

SPRING 2025 EDITION

# The Lion

18+ Months Since  
**Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Now What?

**Eric Farbman**  
*Installed as 77th Supreme Master*







# A Word From **ROB** **DERDIGER** — **AEPi CEO**

*Rob Derdiger is the Chief Executive Officer of Alpha Epsilon Pi. Prior to his appointment as CEO in 2022, he served as the fraternity's Chief Financial Officer.*

*A 2007 graduate of the University of Colorado and AEPi's Chi Upsilon chapter, Derdiger began his professional career in the real estate industry. He was hired by AEPi in 2008 as assistant director of housing. In 2010, he helped to found ESPONDA Associates, Inc., a full-service, not-for-profit asset and leadership development company specializing in providing collaborative fraternity housing experiences. Derdiger has actively served in various volunteer roles within the Jewish and fraternity communities.*

*A native of Chicago's North Shore, Derdiger and his wife, Madeline, reside in the Chicago area with their two children and dog.*

**Dear AEPi Brothers, Parents and Friends,**

Welcome (back) to The Lion! For more than 100 years, the Lion was a quarterly magazine that we wrote, printed, bound and mailed to our undergraduate and alumni brothers. It was the best, most consistent communication vehicle between the national fraternity and our brothers.

Times have changed!

AEPi produces more content and provides more information for our stakeholders than ever before. From our monthly e-newsletter, The Roar, to our social media platforms to our regular features like Friday PiDays on our website, we have invested a lot of resources and energy into keeping you informed about the great things that our fraternity and our fraternity brothers are doing.

Still, I've heard from our alumni that they miss the Lion. So, moving forward our plan is to produce a digital version of the Lion three times a year and print and mail one issue of the Lion to alumni and parent donors. (The print version will also be available digitally on our website).

AEPi is doing great things, and we want to keep sharing them with you! If you have any questions or suggestions for future content, please let me know at [info@aepi.org](mailto:info@aepi.org).

I hope to see you in Houston at #AEPi112 so we can celebrate our great fraternity and demonstrate our commitment to our mission to develop the future leaders of the Jewish community.

Fraternally,

Rob



# A Letter From ERIC FARBMAN

Supreme Master

Dear Brothers & Friends,

It's been a busy 10 months for AEPi since I had the honor of being installed as the fraternity's Supreme Master and International President.

The academic year now ending began with great trepidation. We were unsure how the unprecedented surge in campus antisemitism and violence that began in the spring of 2024 would manifest after a summer hiatus from classes.

This period for our community has reminded us all that no matter the time period, no matter the reason, we as Jews are always the first and largest scapegoat for the ills of others. And while being a Jewish college student continues to be challenging, I am thankful to report that this year has seen – with some notable exceptions – an improved environment on our campuses.

There is also so much to be hopeful for, and that hope is primarily in the form of our truly exceptional undergraduate brothers, who continue to stand loud and proud as Jews and Zionists.

During this school year, we fought hate through educating and by showing the community the true meaning of tikkun olam. Our brothers hosted nearly 70 screenings of Sheryl Sandberg's powerful **Screams Before Silence** documentary which detailed the sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas on October 7th, raised tens of thousands of dollars for philanthropy and dedicated countless hours of time to service projects. And, of course, our brothers continued to help lead campus discourse on antisemitism and Israel.

Please read through this issue of The Lion to learn more about how our brothers are responding and preparing for the coming year. I hope you will join us at Convention in Houston this summer to celebrate our successes and prepare for the challenges ahead, and consider getting involved in the growing opportunities to support AEPi as a volunteer or through your philanthropic dollars. Your fraternity needs you more than ever and I thank you for your continued commitment.

When we move forward together – as brothers – there is nothing that can stand in our way.

Fraternally,

Eric I. Farbman  
77th Supreme Master



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As he was preparing to be installed as AEPi's 77th Supreme Master at last year's International Convention, Brother Eric Farbman couldn't stop thinking of those who mentored him and brought him to the precipice of leading the world's largest Jewish college fraternity.

"I give credit to my parents for instilling in me a strong Jewish identity. We belonged to a Reform synagogue and between my time there and at home, I developed a strong Jewish identity along with strong support for Israel. It was really among my most formidable experiences surrounding my early years," said Brother Farbman.

When looking at colleges, one of the things that attracted him to Northwestern was its abundant Jewish life but, in his mind at the time, one of the drawbacks of the school was the (then) predominance of Greek life. "When I got to college, Northwestern was about 50% Greek and if you removed international students from the equation, it was probably closer to 75% Greek. I really wasn't interested in joining a fraternity, so I wasn't very excited about that aspect."

"So, I go to school. It was move-in day and I had already found out that the person assigned to be my roommate had decided not to come to school so I was going to be alone until they gave me another roommate. A group of guys came to my door and introduced themselves as members of Hillel or the Jewish Welcoming Committee or something like that and they invited me to an event. They never once mentioned AEPi and somehow I was invited to a fraternity event and I didn't realize it. It wasn't until a while later that I realized that I was being 'dormstormed.'"

Eric's relationship with the Tau Delta chapter of AEPi had begun.

"As the semester continued, I kept going to AEPi events, but I was also being rushed by another fraternity. I had a friend from home —who was also Jewish — who had come to Northwestern the year before me, and he was trying to get me to join his fraternity. I remember later in the semester (Northwestern's formal freshman rush didn't begin until second term). I was at my friend's fraternity, and he was trying really hard to be supportive and he said to me, 'Let me introduce you to the other Jewish guy in our fraternity.'"

That was the moment that led Eric to AEPi.

***"At that moment it hit me that I wanted my college experience to be around other Jews and around the Jewish community. That was the moment that I figured out which of the two Greek organizations I was going to join. That moment with my friend in the other fraternity — who was really just trying to be helpful —that was the moment that really helped me crystalize that I wanted Jewish life to be a part of my college experience and I wanted to do it through AEPi. I wanted to be involved in AEPi, and I wanted to be a leader there and in other Jewish organizations."***

AEPi at Northwestern was a relatively young chapter at the time. The chapter had just moved into a house on campus for the first time and was struggling to keep it filled and to establish itself on campus.

"They probably had about 25 guys in the chapter at the time and with my pledge class, we brought the numbers to 40. They were still trying to find their place on campus and for them to get a guy to pledge like my pledge brother, Michael Oxman, was a huge accomplishment. Michael was a varsity athlete and very social."



“I met people from everywhere and they were different but exactly the same. That was one of the special parts of AEPi.”

Throughout his undergraduate years, Eric began attending more regional conclaves and continued going to convention. But his relationship with AEPi International initially grew stronger because of the outreach of one man: Past Supreme Master David Bacharach (z'l”).

David served the fraternity as Supreme Master from 1996 - 1997 and lived in the Boston area, but through a business relationship spent considerable time at Northwestern and developed a special affinity for the Tau Delta chapter at Northwestern.

“I remember when I was a freshman, the brothers told us that Past Supreme Master David Bacharach was coming to town and that we all needed to meet him, and I was like what is this all about. I remember that first time I met him. He came to Evanston and took about 20 of us out to dinner and, of course, he paid for everything. But we were sitting there, and he just exuded his love for AEPi. And that just solidified my love for AEPi.”

“David made an effort to visit us every year. Even though most of the chapters he worked with regularly were near him in New England, he would always fly to Chicago to see us. He was always there for us, to talk to us, to give us advice and encouragement. And, as I kept going to conventions and seeing him there, he would introduce us to other involved alumni. At conventions, I also had the chance to meet David’s wife, Pam, and their son, Jonathan. They gave me the sense that AEPi is a big family.”

Unfortunately, David Bacharach was battling a terminal illness and while he fought that battle valiantly, he always knew that he would eventually succumb to it.

“Michael and I went to convention after graduation and David pulled us aside and he told us, ‘I’m dying. And my dying wish is that you guys keep watching over the chapter. Make sure that they stay strong.’ I took that to heart. When I was in law school (also at Northwestern), I made it a point to go to the chapter house regularly and talk to each pledge class about our history. I helped get the chapter’s housing situation straightened out and I advised the chapter leaders in good times and when things were more challenging. I did everything I could to live up to the promise Michael and I made to David.”

When David Bacharach died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 62 in 2007, he left a legacy of fraternal love, and it lives on today in Eric Farbman and Michael Oxman. When Eric first put on the Supreme Master robes, David Bacharach was with him in spirit.



*Michael Oxman and Eric Farbman after Eric's Installation*



Michael Oxman now serves on the Supreme Board of Governors with Eric and has become one of Eric’s closest friends.

“You know when they (AEPi staff or alumni) tell you that the other members of your pledge class will be your closest friends and they will be the ones standing up for you at your wedding? They were right. Maybe because we were small and growing, we were always very tight-knit and that continues to this day.”

After serving as Rush Chair his sophomore year, Eric was elected chapter Master (President) in his junior year. Along the way, he got involved in helping to lead other Jewish organizations on campus, including Hillel and Chabad. In his senior year, the man who didn’t want to join a fraternity was on the IFC board.

“AEPi was growing, and we were working to solidify our place on campus. Every other fraternity had been there for like 50 years and we were almost brand new. During those years we launched some events and programs like our annual “Dog Days” where we made hot dogs on campus and raised money for philanthropy.”

In the summer before his sophomore year, Eric began his relationship with AEPi International by attending convention in New Orleans. “A bunch of us went to New Orleans. Everybody told us that convention was a great time, so we decided to take a chance and go. We had a great time. I feel like it was the first time that I got to see what AEPi was really all about. I think until that moment I was still looking at AEPi as a collegiate experience, but I realized that it could be more than that.”



After receiving his law degree, Eric returned to his South Florida roots and began his career but AEPi kept calling. “I attended another New Orleans convention where Sam Blustein was installed as Supreme Master, I was talking with some of the other South Florida volunteers about getting involved and Larry Leider (later to become AEPi’s first Canadian Supreme Master) came over. Larry had been tasked with working on the AEPi website, and I think I said to him that I could help. I was always involved with technology, and it was my strength (today, Eric runs his own technology firm). Larry literally raised my hand and said, ‘Thank you for volunteering.’ And that’s when I started getting involved with AEPi International again.”

“It started with the website and then I helped with selecting the CRM (Customer Relationship Management software) and then I was named the Regional Governor of technology, and I would fly up to Indianapolis twice a year to work on technology issues in the office. All because Larry Leider raised my hand.”

“Andy Borans was CEO of AEPi then and he completely trusted me to do my work to revitalize our technology infrastructure. Without him allowing me to do what I wanted to do; we never would have made the impact that we have.”

“I also started working closely with Past Supreme Master Richard Stein because he was so involved in the AEPi housing and financial aspects at the time. Richard became another mentor for me. He was the brother who convinced me to run for the Supreme Board of Governors (SBG).”





In 2017, Eric Farbman was elected to the SBG and began on his path to becoming Supreme Master. Along the way, though, something new came into his life and again, Eric's AEPi relationship was the catalyst. "The wife of my pledge brother, Howard Tillman, knew this woman, Shoshana Brownstein, who had just moved to South Florida and was looking to meet people in the area and they both thought I would be a good person for her to connect with. A few years later Howard officiated at our wedding."

The couple now live in the Fort Lauderdale area and have two sons, Sammy (4) and Ezra (3). "Life is busy now," said Eric laughing. "But it's great!"

***"I'm serving AEPi as Supreme Master so that I can continue to help us grow and succeed. People can volunteer and help AEPi in lots of different ways and I'm a good example of that. We've done a good job of growing our board with more diverse contributors. Some people are thought leaders, some people are doers, some people are connectors. We need them all. I know that I will have been successful if when I step off the board and the organization is doing fine without me."***



"I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Jim Fleischer's (z'l") role in all of my involvement as well, because he was an amazing partner as a staff member for the volunteer work, I was doing, and an amazing friend and mentor also. (Jim was AEPi's CEO until he entered chapter eternal in 2021). And I don't think I would have been as interested in doing it if I didn't have his humor along the way."

The Torah teaches us that it's not enough for us to learn on our own, instead we have a responsibility and an obligation to pass our knowledge on to others. After absorbing lessons from so many others, Supreme Master Farbman has continued to use the examples set by his mentors to provide leadership examples for all of AEPi.





It has been more than 18 months since we woke up to hear of the horrors of the October 7 Hamas terror attacks in Israel. No one could have anticipated what the days and weeks after that event would be like for Israelis, Jews in the diaspora or, especially, for Jews on campus.

