



CHABAD NEWS

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MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

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This month, we celebrate the festival of *Shavuos* beginning of the eve of May 18.

Shavuos is the celebration of the time at which the Torah was given to the Jewish nation on Mount Sinai.

This was a unique moment in time, the only occasion on which there has been a revelation of G-dliness to a vast group of people.

At that moment in history, three million people experienced something beyond comparison which has been carefully recorded from generation to generation from the time of the giving of the Torah.

In fact, we have an uninterrupted chain of testimony commencing from the three million people who experienced this incident.

Moses took six hundred thousand males together with their women and children out of Egypt, into the desert, out of bondage, breaking all boundaries to do so.

Forty-eight days later, he was instructed to prepare

everybody for the fact that G-d was going to appear. The Jews prepared themselves for three days for what was to be one of the most cataclysmic events in human history.

On the sixth of Sivan, amidst thunder, lightning, and every imaginable backdrop, all three million people heard the Ten Commandments.

The events occurring on Mount Sinai at that time has changed effects of human behavior for all time.

Prior to the giving of the Torah, that which was spiritual was spiritual and that which was physical remained physical; there was no conjunction between the two. Now, for the first time since creation, mankind was able to infuse the physical with spirituality.

A shattering corollary can be deduced from this astonishing fact. Not only can objects be infused with spirituality, but the spiritual can actually be affected by our relationship with physicality.

Accordingly, when a Jew puts on *tefillin*, the mere act of donning *tefillin* effects spiritual change.

The *Lubavitcher Rebbe* repeatedly pointed out that a person can improve the *berachos* (blessings) which flow to him by his actions.

These of course relate to performing *mitzvahs*.

These physical activities of the Jew at a personal level effect a change in the physical and spiritual dimension.

If a Jew eats kosher for example, eating a cow which eats the grass which is grown by the ground; the cow, the grass, and the ground are elevated by the Jew using that food thus nourishing his body to learn Torah and perform *mitzvahs*.

Physical activity effects a spiritual result.

Indeed, when Israel behaves in accordance with Torah and *mitzvahs* we have peace and plenty in the world. History can be studied as a reflection of Jewish activity. In times of Jewish integrity, the world moves forward in harmony. When Jews behave badly the world suffers.

There are 248 limbs and 365 sinews in the human body. Just as they need exercise and blood to sustain and keep
(continued on page 2...)

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.

CHS BIKE-A-THON

Bikes lined up outside the Chabad Center on Sunday, April 18th for Chabad Hebrew School's first ever Bike-a-Thon. The inclement weather did not dampen the students'

enthusiasm as a spirited Bike-a-Thon took place.

Chabad Hebrew School students rode laps in the parking lot and helped raise money for CHS curriculum enrichment materials.

Students cooled off with lemonade and ices.

Special thanks to all the parents, grandparents, and friends who so graciously sponsored this wonderful event.



MOVIE NIGHT

Congregants gathered at the Chabad Jewish Center on Sunday, April 18 at 7:30 pm for a movie night. They enjoyed popcorn and drinks as well as a dramatic movie.

The featured film, Amen, depicted the role of the Church during the Holocaust. It demonstrated a young priest's and a SS officer's heroic efforts to

halt the mass killings of the Jews.

This controversial film provoked an emotional discussion following the showing.



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Friday Night Live is back after a two month hiatus. On Friday night, April 16, a group of teens met at the Chabad Center for Shabbat prayers and then walked to the home of Rabbi Mendy & Chanie Bukiet.

complete with gefilte fish, chicken, chicken soup and matzah balls, lots of challah, and more.

During the meal, as is customary at Friday Night Live, each teen had the opportunity to pose a question to the Rabbi or to suggest a song.

Of course, this led to a very lively and interactive meal.

Friday Night Live is held on the third Friday of every month and is open to all Jewish teens ages 13-18.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Mendy or Chanie Bukiet.



MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

(...continued from page 1)

them healthy, so the limbs and sinews of the world are sustained by the exercise of *mitzvahs* and the life blood of Torah.

