

לזכות החתן התמים
ר' אברהם שעפסל שי' ראגאצקי
והכלה מרת
ח'י' מושקא שתח'י טרקסלער
לרגל נישואיהם בשעטומ"צ
כ"ח חשוון ה'תשע"ז

שיזכו לבנות בנין עדי עד מיוסד
על יסודי התורה והחסידות לנחת הרבי

מוקדש ע"י הוריהם
ר' משה וזוגתו מרת שושנה שיחיו
טרקסלער
ר' יעקב וזוגתו מרת פייגא שיחיו
ראגאצקי



M. BARON via JEM147536

illuminating the Whole World

CHANUKAH 5747



Every yom tov on the calendar had special *giluyim* in the Rebbe's court that were unique and different than all others, Chanukah included. Beginning in 5734, with the launch of the Chanukah *mitvzoim* campaigns, this took on a whole new dimension¹.

Standing out as especially unique is Chanukah 5747. With surprise *sichos*, several new projects, a photo album, and a Shabbos at both ends, every day was something special. The excitement

climaxed a few short days after Chanukah, with the court's verdict of *דין נצח* on Hei Teves that year.

The following is a description from some of the events, compiled from four diaries written by individuals who were present at every stage: The Rebbe's *mazkir*, Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky; "Beis Chayenu" from the Israeli *'kvutza' bochurim*, Hatomim Hershel Raskin, and Hatomim Meir Yechiel Hershkowitz.

LEAD UP TO CHANUKAH

Already at the Yud-Tes Kislev farbrengen, the hype about publicly celebrating Chanukah began. In the third *sicha* of the evening, the Rebbe spoke of the foundation of the United States as freedom **of** religion, not freedom **from** religion. This contrasts with Russia in the time of the Alter Rebbe, as with the Greeks at the time of Chanukah, who openly opposed [other] religions. The government permitting public menorahs, and official recognition of the Seven Mitzvos for Mankind, bring out this difference. The Rebbe blessed the President and thanked him for showing an example by allowing a menorah near the White House and encouraged this to be taken further—that state and local governments across the country and the world at large follow the federal precedent of allowing menorahs to be erected, and help add in *pirsumei nissa*.

In the week prior to Chanukah, a delegation of shluchim led by Rabbi Avrohom Shemtov met with President Ronald Reagan and presented him with a menorah; something that brought great *nachas* to the Rebbe.



YOSSI MELAMED via JEM 119388

RABBI AVRAHAM SHEMTOV RECEIVES DOLLARS FROM THE REBBE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE YUD-TES KISLEV FARBRENGEN, 5747.

The Rebbe blessed the President and thanked him for showing an example by allowing a menorah near the White House

Friday, 24 Kislev

CHANUKAH BEGINS

Mincha on Friday, Erev Chanukah, was held at the regular time of 3:15, and the Rebbe came down in his silk *sirtuk*. Before *Aleinu*, the Rebbe turned to face the menorah. Reb Osher Sasonkin lit the first candle, and the Rebbe joined the crowd in singing Haneiros Hallalu. At '*al nisecha*,' the Rebbe encouraged the singing with energetic clapping.

Following *mincha*, the Rebbe went to the library, where he'll be staying for Shabbos, for about an hour and at 5:30 he came in for *Kabbalas Shabbos*. *Lecha Dodi* was sung to the tune of *Yifrach Beyamav* and the Rebbe turned to the side, where the children stood, and encouraged their singing.

Shabbos parshas Vayeshev, 25 Kislev

During the farbrengen on Shabbos afternoon, the Rebbe spoke about the role played by women in the miracle of Chanukah, and their central role in the education of children. Another important point mentioned was to remind the crowd at public menorah lightings that they are not *yotze* with watching the lighting there, and they must light their own menorah at home.

The farbrengen ended at 5:00 p.m. and was followed by *mincha* and *maariv*. The Rebbe remained at his farbrengen place for davening. After *maariv* two candles were lit on the menorah and then *havdallah* was recited.

