

Kislev  
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## SPECIAL DAYS IN KISLEV



**Kislev 1/November 19/Sunday**  
**Rosh Chodesh Kislev**

Chasidim mark Rosh Chodesh Kislev with a Farbrengen in honor of the recovery of the **Rebbe**, in 5738 [1977]. This year Marks the 40th year we are Celebrating Rosh Chodesh Kislev.

Yartzeit of **R. Yosef Shmuel of Frankfort**, author of Mesoras HaShas, the Talmudic cross-reference index printed in the Gemara, 5464 [1703].

Yartzeit of **R. Sholom Shachne**, founder of the first Yeshiva in Poland, 5319 [1558].

**R. Aharon HaLevi Hurevitz of Stroshele**, primary student of the **Alter Rebbe**, released from imprisonment, 5587 [1826].

He was arrested around the same time as the **Mitteler Rebbe**. When his son, **R. Michoel Dovid**, confronted the slanderer of the **Mitteler Rebbe**, the slanderer said, "You're also talking? I'll bring your father here, too." And so he did....

The **Stroshele** made Kiddush one Friday night with great Hishlahavus, as was his way; an officer who happened to see him told the governor he was a G-dly man who couldn't possibly be a criminal. His sentence was reduced and he was eventually released a



few days before the **Mitteler Rebbe**. It was the only time he and the **Mitteler Rebbe** saw each other since the **Alter Rebbe's** passing. (Beis Rebbe)

Birthday of **R' Shmaryahu Gurary**, the "**Rashag**," o.b.m., son in law of the Friediker Rebbe, brother in law of the Rebbe, 5658/1897.

**Kislev 2/November 20/Monday**

This year marks 30 years since the Seforim and Writings of the Rebbeim were returned to the Library of Agudas Chasidei Chabad, 5748 (1987).

## ROSH CHODESH KISLEV: A DAY OF THANKSGIVING

By: Rabbi Shimon Raichik

On Rosh Chodesh Kislev 5738/1977 the Rebbe left 770 and went home for the first time since his heart attack on Shemini Atzeret of that year.

Since then, Rosh Chodesh Kislev has been set aside as a day of giving thanks to HaShem for the Rebbe's recovery and a time of farbrengens and gatherings to strengthen Torah.

At the time I was a bochur in 770 and so I was present during those exciting but scary weeks. I shall retell the events surrounding the Rebbe's heart attack and recovery to the

best of my knowledge and memory. Some of the information was gleaned from various diaries, from accounts in Iton Kfar Chabad, and from what people said at the time. Certain incidents which happened before the Rebbe's heart attack and which seemed interesting and unusual then, have taken on special meaning in retrospect.

On Chai Elul of that year (5737/1977) the Rebbe spoke emphatically about the anniversary of Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim Lubavitch.

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Yartzeit of **R. Shmerel of Verchovka**, student of the **Baal Shem Tov**, 5536 [1775].

### **Kislev 3/November 21/Tuesday**

Roman images removed from the **Beis HaMikdash** courtyard when Jews threatened a war. (Megilas Taanis 9)

### **Kislev 4/November 26/Wednesday**

A delegation of Jews from Bavel came to Yerushalayim to ask **Zechariah** if they should continue to fast on Tisha B'Av, since the Second Beis HaMikdash was being built; He prophesied that all fasts would become days of joy and celebration, 3412 [349 BCE]. (Zechariah:7-8)

### **Kislev 5/November 23/Thursday**

Yartzeit of **R. Shmuel Eidels**, the "**MaHaRSha**", 5392 [1631]

Wedding of the **Tzemach Tzedek** and **Rebbitzen Chayah Mushka**, in Liadi, 5564 [1803].

### **Kislev 6/November 24/Friday**

Tenaim between the **Rebbe** and the **Rebbitzen Chayah Mushka**, in Riga, Latvia, 5689 [1929].

### **Kislev 7/November 25/Shabbos**

**King Yehoyakam** burned the scroll (of Eichah), dictated by **Yirmiyahu HaNavi** to Baruch b. Neriah, 3321 [603 BCE]. (Yirmiyahu 36:23)

Once a fast day, (Megilas Taanis) **death of Herod**, [4 BCE], proclaimed a holiday, (Megilas Taanis 9).

### **Kislev 9/November 27/Monday**

Birthday of our holy Master and Teacher, the **Mitteler Rebbe**, **R. DovBer**, second Chabad Rebbe, 5534 [1773] and his Yartzeit, 5588 [1827].

On the night of Kislev 9, the **Mitteler Rebbe** fainted many times. Once, they were unable to resuscitate him. The chassidim came, as well as the Chevrah Kadisha. The chassidim and the family didn't give up hope; they tried and successfully revived him.

They asked the Rebbe, "Didn't you hear the shouting in the house? Why are you frightening us so much?" He answered, "I heard a heavenly voice asking what does such a Neshamah have to do in this physical world?"

The Rebbe asked that he be dressed in his white clothes. Color returned to his face; he spoke of Zechusim - good things about Jews - that Jews are careful to do Mitzvos, especially Tzedakah, giving more than they can. He told his chassidim and family to be happy [because] simchah sweetens judgment. He began to say Chassidus. The chassidim became happy, as if it were a wedding. All felt that now the Rebbe would regain his health.

He said Chassidus all night and often asked if it was morning. He finished just before dawn; as he said the words "with You is the source of life," he passed away and was united with HaShem. (Sefer HaToldos)

The Tzemach Tzedek said there wasn't such a passing since R. Shimon Bar Yochai. The Zohar says he was saying Torah and passed on, saying the word "Chayim" - life.

The Rebbe was buried in Niezhen and that year the joyful day of redemption became one of mourning.

Yartzeit of **R. Moshe of Slavuta**, a printer in Slavuta, son of R. Pinchas of Koretz, 5598 [1837]. He was very close with the Alter Rebbe. (Beis Rebbe)

The **Alter Rebbe** had the first Tanya printed by him (printed this month on Kislev 20), out of a debt of gratitude to his father. (Ohel Rachel, p. 199)

### **Kislev 10/November 28/Tuesday**

The **Mittler Rebbe** was released from imprisonment, 5587 (1826). On Chol HaMoed Sukkos it became known that the **Mitteler Rebbe** had been slandered and accused of using funds to overthrow the Russian government. The accusers noted that the Rebbe was sending money to the Turkish Sultan (the money was for Jewish settlers in Israel, which was under Turkish rule). And, they said, the Rebbe's Shul was built to the same measurements as the Beis HaMikdash. (But when the Rebbe's Shul was measured to compare it with the measurements of the Beis HaMikdash it was determined that the measurements were quite different). All of the Rebbe's accounts were to be translated [into Russian]. The accusers wanted the work done by their side. And so it was. The translation proved all funds had been spent according to law: Jews in Russia were helping Jews in Eretz Yisroel which was legal.

When the Rebbe was brought before the Governor-General he showed him that all funds were for the poor in Eretz Yisroel and all the accusations were false.

The Governor-General wanted to bring the Rebbe face to face with his accusers. When the Rebbe arrived, the Governor-General honored him and gave him a chair. At one point, the accuser turned to the Rebbe and said, "Rebbe..." The Rebbe said to the Governor-General, "He calls me a thief, and accuses me of treason - and calls me 'Rebbe' because that's the truth." The accuser started to stammer and stutter until the Governor-General asked him to leave.

On Shabbos, Tes Kislev, at Mincha, while the Rebbe said the Maamar, "Atah Echad", news came that he was innocent and would be released.

In the middle of his Chassidus he said “Shah! Make a place, my father is here.” On Sunday, Yud Kislev, he was freed.

