



AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

THE ROHR CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDENT LIFE



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An Olympian Deepens His Jewish Identity at Chabad

*"I couldn't be more proud to represent Israel during the war."*



# From ROME to HOME

*Justin Kadet's International Journey with Chabad*

For Justin Kadet, a student at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, staying connected to his Jewish identity throughout college has been a top priority. Originally from Hopkins, MN, and pursuing a major in Management Information Systems, Justin knew from the beginning that he wanted his Jewish involvement to continue in college. That's what led him to Chabad.

"I've been part of the Jewish community my entire life, and I didn't want that to end when I came to campus," he shares.

Justin's Friday nights at Chabad are a meaningful constant in his busy college life. "I show up for Shabbat at 7 p.m., say hi to Yitzi and Chavi, and sit down with my friends for the meal," he says. "It's a routine that keeps me grounded. What's special about it is that no one's coming because they have to, we're all there because we want to be. That gives it a different kind of energy and connection."

Through his involvement with Chabad, Justin has gained a deeper appreciation for Judaism and the strength of the Jewish community, something that became even more apparent during a recent semester abroad.

Studying in a small town called Pieve Del Grappa in northern Italy through the CIMBA program, Justin found himself far from any established Jewish presence, but that didn't stop him from seeking it out. Near the end of the semester, he and a friend

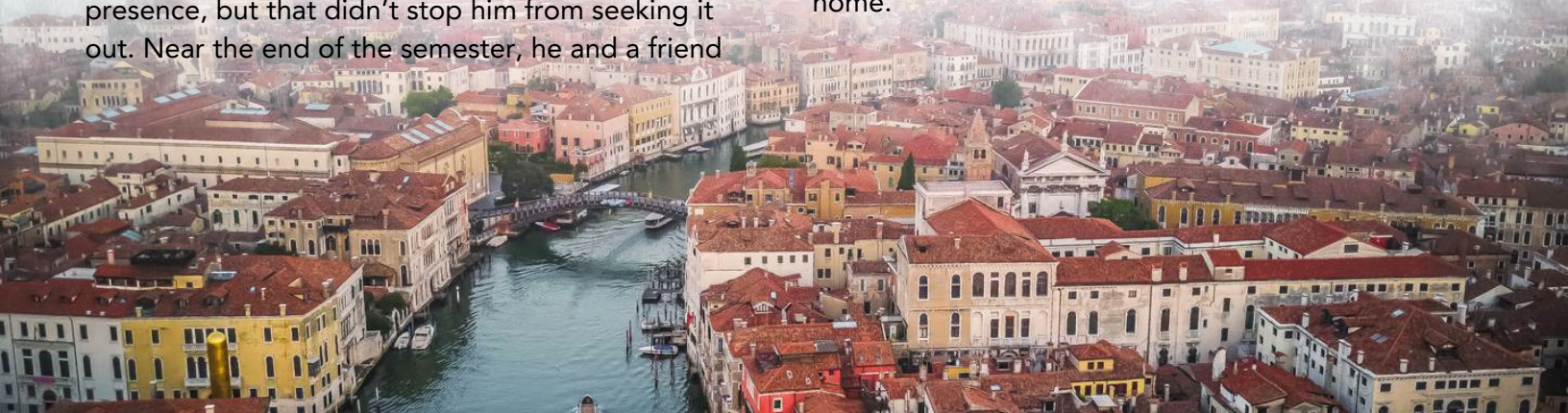
traveled to Venice and spent the second night of Passover with the Jewish community at Chabad of Venice.

"Walking into the historic Jewish ghetto of Venice was powerful, and I was nervous at first," Justin recalls. "But the community was incredibly welcoming. Even though most people didn't speak English, we connected through shared prayers and the little Hebrew we knew."

The Seder itself was unlike anything he had experienced before. "Each table went at their own pace, so the room was filled with movement, sound, and celebration," he says.

**"What struck me most was how familiar it all felt. Even in a place so far from Minneapolis, the traditions were the same. It made me realize just how strong and unifying Jewish practice can be."**

Now back on campus, Justin reminds fellow students, especially those new to college or studying abroad, to seek out Jewish life wherever they are. "Chabad is a place where you'll be welcomed, even if you don't know anyone yet," he says. "Yitzi and Chavi will make sure you're introduced and feel at home."





# CHABAD'S LITTLE-KNOWN MENTAL HEALTH LIFELINE

## *Inside the Caring Partners in Emotional Wellness Program*

At Chabad, our mission has always been to care for the whole student: mind, body, and soul. Day and night, Chavi and Rabbi Yitzi are here to support students through life's challenges, offering a listening ear, heartfelt guidance, and a warm space to feel seen and supported.

