

טור 'לעבן מיטן רבי'ן הוקדש לזכרון
ולעילוי נשמת
ר' שמואל ב"ר יהושע אליהו ז"ל
ואשתו מרת שרה ע"ה בת ר'
יקותיאל ומרת לאה הי"ד
תנצ"בה



ע"י בנם
ר' יקותיאל יהודה
וזוגתו מרת פעסל לאה ומשפחתם
שיחיו
רוהר



A YEAR OF MIRACLES

Joy & Pride

IYAR—5750

Continuing through our story of the special
year of Nissim with the Rebbe—5750.

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CHAIM BARUCH HALBERSTAM VIA JEM 101544



THE REBBE WAVES TO THE CHILDREN
AT THE LAG B'OMER PARADE, 5750.

This month, the Rebbe distributed dollars for tzedakah more and more frequently. Someone noted that in the first week of Iyar, the Rebbe distributed dollars every day of the week, from Sunday through Thursday.

Towards the beginning of the month of Iyar, shluchim around the world received checks from the Rebbe for \$2082, which is twice the amount \$1041, one for Yud-Aleph Nissan and one for Pesach (each comprised of \$1000, plus \$41 in honor of the 41st year of the Rebbe's *nesius*). On Beis Iyar, the Rebbe instructed that another round of checks should be sent out in the amount of \$1157 each, in honor of the 157th birthday of the Rebbe Maharash.

This month also saw some interesting encounters between the Rebbe and photographers who had come to 770.

On Sunday, 4 Iyar, a woman taking photos of the Rebbe for one of the news outlets came to the Rebbe for dollars, and the Rebbe gave her an extra dollar, "For your photography." At the end of the distribution, the Rebbe was about to enter his room, and the woman snapped a photo. The Rebbe smiled at her and asked, "Is that the last picture you're taking, or the first?"

Later, when the Rebbe exited 770 and was about to get into the car to go to the mikvah, three photographers were standing nearby (including the one from earlier).

The Rebbe called them over and gave them nickels and quarters, saying, "This is for charity!" When the Rebbe left for the Ohel, this woman was again standing nearby, and the Rebbe gave her a nickel "for charity."

On Friday, 9 Iyar, the Rebbe encouraged this woman to begin lighting Shabbos candles each week. The next Sunday during dollars, she reported to the Rebbe that she had indeed begun lighting candles, and the Rebbe wished her "a happy year," then gave her an additional dollar, "For success in all your activities."

The legendary photographer, Reb Levi Friedin, who usually captures the month of Tishrei with the Rebbe, was also present at 770 this month. On the night of 19 Iyar after Maariv, the Rebbe was on his way out of shul after having distributed dollars, and Reb Levi snapped many photos, one after another. The Rebbe waved his hand toward Reb Levi in encouragement, coming within inches of the camera.

Lag B'Omer Guests

A highlight of this month is the special Yom Tov Lag B'Omer, which we will soon explore. Preparations were underway for a beautiful parade. On 6 Iyar, the Rebbe gave his consent for the parade to be broadcast live on television, and the preparations went into high gear.

Naturally, guests traveled from far and near to be with

THE REBBE GIVES
A COIN FOR
TZEDAKAH TO A
PHOTOGRAPHER,
4 IYAR 5750.





THE REBBE WAVES HIS HAND TOWARD REB LEVI FREIDIN AFTER MAARIV, 19 IYAR 5750.

LEVI FREIDIN VIA JEM 242447

the Rebbe on this occasion. Most notably, Rabbi Aharon Eliezer Ceitlin of Tzfas brought a large group of guests from his city; the group spent a few weeks at 770, and the Rebbe showered them with attention throughout their stay.

