BH. FALL & WINTER 5776 / 2015-2016 UPDATE NEWSLETTER

# What's Cooking? Away Cat Charles of Course 97

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

## OPENING THE DOOR FOR...

This time of year, most Jews would end this sentence with Elijah. At Shabbos House we open the door to college students, not only on Passover but year 'round. We think of each student as Elijah. Like the prophet in our Passover doorways, individually and collectively, they represent the Jewish future. Their mere presence at the door is a positive harbinger and great sign of hope for our people. But these students don't hesitate or linger at the threshold. They come right in and feel perfectly at home. We're not just talking about the front door of the house. Figuratively, doors can be new ideas, experiences and opportunities. Each mitzvah, event or activity, conversation, relationship or celebration is yet another door.

Thank you for helping keep these doors open! The online crowdfunding campaign on December 1st was an incredible outpouring of support, meeting our initial goal in 90 minutes and nearly doubling it in 24 hours. It is this type of generous ongoing grassroots support that keeps Shabbos House doors wide open all year.

Some of the most important doors are the ones students open up to each other, fostering relationships and building community. Our last "What's Cooking" update newsletter was back in the summer when we announced "Join the Crowd - It's Hakhel Year". What an amazing Hakhel (biblical year of gathering) it has been! Indeed, Hakhel opened new doors: "Shabbat 360", co-sponsored with other Jewish campus organizations, Mega-Havdalah on the podium, "Hakhel Halftimes" for the Superbowl, a sizeable group at the Chabad on Campus NYC Shabbaton, Tefillin-43, and a huge welcome firepit - were all memorable firsts for Shabbos House. We've also increased emphasis throughout our programming on "Shalom Project" type events that facilitate positive and meaningful social interactions and personal growth.

New doors and ideas keep opening up. On the Mets playoff weekend we reconfigured the table design for a "Infield-Outfield Shabbat". This year's giveaway was a Starbucks spoof logo on a mug: "Brewing Warmth at UAlbany since 1976" and we did a "Cup of Warmth" later in the year, too.

We don't close the door on graduating students either. Welcoming back alumni guests, connecting via social-media, emails and calls, and traveling to alumni Simchas and reunions, makes it feel like a revolving door!



Our website is another door you can pop in to browse "Upcoming Events", read "Mendel's Messages" or see this newsletter in color online. Keep tabs on us like the laptop decal (see back page) says, via FB/Twitter/ Instagram. Call or email us any time!

Best wishes for a Happy Passover to you & yours.

**THANK YOU!** Rabbi Mendel & Raizy Rubin & family, and the many students who come through our doors each year.



### Special Thanks to our Matchers:

### **PARENTS:**

Gigi & Gabi Aharoni, Marty & Susan Bodner, Libby Hikind, Dan Jacobowitz, Michael & Debi Rudensky, Dr. Alan Toporovsky, and in memory of Moshe Hikind.

### **ALUMNI:**

Alumnus of 1985, Sam Jacobowitz, Abe & Ariella Sedgh, and Shmuel & Sara.

### **FACULTY & FRIENDS:**

Carl Bloomberg, Dr. Arthur & Nanette Brenner, Dr. Seth & Michelle Chaiken, Ilene & Jerry Sykes.

### **BONUS ROUND MATCHERS:**

Norman & Micki Massry, Mitch & Beth Garbow, Mike & Sarah Kashani, Sam Jacobowitz, Morris Losice, Arie & Chana Paller.

## Our first-ever 24-Hour Online Crowd-funding Campaign Exceeded All Expectations!

#GivingTuesday December 1st, 2015 via the all-or-nothing Charidy Platform

- 20 Matching Donors: Parents, Alumni, Faculty & Friends
  - 288 Generous Online Contributors
  - Original Goal met in only 90 Minutes
- Bonus Round reached \$75,528 or 189% of Original Goal

This outpouring of generous support and excitement is so deeply heartwarming, uplifting and encouraging - and so very helpful!

\$40,000 of the funds raised that day were used to further pay down the loan for the new, bigger and better Shabbos House (the only Shabbos House today's students have ever known) bringing the building loan down to just \$60K remaining!

