

CHABAD
OF BINGHAMTON

ט"ז

הקשר HeKeshet

the connection

Graduation

2010

Seniors Speak
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MAY 2010 | SIVAN 5770

DEAR FRIEND,

Social Scientists tell us that you can learn much about people by studying the words they use, and at least as much by noting which terms are absent from their dialect. By all accounts, the Jewish people have a dramatic and colorful past, yet the Hebrew language lacks a word for History. The best we have in Modern Hebrew is *historia*, clearly a morphed English term.



Yet we are not a people who spurns its past; on the contrary, we cling tenaciously to our days of yore. In fact, our key word is memory. The Torah uses the word *zachor*, remember, in one form or another, an astonishing 169 times. Over and over we are enjoined to remember: The Sabbath... the day you stood at Sinai... that you were slaves in Egypt... *zachor*, remember. This teaches us something essential and profound about our heritage: we are not a nation who has a history — a story that is “his,” — a story about people to whom

we are linked but not quite soldered. We are, rather, a people who have a memory — a story that happened to me — each one of us personally. It is a living and ongoing saga in which I continue to play an integral role!

In that spirit, this issue of *Hakesher* focuses in significant measure on memories created within the walls—and through the agency—of the Chabad Center. We hope you enjoy the annual report, the “seniors speak” section, the photo galleries, and the other features. These are the memories, the stories, of individuals but they are also the story of our people, *Am Yisroel*. In these words we have the convergence of past, present and future.

I wish all of you a safe and productive summer, and to our graduates I say *l’hitraot*, never good bye. We will miss you sorely but watch you leave with a smile anticipating the important ways in which you will enrich our world. Mazel Tov upon this milestone; may you see the fulfillment of your every dream and prayer and may we always share joyous occasions.

Nihiye B’keshet, let’s stay connected and be in touch!

Rabbi Aaron Slonim
Rabbi Aaron Slonim



Hakesher Dedications



In honor of the engagement of

Eyal Eisig '00 and Orit Ryba by Ronit '03, Mom and Marty

In loving memory of **Dovid ben Yitzchok Meir Zenilman**
by his children **Dr. Michael and Marilyn Zenilman** and their children
Jeremy '06, Elliot '09, Daniel '09 and Ariella '11

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The Right Not to Know

By Yanki Tauber



Knowledge is power, goes the knowing cliché. Like most clichés, this is true. If you knew what your bargaining partner's fallback position was; if you knew whether or not she really loves you; you'd be more in control, more the master of your fate.

But only up to a point. Imagine that you knew everything. Imagine that you knew exactly when and exactly how you will die. That you knew, in advance, the details of every twist and turn in your marriage — the cause of every quarrel and the timing of every reconciliation. Imagine that all the actions you will take in the course of your lifetime were listed like entries in a giant captain's log, with the results of each action noted at its side.

Would you feel that you were in control of your life? Or would you feel like a pawn being walked through the steps? Knowledge may bring power,

but absolute knowledge brings utter powerlessness.

Before the passing of our patriarch Jacob, he summoned his sons to his bedside, promising to reveal "that which will happen to you in the end of the days." When they gather round, he blesses them and assigns to each his role as the progenitor of a tribe within the people of Israel. Nothing, however, about what will happen in the end of the days.


Our sages explain that Jacob intended to reveal to them the time of the coming of Moshiach (the Messiah). But at that moment, "the Divine

Presence departed from him." Jacob understood that he's not supposed to tell.

So life's most urgent question remains a mystery. We know that the world will one day come to reflect the infinite goodness and perfection of its Creator. We know that our every positive deed is a step toward that goal, a brick in that glorious edifice. But when will it happen? Why can't we see the finish-line approaching, why can't we behold the rising edifice?

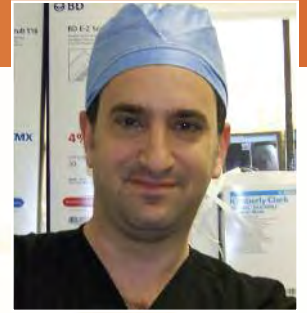
Some would say that this is G-d's way of keeping us under His thumb, so to speak. Perhaps if we knew too much, if we saw exactly how our every action and choice fitted in the master plan, we might take too many liberties, developing our own assessments of the goal and our own ideas on how to get there. So better keep man in the dark, so that he plod on toward his destiny in oblivion.

The truth, however, is the very opposite. It is precisely because G-d desired a creative, independent-minded partner to His endeavor, that He made life the mystery that it is. If we were consciously aware of the ultimate significance of our every action, our actions would be lifeless and mechanical — rehearsed lines recited by rote in a play whose script has already been read by every member of the audience.

It is only because each of our deeds, choices and decisions stands out in stark relief against the background of our lives, its train of causes and effects trailing off into the darkness of an unknown future, that our choices are truly ours, our decisions a true exercise of will, and our every deed is a meaningful contribution to our partnership with G-d in creation. 

ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Eli Baron '95

THE BARON OF NEUROSURGERY

By Alan Zeitlin '00



The patient who was rushed into the emergency room could not move his legs. Brought in by fire rescue, the 34-year-old man had fallen asleep at the wheel and paralysis was a possibility. While this might seem like a script for a television drama, it was a real-life scene told by a surgeon who trusts in two things.

"I don't get nervous before a surgery," says Dr. Eli Baron, who graduated from Binghamton University in 1995. "You trust in your training and have faith in God."

In this case, Baron said he performed a spinal decompression followed by a reconstruction using spinal instrumentation. The patient was up and walking a week later, he said.

The 36-year-old neurosurgeon, who works at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, has scrubbed for more than 1,500 surgeries in the past five years and is a co-author

of the textbook titled *Operative Techniques: Spine Surgery* (Elsevier Publishing, Philadelphia 2007). The graduate of Temple University School of Medicine, who lectures across the country, said there are some cases with good results and some with bad results. He added that it is important for surgeons not to get too carried away with themselves.

"There is no room for bravado in the field," he said. "Those surgeons who have God complexes are setting themselves up for disaster."

Baron said he became a neurosurgeon to help people and he sought the challenge of the physical and mental stress that comes with the job. He added that his mother helped to instill a strong work ethic.

Baron worked hard as a student at Binghamton and said he remembers what Chabad has done in the past and, is excited about what it is doing in the present.

"Chabad provided me with an invaluable experience," he said. "It's something you don't forget. From what I saw in pictures, the new building is spectacular. I definitely want to see it in person."

While his collegiate home of Binghamton and his current home in Beverly Hills are very different, there's one similarity, he said: people who act in an immature fashion.

"You have your crowds and people trying to keep up with their neighbors," he said. "But happiness comes from within; not by envying your neighbors."

The student of martial arts is a brown belt, who honed his skills in college. But now he has to wake up at 5:30 a.m. and doesn't have time for it. Baron, who is single, said it is easy to be lazy. But his familial upbringing taught him the value of hard work and he's much happier for it.

"I think we all have our special talents and gifts that we've been given but we really have to push ourselves and see where it takes us," he said. "At the end of the day people might point to money or what kind of car they drive, but what it really amounts to is a question you have to ask yourself. And that is: 'Have you made the most of your life?'"

Alan Zeitlin teaches English and journalism for the New York City Department of Education. He is also a freelance writer.

