

# Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

## Passover—Expression of Faith

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

The festival of Passover commemorates not only the great miracles G-d performed, from the deliverance from Egypt to the splitting of the Red Sea, but also the absolute faith the children of Israel declared in G-d and Moshe, his servant.

The Zohar explains that the Matzah we eat on the first night of Passover is "food of faith." In addition to fulfilling the mitzvah of eating Matzah at the Seder we also strengthen our faith with Matzah.

On Passover we remember the Exodus which was one of the most important events in our history. It was the liberation from Egypt which led to our independence to become a nation unto G-d at Mount Sinai. The trek through the desert, where the threat of survival without food or water were, by laws of nature, virtually nil. Yet they followed the irrational route solely on the word of Moshe speaking in the name of G-d.

This remembrance of the Exodus during Passover ought to lead to some positive results in our daily conduct, perhaps struggle, in coordinating a harmonious relationship between our secular and Jewish life.

When the non-Jewish world, and even those of the Jewish world, who have strayed from the authentic Jewish way of life, challenge the observant and practicing Jew: You, who like us, live in a materialistic world, in the midst of a highly competitive society, facing a desperate struggle for economic survival, how can you escape subservience to

the idolatry of the land (be it the dollar, or the fear to be "different," etc)? How can you adhere to a code of 613 precepts which burden your life and limit your competitiveness at every side and turn?

The answer is found in the story of Passover.

In the case of the Exodus, when the Jews responded to the Divine call and precepts, disregarding so-called rational considerations and breaking with the negative past, it turned out that precisely the application of this principle in actual life was the road to true happiness. This happiness was not only on the spiritual level, receiving the Torah and becoming a holy nation, but also on the material level, coming to the promised land flowing with milk and honey.

So it is today and always. By virtue of the Divine Law, which is called the Torah of life, and the commandments by which Jews live and experience in their daily lives, the Jew attaches himself to the Creator and Master of the world, and liberates himself from all perceived restrictions and limitations, and attains true wealth, materially and spiritually.

In the Haggadah we recite the importance of the Biblical directive: "Remember your deliverance from Egypt every day of your life." True remembering of the past is to relive the past and apply the lesson to our present and daily life. When we remember the lesson of faith, it gives us courage and resolve to connect even more with our wonderful heritage, Our Torah, Our People, and Our Land Israel.

# Charlotteans Join Columbians at Exciting "Uncle Moishy" Concert

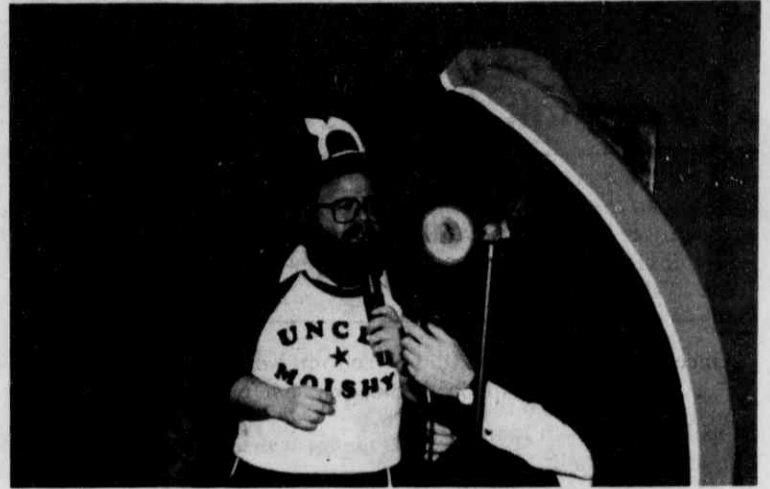
Over seventy-five people from the Charlotte Jewish community participated in a most exciting program in Columbia, South Carolina. The program, "Uncle Moishy & the Mitzvah Men," performed on Sunday, February 10 to a packed house at Temple Beth Shalom.

The group, which was brought in by Chabad-Lubavitch of Columbia, brought their sensational show to a packed house of children and parents. They sang selections from their many best selling albums. The enthusiasm reached a crescendo when children and parents stood in their places, stomping their feet and clapping their hands to the upbeat Jewish music.

The program is geared to bring the child closer to the observance of Judaism and has brought the message of Jewish education in a most positive and joyous way. Uncle Moishy was dressed in a variety of costumes and taught the children about Kosher food, Shabbat and many other positive Mitzvot like sharing, honoring parents and much more.

"Their music is just so professional," said Rabbi Binyomin Weiss who organized the Charlotte group. "Many parents thanked us for inviting them to this wonderful event. The participants were treated to a kosher lunch and some even won prizes — you guessed it, the latest album of "Uncle Moishy & the Mitzvah Men."

Also joining the concert were



Uncle Moishy singing with the "watermelon."



Uncle Moishy with Charlotte children at the concert.

many students from the Chabad the Hebrew Academy in Academy in Myrtle Beach and Charleston, SC.

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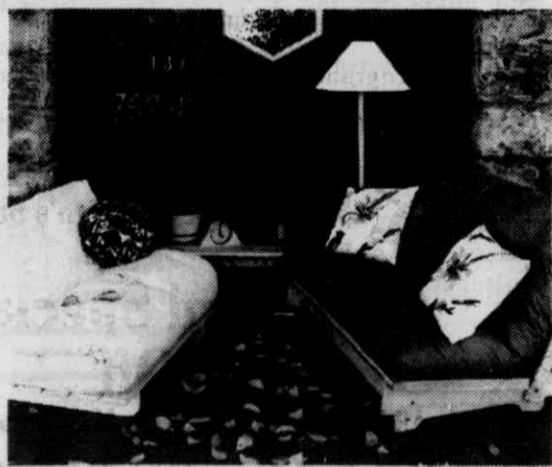
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