Sunday, 26 Kislev

HALF AN HOUR EARLIER

During the regular Sunday 'dollars,' Reb Zushe Rivkin from Kfar Chabad passed by and told the Rebbe that he is travelling back to Eretz Yisroel today. "People are asking me when the Rebbe is coming to Eretz Yisroel. What should I answer them?" he asked. "Tell them to pray that Moshiach should come half an hour earlier," answered the Rebbe. The conversation continued and the Rebbe gave him an additional dollar.

When Rabbi Shmuel Lew passed by, the Rebbe asked him two times "Is your wife in England?"



KISLEV 5747, YOSSI MELAMED via JEM 129274

THE DESIGNER

Yaakov Agam, world-renowned artist and designer of the Manhattan menorah (built this year), came to receive a dollar from the Rebbe. The Rebbe greeted him:

“*Shalom u'vracha*; thank you for the menorah in accordance with the Rambam's wishes...May it be Hashem's will that just as we add in the lights of Chanukah from day to day, so too you should add in all your accomplishments from day to day, not only around Chanukah time, but all year...They told me that you will be lighting the public menorahs in Los Angeles and New York; may this be a good beginning for the whole United States and for the entire world...Thank you for visiting and may the lightings be with *pirsumei nissa*.”

Mr. Agam showed the Rebbe a scale model of the giant menorah that he designed in Manhattan and added that he is making a similar but slightly larger one for the Rebbe, with wick holders so the Rebbe will be able to actually use it.

The Rebbe spoke about the name “Agam” which means “lake”—a place where fish reside. The Yidden are compared to fish; just as a fish cannot leave the water—its source of life—so too, the Yidden cannot be separated from the Torah which is their source of life.

The Rebbe concluded: “I am used to giving *brachos*; my *bracha* to you is that you shouldn't be satisfied with your lot and with your accomplishments until now, rather, you should endeavor to go from strength to strength with joy and good health. May we hear good news. Happy Chanukah and may it enlighten the entire year.”

and he answered that she is. The Rebbe gave him an additional dollar for her. When he called her later, she said that at that moment when he had passed by the Rebbe, she was on the phone, dealing with an act of *hafatzas hamaayanos* in a different country...

After dollars, the Rebbe went to the Ohel. [In the weeks leading up to Hei Teves, the Rebbe went almost daily to the Ohel.] When he returned, he came in for *mincha* and *maariv* which were followed by the kindling of the third candle and *Haneiros Hallalu*. The Rebbe encouraged the singing and continued to do so even after he turned back to face the wall.



TZACH ARCHIVE

YAAKOV AGAM, DESIGNER OF NEWLY ERECTED MENORAH IN MANHATTAN, COMES TO THE REBBE FOR DOLLARS WITH A MINIATURE MODEL, 26 KISLEV 5747.

The Rebbe handed the album of pictures from Chanukah 5746 to Rabbi Krinsky and requested that this year a sequel should be published

Monday, 27 Kislev

PHOTO ALBUM

Before leaving to the Ohel on Monday, the third day of Chanukah, the Rebbe handed the album of pictures from Chanukah 5746² to Rabbi Krinsky and requested that this year a sequel should be published with photographs of Chanukah activities throughout the world. The Rebbe said that all the shluchim should be called and informed immediately about taking photographs of “*mitvza Chanukah*” and that this is a public matter as the pictures will be printed and publicized.

On the way back from the Ohel, Rabbi Krinsky informed the Rebbe that they had already started calling around the world. He also told the Rebbe about a photograph from the meeting of the shluchim and President Reagan a week earlier and that the menorah is visible in the picture. The Rebbe smiled broadly when hearing this and remarked, “This could be utilized!” [I.e. this photograph could be used to further spread *pirsumei nissa* and *hafotzas hamaayanos*.]

Tuesday, 28 Kislev

On his way to 770 on Tuesday morning, the fourth day of Chanukah, the Rebbe asked Rabbi Krinsky about the progress of *mitvza Chanukah*. The Rebbe added that they should once again call all locations and convey that the Rebbe will be going to the Ohel tomorrow, and everyone should send in reports of their Chanukah activities, in time to be brought to the Ohel.