MAZEL TOVS

- '86 **Jordan and Jessica Chanofsky** announce the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jacob Ryan, Yaakov Chaim, May 31, 2010.
- '88 **Susan (nee Mintz) and Steven Levy** announce the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Alyssa Perri on Sunday, June 6, 2010.
- '89 **Jonathan and Irina Rothman** announce the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Yisroel Zev, on April 11, 2010.
- '95 **Ari and Naomi Rosenfeld** announce the birth of their daughter, Chaya Devorah, Eve Dorothy, born May 10, 2010. She was welcomed home by big sister Abigail Rose and big brother Simon.
- '96 **Adam and Lori Breiner** announce the birth of their daughter, Micayli Chaya Leiba on Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach, April 3, 2010.
Florie (Sommers) and Barry Huppert announce the birth of their daughter, Leah Anne on March 1, 2010. She was welcomed home by big brother Nathan and big sister Beatrice.
- '97 **Yaakov (Joel) and Jackie Lynne** announce the birth of their son, Ephraim Yosef, on March 14, 2010. He was welcomed home by older siblings, Shmuel Chaim, Shoshana Rivkah and Akiva Simcha.
- '98 **Beth (Applebome) and Avi Cohen** announce the birth of their son, Scott Peter, Simcha Pinchas, on April 4, 2010. He was welcomed home by big brother Joey.
- '00 **Eyal Eisig** announces his engagement to Orit Ryba; an August 8 2010 wedding is planned. Orit works in New York City as a paralegal at Bluestar Alliance; Eyal works in New York City as an attorney with Gogick, Byrne & O'Neill, LLP. They will make their home in Brooklyn, NY. **Ari and Danielle Mark** announce the birth of their daughter, Ayla Ruby, on April 21, 2010
- '01 **Josh and Nava Schreiber** announce the birth of twin girls, Shifra Miriam and Tehila Shira on Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach, April 3, 2010. They were welcomed home by big sisters Golda Zahava, Sara, Ilana and Tzipora.
Aaron Herman announces his engagement to Tani Schwartz; an August 2010 wedding is planned. They will make their home in Manhattan.
David and Tova Ross announce the birth of their son, Joshua Shlomo, on October 6, 2010. **Tzipa (Carrie Joseph) and Shaul Wertheimer** announce the birth of their son, Shmuel, on Iyar 2, April 15, 2010. He was welcomed home by big siblings Menachem Mendel, Shoshana Miriam and Yisroel.
- '02 **Ronit (Notkin) and Ami Schwab** announce the birth of their daughter Anat Aya on April 28, 2010. She was welcomed home by big sister Meirav.
- '03 **Michael Veetal** announces his engagement to Merav Wenig; a Summer 2010 wedding is planned. Michael is the controller at Blue Harbour Group, a hedge fund in CT. Merav is completing a Masters in Early Childhood General and Special Education at Bank St. College of Education and is beginning a Masters in Social Work at Columbia University this Fall. They will make their home in NYC.
Liz (Panzer) and Alan Mitrani announce the birth of their daughter, Penina Yael, Pearl Yael, on April 15, 2010. She was welcomed home by big brother Benjamin.
- '04 **Danit (Greenfield) and Eric Taub** announce the birth of their son, Meir Yitzchak, Ian Jared, on March 28, 2010.

CONDOLENCES

Chabad mourns the death of **Barbara Taubkin**, mother of Nicole (Taubkin) Dietz '92, on March 24, 2010.

May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.



Save the Date

for a Gala Anniversary Dinner

Marking Chabad of Binghamton's Quarter Century of Service

🌸 GUESTS OF HONOR 🌸

Lori Ben-Ezra, Ph.D '87 and Marc Ben-Ezra '87

Representing the years 1985-1990

Steven Katz, MD '91

Representing the years 1990-1995

Naomi Rosenfeld '97 and Ari Rosenfeld '95

Representing the years 1995-2000

Stacey Mayer '01 and Stuart Mayer '00

Representing the years 2000-2005

Meeka Levin Natanov '05 and David Natanov '05

Representing the years 2005-2010



Sunday, October 17, 2010, 5pm

Gotham Hall | New York City



Dinner and Journal Committees now in formation.

If you would like to assist in making this very special evening a success please contact Rabbi A. Slonim at aslonim@JewishBU.com



The Revolutionary

By Yanki Tauber

Every hundred years or so, a person comes along and changes the way we look at ourselves and our world. He or she will say something that is so revolutionary, so new and unexpected — so contrary to our previous conceptions — that it will at first seem impossible to be true. Yet it is corroborated by mathematical formulae and laboratory and clinical experiments, and eventually it is accepted as fact by everyone. Until the next revolutionary comes along.

But there is something else that is rarer still. Something that happens perhaps once in five hundred years, perhaps once in a thousand. What happens is that someone comes along and says something so revolutionary that it changes the way we look at ourselves and our world. But it is neither new, nor, in the final analysis, unexpected. For it is something that we already know, and always knew. Something that resonates deep inside us and requires no “proofs” to establish its authenticity. Something that is so much a part of our inner truth that our “search” for truth has blinded us to its knowledge — until now.

On the 18th day of the Hebrew month of Elul of the year 5458 from Creation (1698 CE), the soul of such an individual was born into our world. His name was Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov, and in the course of his 62 years of earthly life he revolutionized the way we see ourselves, our world, and our place in it. He passed from our midst 250 years ago on the Holiday of Shavuot.

COMMEMORTING
250
THE BAAL SHEM TOV
1760–2010

Founder of the Chassidic Movement

Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov
“Master of the Good Name”

Also referred to as “the BeShT,” an acronym of Baal Shem Tov.

For more information about the life and teachings of the Baal Shem Tov visit JewishBU.com/BaalShemTov

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These are the things he taught:

That **everything we do** is meaningful. Our every deed, every word we speak, even a single thought we think, has an effect that reverberates throughout all the worlds and through the whole of history.

That **everything that happens** in G-d's world, from the toppling of an empire to a leaf's turning in the wind in a distant forest, is for a purpose, specifically guided and directed by the Almighty — a purpose that contributes towards the overall purpose of creation.

That **G-d is everywhere** and in every thing, meaning that in essence there is only goodness; evil, suffering and despair are but veils behind which He hides to prompt us to rip them away in our quest for Him.

That our **simple faith** and good actions are more precious in G-d's eyes than all the genius of the scholar and all the spirituality of the mystic.

That the truest **way to love G-d** is to love each and every one of His children.

That **life is joyous**, and we can live it joyously in every situation, under all and any circumstances.

When we **look into our own souls**, we know all this to be true. But the life of the human being is often not oriented to look into its own soul. That is why we need teachers — not so much to tell us what we don't know (though that kind of teaching has its uses, too), but to show us what we already know.

That G-d loves us,
each and every one of us, as if he or she were His only child.

STUDENT

SPOTLIGHT



Matthew Ingber SENIOR'S GOT THE TICKET

By Alan Zeitlin '00

Are you a traitor if you root for your team to lose a game of the World Series? That's a question Matthew Ingber pondered as his beloved New York Yankees took on the Philadelphia Phillies last year. The 22-year-old didn't want the Yankees to lose entirely; he merely wanted them to lose a couple of games so there would be a Game 7. And he had a pretty good reason. No, he didn't place a bet in Vegas. He simply took a shot, through his ticket buying business and bought up 300 seats for the final game, which he estimates he could have sold for a pretty penny.

"As a fan you want them to win, but \$40,000 is a little more important," Ingber said. "I could have bought myself a car."

What drives him to build his business is a love of sports, tenacity and a desire to take risks. As the head of Rolling Seats LLC, he has to be available at all hours of the night and does his research. When it was Snuggie Night as a promotion for a San Francisco Giants game, he bought up tickets and made a nice profit.

