



Padah B'sholom Nafshi

SPECIAL EDITION
י"ט כסלו תשפ"ו

A COLEL CHABAD PUBLICATION



**How the
miraculous
redemption of Yud
Tes Kislev shaped
centuries of
support for Jewish
life in Eretz Yisroel**

Colel Chabad: *Not your typical kollel, not your typical Chabad*

Colel Chabad is Israel's longest-serving social welfare organization. Since 1788, close to 240 years ago, the organization has been a "colel," unifying force, between Jews around the world and Jews in Israel.

Colel Chabad brings everyone together – hungry families, lost teens, lonely seniors, and scared immigrants.

SHOWING UP FOR THOUSANDS OF NEEDY ISRAELIS

...in the kitchen

- » **PANTRY PACKERS**
Volunteers pack thousands of boxes of groceries
- » **HOUSEHOLD GROCERIES**
8,500 families open their doors to monthly grocery deliveries
- » **FOOD CARDS**
46,000 families hit the store with Colel Chabad food cards in hand to pay
- » **SOUP KITCHENS**
3,400 people enjoy hot, delicious meals...every single day
- » **MEALS-ON-WHEELS:**
Homebound Holocaust survivors get a warm meal delivered right to their door
- » **BABY FORMULA:**
3,000 mothers stock up on formula, keeping tiny tummies full

...at the playground (and classroom, and camp)

- » **DAYCARE CENTERS**
Nearly 1,000 kids in low-income neighborhoods are cared for in 16 daycare centers every day
- » **HOSPITAL PROGRAMS**
Chanukah surprises, care packages, and bedside handouts for kids who can't leave the hospital
- » **BIG BROTHER/BIG SISTER PROGRAM**
Team up with youth who need someone in their corner
- » **SUMMER CAMPS**
Where summer magic happens for hundreds of kids from low-income families or at-risk backgrounds



...in the living room

» **GETT CHESED:**

Volunteers show up with time (and tea) to share conversation with lonely Holocaust survivors

...at the clinic

» **DENTAL CLINICS**

Where smiles get fixed without breaking the bank

» **GRABSKI MEDICAL CENTER**

Tzfas's most vulnerable families still have access to doctors who care

» **THE FINGER RESIDENCE HALL**

Adults with neurological disorders get to live a full, meaningful life

...at the celebration

» **CHESED MENACHEM MENDEL ORPHAN INITIATIVE:**

Orphans find tutors, mentors, and cheerleaders

» **BAR AND BAT MITZVAHS:**

Hundreds of boys and girls party like royalty in Jerusalem

» **WEDDINGS:**

420 couples stand under the the chuppah, celebrating without going into debt, by using Colel Chabad's subsidized halls and packages

» **WIDOWS' RETREATS:**

Widows get a chance to recharge, while meeting others who understand

...at the starting line

» **IMMIGRANT PROGRAMS:**

The full red-carpet welcome: housing, jobs, and Hebrew classes

» **HOME HEATING:**

Provides vulnerable families and elderly individuals with safe, reliable heating support during the winter months

» **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Students from at-risk backgrounds receive scholarships that make higher education possible



