

Greetings and Blessings,

Imagine this scene; the entire Jewish people, men women and children, from young to old, are gathered in the Beit Hamikdosh, standing in awe and reverence, as they hear their king read from the Torah. They would hear verses of inspiration and encouragement to last till they would gather again in another 7 years.

This gathering of unity, known as **Hakhel**, encompassed all of Israel. Every Jew, regardless of age, was responsible to make the trek from all over Israel and participate in this epic gathering of our people.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe brought the concept of Hakhel from an ancient, historical mitzvah to a contemporary, relevant call to action for every Jew. The Rebbe encouraged the increasing of gatherings of unity and celebration during the Hakhel year.

This new year of 5783, is a Hakhel year and in response to the Rebbe's directive, we are focusing on increasing gatherings of all kinds at Chabad of Plano.

To open this year of Hakhel, we are hosting Cantor Yudi Cohen in concert, from South Africa. He led the prayers and served as member of the clergy at the Sydneham Shul in Johannesburg for many years. He is now on his first world tour and we are fortunate to be able to share his gifts of singing and inspiration for us in preparation for the high holidays.

A first of its kind, a Pre-High Holiday fair for families with children will allow the youngest members of our community to participate in gatherings of inspiration, learning and fun.

Rivkah Slonim, world renowned speaker, author, and scholar in the Jewish world today, will join us as the Scholar-In-Residence in January. She will be the featured speaker at an all-women's event during this visit.

We will continue to provide both in-person and virtual gatherings throughout the year. The JLI, Zoom speakers, women's gatherings, men's events, a JLI Land & Spirit trip to Israel, and more will be sure to fill your calendar!

We would like to thank the Shea family for establishing "The Jimmy Shea Jewish Scholarship and Culture Series" which will allow us to host two community-wide events annually for years to come. Their generosity will create a beautiful memorial to a man who valued family, friendship, and gatherings of all kinds.

We thank each and every one of you who has given so much to Chabad over the course of our 31 years, especially in the form of your membership, which is the stable foundation upon which we are able to build and grow.

It is our prayer that this year be the year in which we merit to gather united, as one nation, and celebrate Hakhel in the third Beit Hamikdosh with the coming of Moshiach Now!

Yasher Koach!

Rabbi and Rivkie Block Rabbi and Esther Horowitz Rabbi Sholom and Chaya Block

Membership Committee:

Carla Beren, Karen Glanger, Sharona Ohayon, Stan Rothstein, and Kyle Rovinsky

Chabad of Plano / Collin County

P.S. Please know, all of the enclosed membership renewal forms can be completed online at www.chabadplano.org/membership.