But sometimes, students need more.

While the University offers counselling services, many of our students have concerns about utilizing those resources, particularly since October 7, as the campus climate has become increasingly hostile toward Jewish students.

That's why we're so grateful for our ongoing partnership with Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) through the Caring Partners in Emotional Wellness (CPIEW) program. This essential initiative ensures that students who need professional mental health care can access it easily, safely, and at no cost to them.

**This collaboration between Chabad and JFCS ensures that students can access high-quality therapy that is both culturally sensitive and financially accessible.**

Through the program, students are anonymously matched with a JFCS therapist, allowing them to receive support in a way that feels safe, private, and tailored to their needs. In turn, Chabad covers the full cost of therapy beyond what insurance pays, removing a significant barrier to care.

The Caring Partners program provides a crucial alternative. It ensures that students are not left to navigate their struggles alone and that they can receive care from therapists who understand and respect their identity.

We're proud to be part of this ongoing effort to decrease barriers to mental health counselling and ensure that our students are supported in every way. The health and resilience of our students remain at the heart of all we do.



*\*CPIEW is funded in part through a grant from the Mount Sinai Community Foundation*





# Making Waves

An Olympian Deepens His  
Jewish Identity at Chabad

For Bar Soloveychik, a standout Israeli student-athlete, college was more than just a place of academic and athletic growth. It became a pivotal chapter in deepening his Jewish identity and sense of community.

"I found out about Chabad late into my college career," Bar recalls. "I spoke with someone in one of my classes, and they told me about it. After being in the United States for a few years, I was really looking for a sense of community, so I was excited to check it out."

That introduction to Chabad on campus became a turning point. For Bar, it offered a spiritual anchor in the midst of the rigorous demands of student life.

**"Chabad helped me remember that there is always a community behind me and that I'll never be alone,"**

he says. "It also made me realize that I should be proud to be Jewish."

Among the many events hosted by Chabad, it was the weekly Shabbat dinners that stood out most. **"I really liked the Shabbat dinners because they were at the end of the week, it was a good way to unwind and go into the weekend with peace and intention,"** Bar reflects.

**This sense of belonging and identity carried with him far beyond the campus.**



**"As an Olympic athlete representing Israel on a global stage, Bar found himself navigating not just the pressures of competition, but also the complexities of international politics and anti-Israel sentiment.**

"I couldn't be more proud to represent Israel during the war," he shares. "I always felt a sense of achievement by doing so. On the other hand, it was a bit scary, there was a lot of hate toward us. I had moments where other teams from other countries would spit on us."

Despite these painful experiences, Bar considers that time one of the most meaningful of his life. "It was the period when I was most proud to be Jewish and Israeli," he says.

One of the most defining moments came when Bar

reached the Olympic final. "Representing Israel on that level, with the Israeli flag on my uniform—that was incredibly powerful," he says. "It's something I'll carry with me forever."

Even during the Olympics, Bar remained committed to observing Jewish traditions. "Every Friday, we would do Kiddush," he says, describing a quiet but deeply personal ritual that helped him stay grounded in his faith.

Reflecting on the unique blend of his academic, athletic, and spiritual journeys, Bar shares a message rooted in unity and resilience. "I learned that you always have someone who will support you, as long as you're Jewish."

Bar's journey is a powerful testament to the strength of Jewish identity, the importance of community, and the pride of representing one's heritage to the world.



# SAFETY FIRST

*How the Minneapolis  
Community United to  
Protect Jewish Students  
on Campus*



With antisemitic incidents on college campuses continuing to rise, ensuring the safety of Jewish students has become an urgent priority. At the University of Minnesota, Chabad has responded by launching a major security upgrade to safeguard its building and grounds, and to ensure students feel safe and protected as they engage in Jewish life.

This initiative focuses exclusively on fortifying the Chabad property. Key security enhancements will include a perimeter fence to deter unauthorized access, expanded surveillance coverage, including security cameras at key entry points, as well as other protective measures.



**These upgrades are essential because the Chabad building is both a refuge and a symbol of Jewish pride.**

Students rely on it as a safe haven, especially during times of unrest and uncertainty. Strengthening its security is not just about protecting a building; it's about protecting the students, community, and identity it represents.

**We are proud to share that the full \$300,000 funding goal for this phase has been met.**

A \$150,000 government grant laid the foundation, with additional critical support from a nearly \$25,000 grant from the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and almost 60

generous contributions from private donors. This success would not have been possible without the leadership of community member Steve Schachtman, who spearheaded the fundraising effort. Steve's dedication and outreach were pivotal in rallying the community and ensuring this urgent need was met with swift and meaningful action.

