



December 2016 | Kislev 5777

The El Paso CHABAD TIMES

Issue 142

A publication of **Chabad Lubavitch of El Paso**

6615 Westwind Dr. • El Paso, TX 79912 • 915.584.8218

Dear Friend,

Celebrating 30 years of community and friendship, we are filled with a sense of pride and gratitude. Pride in the beautiful community we have become and gratitude to you for partnering with us in this revolutionary endeavor. Your commitment and support is what enables us to reach out to every Jew in the region regardless of social status, background or affiliation.

At Chabad we aim to facilitate the spiritual growth of every Jew. To provide opportunities to discover our glorious heritage, the beauty of Torah and mitzvot, at a comfortable pace and in a non-judgmental environment. Ongoing synagogue services, adult education classes, youth activities and outreach programs are but a sampling of what goes on at Chabad. There is something here for everyone.

Thirteenth Annual Raffle
2017 • 5777

Two round trip tickets to **Israel** (\$3,000 cash)
Writers Edition "Virginia Woolf" Ballpoint Pen
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Chabad is hosting its annual fundraising raffle to help support the many ongoing activities. Please participate in the raffle by purchasing one or more tickets and be a partner in ensuring a vibrant Jewish future in El Paso. The grand prize is **two round trip tickets to Israel (\$3,000.00)**. The second place prize is a **Writers Edition "Virginia Woolf" Ballpoint Pen**.

One (1) ticket - \$100.00 | Three (3) Tickets - \$250.00

The raffle drawing will be held on Saturday Night, February 11.

Chabad remains dedicated to strengthening Jewish identity, unity and education in El Paso. With each raffle ticket that you purchase you become a partner in our vital work.

With much appreciation for your support,

Rabbi and Mrs. Yisrael Greenberg
Rabbi and Mrs. Levi Greenberg

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With a high poverty and unemployment rate, many of El Paso's children will not be properly prepared for winter.

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\$20.00 per sweatshirt

Thank you for your care and support!

Blues Rock Star Debut Performance in El Paso at Chanukah Festival

Lazer Lloyd is a veteran musician with quite an impressive background in pop, folk and rock music. Born in New York and raised in Connecticut, he was surrounded by his Dad's love for playing and listening to music - records playing at home and family trips to festivals

and concerts. He majored in music at Skidmore College where he had his own band and played with many famous musicians such as Milt Hinton and Johnny Winter.

After college he formed his own blues/folk/rock band that played original music at the local bars. He

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Your Chanukah Guide
December 24 - January 1
Page 11

The Rabbi's Message



I'm sure many of you remember Mr. Henry Kellen. A fine, intelligent individual always with a story to tell. He was a community activist and the founder of the El Paso Holocaust Museum.

One evening on Chanukah 2013, Rabbi Levi and I decided to visit Mr. Kellen in honor of the holiday. He was not feeling well at the time and when we arrived with a plate of latkes and a Menorah with candles, we were told that he had been in bed the entire day. When he was notified that we had come to visit, he immediately came out to greet us with a warm smile.

A Menorah and candles he already had but that year he had not yet performed the mitzvah of kindling the Chanukah lights. He had no one to celebrate with and had not felt motivated to do so. Now that he had guests, he was overjoyed to light his own menorah. It is difficult to express the feeling seeing this courageous man, a survivor of the most gruesome atrocities against our people, proudly recite the blessings of praise to G-d for the miracles he wrought for our ancestors in ancient times and for

us today.

The mitzvah of lighting the Chanukah menorah is to commemorate the miracle of the oil sufficient for one night that burned for eight days and nights. An unnatural phenomenon that reflected the selfless and unnatural commitment displayed by the Maccabees in their struggle against the ancient Assyrian Greek empire. While the Greeks endeavored to extinguish the soul of Judaism and the purity of divine service with brute strength, the Maccabees countered their efforts with intensified faith in G-d. And their efforts were amply rewarded.

Chanukah commemorates the victory of authentic Torah over all detractors regardless of how strong and sophisticated they may be.

This year as we gather the family and recite the blessings over the candles, please do not forget the many in our community that are unable to share the joy of Chanukah with others. Invite them to join you for a lighting, to enjoy some latkes, a good game of dreidel or just simply to be with others. Encourage them to participate in community celebrations and offer a ride etc. And if they can't leave home, bring the light and joy of Chanukah to their places.

The more light we share the greater our own light becomes.

Best wishes for a wonderful Chanukah.

Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg



From Our Mail Box

Dear Rabbi Greenberg
Thank you very much for praying and visiting with me yesterday. It was very nice and the cake was delicious. May you have much health and happiness this year and may graciousness and mercy pervade your days. B. K.

Dear Rabbi Levi,
Thank you so much to you and Shainy for giving us such a delightful evening. We found the food delicious, company charming and the rituals very meaningful. See you soon. L. and B.

Hello Rabbi,
It was so nice spending Shabbat with your daughter-in-law and your grandchildren. She was so warm and friendly and really impressed my boys with her cooking. She offered to email me some recipes so I am just following up on that.

We also enjoyed Shabbat morning in Shul. You have a very nice community. Yasher Koach for all of your work to keep Judaism thriving in El Paso! S. H.