Ingber, who majored in Math and Economics, said he might pursue marketing or sales position or he may do ticket-selling full-time. He mainly uses StubHub.com.

No ticket was needed for one of the biggest events in a while.

"I remember the first Shabbat in the new Chabad center and it was really special," Ingber said. "I think it was a great achievement to put up this massive building. You can imagine people driving around in this random town and all of a sudden there is a great big Jewish building. It's awesome."

Chabad has a special place in Ingber's heart. As to how he had a knack for tickets, he said he always loved sports and knew how to sell, even in the seventh grade. Back then, the Flatbush student sold basketball cards and got busted.

"The rabbis found out what I was doing and I was sus-



pended," he said. "The rabbis did what they had to do. I don't hold anything against them."

Ingber said he will occasionally give free tickets to friends. But would he give a free ticket to one of the rabbis who suspended him years ago if they came calling. Would he sell them a World Series ticket if the Yanks made the Series? "I don't know," Ingber said. "That would be pretty funny." 🎟️



FACULTY

SPOTLIGHT

President DeFleur RETIRES BUT FLIES HIGH

By Alan Zeitlin '00

No matter what anyone says, size does matter. In her tenure as president of Binghamton University, Lois B. DeFleur oversaw the construction of a dozen buildings, including new academic buildings, a new student union and the prestigious Events Center. The university's endowment increased from \$8 million to \$54.5 million.

Speaking in her final days as the head of the college, she cited the expansion as her greatest achievement. She also said she was proud that Jewish life has grown and singled out Chabad for its work, new programs and new building.

"I can't tell you how amazing it is to see how many more events there are than 20 years ago," she said. "Chabad has a 31-page program guide and that's only for the spring semester. I am so pleased that we have these programs here to enrich Jewish life on campus. It is an important part of the history and tradition of Binghamton."

DeFleur cited Shabbat 1500, the Purim Carnival and a bevy of Judaic Studies classes as things that have made a significant impact on the campus. DeFleur said she attended the dedication of the new Chabad Center and was moved by an alumnus who spoke about what Chabad meant to her.

"I think we are very fortunate that the new facility has been developed," DeFleur said. "But it is really what takes place in it that counts and there are so many things that are offered."

What some might not know about DeFleur is that she is a highly rated pilot with more than 4,200 hours of experience. She flies her own Comanche 260, has flown a F-4 and got a chance to ride with the Blue Angels, the naval flight demonstration squadron that is famous for aerial stunts.

She said that being a pilot helped give her the perspective needed to deal with the daily stresses of heading a university; a position that would make most people's heads swim.

"There are times where you encounter difficult situations




and you learn how to stay calm," she said. "I've had some emergencies...really horrible flight and weather conditions and you learn how to calmly assess the situation. You have to make a decision. You can't just sit there. I think that's what you have to do when you are the head of a large complex organization."

DeFleur said the thing she will miss most is seeing the students graduate and enter the next phase of their lives. She is entering a new phase of her life as she is getting married to a fellow pilot. Would she consider getting married in their air?

"That would be really unique," she laughed. "I haven't explored that."

Known for her serious demeanor, DeFleur, who earned her PhD in sociology from the University of Illinois, isn't afraid to show her humorous side. In 2007, she participated in a comedic video skit for Kaskeset, Binghamton's Jewish a cappella group.

DeFleur, who said she will spend time consulting and lecturing, said she will miss seeing the events of Chabad.

"I have truly enjoyed working with the Slonims and Chabad and all the students," she said. "It's been one of the joys of my time here." 

Future Tense

How the Jews Invented Hope

by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks



One of the most formative moments in the history of Judaism came in the encounter between Moses and G-d in the burning bush. Moses asks G-d what name he should use when people ask him who He is. G-d replies enigmatically, in a phrase that occurs nowhere else in Tanakh: *Ehyeh asher Ehyeh*.

Non-Jewish translations read this to mean, 'I am what (or who, or that) I am.' Some render it, 'I am: that is who I am', or 'I am the One who is'. These are deeply significant mistranslations.

The phrase means, literally, 'I will be what I will be', or more fundamentally, G-d's name belongs to the future tense. His call is to that which is not yet. If we fail to understand this, we

will miss the very thing that makes Judaism unique.

Consider the structure of biblical narrative. In literature there are many kinds of narrative but they all have one thing in common, what Frank Kermode called 'the sense of an ending'. They reach closure. Some end with 'they all lived happily ever after'. We call these fairy tales. Others end in death and defeat. We call them tragedies. There are other types, but they all have a beginning and an end. That's what makes them stories.

Now consider Genesis. The Jewish story begins with G-d's call to Abraham to leave his land, his birthplace and his father's house to travel 'to the land that I will show you.' Seven times G-d promises Abraham the land, yet he has to haggle with the Hittites to buy one small plot in which to bury Sarah. Jacob and his family are forced into exile in Egypt. Genesis ends with the promise unfulfilled.

Then Exodus begins. G-d calls Moses to lead the Israelites back to freedom and the promised land. Now, we feel, the story is about to reach closure. But it doesn't come. Instead, a journey that should have taken days lasts forty years. In the final scene of Deuteronomy, we see Moses, still on the far side of the Jordan, granted only a distant vision of the land. Again, the natural ending is deferred.

Tanakh as a whole ends, in II Chronicles 36, with the Israelites in exile again, this time in Babylonia, and Cyrus giving them permission to return. We are almost back where we began, in the same region from which Abraham and his family first set out.

I know of no other stories that have

the same form, namely a beginning but no end. We would not think of them as stories at all, were it not that we know the ending. It has been there since the beginning: G-d's three promises to Abraham, of children, a land, and an influence on humanity such that 'through you all the families of the earth will be blessed'. So there is an ending, but it is always beyond the visible horizon. The Jewish story ends, as Moses' life ended, with a glimpse of the land not yet reached, a future not yet realized.

The same is true of Jewish belief. Judaism is the only civilization whose golden age is in the future: the messianic age, the age of peace when 'nation will not lift up sword against nation' and 'the Lord shall be one and His name One'. This ultimately was the dividing line between Judaism and Christianity. To be a Jew is to reply to the question 'Has the messiah come?' with the words 'Not yet.' In the fine phrase of Harold Fisch, the Jewish narrative is 'the unappeased memory of a future still to be fulfilled'. Why? What does this tell us about Judaism?

At the heart of Judaism is a belief so fundamental to Western civilization that we take it for granted, yet it is anything but self-evident. It has been challenged many times, rarely more so than today. It is the belief in human freedom. We are what we choose to be. Society is what we choose to make it. The future is open. There is nothing inevitable in the affairs of humankind.

The ancients believed that human destiny lay in the stars, or blind fate, what the Greeks called *ananke*. Spinoza argued that our lives are governed by natural necessity. Marx claimed that history was determined by economic interests. Freud held that human behavior was shaped by unconscious drives. Neo-Darwinians argue that we are governed by genetic codes hardwired into our brains. Freedom, in all these theories, is an illusion.

This view is challenged in the opening chapters of the Bible. For the first time, G-d is seen as beyond nature, creating nature by a free, uncoerced act of

will. By creating human beings in His image, He bestowed something of that freedom on us. Alone among created life forms, we too are capable of being creative. Biblical narrative is the ongoing drama of human freedom.

Freedom, implies Genesis, is intimately related to language. G-d creates the world with words, and His first gift to humanity is the gift of speech. We know that other life forms – primates,

of laws and narratives designed to create in people, families, communities and a nation, habits that defeat despair. Judaism is the voice of hope in the conversation of mankind.

