

Thoughts From the Lubavitcher Rebbe

The Month of Elul

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

THE MONTH OF ELUL

Elul — the last month of the year, has many characteristics to it. It is the month of taking stock, when we account for all our deeds of the past eleven months.

Elul is also the month which prepares us for the new year. This month has also been called the month of refuge. This concept is similar to the idea of "city of refuge."

The city of refuge was instituted by G-d in the Torah. When one kills another unintentionally he can escape to a city of refuge in order to avoid revenge by a relative of the victim.

Similarly we have one month in the year when we are given a chance to take refuge and correct our past deeds.

Our sages explain that a per-

son can take refuge in the words of the Torah and Tfilla (prayer), for through them one can return to G-d.

KING IN THE FIELD

Another example is given to describe the importance of Elul. A king lived in a great palace in the distant capital city and it was very difficult to get an audience with him. During one month of a year he came out and visited the people in the field. Anyone who wanted to see him could approach him and express all their wishes. They would then accompany the king back to the palace where he welcomed them into his royal chambers.

So, too, it is during the month of Elul that G-d, our King, leaves his royal chambers and visits all his people in

the field. Anyone of us can approach Him and request all that our hearts desire. When the month of Elul is over and Rosh Hashanah is here we are welcomed into the royal chambers and feel very close to G-d.

During the month of Elul we listen to the sound of the Shofar each day except on the day before Rosh Hashanah. This serves as a reminder that we are to awaken from our sleep and prepare ourselves for the New Year.

It is also customary in the month of Elul to increase the study of Torah, prayer and charity, and by improving relations with other people we improve our relationship with G-d, who in turn blesses us with a year of light, of blessing and a year of health, happiness and success.

Present For The Future



Alan Oxman (pictured above) and Robert Gilley (pictured on right), of the firm of Culbertson, Gilley and Hubbard, have donated a Victor 9000 computer to the Charlotte Jewish Foundation and the Foundation. In combination with the Victor computer already in operation, the new equipment will greatly increase the efficiency of the operation, provide word processing power in addition to making Gloria Hunter, Federation/Foundation secretary, positively ecstatic.



"Let's Talk" Week Features Eleanor Norton

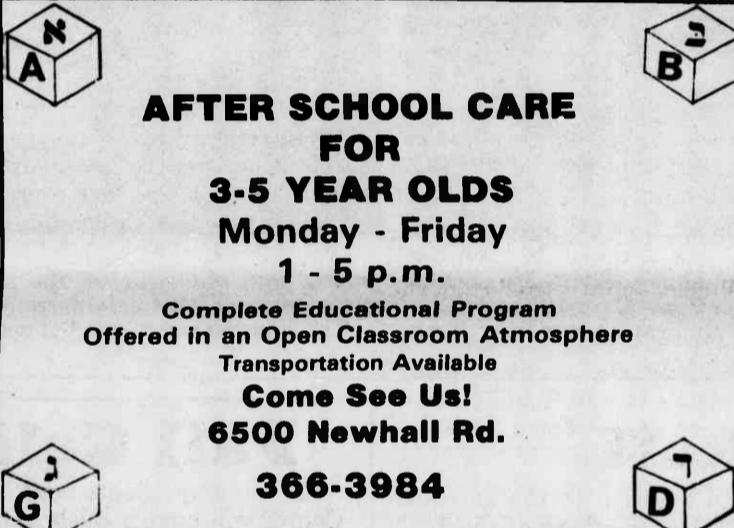
Highlighting the third Annual "Let's Talk" Week, October 2-9 in Charlotte, will be Eleanor Holms Norton, speaking on the "Role of the Family," Thursday, October 11, 7:30 p.m. at Myers Park High School Auditorium, 2400 Colony Road. Professor Norton's appearance is sponsored by The March of Dimes and The Mecklenburg Council on Adolescent Pregnancy. There will be a \$2.00 donation at the door, students and senior citizens free.

Eleanor Holms Norton is the former chairperson of the United States Equal Employment Opportunities Commission in Washington, DC from 1977 to 1981 and is now a professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC. Professor Norton has been widely hailed by rights activists and employers alike for her unique ability to affect change. She is a recognized authority on an impressive range of domestic issues including the family, the single parent and poverty, race and sex matters, comparable worth and other social and economic issues.

"Let's Talk" Week is coordinated in conjunction with National Family Sexuality Education Week, during which time churches,

synagogues, agencies, youth groups and community organizations offer speakers,

films, conferences and special activities promoting family education about sexuality.



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