



What's Cooking? *at Shabbos House*

Shabbos House - Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center - serving the Jewish Community at UAlbany (SUNY) since 1976.

JOIN THE CROWD - IT'S HAKHEL YEAR!



Generally speaking, at Shabbos House we're not that focused on numbers. We pride ourselves on appreciating each individual student, recognizing their unique personality, talents and contributions that make up the fabric of our campus community.

But this year is different! Rosh Hashanah begins the "Hakhel - Year of Gathering" recalling the biblical national gathering at the Jerusalem Temple on the Sukkot holiday for connection and inspiration. There's strength in numbers, especially when unified! The Lubavitcher Rebbe encouraged modern-day Hakhel gatherings, for inspirational get-togethers all year long.

While we try to stay focused on each individual, cumulatively that builds a crowd. That's one of the things that make Friday Nights here so special. Large groups of Jewish students, from all backgrounds and levels of observance, join together to enjoy a Shabbat as a campus community. The energy in the room is palpable and engaging. Hakhel spirit every year, all year long.

That's another thing about Hakhel. The Mitzvah dates to biblical times before digital technology, but what made it special was that it was a live in-person gathering. So much productivity and social-interaction happens today behind closed doors in front of a screen. Woody Allen said "80% of life is just showing up!" Whether his percentages were right or not, Hakhel IS about showing up; being there and being part of it makes all the difference.

Of course, with Hakhel coming up this year, we're going to put more focus on larger events. We look forward to "Shabbat 360" in the Campus Center Ballroom co-sponsored with Hillel and other Jewish campus groups, a Mega Havdalah at the new Fountain, and going down with a group to the International Chabad on Campus Shabbaton in Brooklyn, among other special Hakhel-esque events. In addition to the large-scale events planned for this Hakhel-Year, we've also received a special grant for the "Shalom Project" to focus on small group-bonding experiences, including fire-pits, movie-nights and local outings.

Shabbos House funding also operates on a Hakhel-model. Some organizations receive most of their support from foundations, federations, or a few wealthy individuals. Not Shabbos House. Most of our support comes from a wide spectrum of parents, alumni and community friends - at all types of giving levels. Some give once a year, others give monthly, or for special events or specific needs. It's Crowd-Funding (aka Hakhel-Funding!) that makes Shabbos House possible!



Please join the crowd! Join us in person, or follow us virtually on social-media and at our continuously updated website. Parents, alumni and friends: please join the growing community of supporters at whatever contribution-level works for you.

SHABBOS HOUSE IS A JOINT EFFORT!

*Thank you! Rabbi Mendel & Raizy Rubin & Family
and the many students who call Shabbos House home each year!*

PURIM 2015



75+ students came out in Purim Costume, nearly 300 attended our Purim Carnival in the Campus Center Ballroom, 15+ Activity Booths, over a dozen participating student groups.



The "Smile Monster" put on a big blue Kippah special for the Purim Carnival!



Repeated daytime Megillah Readings between classes, pictured here in Lecture Center Concourse



L-R Top Row: Freedom, Alumni, Indian, Empire, State. Bottom Row: Dutch, Liberty, Colonial. All dressed as names of UAlbany Quad Dorms! Baby Rivka was a Great Dane Pawprint.

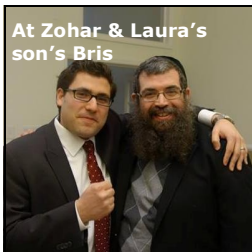


BUKHARIAN SHABBAT

The first Shabbat back of Spring semester 2015 was a Bukharian-themed dinner, a delicious authentic feast cooked at Shabbos House by three generations of the



Inoyatov family, with Plov, Bichak, Shurpah, Mazurka, you name it! They even brought up traditional festive garb. It was quite the treat.



