



The CHABAD at Dartmouth Update

September 2011, Edition 11 Elul 5771

A Year In Review... by Gabi Tudin '12

Over the course of the spring term, 20 students met weekly with Rabbi Gray as part of the Sinai Scholars Society. The program consists of 8 weeks of group meetings, a trip to Montreal, a Shabbat dinner and a graduation banquet. During our weekly meetings, we explored and debated the application of the Ten Commandments to our daily lives and how these heavenly mandates provide the foundation for the Jewish faith. We examined notions of lying and cheating, the existence of G-d and justice, all as applied to one's daily activities. With Rabbi Gray leading class discussions, we engaged in heated de-



Saul Zebovitz '11 and the Grays

Pesach Sederim were packed this year at Chabad! After much preparation by Chani and several student volunteers, around 90 students gathered at the Chabad House for the first Seder. The celebration continued with Chabad at Dartmouth's tradition of reciting the Manishtanah in various languages-- Spanish, Russian and even Old English. As per usual, Chani's spectacular menu did not disappoint. 60 Students returned the next night for round two of Passover fun, and spent hours eating, singing, and reading the Haggadah.

This past spring, Chabad at Dartmouth co-sponsored an event with Dr. Jonathan Spyer, a Senior Research Fellow at the Global Research in International Affairs Center at IDC, Herzliya. Dr. Spyer made Aliya in 1991 and completed his service in the IDF in 1993. He discussed the perpetually evolving landscape of Middle East politics, covering topics ranging from the Arab Spring to the Iranian dilemma to the growing threat of a Hamas State in Gaza. Dartmouth Students displayed tremendous familiarity with the present conditions on the ground, asking nuanced and thoughtful questions. Dr. Spyer discussed his concerns and aspirations for the region at length. Dartmouth students were lucky to have been privy to the thoughts of a foremost authority on matters so critical to our times.



Brandon Floch '11 Symposium Winner

As Max approached the podium to present his paper at this year's Sinai Scholars Symposium at the University of Pennsylvania, the insightful words previously shared by Rabbi Immanuel Schochet still lingered in his mind. He probably should have focused on the issues of his own paper -- Shabbat and Halacha in the 21st Century -- but the deeper question examined by Rabbi Schochet proved too powerful. How can we be confident that the word of the Torah is divine and how does this question impact the foundations of our faith?

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Upcoming Events

Rosh Hashanah, Sept 28-30th

Yom Kippur, October 7th in the evening, 8th

**Sukkot and Sukkah on the Green
October 13th - 21st**

Sinai Scholars Society: Fall Term for 8 weeks: A Jewish Studies Fellowship with an innovative program of study, activities, and national networking.

New Weekly Discussion Group

Sundays 12-1pm join Rabbi and Chani for lunch and open discussion on weekly topics

6th Annual Dr. Tzvi Yehuda Saks Memorial Lecture on Torah and Science:

Chabad on Campus National Shabbaton in Brooklyn, November 10-12

6th Annual Birthright Trip to Israel during winter break.

January '12 annual Ivy League Ski Shabbaton

2nd Annual Chabad at Dartmouth Alumni Shabbat dinner in NYC, March 2012

These are just some of the things going on this term at Dartmouth. For more information or to be informed about other events please sign up to for our list by e-mailing Chabad@Dartmouth.edu

Our New Website

Please Visit our new website at

www.DartmouthChabad.com

Now staying informed and up to date is easier than ever with the goings on at Chabad at Dartmouth.

You can now Donate online at our website, so save a stamp.

Fostering Jewish Life at Dartmouth

From the Directors

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the Elul/ Thishre issue of the Dartmouth Chabad Update. As the month of "Mercy and Forgiveness," Elul is a opportune time for teshuvah ("return" to G-d), prayer, charity, and increased Ahavat Yisrael (love for a fellow Jew) in the quest for self-improvement and coming closer to G-d. Chassidic master Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi likens the month of Elul to a time when "the king is in the field" and, in contrast to when he is in the royal palace, "everyone who so desires is permitted to meet him, and he receives them all with a cheerful countenance and shows a smiling face to them all." Wishing all of you and your families a "*Ketivah vachatimah tovah*"--"May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year."

