

LUBAVITCH OF N.C.

Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

Passover in Spring

By RABBI YOSSI GRONER

The Festival of Passover, which commemorates the Exodus from Egypt, was ordained by G-d to take place in the spring season. It is for this reason that we add an extra month every leap year, as we did this year, in order to celebrate Passover in the spring.

The fact that the Exodus from Egypt took place in the spring is explained by our sages as an indication of a special Divine kindness...it is a most pleasant time of year.

In nature, spring reveals all the natural forces which were dormant and hidden during the winter; the grass grows and the trees bring forth blossoms, which later turn into ripe fruit.

The same idea may be applied to people. There can be a state of "winter," or apparent unproductivity, in the life of a person. But no one should consider himself or another as being unuse-

ful, even if a long period of fruitlessness has elapsed. Given the proper inspiration and stimulus, the state of winter can easily be changed to spring and blossom, which eventually will ripen into good fruits for G-d and mankind.

The significance of spring in Jewish life is indicated by the very festival of Passover. For two hundred ten years, the children of Israel lived in Egypt, in physical and spiritual slavery, stagnating in the abominations of Egypt. It did not seem that there could be a revival of Jewish life.

Yet, there occurred the Exodus in the middle of the spring, and the children of Israel were completely free; so free, even spiritually, that in a very short time they became worthy of receiving the Torah, the zenith and fulfillment of the entire world.

Preschool and Day School Activities

Since winter usually means cold weather, the preschoolers have been learning about the affects of freezing weather. They participated in experiments involving freezing water and other elements. They also created simulated snow flakes and learned about weather safety.

The children experimented with retail business by opening a makeshift "grocery store" at the school. Some children pretended to be "stockers" and put grocery items on the shelves. Other children used shopping carts as they selected their food items. Upon completing their shopping, the children proceeded to the cashier who used an adding machine, paper and pencil to determine the cost of the groceries. The shopper had the option of paying with paper money or a check.

During the trip to the Nature Museum, the students learned how animals use their five senses. They also explored the Owl's Nest Room, where they applied their senses to participate in some very interesting activities.

During their Judaica classes the children have Mitzvah discussions, which are led by Chanie Weiss, Judaica teacher. The past two weeks the Mitzvot of Hachnosas Orchim (hospitality) and Ahavas Yisroel (loving your friend like yourself). The students made art projects portraying each Mitzvah and also learned a song about each Mitzvah.

In preparation for Purim the children made royal costumes and learned much about the Purim holiday and its significance. They each made a Purim megillah with



Engrossed in their Hebrew workbook: (L to R) Abby Rosenthal, Kelly Bigel, Allyson Sand.



Mariashi Groner leads students in Purim song.

full illustrations of the Purim story, and had a grand masquerade on Purim. On Purim Lubavitch preschool and day school parents joined their children in baking hamantaschen and other Purim activities.

Matzo
Charoses
Roasted Shankbone
Bitter Herb

The Core of the Passover Ritual

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