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THE ROHR
CHABAD
- CENTER AT DARTMOUTH -



Newsletter



DEDICATION CEREMONY

Few things would have given me greater joy than to be present at the dedication of the new Chabad of Dartmouth. But as the Psalmist said, 'Shall I not place Jerusalem above all joys?' And so it is from our holy city of Jerusalem, where I am on academic leave, that I pen these joyful words.

Little did I suspect, 20 years ago, when I forsook the comforts of London to accept a professorial post at Dartmouth, that I was joining the only Ivy League school without kosher dining, without an Orthodox rabbi, and (surprise!) without any history of Jewish high school graduates. Oh, and without any faculty to whom any of this mattered. But something in me told me I had to take up the challenge – and that only a Chabad shaliach and shlucha could make it work.

And then the miracles began: Rabbi Krinski of Manchester conjured up seed funding, Rabbi Moshe and Chani Gray materialized in our living room, and a sixth sense (actually, my wife's) told us: 'They're the ones'. And then the miracle of finding a tiny condo and surviving their first Hanover winter, and the miracle of my office being the most humongous on campus —the perfect place for Chabad's first Shabbat services.

But, as the Talmud teaches us, 'Don't put your trust in miracles'. The flair, no: the genius of Team Gray and their sheer hard work and indefatigability has made Chabad of Dartmouth what it is and where it is today. Is there any campus in America where a faculty member and a Chabad shaliach collaborate so closely on student activities and scholarly initiatives as have Rabbi Gray and I? Dartmouth can count itself fortunate to have Chabad -- and to see the College's Biblical motto transformed from 'A voice crying in the wilderness' into the original meaning of Isaiah's Hebrew words: 'A voice cries: Clear the way for our God in the wilderness.'

May the new Chabad of Dartmouth, with God's help, resonate for generations to come to the sound of Jewish learning, singing, and joy.

Lewis Glinert

PROFESSOR OF HEBREW
MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES PROGRAM
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE



The dedication of the Hilary Chana Chabad House was so historic for Jewish life at Dartmouth College that it needed an entire weekend. And though we heard from many wonderful speakers, two hours on a Sunday was simply not adequate to convey the magnitude of the event and the story behind it. The dedication weekend, and this letter, were designed to share the stories of the many people without whom Chabad would not be where it is today.

Chabad's lifeblood and *raison d'être* are the Jewish students who attend Dartmouth College. As Mr. George Rohr said in his remarks, our purpose here is "to make available and accessible and sweet the magnificent heritage we are all entitled to." That magnificent heritage was apparent in the students' vital contributions to the weekend's celebrations. Max Goldman '20 led us in a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat service; Chabad student board President Alexa Green '19 emceed the Friday night Shabbat dinner; Jonathan Gliboff '20, a chavruta of Chabad faculty advisor Lewis Glinert, shared the professor's remarks on Sunday; and Birthright alumna Katie Goldstein '20 was the student keynote during Sunday's ceremony.

No student is a universe unto him or herself; each comes from an incredible family that has nurtured their Judaism. Accordingly, each of our students' parents and families have been a crucial part of Chabad. Without their support and encouragement, we would, as Chani so eloquently stated, "still be in 22A School Street." Representative of this kind of commitment are Jay and Elena Lefkowitz P'22. As soon as they knew their son was going to attend Dartmouth, they wanted to be involved in strengthening Jewish life at the College. They have done this in the past at Columbia and Cornell; today, we are blessed to have them as Dartmouth parents.

If it's true that the students aren't a universe unto themselves, it's also true that Rabbi and Chani aren't either. Where they come from—their families' stories—are vital to the understanding

of the miracle that is Chabad at Dartmouth. In Hanover to share that prelude to their own story was Rabbi Gray's father and Chani's mother.

Mr. Gray shared his own story of how he found himself as a college student in the 70s at the Chabad house at UW, coming full circle now, 40 years later. Mrs. Rivka Saks spoke about Chani's father and his journey to Chabad. This history contributed to educating Chani and the Rabbi so that they one day could establish Chabad at Dartmouth and drive its growth.

