

# אנא נסיב מלכא

## Yud-Aleph Nissan Farbrengens

Aside from rare instances such as the Rebbe's sixtieth birthday in 5722\*, the Rebbe would not hold farbrengens on Yud-Aleph Nissan in the earlier years of the *nesius*. The annual Yud-Aleph Nissan farbrengens only began in the year 5731\* and continued until 5745,\* after which the Rebbe stopped farbrenging regularly on Yud-Aleph Nissan. These farbrengens stood out for their public and global characteristics, serving as a unique expression of honor to the Rebbe and the Lubavitch movement,

and also featuring a wide range of attendees of all backgrounds.

The Rebbe explained<sup>3</sup> many times over the years that these farbrengens were not (only) a private celebration, but a celebration of the entire Lubavitch movement dedicated to the furtherance of its activities. In the farbrengen of 5745\*, the Rebbe explained: "This farbrengen is not tied to an individual or a private person, rather to the entire group (Chassidus Chabad), and its teachings; the desires, goals, and purpose of its

efforts as an ongoing 200-year-old edifice. To further the work of the Chabad Chassidus movement and the general Chassidic movement, which dates back even longer."

However, at times, such as during the farbrengen of 5738\*, the Rebbe seemingly did recognize the farbrengen as his own personal celebration: "When Yidden come together... with the main reason being to honor someone who because of his ancestry merits to have a part in the spreading of Chassidus performed by the assembled here, as well as those who are listening to what is being spoken here (via hookup)—whether they know about it or not..."

From 5741\*, these farbrengens were broadcasted live on television, reaching an even larger audience. It was during these farbrengens that the Rebbe spoke of many national or global issues, including: education, moment of silence, *sheva mitzvos b'nei Noach* and more. Many times the Rebbe dedicated time to publicly thank the president of the United States for his warm wishes and the Education Day proclamation. The Rebbe would also speak many times about the *pesukim* of his new *kapitel* and make a *siyum* on a *masechta*, often *Maseches Pesachim*.





JEM 6589 BY LEVI FREIDMAN/SIVAN 5/17

Special time was also devoted to the presentation of *matanos*. From the Rebbe's seventieth birthday in 5732\*, until 5737\*, Chassidim and *askanim* would approach the Rebbe in between the *sichos* and present a gift. In 5737\*, the Rebbe's seventy-fifth birthday, the amount of *matanos* presented swelled

tremendously. The many boxes, frames, *sefarim*, and proclamations piled up high on the table in front of the Rebbe as more and more people approached with their gifts (see sidebar "A Three-Foot Pile of Gifts").

With the many changes made following the events of Shemini

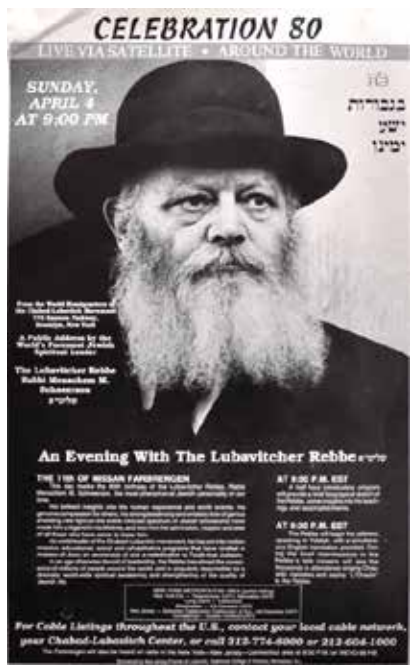
Atzeres 5738\*, *mazkirus* sent out a notification before Yud-Aleph Nissan 5738\* that all gifts should be delivered to *mazkirus*, instead of being presented to the Rebbe during the *farbrengen*.

**"EM ZOL ZEIN GUT!"**

Rebbetzin Chana, the Rebbe's mother, would occasionally hold a *farbrengen* in her home on Yud-Aleph Nissan (also on Chof Av, *yahrzeit* of Harav Levi Yitzchok).

In 5724\*, Rebbetzin Chana began the *farbrengen* saying: "*L'chaim, em zol zein gut! Es kumt em—l'chaim—All should be good for him! He deserves it.*" Reb Zalman Duchman, who was present at the *farbrengen*, expressed that perhaps such a *bracha* is said when one is not sure how to express anything else. Rebbetzin Chana answered: "No, this is a *bracha* befitting him."

Reb Shmuel Lew, who was also present at that *farbrengen*, traveled to the Rebbe for Yud-Aleph Nissan 5751\*. Upon arriving he remembered that story and decided to write it down and send it to the Rebbe. He concluded the letter echoing a similar *bracha*—"Imru tzaddik ki tov." The Rebbe responded, thanking him for the *brachos*, and added: "ת"ח על הפרטים שכותב"—Thank you for the details you wrote."



AN ADVERTISEMENT PLACED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ANNOUNCING THE FARBRENGEN ON YUD-ALEPH NISSAN 5742\*.

\* 5732-1972, 5737-1977, 5738-1978, 5724-1964, 5751-1991, 5742-1982