On this day Farbrengens should be made. We should add in our Torah study, especially from the Mittler Rebbe, we should give additional Tzedakah and add in our Tefillah. (Sichah 10 Kislev 5748)

We don't say Tachnun.

#### **Kislev 12/November 30/Thursday**

Yartzeit of R. **Shlomoh Luria**, the "**MaHaRShal**", author of Yam Shel Shelomoh, 5334 [1573].

#### **Kislev 13/December 1/Friday**

Yartzeit of **Ravina b. Rav Huna**, co-editor of the Gemara, last of the Amoraim, 4235 [475].

#### **Kislev 14/December 2/Shabbos**

Birthdays **Reuvein son of Yaakov Avinu**, 2194, and Yartzeit 2319.

Wedding Anniversary of the **Lubavitcher Rebbe** and **Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka**, daughter of the previous Lubavitcher Rebbe. The wedding was in Warsaw on this date in 5689 (1928). "This day is the day that connects me with you, the Chas-sidim..." (Sichah, 5713)

#### **Kislev 15/December 3/Sunday**

Yartzeit of **R. Zeev of Zhitomir**, student of the Mezeritcher Magid, author of Or HaMeir, 5660 [1810].

“...a Sefer the Tzemach Tzedek cites in Or HaTorah and brings many times and explains and comments on. . . and builds upon...” (Sichos, Shabbos Chazon and Av 20, 5734)

Annual holiday (a fast day with Selichos, followed by a dinner) of the **Chevrah Kadisha Burial Society**, according to Chabad [and Russian and Lithuanian] custom.

On this day in 5510 [1750] the **Alter Rebbe** was accepted into the Chevrah Kadisha of Liozhna.

Yartzeit of **R. Chaim Chaykil**, brother-in-law of the Tzemach Tzedek. He was married to the Tzemach Tzedek's half-sister, **Devorah Leah**.

After the passing of the **Tzemach Tzedek's** mother, his father, **R. Sholom Shachne**, married **Rebbitzin Rivkah**, daughter of **R. Aharon of Karlin**, and had two daughters.

#### **Kislev 17/ December 4/ Monday night**

At Maariv we start saying V”sein Tal Umatar

#### **Kislev 18/December 6/Wednesday**

Yartzeit of **R. Avraham Maimuni**, son of the **Rambam**, leader of Egyptian Jewry, author of HaMaspik LiOvdei HaShem, 4998 [1237].

Yartzeit of **R. Boruch of Mezhibyz**, grandson of the **Baal Shem Tov**, author of Botzina DiNehora, 5572 [1811].

Yartzeit of **R. Yosef Yitzchak of Ovritch**, son of the **Tzemach Tzedek**, father of **Rebbitzin Shterna Sarah** who was the wife of the **Rebbe RaShaB**, 5637 [1877].

The Friediker Rebbe was named after R. Yosef Yitzchak of Ovritch, his grand-father. The Rebbe told the following story:

Reb Yosef Yitzchok's father-in-law, R. Yaakov Yisroel of Cherkas, asked his son in law, “How do you daven?” He answered that he always tries to daven with a minyan. Once after davening R. Yaakov Yisroel sent a messenger to get his son-in-law, he was told his son-in-law was in middle of davening. He sent the messenger several times, and every time he was told his son-in-law was still davening. When R. Yosef Yitzchok came to his father-in-law after davening, his father-in-law asked him, “You told me you davened with a minyan b'tzibur?” R. Yosef Yitzchok answered that my father, the Tzemach Tzedek, told me in the name of the Alter Rebbe that b'tzibur means to gather, that I have to gather all my kochos of the Neshamah, and the sparks together to daven, and that takes time. (Farbrengen 19 Kislev 5719)

Completion of annual cycle of Tanya.

#### **Kislev 19/December 7/Thursday**

**Yud-Tes Kislev**

**Rosh HaShanah of Chasidus**

**Gut Yom Tov!**

*May you be written and sealed for a good year in the study of Chasidus, and the ways of Chasidus.*

Redemption of the **Alter Rebbe** from his first imprisonment, 5559 [1798].

Yartzeit of our holy Master and Teacher, **R. Dov Ber b. Avrohom**, the **Magid of Mezeritch**, second leader of the Chasidic movement, 5533 [1772].

“...a day of Farbrengens and resolutions in establishing times to study the Revealed Torah and Chasidus publicly, and in strengthening the ways of Chasidim in true friendship.” (HaYom Yom)

The **Alter Rebbe** celebrated the first Seudah of thanks on Yud Tes Kislev in 5562 [1802]

**R. Moshe**, son of the **Alter Rebbe**, freed from prison, 5576 [1815], (Sefer HaToldos).

First day of new cycle of study of Tanya.

We don't say Tachnun.

Birthday of **Rebbitzen Menuchah Rochel**, daughter of the **Mitteler Rebbe**, 5559 [1798]. She was born the day the Alter Rebbe was released from prison; her father said, "From now on, we will have rest," and called her Menuchah. [And Rochel for the Alter Rebbe's youngest daughter, who died young.]

**Kislev 20/December 8/Friday**

First printing of the Tanya, Slavuta, 5557 [1796].

Complete redemption of the **Alter Rebbe**.

**Ezra** urged the Jews assembled in Yerushalayim to dissolve all intermarriages, 3414 (347 BCE) (Ezra 10:9)

**Kislev 24/December 12/Tuesday**

**Tonight we light the first Chanukah Light.**

**Happy Chanukah!**

**Mishkan** completed by Moshe Rabeinu (Bereishis Raba 22, Shmos Rabah 52:2) 2450.

"...On the twenty-fifth of Kislev the Mishkan was finished; HaShem waited until Nissan. Kislev was shamed, HaShem repaid it in the days of the Chashmonaim" [Yalkut Shimoni, Melachim 1:184]

Dedication of the **Heichal** of the Second Beis HaMikdash, 520 BCE (Chagai 2:18) (R. Yaakov Emden, Mor UKetziah, 670)

The Chashmonaim purified the Beis HaMikdash and offered the daily Korban Tamid, and had the **miracle of the oil**, 3597 [165 BCE].

Yartzeit of **R. Chayim Chezkyah Medini**, author of Sdei Chemed, a twenty volume Halachic encyclo-pedia, 5665 [1904].

"...According to the instruction of my father-in-law, the Rebbe, of blessed memory, we publish a new, corrected edition of the sefarim "Sdei Chemed..."

"The great benefit and necessity of these sefarim is known to anyone involved in rabbinic literature, and especially for Poskim of Halachah in its truest form according to the Torah of Gedolei Yisroel of previous generations..." (Introduction of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, to his edition of S'dei Chemed [Kehot, NY. 1952]. He also compiled a biography of the author for that edition.)

**Kislev 26/December 14/Thursday**

The first edition of the Tanya was delivered to the Alter Rebbe, 2nd Day of Chanukah 5557/1796.

"On the second day of Chanukah, the 26th of Kislev, a courier from Slavuta brought the first shipment - two hundred copies - of the Tanya, the printing of which had been completed on the 20th of Kislev. The Alter Rebbe mentioned three times "Chof Kislev" and the Chassidim did not understand why the Rebbe was saying this (since the Alter Rebbe had requested that the learning commence on Yud Tes Kislev, the Yartzeit of the Maggid). Two years later the completion of the redemption of the Alter Rebbe was on the eve of Chof Kislev, and the Chassidim now understood what the Rebbe was saying." *Reshimos - Notes of the Friediker Rebbe on Tanya, numbers 4 & 5.*

The Bris of the **Rebbe Rashab**, 5621/1860.

