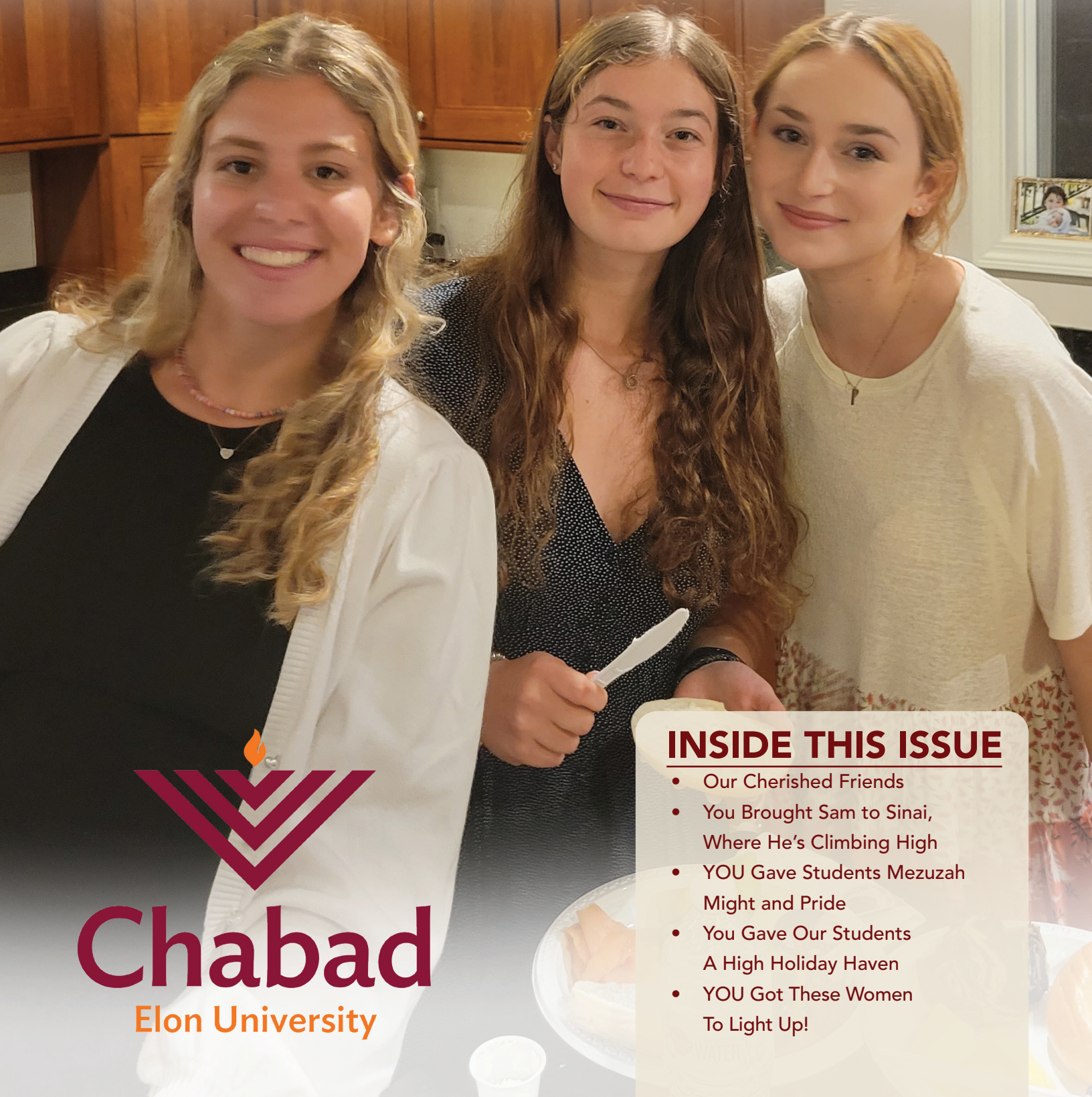


SOULSTRINGS

CHABAD ELON



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Our Cherished Friends

People think we are the ones inspiring the students. But they've got it all wrong.

We draw so much strength from them.

And from you.

They have every reason to lay low and stay away.

The pandemic making everyone edgy,

almost encouraging people to detach from each other and isolate.

An uptick in antisemitism. Students might just decide to minimize their Jewish contacts.

But no, in spite of these challenges, our students keep coming back for more. The numbers who join our programs are rising. More coming to Shabbat, more kids wanting more and more Torah study. More community and celebrations.

We are moved and inspired by them, and busy responding to their passion and pride. Like the Torah says about the Jewish slaves in Egypt, "The more they oppressed us, the more we increased."

And you, our cherished friends. YOUR Jewish pride, and your passion to implant it in the next generation, is what makes our work possible.