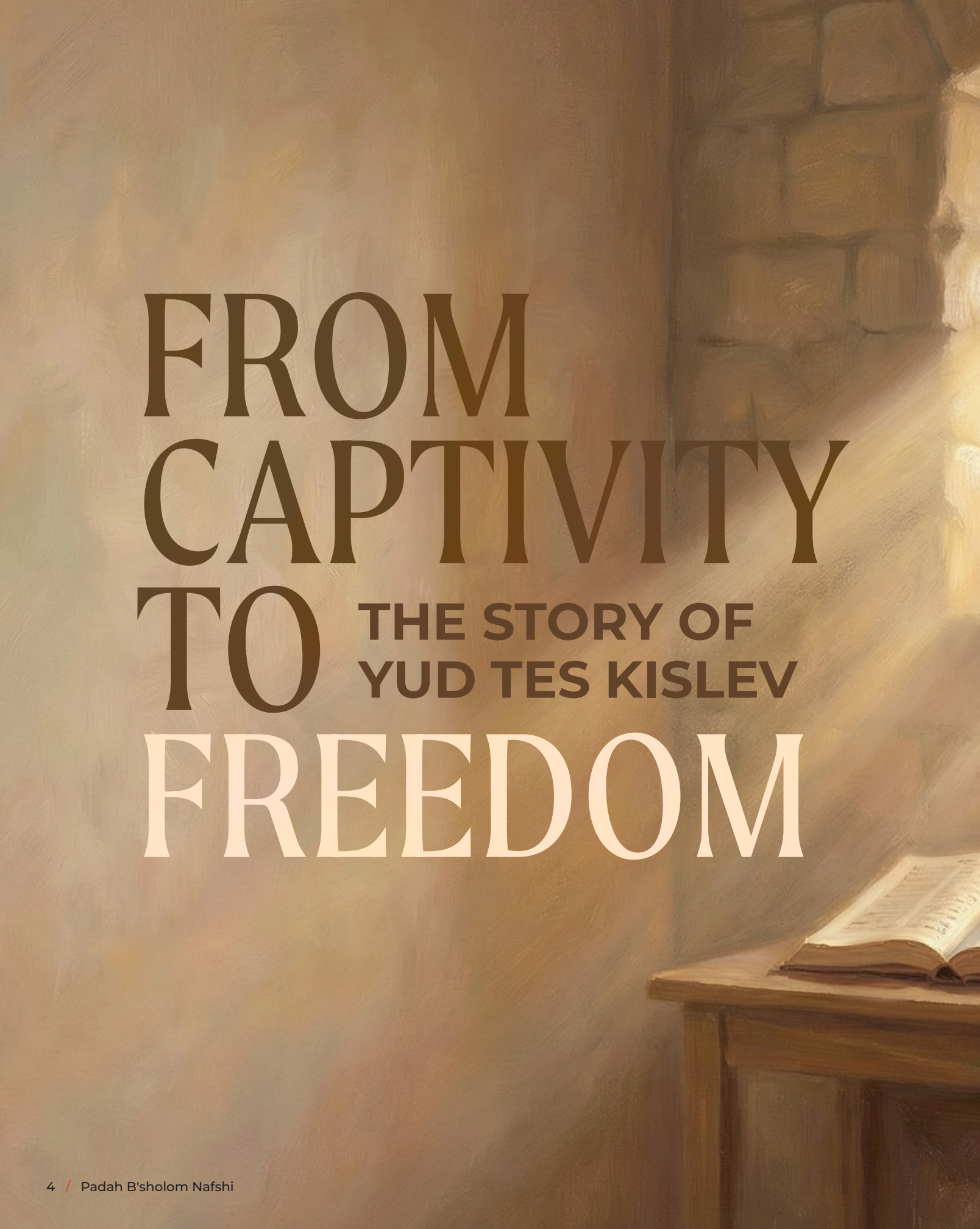
The bottom line

Colel Chabad gives every individual in Israel the ability, resources, and support to thrive. Help us fill more tables, open more doors, and remind more people that they're not alone.