Mazel Tov

Baby Girl
Zelda Rochel
Proud Parents
Rabbi Chaim and Moussia Goldstein
Proud Grandparents
Rabbi Yisrael and Chana Greenberg

Engagement
Rochel Greenberg to Abi Naparstek
Proud Parents
Rabbi Yisrael and Chana Greenberg
Rabbi Boruch and Braindy Naparstek

Wedding
Yaakov and Shiran Kaplan
Proud Parents
Yinon and Nili Arusi
Jonathan and Abigail Kaplan

Eli and Chaya Lebovics
Proud Parents
Enoch and Yocheved Kimmelman
Dr. Irving and Shirley Lebovics

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Meralee Schlusberg

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is published by
CHABAD LUBAVITCH
OF EL PASO
6615 Westwind Drive
El Paso, Texas 79912
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The Chabad Times is published five times a year for the Jewish Holidays.

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A Holiday Message

from the Lubavitcher Rebbe



During their occupation of the Holy Land, the Greeks entered the Temple and defiled all the vessels of olive oil they found. After their defeat, the Maccabees were able to find only one cruse of oil with the seal of the High Priest intact. Though it contained enough oil for only one day, the rekindled Menorah burned miraculously for eight days, enough time for new oil to be prepared.

The Greeks’ defiling of the oil was obviously intentional and systematic; they neither used it nor destroyed it. What did they gain by defiling it?

This question can be answered by analyzing the nature of the conflict between the Greeks and the Jews. While building their empire, the Greeks did not usually attempt to eradicate indigenous populations. Instead, their goal was to Hellenize and assimilate them into their culture. This was their policy when they imposed their rule over Eretz Yisrael.

The Greeks appreciated the wisdom and beauty of the Torah. What they opposed was the concept of Torah as Gdly revelation. They would have liked the Jewish people to study Torah in the same way they would have studied human wisdom, without thinking of its Gdliness that transcends the bounds of intellect.

Likewise, the Greeks did not object to the fulfillment of the commandments per se, recognizing that every culture, including their own, has rituals. Their antagonism was aroused by the idea

that mitzvos are a unique means of connecting to Gd which take us beyond human limits.

In light of this, we can understand why the Greeks were so intent on defiling the oil. They wanted the Menorah to be lit with impure oil so that its light, symbolic of the light of Torah, would shine forth not in its pristine purity, but with a human, Greek touch.

The Jews responded to this challenge with self-sacrifice that leaps beyond the limits of reason. Though they were pitted against the world’s strongest military power, they were determined to fight, and even to surrender their lives, to maintain the spiritual purity of their heritage.

The self-sacrifice which they displayed is symbolized by the one cruse of oil which still bore the seal of the High Priest.

Every individual has his “one cruse of oil,” begging to be discovered. A person may not uncover this internal connection to Gd in the ordinary circumstances of his life. But when challenged, as in the case of the Maccabees, this inner connection will surface. And when this Divine bond comes to the fore, “[Gd will] deliver the mighty into the hands of the weak, the many into the hands of the few,” for nothing can withstand its power.

In their struggle against the Greeks, the Maccabees tapped this resource - this single cruse of oil, revealing a level of soul that transcended their usual limits. In response, Gd revealed miracles that transcended the natural limits of this world.

The Chanukah miracle which followed serves as an eternal testimony to the essential connection to Gd that the Greeks sought to sever. In our day as well, the Chanukah lights remind us that through an appreciation of the infinite Gdly, dimension of the Torah and its commandments, we can kindle the potential for light we all possess within our souls.

*Have your beloved ones remembered
with a memorial light...*

... by purchasing a plate on the memorial
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family and friends on the
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was meeting success and Atlantic records liked his band so much that they brought them to New York to showcase. He was offered various recording opportunities, but then his discovery of authentic Jewish life moved him to travel to Israel.

He studied in a Yeshiva and subsequently married and in 1994 started a decade with the psychedelic Israeli jam band Reva L'Sheva. Continuing solo work on the side, Lazer began to attract international attention with his self-released folk-rock CD “Higher Ground” in 2004. His blues-rock power trio Yood expanded the ripples capturing fans with “Passin’ Over” (2007) and “Real People” (2008). In 2011 he put out “Lazer Lloyd Unplugged”, “Blues in Tel Aviv”, and the Hebrew song collection “Hane-shama”. Then Lloyd’s 2012 “My Own Blues” electric release was named best blues album by the Israeli Blues Society and sent to the Memphis International Blues Competition.

US roots music fans are picking up the Lazer Lloyd gauntlet. His new self-titled album, released on Chicago’s Lots of Love Records label and featuring 11 original songs that range from scorching rockers to heart-tugging ballads,

along with a supple cover of Otis Redding’s “(Sittin’ on the) Dock of the Bay,” is beating out the likes of Buddy Guy on the blues charts on indie American radio stations. Magazines like Relix and Downbeat have featured stories on him, and he’s been traveling back and forth between Israel and the US, where he’s been performing in blues festivals and showcasing in clubs around the country.

His beard, tzitzit and spirituality have made him a media darling in the ethnically diverse melting pot of America, where a Hendrix-playing Israeli hassid grabs headlines.

In addition to live songwriting sessions and sharing his latest guitar finds, Lloyd discusses his philosophies of “being a bridge”, “never giving up” and other concepts on his regular live Facebook sessions.

