



JEWISH ILLINI BULLEITN

NEWS FROM ILLINI CHABAD - THE HEART OF JEWISH ILLINI LIFE

SUMMER, 2014 - 5774

A Word from the Directors

Dear Friends,

As we wrap up the year 5774, we take a few moments to reflect and renew for the upcoming year. It's been a full year, and we hope you can join along with us on these next few pages to experience a taste of this past year's journey as we prepare and look forward to the upcoming one.



Rabbi Dovid (left) and Goldie (right) Tiechtel visit with Ofer and Hannah Ekstein at the Gala event, celebrating 10 years of Illini Chabad. See page 6 & 7 for more on the Gala.



The Senior class with Chancellor Wise (front, center) and Rabbi Dovid and Goldie. The Senior event is featured on page 6.

From the start of the semester as we welcome new and returning students, to the large, festive and meaningful holiday celebrations in our large banquet tent, adult education courses for the community, camp Gan Israel for the kids, Menorah lighting on the University quad, challah baking and so much more...

As you glimpse through and relive each holiday and each special event,

each one nurturing and fostering Jewish life at the University of Illinois and Champaign-Urbana, we remember and reflect upon the inspiration that drives everything at Chabad - to embrace, welcome, inspire and motivate each and every person that walks through our doors. The example set forth by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, emphasizing the individual - the importance of every single person, the importance of every single good deed, no one and nothing is trivial, and we value each and every one.

We welcome you to join us through these pages, and to join us this upcoming year, for a taste of Jewish life,

With best wishes,

Rabbi David & Goldie Tiechtel

U OF I HOOPS FANS GET TASTE OF KOSHER DOGS

By David Mercer (reprinted from the AP)

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP) — Aside from soft drinks, there isn't much at your typical college basketball arena that qualifies as kosher. Not the nachos, and certainly not the hot dogs.

"Whenever I went to a game up until now, the only thing I was able to buy was the soda," said Rabbi Dovid Tiechtel, a University of Illinois basketball fan who wears a "Jew of I" t-shirt. "You can't bring food from the outside, and there's no place to go."

So what are Jewish hoops fans to do? Starting this week, they can eat like anyone else while watching their favorite team at the State Farm Center.

The university's Chabad Jewish Center, run by Tiechtel, has opened its own stand this season and sells kosher dogs, candy and drinks. Students, Tiechtel and other volunteers will staff the stand most games, though they'll skip Friday nights and Saturday day games for religious reasons.

It appears to be a fairly unique concession among college arenas. The University of Kansas has one at Allen Fieldhouse, but half a dozen Big Ten schools, in response to inquiries by The Associated Press, said they did not have one.

Many pro sports arenas have added kosher food in recent years and some universities have kosher student meal-plan options, said John Lowenstein, vice president of student affairs at the American Jewish Federation in Chicago. But college sports venues would be a nice addition for fans like himself who are accustomed to doing without at games.

"As someone who keeps kosher, you want to go to a ball game and eat and have fun," he said. "It's delightful to be able to get kosher."

About 3,500 of the Urbana-Champaign

campus' 43,000 students are Jewish, according to Tiechtel. His brother Zalman Tiechtel, also a rabbi, started the kosher stand last year at the Lawrence, Kan., school, which has a significant Jewish student population.

"We're the trend-setter here — after we do it, everyone will do it!" Dovid Tiechtel said enthusiastically. "I'm getting calls from other campuses on the East Coast saying 'What did you do and how did you arrange it?'"

Tiechtel said they ran a kosher hot dog stand during a U of I football game, and were pleased to have a few Muslims among the customers.

Kosher can be complicated, but, for the hot dog stand's purposes, a handful of restrictions are most important. For instance, meat and milk aren't mixed, so you won't find anything made with cheese or other dairy products. And only animals that have both split hooves and chew cud can be eaten, so pork, the most common type of hot dog, isn't allowed.

The hot dogs sold at the stand come from Romanian Kosher Sausage Co., a well-known Chicago meat producer.



Chabad of Champaign Urbana
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...Continued on page 10

The Year in Review...

**Some People
Call it Soul Food.
We Call it Kosher!**



This year students were able to enjoy the benefits of kosher dining on Campus. Thanks to the Illini Chabad partnering with the University of Illinois and created the kosher dining program, students were offered a kosher meal plan option.

The program consists of daily hot kosher dinners at Allen Hall/L:AR dining hall.

Students from FAR, PAR, LAR, Allen Hall and many other dorms and apartments come together nightly for a delicious hot kosher meal.

The kosher food line services an average of 75 students daily. The meals are well rounded with all the nutrition a student would need. (there are many vegan options too!). Their cooks specialty is in their fresh homemade desserts, which to be honest, are a personal favorite.

The kosher program also provides To-go lunch options that can be purchased at your convenience in the Illini Union ballroom or 57 North at IKE (Six pack).

What was that? You said you wanted to enjoy watching our Fighting Illini without worrying about kosher food options? Don't worry Chabad has a full kosher hotdog stand with the best tasting dogs you can find!

Now in its 8th year! Look out many new projects coming your way, as part of Illini Chabad's vision of making kosher on campus as easy as possible.

To find out more about kosher programming on campus, visit:
website: jewishillini.org/kosheroncampus
email: kosher@jewishillini.com
fb/illinchabad



The 2013-2014 year at Illini Chabad, its 11th with a full time presence on campus has been the best yet! The theme and goal of reaching out to every student, one at a time, and each feeling that they are the only one, has been with great impact.