\$35,528 helped us finish the exciting Fall semester in the black, and provided funding for January and February events of the Spring 2016 semester.

It costs about \$15,000 per month to operate Shabbos House.

It is fitting that this page faces the Alumni page > in appreciation for their continued friendship and support enabling Shabbos House to continue to be there for future generations at UAlbany.

## **ALUMNI**

























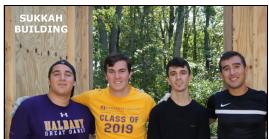












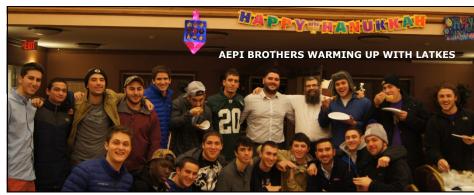












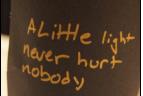




































SHABBAT 360! A first-ever at UAlbany. Obviously, we don't have pictures of Shabbat, but nearly every table in the Campus Center Ballroom pictured above was filled. That night's Shalom Aleichem and Am Yisrael Chai were unforgettable. Each table had icebreaker games, centerpieces, & a program booklet with songs and explanatory tidbits. Shabbat 360 was a joint effort of Shabbos House/Lchaim and UAlbany Hillel with co-sponsorship of the organizations listed on the t-shirt. It was truly a Hakhel unity experience! See list of reasons used to promote this event shabboshouse.org/reasons-to-be-at-ualbanyshabbat360-2015/ All true, plus!





### CHABAD ON CAMPUS SHABBATON IN NYC

This Shabbaton was another event this year in the spirit of Hakhel gathering, joining over 900 students! While we enjoyed workshops and speakers and meeting other students, the highlight was the energetic spirit with singing and dancing that spilled over into our spontaneous Saturday Night excursion, singing happily on the NYC Subway, and informally meeting up with other campus groups, dancing in the heart of Times-Square. On our way back we encountered an alumnus and his fiancé! Here are two more recent photos of ALUMNI ENGAGEMENTS IN BROOKLYN >

















HAKHEL HALFTIMES Here's something new we did for Superbowl Sunday this year. We offered a package of food (sliders, soup, etc) for student hosts of Superbowl parties who would share some meaningful inspiration (we included a packet of football insights inside) turning their gathering into a Hakhel! We brought food to ten parties that evening. Football season may be long over, but the insights are still up online: shabboshouse.org/hakhelhalftime-football-insights/

TORAH -TUESDAYS Most weeks we do three classes each Tuesday (5:45, 7:45, 8:45) new weekly topics are posted before each semester. See the schedule online: shabboshouse.org/learn/torah-tuesdays/









TEFILLIN 43 Raizy was away at her Chabad Womens conference but arranged for 43+ guys to come by on the Sunday of Mendel's 43rd Hebrew birthday to put on Tefillin. A most incredible birthday present, including Tefillin selfies that came from afar! The vibe was amazing...









### Thank You for making Shabbos House Fall & Winter 2015-16 possible.

Andrew Abramowitz Jon Abrams Heather Adler Michele Adler Gabi & Gigi Aharoni \* Chana Akerman Scott & Karen Alford Elliot & Phyllis Altman Ian Altman Jason Altman Anna & Yechin Abraham & Freida Anolik Benjamin Antell AT&T Match Michael Axelrod Yehuda & Renanit Baker Lara Bamberger Scott Barnett\* Anony & Alisa Baroukh David Beck Dan Beloosesky Eden Ben-Benjamin Rabbi Yossi & Mushky Bendet Dr. Sara Berg Bill Bergman Matt & Marissa Bergman Zakhar Berkovich Eric & Lisa Berkowitz Matt Berkowitz Steven Berkowitz Dan Berns Samuel & Felicia Blachorsky Carl Bloomberg \*\* Raquel Bodner Moshe & Bracha Bogomilsky Dan Bokser Corrie Borgner Jeff Brauner Stacev Brecher Craig & Jessica Brimmer Peter William Brusoe Richard Burg Etti Calderon

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Contributions listed are from August 2015 thru mid-March 2016. Thanks to their generosity Shabbos House is possible.