“Like most of us, I woke up early that morning – I have two young children so waking up early is the norm – and I saw the news and I was in shock. At first, I was a little disbelieving. How could this happen in modern Israel? Don’t we have ways to prevent this? My next thoughts turned to my friends and our AEPi brothers in Israel. How was I going to be able to find them and ensure their safety,” said Rob Derdiger, CEO of Alpha Epsilon Pi. “A few minutes after that disbelief began to fade, I already knew that our reality was going to change. I knew that our team at AEPi International was going to have to mobilize and work with our undergraduates. I had no idea, though, of the scope of the attacks and tidal wave about to hit us.”

No one could have anticipated the coming explosion of global antisemitism – especially on college campuses – and the impact it has had on college students in the United States, Canada and around the world.

October 7 in Columbia, Missouri dawned like many fall semester Saturday mornings. “It was our Dad’s Weekend and the game against LSU was at 11:00 (a.m.) so we started our tailgate at like 8:00. We kept hearing stuff about what had happened or was still happening in Israel but there was a lot going on and it took the majority of the day for us to hear and understand,” said Brother Jay Cohen (Missouri, 2026). “It took a lot longer for me to comprehend it.”

That sentiment was shared across the AEPi landscape. On campuses across North America, AEPi brothers led, promoted, attended, and prayed at vigils. Universities and their administrators rallied support for the victims of terror. AEPi brothers held onto each other for solace. Our fraternity – bound together in our Jewish values and support for Israel – provided many with the strength they needed.







“In September – this is before October 7 – I was at a rally in New York City down by the U.N. protesting some things that the Netanyahu government was proposing,” said Brother Noah Lederman (Columbia, 2027). “It was my first big rally, and I remember thinking to myself, ‘Wow! I love how many Israelis are here and I love all of the Israeli flags.’ Little did I know that I would be getting a lot more of that than I ever wanted in my life – protests and rallies with Israeli flags.”

AEPi is the only fraternity with active undergraduate chapters in Israel and hearing from them became an inspiring part of the story for North American AEPi brothers.

“I was in Jerusalem on October 7 for Shabbat with my family. Sirens don’t really go off in Jerusalem and even Tel Aviv. All of the sudden, I heard sirens and opened my phone and saw rocket alerts. Rockets don’t come to Jerusalem. It’s been 20-25 years since rockets reached Jerusalem. I knew right away how big this thing really was,” said Brother Benjamin Alfon (Reischman, 2024). “Shabbat in Jerusalem is usually very quiet and that day there were jets and squadrons of helicopters overhead.”

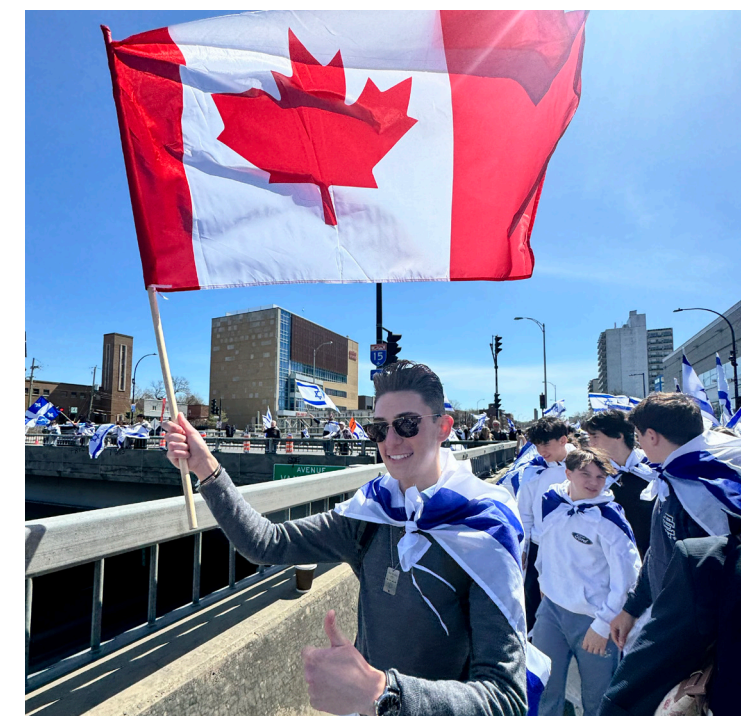
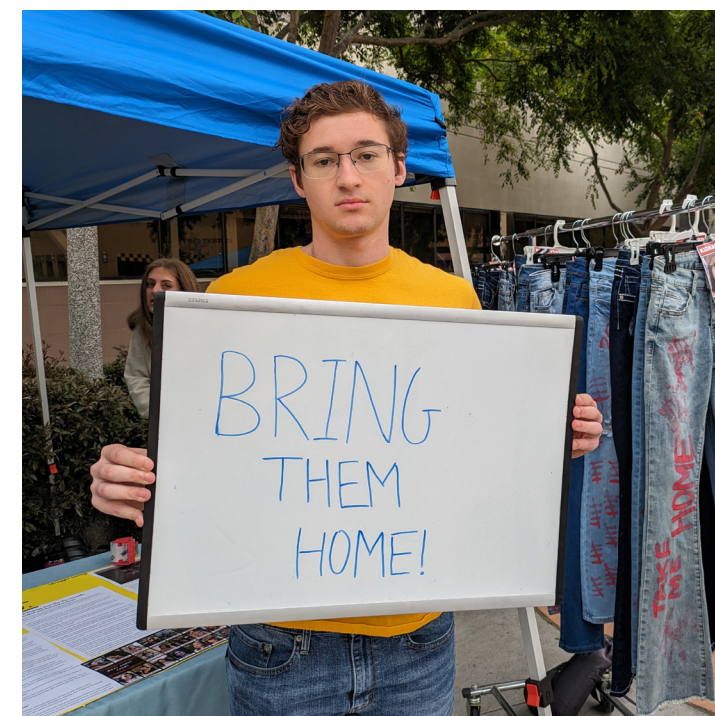
Israel has never seen anything like what happened next. “For 75 years, usually when people get called up for reserve duty, you get some people who say that they are busy with this and that. This time was different. Even faster than the Yom Kippur War. Everyone said, ‘Yes, I am coming. Where do I need to go?’ Within 18 hours, there was like 360,000 people ready to go to war,” said Alfon.

As campus vigils were being held in the week following October 7, there were some early warning signs that a seismic shift had occurred. “The first time I heard that a group of students were protesting a vigil to memorialize Israelis killed by terrorists, I thought that that was strange and out-of-bounds. It soon became apparent that celebrating Israeli deaths was more accepted on some campuses than I would have ever dreamed,” said Derdiger.

Within days, pro-terror groups had organized a global “Day of Jihad” and AEPi brothers were called upon to work with the rest of the campus Jewish community to remain steadfast to our ideals. In the summer of 2023, about three months before the October 7 attacks, Derdiger had sent an email to more than 300 university presidents and administrators urging them to do their part to protect Jewish students and ensuring that campuses would be safe for Jewish students.

“I wish we had been wrong, but we weren’t. Within days after October 7, it became clear that Jewish students in general – and AEPi brothers in particular – were going to face challenges that none of us could have foreseen.”

AEPi Brothers were ready to go into action.





# Immediate Response to 10-7

By now, 18+ months later, we’ve almost become accustomed to anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish protests on campuses. But think back to the late fall of 2023 and the spring of 2024 and remember how jarring it was to see Jewish students being threatened and accosted, spit upon, turned away from their own campus’ public spaces and resources. It was shocking and unbearable.

Brother Daniel Conway (California – Berkeley, 2025) wrote for AEPi’s website, “I found myself comfortable being Jewish in Jewish spaces, as those were where I typically dwelled. However, after October 7th, I uncovered how uncomfortable it was to be Jewish in non-Jewish spaces. I asked myself:

*How can somebody remain comfortable when walking to class and hearing other students chant for violence toward their family? How can someone mask the brutal murder of 1,300+ civilians as resistance? For crying out loud, how can anyone justify rape?*

UC Berkeley took no meaningful action to address the hostile campus environment towards Jewish students.”

Noah Lederman at Columbia experienced this same disillusionment firsthand and, unfortunately, viscerally after returning to New York from his winter break. “I went to a pro-Israel rally – which had become sort of a routine for me. And, on my way back, I was attacked. I was assaulted by someone wearing a mask. They immobilized me and pinned me against the ground while a bunch of masked individuals surrounded me and were chanting for the death of Jews.”

That incident turned into a catalyst for getting the message out about what was beginning to happen on the Columbia campus. Noah was inundated with media requests from all over the world and his story became one of the leading examples of the antisemitism and anti-Israel activity at Columbia and, of course, college campuses around the country.

“My name was out in the public sphere, and I was asked to join the student delegation that attended the Congressional hearings where (Columbia) President Shafik was questioned by Congresswoman Stefanik. I was sitting right behind the president on the TV coverage.”

In Israel, Brother Alfon immediately knew that it was his time to help make a difference. “A group of our AEPi Brothers got together and immediately started trying to compile lists of our brothers who are in armed services. We think that there are about 300 AEPi brothers in the reserves or active duty. And, right now, about 77 or 78 of our brothers are serving in active duty (as of late October 2023). We started thinking about how we could use our AEPi network to get our brothers and others the equipment they needed.”

In the immediate aftermath of October 7, many diaspora Jews did everything possible to get needed tactical gear, including things like body armor, night vision goggles and clothing, to IDF soldiers preparing to go to war with Hamas. Brother Alfon helped lead the initiative for AEPi. “I might be the only AEPi Brother who was in multiple talks with multiple arms dealers around the world.” Chuckling, he added, “At least I hope so!” The brothers also started working on getting simpler things to the troops. “We started buying things like nuts, dried fruit and candies...things that the guys on the front lines can bring with them in the field and eat. The guys go crazy for that (stuff)!”

Within 72 hours following October 7, 93 campus and/or community events were either planned or led by AEPi Brothers, and that figure quickly rose with each passing day, to more than 735 by the end of the 2023-24 school year. From philanthropy events, to rallies, to Israeli flag giveaways, AEPi chapters identified the immediate ways for them to make an impact on their campus.

Thanks to gifts from alumni and others, AEPi houses were quickly and proudly adorned with “AEPi Stands With Israel” banners and flags which became a target for vandalism. For example, at Bradley University in Peoria, IL, antisemitic and anti-Israel graffiti was spray painted on campus and on the AEPi house while students were off campus for spring break. When the chapter brothers returned to campus from their break, they held a chapter meeting to discuss what had happened and what they were going to do. By then, the physical spray paint had already been removed from the building and the quad, but the psychic scars remained. “At that chapter meeting we discussed the resources that were made available to us through AEPi International, Hillel, Chabad and the university. Counseling was available to the brothers if they felt threatened and we were given an option to move out of the house if we didn’t feel safe,” said Brother Avrum Bulgatz (Bradley, 2026). “No one moved out.”







Instead, that chapter organized an “Anti-Hate Shabbat dinner” with a sorority and Hillel, and invited campus administrators and others in the Greek community. The brothers then organized a silent march around campus to show the community the resolve of the chapter and the Bradley Jewish community. “We started at the AEPi house, went to Hillel and then walked around campus. Our brothers all wore their letters or their ‘AEPi Stands With Israel’ shirts and most were waving Israeli flags or were wearing Israeli flags. People joined with us from the Peoria Jewish Federation, the campus Jewish community and some non-Jewish students marched with us,” said Bulgatz. “We wanted to show the campus that we remember October 7 and that we are not going to be intimidated. We are going to stand up to hate.”

On October 16, 2023 – just nine days after the terror attacks, AEPi coordinated an international “AEPi Day of Strength.” For every generation of Jews on campuses, there is a moment that defines their experience. A moment that requires the summoning of strength and conviction, where action is necessary.

There was a need for community, one where grief and anger could be processed. That quickly turned into a feeling of inspired action, coupled with the desire to boldly stand up for Israel and represent the Jewish community on campus.

In total, on AEPi’s Day of Strength, 81 events were held engaging nearly 30,000 students and community members. Thirty-five AEPi houses displayed “AEPi Stands with Israel” banners and another 10,000 members were given shirts with the same theme.

“Our undergraduate brothers leaped at the chance to provide pro-Israel programming on their campuses. In all of my years, I don’t think I’ve ever seen our undergraduates so passionate about taking something on. We put that day together quickly and our brothers showed their campus communities that they intended to lead,” said Derdiger. “More importantly, AEPi’s leadership and advocacy didn’t end when the anti-Israel culture became so prevalent. It’s one thing to be willing to stand up for Israel when it is, at least, not a controversial position. It’s a whole other thing when it appears that your professors, campus administration, and fellow students are aligned against you.”





