

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



October 8, 2022

Ha'Azinu — Sukkot

13 Tishrei, 5783

The Sole of the Soul

Once, on the festival of Simchat Torah, the Baal Shem Tov (founder of Chasidism) told his disciples:

"On Simchat Torah people generally oversleep a bit because of the late festival meal and the dancing of the night before. But the angels do not have this sort of schedule, so naturally, they 'wake' up on Simchat Torah at the same time as usual. The angels want to begin chanting their songs of praise to G-d, but they are not permitted to do so until the Jews begin their prayers. So off they go to tidy up the Garden of Eden-Paradise.

"Now, in the Garden of Eden, the angels find articles they have never before encountered. What could these things be? The Garden is strewn with soles of shoes! The angels are mystified. They are accustomed to finding prayer books, Shabbat candles, coins for charity, tefilin, and mezuzot in the Garden, but shoe soles?

Off the angels go to question the angel Michael*. The angel Michael explains to them that this is his doing-these soles and slippers are the result of Jews dancing with the Torah. Lovingly, the angel begins collecting the soles. "These are from Kaminka and these from Mezeritch," and so on, he enumerates.

Then the angel Michael proudly insists that he is superior to the angel who binds crowns for the Creator from the prayers of the Jewish people. "The torn soles of Simchat Torah make a finer crown," he declares.

Many of us aren't gifted with a "good" head. Not everyone has a kind and caring heart. But most everyone has feet with which to dance and hands with which to clap.

And we all have voices with which to sing-though some of us are more in tune than others.

The festival of Sukkot is referred to as the "Season of Our Rejoicing." In addition to participating in the mitzvot (commandments) of eating in a sukka, and shaking the lulav and etrog, we have been given the additional mitzva to rejoice and be happy.

During Sukkot itself, in commemoration of a special service that used to take place in the Holy Temple, celebrations take place in Jewish communities all over the world. At these celebrations, known as Simchat Beit HaSho'eiva, Jews celebrate in a manner in which all Jews are truly equal, by rejoicing!

The dancing and festivities of Sukkot and Simchat Beit HaSho'eiva culminate in the whirling and twirling and uninhibited exuberance of Simchat Torah, when we rejoice equally with the Torah, not with heads and hearts, nor with our wallets, but with feet and shoes and with the soles that are later collected in the Garden of Eden and woven into a most luminous and fine crown for the Creator.

Celebrate with your family, with friends and with your feet during the upcoming "Season of Our Rejoicing." Get out there and exercise your soles and your soul simultaneously!

*) The angel Michael is the angel of loving-kindness. He is responsible for bestowing upon the Jewish people blessings of children, health, and wealth.

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

The Higher We Rise . . .

In the Parashot we have read in recent weeks, and continuing in this week's Parashah, Moshe Rabbeinu delivers his farewell address to Bnei Yisrael on his last day in this world. R' Doron David Gold shlita (Menahel Ruchani of Yeshivat Derech Chochmah in Yerushalayim) notes that Moshe Rabbeinu seems to have reserved his toughest rebuke and warnings for this final day. Why? Weren't Bnei Yisrael at the very pinnacle of their spiritual growth after forty years under Moshe Rabbeinu's leadership?

R' Gold explains: The higher a person's spiritual ascent, the farther he is prone to fall. Thus, precisely because Bnei Yisrael had attained such a high level, Moshe Rabbeinu had to warn them to guard themselves in the future.

(continued on the other side)

R' Gold continues: We are now standing just after Yom Kippur, when we attained the highest spiritual levels that most people achieve all year. Thus, we, too, must be wary of falling very far and very hard. The Gemara (Berachot 6b) instructs that a person leaving Shul should not take large strides. Indeed, records the Gemara (Berachot 32b), the pious people of old used to sit in Shul for one hour after Davening. In this way, explains R' Gold, they eased into their everyday activities rather than rushing headlong from their spiritual high into mundane life. We, too, must ease out of Yom Kippur.

R' Gold adds: It is said in the name of R' Yisrael Lipkin z"l (1810-1883; "R' Yisrael Salanter"; founder of the Mussar movement), "Every day should be like Elul, and Elul is Elul." Perhaps R' Yisrael means that we must try to preserve some of the spiritual gains of Elul and the High Holiday period so that, when Elul returns next year, we will start off on a higher level than we did last Elul. (Kuntreis Hirkhurei Teshuvah p.121)

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

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 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:

Ethel Fischer	13 Tishrei - Friday night / Shabbat	for mother	Menucha bas Yaakov Dovid
Michael Frank	14 Tishrei - Saturday night / Sunday	for mother	Chaya Zelda bas Moshe HaCohen
Mitch Mayer	15 Tishrei - Sunday night / Monday	for grandfather	Max Mayer
Mitch Mayer	15 Tishrei - Sunday night / Monday	for grandmother	Ida Mayer
Bluma Lewin	16 Tishrei - Monday night / Tuesday	for father	Reuven ben Yisroel Yitzchok

SHUL DIRECTORY

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 10/7 — 12 Tishrei

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 6:21 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:25 p.m.

Shabbat, 10/8 — 13 Tishrei

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:59 a.m.
 Minchah — 6:10 p.m.
 Shiur: *Overcoming Folly* — after Minchah
 Ma'ariv — 7:21 p.m.

Sunday — Erev Sukkot, 10/9 — 14 Tishrei

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Candles — 6:18 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:20 p.m.
 Kiddush & Leishev B; Sukkah — after 7:17 p.m.

Monday — Sukkot, 10/10 — 15 Tishrei

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:00 a.m.
 Minchah — 6:15 p.m.
 Candles — after 7:19 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 7:20 p.m.

Tuesday — Sukkot, 10/11 — 16 Tishrei

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:00 a.m.
 Minchah — 6:15 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday — Chol HaMoed, 10/12 — 17 Tishrei

Shacharit — 6:25 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:15 p.m.

Thursday — Chol HaMoed, 10/13 — 18 Tishrei

Shacharit — 6:25 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:15 p.m.

Friday — Chol HaMoed, 10/14 — 19 Tishrei

Shacharit — 6:25 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 6:10 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:10 p.m.