

# UT Chabad and Zeta Beta Tau fraternity work together to build Yiddishkeit on campus

When University of Texas Chabad Rabbi Zev Johnson received a call from the Jewish fraternity, Zeta Beta Tau, to lead the young men in a mezuzah installation ceremony for their newly renovated frat house, he could not have been more willing to help. The fraternity house never had a mezuzah, and the men felt it was appropriate to affix one to the front doorpost. "In an effort to incorporate more Jewishness in the house, especially since the house had just been totally transformed thanks to our generous alumni and parents, we felt this was the perfect time to install a mezuzah," stated Alex Prescott, ZBT vice president.



Rabbi Zev Johnson, right, is shown with ZBT members (l-r) Robert Zale (Dallas), Rod Firestone (Los Angeles), Sam Glazer (Dallas), Robert Solimami (Dallas), Aviv Schor (Dallas), Scott Levy (Chicago), Bennett Aaron (Dallas), Itai Ronen (Houston).

Then, Rabbi Johnson asked the men if they could help him with a project. He needed them to build the sukkah at the Chabad House as well as a sukkah on the mall in the middle of the UT campus. "Rabbi Johnson is always there for us when we need him. We were happy to help," Bennett Aaron said. "So we spent a couple

of hours on a Sunday and built them both, and we were fed kosher hot dogs so everyone was happy," Aaron said.

In the near future, the men of ZBT are planning their first Shabbat dinner. This will be another first for ZBT

as the group, in conjunction with the campus Chabad House, work to build a connection to Judaism into their Greek life on campus.

For more information, please contact Alex Prescott, prescottal@mail.utexas.edu.

## IN BRIEF

### iPhone offering digital siddur

NEW YORK (JTA) — A new digital prayer book is available for Apple's popular iPhone.

The siddur, created by the Internet company RustyBrick, offers prayer texts in several versions as well as a feature to determine appropriate prayer times based on location. A built-in database helps users locate the nearest minyan.

Downloadable through the iTunes application, the siddur costs \$9.99.

### Obama backer nominated to chair Conference of Presidents

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A nominating committee proposed a confidante to Barack Obama as the next chairman of the foreign policy umbrella for U.S. Jewish groups.

"We had an unusual group of outstanding candidates, each with unique capabilities and qualities," said James Tisch, a past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations who chaired the nominating committee. "The Nominating Committee faced a daunting task and unanimously recommended Alan Solow, who has been involved for decades in Jewish communal affairs."

The nomination goes to the full conference, made up of more than 50 national Jewish groups, next month. At least four national Jewish leaders besides Solow were nominated for the position.

Solow, a Chicago-area bankruptcy lawyer and philanthropist who chairs the Jewish Community Centers Association, has backed President-elect Obama since 1996.

Solow's selection would help heal what some call a rift between Obama's team and the Presidents Conference. Relations were never smooth, partly because the conference all but embraced Bush's decision to go to war in Iraq.

Matters worsened at several points, notably when Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chairman of the Presidents Conference, was quoted as worrying that Obama's supporters might want to see the United States adopt less pro-Israel positions. Hoenlein insisted he was misquoted.

Tensions also surfaced in September, when the Presidents Conference invited Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin to a rally protesting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's speech to the United Nations.

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