AEPi brothers in Canada experienced the same kind of hate. “In November of 2023, I was on campus outside of the main building. Some protesters were outside and one of them had a sign alleging that Israel had bombed this many hospitals, schools and mosques and then there was a Jewish student nearby who had a sign asking how what Hamas did could be considered resistance,” said Brother Zach Rusonik (Toronto Metropolitan University, 2026). “All of the sudden, this girl was being swarmed by like 50 Palestinian students waving their flags and screaming in her face. I took off the hat I had on and had my kippah on underneath it and I went and sat with this girl. Eventually about four other Jewish students joined us. It was like 50 protesters screaming at the five of us, but we stood together. Eventually, it got so heated that the police had to come and escort us out. No one at the school seemed to care. It was the Hillel staff who called security to get us out.”

Rusonick continued, “I felt a responsibility because I knew the vast majority of Jewish students were scared and didn’t know what to do. A lot of Jewish students here live at home and so they would just avoid hanging out on campus in general or they would go to Hillel and kind of just hide at Hillel. We shouldn’t have to hide. We shouldn’t have to avoid hanging out on campus.”

Nowhere was this need for leadership and courage more apparent than at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill last spring.

“I had just gotten out of my English class and was on my way back to my dorm to study when one of our brothers called me and said that there was another massive protest on the quad and that I needed to get over there. He knows that I share his beliefs about Israel and would stand with him,” said Brother Jake Harris (North Carolina – Chapel Hill, 2027).

After chasing down someone who had ripped an Israeli flag from his hands, Jake returned to the quad and saw a group of students – both brothers of AEPi and members of other fraternities – holding the American flag up off the ground and keeping the protesters away and not letting the protesters near it. Still carrying his Israeli flag, Brother Harris stepped into the middle and began protecting the barricades to keep the protesters away from his brothers and the flag. “People were flipping us off, they were pouring stuff on us, they called us horrible names. We were getting plastic and metal water bottles thrown at us. But, we stood there and started singing the national anthem and Am Yisreal Chai.”

***“I wanted to prove that the Jewish community has a voice. I wanted to stand up for the other Jewish students on campus who weren’t there because they were either afraid to be there or – worse – were afraid to show their identity, who they really are. We all knew it could be dangerous. There was always a chance that someone could throw a punch, and things could get more violent. But I went out there not just for me but for all of the Jews on campus.”***



Last summer (summer of 2024) seemed to mark a turning point on many campuses. With advice and support from AEPi International and dozens of other organizations, campus administrators rethought their policies on protests which served to make the campus less safe for individuals and looked to provide more support for Jewish students.

In the Fall of 2024, to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the October 7 terror attacks, AEPi chapters, through a partnership with Repair the World, demonstrated “Strength Through Service” as undergraduate members organized and conducted philanthropy and community-building programs on campuses across North America.

In total, AEPi brothers conducted 77 community service events which engaged 3,342 students (including 689 non-AEPi members) in these events. The “Strength Through Service” initiative resulted in 4,473 hours – or approximately 186 days -- of community service.

“Nothing demonstrates AEPi’s mission – to develop future leaders of the Jewish community – better than seeing our undergraduates wholeheartedly take on this initiative. Our community needs more leaders and our world needs people willing to step up and make a difference, making it better. AEPi’s student members are doing that today and will continue to do so into the future,” said Derdiger.



Concurrent with “Strength Through Service,” AEPi, through a partnership with Sheryl Sandberg and her foundation, hosted screenings of Sandberg’s documentary, ***Screams Before Silence***, documenting the sexual violence that Hamas perpetrated on women during the October 7 attacks. In total, nearly 80 chapters hosted screenings on their campuses. “It really matters to have men’s voices in the movement to prevent sexual violence and support survivors. That’s why I’m so impressed by the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity,” said Sandberg. “To every AEPi brother who helped organize screenings and those who watched — thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you to all of you for speaking up on this issue and for your important work to develop the next generation of Jewish leaders.”

“Our primary concern is always the safety and wellbeing of our undergraduate brothers. We have been working with partners like Community Security Service (CSS) to provide our brothers with additional resources like security awareness training and things like that,” said Derdiger. “It’s a sad state of affairs that we need to provide our students with security training. It’s hard enough to go to college. I remain in awe of the strength and courage of our brothers.”



Now What?

As the 2024-25 school year winds down for most students, it is a good time to take a step back, and with the perspective now of nearly two academic years rife with campus antisemitism and unrest, try to anticipate what’s next. The AEPi Antisemitism Response Center (AEPi ARC) is already working to develop and deliver programs to campus administrators to further safeguard students and to allow for more freedom of expression and opinion in a manner that allows dialog and does not tolerate hate or intimidation.

***“The one thing I am certain of is that our brothers are not going to retreat, not going to hide their Jewish identities and not allow hate to rule the day. This is the strength of AEPi. Even in the darkest times, we will promote the light”***  
**-Rob Derdiger**

A recent article in the Journal of Jewish Education (Small, J. L., Sasso, P., & Lund, D. (2025). Jewish Fraternities and Sororities as Sites of Campus Belonging, Community, and Resistance to Antisemitism) agrees. “...In campus environments that have become highly charged for Jewish students since October 7, 2023, we propose that communities designed specifically for Jewish college students are more important than ever.”

One of the positives of joining a fraternity has always been the building and belonging to a community. In a book by Terrell Strayhorn, ***Unraveling the Relationship Among Engagement, Involvement, and Sense of Belonging***, the author concludes, “Students who feel a strong sense of belonging in college have fewer behavior problems and less absenteeism and feel motivated to devote the time and energy necessary to complete academic tasks.... But they also build important new relationships with others, including peers, faculty, staff, and student affairs professionals. In fact, these relationships serve as the foundation for students’ sense of belonging.”



This sense of belonging is heightened in importance as Jewish students confront issues of campus tolerance and, in fact, is a large determinant in Jewish students’ response to campus antisemitism. Small, Sasso and Lund conclude, “Interestingly, traditionally Jewish fraternity chapters do not seem motivated to reduce their public exposure (exhibiting their Jewish identities), even when it brings risk.”

This, in the post-October 7 world, is one of the greatest strengths of Alpha Epsilon Pi.

Daniel Conway at California-Berkeley agrees. “I believe I have found such an amazing Jewish community in Berkeley precisely because the broader Berkeley community is not accepting of Jews. The extraordinary connection I forged with my Jewish identity in college is not because Berkeley is an oasis of Jewish life, akin to a modern-day Jerusalem. It stems from the stark reality that UC Berkeley treats its Jewish students similarly to how Jews were historically treated: segregated into their own spaces and viewed as “others.” In rebuilding the Chi Alpha chapter of AEPi, I discovered not merely a fraternity but a catalyst for a lifetime commitment to Jewish life...My dedication to Jewish life, initially kindled by my family, was profoundly deepened through my experiences at Berkeley and within AEPi. This journey has truly marked the beginning of a commitment for a lifetime.”



This is one of thousands of similar stories across North American college campuses. Instead of intimidating Jewish students to hide or be ashamed of their heritage, Jewish students – especially AEPi brothers – are responding to antisemitism with a stronger sense of their “Jewishness.”

Katz, Forman and McGuire concluded the same in another article in the Journal of Jewish Education (Katz, V. S., Forman, E. R., & McGuire, N. H. (2025). Unsettled Ground: How Jewish Undergraduates are Negotiating Identity Shifts and (Un)civil Campus Discourse after October 7), “With regard to Jewish identity (re)definition, many students reported new and deepened experiences of affirmation and affiliation. Students who identified as Reform, unaffiliated, or culturally Jewish were most likely to report feeling more deeply Jewish after October 7. They reported spending more time in Jewish campus spaces and with Jewish friends, attending Shabbat services, wearing Jewish jewelry and yarmulkes, and seeking out opportunities to learn about Jewish history and Israel.”

A study conducted by Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) concluded that this “surge” in Jewish engagement has continued into 2025, albeit at a slightly reduced rate. In an article summarizing the JFNA study in eJewish Philanthropy (April 29, 2025), Judah Gross wrote, “The survey, which was released on Tuesday, found that while the increased engagement that was documented in the months following the attacks has gone down slightly over the past year, it remains relatively high, with roughly a third of the respondents — 31% — saying that they are engaging more with the Jewish community than they did in the past, compared to 42% who said so last year...Most of the respondents who identified as more engaged now than they were in the past — roughly 55% — said that they were spending time with Jewish friends. Just under half — 45% — said that they were visiting their local synagogue. Roughly a third said that they were involved with Chabad, Hillel or another “engagement organization.”



“This is what AEPi has seen, as well. We have talked a lot over the last two years about instilling and communicating ‘Jewish Pride’ and that message has been taken to heart by our brothers. They are showing up and demonstrating that they will remain fiercely visible in their support for their people, traditions and culture,” said Derdiger.

Moving into the next academic year, there are three key areas that AEPi is emphasizing in programming and communications:

- Continuing to refine and improve the role of AEPi members as advocates for Israel and Jewish students on their campuses.
- Opening conversations about mental health and linking AEPi members and the Jewish community to campus and professional resources.
- Rededicating ourselves to community service.



### Advocacy

The AEPi mission – developing leadership for the Jewish Community – inherently includes the promise of advocacy as an aspect of leadership. For many years, the fraternity has provided advocacy skills and messaging training to undergraduate members as a component of its ongoing leadership seminars and meetings. That training proved instrumental in much of the response to October 7 and the subsequent campus unrest.

“Knowing how and when to be an advocate is important. Understanding the messages and ultimate goals is a critical component, as well. But we still need brothers who want to take on the obligation to lead,” said Derdiger. “I’m honestly amazed at how our brothers have taken that role on their campuses, sometimes voluntarily and sometimes because that position has been thrust upon them.”

One brother’s story in Montreal provides an example of how AEPi men are flourishing when pressed to provide leadership for the Jewish community.

Brother Drew Sylver (Concordia, 2026) arrived in Montreal from his home in Toronto without a thought about becoming a leading advocate – even a lightning rod – on his Concordia campus. “Going to Concordia was a last-minute decision for me. I came here, in part, because of the Montreal Jewish community. Here, the Jewish community is not just the student Jewish community, it’s the entire Montreal Jewish community. It’s such a strong tight-knit community, it’s very enjoyable and supportive.”



After attending Jewish private schools, enrolling at a public high school was a revelation. “That’s when I realized that we’re different and I started to naturally gravitate towards other Jewish students. But I didn’t know much about advocacy until I got to college.”

“When I first went to Concordia, everyone – my family and friends – told me to hide the Jewish stars, don’t wear a kippah, don’t talk about being Jewish to anyone. I did that for my first year and I thought it was utterly ridiculous because it didn’t stop antisemitism from happening. It didn’t stop me from having to witness disgusting tables draped with giant signs about murdered Palestinian children on my way to class. This was even before October 7.”

By the time he returned for his second year, Drew had decided that he had enough hiding. “I started going to Chabad for Shabbat and after a while, I realized that I was actively keeping Shabbos. After October 7, I was going every week and the crowd for dinner had quadrupled.”

Shortly after the Hamas terror attacks, Drew’s interest in advocacy became more real and his commitment to Judaism became more visible. “I spoke to my Rabbi, and he said, ‘Double down. Wear the Kippah no matter what’s happening.’ I went home, put on my kippah and told myself I was never going to take it off. And, that’s what happened.” When a friend asked him to run for the Concordia Student Union, it came as a shock. “I had never been involved in anything before regarding any sort of advocacy or even volunteering. I was like most other students! I kind of ran a random campaign but I got elected!”

The Concordia Student Union oversees \$16 million in assets and Drew soon discovered it was funding hundreds of thousands of dollars every year to pro-Hamas clubs. “They were sending \$6,000 a month to the ‘Academics for Palestine’ group. And that was when I got my legs in terms of really being active on campus.”

At the same time, AEPi began its return to the Montreal student community. “At the beginning of the academic year (2023-24), I was approached by a friend who became the group’s first president about joining AEPi. We started with like four guys, and it has grown to more than 20 brothers now. AEPi has become a community for Jewish students and I’m really proud to look at it now and think that I had a role in that.”



Later in the summer of 2024, Drew and some other students met with a lawyer and decided to sue Concordia. The University and its president, Graham Carr, were served with a mis-en-demeure filed in Quebec Supreme Court seeking a permanent injunction demanding that the university enforce its rules against hate and intimidation.

***“And, that’s when I became public enemy number one on campus and at the Student Union. I was fortunate that I had my friends and my AEPi brothers behind me because it has been very difficult at times. The amount of hate that we faced on campus is actually astounding.”***

“We’re not radical. We’re not asking for new policy or new decisions to be made. We’re asking them to observe and uphold their own bylaws,” said Drew.

Drew tried to run again for election to the Student Union but lost this time as the pro-Hamas groups united against him. “But we got another AEPi brother to win. So, now he’s representing Jewish and pro-Israel voices.”

The lawsuit continues but the administration continues to try to drag it out. “It’s going to be a long battle. It’s going to be something that’s going to take me definitely past my time in university, but it’s something that we have to be willing to fight because they’re banking on us getting kind of demoralized or just getting interested in different things.”



