

# The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road  
Baltimore, MD 21209

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



December 31, 2022

Vayigash

7 Tevet 5783

## Thriving in Hostile Territory

By Eli Pink

As Jacob was traveling down to Egypt to meet Joseph, he stopped off in Beersheba, longtime home of his grandparents, Abraham and Sarah, and offered sacrifices to G-d. G-d then appeared to Jacob and comforted him: “Jacob, Jacob! . . . Don’t be afraid of journeying down to Egypt, because it is only there that I will make you into a great nation” (Genesis 46:2–3). Rashi, the foremost biblical commentator, explains that with these words G-d was addressing Jacob’s distress at being compelled to leave the Holy Land.

A Jew should be anguished by the prospect of leaving the Holy Land

At first glance, however, G-d’s message to Jacob does not seem to address his concerns. Jacob was distressed about moving out of the country, but G-d tells him not to be afraid. Jacob was distressed, not afraid!

It seems clear that G-d was not trying to mitigate Jacob’s distress; a Jew should be anguished by the prospect of leaving the Holy Land, especially for a culture as depraved as Egypt was in those days. Rather, G-d was addressing Jacob’s other concerns—his worries about the Jewish education of his children and how they would continue to live as Jews in a hostile environment.

Ever since Jacob descended to Egypt, we have been shuffling from one exile to the next, with only short periods of respite. Galut (exile) is a crucible; the challenges and difficulties of thriving in a hostile world provide the optimal setting for personal and national growth. However, if we become comfortable in our exile and feel that we are in a “home away from home,” we become vulnerable to its insidious effects.

This was G-d’s message to Jacob: precisely because of your distress at having to live in Egypt, you do not need to be afraid of its influence on your descendants.

Unfortunately, it is not unusual to get occasional reminders that we are still in exile, be it an anti-Semitic comment or a biased news report. It is far better when these reminders are not imposed on us by others, but are of our own volition, making *a small move out of our comfort zone and doing something to remind ourselves what it means to be a Jew.* (Source: Chabad.org)

Kiddush this week is being sponsored by:

- Cantor Allan and Nancy Berman and Family in Memory of Allan's Mother Mitzi Berman, Malka bas Avraham z'l

- Rabbi Shmuel & Rebbetzin Kaplan in commemoration of the Yartzeits of the Rebbetzin's father Rabbi Peretz Hecht last Tuesday Tevet 3, and the Rov's mother Sara Peshe Kaplan on Tuesday Tevet 10

- Terry and Michael Frank in memory of Michael's father, Ephraim Mordechai ben Shlomo.



שנת הקהל

# Hakhel Monthly Gatherings For Women

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8:00 PM  
LIGHT FARE ▪ NO CHARGE

### Yahrzeits Next Week:

|                     |                                      |             |                                     |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Allan Berman        | 9 Tevet - Sunday night / Monday      | for mother  | Malka bas Avraham                   |
| Michael Frank       | 9 Tevet - Sunday night / Monday      | for father  | Ephraim Mordechai ben Shlomo        |
| Rabbi Shmuel Kaplan | 10 Tevet - Monday night / Tuesday    | for mother  | Sara bas Reb Nochum Yitzchok Pinson |
| Howard Elbaum       | 11 Tevet - Tuesday night / Wednesday | for brother | Yaacov Kopel ben Avraham Menachem   |

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

### DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

#### Friday, 12/30 — 6 Teves

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Candles - 4:34 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv - 4:35 p.m.

#### Shabbat, 12/31 - 7 Teves

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:48 a.m.  
Minchah — 4:20 p.m.  
Shiur: — after Minchah  
Ma'ariv — 5:35 p.m.

#### Sunday, 1/1 — 8 Teves

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:35 p.m. - 8th Candle

#### Monday, 1/2 — 9 Teves -

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

#### Tuesday, 1/3 — 10 Teves — Asorah B'Teves

Fast begins — 6:01 a.m.  
Shacharit — 6:35 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:25 p.m.  
Fast ends — 5:29 p.m.

#### Wednesday, 1/4 — 11 Teves

Shacharit — 7 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:35 p.m.

#### Thursday, 1/5 — 12 Teves

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:35 p.m.

#### Friday, 1/6 — 13 Teves

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