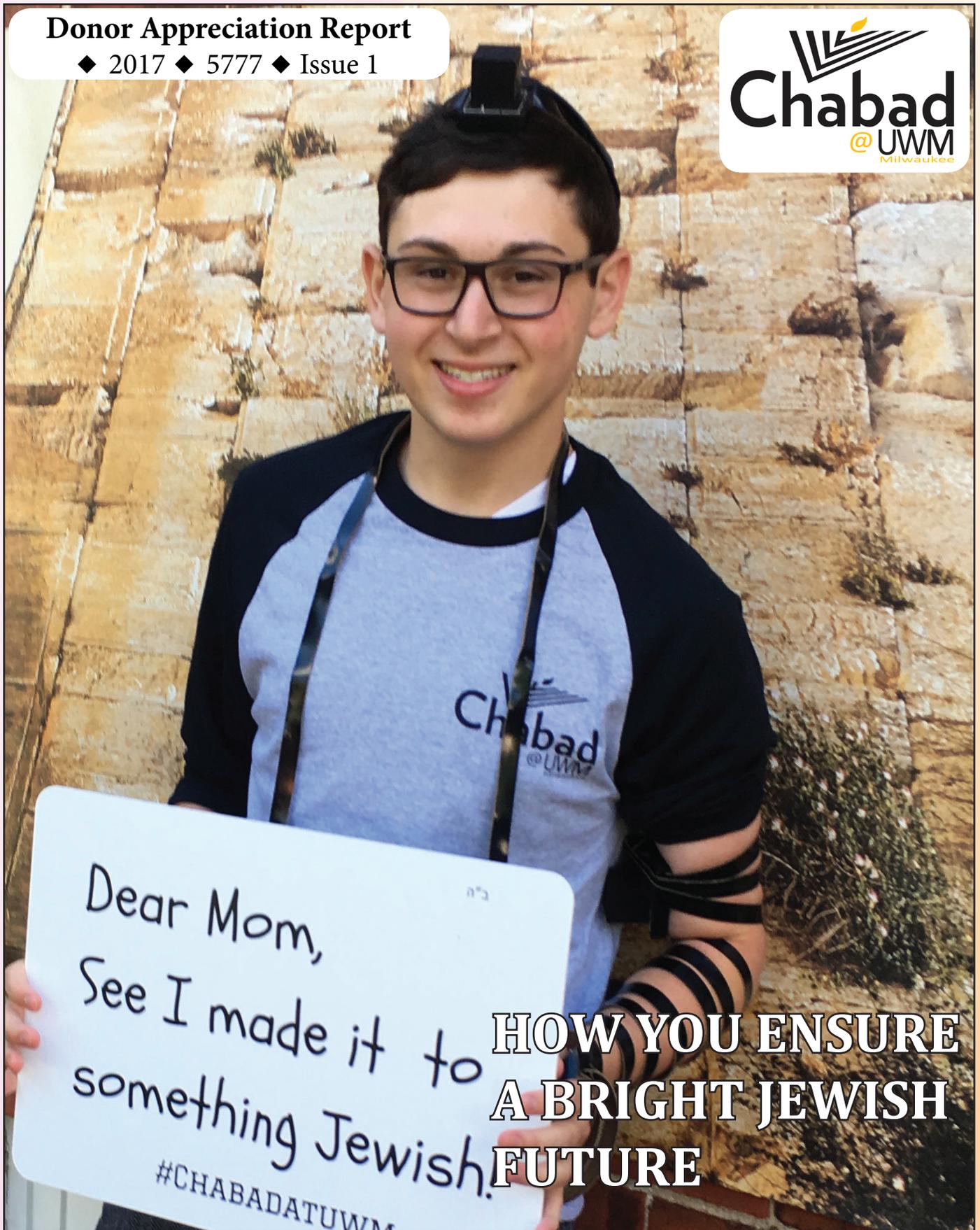


# LIVING LINKS

Donor Appreciation Report

◆ 2017 ◆ 5777 ◆ Issue 1



**HOW YOU ENSURE  
A BRIGHT JEWISH  
FUTURE**

# A Match Made on Campus

## How your contribution ensures Jewish Continuity



Alex and Paula playing draidel at a Chanuka event at Chabad, December 2012

In October of 2011, we hosted an event called “Sushi in the Sukka”. At that event, a student who we hadn’t met before showed up. I distinctly remember that he left towards the end of the event, before we were able to speak to him individually, to get to know him a little bit, and to ask him if he enjoyed himself, etc.

Fast-forward one year. It’s October of 2012, again on the Holiday of Sukkot. I’m in the Spaight Plaza on the UWM campus, with a portable pop up Sukka, to bring awareness of the Holiday and to invite Jewish students to celebrate. Helping me out on campus was Alex, the same student who left before we could speak to him, who by this time had become part of our extended family.

So we’re out there together, exactly a year after we first met, and a girl walks up to us and asks if we know where the local Chabad on campus is. Her name is Paula.

**Over the next few years, Alex and Paula became more involved with Chabad and with each other. They both**



Alex and Paula at their Chupa - wedding canopy

**served as president of the Chabad Jewish Student Group at UWM, contributing greatly to Jewish life on campus.**

In the spring of 2016 Alex and Paula announced their engagement. On May 27th, 2017, I was privileged to officiate the wedding ceremony of Alex & Paula.

This is what you accomplish when you partner with Chabad. Building the future of the Jewish people, one person at a time, one couple at a time. Families joining – and shaping – communities, forming another link in the chain of Am Yisrael.

On a personal note, this is perhaps the greatest inspiration that keeps me going. I’m sure it can keep you going. It’s definitely keeping the Jewish people going.

Rabbi Chezky Thaler



This sign at the wedding highlights the stages of Alex and Paula’s relationship.

