



JEWISH GOPHER

report

TAKE A LOOK AT THE IMPACT YOU'VE MADE



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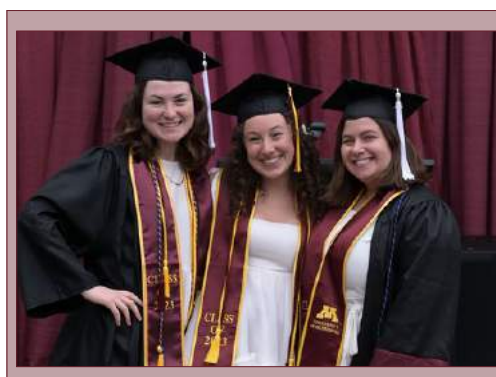
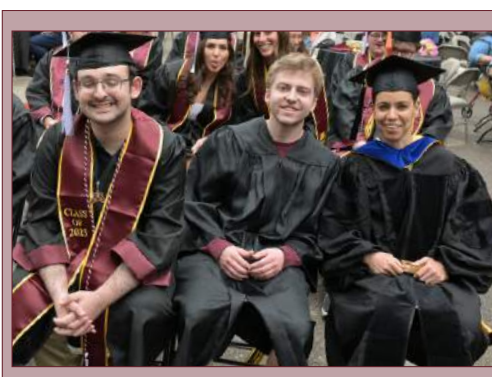
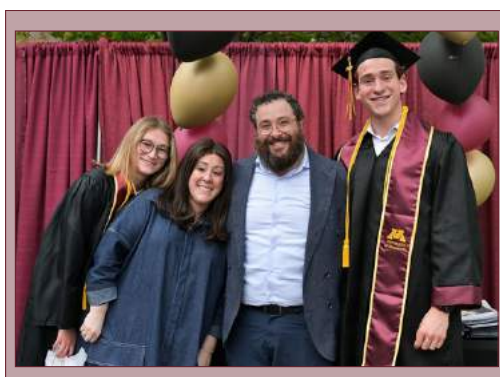
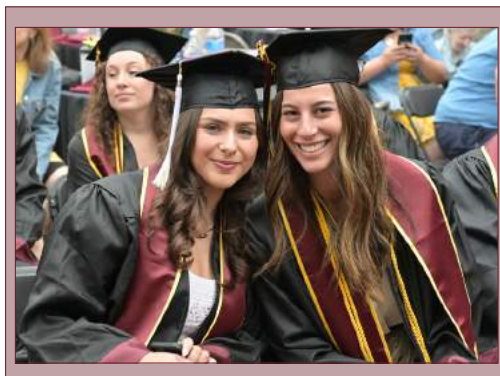


HALLE WASSERMAN ('26)

It's difficult to top going to Jewish Summer camp in LA, but Hallie has truly found her home away from home in our chilly Chabad House at the U. Hallie grew up in a Jewishly involved household. At camp she was a star camper and counselor, and a star in youth group as well. Now that she has entered the college world, she keeps her Jewish identity alive by attending Sinai Scholars, Shabbat, and our events at Chabad. She highlights the amazing friends and memories that she has made. Chabad is a very "community and family oriented place - it's like what I grew up with. It's very home-like. To top it off, staying involved with Shabbat dinners helps with my Jewish identity." It's no wonder that Family Shabbat struck a chord in her heart. "It expanded the Jewish community. I saw people I don't normally see, and it was special to see and meet my friends' families." Hallie had the "unfortunate" fortune to be the recipient of our delicious hot-matzo-ball-soup-for-students-under-the-weather and recalls how Rabbi Yitzi delivered it during Chanukah - soup in one hand, Chanukah donut in the other. How comforting to know someone is always there for the Jewish students sick in their dorms.

Jewish Gopher Graduation

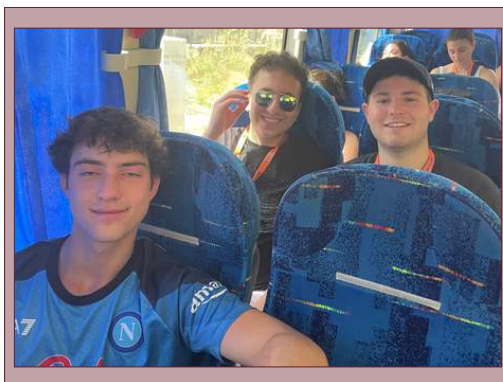
We enjoyed a special, intimate ceremony celebrating the accomplishments of the Jewish Gophers. It was filled with inspirational speeches, heart warming remarks, and friends and family from near and far.



