



LAG B'OMER PARADE

5720

לע"נ
יעקב ליבער בן גמליאל ליב ע"ה
נלב"ע ט"ו אייר ה'תשס"ד
תנ"צ'בה'

נדפס ע"י בנו
הרה"ת ר' ישראל ליב
וזוגתו מרת פרומא רחל
ומשפחתם שיחיו
רעזניק



In honor of Lag Ba'omer, we present an overview of the Lag Ba'omer parade of 5720*, including a collection of rare and never-before-seen photos.

We are deeply grateful to those who have shared their private collections for this article, including the Goldstein family, who have shared the newly digitized photo collection of their father Rabbi Yosef Goldstein; Rabbi Aharon Goldstein and Rabbi Yossi Bukiet, who took photos of this parade as young children under bar mitzvah; the Living Archive photo collection of Jewish Educational Media; and others.



GOLDSTEIN FAMILY

The Lag Ba'omer parade attracted thousands of Jewish families from the tri-state area. Chassidish, veltish, and not-frum—the parade attracted all kinds to celebrate this special day in the Rebbe's presence.



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As the children would arrive at Eastern Parkway for the parade, Rabbi Yosef Goldstein would open the program, making *brachos* with the children on their snacks, introducing the schedule and meaning of the day, and singing songs along with the orchestra.

The area behind the Rebbe's platform is packed with Chassidim. Many iconic figures from the early years of the Rebbe's *nesius* can be seen in this picture.





In the *sicha* the Rebbe connected the theme of Lag Ba'omer, the life and teachings of Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai and the story of the passing of Rabbi Akiva's students, with the Baal Shem Tov (whose 200th *yahrtzeit* would be a few weeks later, on Shavuot) and the mission of *hafatzas hamaayanot*.

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“It is you children, towards which all eyes are looking with the hope, that you will establish the *Yiddishe* world and the world at large, that it should progress more and more, not by waging wars and spreading fear; rather you should utilize all your energy to make the world around you brighter, more beautiful, purer, and holier.”

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A special banner was hung behind the Rebbe's platform, marking the Baal Shem Tov's 200th *yahrtzeit* and the message of *פוצו יפוצו*, מעינותיך חוצה, "Let the fountains of Chassidus spread forth."





After the Rebbe finished speaking, Rabbi JJ Hecht translated the *sicha* to English. It is interesting to note that this was the first year that Rabbi Hecht had his own *shtender* to the Rebbe's side. In the previous years he would share the *shtender* and microphone with the Rebbe.

This parade also saw the now-famous and iconic marching band for the first time, led by musician Eli Lipsker.

As the children passed by, the Rebbe looked and smiled at them, while encouraging the joyous music throughout.



Following the parade, the children would go to Prospect Park for a picnic lunch and more fun.

The Rebbe went to visit the children in the park, and walked amongst the children.

This picture was taken as the Rebbe was leaving the park, waiting for a green light to cross the street to the car taking him back to 770.