

2020 Winter Appreciation Report

# CHABAD AT UT

## JEWISH LONGHORNS



JEWISH STUDENT CENTER @ UT

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# You Support Our Students Physically and Spiritually

In this unique time, although we can't all be "first responders" in the usual sense of the word, we are all in this together and can each help in our own way.

Here at Chabad at UT and the Jewish Longhorn Nation, you are supporting students physically and spiritually, keeping students engaged in their Jewish identity and keeping the community together.

With some creative adjustments to the way we interact, your support has continued to engage



students in a full roster of activities: weekly Shabbat-to-Go packages; in-person Shabbat luncheons; Pink Shabbat to raise breast cancer awareness; a Freshmen Connect pizza-making session; outdoor High Holiday services at Chabad and at the new Otis Hotel; counseling; one-on-one learning, Challah Bake and so much more!

You have kept our students positive and involved! Thank you so much for your ongoing friendship and support! Wishing you a wonderful year ahead, with health and happiness for all.

Hook Em,

*Rabbi Zev and Ariela*

## You Led Me to Meet My Wife

By Nathan Baum, UT School of Law '12  
Senior Associate, Norton Rose Fulbright, Dallas

When I was in law school at UT, Chabad gave me a sense of direction. It offered a safe place to worship with mentors and friends. I enjoyed the family atmosphere and the opportunity to reconnect with my Judaism on a more frequent basis.

It was my pleasure to attend Pizza and Parsha and even to present at some of the sessions myself.

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Nathan was named Outstanding Lawyer Under 40, Attorney Division, by the Cardozo Society of the Jewish Federation in 2018.

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One day when my buddy Frankie and I were in the Sukkah at UT "schmoozing" with Rabbi Zev, Frankie and I made resolutions to marry Jewish women and raise Jewish families, sealing the pledge with a hearty l'chayim!

Sure enough, my participation in Chabad at UT led me to the next step in the journey - getting involved in Intown Chabad in Dallas - where I

ultimately met my wife, Rachael Rosen. And Frankie was my best man!

Thankfully we are blessed with a beautiful Jewish family!



**Nathan, Rachael, Riley and Blake Baum**

# You Gave Me My Own Judaism

by Morgan Chapman, '19

Social media strategist, AT&T, Dallas

While I easily brought my Jewish practices from home to college, like Shabbat dinner, High Holiday services, and interacting with other young Jews, I learned something new at Chabad: I can always ask WHY. No question was off limits!

Judaism became less about doing things because my parents did and more about why it was MY religion, and how I wanted to practice in the future. It became something in me morally that I could expand upon because I could ask Zev and Ariela questions.

Chabad is like a big family. I always feel like home when I walk through their doors. Not being able to do that in person during COVID has been incredibly difficult, but knowing I can always say the Shema, and Modeh Ani when I wake up, keeps me close spiritually, if not physically.



**Lunch and Learn with Ariela.**  
L-R: Nikki Shiner, Arden Frank, Morgan Chapman, Elana Loftspring

Thanks to you, I have brought traditions into my own home, like making challah and having Shabbat dinner every week. Lighting Shabbat candles and staying in touch spiritually even while things get dark during COVID has been huge. Once COVID is over, I plan to host big Shabbat dinners in my apartment!

*Morgan was honored by the Dallas Jewish Community Foundation as an Unsung Hero for her work on behalf of breast cancer awareness. As a key member of the Chabad student board, Morgan spearheaded the annual Pink Shabbat (in memory of Margot Rosenberg Pulitzer), which was a great success. She also strengthened the connection between Chabad and AEPhi, the Jewish sorority, getting them involved in helping educate students about breast cancer, in partnership with the organization Sharsheret.*

# You Fostered Emotional Wellness for Students

The world's challenging climate under lockdown has sparked a sharp increase in mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and suicidal behavior. Many people—especially teens and young adults—are at a loss, wondering how they can help their friends and themselves during these trying times.