It is no accident that so many Jews are economists fighting poverty, or doctors fighting disease, or lawyers fighting injustice, in all cases refusing to see these things as inevitable. It is no accident that after the Holocaust Jews

"The ancients believed that human destiny lay in the stars, or blind fate, what the **Greeks** called *ananke*. **Spinoza** argued that our lives are governed by natural necessity. **Marx** claimed that history was determined by economic interests. **Freud** held that human behavior was shaped by unconscious drives. **Neo-Darwinians** argue that we are governed by genetic codes hardwired into our brains. Freedom, in all these theories, is an illusion..."

dolphins, even bees – have rudimentary forms of language. But there is one form unique to human beings. The Torah signals this by making it the first word G-d speaks: *Yehi*, 'Let there be'.

Human beings are the only life form capable of using the future tense. Only beings who can imagine the world other than it is, are capable of freedom. And if we are free, the future is open, dependent on us. We can know the beginning of our story but not the end. That is why, as He is about to take the Israelites from slavery to freedom, G-d tells Moses that His name is 'I will be what I will be.' Judaism, the religion of freedom, is faith in the future tense.

Western civilization is the product of two cultures: ancient Greece and ancient Israel. The Greeks believed in fate: the future is determined by the past. Jews believed in freedom: there is no 'evil decree' that cannot be averted. The Greeks gave the world the concept of tragedy. Jews gave it the idea of hope. The whole of Judaism – though it would take a book to show it – is a set

did not call it *Al-Naqba*, nursing resentment and revenge, but instead turned to the future

Judaism is a religion of details, but we miss the point if we do not sometimes step back and see the larger picture. To be a Jew is to be an agent of hope in a world serially threatened by despair. Every ritual, every mitzvah, every syllable of the Jewish story, every element of Jewish law, is a protest against escapism, resignation or the blind acceptance of fate. Judaism is a sustained struggle, the greatest ever known, against the world that is, in the name of the world that could be, should be, but is not yet. There is no more challenging vocation. Throughout history, when human beings have sought hope they have found it in the Jewish story. Judaism is the religion, and Israel the home, of hope. 🇮🇱

Published in The Jewish Chronicle, April 2008

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Saks is the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth (UK).

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010



Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life
at Binghamton University

Where the Jewish future is being formed one student at a time!

The Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life has been serving the Binghamton University community since 1985. Chabad's main center is located adjacent to the campus; its satellite facility is located near downtown Binghamton. Chabad's comprehensive services and stellar programming have enriched the lives of generations of students and positioned Binghamton as one of the highest ranking in terms of Jewish life at a public university.



WHAT?

CHABAD IS ABOUT
CELEBRATION!

WHO?

A campus is a place of varied social groups and sub strata. There are virtually hundreds of groups, clubs, teams, Greek groups and other outlets. The most important thing is for a student to find "their place" but it's not always easy. Chabad transcends these dividing lines. It is quite simply a place for every Jewish student. In fact, over the years, hundreds of young people have met their best friends at Chabad. Scores found their spouses at Chabad. All found a sense of family and community.

WHO CAME TO CHABAD THIS YEAR?

- Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors and Grad Students.
- Reform, Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist and unaffiliated Jews.
- Liberals and Conservatives.
- Greeks and Geeks.
- Party Animals and Book Worms.
- Sephardim and Ashkenazim.
- Students on campus and students living off campus.



• Shabbat

The Shabbat experience at Chabad is the heart and soul of Jewish life at BU. The magic began each Friday night as hundreds of students streamed to the Center for services followed by a full course, home cooked dinner, topped off by a fabulous dessert buffet. But it didn't stop there. There were Shabbat services and lunch, Sedut Shlishit and Havdallah. And this was just the beginning:

- High Holiday Services
- Post Yom Kippur Break the Fast
- Festive meals in a Sukkah that seats 400
- Jazzukah; a rib and music festival in the Sukkah
- Pop up Sukkahs and a Sukkah Mobile providing mitzvos on the spot for Jews on the go
- Simchat Torah Bash
- Campus wide Chanukah kit distribution
- Grand Chanukah Celebration
- Purim Carnival Extravaganza
- Megillah Readings
- Purim Shpiel • Purim Feast
- Passover services and Dinners
- Lag B'omer BBQ
- A regional Shabbaton that drew 500 collegiates from 16 universities in the North East.
- Shabbat 1500, the largest Shabbat dinner on any campus, anywhere!
- Girls Night Out to celebrate Rosh Chodesh
- Farbrengens on Shabbat Mevorchim

BY THE NUMBERS

Close to

2000

different students participated in Chabad sponsored events this year with hundreds participating on a regular basis.

BY THE NUMBERS

940 feet danced on Simchat Torah

3970 bottles of soda downed

170 lbs. of Hamantashen eaten at Purim celebrations

4950

lbs. of flour made into challah and cake for Shabbat

1350

Menorah Kits distributed

9240 bowls of chicken soup enjoyed

CHABAD IS ABOUT EDUCATION

TORAH CLASSES

Chabad offered an endless stream of educational opportunities both formal and informal. Torah classes — in large groups or personal tutorials — covered everything from Hebrew reading to advanced Talmudic study and analysis of Biblical texts. The best part was that these classes were attended not for credit, not for parental approval and not for monetary stipends but for the love of learning and the yen to connect more deeply.



Beit Midrash / Supper with Study

Yeshiva for a Day

Lunch and Learn

Pizza and Parasha

Hebrew Reading Crash course

Shabbatons with Guest speakers
and Scholars in Residence

Jewish Learning Institute

BY THE NUMBERS

5870 HOURS
of Judaic classes
taught

135 Students
engaged in
study

17 Weekly
Classes
offered

40
ONE-ON-ONE
weekly tutorials



CHABAD IS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP AND COMMUNITY

FUN EVENTS

Everyone needs a place to just kick back and have some fun. And boy did Chabad offer a smorgasbord of cool events where students met great people and had a blast!

- Challah Baking
- Ashkefardic Night
- Apple Picking
- Paint Ball Shooting
- Ski Trip
- Midnight Madness Breakfasts
- Cholent Cook Off and Dessert Bake Off
- Intramural Sports Team
- Concert with Simply Tzfat
- Guys Nite Out
- Tea and Talk
- Lounge Nites



BY THE NUMBERS

153 SPECIAL EVENTS
held this year

CHABAD IS ABOUT LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL ACTION



One of the most important and enduring gifts Chabad gave our students this year was the ability to get involved in our student governing body, volunteer at Chabad or elsewhere, reach into the community to touch the lives of the elderly and the infirm, and raise crucially needed funds for all kinds of needy causes. "Giving is getting" is more than just a motto; at Chabad it's a way of life.

- Barry J. Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation
- Fashion for a Cure raised awareness about breast cancer and raised funds for Sharsheret
- Chanukah Toy Drive with NY based Chai Lifeline distributing them to pediatric cancer patients.
- Purim Prize Drawing Charity drive
- Bone Marrow Drive with the Gift of Life Foundation
- Campus Wide Mitzvah Marathon
- Charity Drives
- Credited Internships
- Blood Drives through the Red Cross

BY THE NUMBERS

\$11,255

Funds raised
for various
charities

43

STUDENTS ON
leadership
board

865

HOURS VOLUNTEERED
within the wider community

WHY?

WHY DID STUDENTS COME THIS YEAR? SO MANY REASONS!

