

PURIM JOY!

ב"ה
REPORT



ISSUE 5

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Precious PURIM Moments...



PURIM Spirit & Joy Gragger's Up the Capital Region

Follow the
Roving Purim Rabbis
MITZVAH BRIGADE
on their missions!

From Florida to California, a group of Rabbinical Students joined together with one united goal; to share Purim joy and celebration with fellow Jews. "Our common goal is to enable any Jew, reaching out to the unaffiliated, to enjoy the wonderful holiday of Purim", said Mordechai Rubin. Throughout the Purim Holiday they indeed met & greeted hundreds of Jews throughout the Capital Region.

Arranged by Mrs. Clara Simon of Delmar Chabad, they visited several senior citizen homes including the Atria in Guilderland, Beverwyck Independent Living, and the Bnai Brith Parkview Apts. The residents were very appreciative, and were delighted to hear the traditional holiday songs.

During the clock ticking 24 hr. holiday, they visited homes in Clifton Park, Saratoga & Albany delivering 130 Mishloach Manot Purim packets, and enhanced local celebrations as well.

In total, they read the whole Megillah 20 plus times (meriting over 110 Jews with the Mitzvah) and shared relevant Purim messages & inspiration. They also learned from their hosts, "I was very inspired by our meeting with a holocaust survivor, who had escaped the Nazis in Vienna," said Mendy Naparstak from Marina Del Ray, California.

Follow the Roving Rabbis MITZVAH BRIGADE (page 4) to see local 'Purim Miracles!'



Purim Celebrations Around Town!

Rabbi Rubin and Ruvain Kudan (left) celebrating at the HOTspot Purim ; Rabbi Yossi & Leyee (right) celebrate in Clifton Park with NYS Congressman Paul Tonko in African Style. Follow many other local celebrations in Saratoga, Bethlehem and this years Roving Purim Rabbis in the coming pages...

Self Preservation

By the Grace of G-d
19 Adar Sheni, 5711 [1951]

From the letters of the
Lubavitcher Rebbe



...Under the circumstances, when the head of the mightiest world empire and civilization arranged the royal feast, inviting to it representatives of all nations, the Jews among them, many Jews could not resist the temptation. They were not deterred by the fact that this banquet was to mark the beginning of a new "era" of complete assimilation and were deluded by the friendly slogan of "no compulsion." Thus, they became a party to the profanation of the holy vessels.

Symbolically, the profanation of the holy vessels of the Beth Hamikdash marked also the desecration of the Divine soul which forms the sanctuary of every Jew and Jewess. The purpose and mission of this Divine spark is to light up one's immediate environment and one's share in the world at large with the light of the highest Divine ideals. Far from fulfilling their soul's mission upon this earth, those weak Jews lent aid and comfort to the forces of assimilation and darkness. By partaking from the "food" of Ahasuerus they contaminated both their bodies and souls.

Purim, therefore, reminds us not to be carried away by the outer sparkle of foreign civilizations or cultures, and not to be misled into assimilation by the notion that it appears to be in no conflict with our spiritual heritage.

We are a unique people, as started in the Megillah: "There is one people (although) scattered and spread among the peoples of the world, (yet) their laws are different from those of other peoples." We have preserved our unity and uniqueness despite our being dispersed in the world, because we have preserved our laws. It is by preserving our Torah and Mitzvot that we Jews in general, and our youth in particular, can best contribute towards the enlightenment of the world at large and bring real happiness to ourselves, our people, and humanity as a whole...





CLIFTON PARK CHABAD
An AFRICAN Purim

ty to learn from a professional drum teacher Jonathan Duda. Bringing the jungle theme to real life, a live parrot dressed up for Purim with many colors chirped along with the beat. But obviously in order to experience the jungle, you yourself must become jungle like; in Purim style children got special jungle face painting as a start for their purim costumes.

