

EVERY JEWISH
STUDENT'S HOME AWAY
FROM HOME!

BY THE NUMBERS:

1,098: EMAIL AD-
DRESSES IN OUR
WEEKLY E-UPDATES

22: PLASTIC BOTTLES
PER WEEK WE NO
LONGER USE AT CHA-
BAD DUE TO OUR
"GOING GREEN" CAM-
PAIGN

35: KOSHER MEALS ON
AVERAGE SERVED AT
OUR WEEKLY CAFÉ

WORD FROM THE DIRECTORS:

In the period of the Jewish Calendar, just prior to the High Holidays, we find ourselves in that familiar position of reviewing the year past. Examining both our successes and failures, the good and the not so good. As we carefully comb through our tests and tribulations and the response we gave them, we cannot help but feel a sense of hope that we have matured in our relationship with our Creator and with those whom He blessed us to have in our lives. Yet that hope needs not only to stay in our minds but also to be translated into our future acts. Increasing every day in our pursuit of knowledge of G-d and the goodness and kindness He has charged us to put into this world must be at the forefront of our days. In other words don't just feel hopeful—make the world around you hopeful as well. There is a parable given that during the time right before Rosh Hashanah that the King is in the Field. Any requests that might have proved hard getting to him while he was in the palace are as easy as 123 now that he stands in the most accessible place—your backyard. Let our requests to Him be fulfilled tenfold this year and may you all have a K'sima v'Chatima Tova!

Rabbi Shlomo & Channa Mayer

The Jewish Spark

Published by Chabad House the University of Virginia

HIGH HOLIDAY EDITION 5769

SINAI SCHOLARS

Chabad House at the University of Virginia is proud to announce the establishment of the Sinai Scholars Society. A nation-wide program, already receiving rave reviews in the three years since its birth, currently runs at 42 campuses nationwide. Offering fresh and modern ideas related Jewish life and learning, the Sinai Scholars Society is not your average "Judaism 101" course. It's an exclusive prospect for Jewish self-discovery encompassing the study of the wisdom of Judaism, social activities, and national networking opportunities. The first class is entitled "Wisdom from Sinai and will serve to introduce students to the significance of the Ten Commandments and how they can apply to their own lives in 2008.

"Over 30 students

applied to the society this semester, which can only accept 22 (plus a paid student coordinator), we're thrilled to be starting with a full load." says



**23 UVA Students are en-
rolled in the inaugural
program**

Rabbi Shlomo who is co teaching the course with the Chabad House program Director Channa Mayer. The course is geared towards students who did not attend Jewish Day Schools and

haven't had the opportunity to learn about their heritage. "Many of these students have waited for several years for this opportunity which has not presented itself till now in their lives." said Mayer

Sinai Scholars is an eight week program with a two hour commitment per week. In addition, there are weekend Shabbat dinners, a Jewish life field trip and a graduation ceremony. Due to the large time commitment required for this course, the society offers a stipend of \$500 for those students who qualify. The stipend allows participants whom working a part time job would be a must, to study instead of work. All Sinai Scholars are required to write a reflection paper at the close of the semester with the country's best to be published in a bound journal.

CAFÉ CHABAD: NOURISH YOUR BODY AND SOUL

Sushi, Mexican, Middle Eastern, Pink, or Asian—what do all of these tempting culinary creations have in common? They've all been used as themes for our ever popular and growing by the week Café Chabad! Started in 2007 this weekly luncheon has grown from 10-15 diners to over 40 some weeks!



**Students enjoy a hot, nutritious
kosher meal mid-week.**

And don't count out the nourishment for the soul as well. Each week a theme is presented in a subtle way to the students, Israel Week had an I Heart Israel Cake, Tzedakah Week came with mini charity boxes for each student to put on their own desks, and Kosher Week sent everyone off with a small kosher snack for the day!

Yes! I/We think having a warm, open, non-judgmental, Jewish Family atmosphere in the heart of the UVa community is essential. Please count us I/me in for:

_____ \$108 One students Shabbat Meals for a Semester _____ \$540 Sinai Scholar Sponsor
 _____ \$275 Café Chabad Sponsor _____ \$720 Holiday Meal Sponsor
 _____ \$360 Shabbat Meal for 50 students _____ \$ Other _____

This gift is in honor/memory of: _____

DONATE ONLINE IN TWO WAYS:

1. Through the Alumni Foundation (fill in "Chabad" in the blank spot which asks whom should receive your gift.
2. www.jewva.org under the 'Support Chabad' link.

All gifts are tax deductible. Please mail checks to Chabad of Charlottesville 2014 Lewis Mt rd Charlottesville, VA 22903



Sinai Scholars discuss the duality of the message from the Ten Commandments



Chabad House said goodbye properly with a Cocktail Party and each of the 45 graduates receiving a Chumash sponsored of Eitan Haas first birthday

TEA & TALK

A JEWISH WOMEN'S CHAI CHAT

Sometimes life on Grounds can get overwhelming. Like a constant rat race of keeping up, catching, up and feeling up. Studies show that even 30 minutes spent relaxing and focusing inward can have a positive effect on the rest of your day. So Tea & Talk was born! Geared toward 1st year women (but anyone is welcome to attend) meets in cozy booths on the first floor of the main dining on grounds. Hall this minute detox covers a range light subjects in Jewish feminine thought like: the red carpet mystique, Is G-d a She?, power of Shabbat Candles, Jewish mothers, and Jewish happiness. Tea and crumpets served as well.



MAYANOT TAGLIT-BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL

CHABAD HOUSE TAKES THE MAIDEN VOYAGE

UVa Chabad House will take it first voyage over to Israel as a group thanks to the gift of Mayanot Taglit-Birthright Israel. There are many providers for the Birthright program but Chabad has chosen Mayanot for it's willingness to accommodate participants from all walks of life. Mayanot offers a more traditional trip incorporating a qualified spiritual guide for each bus, personal visits to families homes in Jerusalem for Shabbat lunch, a session titled Rap with the Rabbi (or Rebbetzin) and an additional on bus Israeli Staff member just to enrich the group bonding and make events flow together more efficiently. Additionally Mayanot has just partnered with Bar Ilan University in Israel to offer 3 credits for participants if they complete two academic reaction papers after the trip. UVa Chabad will travel Dec. 27th-Jan.6th—A real Chanukah Adventure!



Chabad House at UVa is a "home away from home" to hundreds of Jewish college students. Providing a warm, open non-judgmental Jewish family atmosphere makes our niche in Charlottesville more unique. Whether it's our crowded Shabbat dinners or a personal visit during our families dinner hour, our doors are always open. Chabad is here to foster a love of Judaism, all Jewish people and the Land of Israel. Chabad welcomes all regardless of background or affiliation. There are no members or membership fees. Chabad is not supported by a central office and raises all funds from individual donors.