

# The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

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



August 27, 2022

Re'eh

30 Av, 5782

## Looking in the Right Direction

In general, as we walk along the twists and turns of life's promenade, we focus straight ahead, diverting our attention now and then to the right or to the left.

When taking a walk after a heavy rain, we walk with downcast eyes to avoid puddles and mud. A downward glance is also in order when searching for a lost item.

Our gaze is drawn to the skies above when we've sighted a flock of birds flying in formation, or when trying to determine if the storm will hold off until we get home, or when hearing the squeals of a delighted child who has spotted a kite dancing in the wind.

You can look up and you can look down. You can look sideways, front and back. It's a free world, so depending on what you need to see, you can look most anywhere you want.

But, is there a preferred place to look? Judaism, of course, has something to say about where and where not to look.

Peering into the Torah gives us our first insight:

When the non-Jewish prophet Bilam was attempting to curse the Jewish people as they dwelled peacefully in the Sinai desert, the words that tumbled out of his mouth were actually words of blessing. He said, "Ma Tovu-How good are your tents Jacob, your dwelling places Israel." We say these words each day in our morning prayers and sing them to express Jewish unity and brotherhood at camps or retreats.

Classical Jewish teachings explain that the cause of Bilam's blessing and awe of the Jewish people was that as they were encamped, each tent was pitched or situated in a way that allowed for the total privacy of every family. In addition, every family respected everyone else's privacy; no one attempted to pry into his neighbor's business which included not being concerned with what the neighbor possessed.

Surely the sentiments of "Ma Tovu" are positive steps toward Jewish unity: privacy, non-interference, no attempt to keep up with the Schwartzes.

Jewish mysticism takes the idea of where to look and where not to look one step further: In spiritual matters one should look up, in material matters one should look down, Chasidut suggests.

When working on one's relationship with friends, family, colleagues, and certainly G-d, one should "look up" to a mentor or role model who has healthy, strong and dynamic interactions.

Conversely, regarding our financial, physical or other situations - we should "look down" at (but not down on) those who are not as fortunate, and recognize

just how blessed we are.

To this outlook one might object, "Someone else's life is not my reality; his sack of woes is not mine." But if, rather than looking at whoever has a bigger house, a better job or fewer aches and pains, we consider that there are people without housing altogether, people whose employers have down-sized them out of a job, when we acknowledge that, thank G-d, we're alive to complain about the aches and pains, we will realize how fortunate we truly are.

In the Days of Moshiach we are promised that there will be no jealousy or strife. Each of us will have everything we need and we will recognize that we have everything we need! Perhaps even now, in these last moments before the Redemption, we can have a "happy with our lot" mindset, and certainly this will prepare us for and hasten the long-awaited revelation of Moshiach.

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

## Opportunity for Blessing

When there were no esrogim one Succos in Vilna, a man told Rabbi Eliyahu Kramer, the Vilna Gaon, that he would procure one for the rabbi, if the rabbi would give him the Heavenly merits of that mitzva (commandment). The Vilna Gaon jumped at the deal, and said "Now I can do the mitzva only because Hashem wants me to do it and not because of any reward!!"

"I (G-d) am placing before you a blessing and a curse. The blessing, you will listen to the mitzvos ..." (Divorim 11:26-7). The Abarbanel says that doing the mitzva itself (aside from Heavenly rewards) is a blessing!!

We have so many opportunities for blessings, let's not squander them!!

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



Sponsorships are available for two flower displays on the Bima during each of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Succot. Please consider sponsoring the flowers in honor or in memory of someone. Please email Allan Genut at [agenut@gmail.com](mailto:agenut@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

**Introducing Yitzchok's Toy Box:** A therapy toy and equipment gemach l'zecher nishmas Yitzchok Sheffield A'H. Parents can borrow items for short term use, or try therapy equipment and toys for their child before buying them.

Contact: 443-879-3169 or [yitzchokstoybox@gmail.com](mailto:yitzchokstoybox@gmail.com) with a recommendation from a PT, OT, or speech therapist.



"The Book of Jewish Knowledge" edited by Rabbi Shmuel Kaplan is now available to order online at [myjli.com/catalog/product/bojk/](http://myjli.com/catalog/product/bojk/)

### Yahrzeits This Week:

Yehudah Buchwalter    6 Elul - Thursday night / Friday    for mother    Faiga Leba bas Chaim HaCohen

### SHUL DIRECTORY

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### DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

**Friday, 8/26 — 29 Av**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat — Rosh Chodesh Elul, 8/27 — 30 Av**  
 Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:47 a.m.  
 Minchah — 7:15 p.m.  
 Shiur: *Overcoming Folly* — after Minchah  
 Ma'ariv — 8:29 p.m.

**Sunday — Rosh Chodesh Elul, 8/28 — 1 Elul**  
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:25 p.m.

**Monday, 8/29 — 2 Elul**  
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:25 p.m.

**Tuesday, 8/30 — 3 Elul**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:25 p.m.

**Wednesday, 8/31 — 4 Elul**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:25 p.m.

**Thursday, 9/1 — 5 Elul**  
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:25 p.m.

**Friday, 9/2 — 6 Elul**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.  
 Shabbat Candles — 7:17 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.