

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



February 15, 2025

Yitro

17 Shevat, 5785

Torah Business Inc.

Over three thousand years ago, the thunder crashed, the mountain smoked and the sound of the *shofar* rose higher and higher, as we received the Torah at Sinai.

According to the Talmud, G-d says, "Whoever busies himself (*osek*) with Torah and with charity, and prays with the congregation, I consider it for him as if he had redeemed Me and My sons from amongst the nations of the world." Why is such an outstanding expression of merit and virtue accorded to someone who "busies himself with Torah"? Isn't Torah study the plain duty of every Jew? Isn't this what each of us accepted and pledged ourselves to at Sinai?

But the secret lies in the word "busies himself." Torah study is indeed the duty of every person, but special merit is reserved for one whose preoccupation with Torah learning, with charity and with prayer is like that of the businessman with his business.

The hired worker always keeps an eye on the clock. When the hours of his employment are over, he leaves the affairs and the worries of the business behind and goes home. Not so the businessman. Even while he sits at the supper table, although he seems to be eating and drinking like everyone else—a careful look at his facial expression, at the thoughtfulness in his eyes, reveals that the affairs of his business are very much on his mind. And although the business may be doing very well, there is always room for improvement! Even when he goes to sleep, the thoughts that were uppermost on his mind all day find expression in his dreams, which center on his business.

"Whoever busies himself with Torah, with charity ..."

The morning Torah study session may be over, but Torah is his business, and he cannot leave it completely behind. He may seem to be eating and drinking like another, but his mind is still absorbed in the passage of Torah he studied earlier. He may already have fulfilled his obligation of giving charity by donating at least a tenth of his income to charity, but charity is his business; he is constantly looking for someone in need of a favor or in need of financial assistance, so that he can help them. With these thoughts he goes to sleep, and around them his dreams revolve.

When a person becomes a "Torah businessman," then, G-d considers him as meritorious as if he had redeemed the *shechinah* (G-d's spirit) from exile.

(by Rabbi Yitschak Meir Kagan from <http://www.chabad.org/>)

A New World

In this week's Parashah, the Torah is given. Matan Torah / the Giving of the Torah caused a significant change in Hashem's relationship with the world, writes R' Gershon Chanoch Henach Leiner z"l (1839-1890; Radzhiner Rebbe, best known for his efforts to reintroduce the Mitzvah of Techeilet). In Tehilim (Ch.136), the expression, "Ki l'olam chasdo" / "For His kindness endures forever" appears 26 times. Our Sages teach that these verses allude to the 26 generations from Creation until Matan Torah. Not having the Torah, those generations endured only thanks to Hashem's kindness. After the Torah was given, in contrast, another verse in Tehilim (128:2) applies: "When you eat the labors of your hands, it is praiseworthy." While we are always dependent to a large degree on Hashem's kindness, His desire after Matan Torah is that we earn our right to exist by recognizing His "light, knowing of His presence in this world, studying Torah and performing Mitzvot. As the well-known Mishnah (Makkot 3:16) states: "The Holy One, Blessed is He, wished to confer merit upon Yisrael; therefore He gave them Torah and Mitzvot in abundance."

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The Radzhiner Rebbe adds: Our Parashah relates that the Torah was given amidst a cacophony of sounds—sounds that, until now, were only a whisper. And, the Zohar teaches that the sound of the Shofar that was heard at Matan Torah alludes to the “word” that “emanates from the mouth of Hashem, [by which] man lives” (see Devarim 8:3). The Radzhiner Rebbe explains: Before Matan Torah, it was not widely known that the entire world exists only by G-d’s word. Part of the revelation at Har Sinai was that the world is sustained by His word, which henceforth will emanate from Hashem in the merit of our Torah study and our Mitzvot. (Sha’ar Ha’emunah V’yesod Ha’chassidut p.10-11)

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



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

will take place **Friday night – February 21st**
at 8:15 p.m. and will be held at
the home of **Larry and Flo Ziffer**,
at 2530 Farrington Road.

Questions can be submitted in advance to rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com.



We happily wish Mazel Tov to
Mr. Yechiel and Mrs. Rochelle Rubin and Family
on the **Birth of a Granddaughter, Esther Yehudis**,
born to their children
Ilana Dafna and Nissam Pinto.



We wish a Mazel Tov to **Natan Shlomo Selis**
on the occasion of his **Bar Mitzvah**.
We also wish a hearty Mazel Tov to
Natan’s Parents - **Mr. Yaakov and Mrs. Erina Selis**,
Natan’s Grandparents - **Major Michael & Lisette Young**
and **Mr. Michael & Mrs. Renee Selis**.
A special Mazel Tov to Natan’s Great Grandmother - **Mrs. Rita Young**.
Welcome to all of Natan’s **Family and Friends**
who are here with us celebrating this Simcha.
Yaakov and Erina Selis are sponsoring Kiddush after davening in honor of this simcha.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Hadassah Block	18 Shevat - Saturday night / Sunday	for mother	Yerusha bas Avraham
Rabbi Shmuel Kaplan	19 Shevat - Sunday night / Monday	for wife	Rochel bas HaRov Peretz

DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 2/14 – 16 Shevat

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Shabbat Candles — 5:24 p.m.
Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:25 p.m.

Shabbat, 2/15 – 17 Shevat

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z’man Kriat Shema — 9:37 a.m.
Minchah — 5:10 p.m.
Shiur — after Minchah
Shkiah — 5:44 p.m.
Ma’ariv — 6:26 p.m.

Sunday, 2/16 – 18 Shevat

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Minchah / Maariv — 5:30 p.m.

Monday, 2/17 – 19 Shevat

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 2/18 – 20 Shevat

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m..
Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 2/19 – 21 Shevat

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:30 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, 2/20- – 22 Shevat

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:30 p.m.

Friday, 2/21 – 23 Shevat

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Shabbat Candles — 5:32 p.m.
Minchah / Ma’ariv — 5:35 p.m.