

# “DIDAN NATZACH” CELEBRATION IN 770

Hundreds of *Anash*, *T'mimim*, and *shluchim* celebrated “*Didan Natzach*,” the return of the Rebbe’s *s’farim* to the *Aguch* library, on Thursday night, *Motzaei Hei Teives* in 770, Lubavitch World Headquarters. The *farbrengen* was organized by the *gabbaim* of 770 and Rabbi Yaakov Herzog.

The event began with a video of the *sicha* of Hei Teives, 5749. Following the screening, Rabbi Sholom Yaakov Chazan, serving as emcee, described the importance of the Yom Tov, reminding the audience that it is the only one the Rebbe MH”M himself established. He ended his remarks by saying: “Just as at that time, the Rebbe did not agree to any compromise in connection with the *s’farim*, now too should we not

compromise when it comes to *emuna*.”

The second speaker, Rabbi Sholom Mendel Simpson, the Rebbe’s secretary, connected the *sidra* to Hei Teives and concluded that the concept of “*ma zaro ba’chayim, af hu ba’chayim*” was something even the gentile judge could relate to. “Therefore,” said Rabbi Simpson, each of us should constantly hold the image of the Rebbe MH”M before us, and this will give us the strength to endure these final moments before the Rebbe MH”M is revealed to us.”

Rabbi Avrohom Osdoba, member of the Crown Heights *beis din*, then took the podium. He referred to the incident in *Nach* when the *aron* was

captured, bringing calamity upon those who held it. It was only when they moved it to its proper place that it brought blessing. So too, when the *s’farim* were taken from their rightful place, the Rebbe said that having one of them was like having a bomb in the house! When the *s’farim* are in their rightful place, in the possession of the Rebbeim, they bring blessing instead.

Rabbi Y.Y. Paltiel, speaking in English, followed Rabbi Osdoba. He recounted the miracle of Hei Teives and reiterated its lesson for our times: to live with the Rebbe and his teachings, especially in fulfilling his directives, including and especially *hafatzas besuras ha’Geula*.



A view of the crowd at the Hei Teives *farbrengen* in 770



(From right to left) Rabbis Leibel Groner, S.Y. Chazan, S.M. Simpson, Shlomo Matusof and Chaikel Chanin



Title page of the *maamer* distributed at the *farbrengen*



Rabbi Avrohom Osdoba



Rabbis Y.Y. Paltiel



Y.Y. Brown



D.A. Gurewitz

*Shliach* and Chief Rabbi of Tashkent, Rabbi Dovid Abba Gurevitz, reported on *Mivtza Chanuka* in Tashkent, and told miraculous stories he recently experienced through the *Igros Kodesh*. He also dedicated a few words in memory of the *chassid* R' Mottel Kozliner, *alav ha'shalom*, and about his *mesiras nefesh* in Soviet Russia.

The final speaker was Rabbi Yosef Yeshaya Brown, *shliach* to Sydney, Australia, who also spoke in English.

An announcement of the local School Board's policy change was

made. The School Board, several members of which are Lubavitcher *chassidim* of Crown Heights, recently adopted a moment of silence for 19 public schools in the Crown Heights area attended by thousands of non-Jewish children. The campaign for a moment of silence in America's public schools was initiated by the Rebbe and has already been accepted in various cities across the country. Thanks to the School Board's Chabad contingent, the change was made and received the blessings of Mayor-elect Mike Bloomberg.



Rabbi Sholom Mendel Simpson

MICHAEL BLOOMBERG, MAYOR ELECT OF NEW YORK:

# “IT’S A PITY MY FATHER DIDN’T GET TO SEE THIS”

Tens of thousands of New Yorkers viewed *pirsumei nisa* all eight days and nights of Chanuka at the Largest Menora in the World on Manhattan’s Fifth Avenue. The unique *menora*, work of world-famous artist, Yaakov Agam, weighs 4000 pounds, is thirty feet tall (the maximum allowed by Jewish law), and received international media coverage.

A model of this *menora* was shown to the Rebbe, and after the Rebbe approved it, it was built. The Rebbe was very pleased that the Largest Menora in the World is in Manhattan, and when a *shliach* wanted to build a similar *menora* elsewhere, the Rebbe said it shouldn’t be as big as the one in New York.