“The breakout after the 2015 album and the social media breakthrough in January 2016 led to tens of thousands of people sending me personal messages with thanks for the music and sharing the pains and joys of their lives I see that the songs really touched people, each in their own way. This is unbelievably gratifying and humbling to me.”


On December 27, Lazer will bring his musical talent and passion to the borderland region. His debut appearance in El Paso will be held at Chabad Lubavitch at the annual community Chanukah celebration. The entire community is invited to participate and to be inspired!

**When: Tuesday,
December 27 at 6:00pm**

**Where: Chabad Lubavitch,
6615 Westwind Drive**

Admission: FREE | Co-sponsorship: \$1,000

See insert for details.



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Historic Milestone Reached at the annual Chabad Lubavitch Emissaries Convention A permanent presence in every state with the establishment of Chabad in South Dakota

By Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg

Once again, I attended the annual International Conference of Shluchim (Chabad Rabbis) in Brooklyn, NY. It was my 30th year participating in this magnificent display of Jewish leadership. Colleagues representing almost every Jewish community in the world met, shared ideas and inspiration to bring the message of living Judaism to every Jew on the planet.

I greeted my nephew and niece Rabbi Mendel and Mussie Alperowitz, the recently appointed Shluchim to the state of South Dakota. The final state in the union to have a permanent Chabad presence. To be sure, the chances for establishing a large synagogue or a functioning Day School are close to none. The Jewish population in the state is miniscule and spread out throughout the state.

You may ask, is it worth-while for a young, talented and idealistic couple to establish themselves in such a remote locale to provide some semblance of Judaism to a handful of Jews? Perhaps their energy and talents would reap greater gains if they would be invested in



Rabbi Mendel and Mussie Alperowitz and their two children will move to Sioux Falls City, South Dakota in time for the holiday of Chanukah.

larger communities with a denser Jewish population. Certainly the data would confirm this position.

In the NICU one can find a tiny infant laying in a crib surrounded by a team of highly educated, experienced and talented physicians and nurses equipped with sophisticated and expensive machines and equipment. They toil to find the proper treatment for the baby and spend hours monitoring the progress. If one were to ask these courageous

individuals: What is the future of this child? What are the chances of survival? Is it worth your time and energy? The response would certainly be that it does not matter. Each moment of life they can provide for this tiny human being is precious and invaluable.

This is the Rebbe's view of a Jew. Each and every one is valuable and cannot be forgotten.

At the convention in 1986, (the first year I participated as the rep-

resentative to El Paso) during the Shabbat Farbrengen, the Rebbe explained the necessity of establishing a permanent Chabad presence in even the most remote locations and communities. Our universe is a combination of numerous details. If one detail is missing, the entire world is incomplete. The same is true with the Jewish nation. If we would only operate in areas that generate large turnout, New York, Chicago, Israel and the like, there is a large section of our people that will be left behind.

This is why the Alperowitzs are moving to South Dakota. And this is why we are proud to be here in El Paso despite the fact that it will never be Brooklyn.

We have a mission to inspire every Jew to grow in Torah study and Mitzvah observance. To recite a blessing before drinking a glass of water, to give some coins to tzedaka every day, light a candle before Shabbat and the list goes on. Transforming ourselves and the world one mitzvah at a time.

We are all partners in this monumental endeavor.

Jewish Women's Circle Paint Night The Eternal Flames

By Shainy Greenberg

On Wednesday evening, November 16th, Chabad hosted a Jewish Women's Circle event at I Panted That! social art studio. Here are some of the thoughts I shared with my fellow painters about the image we painted together.

This week the Jewish world is learning about the story of Abraham our forefather. He was the revolutionary trailblazer that discovered G-d on his own at the young age of three. Instead of keeping the news to himself, he risked his life to enlighten anyone he can reach and ultimately became the forefather of Jewish nation.

In the course of the biblical narrative of his life and accomplishments we find that his wife Sarah was of equal righteousness, prominence and courage. In fact, the Chassidic masters teach that the impact Avraham had on the world was only due to the unique qualities of Sarah. She was his partner in all of his endeavors to bring the knowledge of G-d to the world.



The Talmud relates, that Sarah would light candles to usher in the Shabbat. Miraculously, these flames would continue to glow until the next Friday afternoon. Upon her passing this miracle ceased – even though Avraham continued the custom each week. When Yitzchak married the righteous Rivkah, this weekly miracle resumed with her Shabbat candles.

The mitzvah of kindling the Shabbat candles is symbolic of the role of the Jewish woman to illuminate her home with love and warmth. As Shabbat approaches, bringing pause to the hectic and mundane realities of life – the Shabbat candles shed light on the accomplishments of the past week and beacon forth a bright week to come. Shabbat reminds us that everything we do should be motivated

by a sense of mission to serve G-d, and ultimately result in fostering more goodness and kindness in our families, communities and the entire world.

You will notice that there are three candles in the sketch. It is customary for married women to kindle two Shabbat candles. The third, shorter candle is for the daughter. The Rebbe encouraged young girls, from the age of three, to join their mothers in ushering in Shabbat by lighting a candle of their own – obviously with mom's assistance. The educational implications are enormous. This is not only a way to train the child into the mitzvah. Her current action as a young girl, before Bat Mitzvah, already has immediate results. She has made her home a brighter place and as a result the entire world is better off than before.