It has always been important to Chabad to be a part of the intellectual fabric of the college and to build relationships with faculty and administration. In recognition of those relationships, Chabad was honored to have Dean of Admissions Lee Coffin, and Dean and Chaplain of the College, Rabbi Daveen Litwin, celebrate with us. They both are committed to working together to make Jewish life on campus as strong as it can be.

Dartmouth is blessed to have so many committed and involved alumni, and Chabad is equally blessed in that regard. From alumni events to Jewish life cycle celebrations, the alumni community of Chabad is an integral part of our mission. It is paramount that our alumni know that they always have a Jewish home in Hanover to come back to, whether during reunions or any regular weekend.

Many alumni, including four former Chabad student presidents, came back to celebrate the weekend with us. Adam Patinkin '07, Jenny Friedman Talel '11, Gabi Tudin '12, and Eliza Ezrapour '18 shared their experiences and the impact Chabad has had on them.

Chani Gray emceed Sunday's dedication and gave context to Dartmouth's motto. In Latin it reads, *vox clamantis in deserto*: a voice crying out in the wilderness. But the motto's history does not date back merely to Dartmouth's founding. The quote has persisted for 2700 years, since the prophet Isaiah (chapter 40 verse 3), and is part of the famous Haftarah that we read every year on Shabbos Nachamu, the Shabbos after

Tisha B'Av. (This also happens to be both Rabs' and Mendel's Bar Mitzvah Haftarah).

The verse begins *nachamu nachamu ami* (be comforted my people), and a few verses later reads *kol koreh* (a voice calls out), *Bamidbar panu derech hashem* (clear the way of G-d in the desert), *yashru baarava mesila lelokeinu* (straighten out a highway in the wilderness for our G-d). The commentaries explain that this path exists so that the Jewish people have a clear, easy way to return from their exile. The verse specifies a desert to demonstrate that one ought to have a clear path to travel to places far away both physically and metaphorically. While Eleazer Wheelock certainly may have felt that this was an appropriate motto for Dartmouth, we believe it is a doubly appropriate verse to serve as the mission of the Chabad House at Dartmouth. We strive to pave a path for as many students and members of our community as possible through the study of Torah, acts of Mitzvot, and the celebration of Shabbos and holidays.

Rabs spoke at Sunday's dedication about Chabad's vision for future growth in both breadth and depth. Now that the building is done, we intend to institute more social and educational programming, bring on more help, build a mikveh, and expand outreach to other communities.

Rabs continued to share the story of our journey and concluded with tremendous thanks to all of our supporters and friends; especially Robert and Debbie Ezrapour P'18; George and Pamela Rohr; and Sue Ann Arnall P'16 and her daughter Hilary Chana Hamm '16 for their incredible generosity and support throughout the entire building process. They have helped us see our dream to fruition.

May the Lubavitcher Rebbe continue to challenge us and inspires us to embolden proud, educated Jewish students so that they may make their mark in the world, with the ultimate goal of bringing the Redemption with Moshiach Tzidkenu now.



Hello, all! It's my honor to thank you for coming today to the dedication of Dartmouth Chabad!! We are here to celebrate Chabad's success and growth, two things that would not have been possible without your help and support.

So for that, I thank you, and through this speech, I hope to delight you through sharing my path to Chabad - and why I keep coming back here (it's not Chani's challah, but that really isn't to be missed).

I came to Chabad in a circuitous manner: I had actually been involved with Dartmouth Hillel on Executive Board as Webmaster/Historian - I swear it's a role - as it was the only Jewish organization I knew as I was raised in the reform tradition. But something in my gut told me that as lovely a place as it is, it wasn't mine.