Thanks to this outpouring of support, we are now moving into the implementation phase. Plans have been submitted to the city, and we are preparing to begin construction in the coming months.

Our deepest thanks to all who helped make this happen. Their support ensures that Chabad can continue to serve as a safe and welcoming home for Jewish students at the University of Minnesota.





# MEASURING THE IMMEASURABLE

## *Defining Success*

### *A Student Reflects on Chabad's Lasting Impact*

**While college only lasts four years, the relationships we build last a lifetime.**

**The transient rhythm of campus life means we're always welcoming new students and eventually saying goodbye, but we do so with the hope and confidence that our connection continues far beyond graduation.**

**We cherish the opportunity to be part of their lives now and for years to come.**

Dear Yitzi,

When I was a Freshman, our first meeting was at the Caribou on Washington Ave. I remember asking about what your goals are as a Chabad Rabbi. You told me that one of your top priorities is to form meaningful and lasting connections with people. Looking back at the last 4 years of my college experience, I think we have done just that. You have been a friend and an important mentor in my life. **Before college, I was never close with a spiritual leader, and I felt an imposter syndrome with my Judaism.** I didn't understand it because I knew very little about it and knew very few other Jews. You have helped me navigate and overcome that.

I have deeply enjoyed all of our discussions, arguments, disagreements, and agreements. Although Yom Kippur is a long way off, in the spirit of it, I'd like to apologize for any times that I have ever offended you, or wronged you in any way.

**You have opened my eyes to seeing the world in another light.** I respect the strong values, good morals, kindness and level-headedness that you exude. You live life in an admirable way.

I'll be leaving soon and probably not coming back for a long time. I'm writing this letter to not only thank you for your guidance and advice, but to thank you for your friendship over the years. You have become an important person in my life, and I'd like to keep in touch.

I wish you all the best for you, your family, Chabad, and all of your future endeavors.

Fondly,  
A grateful Jewish Gopher

# PILLARS



## SHABBAT & HOLIDAYS

Weekly Shabbat dinners and vibrant holiday celebrations provide students with a sense of home, tradition, and community, offering meaningful Jewish experiences throughout the year.



## LEADERSHIP

Student-led programming and leadership training equip students with the tools, confidence, and experience to become active leaders on campus and in the Jewish community.



## JEWISH LEARNING

Engaging classes and one-on-one study opportunities empower students to explore their heritage, ask big questions, and deepen their Jewish knowledge and identity.

## STUDENT SNAPSHOT

455



UNIQUE STUDENTS ENGAGED  
IN THE 24/25 SCHOOL YEAR

26%



PERCENT OF STUDENTS ENGAGED  
NEVER ATTENDED HEBREW SCHOOL,  
JEWISH DAY SCHOOL OR A JEWISH  
CAMP

399



GROUP TORAH CLASSES

172



TEFILLIN

3087



SHABBAT & HOLIDAY MEALS

103



ONE-ON-ONE TORAH  
SESSIONS

528



HOLIDAY PROGRAMS &  
SERVICES

74



PERSONAL GUIDANCE &  
COUNSELING SESSIONS



# OF CHABAD



## HOME AWAY FROM HOME

With 24/7 access to guidance, emotional support, and counseling, Chabad is a dependable source of care, helping students navigate personal, academic, and spiritual challenges.



## SAFETY & ADVOCACY

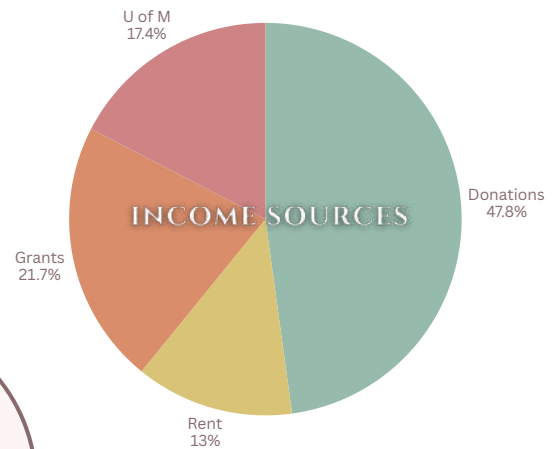
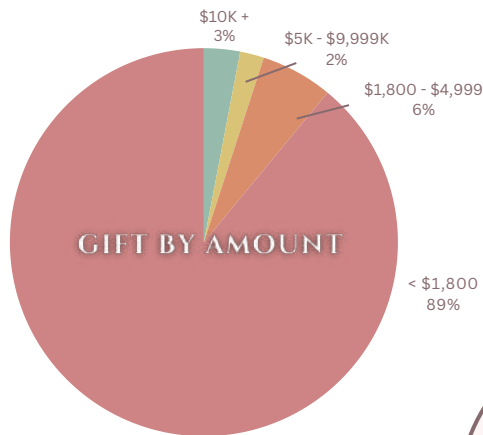
Through proactive education and collaboration with campus leadership, Chabad promotes safety, awareness, and a strong response to antisemitism, ensuring Jewish students feel protected and heard.



