

Lubavitch of N.C.

Students Write Letters to Forces

So that students are knowledgeable about the world in which they live, Lubavitch Day School teachers assisted their students in following Operation Desert Storm from its inception to the present time. In addition to locating and learning about the geographic area, the primary grade students discussed the war's implications. The boys and girls expressed their concern and caring by writing letters to Jewish members of the allied forces.

Dear Soldier,

I'm writing this letter from school. I go to a Jewish school. My name is Gregory Klibanov. What's your name? I'm a little new in America. I'm from Russia. I'm in the third grade. I live with my mother, father and sister. I'm excited about Passover. Good luck!

From,
Gregory
Third Grader

Dear Soldier,

How are you feeling? Passover is coming soon. The first seder is March 29. Will you celebrate Passover? I have two relatives in Israel. I feel that Saddam Hussein should have stopped the war sooner because people were getting hurt.

Love,
Diana
First Grader

Dear Soldier,

How did you feel about the war? I have a lot of relatives in Israel, and I hope they're okay. I am almost eight. I saw the war on TV. You must have worked very hard during the war. I feel that the war lasted much longer that it really did. I wished Saddam Hussein would stop shooting bombs and missiles. How did you feel about leaving your family? Are you hurt at all?

Thank you,
Gali
Second Grader

Dear Soldier,

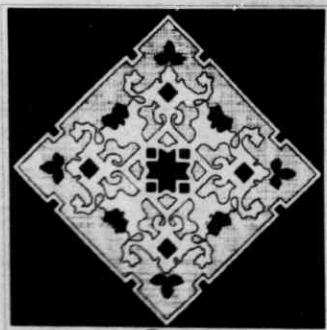
I hope you are all right. I would like to know if you wanted to compromise with Saddam Hussein. I go to a Jewish elementary school. I have been learning about the war. I would love to give a lot of help but I am only eight. My Hebrew name is Chana. My English name is Jessica. I hope you come home soon.

Love,
Jessica
Second Grader

Dear Soldier,

I have been very interested in the war. How did you feel? I was scared. Were you? My name is Monica, and I am 7 years old. I go to a Jewish Day School in Charlotte, NC.

From,
Monica
First Grader



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Purim Brought Fun and Joy to Lubavitch

Purim is a joyous time of the year; Lubavitch is a happy place in Charlotte. When you bring the two together you have happiness and joy in abundant quantity. Purim at the Chabad House was a center of holiday activity and celebration.

On the night of Purim, over 200 people gathered at the Chabad House to hear the reading of the Megilah and to celebrate the festival with food, drink and extraordinary costumes. The atmosphere was electric, the food was delicious, and Judaism was at a peak permeated with goodwill and friendliness.

Adults and children learned the history and meaning of Purim and also had a chance to practice the day's laws and customs. Nicely decorated food baskets were exchanged among friends. Many of the baskets contained freshly baked Hamantaschen and delicious red wine. This exchange was in order to perform the Mitzvah of Misloach Manot which is essential on the Purim holiday.

The shining faces of the children were matched only by the glowing smiles of their parents who took pride in their children playing the role of Mordechai and Esther and King Achashverosh with their colorful costumes.

On Purim day, Lubavitch Day School and Preschool hosted a Purim Carnival for its students. Children and teachers wore special Purim costumes. Some were dressed as Queen Esther, Mordechai, clowns, a Hamantaschen, etc. The carnival was the highlight of the day as the children participated in many fun filled activities, including the special Mitzvot of the day.

Also on Purim afternoon, a full course Purim feast was served at the Chabad House, where Day School and Talmud Torah students assembled to listen to the Megilah and spend the rest of the afternoon of this joyous holiday together.

Rabbi Binyomin Weiss and his wife Chanie arranged the feast with all the traditional holiday dishes, including a special Purim delight, Hamantaschen and Toffutti ice cream. The children were entertained with songs and holiday spirit and



Gershon Klibanov follows and listens to Megilah reading.



Robbie Sachs and friends enjoy Purim feast.



Queen Esther (Courtney Rosenberg) and King Achashverosh (David Spangenthal) at Purim carnival.



Teachers Susan Doobrow (L) and Fern Sanderson entertain at the school on Purim.

listened to an exciting Purim story told by Rabbi Yossi Groner who also taught them lessons in kindness and good behavior.

Extra special this year was the fact that Jews in America and in Israel were celebrating the end of the conflict in the Persian Gulf which actually concluded on the Purim holiday. People attending the festivities at the Chabad House pointed to a JTA story quoting the Lubavitcher Rebbe in November: "The war will be over by Purim."

The enthusiasm of the crowd was great on Purim as people were cheering the victory of freedom and the destruction of the evil forces of those who

aimed their terror against Israel. The Rebbe had shown great support to Israel right from the beginning, reassuring people in Israel as far as the safety of the land. He has encouraged travel to Israel and asked Lubavitchers in the Tel-Aviv area not to leave, as they would be safe and sound.

From the outset of the Jewish New Year, the Lubavitcher Rebbe has declared this year the "year of revealed wonders," as it comes following the year of miracles. One can now see the extent of the miracles that occurred with Jews in Israel and with the forces of democracy in the region. Indeed what a complement to the miracle of Purim.

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