I am so thankful that Chabad put on such a lovely graduation for the class of 2023 and for our families. It was truly an amazing experience graduating with the people we spend every Friday night with. I'll cherish the memories and friendships made here.
-Valerie ('23), Co-President

Whenever I needed a home, a meal, or a community. Chavi and Yitzi were always there. Throughout my time at UMN I always looked forward to shabbat dinners, board meetings, and getting to spend time with Chavi and Yitzi. Without Chabad my college experience would have been drastically different, and I don't believe I'd be the same person I am today without Chabad. Graduation at Chabad was the highlight of my entire graduation weekend. It was such a meaningful intimate ceremony to be able to celebrate all of us graduating. I know as I continue on my upcoming adventures, Chavi and Yitzi will always be there for me. Thank you to Chabad for providing a welcoming community where the answer was always, "Yes, and let's make it happen!"
-Mia ('23), Board Member

Birthright Israel



From the moment we met up at the airport, it was constant smiles and laughter.
-Jackson

I really believe this trip has changed my life.
-Gabriella

Thank you so much for making my Israel experience one for the ages.
-Isaac

It was very special to me to go to Israel with my Chabad Rabbi.
-Adam

Not everyone sees themselves devoting their life to enhancing the Jewish pride of our nation, but Jennifer, due to her involvement in singing, found herself as a key component in the northern suburbs of Chicago as a Cantor. Going to school in Irvine, Cantor Jennifer wasn't surrounded by many Jews. There was almost no Jewish presence on campus, but the 1.5 hour commute home for the High Holidays was worth it. She had to fight for who she was as a Jewish student, ensuring her schedule worked around the holidays - missing Rosh Hashanah even during the beginning weeks of the semester never crossed her mind. Her fight for her Jewish identity was emphasized in raising her family. Her daughter Lyla ('26) is "very blessed to know what it means to be a Jew and is involved in Jewish life on campus and considers Jewish experiences to be very special. Even more so, finding welcoming arms on campus is a beautiful thing to be able to do." One piece of advice: "Be proud of who you are as a Jew and stand up for what you believe in. College students have what to say and should own it, live it, be it, and be proud of it! I'm sitting in Deerfield and I get to live my values. Judaism informs our decisions. We need to wrestle with our Judaism and ask questions and that allows us to grow. Judaism requires you to use your mind - to have your head and heart connected. Wrestle and study and question!"

PARENT SPOTLIGHT



CANTOR JENNIFER FROST

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

MAGGIE ('14)

As a student on campus, I always attended Kosher Cooking Club on Thursdays. I loved participating in Shabbat meal preparation and I especially appreciated the chance to learn Chavi's delicious recipes. The best part was that I developed a very close and deep connection with Chavi. One week, she invited me to come on a Wednesday, the day she makes the challah. I'd never baked challah in my life and it was such a beautiful and spiritual experience. I came again the next week and the week after that. Wednesdays soon became the highlight of my week. I enjoyed the meditative experience of kneading the dough while having deep, meaningful conversations with Chavi where we explored topics spanning Judaism, relationships, life and purpose.

After graduation, I knew I wanted to maintain this meaningful ritual. I ended up starting my own business called "Challah by Maggie". Using Chavi's recipe, I make and sell challahs every week to spread the warmth of Shabbat around my community. If it weren't for Chavi, I would have never discovered this passion of mine.

MAZAL TOVS!

Benny ('16) & Megan Amnuel on the birth of their son, Ezra Joseph!

Gary ('15) & Shoshana Barannikov on the birth of their daughter, Nora. Mazal Tov to big brother Ozzi!

Eddie ('16) & Natalie Gluzman on the birth of their daughter, Julia (Gigi)!

Stephanie ('16) & Alexander Iskhakov on the birth of their son, Yosef Abba. Mazal Tov to big sister Navah!

David ('20) & Daniella Koyrakh on the birth of their daughter, Mussia!

Eliyahu ('16) & Ayla Gilbert Burke on the birth of their twins, Elchanon and Nesya! Mazal tov to big brother Moshe and big sister Esther Chaya!



Ezra Joseph



Nora



Yosef Abba



Mussia



Nesya & Elchanon

We couldn't do it without you!



*With Love,
The Steiners*

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