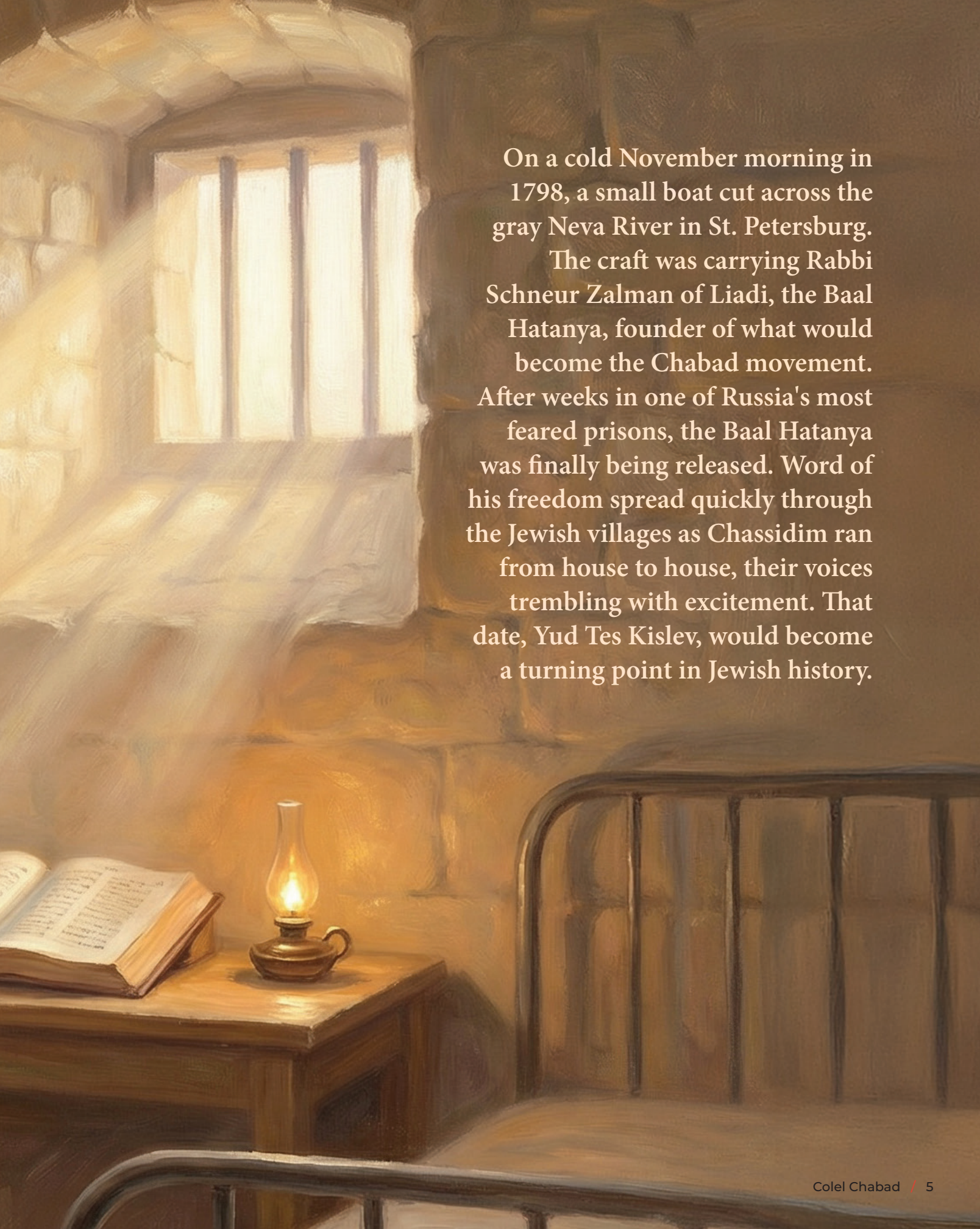
Donate today at

colelchabad.org





FROM CAPTIVITY TO THE STORY OF YUD TES KISLEV FREEDOM



On a cold November morning in 1798, a small boat cut across the gray Neva River in St. Petersburg.

The craft was carrying Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, the Baal Hatanya, founder of what would become the Chabad movement. After weeks in one of Russia's most feared prisons, the Baal Hatanya was finally being released. Word of his freedom spread quickly through the Jewish villages as Chassidim ran from house to house, their voices trembling with excitement. That date, Yud Tes Kislev, would become a turning point in Jewish history.

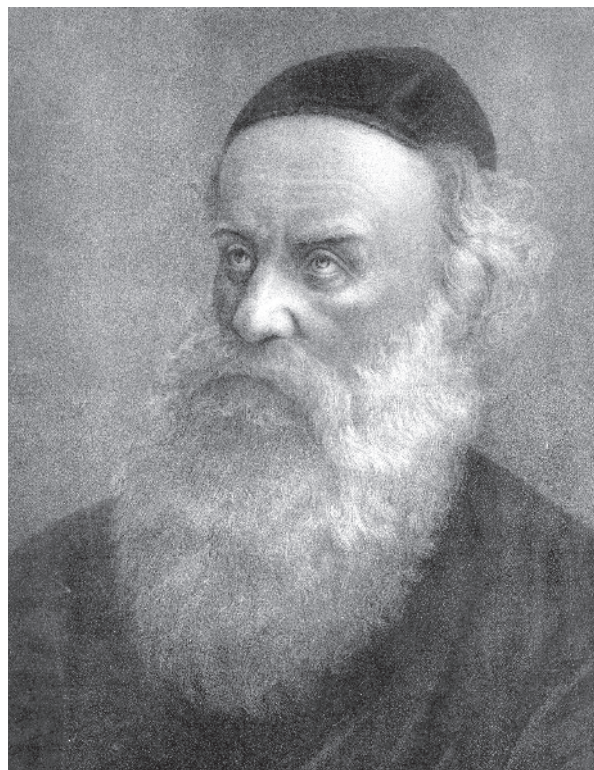
The story of Yud Tes Kislev is inseparable from the story of Colel Chabad.

