

Garments of the Soul

In addition, every divine soul (nefesh elokit) possesses three garments, viz., thought, speech and action [expressing themselves] in the 613 commandments of the Torah



**Chabad at
Fashion Institute
of Technology**
State University of New York

Chabad @ FIT is a division of Chabad of Midtown

Volume I, Issue I

April 2009 / 5769

FIT Goes to Israel

What Impact Mayanot Israel Had On Me

Growing up I was raised in a household where religion didn't hold much importance. Both of my parents are Jewish but felt that because they were made to follow a religion growing up, they didn't want to make their children do the same. Attending public school never shaped any religious beliefs and I was never surrounded by many Jewish people. As I've grown older, I've felt as though there should be a place for religion in my life. I knew I wanted to go to Israel and become absorbed in Jewish culture and Birthright allowed me to do so.

Mayanot Israel not only allowed me to see the beautiful country of Israel but to learn about the history of Judaism and immerse myself in the culture. Through each experience during the trip, from seeing the beauty of Tzfat, touring Masada, riding camels in the desert, to Shabbat at the Western Wall, Mayanot not only showed me

how Judaism isn't just my religion, it's my history. Mayanot allowed me to see a place I wouldn't normally have gone to visit, and as a result, has showed me that I want to be come more involved in Jewish life. In addition to becoming involved in the Chabad club of FIT, I hope to learn Hebrew in the future and go back to Israel very soon. Not only have I learned more about my religion, but the trip introduced me to new people that are now very good friends. Mayanot Israel reintroduced me to the religion I was meant to observe and has given me great friends that will last a lifetime. I strongly urge everyone interested in Birthright to go with Mayanot because they gave us the best experience possible.

by **Heather Franzman**

Heather & Amanda Scheine are planning to return to Israel this summer with a program called Israelinks..

Shabbaton at FIT

On February 13, the Chabad of FIT arranged a Shabbaton open to all students of the school and friends on other campuses. It was a huge success with the FIT students and non-FIT students alike, as everyone enjoyed an evening filled with spiritual socializing, traditional singing, and great food. So enjoyable was the experience that Malka Werde, head of the Chabad club, practically had to kick them out of the dining room when it had to close for cleaning. "Nobody wanted to leave!" she says. Chabad club is planning another Shabbaton for May 1 and encourages all Jewish students to attend.

by **Rachel Jacobs** (See Page 4 for picture)



The Western Wall is Judaism's most holy site, as for centuries people have been going there to bewail the loss of the temple in 70 AD

Masada (Hebrew for fortress), is one of the Jewish people's greatest symbols. Israeli soldiers take an oath there: "Masada shall not fall again."



**Co-Presidents: Ilana Ellison
& Stephanie Schwartz**
Treasurer: Rina Yashayeva
**Vice President of Publicity:
Heather Franzman**
**Student Council Rep:
Rachel Jacobs**



תגלית · תנ"לית
BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL
www.birthrightisrael.com

Taglit-Birthright Israel provides the gift of first time, peer group, educational trips to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26. Taglit-Birthright Israel's founders created this program to send thousands of young Jewish adults from all over the world to Israel as a gift in order to diminish the growing division between Israel and Jewish communities around the world; to strengthen the sense of solidarity among world Jewry; and to strengthen participants' personal Jewish identity and connection to the Jewish people.

**For more information,
contact:
www.mayanotisrael.com**

Megillah Mania!



There are four mitzvot associated specifically with Purim. They are:

- Read or hear the Megillah (Scroll of Esther) at night *and* by day.
- Give charity to at least two needy people.
- Send a minimum of two ready-to-eat foods to at least one person.
- Sit down for a royal feast.



Rina Yashayeva and Queen Malka



King Yakov Werde



Guess Who?



Liz Degen and Hadar Reveh



Purim means “lots.” The name commemorates the lots that Haman cast to choose the day most suitable for the destruction of the Jews.

Next year Purim is on February 28, 2010. Hold the date!