The third candle represents the unbroken chain of every Jewish woman linked through our long and glorious history – directly to Sarah and Rivkah – the mothers of the Jewish people.

30th Anniversary Celebration of Chabad in El Paso A Fitting Tribute to Three Decades of Community

On a Sunday evening in mid-September an overflowing crowd participated in an evening of tribute, celebrating 30 years since the establishment of Chabad Lubavitch in El Paso. As the beautiful sounds of classic Jewish tunes and Chasidic melodies filled the room, participants were pleased to see a special celebratory edition of the El Paso Chabad Times that had been published for the event. A cross section of the entire Jewish community was represented in the room and the impact of Chabad in town was evident from the get go.

It was an opportunity for inspiration and thanksgiving. In that spirit, the sounding of the Shofar opened the proceedings followed by a prayer of thanksgiving recited by Mr. Louis Rosenbaum. A week prior, Mayor Oscar Leeser and the El Paso City Council had dedicated Sunday, September 11, 2016 as Chabad Lubavitch Day in El Paso with a City Proclamation. The proclamation was read at the event by Mrs. Linda Holzer.

A message is best conveyed by way of a story. As a lifelong El Pasoan, Mr. Sidney Schlusberg provided a glimpse into the rich, comprehensive and lasting impression Chabad has had on the lives of so many over these past 30 years. "I attribute the high quality lifestyle in El Paso to Chabad." Recalling the arrival of Rabbi and Chana Greenberg in the summer of 1986 he observed, "We had all the components for an authentic Jewish lifestyle, but we needed someone with dreams, wisdom, vision and energy



to put all the components together. Rabbi and Chani made the dream real." (See the full transcript of Mr. Schlusberg's remarks below.)

The pride of a community is the ability to welcome newcomers and provide the ability for them to adjust in the most comfortable way possible. In an emotional address, Mrs. Wendy Lanski shared her experience of moving with her husband Dr. Steve to our desert town from Atlanta, GA. "When Steve came for his interview he took three photos. The beautiful mountains, Sunland Park Mall and Chabad Lubavitch. He knew me so well." Upon moving to town they instantly felt welcome. As the family grew with the birth of Libi and, a year later, Liam, "Rabbi and Chani were first to come to the hospital to be sure we were set up for Shabbat."

"Libi and Liam will forever have El Paso on their birth certificates and Chabad on their hearts. It

means more to Steve and I than you will ever know."

Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg reflected on the unlikely circumstances of the establishment of Chabad in El Paso, Texas in 1986. Born in Soviet Russia during the Khrushchev era of the 1960s, his parents were repeatedly denied permission to emigrate. The fact that his father was a graduate of Stalin's gulags where he languished for seven years due to the crime of trying to leave the anti-Jewish Soviet Communist utopia did not help matters. Miraculously, they received the requisite visas in 1967 and the entire extended family emigrated to Israel. As a teenager he transferred to Brooklyn, NY to study in the presence of the Rebbe. After marrying a girl from Italy, the two searched for a post to fulfill the wish of the Rebbe to bring the light and warmth of living Judaism to every corner of the world.

"On that summer day in 1986,

before we boarded the plane to El Paso, Chani, our baby Levi and myself took leave of the Rebbe at Lubavitch world Headquarters. The Rebbe blessed us with these words. 'Healthy travels and may you report good tidings.' This blessing accompanies us to this day."

"G-d directs the steps of man. When our friends and family heard that we were assigned to El Paso their eyes widened in disbelief. El Pasoans would joke that we were punished to serve in such a remote location. But we have always been confident in the Rebbe's blessing and appreciative of the opportunity. Today, 30 years later, there is much to be proud of and to celebrate."

"All that has been accomplished is due to the staunch support and loyal friendship of each and every one of you. We look forward to many more years of development and accomplishments and to celebrating many milestones together." The featured speaker of the event was the indefatigable Marthe Cohn, a courageous WWII Jewish French Spy and the author of the internationally best-selling memoir Behind Enemy Lines. She shared her unbelievable story of being a young Jewish girl persecuted by the Nazis and ultimately playing a decisive role in several Allied victories over her tormentors. Her wit and humor was appreciated by all and many purchased copies of her book which she signed following her talk.

A bright future beacons the entire Jewish community of El Paso.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Dear Friends, Good evening, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Sidney Schlusberg and I'm home-grown. I was born in El Paso and raised in El Paso. El Paso is my home and I love it here.

Often people ask me about my hometown and I say that we live a very high quality life, in the slow lane. I attribute the high quality lifestyle to Chabad, El Paso.

When Rabbi, Chani and little Levi moved to town 30 years ago, we had all the components for an authentic Jewish lifestyle, but we needed someone with dreams, wisdom, vision and energy to put all the components together. Rabbi, Chani and the addition of all eight Greenberg's made the dream real.

Actions speak louder than words.

Rabbi, Chani and now Rabbi Levi and Shainy lead by example. We have been fortunate to see Rab-

bi and Chani's eight children grow up in front of our eyes. Now, one by one, they have started their own journeys, as emissaries worldwide. From Shmulik in Odessa – not the one in Texas, to Mousia at Drexel University in Philadelphia and Shterna in Poway California. But the pride that I have in my heart is that they, too, all proudly call El Paso home.