It's where they found daily minyan, a state of the art fitness center, a Kosher Café, a Jewish library and research center, comfortable lounges, a fully equipped game room, free wireless internet service plus hot drinks and cookies in endless supply plus staff that offer counseling, crisis intervention and referrals with open minds and hearts. It's where they found the coolest people and the warmest atmosphere, a sense of family and a pulsating community. It's where they enjoyed unconditional love and acceptance and strengthened their Jewish pride and joy in belonging.



WHEN?

24/7. THE DOORS OF CHABAD WERE NEVER CLOSED.

The college years are when our youth make pivotal choices about their future: their identities, their affiliation, their commitments, their spouses and the communities to which they will want to belong. Their decisions will shape our collective future.

Please help us by investing in Jewish futures today!

For photos and videos of our events, for press coverage and features, and to access our **secure online donation site**, please visit

WWW.JEWISHBU.COM



A SPECIAL HAKESHER GRADUATION FEATURE

SENIORS SPEAK OUT

After 4 years the graduates know it all!

We asked our graduates to share their thoughts, feelings and hard earned wisdom:

THE GRADUATES:



Ariel Abergel

MAJOR: Sociology

FUTURE PLANS:
Graduate school for
Masters in social work.



Sarah Lee Abramov

MAJOR: Biology, EEB

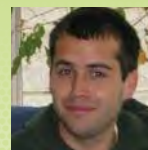
FUTURE PLANS:
BAT program for
Nursing, BU



Zachary Ainsberg

MAJOR: Finance,
Management Info. Sys.

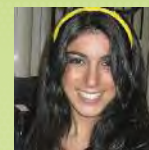
FUTURE PLANS:
Find a job



Jared Balavram

MAJOR: Sociology

FUTURE PLANS:
Undecided



Rotem Ben-Meir

MAJOR: Economics;
Minor: Biology

FUTURE PLANS:
Undecided

QUESTION #1: How my time in Binghamton impacted my Jewish identity and feelings of connection to the Jewish community...

“Rehearsal is from 10-1 on Friday morning and then 3:30 to 7:30 at night, so if I bring my clothes with me, I can finish and run to Chabad for Shabbat, and maybe make it in time for Kiddush.” My name is Rebecca Cohen, and I am a Jewish Theatre major. In the time that I have been here, I have been strongly challenged, and, in turn, greatly inspired to keep up with my religious upbringing while following my childhood dream of becoming an actress. The average play here rehearses at least twenty-five hours a week outside of classes, making my trips to Chabad few and precious. In the face of preparing myself for a life outside of Binghamton combining my passion for art and my love of Judaism, Chabad has constantly reminded me that the moment I walk through the doors of the building, I am exactly where I belong. Whenever I feel lost or imbalanced, Chabad has opened its loving arms to me, keeping me grounded in the joy and beauty that is my Judaism.” —*Rebecca C.*

“As a Reform Jew, I never in a million years thought that I’d

find myself at Chabad—maybe Hillel, but never Chabad. I thought Chabad was a place for religious Jews and religious Jews alone. If I showed up, I would feel like an outcast... wouldn’t I? I could never have been more wrong. Chabad has played such a huge role in helping me to maintain my Jewish identity and has overall been such a significant part of my college experience.” —*Aron R.*

“As a person who has spent life going through the yeshiva system, Judaism was a given. College instantly changed that. I was no longer a girl who did as she was told, but a girl with options; choices that could make a difference. The first time I went to Chabad I certainly did not feel like I was in yeshiva anymore, with a multitude of diverse people and the fact that everyone has come of their own accord; no one was there against his/her will. Everyone was smiling, and it did not take me two thoughts to realize that this is where I belong, yeshiva girl or not.” —*Sarah A.*

“I am a product of a mostly secular upbringing. I went to public school, Hebrew school, and was involved with a Jewish youth group. Throughout the

last four years, I’ve gotten much more involved in Chabad and my Jewish heritage than I ever would have imagined. For my first Rosh Hashanah I couldn’t make it home to Massachusetts, but I discovered a second home at Chabad. More recently, the JLearn classes gave me an opportunity to further explore a side of Judaism I’d never explored before. On top of all this, Chabad has given me the chance to foster amazing friendships, which I know will stay with me for years to come.” —*Gabrielle B.*

“Coming from a relatively homogenous Orthodox Jewish bubble, I was very concerned about finding my place at Binghamton University. My first glimpse of Chabad was on a Friday night where I was shocked to discover over 200 Jewish Binghamton students in attendance. Since then, I have met many of these students and have found that they come from a wide variety of backgrounds yet all gather with the singular goal of celebrating shabbos together. Chabad was instrumental in helping me maintain my Jewish observance level as well as broadening my views and understanding of other ways of Jewish life. Had I not gone to Chabad for the past three years my connection to the ENTIRE Jewish community would not be as strong as it is today.” —*Chasida S.*

“After twelve years of experience in Jewish day school and Jewish sleep-away camp, my Jewish identity was somewhat

challenged when I entered Binghamton. I could not just wake up in the morning and expect to engage effortlessly in a Jewish environment. For the first time, I had to create for myself a new Jewish identity in this new world of exploration. At my first Shabbat dinner at Chabad, I quickly learned that my Binghamton college experience would only heighten my Jewish identity with the help of Chabad. In only five minutes or less from my dormitory in the Bingham building of the Newing community I could enter an abode that offered the wonders of a Jewish experience. I was inspired to join the G-board and help represent Judaism for the thousands on our campus.” —*Brittany R.*

“I transferred to Binghamton University as a sophomore searching for an active and involved Jewish college community. I have always had a very strong Jewish identity and it was important to me that I find a school filled with Jewish opportunities. Chabad of Binghamton has more than fulfilled what I was looking for when I transferred. Before classes even started that year, I was welcomed with open arms and huge smiles! As time passed, Chabad became even more like a family to me. Before I knew it, I was spending every moment I could to help and be involved; whether I was baking, helping to prepare Shabbat dinner, taking classes, or volunteering on the G-board. I plan on taking all the lessons learned here and bringing them where ever I go in life.” —*Ellen K*



Shani Bertel

MAJOR: Human Development
FUTURE PLANS: Making Aliyah



Matthew Block

MAJOR: Accounting
FUTURE PLANS: Masters in Accounting at BU



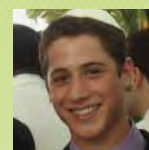
Gabrielle Blonder

MAJOR: Human Development
FUTURE PLANS: Grad school for Occ. Therapy



Shmuel Bushwick

MAJOR: Political Science
FUTURE PLANS: Benjamin N Cardozo School of Law in NYC



Jonathan Cogan

MAJOR: Economics and Philosophy, Politics, & Law
FUTURE PLANS: Find a job



Myriam Cohen

MAJOR: Biology and English

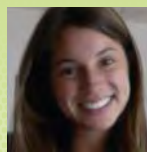
FUTURE PLANS: Medical school



Rebecca Cohen

MAJORS: Theatre/English

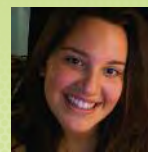
FUTURE PLANS: Tour of Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* in Beijing, China



Tamar Druck

MAJOR: Judaic Studies

FUTURE PLANS: Assistant teacher at a Jewish school in NYC



Allison Fox

MAJOR: English; Minor: Global Studies

FUTURE PLANS: Book publishing industry



Sarah Franklin

MAJOR: Geography and Economics

FUTURE PLANS: Masters in Urban Planning at Rutgers University

Question #1 continued...

