

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



June 24, 2023

Korach

5 Tamuz, 5783

Dot-to-Dot

Do you remember doing dot-to-dot puzzles as a child? To a preschooler, connecting the dots could be difficult, even aggravating. It takes patience to stay focused and complete the puzzle, especially as a young child can't see the total picture that the connected dots will create. When you were a little older (and certainly as an adult), it was easier to visualize the picture the dots would fashion even without connecting them.

Each dot stands on its own and each dot is a necessary and integral part of the whole picture.

At a public gathering, the Rebbe related the story of a young Jewish girl who, after learning about Shabbat candles, pressed her mother to allow her to fulfill this special commandment. Dot.

The Rebbe described how this ritual awakened the mother's interest in Jewish observance, pushing her to take her own steps forward. Dot.

The candle-lighting campaign is just one of many "dots" the Rebbe encouraged people to place on their own personal work of art.

Boys over Bar Mitzva and men wearing tefilin each weekday. Dot. Giving charity, even just a small coin each weekday. Dot. Loving one's fellow Jew. Dot. Married couples observing the laws of family purity. Dot. Keeping the kosher dietary laws. Dot. Having mezuzot on one's doors. Dot. Studying Torah. Dot. Having Jewish books in one's home. Dot. Jewish kids getting a Jewish education. Dot.

The dot by dot philosophy is the Rebbe's approach not just for each person's individualized illustration but for the transformation of the entire world as well. For G-d's intent in creating this world was that it be transformed into the picture-perfect era of Redemption: a pain and war free universe, where all people will live together harmoniously.

How do we accomplish such a seemingly monumental task as the transformation of the entire world to good? Through the small, good deeds - dots - of people across the globe:

"Moshiach is ready to come now," the Rebbe told CNN reporters. "It is only on our part to increase in acts of goodness and kindness." Dot.

Each individual's small strides, join the dots on the huge artwork-in-progress which, when completed, will display the Rebbe's vision that powers his leadership. It is a vision that began forming when he was just a young child, a vision of "the Redemption of the Jewish people from their final exile, a Redemption of such magnitude that through it will be understood the suffering, the terrible decrees, persecution and oppression of the exile ..."

May our dots and deeds be joined to create the ultimate masterpiece with Moshiach NOW!

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

The Korach Rebellion

This week's reading describes the rebellion of Korach and other disastrous incidents that occurred to the generation that left Egypt, who were destined to expire in the desert of Sinai. After the previous debacles: the complaints against Moshe by Miriam and Aaron, the demand for food, the ingratitude towards the manna that fell from heaven, the failed mission of the spies who visited the land of Israel and the military defeat suffered by the Jews at the hands of the Canaanites, it seems that this generation would have learned its lesson by now.

Instead of internalizing the reasons for these events and their reactions, we read in this week's portion about the anger and frustration by many of the leaders that was turned upon Moshe instead of the self-examination that would have been proper and beneficial. Korach and his group spoke in the name of high-sounding democracy and equality. It is quite common in history that dangerous, corrupt, and nefarious political groups always claim the high moral ground for themselves.

One of the great shams of Marxism was that it always used high sounding moral adjectives to describe itself. When it was the aggressor, it called itself peace loving. When it was totalitarian and dictatorial in its rule, it always titled itself Democratic and progressive. The high-sounding words of fairness and equality that were hurled against Moshe by Korach and his group of followers, sound hollow to us even today, thousands of years later.

(continued on the other side)

We have witnessed in our own time the fact that disparate groups and differing individuals unite because of a common hatred or dislike of another group or person. According to the Midrash, each of the 250 followers of Korach had a different agenda and ambition for themselves. It was the opportunity to strike down Moshe, whose presence and greatness so tormented them, that it brought all of these differing personalities together and ironically guaranteed them a common fate of destruction.

Because of his piety and innocence, Moshe is the greatest thorn in the side of the rebels who are only looking for their satisfaction and advancement. Moshe understands it is not his personal honor that is at stake here, but rather the entire concept of Torah leadership and the essence of being a special people with a divine mission. It is not his personal reputation alone that he is defending but, rather, the spiritual future of the Jewish people.

The rebellion of Korach is not a small offense but a great personal failing like the sin of the Golden Calf. It is a mortal blow to the continuity of the Jewish people and to its very survival. The Torah describes the events throughout the desert of Sinai so that we will be aware of the pitfalls that lie at the footsteps of personal ambition and unwarranted hubris.

(by Rabbi Berel Wein 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.

Mr. Shmuel and Mrs. Esther Lyss are sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbat in memory of Shmuel's father, **Reuven Peretz ben Getzel**, whose yahrzeit was the 4th of Tamuz.



Yahrzeits This Week:

Lawrence Ziffer 9 Tamuz - Tuesday night / Wednesday for father Pinchas ben Yosef Elimelech

SHUL DIRECTORY

Rabbi: Shmuel Kaplan . . . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 6/23 — 4 Tamuz

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 6/24 — 5 Tamuz

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.

Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:22 a.m.

Minchah — 8:05 p.m.

Shiur — after Minchah

Ma'ariv — 9:22 p.m.

Sunday, 6/25 — 6 Tamuz

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

Monday, 6/26 — 7 Tamuz

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

Tuesday, 6/27 — 8 Tamuz

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

Wednesday, 6/28 — 9 Tamuz

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

Thursday, 6/29 — 10 Tamuz

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:25 p.m.

Friday, 6/30 — 11 Tamuz

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Candles — 8:19 p.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.