvan Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m. Wednesday, 11/3 — 28 Cheshvan Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m. Thursday, 11/4 — 29 Cheshvan Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m. Friday — Rosh Chodesh Kislev, 11/5 — 1 Kislev Shacharit — 6:40 a.m. Shabbat Candles — 5:42 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:45 p.m.