CHABAD Weekly INFO Roundup

Nº 4

FRIDAY, 11 CHESHVAN 5784 PARSHAS LECH LECHA

Crown Heights, NYC Officials Join Together for 'Hate Crimes Summit'

n Tuesday night, a special 'Hate Crimes Summit' took place at the Jewish Children's Museum by Mayor Eric Adams' Jewish Advisory Council, discussing issues pertaining to the safety and security of the Jewish community.







The Rebbe Writes **To The Prime Minister**

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO **DEAL WITH OUR NEIGHBORS?**

Free translation of a letter that was sent to Mr. Yitzchak Shamir upon his ascending to the premiership of Israel's 22nd Government in Tishrei 5747 (October 1986):

B"H, First day of Rosh Chodesh Mar-Cheshvan, 30 Tishrei, 5747 Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mr. Yitzchak שי' Shamir Prime Minister The Holy City of Yerushalayim תובב"א



PM Shamir receives a delegation of Chabad Chassidim presenting a petition signed by 1,000,000 Jews on

I was delighted to receive your letter dated the 20th of Tishrei, Chol Hamoed Sukkos.

I reciprocate and respond with blessings for a good and sweet new year and success in all the matters you wrote about in your letter, especially success in your most responsible position. Our sages of blessed memory said any position one is elevated to is Divinely ordained from Heaven, then how much more so is this true regarding a position that impacts the entire Jewish nation residing in the Land of Israel. The purpose of all such positions is to reveal and publicize the virtues of the Land of Israel as "a land that the eyes of Hashem your G-d are always upon, from the beginning of the year to year's end."

This forms the foundation for true security that is based on the truth, [as well as] a conduit to receive blessings from the Source of Blessing for all who dwell in it, for all their needs, both physical and spiritual.

Especially since I'm confident that you will firmly maintain your long-time stance regarding the integrity of the land; plainly said - [to maintain] the Land of Israel within [all] its borders, not conceding, Heaven forbid, sections of it that are in the possession of our Jewish brethren in the Holy Land.

Since the ways of Torah are pleasant and all its paths peaceful, pleasant and paved paths are surely available to actualize the above through pleasant and truly peaceful means. And for an individual such as yourself there is surely no need to elaborate and explain...

[This is so] especially since it is expressed palpably in the attitude

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Photos by Dov Ber Hechtman/Chabadinfo

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EMOTIONS RUN HIGH:

Shluchim Delegation Brings Joy To Those Affected & Broken By Terror

delegation of 28 Shluchim from the USA, Canada and Australia joined a solidarity mission Eretz Yisroel.

Throughout the week the delegation visited and giving inspiration and advice to terror victims, soldiers, those wounded recovering in Israeli hospitals, broken families who have lost their homes, families in mourning or awaiting the fate of their loved ones being held hostage.

The group landed in Eretz Yisroel on Monday morning on a special mission to uplift, comfort and console the soldiers, the injured, and the bereaved families.

On the first day of the visit (Monday), the delegation stopped by the Kosel for a special prayer, joined by thousands of Yidden from around the world, with Israel's Chief Rabbi, Rabbi David Lau.

On the second day of the visit (Tuesday) the delegation visited a number of locations, including a Nichum Aveilim visit in Be'er Sheva, for Daniel a successful builder who was murdered by terrorists at the Beach.

They Visited an Army Command center in Ashkelon; the Soroka Hospital in Be'er Sheva; the Chabad of Ashkelon school that was hit by a Missile; the Army Command center in Sderot

They visited the Chabad house in Sedrot, where they were welcomed by the Shluchim, Rabbi Moshe Zev Feigin and his family. As well as the police station that Hamas terrorists hijacked, so the army demolished the police station to the ground to eliminate the terrorists.

They also visited the Army Base of Soldiers that will enter Gaza by Tank and foot and distributed. Cards from children in America. They had a Huge Barbecue with Live Music created great Simcha.