“Antisemitism is worse than ever at Concordia. This is not only about Jewish students, but it’s about Canadian students, because Canadian values are Jewish values. And the, for example, Concordia Student Union has been allowed to bully, harass, intimidate, and fund all of these pro-Hamas anti-Canadian movements. My job right now...my part in this... is starting the Jewish fraternity, bringing Jewish life back and making sure that we are protected.”

Drew’s story is not unique throughout AEPI over the last 18+ months. “We have seen so many of our students become politically activated. It’s scary that they have to do that but it’s also heartening to see them step up to the plate at this time of crisis,” said AEPI CEO Derdiger. “The Jewish people will survive this latest crisis – as we always do – but we are building something that matters for the future. The AEPI mission has always been to develop the future leaders of the Jewish community. We’re leading today...and into the future.”

## Mental Health Concerns

Being a college student is challenging. Academic and social pressures coupled with loneliness often causes college students to struggle with their mental health. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), approximately 73% of college students experience mental health issues during their time in college. This includes: 46% with diagnosed mental health conditions, 60% with anxiety, and 44% with depression.

Now, take those same issues and layer in the factors facing Jewish students on campus over the last 18+ months and imagine the potential impact on Jewish students’ mental health. It is difficult enough to handle college, the impact of being alienated, hated and attacked is almost incalculable.

At an Anti-Defamation League (ADL) webinar on college students’ mental health, two acclaimed mental health experts, Dr. Rara Liberman, the founder and director of the Jewish Community Mental Health Initiative, and Dr. Anna Vaynman, an experimental social psychologist, presented the results of an online survey and determined that Jewish college students are at a heightened risk to experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

More than 60% of Jewish students experienced anti-Israel comments from their peers. More than 30% experienced antisemitic comments. “They’re reporting slurs, insults, or bullying and harassment, racist comments from peers, and academic retaliation,” said Dr. Vaynman.

About 70% of Jews on campus reported significantly higher or somewhat higher levels of stress. Less than 1.5% reported their stress levels as lower.

A significant driving factor for Jewish students’ mental health was their perception that their college administrators were taking adequate steps to prevent harassment of Jewish students. Unsurprisingly, those students who felt that their administrators were not protecting them had the highest levels of anxiety and depression.







“We know that we have to confront the issue of mental health for our students, especially in these times,” said AEPi CEO Derdiger. “But we don’t have the expertise or the resources to provide what they really need so we are working with our undergraduates to think about mental health — both their own and their brothers’ — and that they know how to access the resources on their campus and in their community.”

Ben Pargman wants to be a part of the catalyst to get college students to confront mental health issues. • Ben’s son, Manny was a new member at AEPi’s Chi Upsilon chapter at the University of Colorado when he took his own life.

*(Important Editor’s Note: There is no known link between the tragedy of Manny Pargman and campus sentiment or actions at the University of Colorado. His story is presented as an illustration of the impact that mental health issues can have on students, their families and friends and, of course, their fraternity brothers.)*

“It’s important that people know a little bit about Manny to give his story relevance in terms of mental health and suicide. I’m not saying this just to tell people how great my son was...He was a great kid. I thought he was a happy kid. He was healthy and good looking. He had a thousand friends, was a natural athlete and talented musician. He was the life of the party,” said Manny’s father. “I don’t say this to brag. I say it because no one who looked at him would have thought that I should be nervous or have to worry about him.”

“That’s the first point. You can’t necessarily see it. And whatever misconceptions you have in your brain about what mental health looks like or what a suicidal kid looks like, they are wrong.”

“The second point to remember is that suicide doesn’t just happen to someone else. It can happen to your child, your grandson, your classmate, your fraternity brother. If you think that suicide or mental health issues only happen to other people, you are wrong and you are committing a huge mistake.”

As Ben speaks, he becomes increasingly passionate, in part because he desperately wants people to hear his warnings but also because he wants the memory of Manny to mean something to others. Turning his own pain into action to help others may be his salvation.

Ben wants to educate students about response. “Do you think AEPi brothers know what 988 is? Look, my son killed himself by suicide and it was probably two weeks later until I knew that by dialing 988 on any phone (in the United States and Canada), you will get routed through to the local suicide prevention hotline. We need to make sure that every AEPi brother – every college student is aware of that.”

He is also encouraging AEPi brothers and other college students to take an online training offered by the QPR Institute. QPR (which stands for Question. Persuade. Refer.) aims to reduce suicidal behaviors and save lives by providing innovative, practical and proven suicide prevention training. Using education to empower all people, regardless of their background, can help make a positive difference in someone’s life.

“Everybody’s formula is different and everything stacks up differently. The things in that ‘Cause Bucket’ are going to be different for everyone. It could be pre-existing, it could be academics, it could be social issues, it could be the fraternity...there’s no way to know so we have to work to reduce and eliminate the potential causes where we can.”

AEPi’s Derdiger concurs. “We are constantly working with our members to educate them about mental health issues. We have incorporated this into our new member e-learnings so that we know that virtually all of our members have completed some introductory training about identifying issues and initial steps which can be taken if someone is concerned. We also provide resources to our parents to help them identify concerns and give them some resources to consider.”

Ben Pargman is urging AEPi undergraduates to take mental health issues seriously. “Chapter leaders and Big Brothers need to see this as a responsibility that they have to protect each other. They have to feel empowered to intervene, to call the student’s family. They have to know that they can do that and that it might save someone’s life.”

Brothers Josh Weiner (Colorado, 2027) and Ozzie Foster (Colorado, 2028) were close to Ben’s son, Manny, during his time at the University of Colorado and in AEPi and have taken their shock and emotions and are attempting to create something positive out of it on their campus.







“Our first reaction when we heard about Manny was, obviously, shock and sadness. Until the end of the (Fall 2024) semester, we were all at rock bottom,” said Foster. “When we got back to school after break, it was great to see everyone and, after just a short while, we realized that mental health was now being talked about. I think we have realized that it’s ok to talk about mental health; the stigma has been removed. I feel like I can talk to any brother any day, at any time, and know how they’re feeling.”

The chapter has also turned to the local Chabad on Campus Rabbi for assistance. “A lot of our brothers have been going to a Chabad program this semester that focuses on navigating grief, how to handle this whole journey and mental health through a religious lens,” said Foster.

The two brothers — along with the rest of the Chi Upsilon chapter — have also begun to make having conversations about mental health a more regular part of Boulder student life. Working with other students on campus, the chapter has helped lead a drive through student government to encourage the campus mental health office to have more robust marketing for suicide prevention and mental health awareness. “Every CU student is supposed to get six free sessions with the counseling office,” said Weiner. “But, it’s almost impossible to get in. But we thought the office should be doing more. We proposed legislation that would require professors to take some sort of attendance in every class, just to help track and maybe identify someone who is struggling. We found out too late that Manny had been missing classes. Maybe that would have been one of the warning signs.”

“We also want the counseling office to promote their services and other resources better. There is a fire escape plan on every door for an emergency and we think there should be something like that for someone having a mental health emergency,” said Foster.

Simple steps which may save someone’s life in the future. “We have developed a guide for each of our chapters which points them to the mental health resources on their campus and in their community. Getting our students to recognize that there are trained people who can help is another step in the right direction,” said Derdiger.

Another important step in this initiative requires reliance on some Old Testament advice.

Several years ago, AEPi International launched a campaign urging members to “Be Their Brothers’ Keeper.” That initiative was initially focused on encouraging members to intervene when someone appeared to be in danger of making a bad decision. It focused on ensuring that AEPi brothers understood that each of us has a responsibility to safeguard ourselves, our brothers, our guests and our community. Much of the “Be Your Brothers Keeper” campaign centered on encouraging bystander intervention, often one of the most difficult lessons to teach college men, but one that can save lives.

Moving into the future, AEPi will be layering in messages about mental health into this internal campaign. Encouraging brothers to look for common warning signs that one of their fraternity brothers or friends might be struggling with mental health, providing them with some advice about how to broach a conversation and pointing them to professional resources.

Ben Pargman likes this approach and wants students to look at their role in helping each other. “Whatever causes the anxiety, and the depression out there is going to be there, and we can’t control it. You can’t control the Palestinian protest on the quad with someone with blood on their hands pointing their finger at you. But there are things you can control, like making sure we’re not keeping our students up until three in the morning and things like that.”

***“Being Your Brothers’ Keeper is the essence of being in a fraternity. We all have the responsibility to look after each other...if we have learned one lesson since October 7 it is that we need to take care of each other. It has to start with these conversations,” - Rob Derdiger***





Service

College fraternities and sororities serve as the nation’s largest network of young volunteers. In the United State alone, fraternity chapters raise more than \$31 million annually and provide more than 3.5 million hours of service in their local communities. AEPi brothers also commit to this ideal, contributing thousands of hours to service and tens of thousands of dollars to their communities and, importantly, Jewish and Israeli causes.

“We have seen a marked interest among our students in getting involved; obviously, they are very engaged on their campuses in fighting antisemitism and advocating for Israel, but they have also responded to this crisis on campus with a rededication to doing good,” said Ethan White, AEPi’s Howard M. Lorber Director of Programming.



AEPi’s CEO Rob Derdiger agrees and recently wrote:

“As Jews, we recognize that the world is imperfect and, while we should never shun our obligation to keep trying to make it perfect, we recognize that it is impossible to create – at least on this plain of existence – a perfect world. We focus on the journey as much as the destination.

Certainly, the past 18 months since October 7 have shown us how imperfect our world is and has illuminated for many of us how imperfect our neighbors and colleagues might be. Should we abandon this quest to continue to repair a broken world, especially when much of the hatred that has bubbled up due to this imperfection has been aimed at us?

My answer – AEPi’s answer – is a resounding no. Taking that journey to repairing the world has never been more important. As the Jewish fraternity, we have to redouble our efforts on our campuses and in our communities to help those in need, those who are less fortunate and hurting, those who need our support.”

In just the last academic year, AEPi undergraduate brothers have raised more than \$60,000 for three Jewish and Israeli causes (NECHAMA, Israel ParaSport Center, and Chai Lifeline) through the fraternity’s annual Mensch Madness bracket challenge. Brothers have also continued AEPi’s 21-year partnership with Gift of Life Marrow Registry, an organization dedicated to helping children and adults battling leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell, other cancers and genetic disorders find matching donors for lifesaving blood stem cell and bone marrow transplants.

Over the years, AEPi brothers have collected more than 28,000 swabs which have resulted in over 1,000 matches. These efforts have resulted in (to date) 107 lifesaving transplants.

Brothers have set up booths on campus and held other public events to raise awareness of Gift of Life and the importance of organ and tissue donation in general. AEPi at the University of South Florida held a milestone on-campus event last fall which resulted in the 20,000th AEPi generated swab. “I’m proud to be a part of AEPi at the University of South Florida University because our brothers commit to these kinds of programs to help our community,” said Kameron Basis, President of the AEPi chapter at University of South Florida. “It’s great that the 20,000th registrant came from here. We are a part of this huge AEPi network that has accomplished so much over the last 20+ years. We have been able to help save lives. I know that our brothers will be involved with Gift of Life for years, both on campus and when we graduate and move into different communities.”

The Talmud teaches us that “whoever saves a single life is considered to have saved the entire world.” To that end, AEPi has saved the entire world 107 times. At a time when the world seems so troubled and Jews are confronting antisemitism at every corner, AEPi brothers continue to push the darkness away by creating light through mitzvot.





Marking the one-year anniversary of the October 7 attacks with service is an especially poignant way to demonstrate the fraternity's emphasis on bringing more light into the world but AEPi's partnership with Repair the World reaches beyond that. At each of the fraternity's 2025 regional conclaves, AEPi brothers from chapters across the country joined together to complete a service project for the community. Similar programs have taken place at AEPi's International Convention over the last several years.

"It's kind of funny," said Derdiger. "We have partnered with organizations like Gift of Life and Repair the World to help teach our undergraduate students about philanthropy and tikkun olam. And what we've found is that they are often the ones teaching us. And, certainly, since October 7, 2023, our undergraduates have really been focused on giving back. In a world that appears to be broken in so many ways, it is heartening to see these young men commit to making the world just a little bit better."

## What to Expect in 25-26?

Two years ago, no one could have anticipated the horrors of October 7 or the aftermath on college campuses. Today, we don't know what will happen in the coming academic year but AEPi is better prepared to lead today than ever before. AEPi brothers are often at the forefront of their campus Jewish communities. Brothers are preparing to better handle personal obstacles while continuing to advocate and provide the community with an example of service and leadership.

It is said that "The future starts today, not tomorrow." AEPi brothers are ready today for what comes in the future.