Due to its great height, three cherry pickers from ConEd were used: one to light the *shamash*, and the other two to kindle the two sides of the *menora*.

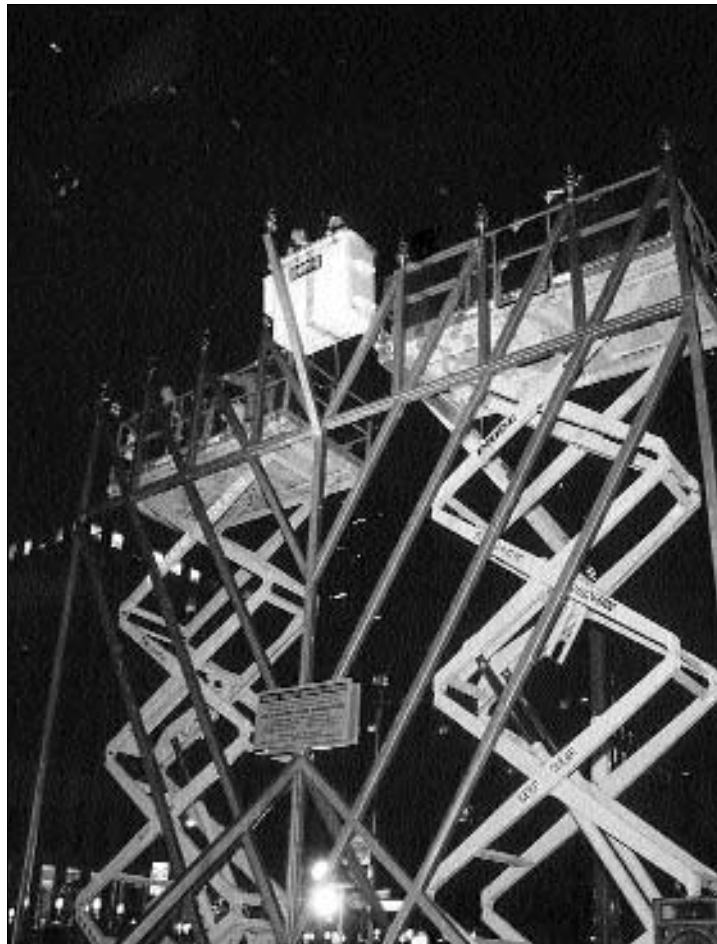
Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), along with New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, kindled the first light. They were lifted together with Rabbi Shmuel Butman, director of Lubavitch Youth Organization.

Before the lighting, Rabbi Butman said, “Especially in a city which suffered so much from terrorism, the *menora* proudly stands as a symbol of strength, faith, and trust.” Rabbi Butman went on to say, “At this very moment, as the Jewish people light the *menora* in their homes the world over, our armed forces are busy ensuring our security. The message of the Chashmonaim to those charged with security is: Don’t cave in to pressure from inside or out. Continue your sacred work and act with the greatest of strength for the security of the Holy Land and the people who live therein.”

Before lighting the *menora*, Rabbi Butman repeated the words of the Rebbe who quoted the Rebbe Rayatz as saying: “We need to listen to what the lights relate to us.” “The Rebbe explains that the Chanuka lights tell of the miracles which were performed for our fathers ‘in those days’: Chanuka, and ‘at this time’: the *Geula*,” said Rabbi Butman. “The *menora* lit by every Jew lights symbolizes the *menora* in the *Beis HaMikdash* and the imminent Redemption. These lights are a preparation for the eternal light of Moshiach.”

Senator Schumer spoke sharply about the world situation, saying, “Now the whole world sees that Yassir Arafat [*yimach shmo*] is not trustworthy and no agreement can be made with him.” The Senator thanked Chabad for its work in strengthening Jewish tradition and Jewish education the world over. “I also want to thank my friend Rabbi Butman for giving me the great honor of lighting the Largest Menora in the World,” he said.

State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, who is an observant Jew, said, “I





Michael Bloomberg, Mayor-elect of New York City with Rabbi Butman

am proud to take part in the *menora* lighting of the Largest Menora in the World and to participate in the work of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, which has lit up the world.”

