

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



September 10, 2022

Ki Tetze

14 Elul, 5782

Farming Sunshine

California state currently has seven working solar farms, with three more under construction and one in the planning stage. California has actually produced so much solar power on certain days that it paid Arizona to take excess electricity its residents weren't using to avoid overloading its own power lines.

While 10% of California's energy is currently supplied by solar panels, it is mandated that by 2030 a full 500% of its energy just be renewable (not fossil).

Transforming sunlight into electricity is not only an engineering challenge, and a geo-political necessity, it is also a metaphor, one that Chasidic teachings began using and developing 200 years ago. The transforming-sunlight-to-energy metaphor provides insight into our spiritual nature.

Our purpose, the performance of mitzvot (commandments), is to transform the world - to make it a dwelling place for G-dliness. The electricity entering our homes, transmitted through wires, outlets and then electric cords, powers our dishwashers, air-conditioning and computers, transforming our houses into places of comfort and production.

Similarly, we should direct our spiritual energy - the electricity of our souls - to transforming the realm of human relationships and awareness of the Divine. As Maimonides writes in his code of Jewish law, regarding the times of Moshiach, that then there will be neither jealousy nor greed, neither war nor famine. In other words, relations between individuals and between nations will be harmonious, and for each other's mutual benefit.

Also in the times of Moshiach, all humanity will direct its attention to the "knowledge of G-dliness." We will focus not on accumulating things or statistics but on deepening our awareness of and appreciation of G-d's Presence in the physical world.

But how do we achieve this? Whence our spiritual "electricity" which becomes ours - ours to use, and our responsibility to use to transform the world? Following the analogy, from some form of spiritual sunlight.

What is this "sunlight"? Well, what do we mean when we say someone "enlightens" us, or they "light up our life"? We mean they inspire us, reveal to us something about ourselves we weren't aware of, provide direction and guidance in how best to actualize our potential.

Perhaps it is no coincidence, then, that on the 18th of Elul, twelve days before Rosh Hashana, we celebrate the birthday of two luminaries of the Jewish world - the Baal Shem Tov, founder of Chasidism in general, and Shneur Zalman of Liadi, the founder of Chabad Chasidism in particular. (Indeed, the Alter Rebbe's first name means "two lights.")

So the sunlight is shining. We have within ourselves the spiritual photovoltaic cells to gather this spiritual sunlight and transform it into spiritual energy with which to transform the physical world into a dwelling place for G-dliness. All we need do is harvest it, to tend the solar farm of our souls.

(adapted from an article by Dr. David YB Kaufmann, obm from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

This Week in History

Baal Shem Tov Born (1698). Elul 18 is the birthday of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Chassidism.

Rabbi Israel was born in a small town in Ukraine in 1698. His father, Rabbi Eliezer, who was a member of the secret society of "hidden tzaddikim," passed away when young Israel was only five years old; his last words to his son were, "Fear nothing but G-d alone. Love every Jew with all your heart and all your soul."

The young orphan would spend much of his time wandering and meditating in the forests that surrounded his hometown; there, he one day met with one of his father's compatriots, and eventually joined their society. For many years, he lived disguised as a simple innkeeper and clay-digger, his greatness known only to a very small circle of fellow mystics and disciples. But on his 36th birthday, he was instructed by his master to "reveal" himself and publicly disseminate his teachings.

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Drawing from the mystical "soul of Torah," the Baal Shem Tov ("Master of the Good Name," as he came to be known) taught about the spark of G-dliness that is to be found in every creation, and about the great love that G-d has for each and every one of His children, scholars and simple folk alike. He emphasized the importance of joy and simple faith in serving G-d, rather than asceticism. Initially, his teachings encountered fierce opposition from the scholarly elite and established leadership of the Jewish community; but many of those very scholars and communal leaders ended up becoming his devoted disciples. When Rabbi Israel passed at age 62 on Shavuot of 1760, the movement he founded was well on the way of becoming the most vital force in Jewish life.

1st Chabad Rebbe Born (1745). Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi (1745-1812), founder of the "Chabad" branch of Chassidism, was born on Elul 18 of the year 5505 from creation -- the 47th birthday of his "spiritual grandfather", Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov (Rabbi Schneur Zalman was the disciple of the Baal Shem Tov's disciple and successor, Rabbi DovBer of Mezeritch).

(from www.chabad.org)

Please complete and send to the Shul your: (1) High Holiday Seating Form, (2) Membership Application Form (for first time members) and (3) Yizkor Forms. All are available on the Shul Website at www.chabadshul.org

Sponsorships are available for two flower displays on the Bima during each of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Succot. Please consider sponsoring the flowers in honor or in memory of someone. Please email Allan Genut at agenut@gmail.com to make arrangements.



We wish Mazel Tov to **Mr. Marvin and Mrs. Mindy Pazornick** the engagement of their daughter **Penina**

to

Gilad Ron Berkowitz.

We wish both of you much mazel, simcha and a long life together. Mazel Tov to Gilad's parents **Dr. Dan and Dr. Diane Berkowitz.**

Yahrzeits This Week:

Marvin Pazornick	17 Elul - Monday night / Tuesday	for mother	Zelda Pazornick
Dr. Chaim Eisenberg	19 Elul - Wednesday night / Thursday	for mother	Estelle Rose Eisenberg

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, 9/9 — 13 Elul
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 9/10 — 14 Elul
 Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:51 a.m.
 Minchah — 6:50 p.m.
 Shiur: *Overcoming Folly* — after Minchah
 Ma'ariv — 8:06 p.m.

Sunday, 9/11 — 15 Elul
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Monday, 9/12 — 16 Elul
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 9/13 — 17 Elul
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 9/14 — 18 Elul
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 9/15 — 19 Elul
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Friday, 9/16 — 20 Elul
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 6:55 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.