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

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

We apologize for any inadvertent omissions. Lchaim UAlbany Unite, Anonymous sponsors, catering and cookbook purchases are not included. Funds for some programs and events are from partnering groups such as Capital Region Chabad, L'chaim (SA funded) and UAlbany Hillel and others. We receive no direct funding from UAlbany. Most of Shabbos House support comes from contributions by parents, alumni and friends.

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Ben Michaels

## Special Thanks to our "Chai-Club" Monthly Donors:

Dr. Lou Rotkowitz

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Rabbi Abba & Raizel Rubin

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Thanks to supporters of the "Shalom Project" an increased emphasis throughout Shabbos House programming to facilitate positive and meaningful social interactions and personal growth.

With appreciation to the many friends and supporters who assist Shabbos House with donations of goods and services, time and talent, giving of themselves to help Shabbos House stretch limited resources.

L'chaim Board made another 1-minute Unite Video for 2016, "Fuller - Shabbos - House". L'Chaim has won an award each year for most views, most alumni contribution-votes, etc. Even a quick online view or \$5-\$10 vote (earmarked for L'Chaim Student Group) can help us win significant prize funds. See it at albany.edu/Unite



# > FATHER & SON RETURN TO SHABBOS HOUSE Here's the first Gregg ('99) we met at UAlbany, his wedding to Shara ('99) was the first wedding Rabbi Mendel officiated at. This winter break Gregg was visiting from Israel and came up to Albany along with his father for an old times sake visit. Indeed, it was a most wonderful Shabbos of catching up, sharing and learning.



### > DECEMBER GRADUATES We didn't have as many December graduates this year as we did last year, but some of these graduating seniors are among our closest friends. We hosted a Sunday morning graduation brunch before the commencement ceremonies for family and graduates. Wishing you much success!





> ALTERNATIVE PARENTS WEEKEND Even without the acute need of last year (with UAlbany's Parents Weekend over a 3-day Jewish holiday) families still asked for it! Close to ten families came up for the weekend, enjoyed Shabbat and a Saturday Night Jam Night, and a Sunday Minyan Brunch, too!



> ROGERS PARK BAND For Shabbat of March 4th, the Hasidic Folk duo (originally from Chicago) got us into singing at Friday Night and Shabbat Lunch, with beautifully harmonious acapella, rhythm and warmth. On Saturday Night they led a musical Havdalah followed by a couple of songs. Uplifting spirit!

## **MORE HIGHLIGHTS**

< MENDEL EXPLAINS ROSH HASHANAH ON TV Moments before going live, Mendel is pictured here with UAlbany alumnus Greg Pollak (meteorologist for News10) and anchor Heather Kovar and a basket of Rosh Hashanah items. See this online post for a collar stays inspiration and a link to the 3-minute TV segment: www.shabboshouse.org/collar-stays-and-live-tv/



### SHOFAR FACTORY STARTS YEAR ON HIGH NOTE

Look closely and you'll see students sporting t-shirts for the Mets, Giants and Great Danes. But they're all tooting their horn with enthusiasm for the Jewish New Year, proud to be Jewish and involved in Jewish life at UAlbany!



< CUP OF WARMTH Albany had far less snow this winter, but some days were quite cold. This "Cup of Warmth" distributed at a campus tabling is part of our ongoing Shalom Project. "All you need to add is hot water". The cup comes complete with teas and coffee, sweeteners and oatmeal packets, and an inspirational story and message about keeping warm.



< WOMENS SPA FOR BODY AND SOUL It's the second time this annual communal event has been held at Shabbos House, this time featuring food blogger "Busy in Brooklyn" as well as a gourmet luncheon.



