

# UT Chabad observes second annual Pink Shabbat

By Liorah Abrams

Every Friday night at the Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center at the University of Texas-Austin is an occasion. But the Shabbat weekend taking place during Nov. 5-6 was even more special as the student center hosted the Jewish Longhorn's second annual Pink Shabbat. Throughout that Shabbat, pink tablecloths were evident, as were pink flowers, and the food was decorated in pink.

The Pink Shabbat, which occurs around each October, observes National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. During that first weekend in November, UT students, alumni, teachers and other community members came together over Shabbat dinner to promote the importance of awareness and share their stories.

The event was sponsored and conducted in memory of Margot Rosenberg Pulitzer by her sister and brother-in-law, Lizzy and Jules Greif of Dallas. Guest speakers included freshman Noa Waks (Margot's niece), alumnus Neila Wolff and breast cancer survivor and UT professor Monica Yaniv.

"It's always amazing to see students come together here on Friday nights," said Chabad leader Rabbi Zev Johnson who, with his wife Ariela, organized this year's event. "When they come together for something like this, though, it makes me appreciate how passionate they are and we feel proud to provide a place where they can unify and support each other."

Added Sam Rosen, a member of the Chabad's Student Executive Board: "It was special for everyone, as the evening was centered around breast cancer awareness. Having two grandmothers that survived (breast cancer), I felt like this event was a good way to mark the importance of

awareness."

Wolff, in the meantime, noted that the entire event combined the Shabbat celebration with discussion of serious issues in a comfortable and welcome setting. She related the event to Parsha of Noah (the Torah portion of the week), which spoke about the ark. The student center, she commented, is a similar refuge for herself and the students.

Yaniv spoke about winning the battle against breast cancer, inspiring an increased awareness of the disease and the effects it can have. She educated students, including the men, on what to do and what to look for in diagnosing and dealing with the disease. Students were moved by her message, and were encouraged to explore these issues as a group.

Beyond the tangible theme of support and awareness, a more personal aspect of the event was prominent as well: Honoring Pulitzer's memory. "I have images of kids always hanging at her house on Shabbat," commented sister Greif. The thought of many college students and kids at the Chabad House is a perfect match." The significance of bringing people together for this event was her way of honoring her sister Margot's specialness, she added.

Abby Rohan, a grad student at UT and Margot's cousin, shared her memories of Margot. "I remember her strength and resilience between her cancer and chemo treatments ... whether she was feeling perky and enthusiastic, or weaker and needing assistance, she never missed an important show or event up at school," said Rohan. "And when she was interacting or watching her kids, her smile spread from ear to ear no matter how terrible she was feeling inside."

Pulitzer's niece Waks appreciated the sense of unity, sharing how the

entire Jewish community supported her aunt and family during her illness and even after Pulitzer lost the battle. "It means a lot that, once again, the Jewish community was there to support her memory," Waks said.

Thanks to the collective efforts of the rabbi and his wife, the vol-

unteers, speakers, guests, and event sponsor, the evening was successful in that it allowed young Jews to explore meaningful, relevant issues while honoring their Jewish heritage. This event provided the opportunity to discuss the importance of breast cancer awareness and the need for early detection and treatment, as

well as a finding a reliable cure.

For more events from the Chabad Jewish Student Center @ UT, visit [www.JewishLonghorns.com](http://www.JewishLonghorns.com). And for more information about Breast Cancer Awareness and treatment, as well as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, visit [www.sharsheret.org](http://www.sharsheret.org).

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Photo: Rabbi Zev Johnson

At last months Pink Shabbat in Austin are from left Ariela Johnson, co-director of Chabad Student Center at UT; Neila Wolff (alumna) and Alana Reifer.