

DON'T PASSOVER...

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PASSOVER!

REPORT

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Precious PASSOVER Moments...



JOIN THE MITZVAH BRIGADE on their missions!



CELEBRATING AROUND TOWN!
Rabbi Rubin at the NYS Celebration (top left), Clifton Park Chabad's Model Matzah bakery (top right), Mitzvah brigade trip in NYC and much more! Follow many other local celebrations in Saratoga, Bethlehem and this special MITZVAH BRIGADE in the coming pages...

A Shavuot Message

From the letters of the

Lubavitcher Rebbe



...Physically, at this time of the year, we find Nature again in full bloom. After a period of hibernation, It springs back to life with renewed vigor and vitality, faithfully reproducing the same elements which characterized the same period a year ago, and two years ago, and all the way back to the first seasons of the Nature cycle.

In our religious and spiritual life, also, we have the seasons and festivals which recur year after year, and reproduce the same spiritual elements which first gave rise to them. Thus, at this time of the year, with the days of Sefirah connecting the festival of Passover (physical freedom) with its culmination in Shavuoth (spiritual freedom), we can -- if we are sufficiently prepared and attuned to it, relive the experiences of our ancestors who actually witnessed the Revelation and accepted the Torah at Sinai.

What a long way our ancestors covered in the course of but 50 days; from the abominations of Egyptian "culture," in which moral depravity and polytheism reigned supreme (as recent archeological discoveries have amply brought to light) -- to pure monotheism at Mount Sinai, where the Jew receives the Torah with the call of Na'aseh v'nisma. Na'aseh first, i.e. complete surrender of man to G-d...

This great rise from the abyss of Egypt to the sublime heights of Sinai was attained by pure and simple faith in G-d, from the day when parents and children, women and infants, several million souls in all, set out on the trek through the desert, not dismayed by the irrationality of it, but simply obeying the Divine call with absolute trust. This won special Divine favor in the words of the Prophet: 'I remember unto thee the kindness of thy youth, the love of thy betrothal, thy going after Me into the wilderness. It is this faith that carried the Jews through the ages, an insignificant physical minority in the midst of a hostile world, a spot of light threatened by an overwhelming darkness. It is this absolute faith in G-d that we need nowadays more than ever before.

It is said, the whole sun is reflected in a drop of water. And so the whole of our nation is reflected in each individual, and what is true of the nation as a whole is true of the individual. The core of Jewish vitality and indestructibility is in its pure faith in G-d; not in some kind of an abstract Deity, hidden somewhere in the heavenly spheres, who regards this world from a distance; but absolute faith in a very personal G-d, who is the very life and existence of everybody; who permeates where one is, or what one does. Where there is such faith, there is no room for fear or anxiety, as the Psalmist says, 'I fear no evil, for Thou art with me,' with me. Indeed, at all times, not only on Shabbos or Yom Tov, or during prayer or meditation on G-d. And when one puts his trust in G-d, unconditionally and unreservedly, one realizes what it means to be really free and full of vigor, for all one's energy is released in the most constructive way, not only in one's own behalf, but also in behalf of the environment at large.

The road is not free from obstacles and obstructions, for in the Divine order of things we are expected to attain our goal by effort; but if we make a determined effort success is Divinely assured, and the obstacles and obstructions which at first loom large, dissolve and disappear.

With the blessing of a happy Yom Tov of Receiving the Torah with Inner Joy... - Rosh Chadesh Sivan 1955



From Saratoga to Albany, local Chabad Jewish Centers brought Passover celebration to a new level in the Capital District.

There were at least over 400 reported seder participants of all affiliations at the communal seders organized by Chabad Centers in the Capital region. Not to mention this year's record breaking handmade SMURAH MATZAH MARATHON, volunteers and Chabad Rabbis distributing over 1,053 in total!

Please help us continue & expand our diverse communal services, and especially in honor of our 40th year, we invite you to help by contributing \$40 (or multiples of 40)!

