

# SOUL STRINGS

CHABAD ELON NEWSLETTER



HIGH HOLIDAY  
IMPACT

JEWISH  
JOY AT PEGISHA

INSPIRING  
MOMENTS

Students gather for Rosh Hashanah dinner  
(picture taken before the holiday began)



## DEAR FRIEND,

As we reflect on the warmth and joy felt throughout the High Holidays and past few weeks, we'd like to personally thank YOU who made it all possible. We are truly grateful for the support you gave the students.

We kicked off the month with an incredible Rosh Hashanah dinner, **welcoming over 220 students on the first night and serving almost 400 students** throughout the course of the entire holiday.

The spirit of togetherness was felt as we enjoyed delicious brisket, sweet challah, and most importantly, connection.



Coby Gantcher '27 shakes the lulav on campus

Even with fall break in full swing, students made it back to join our inspiring Yom Kippur services. Several students observed a full day of fasting, some for the first time, and we enjoyed breaking the fast together with bagels, lox, and a meaningful time.

Sukkot brought even more joy! **Over 100 students joined in the mitzvah of shaking the lulav**, and many students helped build the sukkah at Chabad. Our mobile sukkah was a hit on campus, and more than 150 students joined for Sukkot events like Subs in the Sukkah, Poke Bowl Night, and Shabbat Under the Stars.

**Thank you for impacting the lives of hundreds of Jewish students at Elon University.**

Their joy is a testament to your love and support.

With deep appreciation,

*Rabbi Mendy & Rivka Minkowitz*



CARLY TAVARES '28  
BOCA RATON, FL

**"My name is Carly and I am a freshman. Something that I really enjoy at the Chabad is Friday night Shabbat, which I try to attend every week!**

**Shabbat at Chabad has given me an outlet to meet other Jewish students at Elon and participate in a tradition that I know and love.**

**I've brought friends and family who aren't Jewish to Shabbat, providing them with an experience that they've never been a part of before which was very special for me to share with them! Chabad welcomes all guests no matter their religions or backgrounds!"**

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# HOME AWAY FROM HOME

**“I remember my first couple Friday nights as an Elon freshman.** I would always go to a dining hall and it simply felt off.

Back at home, Friday nights were always a family dinner. It wasn't necessarily Shabbat, but it was full of discussion, recaps of the week, and a whole lot of laughter.

**I walked into the Chabad doors and it felt like Rabbi Mendy was waiting for me.** To this day, I wonder how he had already knew my name and hometown, but I knew I was in the right place that night.

After 90 minutes of great food, meeting new people, and getting my phone confiscated by the kids, I knew this place was a family.

When you're in the Chabad House, it feels like a home. A place where it does not matter where you came from, how you practice Judaism, so long as you are here bringing some energy and eating your share — you will always be welcomed back.

Every single time.”

— **ALEX WIGDER '27**  
**HOUSTON, TX**



**“WHEN YOU’RE IN THE CHABAD HOUSE, IT FEELS LIKE A HOME. A PLACE WHERE IT DOES NOT MATTER WHERE YOU CAME FROM...”**



## JEWISH HERO: RAMI DAVIDIAN

We were deeply honored to host modern-day hero, Rami Davidian, a former farmer who saved over 750 people from the Hamas attack on the Nova Music Festival in Israel on October 7th, who shared his harrowing experience. Davidian, accompanied by a translator and young woman he saved - Millet Ben Haim - recounted his courageous actions that day, navigating through danger to rescue festivalgoers. His story of bravery and resilience was truly inspiring.

# PEGISHA: SHABBAT IN NEW YORK

2,000 Jewish college students gathered from across the country to experience a Shabbat weekend unlike any other. Students joined the “Pegisha: Shabbat with Your Tribe” conference which included educational workshops, uplifting Shabbat services and festivities, a city tour, and most importantly, a deep connection to their Judaism.



*“Shabbat at Chabad has to be my favorite tradition! The songs, delicious food, and catching up with friends make Friday night the best part of the week. There’s something magical about gathering together—laughter fills the porch and everyone shares stories about their week.*

*Every Friday I look forward to experience a special Shabbat full of happiness and love with my Chabad family!”*  
– Emma Price '27 Atlanta, GA



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!  
YOU’VE GIFTED STUDENTS A MEMORABLE AND  
MEANINGFUL FALL SEMESTER THAT WILL HAVE A  
LASTING IMPACT! AND THERE’S MORE TO COME!**



**GIVE STUDENTS A HOME AWAY FROM HOME. JOIN OUR YEAR-END CAMPAIGN!  
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**Yes!** I want to make a difference for students at Elon!



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