

Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

By Rabbi Jossi Groner

If the present state of the world can be described in one word it is divisiveness. Each man's hand is raised against his fellow, and strife, wars and violence leave no country untouched.

The counterbalance to this instability and conflict is unity. The unity of Jews in and through Torah helps dispel the darkness of discord, and brings peace and stability to this sorely troubled earth.

Since the dawn of history, mankind has been embroiled in conflict. Individual quarrels, local strife, border skirmishes, wars - all have been constant ever since more than one man inhabited the earth. Man, it seems, despite his age old quest to live peaceably with his fellow beings, cannot escape the ugly spectre of violence.

Yet, however bad the situation, there was always a glimmer of light, a hope that better times were coming. Peaceful coexistence was an objective never entirely despaired of, the immediate strife an aberration which would pass. Peace could be attained, and someday would.

Today, however, we are witnessing a new phenomenon. The very idea of a peaceful, ordered world is rapidly disappearing. Peace, while not yet entirely abandoned, is regarded more as a utopian ideal than a concrete possibility. People seem to be resigned to the inevitability of conflict, with no solution in sight.

These grim truths are apparent to all. But a paralysis has set in, a feeling of hopelessness, an inability to deal with the frightening facts. Powerful nations seem helpless to combat the violence in their own countries, let alone international conflicts. And the individual? If nations are powerless to act, what can a puny individual do? One man's actions cannot affect the destiny of world events; the world will take its course, and the most each person hopes is that the ensuing turmoil will at least leave him or her a survivor.

Nobody and nothing is insignificant to G-d. The hearts of kings and monarchs are in His hands, and the humblest peasant and the mightiest potentate are equal before Him. An individual's actions do count, changes can be made, and no course of events is immutable. Divine cognizance of all actions is made, and their effect is reckoned in the Divine scale, not the human.

Because the physical and spiritual are linked to each other, a spiritual action affects the physical. Every individual can have an impact of incredible consequence, because the power of the spirit is not measured by numbers, or wealth, or weaponry.

This is the mission of the Jew. The task of the Chosen People is to reveal G-d's presence in this world. The darkness of hatred and violence that engulfs us can be

dispelled, and man can live a life of decency and peace. Every thought, every word, every action consonant with Torah expresses the Jew's bond to his Creator, kindles one more light to help dispel the darkness that betrays man's alienation from the Divine. When enough lights have been kindled, they produce an illumination to banish darkness permanently. The Messianic era will have arrived.

One Jew alone can produce light; all Jews together, united, can kindle a flame the light of which will illuminate the entire world. Each Jew is a potential spark of the Infinite. All Jews together are a burning torch whose radiance is a reflection of G-dliness itself. Unity among Jews is, fittingly enough, the counterbalance to the present divisiveness, and its resultant chaos and strife will be nullified in the radiance produced by a Jewry united. This then is the antidote to the instability prevalent today.

But Jews have all the frailties that all men possess. Each possesses qualities different from another, each is distinguished by differing intelligence, emotions, traits that combine to make each person unique. Nor are they physically together, living in many different countries, with widely ranging life styles and environments. How are they to be united?

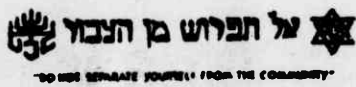
There is, however, one element which all Jews have in common, and which is uniquely suitable to produce that unity. Three thousand years ago, we stood together at Mt. Sinai and received that most precious possession of G-d - the Torah. At that moment we became a people, a nation, and from then on Torah was, and remains, the life blood that has been our source of strength and vitality.

In addition to the above it is proper to demonstrate our unity during prayer. We should begin with the following state-

ment, "I hereby take upon myself to fulfill the Mitzvah of 'Love your fellowman as yourself' and in conclusion, 'Indeed the righteous will excel your name and the upright will dwell in your presence.'"



Franklin Novak announcing a CHANUKAH sale at Sears in Eastland Mall. Franklin is manager of Sears Natural health food department. (Photo: Bruce Schoenes)



On Tuesday, December 6, the seventh night of Chanukah, a group of sixty people experienced a Chanukah celebration at the Lubavitch residence. Photos by Bruce Schoenes

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
10% discount on all Bar/Bat Mitzvah supplies

NO MINIMUMS • FREE DELIVERY
COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS INVITED

PAPERTOWN
Distributors

Paper Plastics, Allied Products and Supplies
Food and Beverage Service Disposables
Janitorial and Maintenance Supplies

Charlotte 4428 E. Independence 588-8863	Raleigh 8812 Old Wake Forest Rd. 878-0215
---	---

IMPERIAL GARDEN

CHINESE RESTAURANT

All Chefs From Hong Kong

Serving Most Authentic Chinese Cuisine

AUTHENTIC CANTONESE & SZECHUAN CUISINE & AMERICAN DISHES

COMPLETE TAKE OUT SERVICE

PRIVATE PARTY ROOM UP TO 60 PEOPLE

333-9239

3108 E INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD
(TWO BLOCKS EAST OF THE COLISEUM)

• LUNCHEON •
LUNCHEON SPECIALS
MON - SAT 11:30-2:30
• DINNER •

ALL ABC PERMITS
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

MON - THURS 11:30AM - 10PM
FRI - SAT 11:30AM - 11PM
SUN 12:00 NOON - 10PM

art auction



SPONSORED BY
TEMPLE ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

AT
TEMPLE ISRAEL
1014 DILWORTH ROAD
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 29, 1984
PREVIEW AT 6:30 P.M.
AUCTION AT 7:30 P.M.

FAMOUS NAME ARTISTS
ORIGINAL OILS * LITHOGRAPHS
SERIGRAPHS * ENAMELS * ETCHINGS * WATERCOLORS
FARHIGRAPHS * CORK PAINTINGS * BATIKS
ORIENTAL ART * THREE-DIMENSIONAL ENGRAVINGS
INTAGLIOS * WOODCUTS * SCULPTURES * MIXED MEDIA

* FREE ADMISSION * WINE AND CHEESE * DOOR PRIZES * RAFFLE PRIZES * FREE CATALOG * FREE ORIGINAL PEN & INK LITHOGRAPH TO EACH ATTENDING COUPLE OR SINGLE * VISA, MASTER CHARGE & AMERICAN EXPRESS ACCEPTED *

CONDUCTED AND SUPERVISED BY
European-American Art
59 CENTRAL AVENUE, FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK 11735
(516) 430-0210

Savings to 50%

At Plej's Textile Mill Outlets you can save as much as 50% on Towels, Sheets, Bedspreads, Comforters, Curtains and Drapes everyday! Why? Because of our huge inventory we can pass the savings to you, the Plej's Customer!

Charlotte 6424 East Independence Boulevard (next to Circuit City) Monday-Thursday 10AM-6PM Friday 10AM-9PM Saturday 10AM-6PM Sunday 1PM-6PM	6097 South Boulevard (Starmount Shopping Center) Monday-Saturday 10AM-6PM Sunday 1PM-6PM	3053 Freedom Drive (Freedom Village Shopping Center) Monday-Thursday 10AM-6PM Friday 10AM-9PM Saturday 10AM-6PM Sunday 1PM-6PM
--	---	--

"Bargains Are Our Business"