On the second night of Chanukah, the Tzemach Tzedek called for his son, the Rebbe Maharash, and said to him: "Tomorrow you will perform the Bris of your son. Let it be done quietly, in the room that I use for private prayer. Only your brother and closest relatives will be present. Twenty people at most should attend. The second set of Luchos was given in a quiet and a private way and of them it is said: "...you will never cease to speak of them, nor will your children, nor your children's children, now and for evermore."

The Tzemach Tzedek gave instructions that the child should be named Shalom DovBer, giving him half his father's name—Shalom Shachna, and the name of the Mitteler Rebbe—Dov Ber. *Yimei Chabad*

**Kislev 27/December 15/Friday**

Second redemption of the **Alter Rebbe**, 5561 [1800].

"...The second imprisonment of the Alter Rebbe wasn't as heavy as the first. But the slander was more severe, because it was against the existence of Chasidus..." (HaYom Yom)

**Kislev 28/December 16/Shabbos**

**Shabbos Chanukah**

**Kislev 30/December 18/Monday**

**Rosh Chodesh Teves Day One**

**Teves 1/December 19/Tuesday**

**Rosh Chodesh Teves**

**Teves 2/December 20/Wednesday**

**Zos Chanukah/Final Day of Chanukah**

# ROSH CHODESH KISLEV: A DAY OF THANKSGIVING

*(Continued from page 1)*

At the end of the farbrengen, the Rebbe changed the words of Tzomo Lecho Nafshi from Uzcho uchvodcho, "Your strength and Your glory," to Nafshi uchvodi, "my soul and my honor." The first time this was heard distinctly. The second time the Rebbe swallowed the words, as if he did not want anyone to hear.

At the farbrengen of Erev Rosh Hashanah the Rebbe requested that the people sing many of the nigunim of Tishrei, and he spoke about the Tzedakah fund known as Keren Hashonoh, which the Rebbe usually spoke about on Simchas Torah.

At the farbrengen of 13 Tishrei the Rebbe discussed a letter of the Previous Rebbe about simcha, which had been published before Sukkos of 5689/1939. In the letter the Rebbe Rayatz made a heartfelt request that the days of Sukkos be used for simcha, by celebrating Simchas Beis Hashoeva and the Yomim Tovim of Shemini Atzeres and Simchas Torah. The Rebbe emphasized that when we fulfill the request in the letter we connect ourselves to the person who wrote the letter. The Rebbe then requested not only that individuals should be b'simcha, but more and more people should be brought into the simcha of Sukkos by making farbrengens. The work of the Rebbe Rayatz was not measured, but was beyond limitations -- beginning from the time of his arrest and liberation [and continuing until now and beyond]. Even though his physical health was limited as supported by his doctors' diagnosis in 1932-- nevertheless he persevered 18 years in this world in his service to HaShem, bringing other Yidden and Klal Yisroel close to HaShem, adding and continuing to add....

The Rebbe went on to say that the Gemarah says that Yaakov is alive: Just as his children are alive, he is alive. From this we understand that, because the letter was published for all to read, surely everyone will fulfill everything written in it. Through simcha, everything will be nullified, including the precautions from the doctors not to exert oneself and get tired. Just the opposite will be the case, adding more and more light and going from strength to strength, until we are able to conquer the world, until "the world will become filled with the knowledge of HaShem like water covers the ocean."

At that time people wondered what was the Rebbe's intention in bringing the story of the Rebbe Rayatz and what the doctors had said. No one imagined what would happen.

Every tefillah that Sukkos, the Rebbe gestured with his hands to encourage everyone to be b'simcha, something which the Rebbe usually only did during the tefillos of Shemini Atzeres and Simchas Torah. Shabbos Chol Hamoed Sukkos the Rebbe motioned with his hands during "Ana, Ana Avda" when the Torah was taken out at Minchah, an action he usually reserved for Simchas Torah by day. On Hoshana Rabba the Rebbe gave out lekach as usual. There was a very large crowd, and the Rebbe, who had not eaten all day, was only able to go home for a short time. The Rebbetzin requested from the secretariat that they keep an eye on the Rebbe. The Rebbe told Rabbi Leibel Groner that he had something to say at the fifth Hakafah.

The first Hakafah the Rebbe danced with RaShaG (Rabbi Shmaryahu Gurary, the Rebbe's brother-in-law). The second hakafah was very, very lebedik. The third was very short and the clapping of the hands was quiet and short. The Rebbe sat down. While before he had been pale, the Rebbe's face was now completely white. Someone brought water, and Rabbi Binyomin Klein begged the Rebbe to drink it, but the Rebbe would not as it was before Kiddush and outside the Sukkah. Someone said that the Rebbe needed air. At that point most of the crowd left 770.

The remaining Hakafos were completed quickly. At the seventh one the Rebbe turned to the olam [congregants] and, finding that most of them had gone, looked surprised. The Rebbe again danced with RaShaG who made it very short. The Rebbe smiled at him, surprised why he had done so. The Rebbe went back to his place for Davening, finishing Aleinu. The Rebbe turned to the olam and said "Gut Yom Tov," waving with his hands. He then walked upstairs to his room and shut the door. Later someone ran to call the Rebbetzin who was at their home, and she quickly came to 770.

The Rebbe walked into the Sukkah to make Kiddush and wash. He said nothing was wrong; he had just been on his feet all day without eating and was tired. He insisted on making Kiddush on wine and barely touched the kezayis of meat that

was brought. At the advice of Dr. Avrohom Seligson, he was given foods with a lot of sugar, to counter a possible low blood sugar condition, and the color in his face came back. Meanwhile a bed had been brought into the Rebbe's room. Leaving the Sukkah, the Rebbe motioned to the olam with his hands that they should be b'simcha and that they should carry on. Then he went back to his room. Rabbi J. J. Hecht went out to the olam to say that the Rebbe was feeling better and was asking them to go home and make Kiddush.

Meanwhile doctors began congregating in 770. The physicians who examined the Rebbe concluded that the Rebbe may have suffered a heart attack. They strongly recommended that he be treated in a hospital. The Rebbe, however, did not want to be taken to the hospital. All night they tried to persuade the Rebbe to go to the hospital, but the Rebbe continued to refuse. The Rebbe said that as he had not eaten, he was feeling tired. He would rest through the night, he said, and in the morning would daven Shachris at 10 o'clock. Later that night the Rebbe revealed that in the days before he had been having pain in his heart and would massage his chest to relieve it.

The doctors were upset that the Rebbe did not heed their advice. One of them said that if the Rebbe were his father, he would put him on his back and carry him to the hospital. They would not take responsibility for treating him in 770. The Rebbetzin said that the Rebbe's wishes would be honored, and most of them left. Drs. Bob Richter and Levi Lehv began to set up a clinic in the Rebbe's room, bringing in machines from different hospitals.

There had also been discussion among the Rabbonim. Rabbi Dovid Chanzin from Eretz Yisroel finally paskened that the Rebbe also knew the Halacha and knew what was best for himself and everyone else. If this was the way he wanted it, then it must be so.

Around four or five in the morning the Rebbe had a second, more serious heart attack. A group of Chassidim began the long walk to the Ohel to pray for the Rebbe's health. Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky called the young heart specialist, Dr. Ira Weiss of Chicago, waking him up. Dr. Weiss said that his colleague and friend, Dr. Leo Teischholtz, should be called and asked to come right away. At 7 a.m. Dr. Teischholtz came. At noon Dr. Weiss arrived with a police escort from the airport. When he entered the Rebbe's room, he started to cry. "Treat me like a patient," the Rebbe advised him. After examining the Rebbe, Dr. Weiss agreed that the Rebbe shouldn't have to go to the hospital. The olam was somewhat relieved.

On the morning of Shemini Atzeres there was a minyan

for Reading of the Torah in the small room next to the Rebbe's, and the Rebbe sat up in bed for his Aliyah.