This issue just gives a glimpse with some photos and small captions into the constantly growing activities that Chabad Centers do in the Capital Region. We hope you enjoy, we do appreciate your comments!

Follow the MITZVAH BRIGADE (pages 2-4) to see local 'Passover Miracles!'



CP Jewish Woman Circle prepare for Passover



MODEL MATZAH BAKERY!



SHABBOS HOUSE

Hundreds of UALBANY students participated at the Seders at the Shabbos House, in addition to the many holiday meals throughout the 8 day marathon. This year introduced the seder within a Seder, where one got all the seder essentials and a wonderful homemade meal all within one hour. As is customary to study on the 7th night of Pesach as our ancestors crossed the sea, students paired up with Chavrusa partners, and gave presentation's on their Torah pieces. As is tradition from the Bal Shem Tov, on the last day of the holiday to hold a 3rd meal— "Moshiach Seudah", all present shared moments of redemption in their lives and sung traditional songs.

CLIFTON PARK CHABAD

Many proud Jewish children joined Clifton Park Chabad for the Model Matzah bakery. Each baker got a special bakers uniform and after working on their matzos, made their own beautiful seder plates. Among other Passover programs was a special Jewish Women's Circle in preparation for the holiday (see top left). At Chabad Hebrew School students readied themselves for the holiday making special Passover related projects. Rabbi Yossi personally delivered over one hundred handmade Shmurah Matzah. Check out **KOSHER WEEK** at CP's Price chopper on Page 3.

Hi, my mother lives in the Ohav Sholom apartments. The Chabad visits the apartment complex for every holiday, and that means a lot to the Jewish residents there. I remember one beautiful seder, hosted by Chabad in the community room at Ohav, that I went to with my mom and my kids, and a number of residents... You are so very kind! Mom loved the visit yesterday. She said it made her week!
- Karen S. Chicago, IL



CHABAD at UNION Even

though Seders were during break at Union this year, Chabad programs didn't take a rest; serving many kosher for pesach holiday dinners and lunches for the first 2 days of classes which coincided with the last 2 days of Pesach. Other than fruits and matzah, many Jewish students at Union relied on Chabad's free meal plan this Pesach. Since Union was on spring break, Chabad provided lots of Torah classes on Pesach and the seder to help prepare students in a meaningful way for the holiday and also helped students find Chabad Seders at their vacation location. For example, 4 students joined the Chabad public Seder in Las Vegas, NV!



B'NAI BRITH



We've had B'nai Brith Parkview Apts. public Seders for several years, but this year's was special. In the past, Yosef Yankulin would enhance the Seder with his authentic Russian translation, brimming with Jewish pride and warmth, but after Yosef's passing, it just wasn't the same. Pesach recalls our ancestors' miracles in Egypt, and we had a "miracle" as well. When the Mitzvah Brigade greeted passersby at the NYS Capital in the week before Passover, they met a man who at first declined the Matza, saying "I'm not Jewish." After being asked if he had any Jewish friends or relatives, he conceded: "Well, actually my maternal grandmother was Jewish," and he gladly accepted the Passover packet (front Page top left picture). When they explained & offered to him the mitzvah of Tefillin he shared that he had a friend Yankulin at B'nai Brith who once offered him to do this prayer. Mordechai Rubin thus asked this gentleman to help lead the Seder in Yosef's tradition, and he agreed, making this year's Bnai Brith Seder the greatest! Just moments after confirming his own Jewish identity, he heeded the call to also inspire others!

history and reason for celebrating Pesach, and Sholom Ber Kudan sang "Who Knows One?" in Russian. Over 25 Bnai Brith Seder participants enjoyed a wonderful evening! *** Later the Mitzvah brigade walked to B'nai Brith on the 7th day of Yom tov to bring holiday joy to the residents. One block away from B'nai Brith, they noticed a person and asked if he was Jewish, he was. They managed to give him a matzah even though he was rushing to class. Then, couple of more steps further they noticed a lady walking to her car and she too was Jewish! She was from Long Island and hadn't yet celebrated Pesach so they joined her in on the celebration with Shmura matzah. After they sang holiday songs for the residents, as we were leaving,



Just moments after finding his Jewish identity he took on the call to help and inspire other Jews!

