



כתב יד קודש



Taking part in the ceremony of placing a mezuzah (a small case containing a passage of scripture) on the doorway of the Chabad House are (from left) Irwin daughter Rena (Rena Citrin) and Rabbi Meir Ch...

Spirituality finds needed amid uproar of financial

By Wes Smith

Jay Davis, a trader in soybeans, and Avi Goldfeder, a trader in bonds, paused in a room on South LaSalle Street in the Loop one day this week to heed a sound unlike anything they hear on the floor of the Board of Trade or Commodities Exchange.

It was the sound of a *shofar*, or ram's horn, calling them away from the screaming pursuit of money and to a quiet cluster of offices on the seventh floor of the Traders Building at 401 S. LaSalle St.

The Chabad House of the Loop, a study and social outreach center for Jews, opened Wednesday in plush office space donated by the LaSalle Street stock-and-options trading firm, F.P. Quinn & Co.

From 7 to 5 on weekdays, the Chabad House will offer study classes, a library and spiritual counseling from an in-house rabbi to Jews of all branches seeking sanctuary in the hard heart of the city's financial district.

Lunch, strictly kosher, will be served as well.

"This is needed," Goldfeder said. "It is good to know it is here in the middle of the largest

financial district outside of New York."

"This is taking Judaism out to where the Jews are—a spiritual oasis—where you can find respite from high-powered work and from telephones," said Dr. Dennis Citrin, a physician heavily outnumbered at the opening ceremonies by brokers, traders, lawyers and rabbis.

For more than two years, Rabbi Daniel Moscovitz conducted once-a-week, noontime discussions on the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) in office space provided by the trading firm.

Those meetings have blossomed into a Chabad House to serve the "Jewish neighborhood" in the Loop. Chabad Houses also serve Jews in several suburbs and city neighborhoods, Rabbi Moscovitz said.

"The people who came to our weekly discussion group here said it provided them with a refuge from business where they could study their heritage," the rabbi said.

Rabbi Moscovitz is a Hasidic Orthodox Jew. He practices in the Lubavitch branch, which stresses a joyful approach to life—another welcome relief from the serious business of parlaying

לעילוי נשמת
ר' בנצ'יון בן ר' דוד ע"ה
נלב"ע ו' אלול ה'תשע"ט
ת'נצ'ב'ה'

נדפס ע"י בנו
הרה"ת ר' שמואל אהרן וזוגתו
מרת חנה ומשפחתם שיחיו
נובאק

HAKHEL IS COMING!

The following is the Rebbe's response to Rabbi Daniel Moscovitz, the head shliach to Illinois at the time, written on the margin of Rabbi Moscovitz's letter.

Special thanks are due to Rabbi Moscovitz's son, the current head shliach, Rabbi Meir Shimon Moscovitz, for sharing this ksav yad kodesh with us.



Tribune photo by Quentin Doeh
...n Ross, David-Irwin Binter with
Rabbi Daniel Moscovitz and
Benhiyouan.

Sanctuary in the district

pork bellies into big dollars.
"The most important thing is that people can come here to take a break, especially from the pressure of the trading floor, to study something on a higher level," the rabbi said. "We will have lunch and coffee and cake and a library where they can come and browse, a kitchen for the mind."

Rabbi Moscovitz and others at the opening said that even amid the feverish capitalism of LaSalle Street, there are people searching for religious truth and something more fundamental to their lives than the heavings of the stock market.

"There are many people here looking for spirituality, and this is a spiritual oasis for them," Citrin said. "The Chabad House is about the fact that religion and spirituality are not one-day-a-week events; they pervade our lives and this place belongs here in the middle of the working environment of so many Jews—and the food is good, too."

Trader Jay Davis found the drink to his liking as well.

"There is a lot of good cheer with these people," he said. "And there is always a little vodka around."



LUBAVITCH P. 01 ב"ה

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ג' אלול, עש"ק ע' שופטים, ה'תשמ"ז.

לכ"ק אדמו"ר שליט"א

מצו"ב כתבה אודות החנוכת הבית והפתיחה של הבית
חב"ד במרכז העיר,

וחנני בזה לבקש ברכת כ"ק אדמו"ר שליט"א שהמשד
הפעולה של ובכל מוסדותינו י-ה"ו בהצלחה, (סג)

י צמק אן צוקר
מאקאוו

הנה זמן חמצני דפליא
אנא או כאלה
הנה זמן חמצני דפליא
אנא או כאלה

RABBI DANIEL MOSCOWITZ
Director

RABBI YOSEF POSNER
Administrator

RABBI BINYOMIN SCHEIMAN
Director of Activities

RABBI SHLOM B STOCK
Director of Community Outreach

RABBI ...

In his letter, Rabbi Moscovitz writes:

3 Elul, Erev Shabbos Parshas Shoftim, 5747.

לכ"ק אדמו"ר שליט"א

Enclosed is an article [from the Chicago Tribune] about the dedication and opening of the new Chabad House in Downtown [Chicago].

I ask for the Rebbe's *bracha* that the ensuing activities there, and in all of our institutions, should be with success.

Daniel Yitzchok ben Tzivia Moscovitz

The Rebbe responds:

נת' ות"ח ואזכיר עה"צ

לשלוח לו המצו"ב ואולי כדאי שיו"ל מחדש קיצור מהנ"ל (ובהוספה?) להצלחת הפעולות לדלול ודשנת הקהל

It was received, with thanks. I will mention this at the Ohel.

[Mazkirus should] send the attached [article] back to him [Rabbi Moscovitz]. Perhaps it would be worthwhile to republish a synopsis of this [article] (with some additions?) in order to have more success in the activities of the month of Elul, and of [the upcoming] year of Hakhel.