Years before his imprisonment, in 1777, Rabbi Schneur Zalman yearned to settle in Eretz Yisroel. But as the Baal Hatanya began the journey to the Holy Land, his disciples pleaded: “Please stay and lead us!”

Torn between his love for Eretz Yisroel and his responsibilities to his brethren, the Baal Hatanya asked Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Vitebsk for guidance.

“Stay,” came the unequivocal response. The Chassidim needed Rabbi Schneur Zalman, so the Baal Hatanya sacrificed his deep dreams of Yishuv Eretz Yisroel for the sake of his Chassidim.

Even though the Baal Hatanya did not go, he felt a deep responsibility toward the pioneering Chassidim who did make it to Eretz Yisroel, the group he would have joined. These Chassidim were devoted to Torah and Chassidus...and facing extreme poverty. Letters from the Holy Land painted a grim picture of the hardship. The Eastern European Jews were no strangers



to poverty, hunger and deprivation, but compared to their brethren in Eretz Yisroel, their lives looked simple.

The Baal Hatanya couldn't be in Eretz Yisroel in person, but he could ensure the Chassidim's survival from afar. When one of the Chassidim, Rabbi Yisroel of Polotzk, returned to Europe to raise funds, the Baal Hatanya, along with Rabbi Yisocher Ber Segel, stepped in to help lead the effort.

It was the beginning of Colel Chabad.

The Baal Hatanya organized a unique, structured system of support. Families in chutz la'aretz set aside small sums on a regular basis. Once a year, an emissary would travel from town to town to collect these funds, then continue on to deliver them directly to the poor in Eretz Yisrael.

In one of his letters, the Baal Hatanya explained that it's better to give an annual donation in smaller, regular amounts, rather than a large sum all at once.

“Every day a person is judged, and today's act of charity may be exactly what protects him today. Giving a little at a time, over many occasions, also helps shape and strengthen the soul.”

And Colel Chabad, as the organization became known, became the central address for these small, life-changing donations.

The very work that secured the survival of countless families in the Holy Land also brought the Baal Hatanya into conflict with the Russian authorities.

Opponents of Rabbi Schneur Zalman and his Chassidim wrote a letter to Czar Paul I, the country's ruler:

“They [the Chassidim] lead a lawless life... They steal from their family and send it to Zalman, the son of Baruch, in Liozna.”

Paul I was known for his paranoia and cruelty to those perceived as traitors – sending funds to the Ottoman-ruled Eretz Yisroel could easily be seen as treason.

In Tishrei of 1798, the Baal Hatanya was arrested and taken to the notorious Petropavlovsk Fortress. His terrified followers wondered if he would ever emerge alive.

Under harsh imprisonment and life-threatening charges, Rabbi Schneur Zalman faced his interrogation with calm determination. He explained to authorities



that the donations were intended solely to sustain poor Jews.

"To you, this looks like treason. To us Jews, this is simply the continuation of an age-old commandment: supporting those who live and study in the Holy Land," he said.

After nearly two months of interrogations, the authorities concluded the Rabbi posed no threat, and the Baal Hatanya was freed on Yud Tes Kislev.

It was a moment that his followers came to celebrate as the "Rosh Hashanah of Chassidus."

Ironically, Colel Chabad – the cause of the danger – was also the source of salvation.

After his release, the Baal Hatanya wrote that he attributed the miracle of his freedom to the zechus of helping the poor in Eretz Yisrael.

