



A Year In Review...

Randall Bryer '13 Chabad at Dartmouth means a great many things to its members. I have frequented Chabad since my freshman year and have become increasingly involved since then. Having attended a Jewish day school in New York City, I cherished Shabbat dinner with my family every week; a dinner we would all sit down for, our hectic schedules notwithstanding. I imagined that Dartmouth would be a significant departure from this family-oriented environment I had grown to love. I remembered talking to my eldest brother, a Dartmouth graduate, and his telling me how much he enjoyed Chabad. His only regret was that it took him three years to start become truly involved in the community it offers. As a freshman, I took my brother's advice and began attending Chabad functions. At first, I had no interest in recruiting friends to join me. As my appreciation for the genuineness of Rabbi and Rebbetzin Gray grew, I began attending regularly, each time with friends in tow. Those friends continue to visit Chabad regularly and I



"Jew Tails" at AXA

have since become a member of its student Board. The hospitality and warmth of Chabad on display regardless of religious denomination or level of observance is palpable as one sits down for Shabbat dinner with the Grays. It is most definitely the closest I come at Dartmouth to doing the same with my own family. Jewish life was one of the factors about which I was most uncertain when I decided to attend Dartmouth. Today, I am proud to say that my fears were all for naught.

Jenna Pfeffer '12 Chabad has grown enormously in my four years at Dartmouth. On an average Friday night, I see anywhere from 30 to 70 faces around the Shabbat dinner table. This did not happen over-night but, rather, as a result of the hard work that Rabbi and Chani Gray put in each and every day, on behalf of Jewish students at Dartmouth. When I joined the Chabad Student Board this past fall, I decided that I wanted to find a way for students to demonstrate their tremendous appreciation for what the Grays have done for us. As Fundraising Chair, I started a Chabad Senior Class Gift, a campaign that is now set to occur every year going forward. While many students enjoy countless nights at Chabad, most are unaware that it is independently funded. Often the most involved students



Adam, Paul, Malcolm and Rabs

graduate thinking that Chabad receives full funding from Dartmouth College. It was my goal as Fundraising Chair to educate students on how they could contribute to Chabad's growth and continued success. I set a goal of \$1500, not knowing what the response would be like, never imagining we would more than double our goal. From the senior class alone, we raised \$4200. Better yet, several young alumni have generously offered to participate in the campaign by matching each dollar. Throughout this process, I have



Chabad and Hillel Presidents

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

April 6-14: Pesach
Join Chabad for the seders both nights of Pesach. Friday 6th 7:30 , Saturday 7th 8:30pm

April 16th at 4:30 pm
Dr Bertha K. Madras PhD
Professor of Psychobiology, Harvard Medical School
Lecture: A scientist in the White House office of National Drug Control Policy

April 22: 4th Annual Sinai Scholars Academic Symposium at Johns Hopkins University
www.sinaischolars.com/symposium

Sinai Scholars 9th Semester

May: 6th Annual Shabbat 400
Sponsored by Chabad and Hillel

June 8: Grand Graduation Celebratory Shabbat Dinner

June 15th: Special Reunions Shabbat Dinner 7:30pm at Chabad

July 31-August 5: Sinai Scholars National Retreat, Fort Lauderdale, FL

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.

From the Directors

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we present you with the next edition of the Chabad Update. We are now approaching the Holiday of Pesach, the time when we recall the exodus from Egypt. Even more, it is at this time when we speak about and convey to our children the story of how the Jews became a people. Is it for this reason that we make sure to keep our children awake for the Seder, so they can see its importance. Through this we add a link in the chain of our heritage. Pesach is a time when family and friends get together to drink wine, eat Matza and speak about the exodus. The last four words of the entire Seder, "Next year in Jerusalem" teach our children that although we are still in this exile, G-d has a divine plan, and our hope is that soon all Jews will unite with the ultimate redemption. We would like to wish a Happy and Kosher Pesach to you and your entire family.

- Rabbi Moshe and Chani Gray



A visit to the Mailbox

Dear Rabbi and Chani Gray,

Sorry I didn't email you sooner. Things have been hectic since I've gotten back but I just wanted to say thank you so much for helping me get off of the waitlist for Israel. The experience was truly life changing and already this past week I celebrated Shabbat for the first time with my family. I'm going to be off in the winter, but in the spring I will definitely be at Chabad! I'm excited to continue learning about Judaism and can't wait to get back on campus!

CE

The Rebbe... Our Inspiration

G-d has enabled the Jewish people to live as sovereigns in the Holy land, the place of our forefathers--the land promised to the Jews by G-d.

This reality places a special burden and privilege upon Israel's citizens and its government: to preserve the Jewish integrity of the country. Its educational system must be founded and inspired by Jewish values and the Jewish tradition so that its citizens grow to be proud keepers of their Jewish heritage.

