



CHABAD NEWS

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MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI



The “New Year for the Trees” falls out this year on February 8.

Tu BiShvat, "The New Year of the Trees," has its own customs, which our Rabbis associate with the phrase, "Is man a tree of the field?" The tree-metaphor is so fundamental to our divine service, which is the reason we celebrate the New Year of the Trees.

A tree may be divided into three parts: roots; trunk, branches and leaves; and fruit

Though the roots of a tree are not visible, they serve two vital functions: they support the tree, enabling it to withstand strong winds, and they deliver most of its nourishment. The trunk, branches and leaves constitute the bulk

of the tree's body, reflect its growth, and make the tree attractive to the onlooker - but they are not its ultimate purpose. It is the fruit that benefits others and contains the seeds which bear the species' promise for posterity. These components of the tree symbolize aspects of our personalities. The roots represent faith, the spiritual quality which connects man to G-d, the source of his nourishment. As a person develops spiritually, he learns to rely on his strong foundations of faith for support. The trunk, branches, and leaves represent our study of Torah, observance of the mitzvos, and the expression of Jewish values in our daily conduct. These enable a person to develop himself and they generate an inner

beauty which makes him attractive to others. The ultimate fulfillment of a person, however, is his fruits. These are his involvements - first with his own family, the seeds he has planted, but also with the people around him. Through his efforts to become involved with others, one tree can bring another into being.

For example, a person might inspire a colleague to emulate his example and establish a foundation of faith, grow in the study of Torah and the observance of mitzvos, and ultimately take his turn at reaching out to others with sincere concern. May we all be blessed with wonderful, fragrant fruits of good deeds this Tu BiShvat.

Rabbi Mendy Bukiet

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.

RELATIONSHIP WEEKEND AT CHABAD

Mid-January saw a weekend like no other at Chabad. For the first time since its inception, Chabad brought down a marriage and family therapist, Rabbi Schonbuch, to spend Shabbat with the entire community.

On Friday night, January 14, a delicious catered dinner by "Delicious Creations" was served while Rabbi Schonbuch spoke about the "Five Languages of Love." The children enjoyed a special dinner and program next door. Shabbat day saw a beautiful deluxe Kiddush with a talk by Rabbi

Schonbuch on "How to Talk So Your Child Will Listen and Listen So Your Child Will Talk." This was followed by a lengthy question and answer period, with many attendees staying long afterward to chat with Rabbi Schonbuch.

On Saturday night, everyone gathered for a Havdallah ceremony and a workshop on communication with Rabbi Schonbuch.

Attendees to this program really enjoyed the opportunity to speak to a therapist with Judaic values, and many are planning to keep in touch with him as well.

Special thanks to Larry Cohen for spearheading this event and all the very generous sponsors who sponsored this event namely, Ramon & Sherri Alvarez, Andrew & Bee Burg, Ed Buyes, Freya Cohen, Shlomo & Orit Cohen, Larry & Joan Cohen, Steve & Bobbi Frey, David Kasse, Taras & Donna Kochno, Scott & Debbie Pattinson, Steve & Colleen Shapiro, Pinchos & Miriam Rodriguez, and the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee.

We hope that this weekend enriched the relationships of everyone attending.

WOMEN & WISOM DEBUTS

The sounds of learning resonate throughout the Chabad Center every Thursday night as women learn Ethics of Our Fathers and Prayers at the new Women & Wisdom class.

The material is not easy and the women are constantly challenged to

engage and dig deep as they read the ancient writings, work in *Chavrusa* style groups and research answers to their workbook questions. Lively discussions and meaningful lessons coupled with a warm, friendly atmosphere makes this wise group of

women truly special. A dinner in honor of the women will be held on March 23 where each woman will showcase some of the knowledge gleaned during this course. The second semester will return in April concluded by a graduation on May 31.





CAMP GAN ISRAEL IS BACK!

Lakewood Ranch will once again see Camp Gan Israel this summer. Gan Israel (*the garden of Israel*) is part of the largest and fastest growing network of Jewish day camps in the world and is sponsored by Chabad Lubavitch of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch. Gan Israel camps are known for their innovative ideas, creative programs, and new activities that are introduced all the time.

At Gan Israel, children will enjoy a wide range of exciting activities and field trips in a warm and spirited atmosphere.

Gan Israel is much more than a physical break from the school routine. It's a comprehensive program designed to strengthen body and soul. At Gan Israel, children will experience a rich, wholesome summer vacation of fun and excitement, along with friendship and meaningful growth.

The real secret to the camp's success lies in its outstanding staff. All of the staff, each of whom has a prior camp experi-

ence, are chosen from across the globe for their warmth and ability to understand and care for each child individually. As positive role models for any child, they will cultivate friendships that last forever. Their devotion to the children is reciprocated by the children's love for them.