On the first anniversary of Yud Tes Kislev, the Baal Hatanya asked his followers not to celebrate openly. He was concerned that public rejoicing might aggravate tensions with those who opposed the Chassidim.

In the face of widespread disappointment, Reb Yaakov Smiliyaner, a well-known shadar (ambassador) for Colel Chabad, had an idea. The Chassidim would prepare their Colel Chabad pledges early, and Reb Yaakov would bring the funds to the Rebbe. The Rebbe would be overjoyed by the tzedakah, and Reb Yaakov would seize the opportunity to ask if the Chassidim might be allowed to celebrate Yud Tes Kislev.

The plan worked. Rabbi Schneur Zalman's delight at seeing such support for the poor paved the way for a festive celebration. From that year and on, Yud Tes Kislev became a day of rejoicing and spiritual renewal.

Today, the story of the Baal Hatanya's liberation is the story of the enduring power of tzedakah.

The story of ordinary Jews who came together to support their brothers. The story that continues with Colel Chabad today. Because while Yud Tes Kislev marks the Baal Hatanya's release and the new era of spiritual growth he brought to the world, at its heart, it's a day that celebrates giving, unity, and care for every fellow Jew.

A 236-YEAR LEGACY OF TZEDAKAH IN ERETZ YISRAEL

A COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL
COLEL CHABAD PUSHKAS



1788 (5548) The Baal Hatanya founds Colel Chabad to support Jews in Eretz Yisrael.

1798 (5558) The Russian authorities accuse Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, the Baal Hatanya, of sending money to Turkish-controlled Palestine. They arrest him and he is released on Yud Tes Kislev.

1812 (5572) The Mittlerer Rebbe (1773-1827) introduces the custom of giving coins in a pushka (box).

1832 (5592) The Tzemach Tzedek, the third Rebbe, writes a letter about the life-saving importance of putting away 6 cents a week, or at least once a month.

1860 (5620) The Rebbe Rashab opens a factory to produce Shabbat candles in support of Colel Chabad.

1880 (5640) Sir Moses and Judith Montefiore are honored as chairpersons of Colel Chabad.

1901 (5661) The first JNF "Blue Box" appears.

1892 (5652) The Hebrew Free Loan Society of New York, the oldest Jewish Free Loan society in America, is established.

1929 (5689) The Previous Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneerson, visits the Colel Chabad institutions in the Holy Land and encourages world Jewry to channel their support there.

1951 (5711) One month after publicly accepting the leadership of world Jewry, the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, encourages supporting and maintaining a Colel Chabad Pushka in one's home.

1972 (5732) Colel Chabad starts an absorption project to help Russian immigrants. Daycare centers and afternoon programs for children are run by Colel Chabad.

1980 (5740) Colel Chabad opens its first soup kitchen in Mea Shearim.

1981 (5741) The first not-for-profit supermarket by Colel Chabad opens.

1991 (5751) Colel Chabad begins organizing mass Bar Mitzvahs for Israeli Russian immigrants. Since then, Colel Chabad has organized celebrations for orphans and other needy children.

1997 (5757) Colel Chabad establishes the first subsidized wedding hall in Israel, the Gutnick Wedding Hall, in Jerusalem.

2004 (5764) Colel Chabad opens the Grabski Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation Center in Migdal HaEmek.

2009 (5769) Colel Chabad opens the Blavatnik Food Bank, providing free monthly food baskets containing cooking and dietary staples delivered to Israel's neediest families.

2013 (5773) Pantry Packers, a food distribution project of Colel Chabad, opens in Jerusalem.

2017 (5777) Colel Chabad was chosen to help run Israel Security Agency's National Food Security Project aimed at eliminating hunger in Israel.

2019 (5779) Opening of Colel Chabad's Beis Finger Rehabilitation Center (assisted living) in Jerusalem for people suffering from neurological diseases.

2020 (5780) Nationwide COVID-19 emergency response.

2022 (5783) Food Security Project transformed from a pilot program to part of the Annual Budget of the Israeli Government.

2023 (5784) Colel Chabad takes a leading role in relief efforts following the October 7 attacks.

