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ChabadBNB

**A UNIQUE HOUSE STAY EXPERIENCE OFFERED AT NO CHARGE
BY THE SCHARF FAMILY CHABAD HOUSE
TO THE JEWISH STUDENTS AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**





One day when we were walking around on a too quiet campus with all of the dorms looking at us sadly through dark windows, we had a lightbulb moment and said "what if we invite students to stay at Chabad"? We literally just bought a 6 bedroom house and are in the middle of raising funds for the merger with the current space so... let's offer it to students for house stays.

Idea to action took a while.

Now though, **20 students have spent up to 2 weeks experiencing a bit of normalcy in a chaotic time.**

Each student is tested before arrival and safety precautions and monitoring takes place throughout the stays.

Figuring out proper protocols took some time. But we did it. Baruch HaShem. Here is a peek into happiness.

We are honored to be able to provide this and are grateful to our parents, alumni, and friends, who believe in our ideas and help them come to fruition. Thank you.

Rabbi Eitan and Gitty Webb



"The two weeks I spent at Chabad were easily the highlight of my zoom semester. At Chabad, I began to feel a connection to Princeton and its Jewish community that had been absent when I only knew Princeton through zoom. Stopping in the kitchen and making a cup of tea before my next online lecture, I chatted with my new housemates. We discussed classes and other Princeton experiences that had previously been so solitary. Over walks on campus, dinners, and movie nights, I formed friendships. I am so thankful to Rabbi Webb, Gitty, and all of Chabad for making this opportunity possible and supporting Jewish students at Princeton."

YONIT KREBS '24

As soon as I heard about the ChaBnB, I just knew that my friends and I had to go. We asked Rav Webb and the immediate response was along the lines of: “Done. When do you want to come.” There was no hesitation whatsoever, and, within a week, my bags were packed and I was on my way.

Despite being nowhere but home for the past 6 months, going back to Chabad somehow just felt like really being home.

I am so incredibly grateful to Chabad for organizing all of it. It was such an amazing experience to be reunited with my friends and to be back on campus.

Doing school over Zoom is especially isolating, so even simply being able to physically sit next to a friend during lecture or work on a pset in person has a tremendous effect.

I was mostly expecting my friends and I to hang-out amongst one another, as all of us were yet to meet the freshmen next door, so I was certainly shocked when we ended up chatting with them into the wee-hours of the morning every single day. In my mind, this totally cements the atmosphere which Chabad cultivates: one of family — a place where everyone belongs and is welcomed with open arms. This approach is espoused best by the Webbs, taking every opportunity to lead by example. Because all the rooms next door were full, the Webbs went so far as to offer up space in their own home to house us.

Given how much joy they created just by having an empty house next door, I really can't wait to see what they accomplish when their plans are fully achieved, and I know we will all be much, much better off for it.

HENRY KOFFLER '23



When Rabbi Webb and Gitty called me at the beginning of the fall semester and told me about their idea to host students at Chabad, I thought it was too good to be true. The weeks passed, and I began to become acquainted with my classes and the Princeton academic environment. I'd made some friends and met a few other local students in Central Park, but I still felt I was missing out on a fundamental part of the first-year college experience: living and learning in an immersive environment with other students.

Then, another call from the Webbs came: they had gotten permission to host the first Chabad pod! Within days, I, along with six other girls from various corners of the country, arrived on the front steps of 15 Edwards Place.

Chabad BNB was an experience about as close to college (figuratively and literally—I was thrilled to be living practically on campus!) as possible in this pandemic era.

For two weeks, the seven of us lived together, worked together, cooked together, and spent time together. We went on walks around campus and took in the beauty of Princeton in the fall. We learned about each other's interests and histories and spoke about our college experiences thus far.

The seven of us come from different Jewish backgrounds, and the two weeks we spent together expanded my knowledge of Judaism and religious and cultural identities. Shabbat was a wonderful opportunity to deepen our relationships with each other and to share our practices. My Jewish experiences during Chabad BNB made me excited for the years of Princeton Jewish life I have ahead of me.