Rabbi Aaron Kazarnofsky, who had yahrtzeit on Simchas Torah and who every year went to the Rebbe for mashke for the yahrtzeit, gave the Rebbe a brocha with tears in his eyes. The Rebbe replied that surely Rabbi Kazarnofsky wanted the Rebbe to be healthy, and this was not the way to go about it: one must be b'simcha. Sometime during the day the Rebbe told Rabbi Groner to remind the Chassidim that tonight they must go to shuls as usual, to bring simcha to Yidden.

Rabbi Groner later went out with Rabbi Kazarnofsky and they stood outside on a bench and repeated these words. Everything must be with simcha. Everyone must go to shuls to be mesamayach Yidden. At many places people were shocked that the Chabadniks came to them, instead of staying in 770 to daven and say Tehillim.

The Rebbe also said that downstairs there should be a farbrengen before Hakafof and that the psukim of Ata Hareisa should be sold as usual and everyone should be b'simcha. Davka simcha!

It is said that one of the doctors asked if the noise bothered the Rebbe; the Rebbe answered that it was music to the ears. Most of the doctors went downstairs for Hakafof. The Rebbe constantly asked what was going on downstairs, in the shul. A minyan went into the Rebbe's room for Hakafof and the Rebbe held a small Sefer Torah. The day of Simchas Torah the Rebbe had his Aliyah.

Dr. Weiss came down frequently to give reports. He said that the Rebbe was progressing very nicely. This strengthened everyone. At one point the doctors had told the Rebbe that there was a 75 percent chance of a recurrence and asked the Rebbe if he understood what they were saying. The Rebbe, said yes, he understood; there was a 25 percent chance of complete recovery!

The next day, Simchas Torah, everyone washed for the farbrengen. Rabbi Groner came down later that night to where the Chassidim were

farbrengring and brought them wine from the Rebbe's bentching. He said in the name of the Rebbe: There is sometimes an absence where there is nothing there, and there is sometimes a vacuum that will draw even more. Only when there is a vacuum can you draw blood. This vacuum will bring about even more strength. [The Rebbe's temporary absence would bring out even more strength from the Rebbe]. Rabbi Groner said he had an announcement from the Rebbe but he was only to make it after bentching.

The announcement was that the Rebbe would say a few words from his room. The olam was astonished and happy. Then the Rebbe said a Sicha and a ma'amar. The Rebbe then turned to thank his doctors for not cutting him off; he had told them he would speak for only five minutes but it was actually twenty-five. Everyone who heard the Rebbe will never forget how weak he sounded.

For the next several months the Rebbe spoke regularly every Motzei Shabbos Kodesh from his room. After Purim, the Rebbe would farbrengr downstair on Motzei Shabbos. He continued to do so for a year and a half. It was easier for the Rebbe to speak on Motzei Shabbos than on Shabbos because then he could use a microphone.

The Rebbe at that time demanded from the Yidden in Israel to settle the entire West Bank--Yehuda and Shomron. It could be done very easily, said the Rebbe, and the greater the number of settlements, the greater the security for Eretz Yisroel.

The Rebbe requested that mail should be brought in to him regularly. People were waiting for his advice and he could not withhold it from them. As the Rebbe did not go to the Ohel for six weeks or more, his answers were phrased then "Azkir be'ais ratzon"--I will mention it at an auspicious time. People should not hesitate to write, urged the Rebbe, especially about such important things as health and shidduchim.

The Rebbe suspected that the secretariat, in their desire to lessen the Rebbe's workload, were not showing him all the mail. The Rebbe said that when the previous Rebbe was ill the secretariat also wanted to hold back the letters -- and the Rebbe Rayatz responded by saying that his life was to help others: Why should they take from him his source of life? Why should he not be able to help others? Helping people gives him chayus. Like the Previous Rebbe before him, the Rebbe's purpose in life was to help others.

Desirous of seeing the guests who had come for Tishrei,

the Rebbe sat by the door of his room after Simchas Torah and after Shabbos Bereishis. In place of Yechidus they filed past the Rebbe and put notes on the table in front of him. In front of the Rebbe there was a pile of dollars, and each person took a dollar. The Rebbe did not want to disappoint the guests, and besides he wanted to see them, too.

In the middle of Cheshvan Dr. Weiss had to go back to Chicago. Dr. Larry Resnick took over the care of the Rebbe, though Dr. Weiss would fly in from Chicago from time to time to check up on the Rebbe's progress.

One night when it was very late I noticed someone coming out of 770 accompanied by the doctors. I found out that it was Dr. Bernard Lown of Boston, the top heart specialist in America who had taught Drs. Weiss and Teishholtz. He was on his way back from Russia and stopped in New York to examine the Rebbe. He felt that more precautions should be taken.

When the Rebbe was well enough, he came to the upstairs Shul for the reading of the Torah, not everyone was allowed in. Monday and Thursday the 770 bachurim held a lottery to choose who would be present. Meanwhile people were constantly going to the Ohel to daven for the Rebbe's recovery.

On the 28th of Marcheshvan, the Rebbe left 770 for the first time and walked over to the library, where the books of the Previous Rebbe had just arrived from Warsaw and he spent two hours going through the seforim. Eastern Parkway was full of people standing on benches and rooftops to see the Rebbe.

The greatest simcha came on Rosh Chodesh Kislev, however. At 7:35 that Thursday night the bochorim found out that the Rebbe was going home. The streets were full of Chassidim dancing and singing as the Rebbe got into the car, driven by Rabbi Krinsky. A few minutes after the Rebbe left 770, the Rebbetzin also left. On the way she privately expressed her appreciation of how strong the Chassidim's attachment was to the Rebbe.

It is hard to describe that night. From all over people came to celebrate. There was dancing and Farbrengrs the whole night. Around one in the

morning Rabbis Sholom Morozov and Yitzchok Springer sat down to farbreng.

On Friday the Rebbe came back for Shabbos and stayed over Shabbos in 770. He came out to the small Bais Medrash for Kriyas HaTorah and Musaf. Downstairs Chassidim farbrenged the whole Shabbos long and this was arranged by Reb Yisroel Duchman, OBM, who worked to make it happen all Friday with a few others.

On Yud-Tes Kislev the Rebbe held his first farbrengen downstairs since the heart attack. Many people said Shehechyanu. The bochurim had been working hard and cleaning for a few days to make the shul Yomtovdik. The farbrengen was short and ended with dollars for the “Tankisten,” the people who manned the Mitzvah “tanks” or campers.

That night a large crowd gathered in Chovevei Torah and farbrenged all night long in honor of the Rebbe’s first farbrengen since the heart attack.

That Chanukah the Rebbe gave dollars as Chanukah gelt. After Minchah on the fifth night of Chanukah, the Rebbe began to give out Chanukah gelt. Lines of people piled up by the double doors. The doctors were shaking their heads, concerned that it was too much for the Rebbe, but the Rebbe ignored their misgivings. The Rebbe gave the secretariat Chanukah gelt and told them to go upstairs and take care of what they had to.

Zos Chanukah,” the last day of Chanukah, at 3:00 in the afternoon, I got a phone call to be in 770. Something was going to happen.

When I got there the Rebbe was speaking, “making up” for the farbrengen we hadn’t had on Simchas Torah. Everyone washed. At the end of the farbrengen the Rebbe gave out Kos Shel Bracha which he wanted everyone to go by and take. All this was very unusual as in those years the Rebbe never farbrenged on Zos Chanukah, and certainly never washed and gave out Kos Shel Brocho.

Later I found out exactly what had happened. The Rebbe had called in Rabbi J.J. Hecht, A”H, earlier that day. He was going to farbreng after Minchah, something he never did on Zos Chanukah in those years, and he needed a “baal sod,” someone who could keep a secret.