On the third day of the visit (Wednesday), the delegation visited a number of locations in the Shomron and central Israel: In the Shomron, the delegation met with Security forces and IDF Soldiers protecting the community. They put up Tefillin on the Soldiers. They then had a live interview with Israel's channel 14.

They then put on Tefillin on the Soldiers at an army training center. Later they met a victim of Terror.

In Kfar Chabad, they were greeted by Rabbi Aronow from Tzach, and then got a tour of the Chabad Operations during the War. They then visited the Tel Shomer in Ramat Gan, visiting Civilians and soldiers injured in the Hospital, giving them gifts and putting on Tefillin.

























Saturated With 'Rebbe', Kevutza Heads On Shlichus

On Zayin Cheshvan, the Kvutza group of 5783, who spent the past year with the Rebbe MH"M, armed with Chasidic energy and inspiration accumulated throughout the year, headed back to Eretz Yisroel, for a year of Shlichus at Yeshivos across Eretz Yisroel

















6 Miracles Stories From

THE WAR IN ERETZ YISROEL

BY SHNEUR ZALMAN LEVIN

eet Dolev. Dolev is irreligious but has been keeping Shabbos for the past five years. Still, he went from the north to Kibbutz Re'im with twenty friends. They went on a minibus which they rented for this purpose.

Friday morning, Dolev told the others that he could not remain at the rave and be *mechalel* Shabbos, and he was heading home. Since he was the one who arranged the transportation, he planned on returning on the minibus. He took a chance that they would all be furious with him because they would have to go along with him and not stay for the weekend. He insisted, one against the rest, "Either you come with me or I'm going alone." They gave in and went with him.

Thanks to Shabbos observance, Dolev saved them all. Entire families whose lives could have been different. Even he doesn't understand how such a *yeshua* (salvation) came through him.

The Helicopter Miracle

A great miracle occurred the morning of Simchas Torah with an Israeli army helicopter which came with soldiers to fight the terrorists at Kibbutz Be'eri. The helicopter, which carried fifty combat soldiers in addition to the crew, sustained a hit by an anti-aircraft missile while it was in the air. Hamas terrorists managed to damage the helicopter and it was a big miracle that it wasn't destroyed in the air!

The pilots quickly landed it with amazing skill and all the soldiers, as well as all the flight crew were able to run away from it before it sustained another missile hit which destroyed it. The helicopter blew up and was completely burned and all the people on it were saved.

Half A Centimeter Between Life And Death

This is Ziv Tal's miracle story. Shabbos morning, Kibbutz Be'eri.

Action against the terrorists in one of the houses. A terrorist let loose a stream of bullets from the house and I felt a blow to the chest. It took another second to realize that apparently something had hit me. I checked with my hand and felt blood and a burn and said I had been wounded in the chest. I went over to the grass and waited to feel difficulty breathing, the haziness that one will start to feel, but nothing.

In the meantime, the guys tried to drag me back. I realized I was fine and told them, "One minute, one minute." I got up and walked with a paramedic to an available car and took off my gear. Two paramedics examined me and saw I was fine.

A helicopter arrived and they wanted to take me on a stretcher to the helicopter but I told them it wasn't necessary; I would go on my own. I got on the helicopter and they cut the uniform and tzitzis. A doctor examined me and saw that everything was fine. Pulse - 70, circulation – 97... I began to think that maybe nothing was wrong with me, maybe just shrapnel, or something small, and what a pity that I left the battlefield.

Still, they took me and I arrived at the trauma room. Doctors and nurses jumped at me from every direction. They did a chest X-ray, came back, and a doctor said, "It's only happenstance that you're even here." I didn't understand and asked, "What? There's nothing inside me?" (What



Dov Zuberman with the Chitas that he received, next to the burned vehicle

naivete). She smiled and said, "There is an entire bullet half a centimeter from a main artery. In my life, I have not seen a bullet enter like that and stop there, with the wounded person looking like this."

They took me for a CT scan. On the way, they let me call my wife to tell her I'm okay and that I'm at the hospital after being lightly wounded.

We left the CT scan room and a senior doctor arrived. He looked at me and said, "Looks like Someone was watching over you." The doctors could not explain what had happened.

A new day dawned. The doctor from the nighttime came and said that there was no reason for me to remain there and I could go home. I started telling everyone that I was released that day but one of the nurses said, "I don't want to disappoint you but you are staying here for three days. The doctor will explain why."

It was only after three days and some hours of uncertainty, as it turns out that there had been some swelling around the aorta, that I went home.

The final damage was a broken rib (I only realized this when I read the release paper. Then I understood why it hurt to cough), a bullet that went through the lung (here too, the doctors don't understand how there are no symptoms) that stopped 0.2 millimeters from the aorta (the main artery from the heart; if it would have been hit, even if this happened while I was on the operating table, they would not be able to save me) which I will carry inside me until 120.

First, thanks to G-d. I don't know why I

merited this. And thanks to all the retirees from the unit who watched over me (it was amazing to see their desire to contribute), and thanks to all my work colleagues, from the moshav and from life in general, who prayed and were concerned about me.

Direct Hit On The Living Room

Simchas Torah, eight in the morning. The Lubavitcher Shusterov family, residents of Bnei Ayash were tired from the hakafos the night before. A siren went off. Boom. A missile fell in the house. It was a direct hit on the living room. Everything broke and was scattered everywhere. The tremendous heat bent thick iron railings; a miracle there wasn't a fire. All that remains of one couch is the frame. As for the other couch, it no longer exists.

The daughter, Mrs. Yocheved Blank, a shlucha in Moscow, related:

"In a huge miracle, just three meters (10 feet) from the attack lay my son, Avrohom Leib, on a mattress, and nothing happened to him other than a few tiny burns. He felt the enormous heat. Everything was covered with very hot stones. He simply got up and left the house. Miracle of miracles!

"In the house were four people, my two sons and my parents – the grandparents. It's a miracle that none of them were harmed! Usually, a family is together for Yom Tov but I was in Tzfas since my daughter had given birth and the missile fell on the spot where I always sleep! My other daughter did not come with her family.

"The houses on the street were also damaged by the blast, including distant houses. Many cars were left without windows. Everything was broken and burned. One car after another was damaged – blown out tires and twisted metal. Aside from light wounds, there were no injured.

"The entire house was wrecked, full of dust. The second floor flew off and we have no windows now, but there is emuna in Hashem that all is for the good and He loves us. These are not yisurim and punishment but a test. Hashem, we know You love us, and we love You a lot."

Shalev, the neighbor across the road, tells of the miracles he experienced:

"I was sleeping when the siren began. I suddenly heard a mighty boom and felt the whole house shake. I felt my shoulder bleeding and realized I had been hit by shrapnel. I saw I had a hole in my shoulder. I was taken by ambulance to a hospital. Miraculously, I wasn't hit in the face. Boruch Hashem, I was released a short while later and now everything is fine."

It Happened A Second Time

Rabbi Chananel Pizem, shliach in Sderot, ex-

"I wrote to the Rebbe and the answer is engraved in my memory, 'Behold, He neither slumbers nor sleeps, the Guardian of Israel. With His wing He shelters you. Check mezuzos.'

perienced a big miracle:

"I was in the house which looked like it was in a war zone. Around 9:15 in the morning the house sustained a direct hit, a very powerful hit. You can see the extent of it in the pictures.

"It brought me back to a day I can't forget, Friday, Rosh Chodesh Sivan 5767. There was an insane volley of Kassams. They were raining down from all directions. At that time, there was no Iron Dome. The millionaire philanthropist Gaydamak offered everyone to get on buses and travel to hotels, on his account. As shluchim of the Rebbe, we didn't know what to do. I suggested to my wife that we go to Yerushalayim, and she said, 'We are on the Rebbe's shlichus. Can we leave without asking him?'

"I wrote to the Rebbe and the answer is engraved in my memory till today since I've repeated it to my children over the years with repeated Kassam attacks. 'Behold, He neither slumbers nor sleeps, the Guardian of Israel. With His wing He shelters you. Check mezuzos.'