In its relations with other nations, those responsible for representing its government in foreign affairs must proudly assert its Jewish pride and traditions. This is certain to enhance the esteem with which Israel will be regarded.

Jewish law sets forth the criteria necessary for Israel's peace and safety: these can only be achieved from a position of military strength and secure borders. Any sign of willingness to even speak about relinquishing land to our enemies is sure to encourage terrorism in Israel and abroad.

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(Continued from page 1)

been overwhelmed by the generosity that I have seen in my peers. I could not have asked for a better response. Seeing the Chabad band together to raise thousands of dollars for Chabad--showing their love and commitment-- has been one of my most priceless moments at Dartmouth. It is my hope that this campaign will not only ensure that these 29 seniors continue to keep Chabad and the Grays in their minds after they graduate, but that it will also remind them of how enjoyable it is to have Judaism as a priority in life.

Rebecca Hecht '13 Rashi's commentary on the Torah is meant to elucidate its text's plain meaning, in a straightforward manner, capable of being understood even by a child. Interestingly and often enough, the simple meaning of the text-- especially within the context of the Torah's lessons--is not the one to which our minds initially attach. Gravitating toward these more elementary meanings, as Rashi argues, enables us to harvest the more profound ones, lying just beneath the surface of the text; lessons of worldly relevance, taught and learned almost 1000 years after Rashi's passing. The weekly *Parsha* classes at Chabad have given me an opportunity to study the Torah on a weekly basis and to discuss Rashi's "simple" interpretations of its text. I have always wanted to take advantage of a class like this, but had never had the chance to do so. I would never have imagined such a class could be so carefully tailored to suit each student's understanding of and connection to the Jewish Faith. Rabbi Gray, however, has been known to achieve the impossible and, in discussing stories which have been recounted to me since I was a child, he imbues the foundational teachings running to the intellectual core of Judaism with value, both practical and sacred. Taking far too much for granted, I had never have thought to question G-d's belief in the necessity of the Egyptian enslavement, or why the Ten Commandments were presented to the Jewish People in tablet form. I have only just begun to delve thoughtfully into all those stories I have known for years, attempting to find the "simple" meaning of the text in the hopes that it will propel me towards a more spiritual and personal understanding.

Student Board, Fall 2011

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Birthright Blog: Amanda Marinoff '12

I couldn't fall asleep last night. No, it was not because I was worried about exams or because the hotel mattress was incommensurate; for the first time in my life, I lay awake pondering questions about Judaism, Israel, spirituality and my relationship to these complex, multifaceted concepts. The questions kept coming: What does it really mean to be Jewish? Does God truly exist? Why is Israel important, and what gives Jews the right to a homeland? Why should I follow the commandments of the Torah, especially some of the ostensibly trivial, nitpicky mitzvot? How can I reconcile my seemingly conflicting faith in science with the ideals of Judaism?

As the questions continued to flow and tumble aimlessly around my mind at 3 a.m., I half-laughed to myself. These kinds of questions would pop up from time to time, but I'd previously dismissed them with a wholly disinterested shrug. I couldn't believe that I actually *cared* about these issues, let alone that they were keeping me up at night. Yes, my tired eyes yearned for sleep, and yes, I was aware that some would view these questions as blasphemous; yet I felt a grin spreading across my face, as I thought to myself, "I guess that's what a few days in Israel will do to you." Indeed, I have spent a mere five days in Israel, but a multitude of experiences have caused me to analyze, challenge, clarify, re-question, and confirm my relationship to Judaism, as well as my fundamental values and beliefs. I'll share my reflections on just a few of those thought-provoking experiences.

Our celebration of Shabbat in the Nazareth hotel was the first time I began to truly apprehend and appreciate the true meaning and specialness of the Sabbath. Sure, I had lit candles, said the blessing ending in "Shel Shabbat," and eaten challah on many Friday nights before, but soon after I had finished eating my matzoh ball soup, I would go on my merry way in my typical "go-go-go" spirit, forgetting to differentiate Shabbat as a special day to pause, forgetting to breathe, forgetting what Shabbat is all about. This Shabbat, the first time I had decided to unfetter myself from all things digital and "work"-related, not only did my jet-lagged body appreciate the rest, but I began to let go of my preconceived judgments and self-fulfilling prophecies. As we sang and consecrated the day with good food and wine and laughter, reflected on important, sometimes unanswerable questions, and "rapped with the Rabbi," I began to let go of my dismissive views that I can't afford to take a day of rest and of such cynical questions as, "Who cares if I turn on the lights or use my cell phone?" I concede that I may still be skeptical that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh, but I am no longer skeptical that celebrating Shabbat in the true spirit of the holiday – disconnected from the trivial and more deeply connected to the things that really

matter – can be a beautiful thing, and that I can implement many aspects (even if I'm not following the exact letter of the law) in my life, despite the sometimes formidable challenge of "hitting the breaks" when the world seems to be going ahead (to where, I don't know) at full speed.