A highlight of the experience was getting to know our generous hosts, the Webb family. On Thursday nights, some of us baked challah with Gitty and perfected the “six-braid” technique. Early one Shabbat morning, the three youngest Webbs taught me a plethora of trampoline games and some new Uno techniques. Rabbi Webb studied Torah with us, engaging with our questions and interspersing his teaching with humorous anecdotes. The entire Webb family was joyful and welcoming; I felt at home immediately.

The two weeks I spent at Chabad have been the highlight of my semester. I have developed meaningful relationships and I now feel more acquainted with the college experience. I look forward to the day when we are all back on campus and can continue building friendships and exploring Jewish life.

Thank you, Chabad!

JULIE LEVEY '24



"When I first heard about ChabadBNB I thought it was an awesome idea, but didn't see myself going in the end. With my especially loaded semester, I thought I'd never have time to make plans to move out of my house and into Chabad for a week, much less get any work done while I was there. When Barry, Henry, Jacob and I finally decided to give it a shot, we were shocked by how easy you guys made it; all it took was a single text, and the plans were made!

My week at Chabad soon became the highlight of my semester. Not only were us boys able to reunite, but you guys made sure to introduce us to other groups of Jewish students, creating valuable friendships that will undoubtedly last for a very long time.

The ChabadBNB experience was unlike any I've had at Princeton so far. Living in such close quarters with other Princeton Jews for a week and connecting more closely with them gave me a newfound appreciation for the Jewish life on campus and opened my eyes to different Jewish perspectives and identities on a deeper level.

Aside from that, living at Chabad gave me a much-needed change of scenery from my bedroom, and I enjoyed every second of it- from the barbecues, dinners, and hangouts you planned to simply doing work together with other students. You guys provided us with everything we could possibly need throughout the week and did everything to make sure we were having fun. I can't wait to come back soon!"

- NATHAN BOTTON '23





This semester has occurred in unprecedented times, and because of that it's generally felt pretty lonely, so when the Webbs invited us to stay with them on campus for two weeks I was hyped. I was one of the few people that knew a decent amount of girls that were coming to the ChaBNB beforehand, and absolutely everyone was so sweet, friendly, and all-around chill people. We spent most of our weekdays doing our schoolwork and alternated who cooked dinner. On some nights and the weekends, we hung out, watched SNL, and stressed about the election together. It was so great being with people that I got along with that weren't my family members.

Honestly, I didn't realize what I was missing in terms of my college experience until my time at Chabad.

Which means I had a fantastic time, but also means that I'm currently that much more upset that I'm not living on campus. I really think that I'm going to be long-term friends with all of the people I met and it was really beneficial to start getting oriented to the Princeton campus. Both of those will things come in handy when EVERYONE is on campus next semester!!!" Thanks again to the Webbs!

My stay at ChabadBNB was absolutely phenomenal. I relished the opportunity to relive the Princeton experience and I was more than happy to meet a number of the incoming freshmen. More importantly, some of those freshman had the opportunity to introduce themselves to other Princeton students. I bonded with my friends personally for the first time in months, and as I return back home, I feel as though I can say the following with unwavering confidence.

I very strongly believe that my stay at Chabad was the single best thing to have happened to me since the outbreak of the pandemic. I have never in my life felt a connection to Princeton stronger than the one I experienced within the last week, as my desire to return to campus has been revived to its full capacity.

I cannot thank the Webbs enough for the services they fulfill. They sacrifice everything, from their time to their energy to the comfort of their own home. The sense of togetherness that they help create is evident with everything they do, and I truly believe that most, if not all, of my peers feel exactly the same way. It is certain that we will be visiting Chabad the moment we return to Princeton's campus.

Chabad is not just a community. It's a family, and all those who enter it immediately feel welcome. To Rav and Gitty- thank you for giving us your all. The gratitude of your students cannot be described with words. We look forward to seeing you soon!

BARRY HANON '23



