



# The CHABAD at Dartmouth

# Update

March 2013, Edition 14

Adar 5773

## A Year In Review...

**Mega Shabbat by Jordan Kastrinsky '16:** Who would have thought that the first Shabbat of winter term would bring not only record snowfalls but record attendance?! 75 people filled the Chabad house the first Shabbat of winter term. This set a new record for highest attendance at any Shabbat dinner at Chabad. The room was so unbelievably full people were seated on the stairs. There was barely any room to move but plenty of time to

schmooze, joke, and meet new people. Many new faces brought such a caring welcoming environment that this may have also been the best Shabbat on record!

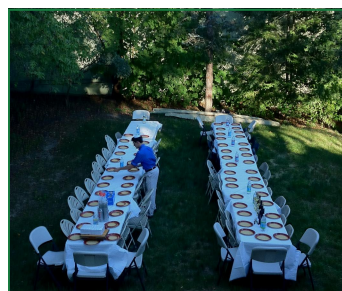
**Shabbat Dinners by Michael Klein '14:** Shabbat dinners at Chabad continually draw large crowds of students, with anywhere from 30-75 Jewish students packing the Chabad house each Friday evening. From the very beginning

of the school year we welcomed one of the most vibrant and active freshman classes, as every Friday saw a large group of 46s proudly standing each Shabbat for introductions. Many upperclassmen, who had never set foot in the Rabbi's house a year ago, have now become regulars following positive experiences with Chabad at Dartmouth including Birthright and Sinai Scholars. This is a testament to the warm and welcoming atmosphere the Rabbi and his wife create each Friday, and Chani's delicious cooking.

This year also saw many special guests join in the fun. Dean of the College Charlotte Johnson, new director of religious and spiritual life Nancy

*Alumni Reunion at Menucha Howell's '10 Wedding*

Vogle and Professor of Anthropology and Native American studies Sergei Kan each visited for a Shabbat dinner.. Homecoming weekend welcomed a large crowd of recent alums, all ecstatic and nostalgic to relive their favorite Friday night tradition as undergrads. Several Greek houses brought their Jewish brothers and sister pledges for a night of bonding. There were many new faces and people who over the course of the 2 terms have become regulars, and we can't wait to



*Rosh Hashana Dinner Outside*



*Sinai Scholars Tier 2*

## Upcoming Events

**3rd Annual Chabad at Dartmouth Alumni Shabbat dinner in NYC, March 2013**  
**Friday March 15th**

**March 25-April 2**

Join Chabad for the Seders both nights of Pesach. Monday 25 7:30pm, Tues 8:30pm

**April 12:**

**Shabbat dinner with Provost Lindsay Whaley**

**April 21:**

5th Annual Sinai Scholars Academic Student Symposium at NYU

[www.sinaischolars.com/symposium](http://www.sinaischolars.com/symposium)

**This years theme, Money and Morality**

**April 26-27:**

**Scholar in Residence**

Dr. Jan Feldman, Professor of Political theory and culture at UVM.

**Shabbat 400: May 10**

**Cosponsored by Chabad and Hillel**

**June 7:**

**Graduation Celebratory Shabbat Dinner**

**June 19: 7:30-11:00**

Celebrate 10 years of Chabad at Dartmouth

*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](mailto:Chabad@Dartmouth.edu) Or visit our Website at [www.dartmouthchabad.com](http://www.dartmouthchabad.com)*

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

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# Fostering Jewish Life at Dartmouth

## From the Directors

Dear Friends,

It is written in the Haggada that "in every generation a Jew should see himself as though he personally has been liberated from Egypt." The festival of Pesach, the season of our liberation, comes around every year not merely to remind us of the liberation of our ancestors from Egyptian bondage, but also to inspire us to strive for a greater measure of self-liberation from all limitations and distractions which impede a Jew from his free exercise of Yiddishkeit in the everyday life. With this in mind we would like to wish you all a kosher and happy Pesach.

- Rabbi Moshe and Chani Gray



## Student Testimonials

"Coming from a small Jewish day school, I was nervous about the transition to Dartmouth and whether I would be able to find a place for Judaism in my college life. Fortunately, Chabad has provided me with the community and support system I was hoping for and makes me feel at home. My connection to Judaism has gotten stronger on campus, because being part of the community has become a personal choice rather than something I have always taken for granted."

Chabad has given me the chance to pursue Judaism in my own way at college. Rabbi Gray and Chani have provided education when I wanted it, support when I needed it, and community always."

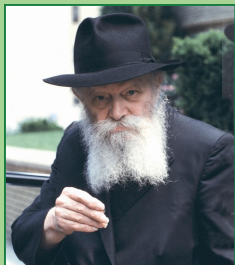
## The Rebbe... on the Individual

Let no one think: Who am I and what am I to have such tremendous powers of building and destruction.

For we have seen, to our sorrow, the potential for destruction in the release of atomic energy. If such power is concealed in a small quantity of matter--for destructiveness, in denial of the design and purpose of Creation--how much greater is the creative power entrusted to every individual to work in harmony with the Divine purpose. For in this case one is also given special abilities and opportunities by Divine Providence to attain the goal for which we have been created: the realization of a world of goodness and holiness.