We watched little Levi leave El



Paso at ten years old. Unlike most El Paso youths, he returned as a Rabbi, at age 25 with Shainy, to establish their family here and continue the good works of Chabad.

As I mentioned, ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

El Paso is a small, unique Jewish community. We are small in numbers, but

each of us counts and makes a difference. If we work together and use the best of each of our qualities, our WHOLE will be greater than

the sum of our parts.

And this was the dream of the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson. Tonight we are celebrating an amazing milestone, countless accomplishments and many noble deeds carried out quietly by Rabbi and Chani of Chabad, El Paso, over the past 30 years. And they are not finished.

We, the community, can look back on what's been accomplished with satisfaction and we should be inspired to think about our ability to continue to enhance and shape the Jewish future here.

Chabad, to the entire Greenberg family, who has enriched us all by their good deeds and to our precious community.

We look forward to many future years of fulfillment. Enjoy the spirit of the evening!

CELEBRATION 30



Pizza In The Sukkah



Sukkot Luncheon for seniors at the Chabad Sukkah.

Kids in the Kitchen Chillin' and Grillin'

The Mega Challah Bake



High Holiday Children's Fair



Jewish Women's Circle Paint Night Out at the I Painted That! Social Art Studio.

From the Rabbis' Blog

www.chabadelpaso.com/blog



Rabbi Levi Greenberg When Life Is Good

A young entrepreneur is late for an important business meeting. After unsuccessfully circling the congested downtown streets in search of a parking spot, our budding negotiator strikes a deal with G-d. "If I find a parking spot with ample time to make it to this meeting twenty percent of the profit goes to charity." Lo and behold – a spot cleared directly in front of the skyscraper he needed to enter.

"Never mind, G-d; I found a spot."

It is natural to improve our behavior when confronted by crisis. After all, we believe that G-d runs the world and in the basic premise of reward and punishment. When we feel the need for special divine intervention, it is indeed proper to entreat G-d that He should provide it and in turn we raise the bar of our religious observance to be deserving of it.

The narrative of our forefather Jacob presents a different angle. Having survived a potentially fatal encounter with his father-in-law Laban, he now faces the equally dangerous threat of his brother Esau. He turns to G-d with the following prayer (Genesis 32:10-12): "O G-d of my father Abraham and G-d of my father Isaac, the L-rd, Who said to me, 'Return to your land and to your birthplace, and I will do good to you.' I have become small from all the kindnesses and from all the truth that

You have rendered Your servant, for with my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps. Now deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him, lest he come and strike me, [and strike] a mother with children."

On the surface, this prayer is quite puzzling. He begins with the fact that G-d had assured him that 'I will do good to you', i.e. protect Jacob and his family from all harm; and ends off by expressing his terror that Esau may succeed in his endeavor to harm them! Did Jacob entertain any doubts whether G-d would fulfill His promise?

After mentioning G-d's promise to protect him, Jacob describes the great kindness he had experienced. He arrived in Charan a penniless fugitive and was now returning to Canaan merely 20 years later as the patriarch of a large family having accumulated much wealth. Being on the receiving end of so much blessing from Above is an indication of extreme "closeness" with

G-d. As such, the expectation of his divine service is far greater. The protocol of proper etiquette expected of those in the courtyard of the palace cannot be compared to that which is expected of those standing in the throne-room.

This was Jacob's concern: Due to his great fortune, perhaps he is not living up to G-d's expectations of him in his newfound level of closeness to G-d. In the words of Rashi, Jacob worried that "perhaps I have been sullied with sin" and therefore no longer worthy of such divine protection.

Jacob teaches us that our behavior must improve specifically when things are good. The deal went through – increase in your generosity. Your child was offered a scholarship to the dream university – perhaps it is time to affix more mezuzos in your home. Everyone is healthy – consider koshering the kitchen.

The best way to thank G-d for the good in our lives is by raising the bar of our Jewish observance.

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Women's Night Out

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ROSH CHODESH LUNCH FOR WOMEN



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915-204-6581 | shainy@chabadelpaso.com



The Large Chanukah Candles

Pesachya could never get used to it. Every year, he would go to the shelf, take down the family Menora, and place it carefully in his suitcase. Then, with a bitter sigh, he would say to his wife, "So I won't be with you and the children for Chanuka once again this year. What can I do. I must be in the forests to supervise the wood-cutting."

"Maybe this year will be different," his wife had said, for this past summer Pesachya had received a special blessing. It had been quite unexpected. Pesachya was paying his yearly visit to Rabbi Sholom Dov Ber of Lubavitch.

"Pesachya," the Rebbe had said quietly, "no doubt it is hard for you to be away from home at Chanuka time.

"This year, be sure to take along a supply of big candles. May the Al-mighty bless you with a bright Chanuka, and give you much success in the business too." Pesachya was astonished, speechless. It was as if the Rebbe had looked into the hidden areas of his heart to discover that old pain.

The Rebbe had spoken very naturally, but his words were puzzling. As Pesachya dutifully went to purchase "the big candles," he wondered what the Rebbe really had in mind.