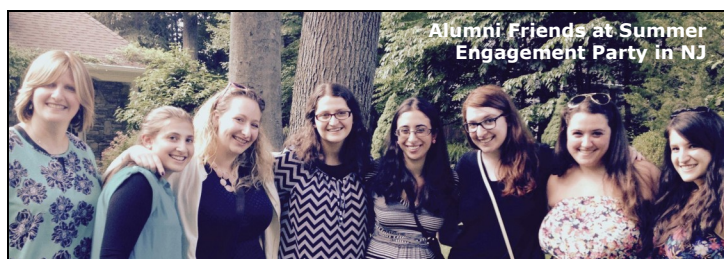
At Zohar & Laura's son's Bris



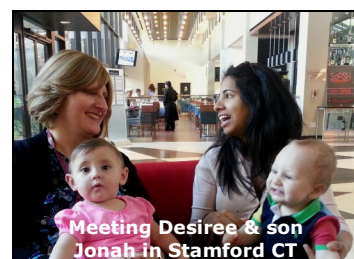
"The Albany Picture" at Brad & Maytal's wedding



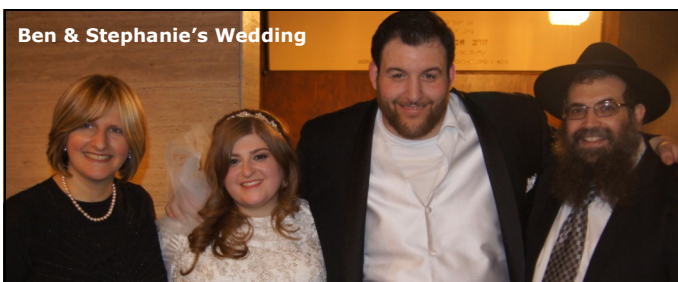
Lauren & Yigal's Engagement



Alumni Friends at Summer Engagement Party in NJ



Meeting Desiree & son Jonah in Stamford CT



Ben & Stephanie's Wedding



At Alumni Daughter's Bat-Mitzvah



Visiting Rebbe's Ohel with Alumni



Presidents Week get-together with a few alumni families from our first year!



Shabbos House memorabilia at alumni son's Bar-Mitzvah in Israel!

Plus... we had alumni visiting for most Cozy-Shabbat weekends this summer!

SUMMERTIME SHABBOS HOUSE UALBANY ALUMNI REUNIONS 2015

8/17/2015: MONDAY IN MANHATTAN

Salad-Bar & Desserts, 6:30pm at Adereth-El

135 East 29th Street, NYC (bet Lexington & 3rd)

Thanks to Zohar ('07) and Laura ('07) for the arrangements.

8/30/2015: SUNDAY BBQ ON LONG ISLAND

hosted by Shaun ('01) & Michelle Zeitlin & Danyel ('07) & Tani Klein

4pm at the Zeitlins: 482 Wilson Street, West Hempstead

Donations appreciated to cover costs & jumpstart the coming semester

To RSVP for either event: www.shabboshouse.org/Reunion2015



> **SUNDAY TALMUD STUDY SIYUM** Thanks to student initiative and weekly dedication, this year was our first to have a Talmud class each Sunday at the Minyan Brunch. On the final Sunday of the Spring semester we concluded the fourth chapter of tractate Brachos. We look forward to keeping it up this Fall!



> **ARM-KNITTING** Jasmine shared her arm-knitting skills at a "Girls-Nite In" a monthly event co-sponsored with UAlbany Hillel. Though labeled Spring semester, this was on a frigid snowy night in January. Once people got the hang of it, it's amazing how quickly you can "arm-knit" a beautiful and trendy, warm scarf.



> **AEPI: THEN & NOW** Pictured on right, some current AEPI brothers at the Purim Carnival photo booth. Not pictured (due to Shabbat) 30 brothers of AEPI from a decade back, came up for a Shabbat Lunch Reunion at Shabbos House. The memories were heartwarming, it was great to see some of the guys whom we haven't seen in years. Collectively, these alumni contributed \$2,500+ to Shabbos House! See some of their reflections shared in "From Our Inbox": AEPI alumni visit 2015.



HIGHLIGHTS OF

< **THE MEGA-CHALLAH BAKE** This year's "Womens Spa for the Body and Soul" featured a Mega-Challah-Bake with 130+ women, community and students, in conjunction with several area Jewish Womens groups. This event took regular Challah Baking to a whole different level with a much larger crowd, individualized ingredients and utensils, and much inspiration.



< **CAN JEW FEEL IT?** New tabling game for this year's Cultural Carnivale, students sticking their hands inside the mystery boxes to feel a Tallit, Menorah, Tzedakah Box, Tefillin Bag, Shofar and Mezuzah. We're always trying to think out of the box, but getting students' hands inside these boxes was a great conversation starter.



