

# The Shul

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

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



October 23, 2021

VaYera

17 Cheshvan, 5782

## A Fly and a Flea

A fly and a flea in a flue

Were imprisoned

So what could they do?

Said the fly, "Let us flee."

"Let us fly," said the flea.

So they flew through a flaw in the flue.

Repeat the above tongue-twister three times.

Finished? Good. Now let's consider it for a moment.

Have you ever watched a fly try to get out of a closed window? It beats itself against the window in an attempt to reach freedom on the other side.

Trying harder and harder, it repeatedly flies into the glass.

If you open the window the fly might just follow the window up and attempt to exit at a higher section of the same window, straight through the glass.

It's as if the fly is saying, "I know all I have to do is try harder and harder, and eventually I will succeed." Instead of stopping for a moment and evaluating his situation, the fly just keeps on trying.

With a little more of your help and cajoling though - and maybe some guidance - the fly will safely exit to the great outdoors.

The fly and the flea in our opening ditty behave differently, though. Stuck in a flue, they do not try to bash their way out through an impenetrable brick wall or even through the more conventional flue. They notice a flaw, a hole in the flue, and safely whizz away to freedom.

We are encouraged by Jewish teachings to approach many of life's obstacles like the flies in both scenarios. If we try hard enough, and keep on trying and trying we will eventually succeed.

Jewish teachings support this belief, stating, "If someone says, 'I tried but I did not succeed,' don't believe him. If someone says, 'I didn't try hard but I succeeded,' don't believe him. If someone says, 'I tried hard and I succeeded,' believe him."

In addition, our Sages teach that "Nothing stands before the will."

There are times when drive, perseverance and will enable a person to succeed.

There are also unique and singular moments in each person's life when a totally new approach - a fresh outlook or innovative perspective - is required in order to break out of and away from our limitations.

But, there are instances when - while battering away at that window with determination, will and faith - G-d opens it up for us and we sail through. Or, as with our ancestors when confronted with tests, they ignored them and the obstructions disappeared.

In the regular scheme of things, sweat and elbow grease will bring us success.

When we are attempting to break through boundaries and limitations, it is often necessary to step back for a moment and try an unconventional approach, something totally above and beyond one's nature or natural instincts.

Whichever method is the most appropriate, we need to realize that we are not a solitary fly in a flue or near a closed window. We are an actual, essential part of G-dliness and are part of the Divine scheme.

*(continued on the other side)*

When we allow ourselves to be ruled only by our limited intellect or nature, we restrict ourselves. Yes, we can be successful at reaching our goals, whether mundane or noble, for nothing stands before the will. But, if we want to achieve something totally beyond our natural capacities, we must hookup with the inner Infinite, the essential spark of G-dliness within, which gives us unlimited power to overcome all obstacles, boundaries and limitations.

(by from <https://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

**Hashem appeared to him in the plains of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance of the tent in the heat of the day." (18:1)**

Rashi z"l writes: [Hashem came] L'vaker / to visit the sick. Rabbi Chama the son of Chanina said: It was the third day after his circumcision and Hashem came and inquired into the state of his health. [Until here from Rashi]

R' Daniel Feldman shlita (rabbi in Teaneck, N.J.) writes: Many commentaries write that the correct translation of "L'vaker" — which has the same root as the first word of "Bikur Cholim" — is not "visiting" but, rather, "checking into." This supports the view that the Mitzvah of Bikur Cholim is not fulfilled by just visiting, but by looking into the patient's needs and seeing how one can help. Here, for example, Hashem came to see what Avraham needed, and He saw that Avraham needed guests to whom he could provide hospitality.

At the same time, R' Feldman notes, Rambam z"l ends his description of the Mitzvah of Bikur Cholim with the word "V'yotzei" / "And he leaves." As much as a visitor believes he is helping the ill, part of the Mitzvah is, apparently, knowing when to leave.

(by Rabbi Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at [www.torah.org](http://www.torah.org))



Rabbi Kaplan is holding a weekly Thursday evening at 8:30 p.m. **in-person** and online shiur on the topic ""Igeret HaTeshuva."" This online shiur is open to anyone who would like to attend and can be joined at: <https://cutt.ly/join-shiur>.

Kiddush after davening this Shabbat is being sponsored by:

**Mr. Shmuel and Mrs. Mirra Siegel** in honor of  
**Natanya & Daniel's** upcoming birthdays and for finishing mishnayos Brachos over the summer,  
**Mr. Allan and Mrs. Nancy Berman and Family** in memory of  
 Allan's father **Henry Berman – Hillel Ben Shmuel**, and  
**Dr. Allan and Mrs. Kate Genut** in honor the marriage of  
 their granddaughter **Reezha Teichman to Leil Hayun.**



**Yahrzeits The Next Three Weeks:**

Allan Berman	17 Cheshvan - Friday night/ Shabbat	for father	Hillel ben Shmuel
Sara Itzkowitz	20 Cheshvan - Monday night / Tuesday	for mother	Toba bas R' Dov Rimler
Rabbi Fred Lewin	20 Cheshvan - Monday night / Tuesday	for sister	Rita Miriam bas Shmuel

**DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE**

**Friday, 10/22 — 16 Cheshvan**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Shabbat Candles — 5:59 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, 10/23 — 17 Cheshvan**

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:05 a.m.  
 Minchah — 5:45 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv— 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, 10/24 — 18 Cheshvan**

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
 Father and Son Learning — 5:05 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:55 p.m.

**Monday, 10/25 — 19 Cheshvan**

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:55 p.m.

**Tuesday, 10/26 — 20 Cheshvan**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:55 p.m.

**Wednesday, 10/27 – 21 Cheshvan**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:55 p.m.

**Thursday, 10/28 – 22 Cheshvan**

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:55 p.m.

**Friday, 10/29 — 23 Cheshvan**

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