The Full Course Seder food and presentation were ideal; Gefilte fish, hot kugel, meat loaf and side-dishes along with the traditional Shmura Matzah and 4 cups of wine on beautifully set tables. Moments before sundown the men put on Tefillin, and the women lit the Holiday candles. The Kiddush was recited by our translator; Yisroli Backman shared the

we noticed a lady doing laundry in the laundry room. She isn't Jewish but her husband is, so they gave her matzah for her husband and the 3 Jewish people she assists in the building. Finally they went to Washington Park and there was a lady jogging, and we asked her if she was Jewish, she was too, and goes to SUNY Albany and we told her about the Shabbos House.

BETHLEHEM CHABAD

Over 70 people of all affiliations enjoyed Bethlehem Chabad's first communal Seder at the Normanside Country Club. Sharing Haggadah insights and inspiring stories, it was highlighted by the Chabad Hebrew School students' 'Ma Nishtana' rendition, a Massachusetts appellate lawyer guest "chazan" led the Hallel, and a delicious meal with singing, dancing, lively discussion and shmoozing continued into the night!



In honor of Rabbi Yisroel Rubin's 65th Birthday by Anonymous

PASSOVER at the CAPITAL

Weeks before

Pesach started the mitzvah brigade was already bringing Passover Joy to Jews at the Capital. Besides meeting and greeting passerby on the streets, this year introduced a very busy Passover booth during lunchbreak in the Empire state Palza Concourse. In addition to the many handmade matzos that were distributed, we even celebrated quite a few Bar-Mitzvahs; a first for many to lay tefillin. Many of the vendors commented that the "Passover booth took the cake today! The key of their success was their lively spirit and Jewish pride

while greeting passerby." many of the special encounters are spread out through this publication., so please browse around. As the saying goes, "a picture is worth a thousand words"; we share here some photos of the Mitzvah brigade on the street and their booth indoors.

On the last day of pesach the Mitzvah brigade made their way to the state Capital, allowing many to celebrate just before the holiday ended. We now share a few special episodes:

1. On the way down Chaim Kudan & Mordechai Rubin saw 2 young men sitting on the steps of a boarded up house. They turned out not be Jewish, "but maybe you have Jewish friends?" One of them answered "SURE!", "that guy right there is Jewish!" he said pointing to a guy sitting in a already running red pickup truck.

After presenting him the Matzah through the window, he replied while rolling down the window "my jewish name is Mattisyahu, oh eh, i was just thinking to get some chips to snack on". He hadn't celebrated Pesach for many years, only his mother is Jewish and growing up in the Catskills he didn't have any jewish education, so he was really appreciative & appreciative. "Traditionally, we wash before eating matzah, is there any running water inside the house?" we asked. As we expected there wasn't in the boarded up house, "well, we have a water bottle, will that work?" He proudly washed his hands & said the bracha for washing, then he said the bracha hamotzei

and started munching away.

2. As a group of four women left a high riser building Chaim K. asked them if any were Jewish and they said no. As they walked on, one lady called out "L'chaim!" in response another women standing by the building also yelled out L'chaim! So Chaim went over and asked if she was Jewish. She said yes & just moved up from New York City! Later while walking in a different area we noticed the same lady who Chaim met earlier, she came over and said "thank you for the Matzah!", we then offered her a Jewish Calendar

3. Later we met a man who said he wasn't Jewish, but it turned out that his mother is, so he is too! He never celebrated pesach before. Next we met a policeman who works in the federal courts. Turns out he wasn't Jewish but he had a fellow officer Elie that was who he promised to give Matzah to!

