

פארברענגען

FARBRENGEN

כ' אב תשמ"ה

In time for Gimmel Tammuz, JEM has produced a new recorded Farbrengen with the Rebbe – **Chof Av, 5745**, forty-first Yohrtzeit of the Rebbe's illustrious father, HaRav Levi Yitzchok ז"ע.

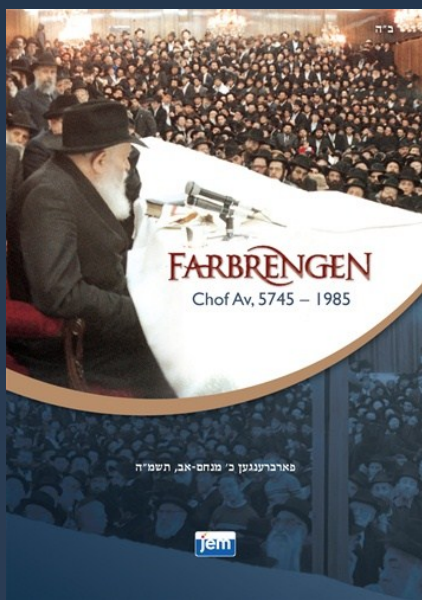
This special production includes several beautiful *Sichos* in which the Rebbe expounds upon the life and trying times of his father, and the fact that it was shortened due to the persecution he endured for keeping the flame of *Yiddishkeit* ablaze in the direst of circumstances – calling upon us today to live by the lessons we can learn from his bold behavior.

There was also a special welcome for the children of **Camp Gan Yisroel** who were present at the Farbrengen, during one of the *Sichos* which the Rebbe dedicated exclusively in their honor.

Following this the children themselves made a presentation.

It is only appropriate that on a day holding such significance to us Chassidim as Gimmel Tammuz, each and every one of us will make the effort to participate in one of the viewings of the Farbrengen and rejuvenate our *Hiskashrus* in a most real manner, with the sincere hope that we will soon merit to stand once again and say L'chaim to the Rebbe at his Farbrengen, may it be **Teikef Umiyad, Mammosh!**

The following article will highlight some of the subjects and events at this Chof-Av Farbrengen, in an attempt to assist our readership in gaining a feel for this most precious opportunity.



TRUE MESIRUS NEFESH

The Rebbe opened the Farbrengen explaining that although this day marks a more private affair, we nonetheless gather the public together to commemorate it. Considering the fact that the one who's *Yohrtzeit* we mark lived a life of true *Mesirus Nefesh* for strengthening *Yiddishkeit* for the entire community, eventually paying for it with his very life.

Speaking with great emotion, the Rebbe extolled the concept of *Mesirus Nefesh*. Being that it is the greatest level which one can reach, it has the ability to bring the Neshomah to the highest of heights.

FULL GLASSES!

While the Chassidim sang at the end of this Sichah, Rabbi Pinchos Hirschprung of Montreal approached the Rebbe to say *L'chaim*. The Rebbe smiled broadly and commented, quoting the Halacha that כלי שרת מקדשין מלאין, that he must fill the cup till the top! The Rebbe then waited until he did so and wished him "*L'chaim ve'livrocha*".

TO THE WORLD

In the second Sichah, the Rebbe continued:

"Notwithstanding all the above-mentioned virtues brought about by the passing of *Tzaddikim*, the work we can accomplish here on earth while our souls are in our bodies is even greater yet. Connecting the above with the obligation

we have as Jews to impact the nations of the world to live by the *Sheva Mitzvos B'nei Noach*."

The Rebbe made special mention of those who have influence on governments, calling upon them to utilize their capability in this regard. It should be noted that present at this Farbrengen was the US senator Mr. Rudolph (Rudy) Boschwitz from Minnesota. Mr. Boschwitz was born to a Jewish family and was instrumental in assisting many Chabad causes throughout the years. (See sidebar).

At the conclusion of this Sichah, Mr. Boschwitz approached the Rebbe along with Rabbi Moshe Feller of Minnesota and conversed for a short while.



THE REBBE'S FARBRENGENS

*The following is a description about the Rebbe's Farbrengens in general, as spoken by the Rebbe's choizer, **Reb Yoel Kahn**. It should be noted that although participating in a viewing of a recorded Farbrengen obviously does not come close in any way to actually being there, nevertheless, to some extent, we can relive these moments by watching them on the videos as well:*

If one wishes to describe the atmosphere around the Rebbe, the best place to begin would be the Rebbe's Farbrengens.

The Farbrengen was the primary opportunity given to the broader public to see and hear the Rebbe as he communicated with his Chassidim, to listen to the Torah he taught in both *Nigleh* and *Nistar*, and to be elevated to higher realms, where these topics he spoke of became alive.

The Rebbe's Farbrengens can be divided into several categories:

Firstly, there is the Torah taught by the Rebbe during the Farbrengen. The Rebbe would elucidate the deepest concepts in every area of Torah, connecting them to each other, and illuminating them with utmost clarity. One single Farbrengen was able to contain a profound, innovative "*Hadran*" on one of the *Mesichtos* in *Shas*, a deep and lengthy *Ma'amor Chassidus*, an in-depth discussion on a few words of *Rashi* on *Chumash*, and much, much more.

But above the "academic" side of the Farbrengens, there was something about them that went far beyond ordinary Torah-teaching and innovative "*Lomdus*".

The Farbrengen was not a *Shiur*. It was an experience that emanat-

ed a sense of inspiration; elevating the participants to "live higher" for the moment.

In his special way, the Rebbe used unique expressions in naming the exceptional qualities of the Yidden, the Torah and their inseparable bond with Hashem.