“I can remember arriving at Chabad for my first Shabbat, a timid freshman unsure of herself and of her place in this new and strange environment. Walking up to the Chabad House I saw a mass of people and almost wanted to walk the other way. But I continued walking and I have never looked back. I ended up meeting some of my best friends at that first Friday night and Chabad evolved into the home that I had left behind for Binghamton. I remember sophomore year I was very sick with the flu. I missed a week of classes and could not get out of bed. When I was feeling so hopeless and so homesick Chabad sent over a container of soup for me. This small gesture meant the world to me. It was the true epitome of home and it gave me the strength that I needed, both physically and spiritually, to become healthier. While Chabad has now moved into a new and spacious facility, I will always fondly remember the old “big” room being packed to capacity for Friday night dinner; the room pulsating with conversation and laughter, the Jewish spirit infusing the Shabbat dinner, and the warmth of Chabad radiating throughout the room.”

—Shani B.

“Before coming to Binghamton, I had a very strong Jewish background. I was skeptical if I would be able to keep my Jewish identity in

Binghamton or if it would be a struggle. I was very shocked and astonished at what Chabad had to offer. It really made my time at Binghamton much easier and more enjoyable than I ever could have expected.”

—Brian L.

“When I came to Chabad in Fall 2006, I simply expected to find a place to have Shabbat meals and services. Now, my voice can be heard at almost all Shabbat services announcing page numbers and Parasha summaries, I (and my blue CRV) am pretty much the official transport service for Chabad events, and I attend morning services regularly. Here, I met close friends who support, understand, and even entertain me. At Chabad, I did not just find a community, I found a family.”

—Samuel G.

“My years at Binghamton have had a huge impact on my Jewish identity, largely due to Chabad. With the wide variety of events and classes they have every week, it has been easy to be active in the Jewish life on campus, and enjoy it too. While I have been in Jewish environments my entire life, never has it been as diverse as the crowds seen at Chabad. That’s a testament to the amazing work done by the Chabad staff and the entire student volunteers to ensure that everyone feels welcome there, regardless of background.”

—Michael L.

“My almost four years in Binghamton have helped me to find and define my Jewish identity. Chabad helped me to figure out where I was in the Jewish world, and where I want to be going. Chabad welcomed me into their community and with the help of fellow participants, I have shaped my Jewish identity into a way I never thought possible.”

—Sara F.

“I grew up in a modern orthodox environment and have always been in Yeshiva settings. Binghamton was my first extended exposure to the “outside” world. Ironically, I found that I felt most connected to Judaism here, because I had to create it and find it for myself. I remember feeling a tremendous amount of inspiration as I helped hand out Menorahs to students on campus before Chanukah. It was a special experience to see how many types of Jews there are on campus who were celebrating the holiday. Through actions like these, Chabad encourages this spread of Judaism throughout campus, and allows students here to maintain, reconnect with, or even discover their Jewish identities. They inspire students to be a part of the Jewish community, and to have an active role in fostering Jewish life at Binghamton, and hopefully to take some of what they’ve received with them when they leave.”

—Tamar D.

“Through my experience at Chabad I have been able to continue to stay connected to my Judaism. By going to Shabbat dinners and participating in several of the holidays throughout my time at Binghamton I have found a real sense of community. Every time I come to Chabad it is very warm and inviting and keeps me wanting to come back for more. Also through the J-Learn program and several of the classes taught on campus, I was able to keep up on my Jewish studies while being in a secular environment.”

—Jared B.

“When I came to Binghamton University, I vowed never to compromise my Jewish identity for anything and Chabad at Binghamton helped me to do that. Chabad helped me protect and enrich my identity as a Jew and as a part of a growing and beautiful community. From Shabbat dinners to a fully stocked spiritual library and even a gym, Chabad offers space and comfort to meet new people, explore what it means to be Jewish, and learn to integrate Judaism into everything that I do. Judaism is not simply a religion, some doctrine to follow when and how you please; it is a way of life which allows one to live while always growing, spiritually and mentally. Chabad helped me stay on my path and more importantly advance a few steps.”

—Myriam C.



Samuel Gartner

MAJOR: Psychology

FUTURE PLANS:
Medical school



Beth Goldfischer

MAJOR: Human
Development

FUTURE PLANS: Graduate
school to become a P.A.



Avi Gordon

MAJOR: Judaic Studies

FUTURE PLANS:
East Coast Campus
Coordinator for *StandWithUs*



Ayla Gordon

MAJOR: Anthropology

FUTURE PLANS:
Spend some time in
Eretz Israel



Brad Heringer

MAJOR: Management,
Marketing

FUTURE PLANS:
Find a job



Lauren Jarchin

MAJOR: Biology

FUTURE PLANS:
Medical School



Josh Jasper

MAJORS: History,
Anthropology, and
Classical Civilization

FUTURE PLANS: Graduate
school for history in a year.



Ellen Klein

MAJOR: Biology

FUTURE PLANS:
NY Medical College
Doctoral Physical
Therapy Program



Samantha Kuchlik

MAJOR: Psychology;
Minor: Spanish

FUTURE PLANS:
Obtaining a PsyD in
Clinical Psychology



Tobey Lass

MAJOR: Human
development; Minor: Judaic
studies

FUTURE PLANS: Columbia
for Masters in special ed.

QUESTION #2:

My favorite / most meaningful / most important Jewish experience at Binghamton University was...

“...dancing with hundreds of people in the Old Union Hall and chanting Jewish melodies during Simchat Torah. We ran outside with flags and full of pride to dance and sing across campus. The unity that was felt was strong.” — *Ayla G.*

“...walking to Chabad for my first Shabbat dinner. If I hadn’t gone, I may not have made the connection to Chabad, established lifetime friendships, or strengthened my Jewish identity.” — *Zach A.*

“...serving on the Chabad Executive Board. Helping to enhance other students’ Jewish involvement in the community and university, as well as seeing perennial events go from its early stages to fruition provided a sense of joy not only for me, but for everyone involved. Furthermore, working with my peers, as well as the Chabad

staff has allowed me to further my growth as an individual and as a proud Jew.” — *Brad H.*

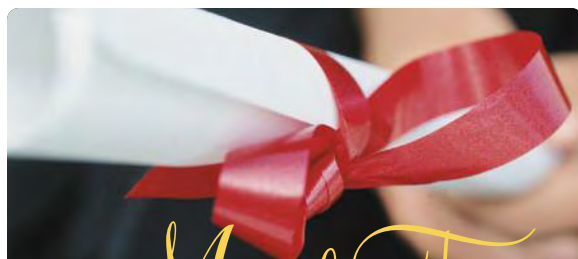
“...taking the classes that were offered at Chabad. I was hesitant to join these classes; on campus I took classes with my friends, but I had never heard any of my friends talk about taking classes at Chabad. As soon as I mentioned that I wanted to take one of those classes, out of the woodwork came people saying “Oh, so and so is in that class” or “I took it last semester, it was amazing”. Just mentioning my desire to continue learning was like opening Pandora’s box of people offering classes to take and people to learn with. Over my four years at Binghamton I have studied analysis of Rashi, Hilchot Tzniut and Nidah, Weekly Parsha, Rambam, and so much more. It has been amazing to escape my crazy life

of sorority meetings, tour guiding, preschool teaching, and university courses by taking classes at Chabad with my friends.” — *Tobey L.*

“...this past Chanukah when we organized the distribution of menorah kits on campus the week before Chanukah. There were over 40 volunteers that offered to sit at tables around campus and give out the free kits and it was a huge success, I felt that we were spreading the light of Chanukah to the whole campus. I spoke with one of the students who was doing the distributing and she had such an inspirational story about how this boy came up to her and began telling her that it was his birthday on Chanukah this year but due to finals he couldn’t go home to be with his family when they usually light the candles together. So when this girl had offered him a kit he

was extremely excited, and when he found out that they were free his face completely lit up! He was so enthused and subsequently asked for a couple for his friends, too. This really touched the student distributor and when she related it to me I was very moved also. To me that was the miracle of Chanukah.” — *Tova S.*

“...Ashkafardic night. I really enjoyed the meshing of the two cultures and learning about the heritage of my peers. I am always interested in learning about where my friends and other students come from. The combination of good food and good company makes this event popular and fun every time it takes place! It is something I will truly miss when I leave, but I definitely hope to take what I learned with me.” — *Ariel A.*



Mazel Tov to our graduates!

