

CHABAD OF THAILAND

J e w i s h U n i t y

Chabad of Thailand was founded in 1993 with the guidance and blessing of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. Its mission is to “love every Jew, help every Jew, bring every Jew closer to his/her Jewishness” by providing spiritual, material and social support for all Jews regardless of their origin, affiliation or degree of observance. This creates an atmosphere of unity, which transcends all outward differences and guarantees Jewish continuity.

With G-d’s infinite blessings and the generous support and involvement of concerned Jews, Chabad of Thailand has grown rapidly during the fifteen years since its founding. We have initiated educational and social programs that cater to both the local Jewish community and to the very significant population of visitors, whether traveling for business or leisure. It is no secret that the rift between different types of Jews in Israel seems almost irreparable. Chabad of Thailand, being located on the “trekking route” of tens of thousands of Israeli backpackers and tourists has been blessed with the unique opportunity to mend and unite.

At Chabad of Thailand we have found the formula to develop a rapport with these tens of thousands of Jews who come from a myriad of backgrounds, melting the feelings of indifference and unfriendliness and generating a warm spirit of unity and caring. Person by person, one positive interaction at a time Chabad of Thailand is changing the social landscape of Israel for the better.



To date, there are ten Chabad emissaries who reside in Thailand with their families. Together with assistance from twelve yeshiva bachurim they provide physical and spiritual help in all fields to every Jew, twenty-four hours a day, every day.



There are five Chabad houses in Thailand and Laos: Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Koh Samui, Phuket and Luang Prabang. More than one hundred thousand visitors come to Thailand from Israel every year. Many of these visitors are young backpackers who have recently completed their service in the IDF.



Each Chabad House has a synagogue where prayers are held. There are also daily classes in Torah and private counseling opportunities.



We introduce our guests to Torah and Mitzvot with a welcoming smile and much love. The Shluchim are patient, compassionate and non-judgmental accepting everyone just the way they are. This approach fosters a spirit of unity and harmony amongst the visiting Jews.



The communications center at every Chabad House enables backpackers to connect with their families via telephone and internet free of charge. The Kosher restaurants at each location are subsidized to suit the backpacker's budget allowing them to enjoy kosher meals in a homey environment.



The Library in each Chabad house is filled with books on Jewish subjects and themes. Visitors sit on the couches provided and read the books at their leisure. The complimentary refreshments provided at the lounge area are much appreciated by the travelers.



The Chabad houses offer religious services for the backpackers and business people who are spending time in Thailand. Many Jews put on Tefillin here for the first time in their lives.



The Chabad rabbi's help any fellow Jew in need, regularly visiting those in hospital and in jail. They assist people who have fallen ill during their travels as well as victims of theft and accidents. Many parents call on the Chabad staff to help them locate and make contact with their traveling children who have not called home.



Each week over a thousand Jewish guests take part in the Shabbat meals in the Chabad Houses. Many of the backpackers arrange their travel schedules to ensure that they are near a Chabad House for the weekend so they can get to attend Shabbat services and meals at the Chabad Houses.

On Friday nights a delicious Shabbat meal is served to all who wish to attend, at no charge. After the meal there is an “Oneg Shabbat” gathering that sometimes goes on till the wee hours of the morning. Each guest participates by telling a story, leading a song or sharing an inspirational Torah thought.



Often the backpackers themselves will join us in our efforts by helping us in the preparations to the Shabbat and Holiday meals.

There is nothing more inspiring than helping spread the warmth of Judaism to others.



Thousands of guests come to celebrate the Jewish holidays with us. Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are especially well attended as they usually coincide with the height of the tourist season in Thailand.



Photographed before the holiday.



