

# CHAI ELUL FARBRENGEN

## SCHEDULE AND GUIDE

**Parents:** The following Farbrengen packet has been prepared for you & your children. Please help your children prepare and lead your family farbrengen.

Please allocate the different segments of the farbrengen to the members of your family.

**(Tip: Have your children spend some time before the farbrengen to read through their part so they can be thoroughly prepared.)**

### In this packet you will find:

- Introduction to be read by the farbrengen leader
- Niggun and its history and meaning
- A story of the Alter Rebbe

### What you will need:

- Grape Juice
- Coins for Tzedakah
- Printed raffle tickets

***May this farbrengen bring us to the Geula Shleima speedily in our days***



# INTRODUCTION

## Welcome to our grand Chai Elul Farbrengen!

I'm very happy to lead this Farbrengen and I'm sure that having this Farbrengen together will give the Rebbe so much Nachas and bring Moshiach even closer. We are going to say a Dvar Torah, sing a Niggun and say a story along the way!

But first... Let's think a little...

What is so special about Chai Elul? Why are we having a Farbrengen?

We all know the many special events that happened on Chai Elul.

***(Ask your family)*** Can you name some of them?

The holy neshama of the Baal Shem Tov who founded Chassidus came into the world on this day. When he got older, for many years the Baal Shem Tov as a hidden Tzadik learnt the deepest secrets of Torah and Kabbala with Achiya Hashiloni.

Exactly 36 years later on this very day, his teacher Achiya Hashiloni told him that it was time for him to reveal himself to the world. Listening to his teacher, on Chai Elul the Baal Shem Tov started teaching & spreading Chassidus to all Yidden and helping them come closer to Hashem. This was



the beginning of teaching Chassidus that continues until this very day.

Finally, on Chai Elul, on the 47th birthday of the Baal Shem Tov, the Alter Rebbe was born and started his mission in this world. The Alter Rebbe continued the ways of the Baal Shem Tov and made them understandable for everyone.



Now, every birthday is a very important time for the person who's celebrating his or her birthday. Whether it is your birthday, my birthday or anyone else's birthday.

***(Ask your family)*** Do you know why a birthday is special?

Well, if you think about it, on a birthday we remember the fact that we were born, and that Hashem created us for a purpose and mission. We remind ourselves of this, and think about how we can make sure, that in the coming year, we will fulfill our mission even better than the year before!

Now, the Baal Shem Tov and Alter Rebbe's birthday is even more special than any other birthday. It is the day that Hashem gave us Chassidus through the Baal Shem tov & Alter Rebbe, to bring so much light to our lives, that we would not have on our own. So it's not just a special day for the Baal Shem Tov and the Alter Rebbe, it's a special day for every single one of us that learn Chassidus! That's why we all Farbreng & Celebrate on Chai Elul.



“Chai” in Hebrew means “life”. Therefore Chai Elul means that Chassidus gives “life” and Chayus (Chai) in the Avoda of Elul. Because in Elul we all do Teshuvah to prepare for Rosh Hashana when we crown Hashem as our king. Sometimes when doing teshuva for our Aveiros we can become sad thinking of the bad things we did. But when we learn Chassidus, we become so happy and full of Chayus, because we realize that the Teshuva we do make us even closer to Hashem then before. What can be better than that?

**(Ask your family)** How many days are there from Chai Elul to Rosh hashana?

Correct! On each of these 12 days until Rosh Hashana, explains the Rebbe, a Yid is able to do Teshuva for each of the 12 months of the year. So today we do teshuva for the entire month of Tishrei!

Let us all say l’chaim together. Please pour grape juice into your cups and make a bracha.

L’chaim! We should appreciate the Brocho that we have that we were born as Chassidim.. Let us strengthen our Hiskashrus & learning of Chassidus today!

Please take a coin and place it in the Pushka.

I would now like to call up \_\_\_\_\_ to introduce the Niggun.



# NIGUN -SHALOSH TENUOS

**(Ask your family)** What is special about Niggunim without words?

Niggunim are a very important part of Chassidus. A Niggun comes from deep within the Neshama and therefore many Chabad Niggunim don't have words. Each of the Rebbeim had their Niggunim that they composed or appreciated. The Alter Rebbe had in total 10 Niggunim and the Baal Shem Tov also had a few niggunim.

Today we will sing the niggun called the “Shalosh Tenuos”.

**(Ask your family)** Why do you think this is a good Niggun to sing on Chai Elul?

The “Shalosh Tenuos” is the only niggun that belongs both to the Baal Shem Tov and the Alter Rebbe, whom are connected to Chai Elul.

The Niggun has three parts- that's why it's called “Shalosh Tenuos”. Each part is from another Rebbe. The 1st is from the Baal Shem Tov, 2nd from the Maggid of Mezritch and the 3rd is from the Alter Rebbe.