# CHAPTER UPDATES



## American University

This spring semester was a busy time for the Sigma Pi chapter. From participating in a 24 hour name reading for Holocaust Remembrance Day, to throwing a semiformal, to crushing the intramural soccer league, to hosting a second night of Passover Seder, brothers at American University have been on top of every aspect of the brotherhood. Our philanthropy efforts were off the charts this semester—raising a total of \$4,398 for the AEPi Repair the World Fund. Furthermore, after a successful rush, we initiated seven new brothers who have already taken part in key programming—including an alumni reunion and a brotherhood event/senior send off.

## Appalachian State University

This semester was one our most impactful and successful semesters in Mu Theta’s almost 10-year history. Philanthropy-wise, we raised over \$4,500, including Mensch Madness, donating to Jewish organizations, and Oasis, an organization that supports sexual assault victims in Boone. On the Jewish aspect, we joined together with the UNC Charlotte Chapter, Nu Psi, and had a joint-Passover Seder together, furthering our continued efforts to do more joint events in the future. We have also further strengthened our connection with our alumni, and are looking forward to hosting them again in Boone next semester. Socially, we had our most productive semesters yet, with us working with more fraternities and sororities than ever, and had our formal at Oak Island, our third year doing so. While this was one of our best semesters yet, we are already setting new goals to surpass our current achievements.



## Bentley University

The Psi Beta chapter at Bentley University had a successful year, initiating two new classes throughout both semesters. We remain the fraternity with the highest average GPA on campus, along with partaking in many events. Earlier in the year, we hosted an event with Bentley Hillel, raising money for Jewish awareness along with developing a strong sense of outreach to the tight-knit campus we have. We hosted a Passover dinner amongst us brothers, sharing our own unique traditions with one another at the seder. It has been an amazing year, and we look forward to the next.

## California Polytechnic State University

The Sigma Omega chapter of AEPi held our annual formal retreat to Las Vegas — a tradition that always brings our brotherhood closer together. In the spirit of giving back, we’re currently partnering with NMDP (Be The Match), swabbing students across campus to register potential donors for patients battling rare blood cancers. It’s been inspiring to see our chapter rally behind such an impactful cause. Last month, we also hosted our “Pi a Pie” philanthropy event, which turned out to be a huge success. Brothers and students alike had a great time, and we’re proud to continue creating memorable moments while supporting meaningful organizations. We’re excited for what’s ahead this quarter!







## California State University – Chico

In the last academic year we've had the pleasure of welcoming ten new members into our small but mighty brotherhood. The brothers had an election in December 2024, transitioning power smoothly with a young eager executive board. Through conclave to San Luis Obispo, meals at Chabad and Hillel, and brotherhood camping trips, it truly has been a year of good times, hard work, and authentic Jewish brotherhood here in Chico, California. The brothers of Chi Eta are looking forward to what is to come in fall 2025!



## Dickinson College

We are the first chapter back at Dickinson College in nearly two decades due to Greek Life being shut down. This semester, we held two philanthropy events: one was a bake sale for Cookies for Kids Cancer where we raised a little over \$1,500, and the second was a swab drive for Gift of Life where we reached our goal of 200 swabs in just over four hours.

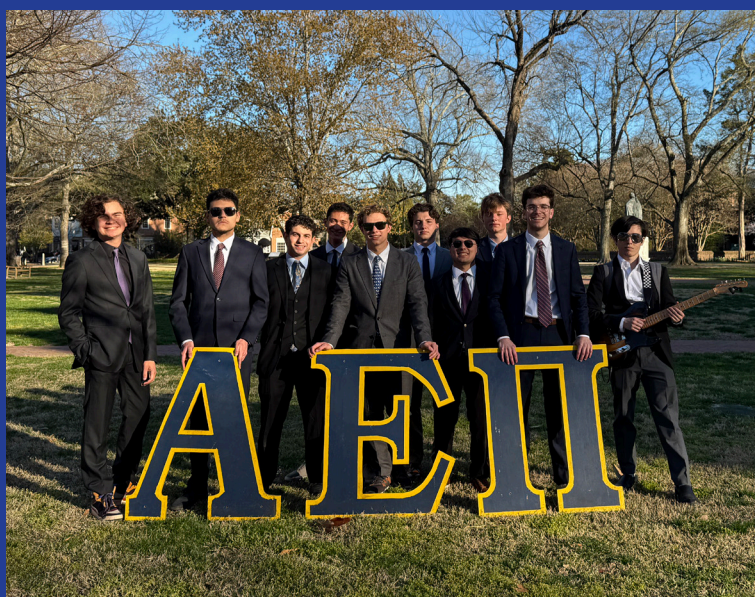
## Carnegie Mellon University

This spring was a record-breaking and rewarding semester for our chapter. We proudly initiated the biggest spring rush class in chapter history, expanding our brotherhood with an outstanding cohort of new members! Our commitment to philanthropy was stronger than ever – we raised money for Camp Kessem through Greek Sing and organized several successful fundraisers, including the debut of our newest event: AEPuppies! We also showcased our spirit and dedication to excellence, earning second place in Carnegie Mellon's annual Greek Sing and Booth Competitions and competing across multiple intramural sports!



## Duke University

We've had an incredible spring semester at Duke capped off by the initiation of our twenty-six new brothers. Some highlights from the semester include our continuing philanthropic partnership with the Delta Gamma sorority to participate in Miracle League, a local baseball league for special needs children, and the Bar Mitzvah of Nate Garozzo, one of our newly initiated brothers. For the second year in a row, one of our freshmen took the step of furthering his commitment to the Jewish ideals by having a Bar Mitzvah, and we couldn't be more proud of him. We all had a great night hearing his words of wisdom and celebrating with Israeli dance.



## College of William and Mary

The Tau Pi Chapter had a great spring semester here at William & Mary! We initiated four new brothers, finally won an intramural game this school year, and successfully courted a social sorority for homecoming for the first time in six years! We had great success with our flagship philanthropy event AEPancakes, raising over \$1,100 to fight hunger. We've helped bring Jewish events on campus to life, organizing a dunk tank for the Hillel Purim carnival and co-sponsoring Chabad's second Passover Seder. Most excitingly, we secured our triumphant return to fraternity row with an on campus house next school year!



## Elon University

This year for the Epsilon Phi chapter has been nothing short of transformational. We have raised over \$20,000 towards various charities, finishing second in the world in total fundraising for Mensch Madness. Along with this, Epsilon Phi has once again been crowned the GPA King for Elon's campus, ranking first among all other fraternities in total GPA. We also landed our largest new-member class in chapter history, adding nineteen new brothers to our chapter. Last month, we also had our dads in town. The future for Epsilon Phi looks bright, and we can't wait to see what happens in 2025-26!





## Florida Atlantic University

The Phi Alpha Chapter had an incredible spring semester. We hosted a meaningful vigil in support of the hostages in Gaza, attended Mitzvahs and Matzahs hosted by the newly elected FAU President, Adam Hasner, at the Baldwin House, and celebrated Passover with a chapter Seder led by Rabbi Lebow, our Chabad rabbi. We raised over \$11,000 for Gift of Life. On the athletic front, we competed in multiple sports, including basketball, beach volleyball, and soccer. The chapter was honored with the Brotherhood Excellence Award. Academically, our chapter GPA rose above 3.0, and our president, James Levi, won Fraternity Scholar of the Year. We capped off the semester with a memorable formal in San Juan, Puerto Rico!

## George Washington University

This spring, we initiated our twelve new members as our Delta class, bringing our chapter to a total of nearly forty brothers. Standouts from our philanthropy include AEPuppies, in which we worked with a local rescue to bring dogs on campus, and a carnival in partnership with Rohr Chabad GW. The semester culminated in a rooftop formal, which brothers and their dates gave rave reviews. If you'd like to get in the loop for our upcoming alumni programming this fall, reach out to [scribe@gwaepi.org](mailto:scribe@gwaepi.org).



## High Point University

The Eta Rho chapter of AEPi has been busy with several impactful events. We organized a successful bake sale to raise funds for charity and collaborated with the Gift of Life initiative for swabbing events. Additionally, we partnered with the Jewish Life Federation in Greensboro for community outreach. Regarding Jewish programming, we hosted a fun hamantaschen baking event and a memorable Passover Seder with Hillel, strengthening our ongoing collaboration. Our social events also proved to be a highlight, with the Mountain Weekend being an unforgettable and bonding experience for the entire chapter.



## Georgia Tech University

We wrapped up an unforgettable spring semester with Formal in New Orleans — beignets were eaten, memories made, and our new sweetheart was crowned. Our new philanthropy, AEPuppies, kicked off with tail wags and big smiles, raising funds while raising spirits. Huge shoutout to Brother Jacob Beldick, who became the youngest man ever to complete the Ultraman triathlon: 320 grueling miles over three days. Brother Shadi Buchanan also made us proud, winning his charity boxing match at Pike Fight for Life — his second victory, making AEPi a three-time champ in the ring. To top it off, our chapter earned the second highest GPA on campus — brains, brawn, and brotherhood. And looking ahead, we've already started planning the return of our infamous alumni softball tournament — stay tuned for more details!

## Indiana University

The Beta Iota chapter celebrated its 44th reunion (Graduation Year 1981) during the Little 500 bike race weekend in April. Being back on campus filled us with warmth and nostalgia, bringing back memories of our fraternity days and life on campus. Strolling through the house and reminiscing about those great times really was a blast. It was especially rewarding to engage with the new members over brunch, sharing experiences and bridging the gap from the 1970s to the present. Spending time with our brothers is truly a blessing, particularly as we've grown older. This weekend was about reuniting with the men who helped shape our lives and reflecting on the journeys we've all taken. It's the connections with these quality men that have influenced us both professionally and personally. Sharing laughter and stories as if we were 18 again is an experience that's simply irreplaceable. It seems we never really grow up—it's just a look in the mirror that reminds us otherwise.







## James Madison University

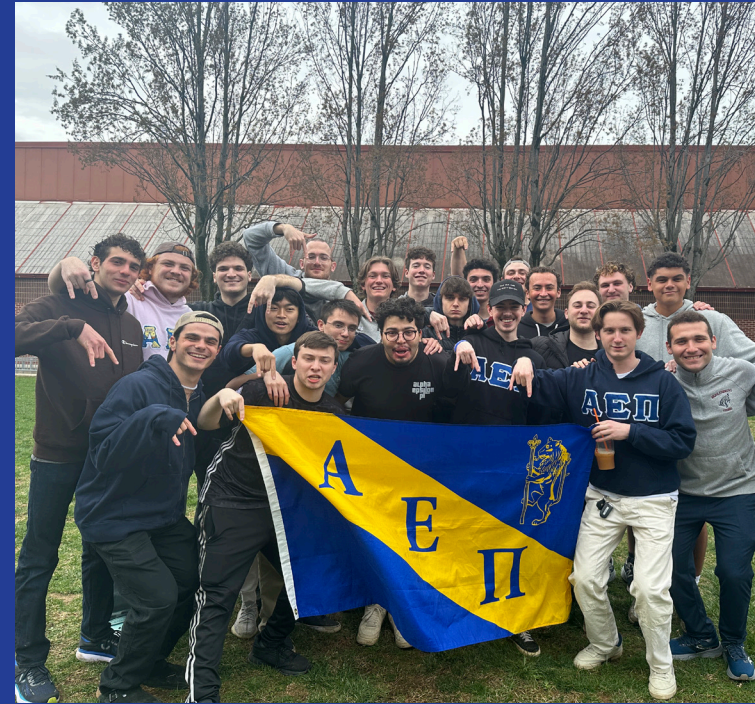
The Omega Epsilon chapter has experienced tremendous growth this year. Our fall AEPalooza music festival raised over \$2,000+ for Gift of Life, while our spring RAVEPi event generated \$5,000+ for California Wildfire Relief. We're proud of our 220+ participant cheek swab drive for Gift of Life and our active collaboration with Chabad for meaningful Jewish programming, including successful minyans for Passover, Mega-Shabbat, and Rosh Hashanah. Brother Brayden Dobrinsky has helped to reinstate Dukes for Israel at JMU. Athletically, we reached playoffs in our intramural sports including soccer, basketball, flag football, and softball, while maintaining a chapter GPA above 3.0. We proudly initiated fifteen new brothers and won JMU's SOAR Chapter of the Year award for 2024. Brother Josh Young received the Harvey S. Bodker Emerging Young Leader Award at AEPi's 2024 International Convention. We've also transformed our chapter house at 680 S Mason with an upgraded indoor light, sound systems, and outdoor DJ/band setup for enhanced social events.

## Lehigh University

The Sigma Eta chapter at Lehigh University had a great spring semester full of productive workshops, philanthropy events, and socials.

