

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



January 25, 2025

Vaera — Shabbat M'vorchim

25 Tevet, 5785

Follow the Leader

Follow the leader. We've all played the game. He or she leads us on a march. If the leader goes left, we go left. If he goes right, we go right. If he stops, we stop. And so on.

Why is that? Why do we follow the leader?

We follow the leader because, well, he leads. That's his job. It's like asking why do we let the mechanic work on our car, the electrician wire our house or the stock broker manage our money. We do so because that's their job, and we trust them.

That's a key element, trust, because we give the leader special privileges. Parking perks, titles and honors - the leader gets set apart. He can interrupt, but not be interrupted. A leader has access to people and information that others don't, and we trust him to use that access wisely.

Because the minute a leader becomes selfish, he's no longer a leader. The plumber can have a conflict of interest; he can recommend a competent contractor, knowing the contractor, if he gets the job, will hire him for the plumbing work. But a leader who benefits from his leadership role - or who benefits his friends - loses the right to be a leader.

In other words, it's not enough for a leader's first concern to be the welfare of the people he leads. That must be his only concern.

Even someone engaged in the loftiest personal pursuit, even the greatest scholar and deepest mystic - if he is a leader, he cannot withdraw, isolate himself, immerse himself in his own studies, his own burdens and troubles. He must put all this aside for the ones who trust him, who depend on him.

We see this with Moses. Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron, "Go take care of your own burdens." What burdens? As the Sages tell us, the tribe of Levi was not subject to the slavery of Egypt. Pharaoh meant, you, Moses and Aaron, belong to the tribe of teachers and scholars. Get involved with the burdens of scholarship and leave the people to their labors.

But as we know, Moses did not listen to Pharaoh. Moses our teacher exemplified the true leader, the true teacher. He put aside his concerns, his interests, his own "burdens," to teach, to lead the Jewish people.

A spark of Moses exists within each of us. While we are not constant leaders - we have times when we step into a different role - it remains true that more than we realize, sometimes, we must exhibit leadership. In a sense, we must all actively, yet reluctantly, pursue the job of leader.

For it's a "job description" that applies to every Jew. As Moses our teacher concerned himself not only with the scholar, but equally with the simple and unlearned, so we must take the initiative and teach what we know. As our Sages have told us: "If all you know are the Hebrew letters "alef" and "bet," find someone who only knows "alef" and teach him "bet." Since every Jew is responsible one for another, so every Jew must lead, one to another.

And as a nation of leaders like Moses, we will teach, each to those within our spheres of influence, the way to Moshiach and the ultimate Redemption.

(by Dovid Y.B. Kaufmann a'h from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

Time to Think

"I know he gave me an important message, but thank G-d, I've been so busy with my daughter's wedding, I haven't been able to think about it yet."

(continued on the other side)

"And Moshe spoke to Bnai Yisroel, but they didn't listen to him because of shortness of spirit and hard labor." (Shemos 6:9) So often, we have thinking to do, and improvements to make, but we are too busy.

The Gemarah in Sota (5b) says "Those who deliberate their paths in this world will be worthy to witness the salvation of G-d." Just the contemplation itself is an essential part of our victories in life!!

(by Rabbi Chaim Flom 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.

Kol Hanaarim – every Friday evening during the winter at **7:30 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.



'The Rav's Friday Night Hashkafa Q&A Shiur for Men'

will take place **this Friday night – January 24th**
at 8:00 p.m. and will be held at
the home of **Mr. Josh and Mrs. Rikki Volosov**,
at 6607 Shelrick Place.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Avraham Rosenblum 28 Tevet - Monday night / Tuesday for mother Ita Bluma bas Moshe

SHUL DIRECTORY

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 1/24 – 24 Tevet
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Shabbat Candles — 5:00 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 1/25 – 25 Tevet
Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:47 a.m.
Minchah — 4:50 p.m.
Shiur — after Minchah
Shkiah — 5:19 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 6:02 p.m.

Sunday, 1/26 – 26 Tevet
Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Minchah / Maariv — 5:05 p.m.

Monday, 1/27 – 27 Tevet
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:05 p.m.

Tuesday, 1/28 – 28 Tevet
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m..
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:05 p.m.

Wednesday, 1/29 – 29 Tevet
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:05 p.m.
Tanya Shiur: 2nd part of Tanya Shaar HaYichud
V'Emunah which deals w/the nature of creation and
the unity of Hashem — 8:00 p.m.

Thursday – Rosh Chodesh Shevat, 1/30 – 1 Shevat
Shacharit — 6:40 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:05 p.m.

Friday, 1/31 – 2 Shevat
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Shabbat Candles — 5:09 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:10 p.m.