

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



May 20, 2023

Bamidbar — Shabbat M'vorchim — Shavuot

29 Iyar, 5783

Shavuot: Holiday Or Oath?

The two famous rabbis, Reb Shmelke of Nikolsburg and Reb Pinchas of Frankfurt were brothers, the sons of the Rabbi of Tchartkov, Reb Tzvi Hirsh Halevi Horowitz. Even as small children they were known as prodigies.

When they were quite young their father took over the duty of teaching them Torah.

It was a challenging job and he taught them as quickly and as much as their brilliant minds could absorb. When they were both well below ten years of age, they were already learning the Talmud with several commentaries.

As part of their schedule, they would learn the laws which pertained to the next approaching holiday. And so, when the holiday of Chanukah ended, their father began the study of the tractate Megilla. Having completed it by Purim, they began learning the tractate dealing with the laws of Passover, which they finished right on target; the day before Pesach.

Shmelke, the elder of the two boys then said to his father, "Now we have to begin learning the tractate Shevuot if we want to finish it by the time Shavuot comes along."

"Do you think that Shevuot deals with the laws of the holiday?" asked their father smiling, for that was not the case.

"No," replied the boy. "I know it deals with the laws of oaths, but I have a reason why we should study it now. On that first Shavuot, all the Jews took an oath at Mount Sinai to keep the commandments of the Torah, and that promise has been binding ever since. I want to learn the laws of oaths so I can understand how important it is to keep a promise and how serious it is to break one. I figured out that there are forty-nine double pages of this tractate and forty-nine days between Pesach and Shavuot, and if we learn a double-page every day, we will finish in time for Shavuot."

Rabbi Tzvi Hirsh was pleased by his son's erudite reasoning and he happily agreed to learn according to his suggestion.

By the time Lag B'Omer had arrived (the thirty-third day of the Omer), they had reached a section in the tractate which mentioned a law in the name of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai.

Little Shmelke jumped up from the table excitedly: "Father, Father, you see how wonderful! This is the day of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's yahrzeit, the thirty-third day of the Omer, and here his name is mentioned. Not only that, but it says '... and they laughed in the land of Israel,' and everyone knows that it's a custom to make a big celebration in Israel on this day!" The father and sons finished exactly as they had calculated, although they had to study a double-page every day.

The following year when Pesach had passed, Rabbi Tzvi Hirsh again asked his sons what they wished to learn in preparation for the holiday of Shavuot. This time the younger child, Pinchas, answered: "I think we should begin the tractates of Ketubot (marriage contracts) and Kiddushin (the laws of marriages)."

Questioned his father, "What do they have to do with Shavuot?"

"That's easy. On Shavuot, G-d took the Jewish people to be His -- it was like a wedding -- and said the words, 'And I have betrothed you to Me forever.'

You taught us that He held Mount Sinai over our heads like a marriage canopy. The holy words of the Torah were like our marriage contract, and He gave us a gift as well -- the Oral Torah. That is why I think we should learn the laws of marriage contracts and betrothals -- so we will know that the 'wedding' of Israel and G-d was a valid one and that both G-d and the Jews are obligated to fulfill all the points of the contract."

Rabbi Tzvi Hirsh couldn't help beaming with pride from his son's well-reasoned words.

The three scholars learned the two tractates in record speed, finishing two double pages a day until, forty-nine days later, they celebrated both the holiday of Shavuot and the successful completion of their studies.

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

Mazel Tov to **Howard and Judy Elbaum**

on the **Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Aviv Stafler** in London.

Mazel Tov to Aviv's parents, **Robbie and Rachel Stafler** and his uncle and aunt, **Ari and Heather Elbaum**.

ב"ה

שנת הקהל

Hakhel Monthly Gatherings For Women

THE SOUL TALKS TORAH
SING THE SONG OF YOUR SOUL
SOUL STRINGS THROUGH A STORYLINE



Awaken the soul

HOSTED BY REBBETZEN ROCHEL KAPLAN

ALL JEWISH WOMEN ARE INVITED
SPONSORSHIPS WELCOMED
CALL TO RESERVE
CHABAD IN PIKESVILLE MD ▪ 443-220-9124
CHABADPIKESVILLE@GMAIL.COM

TUESDAY 2023
JAN 24 ▪ FEB 21 ▪ MARCH 21
APRIL 18 ▪ MAY 23 ▪ JUNE 20
8:00 PM
LIGHT FARE ▪ NO CHARGE

Kiddush this Shabbat is co-sponsored by **Mr. and Mrs. Dan Shechter** in commemoration of the sheloshim of Mrs. Shechter's late brother Moshe Ben Aaron A"H.
And by **Mr. and Mrs. Howard Elbaum** in honor of their grandson Aviv Stafler's, Bar Mitzvah.

 Sponsorship for two flower displays on the Bima during Shavuot is available. Please contact Dr. Allan Genut at agenut@gmail.com or 443-722-1377 to make arrangements. 

Yahrzeits This Week:

Joseph Zakar	4 Sivan - Tuesday night / Wednesday	for father	Emanuel ben Shabsi
Binyomin Gutman	7 Sivan - Friday night / Shabbat-Shavuot	for brother	Dovid ben Avraham

DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 5/19 — 28 Iyar

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

Shabbat, 5/20 — 29 Iyar

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:24 a.m.
Minchah — 7:45 p.m.
Shiur — after Minchah
Ma'ariv — 9:02 p.m.

Sunday — Rosh Chodesh Sivan, 5/21 — 1 Sivan

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:05 p.m.

Monday, 5/22 — 2 Sivan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:05 p.m.

Tuesday, 5/23 — 3 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:05 p.m.

Wednesday, 5/24 — 4 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:05 p.m.

Thursday — Erev Shavuot, 5/25 — 5 Sivan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Candles — 8:03 p.m.
Mincha — 8:05 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:55 p.m.
Tikun Layl Shavuot — 12:00 to 5:00 a.m.

Friday — Shavuot, 5/26 — 6 Sivan

Shacharit — 9:30 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:22 a.m.
Mincha / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.
Candles — 8:04 p.m.

Shabbat — Shavuot, 5/27 — 7 Sivan

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:21 a.m.
Yiskor — after 10:45 a.m.
Minchah — 7:50 p.m.
Shiur — after Minchah
Ma'ariv — 9:09 p.m.