During the first month of the semester, we had our annual Alpha Epsilon Pi & Alpha Phi Dodgeball Tournament. With over 80 participants, we raised over \$400, which was donated to the Jewish Health Organization.

We also created the "Life after Lehigh" series, where we had workshops on different important topics regarding postgraduate life. Our most recent workshop was run by a Sigma Eta alumnus on how to pick/rent an apartment.



## Muhlenberg College

This year we doubled the size of our chapter, and are proud to share that all brothers became CPR and First Aid certified. We also raised almost \$1,000 this semester doing Mensch Madness and muffin bake sale fundraisers, and participating in our annual penny wars. We also collaborated with groups on campus; we co-sponsored a global disco dance party with the international student association, we co-sponsored a Purim party with Hillel, we co-sponsored a barbeque with intramural soccer, and we held a Walk to Remember in honor of Yom HaShoah. Beyond that, we participated in GEMS (Greek Empowerment and Mental Support) to advocate for mental health for students in Greek life.

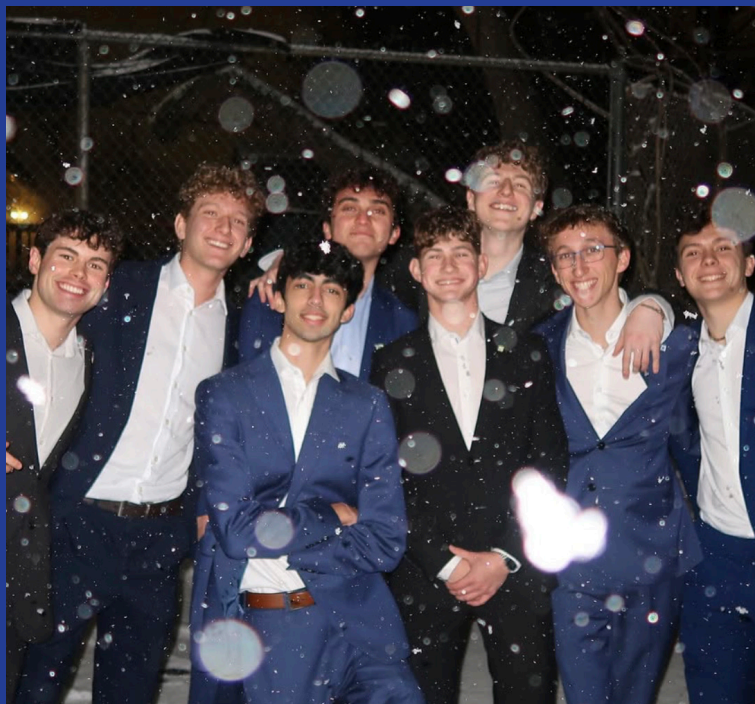
## North Carolina State University

The Nu Chi chapter had a successful year filled with brotherhood, philanthropy, and growth!

We raised almost \$1,200 through events like Shack-A-Thon, Mensch Madness, a pickleball tournament, and a joint bake sale with the AOE sorority. We also supported the Jewish community by volunteering at the October 7 Commemoration event hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Raleigh and hosted a fun Sweet n Savory Matzo event for our brothers during Passover. We welcomed six new brothers during rush, hosted two fantastic alumni weekends, and had five brothers attend conclave at Georgia Tech. Looking ahead, we're excited for the years to come as we continue to grow and make a positive impact in our community.







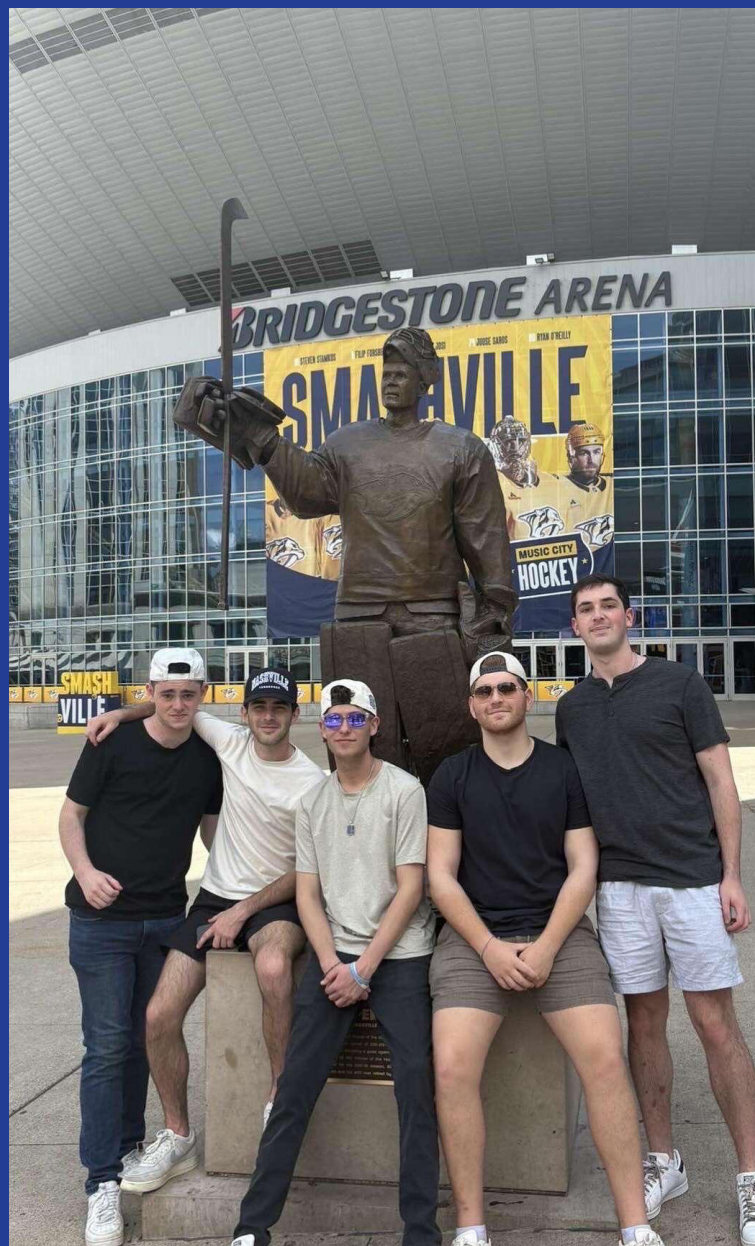
## Northeastern University

We had an incredibly rewarding spring semester in all aspects of the fraternity. Our proudest achievement was raising over \$15,000 for Relay for Life, the most of any organization at Northeastern. We also had an excellent semester immersing ourselves within Jewish life on campus. Sarah Hurwitz, former speechwriter for Michelle and Barack Obama, spoke at Hillel about fighting antisemitism on campus, an event attended by many brothers. We partnered with Hillel to view a documentary on October 7th and reflected on being Jewish on campus. Lastly, many brothers finished off the year by celebrating Passover at Chabad.

## Ohio State University

This semester, the Ohio State chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi was busy with both philanthropy and brotherhood events. We raised \$1,200 at our annual ArmyPi social for Wounded Warriors, supporting life-saving programs for veterans and their families. Additionally, we raised \$1,500 for AEPI's Mensch Madness fundraiser, benefiting the Repair the World Fund. Looking ahead, we're planning four more fundraisers next semester. We also had a great time with social events like USAepi, Pi's in the 80's, and Spring Block. After finals, our Spring formal in Nashville was a blast.

In terms of Jewish programming, we launched a ten-week learning series in partnership with Keshar Columbus, where brothers gathered each week to hear from inspiring speakers like Rabbi Benzion Klatzko and John Frank. The program culminated in a memorable Friday night Shabbat celebration. On the athletic front, we continued our Apes Hoops league with Team Levine taking home the trophy. We're also planning to join a men's softball league next semester. We proudly welcomed 42 new brothers, the second-largest pledge class in our chapter's history, and had the honor of hosting AEPI's regional conclave at the Fawcett Center, with 50 members attending.



## Purdue University

It's been a memorable year for our chapter, packed with brotherhood, philanthropy, and tradition. We're proud to have hosted our annual Walk to Remember, honoring the victims of the Holocaust and October 7th. Earlier this semester, we teamed up with Gift of Life for several impactful philanthropy events, supporting bone marrow donation and lifesaving causes. On the social side, we made unforgettable memories during our formal trip to Nashville, and strengthened our brotherhood at a relaxing retreat. As the semester wrapped up, we raced in the Grand Prix, one of Purdue's most iconic traditions.

## Radford University

This spring marked a historic moment for Jewish life and fraternity culture at Radford University, as the Rho Alpha colony of Alpha Epsilon Pi was officially founded. With six passionate and committed Founding Fathers, the colony wasted no time making an impact on campus and in the local Jewish community.

One of the highlights of the semester was hosting a warm and meaningful Passover Seder, which brought together students and community members in celebration of tradition and togetherness. We also achieved full recognition as an Interfraternity Council (IFC) chapter on campus — an important milestone that sets the stage for future success.

As we look toward the fall, the brothers are eager to hit the ground running—expanding our presence, growing our brotherhood, and strengthening Jewish life at Radford.  
Am Yisrael Chai!







## Rochester Institute of Technology

We had a strong and memorable spring semester. We rushed two new brothers into our chapter and are excited to see them grow in the brotherhood. Our philanthropy efforts were in full swing — we cooked and donated meals to the Ronald McDonald House Charities, tabled to raise money for United We Dream, and participated in RIT's Relay for Life to support cancer research. We also hosted a beautiful Passover Seder during our spring formal as part of our Jewish programming. Academically, we're proud to see several brothers — Daniel Laferriere, David Leiber, and Daniel Coplan — graduate and take the next steps in their journeys. We collaborated with other Greek organizations this semester and hosted a couple of big socials that brought our community even closer. While this semester had its highs and lows, we're already planning and setting goals to make next semester even stronger. Exciting things are ahead, and we can't wait to keep building.

## San Diego State University

Here at the Sigma Delta chapter of San Diego State, we have had a very eventful and productive semester. We have initiated 14 new members this spring that have been a big help in our networking, alumni relations, and chapter philanthropy. In April we went to Las Vegas for our annual formal with 80+ brothers and dates alongside them. This semester we have had great turnouts every Friday at our Chabad house and Hillel! We look forward to preparing for the fall semester ahead of us through the summer.



## Sonoma State University

We had an absolutely amazing philanthropy week with Gift of Life where we were able to collect roughly 200 swabs to help find matches for bone cancer! We also raised over \$500 during our fundraising week so that we can continue putting on amazing events within the chapter. Through on-campus academics, we hold the highest GPA of all fraternities. We also came dead last in our Greek Olympics.



## University at Albany

Alpha Nu has had another great semester at SUNY Albany! We initiated two new brothers and made it to the playoffs in our intramural basketball and volleyball leagues. We have grown our presence on campus and within the Albany community through acts of service, Jewish life, and attending Chabad events. The brothers of Alpha Nu had a great time at the Passover Seders and spent the nights singing songs with our Rabbi. We have made many renovations to our fraternity house and are excited to have a third house in Albany next semester!

## University of Arizona

The brothers of the Upsilon Alpha chapter have stayed busy this year initiating 37 new members and growing the chapter size to over 100 members! In partnership with the Arizona State chapter, we raised over \$7,000 towards the new Steve Hilton Holocaust Museum, as well as over \$7,000 towards rebuilding a Kibbutz (Manara) that was destroyed by Hezbollah. Additionally, we completed the first two-day artist party in school history, having the DJ Matroda and rapper Rich The Kid perform on consecutive nights. Our boys also had a great time in Lake Havasu City for our Formal this spring! We can't wait to get back to school and continue growing our chapter!



## University at Buffalo

Here at AEPi Buffalo we had a semester like no other. As we continue to grow as a colony and seek our chartering this August, we took massive steps to advance our development. If we were to pick out some highlights, it would be our first ever Toronto formal and sweeping Mensch Madness. We had the highest individual donor, highest total donation amount, highest average, and one of our brothers even won the bracket challenge. Our formal was an impressive logistical feat, as we were able to celebrate our school year with each other in fashion.





## University of California - Berkeley

We had an incredible year at AEPi UC Berkeley! We hosted two major philanthropy events—swabbing nearly 300 people for the Gift of Life registry and raising almost \$500 for St. Jude's with a stand-up comedy night. Our Passover brotherhood seder was a meaningful moment to connect through our Jewish identity. On the field, we made playoffs in soccer, softball, and basketball intramurals. We remain the top academic fraternity on campus and welcomed 22 incredible Jewish new members, growing from 27 to 49 brothers. A Lake Tahoe retreat capped off a year of strong brotherhood, pride, and success as an all-Jewish chapter. Here at UC Berkeley, AEPi remains a beacon of Jewish pride, community, and brotherhood.