At the farbrengen on Shabbos, 17 Iyar, Erev Lag B'Omer, the Rebbe addressed the guests from Tzfas. Their city is right near Miron, the Rebbe explained, the place where Rebbi Shimon Bar Yochai is buried. For many generations, it's been the custom that the inhabitants of Tzfas go up to Miron to celebrate Lag B'Omer. Their city too is special, as it is the place from which the Arizal spread *pnimiyus haTorah*. When Lag B'Omer occurs on a Sunday, many in Tzfas have the custom to go to Miron for the entire Shabbos. But our guests find themselves here in New York instead, in the shul of the Frierdiker Rebbe, who spreads *pnimiyus haTorah* in our generation.

The Rebbe concluded, "The group of guests from the holy city of Tzfas, as well as guests from the holy city of Yerushalayim and other places around the world, should all say '*l'chaim*', and with that they will merit good life

(*'l'chaim tovim*') and long life (*'l'chaim aruchim*'), which will manifest completely with the imminent *geulah*. If Moshiach comes now, they won't even have to worry about planning their trip back home to Eretz Yisroel, since we will all fly together on the heavenly clouds!"

When the guests didn't respond immediately, the Rebbe lifted his hand as if to ask, "Why aren't you saying *l'chaim* yet?" Everyone began saying *l'chaim*, and the Rebbe waved his hand towards them as a gesture that they should sing. The Rebbe encouraged the singing vigorously, bringing the crowd to an immense joy.

The next day at the Lag B'Omer parade, the Rebbe again gave this group extra attention, clapping his hands joyfully as they marched by.

Later in the month, on 27 Iyar—the day before the Tzfas guests were scheduled to leave—the Rebbe edited the aforementioned part of the *sicha* especially for them. The next morning, the group sat down in the shul at 770 to study this special *sicha* together.

That night, just before the group left for the airport, they had the *zechus* to pass by the Rebbe together and



THE GROUP OF GUESTS FROM TZFAS PASS BEFORE THE REBBE AT THE LAG B'OMER PARADE, 5750.

MORDECHA BARON VIA JEM 148335

receive dollars from him after Maariv. The Rebbe smiled at each one with a special fatherly gaze in his eyes. As the Rebbe left the shul, members of the group stood at the door, and the Rebbe blessed them with “*Fohrt gezuntzheit, hatzlacha rabba!*” (Travel safely, much success.) When the Rebbe emerged from the elevator outside his room, all the women of the group were standing there, and the Rebbe blessed them as well.

As the two buses waited outside to take the guests to the airport, Chassidim came out to see them off, breaking out in a joyous dance.

Farbrengens

Each Shabbos, the Rebbe held a farbrengen at 1:30 p.m., delivering timely words of Torah.

On the first Shabbos of the month, Parshas Tazria-Metzora, the Rebbe entered the farbrengen with his siddur and large copies of that week’s *perek* from Pirkei Avos. Before the fifth *sicha*, the Rebbe opened his siddur, took out the copies, and then read out sections from the Mishnah, offering explanations.

After the farbrengen ended, the Rebbe davened Mincha with the crowd as usual while still on the farbrengen

platform. After Mincha, the Rebbe sat down at the same place where he farbrenged, took out the large copies of Pirkei Avos, and learned through the *perek* as usual.

The next week, on Shabbos Parshas Acharei-Kedoshim, 10 Iyar, the Rebbe spoke about the upcoming Yom Tov of Lag B’Omer. There is a full week left until this special day, the Rebbe said, and each day should be utilized to make the proper preparations. It is an opportune time to gather Jewish children and make parades, under the slogan “*Yachad kol yaldei Yisroel*” (all Jewish children united). Since we are talking about educating young children, we must ensure that the messages of Lag B’Omer are portrayed in a manner that they can understand, with decorations, flags, banners, and slogans that they can relate to. These preparations should be done bearing in mind that the previous Lag B’Omer parade was extremely successful, more than anyone imagined. Towards the end of the *sicha*, the Rebbe spoke about the imminent *geulah*, when we will march with *Nessi Doreinu, Moshiach tzidkeinu* at our lead!