The Rebbe explained that concerning secrets there are three kinds of people: Someone who cannot keep a secret, someone you can see is hiding something,

and someone in whom you cannot detect that they are hiding anything. The Rebbe explained that everyone in the secretariat was busy and that Rabbi Hecht should prepare challahs and mashke. Rabbi Hecht asked if he could tell his brother and the Rebbe said all right. When he asked if he could tell his son in Morristown, the Rebbe said it would be like telling the whole world.

It is said that when Rabbi Hecht brought the challahs into the secretaries’ room, they were quite annoyed, not suspecting what they were for. They asked him, “What are we, a storage place?”

Later, a record of the Rebbe’s conversation, based on what Rabbi Hecht had told his son, became public. The Rebbe was insistent on knowing how much everything would cost, challahs and mashke. Rabbi Hecht told him the mashke didn’t cost anything. The Rebbe was insistent on paying until Rabbi Hecht made it perfectly clear that he had a balabos in his shul who provided liquor for a whole year, and that’s why it wouldn’t cost anything.

A few more notes of what occurred in the next two years on the subject of the Rebbe’s recovery.

On the following Rosh Hashana, in the middle of giving out Kos Shel Brocho to a long line of people, the doctors stopped the line, fearful that it was too much of a strain on the Rebbe. Promised the Rebbe, “If anyone jumps over the barrier I will give them double the amount.” Someone jumped the barrier and the Rebbe gave him double. Once again the doctors made a big fuss and stopped the line. This time the Rebbe said, “If anyone jumps over the barrier I will give them triple the amount.” But this time no one did because the doctors did not let.

That year the Rebbe changed how he took pidyonos and gave out lekach. The Rebbe took pidyonos three, four days before Rosh Hashana instead of taking them all on Erev Rosh Hashana as he did every year before. (From then on that became the way it was done.) Instead of giving out lekach only on Erev Yom Kippur and on Hoshana Raba, the Rebbe began giving it out three or four days before, thus spreading it out and avoiding having to do it all on one day. On Erev Yom Kippur and Hoshana Raba the Rebbe only gave out lekach to newly arrived guests.



# TES KISLEV

Farbrenge & Learning is a Pidyon for the Mittler Rebbe  
(See special Days - page 2 - Kislev 9 & 10/Nov 27 & 28)

In a letter my saintly father-in-law, the previous Rebbe, explains the importance of observing the Yartzeit of a Tzadik with learning and Farbrenge. He tells of the Yartzeit of the Mittler Rebbe on Tes Kislev when the Rebbe Rashab said a Ma'amar and then said that the learning and Farbrenge we do on a Yartzeit is a Pidyon Nefesh we give the departed.

It's easy to assume that if it were possible to see the Mittler Rebbe now and give him a Pidyon Nefesh, everyone would rush to do so. And it is indeed possible to do that on this Yartzeit, at this Farbrenge, as well as by studying the teachings of the Rebbe.

And it is fitting that on the day of his Yartzeit we should sing a nigun of the Mittler Rebbe. Among the nigunim attributed to the Mittler Rebbe is the nigun, "Nya Zhuritz Chloptzi." The Rebbe Rashab explained the song: that for the Mittler Rebbe's Chasidim, their only concern was how to reach the "inn" ("...Nya dayadem da karchamka") and when they reached it, they lacked nothing. This means that when we are traveling on the road, and we enter an inn on the way, we can rest, daven and learn with peace of mind. This refers to our traveling now in the time of Golus. All Jews—even those living in Eretz Yisroel are in exile. Along this road there are "inns," the places of the Rebbeim. We must try to minimize the time on the road, and maximize the time at the place of the Rebbe, with the knowledge that nothing is lacking there.

Giving a Pidyon Nefesh isn't only for spiritual things, but even for material things as well. Although the Alter Rebbe in Igeres Ha-Kodesh negates this, as belonging to "true prophets," the Chasidim were unperturbed and continued to ask regarding material needs. And once we know the Alter Rebbe said answering about material things is connected with "true prophets," we then know that the Rebbe's answering about physical things is because he is a "true prophet."

Since there was a Farbrenge in connection with the Yartzeit, and a Nigun attributed to the Mittler Rebbe's Chasidim was sung, and everyone accepted upon himself to learn something from the Mittler Rebbe's Seforim, this is giving a Pidyon to the Rebbe to help not only in spiritual things, but in material things too.

And though the Rebbe is now removed from this world, nevertheless he will affect us even in material things, and give us strength to make from the physical a home for G-dliness.

*(Sichah, Shabbos Yud Kislev 5711)*

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# Yud Tes Kislev ~ The Rosh Hashanah of Chassidus

Wednesday Night/Thursday ~ December 6 & 7

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The Nineteenth of Kislev is the Yahrzeit of our saintly master, R. DovBer, the Maggid of Mezritch, the mentor of the second generation of the Chassidic movement, from 5521 (1761) until his passing on Tuesday, of Parshas Vayeishev, Kislev 19, 5533 (1772). (For a biography in English, see: R. Jacob Immanuel Schochet, the Great Maggid (Kehot, N.Y. 1974))

R. Shneur Zalman of Liadi, the Alter Rebbe, author of the Tanya, founder and first leader of the Chabad Chassidic movement from 5533 (1772) until his passing on Teves 24, 5573 (1812), was released from his first imprisonment on Kislev 19, late in the afternoon Tuesday of Parshas Vayeishev, 5559 (1798).

The Alter Rebbe writes in a letter: "...This indeed must be made known, that on the day which HaShem made for us, on the nineteenth of Kislev; on the third day of the week (about which the Torah writes twice, "It is good") on the Yahrzeit of our holy master (the Maggid of Mezritch), whose soul reposes in Eden

On that day, while I was reading the verse in the Book of Tehillim that begins, "he has redeemed my soul in peace" (55:19), and before I began the following verse, I went forth in peace through the G-d of Peace." (For an account of his arrest and liberation see: R. Nissan Mindel, Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi (Kehot, N.Y., 1971)

"One ought to prepare oneself for the approach of the Rosh Hashanah of chassidus in ways that recall the days of Selichos and the month of Elul." (Sichah Yud-Tes Kislev, 5707)

"It's a custom for Chassidim to immerse in the Mikveh before Shacharis on the nineteenth of Kislev, keeping the practice handed down by the earliest Chassidim in the name of the Baal Shem tov, to go to the Mikveh before Shabbos and YomTov, and on Shabbos and YomTov morning." (Sefer Haminhagim)

The Rebbe Rashab used to make an appeal for charitable purposes during the Farbrengen of Yud-Tes Kislev. (Sefer Hasichos: Toras Shalom, p. 243)

It's customary to divide the Mesechtas of Shas, on Yud-Tes Kislev, to study in the course of the coming year.

The Alter Rebbe writes in the letter "Hocheiach Tochiach", that closes Kuntres Acharon at the end of Tanya: "Complete the study of the entire Talmud every year and in every community, the Mesechtos apportioned by lot or by consent. In a city where there are many shuls, each congregation should complete the Talmud. and if a congregation is too small to implement this, they should join forces with men of a larger one. This program shall be neither violated nor varied."

From 5663 (1902) on, because of lack of time on Yud-Tes Kislev, the division of the Shas in Lubavitch was done on Teves 24, Yahrzeit of the Alter Rebbe. In 5713 (1952), fifty years later, the Rebbe, restored the custom to its original date, Yud-Tes Kislev.

Those whose community, for whatever reason, too small to cope with the entire Talmud, participate in the division arranged by Machne Israel, 770 Eastern Parkway. Brooklyn, NY 11213.