## University of California - Santa Barbara

The last two quarters have been very eventful for us at the Sigma Beta chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi. We had a successful Shabbat weekend getaway in the mountains of Big Bear, California. In the fall, we initiated fifteen new brothers and have had intramural successes in both soccer and basketball. In addition, we hosted a Walk to Remember with many members of our community. Throughout the event, we shared stories of relatives who survived the Holocaust and discussed how we can combat antisemitism on our campus. We're looking forward to our Senior Roast Night in which we congratulate our senior members and relish all the great memories we've made together.



## UCLA

We've been up to a lot of awesome activities this spring quarter! We recently partnered with Hillel to host a Shabbat barbeque dinner, and the boys on the flag football team have been killing it, and are looking to make the playoffs starting soon. We are looking forward to our biannual AEPuppies event coming up, followed by our Formal the week after. We are also excited to wish our seniors goodbye and finish out the year strong!

## University of Cincinnati

This year was an unforgettable one for the Omicron Deuteron chapter. Our commitment to philanthropy remained strong; we raised over \$700 for AEPi's Mensch Madness, placing 22nd nationally, and hosted a successful Paint-A-Pi event supporting the Israel Cancer Research Fund. We celebrated Passover together on April 19 and enjoyed a fantastic spring formal. Brotherhood events included Cincinnati Reds and Cyclones games, a mini-golf tournament, and reconnecting with alumni during Homecoming Weekend. This semester was truly special, and as a chapter, we are excited for the opportunities and memories the year ahead will bring.



## University of Connecticut

This was the Upsilon Kappa colony's first full school year on UConn's campus. We managed to grow from our ten founding fathers to twenty-five incredible brothers. We have been able to successfully assist the Jewish community on campus through the tough times following 10/7. Of note, we were able to shut down the BDS movement on campus, and found even more brothers through doing so. We are incredibly excited for the future and only see more positive growth ahead!





## University of Hartford

This spring was packed with brotherhood, traditions, and a lot of great memories. We hosted Greek Shabbat at Chabad, and participated in Gift of Life to support a great cause. We celebrated Passover together at the house and threw an awesome Israel Day BBQ. On the field, we had a blast playing flag football. Academically, most of the chapter made either the Dean's List or President's List, which was an incredible accomplishment. We also picked up two amazing new brothers during spring rush! We wrapped it all up with a great formal at North House and a mountain weekend in Pittsfield, Vermont.

## University of Illinois

The Delta chapter has had a busy semester filled with exciting projects and events. Early on, thanks to our alumni, we fully renovated our Chapter Room with new couches, a pool table, fresh paint, and the Centennial Plaque from our summer alumni event. Brothers have loved studying and hosting events—like the Super Bowl—in the updated space. We also launched a house basketball league on our outdoor court. With 16 teams of four, each game draws a crowd. Even though my team is out, it's been a blast to watch and hang out.

Our biggest project has been the Backyard Fundraiser. The goal: renovate the backyard with a fence, lights, speakers, and grill area—while raising funds for charity. We pledged 10% of proceeds to the AEPi Foundation for Chai Lifeline, supporting families facing serious illness. Brothers spent a week calling family, friends, and alumni to reach our \$40,000 goal. With help from parents, Rabbi Dovid, ESPONDA, and alumni, we're on track to hit it and start construction this summer. We hope to see you at the unveiling during Homecoming weekend this fall!

It's been a semester of major progress—we can't wait for what's next.



## University of Massachusetts

The Phi Chapter had a productive and noteworthy spring semester. We participated in our first-ever UMass IFC Greek Week, initiated six new brothers into our chapter, completed trail cleanups, and joined the Gift of Life Foundation's philanthropic efforts. The event we are most excited about was our half-week of Jewish programming from May 1st to May 4th. We celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut by co-hosting a backyard shuk event with Hillel, featuring live music and vendors. The following Saturday, we held a B'nai Mitzvah for three of our brothers. These were our biggest events of the year; we hope to see a great turnout to continue promoting ourselves as a Jewish fraternity at UMass.

## University of Miami

This has been a memorable semester for the Lambda Deuteron chapter, from the University of Miami. To start the semester, we scored the largest new member class in the University of Miami's history, with 45. We carried that momentum throughout the semester, achieving the award for the highest GPA in the IFC. Don't let the grades fool you, because our chapter knows how to party! We hosted Grammy winner Sean Kingston... in our backyard! But the thing we are most proud of is our new philanthropy event we started, Rock-a-Thon. Thanks to the help of the brothers from the University of Missouri, we launched this philanthropy event, and it went better than we could've ever imagined. We raised \$54,000 after only raising \$8,000 the previous year. These accomplishments did not go unnoticed by the University, and we are happy to announce our award as Most Improved Chapter. We are excited to see what's to come in the 2025-2026 school year!

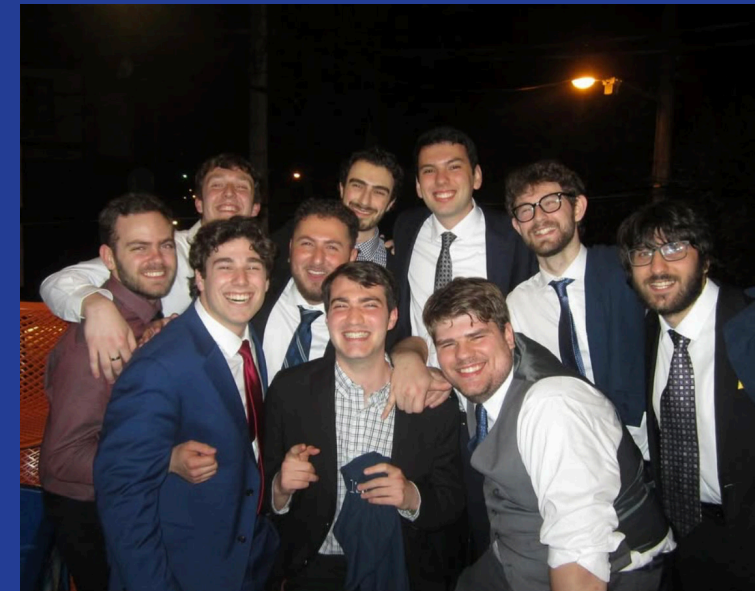






## University of Missouri

This spring was a great one for the brothers in Como! We raised over \$207,000 for pancreatic cancer research through our 63 hour rockathon! We also initiated 4 new brothers this spring and we can't wait to see what's in store for the fall!



## University of Pittsburgh

This spring was one of our most successful semesters yet. We proudly hosted our annual "We Walk to Remember" event, bringing together the campus community to honor the lives lost in the Holocaust. Academically, we're thrilled to have earned the highest GPA in Greek life—something we've all worked hard to achieve. Our rush efforts paid off with the largest pledge class since our chapter's refounding, and it's been amazing watching the new brothers thrive. To cap it all off, our formal was a huge success, with great turnout and unforgettable memories. We're excited to keep building on this momentum!

## University of North Carolina

This was a great semester. We raised over \$6,000 across multiple philanthropy events including the Grill and Chill and Pickleball events. We also reached over 90 active brothers. We currently hold the second highest GPA in UNC IFC. We also made it to the championship of the IFC basketball tournament. We celebrated Mountain Weekend at the Shenandoah mountains and we traveled to Hilton Head for our formal. This semester was a blast and we look forward to the fall!



## University of Rochester

We, the Rho Nu chapter, had a great spring semester, as we held successful Jewish, brotherhood, community service, and social events. We collaborated on several events with Hillel and Chabad, including volunteering at the local food pantry, co-hosting Shabbat dinners and Passover Seders, screening a returned hostage interview, and hosting We Walk to Remember. We bonded as a brotherhood through cooking events, like challah and hamantaschen baking, and multiple movie nights. We also strengthened our relationships with other student organizations by working with Resident Life to run a bingo game at the local Jewish senior home, and hosting a mock wedding with Chi Omega. Lastly, we saw athletic success by placing first in Intramural Kickball!



## University of Oregon

This Spring term we capped off an incredible year at the Upsilon Omega colony. We initiated 15 new brothers in the fall, increasing our brotherhood by 80 percent! We have hosted our colony's most successful philanthropy events with our 'Pie a Pi' event, where we donated 50% of our proceeds to our local Chabad's flood relief, as their house was flooded at the end of winter term. We are excited for our colony's future as we continue to grow!





## University of Southern California

As we just recently reestablished the Upsilon chapter at USC, this semester has been a huge learning for us. Most of us didn't have strong ties to Jewish life on campus before, but through this semester, we've built meaningful connections with each other and with organizations like Chabad and Hillel. We helped out at events like Shabbat 1000, got messy at our "Pi a Pie" fundraiser, and grew closer as a chapter. A group of us even traveled to Argentina through a Hillel program, where we met some incredible guys who later became new members and recently crossed over. We've been supporting each other beyond the chapter too as some brothers landed awesome internships for the summer, and we're actively working on securing a house so more of us can live together next year. It's just the beginning, and we're excited for what's next.



## University of Washington

This past quarter has been one of our most productive yet. We've hosted multiple community service events, anything from collecting DNA for a Gift of Life swab drive to cleaning up Ravenna Park. We have also been working with and volunteering for other organizations, some religious like Chabad and Hillel where we help set up and clean Shabbat dinners, some secular, as we're getting more involved with Greek activity ramping up for our upcoming new chapter house. Another key part of our success has been weekly meetups at the gym and library. This gives brothers informal times to meet one another and help each other outside of events. Overall, this quarter has been a great learning experience and serves as a great transition into the new year.

## University of Virginia

The Mu chapter had a very eventful spring semester this year. Some highlights of our semester include the brotherhood camping trip, beach formal at the Outer Banks, attending the Foxfield races and our philanthropic Foam Darty, where we raised money for the UVA Heart Family Fund. This spring was also highlighted by the initiation of sixteen new brothers into the Mu chapter.

We continually strive for high academic achievement, and maintained the highest average GPA across all Greek Life for the third consecutive semester. We continue strengthening our relations in the university community through various outreach efforts and welcome any alumni to stop by our chapter house, reminisce, and meet our brothers.



## University of Wisconsin

Hello everyone! We've had a great spring semester. After initiating 38 new brothers last fall, we have all worked hard together to do great things on behalf of AEPi Wisconsin. For our annual Life Is Great Philanthropy Week, we raised over \$31,000 for our two charities: The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research and Friends of United Hatzalah. Just the other week, we partnered with Let's Do Something – an Israeli organization dedicated to spreading awareness about the global rise in antisemitism after October 7th. Together, we helped to encourage our fellow students to vote in The World Zionist Congress (WZC), the only democratically elected Jewish body that's tasked with controlling \$5 billion in funding for Zionist issues.





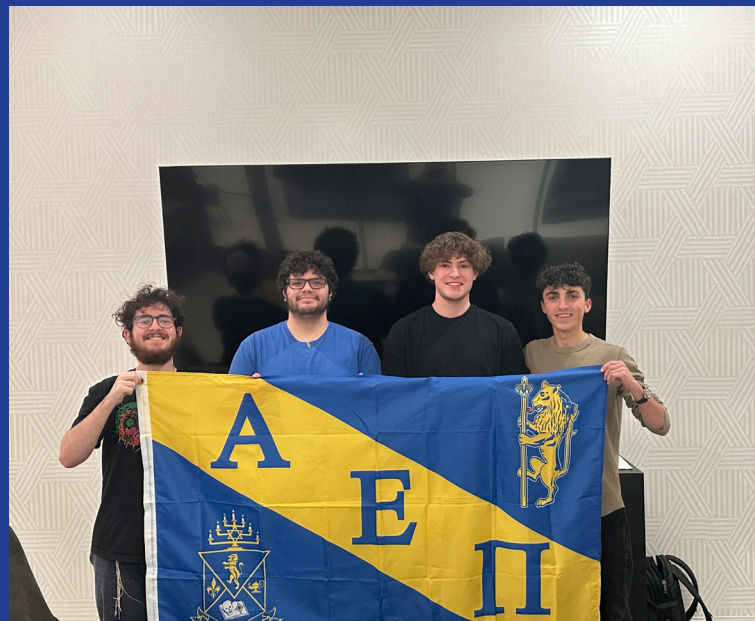


## Virginia Tech University

The Sigma Alpha chapter at Virginia Tech had an exceptional Spring 2025 semester. We welcomed nine new brothers and maintained a smoothly operating executive board. Our Animal House Petting Zoo philanthropy raised funds for Save a Child's Heart, while weekly Shabbat dinners and a vibrant Passover Seder strengthened our community. Intramural softball is having another great run, and we're pumped for the team's future. With 29 brothers on Dean's List and 8 earning perfect 4.0s last fall, we're excited to keep up our academic momentum. We proudly received the FSL "Chapter On The Rise" award, and many brothers earned individual honors. Rush remains strong, our social calendar active, and the chapter continues to thrive.

