

לזכות
שלוחי כ"ק אדמו"ר בכל אתר
ואתר שיצליחו בשליחותם הק'
בהצלחה מופלגה מתוך הרחבה
בגשמיות וברוחניות ולגרום נח"ר
אמיתי ולבשר אך ורק בשו"ט
ומשמחות
נדפס ע"י הרוצה בעילום שמו



The Rebbe Remembered

Dr. Philip Felig was a graduate of Princeton—where he described himself as that university's first Orthodox Jewish undergrad—and Yale, and was a distinguished professor who taught and researched endocrinology and practiced medicine. His grandson shared the following story at the Shabbos table of Rabbi Mendel and Esther Lifshitz, shluchim of the Rebbe to the state of Idaho. Additional details were shared by Dr. Felig's son, Clifford, who lives in Ramat Gan, Israel. His encounter with the Rebbe, described below, was provided courtesy of JEM.

Dr. Felig was on his way to Europe during Chanukah in December 1979. At JFK airport, he encountered an old friend who also had a flight that evening. As they were speaking, Dr. Felig mentioned that he planned to stop by near the El Al counter where there is a Chabad presence and a table set for travelers to light Chanukah candles. His friend, who hadn't lit the menorah in many years, enthusiastically joined him and together they walked over to the El Al counter where they both lit menorahs. Dr. Felig was so impressed that he sent a letter to the Rebbe saying that due to the good work of his shliach, not only did Dr. Felig get to light menorah, but so did his friend. He received a letter from the Rebbe in reply.

Dr. Felig's son relates:

Seven months later, in July of 1980, my father and I were in New York and we received a call from the Chabad rabbi of New Haven, Moshe Yitzchak Hecht, who was the principal of my elementary school. Rabbi Hecht said that there was going to be a farbrengen that night in Brooklyn where the Rebbe would speak, and he invited us to come as his guests. My father and I went, together with my father's older brother Norman, who went on to be appointed to the New York

State Supreme Court as a justice in 1982. The three of us sat together with Rabbi Hecht on the stage behind the Rebbe as he spoke.

During one of the breaks between talks, Rabbi Hecht took us up to meet the Rebbe and introduced each of us. He pointed to my uncle Norman and said "This is Judge Felig," then to my father and said "This is Dr. Felig", and then introduced me, going on to tell the Rebbe about my father's new position at Columbia University. The Rebbe listened, then stopped for a minute and pointed to my father and said in Yiddish, "*Du host gehat di maaseh mit di Chanukah licht*—You had the story with the Chanukah candles?" Surprised and visibly pleased, my father replied, "Yes, you remember that!"

The Rebbe then told him, in Yiddish, "Ignite your soul — 'a mitzvah is a candle and Torah is light.'" "You provided the spark," my father replied. "May you observe the entire Torah every day of every year," the Rebbe blessed him.

We were blown away, of course, that a person who received hundreds of letters every week could remember that my father had sent him a letter seven months earlier about lighting Chanukah candles. **T**