To combat this crisis, Chabad Student Center offered a free, evidence-based suicide prevention and mental health awareness workshop, "If You See Something, Say



Something: A Suicide Alert Workshop During Covid-19." The workshop, offered free of charge on Zoom in October, was co-sponsored by the Gelt Charitable Foundation.

In the workshop, Mrs. Leigh Ioffe, a certified safeTALK trainer and mental health advocate, gave participants hands-on tools, knowledge, and awareness to assist persons who may struggle with thoughts of suicide during this unprecedented crisis.

Through his important program, you gave our students life-changing skills to create a safer, healthier community.

# You Gave Me a Sanctuary

By Danny Robinson, '19,

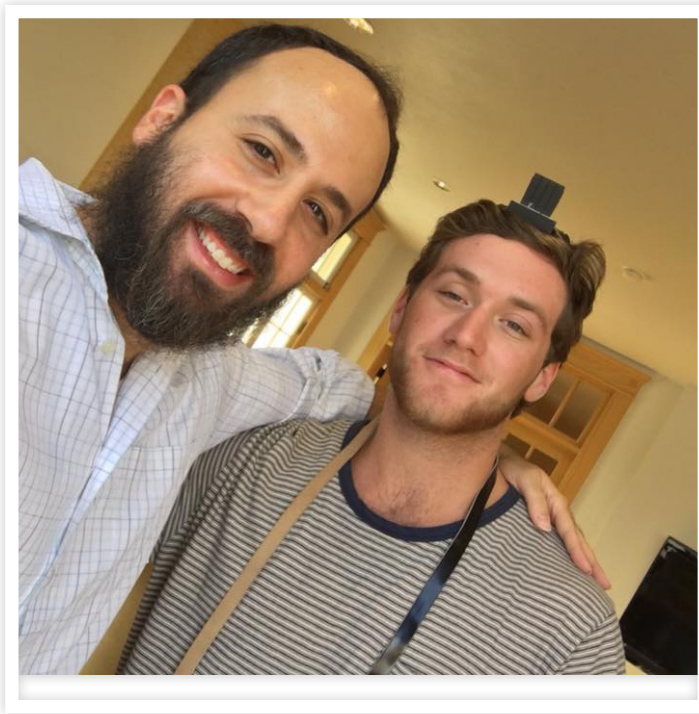
Second year law student, University of Miami School of Law

Coming from a family of Holocaust survivors, Judaism has always been central to my identity. My great-grandfather, Sam, used to say, "If you don't know where you're from, you don't know where you're going."

Growing up, we practiced mitzvot, observed Shabbat at "Mommom's" house, and fasted on Yom Kippur. Whenever I'd ask my mom, "Why?" she'd say the same thing, "Because it's what we do."

It's not so much "what" we choose but "why" we choose to do it. I practice mitzvot because my great-grandparents chose to practice mitzvot, despite being viciously persecuted by the Nazi regime. Because of them, today we get to choose "why."

The Chabad house at UT is paradigmatic of the "why" that young, American Jews have the privilege of choosing today. Chabad at UT is a sanctuary—a



place to feel at home and connected with one's faith.

I retreated to Chabad when I no longer "knew where I was going." Zev was a father to me when I needed one, a brother, a friend, a spiritual guide, a rabbi, and everything in between. Arielle's matzo ball soup is the closest I've found to my Mommom's.

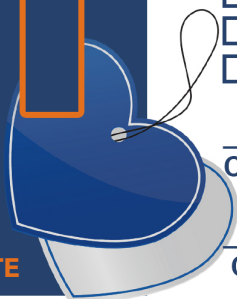
Chabad at UT ignited the Jewish flame within me, for the first time on my own accord. Chabad at UT was my spiritual compass always there for me, with open arms and a warm bowl of matzo ball soup.

Your donation means more than a new siddur or a place to observe holidays. It provides a sanctuary for young Jews to feel connected with their ancestors, their faith, and themselves. It means the carrying forward of traditions that have defined hundreds of generations of Jews and will come to define hundreds more.

# BEQUEST LEGACY

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