On a serious note; all participants were honored with the presence of Congressman Paul Tonko who addressed the Purim celebration: "We commemorate the Jews salvation in Persia many years ago where they were dispersed throughout so many countries from India to Ethiopia. We celebrate by sharing gifts with our friends and the needy, hearing the scroll and seeing G-d's work behind the scenes." He sure did his research! In addition to the large attendance at the party and great tasting African style kosher food, this year introduced 'Shaloch manot Gifts at your door', thanks to Alice, Alisa, Hadas and Rivi for all the help!

Purim is celebrated all over the world, this year in Clifton Park the holiday went with an African beat at the Clifton Common Court. According to some sources the oldest Gragger is the African drum, which really beats Haman. Actually all children had the opportunity

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- Paul Tonko, NYS Congressman

BETHLEHEM CHABAD A WILD WEST Purim



The wildest holiday year round is definitely Purim, and Bethlehem Chabad celebrated in grand style with a WILD WEST Purim Party theme! Over 100 gathered to Celebrate Purim at the Normanside Country Club, and were able to participate in all 4 holiday Mitzvos. A very special performance by a master illusionist entertained young and old; truth be told - the story of Purim is really one big illusion as G-d's name doesn't appear once in the entire megillah—and we all know who made it happen for the Jews back then and for us today.

Purim Joy is for all Jews, what about Jewish prisoners? Well, if anybody needs joy, certainly these few can use a little light and festiveness. The Lubavitcher Rebbe stressed, that one should try to bring joy to these Jews as well, and Rabbi Nachman Simon was able to find time in his busy Purim schedule to visit two prisons. Earlier Saturday night the party was held in the Chabad house, Michael Caras made his debut in his first Meggillah reading and boy did he ace his first appearance.

All those who attended were treated to holiday refreshments and special Purim related arts and crafts for children. Mrs. Clara Simon, arranged parties at several senior citizen homes including the Atria in Guilderland and Beverwyck Independent Living. The residents were very appreciative, & two children from Bethlehem Chabad Hebrew School joined to bring joy to the residents. "They asked that we would return in the future with more Children and Jewish programming" said Simon. They even visited a woman who hasn't heard Megillah in many years, and thanked them graciously for their visit. Rabbi Zalmy Simon reported that Chabad delivered over to 190 Mishloach Manos—gift food packages and throughout the 24 hr. holiday more than 215 Jews fulfilled the mitzvah of hearing the entire Meggillah!



Dedicated In loving memory of R' Moshe Ben R' Yisroel Eliezer Z"l




SHABBOS HOUSE



Over 150 students celebrated at Shabbos House with a lively party; starting with the Meggialh reading on Saturday night. After special Sushi

potato and salad bar, followed a grand costume & door painting contest. This year one of the professors' shared an unusual durian fruit to add to the festive spirit. On Sunday there was a deluxe Minyan bagel brunch, still in Purim style a total of 25 Tefilin participants. For the traditional festive meal on Sunday many more students joined, and enjoyed the purim holiday; and many more Mishloach Manot gift packages were distributed throughout the holiday.

At least over
600 Mishloach Manot
Chabad gave out in
Capital District!

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SARATOGA CHABAD *A Magical Purim*

All Jewish holidays have something magical about them. Now, Purim's miracles were certainly magical, and over 50 participants at Saratoga Chabad's Purim celebration experienced just that! Joe D. entertained young and old with a fantastic magic show. Jewish holidays are always celebrated with special food, Purim's is the triangular Hamantash. Five different flavors and a special chocolate and sprinkle dip added to the festive mood. 40 children enjoyed special Purim themed arts and crafts.

On the pre-Purim Shabbos Chabad hosted 4 Roving Purim Rabbis (see page 4), already on Friday they met many Jews with Shaloch Manot, and continued spreading the Purim spirit on Sunday visiting many homes. Rabbi Abba reported "more than 140 Mishloach Manot were handed



out over the Purim holiday".

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CELEBRATING *in a* HOSPITAL

Purim Joy! That's what these young Rabbis brought to a ten year old boy, who was admitted to Albany Med after a Skiing accident on Friday. The Long Island family had contacted Rabbi Mathless at University Heights Chabad & Hospitality early Sunday morning, and two students in full Purim garb visited him at the hospital.