People often perceive themselves in terms of their constraints as mortal beings. Yet there are times that call for transcendent actions. One must at times do more than they can possibly do. For each mortal is endowed with a G-dly soul and the power to transcend mortal constraints.

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(Continued from page 1)

see what spring term holds in store for the Chabad at Dartmouth community.

**Senior Class Gift by Ali Essey '13:** For the past two years the senior class has raised money for a senior class gift in order to show our appreciation for our time at Chabad at Dartmouth and to support the continuation of that experience for future classes. For many seniors, this is the first time they are donating their own money to a personal cause. In doing this we are attempting to instill the idea of being a lifelong donor. So far, we have been extremely successful in our outreach efforts: 70% of the seniors who attend Chabad or Chabad sponsored events have been contacted, and 100% of those contacted have either given or committed to giving by the end of the school year. Our financial goal has proven to be too low for our class: we were attempting to raise \$5,000 and already have over \$6,500 in commitments. We will be continuing our efforts throughout the year and hope to grossly surpass our original goal!

**Soul Maps by Rebecca Hecht '13:** A true testament to the greatness of the Tanya is its ability to connect so deeply to a group of college students in 2013. And it is a testament to how lucky we are, that we can still learn and be guided by its teachings. Soul Maps has provided an excellent introduction into these teachings. Each week we discuss with Rabbi Gray the great opportunities and unfortunate pitfalls of our state as Beinonim. The Beinoni is in possession of a G-dly soul, which always follows the will of G-d, and an animal soul, which follows human desires. Caught in between the Tzadikim and the Rashim the Beinoni is in a constant state of struggle, as his two souls vie to control his actions. However, it is only because of this struggle that the Beinoni is given the extraordinary opportunity to choose to follow the G-dly soul, and turn away from the animal soul. The Tanya shows us how every single one of our decisions- from how hard we work in school to how well we eat - is a manifestation of one of these souls, and has enormous repercussion. The philosophy of the Tanya we have learnt through Soul Maps reveals not only a whole new perspective of how human beings make decisions and act, but also of how to live a better, holier life.

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# Fostering Jewish Life at



## Taglit Birthright Israel-Mayanot: Sam Ticker '13

Chabad's Israel trip this December was a smashing success. Dartmouth students, 39 of us to be precise, traveled to Israel courtesy of Mayanot and Taglit Birthright Israel. I say %courtesy of+because at its core, this was a Chabad at Dartmouth trip. This isn't to diminish the role of Mayanot or Birthright. I think we were unanimously grateful for our %gift+of a free trip to Israel, indeed it made our whole experience possible. That said, our experience transcended what I imagine might be the %typical+Birthright trip, and I attribute it all to the particular sense of community which brings Dartmouth students together, and the strong sense of family which Chabad at Dartmouth fosters.

Our trip began without fanfare as we met in Newark, New Jersey (of all places), several hours before our flight was due to board. After shuffling through successive lines at check in, security, and boarding, we eventually found ourselves seated among the other passengers of our El-Al flight, assigned the middle seats which El-Al couldn't allocate to paying customers. As the plane took off, many of us shut our eyes, and Chabad at Dartmouth's Birthright began its physical passage to Israel. But the real trip had yet to begin. After arriving at Ben Gurion airport, we boarded our tour bus, and at this moment truly embarked upon a journey of new connections forged with the Land of Israel, with our common Jewish identity and religion, and between each other.

### Student Spotlight



*Name: Paul Lazarow '13*

*Age: 21*

*Major: History , Minor: Government*

Chabad has had a great influence on my four years at Dartmouth College. Rabbi and Rebbetzin Gray's home has become my home, and I will greatly miss Friday nights in the Gray household. My first Shabbat dinner in Hanover was a couple of weeks before the start of

freshmen year. I have come ever since. It has been a retreat for me amidst the constant stress that is college. Dartmouth Chabad has always had one of the highest percentages of Shabbat attendance of any Chabad on Campus in the country. It has been a treat and a pleasure to see Dartmouth Chabad grow to become the hub of Jewish activity in Hanover. This Winter term, the Chabad House has been packed, with over 50 students coming every Friday night, bearing the cold walk to dine on delicious Shabbat delicacies: challah, gefilte fish, matzo ball soup, chicken, and occasionally, prime rib. As I go on to my next journey in life, I look back fondly on those Shabbat dinners, Kabbalat Shabbats, Shabbat services, conversations, and the friends I have made that have built the core of my college experience. I remember the Sinai Scholars class—our class trip to Montreal and the discovery of drive-through Canadian kosher food. The pleasure of doing mitzvot and making the world a better place: putting on tefillin, waking up to go to Shabbat morning services, traveling with Rabbi Gray and another student to the funeral of a man in need of a minyan in central New Hampshire, and addressing the concerns of the Jewish community across campus. In my time at Chabad I have served as Secretary and Communications Chair, Speaker's Chair, and President, serving with Coleman Shear '13. Chabad has been the capstone in my college life and no question the signature element in my life the past four years. Thanks to Rabbi and Rebbetzin Gray I have always had a home, through the ups and the downs of my life in Hanover. When my Dartmouth career traveled overseas, I always found Chabad. Working for the American Jewish Committee's San Francisco Regional Office I prayed minchah in Chabad of San Francisco's Cable Car minyan. Working for U.N. Watch in Geneva, Switzerland, I went to Shabbat and holiday dinners at Chabad of Geneva. I will never forget what Chabad has meant to me these past four years as I have tried to find my way as I enter adulthood. I am excited for the future of Chabad at Dartmouth, the younger classes are full of fantastic Chabad participants and under Rabbi and Rebbetzin Gray, Dartmouth's Chabad will continue to make a home for Dartmouth's Jewish students.