< **PASSOVER** Most students went home for the Seders, but we still had 50-60 people each Seder night. We had a full house for festive meals on last two days of the holiday. Thanks to Lchaim Group (SA funded) and parents and alumni for sponsoring this costly but priceless holiday. It amazed us how many came by for the Moshiah Meal near the very end of the holiday when most people are already dreaming of Chametz.



< **CHABAD GOES PINK** Thanks to Ben I. our "Sharsheret" liaison, we went pink one Torah-Tuesday for Sharsheret Pink Day, to raise awareness of Breast Cancer and support services, especially within the Jewish community.

SPRING SEMESTER

> **TREE AT TU BISHVAT TABLE** Students took turns being the tree at L'chaim's Tu Bishvat fruit fondue table in Campus Center. The background banner was painted two years ago at a Minyan Brunch and is as vividly bright as ever. Many students stopped by for a taste of dried and fresh fruit dipped in chocolate and learned about the Jewish New Year for Trees.



> **CHOLENT COOKOFF & DESSERT BAKE-OFF** An annual tradition each Spring semester, we had a Cholent Cookoff and a Dessert Bakeoff on separate weekends. (L) Ben and Eliran prepare Osvo, a Bukharian Cholent. Unusual ingredients in Cholents this year included daikon radish, green apples, chunk of pastrami, coconut milk, Jachnun, garam masala... (R) Ben I. preparing his first-place winning carrot-flavored cupcakes for the dessert bake-off.



> **SUMMER STUDY SIESTA + NANOTECH TALMUD SIYUM** This summer Shabbos House hosted an afternoon of learning that culminated in a Siyum Celebration and dinner for the Nanotech Talmud Study Group, of whom Dr. Yehoshua Rubin and Mr. Ted Levin are pictured here with CNSE nanotech students who are very involved at Shabbos House. We also hosted a number of summertime BBQ's in addition to ten Cozy-Shabbat weekends for summer students and visiting alumni.



< **THE FRESH PRINCE OF... LCHAIM!** This year's Lchaim Unite Video was a twist on the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. It's fast-paced, rhyming and humorous and full of great energy. It was even more fun filming it! This picture is of the scene with all the big Talmud books pulled out. If it no longer plays on albany.edu, look for it on YouTube: Fresh Students of L'chaim.



< **PRE-PURIM HAMANTASCH BAKING** Speaking of baking, we did a Hamantasch Baking after a Purim-themed Torah-Tuesday class titled "Behind the Mask" and students got to try all kinds of fillings, from traditional berry and apricot to things like chocolate-chip, peanut butter & jelly and cookie dough.



< **LAG B'OMER FIREPIT** This year Lag B'Omer was just before Finals, and over 100 students came out to enjoy a fire-pit from dusk to midnight. Pictured here Rabbi Mendel is sharing the history and messages of Lag B'Omer. The relaxing atmosphere around the fire fostered warmth and camaraderie, something we hope to build on with more such Shalom Project-type events that help facilitate group-bonding. Fire-pit will be back for the Welcome event in the Fall!

Thank You for making Spring semester 2015 possible.

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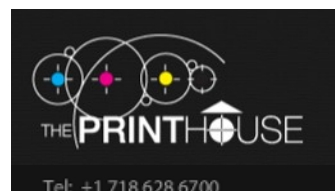
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We apologize for any inadvertent omissions. L'chaim UAlbany Unite, Anonymous Sponsors, Catering, and Cookbook purchases not included.

Funds for some programs & events are from partnering groups such as Capital Region Chabad, L'chaim (Student Activity-Fee funded) & UAlbany Hillel and others, but most of Shabbos House's support comes from contributions by parents, alumni and friends. We receive no direct funding from the University at Albany.

Your support makes it possible. THANK YOU!



Contributions listed are from January '15 thru July '15. Thanks to their generosity Shabbos House is possible.

*** indicates Shabbat, Holiday and Event Sponsors (\$500+)**

**** indicates Major Semester Sponsors & Building Fund (\$1,000+)**

Contributions can be made by check, online via Paypal or contact us for Credit-Card donations one-time or monthly.

BUILDING FUND

- ☐ (\$250) Quarter-Share
☐ (\$500) Half-Share
☐ (\$1,000) Share
☐ (\$1,800) Mezuzah-Share
☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Please contact us for building dedication opportunities.

☐ Please contact us for balance of our original building fund pledge.

