

SPARKS

CHABAD OF GREENSBORO | JUNE 2023 / SIVAN 5783



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Dear Community Member,

As we celebrate the year of Hakhel, we are thrilled to report on the many successes we have experienced together. From our dynamic holiday events to our inspiring educational programs, we have seen our community flourish in countless ways.

We are especially proud of our efforts to bring people together and foster a sense of unity and connection. Through our outreach and community initiatives, we have deepened our bonds with one another and with Hashem. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. Sincerely,

Rabbi Yosef & Hindy Plotkin
Co-Directors

RECIPE

BABA GANOUSH

Ingredients:

- » 2 medium eggplants
- » 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- » 3 teaspoons salt
- » 4 cloves garlic



Directions:

1. Pre-heat oven to 425°F
2. Using a fork, poke holes into the eggplant. Wrap eggplants in aluminum foil and Roast for 40 to 45 minutes or until very soft.
3. Scoop out flesh and drain excess liquid.
4. In a food processor fitted with the S-blade, blend eggplant, mayonnaise, salt and garlic until creamy.

PURIM CELEBRATIONS FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES

As a premier community organization, Chabad serves people of all ages and stages. This was most apparent on Purim, which featured a series of programs, each one catering to a different demographic within the wider Jewish family.

In advance of the joyous holiday, the seniors at the Well-Spring Retirement Community donned aprons and baked up a batch of tasty hamantaschen together with young visitors from Chabad, sharing memories of Purims gone by and creating fresh ones with their new friends.

Then as darkness fell and Purim began, the traditional



Megillah reading was followed by a dairy break-fast spread for members of the Chabad Young Professional community. The entertainment included a mind reader, an open bar, and more.

Then the following day, the Megillah reading was followed by Purim in the Circus, in which families got their fill of Purim fun, including pony rides, a circulating juggler and clown, face painting and other forms of entertainment.

“Our community is diverse and so are their needs,” explains Rebbetzin Hindy Plotkin. “Chabad is the home of every Jew, and we make sure to provide what it takes so that every Jew feels at home, welcomed, and included.”

FURNITURE PROFESSIONALS FIND A JEWISH OASIS

For years, Greg Jaron, a furniture retailer who lives in suburban Philadelphia, has been attending the semi-annual International Home Furnishings Market in High Point, N.C. The sprawling market spans several city blocks of showrooms and is the place to be for professionals in the furniture and home decorating industries.

Jaron recalls the challenges of attending the market as a religious Jew in years gone by. “I’d have to pack all my kosher food with me and carry it around at the market,” says Jaron, whose family-owned stores are in New Jersey, just across the Delaware River from his hometown. “And on Shabbat, I’d be all alone in my hotel room with cold food and a bottle of grape juice.”

Over the last decade, he has joined hundreds of other attendees who enjoy fresh kosher meals, prayer services and a welcoming place to share a hot coffee and warm conversation with fellow Jewish attendees.

Rabbi Yosef and Hindy Plotkin, co-directors of Chabad-Lubavitch of Greensboro, have been operating a Chabad center at High Point since 2012 amid the 11.5 million square feet of show space that attracts over 75,000 people from more than 100 countries.

During the fair, as many as 100 Jews gather daily for meals, while many others stop by to put on tefillin, schmooze or hear a quick Torah thought before heading to their next meeting.

Since 2015, the Plotkins have been operating a similar Jewish oasis at the Showtime Market, which serves the textile industry.



With fairgoers representing just about every subset of the Jewish world, Jaron notes that people joke that High Point has its own nusach (“prayer rite”), Nusach High Point, a hybrid of Ashkenaz, Syrian, Chassidic, Persian and the customs of all who come together to worship in the showroom-turned-Chabad Center.

A MUCH-NEEDED BREAK ON SHABBAT

The Plotkins regularly open their Chabad House on the Shabbat coinciding with the market so that Jewish visitors can enjoy a much-needed 25-hour break from the event’s constant bustle.

Through spending Shabbat at Chabad, Jaron has come to know local community members who have reached out to visitors and gone out of their way to accommodate them. For instance, when Jaron needed to recite Kaddish on a yahrzeit just before the market was set to open and there weren’t enough attendees to form a quorum of 10 men (a Jewish

requirement for public prayer), Rabbi Plotkin gathered locals to ensure Jaron could fulfill his obligation.

“Thank G-d for Rabbi Plotkin for bringing Yiddishkeit to High Point,” says Jaron. “And thank G-d for the Rebbe [Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory], who had the wisdom to send couples like the Plotkins all over the world.”

