
NEWS

LIVING WITH MOSHIACH AROUND THE WORLD

MIVTZA PURIM CAPTURES THE WORLD BY STORM

Shluchim, *Anash*, and *Tmimim* brought the joy and *mitzvos* of Purim to Jews around the world. In New York, Iggud Talmidei HaYeshivos organized a Purim campaign to cover all of metropolitan New York. After working out the logistics, hundreds of *Tmimim* made their way all over the city, laden with *mishloach manos*, kosher *Megillos*, and bottles for *l'chaim*.

Hundreds of thousands of *mishloach manos* were distributed all over Eretz Yisroel to Israeli soldiers, people in hospitals, seniors, and even prisoners in jail. Thousands of Chabad Chassidim visited all I.D.F. units with the aid of the military rabbinate. They read the *Megilla* for the soldiers and brought them the joy of Purim. They also helped them perform the *mitzvos* of *mishloach manos* and *mattanos la'evyonim*.

The residents of Yesha were not forgotten either, with the *shluchim* of Yehuda, Shomron, and Gaza visiting each settlement and encouraging

and uplifting the spirits of the settlers. N'shei Chabad in Eretz Yisroel distributed *mishloach manos* to about two thousands families of

Mivtza Purim near Chevron



war widows and victims of terrorist acts.

There was a special emphasis this year on intensifying the *simcha*, considering what's been going on of late in Eretz Yisroel. Chabad brought the joy of Yom Tov as well as the *besuras ha'Geula*. At one of the army bases, a soldier came over to the *Tmimim* and said, "Not far from here, some of our soldiers are at a roadblock which separates our territory from that of the P.A. Please go there and cheer them up because they really need encouragement and *simcha*."

When the *bachurim* got to the roadblock and began dancing, the soldiers couldn't believe their eyes. "Kol ha'kavod to you for coming here. You're really brave, but don't stay here too long because it isn't the healthiest place to be."

THE C.I.S.

ALMA ATA

Hundreds of Jews in Alma Ata gathered in the Levi Yitzchok Shul to hear the *Megilla* and enjoy a Purim party, on Purim night. At 10:30 in the morning, there was a huge gathering in the largest hall in Alma Ata. Over 2000 seats were taken! After a number of speeches, the emcee said a letter had been received from Esther the Queen and they would ask Mordechai HaYehudi to read it.

Shliach and Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Yeshaya Cohen dressed as Mordechai, danced into the stadium and was greeted by thunderous applause. The *Megilla* was read and the *mitzvos* of Purim were performed. The event was broadcast in the media and caused a tremendous *kiddush Hashem*.

IT WASN'T A MISTAKEN ADDRESS

A *Tamim* relates the following story about delivering *mishloach manos* to war widows in Eilat:

We got to the address we had been given but didn't find the family we were looking for. We opened a telephone book and looked for the name, and thought we found it. When we got there, we saw the lady of the house sobbing, with friends around her trying to comfort her.

Feeling somewhat uncomfortable, we gave her the *mishloach manos* and tried to leave when we suddenly realized she wasn't the war widow we had been looking for. It turned out that somebody had broken into her house a few minutes before, and she was shaken up.

"You came with *mishloach manos* and were able to calm me down somewhat," she told us.

So the mistake actually became a reason to bring *simcha* to someone who needed it on Purim.



Rabbi Abba Dovid Gorevitz, *shliach* and Chief Rabbi of Uzbekistan

ASENTA - KAZAKHSTAN

Tamim Dovid Frisco of Alma Ata, went to help the *shliach* and Rav of the capitol city Asenta, Rabbi Yom Tov Yehuda Kubalkin with his Purim event. Dovid reported to *Beis Moshiach*, "It was an unforgettable sight. Despite the fifty-degrees-below-zero temperature, about 150 Jews came to *shul* at night to celebrate Purim."



Purim play in Tashkent



Rabbi Yeshaya Cohen dressed as Mordechai HaTzaddik

MOSCOW - RUSSIA

The United Jewish Communities of Russia sent tens of thousands of *mishloach manos* to various Russian cities, to be distributed on Purim. A Purim party was held on the Wednesday before Purim at the Marina Roscha Jewish center. It was attended by diplomats, government officials and businessmen. Both the Israeli and the American ambassador greeted the crowd.

Erev Purim, a giant gathering was attended by 600 people in which the story of the *Megilla* was presented by the students of the Chabad school of Moscow.