The Rebbe joined the children for the Chanukah rally in 770 as is the custom every year.

Accompanying the Rebbe's entry to the children's rally was the band's rendition of "*Sheyiboneh Beis Hamikdash*." On the way to his place, the Rebbe waved enthusiastically to the singing. Even after reaching his place, the Rebbe put down his *siddur* and turned around to the crowd to join in with them.

Before the lighting of the menorah (five candles), Rabbi Yaakov Yehuda Hecht reminded the children to be quiet, and "remember before whom you are standing." During this, the Rebbe looked on with a serious face, yet a slight smile.

At the conclusion of *Haneiros Hallalu*, the Rebbe counted on his fingers how many times "*al nisecha*" was sung (eight times).

During the recitation of the Twelve *Pesukim*, the Rebbe followed along, word by word (as usual). Several times during Rabbi Hecht's speeches the Rebbe smiled in response to some of his comments. When Rabbi Hecht called for a round of applause to the children's recitation of the *Pesukim*, the Rebbe clapped along too.

As the Rebbe prepared to begin speaking he walked over to the second *shtender* at the end of the platform. In the first *sicha*, the Rebbe said that since last year Chanukah the children have certainly grown in their wisdom, especially Torah wisdom, and that now is time for a "new mission" — they should ask their parents for a special type of "*Chanukah gelt*," that they should make their houses into a Beis Chabad, which means a place of Torah, *tefilla* and *gemilus chassadim*. This will hasten Hashem's giving us "*Chanukah gelt*," most importantly, the coming of Moshiach very soon.

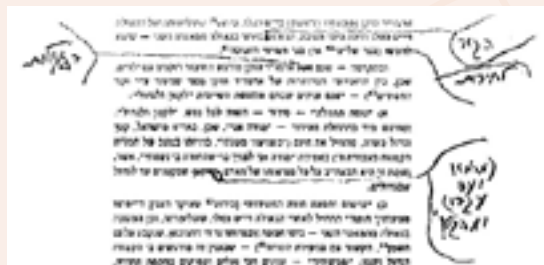
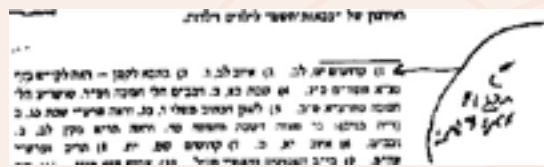
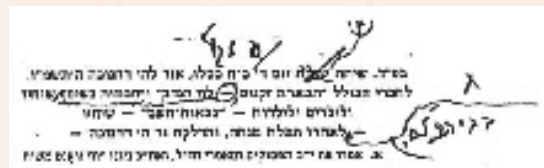
In the third *sicha*, the Rebbe announced that since we need to add in *simcha*, especially with the fifth night of Chanukah being a Chabad yom tov, every child will receive three coins: one for the tzedakah fund of their choosing, the second for a

tzedakah related to Chanukah, and the third for discretionary spending. "In merit of the children," the Rebbe said, "the adults will also receive these coins."

PA"N FROM THE CHILDREN

Rabbi Hecht then announced that around 770 boys and girls signed (with their names and their mothers' names) on a *pa"n*, with a request of the Rebbe that "Moshiach should come **now**." As the "*d'mei pidyon*" (the donation traditionally given together with a *pa"n*), each child gave 10 cents. Three boys, followed by two girls, will present the Rebbe with the *panim* and coins. The five appointees then ascended the Rebbe's davening platform. At first the Rebbe smiled at them; then, as they approached, the Rebbe's face became very serious. The crowd went silent, watching with emotion. The first two boys brought the *panim*, the third held a beautifully wrapped package of coins. One girl had yet more *panim*, and the other carried another package of coins, identical to the first. The Rebbe accepted the piles, and held on to them with his two hands.