Rosh Hashanah LeChassidus is a day when everyone should bless their family and friends with: "May you be written and sealed for a good year in the study of Chassidus, and the ways of Chassidus."

We should start learning the HaYom Yom everyday.

In the Farbrengen of Yud Tes Kislev we should have the 3 pillars of Torah, Avodah, and Gimilas Chasodim.

Torah: is to learn from the teachings of the Alter Rebbe, especially a Maamar, the Chassidic discourse, which is connected to Geulah, starting with the words: Padah Beshalom.

Tefillah: also includes saying Lechaim to bless other people (even if they are not present).

Tzedakah: Kind deeds, is to give Tzedakah by the Farbrengen and saying kind words to another person is also a kind deed. (Farbrengen of Yud Tes Kislev, 5749/1988)

Everyone should make Yud Tes Kislev farbrengens: with himself, with his family and with his friends. (Shabbos Parshas Yishlach - 16th Kislev, 5752/1991)

The Rebbe always stressed Shiurim of Chitas and the daily schedule is written in back of the Tanya.

### Stories of Yud-Tes Kislev ~ From Various Sichos

R' Yisroel Yitzchok of Staradov, a Chasid of R' Menachem Mendel of Horodok, became a Chasid of the Alter Rebbe. He was of such stature among Chasidim that even when there were restrictions about coming to the Alter Rebbe, he was exempt and could come whenever he wished.

In 5559 (1798) he was in Liozna for Tishrei. When he saw the black coach to take the Alter Rebbe to prison he shouted, "The Shechinah is exiled!" he said Shema and fainted. They couldn't revive him. Someone had an idea, to shout to him that the Rebbe was free and had returned. R' Yisroel Yitzchok awoke, but was very weak. He couldn't return home by foot, but had to go by wagon.

The entire time the Alter Rebbe was in prison the Chasidim fasted. In Staradov, on the night of Yud Tes Kislev they made a farbrengen for the Magid's Yartzeit, but by day they fasted.

R' Yisroel Yitzchok said: R' Menachem Mendel of Horodok came to him in a dream and said, "Although you are no longer my Chasid, I will reveal to you a secret: Tonight, we were in the Heichal of the Magid, the Ba'al Shem Tov sat on his right and the AriZal on his left. The Magid said Chasidus and began to cry. He said, "My student, the Magid of Liozna, is in prison; we must do something. Suddenly R' Shimon Bar Yochai came and they made a Beis Din and ruled that the Alter Rebbe must be freed." The Chasidim wondered whether they should continue fasting, and in fact they did. This was Tuesday. On Sunday a messenger came and told them the Alter Rebbe was free.

(Sichas of the Friediker Rebbe, Shavuot 5696)

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The Alter Rebbe was arrested in 5559. It would have been years earlier, but when the Tzadik R' Zushye of Anipoli found out about the decree, he said, "Zushye doesn't want it." The decree was delayed several years.

The same decree was on many of the Magid's disciples. The Alter Rebbe accepted it and R' Zushye said, "Zushye doesn't want it."

(Sichah of the Friediker Rebbe, Yud Tes Kislev 5687)

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When they were going to arrest Mittler Rebbe, there was a Professor Haybentaub, who was very close with the Governor of Vitebsk. The professor told the governor that they can't make a sudden arrest and separation of the Rebbe from his Chassidim, because the arrest itself won't harm him, but the fact that he won't be able to say words of Chasidus will be a danger to his health. Professor Haybentaub convinced the Government that they should give the Rebbe permission to say Chasidus. (See page 2, Kislev 10). The Mittler Rebbe said of the ar-

rest, “I do not have the strength of my father. My father agreed to be arrested because he wanted to test the brotherly love of Chasidim. How would they accept his arrest?”

The Friediker Rebbe said, “I once told my father this. He said, “I searched through Seforim to find how it’s permitted according to Torah, to put oneself in danger to see the Midos and brotherly love of Chasidim.”

My father concluded that a shepherd of B’nei Yisroel must know what is happening with his flock. “If the Alter Rebbe would have known this was missing from Chasidim he would have to correct it. To do this it was worth putting himself in danger.” The Rebbe Rashab said the brotherly love of Chasidim is their nature; if someone’s missing this he is blemished, as if someone would be born missing a limb, Chas V’Shalom. (Sichah Yud Kislev 5697)

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On the first anniversary of Yud Tes Kislev chasidim didn’t know what would happen. The Alter Rebbe’s brother R’ Yehudah Leib, wrote that no one should come for Yud Tes Kislev or the Shabbosim before. The Chasidim knew they wouldn’t say Tachnun, but didn’t know if it would be a Yom Tov. The emissary who collected money for Chabad in Israel, R’ Yaakov Smilianer, gave this advice: they should collect money faster than usual; he’d bring it to the Alter Rebbe early and try to rescind the decree. He succeeded and many Chasidim came for Yud Tes Kislev.

The Alter Rebbe said a Ma’amar, “And next year they established it as a Yom Tov.” (as the Gemara says about Chanukah.) (Sichah of the Friediker Rebbe, Yud Tes Kislev 5697)

The Rebbe explained that since he connected Yud Tes Kislev to Chanukah, it teaches us that just as Chanukah will exist after Moshiach comes, so too will the Tom Tov of Yud Tes Kislev. (Vayeishev 5717).

\* \* \*

R’ Izek of Vitebsk told the Rebbe Maharash: On the first anniversary Chasidim gathered in Liozna and it was very joyous. The Rebbe’s grandson, the Tzemach Tzedek, came into the room, pounded on the table, “Atah Hareisah.” The Chasidim divided Atah Hareisah among themselves and dances Hakofos with a Sefer Torah until late at night. The Alter Rebbe heard of this and was very pleased. He called his grandson, put his holy hand on his head and blessed him: “He will reveal the Torah SheBa’alPeh of the Torah SheBichsav of Toras Chasidus Chabad.” (Kitzurim V’Horos of Tanya, Page 124)

The Tzemach Tzedek explained: in his youth he wanted to divide the Tanya into Pesukim and to put in Nekudos. “That night I dreamt I was learning the laws of a Sefer Torah. The question arose if a Torah had Nekudos and was divided into Pesukim was it kosher? I resolved that it was. I woke up and understood the hint.

That day I was to go into the Alter Rebbe’s room. When I stood at the threshold, he said “A Torah with Nekudos and Pesukim is invalid because the entire Torah is names of Hashem put together in combinations of words and letters.” (Kitzurim V’Horos of Tanya, Page 107)

**“May you be written and sealed for a good year in the study of Chasidus, and the ways of Chassidus.”**

## **Listen Brother, Don’t Fall Asleep Before Daybreak (Moshiach)**

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My father frequently recalled, the sicha of Yud Tes Kislev of the year 5699, December 1938. The Rebbe gave them two examples for the period which we are now in. The first example was of someone who was climbing a mountain and was almost at the peak. Those last few steps are the hardest to take and overcome. At that time any small thing is precious - a clump of grass, a stone, a twig, something to hold onto with your body. If someone can give you a hand to help you, give you some light and show you how to go those few extra steps, then this is something very precious.

The same thing, we are now right before Moshiach, the last few steps. Every good thing we have to keep precious, we have to have the light to help us succeed. What is the light that helps us succeed? It is the light of Torah and Mitzvos. Setting for yourself a time to learn. We are holding just before Moshiach. There are only a few more steps and any good things that we can do hastens his coming.

