

Around the Community

Chabad on Campus of Queens Winter Torah Program

Chabad on Campus of Queens launched a pilot for a distinctive, advanced Torah program. "We've been working with college students in Queens since 2004," said Rabbi Shaul Wertheimer of Chabad on Campus of Queens, "and there is a genuine thirst for more depth, and more spirituality, amongst students. We reached out Rabbi Shais Taub of Pittsburgh to answer the call as the scholar-in-residence. Taub is a prolific author and educator, with a rare talent for elucidating Torah in general and Chassidic texts in particular. I also thoroughly enjoyed teaching Chumash and Talmud."

The day began at 9:30am with a gourmet breakfast, followed by intensive learning that kept the students intrigued until 5pm.

Classes included Tanya (the foundational book of Chassidic thought), Chumash in depth, Talmud, the Chassidic discourse "Kuntres U'Maayan," and more. "I am so grateful that the Chabad Winter Torah program has allowed me to immerse myself in the deepest, truest Torah learning," remarked Sarah Shevchuk of Barnard College. "I not only

feel elevated by the learning but also feel that I have something incredibly valuable to take away and share back on campus," she added.

Coordinated and staffed by both Rabbi Shaul and Tzipah Wertheimer, the program's success is "in large part due to Rabbi Shmuli and Chavie Lieberman, our colleagues at Chabad of Hofstra, who taught classes and were involved in almost every detail," Wertheimer said. Teaching staff also included Rabbi Yisrael and Mrs. Vivi Deren of Stamford, CT "whose wealth of wisdom



Sarar Shevchuk, Simone Fischer, and Rabbi Yisrael Deren of Stamford CT lecturing

untarily use their break from school to join an intensive

They asked great questions and made great points. I'm honored to have been a part of the first year of this new initiative and I definitely see this growing in a major way."

Mordechai Caplan of Queens College learns Torah with Wertheimer regularly and was eager to attend. "The Winter Torah Study program gave me context about the world around me and my role, not just as a person, but as a Jew in the grander scheme of things," he commented. "It was truly mind opening." Eliran Rebevey of Kew Gardens Hills heard about the program from his Chabad Rabbi at SUNY Albany where he attends school. "This has been

a great experience," Rebevey said, "[Rabbi Taub] has really opened my eyes to the world of Chassidut."

"My wife, Tzipah, and I are very excited about the future, this is just the beginning. We are very grateful to Chabad on Campus International that helped facilitate this program with their undying efforts to meet the needs of students from all backgrounds," Wertheimer concluded.

Students who attended the program study at SUNY Albany, Barnard College, Brooklyn Law, Hofstra University, Penn State, University of Pennsylvania, Miami University of Ohio, Texas A&M and Queens College.



Shaindy Ferster and Tzipah Wertheimer

and chassidic warmth is immeasurable," Wertheimer added.

"I was so impressed that college students would vol-

untarily use their break from school to join an intensive all day Torah study program for a week," reflected Rabbi Taub. "It was a pleasure to study with such bright and highly motivated students.

A Chumash

