

# THE CHABAD WEEKLY

Vol 5, # 22

Chabad of North Beverly Hills, 409 Foothill Rd. Beverly Hills, 90210

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In the previous Torah portions of Teruma and Tetzaveh, G-d commanded Moses to build the Mishkan (Sanctuary) and make all its vessels. This week, in Vayakel and Pekudei, G-d's command is transmitted to the Jewish people and carried out in full.

Without exception, everyone participated in the building of the Sanctuary, Jews from all walks of life. Men and women, rich and poor, all contributed as much as they were able.

Their contributions, however, were not equal in value. As no specific amount was required, some donated less and some donated more, according to their individual inclination and financial ability. Thus there were contributions of gold and silver and contributions of oil and wood, if that was all a person was capable of donating.

Significantly, the type of contribution a Jew offered had nothing to do with his connection to the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary belonged to every Jew in equal measure: the rich man whose donation was extremely valuable, and the poor man whose donation was more humble. Every Jew was connected to the Sanctuary to the same degree.

"Both the one who gives more and the one who gives less; provided that he do so for the sake of heaven." Although the individual contributions may have varied, the intention behind the offering was always the same. All Jews wanted to build a House for G-d; all Jews therefore shared an equal portion in its construction.

Moses emphasized this equality among Jews, regardless of their donations, when he said, "See I have called by name Betzalel the son of Uri, the son of Chur, of the tribe of Yehudah...and Oholiav the son of Achisamach, of the tribe of Dan...He has filled them with wisdom of heart...of those who do any work, and of those who design artistic work." Betzalel and Oholiav were both in charge of all the artisans who worked on the Sanctuary.

Betzalel came from a very well-connected family. The grandson of Miriam, his tribe of Judah was one of the most prestigious.

Oholiav, by contrast, was not distinguished by his lineage. A grandson of one of the maidservants, his tribe of Dan occupied a much lower rung on the social ladder.

And yet, both men were appointed to oversee the holy work, as it states, "Betzalel and Oholiav, and all those filled with wisdom of heart...did all kinds of work for the service of the Sanctuary."

In building the Sanctuary all Jews are equal. It makes no difference whether one is rich or poor, a descendent of the most exalted parentage or a child of the simplest people. The only qualifier is that the Jew's heart be directed toward heaven! (Adapted from Likutei Sichot, Volume 26, From: L'Chaim 5759 #560)

## You shall not kindle fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath day. (Exod. 35:3)

The Torah singles out this prohibition and not any of the other 39 major forbidden activities of Shabbat. Heated arguments are like fire. They can destroy families, homes, and relationships. When a person is busy there is no time for fighting, but because Shabbat is a day of rest, the Torah warns us not to kindle the "fire of dispute," and instead occupy ourselves with Torah study and prayer. (Sha'lah) (From: L'Chaim 5759 #459) - lchaimweekly.org

## A Pound of Candles

*In his youth, the famed Maggid of Zlotchov, Rabbi Yechiel Michel, lived in a certain town, where he would sit all day in the local Beit Midrash (study hall and synagogue) and pursue his studies.*

*In that town there lived a simple Jew who earned his livelihood by transporting travelers and merchandise in his wagon. One day, the wagon driver came to the local rabbi in a state of great distress. "Help me, Rebbe!" he wept. "I have committed a terrible sin. I have desecrated the holy Shabbat. How can I atone for my transgression?"*

*"How did this come to pass?" asked the Rabbi.*

*"Last Friday," the man explained, "I was returning from the marketplace with a wagonload of merchandise when I lost my way in the forest. By the time I found my way to the outskirts of the city, the sun had already set. So preoccupied was I with my worry over the merchandise, that I failed to realize that the Shabbat had arrived until it was too late..."*

*Seeing how broken-hearted the man was, the rabbi comforted him and said: "My son, the gates of repentance are never closed. Donate a pound of candles to the synagogue and your transgression will be forgiven."*

*The young prodigy, Rabbi Michel, overheard this exchange, and was displeased by the rabbi's approach. "A pound of candles to atone for violating the Shabbat?" he thought to himself. "The Shabbat is one of the most important mitzvot of the Torah. Why is the rabbi treating the matter so lightly?"*

*That Friday afternoon, the wagon driver brought the candles to the synagogue. As Rabbi Michel watched disapprovingly from his table against the back wall, he placed them on the lectern for the synagogue beadle to light in honor of the Shabbat. But this was not to be. Before the beadle arrived, a stray dog carried off the candles and ate them.*

*The distraught penitent ran to report the incident to the rabbi. "Woe is me!" he wept. "My repentance has been rejected in Heaven! What shall I do?"*

*"You're making too much of the matter," the rabbi reassured him. "These things happen -- there's no reason to deduce that G-d is rejecting your repentance. Bring another pound of candles to the synagogue next week, and everything will be alright."*

*But when the beadle lit the candles on the following Friday afternoon, they inexplicably melted down, so that by the time Shabbat commenced, nothing was left of them. And upon his third attempt on the week after that, a strong wind suddenly blow out the candles just when Shabbat began and it was not possible to relight them.*

*The rabbi, too, realized, that something was amiss, and advised the wagon driver to seek the counsel of the great Chassidic master, Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov.*

*"Hmm..." said the Baal Shem Tov, upon hearing the man's story. "It seems that a certain young scholar in your town finds fault with the path to repentance that the rabbi has prescribed for you. Never mind. Next week, donate another pound of candles to the synagogue. This time, I promise you that everything will be alright. And tell Rabbi Michel that I would be honored if he could trouble himself to come visit me."*

*Rabbi Michel wasted no time in abiding by the Baal Shem Tov's request. But no sooner had he and his coachman set out that all sorts of troubles beset their journey. First, the wagon tumbled into a ditch. Then, an axle broke many miles from the nearest town. After which they lost their way altogether. When they finally found the road to Mezhibuzh it was late Friday afternoon and the sun was about to set. They were forced to abandon the wagon and continue on foot.*

*Rabbi Michel arrived at the Baal Shem Tov's door an hour into Shabbat, weary and traumatized by his near-violation of the holy day. "Good Shabbat, Reb Michel," Rabbi Israel greeted him, "come in and warm yourself by the fire. You, Reb Michel, have never tasted sin, so you did not comprehend the remorse a Jew feels at having transgressed the will of his Father in Heaven. I trust that you now understand something of the agony that our friend experienced. Believe me, his remorse alone more than atoned for his unwitting transgression..." (From Rabbi S.Y. Zevin's Sippurei Chassidim; translation/adaptation by Yanki Tauber) - chabad.org*

Hoshi'einu (p. 76) is said after the Song of the Day on weekdays, Shabbat, Festival s, Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. ..(FROM REBBE'S HAYOM YOM, ADAR I 25).  
 The chassid, R. Mordechai Horodoker, related: The first aphorism we heard from the Alter Rebbe when we arrived in Lyozna was: What is forbidden is forbidden, and what is permitted is unnecessary. For some three or four years we labored with this until we integrated this manner (of service) into the various aspects of our lives. Only then did we enter into yechidus, to ask for a path in avoda..(FROM REBBE'S HAYOM YOM, ADAR II 25).

*The human heart is beautiful. The human heart can know secrets deeper than any mind could know. The mind cannot contain G-d, but deep inside the heart there is a place that can. Yet there is nothing more dysfunctional than a brain controlled by emotions. In fact, the finest mind is capable of the most horrid crimes when under the heart's management. Let the heart be quiet and hear out the mind. In that quiet listening, she will discover her true beauty and her deepest secrets will awaken.*

-From the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe; Compiled by Tzvi Freeman

## PARTICIPATE IN WEEKLY CLASSES

<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Gemara-Tractate Rosh Hashana (men)</b>
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Chumash (men and women)</b>
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Gemara-Tractate Sukka (men)</b>
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b>8:30 PM</b>	<b>Halacha and Tanya (women)</b>
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Chassidus (women)</b>
	<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Class for Beverly Hills Highschool Students</b>
<b><u>Daily</u></b>	<b>6:45 to 7:15 AM</b>	<b>Chasiddus</b>
	<b>Between Mincha and Maariv</b>	<b>Halacha</b>

## DAILY MINYONIM

**Shacharis: Mon -Fri: 6:00 AM & 7:30 AM**  
**Sunday: 9:00 AM**

**Mincha/Maariv: 5:55 PM**

*There will be no classes Tues. - Wed., March 12 - 13.*

**SHABBAT PARSHAS VAYAKHEL-PEKUDEI  
 PARSHAS HACHODEH  
 March 8, 2002 - Adar 24**

**Candlelighting (Los Angeles): 5:37 PM**  
**Friday Mincha: 5:50 PM**

***LATEST TIME FOR SHEMA: 9:07 AM***

## SHABBAT MORNING

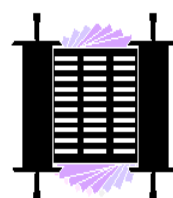
- Tehillim 8:00 AM
- Shacharit 9:30 AM followed by Kiddush, Cholent & Farbrengen
- Hagada 4:45 PM
- Mincha 5:30 PM followed by Seuda Shlishit
- Shabbat ends 6:37 PM

***Yartzeits:*** Dave Gross - Nissan 1.

***Happy Birthday*** to Lori Meisel, Yitzchok, Dovid and Binyomin Einstein.

***Mazal Tov*** to the Levy family on the upcoming marriage of Naomi to Levi Selwyn.

***Happy Anniversary*** to Berel and Miriam Meisel.



**A Sefer Torah is being written in memory of the fathers of Rabbi & Mrs. Shusterman.**

**Anyone who is interested in participating should contact Mendel Shusterman at (310) 497-2643**

***GOOD SHABBOS!***