

LUBAVITCH OF N. C.



Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

Love Thy Fellow—And Prayer

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

It is customary to recite each day, just prior to the morning prayers: "I hereby accept upon myself the positive commandment of 'Love thy neighbor as thyself.'"

Two questions immediately arise: First, what is the connection between this precept and prayer, that makes it a fitting introduction to prayer? Second, how can one possibly be expected to love another person just as he loves himself?

Chassidic philosophy sees all of Jewry as one complete body, with each individual Jew corresponding to one of its organs. Some correspond to the "head" (the rabbis and scholars), others to the "body," and yet others to the "feet."

Anyone who has ever experienced the pain of an ingrown toenail will be fully aware that a pain even in the lowest part of the body can impair the functioning of the head by causing an inability to concentrate or think clearly. This clearly illustrates that the body, with all its organs and limbs, is a complete integrated system.

Likewise, within the "body" of Jewry a malfunction in the "feet" can seriously disturb

the "head." We find that the greatest sages, the most refined of people, would say confession, a prayer expressing remorse for such sins as stealing, committing violence, etc. For although they were far removed from such misdeeds, they felt a personal involvement with those who had transgressed, and consequently considered themselves affected by their sins.

In light of this explanation, we may understand how one can love another as oneself; for the entire Jewish people are one integrated "body" and every Jew has a part of himself within his fellow Jew. Hence, in loving his fellow he is really showing affection for part of himself!

Likewise, someone with hatred in his heart for another is really hating and rejecting a part of himself. He is, in a sense, a maimed personality and his prayers are unacceptable to G-d.

The connection between Ahavat Yisroel: Love a Fellow and prayer now becomes clear, and this is the reason for the custom to take upon oneself the command of Ahavat Yisroel every day before prayer, so that we may stand in prayer before the Almighty, not disfigured by hatred, but as a wholesome personality.

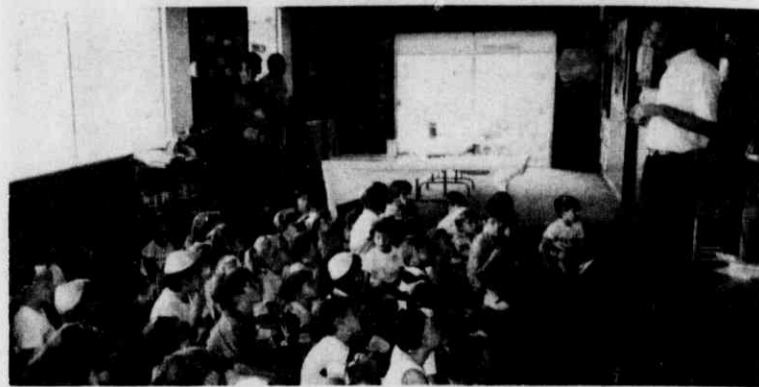
Shofar Factory Held at Chabad House

For many children in Charlotte, this past Rosh Hashanah service had an additional significance. This was due to the highly successful Shofar Factory they attended at the Chabad House.

Sounding the shofar is a central part of the holiday. It is biblical in origin and has endured throughout the centuries of exile. Although it is a primitive wind instrument made from a ram's horn, it is, nonetheless, the instrument with which we perform this most important mitzvah.

On September 5, well over 100 children gathered at the Chabad House to learn the skill of developing a usable shofar out of a raw sheep horn. Rabbi Binyomin Weiss, coordinator of the program, introduced the children to several types of horns which were mounted onto a wall. Some were kosher for use, like the ram's horn, and some were not, like the deer's horn. Although the deer is a kosher animal, Rabbi Weiss explained that the deer horn does not have a hollow space to allow for air flow which is vital to produce sound of the shofar. On display were different stuffed horned animals.

After a quick quiz, Rabbi Weiss and Boruch Schoenes demonstrated how a shofar is made; first by boiling the horn in water, then removing its marrow and sanding the horn



Children eagerly receive instructions from Rabbi Weiss.



Rabbi Weiss demonstrating shofar making to children. Boruch Schoenes standing in background.

to smooth its surface. Rabbi Weiss then cut off the narrow tip, and Boruch proceeded to drill a hole wide enough to produce a genuine shofar. After the demonstration, the children tried their luck in producing their very own shofar. The children beamed as they finished their hard work.

Chanie Weiss helped the

children decorate their own Rosh Hashanah honey bowl with the words of "L'shana Tova Umsukah," which translates to "A Good Sweet Year." On the first night of Rosh Hashanah it is customary to dip a slice of delicious apple in honey to symbolize the beginning of a new sweet year.

New Kosher Vacation Spot Opens in South

A new vacation spot for the Jewish traveler to the South has been announced by Chabad-Lubavitch of Virginia. It has made available to the general public their recently completed retreat center in Richmond.

The architecturally unique building is located on 16 acres of land. It is luxurious and elegant throughout, from the beautifully landscaped grounds, to the outdoor pool and patio area, to the magnificent arched shul. The facility features 16 motel style rooms with private baths. There is a lovely dining room and large meat kitchen. A complete Shabbas pack-

age is available which includes all meals, minyonim, shiurim for men and women, Mesibos Shabbas party for children and separate swimming after Shabbas in the well-lighted pool area.

During the week, prepared dinners are available for sale and it goes without saying that the strictest kashrut is maintained.

The Richmond area is convenient to many attractions such as King's Dominion, Busch Gardens, Virginia Beach, Washington, D.C., Shenandoah Mountains, Colonial Williamsburg and many other interesting sites.

A recent weekend saw several families attending from New York, New Jersey, Washington Heights, Queens and Lawrence. Most had heard of it through an ad in a New York Anglo-Jewish weekly.

All of the guests were unanimous in their comments that they enjoyed the weekend "more than any other hotel we ever stayed at." They particularly enjoyed the "heimishe, warm and friendly atmosphere" and were totally impressed with the beauty of the facility.

For further information and prices call (804)740-2000.



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