Days in Camp Gan Israel are filled with diverse, exciting recreational activities such as sports, drama, Shabbat experiences, and Jewish themed programs. Gan Israel campers are imbued with a deep sense of pride in our Jewish heritage and a love for the land of Israel. The camp will be held for girls and boys ages 5-12 for four weeks, from June 25 until July 20 and will be located on the new Chabad grounds on 5712 Lorraine Rd. Hours will run from 9 am to 3 pm. Extended care is available until 5 pm and hot lunch options are available as well.

The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee County is extending the camp incentive grant deadline:

Application deadline has been extended until April 1, 2012.

Contact Len Steinberg 371-4546, extension 106 for more information on the grants and Chabad at 7 5 2 - 3 0 3 0 , info@chabadofbradenton.com, or cgibradenton.org for more information and to register.



Meditative Alternative Arts & Healing with Colleen Shapiro

This expressive art and healing class, designed to increase one's self-esteem, will awaken the senses with art and nature projects, writings, movement, and music.

Tuesdays, February 7 at 7 pm and February 21 at noon

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A MOVING DATE HAS BEEN SET!



These are very exciting times for the Manatee County Jewish community. For the thousands of families of all denominations touched by Chabad's activities, this is a true time of rejoicing. Construction for the all new, Chabad Jewish Center of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch is all but complete.

A Grand Opening date has been set for **Sunday, March 18**, and will take place at the site of the new **Center – 5712 Lorraine Road**. Everyone is invited to celebrate this great milestone. The event, which is free, will begin at **2:00pm**.

The new Center will serve all segments of the community with a large variety of **educational, social, cultural, and religious services**. The largest space of the facility will be designated as a multi-purpose room, housing

the sanctuary as well as the social hall. The educational wing of the building will include children and adult classrooms, and a library. In addition, space is set aside for offices, and all its needs.

The entire community is very excited about this new Center. People are eager to contribute and to get involved.

For the past seven years, Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch has been operating out of the various rentals around Lakewood Ranch. With the steadily increasing demand for Chabad's services, however, this setup proved to be inadequate. And so, armed with the desire to do good and help others, and the backing of some dedicated supporters, Chabad began to

search for a permanent home.

With the help of some very generous community members and donors, led Mr. Moshe Tabacnic, Chabad purchased a 5 acre plot of land. The existing building on the land needed a complete makeover to make it suitable for a Chabad Center. To that end, Chabad commissioned the services of Jonathan Parks Architect, a local, renowned architect, to draw up plans that would reflect Chabad's needs and activities. In addition, the services of contractor Adam Wieand, and other local community members were secured to help with the construction project.

Special thanks to several key community members in helping Chabad purchase the building. They include: Richard & Lauren Vallone, Steve Shapiro, Joel Ehrenpreis, Mark Walzer, Don Coarsey, Ed Martineau, Brent Rubin, Ron Hyatt, Pinchos & Miriam Rodriguez, Taras Kochno, Frea Cohen, and Jay Kelly.

Chabad is also grateful to the support of Rabbi Moshe Kotlarsky, vice chairman of the Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, the educational arm of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement for enthusiastically supporting this project.

It is truly heartening to see how much the people and supporters of Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch care about the future of Judaism in the region.

To assure the Chabad Jewish Center's financial stability, the organization has formed the Club Chai. Every person or family can be a philanthropist, everyone can be a partner in the vital work of the Center.

For more information on the Chabad Jewish Center, please call **(941) 752-3030**, visit the Chabad website at **chabadofbradenton.com**.



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Annual Gala Cocktail Party and Auction 5772-2012

ONGOING PROGRAMS*All events 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, 9:00-9:30 am

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

Weekly Shabbat Services

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

Enjoy warm, family friendly services at the Chabad Jewish Center. Saturday services are followed by a delicious buffet Kiddush.

Havdallah Ceremony & Video Showing

Saturday nights, one half hour after Shabbat's conclusion

Join Chabad for a weekly Havdallah Ceremony and Video demonstration featuring "Living Torah," clips of the Lubavitcher Rebbe's talks, timeless moments, and encounters.

Women & Wisdom

Thursdays, February 2 & 9, 7:30-9:00 pm.

This course creates a community of women over two semesters of six weeks each to delve into the various prayers and Ethics of Our Fathers. Cost of the course is \$85 including course materials.

Chabad Hebrew School

Sunday mornings, 9:30 am-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!

Falafel with Yoav

Sunday, February 12, noon-1:00 pm

Come and enjoy a terrific kosher falafel lunch prepared by Yoav Cohen on the first Sunday of every month at noon. Cost: \$4 a falafel.

