

NEWS

LIVING WITH MOSHIACH AROUND THE WORLD

CHABAD CHASSIDIM LIGHT UP THE WORLD

Shluchim were busy lighting public *menoros* and bringing the joy of the holiday to their respective cities. In New York, the metropolitan area was covered. It would be hard to find a Jewish store or business that wasn't touched by the light of Chanuka.

On Motzaei Shabbos, a parade of a hundred tanks and cars with *menoros* made its way to Manhattan. The parade was organized by the Chabad World Center to Greet Moshiach. Once in Manhattan, they distributed thousands of Chanuka guides and *menora* kits to Jewish passersby. Loudspeakers played Chanuka songs and *niggunim*, adding a festive air to the activity.

Tmimim went out each night to Flatbush, Queens, Brighton Beach, and Kensington. They also participated in dozens of Chanuka parties in private homes. They were often asked to speak and used the opportunity to inspire people to make good resolutions to hasten Moshiach's coming.

Many tourists in New York encountered the light of Chanuka on their way home. *Bachurim* were waiting for them after check-in at the airport

and before the exit gate at the El-Al terminal in Kennedy Airport. Passengers, as well as security men and employees of all kinds, joined the joyous lighting.

Like in past years, there was the candle lighting ceremony at the Largest Menora in the World on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan each evening, honored by the presence of distinguished personalities. Director of the Lubavitch

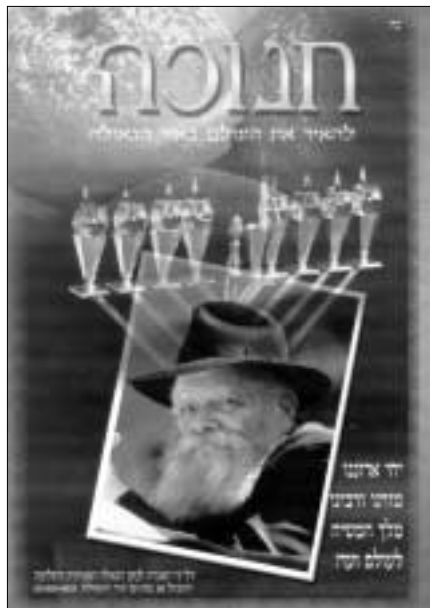
Youth Organization, Rabbi Shmuel Butman, emceed the events, which were covered widely in the media.

Members of the Iggud Talmidei HaYeshivos produced a beautiful Chanuka guide of over fifty glossy color pages explaining the meaning of the holiday and its connection to the imminent Redemption. It included a detailed list of all Chanuka events taking place in Chabad Houses all over New York. 100,000 copies were printed and distributed within a few days.

Chayalei Beis Dovid, the organization run by Rabbi Shimmie Weinbaum of Tzivos Hashem for sixth and seventh graders, had its units out on *mitzaim*, too. The boys were equipped with *menora* kits, *Farbrengen* magazines, and Chanuka guides, which they offered to Jews they encountered on the street.

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In Eretz Yisroel, *mitzva* tanks and hundreds of *menora*-bearing cars hit the streets and inspired Jews to rejoice on the holiday and to strengthen their anticipation of the Redemption.





Rabbi Berel Lazar, Chief Rabbi of Russia, with President Vladimir Putin

its work in lighting up Russia with a positive light.

A grand Chanuka party took place in the Marina Roscha synagogue, which recently re-opened its doors. The party was for Chabad supporters in Russia, among them public figures, politicians, and journalists. The president of Russia, Mr. Vladimir Putin, government ministers, Levi Leviov, head of the Federation of Jewish Communities, and Binyamin Netanyahu were among the prominent personalities in attendance.

The first speaker was President Putin, who spoke about the good relations between Russia and Israel. Levi Leviov presented the president with a beautiful *menora* on behalf of all the Jewish communities of the C.I.S., saying, "This *menora* is a token of appreciation and a symbol of light, so that you will light up the offices of the Kremlin and all of Russia."

The president responded that he does hope to light up the Kremlin and government offices with a positive light.