Here is an overview of the year in a nutshell and some highlights:

- This year about 1500 Jewish students signed up and are part Illini Chabad - taking part in its programs, classes, services, events and family experience.
- Overall, Chabad has hosted events at the Chabad house, Greek houses, Dorms, the Quad and at venues on and off campus. Here are a few highlights:
- FalafelFest - welcome back event brought in over 250 student, reconnecting with friends after a long summer break.
- Labor Day BBQ: a time to relax and enjoy, with over 350 students participating, for a pre High Holiday event.

HOLIDAYS around the year —

High Holidays on campus this year were the most diverse and largest yet, with over 350 for the first night services and dinner, and hundreds more throughout the holidays of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

Due to large holiday crowds, Chabad puts up a large tent every year for the holiday. As the holiday begins and the hundreds come to join, the 35 festive tables fill quickly, and the tent meant to hold so many is overflowing!



Purim this year was brought to a whole new level with the First ever Purim in the Barn! - a Barn party uniting all the Jewish Greeks and students on campus. Over 400 students registered and joined this all night event at Farm Lake. The next day the Purim in Israel Dinner at the I-hotel was enjoyed by over 100. All day we had mini parties at all the dorms, and houses.

Passover this year brought out over 1000 students over the 8 days. Chabad hosted Seders in the grand banquet Tent with over 350 first night and 250 second and hot meals every day of the holiday.

These are just some of the Holiday Highlights.



Sukkot on campus was a busy week, with the hope and goal of bringing the joys of the holiday to all where they are.

Chabad puts up Sukkot at: Illini Tower - The Larry Dobkin Sukka, Allen Hall, AEPi house.

The Quad, Pedi-Sukah that traveled around campus, Illini Chabad.

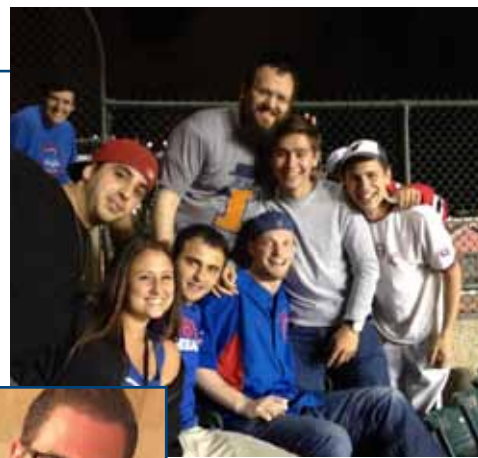
With events each night to welcome all, it made a huge impact, on the students, who for many was their first holiday away from home.

Simchat Torah - dancing all night! All the way to Green street! It has become an annual holiday tradition, festive & joyous!

Chanukah this year, was Eight Crazy Nights! It can be hard to be away from home, and Illini Chabad's goal was to try to be the 2nd best to being at home, the home away from home, bringing the joy to where the students are. In addition to a menorah lighting each night at Illini Chabad, with doughnuts, latkes and fun, we had events all across campus.

Illini Chabad worked closely with Housing to allow menorahs to be lit in the dorms, and provided over 300 menorah's to students. We had Chanukah Parties at Bromley Hall, Allen Hall, IKE (6 Pack), lightings with food and games at Illini Tower. At SAM, SDT, AEPi, AEPi & ZBT.

The grand event was on the Quad with hundreds joining the grand Lighting of the 9ft Menorah, followed by the 11th annual Chanukah Bowl fest in the Illini Union Rec room. For weeks before the event, there was a huge billboard on the quad promoting it, bringing Jewish Pride to the thousands that walk by each day.



Learning on Campus:

This year with the addition of our educators and directors of the Chabad Kosher Dining program Rabbi Mordy and Yosef, we have also increased our Jewish education opportunities.

We have the Weekly Lunch n Learn at the Union, now in its 11th year. In addition to Meet n Greet and Coffee and conversation programs, Rabbi Dovid, Goldie, Mordy and Yosef have many ongoing 1 on 1 learning with students.

Rabbi Dovid is an adjunct professor at the College of Law, teaching a Talmudic ethics course for 2 credits there.



Shabbat on campus —

Each week, 90-110 students come and join a fresh homemade, homestyle Shabbat dinner with the Tiechtel family and Illini Chabad. While hosting once a month themed dinner and every week a five course meal, it is something all come to look forward to. Starting with Cooking Club Thursday night, the fun continues at dinner, where students from all across campus come out and join, some staying to the late hours of the night. Chabad hosted some mega dinners in the tent as well (see Jewish greek news).

Shabbat afternoon lunches (roll in admission - as you roll out of bed, you roll in to chabad...), have grown each week with about 40-50 students.

We know that Shabbat is the core of the family, and the same is with the Illini Chabad family. We end off each Shabbat with a Musical Havadallah - a more intimate and special event, kicking off the new week with great excitement.

Israel Events —

Illini Chabad hosted 2 FalafelFests, with hundreds joining, a Stand with Israel Night, to learn how to stand proud on campus, a few educational speakers, and multiple events on the Quad, in addition to Israel 101 series at the houses.



Socials —

Ever week there are different themed socials for the students to join and relax- some are smaller and some are larger - each building the student family. From Mexican Fiesta, To sushi night, from Meat n Greet to Girls night out, each bringing its own joy and flair.

In the Dorms —

Chabad works very closely with the University and private housing to be there for the students, this year we held Challah bakes and discussions in the dorms and worked with the RA's to create cultural awareness, and was on call 24 hours for their needs.