A BIG CHANGE FOR YOUR SMALL CHANGE

and a big difference
for families in Israel

JOIN OUR \$3,000,000
MATCH PARTNERS,
MICHAEL & DEBBIE FLACKS

\$6,000,000 MATCH SIX MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE

Michael and Debbie Flacks will match every dollar raised, unlocking \$6,000,000 to expand Colel Chabad's vital working — supporting **families, widows, orphans, the elderly, the handicapped, the injured, and the traumatized.**

Your gift provides **vital mental health care, targeted food and nutrition, and practical day-to-day assistance,** bringing **stability, dignity, and hope** to those who need it most — **right now!**



It's not stuck on your shelf. Now it's
always in your pocket too.

With Colel Chabad's pushka app,
you can now carry the protection of
tzedakah — and your connection to
Eretz Yisroel — wherever you go.

YOUR OPTIONS FOR UNLOCKING INFINITE REWARDS

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A NEW YEAR OF TANYA

תניא



When the Tzadik, Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev, first received the Tanya, he exclaimed: “The author placed such a great G-d into such a small book!”

Two hundred and twenty-nine years ago, a small *sefer* rolled off the printing press, one that would introduce “such a great G-d” to countless Yidden and spark a revolution in *Avodas Hashem*.

Authored by **Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi**, the founder of Chabad, *Tanya* stands as the seminal work of Chabad Chassidus, planting the seed for the hundreds of volumes that would follow over seven generations. Its impact extends far beyond Chabad Chassidim; *Tanya* is recognized as a cornerstone of Chassidic thought and a mainstay of Torah learning, studied, taught, and quoted across the breadth of the Jewish world.

Tanya speaks to Yidden on every level. It gives voice to the inner struggle between the two souls battling for control within each of us; it articulates with clarity the Oneness of Hashem; and it offers profound insight into concepts that so easily roll off our tongues such as Torah study, *Tzedakah*, and *Ahavas Yisroel*.

Though authored over two centuries ago, *Tanya* remains as relevant and alive as ever, studied daily by tens

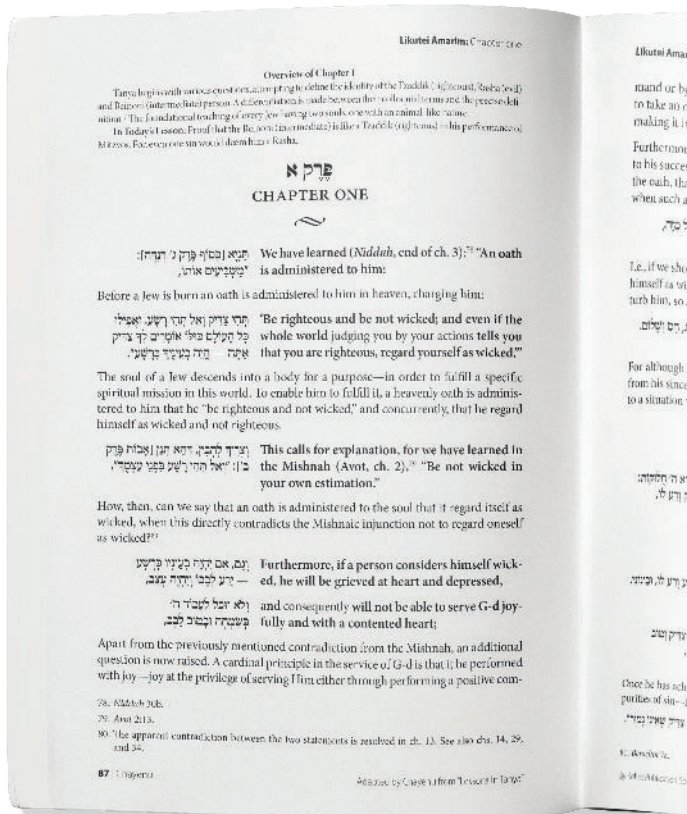
of thousands around the world. In fact, **Yud Tes Kislev**, celebrated as the anniversary of Rabbi Shneur Zalman’s release from Czarist imprisonment, also marks the start of the **annual cycle of Tanya** study.