Israeli Ambassador to the U.N. Dr. Yehuda Lankry mentioned that he had

also lit the public *menora* on the Champs Elysees when he was Ambassador to France. “I thank my friend Rabbi Butman for remembering us at Chanuka, Purim and Pesach, and throughout the year. Only Chabad can do such amazing work.” Touching on Israel’s security situation, he said,

“Today we see how many countries, which weren’t among Israel’s friends, wised up when they saw the subhuman behavior of our enemies.”

Mayor-elect Bloomberg lit the *menora* on the eighth night of Chanuka. “Jews around the world were proud of the Mayor-elect of New York City, when the newspapers showed him at the *Kosel* wearing a *kippa* and putting a note in the Wall,” said Rabbi Butman in introducing Bloomberg.

Bloomberg thanked Rabbi Butman for inviting him, and said that his visit to Israel was a spiritual experience. It also gave him the opportunity to see for himself the importance of security for the Jewish population throughout the country.

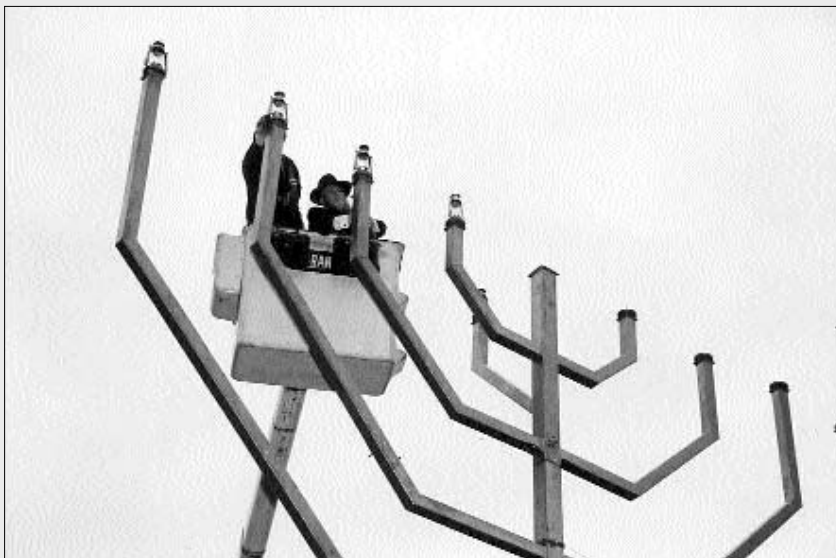
The Mayor-elect also emphasized how important it is for New York, which suffered so much from terrorism, to have the largest *menora*. “I’m really happy that the largest *menora* is in our city, especially after we suffered so much recently. It shows us that nothing can topple us, and we will continue our war against terror, and the war for freedom. We will rebuild New York again, and make it better than ever,” he said to the applause of thousands. Personally moved by the *menora* lighting, he added a number of times, “It’s a pity my father didn’t get to see this.” The new mayor also said that every Chanuka he came to see the *menora* on one of the nights.

On one of the nights, Senate Minority Leader Dick Gephardt lit the *shamash*. In a long conversation with Rabbi Butman, he explained that the members of Congress now understood the situation in the Middle East, and realized that Israel has to do all it can for its security.

The *shamash* was lit another night by Bill Thompson, recently elected to the position of New York City Comptroller. He promised to work on behalf of the Jewish population of the city, and to serve the Jewish community as much as possible.

### THE LARGEST MENORA IN BROOKLYN

This *menora*, soaring at 30 feet high, was located at Park Circle, a traffic circle connecting Crown Heights, Boro Park and Flatbush, where thousands of cars pass every day.



# MITZVA TANK PARADE LIGHTS UP THE LAND WITH THE LIGHT OF GEULA

BY SHNEUR ZALMAN BERGER

This is the tenth year that the Chabad Mobile Mitzva Tanks of Israel organized a tank parade to greet Moshiach. This was a four-day blitz in which the tankists brought *besuras ha'Geula* and the joy of Chanuka to whomever they encountered.