#### **SPRING & SUMMER 2016** Jamming/Café Nights **BUILDING FUND** $\square$ \$136 Sponsor $\square$ \$54 Co-Sponsor **OPERATING FUND** $\square$ (\$500) Half-Share **Passover Holiday Dedication Yes!** I/We would like to sponsor $\square$ (\$1,000) Share $\square$ \$1,800 sponsorship $\square$ (\$1,800) Mezuzah-Share an event below in honor/memory of: **Seder Sponsors** $\square$ Other \$ □\$750 Sponsor □\$360 Co-Sponsor Sponsors recognized on weekly "Table-Cards" **Passover Holiday Dinners** ☐ Please contact us for dedication □\$500 Sponsor □\$250 Co-Sponsor opportunities and info about the new bigger & better Shabbos House. While event sponsorships listed below **Passover Holiday Lunches** do not fully cover all event costs, they □\$360 Sponsor □\$180 Co-Sponsor make it possible along with other **Graduation Wknd Shabbat Dinner COOKBOOK** Operating Fund contributors. □\$500 Sponsor □\$360 Co-Sponsor Please send me\_ \_\_ copies of Friday Night Shabbat Dinners **Graduation Wknd Shabbat Lunch** 'A Taste of Shabbos House" □\$500 Sponsor □\$360 Co-Sponsor □\$250 Sponsor □\$180 Co-Sponsor @ \$22.50 incl. S&H. Shabbat Lunches **Graduation Day BBQ** □\$250 Sponsor □\$180 Co-Sponsor □\$300 Sponsor □\$150 Co-Sponsor CHAI-CLUB Torah-Tuesdays w/ Dinner Summertime Cozy-Shabbat □\$150 Sponsor □\$75 Co-Sponsor Please consider □\$250 Sponsor □\$180 Co-Sponsor joining the "Chai Minyan Bagel Brunch Club" of monthly □\$125 Sponsor □\$75 Co-Sponsor contributors: \$10, \$18, \$36, \$54 etc. □\$54 (A Cholent, a Salad etc) Awareness Tabling Your ongoing contribution can be □\$36 (Kiddush Grape-Juice, Oneg-□\$100 Sponsor □\$50 Co-Sponsor designated to Operating, Building or Refreshments, Seders for a Student etc) 50/50 and it can be canceled, modified Social Action/Awareness Programs □\$18 (A Student for a Full Shabbos) or upgraded at any time. In this time of □ \$250 Sponsor □ \$100 Co-Sponsor economic hardship it can be difficult for many people to make large sponsorship Dessert Bakeoff / Cholent Cookoff contributions, but a gift of \$18 monthly ☐ Amount of Your Choice! □\$136 Sponsor □\$54 Co-Sponsor isn't as hard on the pocket, yet it goes a Every bit counts! Due to minimal overhead long way in supporting ongoing Shabbos & salary expenses, Shabbos House maximizes Challah/Soup-with-Love House events and programming. your contribution to best reach the students. □\$72 Sponsor □\$36 Co-Sponsor CONTRIBUTION PAYMENT OPTIONS From Home







**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 320 Fuller Rd Albany NY 12203 (518) 438-4227 mail@shabboshouse.com www.shabboshouse.org FB/Twitter: Shabbos House

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Shabbos House has a welcoming, open-door barrier-free policy. There is usually no need for RSVP. But for certain annual occasions like

Passover and Graduation weekend it's very helpful for us to have RSVPs so we can be best prepared. Thanks!



### Passover Holiday Meals 2016

Shabbos House will be hosting both Seders (and a shorter "Seder-within-Seder") for students not headed home, as well as holiday dinners and lunches for Shabbat and the last

two days of Passover. Your online reservation signup at shabboshouse.org/Passover2016 helps us be best prepared. There will be Kosher for Passover meals at Dutch Kosher Dining for the intermediate weekday days of the holiday.

### Dear Families of the Class of 2016:

2016 graduation is coming up! Families of Graduates are



welcome to Prayer Services and Shabbat Dinner and Lunch on Graduation Wknd Class of (May 13-14) & an Open House BBQ all afternoon after Commencement Ceremonies on Sunday (May 15) RSVPs are appreciated:

Call us (518) 438-4227 or email: mail@shabboshouse.com.

## What's Cooking?

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

### SHABBOS HOUSE

Rohr Chabad Iewish Student Center



a project of Capital Chabad Centers Chabad Lubavitch of the Capital District

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### THIS YEAR'S GIVEAWAYS:









