

# The importance of education this Passover

This week on Tuesday, April 12, world Jewry celebrated the 120th birthday of the Chabad-Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the most influential rabbi in modern history. Since Jimmy Carter in 1978, every US president has recognized the rebbe's birthday by dedicating it as "Education & Sharing Day - USA", in tribute to the rebbe's life's work.

On Tuesday April 5, the Chabad Center for Jewish Life had the honor of hosting Town of Hempstead Supervisor Don Clavin, Councilman Anthony D'Esposito and the town board, together with local Chabad rabbis to recognize the rebbe's 120th birthday. The Town of Hempstead issued a proclamation, proclaiming April 12 as Education & Sharing Day.

At this special event, I mentioned that the rebbe lived a selfless life, completely dedicated to caring for others. The rebbe especially advocated for the education of children, ensuring that they get the very best, for it is the children's education that shapes the future generations. This theme is especially connected to the holiday of Passover which begins this year on the eve of April 15. In the Haggadah (the book that is

read at the Passover seder), it is stated that every type of child is present at the Passover seder meal: the wise son, the wicked/rebellious son, the simple son, and the son who doesn't even know how to ask questions. We are instructed to teach each of these 4 "sons" about the story of Passover in a way that is geared towards his personality.

On Passover we recognize that no two people are alike, and we must be there for everyone according to their own level. This is a fundamental basis for education, as King Solomon said in Proverbs: "Educate a child according to his ways; even when he grows old, he will not turn away from it." The goal

of education is not merely to transmit information, but to mold the student's character, and to set his feet on a path which he can follow throughout his life. This is the driving force that our educators follow on a daily basis at the Alan and Tatyana Forman Jewish Early Learning Center, Camp Gan Israel, and Chabad Hebrew School which

were all founded due to the inspiration and guidance of the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

It is important that we not just teach children academics, rather we must convey to them important moral values and the recognition that there is a Higher Authority to Whom we are all

accountable. This can be done through educating our children and ourselves to abide by the universal moral code as set by the seven Noahide laws [More info: ChabadJewishLife.org/Noah].

As we watch the frightening rise of terror attacks in Israel & around the world, and the war in Ukraine, it serves as a stark reminder that academic education alone is not enough, as every human being must feel a true moral sense of responsibility for his actions, with the goal of making the world a better place for all of mankind.

This is the message of Passover: We have many important things that occupy our time, whether it's

making a living, health, family, or simply enjoying life. Yet, education must remain one of our highest priorities, for that is what prepares the future generations. This applies not only to educating our children, but also to educating our friends and neighbors, and most importantly - ourselves.

There is always so much more to learn, and our website, ChabadJewishLife.org shares over 100,000 pages of content, including reading, audio, and video material.

Let us all educate ourselves and our surroundings, thus making the world a better and more peaceful place to live in, ushering in an era of peace, as described in Isaiah: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not lift the sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

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