

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



December 4, 2021

Miketz — Chanukah — Rosh Chodesh Tevet

30 Kislev, 5782

When Your Oil is Running Low

Today was one of those days that you usually hear moms kvetch about. Except that today, mom was out of town. On an early flight to Atlanta for a family celebration. So I was mom.

Today began, well really today began last night. All parents have such days, when it seems that all that can go wrong, will.

One kid woke up with fever about an hour into my nap (calling it a night's sleep would be overstating things) complaining of a sore throat. After settling him, the coughing began with another one of the children. It really didn't stop. Still hasn't. Post nasal drip is what we were told again and again.

There was a Bar Mitzva scheduled for this morning so I was grateful when I managed an early doctors appointment. Wasn't as grateful when they two kids came back strep positive.

Then the whirlwind began, baby sitter, bar mitzva, older kid to the bus, Chanukah party in Boston, dinner baths, Menorah lighting, etc.

I had really looking forward to lighting the entire eight candles of the menorah. To me this has always been my favorite time of the holiday, the culmination of an awesome holiday. I don't always get sentimental, but this is my thing.

Bleary eyed, I gathered the kids around and we lit the candles. However one of my wicks just wouldn't say lit. I lit it and re-lit it again and again but it wasn't working. I pushed the wick deeper into the oil hoping that it would absorb more oil, perhaps then it would light, but that too didn't work.

I then pulled the wick out more, even though the bottom of the wick would no longer reach the bottom of the oil glass (i.e. it would burn less time than the others) but this way at least it would stay lit.

It worked. In fact it worked so well, that now that flame was larger than the others. Then it hit, me.

What to do when your oil is running low? When you feel like you've run out of fuel to keep your flame lit, what can you do? Most people (myself included) try to bring the flame to it again and again. But if the fuel injector is not working, it still won't light, no matter how many times you try. Then, common sense would be to stick the wick deeper into the oil trying to immerse yourself in your source of inspiration thinking that this should for sure work. But alas, this too does not always do the trick.

Sometimes, you have to trust that the fuel that has been previously injected is sufficiently potent. Rather than go back for more inspiration - pushing the wick back into the oil - trust that the given inspiration is enough to keep your flames lit. Pull that wick a bit further from the source. See if it will light and stay lit? See if you have now mastered the message of the lights of the holiday, not just to light them but for them to be lights that are self-sustaining lights.

In all likelihood, you will find, particularly on this eighth and final night of Chanukah, that the light has so permeated you and your candles that when you pull it from the source, not only will your candle light, but it burn better and brighter than before.

Is this not the whole point of the Festival of Lights? To take that light and bring into the cold bitter winter that follows?

The last day of Chanukah is called ZOT Chanukah, meaning THIS IS Chanukah. And well, isn't this exactly what Chanukah really is all about?

Trust yourself and try it.

(by Rabbi Nechemia Schusterman from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

"He made a feast for all his servants." (Melachim I 3:15)

Rashi writes: From here we learn that one makes a festive meal upon completing the Torah.

R' Moshe Soloveitchik z"l (1879-1941; Rosh Yeshiva of RIETS in New York) notes: Here, King Shlomo did not complete the study of any section of the Torah. Rather, he woke up from his sleep with "a wise and understanding heart" that would enable him to learn more in the future. From the fact that we nevertheless learn the concept of a Siyum from here, we see that the real joy of a Siyum is not in completing the Torah, but rather in beginning again. (Quoted in Reshimot Shiurim: Sukkah p.299)

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

Community Information of Interest

December 20: The Power of Faith and Trust Through Challenges with Reb Sholom Mordechai Rubashkin. A lecture and book signing for men and women at Bnai Jacon-Shaarei Zion from 7 to 9 p.m. \$15 per person. Early bird special by December 7 is \$25 per couple. A Farbrengen for men only starting at 9:30 p.m. at Yeshivas Lubavitch. For reservations visit www.alephlearninginstitute.org For information call 443-220-9124.

Kiddush extras this Shabbat have been generously sponsored by

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Berkovitz and family
L'kovod Shabbos Rosh Chodesh Chanukah
and iluy nishmat **Dovid ben Yisrael Isser.**



Kol Hanaarim— Father and Son Learning – every Friday evening during the winter at 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. in The Shul. Chulent and other refreshments are served. Each session is 'topped off' at the end with a fascinating story. For any questions, please see Rabbi Itzkowitz.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Chaim Kahn	1 Tevet - Saturday night / Sunday	for father	Rav Nachman ben R' Meir
Deborah Eisenberg	1 Tevet - Saturday night / Sunday	for mother	Sheva bas Rav Chaim Elazar
Rebetzin Rochelle Kaplan	3 Tevet - Monday night / Tuesday	for father	Rav Peretz ben Yehoshua

SHUL DIRECTORY

Rabbi: Shmuel Kaplan . . . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com
Treasurer: Michael Frank . . . shul.chabad@gmail.com
Kiddush: Reuven Frank rfrank82@gmail.com
Bulletin: Howard Kaplon hkaplon@towson.edu
Website: Shoshana Zakar sue.zakar@gmail.com

Gabbaim:
Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net
Allan Genut agenut@gmail.com
Ephraim Siff
Mikvah Mei Menachem 410-415-5113
Aleph Learning Institute . Mrs. Rochel Kaplan, Director
www.alephlearninginstitute.org / email: alephji@gmail.com

DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 12/3 — 29 Kislev

Shacharit — 6:45 a.m.
Sixth Chanukah Candle — 4:23 p.m.
Shabbat Candles — 4:25 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.

Shabbat — Rosh Chodesh Tevet, 12/4 — 30 Kislev

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:26 a.m.
Minchah — 4:15 p.m.
Ma'ariv— 5:27 p.m. – begin saying **טל ומטר לברכה**
Seventh Chanukah Candle —Havdalah at Home

Sunday — Rosh Chodesh Tevet, 12/5 — 1 Tevet

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m. — 2nd Floor
Father and Son Learning — 6:00 p.m.
Eighth Chanukah Candle — at night

Monday, 12/6 — 2 Tevet

Shacharit — 6:45 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m. — 2nd Floor

Tuesday, 12/7 — 3 Tevet

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m. — 2nd Floor

Wednesday, 12/8 — 4 Tevet

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m. — 2nd Floor

Thursday, 12/9 — 5 Tevet

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m. — 2nd Floor
Chavrusa Learning with Chabad Yeshiva — 8 to 10 p.m.

Friday, 12/10 — 6 Tevet

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Shabbat Candles — 4:25 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.