



# **REBBE RESPONSA**

The Rebbe's English Letters

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20 Av | Shul Opposition and Growth

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**Issue 67**  
**Eikev, 5784**

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[Editor@RebbeResponsa.com](mailto:Editor@RebbeResponsa.com)

## Foreword

We hereby present **Issue 67** of Rebbe Responsa, a compilation of letters authored by the Lubavitcher Rebbe in English.

This Shabbos, the 20<sup>th</sup> of Av, marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Passing of the Rebbe's father, Rabbi Levi Yitzchok Schneerson.

In this week's booklet you will find a collection of letters concerning Congregation Levi Yitzchok of Hollandale, Florida, a shul named for the Rebbe's father. Most of the letters are addressed to the Shul's founder, Mr. Moshe Mordechai (Marvin) Shuster and his wife Chana (Susan).

In an interview, Mrs. Shuster recounts: "We had a minyan in our house with complete prayer services every Shabbat, which eventually led to my husband buying a house and having it converted into a synagogue."<sup>1</sup> Around the time of the move (in 5741)<sup>2</sup> the Rebbe gave his approval for the name of the congregation to be changed from *Beis Hakneses Shomrei-Hadas - Chabad*, to *Congregation Levi Yitzchok - Lubavitch*.<sup>3</sup>

In the following letters, the Rebbe guides the Shusters through the challenges their newly formed congregation faced and defines its mission. In a letter written to the Shul's president in 5745, the Rebbe draws on the life of the congregation's namesake:<sup>4</sup>

My father of saintly memory, after whom your congregation is named, exemplified such real Mesiras-Nefesh for the preservation of Yiddishkeit under the most

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<sup>1</sup> *My Encounter*, Erev Shabbos Parshas Lech-Lecha 2016. See the full interview or more on the Shuster's journey to Lubavitch and their connection with the Rebbe.

<sup>2</sup> See letter 2.

<sup>3</sup> See *Likkut Ma'anos Kodesh, Miluim*, vol. 2, p. 16). See below letter 3.

<sup>4</sup> Letter 1.

trying conditions, suffering persecution and exile, and inspiring many Jews to follow his example. Here in the U.S.A. etc. G-d gave us the possibility to practice all this without any difficulties at all and many times - even with the encouragement of the environment. Therefore, I trust and am sure each and all members and friends of Congregation Levi Yitzchok-Lubavitch will be continuously inspired, too, to help make the Congregation a model of what a Jewish congregation should be like.<sup>5</sup>

\* \* \*

We take this opportunity to turn to our readers and ask anyone who may have letters from the Rebbe in their possession to kindly consider sharing them with us, thereby enabling countless individuals around the world to benefit from the timeless wisdom and counsel they contain.

The Rebbe's English letters contain a wealth of guidance and insight on a vast array of topics written in a style relatable to Jews from all walks of life. For access to over 5,000 of these letters, we encourage you to download the Rebbe Responsa app.

May we merit the coming of Moshiach, speedily in our days!

*The Rebbe Responsa Team*

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<sup>5</sup> It is well to note that the Rebbe only gave his approval for the Synagogue to be named after his father - "באם ההליטו להנהיגו כרצונו ע"פ הידוע והשערה" (freely translated: If they will resolve to conduct it in accordance with his will, based on that which is known as well as that which can be deduced [of his will and conduct]) – handwritten note published in *Likkut Ma'anos* Ibid.



1

***My Father's Self Sacrifice***

*Timing of upcoming dinner; Every Jew is attached to Hashem to the highest degree of Mesiras Nefesh; Tangible expression; Emulate Your Shul's namesake*

By the Grace of G-d  
16 Shevat, 5745  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mr. Shmuel Eliezer Selfon, President  
Congregation Levi Yitzchok-Lubavitch  
1295 E. Hallandale Beach Blvd.  
Hallandale, FL 33009

Greeting and Blessing:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 8 Shevat, with enclosures. Many thanks for the good news it contained about the progress of the Congregation and forthcoming events, including the fourth annual dinner set for the 26th of Shevat.

Significantly, the event is taking place immediately after Shabbos **Parshas Shekalim**, the theme of which is the half-shekel contribution "To make atonement for your souls" (לכפר על נפשוחיכם).<sup>6</sup>

One of the eternal lessons of this annual contribution of the half shekel - neither more nor less, by rich and poor alike, is that every Jew - rich and poor, scholar and layman is equally dear to HaShem - because deep in one's heart and soul every Jew is attached to HaShem, to the highest degree of **Mesiras-Nefesh** for His Torah and Mitzvos.

The half-shekel is certainly no measure of a Jew's devotion to HaShem. But HaShem requested a tangible expression of it in terms of money, to show how a Jew, every Jew, is capable of

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**Source:** Photocopy of the original.