Mr. Binyamin Netanyahu was the next speaker. He spoke of his positive impressions of Chabad in the C.I.S. He dedicated most of his speech to the obligation of guarding *shleimus ha'Aretz*.

In addition to Rabbi Berel Lazar's address about Chanuka and *Geula*, he stated that he intends to produce a new, colorful Chanuka brochure, and described the scope of Chabad's work throughout the C.I.S. during Chanuka.



The *mitzva* tanks parked on President Street

The Mobile Mitzva Tanks, led by Rabbi Dovid Nachshon, cruised the major Israeli cities for four days.

Due to the situation in Eretz Yisroel, hundreds of *Anash* and *Tmimim* visited army bases from the Lebanon border in the north to the Egyptian border in the south, in order to bring the holiday spirit to the heavily armed and beleaguered soldiers.

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Hundreds of people in Moscow gathered in the center of the city for a candle lighting ceremony. Rabbi Berel Lazar, chief rabbi of Russia, lit the first candle of the holiday. Then he spoke about the victory of light over darkness, as will be the case with the full revelation of Moshiach.

Mr. Yuri Loshkov, Mayor of Moscow, warmly thanked Chabad for

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Chabad was active not only in New York and Eretz Yisroel, but in Rome, Paris, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, Milan, and countless other cities and towns around the globe, doing everything possible to bring the light of the true and complete Redemption, immediately.

THE FIRST EUROPEAN MOSHIACH CONGRESS

A REPORT FROM THE FIRST EUROPEAN MOSHIACH CONGRESS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN LONDON ON 17-20 KISLEV * A GATHERING OF SHLUCHIM AND ANASH WHICH CULMINATED IN GOOD RESOLUTIONS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN HAFATZAS BESURAS HA'GEULA.

BY SHMUEL BEN

Thursday night, the 17th of Kislev, after a five-hour trip, which included traversing the underwater tunnel connecting England and France, we arrived in Stamford Hill, London. Whoever thought they were coming to a modest Chabad *kinus* in a typical low-key British style quickly changed their minds when the car stopped in front of what looked like two large adjacent stores. A huge, illuminated overhead sign proclaimed the *besuras ha'Geula* and "Yechi," and indicated that this was the Chabad center, called Beis Menachem/Chai Center.

In one corner of the hall sat a group of young men and *yeshiva bachurim* whose dress identified them as Polish

Chassidim. They surrounded a number of screens showing videos from Beis Chayeinu. On the wall were signs, some welcoming the participants, others displaying quotes about the *besuras ha'Geula* with translations in English. On the other side of the hall was a large library with *s'farim on nigleh*, Chassidus, and *inyanei* Moshiach and Geula.

A group of local men were sitting and learning the Daf Yomi together. There were plenty of *shtiblech* around, yet these men chose to learn in Beis Moshiach (the nickname of the Chabad Center).

It's easy to identify the man in charge. Although his outward manner

gives one the impression of a quiet personality, he can't put his telephone down for a moment, and *Anash* crowd around him to get last-minute instructions. He is *shliach* Rabbi Chaim Yitzchok Cohen, who moved the center two months ago to this location, and took on the job of hosting the first European Moshiach Congress.

Rabbi Cohen has put a tremendous amount of work into initiating and developing the center, yet he says there is only one *baal ha'bayis* and that's the Rebbe. The Congress cost a great deal and money is not readily available; nevertheless, Rabbi Cohen is confident that "the Rebbe does not remain in debt."



A partial view of the audience listening to the speech of Rabbi Chaim Yitzchok Cohen



Rabbi Zushe Zilberstein



Rabbi Shimshon Pizem



Rabbi Dovid Partush



Rabbi Dovid Nachshon



Rabbi Shalom Liberov



Shalom Dovber Kalmanson



Rabbi Reuven Matusov



Rabbi Daniel Chaim Cohen

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Another large group of people joined us for *Shacharis* on Friday morning, among them a group from Aubervilliers, Paris. There were also representatives from other European countries such as Italy and Belgium.