CHABAD PULSATING WITH PASSOVER PREPS AND PLEASURE

Chabad of Greensboro organized various activities to ensure that everyone, especially those on the margins of our community, celebrated the Festival of Freedom.

Before Passover, volunteers from Chabad delivered shmurah matzah to every Jewish home in Greensboro.



The Friendship Circle, a program that pairs teen volunteers with children with special needs, also prepared for Passover with a story walk, in which they read *The Big Pesach Book* until they arrived at the “bakery” for their model matzah bakery experience. They also made Pesach pillows by tie-dyeing pillowcases to use at the Seder.



On the Sunday before Passover, the Cteen group, a club for Jewish teens, had a “chopped” competition. The teens had to cook a kosher for Pesach meal using four seder items (saltwater, parsley, horseradish, and eggs).

Three judges, Jen Sadock, Michele Gordon, and Tylie Friedland, evaluated their dishes based on taste, presentation, and creativity. The winners were Chevi Plotkin and Sam Applebaum.

Chabad also provided seder To-Go kits for those who could not attend a communal seder. The kits contained all the essentials for making a seder at home, such as a seder plate, a Haggadah, grape juice, and matzah.



A communal seder was held at Chabad for over 70 people. The seder featured insights from Rabbi Plotkin, spirited singing, good conversation, and Hindy Plotkin’s famous catering.



On the second day of Chol Hamoed, the intermediate days of Passover, Chabad hosted a Passover Family Fair in the parking lot of A&B Fixtures. The fair featured

*The Friendship Circle, a program that pairs teen volunteers with children with special needs, also prepared for Passover with a story walk, in which they read *The Big Pesach Book* until they arrived at the “bakery” for their model matzah bakery experience*

carnival rides, pony rides, arts and crafts stations, and kosher for Passover food.

The fair was open to the public and attracted even more families than last year, when the program was inaugurated.

Chabad also held minyan services every day during the 8 days of Passover. One day, a baby naming ceremony was conducted for Chabad members Alison

and Spencer Turkin’s new baby girl, Elisha Penina. Mazal tov to the Turkins and to the extended Greensboro Jewish family!

G A N I Z Z Y S U M M E R 2 0 2 3

H A P P Y C A M P E R



WEEK 1
J E W I S H

MONDAY
JUNE 19
Welcome!
MEET YOUR AWESOME COUNSELORS!!

TUESDAY
JUNE 20
TRIP DAY
INFINITE DANCE

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 21
TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND!

THURSDAY
JUNE 22
All-A-Flutter Farms LLC (YOUNGER)
KESSEY VALLEY Live Your Adventure! (OLDER)

FRIDAY
JUNE 23
SHABBAT PARTY

WEEK 2
S H A R E

MONDAY
JUNE 26
SURPRISE VISITOR

TUESDAY
JUNE 27
Celebration Station
TRIP DAY CELEBRATION STATION

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 28
BAKE SALE

THURSDAY
JUNE 29
ROLLER SKATING

FRIDAY
JUNE 30
SHABBAT PARTY

WEEK 3
S M I L E

MONDAY
JULY 3
SURPRISE VISITOR

TUESDAY
JULY 4
TRIP DAY
TRAMPOLINE PARK

WEDNESDAY
JULY 5
PREPARE FOR CGI
SHABBAT DINNER!

THURSDAY
JULY 6
(OLDER) BUMPER CARS
(YOUNGER) BOWLING

FRIDAY
JULY 7
SHABBAT PARTY

WEEK 4
G R O W

MONDAY
JULY 10
SURPRISE VISITOR

TUESDAY
JULY 11
TRIP DAY
BOAT RIDE

WEDNESDAY
JULY 12
GLOW IN THE DARK
SOCCER

THURSDAY
JULY 13
ICE SKATING

FRIDAY
JULY 14
SHABBAT PARTY

WEEK 5
F U N

MONDAY
JULY 17
SURPRISE VISITOR

TUESDAY
JULY 18
TRIP DAY
WET & WILD
CGI FAREWELL COOKOUT

WEDNESDAY
JULY 19
WATER SLIDES
PICTURE COLLAGING

THURSDAY
JULY 20
ROCK THE SPECTRUM
(OLDER) LEVEL UP

FRIDAY
JULY 21
SHABBAT PARTY

Sports Swimming CGI Electives Smiles on Seniors Trip Days Challah Baking

*All trips and activities subject to change









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