The tanks, decorated with messages of *Geula* and Chanuka, rolled out on Monday, the 25th of Kislev, 5762. Each tank was manned by a group of *T'mimim* from Chabad *yeshivos* around the country, and was equipped with doughnuts and brochures. Rabbi Shemarya Harel supervised it all.

The tank parade left Natzeret Ilit and stopped at every central junction



along the way to distribute Chanuka brochures. They stopped in cities and distributed doughnuts, and danced with passersby. Some people put on *t'fillin*.

Their first stop was Kfar Yona where plans had been prearranged with the *shliach*, Rabbi Nechemia Schmerling. A stage was quickly built and actors put on their costumes while announcements were made inviting children to attend a Chanuka play.

From Kfar Yona, the tank parade headed for Bnei Brak. They stopped at every traffic jam, giving out brochures to drivers waiting for traffic to move. A children's rally for hundreds of children



Dancing in the streets

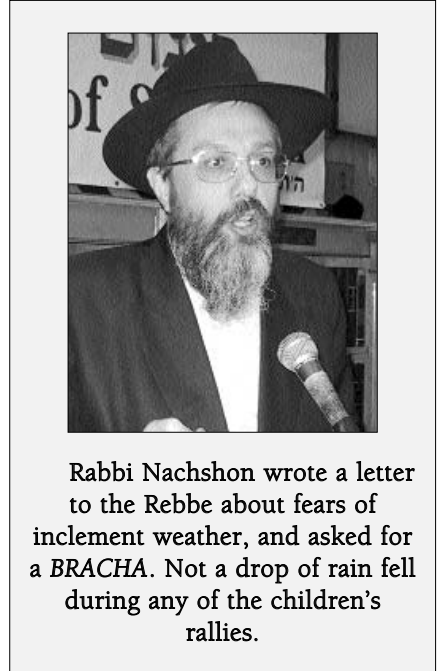


Children watching a Chanuka play

was held in Bnei Brak as well, and then they were off to Azor. After a brief stay there, it was on to Kfar Chabad for a *farbrengen* with the director of the Mobile Mitzva Tanks, Rabbi Dovid Nachshon. We asked Reb Dovid the purpose of the tank parade and he responded with: "Besides bringing the light of Chanuka, the tank parade brings the hope of *Geula* with the prophecy of *Geula* from the Rebbe *shlita* MH"M. The Jewish people, who are suffering these days from the *chevlei*

*Moshiach*, need to be strengthened in their *emuna*, and in many places they internalize this and make commitments to act accordingly. There is one main purpose, and that is the *besuras ha'Geula*. This breathes new life into people's difficult daily lives."

On Tuesday the tank parade left for Bat Yam. Hundreds of people watched the tanks go by, joined in the music – "Moshiach! Moshiach! Moshiach!"-and once again, a children's rally was held.



Rabbi Nachshon wrote a letter to the Rebbe about fears of inclement weather, and asked for a *BRACHA*. Not a drop of rain fell during any of the children's rallies.

Throughout the day they passed Cholon, Rishon L'Tzion, Gan Yavne, Mazkeret Batya, Kiryat Ekron, and other towns.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the tanks continued on to Petach Tikva, Kiryat Ono, Tel Aviv, and on Wednesday night, they *farbrenged* at the Chabad *yeshiva* in Kiryot. On the final day, they went to Afula and headed back to their starting point in Natzeret Ilit.

The parade was sponsored by Canadian Friends of the Mitzva Tanks in Israel.

In summary: hundreds of thousands of people saw the parade, and they were more receptive to the message this year than ever before.