# Students' give back

## Why Daniel buys tickets in the annual Chabad raffle

*"Giving back is an important thing in Judaism. I love coming to Shabbat dinner and other programs at Chabad; the annual raffle offers me a chance to give back to this important organization."*

Daniel Melnick, UWM  
Supply Chain Management



## With your help, Chabad saves lives.



Brian participated in the bone marrow drive hosted by Chabad in conjunction with 'Be The Match' registry. The drive brought in over 50 new members to the 'Be The Match' registry.

**Through Chabad, you create a warm environment for vibrant Jewish experiences. You are the vital link to make it happen. Thank you for all you do!**

Students joined 100's of peers from around the world for a Jewish Leadership Weekend in New York. **They formed new connections and strengthened their Jewish pride.**



Rabbi Kravitz, founder of Jews for Judaism International, facilitated a discussion on mind control and coercion, and **provided critical thinking tools to help students cope with peer pressure, deception and manipulation.**

# Cookies and Conversation; Learning and Friendship

Thanks to you, a new girls club helps form new friendships  
and fosters a positive learning environment

Cookies and Conversation was a great weekly study break from the daily hustle and bustle of the school week. Dobie created an intriguing lesson plan that excited everyone about all things Judaism. Lesson plans often corresponded with Holidays such as Purim and Sukkot. Neither of us have any previous formal Jewish education, so it was nice to learn about our religion in a laid back way.

We were able to bond and form friendships with Jewish girls on campus we had not previously had the chance to get to know. Dobie encouraged questions, which fostered a discussion-based learning environment and gave us opportunities to learn more about ourselves. Not to mention, she brought delicious cookies and sushi every week. Overall, 'Cookies and Conversation' was a fun, low-commitment weekly activity that we always looked forward to!

Nicole Gorelik and Sandy Stewart



Nicole and Sandy  
having fun at  
Chabad on Purim.



*“Neither of us have any previous formal Jewish education, so it was nice to learn about our religion in a laid back way.”*



Meeting in the UWM union for 'Cookies and Conversation'