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Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

The Lights of Chanukah

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

During this month of Kislev we celebrate the bright festival of Chanukah. Much has been written about the story of Chanukah and its lessons we derive from it. These include the message of light over darkness, quality over quantity, spiritual over material, etc.

It is even more important to listen to the message of the Chanukah lights, since kindling the lights is the first and most emphasized Mitzvah of the holiday. Here are some lessons which add to the spiritual significance of the Chanukah candles.

(1) Lighting Chanukah candles reveals to us in a physical sense, that a Mitzvah From G-d when observed brings forth Divine light from G-d. As the Torah states: "For the candle is Mitzvah and Torah is light".

(2) The manner of kindling the lights is that we add a new candle each night. The lesson is, that although one fulfills the complete Mitzvah by lighting one candle on the first night, yet when the second night comes one must add a new candle until the complete number of eight candles is reached on the eighth night of Chanukah. This applies to the observance of all the Mitzvot and to all matters of Torah and Judaism, as the well known statement in the Talmud: "One should accend in holiness".

(3) When lighting the Chanukah candles, we place them by the door so they can be seen on the outside. This indicates that, one must not be satisfied with the illuminating his/her own home with the light of

Torah and Mitzvot. Rather, his/her privilege and obligation is to spread the light of Judaism, Torah and Mitzvot also to the area outside his/her home and environment. Specifically to those Jewish people who as of yet, are outside the Jewish way of life.

(4) To illuminate those Jewish people's lives while they are still outside the Jewish way, and to make an effort to bring them back in to Judaism.

(5) On the first night of Chanukah, the Blessing of "Shehecheyonu" is recited. This blessing is always recited when we begin any holiday, through which we thank G-d for giving us life, sustaining us and allowing us to arrive to this time when we can illuminate the darkness with the wonderful Mitzvah of Chanukah candles.

(6) The Mitzvah of lighting Chanukah candles applies to men and women. However Jewish women accepted not to work during the time of candle lighting. This emphasizes how women are even more affected with the spiritual light of Chanukah that they transcend the level of physical work.

Most important of all, is to actually light the candles each night of Chanukah to add to the spiritual and divine light within our own homes. Even more so, to the entire community, especially since this year is a Hakhel year.

Just as the Al-mighty G-d performed miracles and wonders for our ancestors in those days at this time of the year, He should likewise perform miracles and wonders with the coming of Moshiach, for whom we are waiting everyday.

Chanukah Story Airs on Radio

The Chanukah story comes to life through Radio theater. The full drama will be aired on "The Jewish Sound", Sunday, December 13 at 9 a.m.

"The Jewish Sound" is a weekly radio show which is heard every Sunday morning from 9-10 on WSOC AM 93 in Charlotte. Rabbi Yossi Groner, host of the Radio show, says: "The purpose of the show is to reach out to our fellow people with educational

and entertaining programming, and this is a great way to utilize modern media during the holiday season."

The Chanukah Radio Drama produced by Jewish Education Media, a Lubavitch organization, has received world wide acclaim for the accuracy of the Chanukah story. The radio show will also air many Chanukah songs with explanations of Chanukah laws and customs.

Lubavitch Preschoolers Have Varied Studies

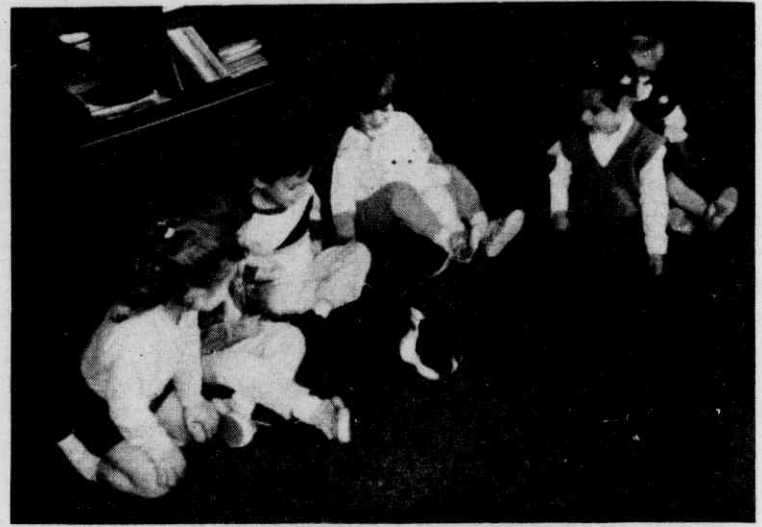
There is an old Chassidic adage: "One must live with the times". In other words; one must be aware of the significant time of year which is linked to a period in Jewish history. This is accomplished by learning reading the regular Torah portion of the week.

The Lubavitch preschool children are continuing to advance in their Jewish awareness, through experiencing the actual Torah story.

"During the past month, we learned about Noah's Ark and the flood," said Chanie Weiss who is Judaica teacher at the Preschool. "We first discussed the story, after which we dramatized in an actual way."

The children built their own Ark out of our brick blocks. They made three floors like the original. People lived on the top level, animals on the middle level and the waste went to the bottom. The students also build a window where the dove could fly out to check if the land was dry. "We didn't want to take it down because it was so much fun pretending to be like Noah," said one of the children.

The Hebrew month just gone was Cheshvan. The stu-



Children playing with the rabbit.

dents made raindrops for the bulletin boards because the flood happened during the month of Cheshvan. Cheshvan is also the rainy season in Israel.

The children have also been advancing in their secular studies under the capable teaching of Fern Sanderson who is the morning teacher.

"The varied media that were utilized this month appeals to our inventive nature," says Fern. "There always seems to be a little ripple of excitement in the air as we watch our image break through. The use of

different techniques can help increase our enthusiasm for these skill building projects."

The children used unifix cubes to create specific patterns—a Math Their Way activity. The students also completed a special project through which they created their own Brown Bear books.

"The letter 'J' was introduced. We Jumped, Jogged, put a Jumprope on the shape of the letter 'J'. We also had 'J' show and tell," said Fern.

The afternoon program which is led by Elke Azleson is a time for fun study with lots of arts and crafts. This past month the children learned about the change of colors; they collected leaves of many colors and sizes and pasted them on a special display so they can be examined and studied.

Debbie Burks, office manager at Lubavitch, surprised the children by bringing her rabbit to school. The children's excitement reached a peak when the rabbit hopped all over the classroom.

Jewish Calendar Candlelighting

- Dec. 11 - 4:53 p.m.
- Dec. 15 - 5:13 p.m. (1st Chanukah candle)
- Dec. 16 - 5:13 p.m. (2nd Chanukah candle)
- Dec. 17 - 5:13 p.m. (3rd Chanukah candle)
- Dec. 18 - 4:55 p.m. (Shabbat & 4th Chanukah candle*)
- Dec. 19 - 6:05 p.m. (5th Chanukah candle)
- Dec. 20 - 4:56 p.m. (6th Chanukah candle)
- Dec. 21 - 5:15 p.m. (7th Chanukah candle)
- Dec. 22 - 5:15 p.m. (8th Chanukah candle)
- Dec. 25 - 4:58 p.m.
- Jan. 1 - 5:03 p.m.
- Jan. 8 - 5:09 p.m.
- Jan. 15 - 5:15 p.m.

* Light before Shabbat candles.



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