Now, let's sing together the “Shalosh Tenuos”...

**(Ask your family)** Did you listen closely to the niggun? What is the difference between the 3 parts?



If you listen closely, you can hear that each part of the niggun expresses the yearning and longing of our Neshama to come close to Hashem. But in each stanza the yearning and longing gets stronger and stronger.

This Niggun expresses to us: The Baal Shem Tov started Chassidus and helped Yidden feel their Neshama's yearning to come close to Hashem, and in our homes and Chabad houses the Alter Rebbe through Chabad Chassidus brings this to even higher levels and in a stronger way.

I would like to call up \_\_\_\_\_ to share with us a story of the Alter Rebbe.



## STORY / THE RUSTY PENNY

The Alter Rebbe was once raising money to ransom Jewish prisoners, going from town to town asking Yidden to share in this big Mitzva. He started out his collecting in a city that was famous for its miser. This miser would not share his considerable wealth, no matter how worthy or urgent the cause. Anyone who came to ask him for money was offered a rusty penny, which was always thrown back in the miser's face.

When the Alter Rebbe arrived in this town, the two elders of the community greeted him warmly and enthusiastically. They offered to help him in any way they could and to take him around to all the wealthy families in town. The Alter Rebbe requested that they accompany him to the home of this wealthy miser. The elders of the community were very reluctant to fulfill this request, but the Rebbe insisted, until they finally agreed to escort him to the house of the miser.

The next afternoon the three of them were standing in front of the miser's beautiful mansion. Before knocking on the door, the Rebbe turned to his companions and requested that they not say a word, no matter what they might hear or see. Several moments later they were sitting in the luxurious front room, and the owner was returning from his safe with a small velvet money pouch.

“Yes,” said the rich man. “A touching story indeed! Widows and orphans in captivity. Ah, the suffering of the Jewish people! When will it all end? Here, Rabbi, take my humble



donation.”

To the miser’s surprise, the Rebbe seemed pleased by the gift. He was actually smiling at him warmly as he put the coin into his pocket and said, “Thank you, Mr. Solomons. May Hashem bless and protect you always.” The Rebbe then proceeded to write him a receipt, adding all sorts of beautiful brachos.

“Thank you again, my friend,” said the Rebbe as he stood and warmly shook the man’s hand. “And now,” he added, turning to his two companions, “we must be on our way. We have a lot of collecting to do tonight.”

As the three rabbis walked to the door, the Rebbe turned and again thanked the miser appreciatively.

“You should have thrown it back in his face,” hissed one of the rabbis after they heard the door close behind them. “Don’t turn around and don’t say a word,” whispered the Rebbe as they walked down the path to the large front gate.

Suddenly they heard the door opening behind them and the miser calling: “Rabbis, rabbis, please come back for a minute. Hello, hello, please, I must speak to you, please . . . please come back in.”

In a few minutes they were again sitting in the grand sitting room, but this time the rich man was pacing back and forth restlessly. He stopped for an instant and turned to the Rebbe. “Exactly how much money do you need to ransom





these prisoners?”

“About five thousand rubles,” the Rebbe replied.

“Well, here . . . I have decided to give one thousand rubles; you may count it if you want,” said the miser as he took a tightly bound stack of bills from his jacket pocket and laid it on the table. The other rabbis were shocked! They stared at the money and were even afraid to look up at the miser, lest he change his mind.

But the Rebbe again shook Mr. Solomons’ hand, warmly thanking him, and wrote him a beautiful receipt full of brachos and praises, exactly like the first time.

“That was a miracle!” whispered one of the rabbis to the Rebbe as they left the house and were again walking toward the gate. Once more the Rebbe signaled him to be still. Suddenly the door of the house again opened behind them. “Rabbis, I have changed my mind. Please come in once more. I want to speak with you,” Mr. Solomons called out.

They entered the house for a third time as the miser turned to them and said, “I have decided to give the entire sum needed for the ransom. Here it is; please count it to see that I have not made a mistake.”

“What is the meaning of this?” wondered the rebbe’s astonished companions after they had left the rich man’s home for the third time that evening. “How did you get that notorious miser to give 5,000 rubles?”



“That man is no miser,” the Alter Rebbe explained. “No Jewish Neshoma really is. But how could he want to give, if he never in his life felt the joy of giving? Everyone to whom he gave his rusty penny threw it back in his face. By allowing him to experience the Mitzva of Tzedoka for himself, he was inspired to do more and more good, finally paying the full amount. ”

(Ask your family) What do you think the lesson is from this story?

Let's now take on a Hachlatah to strengthen our Hiskashrus to the Rebbe and the learning of Chassidus:

***(Discuss with your parents what Hachlota you can make together with your family).***

