

CHANGES IN CONDUCT

Following *shiva*, the Rebbe continued to stay at his home and daven there. In a sense, the Rebbe relocated Lubavitch World Headquarters to 1304 President Street. The *sichos* that were said during the weekdays, the distribution of dollars on Sunday afternoons, and the frequent trips to the Ohel were all based out of the Rebbe's home.

Being that the Rebbe's house was relatively small, only guests and individual Chassidim were allowed to be present. For the vast majority of Chassidim who wished to hear the Rebbe's *tefillos* and *sichos*, a live hookup was always connected to 770. In the early stages there was only an audio connection, but eventually video was incorporated as well.

This continued throughout the year of *aveilus*, except for *Shabbosim* and *Yomim Tovim*, when the Rebbe would stay in his room at 770. Beginning from 24 Elul 5748 through Rosh Chodesh Kislev 5749, the Rebbe stayed in 770 (for the festive month of Tishrei, and remaining there through the *Kinus Hashluchim*).

After the year of mourning concluded, the Rebbe remained at home for a little while, until the passing of Rashag, on 6 Adar I 5749. From that period onward, the Rebbe generally stayed in 770 and returned home only periodically for a few weeks at a time. [As time went on, the Rebbe frequented his home less and less, until 5752, at which point he stopped going home altogether.]

For the first three *Shabbosim* following the Shabbos of *shiva*, the Rebbe did not leave his house. Only married Chassidim and *chassanim* were allowed to join davening there; the *bochurim* who remained in 770 were brokenhearted, as 770 was left deserted... the Rebbe did not *farbrenge* or daven there at all.

Finally, on Shabbos *Parshas Vayakhel-Pekudei*, the Rebbe stayed in his room at 770. It has been said that the Rebbe told one of his secretaries that from now on there will be a *farbrengen* every Shabbos without exception—“*Ad bias goel...*” (until the coming of Moshiach).

From then on, the Rebbe stayed in 770 every Shabbos, and for the next four years the Rebbe would indeed *farbrenge* every week until Shabbos *Parshas Vayakhel* 5752.

WEEKDAY FARBRENGENS

A very drastic change that followed the passing of the Rebbetzin was the end of the weekday *farbrengens*. The first time that this was noticeable was on Purim, because the Rebbe consistently held a *farbrengen* on Purim every year, but in 5748, Purim was during the *shloshim*. The Rebbe instructed the Chassidim (by way of his secretaries) to hold a *farbrengen* in 770 at 9:30 p.m., the exact time at which the Rebbe would usually begin his *farbrengen*.

When the staff of Jewish Educational Media, who were responsible for televising the Rebbe's major weekday *farbrengens*, asked the Rebbe for the exact date of the *farbrengen* for Yud-Alef Nissan 5748, the Rebbe responded, “As it seems, matters will be as they were on Purim,” meaning, that there would not be a *farbrengen* at all.

Chassidim hoped that this was only due to the fact that the Rebbe was in the year of mourning. They entertained the notion that perhaps this was akin to the period following the passing of the Rebbe's mother in 5725, when the Rebbe did not want to hold *farbrengens* during the week either. Back then, before Yud-Tes Kislev, Reb Shmuel Levitin requested of the Rebbe on behalf of all the Chassidim that he reconsider and *farbrenge* nonetheless. The Rebbe agreed then, and continued to *farbrenge* during the week, but made a point to conduct a *siyum* each time to avoid any halachic issues.

Now as well, the Chassidim presumed that with the completion of the year of mourning the Rebbe would once again hold *farbrengens* during the week. To our great disappointment, the custom of *farbrenging* during the week on special days was suspended indefinitely. To date, the last time that the Rebbe held a *farbrengen* during the week was on 15 Shevat 5748.

On the other hand, there were new changes to the Chassidim's advantage as well: The Rebbe began to join the *minyán* for davening three times a day, every single day. Whereas up until the Rebbetzin's passing, the Rebbe only joined the *minyán* for *Mincha* and *Maariv* in the small *zal* each day, and *Shacharis* on Shabbos and *Yomim Tovim*.