The crowd sang *Ki Elokim*, and the Rebbe encouraged the singing by waving both hands in all directions with immense joy.

Towards the end of the farbrengen, the Rebbe said



THE COINS MINTED IN HONOR OF LAG B'OMER
5750, DISTRIBUTED AT THE PARADE.

that the crowd should once again sing a song connected with Lag B'Omer (even though it was already sung at the beginning of the farbrengen), and the Rebbe himself began singing, “*Hinei ma tov...*” while waving his hand, indicating that everyone should join in.

Yud-Gimmel Iyar

On the 13th of the month is the *yahrtzeit* of the Rebbe’s brother, Reb Yisroel Aryeh Leib. The *mashpia*, Reb Shia Korf, davens at the *amud* on this day at the Rebbe’s behest, and the Rebbe himself recites all the *Kaddeishim*.

A group of *talmidim-hashluchim* at Yeshivas Toras Emes in Yerushalayim wrote to the Rebbe that they traveled up to Tzfas on this day to visit the resting place of Reb Yisroel Aryeh Leib, and the Rebbe responded:

נת' ות"ח ותנוח דעתם וכו' והזמ"ג פסח שני ול"ג בעומר וכו', אזכיר
עה"צ.

[The report was] received, thank you. Let their minds be at ease [much as they have let my mind be at ease]. It is an appropriate time: [around the time of] Pesach Sheini, Lag B'Omer, etc. I will mention this at the Ohel.

Lag B'Omer Coins

Of course, the highlight of the month in the Rebbe’s presence was the beautiful Lag B'Omer parade. The Rebbe wanted to give out a special memento at the event—a coin minted specifically for Lag B'Omer. Four days before Lag B'Omer, on 14 Iyar, the Rebbe asked Rabbi Krinsky if it would be possible to have such a coin ready in time.

After some initial research, Rabbi Krinsky wrote to the Rebbe that he was only able to find one factory that could mint such a coin, but they would only be ready on Sunday, Lag B'Omer itself. The Rebbe responded on the note that this would already be after the parade started, and therefore it didn’t make sense to go ahead with it. “It seems that it’s my fault, since I didn’t mention anything about it earlier,” the Rebbe wrote. Rabbi Krinsky shuddered when

reading those words. Immediately he decided that come what may, the coins must be ready in time.

Indeed, after much hard work, and by enlisting the help of his son Reb Dovid and his son-in-law Reb Yosef Boruch Friedman, he was able to report to the Rebbe that the coins would be ready early Sunday morning. The Rebbe was very satisfied, and he responded: “ותנוח ל” דעתו בעניניו כמו שעשה בנוגע לי בהג”ל—May your mind be at ease in your own matters, much as you have done for me [by taking care of] all of the above.”

The Great Parade

On Sunday, Lag B'Omer, thousands of children gathered on Eastern Parkway to celebrate this special day. At



THE REBBE STEPS
OUT TO THE PARADE.



LEVI FREDIN VIA JEW 242/49

A GROUP OF GIRLS BEARING THE REBBETZIN'S NAME PASSES BEFORE THE REBBE AT THE PARADE.

11:00 a.m., the master of ceremonies, Rabbi J. J. Hecht introduced “the Rebbi Shimon Bar Yochai of our time, the *nossi* of our generation, the Lubavitcher Rebbe *shlita*,” who would now join the parade. As the band played “Ani Maamin,” the Rebbe emerged from 770 and walked up to the platform.

After the 12 *pessukim* were recited, the Rebbe addressed the children. He spoke about the great unity brought about by this gathering, and the hope that it would inspire a greater unity among all of mankind, by recognizing the One Creator of us all. The Rebbe concluded that in addition to the usual distribution of money for *tzedakah*, he would also distribute a silver coin as a memento from this event to all children present, and in their honor, to the adults as well¹.

Rabbi Hecht translated the Rebbe’s *sicha* into English, and then, at around 12:00 p.m., the parade began.

