

# Lubavitch of North Carolina

## Jewish Day School Open House on November 11

The Jewish Day School of Charlotte will host a school Open House for prospective parents on Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 PM. The Open House will allow visitors to browse and examine the classrooms and talk to teachers about curriculum.

Kindergarten teachers Loretta Muier and Linda Headly will highlight the unique character of their program through a special presentation. They will demonstrate their exciting curriculum and a multitude of special projects of the kindergarten class.

Yiska Cohen will present the Judaic program including the

newest addition to the school the "Aleph Bet Bayit." The Aleph is the hostess of the Bayit, which translates to House. Aleph welcomes each new letter in to the house by creating a new room for the letter. The children play the role of Aleph and bond with each new Hebrew letter as it acclimated in the Bayit.

"The Open House will be our opportunity to share our successful program with the community, and let people see for themselves the excellent quality of our school," said Mariashi Groner, Day School director. ✪

## A Telling Story The Rebbe Said Thank You



The Lubavitcher Rebbe Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson

Dear Readers,  
This Yom Kippur we marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Yom Kippur War. Many stories are told about the heroes of the capital Israeli troops on the battlefield. Few, however deal with the results of the war on the personal lives of the brave defenders of the holy land. Following is a story told by one of the wounded in his own words.

Rabbi Yossi Groner

When Joseph Cabiliv — today a successful real estate developer — regained consciousness in the Rambam Hospital in Haifa, he remembered nothing of the circumstances that had brought him there. He felt an excruciating pain in his legs. The discovery that followed was far more horrendous: glancing under the sheet, he saw that both his legs had been amputated, the right leg at the knee, the left at mid thigh.

The day before, Joseph, who was serving on reserve duty in Tzahal (the Israeli Defense Forces), was patrolling the Golan Heights with several other soldiers when their jeep hit an old Syrian land mine. Two of his comrades were killed on the spot. Another three suffered serious injury. Joseph's legs were so severely crushed that the doctors had no choice but to amputate them.

Aside from the pain and disability, Joseph was confronted with society's incapacity to deal with the handicapped. "My friends would come to visit," he recalls, "sustain fifteen minutes of artificial cheer, and depart without once meeting my eye. Mother would come and cry, and it was I, who so desperately needed consolation, who had to do the consoling. Father would come and sit by my bedside in silence. I don't know

which was worse, Mother's tears or Father's silence. Returning to my civilian profession as a welder was, of course, impossible, and while people were quick to offer charity, no one had a job for a man without legs. When I ventured out in my wheelchair, people kept their distances, so that a large empty space opened up around me on the busiest street corner." When Joseph met with other disabled veterans he found that they all shared his experience: they had given their very bodies in defense of the nation, but the nation lacked the spiritual strength to confront their sacrifice.

"In the summer of 1976," Joseph tells, "Tzahal sponsored a tour of the United States for a large group of disabled veterans. While we were in New York, a Lubavitcher Chasid, came to our hotel and suggested that we meet with Lubavitcher Rebbe. Most of us did not know what to make of the invitation, but a few members of our group had heard about the Rebbe and convinced the rest of us to accept.

"As soon as they heard we were coming, the Chabadniks sprang into action, organizing the whole thing with the precision of a military campaign. Ten large commercial vans pulled up to our hotel to transport us and our wheelchairs to the Lubavitch Headquarters in Brooklyn. Soon we found ourselves in the famous large synagogue in the basement of 770 Eastern Parkway.

"Ten minutes later a white-bearded man of about 70 entered the room, followed by Rabbinic Aides. As if by a common signal, absolute silence pervaded the room. There was no mistaking the authority he radiated. We had all stood in the presence of military commanders and Prime ministers, but this was unlike anything we had ever encountered. This must have been what people felt in the presence of royalty. An identical thought passed through all our minds: Here walks a leader, a prince.

"He passed between us, resting his glance on each one of us and lifting his hand in greeting, and then seated himself opposite us. Again he looked at each of us in turn. From that terrible day on which I had woken without my legs in the Rambam Hospital, I have seen all sorts of things in the

eyes of those who looked at me: pain, pity, revulsion, anger. But this was the first time in all those years that I encountered true empathy. With that glance that scarcely lasted a second and the faint smile on his lips, the Rebbe conveyed to me that he was with me utterly and exclusively.

"The Rebbe then began to speak, after apologizing for his Ashkenazic-accented Hebrew. He spoke about our 'disability,' saying that he objected to the use of the term. 'If a person has been deprived of a limb or a faculty,' he told, 'this itself indicates that God has given him special powers to overcome the limitations this entails, and to surpass the achievements of ordinary people. You are not "disabled" or "handicapped," but special and unique, as you possess potentials that the rest of us do not.'

"I therefore suggest," he continued, adding with a smile, 'of course it is none of my business, but Jews are famous for voicing opinions on matters that do not concern them, that you should no longer be called n'chei Yisroel ("the disabled of Israel," our designation in the Tzahal bureaucracy) but metzuyanei Yisroel ("the special of Israel").' He spoke for several minutes more, and everything he said and more importantly, the way in which he said it, addressed what had been churning within me since my injury.

"In parting, he gave each of us a dollar bill, in order, he explained, that we give it to charity in his behalf, making us partners in the fulfillment of a mitzvah. He walked from wheelchair to wheelchair, shaking our hands, giving each a dollar, and adding a personal word or two. When my turn came, I saw his face up close and I felt like a child. He gazed deeply into my eyes, took my hand between his own, pressed it firmly, and said 'Thank you' with a slight nod of his head.

"I later learned that he had said something different to each one of us. To me he said 'Thank you.' Somehow he sensed that that was exactly what I needed to hear. With those two words, the Rebbe erased all the bitterness and despair that had accumulated in my heart. I carried the Rebbe's 'Thank you' back to Israel, and I carry it with me to this very day." ✪

## Lubavitch Emissary Leads U.S. Senate in Opening Prayer

By Mica Schneider

WASHINGTON (JTA) - Alluding to the Monica Lewinsky scandal and partisan conflicts in Congress, a Lubavitch rabbi has asked senators to "judge each other at least as favorably as we would like to be judged ourselves."

Rabbi Levi Shemtov, director of the Washington office of the American Friends of Lubavitch, led the Senate in its opening prayer Sept. 17, becoming the second rabbi to lead the Senate in prayer this year.

"As our nation faces tremendous challenges, we also possess a deep, enormous faith and capacity

for healing," he said to the Senate.

Shemtov quoted the late Lubavitcher rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, as saying, "The only way to soothe the differences between two sides is to seek how we are all ultimately on the same side."

Americans are facing issues of healing and judging, Shemtov said, and to not make that relevant would have been a mistake.

"American society finds itself now in an unusually decisive time," said he said. "People who have differences need to keep in mind the unifying factors among us."


Two guest chaplains are invited to lead opening prayers each month. Shemtov is active on Capitol Hill with Jewish staffers and as the host of holiday parties.

Shemtov said he was pleased to lead the Senate in prayer and said it is a magnificent thing for a Jew to be able to pray in the name of God in front of Congress.

"This is an opportunity people before me dreamed about," he said. "To speak before Rosh Hashanah was an opportune time to make an opening prayer." ✪

**Kindergarten**

# Open House



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1998

7:00 P.M.  
AT  
SHALOM PARK CAMPUS

**THE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL OF CHARLOTTE**

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