The Rebbe's exceptional style, his tone of voice, his facial expressions, the *Niggunim* in between the *Sichos*, and everything else about the Farbrengen simply brought us up to another world entirely.

This aspect of the Farbrengen is much more difficult to properly describe. The feelings that prevailed amongst the participants during those precious hours just cannot be put into words...

There were also times when we unmistakably witnessed the Rebbe as he conducted "heavenly affairs"; where it was clear to us that supernatural events were unfolding before our eyes.

Another point, no less important, that stood out at the Rebbe's Farbrengens, was the observable care and concern the Rebbe held for *Klal Yisroel* as a whole, and each and every *Yid* individually. The Rebbe dedicated many of his *Sichos* to discuss current events related to the Jewish community around the world, always voicing his strong stand on העם, והארץ. Additionally, it was at the Farbrengens where the Rebbe relentlessly called upon his Chassidim to go out into the world and take posts on *Shlichus*, reaching their far-most fellow *Yidden* in every corner of the world.

All of these incredible components and much more, made up the Rebbe's Farbrengens... ■



SENATOR BOSCHWITZ ADDRESSES THE SIYUM HARAMBAM IN MINNESOTA. THE REBBE THANKED HIM FOR HIS PARTICIPATION AT THIS CHOF-AV FARBRENGEN. (SEE PG. 23)

RESTLESS CHILDREN!

Present at this Farbrengen, as mentioned, were the children of Camp Gan Israel. The Rebbe showered them with attention and dedicated the third *Sicha* in their honor, speaking of the special qualities that children possess in their quest to ever grow more and more. In conclusion, the Rebbe instructed that the children say L'chaim (adding that their counselors should help them in obtaining the cups of wine) and sing a joyous *Niggun*.

Bottles of wine were quickly passed around, as the campers began the *Niggun* "Wake up Yidden". The Rebbe encouraged their singing immensely, turning to all sides and waving his hands towards the children.

NEWLY PUBLISHED SEFER

The entire Farbrengen is filled with pearls and precious moments, joyous and heartfelt *Niggunim*, and so much more.

We'll suffice with noting just one interesting incident which took place at the end of the Farbrengen. The Rebbe retrieved a blue-colored *Sefer* that was situated on his table and said: "I would like to extend a 'Yasher Koach' to those involved in reprinting my father's *Sefer* of comments on *Zohar*, finishing in time to bring it to this Chof-Av Farbrengen..." The Rebbe then went on to expound upon the first *Ha'ora* in the *Sefer - Lekutei Levi Yitzchok*. ■

Ever since meeting Rabbi Feller in the early 5730's, Senator Rudy Boschwitz became tremendously instrumental in assisting the activities of Chabad both in his area and beyond. He helped Lubavitch of Minnesota fundraise large sums of money as well as offering practical help to get through the red tape of bureaucracy whenever needed.

In the early 5740's, during the time when the Rebbe was storming against the 'Churban' of family planning and spoke fervently that Jewish families must have many children, the Rebbe requested that it be inscribed into congressional law that a notion of "zero population growth" be considered unconstitutional.

Senator Boschwitz was a rising political star and Lubavitch reached out to him, asking him to help propel this mission to fruition. Senator Boschwitz agreed to underwrite the bill, and began making the necessary arrangements.

However, he faced great opposition particularly from the Jewish liberal left-leaning members of congress. One woman in a senior government position challenged him in a public letter, claiming that he was making political decisions based on an outdated antiquated Rabbi.

His response came in the form of a speech on the floor of congress. "A Rabbi who has seen a third of his generation go up in smoke, has every right to demand such a bill".

After much intense labor, he succeeded in having the bill passed and signed into law.

In the ensuing years, he continued to aid Lubavitch at every turn.

In 5745, Rabbi Feller planned to hold a grand first Siyum HoRambam with dignitaries and distinguished individuals. Senator Boschwitz helped facilitate the preparations, both financially and logistically.

At this Farbrengen of Chof-Av, Senator Boschwitz visited the Rebbe for the first time, after years of actively supporting the Rebbe's campaigns. He was given a seat on the dais, and then had a chance to approach the Rebbe.

Rabbi Feller listened in closely to hear how the Rebbe would address the man whom had been a pioneering force amongst supporters of Chabad.

However the Rebbe turned to Senator Boschwitz, and zeroed in on one thing in particular:

The Rebbe turned to him with a warm smile and exclaimed: "Thank you very much for the Siyum HoRambam! Rabbi Feller told me about it..."

To the Rebbe, Siyum HoRambam was of utmost importance despite the overwhelming concerns of the many other things going on.

The Rebbe: Thank you very much for [your participation in] the Siyum of the Rambam. I heard from Rabbi Feller [the Rebbe pointed in his direction] that it was very successful. And certainly you will influence many people around you.

Mr. Boschwitz: I hope so...

The Rebbe: ...Then and also now. Everyone will rave about your speech and about your participation, and I hope that this will add to your appetite to do all these things, many times more.

Mr. Boschwitz: Which you just spoke about [constantly growing]. I enjoy very much being here, Rebbe.

The Rebbe: I hope it will be a good beginning; that you are not satisfied by one.

Mr. Boschwitz: [Nodding] you look very well [the Rebbe nods]. You seem to go from strength to strength and I trust that will continue.

The Rebbe: Same to you; but not only to continue, but add to it many times more.

Mr. Boschwitz: Thank you Rebbe; thank you very much. L'chaim.

After the two of them walked away, the Rebbe turned to Rabbi Feller and pointed at him with a big smile, motioning that he too should say L'chaim. ■