First to march by was a unit of police officers on horseback, and the Rebbe applauded them along with the whole crowd. Soon afterward they were followed by a delegation from the United States army, led by Chaplain Yaakov Goldstein in a real battle tank.

A special moment was when a group of some 200 girls named Chaya Mushka passed the Rebbe, with a

banner stating, “*Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka Meidelach*.” The Rebbe’s face was quite serious as he watched the children pass by.

Toward the end of the parade, at around 2:00, rain began to fall on the crowd. The Rebbe didn’t pay any attention to it, and continued waving at the children. Then the Rebbe distributed packets of coins to the chaprones, to be distributed to the children and adults in attendance. The Rebbe gave out about 30 packets in total, each containing 89 coins.

As the rain was pouring down harder, the Rebbe concluded the distribution, then turned towards the crowd and began singing slowly, in a loud voice, “*Hinei ma tov...*”

With that, the Rebbe turned around and returned to 770, concluding the Lag B’Omer parade.

Later that day, on the way to the Ohel, the Rebbe’s car drove through the Lag B’Omer fair on Empire Blvd. The Rebbe waved at the children as his car passed them by.

N’shei Chabad

Toward the end of the month, on 25 Iyar, the Rebbe addressed the 35th international convention of N’shei U’bnos Chabad.

It was a long and busy day. The Rebbe gave out dollars,



THE REBBE
ADDRESSES THE
CHILDREN.

as he did every Sunday, until 3:55 p.m. Then the Rebbe went to the *mikvah*. Upon the Rebbe's return from the *mikvah*, the photographer, Reb Levi Freidin, stood at the door of the Rebbe's car and asked the Rebbe on behalf of all Chassidim not to go to the Ohel today, as it would be very hard on the Rebbe's health. However, soon afterward the Rebbe left for the Ohel, returning at 10:20 p.m.

The large shul downstairs was packed with women and girls awaiting the Rebbe's address. In the meantime, the Rebbe davened Mincha and Maariv in the small *zal* upstairs.

At close to 11:00 p.m., the Rebbe left his room and went downstairs to greet the gathering of women.

The theme of the convention was "*V'chol bonayich limudei Hashem*"—Torah and Mitzvos are the ultimate peace.

As the Rebbe entered, he waved several times at the crowd, walking by the centerpiece—a model of a globe being held up by children studying Torah.

The Rebbe addressed the women for 45 minutes, speaking about their most important role as the mainstay of the Jewish home, and how in recent generations, women have begun studying Torah rigorously as well.

At the conclusion of the *sicha*, the Rebbe gave packets of dollars to the organizers to be distributed to all the women present. On his way out, the Rebbe stopped by the centerpiece situated near his table and gazed at it for a short while.

Dollars

As he did every month, the Rebbe distributed dollars for tzedakah to thousands of visitors every Sunday, along with *brachos* and guidance for what they needed.

In fact, this month the Rebbe wrote to an individual who wished to see him in *yechidus*:

ביום א' ... שזהו יחידות דעתה ובהוספה - שליחות צדקה. אזכיר
עה"צ

[Come for dollars] on Sunday, for this is the *yechidus* in the current time. [In fact it is even] greater [than *yechidus*, since it includes] - making each one an emissary to give tzedakah. I will mention this at the Ohel.

On Sunday, 4 Iyar, Reb Mordechai Kanelsky brought a boy who had just had his bris milah, along with the one who acted as *sandek*. The *sandek* asked the Rebbe for a *bracha* for his business, and the Rebbe said, "A *sandek* must be wealthy. May this materialize soon."

A woman passed by the Rebbe and wished him, "till 120." The Rebbe responded, "May you live till 121!"

Another woman told the Rebbe that her grandfather was a famous *rav*. The Rebbe said, "May you live to see your grandchildren also becoming *rabbanim*."

