

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



March 26, 2022

Shemini — Parshat Parah — Shabbat M'vorchim

23 Adar א, 5782

Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday! With about 360,000 births each day world-wide, it's likely that at least a few of our readers are celebrating their birthdays today.

Conventionally, birthdays are for parties! When we're very young (and very old) we mark the day we were born with a celebration. Cake, ice cream, gifts, games, we gather family and friends to celebrate our birthdays.

Ostensibly, birthdays are quite secular affairs. Every person (Jew or non-Jew) has one once a year. In fact, in the Torah, the only birthday singled out for any mention is that of Pharaoh! Yet, the Talmud teaches that one's birthday is the day on which one's "fortune rises."

Is there a special "Jewish" way to celebrate a birthday? And is there such a thing as a Jewish birthday? And once we find out when our Jewish birthday is, how do we go about celebrating it?

A birthday is a time for reflection, a time to review the year gone by and to think about those aspects of our lives that need improvement and correcting.

We can use the day to study a Jewish thought and share it with others, take (extra) time to pray, as well as making sure to give charity and do some other special mitzvot (commandments).

The birthday party is transformed into a joyous gathering of family and friends and the power of the birthday will guarantee that the good resolutions made in such a setting will be fulfilled in the future.

Ancient Jewish sources teach the value of celebrating a birthday. For example there is a Midrash that relates: Most people cherish the day on which they were born and make a party on that day.

In 1988 (5748), shortly after the passing of his wife, Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka, the Lubavitcher Rebbe chose the anniversary of her birth as a time to launch a new campaign to reinvigorate the custom of celebrating Jewish birthdays.

The Rebbe asked that even the youngest children should be taught the spiritual importance of a birthday and that they should be encouraged to celebrate their birthdays with their friends in a way that they will increase Jewish observance and good resolutions.

For each of us, our birthday is a day to rejoice in the knowledge that on this day our soul descended to this world for a special, unique purpose that is only ours to fulfill.

On the anniversary of our birth, we embark on a new year, a new stage in our development, and a new chapter in the fulfillment of our life's mission.

There is no other you in the world and there is no other person who can accomplish the purpose for which you specifically were born.

Take advantage of this occasion. Be introspective, explore the state of your spiritual life, set your Jewish house even more in order. Start fulfilling some of the good resolutions on the spot and use your birthday as a time to increase goodness and holiness in the world!

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

This Week in Jewish History

Rebbetzin's Birthday (1901)

Rebbetzin Chaya Mushkah Schneerson (1901-1988) of righteous memory, wife of the Lubavitcher Rebbe of righteous memory, was born on Shabbat, the 25th of Adar, in Babinovich, a town near the Russian city of Lubavitch, in the year 5661 from creation (1901). In an address delivered on the 25 of Adar of 1988 (the Rebbetzin's 87th birthday, and about a month after her passing), the Rebbe initiated an international birthday campaign, urging people to celebrate their birthdays and utilize the day as a time of introspection and making resolutions involving an increase in good deeds.

(from www.chabad.org)

Why Kosher?

Much of this week's parashah is devoted to listing or describing animals, birds and fish that may or may not be eaten. R' Yitzchak Arama z"l (Spain and Italy; died 1494) writes: It is necessary for us to know that it is not for health reasons that the Torah prohibited certain foods, contrary to what some scholars have written [a reference to Ramban z"l, among others]. If that were the case, the stature of Torah would be lowered to that of just another medical book. Moreover, if these foods contained physical poisons, they could be counteracted with antidotes or other compounds, as is done with other poisons; in that event, nothing would be left of the Torah's prohibition, and the Torah would be made a mockery. Also, we don't see that the gentiles who eat animals that are prohibited to us live shorter lives than we do.

Rather, R' Arama explains, the reason these animals are prohibited is because they are anathema to the spiritual soul and cause a state of ritual impurity to come upon those who eat them, as our parashah says (verse 43), "Do not make yourselves abominable by means of [eating] any teeming thing; do not contaminate yourselves through them lest you become contaminated through them." Our aspiration, rather, is as King David wrote (Tehillim 51:12-13), "Create a tahor / pure heart for me, Elokim, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. . . take not Your Holy Spirit from me." This explanation for the prohibition explains why the Torah uses the words "tahor" and "tamei" to describe foods that may and may not be eaten, respectively. (Akeidat Yitzchak)

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

The **שבֿת פרשת שמֿיני** שבת מברכים חודש ניסן, שבת פרה קידוש this week is sponsored by **Rabbi Shimon and Mrs. Chanie Raskin** in the **זנות** of their newborn daughter **שתי' שינא**.

שיגדילו' לתורה לחופה ולמעשים טובים
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Sale of Chometz forms are available on line at www.chabadshul.org and in the bin in the lobby.
Deadline for submitting for to Rabbi Kaplan is **April 13, 2022.**



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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE	
<p>Friday, 3/25 — 22 Adar א Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Shabbat, 3/26 — 23 Adar א Shacharit — 9:00 a.m. Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:04 a.m. Minchah — 6:55 p.m. Ma'ariv — 8:06 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, 3/27 — 24 Adar א Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. Father and Son Learning — 6:00 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:10 p.m.</p> <p>Monday, 3/28 — 25 Adar א Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:10 p.m.</p>	<p>Tuesday, 3/29 — 26 Adar א Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:10 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, 3/30 — 27 Adar א Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:10 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 3/31 — 28 Adar א Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:10 p.m.</p> <p>Friday, 4/1 — 29 Adar א Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Shabbat Candles — 7:12 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.</p>