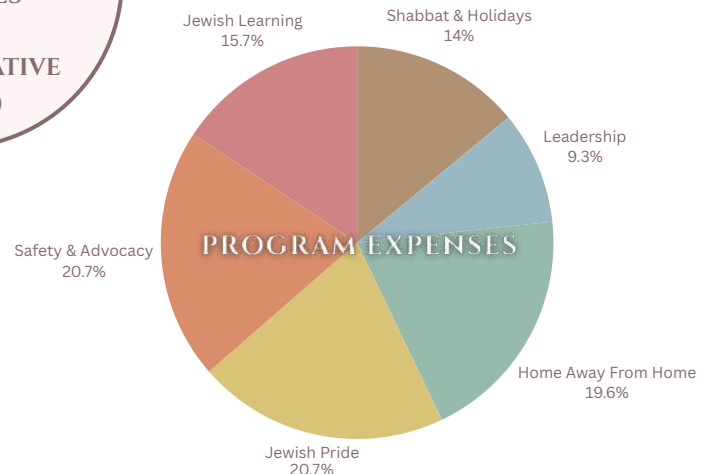
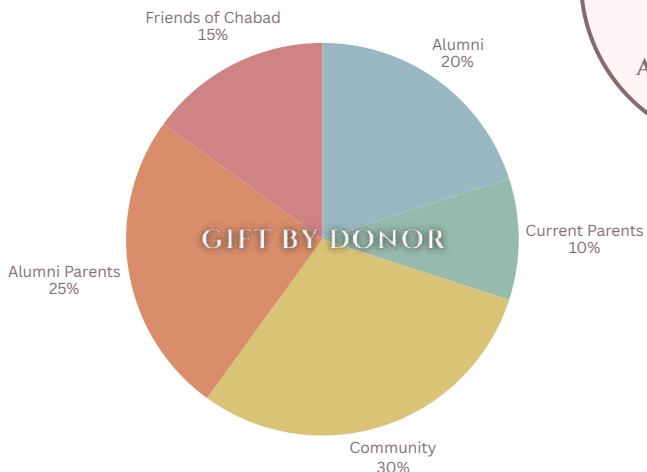
## JEWISH PRIDE

From social events to the only kosher restaurant on campus, Chabad fosters a joyful, visible Jewish presence, encouraging students to celebrate who they are with pride and confidence.

# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



**ANNUAL BUDGET:**  
**PROGRAMMING**  
 \$253,500  
**FACILITIES**  
 \$138,000  
**ADMINISTRATIVE**  
 \$428,000



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Robert and Susan Yost  
Rebecca and Alexander Yuzefovich  
Howard and Kathy Zack\*\*  
Avi-Natan and Jenna Zadaka\*  
Amy and David Zaroff  
Albert and Tamara Zayden  
Sophie and Zalman Schwartz\*  
Zach and Jennifer Zeidler  
Ilan and Jenny Zeroni  
Alan and Bonnie Ziskin  
Danny and Dawn Zouber  
Howard and Heather Zouber  
Jack Zouber  
Anthony and Chana Zucker  
Barb Zweigbaum  
Jake Zweigbaum  
Michael and Elly Zweigbaum



# L'Chaim TO LIFE!

Mazal Tov! Take a look at the recent simchas and life-cycle milestones celebrated by our extended Chabad family.

## *Births:*

Naomi Yaara, born to Benny ('16) and Megan Amnuel  
Elisha, born to Stephanie ('16) and Alex Iskhakov  
Liam Yonah, born to Esteban ('20) and Gabriela Jait  
Sloane Jolie, born to Jake ('16) and Alaina Kaganovich  
Sholom Dov Ber, born to David ('20) and Daniella Koyrakh  
Meira Ahava, born to Sophie ('18) and Zalman Schwartz  
Bettie Roz, born to Sarah ('15) and Zachary Spellman

## *Engagements:*

Val Merman ('23) to Amit Kadosh  
Dylan Motto ('19) to Shifra Zuckerman  
Tal Schub ('20) to Chaya Greisman

## *Wedding:*

Gabriella Sonnenschein ('20) to Kesem Fine



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