This study is one of the three components of **Chitas** (חית"ס)—the daily learning cycle of *Chumash*, *Tehillim*, and *Tanya*. Instituted by the Sixth Chabad Rebbe, **Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn**, this daily practice offers a constant source of inspiration and spiritual nourishment for every Yid.

His successor, the **Lubavitcher Rebbe**, frequently encouraged those seeking his *brachos* to take on the daily study of *Chitas*, emphasizing that it brings blessing in all areas of life. “These schedules apply equally to all,” he wrote to one petitioner, “and they are a *segulah* (a spiritual remedy) for a great many matters.”

Yud Tes Kislev, as the new cycle of *Tanya* study begins, is the perfect time to take on this threefold commitment of Chitas. Over the course of a year, you will have learned the entire *Chumash*, completed *Tehillim*

STARTING
NEW TANYA CYCLE
YUD-TES KISLEV



TANYA AS IT APPEARS IN CHAYENU

twelve times, and studied all five sections of *Tanya*, spiritual accomplishments that will undoubtedly transform your day, your outlook, and your life.

Of course, taking on a new study requires consistency and support. That's where **Chayenu** comes in.

Chayenu is a weekly publication that presents Tanya (and others daily studies) with a clear English translation and explanation. Used by tens of thousands of people around the world, *Chayenu* removes the guesswork from maintaining a daily learning routine, offering these timeless texts in a clear, accessible, and beautifully organized format.

In addition to *Tanya*, Chayenu also features a rich array of other daily and weekly study sections, including, *Chumash*, *Mishnayos*, *Rambam*, *Halacha*, *Parsha* insights, *Chassidus*, *Ein Yaakov*, and more.

Begin your *Tanya* journey today and have Chayenu delivered right to your door! For a limited time, you can enjoy an **exclusive 50% off with code 13Kislev**. Offer ends 20th of Kislev (Dec. 10th).

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The Stars Speak

Open the curtains to the behind-the-scenes of Nafshi, where every person on stage isn't just there to entertain. They're there because this is what they believe in.

ON NIGGUNIM

"Kol Dodi Dofek" – I think it's my favorite because, as a child, I remember hearing a recording of Chassidim in Russia singing the niggun. They were yearning and waiting for the day when they would be able to see the Rebbe.

ON LEARNING

If you want to learn more Chassidus, join a group. Don't just try to do it on your own. It's possible to do it yourself, but it's easier if you have a chavrusa, chaburah or teacher – someone who will be on top of you, nudge you when you're slacking, and help you continue to make this a priority.

ON "NAFSHI"

Nafshi is not a concert. It's a farbrengen. It's an evening that's there to help you change your life, help you increase your learning of Chassidus, and improve your avodas Hashem, which for me, as a singer, is a very unique program to be a part of.

**Benny
Friedman**



ON NIGGUNIM

My favorite niggun is “Tzoma” because I associate the niggun with seeing videos of the Rebbe singing it and having the Chassidim sing along. Every time I sing the song you see everyone's reaction, the spiritual awakening in the crowd when you sing it.

ON TZEDAKAH TO ERETZ YISROEL

Eretz Yisroel is our eternal home, our homeland, and there's nothing like being there. The people who live in Eretz Yisroel often sacrifice a lot, whether for parnassah or other challenges, and if we can support them, we should. And of course, we're also preparing Eretz Yisroel for Moshiach, so it's ready for all of us.

Shulem Lemmer

ON LEARNING

I love Chassidus twofold: first, Chassidus gives a deeper meaning to everything we do. And second, it shows how much impact there is in every little thing. Every thought, every action, and every mitzvah, becomes filled with emotion and meaning and purpose. It's not just transactional.

So much of our Yiddishkeit becomes habitual. But when you learn Chassidus, it gives you perspective – a fresher outlook and a new motivation.

ON “NAFSHI”

It's a farbrengen. It's to get inspired to entertain our souls, not just our ears.

ON NIGGUNIM

My favorite niggun changes from time to time. Right now, I would go with Zalman Zlatopolsky's niggun. There's a story behind it, that he went to visit the Rebbe Rashab while the Rebbe Rashab was in France. The Rebbe Rashab heard him singing this and understood from the niggun that Reb Zalman was reliving his experience of seeing the Rebbe. There's a very powerful meaning.

