The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org

November 11, 2023 | **Chayei Sarah — Shabbat M'vorchim** | **27 Cheshvan, 5784**

The Life Preserver

The story is told of a man who is on the verge of drowning in the middle of the ocean. He prays, "G-d, I put my trust in You, save me."

Sooner than later a speed boat comes along and the crew throws the man a life-preserver. "That's O.K.," he shouts to them, "G-d will save me."

Once again the man prays to G-d to save him. Within a few moments, a raft floats by. But the man ignores it until it is beyond reach.

For a third time the man prays, "Master of the World, I await Your deliverance." Just then he hears a helicopter overhead and watches as a line is let down for him. Emphatically, the man shakes his head "No." He is waiting for G-d to save him.

The man waits and waits and waits for G-d, Himself, to save him. But He doesn't, and so the man drowns.

You can well imagine that at the first opportunity the man asks G-d why He didn't save him. "Oh, but I tried to," G-d answers. "You just didn't let Me."

What a schlemiel, we say about the star of this fictitious story. It was so obvious that G-d was trying to save him. Did he really expect G-d, Himself, to save him? A real blockhead he is!

But wait a minute, how do we react when similar, though less dramatic things really do happen around us and in our own lives?

How many times do we attribute events to chance, coincidence, luck? How many miracles take place unnoticed? Do we see G-d's saving hand in the near-accident that could well have been disastrous? Do we acknowledge that it is because of G-d's blessings that our next-door-neighbor, who really isn't all that bright or motivated, landed an excellent job, even in today's economy? Do we admit that Divine Providence is a big factor in why we're doing what we're doing when we're doing it?

Each and every day G-d sends us - albeit through messengers - rafts, life-preservers, and ropes. Sometimes we use them without even acknowledging their source. Sometimes we don't use them, all the while griping and grumbling that G-d has forgotten about us or doesn't care about us or doesn't hear our requests.

Once in a long while something takes place which can only be defined as a miracle. When that happens, we uncomfortably thank G-d. Uncomfortably because we're so unused to acknowledging the Divine hand. It makes us uneasy.

But we needn't wait for a miracle, nor persistently expect G-d Himself to get us out of the fine mess we've gotten into. We can keep ourselves from drowning by opening our eyes, by re-focusing ourselves and fine-tuning our vision so that G-d doesn't have to tell us, "Oh, but I tried to save you, you just didn't let Me!"

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

Consolation

Rabbi Yaacov Katz (a Rosh Chabura in the Mirrer Yeshiva) and I were among eight people who were needed to make a minyan for mourners whom we didn't know. As the other six left after the davening, they said perfunctorily "Hamakom Yinachem…" (the standard line of consoling a mourner). Rabbi Katz sat down and said to these strangers "tell me something about your mother…" We stayed there for about ten minutes listening.

"And it was after the death of Avraham that G-d blessed Yitzchok (Avraham's son)…" (Biraishis 25:11) The Gemara in Sota 14a learns that this was G-d's way of comforting a mourner, and we are supposed to emulate the ways of G-d.

That day, some of us did a mitzva of helping make a mourner's minyan, and others also really fulfilled the mitzva of consoling mourners. (By the way, no one has the real secret of what to say to mourners, but certainly showing that you are concerned and interested goes a long way.)

(by Rabbi Chaim Flom from Project Genesis at www.torah.org

We happily wish Mazel Tov to

Rabbi Shimon and Mrs. Chani Raskin and Family

on the **Birth of a Son**.

If you have borrowed ***The Book of Jewish Knowledge*** from the Shul, please return it to Rabbi Kaplan.

Kol Hanaarim– Father and Son Learning –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.

We wish a Mazel Tov to **Daniel Siegel**
on the occasion of his **Bar Mitzvah**.
We also wish a hearty Mazel Tov to
Daniel's parents - **Mr. Shmuel & Mrs. Mira Siegel**,
Daniel's Grandparents - **Mr. Herbert Siegel** and **Mr. David & Mrs. Pam Reiz**,
and all of Daniel's **Family and Friends**
who are here with us celebrating this Simcha.
Shmuel and Mira are sponsoring Kiddush after davening this Shabbat
in honor of this simcha.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Aaron Margolies	2 Kislev - Tuesday night / Wednesday	for mother	Shoshana bat Moshe ha-Levi
Terry Frank	3 Kislev - Wednesday night / Thursday	for father	Avigdor Shaul ben Paltiel
Sally Friedman	3 Kislev - Wednesday night / Thursday	for husband	Avigdor Shaul ben Paltiel

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 11/10 — 26 Cheshvan
Shacharit —7:00 a.m.
Candles — 4:38 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.

Shabbat, 11/11 — 27 Cheshvan
Shacharit – 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:15 a.m.
Minchah — 4:25 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 5:39 p.m.

Sunday, 11/12 — 28 Cheshvan
Shacharit – 8:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:35 p.m.

Monday, 11/13 — 29 Cheshvan
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:35 p.m.

Tuesday — Rosh Chodesh Kislev, 11/14 — 1 Kilev
Shacharit — 6:40 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:35 p.m.

Wednesday, 11/15 — 2 Kislev
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:35 p.m

Thursday, 11/16 — 3 Kislev
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:35 p.m

Friday, 11/17 — 4 Kislev
Shacharit —7:00 a.m.
Candles — 4:32 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:35 p.m.

בס"ד

CELEBRATING THE LIGHT
OF KIDNEY DONORS IN A WORLD
THAT HAS GONE DARK

Please join us for a

Renewal

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Melava Malka

This coming Motzei Shabbos

כ"ח חשון תשפ"ד
פרשת חיי שרה
November 11th 2023

Doors open 8:30 PM
Program begins 9:15PM

CATERING BY YAFFA

Ateres Elka
2905 Walnut Ave
Owings Mills, MD

Honoring 37 local kidney donors

Shmuly Abramson • Sara Alon • Sherri Bauman • Ari Braun • Yossi Burstyn
Amiel Chicheportiche • Eliezer Eidenbaum • David Finkelstein
Aryeh Leib Freedman • Chana Freedman • Shraga Goldenhersh • Dina Greenbaum
Miriam Jacoby • David Kaplon • Meir Kraines • Larry Kramer • Aryeh Langer
Chaya Lasson • Suzann Lasson • Shaya Lerner • Gregg Levitan • Alisa Mandel
Avi Mandel • Moshe Margolese • Yakov Majeski • Shanni Majeski
Yisrael Markowitz • Ronnie Pacino • Fred Petersen • Elisheva Rabinowitz
Terri Rosen • Sora Rochel Schuck • Tamar Schulman • Shani Shuvalsky
Maggie Silver • Moshe Zayon • Anonymous

GET SWABBED • LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBER IN NEED

Join us in supporting Renewal and saving lives!

Kidney recipient host committee:
Noson Goldstein • Dr. Moshe Lasson • Eve Messing
Yossie Ryback • Zvi Tusk • Rabbi Mayer Zayon

**No cover charge.
No RSVP needed.
Please come & enjoy!**

For more information, please contact events@renewal.org

Renewal is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving lives by helping kidney donors and recipients navigate all aspects of the transplant process. Learn more at www.renewal.org

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