

MARCH | 2020

SEMI- ANNUAL REPORT PESACH 5780 - SPRING 2020

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BOCA BEACH CHABAD

The Best Today

Message from Rabbi Ruvi New

Dear Friend,

For now, as of this writing, life as we know it (or knew it..) is on hold. Answers to explain the mystery of this all, we don't have. We humbly acknowledge the Hand of Providence in everything that happens, including this unprecedented global phenomenon. But while answers are in short supply, responses are not. So rather than lament about what was, and speculate about what will be, the best response is: what can I do today to make the best today.

Here at Boca Beach Chabad, we have mobilized to do just that. Volunteers have reached out to hundreds with a friendly phone call and inquiry as to whatever needs someone may have. We have set up a free Pesach food distribution center as well as a shopping and errand service for those who are homebound. We have reached thousands through our online educational programs via social media platforms and zoom. We have brought members of the business community together to assess employment opportunities for those who have been laid off. We have sent hundreds of Shmurah Matzahs and distributed emergency funds to help people with their Passover needs. We have witnessed an extraordinary community/family rise to the occasion and demonstrate that "social distancing" has only made us closer, stronger and more connected to each other.

With the onset of the month of Nissan- the month of miracles, the arrival of Pesach- the Festival of Freedom and the spring season, bringing vibrant color to the world, it is our firm belief that on the other side of the present, is a miraculous, freer, more vibrant future.

We are so proud to be a part of a community that cares, that shares, that is growing and loving.

While we are grateful for all the technology that enables us to stay connected, we eagerly look forward to being liberated from our "zoom room", and being in each other's company, celebrating life together, in person...

And may Hashem bless us that we see the realization of last years' end of Seder declaration – "L'Shana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim"– "Next year in Jerusalem", this year, in the streets of Jerusalem filled with people and joyous celebration.

Wishing you Chag Sameach and Good Yom Tov,

Rabbi Ruvi and Ahuva New



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Dear Friends and Partners,

In the fall of 2019 the Boca Beach Chabad Advisory Board was formed with an eye to the implementation of a more corporate-like approach to the management of our Chabad. Having reached our twenty year milestone, the necessity of tasking willing and trusted lay people as a source of information gathering and the generation of ideas to advance our Shul was a goal whose time had come.

In the ensuing months we have engaged in a thorough review of Shul finances, security, staffing, and other matters including the ongoing battle over the right to possess the property at 770 E. Palmetto Park Rd. That fight continues as we now weigh our options moving forward. More on that in the future.

And then came Coronavirus/COVID-19.

As this pandemic developed we began implementation of protocols in order to keep our Shul as safe as possible - until "as safe as possible" meant the closing of the Shul until further notice. This is a very sad and disheartening turn of events but let's look at it this way:

Pesach celebrates the exodus of our ancestors from Egypt after centuries of enslavement and torture. Who ultimately won? WE DID. And just as Hashem guided us to freedom then, he will certainly guide us to freedom now from forced confinement in our homes, and in much less than four hundred years. In the meantime, make sure you have Netflix, Amazon Prime video and most importantly, Zoom, so you can tune in to Rabbi New's 10 Minutes of Torah (10 minutes? Really?) his pre and post Shabbat musicals, Ahuva's Torah & Tea, and many of the other things you love about our Chabad.

On a personal note, My son-in-law's father OBM passed away early morning on Shabbat, March 28th. The next day, Sunday morning, as I was putting the finishing touches to this report, Rabbi New announced the death on our "Minyanaires" WhatsApp group. Instantaneously, condolences came rushing in from dozens of our congregants. Not only on WhatsApp, but via text, email, and old-fashioned phone calls! This is a stark illustration - even in this difficult time of personal quarantine and social distancing - of how united, how connected, and how strong our bonds are to each other, to our Shul, to Rabbi New, and how strong his bond is to us. In these uncommonly challenging times, we are all very blessed to have this.

Everybody is anxious for this virus to run its course and go away so we can once again congregate together on Shabbos, for davening, and for special events. Take heart, it won't be long until we will be saying L'chaim together again!

Until then... be smart, follow the protocols we have all heard ad infinitum and stay safe.

L'hitraot and have a good Pesach

לשנה הבאה....

PERRY BIRMAN

President, Boca Beach Chabad Advisory Borard

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