Jewish Learning Institute

Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 & March 7, 7:30-8:45 pm

Join Chabad for JLI's new course, "Money Matters: Jewish Business Ethics." This course applies timeless Talmudic wisdom to real-world ethical quandaries. Course fee: \$75. Couple's fee: \$135. This course is sponsored by the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation.

Ladies Lunch & Learn

Tuesday, February 14, noon-1:00 pm

Join Chanie Bukiet for a monthly Lunch & Learn. Feast on a delicious lunch and sample from a variety of Jewish topics. Free. Sponsor: \$100

Friday Night Live

Friday, February 24, 7:45 pm

Teens (13-18) are invited to Rabbi Mendy & Chanie's home for a delicious Shabbat meal in a fun and lively atmosphere. No charge. Reserve by Wednesday, February 22.

For more information on any of the above ongoing events, call Chabad at 941-752-3030 or e-mail info@chabadofbradenton.com.

CLUB CHAI

Thank you and a warm welcome to our newest

Club Chai Members:

Jeffery & Jocelyn Stevens

Maurice & Ellen Echales

Club Chai members provide monthly sustenance to Chabad in multiples of 18 (Chai-Life). Be a partner in our valuable work and community!



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Rabbi Joseph & Fradel Bukiet	Herbert & Joyce Furman	Barbara Schur
Ed Buyes	Gavriel & Tzivie Gopin	Steve & Colleen Shapiro
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Martin & Barbara Cohen	David Kasse	Jeffery & Jocelyn Stevens
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Joel & Rosalyn Ehrenpreis	Beverly Levin	Jerry & Judy Zivic
Jim & Estrella Engelhardt	David & Louise Levy	Reid & Marianne Zoll

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Yarden Cohen-Babcock	Jay Kelly	Jacque Simmons
Daniel Benjamin	Joshua Kreithen	Rosalie Slavings
Bonnie Berman	Ed Martineau	Tami Wankoff-Bigness
Chaim Meir Bukiet	David Meyersburg	Mark Walzer
Mordechai Bukiet	Pinchos & Miriam Rodriguez	Adam Wieand
Abby Chasky	Shiri Rozenberg	Tseza Wieand
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Joel & Roz Ehrenpreis	Steve & Colleen Shapiro	Jerry & Judy Zivic
Larry & Sandie Ivers	Sandy & Phyllis Silverman	

We apologize if anyone's name was left out inadvertently. It is by no means a result of a lack of appreciation on our part.

CHABAD DONOR CARDS

If there is a special occasion or someone to remember, consider using the Chabad Donor Cards for these passages in time.

A minimum donation of \$10 is requested for each card. To have a card mailed out for you, call the Chabad office at

752-3030. The following cards were sent out in the month of January.

IMO Ruth Siegel	IHO Colleen Shapiro's	IHO Cali Korman
Jacqueline Cohen	Expressive Arts Class	Rubin & Carolyn Weinberger
Ron & Sara Freeling and Family	Rubin & Carolyn Weinberger	Mindy Weinberger
Fred Hoffman	Mindy Weinberger	
Bob Lape		

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Sunday, February 12: JWC Game Night

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. **Game Night:** Compete and get in the joyous Purim spirit with famous Game Shows complete with fabulous prizes at the home of Chanie Bukiet at 7:30 pm. Cost: JWC members: \$5 / non-members: \$10. Sponsor this fabulous event for \$180.

Wednesday, February 29: Gala Cocktail Party & Auction

Celebrate with Chabad and help them continue to grow at this upscale cocktail evening and auction taking place at the Fete Catering and Ballroom at the Polo Grill at 6:30 pm. Enjoy delicious food, music, and special video performance. Try your hand at the "Split the Pot" and "Treasure Box" raffles in addition to over 70 live and silent auctions for your chance to win fabulous prizes of art, jewelry, sports, culture, electronics, trips, and more. Tickets cost \$50 and include complimentary mystery raffle tickets. Sponsorships range from \$360-\$5000.

Thursday, March 8: Purim In Paris

Join Chabad of Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch for Purim Paris at Lane Plaza Two, 1921 Lakewood Ranch Blvd at 6:30 pm. Enjoy a buffet dinner of French cuisine, lively French entertainment, comedy with the Rabbi and Cantor, megillah reading, hamentaschen, and lots more. This program is open to everyone. Admission is \$18 per adult, \$15 per child. Early bird discounts of \$15 adult, \$12 child per person on reservations and payment before March 1. Sponsor: \$250.

Sunday, March 18: Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Join Chabad at 2 pm for this monumental occasion as it moves into its permanent location on 5712 Lorraine Rd. Participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony, enjoy fabulous desserts, and tour the new Chabad facility. Children's activities to be featured as well. Admission is free. Sponsor: \$500.



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