When Chanuka came, Pesachya remembered the Rebbe's instructions. Every morning he rose early to study and pray. Then, before leaving the cabin, he would



check to make sure that he had the right number of candles with him to light that evening.

One morning, Pesachya awoke a little later than usual. Hurriedly he bundled himself up, and ran down the forest path. Suddenly he realized that he had forgotten the Chanuka candles. Another delay, he thought. Maybe he should leave them until later. No. Better go back and get them after all.

Despite the late start, the day turned out well. Finally, as it grew dark, Pesachya dismissed his workers and began to trudge toward his lonely cabin.

"Stop Jew!" said a gruff voice, sending a chill of fear down his spine. Pesachya looked up, as a rough band of woodsmen laid hold of him, the tallest brandishing a large axe.

"Robbers! Help!" he cried, but no one heard a sound. One grabbed him from behind. Another stunned him with a blow. "Don't fight or

we'll kill you!" they said.

Roughly they search him, taking his jacket and his money belt. Then with a shove, they threw him down on the icy dark road.

Pesachya's head pounded as he heard a voice say, "Hold him steady. Let's get it over with."

"Wait, wait!" cried Pesachya desperately. "Don't kill me, Please. Spare my life. I beg you. I have a wife, children. Mercy!"

"Quiet!" a voice growled. "You can forget about them."

"Master of the World," said Pesachya to himself, and cried out the Shema Yisrael prayer.

Suddenly he remembered the candles. "Wait, listen," he begged. "If these are my last minutes, let me at least light the candles for the holiday of Chanuka."

"All right, if that's your last wish. But make it quick," the robbers said.

With trembling fingers,

Pesachya took out the candles and stuck them in a mound of snow by the roadside. With tears streaming down his face, he recited the blessings, and kindled the tall candles.

As he watched them he thought of his family, his poor children, so many miles away. The he remembered the way the Rebbe had looked at him that last summer, and his mind was full of the vision of his holy face.

Suddenly he heard a shout. "Stop where you are, all of you." The forest was bristling with armed men. "You're all under arrest."

The Duke's private soldiers rushed forward, grabbing the robbers, and holding them at gunpoint.

"At last we'll make these woods safe," said a man dressed in warm furs, whom Pesachya recognized as the wealthy Duke, owner of the forest.

"You...you saved my life," cried Pesachya. "How did you find me?"

"Why, your candles," said the Duke. "We noticed them from the main road as we rode by. They led us right to you.

"They're for your holiday, aren't they?" the Duke said curiously. "It just shows, a bit of religion never hurts, does it?"

Pesachya smiled gratefully. "I..I can never thank you enough."

And as he spoke, his eyes filled with a look of wonder, as he realized at last what the Rebbe had meant.

Celebrate Chassidus: The Key to a Joyful Judaism

The 19th of Kislev is celebrated by the Chabad community as the "Rosh Hashanah of Chassidism." Farbrengens—informal gatherings at which expositions of Chassidic teaching and words of inspiration mingle with melody, dance and l'chaims—are held in every community, and chassidim wish each other a "good year in the learning of Chassidut and the ways of Chassidut."

The 19th of Kislev marks the day, in the year 5559 (1798), that the founder of Chabad Chassidism, Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, was released from imprisonment in Czarist Russia. Rabbi Schneur Zalman had been arrested on charges, put forth by opponents of Chassidism, that his activities, and the movement he founded, contained treasonous elements. His exoneration and release marked Chassidism's victory over those who sought to destroy it; following the 19th of Kislev, the movement gained many



new adherents, and its teachings were far more broadly and freely disseminated. Rabbi Schneur Zalman's style of teaching also assumed a new form: he now expounded on the "soul of Torah," previously presented only in the form of terse Kabbalistic

formulas, at greater length and in a manner that more readily allowed their intellectual assimilation.

On a deeper level, the arrest and liberation were interpreted by Rabbi Schneur Zalman and his followers as the earthly speculum of a supernal drama, in which

the movement itself was on trial before the Heavenly court. Is it proper to reveal the most intimate secrets of Torah, which had been the exclusive province of a select few in each generation, to the public at large? Is it proper to clothe them in garments of reason, so that these essentially supra-rational truths should take the form of a rational philosophy and creed? Rabbi Schneur Zalman's release from earthly prison signified his vindication above: the Heavenly court had ruled that the time had indeed come for the inner light of Torah to be revealed and to illuminate the world.

Yud Tes Kislev will be celebrated this year on December 19-20.
Join us on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:30pm for a Farbrengen and a fascinating in depth study about the teachings of Chassidus.

MENORAH WORKSHOP

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10 Tevet

On the 10th day of the Jewish month of Tevet, in the year 3336 from Creation (425 BCE), the armies of the Babylonian emperor Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem. Thirty months later—on 9 Tammuz 3338—the city walls were breached, and on 9 Av of that year the Holy Temple was destroyed. The Jewish people were exiled to Babylonia for 70 years.