Jewish Greek Life

One of the largest communities of Jewish students is in Greek Life, and Illini Chabad works closely with the Greeks. We host a monthly lunch for Greek Presidents of all the Jewish affiliated houses with Rabbi Dovid, discussing what issues face the students, their houses and what we can do about their needs.

We also plan many ongoing events with the houses, working together to create a strong Jewish Greek Life. Some united events that where done:

- The United Greek Shabbat, with over 250 students in the grand Banquet Tent, brought together the Greek Life and Chabad for a celebration Shabbat dinner.
- The Purim Barn Party with over 400 students at Farm Lake.
- Rosh Hashana, Sukkot Chanukah, Purim and Passover events at each house.
- The Annual Alley oop event with ZBT, a day of fun with children with special needs, with the Fighting Illini Basketball team, now in its 8th year.
- FraTorah: discussions at the house.
- Challah baking at the houses

7th Annual Community Service Trip to Berlin, Germany

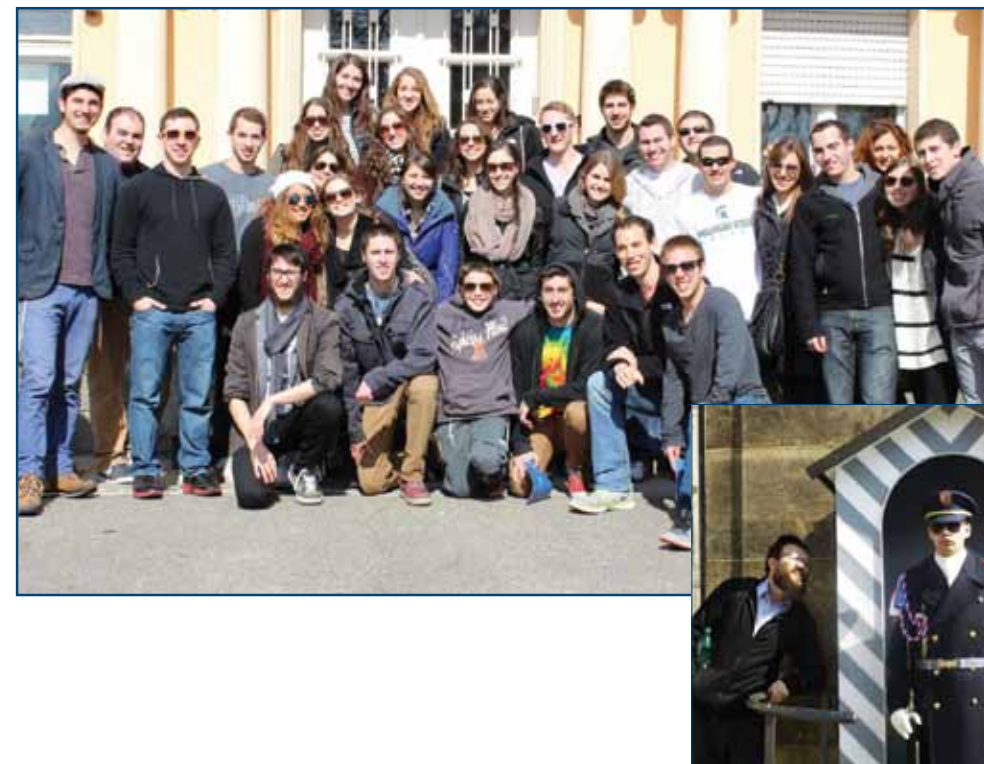
Students Reflect on their Experiences...

By Zachary Edelheit, Class of 2016

When I had originally registered to go on ASB Berlin this spring break, I really did not know what to expect. I had heard stories from people who had gone in the past and I had seen pictures, but I really did not know what I was in for. Knowing that I was traveling with all of my closest friends, I figured that the trip would be a great time with some sight seeing here and there. Little did I know, this trip was going to be the best trip I have taken in my 20 years of life. I learned so much, met a lot of great people, and had an awesome time in the process. I went on birthright this past summer, and it doesn't even compare to ASB Berlin. After coming home from Israel, I felt this obligation to be a "good" Jew, marry a Jewish girl, observe Shabbat, and be Zionist. For the first week, I was able to hold up my obligation, but shortly after this feeling faded. After being in Berlin and seeing our past and how far we have come, I am proud to be a Jew. Rather than feeling obligated to be a "good" Jew, I want to be a "good" Jew, and it is a great feeling.

I took a lot away from this trip, but there were three main takeaways that stood out. The first is that it is our responsibility as Jews to be proud of who we are and to share this enthusiasm with generations to come. This is why marrying a Jewish woman is so important; if your wife is Jewish, then you can raise your children Jewish and the chain keeps growing. However, being enthusiastic about our religion does not always mean being strictly observant. This leads me to my second takeaway: a Jew is a Jew regardless of how religious they are. This point really hit home for me on Shabbat. On Saturday, a few of the trip members and myself were invited to join to one of the congregants and his family for lunch. He was way more religious than any of us and observed the Sabbath to its fullest. I was a little nervous walking into his house because I did not know what to expect. I felt that his family might not welcome us because we were not nearly as religious as them. Luckily I was proven wrong as his family welcomed all of us with open arms. We had a great meal, shared stories, and of course had some l'chaims for over four hours. It was an amazing experience and one that I will never forget. My final takeaway, and the one that I made very prominent for the group, is that wherever you go, there is always someone Jewish. We were in the city that the Nazis tried to extinct us and we witnessed the large Jewish community first hand. The fact that there are so many Jews in Berlin makes a statement. It just goes to show us there are Jews everywhere, and that the Jewish race is strong and growing. I say that I made this point very prominent because at our final banquet, I sang a song to the group called "Wherever you go, there is always someone Jewish." The first time I sang it, everyone was kind of clapping along, kind of looking at me like I was psychotic. The second time I sang it, however, the room became ecstatic. Everyone was signing along and dancing. It was an incredible sight and was really the "cherry on top" of the trip for me. It made everything we learned and saw the past week seem so real, and made me realize that our trip was going to come back to campus full of Jewish energy.

