

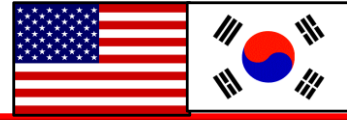


United States
Forces Korea



같이 갑시다  KATCHI KAPSHIDA

T"וב
SOULS TO SEOUL
서울은 영혼을 품고



24 May 2013

ט"ו בְּסִיּוֹן תשע"ג

15 Sivan 5773

Parashat Beha'alotcha

פרשת בהעלתך

Candle Lighting Page 11



Until We See Each Other...
R' Leibel Bistritzky, OBM

This issue of Deveikus is dedicated to the life and love of Yehuda Leib ben Mordechai, who passed to his eternal world just prior to Shavuot, on 4 Sivan. R' Leibel was a giant in Chabad Lubavitch; he was a pivotal figure for all of klal yisroel; he accomplished more in one lifetime than most could ever dream of; he played an intrinsic part in my life; but mostly he was

loved and adored by all who were privileged enough to know him. Our love and support go out to his beautiful family, a family dedicated to improving our world. Boruch Dayan HaEmes to us all. Throughout this issue of Deveikus, I'll share a bit more with you on the life and love of R' Leibel Bistritzky, OBM; provide you with a small sampling of his accomplishments and share with you a very personal story how he improved the lives of U.S. Military Service Members serving in Afghanistan.

It's truly a strange feeling to lose such a giant of our generation, so important a man that for the first time in my life I actually wanted to say Boruch Dayan HaEmes to G-d. After all, I've been taught my entire life that Hashem loves us — to me, that means that He must cry alongside us when the world can no longer go to R' Leibel for assistance. Hashem has him now, but we want him back! We pray for moshiach, for a time when we are all reunited with our loved ones, in a redeemed world, living in peace.

R' Leibel Bistritzky's Father Saved the Lives of the Lubavitcher Rebbe and Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka

After waiting for more than a year to receive his visa to the United States, on the run, trying to keep one pace ahead of the Nazis, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, OBM, and his wife, Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka, OBM, finally received the good news that their visas had arrived. There was a steamer leaving from Europe to America but there were no tickets available and no one knew if there would ever be another means of escape — the Nazis were about to cease all Jews escaping their terror whether they had a visa or not....but, it was impossible to purchase the needed tickets.

The following story is brought to you courtesy of 'Living With The Rebbe' by Mendel Jacobs. It is a fascinating read which can be found by clicking on: [The history of Chof Ches Sivan](#)



“Reb Mordechai Bistritzky, a Chassid, happened to have bought two of these prized tickets for his in-laws, Reb Levi and Rechoma Luvger. Unfortunately, the couple was not granted the necessary Portuguese transit visas and was unable to leave France. When Reb Mordechai heard of the Rebbe’s predicament, he

gladly gave his tickets to the Rebbe. On the 17th of Sivan, the Rebbe and Rebbetzin finally boarded the “Serpa-Pinto.” Stopping first in Barcelona, Spain, the boat continued on its perilous journey to America. It was a trip the travelers would not forget, constantly fraught with the fear of being torpedoed by submarines, or bombed by the war planes that passed overhead. One can only imagine the terror the passengers must have felt, when the captain announced that they must stop in the middle of the sea, because they had been spotted by the deadly German submarines!”

Thank G-d, the trip was a success and on July 4th, 1941 the boat steamed into New York’s harbor and docked at 10:30 a.m. Reb Mordechai’s in-laws, Reb Levi and Rechoma Luvger, were murdered by the Nazis.

One of the Rebbe's shipmates was found. You can watch her fascinating Video account by clicking on: [Yvonne Davidson](#)



PROMINENT PERSONS IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES OF EUROPE
DESIRING ADMISSION TO THE USA.

