

STRENGTHENING FAR-FLUNG COMMUNITIES

Those who are familiar with Judaism in Uzbekistan, know that most of the Jews are concentrated in the three largest cities: Tashkent, Samarkand, and Buchara. The little cities have small Jewish communities, and most of them do not have a *shul* or any Jewish activity because of the small numbers of Jewish families living there.

The Chief Rabbi of Uzbekistan and Middle Asia, *shliach*, Rabbi Abba Dovid Gurevitz, has made it his goal to reach out to all Jews of Uzbekistan, wherever they might be, and to bring them the light of Judaism.

He sends them *arba minim* for Sukkos, *menoros* and candles for Chanuka, *matzos* for Pesach, and so on. The distances between the capitol city and the small cities are large, and the packages do not always get to their destinations on time through the mail.

R' Gurevitz took it upon himself to visit the cities and towns that have small Jewish communities in order to strengthen them. In an exhausting trip that takes days, he visits these communities and brings pairs of *t'fillin*, *mezuzos*, *siddurim*, *Chumashim*, and other basic Jewish needs. In each place he visits, he meets with members of the community and encourages them to strengthen their observance of Torah and *mitzvos*.

The communities tell him about



R' Gurevitz with a small Jewish community, Pargana

their difficulties, in that thousands of Jews have left Uzbekistan for Eretz Yisroel or other countries, leaving them without *chazanim*, *mohelim*, etc. R' Gurevitz promised his aid in their obtaining funds to reignite organized Jewish activity, like *shuls*, classes for children, etc.

The community heads are generally from traditional families who have a warm feeling for Judaism. They are

concerned about preserving the traditions among their people.

R' Gurevitz met a young community leader who was recently appointed to his position. In the course of their conversation, R' Gurevitz discovered that the man knew very little about Judaism, and had never put on *t'fillin*! R' Gurevitz put *t'fillin* on with him, and left the pair as a gift on condition that he try to get other Jews to use them.

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CHABAD UNDER ATTACK IN BNEI BRAK

Apparently the anti-Semitism around the world has affected Bnei Brak. Otherwise, there's no explanation for why the Rebbe's teachings were stolen and burnt and strewn in the streets!

It turned out that that Lag B'Omer night, *talmidim* from a Litvishe *yeshiva* in Bnei Brak stole hundreds of *Sichos Kodesh* and *kuntreisim* of *D'var Malchus* from the Chabad *shul*, and burnt or tore them, and then threw them out the window of the *shul* on Rechov Chazon Ish into the street.

This was preceded by this group's posting flyers decrying the Lag B'Omer parades, as they do every year. It seems that these young *talmidim*, incited by these flyers, rushed to undermine the work of *hafatzas ha'maayanos*, in the most disgusting manner. The remains of the burnt *sichos* were found near the



Kuntreisim of D'var Malchus burnt in Bnei Brak

bonfire on Rechov Bartenura, near the Viznitz *shul*.

It's hard to imagine the shock of the

residents of Bnei Brak, who expressed their outrage against these criminal activities which were done against the Rebbe MH"M.

LET THE MUSIC TALK

Nearly one thousand kids, members of the Shomer HaTzair youth movement, HaNaar HaOved V'HaLomed, HaTzofim and others, enjoyed a special program to intensify *ahavas Yisroel*, sponsored by Chabad of Cholon, directed by Rabbi Yerachmiel Gorelick.

Every year, the youth division of the municipality of Cholon and the local youth council organize the Week of the Youth. This year, under the banner The Week of the Youth 2002, there were

various activities, including an evening of fundraising for the needy.

The activists at the Chabad house, along with Avi Piamenta, put up a "Communications Tent" under the slogan, "Let the Music Talk." The talented Avi kept his young audience enthralled for quite some time, and in the meantime, other people engaged the kids in discussions on various topics and asked them to increase their love and tolerance.

The appearance of the Lubavitchers made a strong impression on the participants, and the organizers asked them to keep up the good work.

Rabbi Gorelick told *Beis Moshiaich* that this is part of the outreach work of his Chabad house, which initiates projects and events, and makes great efforts to intensify *ahavas Yisroel*, tolerance, and understanding among the youth and their relatives who are not presently observant.

YARCHEI KALLAH AT TOMCHEI TMIMIM CHOVEVEI TORAH



Rabbi Raitport spoke about the proper approach to preparing for Mattan Torah in light of the blessings of the Rebbe to accept the Torah “with joy & internally.” He reconciled this with the fact that the Yidden were forced to accept the Torah, “Kafa Aleihem Har Kigigis.”

