

## All for One and One for All

As we approach the holiday of *Purim*, we can sense in the air a feeling of camaraderie and friendship that this holiday teaches us. The acts of giving *Shaloch Manos* (giving gifts to people) and taking care of the poor are designed to create a feeling of *Achdus* (unity) among us. Yet, we find a puzzling *Halacha* (law) related to the observance of this holiday.

The *Talmud* (oral law) in tractate *Megillah* states that one reads the *Megillah* on different dates depending on one's location. Most of us celebrate *Purim* on the 14<sup>th</sup> of *Adar*. However, individuals who live in a *walled city* celebrate *Purim* on the 15<sup>th</sup> and in some cases, the *Talmud* tells us at different times in history there were people who even read the *Megillah* on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, or 13<sup>th</sup> of *Adar*. It makes one wonder why a holiday that represents *Achdus* does not have everyone celebrating the holiday at the same time.

Rabbi Zev Leff, (the *Rav* of *Moshav Mattityahu* and *Rosh Yeshiva* of the *Yeshiva Gedolah Mattityahu*) a renowned lecturer and educator, explains the true understanding of being a unified people. *Achdus* does not mean that everyone does the same thing at the same time. Rather, *Achdus* means that I am happy for you with what you are doing, and you, in turn, are happy for me with what I am doing. *Achdus* is respecting each other's differences and appreciating people for whom they truly are.

We are all created in the image of G-d and have something to contribute to society. Thank G-d, we are fortunate to live in a wonderful unified community. Let us all strengthen our respect and admiration for our fellow Jews. We must transmit this message to our children, and G-d willing, we will merit the ultimate reward of the final redemption and rebuilding of the *Bais Hamikdosh* (Temple) in our times.