"ASHIRA LECHA," A CELEBRATION OF THE REBBETZIN CHAYA MUSHKA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

BY TAMAR STONE

On Motzaei Shabbos Kodesh, Parshas Ki Sisa, the Beis Chaya Mushka PTA presented a wonderful and inspiring Chassidische Farbrengen to commemorate the Rebbetzin's upcoming 100th birthday. Held in the Grand Ballroom of Oholei Torah, the ladies who attended were treated to an evening of delight for the eye, ear, palette, and soul. Tables with prizes for the Chinese Auction were beautifully displayed in the entryway. Inside the Ballroom, the overflowing rows of chairs faced the stage, in front of which stood a picture of the Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka and a magnificent candelabrum. Tables adorned with artistically arranged fruits and petit fours were set up along the back wall. The tone of the evening was truly regal.

Our gracious hostess, Mrs. Miryam Swerdlov, charmed the audience with wit and whimsy as she deftly introduced the speakers and entertainers. Mrs. Swerdlov told the well-known story

about how the Rebbetzin helped to prevent a family from being evicted. The Rebbetzin's driver, Chesed Halberstam, related that the Rebbetzin explained to him that Hashgacha Protis directed them to that spot in time to perform a mitzvah.

The first main attraction of the evening was an address by Rabbi Leibel Groner, secretary to the Rebbe MH"M for forty years. He spoke first about the sicha of the Rebbe MH"M from Chaf Hey Adar wherein the Rebbe MH"M

proclaimed the importance of properly celebrating one's Yom Huledes. The source for this comes from Gemara Megilla which discusses the Goral in the story of Purim. The Jewish People were saved by the z'chus of Moshe Rabbeinu's Yom Huledes in Adar, which occurred a thousand years before Purim. The birth of a tzaddik has an everlasting effect. On that day, by speaking about the tzaddik's accomplishments, we can "download" from on High the merits and strengths that come from those accomplishments. Rabbi Groner noted that what is true of a tzaddik is also true of a tzaddeikes.

The evening was replete with inspiring stories about the Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka, who, because of her great modesty, remained an enigmatic figure for many of us. In hearing these stories, we have been given a glimpse into the sterling character and Midos Tovos of this true Bas Chabad. The Rebbetzin's attentive support of her



Rabbi Groner speaking at the event

husband, the Rebbe MH" M, is a superb testament to her understanding of her role as wife and Chassid. Every night, the Rebbetzin waited for the Rebbe MH" M to come home from 770, and greeted him with tea and a bite to eat, no matter how late it was. The mutual care and consideration of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin are models that we would all do well to emulate.

Mrs. Miriam Friedfertig, who wowed the audience with her enthusiasm about the school and its accomplishments,

represented the Beis Chaya Mushka PTA. She also told a beautiful story about Rabbi Yossi Tevel and the Rebbetzin. Back in 1965 or 1966, the young Rabbi Tevel was playing with some boys in front of 770. They stopped to watch as the Rebbetzin got out of her car, laden down with packages. Only Yossi had the nerve to approach the Rebbetzin and assist her with her bags. When they entered the 770 elevator, the Rebbetzin noticed that Yossi had a cast on his arm, and she wanted to take her packages away from

him. He refused, saying that his cast would be coming off soon, anyway. When they arrived at the second floor, the Rebbetzin requested that Yossi wait for her in the elevator. She returned with a huge chocolate bar. Yossi said, "I come from a Chassidische family and I was taught never to ask for anything in return for doing a mitzvah." To which the Rebbetzin replied, "I imagine that I also come from a Chassidische family, and I was taught that if someone offers you something, you take it. Especially if it's chocolate." Needless to say, Yossi took the chocolate and ran off to share it with his friends.

Miss Yaffa Rivkin, a talented singer and musician from Kfar Chabad, provided the second main part of the evening. She sang beautiful songs in English and Hebrew about Geula, the Rebbe MH" M, and Achdus. During her break, the Beis Chaya Mushka Choir sang three songs and performed two dances. The Choir was directed by Miss Devora Leah Berkowitz, a seventh grade teacher at Beis Chaya Mushka. For the second part of Miss Rivkin's performance, the audience was invited to get up and dance to the lively Chassidic niggunim.

The evening ended with the drawing of the winners of the Chinese Auction, which added much simcha and cause for celebration. Both Mrs. Friedfertig and Mrs. Swerdlov thanked the members of the Beis Chaya Mushka PTA for their efforts in organizing the lovely evening, as well as the generous sponsors and businesses that provided the gifts for the Auction. There were long lists of special mentions and thank-you's, but Mrs. Swerdlov summed up the evening best with these words: "Our most special thanks go to the Rebbe and Rebbetzin, for we are nothing without them."

***Beis Chaya Mushka is a school that is dedicated to teaching our students al Taharas HaKodesh, with emphasis on Tznius, developing Midos Tovos, living with Moshiach b'poel mamash, and internalizing the teachings of Chassidus. For more information or registration material, please call the office at (718) 756-0770.*