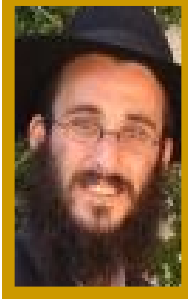


# CHABAD NEWS

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## MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI



On Passover, Jews the world over take scrupulous care to avoid eating even the smallest particle of *Chometz* (leavened dough). Bread is replaced by “*Matzah*” – flat baked wafers made only of flour and water.

The characteristic of *Chometz* is that it rises and swells, symbolizing pride and boastfulness. A *Matzah*, on the other hand, is thin and flat, suggesting meekness and humility. Passover teaches us that “*Chometz*” – arrogance – is the very antithesis of the ideal of Torah.

When an arrogant man is confronted with the obligation of performing a mitzvah that demands a measure of self-sacrifice, (for example, charity, which involves sharing his possessions with his less fortunate fellow) he avoids fulfilling his obligation. He reasons: “I am wealthy because I deserve it. In fact I am entitled to more than I presently possess, so why should I give some of it away?” Moreover, the egotism of the arrogant person deprives him of the ability to discern the

worthiness of his neighbor and he smugly concludes that the other is truly far below his level. According to his logic the cause of this neighbor’s poverty is readily understood: “That pauper surely does not deserve any better!” “Now,” he thinks to himself, “If G-d sees fit, and rightly so, that this man be poor, should I interfere and help him?”

Such egotistical reasoning leads the haughty individual to do more and more evil. Yet, he will never perceive the evil of his actions and repent of them. For, even when he is forced to concede that his actions are improper, he finds various causes “beyond his control” that prevailed upon him to act as he did. Moreover, even when he cannot find any excuses to satisfy his conscience, nevertheless, “Self-love covers all transgressions.” He may be a spiteful evil-doer who cannot invent, through any stretch of the imagination, any line of reasoning to justify his behavior, yet self-love blinds his eyes and covers his evil.

The humble man, on the other hand, has quite the reverse attitude, both with regard to his fulfilling the

*mitzvahs* as well as to his repentance for improper acts in the past.

Using the *mitzvah* of charity once again as an example: the humble man compares himself with his fellow Jew in the proper light. He thinks to himself: “Am I truthfully better than he? Do I deserve my better fortune?” This analysis, made objectively, rouses him to sympathize with his fellow-Jew and to render him assistance.

Moreover, when the unassuming person acts improperly, he does not attempt to justify his behavior. On the contrary, his sincere self-analysis prompts him to do “*Teshuvah*,” to honestly repent of his actions.

Each year, on Passover, we are commanded by the Torah to rid our domain of all traces of “*Chometz*.” We must seek to rid ourselves of every particle of the ‘spiritual *Chometz*’ – arrogance – so that we are able to clearly perceive our own faults and our fellow’s good qualities.

With best wishes for a Happy and Kosher Passover,

Rabbi Mendy Bukiet



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*Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch is an organization that provides social, educational, recreational, and religious programming. Chabad is a place where every Jew, affiliated or unaffiliated, observant or non-observant, can come and feel comfortable. We believe that regardless of educational background or affiliation, it is the inalienable right of every Jewish person to learn and participate in our heritage, which belongs to us equally.*

## PURIM IN THE JUNGLE

On Sunday, February 28 at 5:30 pm, attendees to Chabad's sixth annual "Purim Around the World" festival were transported to the wilds of Africa with a Jungle themed Purim Party. Lively African music, tasty African cuisine, eye-catching Jungle décor, and an African Jungle themed masquerade set the tone for a wild Jungle party!

The program gave participants the chance to fulfill the four commandments of Purim: (1) Listen to the *Megillah* (story of

Purim); (2) give charity; (3) exchange food gifts; and (4) savor a scrumptious Purim feast.

This year's delicacies featured traditional African dishes catered by Joe Slavings and Rabbi Mendy.

World renowned Drum Circle facilitator, Jana Broder, led an interactive and lively Drum Circle which was enjoyed by adults and children alike.