<sup>6</sup> *Shemos* 30:15.

converting a silver coin into a **matbe'a shel esh**, a "fiery coin," similar to the one HaShem showed to Moshe Rabbeinu, as the Medrash explains.<sup>7</sup>

My father of saintly memory, after whom your congregation is named, exemplified such real Mesiras-Nefesh for the preservation of Yiddishkeit under the most trying conditions, suffering persecution and exile, and inspiring many Jews to follow his example. Here in the U. S. A. etc. G-d gave us the possibility to practice all this without any difficulties at all and many times - even with the encouragement of the environment. Therefore, I trust and am sure each and all members and friends of Congregation Levi Yitzchok-Lubavitch will be continuously inspired, too, to help make the Congregation a model of what a Jewish congregation should be like.<sup>8</sup>

May you proceed in this direction from strength to strength, in **continuous growth and fruit-bearing**, in keeping with the message of the New Year For Trees which we just observed.

With blessing for Hatzlocho and good tidings

**M. Schneerson**

P.S. Enclosed is receipt for the contribution to the Yud Shevat Fund. May the Zechus of it bring you, each and all of you, additional Divine blessings in a generous measure.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *Yerushalmi*, Shekalim, 1:4; Tanchuma, Ki Sisa 9.

<sup>8</sup> See foreword, footnote 5.

<sup>9</sup> For additional letters addressing the congregation's dinners, see Rebbe Responsa, letters dated 19 Adar I 5746, 22 Shevat 5747 16 Adar II 5749, 20 13 Shevat 5750 Adar 5751, Purim Koton 5752 (below letter 6).

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Lubavitch  
770 Eastern Parkway  
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הנהלת תנועת חסידות  
לובאוויטש

770 איסטערן פארקוויי  
ברוקלין, נ.י.

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2

*The Full Picture*

*Welcoming a new Torah; A picture tells a great deal more  
than many words*

By the Grace of G-d 2  
6th of Adar 1, 5741  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr. & Mrs. Moshe Mordecai  
& Chana Shuster  
4001 Hollywood Blvd.  
Hollywood, Fla. 33021

Greeting and Blessing:

I was pleased to receive your letter of Feb. 27th, enclosing photographs taken of the recent Torah welcoming parade that you had in Hallandale near your new synagogue, etc.<sup>10</sup>

It was gratifying to read about it and especially to see the photographs, since a picture tells a great deal more than many words.

I take this opportunity to enclose a booklet published in connection with a Torah Welcoming celebration, which you will surely find interesting and informative.<sup>11</sup>

May the Zechus of the above Mitzvo and the steady advancement in all matters of Torah and Mitzvoth, stand you and

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**Source:** Photocopy of the original.

<sup>10</sup> The photographs can be viewed on the [website of the Library of Agudas Chassidei Chabad](#) (two of the photographs are published below).

<sup>11</sup> Earlier that year a booklet titled *Kuntres Siyum VeHachanasas Sefer Torah* was published. The booklet contained the Rebbe's talks and a discourse delivered on the occasion of a Sefer Torah completion and welcoming ceremony which took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Kislev. The booklet was edited by the Rebbe before publication.

all yours in good stead, and may you always have good news to report.

With blessing,

**M. Schneerson**



3

*Become a Lighthouse*

*Stationery critique; Dealing with harassment of neighbors;  
Resistance to the Shul is a sign of successful impact*

By the Grace of G-d  
27th of Sivan, 5741  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr. & Mrs. Moshe Mordecai  
& Chana Shuster  
936 S. Southlake Drive  
Hollywood, Fla. 33020

Greeting and Blessing:

This<sup>12</sup> brings me to the subject of the Congregation Levi Yitzchok which you have founded.

Due to the intervening festival of Shovuos, this is my first opportunity to acknowledge receipt of your letter and design of the stationery of the newly founded Cong. Levi Yitzchok. The design makes a very good impression. As for suggestions in this connection, I would only like to suggest that you add "U.S.A." in the address, inasmuch as, in accordance with the slogan of "Uforatzto" on the stationery, the Congregation will, hopefully, establish contacts also with Jews coming from other countries.

With reference to the matter of harassment which the new Congregation has experienced, as you mention in your letter, you are, of course, right that it should be reported to the police. However, there is no room for apprehension. Indeed, it is a sign that the influence of the new Congregation has already made an

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**Source:** Photocopy of the original.