- Rabbi Moshe and Chani Gray



A visit to the Mailbox

Dear Rabbi and Chani Gray,

Thank you so much for the invitation to the graduation Shabbat dinner on June 10. Our entire family will be very pleased to attend. You and Chani are so nice to provide such a wonderful send-off to the seniors and their families. We look forward to seeing you again. (Very pleased to see you at our sons presentation, too. So nice of you to come!)

M and R

The Rebbe... Our Inspiration

I am sorry to note some discouragement in your outlook by reason of the setback you had in business. Surely you know that our Sages refer to the 'wheel' of fortune, and after a turn of the wheel downward must come a turn upward, but a lack of faith does not help it. Besides, there is also the psychological effect, and a lack of courage and assurance brings with it a lessening of initiative, etc. Actually there has been a general business recession, and your setback was not exceptional, while the worst in business seems to be over. In view of the all above, it is my decided opinion that you have no cause for worry, and you should be quite firm in your faith in G-d that things will improve. While doing everything necessary in a natural way, one should never forget that it is G-d's blessing which brings success, and G-d is not limited to business cycles, so that as long as you keep the channels of Torah and Mitzvoth wide open, especially in everything connected with the Jewish home, you should have every confidence in the flow of G-d's blessings.



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Although Rabbi Schochet answered these questions quite comprehensively and convincingly in his speech, the issues themselves remained with Max. Similarly, the various topics explored by many of the students and scholars at the Symposium inspired him to think, to question and to reexamine his prior assumptions. The presenters analyzed the broad theme of the Ten Commandments in numerous ways, each one of which shed light on an aspect of Jewish life that remains quite prevalent today. While Max ultimately did gather his thoughts at the podium and deliver the presentation he had prepared, it was the opportunity to listen to and learn from others that made the Symposium a most valuable experience.

This term, Chabad at Dartmouth initiated a weekly tradition of Sunday barbeques at the Grays. In addition to providing another chance to consume Chani's delicious food, these Sunday lunches were each assigned a designated topic of discussion that drew opinionated students into fascinating conversation. Topics were open-ended and we discussed our views on global tragedies and charity and giving, among various other topics, all from a Jewish perspective. These lunches were an incredible success and engaged students with differing opinions and views of the world. We look forward to many more Sunday lunches in the future!

On May 3rd, Rabbi Shlomo Yaffe spoke on the ethics of genetic engineering. Rabbi Yaffe's lecture touched on the ethical nature of issues ranging from genetic enhancement to abortion, seen through the prism of Orthodox Judaism. With modern medical science rapidly evolving, new questions are raised for religious interpretation. If genetic engineering is used to cure a child of a fatal disease, has G-d's will been impinged upon and Halachic Law violated? Or are life-saving actions always accommodated within the boundaries of Halacha? Are pre-natal genetic enhancement techniques in similar violation of Halacha? The ethical questions attached to the practice of modern medicine are many. The Tsvi Yehuda Saks Torah and Science Lecture will continue to bring these questions to the fore for many years to come.

Student Board, Fall 2011

Gabi Tudin '12	President
Esty Yanco `13	Speaker Chair
Sarah Jewett '12	Programming Chair
Paul Lazarow '13	Israel Chair
Julie Shabto `14	Communications Chair
Max Schneck `13	Shabbat Chair

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Fostering Jewish]

The Inaugural Anna Rose Gray Sinai Scholars Award

Chabad at Dartmouth is proud to present the winners of our Sinai Scholars paper competition. Papers were submitted by 34 students over the course of the fall `10 and spring `11 terms. They were judged blindly based on their level of content, research, and concision. The prize for the winning papers is being generously sponsored by Mr. Steve Gray in memory of his mother, Anna Rose, may she rest in peace. Congratulations to Stephanie DeCross `13 on her winning paper. Below are excerpts from the winning papers. You can read them in their entirety by going to our website www.Dartmouthchabad.com and clicking on the Sinai Scholars tab.

Winning Paper: Brain Stem Death and Judaism *Stephanie DeCross '13*

The miracle of life comes from somewhere else. Judaism says that we have a part of G-d within us, and that is our soul. Souls are immortal; when we die, Judaism says the piece of G-d within us rejoins G-d. There would be no way to tell the instant that a piece of G-d leaves a human though. But it may be claimed that the human consciousness is a manifestation of our soul. Our consciousness is our essence; it holds our memories, aspirations, thoughts, and questions. It is what makes us, for lack of a better term, us. Everyone's brain anatomy is the same, and all brains work the same way. But every consciousness is utterly unique. Perhaps it is that in the absence of the human consciousness, there is no life. In brain stem death, consciousness is absent.

