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ליובאוויטש

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ברוקלין, נ.י.

By the Grace of G-d
Erev Shabbos & Parshas
Shekolim, 5738
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Landow Yeshiva Lubavitch
Educational Center
1140 Alton Road
Miami Beach, Fla. 33139

To All Participants in the
Tenth Annual Scholarship Banquet

Greeting and Blessing:

I was pleased to be informed of this important event, which is significantly taking place this coming Motzoei Shabbos Parshas Shekolim.

The Mitzvah of the Half-Shekel contribution for the maintenance of the sacred services of the Beis Hamikdash, which was also the seat of the Sanhedrin, the Supreme Torah Authority, is signified in the Torah-portion read this Shabbos as Kofer Nefesh - a "ransom" or "redemption" of the soul. One of the explanations of it is that the participation in this cause was an act of soul-saving ~~not only~~ for the donor as well as for other fellow-Jews; in other words - a source of life for both benefactor and beneficiary.

This is also, and even more so, the case of supporting Torah Chinuch, since such education is the wellspring of life for our children who are permeated with Toras Chayim (Life-giving Torah) and its Mitzvos by which Jews live. Moreover, every child, boy and girl, brought up and educated to a life of Torah and Mitzvos will in due course become head of a family and Akeres Habayis, respectively, who will maintain the Jewish lifeline by raising their children to be likewise living Jews, and so to all posterity.

For this reason, also, the Torah sets no limits to supporting Torah education; on the contrary, "the more generous one is, the more is one to be praised."

In this month of Marbin b'simcha, when "joy should be on the increase," may G-d grant each and all of you, honored guests, Founders, and all participants, a generous measure of true joy, a joy all the more meaningful by bringing joy to the Yeshiva and rejoicing the hearts of its students and Faculty.

With esteem and blessing for a joyous Purim,

M. Schneerson