Rabbi Mendy Bukiet and Cantor Steve Shapiro performed their annual comedic routine with an

African twist.

This year's celebration was noteworthy for its warm, lively atmosphere.

Countless attendees commented on the beauty of seeing a community pull together to produce such a beautiful celebration. Community involvement this year was high as was the mood.

This event was sponsored by Frea Cohen. Special thanks to all the volunteers who coordinated such an exciting Purim Celebration.



## JWC PACK & PARTY

On Thursday, February 4, ladies of the Jewish Women's Circle were very busy. They had gathered for a Purim Pack & Party event at 7:30 pm at Chabad where they assembled

elegant Mishloach Manot, traditional Purim food gifts, to be distributed to the community on Purim Day. The ladies enjoyed wrapping chocolates, candies, fruits and hamentaschen.

Chanie Bukiet spoke about the Jewish Women's role in the Purim story and how food gifts are symbolic of that role. The women also enjoyed refreshments and drinks while they worked.

## PURIM FAMILY FUN DAY

The Purim Musical Presentation was third in a series of four such events which are held throughout the year at Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch's thriving Hebrew School. These days provide a medium for students and their families to experience a Judaic cultural adventure. Each Fun Day is geared to

another cultural theme. The Purim Presentation began with a musical rendition of the Purim story starring Morah Chanie and Morah Frea's class as the characters in the Purim story. It was followed by a hilarious Purim rap from the "jesters" of Dr. Shapiro's class. Students also made Hamentaschen as

a take home treat.

There's never a dull moment at Chabad Hebrew School and there's still more fabulous programs to come including the Passover Dance Experience, the CHS Bike-a-Thon, the Torah Fair, and the Aleph Champ Award Ceremony and Graduation.

**ONGOING EVENTS***All events to take place at the Chabad Jewish Center***Talmud Classes**

Mondays, 7:30-8:30 pm

Explore the Talmud and its laws in its original text. No prior knowledge of the Talmud or Hebrew is necessary. Book fee: \$45.

**Torah Studies**

Saturday mornings, 9:00-9:30

Participate in a fascinating class on the Torah portion of the week. Discover the mystical meanings and lessons behind ancient stories. Admission is free.

**Jewish Learning Institute**

Wednesdays, March 3 and 10, 7:30-8:45 pm

Do you find yourself caught amidst trying times, uncertain about your future? Are you struggling to muster the inner resources to move forward? Experience a breathtaking saga of six leaders who paved the road to Jewish destiny. Course fee: \$75. Couples fee: \$135. The JLI is partially underwritten by the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation.

**Weekly Shabbat Services**

Friday night, 7:00, Saturday mornings, 9:30

Enjoy warm, family friendly services at the Chabad Jewish Center. Saturday morning services are followed by a delicious buffet Kiddush. First Friday nights of the month also feature Youth services and special Kiddush.

**Adult Hebrew School**

Sunday, March 14, 9:30-10:30 am

Parents and other adults are invited for a monthly adult version of Hebrew School. Cost is \$15 per class.

**Chabad Hebrew School**

Sunday mornings, 9:30-noon

Give your child for the experience of a lifetime at Chabad Hebrew School featuring an outstanding curriculum, professional and warm teachers, hands-on lessons, an innovative Hebrew reading Aleph Champ program, motivational systems and more. Learn it. Live it. Love it.

**Teen Scene**

Sundays, 11:20-2:00 pm

Join Jewish teenagers throughout Manatee County for a program FOR Teens BY teens. The Teen Scene features trips, hand-on activities, lecturers, optional mentoring training program, weekly brunches, conversational Hebrew, and more.