In honor of Arielle Amir
Much love, Mom and Dad, Nana and Poppy,
Aunt Karen and Elan

In honor of Samuel Gartner
Love, Mom, Dad,
Adam, and Jonathan

In honor of Brad Heringer
Love, Mom, Dad,
Jaime, Samantha & Wilson

In honor of Tobey Lass
With much love,
Mom and Dad

QUESTION #3: Advice to remaining students...

“...simple: go to Chabad Friday night dinners and events.” — *Zach A.*

“...the passion, warmth, friendship and love you will find at Chabad go unrivaled and you would be a fool not to incorporate them into your life.” — *Shmuel B.*

“...when the work gets overwhelming or you feel like you need to get out or things aren’t going your way, remember this: this is the only time in your life that your biggest worry will be if you can go out on a Tuesday night. Appreciate the opportunity that college really is. Swing by Chabad once in a while to remind yourself about what is really important. Challenge yourself academically and enjoy your free time fully. Remember, this could be Israel and we could all be in the IDF right now! Don’t take anything too seriously and when you feel like crying, laugh instead. You’ll be happy you did.” — *Allison F.*

“...get involved in any capacity. Whether it be attending Shabbat dinner, the Purim Carnival, Shabbat 1500, or helping to plan events for all to take part; there is no substitute for being a part of something bigger and that has been a part of our identity for thousands of years.” — *Brad H.*

“...As my high-school basketball

coach once told me, “It’s not all about how you start, but how you finish.” Although you may find many challenges during tenure at Binghamton, how you face them and overcome them will define who you are. Finish Strong! And remember, if your challenges become too overwhelming, the doors at Chabad are open 24/7. You’ll definitely find the best advice there!” — *Daniel L.*

“...get involved. Help out whenever you can. Network while at school and remember to be proud of who you are. Enjoy the experience and realize it’s a roller coaster of a ride.” — *Avi G.*

“...if you think something on campus (or in life) is interesting or important, you should pursue it. You should never be afraid or overly cautious about the repercussions of trying something out (regardless of what anyone says).” — *Josh J.*

“...don’t be afraid to get involved. It doesn’t even have to be anything big. I started by transporting food for Shabbat 1500 from Chabad to the East Gym (my car still smells like chicken, not that I’m complaining...). You’ll come to realize that time spent helping out is not time lost, plus you’ll have a good time as well.” — *Jordan S.*

“...initiate a conversation with someone new, they might be a truly amazing person and you would



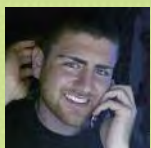
Michael Lefkovich

MAJOR: Actuarial Science, Economics
FUTURE PLANS: Working as an Actuary



Elizabeth Levit

MAJOR: Psychology; SOM Adjunct with a Leadership Concentration
FUTURE PLANS: Find a job



Daniel Lewis

MAJOR: Anthropology
FUTURE PLANS: Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine



Brian Liebmman

MAJOR: Accounting
FUTURE PLANS: Masters in Accounting at BU



Elana Rockman

MAJOR: Human Development
FUTURE PLANS: Masters and Credential Program in Elementary Education at USC



Lauren Roditi

MAJOR: Integrative Neuroscience
FUTURE PLANS: Graduate school in Speech Pathology / Special Ed.



Aron Samuel Rubin

MAJOR: History
Minor: Global Studies
FUTURE PLANS: Find a job

QUESTION #4: Chabad is...

never know otherwise – take two minutes to welcome someone new into Chabad. Take the leadership chances, whether it is getting involved with a big project or simply cooking for one meal or going to visit someone who needs it. Experience different things: events, projects on campus that you will not get the opportunity to do after college is over. Learn one new thing each day, do something you've never done before, push your limits, step out of your comfort zone – it is healthy for you as a growing, living person. LIVE LIFE!”

—Tova S.

“...Take advantage of everything that Chabad has to offer. Take at least one class (or more) a semester and go to Shabbat dinners and other programs that Chabad is running. Chabad helps you to find your niche and discover amazing people.” —Sara F.

“...Binghamton University has many things to offer, from academics to social life, the hard part is remembering who you are as you tread on this journey. Chabad will help you always remember who you are, where you are from, and how you can go forward in your life and heart. Do not take this for granted. Losing yourself here is easy to do if you do not have a solid anchor. Come to Shabbat dinners, come to programs, open your heart and mind to your community and most of all, make sure that the person you come here being, and the one you leave here as, like each other.” —Myriam C.

“...the cup of soup your mother gives you that makes you feel warm inside.”

—Rotem B-M

“...the sunshine (the light and inspiration) of Binghamton University.” —Jon C.

“...familiar, warm. Whenever I needed it, I always knew it was there to catch me.” —Allison F.

“...a second home to hundreds of students, and gives everyone the opportunity to create long-lasting friendships, embrace a Jewish identity, and spend quality time with incredible people.”

—Lauren J.

“...the place where I have learned and grown the most... the place that I am most comfortable in Binghamton. ...Shabbat on Friday night... Pizza in the Café on Thursday night... leadership opportunities... spiritual davening... interesting classes... new people... being greeted with smiles... a place that has had a profound effect on me that I know will last forever.”

—Lauren R.

“...where they are always willing to help us learn about our Jewish identity, whether one on one or in a class. They are SO accepting (and non-

judgmental) of people from all backgrounds/levels of observance and they don't try to force anything upon us. I've studied with other people before but I can truthfully say that the experience has never compared to Chabad.”

—Samantha K.

“...a tradition unlike any other.” —Jordan S.

“...an experience. CRaZy! inspirational.” —Tova S.

“...a life-changing experience. A place where I feel comfortable to be Jewish and a place where I met my best friends from college.” —Avi G.

“...a place to learn something new about yourself... the ability to study... a place I met so many different kinds of Jews, and had access to very well-stocked libraries of Jewish subjects.” —Josh J.

“...a unique support system that I will never forget.” —Ayla G.

“...responsible for strengthening my sense of belonging to the Jewish community.” —Matthew B.

“...the opportunity to grow as a leader, a person, and as a Jew.” —Tobey L.

“...not only where every-

one knows your name, but a place where you are always welcome and your presence is noted and missed. The first time I was sick on Shabbos and wasn't able to go to Chabad, four girls stopped by my room to see if I was okay. Additionally, whenever I don't come because I am sick or away, I always receive an e-mail checking to see if I am okay and if there is anything that can be done. To me this shows how Chabad has commitment to each individual and making sure they feel comfortable and are happy.”

—Elana R.

“...the heart of Jewish life.” —Samuel G.

“...simplicity and devotion ... a genuine concern and care for all who walk through its doors; young and old, rebel and tzadik.” —Aron S.

“...the opportunity to continue practicing my Judaism in the way that I am most comfortable doing. Chabad is not judgmental but rather they are there to facilitate students in becoming more involved with Judaism.”

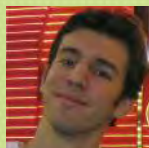
—Beth G.