The 10th of Tevet (this year, January 8) is observed as a day of fasting, mourning and repentance. We refrain from food and drink from daybreak to nightfall and add selichot and other special supplements to our prayers. More recently, 10 Tevet was chosen to also serve as a “general kaddish day” for the victims of the Holocaust, many of whose day of martyrdom is unknown. **Fast begins: 5:46 am | Fast ends: 5:46 pm**

Ongoing Programs at Chabad

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Shacharit 9:00am Maariv 7:00pm	Shacharit 7:00am Maariv 7:00pm	Shacharit 8:30am Downtown Talmud Class 12:00 noon - 1:00pm Maariv 7:00pm Torah Studies 7:30pm
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Shacharit 8:30am Maariv 7:00pm Women's Nigh Out Class for Women 7:30pm - 8:30pm	Shacharit 7:00am Bi-Monthly Lunch and Learn 12:00pm Maariv 7:00pm	Shacharit 8:30am Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00pm
Shabbat		
Shacharit 9:30 am • Followed by A Sit Down Kiddush • Mincha will follow the Kiddush Childrens Program 11:00am • Maariv, Havdalah and film after Shabbat		

Chabad is always hosting new classes and programs.
To receive updates, e-mail chabad@chabadelpaso.com
or visit us online at chabadelpaso.com

If you would like to set up a private study session,
please call 584-8218.

The Festival of Chanukah



Chanukah - the eight-day festival of light that begins on the eve of Kislev 25 - celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, of purity over adulteration, of spirituality over materiality.

More than twenty-one centuries ago, the Holy Land was ruled by the Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks), who sought to forcefully Hellenize the people of Israel.

The cruel King Antiochus forced the Greek pantheon of idol worship on Israel in 164 B.C.E. He appointed apostates who adopted Greek names, dress and thought to reduce the holy Torah to mere literature, rather than Divine truth.

But many Jews remained loyal to the Torah, so the angry Antiochus sent soldiers to attack them and to enforce his rules. The Greeks forbade Jewish practice, but the faithful Jews defied their ban on Torah study, circumcision and Shabbat.

Heroic Jews like Chana and her seven sons refused to bow to a Greek idol, and the elderly Matisyahu from Modin and his five sons the 'Maccabees' revolted against the oppression and prevailed over the mighty Greeks.

Against all odds, a small band of faithful Jews defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, drove the Greeks from the land, reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and rededicated it to the service of G-d.

When they sought to light the Temple's menorah they found only a single cruse of olive oil that had escaped contamination by the

Greeks. Miraculously, the one-day supply burned for eight days until new oil could be prepared under conditions of ritual purity.

To commemorate and publicize these miracles, the sages instituted the festival of Chanukah. At the heart of the festival is the nightly Menorah lighting: a single flame on the first night, two on the second evening, and so on till the eighth night of Chanukah, when all eight lights are kindled.

This year, we usher in Chanukah by lighting the first candle on Saturday night, December 24th after 5:48 pm.

The Menorah's 8 lights must be of equal height, all in a row. To differentiate it from the other Chanukah candles, the Shamash 'servant' candle is placed a little higher or lower.

Most Menorahs use candles, while some prefer olive oil with wicks that can be purchased or homemade by twisting a puff of absorbent cotton into a 2-3 inch string.

An electric menorah does not fulfill the Mitzvah obligation, but may be placed in addition to a candle or oil menorah to promote Chanukah awareness.

A holiday of renewal and rededication, Chanukah promotes Jewish heritage. Children should light their own Menorahs.

In the absence of a designed Menorah, any metal containers may be used, making sure there is no fire hazard. During the Holocaust and Communist oppression, Jews improvised Menorahs from hollowed potatoes filled with margarine or fat. Israeli soldiers have used spent ammunition canisters lined in a row as their Menorah.

On the first night, the flame on the Menorah's extreme right is lit. Another flame is added to the left of the previous flame each succeeding night. The new flame is lit first, followed by the flame to its right, and so on, until all eight flames are kindled.

The Menorahs are placed at the

doorpost across the mezuzah and some place it at the window facing the street. Kindled at sunset or nightfall, the candles should burn at least half an hour after dark.

On Friday, December 30th, the Chanukah lights are kindled before the Shabbat candle lighting time. (Shabbat begins once the Shabbat candles are lit, so it is forbidden to light the Menorah later.) Saturday night, the Chanukah candles are lit after the "Havdalah" ceremony bids farewell to Shabbat. See calendar below for Shabbat times.

It is customary to sit by the Menorah, tell stories and sing songs. We do not benefit directly from the light of the candles, only from the shamash or regular lights in the room.

Women refrain from household chores during the half-hour that the lights burn, honoring the brave Jewish heroines who played crucial roles in the Chanukah story.

PRAYERS

"Hallel" is recited in the morning prayers. We add "Al Hanissim" in the Amida and during the Grace after meals.

We give Chanukah "Gelt" to children, encouraging them to donate some to charity. Gifts of books, games or toys are also given in addition to the 'Gelt' coins tradition.

The Draydel spinner with Hebrew letters on its four sides is available in metal, plastic or wood in various colors and sizes. The Syrian Greeks forbade Torah study, but the Jews defied the ban and learned in hiding. If Greek soldiers discovered a Torah class, the children would disguise their studies by pretending they were just playing a Draydel game.

HOLIDAY FOODS

Recalling the Chanukah Oil Miracle, it is customary to eat fried foods: potato Latke pancakes and Sufganiot doughnuts.

