

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



June 11, 2022

Naso

12 Sivan, 5782

Chewing it Over

There is a loud crunching sound. You look around wondering if anyone else hears it. Everybody else seems to be oblivious to the noise, or perhaps they are just being polite. You wonder, don't they notice it too?

But, of course, they don't hear the sound because it's you who is munching on the celery or chomping on the carrot. Since you are the perpetrator of this cacophonous conduct and the clamor is emanating from inside your head it resonates in your ears, blocking out other more subtle sounds. But ask someone seated just a few feet away from you if they can hear you chewing and they will assure you that they don't detect anything.

Perhaps it is for this very reason that the great Jewish thinker and sage, Rabbi Joshua ben P'rachya taught (Pirkei Avot 1:6) "Provide yourself with a master; acquire for yourself a friend; and judge every person favorably."

When a person finds himself in a situation where he has to make a big decision, he's sure to "chew" it over or "ruminate" on it for awhile. But, inevitably, whatever thoughts or opinions are in that person's head will come through loudest and clearest, making an objective decision essentially impossible.

However, if a person takes Rabbi Joshua's teaching to heart, he will find a "master," someone he respects and whose opinion he values. A master is not a friend whose advice we solicit but when we don't like the recommendation we ignore it. A master, or *rav* in the original Hebrew, is someone whose wisdom and knowledge of Torah teachings guide his advice, someone who will tailor his counsel to the person's nature, character and unique situation.

Consulting with a "master" when making decisions that affect one's quality of life will enable a person to come to conclusions that are acceptable to himself, pleasant to those around him, and pleasing to G-d.

It is worthy to note that Rabbi Joshua was a *nasi*, a leader of the Jewish people. That it was Rabbi Joshua who presented this advice teaches us that even someone of a very high stature, a person who is very learned and who has perhaps even reached the peak of human perfection, should humble himself and seek a teacher or "master."

Rabbi Joshua also recommends that we "acquire a friend." Jewish teachings speak of the importance of friendship and urge us to exert ourselves in these relationships. Unlike a master, though, a friend is a peer, someone on our own level who can share the trials and tribulations of life with us. They've been there and done that (or they're in the process).

The Hebrew words for "acquire" can also be understood as "buy." Rabbi Joshua is not suggesting that we "buy" our friends. Rather, we should know that even if we have to go out of our way, to give of ourselves, we must do so in order to nurture friendships.

Whether master or friend, another person will help us filter out our more personal ruminations and cogitations allowing us to really "chew over" the matter in a more objective manner.

(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 support the Shul as well. Below is the list of items available. Please contact Howard Kaplon at hkaplon@towson.edu for more information.

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.

The Longest Parashah

With 176 verses, Naso is the longest single Parashah in the Torah. R' Yitzchak Meir Rotenberg-Alter z"l (1799-1866; first Gerrer Rebbe, known as the "Chiddushei Ha'Rim") observes that the Midrash Rabbah on this week's Parashah is significantly longer than on any other Parashah. Also, the Zohar on this week's Parashah, while not the longest, contains some of the most noteworthy sections (known as the "Idra Rabbah").

The Chiddushei Ha'Rim explains: Parashat Naso is nearly always read on the Shabbat after Shavuot. Every year, on Shavuot, Hashem, in His goodness, renews the Giving of the Torah for the coming year. This renewal enables us to plumb the depths of the Torah, as recorded in the Midrash, and to see the light of the Torah, as reflected in the Zohar. (The Chiddushei Ha'Rim notes that the Zohar frequently uses the expression "Ta chazi" / "Come and see," in contrast to the Talmud Bavli's "Ta shema" / "Come and hear.")

The Chiddushei Ha'Rim continues: Referring to the Torah's "light," we say in the blessing before Kri'at Shema, "Enlighten our eyes in Your Torah." However, our intention is not to derive personal benefit from that "light." Rather, we continue, "Attach our hearts to Your Mitzvot." (Sefer Ha'zechut)

R' Tzaddok Hakohen Rabinowitz z"l (1823-1900; Chassidic Rebbe in Lublin, Poland) adds: Parashat Naso includes "Birkat Kohanim" / the blessing the Kohanim give to the Jewish People. When one gives a blessing, he gives what is at the root of his soul. The Kohanim are meant to be the teachers of the nation; thus, their blessing leads to increased Torah study, as reflected in a longer Midrash and a very deep section of the Zohar. (Pri Tzaddik: Naso 7)

(by Rabbi Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

This Week in Jewish History

6th Lubavitcher Rebbe arrested (1927) Shortly after midnight of the 15th of Sivan of 1927, the sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn (1880-1950), was arrested by agents of the GPU (Soviet Secret Police) and Yevsketzia ("Jewish section" of the Communist Party) for leading the underground network of rabbis, teachers and emissaries working to preserve and disseminate Jewish learning and observance throughout the Soviet Empire.

Spanish Expulsion Rescinded (1967) The Spanish cabinet approved a bill which granted religious freedom to Spain's Jews as well as other religious minorities. Since 1492 it had been officially forbidden to practice Judaism in Spain -- though this law had not been enforced for many years before its official abolishment.

(From www.chabad.org)

Yahrzeits This Week:

Marvin Itzkowitz	12 Sivan - Friday night / Shabbat	for mother	Esther Seryl bas Mordechai Markel
Kate Genut	16 Sivan - Tuesday night / Wednesday	for mother	Sarah bas Yaakov

SHUL DIRECTORY

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

<p>Friday, 6/10 — 11 Sivan Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Shabbat, 6/11 — 12 Sivan Shacharit — 9:00 a.m. Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:20 a.m. Minchah — 8:00 p.m. Ma'ariv— 9:17 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, 6/12 — 13 Sivan Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. Father and Son Learning — 6:00 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv— 8:15 p.m.</p> <p>Monday, 6/13 — 14 Sivan Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Tuesday, 6/14 — 15 Sivan Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, 6/15 — 16 Sivan Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 6/16 — 17 Sivan Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.</p> <p>Friday, 6/17 — 18 Sivan Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Shabbat Candles — 8:17 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p>
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