4. 1 week before pesach we met a homeless man, who led his life as a non Jew, but really his mother is Jewish. Mordechai R. offered to help him out, and asked him if he would like the opportunity to put on tefillin the first time in his life. He happily laid tefillin and took Matzah promising to share with his mother and celebrate for the first time.

Fast forward to the last day of pesach; we are walking down the street, the same man greets us. He said he lost his paper with the contact info and wanted to keep in touch for upcoming Jewish holidays and events. We were all so amazed at this divine meeting after 2 plus weeks since the first!

5. From one side of the crosswalk we saw 2 middle age men which looked very Jewish, they were too. After giving them the special holiday packets, one asked "do you have a Haggadah handy?" M.R. apologetically replied that since the Haggadah is for the first nights he didn't have. The man continued saying "my name is "Kol Chamirah". We then realized that we had a siddur which had the haggadah in it, so we showed Mr. Kol Chamirah his name in the book!



CAPITAL Celebration!

High ranking leaders from across NY state commemorated the 111th birthday of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. The Governor's Proclamation marked "111 days of education in the Empire State as a tribute to the Lubavitcher Rebbe." Rabbi Yisroel Rubin said "Celebrating the Rebbe's birthday is one of the longest running Spring traditions here in the Capital. We mark the Rebbe's birthday by doing what the Rebbe taught: active mitzvos and education ... The Rebbe insisted that the matzahs for the seder be handmade.. absorbing and digesting the matzah transmits precious memory and traditions." after a special reception with talks by leaders of the state , Rabbi Rubin distributed the handmade Shmura matzah to all present.



KOSHER WEEK

Chabad Centers in Albany, Bethlehem & Clifton Park organized Kosher Awareness Week programs at area Shoprite and Price Chopper supermarkets, also offering people a Shmura Matza for their Seder. Above: Mussi Rubin in Clifton Park, below: Mendel Weiss and Mordechai Rubin at the Shoprite Passover booth.



SARATOGA CHABAD



Saratoga Chabad hosted communal Seders with interactive participation,

and welcoming Seder. On the first 2 days of Passover, the mitzvah brigade visited Saratoga's Broadway, led by Mussi & Mendel Rubin of Clifton Park Chabad.



Laying Tefillin before Seder

as Rabbi Abba instructed at points in the Haggadah, to open the mystery boxes on the tables containing "surprises," challenging the guests to guess what was the Passover connection. A family from Long Island got the cool "Sunglasses," relating to the plague of darkness! After a matza eating contest they got to bring their prizes home.

Among the participants, the young children surprisingly stayed up to the end of the seder with full festive spirit. The "Four Sons" were presented in a cute ventriloquist style, 4 puppets moving their lips and children taking turns reading! Frogs and Sheep weren't just Haggadah illustrations; they came to life with fluffy sheep passed around. One of the guests mentioned that she had grown up in a traditional Jewish home, but hadn't been by a Seder for many years. She expressed appreciation for the beautiful



Here are some of their experiences:

"We asked a lady if she was Jewish, she said "no," so we walked on. She then called us back, saying "Actually, my mother's mother was a Jew. I read in her diaries about many Jewish things." She thus enjoyed Shmura Matza for the first time in her life.

Later we met a Jewish man, but we had no more Matzah with us to give him, just then Rabbi Yossi & Leye came around the corner with Matza! Returning home because it was getting late, we still wanted to share with someone one more Matzah, but we couldn't find anyone Jewish. We took a different street back, where we met a Jew and gave him Matzah!"

In honor of Rabbi Yisroel Rubin's 65th Birthday by Anonymous

Please enable us to continue promoting the Holiday Mitzvos! PLEASE JOIN!

Celebrating our 40th year we invite you to partner with us & continue & expand our diverse services for the Jewish Community, with contributing \$40 (or multiples of 40)!



Every Dollar Counts.

We believe in Jewish continuity and the future, WE ARE SURE YOU DO TOO!





