

HARDCHARLIE HiP-HOP SHABBAT INFORMATIONAL GUIDE

Imagine a beautiful Friday night Shabbos meal – the quiet glow of candles, the smell of warm challah and chicken soup, and the sound of friendly conversations between guests around the table. What could possibly make the situation better? Obviously, some chassidishe rapping!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are you doing this?

Since joining Chabad thirteen years ago, the Rebbe's shluchim have taken me in and nourished both my stomach and soul. Although I dream of being a major financial backer of every Chabad house in the world, I recognize that especially now as I'm in the early years of my career, doing so is particularly difficult. For me, all I needed to do was taste the delicious cuisine and admire the rabbi's epic beard before I was completely hooked; unfortunately, some Jews need more than food and facial hair to forge a deep connection with a shliach and his family. I have the following three goals for this program:

- 1) Help Chabad houses develop relationships with students who otherwise wouldn't be interested in a typical Shabbos meal.
- 2) Inspire students who are active in Chabad to become even more involved and passionate for the holy work shluchim do on a daily basis.
- 3) Encourage Jews to have pride in who they are, and to do lots of PDJ (Public Displays of Jewishness).

What will you discuss during your performance?

For the most part, I'm going to first open up with a little about me and my background, and will mainly talk about how Chabad and its wonderful shluchim have impacted me over the years. I will speak about the difficulties of doing teshuva and discuss why it is absolutely vital to be strong supporters of Chabad and Israel; I will also teach some chassidus concerning the subject matter elucidated upon in my lyrics. The most important thing I push is to have Jewish pride; I encourage Jews to stand up and have a voice in various realms of their lives. I'll tell the story of how my kippah saved my life. If there are any other topics you would like me to specifically touch upon, I'm happy to do so, as long as it has nothing to do with thermodynamics or economic theory.

What takes place during HiP-HOP Shabbat?

The night begins typically with a regular mincha and ma'ariv service. (If you're interested, I have toured over 50 different Chabad communities, and have developed a large repertoire of melodies for Friday night davening from around the country. Basically if you'd like a chazzan, I can hook you up.)

Following the davening, we'll go through the pre-meal rituals and so on. I request that towards the end of the salad course, as plates are being collected and soup is served, the rabbi gives me a quick (2 minute max) introduction, and I begin with my story. I will have booklets for your guests with all of the lyrics I recite, so they'll be able to follow along and appreciate the content of what I've written. I will speak between 20-45 minutes. (Other courses can be served and consumed while I'm speaking). If the crowd is very engaged, I can always go longer; if they're not, which based on past experience doesn't really ever happen, I can also speak for a shorter period of time as well. Once the meal wraps up, I generally first sit down to eat, as doing so beforehand usually leads to me spitting food particles at all of

the guests while I rap. Because I am eating late, I will likely have loads of energy and will farbreng with whomever wishes to stay until their hearts are content.

Because I'm also a clinical psychotherapist, I offer 11 discussions/classes on developing a Jewish identity, maintaining healthy relationships, and various other aspects of improving mental health. These classes typically take place Shabbos day. I will provide you with a list of all the classes I currently offer.

Motzei Shabbos, I'll lead a beautiful havdallah service should you be interested, and then I can either DJ for you with all kosher Israeli dance music (no women singing), or do a full show of my raps with the backing tracks. I have lyrics videos that can be projected behind me while I rap. This is actually the ideal performance type for my music. It's really cool, and every time we're able to do a show like this, people love it.

Sounds awesome, but how much do you charge?

For right now, it's \$2000 plus my travel expenses. I should say off the bat that my main goal is to help Chabad – I'm going to work with you if you want me. If you have a smaller turnout for some reason at your meal, I'm going to be fair. Chabad has always treated me with a "no pressure, just pleasure" mindset, and I plan to reciprocate. The only thing I cannot negotiate is my travel expenses. I always recommend having me perform or speak at other chabad houses in the area while I'm in town to keep expenses lower; if another local chabad house would like me, there's an opportunity for my travel expenses to be split. Let's find a way to make it work. L'chaim!!!

How can we get in touch?

You can call or text me 24/6 at 224-430-3659, and you can also shoot me a direct email via the contact section of www.HARDCHARLIE.com. I can't wait to hear from you!!!

Also check out www.TalkToCharlie.net to learn more about my private practice.