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Pirkei Avot

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

Pirkei Avot - Ethics of our fathers is a unique tractate of the Talmud, in which our sages share their wisdom with us, and guide us with their wise sayings to live an enhanced and better Jewish life.

One of the striking messages that we find in their sayings is: "Provide yourself with a teacher". This means in simple terms, that a person should appoint for him/herself a Rabbi-a teacher, who will guide and direct him in the proper ways of life.

A person should learn from all people how to improve his life, but every Jew should also have one teacher. Being biased to one's own shortcomings one cannot rely on him/herself, so we need someone who is objective, wise and sensitive to help us evaluate our accomplishments. This must be someone whom we look up to and whose words and advice we will follow.

The above applies to everyone, from the simplest to the wisest of Jewish people. When one knows that they have someone they can count on or someone to report to, it helps them through the tough situations in life.

We all live with the hope of seeing the Moshiach appear and deliver all people from exile to ultimate freedom. At that time there will be true peace and happiness in the world, and Jews will be reunited in Israel with the completed Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

In our daily prayers we ask for the coming of Moshiach speedily and quickly. At the same time we know that prayer alone will not do it; we must substantiate our prayers through our actions which are the divine commandments.

We also need constant reminders to stimulate us in our observance of Judaism. Rabbi Levi Yitzchok of Barditchov OBM once explained it with the following parable:

A father once made an expensive suit for his beloved son. The child was not careful and tore the garment in several places. Once again the father had a suit tailored for the child and once again the child was not careful and the garment was ripped. What did the father do? He made the child a third suit but did not give it to the child. Instead, he hid the garment and on rare occasions he brought out the garment and showed it to his child. When he showed the suit to his child he said: "See here, if you will behave properly you will be given this new suit to wear". This helped the child in appreciating the value of the garment and thereby to modify his behavior.

In our case, we are shown the future temple from a distance. This heightens our longing and thirst that the image of the future Temple will actually become a present reality with the ultimate redemption through Moshiach our ultimate teacher.

The same is true in every aspect of Judaism. When we appoint for ourselves a proper teacher and guide, we can together explore our wonderful heritage and direct our energy in a way which will certainly enhance our lives.

Pre-schoolers Enjoy Many Activities

The Lubavitch pre-schoolers were very busy this past month studying all about the first six days of creation and the Shabbat. Their arts and crafts projects included homemade clouds and light and dark posters.

"Noah and his ark" was quite an attention getter; the children were intrigued by the shape and form of the ark. The children learned about the responsibilities they have one for another and through caring and devotion they could help each other improve in their behavior.

During the holidays the children experienced Succoth in the Succah, and also had their own Lulav and Etrog to use every day. The children learned about the symbols of the four kinds, how they represent all kind of plant life in our gratitude to the Al-mighty for providing us with food.

This month the children parents to a very special ranging from Pipers to





(Top Photo): Mariashi Groner tells pre-schoolers about Lulav & Etrog. (Below): Parading around with the Lulav & Etrog.

adventure. Shmulik Diementstein hosted a very special visit at the Goose Creek airport where the children watched their own air show. They were treated by one of the saw a variety of airplanes

Cessnas. Shmulik then proceeded to give them a treat they never dreamed of: viewing the plane from the inside, studying all the gadgets and buttons. This was a day to be remembered by all.

Simchat Torah Celebrated With Joy

The holidays at Lubavitch were celebrated this year with much joy and enthusiasm, in addition to the fact that they were held at the new Chabad House.

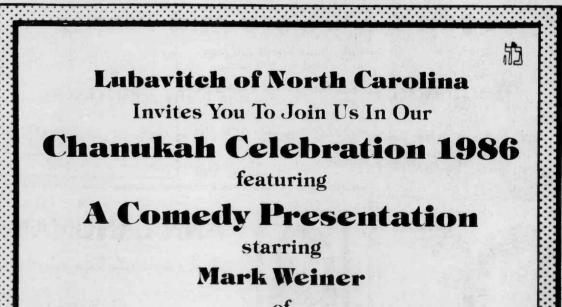
The festival of Succoth brought an additional Succah, which was also used daily by the Lubavitch pre-school children for lunch and snacks. The main event of the month

was held Simchat Torah, when over 120 people crowded into the Chabad House to celebrate

this wonderful holiday. First there was a bit of Davening. Followed by a grand Kiddush with wine and L'chaim. A full festive meal was served buffet style prepared by Mariashi Groner and her sisters from Detroit. Once the people had eaten and

cheered "L'chaim-Gut Yom Tov" the singing and dancing began.

The children paraded with Simchat Torah flags while the adults circled them with joyous dancing to the tunes of happy Jewish melodies. From time to time people toasted on schnapps which gave way to even more singing and dancing.



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