As Rabbi Hecht concluded the customary *bracha* to the Rebbe, the Rebbe turned back to the crowd, placed the *panim* on the *shtender* and, while he continued to hold on to them, the Rebbe announced that as usual, he will bring the *panim* to the Tziyun of the [Frierdiker] Rebbe. He then continued with a short *bracha*, quoting the *possuk*





A DELEGATION OF SHLUCHIM PRESENT PRESIDENT REAGAN WITH A MENORAH.

(from the Rebbe's *kappitel* this year³) “הראינו ה' חסדך” —וישער תתן לנו —May Hashem reveal his kindness to each and every one of us among *Klal Yisroel*... with the true and complete redemption speedily in our days and Moshiach Tzidkeinu at our lead; Amen!”

The Rebbe then brought the *panim* to his main *shtender*, and *maariv* began. When the Rebbe finished reciting *shmoneh esrei*, Rabbi Groner gave the Rebbe a large envelope and the Rebbe placed the pile of *panim* and the coins inside of it. After *maariv*, the Rebbe encouraged the singing of *Al Tira* and *Ach Tzadikim* and especially the niggun of *Nyet Nyet*. After descending the platform, the Rebbe distributed coins to the *madrichim* for them to give to the children, and also to the “*tankistin*” for the adults. On the way out, the Rebbe started to sing *Nyet Nyet* a second time, and enlivened it with a wave of his arm.

Wednesday, 29 Kislev

As per the earlier instructions, before the Rebbe left for the Ohel on Wednesday, the fifth day of

Chanukah, reports of Chanukah activities flooded in from all over the world.

Rabbi Avrohom Shemtov was with the Rebbe for a while. It seems that it had to do with his efforts in getting the shluchim around the United States to write letters to President Reagan, thanking him for allowing menorahs on public property, and wishing him a speedy recovery⁴ as per the Rebbe's *horaah*. Rabbis Krinsky and Shemtov, along with a team of *bochurim* and *yungeleit* have been working tirelessly, phoning the shluchim across the globe regarding the Rebbe's recent *horaos*.

On the way to the Ohel, Rabbi Krinsky informed the Rebbe about the enormous success with *mitvza Chanukah* so far.

The Rebbe, returned from the Ohel at around 7:30, and ten minutes later came down for *mincha* and *maariv*.

On the way into shul, the Rebbe spent several minutes distributing coins for *tzedakah* to the children in attendance. Once ascending the platform [which was still there from the rally

the day before], the Rebbe continued giving out tzedakah, bending over in order to reach those gathered below.

Maariv was followed, as usual, by menorah lighting (sixth night) and *Haneiros Hallalu*; but then, suddenly, the Rebbe started speaking. An immediate hush fell over the crowd, whilst silent pushing ensued, as everyone rushed forward, trying to hear what the Rebbe was saying.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

In the *sicha*, the Rebbe placed a special emphasis on *Chanukah gelt* and added *shturem* in *Pirsumei nissa* and “*botei Chabad*.” The Rebbe asked that the public Chanukah events should also be utilized to spread awareness about the Sheva Mitzvos Bnei Noach for all of mankind. The Rebbe said that photographs should be taken of every event and an album should be made out of them. This will bring added encouragement in these activities.

Following the *sicha*, as the Rebbe walked out of the elevator towards his room, Rabbi Yosef Gopin from Hartford, CT was waiting to receive the Rebbe’s *bracha* for a safe trip to Eretz Yisroel. The Rebbe told him that when in Eretz Yisroel he should publicize what was said in the *sicha*, and “Words from the heart will enter the heart of the listener.”

On the way home, the Rebbe told Rabbi Krinsky that he should encourage Rabbi Shemtov with his activities. “I’m sure you understood yourself that all locations should be called once again and informed with a ‘טראסק’—bang’ about the instructions that I spoke in the *sicha*,” the Rebbe said. The Rebbe added that he would be giving \$1,000 to every Chabad House, in connection with the recent *shturem* in establishing new Chabad Houses. In addition, the Rebbe asked that the opportunity of the secular “New Year” should be used out for publicizing the miracles of Chanukah also among the non-Jews.