*For more information on any of the above ongoing events, contact Rabbi Mendy Bukiet at 941-752-3030 or [rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com](mailto:rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com).*

**IN APPRECIATION****PARTNER APPRECIATION**

Ramon & Sherri Alvarez  
Bonnie Bernstein  
Joseph & Roslyn Block  
Ruth Brinn  
Rabbi Joseph & Fradel Bukiet  
Ed Buyes  
Alese Clark  
Don & Carola Coarsey  
Frea Cohen  
Larry & Joan Cohen  
Lee & Trudy Cohen  
Martin & Barbara Cohen  
Paul & Sherry Cohen  
Shlomo & Orit Cohen  
Jeff & Adrian Davis  
Emanuel & Doris DeCoveny  
Denise Dorobkowski  
Jim & Estrella Engelhardt  
Marvin & Elaine Fitzer  
Yoshiro & Anita Fukunaka  
Herbert & Joyce Furman  
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Brenda Johnston  
Dawn Kay

David & Joan Kasse  
Dawn Kay  
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Marc & Audrey Koeppl  
David & Louise Levy  
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Eli Rosenfeld  
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Sandy & Phyllis Silverman  
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Mendel Slavin  
Sidney & Carolyn Starrels  
Rachel Strom  
Alan & Shirley Tarschis  
Richard & Lauren Vallone  
Mark Walzer  
Jonas & Barbara Weingarten  
Berel & Miriam Weiss  
Josh Weinstein  
Adam Wieand  
Tseza Wieand

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

Joseph & Roslyn Block  
Janice Brawer  
Alese Clark  
Abby Chasky  
Barbara Cohen  
Frea Cohen  
Lee, Trudy, and Steven Cohen  
Martin & Barbara Cohen  
Yoav & Jacqueline Cohen  
Shlomo & Orit Cohen  
Matt Frey  
Jay Kelly  
Rebecca Nicols  
Scott, Debbie, Alex, and Leah Pattinson

Frank & Moraima Rodriguez  
Brent & Ricki Rubin  
Carli Rubin  
Barbara Schur  
Daniel and Jesse Schein  
Steve & Colleen Shapiro  
Joe & Rosalie Slaving  
Michael & Adelle Traugutt  
Josh Weinstein  
Adam Wieand  
Dan Wilson  
Richard & Lauren Vallone  
Shayna Zion

**KIDDUSH SPONSOR**

David & Joan Kasse in memory of his mother's *Yartzeit*. Brent & Ricki Rubin in honor of Brent's birthday and the *Yartzeit* of Ricki's father.

*To sponsor a Kiddush, contact Rabbi Mendy Bukiet at 941-752-3030 or [rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com](mailto:rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com)*



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information, contact Chabad at 941-752-3030, [rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com](mailto:rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com), or visit [www.chabadofbradenton.com](http://www.chabadofbradenton.com).

### Sunday, March 14: Passover Dance Experience

Join Chabad Hebrew School in the fourth of a series of four cultural experiences for the Passover Dance Experience at the Chabad Jewish Center from 11 am to noon. Experience the joy the Jews felt upon leaving Egypt. Create tambourines and celebrate with fabulous dance moves from dance instructor, Keren Shani-Lifrak. Cost is \$5 per person. Free to CHS & Teen Scene students and families. RSVP.

### Sunday, March 14: Jewish Women's Circle Event

Join this ever growing and energetic group and enjoy a night out just for women. Meet new friends, socialize, and truly discover the power of the Jewish Woman. Read & Review: Enjoy a book review by Barbara Schur of National Bestseller, "Turbulent Souls," by Stephen J. Dubner at the home of Phyllis Silverman, 6407 Saunton Place at 7:30 pm. Discuss over tea, coffee, and pastries. Cost is \$5 for JWC members and \$10 for nonmembers.

### Monday, March 29: Passover Seder

Anyone in need of a Passover Seder is asked to please contact the Chabad office so that we can direct you to a nearby Seder. Contact Rabbi Mendy at 941-752-3030 or [rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com](mailto:rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com)

### Alternative Arts & Healing Classes with Colleen Shapiro

Expressive Arts & Healing Class: Tuesday, March 9, 1:00–2:00 pm.

Touch Drawing: Wednesday, March 24, 7:00– 8:30 pm

Free! Donations Appreciated. Call 748-8522 for more information.



Harvey S. Mishner, M.D., Board Certified Internal Medicine

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to reserve your space for the April edition by March 15.