All in all, this was an incredibly rewarding experience and I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to go on the trip. Rabbi Doivid did a phenomenal job planning and making sure that everyone got the most out of the trip. Now that I am back in the states, I feel more in touch with my Judaism than ever before and I plan on spreading my enthusiasm throughout my fraternity, and campus as a whole.



By Cody Davis, Class of 2016

The ASB Berlin trip 2k14 I can say I has personally changed my life. From the ages 3-14 I attended private Jewish school at Bernard Zell Anshe

Emet Day School in Chicago. This have me a strong Jewish backbone that my parents felt important for me to have growing up. I complained about going to synagogue and praying because I thought it didn't mean anything to me personally. I never felt that self connection to Judaism because my parents always made me do it. Also, going to a public high school after grade school stretched me even farther away from Judaism. So, when I heard about the ASB Berlin trip and how religious it was going to be, I was very hesitant in making my decision. My older brother went on the trip a year ago and told me that I should really should go. I have a lot of respect and trust in my brother so I knew that he would not steer me wrong.

Before going on the trip, I was very nervous about what to expect because learning about the horrors that happened in Berlin to Jews freaked me out. Only 70 years ago, the place that if I were to go to for being Jewish I would have been killed immediately, I was going with 30 other proud Jews. When we got there, I was nervous about walking the streets with a bunch of Jews because I felt like people in Germany still were filled with anti-semitism. Seeing the Holocaust museums and being at the work camp was life changing. I have learned about the Holocaust and seen pictures from it in black and white as a kid, so I thought that I had everything to know about it. I was amazed learning about what my ancestors had to go through and the strength that they had to keep fighting. As the trip went on, I got more comfortable with showing my Judaism in public and singing Jewish songs in the streets that would of been impossible just 70 years ago. I have never felt closer to my Jewish faith in my life and really felt proud to be a Jew.

What really made this trip so special was the bond that each of us on the trip created with each other. Going on this trip I knew most of the guys pretty well because we are in the same fraternity, but I wasn't close with any of the girls. I made deep connections with each girl and feel like I built a solid foundation with each of them to be friends for a long time. I truly enjoyed having everyone on the trip.

Overall, this trip has truly given me a stronger connection with my Jewish faith and g-d. I plan on going to Shabbat at Chabad as much as I can to keep my growing relationship with Rabbi Doivid, Morty, and Yosef. Without their passion for Judaism and teaching students, this trip would have no chance in being so successful. The amount of respect and loyalty that I have for these three men cannot be explained in words. They have not only made me a better Jew, but also a better Man. I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart every person who donated money toward the ASB Berlin trip because without them I would not have experienced everything that this trip has given me.

Sinai Scholars Society

by Sarah Stranieri, Class of 2017

I still remember that first chilly fall Sunday afternoon when I met all of you for the first time. I knew off the bat that many of you were Chicagoans, the rest Illinois residents. After we introduced ourselves, you all made a beeline for me to fill out the "Someone who is out of state" space on the icebreaker form. However, did I really know any of you? Was I familiar with everyone's likes and dislikes? Could I have a conversation that could bring out our deepest thoughts and perspectives on the Jewish lifestyle, as well as the college lifestyle? Could I have felt open and comfortable expressing my own perspective on controversial, current-day issues? To be quite honest, I was not on the first day. On this day, I was only the "Someone who is out of state" spot on a piece of paper.

As the semester progressed, however, this dynamic began to change. Everyone's passion and reason for being a part of the Sinai Scholars Class of 2013 shone through from the first day, when we discussed the significance of the 10 commandments. Our hands were raised more often, and discussions intensified with each progressing lesson. Rabbi had used the term "expensive real estate" when referring to the 10 Commandments. What exactly does this mean? In the Jewish sense, it means with only 10 commandments on these everlasting stone tablets, every millimeter of a lesson counts. Yet, these tablets dictate our lives and our existence as a human race, which will forever be present on this Earth. Such a small space, a small amount of writing, dictates our entire existence! This is a pretty powerful truth when you think about it.

This Sinai Scholars class has moved by so quickly; it has filled such a short space in time. However, our discussions, personal epiphanies, and group memories will last a lifetime. What must we do to keep these gained skills and experiences close to us, even though time will pass? We have kept the 10 commandments close although they were written beyond the realms of our lifetime, so we must do the same with this class.

We can first begin with our journals. Every jotted down thought, phrase, word, or even a doodle, has captured our thoughts in the midst of enlightening discussions. Looking back through it will renew those memories and make them fresh. We make up the younger half of campus; we are less experienced and more prone to make mistakes,

academically, emotionally, financially. Mistakes are okay to make, especially in college, a time of trial and error, as long as we learn from them, or try to learn the most about a situation before we move forward. Life is not a textbook, certainly, but our Sinai Scholar journals can function as our own personal texts for life. We can open it up after a confusing conversation with a close friend about the stability of a relationship, or after a bad exam score in a class. It is a book that can be used to reflect and guide throughout our college experiences, and more importantly, beyond the realms of Urbana-Champaign.