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## MOSCOW, RUSSIA

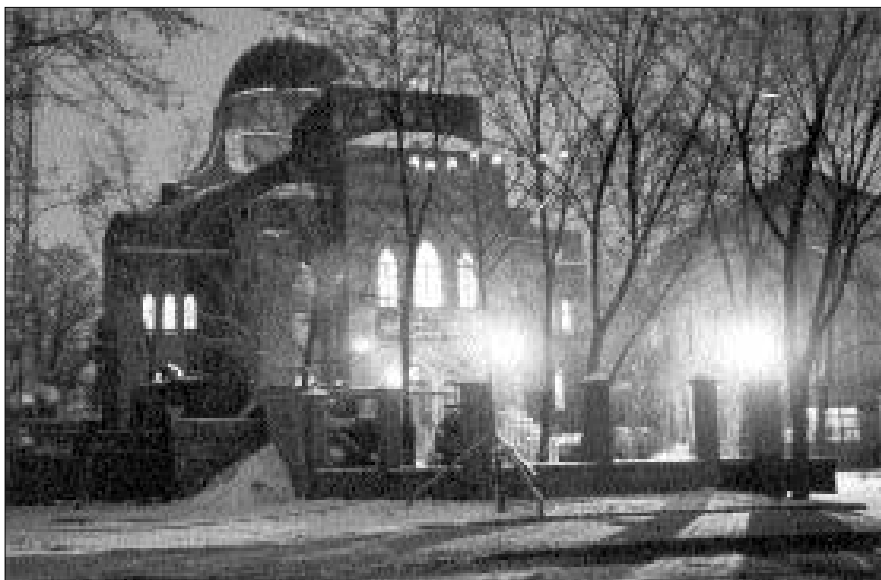
The *menora* lighting near Red Square was broadcast live over all the Russian media. Rabbi Berel Lazar was joined by the Mayor of Moscow, who lit the *shamash*. The Moscow Times devoted its front page to a picture of the *menora* lighting.

## NOVGOROD

A Chanuka concert drew about 1500 people, amongst the many activities carried out by the *shliach* Rabbi Shimon Bergman together with Rabbi Meir Fisher, the Rosh Yeshiva, and the T'mimim.

## NOVOSIBIRSK

About 1000 people participated in a *menora* lighting despite thirty-degree-below-zero outdoor temperatures. This was the first time



Giant *menora* near the main synagogue in Kharkov

the center of the city had a public *menora*. returned to the Jewish communities.

## KIEV

About twenty cars with electric *menoros* on their roofs drove around Kiev in order to spread the light of Chanuka. Every so often, they stopped and distributed brochures, *menoros* and doughnuts.

## KHARKOV

Advertisements called on the Jews of Kharkov to come to the big *shul*, and over 1000 of them came despite the bitter cold.

## UZBEKISTAN

About 1500 Jews participated in a Chanuka party in Tashkent.

## UKRAINE

Shluchim and Mr. Levi Leviev met with the President of the Ukraine for a *menora* lighting event which was broadcast live on Ukrainian television. The president promised that *shuls* and Jewish *mosdos* confiscated under Communist rule would be



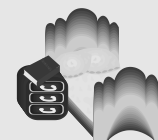
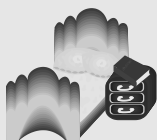
Levi Leviev and the President of the Ukraine

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# BRIS AVROHOM DINNER

FROM A REPORT BY A. MICHAELI

*Rabbanim*, dignitaries, mayors, presidents of companies, financiers, lawyers, doctors, and supporters, attended a gala dinner for Bris Avrohom at the Sheraton Hotel in Newark, New Jersey. Alongside Bris Avrohom's supporters and builders were also the fruits of their labors, the many youths whose parents had brought them into the Covenant of Abraham.

It was director Rabbi Mordechai Kanelsky's 22nd annual dinner. The Guests of Honor, Mr. and Mrs. Yaakov and Helen Berman, and Mr. and Mrs. Zev and Marion Weiss, have been involved with the organization for nearly eighteen years. In that time they visited the Rebbe and received his blessings, were honored with *sandeikus* at



(From right to left) Rabbi Dovid Y. Kahane, Mr. Yaakov Berman, Mayor of Elizabeth Mr. Chris Balzash, Mr. William Weiss, and Rabbi Mordechai Kanelsky

*brissin*, were *shoshvinim* at weddings, and took part in dozens of events all of which revolved around reacquainting our Russian brethren with their heritage.

What inspired them to be guests of honor at the dinner this year was the tremendous impression made on

them at a very special event that took place in their city three years ago: a unique *bar mitzva* celebration for eight Russian boys and their fathers. The boys prepared for four months, and the celebration took place on Shabbos in the largest *shul* in the town (where over 500 families are members). On Shabbos after the *davening*, over 1000 people participated in the *Kiddush*, during which each of the boys and their parents told their personal story: how they got involved with Bris Avrohom and what drew them to *Yiddishkeit*.

