

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



March 5, 2022

Pekudei

2 Adar א, 5782

Chemical Reactions

How did you fare in chemistry? Was the thought of memorizing the periodic table enough to make your heart palpitate? Do your palms still sweat when you see diagrams of the molecular structure of water? Or were you a science whiz who loved the smell of sulfuric acid and ammonia, thrilled at the thought of yet another experiment, perhaps writing out formulae as an enjoyable challenge?

Whether you loved chemistry or hated it, whether you slept through the experiments or bounded into the chemistry classroom on lab day, there's one type of experiment you undoubtedly remember: how a very small quantity of a particular substance can completely transform a tremendous amount of surrounding matter. Its action is that of a catalyst, effecting change without itself being altered in any way.

If we put this law of science to work in our daily lives, it can be inferred that applying even minimal effort can sometimes allow a person to have a profound impact on forces that appear to be more powerful or beyond his or her abilities.

With this in mind, it should come as no surprise that in the laws on repentance, the great codifier of Jewish law, Maimonides, wrote: "Every individual should view himself and the world as being perfectly balanced between good and evil. Should he perform one mitzva (commandment), he will tip the scales in favor of the good and bring salvation and delivery to himself and to the entire world."

The salvation and delivery to which Maimonides referred is the era of personal and global peace, health, and Divine knowledge that will be ushered in by Moshiach. And one mitzva can tip the scale.

Are any particular mitzvot weightier, more readily able to tilt the Divine scale?

From chemistry we know that putting certain chemicals together elicits absolutely no reaction, while combining other chemicals can create an enormous effect.

While Maimonides did not specify any particular mitzva and we can therefore deduce that the above law applies to all mitzvot, there are specific mitzvot which have long been connected with hastening the Redemption.

"Charity brings the Redemption closer," the Talmud states. A coin in a tzedaka box or a sandwich for a homeless person, who knows which one might tip the scale?

Studying more Torah in general and learning about the Messianic Era in particular also hastens the Redemption. Knowing more about the topic will help us "get into," it, live with it, and eagerly look forward to the inner and global peace and perfection that we all crave.

It could be one simple kind act or good deed that will be the catalyst: The Rebbe shared, "Moshiach is ready to come now. It is only necessary on our part to increase in acts of goodness and kindness."

And that one act might just be mine or yours! Let's do it!

(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 Rabbi Kaplan 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 \$180 |

Community Information of Interest

March 5: Two Last Years before Oslo: Israel and the Jewish People 1988-1992. Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz. *Then and Now: How The Events of 1988-1992 Affect Us Today.* This lecture will begin at 8:15 p.m. and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah. Also this lecture will be available on Rabbi Katz's YouTube site Moitze Shabbat – March 12, 2022.

Less Than Top Billing

The text seems to swing between extremes. In parshas Vayahkel, the entire building of the mishkan is recapitulated without once adding, "as Hashem instructed Moshe." Yet, in parshas Pikudei – in reference to the making of the Kohen's garments – that phrase is repeated again and again.

The difference may be the way these two projects were appreciated – or underappreciated. Everyone understood the holiness and importance of the mishkan in hosting the Shechinah. It was not difficult to get people to scrupulously obey instructions about building it correctly.

The bigdei kehunah, however, were not so well understood. They seemed to be necessary only for the "honor and splendor" of the kohen who wore them. It would be easy for the workers to not be as precise or careful. Therefore the Torah emphasizes that even so, they meticulously followed the holy instructions that were given to them, and did not deviate in the slightest.

(by Rabbi Yitzchok Adlerstein from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

Matzah order are done **ONLY** online at www.chabadshul.org. The cost is \$32 per pound.
Deadline for ordering Matzah this year is **Thursday, March 16, 2022 – Erev Purim.**



The Shul is looking to hire a (young) woman to assume responsibility to structure and supervise the children's groups. If you are interested or know of someone, please contact the Rav.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Howard Elbaum 6 Adar II - Tuesday night / Wednesday for mother Chaya bas Yisrael Pinchas

SHUL DIRECTORY

Rabbi: Shmuel Kaplan . . . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday – Rosh Chodesh Adar א, 3/4 – 1 Adar א

Shacharit — 6:40 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 5:44 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:45 p.m.

Shabbat, 3/5 – 2 Adar א

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:24 a.m.
 Minchah — 5:30 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 6:45 p.m.

Sunday, 3/6 – 3 Adar א

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Father and Son Learning — 5:00 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

Monday, 3/7 – 4 Adar א

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

Tuesday, 3/8 — 5 Adar א

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

Wednesday, 3/9 – 6 Adar א

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

Thursday, 3/10 – 7 Adar א

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

Friday א, 3/11 – 8 Adar א

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 5:51 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.