

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



January 22, 2022

Yitro

20 Shevat, 5782

Beautiful Is ...

How do you define "beautiful"?

In Chabad Chasidic teachings, beautiful is defined as the invisible connection between two separate entities.

Whether you think of colors, or musical notes, you will find the same point: each one on its own is nice and unique. But when colors blend; when musical notes harmonize; they rise above nice - they become beautiful.

And while you can point to either one of the colors or the notes, you cannot put your finger on the energy that synthesizes them: it is invisible.

This is the secret of beauty. You know it's there, you can see the effect - but you cannot see IT.

Now that we have defined beauty, let me tell you about a beautiful person.

Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka Schneerson, the wife of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, was a beautiful person.

Now, interestingly enough, when Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka passed away in the winter of 1988, many Chasidim had never even seen her. She was the "queen" of Chabad for almost 40 years and outside a modest circle of her aides and friends, almost no one knew her. There are a few photos. There were a few reported sightings of her out on her errands. Those who were lucky to know her described her kindness, intelligence and her utter selflessness. She wasn't an introvert or a recluse G-d forbid. She was very, very private. The Rebbetzin avoided the spotlight with the same joy that some people enjoy it. And because of that, she was basically unknown.

But then, when she passed away, she was discovered. Her husband the Rebbe was completely shattered. The pain and grief were blatant. The Rebbe spoke of the Rebbetzin in reverent terms and urged everyone to upgrade their lives and their values in her sacred memory. Overnight, the mythical Rebbetzin became an urgent presence in everyone's life. And in the days of her Shiva, the community realized what they had been missing: The Rebbe, one of the most famous and renowned Jewish leaders of all time, had been motivated and energized by an invisible leader - the Rebbetzin.

It was a moment of revelation.

And this is the way of the truly beautiful. Her presence was most felt in her absence. Her effect was as incredibly visible as she herself was incredibly invisible.

This was the Rebbetzin. Powerful, influential, instrumental, invisible. Or in a word - beautiful.

Like the sun and the moon. The sun is shiny and bright. But the moon is beautiful. The sun lights up the day. The moon doesn't light up the night - it's what makes the night beautiful.

When you look at a person you see their light. What you don't see - that's their beauty.

And while light is crucial - we can't imagine a world without the sun - beauty is what makes it all worth it.

Light may be the what. But beauty is the why.

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

The Chosen

Our Parashah opens with Yitro, the father-in-law of Moshe Rabbeinu, hearing about the miracles of the Exodus and the Splitting of the Sea and coming to join Bnei Yisrael. The Parashah then relates that Hashem declares the Jewish People to be His "Am Segulah" / "Chosen, treasured people." R' Eliezer David Gruenwald z"l (1867-1928; Hungarian rabbi and Rosh Yeshiva) writes: Moshe prayed (Shmot 32:16), "Let I and Your people be made distinct from every people on the face of the earth!" Our Sages explain that he was requesting that Hashem rest His Shechinah only on the Jewish People. R' Moshe Sofer z"l (1762-1839; rabbi and Rosh Yeshiva in Pressburg, Hungary, known as the "Chatam Sofer") explains that Moshe did not do this because he begrudged other nations the opportunity to come close to Hashem. Rather, the Chatam Sofer writes, Moshe was afraid that another Avraham Avinu-like figure would exist in the future and that his descendants would replace Bnei Yisrael as Hashem's people if the latter sinned.

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R' Gruenwald continues: Yitro recognized Hashem and abandoned idolatry on his own. But, what forced him to leave his home and join Bnei Yisrael? After all, Hashem is everywhere! The answer is that Yitro understood that Bnei Yisrael were the one and only Chosen People. He could convert and join them, as can any gentile, but there is no chosen people parallel to or instead of them. How did Yitro know this? Because Hashem split the Sea for Bnei Yisrael, a miracle that was not necessary in order to punish the Egyptians. It was purely an expression of love for Bnei Yisrael. (Keren L'David)

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

Community Information of Interest

January 22: Two Last Years before Oslo: Israel and the Jewish People 1988-1992. Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz. *Religion and the State: Quagmire and the New Terrorism: Israel and Lebanon 1984-1992.* 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 29, 2022.

Kiddush this Shabbat is being co-sponsored by **Major Michael and Lisette Young** in honor of their daughter, **Rosalyn Esther's** graduation from University of Maryland; and by **Rabbi Gavriel and Tamar Newman** in memory of his father, **Rabbi Yaakov Yisrael Newman, zt'l**, whose yahrzeit is on 25 Shevat, and in gratitude for Hashem's great and never-ending chessed.



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.

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

Rabbi: Shmuel Kaplan . . . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com
Treasurer: Michael Frank . . . shul.chabad@gmail.com
Kiddush: Reuven Frank rfrank82@gmail.com
Bulletin: Howard Kaplon hkaplontowson.edu
Website: Shoshana Zakar sue.zakar@gmail.com

Gabbaim:
 Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net
 Allan Genut agenut@gmail.com
 Ephraim Siff
Mikvah Mei Menachem 410-415-5113
Aleph Learning Institute . Mrs. Rochel Kaplan, Director
www.alephlearninginstitute.org / email: alephjli@gmail.com

DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 1/21 – 19 Shevat

Shacharit – 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles – 4:56 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv – 5:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 1/22 – 20 Shevat

Shacharit – 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema – 9:47 a.m.
 Minchah – 4:45 p.m.
 Ma'ariv – 5:58 p.m.

Sunday, 1/23 – 21 Shevat

Shacharit – 8:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv – 5:10 p.m.
 Father and Son Learning – 6:00 p.m.

Monday, 1/24 – 22 Shevat

Shacharit – 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv – 5:10 p.m.

Tuesday, 1/25 – 23 Shevat

Shacharit – 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv – 5:10 p.m.

Wednesday, 1/26 – 24 Shevat

Shacharit – 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv – 5:10 p.m.

Thursday, 1/27 – 25 Shevat

Shacharit – 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv – 5:10 p.m.
 Chavrusa Learning with Chabad Yeshiva – 8 to 10 p.m.

Friday, 1/28 – 26 Shevat

Shacharit – 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles – 5:04 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv – 5:05 p.m.