The second example was of a person who doesn't sleep a whole night and then in the last 10-15 minutes before daylight he has a compelling desire to sleep. If a person could only push himself not to fall asleep during that time and then if during the day he could push himself more and not fall asleep then he can accomplish what he is supposed to, but if he falls asleep before daybreak then the whole day is lost. His sleepiness affects him for the whole day and his mind is not clear. So too us now, we are just minutes away from Moshiach coming. Before the light of the day (Moshiach) we get very sleepy spiritually. No one knows a din, We have to strengthen ourselves not to fall asleep! Everyone has to set aside time every day to learn. We have to give off Terumah and Maseros of time, tithing of our time, to learn! It's not enough that we support Yeshivos and others to learn on our behalf, which is a very good and important thing to do. But we ourselves must learn! A day can not pass in which we don't learn something. You can not prepare yourself to go to sleep at night and to say Krias Shema without at least learning 1/2 an hour during the day. This is intrinsically connected to our Parnossah. We have to know that we have to designate time to learn (in Beis Medrash, in a Shiur) and then we will not fall asleep before daybreak Chas V'Sholom. We will be a vessel to receive the light of the Day (Moshiach). This is an obligation on every single Jew to know. When you meet another Jew you have to tell him - Listen Brother don't fall asleep before Daybreak. because then when the light of Day will come, you will be very upset.

## ASKING FOR RAIN ~ ותן טל ומטר לברכה

We ask HaShem for rain, (ותן טל ומטר), in the weekday Shemoneh Esrei, in the Brachah Mevareich HaShanim.

Outside of Eretz Yisrael, we begin to ask for rain sixty days after Tekufas Tishrei, the Jewish Autumnal Equinox. (In the twenty-first century, Tekufas Tishrei is always on October 7 —the sixty-day count includes the day of the Tekufah, and the day we begin to ask).

This year we start saying “V’sein Tal Umatar” in Ma’ariv on **Thursday night, December 4.**

<b>If you forget to say it before finishing the Brachah ‘Mevareich Hashanim’:</b>	Go back to “V’sein Tal Umatar L’verachah and continue from there.
<b>If you finished the Brachah (and haven’t started the next):</b>	Say “V’sein Tal Umatar L’verachah” and start the next brochah.
<b>If you started the next Brachah:</b>	Say “V’sein Tal Umatar L’verachah” in ‘Shema Koleinu’ before “Ki ata shomeah tefilas kolpe”
<b>If you finished ‘Shema Koleinu’ (but haven’t started the next Brachah):</b>	Say “V’sein Tal Umatar L’verachah” and continue with R’zei.
<b>If you started the next Brachah:</b>	Start again from ‘Baruch Aleinu’.
<b>If you haven’t yet said the second Viyihyu Liratzon” (at the end of Elokei Nitzur):</b>	Start again from ‘Baruch Aleinu’.
<b>If you remember after completing Elokei Nitzur and reciting the second Viyihyu Lratzon:</b>	Say the Shemoneh Esrei again.

# CHANUKAH: LAWS & CUSTOMS

TUESDAY NIGHT ~ WEDNESDAY / DECEMBER 12 ~ 20

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## WHEN TO LIGHT

The First Night of Chanukah is on **Tuesday Night, December 12.**

The Chabad Minhag is to light the Menorah immediately after sunset [except on Friday and Motzei Shabbos] and have the lights burn at least fifty minutes. If you can't light then, you may light all night.

If you won't be able to Daven Minchah and Maariv with a Minyan if you light at the right time, daven with a Minyan, then go home and light.

If you'll miss the opportunity for Mivtzoim, light at home afterwards. (Try to light during the first half hour after nightfall.)

You may light with a Brachah from after Plag Haminchah, but make sure the lights will burn a half hour after nightfall.

Once it's time to light, you can't work, sit down to eat a meal, or even learn Torah, until you light. If you're out visiting, go home to light the Menorah. (An overnight guest lights in his host's home.)

## HOW TO LIGHT

Gather everyone to light the Menorah, (to publicize the celebration of the miracle.)

Our custom is to put the Menorah in the doorway, opposite the Mezuzah of the dining room (not in a window).

Put the Menorah between three to ten Tefachim (9.6 to 32 inches) from the floor.

Make sure the Menorah is in a place where a breeze won't blow out the flames. The candles shouldn't be so close to each other that they melt.

We use olive oil for the lights and a beeswax candle for the Shamash.

Make sure the Shamash stands higher than the other candles; the other flames should be in a straight even row. Some people put in new wicks every night; others use used wicks, since they light more easily.

Oil left over in the Menorah from one day can be used another day.

You can't do the Mitzvah with electric lights.

Before lighting, make sure there's enough oil (or that the candles are long enough) to burn fifty minutes after sunset.

Children should be taught to light Chanukah Licht. Boys from the age of Chinuch should light their own Menorah. Girls follow their family's custom.

“The custom of the Households of the Rebbeim was that the girls didn't light Chanukah Lights (neither those over or under Bas Mitzvah), but fulfilled their obligation through their fathers and later their husbands.” [Sichah, Shabbos, Vayeishev, 5750]

A single woman living alone must light Chanukah candles.

We wear a Gartel (but not Shabbos clothes).

On the first night we light the Shamash and say three Brachos:

- “**Lehadlik Ner Chanukah**” (NOT “Shel Chanukah”)
- “**She-asah Nisim**”
- “**Shehechiyanu**”

Light the Menorah after **ALL** the Brachos. (Don't talk between the Brachos and lighting.)

On the other nights, say only the first *two* Brachos.

On the first night, light the candle to the extreme right. Every night add a new light to the left of the

previous light, lighting from left to right (the new candle first.)

We say “Haneiros Halalu” after lighting ALL the candles.

Try to sit by the Menorah for about half an hour (except on Erev Shabbos).

We can't make ANY use of the Chanukah candles, such as reading or working by their light.

If a candle hasn't burned the required time, re-light it without a Brachah, (except on Shabbos). If the Shamash goes out, you can't relight it from the Chanukah candles (nor can you light any candles from each other).

Women have the custom not to work while the candles burn. After the minimum time, they may do work, but not in full view of the lights.

Let the Chanukah candles burn out themselves.

If you leave the house and you're afraid to leave them burning, make a condition before lighting, that you'll be able to put them out after the required time. If the Menorah burned the required time, you can move it even while the lights are burning.

If you come home late at night, you can light the Menorah with the Brachos, if people in the house are awake. Otherwise, wake someone (even a small child who understands what Chanukah lights are).

## **AFTER LIGHTING**

It's customary to give our children Chanukah Gelt.

“...The Rebbe RaShaB used to give Chanukah Gelt on the Fourth and Fifth Night of Chanukah”. [Hayom Yom]

“...The previous Rebbe used to give Chanukah Gelt to his daughters, even after they married, and to his sons-in-law.” [Sichah, Kislev 21, 5748]

“...It's worthwhile to give children Chanukah Gelt at least two times throughout Chanukah (every night would be even nicer, including Erev

Shabbos before Shabbos) and on the Fifth Night to add.” [Sichah, Chanukah 5750]

“...They should explain to them that the Chanukah Gelt is so that they'll add in their Torah learning, etc.” [Sichah, Kislev 21, 5748]

We eat Latkes or doughnuts fried in oil. Some eat Milchigs because of the miracle of Yehudis who killed the Syrian general, putting him to sleep with dairy foods.

There's a question if we must eat a Seudah on Chanukah. Of course, if you say Divrei Torah or sing songs of praise to HaShem, it becomes a Seudas Mitzvah according to all opinions.

