

LUBAVITCH OF N. C.

Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

Purim and Jewish Identity

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

The story of Purim is told to us in "Megillat Esther" (The Scroll of Esther). The miracle seems to start from the chapter relating Haman's anger against Mordechai, which was the reason for his decree against all the Jews, leading to the miracle of Purim.

The Megillah begins, however, with a description of Achashverosh's kingdom and the fact that he made a big feast to celebrate his empire. During this feast, the king ordered that everyone should be satisfied according to his desire.

This order was to be carried out to the fullest. That is, if Mordechai the Jew, or one of his people should come to the feast, he would have kosher food and drink.

The lesson from this is as follows: A Jew may think that when he is in the capital city of a country, or in a position of great influence, he should not openly display his Judaism.

He should not, be asking for kosher food, show that his conduct is different from other people. Why should he stick

out? Especially since we are in the minority. Why touch on non-Jews' sensibilities by showing that our religion is different from all peoples?

The Megillah teaches us otherwise: Even when a Jew is in a position of great influence and has clout in higher circles, he must still openly display his Jewishness and ask for kosher food.

Every person's desire is to show that he is a complete and whole person. If he is ashamed of his identity, he is the greatest cripple of all. So too in our case: A Jew must be proud of his Jewishness; and if he is ashamed of his identity and tries to hide it, he is

handicapped.

A gentile in any case knows that a Jew's religion and conduct is different from others. Hence when a Jew tries to hide his identity and acts as if he has no connection to the "one people," the non-Jew considers him a hypocrite trying to deceive them into thinking that he is not a Jew.

On the contrary, if one displays his pride in Judaism, he will win honor and respect from all who know him. This is just as in the days of Mordechai and Esther, when Jews eventually were respected by all nations in the great empire.

Preschoolers Enjoy Many Projects

The children at Lubavitch Preschool have been kept busy with a variety of projects and programs that they have thoroughly enjoyed. We have just finished a session where the children took part in the Dancercise program from the JCC. They were taught different dance techniques and were able to learn some simple

dances. Storyteller hour at the library is a program the children look forward to every week.

We have just finished a section on food brochos (blessings). Our project included a coloring book, magazine collage, cooking or baking, all corresponding to a particular blessing.

Celebrate "The Week of The Jewish Woman"

"Saturday the Producer Stayed Home" is the theme of a special presentation by NBC producer Mollie Resnick from New York.

The presentation entitled "Saturday Serenity" coincides with the week of the Jewish woman celebrated internationally during this time of the year. This project is sponsored by Lubavitch Women's Organization.

Speaking on the theme of peace and tranquility will be Fruma Rosenberg from Pittsburgh, Pa. Mrs. Rosenberg is considered an expert on stress reduction and has lectured nationwide on the topic of inner peace and Shabbat.

The program will be held on

April 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Adams Mark Hotel. Dessert and coffee will be served; pastries are from New York. Cost for the evening is \$3 per person. For more information, call Mariashi Groner, 366-3984.

Purim Blast
on
Sunday,
March 16
12:30 p.m.

at
The Children's Theatre
1017 E. Morehead St.

Admission: \$1
Lunch Additional

See Page 16
For More
Information

Kroger

Sav-on

Passover Foods

MANISCHEWITZ

Passover Matzos
Passover Thin Tea Matzos
Passover Egg Matzos
Matzo Farfel
Passover Matzo Meal
Passover Coffee
Cake Mix
Passover Sponge
Cake Mix

Matzo Ball Mix
Almond Macaroons
Coconut Macaroons
Beet Borscht
Passover Marble
Cake Mix
Gefilte Fish
Wine

OTHER

Croyden House Matzo
Ball and Soup Mix
Croyden House Instant
Chicken Soup
Carmel Potato Pancake Mix
Rokeach Old Vienna Fish
Joyva Sesame Crunch
Granny's Fruit Slices

Shop Kroger for your Passover food needs!

These items are available at the following locations: Tyvola Rd., Wendover Rd., Park Rd. at Ideal Way, and Pineville / Matthews Hwy. (Hwy. 51)