Eli Marcus



ON "NAFSHI"

Between the inspiration and niggunim, the evening is all-encompassing. It's less of a performance and more of an experience.

Joey Newcomb



ON "NAFSHI"

Nafshi is not a concert. Nafshi is a celebration. Nafshi is a fabrengen. Nafshi is Yidden coming together celebrating redemption, celebrating the light of geulah. Obviously, it's the day of the Baal Hatanya's geulah, but it's about the ability for Chassidus to continue. It's about the ruchniyus and mamash bringing the light of Moshiach into the vel. So this is a big, big celebration. Nafshi is not poshut.

ON LEARNING

About 4-5 years ago, I decided to open the Tanya properly. And then Chitas joined my daily schedule. This is my fourth year of Chitas, but it all started with Tanya. After I learned Tanya, everything changed. My perspective, my avodah, how I look at things. And from there, it just took off. Now I learn a lot of Chassidus.

What do I love most about learning Chassidus? It's my life force. If you ask my kids, they'll tell you that it's everything. It's what I live with. But what I love most about learning Chassidus is the empowerment to be a proper Eved Hashem. It's a gashmake thing, because the more you learn about tzedakah, it's a significant act.



**Yehuda
Green**

ON NIGGUNIM

As a child, I went to the cheder in Shikun Chabad, so I have good memories of “Anim Zmiros,” but my best memories are when my older brothers bought a CD of Chabad niggunim and we listened to beautiful songs like “Kol Bayaar” and “Essen Est Zich.” It’s some of my sweetest memories.

ON LEARNING

When I was little, I went to an evening learning program where we learned Chassidus and would get seforim as rewards. I’m glad that I learned Chassidus because it’s warm and brings me closer to Hashem – that’s also why I think it’s important for everyone to do.

ON TZEDAKAH TO ERETZ YISROEL

As someone born in Eretz Yisroel, I saw how big the need is and I see how much Colel Chabad does to help poor families. It’s a lot of gemilas chassadim for those who need it most!

ON TZEDAKAH TO ERETZ YISROEL

Over the last few years, I’ve developed a very strong connection to the Alter Rebbe through his Torah and his niggunim. In fact, I even named one of my daughters Devorah Leah in his honor.

Learning the Tanya, you see the depth of his care and intention in every mitzvah he emphasized, from giving tzedakah to supporting Eretz Yisrael and holy people. Colel Chabad is one of the oldest tzedakah organizations, and it was started by one of the holiest people, the Alter Rebbe himself. Without a doubt, you know you’re investing in a good place.

For me personally, giving tzedakah to Eretz Yisroel is so important because it keeps us connected to the land. Sometimes we get caught up in galus, and forget our focus and where we want to get spiritually.

When a person gives tzedakah to Eretz Yisroel, they’re reminding themselves that they’re connected and giving away a part of themselves. Money isn’t easy to part with, and when someone gives tzedakah, it’s a significant act.

ON NIGGUNIM

How are you going to pick a favorite Chabad Niggun? It switches every month. To pick a favorite, I would have to sit down and mamash contemplate. I’d have to do real hisbonenus. But right now, I’m very busy with the “Poltava Niggun.” It hits me so deep. There’s something about that niggun that I just can’t explain. The first time I heard it, I was just “wow, wow, wow.” It hits me so deep.

BENNY FRIEDMAN ELI MARCUS SHULEM LEMMER JOEY NEWCOMB YEHUDA GREEN



INSPIRATION • NIGGUN • TZEDAKAH

נפשׁי

nafshi

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 MENDY PORTNOY

SUNDAY

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DEC 7

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IN HONOR OF
YUD TES KISLEV **LIBERATION CELEBRATION**

MARKING THE BAAL HATANYA'S RELEASE FROM
CZARIST PRISON FOR HIS UNWAVERING SUPPORT
OF ERETZ YISRAEL THROUGH COLEL CHABAD.

IN MEMORY OF MIRIAM A"H MINTZ, A VISIONARY WHO SHAPED THE INAUGURAL NAFSHI



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