“The Tzemach Tzedek's custom was to make a kind of Farbrengen, one of the nights of Chanukah, with his family. It was called “Latkes Evening”. This was also the custom of the Alter Rebbe and the Mittlerer Rebbe. Among the stories the Rebbeim told at this meal, were stories that they talked about every year, even though they talked about them the year before.” [Hayom Yom]

Everyone should make Chanukah gathering in their homes, with family, in school and in the work place. People should gather together at least once to speak about Chanukah and to make good resolutions about Torah and Mitzvos and to give out Chanukah gelt. [21 Kislev 5748, 23 Kislev, 5749]

## **LIGHTING IN SHUL**

We light the Menorah in Shul after Minchah before “Aleinu”. We put the Menorah on the south wall, between east and west, to commemorate the Beis Hamikdash.

There should be a Minyan to say the Brachos.

The person who makes the Brachos, and lights the Shul's Menorah, says the Brachos again at home. Since he says “Shehechianu” in Shul, he doesn't say it again at home —unless his household fulfills their obligation through him.

We light the Menorah before Shacharis, without a Brachah.

## SHABBOS

Prepare everything well in advance.

On Erev Shabbos we daven Minchah early, light the Menorah, and then the Shabbos Candles.

Make sure to light the Menorah **before** lighting the Shabbos candles.

Make sure it can burn at least fifty minutes past sunset. (The little Chanukah candles that come in the box are just not going to make it.)

On Shabbos the Menorah is Muktzeh, and can't be moved.

On Motzoei Shabbos we daven Maariv promptly because we must light the Menorah.

In Shul we light after Maariv before "Aleinu", and say Havdalah. At home, say Havdalah, light the Menorah, say "Haneiros Halalu", and then "Vayitein Lecha".

## TEFILLOS

Add "Al Hanisim" in Shemoneh Esrei. If you forget it say it before finishing the Brachah "Hatov Shimcha ULecha Naeh Lihodos", and continue. If you finished the Brachah, don't repeat it.

Don't skip "Al Hanisim" in Shemoneh Esrei, to be able to say "Kedushah" or "Modim" with the Minyan.

We say the complete Hallel. (An Aveil [mourner] may Daven for the Amud except for Hallel.)

We read part of Parshas Naso every day to commemorate the dedication of the Beis Hamikdash. (See Siddur)

Add "Al Hanisim" in Bentsching. If you forgot it, you can say it before finishing the Brachah of "Nodeh Lecha".

If you've finish the Brachah, when you get to the Harachamons, say "Harachamon Hu Yaaseh Lanu Nisim Kemo She-asah La'avoseinu Bayamim Haheim Bizman Hazeh", and begin "Al Hanisim".

We give extra Tzedakah on Chanukah.

## ZOS CHANUKAH

**Tuesday Night ~ Wednesday**

**December 19 ~ 20**

The last day of Chanukah is called Zos Chanukah.

We should learn from the Maamorim of the Alter Rebbe with the notes of the Tzemach Tzedek explaining the greatness of Zos Chanukah.... [Ohr HaTorah - Chanukah vol. 5] [Zos Chanukah, 5749]

"Everyone should take upon themselves a good resolution to add in greater strength in all aspects of Ner Mitzvah and Torah Ohr. Starting with learning Torah, both Nigleh and Chassidus: simply to learn a lot. The quality of learning and the quantity of time. Through taking off of time from business to learn the Aibeshter will surely give one an abundance of silver and gold for all one's necessities, and to do Mitzvos B'Hidur, ie. paying for tuition, dowry for marrying off one's sons and daughters etc. A persons involvement with spreading Yiddishkeit shouldn't be hindered by expenses, because Hashem will surely find enough silver and gold to cover all his expenses for whatever he needs. (*Shabbos Zos Chanukah 5750*)

Zos Chanukah is a time for blessing someone not yet blessed with children. This is because Chanukah is a time of the revelation of the thirteen attributes of mercy. These are reflected in the thirteen words of the Brachah, "Lehadlik Ner Chanukah." (*Shabbos Parshas Miketz, Zos Chanukah 5713/1952*)

In the sefer, Meor Einayim, R. Menachem Nachum of Chernobyl writes that the pasuk, "Orachti Ner Lemishichai," - "I prepare a candle for my anointed one (Moshiach)," refers to Chanukah Candles.

Oil or wicks left over in the Menorah can't be used (unless, before lighting, you specified intention to be able to use them). They should be burned without deriving benefit. The oil in the bottle can be used for any purpose.

***Always practice safety first near flames!***

*The Halochos in this newsletter are only meant as a general guide. For individual questions please contact your local Rabbi.*



# Kislev 5778 Calendar

**Rosh Chodesh Kislev**  
**Kislev 1/November 19/Sunday**

**Vayeitzei**

**Kislev 7/November 25**

Light Candles Friday November 24: **4:26**  
Shabbos Ends: **5:29**  
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:07**

**Vayishlach**

**Kislev 14/December 2**

Light Candles Friday December 1: **4:25**  
Shabbos Ends: **5:28**  
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:11**

**Start saying V'sein Tal Umatar**  
**L'Brochah - Ma'ariv Monday night**  
**Kislev 17/Dec 4**

**Yud Tes Kislev**

**Kislev 19/December 6 & 7**

**Wednesday Night - Thursday**  
**Redemption of the Alter Rebbe**  
No Tachnun

**Complete Redemption of the**  
**Alter Rebbe**  
**First Printing of the Tanya**  
**Kislev 20/December 8/Friday**

**Vayeishev**

**Kislev 21/December 9**

Light Candles Friday December 8: **4:25**  
Shabbos Ends: **5:28**  
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:16**

**Erev Chanukah**

**Kislev 24/December 12/Tuesday**

We light the first candle tonight

Plag Haminchah: **3:42**

Sunset: **4:44**

(Plag Hamincha & Sunset  
change daily during Chanukah -  
check calendar times)

**Chanukah**

**Kislev 25 - Teves 2/  
December 12-20**

**Mikeitz**

**Shabbos Chanukah**

**Mevarchim Teves**

**Kislev 28/December 16**

Light Candles Friday December 15: **4:27**  
Tehillim: **8:15**  
Shachris: **10:00**  
Shabbos Ends: **5:30**  
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:20**

**Molad of Teves**

**Monday/ December 18/  
1:41 (1 chelek) pm**

**Rosh Chodesh Teves Day One**  
**Kislev 30/December 18/Monday**

**Rosh Chodesh Teves Day 2**  
**Teves 1/December 19/Tuesday**

**Zos Chanukah**

**Teves 2/December 20/Wednesday**

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## Directives of the Rebbe for Kislev - המעשה הוא העיקר

In the month of Kislev from Rosh Chodesh onward everybody should add in their Shiurim of Nigleh and Chassidus, if possible in a public manner. It should be from the teachings of the three founders of Chassidus, the Ba'al Shem Tov, the Magid, and the Alter Rebbe. Those that are capable should also add something everyday from the Torah of each of the Rebbeim. (*Sichos Kodesh 5749/1988*)

Aside from our own learning we, men and women, should see to it that others add in their learning too. (*Rosh Chodesh and Gimmel Kislev 5749*)

On special Yomim Tovim we should first learn Torah of the Rebbe for whom the day is significant, then add from the rest of the Rebbeim, e.g. Yud Kislev we should first learn from the Torah of the Mittlerer Rebbe, then add from the rest of the Rebbeim.

Make Farbrengens during the month of Kislev. Especially on the Yomim Tovim of Yud Kislev, and Yud Tes Kislev (*and Chanukah*). The Farbrengens should include the three pillars of the world, Torah, Tefillah and Gemilas Chasodim. (*Sichah Yud Kislev 5748, Yud Tes Kislev 5749*)

The Rebbe constantly stressed on Yud Tes Kislev that we should strengthen our learning of Chittas, especially since we are starting a new cycle of learning Tanya.

We should increase our involvement with Mivtzah Chanukah, distributing Menorahs etc.

*May we immediately merit to participate  
in the lighting of the Menorah  
in the Beis Hamikdash*