Aside from our physical texts, when can take that sense of community with us, and know that we have a Sinai Scholar family to fall back on in times of need. All of you probably know by now the struggle of my four hour labs (which I apologize for complaining so much about!) Knowing I had 10 pages of writing ahead of me every Tuesday night was made less painful when I sat down with all of you, eating Miriam's delicious dinner and blowing off steam from a tough day of classes. No matter what my lab report grades were, or how I did in the class overall, I knew I had a family that had my back, and made me feel like I could accomplish anything if the effort was put into it, and I thank you all for that feeling.

The Sinai Scholars field trip was also an unforgettable experience. Levi's game of "bring an object up to me before everyone else!" was super intense and kept us all talking on the bus ride to Jewel Osco, and all we learned about as a group throughout the day made us more informed members of the Jewish community. Whether it was peering into the crystal-clear waters of the Mikveh or discovering the intricate process of crafting a Torah, we had together embarked on a greater understanding of our religion, our culture, our way of life.

I would like to thank Rabbi, Goldie, and their lovely children for teaching us the Sinai Scholar lessons. I would also like to thank Lauren for setting up the questions of the day, and Miriam for cooking every night. I would like to thank you all for making me feel like more than just "someone who is out of state," but a Jewish member of our Sinai Scholars family. Thank you.



Mazel Tov!

Fall 2013 Sinai Scholars

- Ariana Adelman
- Emily Block
- Jonah Brooks
- Noah Chasin
- Jamie Cohen
- Miriam Coven
- Jamie Greenstein
- Josh Heiger
- Greg Jacobson
- Rebecca Moll
- Lauren Pliskin
- Abbey Rosenberg
- Natalie Rosenberg
- Hannah Schwartz
- Danielle Schwartz
- Janielle Sonshine
- Sarah Stranieri
- Brooke Taylor
- Marc Weissman

Spring 2014 Sinai Scholars

- Jordyn Altit
- Alan Arens
- Justin Berkson
- Karaline Cohen
- Emma Dahlberg
- Brian Dubinsky
- Emily Edheimer
- Sam Friedland
- Jami Grauer
- David Khazanovich
- Ari Krause
- Liora Kupfer
- Sophie Leib
- Solomon Lowenstein
- Joseph Marks
- Sarah Mnushkin
- Benjamin Noy
- Mari Peilet
- Tamar Schwartzman
- Tyler Spitz
- Emily Wilensky

Gala Event

Celebrates 10 Years of Chabad

by Jayme (Levine) Besser, Class of 2011

This past year Illini Chabad's annual celebration dinner marked ten years since Rabbi Dovid, Goldie, and Levi showed up on the University of Illinois campus with little but big dreams. To celebrate all that has been accomplished through their actions and the Rebbe's vision these past ten years, and to look forward to a great future, the event was appropriately themed "Ten Years and Counting." All of Illini Chabad's accomplishments could not have been achieved without the dedication and support of the students, families, and Champaign-Urbana community.

This year's event honored Prof David and Karen Hyman and Joel Holland, and recognized the Chabad student leadership board. David and Karen Hyman arrived in Champaign in 2005 and are both affiliated with the U of I. since their arrival, they have been helping to grow and build Chabad through their dedication, support, and generosity. Joel Holland was honored as the recipient of the Young Alumni Leadership Award. Since graduating in 2006, Joel has served as a role model and leader for other alumni by creating and hosting events to keep young graduates involved in Jewish life post college and inspiring them through his own generosity. The 2013-14 Chabad student leadership board was comprised of dedicated students who as a team (and under the guidance of Rabbi Dovid and Goldie) planned events on campus for the Jewish student population. Through this they developed leadership skills, formed friendships, and carried out mitzvahs. Shira Schwartz served as the student president.

The celebration event was held at Bryn Mawr Country Club, with close to 350 guests who were treated to a performance by Jazz musician Greg Spero, an alum of Illini Chabad '05, and got to feast on freshly prepared foods from a variety of stations. It was a joyous night that served as a testament to the amazing success of Illini Chabad, the Tiechtel family, and the beautiful Jewish community of Champaign-Urbana and its extended family.

The event was chaired by Judy Schraiber a parent and an Alum, MC'ed by Dr. Richard Rosenfeld a parents of a past students (now alumna) and an alum as well. It was planned by the dedicated Key Partners of Chabad committee, who worked many months dedicating of their time for the success of the future.

For more posted event pictures, videos, and a full recap, see www.jewishillini.org/postevent10

ILLINI CHABAD STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2013-14

- | | |
|---|--|
| Shira Schwartz
President | Zoie Weisberg
Secretary |
| Eli Hyman & Rebecca Schraiber
Vice Presidents | Ariela Shaoul
Past President |
| Michael Schraiber
Treasurer | Ryan Brown • LeeTal Gabel •
Alana Goldstein • Kevin Fine •
Scott Elisco • Garret Fischer • |
| Lauren Plisken & Matt
Treshansky
VP Communications/Outreach | Stanley Dayan • Aaron Babajoni
• Michaela Sokol • Josh
Kirshenbaum • Sammi Edelson
• Josh Cooper • Alana Miller •
Gabe Gould |



Illini Chabad Executive Kay Partners Board

- Jayme Besser
- Abby Brooks
- Rob Brooks
- David Cahnman
- Lois Solomon Chasin
- Kenny Cooper
- Mitch Dayan
- Carly Gerber
- Larry Gerber
- Phil Goldstick
- Larry Gould
- Dr. Richard Herman
- Joel Holland
- Karen Hyman
- Dr. Ira Lebenson
- Zalman Komar
- Prof. Michael LeRoy
- Lisa Libman
- Larry Lubin
- Lou Mervis
- Dr. Richard Rosenfeld
- Judy Schraiber
- Eric Schames
- Ariela Shaoul

