

JewishAggies

APPRECIATION REPORT FALL 2023

JewishAggies.com



WHEN THE WORLD GETS DARK

- A REVOLUTION YOU CAN JOIN
- RESPONDING TO OCTOBER 7TH
- JEWISH AGGIE NACHAS
- A SEMESTER WITHOUT CHABAD

ONE OF THE TOUGHEST ONES YET



Undeniably, this semester has shown us who we really are and what we are made of. It started out as a fast paced, exciting semester with our welcome ChaBBQ and an incredible High Holidays. Then October 7th shocked us all. We looked inwards and remembered; WE ARE LIGHT. We gathered together in unity and solidarity and prayer, we united marching peacefully on campus with prayers and acts of goodness and kindness. Students requested Mezuzahs for their rooms. Our students banded together and started a daily morning minyan. More Shabbat candles were lit and more Jewish Aggies got connected together in support and friendship. The Jewish Aggie Family is resilient, strong and proud. Thanks to YOUR continued support, there is MORE Jewish unity and pride on campus! **AM YISRAEL CHAI!**

- Rabbi Yossi & Manya

WHEN THE WORLD FEELS DARK - YOU BRING THEM LIGHT



Hear from our students in their own voice what your support means to Jewish Aggies during these trying times on campus - Thank You!

This semester, seeing and hearing about the worldwide increase in antisemitism has been extremely scary. Antisemitic hatred on college campuses has been especially worrying. YOU have given us a place of great support. Everyone shares an experience and emotions, and we are able to uplift and find strength in each other. Through increasing Jewish acts and learning at Chabad, I have felt that I'm doing my part in countering antisemitism.

- Michal Epstein '26

As a college student during this time, it has been undeniably difficult. Thankfully, YOU have shown us tremendous love and support. Providing us so much needed comfort at this time. With Chabad, there is a safe place to go, people to speak to, and relate with. Our Chabad has helped us donate and do mitzvot for those in Israel as well as help keep the students educated on what is going on. On behalf of all the Jewish Aggies, we are immensely grateful to YOU for such an amazing, supportive, safe feeling community.

- Taylor Wexler '24

Thank you to community partnership from the Houston and Dallas Jewish Federations



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Candle Lighting



Support Israel March



Tefillin for Israel



IDF Support Letters

I WOULD NOT HAVE MADE IT THROUGH THIS SEMESTER

I grew up completely secular in Israel knowing I am Jewish, and that was it. I never baked a Challah or lit a Shabbat candle. **Being Jewish was just a detail, like my eye color or hair color.**

On such a HUGE campus **I felt lonely**- when I first came to Chabad, I was nervous. I was expecting to be told I was not enough. I was greeted warmly by a Zinbarg Intern, Hindy. She looked at me warmly with honesty and authenticity and said - "We are all the same, a Jew is a Jew." It stuck with me.

I have learned that MY Jewish story is mine. My idea of what it means to be Jewish allowed me to discover parts of me that I never knew were there, including deep self acceptance. Who I am, how I was born and what I am doing in the world. I realized my Jewish identity is ME, it matters. Being around a warm loving community, the Lazaroffs and educational opportunities like **Sinai Scholars** and **JewishU** reinforce that.

Recently, I had an aha moment, I realized I have a strong Jewish network. **I made real friends** with whom I study with, eat with, who understand me. With the climate on campus now its essential to be surrounded by people who just GET ME. You make sure that students just like me have a warm nourishing meal weekly, a time to connect with people, no distractions - just real, deep connections.

Being from Israel, the war has been emotionally rough. **I would not have made it through the semester without Chabad.** Watching the hate and the world turn their back on us was immobilizing. Knowing I have Chabad and my community has given me strength and security.

For young Jews like me Chabad means connection, community, identity, and strength at a time where we need it so desperately.

- Dana Vaise '24



"My idea of what it means to be Jewish has allowed me to discover parts of me that I never knew were there, including deep self acceptance".



Leah Ciotti



Samuel Davis



Simcha Fishman



Ezra Henderson



Elora Filler



Clayton Atkinson



Jonah Lazar



Zachary Fleming



Abrie Wise



Elimelech Lazaroff



JEWISHAGGIES



CHANUKAH ROUNDUP

The rise of antisemitism, finals and Chanukah is a rough combination and YOU gave students a warm, loving, and welcoming embrace.



Mitzvot on Campus



Texas A&M Campus Menorah



Menorah Light



Jewish Unity on Campus



Menorah Crafts



Home Away from Home

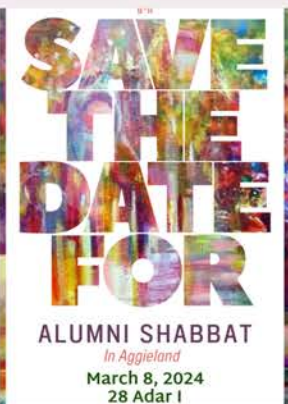


President Mark Welsh

A REVOLUTION YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN



I joined Chabad in 2007 during the winter between semesters. Initially drawn by the promise of Chabad kosher food. **I found a welcoming community that became my home away from home.** Meeting Jewish Aggies we formed a tight-knit Shabbat family, participating in activities like the kosher cooking club and Shabbos club with matching pajamas. During the challenges of college, **Chabad provided the support and love I needed,** making it a constant in a period of significant change.



Throughout college, I maintained strong relationships with Rabbi and Manya, who were always accepting and supportive. Even during tough times, they visited me in Houston, and I visited them. **The stability Chabad offered became a crucial anchor during the ups and downs of college and beyond.** Grateful for the fellowship, delicious dinners, and a place to connect with G-d on Shabbat, I consider Chabad a beacon of love, compassion, and stability.

To pay it forward, I contribute to Chabad, wanting current Aggies to experience the same warmth and care. Recognizing the importance of giving back, I want to provide current and future students with the opportunities and experiences that enriched my college years.



Now, to unite the Aggie family, I started the Jewish Aggie Alumni network. We are organizing events in different cities. **In these challenging times, it's crucial to reinforce our Jewish identity and strengthen our community.** By reconnecting with Jewish Aggies through events and alumni Shabbats. The goal is to rebuild relationships, support future generations, and carry on the Chabad mission of fostering connections to G-d, others, and oneself. The First alumni Shabbat serves as an annual objective to bring people together, while local events aim to rekindle old friendships and reconnect with Chabad's mission to support future students.

- Ryan Coane '11



JEWISHAGGIES Alumni Chai Club

