

# The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road  
Baltimore, MD 21209

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



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July 1, 2023

Chukat — Balak

12 Tamuz, 5783

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## Ripple Effect

It's been thirteen years since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the worst (and G-d willing last) spill in U.S. history.

A famous teaching of the Baal Shem Tov is that everything we see and hear contains a lesson for us. How much more so does this apply to something that is heard by the whole world and impacts the entire globe.

Let's consider the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig explosion for a moment. 4.9 million barrels of oil was spilled, travelling and affecting (albeit adversely) the sea population and shoreline for thousands of miles.

An obvious lesson to learn from this catastrophe is that there need to be disaster-proof methods for the handling of any kind of potential energy, whether oil, electrical, nuclear, gas, etc.

A more esoteric and positive lesson, for we can always learn something from even the most negative occurrence, is two-fold: the existence of an immediate "ripple effect," and a less immediate long-lasting effect.

That the explosion and spill in one area and could effect life thousands of miles away and be the topic of conversation around the world shows us just how far-reaching every action can be.

Everything an individual does has an impact somewhere, somehow, and that impact is infinite.

A simple example of this is doing what our Sages encouraged - greeting everyone with a smile.

Have you ever tried to trace the path of a smile? It begins when you smiling at someone who looks rather grumpy. That person becomes just a bit less grouchy and decides not to bark at a co-worker when he messes up.

The co-worker, feeling surprised and highly relieved, is more pleasant to the next person he comes in contact with, and it goes on and on. The ripple effect of a single smile.

Whether we know it, whether we acknowledge it, or even whether we want it to, our positive actions and mitzvot have the power to impact far beyond what we consider our circle of influence.

The oil spill rippled outward and spread damage and destruction.

Our mitzvot ripple outward, purifying the spiritual environment, spreading healing and repair, influencing the very direction the world is going in until ultimately it will arrive at its final destination - the Messianic Era.

The performance of mitzvot has a personal effect as well.

They refine the soul, making it more receptive to goodness and G-dliness.

But what of the fact that the repercussions of the oil spill are still being felt more than six years later? What lesson can we learn from this?

Chasidut teaches that negative ultimately disappears, while good is eternal. Thus, the transgressions and adverse actions of Jews throughout the ages vanish with time. But the good of all generations, from our ancestors Abraham and Sarah right up to and including the good that each of us does every day, remains.

This is also the explanation for why it is specifically in our generation that Moshiach will take us out of exile and into the Redemption. It is not that we are more meritorious or greater than previous generations. Rather, the accumulation of goodness and G-dliness has finally reached the point where creation is saturated, and the Redemption, as the Rebbe has stressed so many times, is imminent.

By continuing to do good and performing mitzvot, our actions spread out until they alter the entire world.

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

## Fast Day Activities

Although it is permitted to bathe on a fast day, it has become customary not to take a hot shower or bath. It is also proper for adults to refrain from swimming, unless it is needed for a medical condition or to cool off on a hot day.

The poskim differ as to whether it is permitted to rinse one's mouth with water on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz. Some permit rinsing the front part of the mouth, taking care that no water enters the throat area, while other poskim allow this only when in distress (tza'ar). According to the second view, then, one may not schedule a fast-day visit to a dentist [which will require him to rinse his mouth] unless he is in pain.

Medications prescribed by a doctor may be taken on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz. One who has difficulty swallowing pills without water may drink the amount of water required to swallow them. There is no need to ruin the taste of the water before drinking it.

When suffering from a severe headache, etc., aspirin or Tylenol, etc., may be taken. The poskim, however, do not permit taking those medications with water, unless the water is first made to have a bad taste.

*(from Project Genesis at [www.torah.org](http://www.torah.org))*



The Shul is looking to hire a (young) woman to assume responsibility to structure and supervise the children's groups this Summer. If you are interested or know of someone, please contact the Rav.

Dedication of plaques on the Shul board which is prominently located in the hall at the entrance to the Shul is an appropriate means of Tzedakah and supports the Shul as well. Below is the list of items available. Please contact Howard Kaplon at [hkaplon@towson.edu](mailto:hkaplon@towson.edu) for more information.

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Top (large) Plaques \$5,400 | 2. Medium Plaques \$3,600 |
| 3. Small Plaques \$1,000       | 4. Simcha Leaf \$250      |

Yahrzeit Plaques on the Shul's Memorial board are available. Each yahrzeit plaque is \$360.

### Yahrzeits This Week:

Rabbi Shmuel Kaplan    13 Tammuz - Saturday night / Sunday    for father    HoRav Moshe Binyomin ben HoRav Aryeh Laib

### SHUL DIRECTORY

**Rabbi:** Shmuel Kaplan . . . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com

**Treasurer:** Michael Frank . . . shul.chabad@gmail.com

**Kiddush:** Reuven Frank . . . . . rfrank82@gmail.com

**Website:** Shoshana Zakar . . . . . sue.zakar@gmail.com

**Gabbaim:**

Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net

Allan Genut . . . . . agenut@gmail.com

Ephraim Siff

**Bulletin:** Howard Kaplon . . . . . hkaplon@towson.edu

### DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

**Friday, 6/30 — 11 Tamuz**

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

**Shabbat, 7/1 — 12 Tamuz**

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:24 a.m.  
Minchah — 8:05 p.m.  
Shiur — after Minchah  
Ma'ariv — 9:23 p.m.

**Sunday, 7/2 — 13 Tamuz**

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

**Monday, 7/3 — 14 Tamuz**

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

**Tuesday — Independence Day, 7/4 — 15 Tamuz**

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

**Wednesday, 7/5 — 16 Tamuz**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

**Thursday — Fast of 17<sup>th</sup> Tamuz, 7/6 — 17 Tamuz**

Fast begins — 3:56 a.m.  
Shacharit — 6:40 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:10 p.m.  
Fast Ends — 9:09 p.m.

**Friday, 7/7 — 18 Tamuz**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Candles — 8:17 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.