	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Date & Pl. of Birth:</u>	<u>Address:</u>
1.	Schechter, Rabbi Michel Sheidel	1886 Poland	c/o L. Schmerling, ZURICH, Switzerland Postfach Selnau
2.	SCHMERLING Levi Icchok Chaja Sara Boruch Bendit Reisa Breina	1876 Russia 1917	Zurich 2., Postfach Selnau, Switzerland.
3.	SCHNEERSOHN Zalman Sara Godassa Sholem Ber	1898 Russia 1897 " 1928 " 1931 "	Vichy, France Boite Postale #242
4.	CEASDAN Rabbi Israel wife & fam.		Stockholm, Thumbergsatan 28, Hammarby.
5.	ZUBER, Rabbi Israel wife & fam.		Stockholm, K. U. Kyrkog 6
6.	MONOSSOHN Lejb		Antwerp, Belgium, 22 Arendstr.
7.	EDEL Mordcho wife & fam.		Antwerp, c/o Monossohn L. 22 Arendstr.
8.	LAGOVIER Levi Rochma	1870 Russia Marr 1875	Antwerp, Belgium, Steinbogstr. 24.

It's stunning to actually see a copy of the original letter that we believe the U.S. Government issued requesting certain prominent people released. We clearly see on it the names of the Lagoviers. We believe the family named Schneersohn on the document were the Rebbe's cousins. The Lagoviers were too old to sneak through borders and weren't able to get the visas/documents needed to cross borders at the time. The Lagoviers were caught by the Nazis.

German records list the Lagoviers on a transport from Drancy, France to Auschwitz but there are no records of them entering Auschwitz, they are believed to have perished along the way. To know that they were murdered by the Nazis but that the Rebbe and Rebbetzin made it safely to America because R' Mordechai gave the Rebbe his family's tickets should stir all of our hearts.

May Hashem continuously shine His holy light and sweet blessings on the Bistritzky and Lagovier Families.
Their ingenuity and sacrifice brought blessings to our entire world.

I get the chills when I think about how R' Leibel was forced to flee Hamburg, Germany in 1937 and now his eldest son's son is the Chief Rabbi of Hamburg. His great-granddaughter not only attends the Talmud Torah R' Leibel attended 75 years ago but she actually studies Torah in the same classroom in which he studied.



(To read more on the life of R' Leibel, please click on:
[What One Man Can Accomplish in this World](#)
Please take special note of the comments at the end of the piece.)





R' Leibel Bistritzky accomplished so much, helped countless people, literally saved lives. As only one example, R' Leibel **started**, ran, and served on the very first Brooklyn Hatzalah Rescue Ambulance. (Read the history of Hatzalah by clicking on [Crown Heights Hatzalah](#).)

As a young boy, trying to avoid Nazi horror, R' Leibel escaped Hamburg, Germany. 75 years later, in 2012, he was back in Hamburg, to witness the coronation of his grandson, Shlomo, as Hamburg's Chief Rabbi. You can read more by clicking on: [Hamburg's Chief Rabbi](#)



Israel's Chief
Rabbi Yona
Metzger

Hamburg's Chief
Rabbi Shlomo
Bistritzky

Very Proud Zeide
R' Leibel

At the Coronation

HAVE A QUESTION?

You don't have to be in South Korea to write me.

Please send your questions to: moshelans@gmail.com

No last names will ever be printed and no email will ever be made public without your prior approval.

Rabbi,

I was at your house. You spoke of the guy who died. You said that you thought that he was having the holiday meal with another great man. Do you really believe such a thing? Does Judaism really believe in an afterlife? I didn't think so. I thought that was a Christian thing.

Name Withheld

Dear Anonymous,

No, Judaism does not believe in an afterlife. It believes in an eternal life. We live our life in this world and when we pass, we continue to live our life in another world. There is no death of the soul, only of the holy vessel which held the soul, our physical beings. The soul never dies, therefore, by definition, we can't have an afterlife. You heard me speaking of R' Leibel Bistritzky, OBM. I won't go into more on R' Leibel because I am dedicating all of this week's Deveikus to him but what you heard was my wife on Shavuot asking me what I thought R' Leibel was doing at that moment and you heard me mention that I thought he was having the Shavuot meal in the next world with the Lubavitcher Rebbe on one side of him at the table and his son, Levi, OBM, on the other side. His son was a great man, the former Chief Rabbi of Tzvat, Israel, who passed away in 2002 of a heart attack at the young age of 53 (read more at: [Rabbi Levi](#)). It is Rabbi Levi's son, Rabbi Shlomo, who is now the Chief Rabbi of Hamburg, Germany. Remember, when the Torah discusses our bodies returning to the dust from whence it came, it was speaking only of the body — our souls, YOUR soul, will NEVER die.

