

Chabad of North Bay Village/Hacheded

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This Week's News

Shabbos Parshas Bechkoisai, 5768 – Pirkei Avos chapter 4 – Lag b'Omer

This Friday is a unique Jewish holiday, Lag b'Omer, the 33rd day in the counting of the Omer.

There are two major Jewish historic events that occurred on this day.

1. It is the anniversary day of the passing of the great Talmud sage, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochoie, author of the Zohar, the "bible" of the Kabbalah.
2. It's the day when the students of Rabbi Akiva stopped dying from a plague.

Let's discuss both points beginning from the second issue.

Rabbi Akiva's students, spiritual giants in their own right, had disagreements with each other as to what precisely does their teacher desire of them in matters of serving G-d. They were one-dimensional and couldn't see beyond their scope. The student who understood Rabbi Akiva's "love" to serve G-d, was passionate about loving G-d and gave no room for serving G-d with reverence. Another student argued, Rabbi Akiva desires that we use only our reverence when serving G-d, not love. They, as students of Rabbi Akiva should have had respect for each other's different perspective. Because of this, G-d sent a plague and thousands of students passed on.

The lesson is clear: Within the context of Torah there is room for more than one approach; G-d wants us to be multi-dimensional.

The other event on Lag b'Omer is Rabbi Shimon's passing. Rabbi Shimon writes in his Zohar, that he desires that we celebrate his yahrtzeit with great joy. Hence, we go out to parks and the like, make bon fires, shoot bows and arrows and make a G-dly festivity. This is for all; young and old.

The lesson from this is the importance of a. celebrating the day of Lag b'Omer and b. making time to study the inner dimension of Torah. Today, we have the tools and books to delve into many of the deep Zoharic concepts through the study of Chasidus. Please join with millions of Jews who explore these teachings on the weekly Torah portion.

Shalom and good Shabbos,

Rabbi Faivish Dalfin

Hacheded Activity Report – May19-23

This week we sponsored two refrigerators and one oven for needy families. We also paid for an emergency electric bill and a water bill for a family in crisis. Please send your tzedaka to our office. With your help we can assist many beautiful families.