

## Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

### The King In The Field

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

We are soon entering the month of Elul — a particularly auspicious mark in the Jewish calendar.

Elul is the month when we take stock of the year which is rapidly passing, for it is the last month of the year. We must make an accounting of how we have lived during the past year including also our words and even our thoughts.

In order to illustrate the difference between Elul and the other months of the year, Chassidus provides us with a parable. Elul represents the time when a king leaves his palace and the city and goes out into the fields. There everyone can meet him, talk to him, greet him and even confront him. Anyone who wants to can approach the king and can be sure that the king will receive him with a pleasant countenance. This, then, is also the opportunity to present the king with any petition which lists the individual's desires and expectations from the king.

After the visit to the field, when the king returns to his city and palace, anyone who wants to can follow him and accompany him. However, as soon as he enters his private chambers, gaining an audience, talking to him and meeting him become complicated and difficult procedures; to do so involves much preparation and red tape which not everyone can overcome completely. This emphasizes even further the difference between Elul and the other months.

The parable is, of course pertinent to us, and we can learn something from every detail. For example, even if we feel as though we are in a field — not only out of the king's palace but away from his capital altogether; even if we are away from any city with its system and its organization and are truly in a field doing lowly field work; even if we are plowing and sowing and reaping — activities which discourage fancy clothes and scrupulous grooming (the normal preparations for meeting royalty) — the Almighty gives us the special privilege, once each year, during the month of Elul, to meet Him informally. We can meet the King just as we are dressed and just as we are

are. Even if a moment before we were engaged in the lowly work of the fields, we can in the very next moment address the Almighty with personal, private requests about ourselves and those dear to us. Disregarding our dress and our occupation — our spiritual level of attainment, the Almighty displays His pleasant manner, His smiling countenance and His loving kindness, while He accepts the requests graciously and willingly.

In Elul the Almighty appears in a happy and elevated spirit, willing to grant all blessings; when we present him with the request for a good year not only is our petition accepted, but we are able to accompany Him back to the 'capital' and even to the 'palace'. We may be sure that He will grant our request and will give us a good and sweet year.

## Camp Gan Israel

What do you do in June for fun? Over 40 Charlotte youngsters found the answer at the 2 week Gan Israel day camp, operated by Lubavitch of NC.

Each morning began with Jewish songs, exercise and a short learning period. Campers participated in sports, games and field trips. They toured the Arnold Bakery in Gastonia and the Coca Cola factory. Creativity was used in special projects and contests: "Space Day," home-made space outfits; "Hat Day," most innovative hats; races at the roller rink; Talmudic verses were memorized. Prizes were awarded for all of these.

Counselors, Chanie, Miriam, Sara and Chanie, recent graduates of Beth Rivkah Teachers Seminary, did a superb job. The tiny tots, led by Peggy Davis and Debra Swanson, received the care and warmth they needed.

Campers swam almost



Campers enjoying one of their many field trips supervised by their competent counselors.

every day: girls at Walter and Elizabeth Klein's pool; boys at Simon and Mary Wojnowich's pool. Trained life guards were at both pools. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the Klein and Wojnowich families for the use of their pools.

Trips were made to Carowinds, Riverbanks Zoo,

the petting zoo, miniature golf and arcade games, boating.

Each day "Mr. Pushke" walked around collecting tzedakah as the children sang "I am a little hunk of tin." Campers learned many things: mezuzah, Shabbat, and even to bake their own Challa, which they took home.

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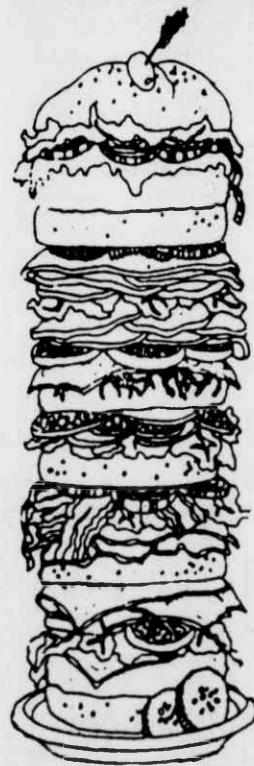
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