Another woman asked the Rebbe for a *bracha* for her father who is very old. The Rebbe asked, "How old is he?" and she said he was 88. The Rebbe responded, "He has another 33 years until 120. Why are you calling him old?!"

Mr. Yechiel Leiter came to the Rebbe, who is



WAVING TO THE CHILDREN.



THE REBBE DISTRIBUTES PACKETS OF COINS AT THE END OF THE PARADE.

organizing a dinner for the Torah institutions of Chevron. The Rebbe gave him a *bracha* for the dinner, then said, “Tell them that all of your [the Rebbe pointed at Mr. Leiter] and my [the Rebbe pointed at himself] and their [the Rebbe pointed at the others] prayers ascend to heaven through Chevron!”

One of Mr. Leiter’s helpers told the Rebbe that he was recently in Chevron and visited Beit Romano, Beit Schneerson, and he saw 120 children learning Torah. They have nowhere else to go; there are no stores there or anything. They just sit and learn the whole time.

The Rebbe was very pleased and he responded, “If only we could say the same about New York. Don’t just tell this to me; tell this to the others here who do have stores to visit...”

The Rebbe concluded: “May we all meet together very soon in Chevron with Moshiach.”

Rabbi Yerachmiel Benjaminson introduced



THE REBBE'S CAR ON EMPIRE BLVD. EN ROUTE TO THE LAG B'OMER FAIR.

ELI BLACHMAN VIA JEM 309365

Mr. Goldstein, the owner of Bencraft hatters who supplies the Rebbe's hats. The Rebbe blessed him with good livelihood, and to use it in a good and healthy manner. Then the Rebbe lifted his hat with a big smile.

A woman came to the Rebbe and said that she has entered into depression. The Rebbe said, "If you entered it, you can come out of it soon. It's up to you. Check the mezuzos of your home."

A woman came to the Rebbe and said that she's married for many years and doesn't yet have children, and asked the Rebbe to daven for her. The Rebbe asked, "Have you been to doctors?" She told the Rebbe that the doctors have given up hope. The Rebbe responded, "Then it is worthwhile to think about adoption. You'll do something about adoption, and that will be a *segula* to have your own child together with your husband."

Two children passed by the Rebbe together, and one of them said, "We want Moshiach now." The Rebbe turned to the second child and asked, "And what about you? Do you want Moshiach?" The child answered yes, and the Rebbe asked, "Now?" The child again answered yes, and the Rebbe smiled broadly.

On Sunday, 11 Iyar, an individual told the Rebbe that he doesn't know what to do, since he is in need of a "*groise refua*" (a great cure). The Rebbe said, "For Hashem, nothing is too big. He will be able to give it to you."

A woman told the Rebbe that her son is getting good

suggestions for *shidduchim*, but he's afraid to go ahead with them since he has a problem with high sugar (diabetes). The Rebbe responded, "Who is afraid of diabetes today? You can take insulin and forget about the whole thing!"

An individual told the Rebbe that he needs a lot of money for his organization, and the Rebbe said, "You become intimidated (*nispo'el*) by money?!"

An individual asked the Rebbe what to do about his medical situation, and the Rebbe said, "I'm not a doctor. You need to ask this to an expert doctor who deals with these things; either way, they can find you a cure." The individual told the Rebbe that there is no cure for his ailment, and the Rebbe said, "Today they do kidney transplants or some other treatments. Either way, there is a cure for this, as is well known in the whole New York."

An individual asked the Rebbe for a *bracha* to have *yiras Shomayim*, and the Rebbe told him to give tzedakah on Lag B'Omer, since it's a special, "*mazal'dike*" day.

To a few children who passed by, the Rebbe said that they should make sure to participate in the upcoming Lag B'Omer parade.

A woman came crying to the Rebbe that her husband doesn't have *parnassa*, and the Rebbe said, "Why are you crying? It's better to laugh!" **1**

1. See "*We Are All One*" in this issue, based on the *sicha*.