COOKBOOK

Please send me _____ copies of "A Taste of Shabbos House" @ \$22.50 incl. S&H.



CHAI-CLUB

Please consider

joining the "Chai Club" of monthly contributors: \$10, \$18, \$36, \$54 etc. Your ongoing contribution can be designated to Operating, Building or 50/50 and it can be canceled, modified or upgraded at any time. In this time of economic hardship it can be difficult for many people to make large sponsorship contributions, but a gift of \$18 monthly isn't as hard on the pocket, yet goes a long way in supporting ongoing Shabbos House programming.



Shabbos House Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center serving UAlbany, independently funded and operated since 1976, is a 501(c)3 non-profit project of Capital Chabad Centers (Fed ID: 23-743-8519), and affiliated with National Chabad on Campus Foundation.

SHABBOS HOUSE

Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center
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(518) 438-4227

mail@shabboshouse.com/.org
www.shabboshouse.org
FB/Twitter: Shabbos House

FALL 2015

OPERATING FUND

Yes! I/We would like to sponsor an event below in honor/memory of:

Sponsors recognized on weekly "Table-Cards"

While event sponsorships listed below do not fully cover all event costs, they make it possible along with other Operating Fund contributors.

Hakhel-Year Mega Event Sponsor

☐ \$1080 Sponsor ☐ \$613 Co-Sponsor

Friday Night Shabbat Dinners

☐ \$500 Sponsor ☐ \$360 Co-Sponsor

Shabbat Lunches

☐ \$250 Sponsor ☐ \$180 Co-Sponsor

Torah-Tuesdays w/ Dinner

☐ \$150 Sponsor ☐ \$75 Co-Sponsor

Minyan Bagel Brunch

☐ \$125 Sponsor ☐ \$75 Co-Sponsor

Awareness Tabling

☐ \$100 Sponsor ☐ \$50 Co-Sponsor

Social Action/Awareness Programs

☐ \$250 Sponsor ☐ \$100 Co-Sponsor

Jamming/Café Nights

☐ \$136 Sponsor ☐ \$54 Co-Sponsor

Midnight Breakfast

☐ \$150 Sponsor ☐ \$75 Co-Sponsor

Rosh Hashanah Meals

☐ \$360 Sponsor ☐ \$180 Co-Sponsor

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☐ \$500 Sponsor ☐ \$250 Co-Sponsor

Sukkot Holiday Dedication

☐ \$1,000 co-sponsorship

Sukkah Building BBQ

☐ \$136 Sponsor ☐ \$54 Co-Sponsor

Sukkah Holiday Dinners

☐ \$500 Sponsor ☐ \$250 Co-Sponsor

Sukkah Holiday Lunches

☐ \$360 Sponsor ☐ \$250 Co-Sponsor

Simchat Torah Dedication

☐ \$1,000 Sponsor ☐ \$500 Co-Sponsor

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☐ \$750 Sponsor ☐ \$360 Co-Sponsor

Challah/Soup-with-Love

☐ \$72 Sponsor ☐ \$36 Co-Sponsor

☐ \$54 (A Cholent, a Salad etc)

☐ \$36 (Kiddush Grape-Juice, Oneg-Refreshments, Seders for a Student etc)

☐ \$18 (A Student for a Full Shabbos)

☐ **Amount of Your Choice!** _____

Every bit counts! Due to minimal overhead & salary expenses, Shabbos House maximizes your contribution to best reach the students.

CONTRIBUTION PAYMENT OPTIONS

Checks payable to "Shabbos House - Chabad Center" are tax-deductible.

Shabbos House also accepts VISA, MC, AMEX & DISCOVER:

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This Newsletter is sponsored for the yartzeit of Malka bat Zev of blessed memory, by her grandson, a Shabbos House alumnus.

FAREWELL TO CLASS OF 2015



Local real-estate entrepreneur Barry Feinman (of Vanguard-Fine) was our engaging & energetic featured speaker at the Grad-Party.



It's wonderful celebrating with students' families during their college years but especially heartfelt at graduation.



Rabbi Mendel & Ben in full regalia on Graduation Day



Annual Class Picture at Grad-Party

What's Cooking? *at Shabbos House*

"Home Away From Home - Where Every Jew is Family!"

SHABBOS HOUSE

Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center



a project of Capital Chabad Centers
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