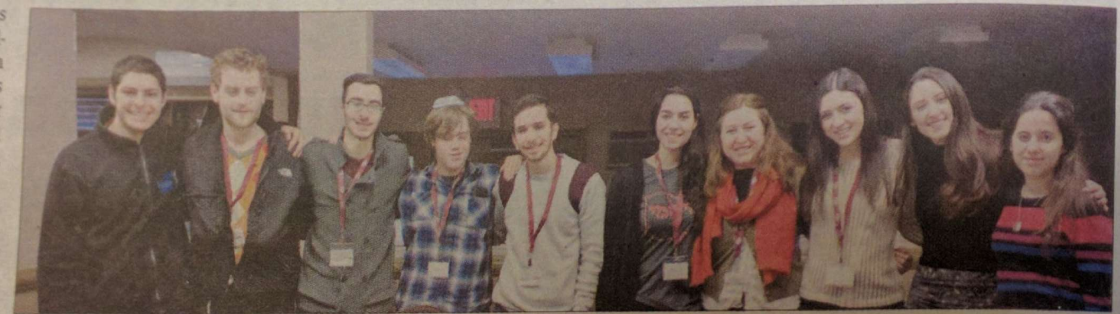


## Chabad On Campus Of Queens Hosts Scholar-In-Residence

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 to 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 chasidic texts in particular. I also thoroughly enjoy teaching Chumash and Talmud."

The day began at 9:30 a.m. with a gourmet breakfast, followed by intensive learning that kept the students intrigued until 5 p.m. "I enjoyed the high level of the learning," said Suri Zwibel of Lawrence, "which I felt was on an accelerated level."

Classes included *Tanya* (the foundational book of chasidic thought), *Chumash* in depth, Talmud, the chasidic 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 with my family and



(R-L) Avi Solkoff, Aaron Laster, Eliran Rebeyev, Ethan Borst, Mordechai Caplan, Shaindy Ferster, Chava Hinsey, Simone Fischer, Sarah Shevchuk, Stephanie Tsyss

friends 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, Connecticut, "whose wealth of wisdom and chasidic warmth is immeasurable," Wertheimer added.

"I was so impressed that college students would voluntarily 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. 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 Rebeyev 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," Rebeyev said, "[Rabbi Taub] has really opened my eyes to the world of chasidus."

"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 attended SUNY Albany, Barnard College, Brooklyn Law, Hofstra University, Penn State, University of Pennsylvania, Miami University of Ohio, Texas A&M, and Queens College.