Mivtzaim was squeezed in before the 3:30 p.m. candle lighting time. We went on the local tank, a large van decorated with signs and outfitted with a loudspeaker playing Chabad *niggunim*. Our hosts were busy with last-minute Shabbos preparations, so the guests took over the tank. That was easier said than done since the English have their steering wheel on the right, but Rabbi Chaim Yona Eidelman of Paris volunteered to drive.

In addition to the people who put on *t'fillin*, many religious Jews came

over and heard *siyumim* on the *HaYom Yom* and *Tanya*.

Kabbalas Shabbos was accompanied by much singing and dancing, led by the group from France. Local *Anash* went home, to return after their meal, leaving the guests with a few host families.

Rabbi Shalom Dovber Liberov of Paris read and explained the Rebbe's telegram of Yud-Tes Kislev 5752. This was followed by a lively *farbrengen* with more guests and Chassidim of other groups, in addition to a large group of Tmimim who learn in the local *yeshiva*.

One of the French representatives spoke, and although many of the people did not understand French, they *did* catch every two or three words like: *le Geula*, *le Moshiach*, *le Rebbe shlita*, *le hisgalus*, *le teikef u'miyad mamash*, *le 770...* Naturally, this was followed by

"HaAderes V'HaEmuna" sung to the tune of the French national anthem.

The Shabbos meal was over, but the *farbrengen* was not. In fact, it lasted until 4:00 a.m., at which time some guests preferred to sleep right there, at Beis Moshiach.

Shacharis was followed by the Shabbos meal, which was actually a *farbrengen* that lasted until *Mincha*. Many members of the local Lubavitch community of Stamford Hill participated in this *farbrengen*.

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The grand Yud-Tes Kislev *Melaveh Malka-farbrengen* was called for 8:00 p.m. The English, known to be prompt, were already seated by 8:05. Rabbi Cohen called upon Rabbi Dovid Ben-Yoav, *rav* of the Persian community in Golders Green, to read the Rebbe's chapter of *Tehillim*.

A curtain behind a large show window was removed, replaced by a giant screen which could be viewed inside and outside. We watched a twenty-minute video of Professor

Branover, who was unable to personally attend the Congress.

I went outside and met a large group of local Chassidim who were watching

the screen from there. I saw a Satmar Chassid whom I had met at the *mikva* in the morning. I had invited him to come that night, but he had replied that he would attend the *Melaveh Malka* for

THE ONLY WAY OUT IS MOSHIACH

SPEECH OF SHLIACH RABBI CHAIM YITZCHOK COHEN

Greetings to the first European Moshiach Congress. The reason we are assembled here today is because, unfortunately, we continue to strive to open our eyes but have not yet succeeded. Many events have been held in the past, and many events on Moshiach are ongoing this very minute. There are publications, gatherings and so much more.

But to sit and discuss as the Rebbe MH" M advised, to see how to bring about the revelation, has to be an ongoing event, as long as we fail to see the Rebbe MH" M in his full glory. For this reason, a European Congress was arranged. Let us use this time that we sit united as one to make resolutions to speed up the process of the revelation.

And now we need it now more than ever. I was talking to my friend, a *shliach* in Yaffe, Eretz Yisroel. The *shliach* had met a high security officer and, in speaking to him, brought up the topic of Moshiach. After the *shliach* made his point, the officer responded that the only way out of the mess in Eretz Yisroel is Moshiach.

The world around us is crying out for salvation. Eretz Yisroel is in shambles. And truly today without question, everyone wants Moshiach. Wasn't this exactly what the Rebbe MH" M said? The world is ready and all we need to do is prepare the world to greet Moshiach.

We need to come out to the world with the message that just as the world sees how right the Rebbe MH" M is concerning his warning about giving away territories – the same Rebbe is right on the mark when he tells us that Moshiach is on his way! We need to come out with the message that just as the people see the miracles they each had and continue to have regarding health, etc., it is the same Rebbe that wants us to be ready to greet the Rebbe as King Moshiach.

