

## Snack Party Held in Succah



Omri Duek enjoying his cake.



Fern Sanderson (L) and Chanie Weiss (R) enjoying the party too.

## Hakhel at Lubavitch

This year is a Hakhel year. Hakhel means to congregate and unite people. This commandment is found in the Torah as a special directive for the king of Israel, to congregate Jewish people just after the Sabbatical year, in order to instill within them a feeling of awe of G-d and stronger adherence to Torah.

This commandment was observed in full during the time of the Beth Hamikdash, Holy Sanctuary, in Jerusalem, and was discontinued since the destruction of the Temple. Nevertheless, the spirit and soul of Hakhel is still observed by Jews all over the world. Moreover, it is the firm belief among traditional Jews that, the observance of Hakhel in the spiritual sense will hasten the coming of Moshiach which will cause the observance in the physical and complete sense.

Since the beginning of the Jewish year, the Lubavitch Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson has been urging Jews the world over to activate the Hakhel observance in their own lives. This applies to community leaders and lay people alike. Every individual, in a sense, is a king and ruler who has influence over others. This influence should be used in bringing fellow Jews closer to the Torah.

At the beginning of the year just prior to the Sukkot festival, which is the time of Hakhel, the Rebbe asked for people to register at central

Hakhel organizations and make a commitment to be part of the Hakhel campaign. This year saw record crowds during the holidays at the Rebbe's synagogue which is Lubavitch world headquarters.

Many national organizations have answered the Rebbe's call, by circulating flyers with coupon cut-outs, to enable people to register in this unique Hakhel program. Ads have been placed in major newspapers with a large Jewish circulation. Assemblies and special gatherings are being held, to attract large crowds to observe this special gathering.

An interesting result of the campaign is the use of one's Hebrew name in the course of registration. This gives the individual an additional opportunity to be in touch with his Judaism.

Here in North Carolina Lubavitch is planning several Hakhel events throughout the year, and emphasize the Hakhel at existing functions, including the grand Chanukah celebration on December 20, which will be held at the Charlotte Marriott City Center Hotel.

Registration cards will be sent out to everyone in the Carolinas to give them an opportunity to become involved in the Hakhel activities. The Rebbe Shlita emphasized that Hakhel is the privilege and obligation of every Jew, transcending any specific group.

## Talmud Torah and Tzivos Hashem Groups Growing

The Lubavitch Talmud Torah is growing in numbers every month. Rabbi Binyomin Weiss directs the program for older students with classes on Sunday and other days of the week.

Mariashi Groner, together with Chanie Weiss, teach the younger children. A recent project the children undertook was to discover the making and application of a Mezuzah.

First, the children studied how natural parchment is made. Then they examined the handwritten script of the Mezuzah, its careful and artistic letters written within the lines similar to the letters

found in a Torah scroll. The children, together with their teacher, opened a real Torah which they carefully inspected and saw the many similarities between the Torah and the Mezuzah.

The students also learned how to recognize a Kosher Mezuzah which is fit to use to an unfit Mezuzah, like printed and faded ink. Perhaps the most important lesson was how to affix the Mezuzah on the right door post, with the reasons for the letter "Shin" which appears on the Mezuzah.

Every few weeks a special Tzivos Hashem youth club meeting takes place under the

leadership of Rabbi Weiss. At the last meeting the theme was Jewish pride. The Tzivos Hashem members watched a Bill Cosby film, in which a Jewish child, who is a baseball hero, refuses to play for his team on Shabbat. The child eventually earns the respect of the entire team and as a result becomes even more productive in his game.

The purpose of the club is to give its members a fun time in learning and experiencing Judaism in the best possible way. They play creative games and listen to great Jewish stories and discuss camp memories with friends.

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