

# 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

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## My Study Abroad Experience...

By Amy Glaun

For me studying abroad was always a dream of mine, and even more so being able to live for six months in the most beautiful place in the world, Cape Town, South Africa. After much determination and support from FIT my dream was finally coming true. I knew this was going to be a different experience for me than my housemates as Cape Town is where all my family lives, and is my home away from home. This was a central part of my decision as I would be able to spend a full six months with my grandparents and cousins. My parents and grandparents all went the University of Cape Town, so I truly am honored to have been able to follow in their footsteps.



I lived in a house right off campus, in Rondebosch, with nine other incredible students, who very quickly became my close friends. The house was amazing as we had a full garden, large living space, and each had our own room, which is hard to imagine when coming from a city school. After our week of

orientation, which included trips to the beautiful Cape Point, we had a week vacation, and the traveling began! I went with a few friends and other abroad students up the Garden Route, which is known as one of the most beautiful drives in Cape Town. On our trip we stopped and rode elephants, walked and pet lions, went on a safari game drive, went to an ostrich farm, stayed on a beautiful beach, and went into the incredible cango caves. This trip set the tone very quickly to how amazing my semester was about to be.

The first morning we all walked up to campus, which was supposed to be only a 10 minute walk, however we forgot that our incredible new campus was on a mountain, so it felt more like a good hike up the first few days! It was definitely worth every step, every day, as there is nowhere else in the world where you can have a campus that looks like the University of Cape Town. To be surrounded by natural beauty and fresh air every day was unreal. Students come from all around the world to study at UCT, and there truly is an amazing student life and vibe on campus. Supporting the UCT Ikey Tigers at Rugby games was remarkable to see the lively student

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**Club Meetings are  
held every  
Tuesday, 1:00-2:00  
PM in Room A320**

**We hope to see  
you there!**



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**For more information,  
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[www.mayanotisrael.com](http://www.mayanotisrael.com)**

# FALL SEMESTER 2014



Chabad-Jewish Life at FIT invites you to celebrate: B"H

## Pink Shabbat

Join us for dinner partnered with Sharsheret in honor of **Breast Cancer Awareness month**

**SHARSHERET®**  
Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer

**Friday Night, October 24th**  
Candle Lighting: 5:44PM  
Dinner: 7:15 PM  
Dubinsky Center - A-734

Friend us on Facebook:  
Chabad at FIT

Learn, make friends, eat food, & have fun!



For the second year, Chabad at FIT hosted a special “pink” Shabbaton with guest speaker, Donna Estreicher, from Sharsheret, an organization that supports Jewish women and their families facing breast cancer.



### Lunch and Learn

Chabad at FIT initiates a weekly class of Torah learning for Jewish Students!



FIT Celebrates Chanukah



Malika and a group of FIT students attended the November International Shabbaton in Brooklyn where students from over 100 different colleges converged for a weekend of activities and inspiration!

# Light Over Darkness



*“And G-d looked at the light and saw that it was good.” ...Genesis*

More than twenty-one centuries ago, a small group of Jews called the Maccabees, (an acrostic of four Hebrew words meaning “Who is like You O G-d”), defeated one of the mightiest armies in the world. Their victory over the Greek-Syrian oppressors is known as the Festival of Lights or Chanukah. We celebrate the rededication of the Holy Temple and religious freedom each year in late November or December with the lighting of the menorah for eight days, traditional foods, games and gifts.

Fast forward to the twentieth-first century and Chanukah is now publically celebrated throughout the world. In the 1970s, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem M. Schneerson, encouraged his followers to promote the public lighting of menorahs. In 1974, Chabad Rabbi Abraham Shemtov took up the Rebbe’s cause and erected a simple four foot menorah in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the rest is history.

We now take these international public ceremonies for granted. However, accomplishing such a worldwide feat was not without controversy and difficulties. Opposition to the public celebration of Chanukah came from many directions, including the American Civil Liberties Union

(ACLU), who felt it was a violation of the separation of church and state. Fortunately, the legal system declared it was a constitutional right to display public menorahs. Today Chabad menorahs can be seen from Moscow to Melbourne and from Berlin to Boston, reconfirming once again, the triumph of light over darkness.



Since 2013, Chanukah has been celebrated at the infamous Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany, once the site of hatred and racism. “Bringing light to places of darkness is the message of Chanukah,”...Rabbi Yehuda Teichtel, Berlin’s director of Chabad-Lubavitch.

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body of UCT, and to hear all the UCT chants that my parents sing!

During our mid-semester break, I traveled with friends to Botswana and Zimbabwe, where we camped for 10 days, took a flight over the Okavango Delta, slept for a night in the wild, and saw Victoria Falls. Never did I think I would have such an eventful break, but I could not be more thankful to have gone and seen the beauty in Africa with some of my closest friends.

Jewish life in Cape Town is truly unique, as the Jews have a large presence in the South African community. Luckily for me I was able to spend the Sabbath with my family every week in Sea Point and at cousins in Constantia as well. Friday night I had the privilege of going to Shul with my grandparents, which is the same Shul my parents got married in! That is the South African Jewish Community in a nutshell! At Marais Road Shul they have the most beautiful choir, which always makes my family feel like we are back home. On campus Saujs, the South African Union of Jewish Students, is well known and has many events for students.



The most amazing Jewish experience I had while abroad was my last week in Cape Town at the Sinai Indaba, a full day of intellectual Jewish learning at the International Convention Center. At the Sinai Indaba, incredible Jewish speakers come from around the world to speak about politics, science, religion, and the Chief Rabbi of South Africa also spoke, which truly was an amazing ending to a very special day. The feeling of unity in the Jewish community is hard to explain and these experiences truly will stay with me forever.

As a student at FIT I of course wanted to incorporate my abroad experience with the design world, and was privileged to be in Cape Town when it was the world's fashion capital of the year. I attended the Design Indaba and Decorex, which were both unbelievable events and exhibitions, which showed the influence and presence South Africa's fashion and design has in the world.

Being around so much history and culture allowed me to truly realize what is important in life, as there is so much more to see and discover about ourselves. I am so thankful to have been able to study abroad during my college experience as it allowed me to not only experience incredible things, but brought me closer to my family's heritage and home.



University of Cape Town



Shabbos dinner in South Africa