Amanda Scheine, Heather Ashley Franzman and Christina Bobrowsky



Ari Unger and Stephanie Schwartz



Rachel Jacobs, Ari Unger and Stephanie Schwartz



Malka dresses up as a FIT graduate and delivers Purim gifts

scrumptious Hamantaschen, it is indeed one of our most fun holidays! And what better way to celebrate it than with friends at the Chabad Club of FIT? On Monday March 9, 2009, students gathered in the charming Fifth Floor Pizza Lounge (which looks just like a little restaurant straight out of the 1950s) to celebrate the holiday. Some were dressed up to show the holiday spirit, and others were just dressed up in spirit. But of course nobody’s costume compared to Malka Werde’s. The Chabad director showed up in a beautiful floor-length aqua chiffon gown, complete with a matching shawl, and gold jewelry. Her bejeweled crown completed the royal look. Of course a Queen cannot forget her most important accessory – her King, who was none other than Malka’s husband.

Celebrating Purim

One of the things Judaism is known (and loved) for is its extremely enjoyable holidays. Purim is certainly no exception! Between the creative costumes and the

The celebration started with the Megillah reading that Rabbi Werde wonderfully read. The students followed along with the story of Esther

Continued on Page 4

Purim—Continued from Page 3

and Haman, with their individual booklets. But alas, that was not all! The story was accompanied by a PowerPoint. I think I can speak for all the attendees when I say it was the most original PowerPoint presentation we have ever seen! Who knew Esther really looked like Cinderella? When the Megillah reading was finished and the noisemakers were sounded, there was only one thing left to do: eat! The food was delicious, and everybody dove into the scrumptious meal. The rest of the night was spend talking, laughing, eating, listening to lively music, and making beautiful Purim masks (of course those in a Design major definitely had an advantage). No matter if you went home afterwards or continued the celebration at one of the mentioned nearby Purim Masquerade Parties, it was certainly a perfect Purim! We hope to make next year an even bigger success!

by **Rina Yashayeva**



Lighting the Shabbos candles at the first ever Shabbaton held at FIT—February 13, 2009

Passover April 8-16, 2009

Yetzias Mitzraim ~ Departure from Egypt

“As in the days when you left Egypt, I will show you wonders” Micah 7:15.

Passover commemorates the Jewish people’s exodus from Egypt and freedom from slavery at the hands of the ancient Egyptians. Kabbalah teaches that a holiday contains within it the spiritual power of the original event. The same spiritual energy that was present during the time the Jewish people left Egypt is also present today. In Hebrew, the word Egypt is *Mitzraim*. This word comes from the root *maytzer* which mean limitations. What we actually mean when we say “leaving Egypt,” is that we are leaving our own limitations - that which holds us back from being the best that we can be. Each Passover, G-d gives us spiritual powers to overcome negativity and obtain true freedom. This freedom can only be accomplished with trust. Our ancestors left Egypt, a city with all the comforts of food, water and shelter, and entered into a desert with complete trust in the word of G-d coming through Moses. We can all apply this lesson to our lives today. Our ancestors trusted that they would survive in the desert and arrive in a land of milk and honey. We also need to trust that we will escape our personal difficulties. However, it all depends on our actions. We have to take the first step out of our limitations, our own personal *Mitzraim*, so we may all go to the good land that is promised to each and every one of us. May you have a happy and kosher Passover.

Don't miss Chabad's next Shabbaton!

THE CHABAD CLUB OF FIT PRESENTS
SHABBATON at FIT
FRIDAY MAY 1st, 2009
7:00 PM - MIDNIGHT
BLDG. A 5TH FLOOR
THE LOUNGE
 Join us for an evening of fun with friends, song, and a sumptuous festive meal!
CHABAD at FIT
Malka Werde, Student Life, bldg A, rm. 707A
 Office 212-217-4148 Cell 347-538-5837 malka_werde@fitnyc.edu

Bread of Faith



Based on the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe

Matzah, the unleavened bread, is the most prominent item at the Passover Seder. It is the "bread of poverty" that symbolizes our hardship under Egyptian slavery. It is also the "hasty bread" that did not have time to rise, reminiscent of the nature of our redemption -- the sudden, drastic, overwhelming change that the Almighty wrought in our lives. At the stroke of midnight on Passover eve, G-d instantaneously transformed a materially and morally impoverished clan of slaves into a free people -- into the nation chosen to be His "light unto the nations" and to play the central role in His purpose of creation...



Next year in Jerusalem