Shabbat Shalom 평안한 안식일 되세요
Rabbi Lans 모세 랍비

Shalom Everyone,

Did you know that Jews lived in Afghanistan for 1500 years?! That's a long time, and they were not small in number. That's why when I received my orders to Afghanistan in 2010 for a one year deployment, I thought of both my mission at hand and the incredible opportunity I was being given to honor those Jewish souls who used to live there. One of my major goals was to read from a kosher Megillah on Purim. R' Leibel Bistritzky transformed that goal into reality. Some of you may be wondering why I devoted an entire issue to one person, a first for Deveikus. The answer is because our world lost a great man and because I knew him. I'm grateful to Hashem that I merited to be with R' Leibel, his wife, and other members of his family in Israel while I was on leave from Afghanistan. While there, I mentioned to R' Leibel that I wanted to take back to Afghanistan a kosher Megillah to read on Purim. Within a few days I had a gorgeous full size kosher Megillah at an extremely discounted price. All R' Leibel said to me was that he knew an extremely reputable *sofer* (scribe) and that we shouldn't worry about the price because he knew how to negotiate well....*which he did!* I went back to his home in Geulah, my fourth visit in only a matter of a few days and picked up the Megillah.

R' Leibel asked me, *"How are you going to keep this safe in the war? How are you going to keep this kosher as you travel throughout your military career?"* I told him that for the time being I would wrap it up in plastic to keep dry. With that, R' Leibel went to his closet and pulled out a full length metal Megillah case. He went on to explain that he used it for years but now it was time that it was mine. He gave me a beautiful brocha, one I'll never forget while Mrs. Bistritzky hugged Laurie, put her hands on Laurie's head and blessed her. Later that night, his son, and our very dear friend, Rabbi Shlomo Bistritzky, a Shiliach of the Rebbe in California, met us at our hotel. I told Rabbi Shlomo about the metal case and he went on to explain to me that he was stunned that his father gave me the case because it had been in the family for years. Then, Rabbi Shlomo caught himself and with his big smile said, *"you know, I'm really not that surprised, that's my father."* Can any father ask for a better tribute than that?

Since Afghanistan, that Megillah and its case has made it to Fort Hood, Texas and was read only a couple of months ago on the U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan military base here in Seoul. This, only one act of kindness from a man who devoted his life to others. Oh, how our world misses you, R' Leibel.

Shabbat Shalom 평안한 안식일 되세요

Rabbi Moshe Lans 모셰 랍비

moshelans@gmail.com





I'll never forget that cold and windy day in Afghanistan. The tent shaking so hard, I thought it was going to fly away and with all of us in it. Looking back now, perhaps it was all the yidden who used to live in Afghanistan...perhaps after all of these centuries they came for a visit just to hear from a Kosher Megillah... *swaying to and fro*. Anyway, I'd like to think so. Thank you, R' Leibel Bistrizky, OBM, you made it possible for many Jewish Service Members serving in war, on a cold and windy day, to be touched by the warmth of Hashem's love. (Please read page 7 to learn how R' Leibel ensured a kosher Megillah made it to Afghanistan.)



R' Leibel, OBM, and Ita Bistritzky

Heartbroken

Good Shabbos,
Laurie laurielans@gmail.com

로리 여사

Torah Portion of the Week

Parashat Beha'alotcha Numbers 8:1-12:16



This week's parsha is Beha'alotcha (when you fire up) which refers to the lighting of the Menorah which stood in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Parsha Beha'alotcha contains three positive mitzvot and two negative mitzvot (prohibitions). The mitzvot and prohibitions pertain to the second Passover offering and sounding the trumpets — which took place in the Temple and during battles.

In this parsha we also learn that the tribe of Levi was inaugurated into the Temple service (8:5-26) to be assistants to the Holy Priests (tribe of Kohein) and there are many lessons that we can learn from this. The Lubavitcher Rebbe (in Likutei Sichos, Volume 19, pages 319-320) comments on the Torah passages that state that a Priest (Kohein) must always be ready to serve in the Holy Temple, therefore, he must never become ritually impure through contact with the dead because this would disqualify him from serving (until he becomes pure once more). The Rebbe explains that a Levite is only required to be ritually pure in order to perform the Tabernacle service, therefore, when not working in the Temple, he is not required to remain pure and may come in contact with the dead. The Rebbe adds that the Levites knew in advance when they were going to serve in the Temple.

Chasidut teaches that each of us has within us a Kohein and Levite component. Our portion of Kohein, our priestly portion, is always pure. However, the Levi inside of us is intended to be impure, providing us the opportunity to purify that element through service to Hashem. *Chasidut* adds that the priestly component of us is called the “*hapcha*,” where our undesirable traits are transformed to pure good and are no longer susceptible to any impurity, and that the Levite component of us is called the “*iskafya*,” where our undesirable traits are still present in our character but they are suppressed as we worship and serve Hashem. When worshipping Hashem, we each have the capacity to use every facet of our being.

R' Leibel Bistrizky, OBM, embodied the balance of living as both a Kohein and Levite. R' Leibel was as pure as gold but extremely relatable and loyal as only a Levite could be. He is the embodiment of this week's parsha. And, just as the menorah in the Holy Temple radiated Hashem's holy light, so too R' Leibel continues to light our world. I pray to the Almighty that in the zechut of R' Leibel that our world speedily be redeemed...I'd like to fabreng with him soon, and be able to say thank you once more.

Shabbat Shalom 평안한 안식일 되세요
Rabbi Moshe Lans 모세 랍비



평안한 안식일 되세요
Good Shabbos

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times in Seoul:

5/3	5/10	5/17	5/24	5/31
1904	1911	1917	1922	1928
7:04	7:11	7:17	7:22	7:28

It is preferable to light Shabbat candles 18 minutes before sunset (*shkia*).

This week's candle lighting (Seoul):
Friday, May 24, 2013
1922 (7:22 PM)

Other locations can be determined using www.fridaylight.org
The Staff Weather Officer (SWO) can inform you what time sunset is in your area.

Light the candles:

Extend your hands over the candles, draw the light inwards three times in a circular motion, and then, cover your eyes. Say the blessing:

Baruch a-ta A-do-nay Elo-hei-nu me-lech ha-o-lam a-sher ki-dee-sha-nu bi-mitz-vo-tav vi-tzi-va-noo li-had-leek ner shel Sha-bbat ko-desh.

Translation: *Blessed are you, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the light of the Holy Shabbat.*

Yongsan (Seoul) Shabbat Weather Forecast

Friday, 24	Saturday, 25
77 55 °F	81 61 °F
Partly Cloudy	Overcast

For a complete weather forecast please click: [weather](#)

תודה רבה

**We are both thrilled and saddened to say lahitraot to
SSgt Joshua Janove, Area I Jewish Lay Leader.**

**For 2 years, Josh has been an outstanding Lay
Leader!**

**As sad as we are to say goodbye to Josh, we are
thrilled for him that he will be moving on to his
desired new post in beautiful Hawaii.**

**Thank you, Josh and we wish you all good things and
Hashem's continued blessings. Amen.**

להתראות

בהצלחה



같이 갑시다 KATCHI KAPSHIDA
WE GO TOGETHER



הינני שלחני Hineni Shlacheni

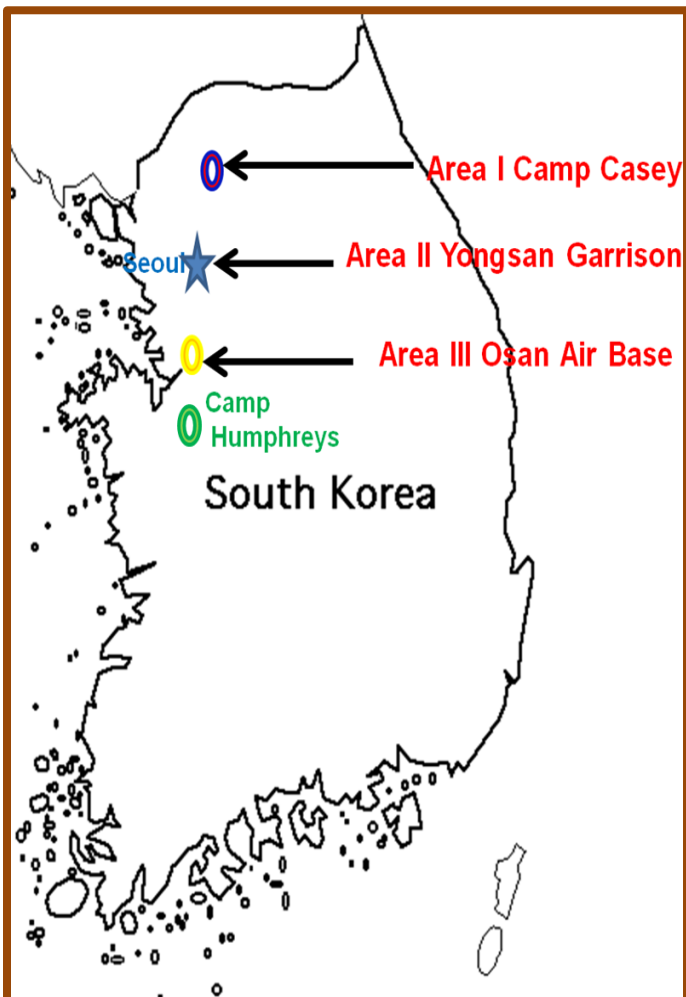
Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of my L-rd saying,
“Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”

And I said, **הינני שלחני** “Hineni Shlacheni”
“Here I am, send me.”

*To all who serve, we gratefully recognize your selfless service.
We thank you and continue to pray for your well-being.*

Who's Who



Jewish Lay Leaders:

Area I Camp Casey:
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benjamin.k.diamond.mil@mail.mil

Area II Yongsan:
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Contact Area I Jewish Lay Leader:
CPT Ben Diamond 010-3377-7898
benjamindiamond770@gmail.com

Torah Class

Camp Casey West Chapel
Mondays 1800-1930



Recommended websites:

[Aleph Institute](#)
[Chabad](#)
[Ask Moses](#)
[Friday Light](#)
[Aish HaTorah](#)
[OU](#)

[Jews in Green](#)
[The Jewish Woman](#)
[Hebrew Calendar](#)
[Kosher Troops](#)
[Project M.O.T.](#)
[Operation:SJM](#)

[Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute](#)
[Shema Yisrael Torah Network](#)
[Yeshivas Rabbi Akiva](#)

Need Kosher Food that you can't find at the commissary? Here's a great site: aviglatt.com

Why We Named Our Newsletter Deveikus

Deveikus (pronounced *duh-vae-kuhs*) means to cling/cleave unto G-d, Hashem.

But *deveikus* is so powerful that words can't justify the experience of *deveikus*...it's when you're so lost in prayer, you tune out everything...noise, location, time of day, everything...it's just you and Hashem, you clinging, cleaving onto your Heavenly Father...it's extraordinarily powerful!

As a Chaplain, I know that deployments, overseas tours, and often times being away from those we love can be stressful; my hope is that you find and develop your *deepest connection to G-d*, because with Hashem ALL things are possible.



Laurie and I have dedicated all the good that we do for the Jewish community in the merit of Rabbi Gavriel and Rebbetzin Rivky Holtzberg (HY"D) - Chabad emissaries murdered on November 26, 2008 by terrorists in Mumbai, India.

This newsletter and any good we do for you here in Korea is in their merit.