

JEWISH AGGIES



Appreciation Report | Fall 2022



An affiliate of



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YOUR RIPPLE EFFECT



'It's just a semester, or is it? We are living in an interesting time for a young college student. There are so many demands, academically, socially and emotionally. There is an added pressure in the back of their mind, antisemitism and anti- Israel sentiment on college campuses today. We are blessed at Texas A&M University with a faculty, culture and community that is warm, tolerant and embracing. In these pages you will hear from students, whose lives you are changing, and in turn they are shining their light forward. We see this daily and know your

impact has ripple effects. We share this newsletter with you so YOU can see how much goodness and kindness, empowerment and Jewish pride you are providing students with. We are incredibly grateful and hope you enjoy the nachas.

- Rabbi Yossi & Manya

JEWISH PRIDE IN THE CORP OF CADETS

College is probably the most difficult time to be Jewish. I have learned that the most rewarding achievements come from the most difficult challenge. As an Aggie, I was a member of the Corps of Cadets.

Chabad became my one stop shop for all my religious, social, spiritual, and mental health needs. I knew it was a space with an abundance of Jewish friends I can visit and relate with daily. I never had a down moment at Chabad, all I ever felt was joy! The result, I became more eager to pursue my Judaism. I allowed myself to step a bit more out of my comfort zone to become more enveloped in the community.

"Chabad became my one stop shop for all my religious, social, spiritual, and mental health needs".

Chabad is completely judgment free. I never felt afraid to ask for advice or assistance in any matter of life. Chabad gives students like me, a place to find answers to my questions and solutions to my problems. I learned that they will ALWAYS be there for me and my fellow Aggies!

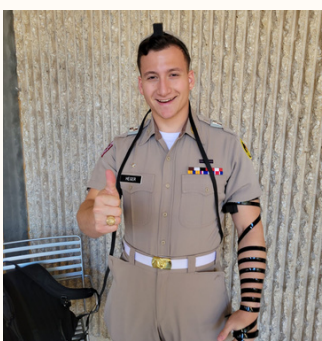
"I just commissioned into the United States Navy as a proud Jew with a Kippah on my head".

I was always impressed with Rabbi and Manya's pride when showing up on campus and being a visible Jewish presence. They taught me that others will respect you if you have pride in yourself. No matter how many stares, scoffs, or laughs one can get, no matter how tough times may be, or how uncomfortable you may feel, I have learned a Jew should ALWAYS be proud to be Jewish.

TO all those who make Chabad happen, thank you for having hope in the future of our people and for facilitating our growth. There is nothing more special than combining my Aggie family with my Jewish family. I cannot imagine my life without them! You provided for me and for that I am forever grateful. When I had no family near me during college, you were there for me.

I just commissioned into the United States Navy as a proud Jew with a Kippah on my head. I have one message to say to All Aggies, **AM YISRAEL CHAI**.

- Ryan Heger '22



I WAS THE ONLY JEW IN MY HIGH SCHOOL

I grew up in a suburb of Houston, as the only Jew in my school. Daily, I heard negative comments and jokes about being Jewish. I liked that Texas A&M was going to be a fresh start for me to carve out my identity.

I was always proud to be Jewish, but when I got to campus, I felt lost and like I didn't have a community. I didn't know what Chabad was until a friend brought me over. From the first time I walked through the door, the feeling of warmth and family was felt right away, I found my home on campus. Zinbarg Intern, Menachem Fishman drew me in. I then took Sinai Scholars having the chance to explore and cement fundamental ideas. I started to make decisions to only date and marry Jewish, raise a Jewish family and began to explore what a Jewish life meant beyond feeling.

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”

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”

I started coming more often and got involved in leadership. I started realizing the opportunities I had to help fellow Jewish Aggies. I help others put on Tefillin and share the warmth and joy of Yiddishkeit. While learning so much about myself.

Chabad provided many opportunities, including student leadership pegishas and internships in Israel. These experiences have helped me become a better person.

When I think Chabad, I think family and friends - the warmth and calm from the chaos of campus where I can be myself and feel at peace.

Without Chabad, me and my friends would be lost. I NEVER feel like a minority. I feel proud to be Jewish!

TO all those who invest in Chabad, I try to be a living example. You are investing in one young man who is leaving college with my own pair of Tefillin and a strong Jewish identity. I know that the Jewish nation and my family are relying on ME to establish my Jewish home and family keeping Judaism warm and alive.

- Eric Stevelman '22



HIGH HOLIDAY ROUND UP

When a student is 100 plus miles from home, YOU give them a home in Aggieland.



LULAV IN THE SUKKAH



SUKKAH LUNCH ON CAMPUS

A young Jewish Aggie was so overwhelmed right after the High Holidays ended and said, "Rabbi, I can't tell you how much my Jewish Pride is just at an all-time high. I have never been prouder to be Jewish, I even wore a Kippah on campus for the first time."



PRE YOM KIPPUR MEAL



ROSH HASHANAH CHALLAHS

I wanted to thank you and Rabbi for making Rosh Hashanah so fun and so enjoyable. It made my first holiday away from home so much easier just knowing that I have you guys and the family and Chabad."



SUKKAH ON CAMPUS



HOLIDAY KOSHER COOKING CLUB



YOU made sure hundreds of students had High Holidays with family!

YOU made sure students were full before Yom Kippur!

YOU gave students a beautiful and large Sukkah to sit in!

YOU provided meaningful opportunities for students to connect to their Judaism!

YOU gave students the opportunity to study in any of five classes offered weekly!

We anticipate a busy semester ahead. MORE STUDENTS are getting involved!

YOU keep the doors open, the kitchen stocked and the home away from home strong, vibrant and ready.

WE appreciate your continued support, -- Rabbi Yossi and Manya Lazaroff

CAN YOU HELP JEWISH AGGIES FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER?

YES! I want to bring more light to Jewish Aggies in 2023! I will make sure they have a welcoming Jewish home.

- I will Sponsor a Table \$250
- I will Co-Sponsor a Shabbat \$770
- I will Sponsor the ENTIRE Shabbat \$1500
- \$ _____ Other (Any amount is appreciated.)



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