Chabad Student Leadership 2014-2015



- Stanley Dayan - President
- Sarah Ungerman/ Rebecca Shraiber - Vice Presidents
- Eli Hyman - Treasurer
- Michaela Sokol - Secretary
- Andy Rudolph - VP Greek Life
- Alan Arens/ Jordyn Altit, VP Outreach
- Abbey Rosenberg - Social Chair
- Michael Shraiber - VP Outreach, Non-Greek
- Lauren Plisken - VP Recruitment
- Shira Schwartz - Past President
- Ryan Brown
- Josh Cooper
- Kevin Fine
- Gabe Gould
- David Khazanovich
- Tamar Schwartzman
- Levi Tiechtel
- Zoie Weisberg
- Jenna Weiss

- ### Jewish Law Student Association board:
- President: Matt Gold
 - Vice President: Jeff Zohn
 - Treasurer: Adam Kase
 - Secretary: Jill Greenwald

2014 Senior Event

The following comments were made at the Senior event:

By Ilana Dress, Class of 2014

It is hard to articulate the huge impact Rabbi Dovid and Goldie have had on us seniors over the past 4 years, so I will attempt by beginning with a story...

I was a freshman, living in Allen Hall, and desperate for some groceries my first week on campus. It was late afternoon and I looked up the bus schedule online and took a bus to County Market on Springfield. I had a hard time navigating this new store in this new place and I ended up being in the store longer than I thought I would be. I walked out, and to my surprise it was already dark out! I was flustered and turned around, and I did not have a smart phone yet to look up the busses where I was, so I just started walking to the nearest bus stop I could find, my freshman arms full of groceries. I did not know where I was or when the next bus was coming. But I knew I was near Chabad, so I called Rabbi Dovid to ask him where to go. He asked me where I was, and I told him I was on 4th and White. He informed me that I was not on the safest part of campus, and I should turn around and walk to Chabad. He would come pick me up. Not only did he pick me up, he came armed with gifts of fresh chicken and soup, and drove me back to Allen Hall.

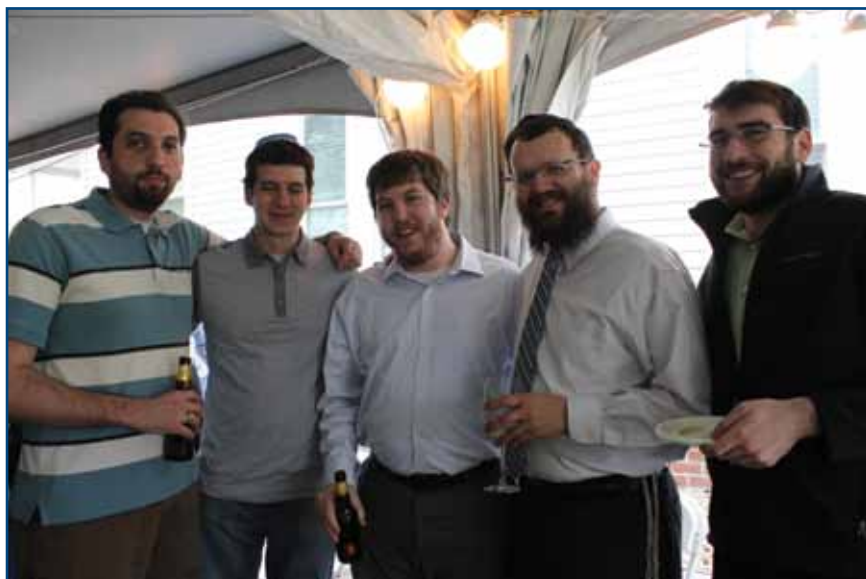
This story may not initially seem like the biggest deal, but as a lost and confused freshman, this meant the WORLD to me. The rabbi went out of his way for this one single student. And homemade chicken and soup mean everything to a freshman living in a dorm. I know I will remember this kindness for the rest of my life.

This story so accurately epitomizes the family that Rabbi and Goldie create here at chabad. They have dedicated their lives to serving Jewish people and creating the Jewish leaders of the next generation. They go out of their way every second of the day to make sure that we are okay. After they are finished interacting with students, we truly feels that we are important and that for those moments, we are the only person in the world. Rabbi and Goldie don't just say "illini chabad family," they mean it. They care for every student as if he or she were their own child. And more than that, they are not just here on business helping out the community for a few years, they have planted themselves here to serve as a pillar for lasting and growing Jewish life. Because

of them, I know that no matter where I am on campus, or anywhere in the world for that matter, I am never alone.

So for that ride back to allen hall and the chicken and soup, for the countless Shabbos dinners, lunches and holiday meals, for truly caring and loving each and every Jewish student and community member for who we are, whether observant or not. For bringing us close to Torah through Chassidus in a way I did not know was possible. And on a personal note, setting me up with some guy named Jon, I am forever grateful. And I know I speak on behalf of everyone here, that we are all forever grateful and that we will never forget our time here at Illini Chabad, and we will carry the positive influence you have left with us for the rest of our lives.

As we move on, we know we are always a part of this family.



An Alumnus Reflects...