From our outstanding, if eccentric, Birthright tour guide Daniel, we learned about Israel, and more importantly why it matters to us. Alone, we would have certainly been smitten by the physical beauty and social vitality of the land; through his expert curation, a hike down to a scenic waterfall or up to a mountaintop palace became a lesson in our immediate and tangible stake in the fate of this land . Israel is our land.

Through the powerful experience of sites such as Mount Herzl cemetery, Yad Vashem, and a tiny kibbutz nestled on the edge of the Israeli-Lebanese border, we were confronted with our indelible identity as Jews. Through countless interaction with and among Jews, in a Jewish state, we experienced the joy of embracing such a wonderful trait, falling in love with the Jewish people along the way.

Under the guidance of Rabbi and Rebbetzin Gray, we were challenged to open our minds and our spirits to the essential, holy character of Israel. From an ancient mikvah in Tzfat, to a extraordinary synagogue on Masada, to the Kotel in Jerusalem and a joyous Shabbat afternoon reunion hosted by a Dartmouth alum, we learned how Jewish ritual and practice contains rich, deep meaning, and that it available to all of us should we seek to learn more.

As Dartmouth students, our shared community accelerated the creation of something distinct, an uninhibited exchange among a circle of old and new friends, which we were able to share with the several Israeli soldiers who joined us along the way. Through them, we learned about Israel, we learned about what it means to be Jewish, but most of all we learned about ourselves. It is impossible to describe the ease with which these newcomers melted into our group, and together we became a travelling family. We shared with each other, through the expert facilitation of our Birthright social director Tal, and also informally. In retrospect, the frank and open discussions shared among every configuration Dartmouth students and Israelis, be it on the bus or on the long walk from the Kotel, were the most powerful experience that we had. Through this basic interaction, the entirety of our experiences as Jews in Israel came together. I cannot speak for the particular lessons that we individually took from our trip to Israel, but I can attest to the power of the experience. Above all, it was a trip of learning, the richness of which surpassed anything that could be found in a classroom. I know we all feel better for the experience, and I thank the ceaseless efforts of Chabad at Dartmouth for making it possible.

# Chabad In Israel



*Taste of Yeshiva*



*Golan Heights*



*Students dress up as soldiers*



*Mini Reunion*



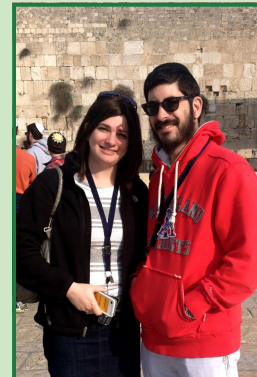
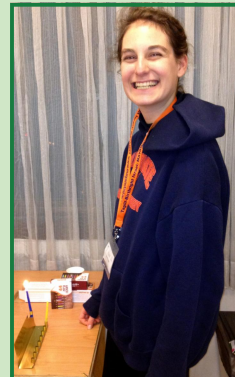
*Kotel Tunnels*



*Did you know there was a river on the way to the Ari's Mikveh?*



*A miracle happened HERE*



*Chani and Rabs in Israel, FINALLY*



## Student Board, Fall '12, Winter '13

|                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Coleman Shear '13</b>     | <b>Co-President</b>         |
| <b>Paul Lazarow '13</b>      | <b>Co-President</b>         |
| <b>Talia Shoshany '15</b>    | <b>Israel Chair</b>         |
| <b>Phil Coletti '14</b>      | <b>Shabbat Chair</b>        |
| <b>Julie Shabto '14</b>      | <b>Communications Chair</b> |
| <b>Ali Essey '13</b>         | <b>Fundraising Chair</b>    |
| <b>Joseph Tanenbaum '13</b>  | <b>Programming Chair</b>    |
| <b>Michael Klein '14</b>     | <b>Programming Chair</b>    |
| <b>Sam Ticker '13</b>        | <b>Speaker Chair</b>        |
| <b>Mayer Schein '16</b>      | <b>Freshman Liaison</b>     |
| <b>Jordan Kastrinsky '16</b> | <b>Freshman Liaison</b>     |

**Professor Lewis Glinert PhD Faculty advisor**