Dairy specialties recall the heroine Judith who charmed her way into the enemy camp, and gained the confidence of Heliornos,

a vicious Greek general. She served him salty cheese followed by wine to quench his thirst. As he slept, Judith seized his sword and slew him. Realizing that their head had fallen his soldiers ran off in confusion and the Jews were saved.

Before lighting the Menorah the first night, first kindle the Shamash 'servant' candle, and recite the following three blessings. Each additional night recite the first two blessings only.

BLESSINGS

1) Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech
Ha-olom A-sheh Ki-de-sha-nu Be-mitz-vo-sav Ve-tzi-va-nu Le-had-lik Ner Cha-nu-kah.
Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the Universe, Who sanctified us by His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the light of Chanukah.

2) Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi Elo-hei-nu Me-lech
Ha-olom She-o-so Ni-sim La-avo-sei-nu
Ba-yom-mim Ha-heim Biz-man Ha-zeh.
Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the Universe, Who made miracles for our ancestors in those days, at this time.

(The following blessing is recited the first time you kindle the Menorah.)

3) Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu me-lech
Ha-olom She-heh-che-yoh-nu Ve-ki-yi-mo-nu Ve-he-ge-o-nu Liz-man Ha-zeh.
Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the Universe, Who kept us alive and preserved us, and enabled us to reach this time.

We light an additional candle each night of Chanukah, leading up to the lighting of all eight candles on Saturday night, December 31st.

Earliest Time
for Chanukah Candlelighting
(except Friday & Saturday)
is after sunset - 5:11pm

Chabad-Lubavitch Chanukah Calendar

Saturday, December 24	Light Chanukah Candles after5:48pm Havdalah, Latkes, Refreshments, Film and Public Menorah Lighting 7:30pm	Wednesday, December 28	Camp Gan Israel Winter Camp 9:00am - 3:00pm See page 8 for details Public Menorah Lighting at Chabad 7:00pm
Sunday, December 25	Public Menorah Lighting at Chabad 7:00pm	Thursday, December 29	Camp Gan Israel Winter Camp 9:00am - 3:00pm See page 8 for details Public Menorah Lighting at Chabad 7:00pm
Monday, December 26	Chanukah Party at the Royal Estates 6:00pm Public Menorah Lighting at Chabad 7:00pm	Friday, December 30	Public Menorah Lighting at Chabad 3:30pm Light Chanukah Candles before lighting Shabbat candles Light Shabbat Candles 4:54pm
Tuesday, December 27	Chanukah Children's Extravaganza 4:30pm Concert with Lazer Lloyd 6:00pm Public Menorah Lighting at Chabad7:00pm See insert for details	Saturday, December 31	Light Chanukah Candles after5:52pm Havdalah, Latkes, Refreshments, Film and Public Menorah Lighting7:00pm

Be sure to check out our public Menorah displays at Sunland Park Mall, Cielo Vista Mall and The Outlet Shoppes at El Paso.

TOGETHER

WE WILL TRANSFORM THE LANDSCAPE OF
JEWISH EL PASO FOREVER!



INDIVIDUAL | COMMUNITY | FAMILY

By the Grace of G-d, for three decades a dream has been nurtured and realized in our town. Uniting fellow Jews from a plethora of backgrounds and spanning all age groups, Chabad Lubavitch of El Paso has blossomed into a vibrant community. With special emphasis on the individual we have evolved into family. Your staunch support and friendship has helped us reach this momentous milestone. We have a vision. Building on the phenomenal success of the past we look forward to an even greater future. To erect an edifice that you will be proud to call home. A place to gather, discover, pray, laugh and celebrate our glorious heritage. Together we will ensure the continued growth and expansion of our oasis community in Southwest Texas.

DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Sanctuary.....\$770,000
- Social Hall..... \$500,000
- Judaic Library.....\$250,000
- Aron Kodesh \$200,000
- Front Lobby \$150,000
- Children's Outdoor Playground..... \$150,000
- Commercial Kosher Kitchen (Meat) ... \$150,000
- Living Legacy Program for Children ... \$100,000
- Commercial Kosher Kitchen (Dairy) \$75,000
- Social Hall Furnishings.....\$36,000
- Rabbi's Conference room\$36,000
- Outdoor Gardens.....\$36,000
- Conference Room\$30,000
- Mommy & Me Room.....\$30,000
- Conference Room Furnishings.....\$25,000
- Security System.....\$25,000
- Audio Visual.....\$25,000
- Phone System (Reserved).....\$25,000

- Main Entrance Doors\$20,000
- Front Door Mezuzah \$18,000
- Foyer Furnishings \$15,000
- Hand Washing Station.....\$10,000
- Coat Room\$10,000
- 5 Mezuzot (3 Reserved).....\$1,800 each

SYNAGOGUE FURNISHINGS

- Bima - Triple Platform\$50,000
- Yartzeit Memorial Board (Reserved)...\$50,000
- Sanctuary Chairs (Reserved).....\$30,000
- Mechitzah\$25,000
- Rabbi's Lectern\$18,000
- Siddur Book Case.....\$18,000
- Silver Menorah\$12,000
- Chazzan's Lectern (Reserved).....\$10,000
- Tallit Rack\$5,400

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BONIM/BUILDERS
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CHAI/SUPPORTERS
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YEDIDIM/FRIENDS
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TOMCHIM/ADVOCATES
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