This message is slow in coming. We are not doing all that we need to do. We are not doing enough! Therefore, we are here to discuss the message of the Rebbe and the way of bringing it to the world.

I don't want to sound as if I am just standing here to criticize and to direct. I want you to know that I am as frustrated as all of you, and I want to see the Rebbe MH" M just as all of you do.

I, therefore, would like to suggest something. We know that unfortunately there are not enough funds to do what needs to be done regarding Moshiach. We all think to ourselves: if we only had money for ads in the papers, money for Moshiach cards, literature, oh how easy things would be. But the fact is that if the Rebbe wanted us to have more money, we would. We have what we have and we have to work with that.

My suggestion to you: Whenever an article appears in a newspaper about Lubavitch, we should call the writer and ask why is Moshiach not mentioned. In fact, we should not wait for the Lubavitch article, as they are far and few in between; we should seek out the writers in the first place. We should ask them, "Why not write an article on Moshiach?"

I have a friend in New York who is doing just that and is successful in it. He calls a non-Jewish writer and tells him what the Rambam says regarding Moshiach and explains that the non-Jew also believes in this concept, which originated with the Jews. He then tells the writer what the Rebbe says – that the newspapers will spread the word to the world. He then asks the writer if he wants to play a part in fulfilling the mission.

My friends, almost all the non-Jewish writers agree to write about Moshiach. I am not talking about only a small Jewish weekly. Although that kind of paper is important, it is not as widely circulated as a secular newspaper. I am talking about articles in the well-known big city newspapers. The writers are willing to write, because they are ready! And this way we solve also the cost problem, as we get the article in for free.

May we all be *zocheh* before the end of this *Melava Malka* tonight to see the Rebbe MH" M with our eyes, and witness the *hisgalus* of *Melech HaMoshiach*.

Yud-Tes Kislev that Satmar makes in London. Yet I saw him standing outside the Chabad Center. He quickly explained that he had happened to pass by and decided to stay.

He seemed impressed by Professor Branover, especially by the fact that each time Prof. Branover mentioned the Rebbe, he said, “*HaRebbe Melech HaMoshiach shlita*.” Each time Prof. Branover said it, the Satmar Chassid nodded his head.

“Who is that?” he asked, and somebody standing there told him that he is a heart specialist. I corrected him, saying that he is a world-renowned scientist who used to be an atheist, and who works on behalf of his fellow Russian Jews.

“What’s an atheist?” asked the Satmar Chassid, and after ascertaining that he was serious, I answered that it

meant somebody who didn’t believe in anything. The Satmar Chassid’s reaction was, “Look at him now, a real Lubavitcher Chassid. Are you sure he isn’t a heart specialist? You can really see that he speaks from the heart!”

We sang “*Pada v’Shalom*” and then Rabbi Daniel Chaim Cohen of London, an old friend of Beis Moshiach, was called upon to speak. He was followed by Rabbi Zushe Zilberstein of Montreal and Rabbi Shalom Dovber Kalmanson of Cincinnati. They all spoke at length about belief in Moshiach’s coming and *hafatzas besuras ha’Geula*.

The final speaker was Rabbi Gershon Tzvi Glick, member of the board of Beis Moshiach. He is one of the outstanding *askanim* in *hafatzas ha’mayanos* in Europe (succeeding his father, Rabbi Avrohom Glick, *a’h, shliach* and representative of the Rebbe in Europe). He said, “This gathering is

taking place in England, where driving is different than in any other European country. The steering wheel is on the right, not on the left. If the English are not *nispael* from anybody, we don’t need to be *nispael* either!”

The official *farbrengen* ended with a huge circle of dancers, which was followed by an informal *farbrengen*. Rabbi Dovid Nachshon, who came from Eretz Yisroel to attend the Congress, related many personal stories he had with the Rebbe and answers he received about *kabbalas ha’malchus*.

The Congress ended after *Shacharis* on Sunday morning with good resolutions. In an answer in the *Igros Kodesh*, the Rebbe wrote about receiving the letter from Motzaei Shabbos about the Yud-Tes Kislev *farbrengen*. May the success of this Congress help speed up the imminent Redemption.