In addition to enabling the family to fully celebrate Purim, the Rabbinical Students brought joy and festivities to the hospital experience. The boy's mother thanked them graciously saying, "Thank you so much! We enjoyed hearing the Megillah and holiday meal... he was so happy. You truly turned this very difficult day into a most enjoyable one. The first thing my son was allowed to eat since Friday was the warm delicious Challah gave him on Purim."

Aharon Bergman of Kansas said, "the feeling of helping that family in the hospital was incredible, if that was the only Purim experience I had, well, DAYEINU!"

NEVER TOO LATE

As Purim was coming to a close, a little after 5pm, these Roving Rabbi's took their last chance. Across the street from Capital Chabad in Albany, they rung the bell not knowing what to expect. They found a Jewish name, and sure enough a nice Jewish man, Adam, looking very surprised at these 'crazy Rabbis' in these strange looking costumes, welcomed them in to his apt. Now they had to race the clock, while listening to an express marathon Meggillah read, Adam fulfilled the

other mitzvot; charity and exchanging Mishloach Manot. In record time, he was able to lay the tefilin just in time for nightfall! Afterwards the Rabbis expressed their amazement; "right across the street, from the Central Chabad Center!?" Adam explained he just moved in after living locally all his life, in fact hearing the lively singing in the Suckah from across the street led him to want to find out more.. well, sometimes G-d sends messengers to YOU first!

The Meggillah Speaks For Itself

While Mendel Blank of Miami Beach Florida prepared his last practice read & opened up his ancient Scroll, a woman on the bus curiously asked of the Scroll; she traveled from NYC to play the organ for a non-Jewish function. Blank explained

the relevance of the Purim Story to modern times, as she learned of the meaning of the Story of Esther, her Jewish identity sprung forth; she too wanted to Celebrate Purim.

After a phone call or two, she joined the Purim festivities at a Chabad Center. in fact her lineage traces back to famous

Twersky family; she has already chosen her own Jewish name. As a result of the meeting she has begun to usher in the Shabbos each week

with Shabbat candle light and is connecting with a Chabad Center in the NYC area.

WOW, 'Purim miracles' happen today!



"Thank you so much. We enjoyed hearing the Megillah and holiday meal... he was so happy. You truly made this difficult day a most enjoyable one... Hopefully the next time he will be able to walk around with you and be a mitzvah man!! - Janine N."

Roving Purim Rabbis MITZVAH BRIGADE



From left to right: Mendel Blank (Miami Beach, Florida), Yosef Myhill (Montreal, Canada), Mendy Naparstak (Marina Del Ray, California), Moshe Gitler (Monsey, NY), Mordechai Rubin (Albany, NY), Aharon Bergman (Kansas City, Kansas), Bottom: Chaim Goldstein (Cleveland),

No Mistakes!

The Purim Hotline was already busy days before the holiday, here is just one of the many episodes:

There was a woman that we had met on Chanukah at the Capital, closer to Purim her mother was ill, and she contacted the Mitzvah brigade. They said they would pray, and would write a letter to the Rebbe's resting place for a blessing. She took upon herself to light the Shabbat Candles that week in her mother's merit. The following day she received a 'mistaken' call back again from the Purim Hotline. She relayed a most unusual experience that had transpired since the discussion the previous day. At work she told over the entire experience to a co-worker; the blessing from the Rebbe and the Shabbat candle resolution.

The Co-worker replied he is Jewish & in fact had met the Rebbe in person; he inquired if she had candles to light. Hearing that she didn't, he said he would arrange her candles and candlesticks, and ended off that he also met the Mitzvah Brigade on Sukkot a few months earlier. The Mitzvah Brigade member on the other line, actually met this man on sukkot and after giving her a full description, it was indeed him. Obviously there are no mistakes, all that occurs is with divine intervention. The above episode connects Sukkot, Chanukah & Purim & its inspiration carries all year round!

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