By Greg Spero, Class of 2007

College is one of the most important developmental periods of a young man's life. For many of us, it is that time when we reach a fork in the road. One side leads down the path on which everyone else is walking. The safe path. The path that tells you that if you fit in and do what you're told, you'll be taken care of. Then there is the other side of the fork. The path untrodden, not smoothed over by the traffic of the rest of the world but full of trees and weeds and brush with no guarantee of what's at the other side. That is the path of struggle, and the path of greatness. When many of our friends were sleeping in and dawn and going to frat parties at night with the rest of the school, some of us were up at the crack of dawn to take the extra class and out in the lab or the practice room or the art studio until late at night.

For me, those late nights were spent in a small practice room, on a piano. And every day, I thank G-d that I took the latter path.

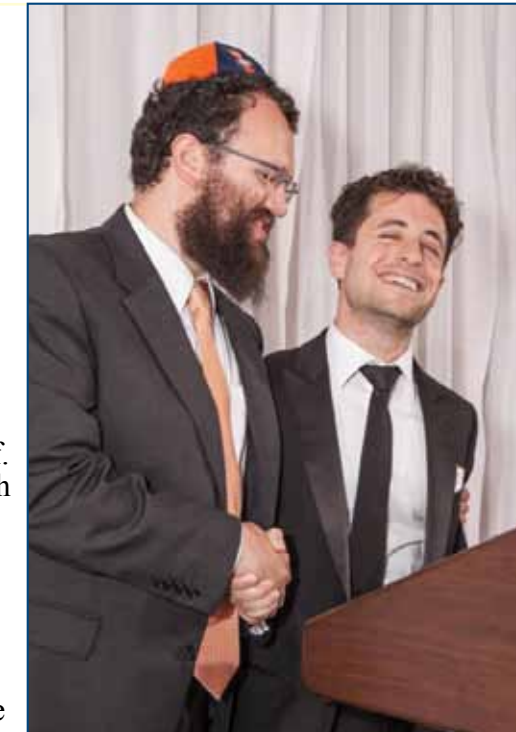
I asked myself the other day, why did I take that choice? Why did I sacrifice sleep, recreation and comfort to work for the sake of an art and a dream? There was something within me that made me want to be the best, but I question if that was enough to really execute. There was something outside of me that helped me tap into my dream. Something that helped show me the fantastic potential that was within and untapped, and someone who told me I would have a community of love and a family around me even if I took that risky path and tried for that which seemed impossible at the time.

There was something in my environment to rest a warm hand on my shoulder when I was tired and tell me I was doing alright. To invite me every friday night for a warm, home-cooked meal with a community of people who embraced me for who I was. And a man, who always recognized my achievements, encouraged me through my struggles, and offered me a family when, for the first time in my life, my family was hundreds of miles away.

This was Rabbi Dovid, and the Illini Chabad. I can say without doubt that a piece of who I am today belongs to the Chabad, for they gave me a home and a community that I couldn't have found anywhere else in my college experience.

Now, 10 years later, there are hundreds, probably thousands more college students like I once was, who are deciding between the two paths in life. With the support of the Jewish community, the Chabad continues to foster, develop, and give comfort to these outstanding Jewish youth as they begin their journey towards being great Jewish adults.

Now, 4 albums, 2 European tours, a Chicago Music Award for Best Jazz Entertainer, a placement on the Grammy ballot, and thousands of concerts later, I am happy to call the Chabad a home base for my Jewish identity and my a wellspring for my spirit. It is my sincere hope that the Chabad will receive all the support it needs to help youth find the greatness within themselves, and manifest that greatness to its highest potential for generations to come.



NEW Illini Chabad Chai Club

It is with tremendous excitement and joy that we announce the NEW Illini Chabad Chai Club.

For those of us who have attended meaningful holiday celebrations, enjoyed delicious Friday night dinners, study Torah or travel to Israel with the Rabbi on Birthright, our lives were deeply touched. Those experiences have become a part of us. The friendships we made and the knowledge that we had a Jewish "home away from home" are memories we will always cherish.

Because of our appreciation of Chabad, we want to ensure that others will have the same experiences. When we were students at University of Illinois, it never crossed our minds to wonder how Chabad was funded. While Chabad Houses are similar all over the world, each is independent and responsible for raising their own funds. So, in addition to the phenomenal various programs that Rabbi Dovid and Goldie arrange, they also are responsible to raise the \$700,000 annual budget necessary to run Chabad at University of Illinois.

We as alumni have the power and means to make a meaningful impact on the success of Chabad at University of Illinois. Joining the Chai Club means committing yourself to a recurring donation of only \$18 every month. \$18 is less than 2 movies a month, or three drinks in a bar! Imagine – if we reach 100 alumni who give \$18.00 a month, \$21,600 could be raised.

As you work your way up in the business or professional world, your financial support is important and critical to ensure the future success of Chabad at University of Illinois. Chabad touched your life; now help them make a difference in other Jewish students' lives as well.

Chabad at University of Illinois Alumni Chai Club provides an opportunity for us to stay in touch, share news through a bi-annual newsletter, and participate in reunions. We look forward to your participation in our Chabad alumni events.

May you find success and happiness wherever the road takes you, but remember that you have a home away from home at Chabad at University of Illinois!

To join, go to www.jewishillini.org/chai

Chai Club Leadership: David Elfman, Tyler Spitz, Max Dayan, Mimi Stender, Sam Besser, Illana Dress

We are a Resource for Parents

Your child is not feeling well? Well how would a hot bowl of chicken soup to his/her door feel? Just call Chabad or email rabi@illinois.edu for delivery.

Your child's birthday? We can make a special birthday shabbat dinner and cake for her/him.

Send a Holiday gift Basket to your child, Chanukah, Purim, Passover.

Illini Chabad Parent weekend.

On call 24/7 for emergencies.