"Of course, we checked the mezuzos, which were kosher. While on Mivtza Mezuza with a family in town, we found a small opening they had made. They asked me whether it also needed a mezuza and I said yes. I suddenly remembered that I have a similar opening and I rushed home to put up a mezuza.

"In 5768, after all the Chanuka programming, we were guests with friends on Zos Chanuka. While there, I heard there was shelling and the situation in Sderot was very bad.

"I consulted with my brother, the shliach to Sderot, R' Moshe Zev, and he told me that since there was no school, we should remain in Yerushalayim. Afterward, we went to Kfar Chabad for a few days and the children went to school there where they were happily welcomed.

"At eleven in the morning, my nephew, shliach R' Asher Pizem, called me. 'Did you hear what happened? A Kassam fell in your yard.' The house had been hit and it was a miracle that we weren't there.

"While the family stayed in Kfar Chabad, I went to Sderot to see how people could be helped and to see what happened to the house. We saw the tremendous destruction. Friends came and we made a thanksgiving farbrengen.

"This time, again, the house sustained a direct hit. If someone would have been in the house at that time (his family was away), I don't want to think about what would have happened. We are sure that Hashem is watching over us and we see this all the time. There are miracles and wonders in Sderot at every step.

"Now too, before my wife and children evacuated from the city, we asked the Rebbe. The answer



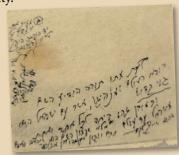
A Jew Is Holy!

The Rebbe's response to a woman who requested a bracha:

At the time of the giving of the Torah, Hashem – Creator and Director of the world – made it known that the Nation of Israel is a holy nation.

This, of course, applies to each and every Jewish man or woman for all eternity.

Hashem's will, however, is that man should display that he belongs to this "wise and discerning nation" and therefore avoids inflicting harm upon himself by living a lifestyle that negates his (holy) nature, and lives his life as befitting a son (and daughter) of a holy nation.



בעת מתן תורה הודיע השם בורא העולם ומנהיגו, אשר עם ישראל הוא גוי קדוש. וכמובן זהו ביחס לכל אחד ואחת מישראל עד עולם.

> אלא שרצון השם הוא שיַראה האדם שהוא שייך לעם חכם ונבון ולכן אינו מזיק את עצמו על ידי הנהגה היפך טבעו (דקדושה) וחי חייו כמתאים לבן (ולבת) גוי קדוש.

was, 'Do as a rav *moreh horaah* in the city, particularly from your community, tells you.' We consulted with my brother Moshe Zev and he said the family should go."

And you stayed?

Yes. I stayed with my father-in-law, R' Yossi Bruk and we are working throughout the city, bringing food to families, putting tefillin on with soldiers, encouraging those who remain here, and confident that with Hashem's



Rabbi Pizem's family home in Sderot

help we will win and this chaos will end.

Do you have a message for the Prime Minister?

Our message for the Prime Minister and the security people is: be strong and don't leave a single floor tile intact in Gaza. Destroy all the terrorists because you don't make peace with despicable murderers like these. Protect the country in the strongest way.

We thank Hashem for the miracle He did and does for us and anticipate that immediately we will merit the true and complete Geula. We see how there is special protection for shluchim of the Rebbe.

Direct Hit On A Car

Rabbi Yisroel Deitsch, director of a Chabad House in Kiryat Matlon in Petach Tikva, relates:

"On Simchas Torah, my good friend, Dov Zoberman, a resident of the neighborhood, was called up to reserve duty in the south. We were in the middle of the Shabbos/Yom Tov meal with the family. The children of the neighbors who hosted Dov's family, came up to us to use our hot plate. When I heard that he was leaving, I went down to say goodbye and give him chizuk. He asked me for wipes, saying they are vital when fighting. I went up to get him wipes and also gave him a Chitas for protection. Dov headed off to the front.