2nd Place Paper: The 7th Commandment *Michelle Berlinger `13*

Thus, I believe that it is important to study and understand the 7th commandment, in order to use it as a moral reference point to analyze and potentially fix the growing rates of adultery in the United States. Wisdom from the torah is not infused with jaded cynicism, as most sources of knowledge and advice are, and can provide fantastic insight. A good place to start understanding Jewish views of adultery is in the Talmud.

Student Spotlight



Name: Gabi Tudin `12
Age: 21
Major: Government & Middle Eastern Studies

At Dartmouth, life flies by pretty fast. You arrive for the beginning of the term, have midterms the next week, and soon finals are around the corner. The one thing that remains consistent and keeps me grounded is Chabad. I have found that despite my week's crammed hours of class, work, exercise, and socializing, I always look forward to Friday night. At Chabad Shabbat dinners, I find time to slow down, put my phone and computer away, and just celebrate Shabbat with my friends at the Gray home.

I started going to Shabbat dinners my freshman year. I instantly felt at home there—immersed in Jewish culture, but still with a casual and welcoming atmosphere. Gradually, I became more and more involved with Chabad activities beyond Friday night dinners, leading to my current position as student President of the Chabad board. On campus, I fill my time outside of class as President of Recruitment for my sorority, founder of Dartmouth Students for Israel, and working hard to plan fun social, educational, and (food-related) events for Chabad students.

This coming year is my senior year at Dartmouth. The past three years have raced by, and it is hard to believe that it wasn't just yesterday that I first sat down to the Shabbat table and had to stand up, say my name, year, and my favorite super hero. I am excited to spend my last year at Dartmouth as Chabad's president—welcoming the new 15's, eating Chani's delicious food, learning more about Judaism with students of all Jewish backgrounds, and just hanging out with my friends at Chabad. I will always appreciate Chabad's welcoming atmosphere, culture, and the amazing Gray family. I look forward to sharing Chabad with the incoming students, as well as using what I've gained through Chabad in my coming post-grad years.

3rd Place Paper: The Observance of the Shabbat in Light of Modern Technology and Culture *Lauren Pace `12*

Before receiving the commandments, we were slaves. After, we are free. The Ten Commandments are thus a beacon of freedom and serve to remind us that in freedom we have a responsibility to ourselves, to our people, and to the Creator who freed us. It might, then, seem paradoxical that the commandment to keep the Sabbath is riddled with prohibitions. But, much like the Ten Commandments themselves, while on first glance the rules and guidelines of keeping the Sabbath seem restrictive, they ultimately serve to free us in a deeper, more meaningful way.

(Year in review, continued from page 2)

After four years, the 11's gathered at the Chabad House for their final Shabbat dinner as undergraduates. Joined by family, friends and 2 members of the 50th reunion class, the ten graduating seniors each reflected on their time at Chabad at Dartmouth. While our experiences varied, we were all thankful to Rabbi and Chani for the home-away-from-home that they provided for us. From Chani's delicious cooking, to Rabbi's insightful teachings, Chabad at Dartmouth has helped us learn about ourselves and our Judaism over the course of our most formative years. While graduation is bittersweet, we know that we will always be a part of Chabad at Dartmouth.

Life at Dartmouth

Chabad in Action



Learning Torah at at Chabad



Mendel and Lieba at SAE



This years Shabbat 400 Speaker Peter Lanfer `98



Happy Students!



Sinai Scholars in Montreal laying Tefillin



Dinner at Chabad, enjoying the good weather



Trustee Emeritus Stephen Smith `88



6th Graduating class of Sinai Scholars at Dartmouth.



Participants at the 3rd Annual Sinai Scholars Symposium held at the University of Pennsylvania

Chabad by the Numbers:

120

Alumni of the Sinai Scholars Society program at Dartmouth College

80

Dartmouth students who have gone to Israel on Birthright with Rabbi Gray since 2006

4

Students who have studied Tanya for credit

140

Unique students who celebrated the Passover Seders with Chabad in the spring

240

Unique Students who had Shabbat dinner at the Chabad House last year.