So there I was, meandering through college without a place or community to explore and express my Jewish identity. My Dad noticed this, and suggested I go on Birthright with a few friends. So I joined my friend Jared Hodes, who had been attending Chabad ever since he had attended Dartmouth, on Chabad's birthright trip the winter of 2017.

I remember being so nervous in the airport that I hugged my Dad for an extra-long time. I didn't know anyone besides Jared. I had been gone during the summer, then abroad the term before - gone from the Dartmouth community for a whole 6 months. Now, I was going to be with people I didn't know, who had been together for a whole term, for 10 whole days.

The fear was misplaced. I, along with our 6 Israeli soldier friends, were welcomed with open arms into the Dartmouth folds, and my time with Chabad in Israel flew by in a flurry of emotion, sights, new experiences, bonding, song, and fun. At the end, I was worried that those friendships would stay in Israel. I was afraid of what it would be like to return to the same people on the Dartmouth campus, and craved a space to continue the exploration of my own Jewish identity.

Another fear sorely misplaced. Birthright was my immersive introduction into the Chabad community, which nurtured new and continuous relationships between so many of my dearest friends - many of whom I see in the audience today. Spending time with them in the hours before, during, and after Shabbat at Chabad became commonplace, and my preferred way to begin my weekend. I lived with one of my

Birthright pals this summer, who also introduced me to another Chabad member I am lucky to call my friend, role model, and mentor. During a hard term, I cried buckets while in the arms of a Chabad friend. Yet another Birthright gal became my confidant during my sorority experience.

I would be remiss not to mention my appreciation and personal connection to our charismatic friend, leader, and CrossFit champion, Rabs. Rabs and I also met on Birthright and got closer over the Chabad table. My coffees with him at Dirt Cowboy have become a termly tradition, where we connect, catch up, and he helps me walk through my problems. The backstory to this - he emailed me for coffee and we spent almost an hour and a half together, and it became a recurring event. When I was having trouble with a teacher, Rabs had a coffee with her - just to help me. When I mentioned a cool company, I wanted to work for, Rabs connected me with a Dartmouth graduate he knew well. Chani, too, has been there for me with a kind word and hug as I spill my life over the Shabbos table. The stories could go on - and here's the thing, every Chabad member has a similar one. Rabs and Chani constitute a force to be reckoned with, a caring omnipresence in every Chabad member's life, and I am so excited they both have created a space that both matches and honors their energy, kindness, and generosity.

While the Jewish community here is small, our heritage brings us together, and experiences unite us. These people are my family through blood, and friends by choice. They have been huge influences in my life, through the mundane, the scary big, and everything in-between. And - all that would not have been possible without the physical space and travel of Chabad, the epicenter of all that is my Jewish life on campus. I am so grateful to have access to this resource.

As I look forward into the future of my Dartmouth experience, both the known and unknown frighten me. But I am excited to traverse all there is with the support of Chabad at my back and look forward to many a meal at the Shabbos table.

Thank you all, again, for your time and energy that you have put into building this place from the ground up. Donors, partners - without you this would not be possible. Thank you! And thank you, Rabbi, Chani, and family, for making Dartmouth Chabad my home.

With that, enjoy the rest of the ceremony!

Katie Goldstein '20, Sunday Dedication Student Remarks







Hi I'm Gabi, I'm a 12, and Chabad student president 2011 to 2012 when I begrudgingly gave up my throne.

When Rabs asked me to give a speech this weekend, I was so surprised and flattered... no, he knows I love the spotlight and would have probably given a toast whether he liked it or not...

And let's be honest, he owes me this for withstanding his many Shabbat matchmaking attempts with the baby '13s. (My mom is here and she'll be happy to note I'm still single, by the way).

But really, I'm so happy and excited to be here this weekend for this in particular. Rabs will whine that it took building an entire new house to get me to visit, and while it's true, I do want to talk about how big of a deal this is – and what it means to me as an alum.

Right when I landed on campus as a baby freshman, cold already as a Florida girl but still naively pumped for the winter, Rabs reached out to grab coffee at Dirt Cowboy. (This is PRE-CrossFit Rabs, by the way, if you can dig deep and remember that).

