

# NSJEW NEWS

IMPACT REPORT WINTER 2023-24



## BRINGING THE LIGHT

- RESPONDING TO OCTOBER 7TH
- SUDDENLY I AM A JEW
- FROM 4 YEARS UNTIL FOREVER
- MY ONLY REGRET



CHABAD AT NSU  
The heart of Jewish Life at NSU

# SOMETHING HAPPENED...

...and it was unlike anything we've seen before. At its start, 2023 was incredible. The Jewish Life! The Jewish Friends! The Amazing Community we've become! The growth was beyond anything we'd seen! And then news came from Israel. We felt crushed as a people and what happened on campus hurt us even more. Friends who turned away, professors opposing Israel and the challenge of juggling school and our pain. **And that's when a most beautiful bittersweet thing happened.**



Rabbi Aryeh & Etty

We came together and rose up like never before. More Jewish Pride has happened in the last few months than in the last few years. The more we hurt, the more we shined. **Because we are light and we'll always shine.** The NSJew family shines strong beyond anything anyone has imagined! We invite you in to feel it for yourself - loud and proud!



Cha-Board Leadership Team



## YOUR SUPPORT FOR NSJEWS AFTER OCT. 7TH

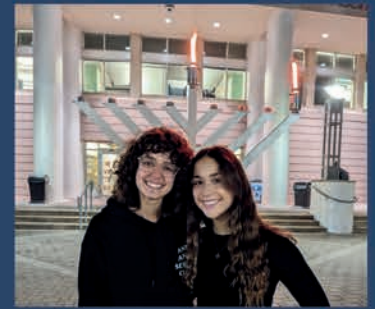
As an Israeli-American, not being in our homeland has been incredibly hard for me since Oct. 7th. Being far from the front lines while my sister was living in Israel made me question what to do next. Thankfully, while our brothers and sisters lead the fight at home, Chabad here has empowered me and my fellow NSJews to lead the way in the fight against antisemitism right here on campus. It would be impossible for me to deal with everything alone, but with our amazing Rabbi and Rebbetzin and the inspiring NSJew family, I feel like I've truly been able to bring light into dark times.

- Linore Greenberg '26

On October 7, I went numb. The world went dark and I could barely cope. All I could think about was my family in Israel. But right away our incredibly strong Jewish student community went into action mode channeling our fear and overwhelm into a united voice for Israel! What really uplifts me are our Shabbat Dinners at Chabad. Every Shabbat we launch into loud, crazy singing with our souls on fire! With everyone completely united and proud, the energy is electric. Since October 7th it has been just what we all needed. Am Yisrael Chai!

- Ofek Gur '26

**WHEN THE  
WORLD  
FEELS DARK  
- YOU BRING  
THEM LIGHT!**



Menorah Lighting



Israel March



Tefillin for Israel



Prayers for our People

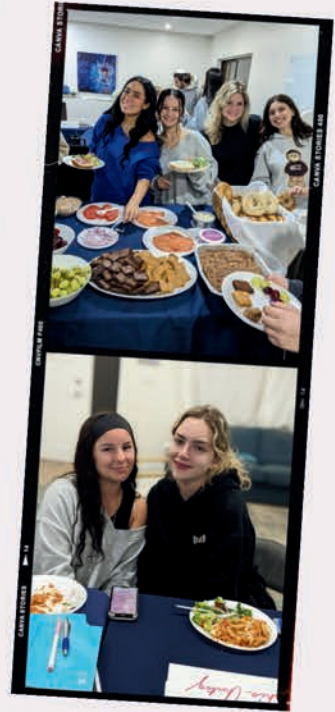
# SUDDENLY - I AM A JEW!

BY NINA FINN, '27

October 2023 was a month everything changed, but for me it might not be the way you'd think. While the Jewish world was reeling from the attacks of Oct. 7th, **I was just discovering that I was Jewish!** For my entire childhood I hadn't known this and finding out while 1000+ miles away from home wasn't easy. I wanted to learn everything I could about Judaism, but **I had no clue where to possibly begin.**

I had been open about my story and my friend Sophia invited me to Shabbat at the Chabad House. I was terrified! Would I be out of place? **Would I be welcomed?** When I went that Friday night, my nerves vanished. I was greeted with smiling faces and curious minds. I listened to the prayers and songs, enjoyed amazing food and began to explore my newfound identity.