<sup>12</sup> In the photocopy of the letter which has reached us, the letter begins from this paragraph. In The Letter & the Spirit vol. 3 pg. 364, the letter is published with several additional paragraphs at the beginning. It is possible that these paragraphs (which discuss personal matters) were redacted by the Shusters in a facsimile which they distributed amongst the congregants.

impact, and, as it happened with similar situations in various other places, the original resistance gradually subsided. Needless to say, you and all who are active in promoting this Congregation will surely continue to do so, and even more energetically. This will also answer your question what is to be done. For, having introduced Orthodoxy in your neighborhood is only the first step in the direction of making the whole neighborhood permeated with Torah and Mitzvot, to the extent that HaShem will be able to say, "I will dwell in their midst."<sup>13</sup> In other words, the Congregation should become a lighthouse, illuminating the homes of all its members, and through them neighbors and friends, with the light and vitality of the Torah and Mitzvot. All the more so since Greater Miami Beach attracts Jews from different cities and countries, and thus has the opportunity to extend its influence far and wide.<sup>14</sup>

Wishing you Hatzlocho in all above, and may the forthcoming Chag HaGeulo bring you and yours, and all of us, an additional measure of Geulo, and, indeed, hasten the complete Geulo of our Jewish people through Moshiach Tzidkeinu.

With blessing,

**M. Schneerson**

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<sup>13</sup> *Shemos* 25:8.

<sup>14</sup> See also letter dated 13 Marcheshvan, 5725, on the Rebbe Responsa app.



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ליובאוויטש

770 איסטערן פארקוויי  
ברוקלין, נ. י.

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Brooklyn, N. Y.

27

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With blessing

*M. Schneerson*



4

***Timely Fundraising Campaign***

*Fundraising letter; Timeliness of Tzedaka during Elul; The  
Rebbe's contribution; Thanks for the fruit*

By the Grace of G-d  
In the Days of Selichoth,  
5741. The Year of Hakhel.  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr. and Mrs. M. Schuster  
Hollywood, Fla.

Greeting and Blessing:

With the approach of Rosh Hashono, the Beginning of the New Year, may it bring blessings to us all, I send you and all yours my prayerful wishes for a good and happy year, materially and spiritually.

With the traditional blessing of כתיבה וחתימה טובה

Cordially,

**M. Schneerson**

P.S. It is, indeed, a timely message (on Tzedoko) that you sent out in behalf of Congregation Levi Yitzchok. For, if Tzedoko is timely all through the year, how much more so at this time, in preparation for the entire New Year. This is also emphasised during these day of Selichos, for, after the introductory prayer of Ashrei, the Selichos begin with the words "Lecho HaShem HaTsedoko."<sup>15</sup> All the more so that Tzedoko, in this instance, is connected with the expansion of the activities of the Beis Knesses and Beis Medrash, making it a benefit to many.

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**Source:** Photocopy of the original.

<sup>15</sup> Daniel 9:7.

I am pleased to enclose my symbolic participation in the amount of twice "Chai."

P.P.S. Although this comes at the end, it is, of course, most important, namely that, as I fervently trust, G-d's blessings that were given to you for the past year included also the satisfactory resolution of the problems you wrote about, to all concerned. G-d bless you with long and happy days and years, in good health and pleasant circumstance.

P.P.S. Just received all the fruits, and many thanks for your kind attention etc.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> "We often brought [the Rebbe] fruit baskets from Florida, from our own orchard, as it was my husband's hobby to raise exotic fruits. And when we did that, the Rebbe always gave us an extra dollar, adding "This is for your Garden of Eden." He also made it a point of inquiring as to the age of the trees since it is Jewish law not to partake of fruit from a tree less than three years old, and the Rebbe was very strict about that. He never accepted the fruit without asking about the age of the tree." (Mrs. Shuster in *Here's My Story* *ibid*).

See [\*Living Torah\* program 649](#) for a selection of the Rebbe's remarks to Shuster regarding his fruit gifts and garden.

5

*Strength in Numbers*

*Shul Zoning problems; Consulting an attorney; A firm  
stance; Membership growth will bring improvement;  
Satisfied to have met you; proceed with confidence*

By the Grace of G-d  
8th of Cheshvan, 5742  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr . Moshe Mordecai Shuster  
936 So. Southlake Dr.  
Hollywood, Fla. 33020

Greeting and Blessing:

This is in reply to your letter of Oct. 12th, in which you write about the zoning problem of your congregation, due to the opposition of neighbors.

First of all, you are surely in consultation with a competent attorney, who is familiar with the rules and regulations governing such matters. In general, however, experience has shown that taking a firm stand eventually brings the desired results.

Needless to say, that the stronger the congregation becomes in terms of membership, the easier will be its way in overcoming difficulties and developing. In this, you and your family and friends can best assess the situation and act accordingly.

I take this opportunity to express again my satisfaction at having been able to meet you and the members of your family during Yom Tov and Simchas Torah. And, having been enriched and fortified by all the religious experiences of the festivals of Tishrei, culminating with Simchas Torah, you and all yours, in the midst of all our Jewish people, can proceed with complete confidence on the way of Torah and Mitzvoth in the year ahead, with joy and gladness of heart.

