

Chabad Wows the Crowd with its 18th Annual Lag B'omer Extravaganza

The Jean Fischman Chabad Center of the Five Towns has once again amazed the Five Towns community with their spectacular 18th Annual Lag B'omer event. Held in the Andrew J. Parise Park (formerly Cedarhurst Park) on Sunday night, April 28, it attracted thousands of people from all walks of life who came together to celebrate and enjoy the day, which included archery, bubble bonanza, races, tug-o-war, a petting zoo and the new attraction- giant video games!

A roaring bonfire was a major attraction, prepared by the Village of Cedarhurst and manned by the volunteers from the Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department. A sign in front of the glowing fire explained that Torah is like a fire as it gives light to the world, and that bonfires remind us of the additional light brought into the world by the Torah.



The Amazing Skyriders Trampoline show was very impressive! These talented athletes captured the attention of young and old and had the audience sitting on the edge of their seats.

The music provided by Azamra DJ set the tone for a festive environment. The excitement and enthusiasm for the event was obvious even to the casual observer. Overheard were people calling their friends on their cell phones, telling them about the event. One woman excitedly said, "The kids are having such a great time here! You gotta bring your kids!"

Chabad's Lag B'omer celebration was the epitome of unity and captured our community at its best! Importantly, Chabad volunteers were able to help put tefillin on those individuals who would not otherwise have the opportunity to fulfill this important mitzvah. It

was very gratifying to see the looks on the faces of those who wrapped tefillin around their arm, some for the very first time.

On Lag B'omer we observe the passing of the great mystic, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai also known as "Rashbi." Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai is the author of the Zohar – the source of Jewish mysticism which sheds light onto all the Torah's teachings. Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai embodied "Hinei Ma'Atov Umanayim Sheves Achim Gam Yachad." Translated, this means "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity." Rabbi Zalman Wolowik commented, "In essence on Lag B'omer, we are celebrating the life and legacy of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai. He was a great sage of the Talmud and author of the Zohar, which infused Torah and Judaism with fire, life and zest. Therefore we strive to share this legacy with the entire community."

Chabad extends a big thank you to the Mayor, Honorable Andrew J. Parise and the Village of Cedarhurst for allowing them to utilize the grounds of the Andrew J. Parise Park. A big thanks to the Lawrence-Cedarhurst fire department, Hatzalah, and the Auxiliary Police for providing such expert assistance.

A special thanks goes to Dr. Binyomin Muller, who was the evening's MC. He brought excitement and enthusiasm as he thanked this year's sponsors and volunteers.

Thank you very much to our generous diamond sponsors: Gourmet Glatt and Haskel Trading, in zechus of a re-fuah shlaima for Binyomin Zeev HaKohen ben Sharrone Rivka.

Many thanks to our co-sponsors Azamra DJ, Brach's Supermarket, Carlos and Gabby's and the Party Source.

The many hard working volunteers, who helped with the games, food preparation and set up were an invaluable help and are credited with the success as well.

And, of course, none of this would have been possible without the tremendous efforts and coordination from Chabad's youth rabbi and program director, Rabbi Meir and Hadassah Geisinsky who demonstrated their talents, planning and efforts on behalf of Chabad. Their partnership with Chabad of the Five Towns enabled the community to enjoy the Lag B'omer Family Fun day celebration.



HANC's Furry Friend



Fourth graders at HANC Samuel & Elizabeth Bass Golding Elementary School in West Hempstead welcomed a special furry friend, Dizzy, a Greyhound therapy dog!

Dizzy and his owner, Donna, visited the fourth grade classrooms and explained to the students what a therapy dog is and how they help people. The

students were fascinated to learn how animals can help people and they had a great time meeting Dizzy. Each student was given the opportunity to interact with Dizzy and pet him.

Thank you to Mrs. Drorit Bench, Yoni's mother, for arranging this special visit from Dizzy and Donna.