Thursday, 30 Kislev

Before *mincha* the Rebbe wrote an official *maane* to all the reports from the shlichim of their Chanukah activities:

נת' ות"ח ת"ח, ובהמשך באופן דחנוכה בכ"ז דפשוט
שמוסיפין ומהדרין מן המהדרין. בודאי יתקשרו עם כל הנ"ל
ועוד ועוד - שינצלו (כמצודה - כמצולה כהנ"ל) השעות שעד
חותם חנוכה ובהידור מן ההידור.

Outline of the Rebbe's response:



M. BARON VIA JEM 14/7/56

[The reports were] received; many thanks. The continuation [must be] in the spirit of Chanukah, when the prevailing custom is to increase daily, in the most efficient manner possible. [Hence] you will certainly contact all those people [who sent reports] and many others, that they should make good use of the remaining hours before the end of Chanukah (maxing out all the available spiritual energy), in the most efficient manner.



Following the Rebbe's exit from the Shul after *maariv*, the Rebbe wrote an addition to his response from before *mincha*:

והרי חנוכה זו תחילתה וסיומה שבת - עונג וכל מלאכתך עשוי, והשנה כולה שבת להוי'.

This Chanukah started and ends with Shabbos, which represents pleasure, as all your work is complete, and this year [a year of *shemittah*] is a "Shabbos-year" fully devoted to Hashem.

Mincha and menorah lighting were at the usual time of 3:15, and was followed by a surprise *sicha*, lasting around five minutes. The theme was that as "*Chanukah gelt*," children should ask their parents, and spouses of one another, to make their home a Chabad House. This, in turn, will hasten our "*Chanukah gelt*" from our Father in Heaven, Who will bless us with all the good things *בני, חיי ומזוני*, especially in relation to creating "Chabad Houses."

After *maariv*, the Rebbe started to speak once again. Rabbi Groner brought the microphone but the Rebbe motioned with his hand that he does not need the microphone. Instead of a regular *sicha* as people were expecting, the Rebbe spoke for only 30 seconds, saying: "Instead of pushing to hear what I have to say, better go out and publicise the miracle of Chanukah with a *shturem*."

As can be well imagined, the mitzvah tanks were immediately filled with volunteers going out to do as instructed. A parade of 15 cars with menorahs on their roofs headed to Manhattan to do *mitvzoim* there and many menorah's were distributed. A special effort was made to bring "*pirumei nissa*" also to the non-Jews, per the Rebbe's *horaah* the previous day. A menorah was also lit near the Statue of Liberty.

When the Rebbe was informed of the menorah by the statue, he said that it is a "גלייכע זאך—a good thing," and asked whether it was erected with permission and whether they took pictures. The Rebbe also inquired whether it remained lit for 30 minutes! Once again the Rebbe asked about the phone calls.

Meanwhile, in the offices upstairs, the phones were running non-stop to inform people across the globe of the Rebbe's answer from yesterday. Tomorrow Rabbi Shemtov will be going to the White House to present the letters from the shluchim.

Instead of a regular sicha as people were expecting, the Rebbe spoke for only 30 seconds...

Friday, 1 Teves

LIGHTING UP THE WORLD

When the Rebbe came out for *krias haTorah*, Rabbi Moshe Weber from Yerushalayim asked for a *bracha* for his wife. The Rebbe blessed her, and

added, quoting the Gemara, “They [women] too, were part of the miracle [of Chanukah]”⁵.”

On the way back to his room, the Rebbe spoke to two Chabad lay leaders in the hallway.

In *Gan Eden Hatachton*, the Rebbe spoke briefly with Rabbi Chaim Gutnick and his son from Australia. After leaving the Rebbe’s presence, Rabbi Gutnick said that the Rebbe had requested—as *Chanukah gelt*—that he put together a booklet of personal *chiddushei Torah*.

As the Rebbe left his room on the way to the library before Shabbos, Rabbi Shlomo Cunin said to the Rebbe that this year, the Rebbe lit up the world tremendously. The Rebbe responded, “It is Erev Shabbos afternoon, things should be done with alacrity. Most important is that Moshiach come promptly...”