Capital Chabad *Jewish Center*
Chabad Lubavitch Centers of the Capital District
Celebrating 40th year of Jewish Community Service!
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PASSOVER MITZVAH BRIGADE



PLEASE JOIN!
 In honor of our 40th year, we invite you to help us continue & expand our diverse communal services, by contributing \$40 (or multiples of 40)!

In honor of the Rebbe's Birthday, the 11th day of Nissan, the Mitzvah brigade went down to NYC to visit and pray at the Rebbe's resting place.



Joining thousands of other Jews the world over in inspirational Farbrengen - gatherings. In addition to the great experience they also spent time meeting Jews on the bustling streets of Manhattan giving matzah and Passover messages ; here are presented a few short anecdotes and a small photo gallery, ENJOY!:

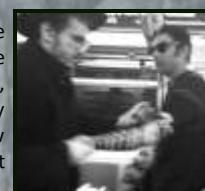
Thank you so much for making the Passover Seder so special for me and the children. Your family made us feel so welcome and comfortable as you shared with us your home, dinner, so much knowledge; in a fun and happy way. I am very proud of my children's participation and enjoyment during the Seder. Again.. Thank you! - Meredeth S. Long Island, NY



CHILDRENS' PROGRAM Over 50 Children enjoyed a fun filled hour of Jewish unity. Pesach celebrates the victory of freedom from slavery, so we recited Tehillim Prayers, Torah versus and gave Charity for the merit of Jews around the world and specifically safety in Israel. All this built up to a **GRAND BINGO GAME** of Pesach related numbers. Guess how does 2448 connected to Pesach. One could feel the excitement in the air as the winners' names were drawn for the Grand raffle of a **SCOOTER, REMOTE HELICOPTER, MATZAH COVER GLOW CRYOLA** and other prizes! **JOIN US AGAIN VERY SOON!**



Already when we were waiting for the bus & on it, we started the Passover Matzah marathon giving out Matzah. After getting off the bus in Manhattan, we were officially making our way to Brooklyn, but on the way we met so many jews and we shared the holiday spirit and handmade Matzah with them! After giving matzah to a jew on the street and taking a group picture, an israeli was standing right



next to us - waiting to speak with us. First we gave him matzah and since it was cold outside, he proudly led us into a UPS store , and laid tefillin. On friday morning after taking a group picture in front of 770 - Chabad Lubavitch World Headquarters we met a Colombian Jewish man with his wife and daughter. They were holding filled bags from Jewish shops. He told us that he put on tefillin that day and he bought tefillin for his



kids! he asked if he could go inside 770, so we gave them a mini tour of 770 while he translated for his wife in Spanish.

Finally we made our way to Manhattan to make the bus back to Albany for Shabbos. On the subway ride we met a Jewish man & he readily agreed to put on tefillin right there on the subway! Once in manhattan with some time to spare until our bus, we stood on a street corner meeting fellow Jews and our supply of matzah was quickly dwindling down. Just before we left to our bus we met a Jew named Chananya who we gave the special matzah and agreed to put on tefillin in the shul on 34th St!



 On the Last days of Pesach S.B. Kudan and Yosef Kagan were meeting Jews in the Buckingham pond area. As they were returning home, they got lost. As they were deciding which direction to go, a lady parking in her driveway came out to the corner and asked "Are you lost"? and gave them directions back home. As they were leaving, she said "Chag Sameach. Then, they didn't have any more matzos with them, so they planned to return the next day. The next day came and Moishy Kudan and Yossi Kagan were to visit her, Mrs. Kudan reminded them of a Jew named Chick who also lived in that area. Chick witnessed the Kudans car being hit up last year on shavuos just a few days after moving here from the west coast. So they knocked on his door, and his friend came out and it turns out that he was Jewish, and he said "well my mother's, mother's mother was Jewish and they moved far off to Wisconsin and there they forgot about the Judaism . Then they went on to the ladies house.