If you'd asked me before my trip to Israel what Judaism means to me, I'd tell you two simple yet extremely powerful words: family and community. My experiences on Birthright thus far have reaffirmed for me the deep importance of these ideals both to me personally and to the Jewish people as a whole. While I would previously roll my eyes at those who espouse seemingly dogmatic, extreme views and stifle a laugh at those who preach with overblown rhetoric, I have learned much by allowing myself to listen with an open mind to a variety of different perspectives. Through listening to Avraham speak in sheer wonderment about the oneness of the Jewish family, Daniel speak about the indestructible power of the Jews when united, Aryeh fiercely proclaim his unshakable loyalty to the Jewish people, and the Israeli soldiers share their love of their country and their people, it has become clear that what I have always valued most deeply about religion -- the sense of family and coming together – is not merely a byproduct of religious holidays but rather a deeply rooted value that has underpinned Judaism for thousands of years.

I had an interesting conversation with Rabs yesterday that helped me to better understand the purpose of the Torah and allowed me to conceptualize its teachings in a way that I am able to fit into my understanding of the world. My question, "Why should it matter whether we wait four hours or six hours between eating dairy and meat?" turned into a discussion about the Torah as a mechanism to maintain the balance of the universe, the vital importance of the world's finest details, and the interconnectedness of all humans and all of nature. The rabbi's answer was unexpected, and it unexpectedly made sense to me. I have been constantly reminded of the

(Continued on back page)

Student Spotlight



Name: Daniel Rozenfeld

Age: 21

Major: Econ Major, Financial Math Minor

I found my way to my first Shabbat dinner at Chabad at Dartmouth in the same way I am sure many a nice Jewish boy and girl did: my mother guilted me into it. I grew up in a fairly secular home and had few Jewish friends in high school. When I turned 13, I decided to forgo a bar mitzvah, the most Jewish thing in my life being Hanukah candles. When I arrived at Dartmouth, being Jewish was the last thing on my mind. I had no expectation of Judaism meaning any more to me in the future than it hitherto had.

It was not until my junior year that I finally relented and decided to give Chabad a chance, if only to call home and report that I had done so. The last thing I expected was a meaningful engagement with a tradition I did not consider to be my own. Upon arrival, Rabbi Gray greeted me as if I had been visiting Chabad for years. Having forgotten to cover my head upon entry, students I had only met in passing guided me towards the basket of Yarmulkes by the door and motioned for me to sit, stand and drink upon blessing. I was welcomed with open arms by the family I didn't know I had, three thousand miles from home,

A year later, I found myself flying to Israel as a participant in the Chabad at Dartmouth Birthright trip. After nine of the most exciting and meaningful days of my life, I stood beside Rabbi Gray, facing Jerusalem's Western Wall, surrounded by friends, old and new. As I became a Bar Mitzvah, I spoke on the place Judaism had come to occupy in my life. I stood there reminded of my first Shabbat dinner, reluctantly realizing that my mother had been right: better eight years late than never.

Chabad at Dartmouth in Israel



Moments before Cave Diving



Human Star at Caesarea



All smiles in Israel



What's up Michael Levine?



The 26 Dartmouth Students who went on BRI



Bar and Bat Mitzvahs at the Southern Wall



A lighter moment on our trip



Some of the seniors at the Senior Class gift celebration



Challah Baking with Chani at AZD

Continued from Birthright Blog Page 3

Interconnectedness of all living things and the ineffable beauty of nature's details throughout the last five days, during which we've had the privilege of taking in some of the magnificent landscapes of Israel. Some may call it God or holiness or the essence of spirituality; I don't know what to call this connection and sense wonder I feel amid the vast splendor of nature – all I can say is that it is simply awesome and it is something special.

So at this point in my Birthright experience, I am left with many more questions than I had at the start of the trip, but I am also beginning to feel a greater sense of clarity. I may not understand the esoteric teachings of the Kaballah, but I do firmly believe in the interrelatedness of all living things and in giving as a way of life. I may be uncertain about the concepts of the soul and the afterlife, but I am convinced that many of Judaism's fundamental principles – take care of yourself and take care of others; live a life of balance; work hard, but take a day to rest, reflect, and revitalize; be loyal to your family; find beauty and holiness in life's big things and little things – will allow me to be a more fulfilled, balanced, and happy individual here in this life. For now, I'm content to keep questioning, challenging, and smiling. Oh, and to keep thinking about tomorrow's camel ride through the desert.

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