## Wayne State University/ Detroit Metro

The Xi chapter of AEPi, relaunched at Wayne State University in Detroit, proudly stands as Michigan's first Jewish fraternity chapter, reviving a historic legacy. As a hub for Jewish students, we've kicked off with fun hangouts, fostering strong bonds among brothers. Our mentorship programs connect students with members in the professional world, driving personal growth and networking. Open to all, we've created a solid community where everyone fits in. The Xi chapter is eager to grow, strengthen friendships, and make a lasting impact on Detroit's Jewish community.

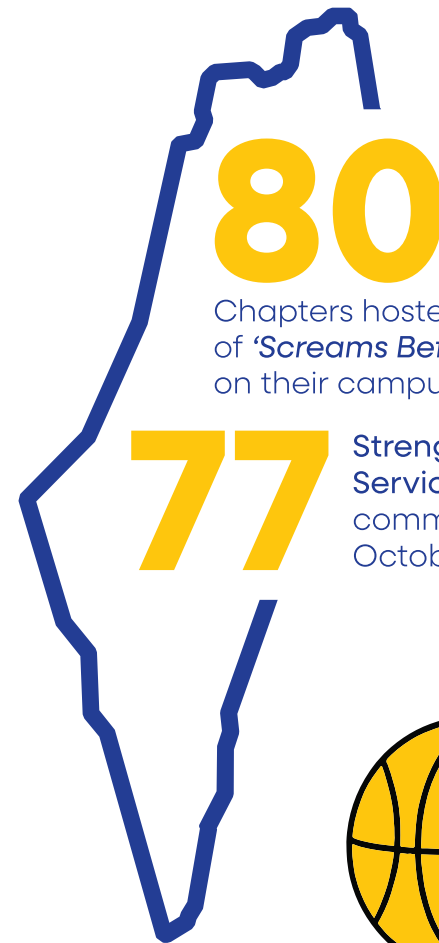


## Yale University

It was incredible having everyone back for the Yale AEPi 35th anniversary reunion. Seeing brothers from across the decades reconnect, share stories, and celebrate our shared history reminded us of the strength of the AEPi brotherhood. The energy, the laughs, and the sense of tradition made it a weekend I'll never forget.

# ALPHA EPSILON PI

## BY THE NUMBERS



# 80

Chapters hosted screenings of 'Screams Before Silence' on their campuses

# 77

Strength through Service projects to commemorate the October 7 attacks



# \$62K

Raised during AEPi's 'Mensch Madness' bracket challenge to benefit Nechama, Israel ParaSport Center and Chai Lifeline

# 1 ❤️ 7 LIVES SAVED

as a result of AEPi's 21 year partnership with Gift of Life Marrow Registry

# \$1,000,000

Granted by the AEPi Foundation to support Jewish, Leadership & Advocacy programs on campuses

# 46,135

Hours of community service performed by AEPi brothers in the most recent academic year

# 150

Current Chapters and Colonies

# 46,135

Living AEPi alumni

# \$2,857,362

Raised by the AEPi Foundation to support AEPi brothers and programs

# 10,000

AEPi brothers who have signed on to the Jewish Youth Promise over the last several years





# Lifecycle Events

For many years, The Lion provided AEPI alumni and friends with updates on brothers' lifecycle events – weddings, births, and those entering chapter eternal. In today's social media world, much of this information is found online or elsewhere. The Lion, however, is AEPI's publication of record so we hope to get back to collecting and presenting this information regularly. In this issue, we are listing the milestones we have been made aware of since January 2024.

As brothers, when one of us celebrates a simcha, we all celebrate with him. Similarly, we mourn every brother who has entered chapter eternal and thank them for their commitment to AEPI. May their memories be a blessing.

Please send us your lifecycle events at [Lion@AEPI.org](mailto:Lion@AEPI.org) for inclusion in the Fall issue.

## Births

- To Brother Michael David (Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo, 2008) and his wife, Pamma, a son, Ezra
- To Brother Sam Orelove (Charleston, 2011) and his wife, Hannah, a son, Ethan Avi.
- To Brother Rob Derdiger (Colorado, 2007) and his wife, Maddie, a son, Leonard William
- To Brother Kevin Kendall (Kent State, 2015) and his wife, Gigi, a son, Cedric
- To Brother Jordan Blank (Kent State, 2011) and his wife, Alyssa, a son, James
- To Brother Jonathan Bridge (Virginia Commonwealth, 2013) and his wife, Alex, a son, Blake Matthew.
- To Brother Jonah Zinn (George Washington, 2004) and his wife, Jamie, a daughter, Maya Shoshana
- To Brother Jonathan Cohen (Kent State, 2014) and his wife, Taylor, a son, Sawyer Calvin
- To Brother Ian Sobel (Northwestern, 2010) and his wife, Jessica, a son, Aaron Lior
- To Brother Max Rothman (California-Davis, 2011) and his wife, Carissa, a son, Theo Robert
- To Brother Kyle Whitlock (College of New Jersey, 2014) and his wife, Kim, a son, Nathaniel
- To Brother Andrew Max (Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo, 2012) and his wife, Stephanie, a son, Issac

# Chapter Eternal

Joel Aberbach (Florida, 1957)  
Kenneth Abrams (Arizona State, 1953)  
William Adler (Arizona State, 1964)  
Murray Alperin (Vanderbilt, 1951)  
Lawrence Alter (Minnesota, 1963)  
Eric Auvinen (Southern California, 2014)  
Harvey Babetch (Bradley, 1955)  
Lori Baigelman (Northeastern, 1977)  
Samuel Balot (Missouri, 1951)  
Stevan Baron (Purdue, 1959)  
Philip Benson (Indiana Institute of Technology, 1971)  
David Berry (Drake, 1960)  
Stanley Better (Cincinnati, 1971)  
Harvey Blicksilver (Rutgers, 1961)  
James Blumenthal (Tulane, 1972)  
Louis Bradfield (Iowa, 1963)  
Ira Brand (Long Island University – Brooklyn, 1965)  
Joel Braverman (Rutgers, 1962)  
Stanley Brickman (Emory, 1953)  
Ira Broadman (Rhode Island, 1960)  
Robert Buchalter (Memphis, 1961)  
Stewart Cannell (Tennessee, 1974)  
John Canterbury (Lehigh, 1992)  
Alan Chapman (Missouri, 1959)  
Max Chiswick (Northwestern, 2008)  
Kenneth Cohen (Iowa, 1956)  
Mark Cohen (Ohio University, 1998)  
Stephen Cozen (Pennsylvania, 1961)  
Joseph Cukier (Texas – Austin, 1969)  
PSM Rabbi Stanley Davids (Case Western Reserve, 1961)  
Martin Davis (Toledo, 1959)  
Jacob Devine (Purdue, 2026)  
Alan Duke (Iowa, 1954)  
Robert Dutkowsky (Cornell, 1977)  
David Edelman (Georgia, 1971)  
Stephen Ehrlich (Minnesota, 1961)  
Leonard Eisenstein (Illinois – Champaign, 1946)

Alyn Essman (Washington University, 1953)  
Avraham Feinstein (Towson, 2025)  
James Feldman (Texas – Austin, 1978)  
Arthur Fenster (Memphis, 1972)  
Robert Fier (Florida, 1973)  
David Fisher (Texas – Austin, 1977)  
Gerald Fivel (Purdue, 1954)  
Stephen Fortunoff (Cornell, 1955)  
Robert Frager (Missouri, 1958)  
Gary Friedman (California-Irvine, 1991)  
Melvin Friedman (Virginia, 1950)  
Lawrence Gates (Tufts, 1956)  
Philip Gisser (Cornell, 1946)  
David Glazer (Iowa, 1956)  
Fred Glusman (Vanderbilt, 1954)  
Bernard Gold (Cornell, 1952)  
Irving Goldberg (Ohio State, 1952)  
Alvin Gordon (Virginia, 1950)  
Philip Gouze (Florida, 1973)  
Ronald Green (Florida, 1973)  
Michael Greenwald (Indiana, 1970)  
Sean Hornreich (Central Florida, 2012)  
Michael Izsak (Missouri, 1982)  
Jason Judis (Cincinnati, 2018)  
Harvey Jurkowitz (Arizona, 1964)  
Michael Kanz (Indiana, 1974)  
Ronald Kaplan (Illinois – Champaign, 1971)  
Stephen Kaplan (Cornell, 1954)  
Ronald Karp (Rensselaer, 1962)  
Joel Katz (Lehman, 1966)  
Joseph Katz (Cornell, 1955)  
Henry Kaufman (Michigan State, 1963)  
Jack Kaufman (Wisconsin – Madison, 1954)  
Robert King (Florida, 1974)  
Cyril Kobey (Arizona State, 1961)  
Randolph Kramer (Florida, 1968)  
Allen Krass (Michigan, 1953)



# Chapter Eternal

Harold Kriv (Iowa, 1954)  
Lynn Kuluva (Missouri, 1964)  
David Labush (Cornell, 1997)  
Bardia Lajevardi (California-San Diego, 2025)  
Harvey Leavitt (Iowa, 1956)  
Larry Lechtner (Bradley, 1957)  
Roger Lefkowitz (Ohio State, 1963)  
Kevin Levin (Missouri, 2012)  
Richard Lewis (Ohio State, 1969)  
Richard Lieberman (Kent State, 1951)  
Sheldon Mandel (Pennsylvania, 1967)  
David Mankin (Florida, 1973)  
Bernard Marcus (Rutgers, 1954)  
Stephen Marino (Rensselaer, 1968)  
Dennis Markovitz (Illinois – Champaign, 1974)  
Allan Miller (Toledo, 1957)  
David Million (Wayne State, 1968)  
Allen Mondzac (George Washington, 1958)  
Steven Morose (Missouri, 1963)  
Michael Mostyn (Honorary)  
Jack Orlove (Missouri, 1953)  
Larry Packer (Case Western, 1970)  
Gerald Parker (Worcester Polytechnic, 1966)  
PSM Allen Paschen (Marquette, 1950)  
Jacob Penzer (Florida Atlantic, 2019)  
Richard Perlman (Massachusetts, 1961)  
Larry Poisner (Missouri, 1952)  
Jerry Polis (Pennsylvania State, 1953)  
Gregory Pollack (Worcester Polytechnic, 1969)  
Michael Pousman (Georgia State, 1968)  
Darrell Ravitz (Minnesota, 1960)  
Jerold Reichler (Pittsburgh, 1970)  
Brandon Reisman (Indiana, 2005)  
Marvin Resnick (Ohio State, 1952)  
Larry Robbins (York, 1952)  
Michael Rosenberg (Vermont, 1971)  
Richard Rosengard (Illinois – Champaign, 1950)

Gerald Rozanoff (Michigan State, 1971)  
J Rubin (Wayne State, 1961)  
Morton Rudin (Arizona State, 1960)  
Gordon Safran (Ohio Northern, 1957)  
Karl Schaefer (Michigan State, 1954)  
Donald Scheiner (Cornell, 1953)  
Theodore Schiff (Miami (FL), 1955)  
Geoffrey Schoenberg (Delaware, 2007)  
Lawrence Schultz (Wayne State, 1966)  
Edward Schwartzman (Cornell, 1964)  
Jerome Sereboff (Maryland, 1961)  
Andrew Shapiro (UCLA, 2019)  
Leonard Shapiro (Massachusetts, 1957)  
William Shendell (Florida, 1975)  
Sanford Shlyen (Missouri, 1966)  
Ryan Sieber (Missouri, 2026)  
Jay Silverston (MIT, 1956)  
Ethan Simon (Northern Arizona, 1995)  
Anthony Smith (Athens College, 1975)  
Nicky Spivak (Louisville, 1985)  
Richard Stefanovic (Arizona State)  
Lawrence Stern (Rutgers, 1958)  
Jack Taffel (Georgia, 1956)  
David Toushin (Minnesota 1966)  
Louis Towne (California-Los Angeles, 1959)  
Stefan Utevsky (Kansas, 1999)  
Camren Vilinsky (Binghamton, 2019)  
Robert Walerstein (Marquette, 1968)  
Richard Walker (Long Island – Brooklyn, 1963)  
Burton Waxman (Queens, 1963)  
Paul White (California-Los Angeles, 1956)  
Howard Wolf (Iowa, 1956)  
Carl Wolkin (Columbia, 1968)  
Jonathan Woolf (Pennsylvania State, 1976)  
Gregory Wright (Nevada-Las Vegas, 2012)  
Donald Young (Georgia Tech, 1957)  
William Zellen (Pennsylvania, 1954)





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