Send a lox box to your child.

Guidance on many housing and University issues.

Here for your 24/7 on the ground, so you can feel comfortable knowing your child is being cared for.

Visiting? Call or Email us to set a time to meet in person.

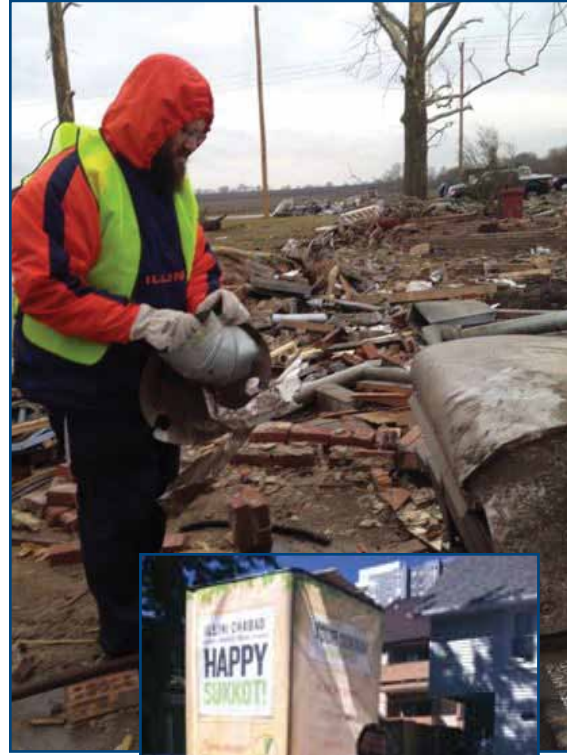
Mark Your Calendar! February 21, 2015
1st Annual Parents' Weekend at Illini Chabad

Illini Chabad in the East Central Illinois Communities

Rosh Hashanah - walk through the doors, and join a meaningful and inspirational service to start off the year in a good, strong way - continue on to Yom Kippur and the festive holiday of Sukkot and Simchat Torah. Chanukah on the University quad, special themed Purim celebration, Passover and more - each and every holiday is special and unique - strengthening our Judaism, for ourselves and for our families.

As a registered affiliate of the Jewish Learning Institute, three great courses are offered a year, each on a Jewish topic of interest. Explore, learn and discover, from a unique angle and perspective so many aspects of life.

And for the kids - join us in the summer for 3 weeks of summer fun as we laugh, play and integrate Jewish topics and themes!



Kosher Dogs, ...continued from cover

On Sunday, opening night for the basketball stand, student and volunteers worked hard to pull in customers during a sparsely attended game. The pitch, repeated over and over as potential customers wandered by: "Would you like to try the best all-beef hot dog at the State Farm Center?"



"They're excellent, just the taste of them," said Cory Coker, a policeman from nearby who works security at games. "They've got a good taste to them, good crispness, good stuff."

Ryan Baker, a Chicago sports broadcaster, said he heard about the hot dogs after Illini coach John Groce's wife, Allison, bought one.

"People have been raving about it ... she said these were the best at the State Farm Center," Baker said as he waited to give his dog a shot of mustard.

The University of Illinois has agreed to give the stand at least a one-year run. Jennifer Larson, the school's assistant athletic director for sales and marketing, said they want to see if the stand is profitable.

Few opening-night customers turned out to be part of the stand's target market — observant Jews. No surprise there, Tiechtel said.

"For many people a kosher dog is just a better dog," he said. "There are certain parts of the animal we don't use."

Tiechtel sees the kosher stand as an expression of Jewish life and culture. His brothers and sisters run Jewish student centers across the country and abroad — in Florida, Tennessee, Arizona, Germany and Kansas — and he says his parents taught them to search for ways to give to others.

As for the hot dog stand idea, that's from the Jayhawk fan in the family.

"I give him credit," Dovid Tiechtel said, "even though he's my younger brother."

The news of Illini Chabad kosher at the games was carried on all major networks and around the world.

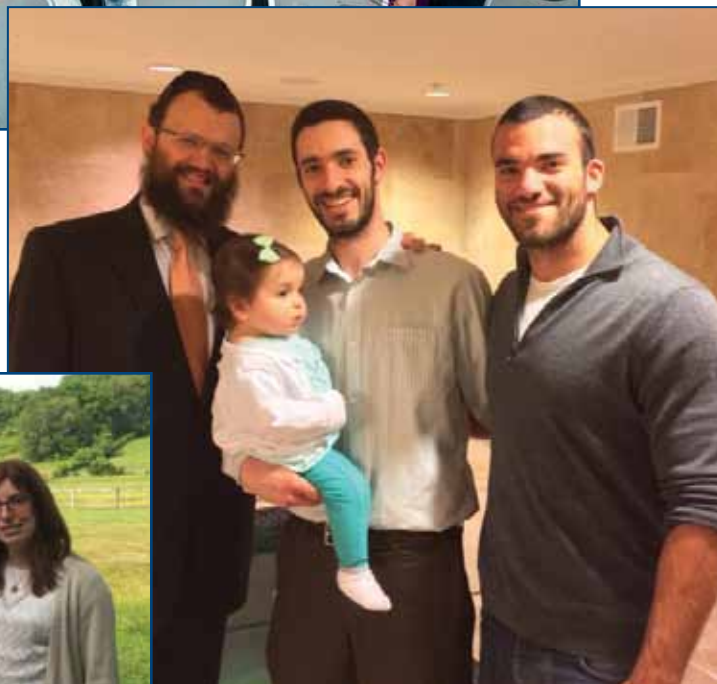


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