---

**Source:** Photocopy of the original.

May it be so for you and Mrs. Shuster in the fullest measure, including true Yiddish Nachas from each and all of your children, Nachas in accordance with the traditional blessing of "Torah, Chuppah and Good Deeds."

With blessing,

M. Schneerson

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May it be so for you and Mrs. Shuster in the fullest measure, including true Yiddish Nachas from each and all of your children, Nachas in accordance with the traditional blessing of "Torah, Chuppah and Good Deeds."

With blessing

M. Schneerson

6

*Giving to the Giver\**

*Forthcoming dinner; Leap-year lesson; Equilibrium of the  
"giver" and "receiver" in field of outreach – Internalizing  
the lesson by the receiver and simultaneous growth of the  
giver; a giver backing the giver*

By the Grace of G-d  
Purim Koton, 5752  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

To All Participants in the  
Eleventh Annual Dinner of  
Congregation Levi Yitzchok – Lubavitch  
Hallandale, Florida

Greeting and Blessing!

In response to the notification of the forthcoming Dinner, taking place on Sunday, the 3rd of Adar II, I extend congratulations to the Honorees, Chairman, Co-Chairmen, distinguished guests and all friends of Congregation Levi Yitzchok – Lubavitch, on reaching this significant milestone.

Especially so since the current Jewish year is a **Leap Year**.

The significance of a Leap Year has been explained on previous occasions,<sup>17</sup> as have the practical lessons we can learn from it. We shall here discuss one point that especially relates to this gathering: the subject of "giver" – the sun – and "receiver" – the moon. During a Leap-Year the two meet together, thereby reconciling the difference between the solar year and lunar year, and accomplishing the Divine intention that Pesach always be in the Month of Aviv – springtime.

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**Source:** Photocopy of the original. This is the last known letter of the Rebbe To date (based on the testimony of the Rebbe's secretary Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, this letter was signed on the 27<sup>th</sup> of Adar I, 5752). See Chabad.org.

<sup>17</sup> See letter addressed to the congregation bearing the date of 19 Adar I 5746 (available on the app). See also tag titled *Leap Year* on the app.

The main point of this is that, through the mutual effect upon each other, namely the “giver” and “receiver” – the “giver” simultaneously also being a “receiver” and the “receiver” also a “giver” – the two become one, thereby fulfilling the Divine design for both of them, and for the world as a whole.

This point is particularly outstanding in regard to outreach activities, where the “giving” is primarily from the “Giver” – to the one who is the “Receiver.” That is why it is especially important that the “giving” be in the fullest possible measure, quantitatively and qualitatively: the Torah and Mitzvos implanted in the receiver should not be merely by force of habit, but should permeate their thoughts, speech and actual deeds so that this is reflected in his daily conduct – in fear of G-d, improved character traits and so on, so that it be evident – at home, at shul and also in the street – that this is a product of an activity on high standards of holiness.

In order that the “giving” be even more complete, givers, educators and counselors should bear in mind that they are, at the same time, also “receivers” – and to a tremendous extent, incomparably more than the effort and work they invest in their students. Indeed, who can estimate the merit and reward associated with the sacred work of assisting the Almighty’s “kinder,” children of the Supreme King of Kings, the Holy One, blessed be He?

However, in order that the<sup>18</sup> these activities be able to fulfill its responsibilities in the best possible way, it has to rely upon yet another class of “givers” – Torah-supporters who understand the value of Torah education and the preciousness of Jewish men, women and children.

With all the above in mind, I am confident that each and all of the participants will take the fullest advantage of the enormous opportunities that you have to expand and intensify the ongoing activities and programs of Congregation Levi Yitzchok – Lubavitch.

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<sup>18</sup> The following is how the sentence appears in the original. It is possibly meant to read “in order that the ‘Giver’ of these activities . . .”

And, in this connection, there is an added dimension to this year, in that it is a complete and full year (with the most amount of days), which teaches us – reminds us – that one is to accomplish his utmost in good deeds.

And especially being that we find ourselves in the year 5752, in Hebrew **ה'תשנ"ב**, whose Hebrew letters form an acronym **שנת תהא ה'** ("this will be a year of wonders 'In all things,' 'by all things,' with 'all things,'" G-d Almighty will surely grant all of you a wondrous year of goodness in all matters material and spiritual.

With esteem and with blessings for success  
and for good tidings in all the above  
and a happy and inspiring Purim,

**M. Schneerson**

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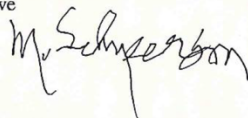
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With esteem and with blessings for success  
and for good tidings in all the above  
and a happy and inspiring Purim,



לע"נ  
הרה"ח הרה"ת  
ר' יעקב ברוך  
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