

# The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center  
6701 Old Pimlico Road  
Baltimore, MD 21209

[www.chabadshul.org](http://www.chabadshul.org)



December 25, 2021

Shemot

21 Tevet, 5782

## What the Jews Do

It has become blatantly obvious that we are witnessing a full-fledged epidemic of Anti-Semitic attacks. In the last week alone, there has been at least one incident each day. For the first time in modern US history, Jews are afraid to shop at kosher stores, afraid to go to shul, afraid to send their kids to Jewish schools. Simply walking around dressed Jewishly is making people uneasy, cautious, and frightened.

David Ben Gurion said, "It doesn't matter what the non-Jews say, it matters what the Jews do."

So, what will we do? How will we respond?

Yes, we need to demand apologies, sign petitions, and organize protests. We need to insist on a sustained, get-tough, zero-tolerance policy by local and state officials. We need a policy that takes each incident equally seriously. Anti-Semitism is anti-Semitism, and should not be tolerated, no matter who the perpetrator is.

But what else can we do to combat this toxic undercurrent seeping through society?

First, we need to understand and recognize the root cause of the hatred

We know they don't hate us because we're successful; Jews have been persecuted back in the shtetls when they had nothing at all. They don't hate us for being poor, because wealthy Jews have never been exempt. They don't hate us because we established the State of Israel; Hitler killed 6 million of us before that ever happened. There is nothing we can point to and say, "That's why! That's why they hate us. If we fix or change that, there'll be no more anti-Semitism."

Anti-Semitism is irrational. It's a hatred that has always existed, and will continue as long as we remain in exile. There is no reason. It simply is.

So what should we do in the face of the current crisis? How can we combat the hatred staring us down?

As counterintuitive as it might seem, by being prouder Jews!

They hate us? They hate Judaism? Well, let's examine our own love for it. Do we feel it with a fiery passion? How can we reignite that, instill it in our children, awaken it in our friends, and show it off proudly?

By increasing our Jewish engagement.

Commit to putting on tefillin daily, and when you say Shema, remind yourself of your eternal and everlasting link to your ancestors, all the way back to Abraham. Picture the unbroken chain connecting you; it's powerful!

Commit to lighting Shabbat candles every single week, and when you do, picture the light dispelling evil and hatred from the world. A small amount of light dispels great darkness. You may not see the significance of your two candles, but they are powerful!

Contact your local Chabad and study Torah. Educate yourself and your children, reignite that passion and love for G-d and His Torah.

We have to be a light unto the nations. We have to inspire each other to be strong in our Jewish observance and proud of our identity. We cannot cower and hide away in fear. We must stand strong, proud, and united; it is the only way to fight the current upsurge in anti-Semitism.

*(by Rabbi Uriel Vigler from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)*

### Community Information of Interest

**December 25: Two Last Years before Oslo: Israel and the Jewish People 1988-1992. Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz.** *Bad Chemistry: The Bush Administration and The State of Israel 1988-1992 Part 2.* This lecture will begin at 8:00 p.m. and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah. Also this lecture will be available on Rabbi Katz's YouTube site Moitze Shabbat – January 1, 2022.

## Aliens

In this week's Parashah, we read of Bnei Yisrael's enslavement in Egypt. R' Eliezer Dan Ralbag z"l (1832-1895; Rosh Yeshiva of the Etz Chaim Yeshiva in Yerushalayim) writes: Hashem told Avraham (Bereishit 15:13), "Know with certainty that your offspring will be aliens in a land not their own, Va'avadam / and they will serve them, V'inu / and they will oppress them four hundred years." Our Sages say that the 400 years began when Yitzchak was born, for he, also, was an alien in a land not his own—the land of the Canaanites and Plishtim. This counted toward fulfillment of the prophecy because, in the Torah, the letter "Vav" before a word can mean "or" as well as "and"; thus, the prophecy can mean: "Your offspring will be aliens in a land not their own, or they will serve them, or they will oppress them." Any of those three situations — alien status, slavery, or oppression — could count toward completing the 400 years.

R' Ralbag continues: In this light, we can understand why the tribe of Levi did not need to be enslaved. It was sufficient that they were aliens. Indeed, for this reason, Moshe (a Levi) named his oldest son "Gershom" — "for he said, 'I was a Ger / alien in a foreign land'." (Shmot 18:3)

In this light, as well, we can better understand Yosef's story. Yaakov hoped to fulfill Avraham's prophecy by being an alien, as Yitzchak had. Thus we read (Bereishit 37:1), "Yaakov settled in the land where his father was a Ger, in the Land of Canaan." However, Yaakov's growing and powerful family could not be considered aliens in Canaan, so "the troubles with Yosef began" (see Rashi there). Notably, Yosef was sold into slavery but soon was elevated to a position of authority, because he was, at least, an alien. But, when Yosef became too comfortable in Egypt and began preening himself (see Rashi to Bereishit 39:6), he was no longer an alien, so he was again imprisoned and enslaved. (Damesek Eliezer)

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

**Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mimoun** are sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbat  
honor of the **birth and naming of their daughter.**  
Mazel tov to the whole family!



Kol Hanaarim— Father and Son Learning – every Friday evening during the winter at 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.  
in The Shul. Chulent and other refreshments are served. Each session is 'topped off' at the end with  
a fascinating story. For any questions, please see Rabbi Itzkowitz.

### SHUL DIRECTORY

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### DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

**Friday — Legal Holiday, 12/24 — 20 Tevet**

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Candles — 4:30 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.

**Shabbat, 12/25 — 21 Tevet**

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:43 a.m.  
Minchah — 4:20 p.m.  
Ma'ariv— 5:32 p.m.

**Sunday, 12/26 — 22 Tevet**

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.  
Father and Son Learning — 6:00 p.m.

**Monday, 12/27— 23 Tevet**

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.

**Tuesday, 12/28 — 24 Tevet**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.

**Wednesday, 12/29 — 25 Tevet**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.

**Thursday, 12/30 — 26 Tevet**

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.  
Chavrusa Learning with Chabad Yeshiva — 8 to 10 p.m.

**Friday — Legal Holiday, 12/31 — 27 Tevet**

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Candles — 4:35 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:35 p.m.