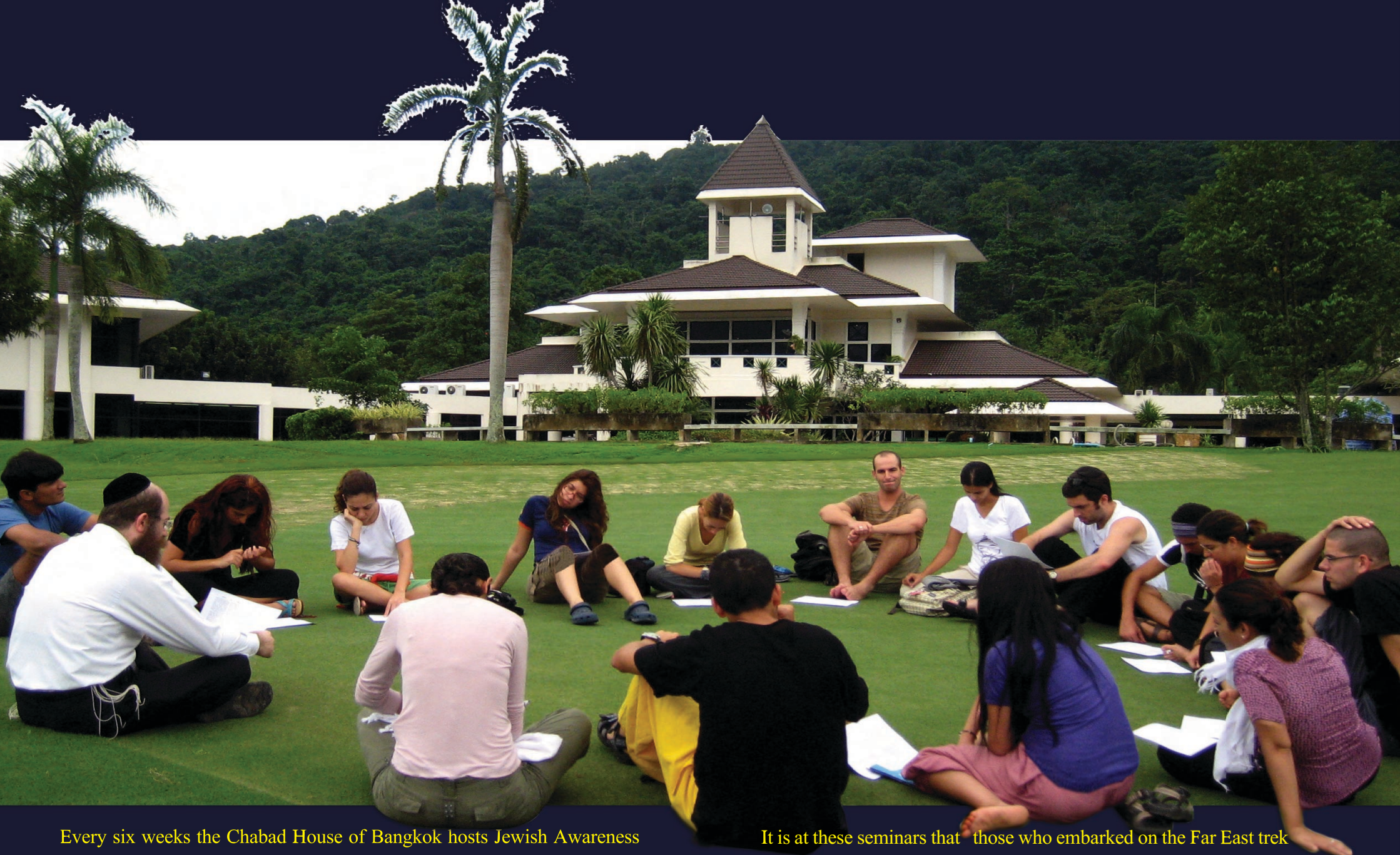
The large Passover Seders held at the Chabad Houses in Thailand have earned themselves an excellent reputation. Thousands throng to the Chabad Seders renowned for their extraordinarily spirited atmosphere of camaraderie and Jewish pride.



During each of the holidays we assist our guests in fulfilling the Mitzvot pertinent to that holiday. On Succoth, our guests perform the mitzvah of Lulav and Ethrog as well as eating in the Succah.



The joyous way we perform the Mitzvot together with our guests, motivate many of them to take upon themselves to fulfill Torah and Mitzvot and continue this practice upon returning home. They share the joy and beauty of Torah with their relatives and friends - a very positive chain reaction.



Every six weeks the Chabad House of Bangkok hosts Jewish Awareness Seminars in a relaxed atmosphere at a resort area. Some thirty backpackers participate in each session. The studies are deep and cover the Torah perspective on science, self-awareness and other central facets of Judaism.

It is at these seminars that those who embarked on the Far East trek “looking for themselves” find answers to their questions. Seminar graduates often continue to pursue their Judaism and move on to continue their Jewish studies in Israel.



The educational institutions in Thailand include several kindergarten classes as well as an elementary school.



The summer camp, Camp Gan Israel, takes place during the vacation at the end of the school year. Many children who study in the international schools participate in the camp. The camp theme says it all: "Gan Israel: Where Jewish kids are happier and happy kids are Jewisher".



Dear Friends, our work is critical for the future of Am Yisrael but we cannot possibly do it alone. Please become a partner in our work and help us keep our doors open and our programs running.

Through your contribution you become a partner in our holy work of bringing our youth closer to our Father in Heaven as well as fostering unity and harmony among Am Yisrael, thus bringing the era of the coming of Mashiach ever closer.

