

# LUBAVITCH OF N.C.

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## Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

### Jewish Leap Year

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

This year is unique in the fact that it is leap year. We reflect on it during this time of the year as we enter the month of Adar 1. A Jewish leap year consists of an extra month which is added on to the month of Adar, thus we have Adar 1 and Adar 2.

The fundamental reason for adding an extra month in our leap year is, of course, the fact that the Torah requires our calendar to be based on the Lunar Year, which is shorter than the Solar Year by approximately eleven days. At the same time it requires that our festivals take place in their due season — Pesach in the spring, Succoth in the autumn, etc. This necessitates an adjustment once in two or three years, in order to make up the deficiency of the Lunar Year in relation to the Solar Year.

The lesson contained in this calendar arrangement is that a person can in one year make up for deficiencies in past years.

Furthermore, just as the leap year not only makes up the deficiency, but also provides an "advance" on the future, so must the individual from time to time, not only make up what he has failed to accomplish in the past, but also make a special effort to go a step forward as a reserve for the future.

In addition to the above, the Jewish leap year has a

special relevance to Jewish women, mothers and daughters. The sun and the moon were created as "the two great luminaries," but each has been given its own place and function. The moon acts as a reflector and transmitter of the sun's light. In this way it has a special quality in that it transmits the solar light and energy to those areas in nature where direct sunlight would be too intense to be of benefit.

Similarly the worthy Jewish wife, in many respects, must reflect and transmit the Torah way of life of her husband to the entire household, and it is in this way that she fulfills her great responsibility and privilege of being the support of the home. At the same time there are areas in Jewish life where the Jewish woman, rather than the man, can make the greatest contribution, using her special qualities to the best and fullest advantage.

In taking stock of the accomplishment in the past, one could find much to be gratified with, but this very accomplishment will also reveal that with a little more effort, a great deal more could have been accomplished. It is therefore auspicious that this year being that it is a leap year, we not only make up for the "deficiency" but also advance in to the future with true progress in all matters pertaining to Torah Judaism.

## Learning Comes Alive At Lubavitch Day School

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## Winter Programs Held at Lubavitch School

As part of the ongoing educational programs at Lubavitch School, the teachers at the school have been introducing new and innovative programs, which help the children comprehend the complex world in which we live.

Fern Sanderson, morning teacher, introduced the children to the world of transportation. The children are learning about the concept and its different forms. The project includes creative play, consists of making roads, bridges and tunnels out of blocks and then driving automobiles on the intersecting streets.

Students have demonstrated their creativity, by making paper vehicles, gliders, rocket ships, sailboats and trains. The highlight of the project was riding a city bus downtown, where the children learned about public transportation.

On the medical front, children learned about emergency care and paramedics. A special team of paramedics visited the school with an ambulance and performed a live demonstration to the entire school. The children listened carefully to the instructors and participated in some of the emergency medical procedures.

The children climbed aboard the ambulance and learned about life-saving equipment and some emergency techniques used by paramedics. They also took turns riding on the mobile bed carried by the paramedics.

Susan Doobrow, kindergarten teacher, has been teaching the children about medical science. One of the exciting projects this past month was learning about the body. Each student drew a full-length poster of his/her body and filled it in with various internal organs learned about in class.

At the top they placed a life-size drawing of the brain which they colored to proper specification. Mrs. Doobrow discussed the various functions of the brain and the difference between the right side and left side of the brain. They continued with the spinal cord, the heart and the liver. Every week they added another organ to the body which helped them understand the function and location of the particular organ.

Chanie Weiss, Judaica teacher, has been busy teaching the children about



Children volunteer for emergency training.

Tu B'Shvat, the new year for trees. The children have been studying about the seven grains and fruits that have been the blessing of Israel.

The children have planted new trees outside the Chabad house in honor of the holiday. Chanie explained to the eager students how each new tree is like a new little person that has to be cared for and nurtured. She also explained the main purpose of the tree is to bear fruits, which also resembles humans who also bear fruits which are their good deeds.

Lubavitch afternoon program has had some exciting projects in the past few months, including the observation of chicken hatching. Terry Tucker, afternoon teacher, introduced the children to the world of biology. She brought real fertilized

chicken eggs from a hatching farm, placed them in an incubator and the children watched the natural process of hatching. The children cared for the chicks and named and eventually donated them as pets to a poor family.

The children also focused on winter. The projects included snowmen made of Ivory Snow that also could be used as a soap bar. They also learned about winter sports and fireplaces. Susan Fleischman, teacher's aide, has been very helpful in the many arts and crafts projects.

Debbie Maslov, early child development teacher, has been very successful in teaching the two-year-olds communication skills and human interaction at their level. Under Debbie's guidance the children learn how to share and wait their turn.



Learning the Blessings: (L to R) Rachel Kaplan, David Palevsky, Chanie Schoenes and Samantha Simon. Posters were made by the late Miriam Schoenes.

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