

# Lubavitch of NC Celebrated 7th Anniversary

On Sunday, December 20, 1987, the sixth night of Chanukah, Lubavitch of North Carolina, celebrated its first seven years in Charlotte.

It was a Chanukah celebration that graced uptown Charlotte at Independence Plaza in the atrium of the Charlotte Marriott City Center Hotel. A giant gold Menorah glowed with its brilliant candles and an Israeli Chassidic band was playing delightful music, as waiters were serving delicious hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.

The crowd of over 250 watched as Rabbi Binyomin Weiss kindled each of the six candles of the 12-foot Menorah. Everyone joined in singing traditional Chanukah songs as he kindled the last candle.

The dinner event celebrated the complete cycle of seven successful years of Lubavitch in North Carolina. With an eye towards the future, a resolution for even more educational programs was made for this community.

Rabbi Yossi Groner, regional director of Lubavitch, welcomed guests from Charlotte and other Carolina cities. Included were Rabbi Hesh Epstein with a delegation from Columbia, and several families representing Chabad in Myrtle Beach.

Rabbi Epstein read a special letter of greetings from the Lubavitcher Rebbe Shlita, to a standing crowd. The essence of the message was connected to the fact that this year is a "Hakhel" year, a year of general assembly.

Al Rousso, Mayor pro-tem of Charlotte, was honorary chairman of the event. Mr. Rousso spoke of his deep roots in Jewish education within the family and how his children and grandchildren have continued in the path of family tradition. Before his talk Rousso received a Chanukah Menorah Pictorial Book, symbolizing his function as a lamplighter.

Senator Marshall Rauch, chairman of Lubavitch, was presented a unique plaque by Rabbi Groner for his involvement and support to Lubavitch. The plaque was a reproduced picture depicting



The men's energetic dancing made the room shake.



The women did their share of dancing too.

Senator Rauch's visit to the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

As Chairman of Lubavitch of North Carolina, Senator Rauch utilized the opportunity to recognize the great accomplishments of Herman Blumenthal in his efforts to increase Jewish education in the State of North Carolina. Rauch then presented Mr. Blumenthal a plaque, which contained a picture of Blumenthal and the Rebbe.

A delicious kosher dinner was served, prepared by a caterer from Detroit. The menu included traditional and contemporary Jewish food.

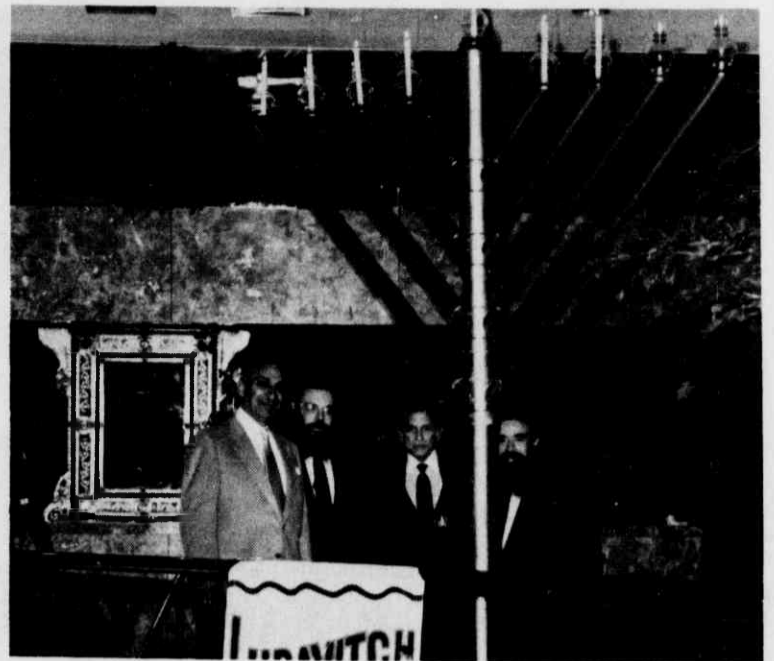
The height of the evening was a special address delivered by Rabbi Abraham Shemtov of Philadelphia, Director of American Friends of Lubavitch. Rabbi Shemtov humored the participants with interesting anecdotes and thoughts. He also explained how the Menorah became a symbol for Lubavitch not only

on Chanukah but throughout the year.

A special video presentation about the history of Lubavitch was shown on two large screens in the main ballroom. "A genuine slice of Chassidic life was brought to life through this presentation," said Army Pickholtz, who helped coordinate the dinner journal.

Live entertainment was provided by the Pimenta band, one of the most popular groups in North America. After dinner, the band performed with a special concert which combined Chassidic and Israeli music.

The highlight of the event was when participants joined the Rabbis in the traditional Chassidic dance. They danced to the lively tunes with joy and enthusiasm. One elderly visitor from High Point commented: "In all my life in North Carolina, I have never seen such a joyous event."




(L to R) Senator Rauch, Rabbi Groner, Al Rousso, Rabbi Shemtov.



Senator Rauch (L) presents special plaque to Herman Blumenthal.

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All 4th-7th graders are invited to attend the Young Judaea overnight Feb. 13-14 at Temple Emanuel in Winston-Salem. You will meet other Judaeans from Central and Western North Carolina. The cost is only \$5 and transportation will be provided by responsible adults. Leave Charlotte Sat., Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. and return late Sunday morning, Feb. 14. If interested in this call Rachel Klein, 846-4133 or Robyn Rosenberg, 541-9250. Young Judaea is sponsored by Hadassah.

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