"Two days later, while they were still in Sderot, there was a 'red alert' which sent them to the protected shelters. When Dov returned to the scene he discovered that his car was destroyed after sustaining a direct hit. The only thing that remained intact in the vehicle was the Chitas he had been given.

"Dov was very moved by this and took a picture of the car and told what happened, first in French and then in Ivrit. The video reached tens of thousands in Eretz Yisrael and worldwide and raised awareness about the power of a Chitas. This was even spoken of on French television.

"Of course, I took this opportunity and bought hundreds of Chitas and with the help of many donors I gave them out to soldiers on various fronts."

May we all strengthen our trust in Hashem, in His kindness and miracles, with simple faith in the imminent true and complete Geula. •

Vaad HaKinus Announces Theme: L'Hashbis Oyeiv U'Misnakem

this time, while millions of Jews in Eretz Yisrael are at war, the task lies upon us shluchim to work with Am Yisrael both in Eretz YIsrael and throughout the world, by encouraging them and by doing material and spiritual things to win the war. as the Rebbe instructed in previous wars. At this time, more than ever, there is a tremendous thirst to hear the Rebbe's perspective and to add in Torah and mitzvos in general and the holy mivtzaim in particular.

Along with action and prayers there are trust and faith that "Behold, the Guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps," and Hashem will thwart the plans of Israel's enemies and cause them a downfall, and a great victory to the Jewish people.

Every year, on Shabbos Mevorchim Kislev, shluchim from around the world gather for the international Kinus Ha'Shluchim. It is

clear that this year too, the Rebbe wants us to hold a Kinus which will be used for Torah, Tefilla and Tzedaka, as a zechus for Am Yisrael and for victory in war.

The theme of the Kinus this year is "l'hashbis oyeiv u'misnakem" (in order to put an end to enemy and avenger), with a shturem to be involved in the Rebbe's mivtzaim, for protection, defense, and rescue of the Jewish people in Eretz Yisrael and around the world, with an emphasis on activities to conclude the only shlichus the Rebbe assigned to us at the Kinus Ha'Shluchim in 5752, preparing the world *l'kabbolas pnei Moshiach tzidkeinu b'poel mamosh!*

REGISTER NOW AT KINUS.INFO





Chilling Mural of Absence Brings Awareness of Kidnapped Israelis

A chilling protest was held across the UN building in New York City, it was laid out with empty shoes, along with flowers and posters of the kidnapped Israelis, bringing awareness to all and demanding that all hostages be returned.















Sderot Chabad Vandalized With Swastikas

In a shocking incident, the Chabad House in the southern city of Sderot, on the Gaza border, has been vandalized with



anti-Semitic graffiti, including swastikas.

Footage from security cameras shows a person arriving in the middle of the night and spray-painting malicious graffiti together with, in Russian, the statement that, "You are scum and thieves."

"We are shocked by this incident, when precisely in such a tense time after the terrible massacre that took place in our city that reminded everyone of dark and anti-Semitic times Klal Yisroel went through." Rabbi Asher Pizem, director of Chabad Sderot told Chabadinfo "A person dares to come here, to a place that shines out light and gives unconditionality to every person without distinction and to do such an act."

On Monday morning, Israel Police opened an investigation into the matter.



SCAN TO WATCH THE VIDEO >

The Rebbe Writes To The Prime Minister (continued)

of the neighbors of our Holy Land: Whenever they were faced with our unwavering stance that the Land of Israel was given to the Jewish people in an eternal covenant by the Creator and Director of the world, then there was no need even for war stratagems as soon as they realized this is indeed our resolute position, but when the attitude was one of concession and groveling, this brought diametrically opposite result.

I conclude by quoting your letter, that "we are assured of this through Divine assistance and [extend] blessings for success to all who pursue true, lasting peace."