By our learning the Torah and keeping the *mitzvahs* we draw down G-dliness into the physical so sustaining the world.

This is the mission of the Jewish nation and the purpose of creation.

This awesome power was given to the Jewish nation at Mount Sinai and this is what we celebrate on *Shavuos*.

When our mission is complete, when all physicality has been saturated with G-dliness,

Moshiach will be revealed. Then G-dliness will be as evident and revealed as sunshine and warmth are today and the Jewish nation will have completed G-d's intent for Creation.

May that day come soon!

Rabbi Mendy Bukiet



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

Six Wednesdays, beginning April 28, 7:30-8:45 pm

Beyond Never Again examines the universal themes that the Holocaust forces us to confront. This course will enable participants to articulate their personal responses to the Holocaust, and provides relevant angles on some of life's most difficult questions pertaining to faith and suffering. 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, May 16, 9:30-10:30 am

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

Ladies Lunch & Learn

Tuesday, May 11, noon-1:00 pm

Join Chanie Bukiet for a monthly Lunch & Learn. Feast on a delicious lunch and sample from a variety of exciting Jewish topics. Admission free.

Friday Night Live

Friday, May 21, 7:45 pm

Teens (13-18) are invited to Rabbi Mendy & Chanie's home for a delicious Shabbat meal in a lively atmosphere. Free. RSVP by January 13.

Chabad Hebrew School

Sunday mornings, 9:30-noon

Give your child 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.

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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Yoav & Jacqueline Cohen

Alyse Cores

Sandie Ivers

Jay Kelly

Leibel Kessler

Celia Nachlas

Steve & Colleen Shapiro

Frank & Moraima Rodriguez

Michael Traugutt

ONGOING EVENTS*(...continued)***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 at 941-752-3030 or rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information, contact Chabad at 941-752-3030, rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com, or visit www.chabadofbradenton.com.

Sunday, May 2: Lag Ba' Omer Kosher Fest and Carnival

Bring along your family and friends for a spectacular Lag Ba'omer Kosher Food Fest and Carnival from noon to 3 pm at the Chabad Jewish Center parking lot. The Kosher Fest will feature ready-to-eat and take-out kosher foods such as kugels, deli sandwiches, chicken soup, salads, rugelach, falafel, and more. Cooking demonstrations of challah, and other Jewish style foods will take place hourly. An exciting carnival will feature a moon bounce, carnival booths, games, prizes, raffles, music, face painting, and more. Admission is free. Fees for foods and carnival tickets do apply. Sponsor: \$250.

Thursday, May 6: 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. Cheesecakes & Choices: Decorate cheesecakes with a variety of toppings. Examine the choices made in our lives as we prepare to receive the Torah on Shavuot. This event will take place at the home of Marianne Zoll, 12803 Forsgate Place at 7:30 pm. Tea, coffee, and pastries will be served. Cost is \$5 for JWC members and \$10 for nonmembers.

Wednesday, May 19: Shavuot Dairy Fest & Ice Cream Social

Join Chabad for a dairy buffet of dinner & desserts at 5:30 pm at the Chabad Jewish Center. Hear the Ten Commandments, decorate your own Sundae, and enjoy games and excitement for the whole family. RSVP by May 10. Admission is free. Sponsor: \$250.

Sunday, May 23: CHS Torah Fair & Graduation

Participate in the Torah Fair and Aleph Champ award ceremonies and partake in some delicious refreshments from 11 am to noon at the Chabad Jewish Center. Take pride in the Chabad Hebrew School students' accomplishments as you look at their Torah Fair displays, reports, and 3D presentations.

Alternative Arts & Healing with Colleen Shapiro

Alternative Arts & Healing: Tuesday, May 11, 1:00-2:00 pm at the Chabad Jewish Center.

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



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

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Circulation of this publication goes to hundreds of Jewish homes!

Contact Chanie Bukiet at chanie@chabadofbradenton.com or 752-3030
to reserve your space for the June edition by May 15.