At the *Melaveh Malka*, each boy was given a pair of *t'fillin*, each father received a *tallis* and *t'fillin*, each mother received candlesticks, and the families received a set of

## A 3-MINUTE SPEECH THAT MOVED EVERYONE TO TEARS

One fine day three-and-a-half years ago, my father called Bris Avrohom and asked to buy a *mezuza*. Rabbi Mordechai Kanelsky came to our home and put up the *mezuza*, and while doing so, he noticed me sitting and reading a book. He asked my father where I went to school, and my father told him I attended public school.

The social scene at school at that time was deteriorating, making things unpleasant at school and at home. Rabbi Kanelsky invited me to Bris Avrohom and gave me a good teacher who opened the gates of Torah for me.

My family, which had been tremendously impressed by the father-son *bar mitzva*, began thinking positively of returning to tradition. The gala celebration, as well as seeing Jews who wore *kippos* and were observant while

simultaneously being presidents of banks, made us realize that Torah is real.

My parents sent me to Camp Lman Achai, a result of which I registered in Chanoch LeNaar in Crown Heights. After a few months, I went to *yeshiva* in California, and today, *baruch Hashem*, I learn in Tomchei T'mimim in Morristown, I put on two pairs of *t'fillin* and learn *chassidus*.

Allow me to conclude and say that at first I learned what Hashem is and what Torah is. Then I learned what a Rebbe is and what *shluchim* are. Then I realized that the Rebbe's *shluchim* are people whose only goal and desire, and all that interests them and all they're ready to sacrifice their lives for, is another Jew. Because of them, and because of the concern of Rabbi Kanelsky, the Rebbe's *shliach*, I have the privilege of sitting today in the true light, the light of the holy Torah.



Rabbi Kanelsky (right), HaTamim Dovid Backman, and his father, Mr. Igor Backman

*Chumashim* with Russian translation, a *siddur* with Russian translation, a *Kiddush* cup, and a picture of the Rebbe.

Four people in particular were extremely impressed by the entire event, having personally witnessed the incredible work that Bris Avrohom does. They committed themselves to supporting that work. Two of the four, Yaakov Berman and Zev Weiss, were selected as Guests of Honor, and Mr. and Mrs. George Tivman and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Federbush were elected Chairpersons.



# GRAND SIYUM HA'RAMBAM IN LONDON

A Grand Siyum HaRambam took place in London on Tuesday evening, December 18, 2001 at the Clayman Tischler Hall Finchley Synagogue in Golders Green. The program was organized by the *yeshiva* in conjunction with the *beis ha'midrash* in Kingsley Way.

The hall was packed with over 300 people.

Rabbi Y. M. Hertz, *rosh yeshiva Lubavitch* in London, was honored with concluding the last *halacha* of the Rambam, which he followed with scholarly explanations. Rabbi Y. M. Rosenbaum, *rosh yeshiva* of Gur in Europe, was honored with beginning the new cycle. Rabbi Padwa, the *rav* of London, and Rabbi Halperin, *rav* of Golders Green, addressed the assembly with a few opening

remarks.

The guest speaker, world-renowned Rabbi Menachem Mendel



Gluckowsky, *rav* of the Lubavitch community in Rechovot and member of Beis Din Rabbanei Chabad in Eretz Yisroel, kept the crowd enthralled for

over an hour. He explained the *mitzvaim* that the Rebbe innovated, such as *t'fillin* and *mezuzos*, etc., which the Rebbe brought down from the highest realms to a practical level, and personal stories of his concerning the Rebbe.

The finale of the program was the viewing of the latest video release by JEM.

On Wednesday, Rabbi Gluckowsky gave three talks: to female high school seniors, to parents, and to single women. That night he *farbrenge*d for the entire *yeshiva* until early morning, inspiring his listeners (included many who returned to hear him again) with stories from his *shlichus* and his years as a *bachur* in *yeshiva* in Brunoy.