Just before Shabbos, a booklet was published with the *sicha* from the rally (*mugah*, in Yiddish) and the *sichos* of the sixth and seventh nights of Chanukah (*mugah*, in Hebrew).

Shabbos parshas Mikeitz, 2 Teves

SEUDAS HODAAH

At the farbrengen on Shabbos afternoon—Zos Chanukah the Rebbe noted that the day’s *haftarah* was on the subject of Shlomo Hamelech building the *keilim*, including the Menorah.

The Rebbe concluded the farbrengen with a request that the last moments of Chanukah be utilized to add in *mivtza Chanukah*, namely adding in light and going from strength to strength in the ten *mivtzoim*. Also, in general, spreading Yiddishkeit and Chassidus through the building of “*botei Chabad*” in every place and in every home, and through following the *horaah* of “*aseh lecha rav*.”

At the end of farbrengen, the Rebbe distributed *mashke* as customary every Shabbos. Rabbi Shmuel Lew received a bottle for Lubavitch House in London, Rabbi Shlomo Cunin for Beis Chabad of California, Reb Yaakov Hanoka for the *pegisha* taking place that week in Crown Heights, Rabbi Zalman Gurary, Rabbi Zev Katz and others. Rabbi Meir Harlig received a bottle for the *seudah* and farbrengen scheduled for Motzei Shabbos in 770 (see below). The farbrengen ended at 5:00 p.m. and was followed with *mincha* and *ma’ariv*.

On Motzei Shabbos, Motzei Zos Chanuka, Rabbi Meir Harlig and a group of *bochurim* and *yungeleit*

organized a large *seuda* and farbrengen in 770, celebrating the beginning of the tenth year since the *seudas hodaah* and farbrengen that the Rebbe held on Zos Chanukah 5738, after the heart attack.

(See Derher Teves 5775 to read more about this farbrengen.) A large sign was put up and the menorah was also lit in honor of the event. Hundreds of *bochurim* and local residents took part in the *seudah*. After the speeches were over, at around 12:00 a.m., the assembled stayed to farbreng until the wee hours of the morning.

Following Chanukah, the book “And there Was Light”—with pictures of all the Chanukah activities across the globe—was published as per the Rebbe’s *horaah*.

EPILOGUE

Two days later, on Tuesday morning, Hei Teves, at 11:40 a.m., the news arrived with the court’s ruling that דיין וצח, and yet another week of much greater *simcha* and celebration ensued. After such an amazing Chanukah with the Rebbe’s continuous instructions, *sichos* and joy throughout, there could be no better preparation for what was yet to come. **T**

1. See Derher Kislev 5776 “Illumination” for a detailed description of Chanukah 5734.
2. At the Rebbe’s behest, following Chanukah 5746 a book was compiled chronicling menorah lightings arranged by shlichim across the globe, It was titled Let There Be Light.
3. Tehillim chapter 85.
4. President Reagan was battling an illness at the time. The previous week, the Rebbe gave over the above *horaah*.
5. Shabbos 23a.

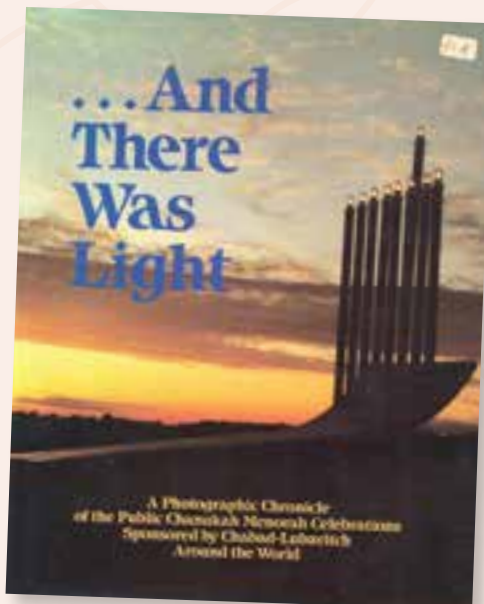


PHOTO ALBUM CHRONICLING THE CHANUKAH ACTIVITIES OF 5747.