

# A Look Back At **YOUR IMPACT**



■ You are the heart  
of Jewish Life.

■ You Gave Parker  
a Bar Mitzvah

■ You Sparked  
Jewish Discovery

■ You Helped Bobby  
Reconnect

■ You Inspire  
Students to Grow

■ A Menorah  
That Inspired  
Stockton

# You Are the Heart of Jewish Life on Campus

Dear Friends,

Every week, students are discovering their heritage, building connections, and taking meaningful steps in their Jewish journey.

Bobby wasn't sure how to reconnect with his Judaism. Then he met Daniel, who welcomed him to Chabad. One Shabbat dinner led to Torah classes, tefillin, and a deep sense of belonging. Bobby's journey started with one invitation—but it continued because of your help.

Parker never had a bar mitzvah. Jewish experiences felt out of reach—until he met Chabad.

A tefillin-wrapping moment became a turning point. Now, he's at Shabbat dinner every week, embracing his identity. You helped make this happen.

Students are taking on the Mitzvah Challenge, committing to daily mitzvahs that bring meaning to their lives. A simple bowl of matzo ball soup sparked curiosity and connection. A student-built Menorah inspired an entire campus. The Pegisha Shabbaton showed students they are part of something much bigger than themselves.

Every story in this newsletter shares a common thread: your impact. Your support affects the whole campus—and it's changing the lives of these students.



As we move toward Spring and Passover, I invite you to stay part of this journey. Keep sharing, giving, and inspiring. Together, we are shaping a vibrant Jewish future.

**With deep gratitude,**

*Rabbi Meir & Shaina Rapoport*

## You Helped Bobby Reconnect With His Judaism

Bobby wasn't looking for Chabad. But when he saw Daniel, another student, wearing a yarmulke on campus, Bobby noticed. *"You're Jewish? I'd love to get more involved."* Without hesitation, Daniel invited him to Chabad.

That Friday night, Bobby walked into Chabad for Shabbos dinner. He had no idea what to expect. But from the first moment, he felt at home. The warmth, the laughter, the conversations—it all just clicked.

One Shabbos turned into many. Bobby started coming to campus tefillin sessions.

Then he joined a sushi-making event. From there, he signed up for Torah classes, including Pizza and Parsha.

And then he enrolled in Sinai Scholars, an eight-week deep dive into Judaism. Just two weeks in, he's already expressed how much this journey means to him. Each week he learns so much about who he is and where he comes from.

That's because of you. Your generosity makes these experiences possible. You give Jewish students a place to explore, belong, and grow. Without you, Bobby might have never had that moment of connection.



Thank you for giving him—and so many others—the opportunity to rediscover their Judaism.

# You Gave Parker His Bar Mitzvah

Two weeks ago, at the start of the semester, Chabad set up a table on campus, handing out cookies and welcoming students. Across the way, a fraternity had their own table. When asked if anyone was Jewish, all the fraternity brothers pointed to Parker.

"Yeah, but I've never really done anything Jewish," Parker admitted. He never had a bar mitzvah. His mom and grandmother are Jewish, but Jewish things were always too expensive. So, they just never happened.

Right then and there, we wrapped tefillin for the first time.

"This is kind of like your bar mitzvah," I told him. We sent a photo to his mom and grandmother, who were overjoyed to see Parker in tefillin for the first time.

Parker had never experienced Shabbat before, but he came that Friday night and loved it. On Monday, he sent us a message: "Is there Shabbat dinner again this week? I'd love to come."

And he did. Again and again. He also joined the weekly Torah class called Pizza & Parshah. Week after week, he kept showing up—learning, connecting, and finding meaning in his roots.



His mother and grandmother are overjoyed. They can't believe it. Parker finally has a connection to Judaism!

And it's all because of you. Your support gave Parker his bar mitzvah and so much more. His journey is just beginning—thanks to you.

# You Inspire Students to Grow in Their Judaism

The Mitzvah Challenge is when students commit to a mitzvah of their choice—Shema, tefillin, tzedakah, Torah study, kosher eating, or even just saying Modeh Ani in the morning. Forty days in a row earns them a spot on an exciting ski and snowboard trip.

Every day, they check in on a lively group chat, sharing their progress and cheering each other on. Students are doing mitzvahs—and they're feeling them. This is huge.

One student said, "I never realized how much these small actions would mean to me. Now, I can't imagine my day without them."

Another shared how wrapping tefillin daily has strengthened his connection to Judaism in a way he never expected.

This isn't just about a ski trip. It's about Jewish growth, commitment, and identity—things these students will carry with them for life.

Thank you for giving Joey—and students like him—the opportunity to discover what it means to be Jewish in spirit and action.

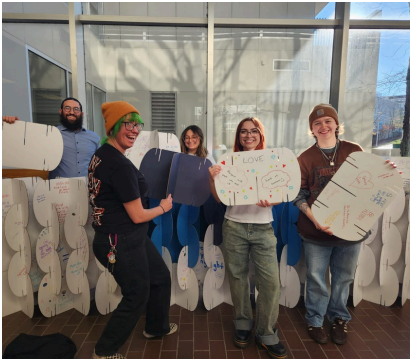
And you made it happen. In early March, they'll hit the slopes, celebrating **not just the thrill of the mountains, but the joy of a mitzvah-filled journey.**



Your support creates these moments. You're giving students the motivation, the challenge, and the community to grow.

Thank you for making this possible!

# You Built a Menorah That Inspired a Campus



This year, students at Stockton University built a giant Menorah made entirely of cardboard squares.

Before placing a square, students wrote down one way they would bring more light into the world. Acts of kindness, moments of gratitude, and commitments to spreading joy covered every inch of this towering Menorah.

We called it the Unite for Light Menorah—a symbol of how each person's goodness adds up to something bigger.

Students loved it. They had fun building it, laughing together, and feeling the pride of being Jewish on campus.

Even Stockton University's president, Joe Bertolino, joined in, adding his own square and showing support for Jewish life.

For the entire holiday, the Menorah stood proudly in the hallways. Students and faculty stopped to read the messages, take pictures, and feel inspired. Many told us how much it meant to see Chanukah so visibly celebrated—a powerful statement of Jewish pride and unity.



Thank you for adding your light to theirs.

Because of you, the world is a little brighter.

## Memorable Moments. Special Snapshots.



*Attending NYC Pegisha with thousands of Jewish college students, and adding our voice to the mural of why we love being Jewish!*



*The Sinai Scholars group, on an 8 week journey to explore Judaism, compete in a kosher scavenger while learning to identify the many kosher symbols!*



*Student leaders distribute matzo ball soup at the Chabad table, spreading Jewish warmth to our campus!*