

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON

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מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן

ליובאוויטש

770 איסטערן פארקוויי

ברוקלין, ניו

By the Grace of G-d
Eighth day of Chanukah, 5749
Brooklyn, N.Y.

To All Participants in the
Dinner event of Lubavitch - Chabad
Chicago, IL

Greeting and Blessing:

It is particularly fitting that the Dinner event is taking place
in the days immediately following Chanukah.

The Chanukah message speaks to us through the Chanukah lights
that we kindle each night of Chanukah in increasing numbers, with
an added light from the second night on. The Chanukah lights are
required to be lit in a prominent place in the home from which they
can be seen both in the home and outside.

Bearing in mind that the Chanukah lights symbolize the light of
Torah and Mitzvot (Ner Mitzvah v'Torah Or), the message is clear:
spread the light of Yiddishkeit, Torah and Mitzvot in a consistently
growing measure and intensity, both in your home and in the community
at large, including also those who may think themselves "outsiders"
in terms of living Yiddishkeit. I say "may think," because deep
inside, a Jew is always attached to his/her Jewish roots.

This year, moreover, the above message receives an added dimension
from the fact that it is a Jewish Leap Year, with an added month
of 30 days. The underlying reason for this intercalation is to
reconcile the Lunar Year (the basis of our Jewish Calendar) with the
Solar Year (which is by some 11 days longer), so that our Festivals
would occur in their proper season (Pesach in the spring, etc.).
But there is also a symbolic lesson that goes with it: We are given
the ability and opportunity to make up for past deficiencies, and
even more than that - just as the leap year, with an added month
surpasses by many days not only a regular Lunar Year, but also a
Solar Year.

Lastly, but not least, the current year has been designated as
the "Year of the Child" - to increase awareness of the many, many
Jewish children who hardly have any knowledge of their heritage.
We owe it to them, and to Jews of all ages who are relatively young
in terms of Jewish experience, to reach out to them and bring them
closer to Yiddishkeit.

With prayerful wishes to the worthy chairmen, distinguished honorees,
and all participants for success in all above, as well as in
personal affairs.

With esteem and blessing, *M. Schneerson*