

# LUBAVITCH OF N. C.

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## Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

### Shavuoth — Torah from Sinai

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

During this month we celebrate the auspicious holiday of Shavuoth, the anniversary of our receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai some 3,300 years ago.

The importance attributed to Sinai is very significant in our day and age. The Midrash states that the reason Sinai was chosen as the place where G-d gave the Torah to the Israelites, was due to the humility Sinai demonstrated. Sinai was not the tallest mountain, and it felt unworthy to be chosen for this most important event. Yet precisely for this feeling of humility Sinai was indeed selected by G-d.

Sinai has become a prominent symbol in Judaism. Actually it is more than a symbol, it has become a guide in Jewish life.

The famous Mishnaic tractate of Avot begins with the words *Moshe received Torah at Sinai*. This is distinct from the common way to describe the event at Sinai, where the world *giving* of Torah is used. As we say in the Shavuoth prayer "Zeman Matan Torahseynu" the time that G-d gave us the Torah.

The purpose of emphasizing that Moshe *received* the Torah, is to teach us the concept of humility. In fact humility becomes a key in understanding the inner depth of Torah. Chassidic teaching explains that a wise person is one understanding the inner depth of Torah. Chassidic teaching explains that a wise person is one who is a recipient, one who is in tune with his intellectual faculties and is subservient to pure Torah knowledge. Moshe epitomized pure wisdom and was humble

more than any other man on earth.

This humility and wisdom, not only enabled Moshe to receive the Torah, it in fact made Moshe the supreme teacher of all Israel. Supreme teacher Moshe insured the eternity of Torah by giving and imparting the knowledge with the future leaders of Israel.

Giving and receiving is what life is all about. When one has only one of these aspects, if he is either only a giver or only a receiver, then he is lacking completeness.

Each and every Jew is both a recipient and a giver. When he receives, he is humble, but when he gives, he is firm and resolute. We are all examples of Torah teaching. When it comes to matters of Halacha and observance we are humble to the law and firm in fulfilling the law to the letter. Sinai is a firm mountain which has both the quality of humility and the virtue of strength.

Sinai also became a symbol of the divinity of Torah, as Maimonides writes, that if one says on even one law of the oral Torah, that it is not from Sinai, it is to be considered as if he denies in the truth of the entire Torah. Torah M'Sinai thus became a criterion if one is a believer or not.

When we celebrate the festival of Shavuoth and we come to the synagogue with our children to listen to the reading of the Ten Commandments which were given from G-d at Sinai (along with the rest of the Torah), we then reflect on the meaning of this very important holiday and strengthen ourselves in our faith and knowledge and above all in humility.



Preparing for Shavuoth with Torah Study in Chabad House: (L to R) Louis Doctor, Richard Melenson, Dr. Gary Waldman, Rabbi Binyomin Weiss.

### Lubavitch Preschool Celebrates A Successful Year

The children and teachers of the Lubavitch preschool prepared for an exciting summer with the experience of the Jewish summer holidays.

First came Lag B'Omer, the holiday that celebrates peace and love achieved by the famous students of Rabbi Akivah. It is also the anniversary of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, author of the Zohar which is the first book of Kabbalah. The children constructed a cave similar to the one in which Rabbi Shimon hid with his son from the Roman soldiers for thirteen years.

The children learned how nature develops in spring and summer. Fern Sanderson, who heads the secular program at the school, conducted several science projects with the children through which they were able to have a hands-on experience as well. They chose to plant flowers and radishes at their special garden and learned about the different parts of these plants.

The four-year-olds have also advanced much in their



Children learned about the violin: (L) Emily Calabrese, a visitor, trying to help Nandi Cohen (R).

reading ability. Their recognition of words in both Hebrew and English is remarkable. Both teachers, Chanie Weiss and Fern Sanderson, are very satisfied with the progress of the children.

As we prepared for the Shavuoth festival, the children were busy climbing their mountain of achievement, symbolic of Mount Sinai, to reach the summit by the end of the school year.

### Lag B'Omer Picnic



May 17 was a perfect day for the Lag B'Omer picnic at the Chabad House.



It was also the time for making new friends: Samantha Simon (L) and Kara Wexler.



"Rabbi Weiss came all the way to Charlotte to make 'beefburgers'!" Yossi Beeri is waiting to get one.

### Jewish Sound Coming To Charlotte Radio

An exciting new radio show is coming to Charlotte airwaves this June. The weekly musical and educational presentation entitled "The Jewish Sound" will feature Israeli and contemporary Jewish music by famous Jewish artists and personalities.

What makes it even more exciting is that the program is produced right here in the Carolinas by Lubavitch of North Carolina at the studios of WCOS Radio in Columbia, SC. The program will be aired regularly every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 on WSOC-930 on your AM dial. The show is scheduled to start Sunday, June 7.

The "Jewish Sound" will broadcast the latest releases of Israeli and Chassidic music to listeners' homes, sprinkled with general Jewish information. Jake Bogan, producer of the Jewish Sound, explains that the variety of albums and general recordings used to produce the show is excellent.

An additional feature of the program is the special public service announcements that inform the listening audience about Jewish customs and holidays. The PSAs are a Lubavitch production.

Rabbi Yossi Groner, director of Lubavitch of North Carolina, said: "This will give our local community an opportunity to become familiar with Jewish song and thought on an intimate level. This is a show that the entire family will enjoy".

Rabbi Groner explains that the goal of Lubavitch in the Carolinas is to generate more Jewish awareness in a positive and constructive way. "This media effort is part of our campaign to reach out to the unaffiliated and touch them with the best in Jewish programming."

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