“...community, family, guidance, and a place to explore yourself in a way you would be scared to do anywhere else.” —Myriam C.



Brittany Rumeld

MAJOR: History
Minor: Judaic Studies
FUTURE PLANS: Graduate school for Special Ed.



Jordan Schiff

MAJOR: Economics
FUTURE PLANS: Find a job



Aaron Sebag

MAJOR: Political Science
FUTURE PLANS: Masters Degree in U.S. Foreign Policy at American University



Chasida Sherman

MAJOR: Economics
FUTURE PLANS: Find a Job



Tova Stark

MAJORS: Human Development and Judaic Studies
FUTURE PLANS: Year in Jerusalem, followed by Masters in Social Work.

BASIL

Has The Salt To Succeed

By Alan Zeitlin



Chefs **Ehud Ezra** and **Adam SaNogueira** loved cooking with a passion, but when they decided to become *shomer Shabbat*, they found that their culinary careers were in jeopardy. Ezra, a 39-year-old pastry chef, said he was fired from his job at a national chain, after asking to switch shifts to accommodate his Sabbath observance. SaNogueira, who knew nothing of kosher fine dining, decided to pack it in.

"It was sad," said SaNogueira, a 27-year-old from Monsey, who trained at the Italian Institute for Foreigners. "I figured my days in the kitchen were finished."

But the two now find themselves cooking up meals at *Basil*, a new dairy restaurant located a stone's throw from the Crown Heights neighborhood in Brooklyn, NY. Ezra showed off his sorbets, tiramisu and croissants, which he claims are the only *cholov yisroel* ones made in the world.

Basil's owner, **Daniel Branover** whose Israeli-based company SAT-

ECH, provides energy to more than 40 countries said people told him he was crazy to open a "high-end" restaurant in Crown Heights, reasoning that people want to go into Manhattan for a nice meal. But with 770 Eastern Parkway, world headquarters to the Chabad Lubavitch movement, so close by, he felt sure people would come, he said.

The restaurant, which features one of a kind wood burning oven pizza creations, Basil Fries, Basil Pizza, goat cheese gnocchi, a host of fishes and freshly made pastas, and an impressive wine and beer selection,

seats about 60 people.

As she exited the packed restaurant, Ciara Salman, said she enjoyed the chocolate walnut cake. The 18-year-old, who isn't Jewish, added that it was the first time she had ever eaten in a kosher restaurant.

Branover said that while the bulk of the customers are religious Jews, their African-American neighbors and other non-Jews were stopping by.

"While the goal was to make a great kosher dining experience, it is certainly a good thing if it can help bridge the gap and bring non-Jewish members of the community closer," he said. "Diversity is a good thing."

Ezra, who is also an expert chocolate maker, said his life has changed a lot since he has become religious. Standing in the restaurant's dining room, he said life is great and things have happened for the best.

"Life is like a movie and God is the director," said Ezra, originally from Ramat Hasharon. "You may think you know the plot but sometimes there is a surprise." 🍴

Alan Zeitlin teaches English and journalism for the New York City Department of Education. He is also a freelance writer.



IF YOU GO:

270 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY
718-285-8777 | www.basilny.com

Breakfast/Bakery Menu: 8:30am–1:30pm
Lunch and Dinner: 11:30am–2:00am

CHABAD IN ACTION

SHABBAT 1500

Shabbat 1500 at BU holds the record as the largest Shabbat dinner to take place on any campus



EVENTS & PROGRAMS



Girls Nite Out

The month of Iyar welcomed with soap making, salad bar and other "green activities" at Rosh Chodesh Event.



Challah Baking Workshop

CHABAD IN ACTION

MORE EVENTS & PROGRAMS



Yeshiva for a Day

BU guys get to experience peer learning with Yeshiva students from NYC



Lounge Nite

Featuring a back to the 90's theme



The annual **Dessert Bake Off**



The annual **Cholent Cook Off**

MIDNIGHT MADNESS BREAKFAST



GUYS NITE OUT

The guys enjoy a game of dodge ball



GRADUATION 2010

GOODBYE SHABBATON



WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION

Honoring the Graduates and outgoing university President Lois B. DeFleur



President DeFleur accepts tribute from Rabbi Aaron Slonim, Rivky Slonim and Tobey Lass, Chabad's student president.



Dr. Steven Katz '91 spoke on behalf of the alumni.



Jeremy Sinensky spoke on behalf of the graduating class.



CHABAD IN ACTION

JLEARN '10

BU students joined their peers on campuses across the States in the newest Chabad on Campus national education initiative: Jlearn. At the banquet held for Jlearners at the program's conclusion, students pointed to the eclectic course offerings, the amount of knowledge gained in a short period of time, and an atmosphere that encourages participants "to ask any question at all" as the salient features of the program.



LAG B'OMER CELEBRATION



When the *Political* is *personal*

By Shmuel Bushwick '10

Non-Violent Resistance,” or NVR, is a theory concerning political dissent based on the works of civil rights leaders such as Mahatma Ghandi and the early writings of Henry David Thoreau. This type of protest is one in which people facing political oppression undermine the system without ever engaging their enemy in combat. To do so successfully three conditions must be met: group unity, nonviolent discipline, and concerted planning.

While the political scientists promoting this idea present it as a radical and new form of forcing change in political systems, a review of Jewish history will show that this very formula was applied over and over again as Jews fought to maintain their identity in the face of social and political oppression.

As early in history as when the descendants of Jacob were enslaved in Egypt the Jewish way of life was called into question. Rather than conform to their surroundings the Jews resisted social pressure by intractably maintaining their uniquely Jewish names, language, and manner of dress.

Under Greek rule during the 2nd Temple era, Jews were prohibited from observing Shabbat, circumcising their newly born sons, and engaging in Torah study. Those

discovered practicing these and other outlawed observances faced certain death. Undaunted, Jewish scholars retreated to mountain caves to continue to teach the Torah, further inspiring the rank and file Jews who secretly continued to observe. Thus, the

Torah and Mitzvot were kept alive.


As Jews of the 21st century we live free lives: Our government allows us to practice our religion free from persecution, our employers are understanding of our need to use our vacation days for observance of our holy days, and even universities regularly schedule breaks friendly to our calendrical concerns. Our struggle today is almost inadvertent; it is not against foreign oppressors bent on breaking our spirit.

The contemporary Jew suffers to find the balance between religious requirements and modern day life; it is social pressures that beckon to us to weaken our faith. In university this conflict is embodied in the invitations to Friday night parties and dining hall lunches, and the rush to and from classes that leave us little time to relax our minds or ignite our

souls with Judaic thought. This situation poses a two-fold threat. In the present, what begins as a small and seemingly insignificant shift in priorities can quickly evolve into a steady erosion of Jewish practice. In the long term, this loss of connection to Jewish observances reduces the ability to transmit to future generations a genuine commitment to Judaism. The decisions students make today in regards to religious identity will shape the trajectory of the Jewish future.

So how do we respond to the challenge of balancing social and religious demands? With NVR: non-violent resistance.

As a course of action this requires us to appraise every situation we encounter and determine whether it strengthens or threatens us as individuals and specifically, as Jews. We must make a conscious effort to continue in our current religious practices and perhaps even take on more. Unified, and with a common goal of maintaining our faith and culture we can be disciplined to confront this challenge one step at a time.

By remembering who we are, where we come from and where we are going, we will protect Judaism for ourselves and for those who come after us. 

Shmuel Bushwick '10 majored in political science. He will be attending Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law beginning May 2010.



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