GEULA INSTITUTE HOSTS FIRST LUNCHEON SEMINAR AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

On Sunday morning, the third day of Chanuka, concept became reality when the Geula Institute hosted its first luncheon seminar at Florida International University. Attracting women of various backgrounds and ages, the inspirational event was one of a kind.

Participants arriving at the university's main campus were directed to Geula Institute's registration desk, where they received a specially designed seminar kit. A fascinating video presentation entitled "A Deeper Reality" greeted them with tidings of Redemption as they entered the elegant conference room.

The program began with introductory remarks by Mrs. Shulie Green, who announced the opening of the Geula Institute and presented a brief description of the unique programs and classes it offers. Then, Rabbi Daniel Green, dean of the new school, delivered the opening address. In his lively and direct style, Rabbi Green kept his audience enthralled as he expounded upon the mystical secrets lying at the core of the Chanuka customs.

The next speaker, Rabbi Zushe Kohn, who flew in from Brooklyn for the unique event, probed the inner depths of the *s'firas ha'malchus*, which is associated with femininity, eloquently describing the unique role that the righteous women play in bringing the Redemption.

Next on the program was a hot and delicious lunch catered by Miami's famous Sarah's Catering. During the lunch break, participants had the opportunity to ask questions, watch video clips of the Rebbe MH"M and examine or purchase the various books and items lining the display table.

After the break, the next speaker,

Rabbi Brusowankin, *shliach* of Aventura and North Dade, presented a beautiful analysis of the Kabalistic connection between the light of Chanuka and the spiritual powers of the righteous women, in whose merit we will be redeemed.

This informative program, presented in conjunction with the

opening of the new school, offered profound concepts to the audience, many of whom would not otherwise have been exposed to these Chassidic teachings. The participants gained an impression of Chassidus as being more relevant to their lives than they had realized, and were inspired to work toward making the *Geula* a reality.

GEULA INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN: A NEW CONCEPT IN JEWISH EDUCATION

Geula Institute for Women is a new concept in Jewish education. It is the first and only adult women's "yeshiva program" in the state of Florida, where women – university students, post-graduates, working professionals, and mothers – explore the beauty and depth of Judaism.

The Institute's courses and programs cater to both the spiritually-inclined and the skeptic, offering a truly unique opportunity for women of all ages and backgrounds to discover their heritage, to enrich and heighten their Jewish awareness, or to advance in their spiritual studies. Courses range from introductory classes in Jewish thought and practice, to advanced instruction in ancient and contemporary Jewish texts and mysticism.

They include Jewish history, Talmud, Tanach, Kabbala, and *halacha*, as well as biblical and conversational Hebrew skills. In addition to the daily classes, Geula Institute also hosts Torah seminars, KabBala workshops, guest lecture series with world-renowned scholars and authors, social events, and discussion groups.

The founding of Geula Institute is a result of the overwhelming demand for higher Jewish education for women in South Florida. The communities of South Florida are teeming with successful outreach organizations, and multitudes of Jews are coming back to their roots. As they become more involved in Judaism, their thirst for knowledge surpasses the limited capacity of the synagogue and community study-programs, and they seek institutions of higher learning. Such institutions are located in New York, Israel, and Europe. Geula Institute provides a local alternative, allowing these women to remain in proximity of their communities, yet receiving the instruction and attention they so greatly need.

Rabbi Daniel Green, Dean of Geula Institute, is an experienced educator and administrator. He was previously *rosh yeshiva* and founder of a successful *Smicha* program, a program that trained and instructed *yeshiva* post-graduates for Rabbinical ordination, and has instructed basic and advanced classes in Judaism for women in both New York and Florida.

Geula Institute is located in North Miami, neighboring the enormous Jewish communities of North Miami Beach, Miami Beach, and Broward County, and in close-proximity of the concentrated Jewish student bodies of Florida International University and other well-known South Florida campuses.