With esteem, honor and blessing for success in all the above, [and hoping to receive] good tidings,

In 5752, The US Government pushed to convene what came to be known as the Madrid Peace Conference. It was an attempt to revive the Israeli—Palestinian "peace" process. While PM Shamir held a strong stance against giving away land of Eretz Yisrael, he caved in to the pressure and joined the conference but agreed to only allow the Palestinians autonomy. The Rebbe felt that this too was a terrible mistake. On Yud Shevat 5752, Moshe Katzav, Shamir's then-transportation minister was by the Rebbe and the Rebbe gave him the following message to be transmitted to Mr. Shamir:

"I recently heard a bizarre and shocking rumor — that the Israeli government is discussing and planning to give away portions of the Land of Israel. The discussions are currently focused on a five-year plan called 'autonomy.' In truth, however, it doesn't matter what government officials are calling it, because the fact is that these discussions and plans fall under the explicit Torah prohibition of "Lo Sechaneim," i.e., the prohibition against giving any part of Israel to non-Jews. These discussions will, in fact, result in the eventual giveaway of parts of Israel, and as such, represent a denial of G-d, His Torah, the Land of Israel and the holiness of the Land."

"These autonomy talks are the first step to the giving away of parts of Israel — not only small parts, but large parts, as well, such as Judah, Samaria, Gaza, Chevron, Yerushalayim, etc. This is very literally a matter of life and death! As I said, the manner in which Jews like to think of these talks, and the way in which they explain them is irrelevant. What is relevant is that the gentiles view these talks as the first step in an operation that will lead to the giving away of parts of Israel and to the establishment of a Palestinian state."

"You understand Arabic. Go ask the Arabs living in Israel what they make of these talks. You will see; they will tell you that their interpretation of the 'five-year autonomy talks' is that they will be given parts of Israel for the purpose of establishing a Palestinian state. Therefore, the way in which the Jews like to interpret these talks is irrelevant. The essential factor is the manner in which the gentiles are viewing it."

Just a few years later, Shamir regretted not listening to the Rebbe. Confiding to Mr. Ami Paikovsky, he said: "Presidents make mistakes, prime ministers make mistakes, ministers make mistakes, even kings make mistakes. But the Rebbe - the Rebbe was never wrong! He predicted that any autonomy would be followed by a state for the Palestinians, and of course was right - unlike everyone else.."

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770's Iconic Aron Kodesh Undergoes Renovation

The iconic Aron Kodesh in 770's main shul, originally built by R' Yankel Lipsker in 5728, was blocked off Tuesday for renovations.















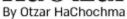


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Sukkos in Kislovodsk: Sefer Torah **Inaugurated at Special Event**

Hundreds of members from the local Jewish community, along with guests from the surrounding Stavropol Krai region, tourists, and businessmen, gathered for a remarkable inauguration ceremony in the charming spa city of Kislovodsk, situated in southwestern Russia.

The festive occasion, graced by distinguished guests including Chief Rabbi Menachem Lazar of Krasnodar and Rabbi Yitzchak Kogan of Moscow's Bolshaya Bronnaya synagogue, was led by local activist Rabbi Akiva Avshalom Chodinitov.

Following the completion of the writing of the Sefer Torah

in the city's synagogue, the celebration spilled onto the streets with a traditional parade and lively dancing. The joyous festivities culminated with a joyous meal for all the quests back at the synaaoaue.

This new Sefer Torah dedication was made possible through the generous support of local Jewish philanthropists and businessmen.







CHABAD

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THIS WEEK'S STORY OF STORY OF

New Engagement

Levi Weingarten – Grand Rapids, MI to Devori Lenczynski – Rio de Janerio, Brazil

Ashie Denebeim – Palm Springs, CA to Sara Drizin - Woodcliff Lake, NJ

Shaul Wolf – Melbourne, Australia to Rochel Danzinger - Toronto, Canada

Beri Zirkind – Montreal, Canada to Leah Brody – Chicago, IL

Leibel Simpson – Crown Heights to Dvorah Tiechtel - Berlin, Germany

Newborn

BABY BOY

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Mayteles) Morgenstern - Woodridge, NY

Shmuly and Mushky Rosenstein - Crown Heights

BABY GIRL

Mendel and Mimi Pinson - Knoxville, TN

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