

# LUBAVITCH OF N. C.

## Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

During the following weeks, we read in the weekly Torah portion, how G-d gave the Torah to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai, and then Moshe relayed all the laws to the people.

One of the basic principles of the Jewish faith is that the entire Torah, including the Oral Torah with all its details, was given by G-d himself to Moshe on Mount Sinai.

Maimonides writes in his classic work *Thirteen Principles of Faith*: "To believe that the entire Torah, which is now in our hands, is the same Torah that was given to Moshe our teacher, peace upon him."

In his code of Jewish law (Laws of Teshuvah, chapter 3:8) Maimonides states clear-

ly in a definitive Torah ruling, "One who says that the Torah does not stem from G-d, even if he says that so much as one verse or even one word was made up by Moshe himself, this person denies the Torah. The same applies to one who denies the explanation of the Torah, namely, the Oral Torah..." Total belief in this basic principle is an absolute criterion which determines if an individual in fact has faith in the cardinal basis of Judaism, if he believes in the Torah as a whole.

In addition to the origin of Torah from the Al-mighty G-d to Moshe on Mount Sinai, there is a further aspect of Torah that can be inferred from the word "Torah" itself, which is etymologically connected to the Hebrew word "Hora'a" which means "teaching."

## Celebrating Chanukah

The final night of Chanukah was celebrated at Lubavitch with a grand Chanukah party. The large menorah, set up by Marty Kleinman and Andy London, had all eight candles, plus the Shamesh lit. People toasted L'chaim and wished each other a happy Chanukah, and of course special Chanukah latkes were served.

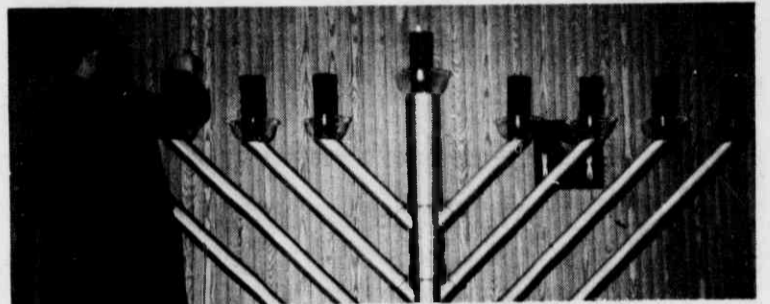
One of the high points of the evening was the showing of "Lights," an animated Chanukah film describing the miracle of Chanukah. Due to the nature of the film, which deals with the ideological battle between the Maccabees and the Greeks, it was enjoyed by young and old.

The after school and pre-school children had a Chanukah party of their own. They made individual menorahs out of clay, baked them in the oven, and then painted the menorahs with the color of their choice. The children also had a first hand experience in preparing their own Chanukah latkes.

The preschoolers have welcomed some new additions. Joe and Judy Gaynor (Altee's Pet Shop) donated an aquarium with tropical fish and two parakeets, Sparky and Sunshine. In caring for them, the children will benefit through this rich experience.



(L to R): Sam Wallace, Max Weissbaum, Marty Kleinman, Boruch Schoenes in front of giant Menorah.



Rabbi Yossi Groner lights the Menorah.



What's a party without food?



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of

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