At the time, of course, I felt special – I figured he knows I'm amazing, going to be an asset to Chabad – maybe my grandma called to give him a heads up – but everyone here knows he does this with every Jewish student who sets foot on campus. He makes you feel welcome, a part of something, and heard, at a time where that means a lot to a little 18 year old.

It's likely all of us can say this, but Chabad was my home base, my safe space; it kept me grounded.

Every Friday night we would pile into 22A School Street, immediately feeling the warmth that comes with a community like the one Rabs and Chani have built.

You'd smell Chani's challah and amazing meatballs (which I still make for people even though I don't even eat meat anymore...), the kids would be running around, and Rabs would check

in on how your week went or whether you sent out that email about Shabbat 400.

My parents knew I felt some unconditional love for Chabad when a couple things happened in particular: I joined Rabs' Sinai Scholars class, and when I voluntarily babysat his children.

These things – Sinai Scholars, Birthright, Shabbat, coffee at Dirt Cowboy – are extensions of the Gray home. They are personal; they bring us closer as a community, and closer to Judaism.

Because here's the thing that I think goes unsaid but matters a lot to students: Rabs and Chani treat every student with respect.

Judaism can be an unapproachable religion to those who know nothing about it, and even to those who know plenty. But here, in this home, there is no shame here for not knowing, for asking questions, for having an argument. In fact, Rabs will gladly argue with you about religion, politics, the future of Israel, whether you should break up with your boyfriend... anything controversial, really – and he does it with full respect for where you're coming from and where you can be.

As a Sinai Scholar I wrote this speech about women in Judaism. I wrote about how common it is for non-Jews and Jews alike to think our religion disregards women or considers them less-than (a concept we of course see around the world today); when in fact, Judaism raises women to a height not reached by men. We value women as the strength of a family – the backbone – leaders; and respect them as such. Rabs and Chani embody this. You see it in them as a team, you see it in the way Rabs treats his students, you see it when he prefers to have us as his student body presidents...!

You see, this Chabad brings Judaism to life in a way that truly resonates with students as young adults. While we're in the Gray home, we're also in a time of our lives where we're making our own decisions about religion – deciding what it means to us, how or whether we'll keep it in our lives, and how it will impact our future. I grew up going to

Shul every Friday night; I went to Jewish camp; I tutored kids at Hebrew school; but that didn't mean I was set on what I wanted to take with me as an independent adult.

The Grays know we're in this mode, and they not only respect it – they challenge us to push our knowledge, to question our beliefs, to find our own connections to Judaism.

This home is a part of that. School Street was too, of course... it was all of these things packed into 1,000 little square feet. It was 100 of us stacked on top of each other for Pesach, it was us standing and sitting anywhere after a Shabbas dinner just to chat and hang out. It was countless jackets, boots, hats, and gloves thrown onto strollers by the front door so we could watch a football game with Rabs. It was us rolling down the hill behind the house to sit in the Sukkah.

And no, I'm not bitter that new students get to enjoy this gorgeous huge home with a million rooms and the biggest kitchen(s) ever and an insane backyard. I'm full of pride and joy that Rabs and Chani made this happen for Dartmouth.

Because this is where countless students to come will find that connection with Judaism that I myself defined while I was here. Maybe they'll pray, maybe they'll learn, maybe they'll just bake challah or drink a beer on the back porch.

But what will really be happening is they'll be celebrating Judaism. They'll be growing this community. They'll be making an impact on each other, and on our futures as Jews in this world.

And that's what makes me proud to be here today, and to have been touched by the Gray family, to be part of their legacy.

So thank you all for being here – and for continuing to support and give back to this special Dartmouth family.