Rabbi Zevulun Liberman of Cong. Beth Torah spoke on the Halachos of Shavuos.

Rabbi Yosef Gorman, a maggid

As in previous years, Tomchei Tmimim Mesivta & Beis Medrash held a Yarchei Kallah in preparation to the Yom Tov celebrating Mattan Torah. The event took place in the large study hall at Chovevei Torah.

Rabbi Jacobson elaborated on the story of Rus according to Chassidic teachings and spoke of the practical lessons to be learnt therein.

Hundreds of bachurim, their parents, and members of Anash spent the day captured by the profound and interesting lectures delivered. The day started with a talk given by the Yeshiva’s well-known mashpia Rabbi Yossi Jacobson.

The Gaon Rabbi Yitzchok Raitport spoke in depth on the subject of theft found in the Gemara being learned in Lubavitcher Yeshivos around the world and its application in Halacha. Afterwards,



Rabbi Yossi Jacobson

shiur in the Mesivta, then delivered a deep shiur and pilpul on the Gemara being learned in the Yeshiva.

The Hanhala of the Yeshiva told *Beis Moshiach* that it was happy the event successfully united both the yeshiva students, yoshvei ohel, and their parents, baalei eisek, in preparing themselves for Mattan Torah.



THOUSANDS ATTEND LAG B'OMER PARADE SATELLITE BEACH FL

SATELLITE BEACH FL— With a plane above towing a banner reading “Israel, We Stand With You,” about 1,000 people gathered Tuesday evening, Lag B’Omer at the Chabad Jewish Community Center with floats of Twin Towers and others, banners, a marching band, Dr. Laz, and dignitaries in open convertibles, to pledge Americans’ support for Israel.

Members of Jewish organizations and Christian groups throughout Brevard County took part in an hour-long ceremony followed by a parade on State Road A1A.

U.S. Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Palm Bay, who attended along with Israel’s consul general, and candidates for Congress and the County Commission, used stern words against making peace with the Palestinians.

“It is right for Israel to do what it is doing today,” Weldon said. “Just as it was right for us to go into Afghanistan, it is right for Israel to go into the West Bank.”

The Chabad Jewish Community Center’s director, Rabbi Chaim Zvi Konikov, called the events a unity celebration in support of Israel and against the persecution of Jews.

“There’s so many people in the community that want to express that we need to stand together against those that want to destroy us,” Konikov said. “We need to recognize there’s an enemy in order to win the war against terrorism.”

The event coincided with Lag B’Omer. About 1 million children marched Tuesday in the streets of Israel to celebrate Lag B’Omer.

The Jewish population in Brevard County/Space Coast is about 8,000,

There were even a few Muslims showing support for Israel

The most recent bloodshed between Israelis and Palestinians began March 27, the first day of Passover. Suicide

attacks in Israel, including one by an 18-year-old Palestinian woman, led to retaliatory strikes against Palestinians in the West Bank.

Don Clark, 62, of Palm Bay was among several non-Jewish supporters holding an American flag at the event. Clark, a Christian missionary to Israel, said everyone should support Israel.

“Palestinians had their chance,” he said. “If they want to live there in peace, Israel said they could live there in peace.”

Indianatlantic FL resident Mel Rabinowitz, 65, said he agreed with many supporters that the current action in the West Bank is Israel’s right to defend itself.

“There isn’t much Israel can do, they’ve given everything,” Mel Rabinowitz said. “The only way peace will ever prevail is to get Arab leaders to genuinely support peace, and that would not include Yasser Arafat.”

As Israel consolidated its control of the West Bank in April, President Bush instructed Israel to stop its advances, withdraw from Palestinian cities and return to the negotiating table to establish a cease-fire.

Bush also hammered Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, saying the Palestinian leader “betrayed the hopes” of his people and did not consistently oppose terrorist activity.

Bush sent in Secretary of State Colin Powell, who met with Arafat and Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. But the talks did little.

Rabbi Chaim Zvi Konikov said peace wouldn’t come easily. He grew indignant when asked about Israel invading and seizing West Bank territories that were home to Palestinians.

“They wanted to throw us into the sea in 1967,” he said of the 6-day war between Israel and surrounding Arab



Airplane banner in support of Eretz Yisroel

states. “And we won it. Now we’re invading their land? That’s ridiculous. The purpose of the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) is to destroy Israel. And these are the people that the world wants us to make peace with?”



Dr. Laz and a float of the Twin Towers and the Kosel



Consul General of Israel Miki Arbel