Now I regularly go to the Chabad House and became a Sinai Scholar where I learn all about my Judaism. **Sometimes I wish I could skip the weekend (I know, crazy to hear from a college student) and go from Shabbat Dinner back to Chabad for Sinai on Monday!** The Chabad House has become my home away from home. **Walking through those doors is like entering an entire new world just two minutes from my dorm.** I call my mother each week and tell her everything I have learned and done and she's overjoyed! I can't imagine this incredible journey without Chabad right here at my side.



# FROM 4 YEARS UNTIL FOREVER

BY GABBY (FARBER) KURULKAR, '22



When I came to NSU, I didn't know that Sukkot was a holiday or that Passover was more than just not eating bread. To say I was Jewishly uninvolved would be an understatement. Etty was the first person I met on campus and the Schwartz family quickly became an important part of my life. They helped me find myself as a Jewish woman and I knew that my future would be heavily influenced by what I learned here.

**Chabad is quite literally my second family.** I learned how to cook, I learned about myself and my religion, and I made life-long friends. Etty and Rabbi are always there to listen or give advice and their children are so precious. Students always point out children because it's so uncommon on campus. It is so special to have this connection with the kids because **it takes away feelings of isolation and brings so much joy.**

Chabad is the greatest thing to happen to me. They accepted me with open arms and I've learned so, so much. I'm grateful beyond what words can describe. It was at Chabad that I fostered my connection to Hashem, and have found a love for Torah learning. I got to **watch my grandfather, who left Communist Russia, wrap tefillin for the first time.** Plus, it was at Chabad that I met my best friend, the love of my life, my husband, Tal! Together we plan to **give our future children a Jewish education** so they can have what I did not.



# MY ONLY REGRET

BY CHANA VOGEL, '26

Despite years at Jewish school, I've always struggled to find a Jewish community where I felt welcomed. Coming to college, I was wary of attending Jewish events.

All this changed on October 7th. Amidst the tragedies and rising antisemitism on campus, **I yearned for a Jewish community.** This time, I showed up to Chabad. Almost instantly I felt part of a group of people who all understood each other's pain and grief, who validated each other's feelings and who I could wave to in the hallways (a simple thing that makes a massive difference!). **I never expected to be so welcomed by such a beautiful community that I had dismissed so quickly.**

Rabbi Aryeh and Etty, along with the Chabad students, gave me a safe space to connect and strengthen my faith and relationship with G-d. Instead of feeling obligated to learn more Torah, I now feel excited to learn. Instead of feeling like an outsider, I feel at home!

**Since joining Chabad I am so much happier on Campus & in life.** My only regret about joining Chabad was that I didn't get more involved sooner!



BEN DANCES WITH FRIENDS AFTER SHABBAT



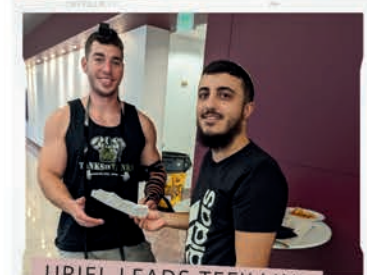
CHANA GETS MORE INVOLVED AT THE WELCOME BACK CHA-BBQ



GABBY CELEBRATES SIMCHAS WITH HER NSJEW FRIENDS



LINDA REFUELS FOR FINALS AT SUPPER & STUDY



URIEL LEADS TEFILLIN - ARMS FOR ISRAEL!

"You helped me be comfortable in a foreign country by giving me my home away from home."  
-Linda Cohen '27

"Every week I eagerly await the warm Shabbat dinners and seeing all my friends that I've become close to at Chabad!"  
-Ben Grushkovskiy '26

"With Chabad's love and support my college time has helped me grow in my yiddishkeit and solidify my role as a student leader, bringing light to an environment that needs it!"  
-Uriel Masckauchan '25

"It was really hard to navigate social life in college until I started going to Chabad. There I met the most incredible people and made life-long friendships, community and family."  
-Gabby Goldvekt '24

## THANK YOU FOR THESE MOMENTS ... THESE SMILES ARE YOURS!



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