Gabi Tudin '12, Shabbat Lunch Alumni Remarks



Hi everyone. Thank you all for being here for this special occasion. First, you're probably wondering why this place is called the Hilary Chana Chabad House. When my mom and the Rabbi came to me and said we want to incorporate your name into the building, we had to go through a few iterations before we landed on "Hilary Chana Chabad House. You're probably thinking "Hilary" doesn't sound that Jewish, but neither does my last name Hamm. So, we decided to keep Hilary, immediately scrapped "Hamm" and added my Jewish name "Chana" in order to avoid a non-kosher disaster.

I want to tell you a bit about my time at Dartmouth and what this place means to me personally. I first walked onto this campus 6 years ago not even knowing what the word "kosher" meant. When you grow up in the Christian Bible Belt of Oklahoma, it's not the coolest thing to be Jewish. So, when I got to Dartmouth and was introduced to Chabad, I was overwhelmed by what I thought to be a HUGE, welcoming and "cool" Jewish community. Of course, I soon learned that Dartmouth has the fewest number of Jewish students of any Ivy League school, so this wasn't as huge of a community as I imagined. But it was still very welcoming and debatably cool.

When he noticed how overwhelmed I was after Birthright, Rabs took me out to coffee to get to know me and make me feel more at home like he does with every student who walks through his door. I thought, "OK, this man looks kind of strange, but this will be a one-off conversation." Little did I know that this one-off conversation would turn into a weekly chat and study over coffee.

By the end of my junior year, we had a solidified study schedule, and Rabs encouraged me to think about having a bat mitzvah. They assured me that even though I had I had missed the mark by a decade, it was still possible to have your bat mitzvah at any time in life as long as you demonstrate your commitment to Judaism. So, over the next year, Rabs and I studied Tanya together every week, and this culminated in the only 22-year old Bat-Mitzvah Dartmouth has ever seen.

After leaving Dartmouth, I thought maybe I had finally left this crazy bearded man behind. I should've known better. Anyone that knows the Gray's knows they are seriously committed to growing students at Dartmouth and in their lives and careers outside of Hanover. It's been two and a half years since graduation, but Rabbi Gray still makes time every week to study Torah and philosophize about life and purpose with me. He's even made it onto my "Favorites" on my FaceTime list now.

I am standing here because I proudly identify as a Jew today, not because I grew up in an observant family, or because I was forced into religion, but because I choose every day to make Judaism a part of my life. And I owe that to the Gray's. They have shown me what it means to live a life of meaning and purpose. And that's what this house really represents to me and to my mom. It represents the opportunity for the next generations of Jewish students at Dartmouth to study Torah, be welcomed into a loving community, and discover how to live a life of purpose through Judaism. Thank you, Rabbi, and Chani.

Hilary H. Hamm '16 Sunday Dedication Remarks

Building a Partnership

DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Endowment Name,	\$1,000,000
Building Name	\$750,000 R
Organization Name	\$750,000 R
Dining Room	\$500,000
Rabbi's Residence	\$300,000
Library	\$250,000 R
Kitchen	\$400,000
Living Room	\$100,000 R
Student Lounge	\$100,000 R
Entrance	\$100,000 R
Outdoor Spaces x 3	\$100,000
Crossfit Gym	\$100,000
Sefer Torah	\$100,000 R
Rabbi Study	\$100,000 R
Guest Room x2	\$50,000 R
Mezuzah Front	\$25,000 R
Aron Hakodesh	\$50,000 R
Mezuzah x 6	\$5000

HONOR WALL PLAQUES

Large	Medium	Small
\$12,000	\$7,200	\$5,400

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

House purchase	\$1,350,000
Endowment*	\$1,000,000
Renovations	\$1,500,000
Operating budget 3 years	\$750,000
Soft costs/carrying costs	\$200,000
Furnishings	\$100,000
New couple budget	\$180,000

Our Goal - \$5,080,000

65%

RAISED TO DATE \$3,300,000

Other endowment and programmatic opportunities available.

YOUNG ALUMNI CAMPAIGN

Goal - \$500,000

RAISED TO DATE - \$185,000





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