Your dedication stirs our soul and keeps us going.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Rabbi Mendy & Rivka Minkowitz

You Brought Sam to Sinai, Where He's Climbing High

Sam* started coming to Chabad occasionally. He had friends going, seemed like a fun social scene, and figured he'd tag along once in a while. Sam was okay with his Jewish identity. It was a familiar cultural zone that he was comfortable with. Nothing to get that excited about.

When Rabbi Minkowitz offered the Sinai Scholars course, Sam remembers thinking, "Well, why not? I have a little gap in my schedule, and some friends are taking it. Whatever."

Sam was in for a surprise. "I loved it. I like to probe and analyze, to understand the deeper reasons for things. I just never would have imagined that Judaism has so many layers of meaning in every part of it!"

Rabbi Mendy watched Sam light up. "As we explored some of the philosophical issues and unique power of Jewish thought, I could almost see the wheels turning in Sam's mind. He asked good and challenging questions and got more and more excited."

He wanted more. At the end of the semester, he decided to join the National Sinai Scholars Retreat in



Washington D.C., "It was amazing," Sam says. "I met kids from all over the country, and we heard talks and seminars from brilliant speakers and teachers. It topped off my whole Sinai Scholars experience."

Sam may have originally come to Chabad for chicken soup and a Friday night hangout, but **thanks to you**, he is a prouder, more intellectually engaged Jew, eager to learn and grow.

**Name changed*

YOU Gave Students Mezuzah Might and Pride

In today's climate of rising anti-Semitism it's not always easy to stand out and mark your doorway as Jewish.

But like the Maccabees, challenges have made our dynamic students even stronger. This fall, Chabad ran a mezuzah campaign, providing kosher mezuzos to students and helping them affix them properly. We put up close to 50 in the student dorms, encouraging our students to be proud, stand tall, celebrate their precious heritage, and not be intimidated.

Attaching this beautiful handwritten scroll to the doorway is a Torah commandment, A sign of Jewish identity, the holy letters are channels for Divine blessings to safeguard the inhabitants.



Erica '22 another recipient of our mezuzah

Sarah is one such Maccabee warrior. Last summer, there was significant tension in Israel just as most students were leaving for summer break. Many who remained were scared and tried to lay low. Not Sarah! She reached out to us and declared, "NOW! Now is the exact time I need and want a mezuzah. I am going to show exactly who I am, and exactly what I stand for. Am Yisrael Chai!"

You have helped Sarah kindle a flame of light and power that burns in her soul. Thank you for gifting her and with a mezuzah and support to keep growing and glowing!

You Gave Our Students A High Holiday Haven

For many college students, the High Holidays are a time of memories. Grandma's honey cake, mom's chicken soup, the first time they heard the shofar blast. Chabad provides those wonderful rich smells, tastes, and sounds that evoke warm connection and feeling of home.

Other students take the opportunity to learn deeper meanings, enhancing their celebration and owning it for themselves as young adults.

Some are stepping into the rich world of Jewish holidays for the first time.

This fall, Chabad's High Holiday meals and services provided all this and more, to about 100 students, in a safe outdoor setting.

Rachel felt so good. "I miss being with my family and was worried. But it felt like home. I always felt welcome. Rabbi Mendy and his family have made

Chabad such a warm and open community."

Jake was inspired to try more. "I never fasted on Yom Kippur. It always seemed so negative and intimidating. But when I learned some of the spiritual insights, I wanted to try, and it was really special."

Aliyah Murphy had never been in a synagogue or celebrated any of the holidays.

"When I volunteered for the Chabad center, Rabbi Mendy and Rivka were so welcoming and generous. They made me feel like a home away from home!"

"I started off just volunteering and ended up joining some of the holiday celebrations. Everyone made

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me feel so welcome!" Aliyah loved the sense of community, people from all over the country bound together through their shared identity, the singing and laughing.."

Thank you for making the holidays come alive for Aliyah, Rachel, Jake and so many others



YOU Got These Women To Light Up!



A lighting before Shabbos

Little Zeldi Minkowitz celebrated her third birthday with a Jewish Women's Power Light Show!

No strobe or disco lights here. This sweet girl started lighting Shabbat candles, in a tradition dating all the way back to our foremother Rivka.

And she and her parents Rabbi Mendy and Rivka wanted to spread the light and

empower others. They had a special celebration where students made their own candlesticks, learned more about his meaningful mitzvah, and lit candles together to usher in the Shabbat.

Sydney was very touched. "Seeing this cute little girl light was powerful, and made it seem so easy and doable."

"Yeah, I like thinking about a special women's time to recharge and connect," added Natalie.

Sam said, "I'm not the whoo-whooh spiritual type, but I really felt connected to Jewish women all around the world!"

Thank you for helping these women discover their light-giving power!

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