



ΑΕΠΙΓΑΜΜΑ

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2018

Rechartering

by Danny Klyde (2018)

On April 15 2017, AEPi Gamma was officially re-chartered by the international fraternity and governing bodies. It was a beautiful ceremony attended by current and past brothers as well as their families, members of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Inter-Fraternity Council, AEPi Executive Director Andrew Borans, as well as other supporting members of our community. The night was filled with great speeches by brothers, awards given to standout members and a lovely dinner. The evening culminated with the presentation of the Gamma chapter's original charter from 1919 and the subsequent gifting of the ritual outfits, regalia and equipment that every brother of AEPi has been initiated with.

New Chapter House

by Joel Goldberg (2019)



We are very proud to announce that the Gamma chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi will be moving into a new chapter house next year at 4040 Walnut Street. This is a significant milestone in our chapter's history. After recolonizing in 2015 and re-chartering in 2017, we are ecstatic to finally display our letters on a house for all of Penn's community to see. The house itself is massive with 26 rooms, spanning 12,000 square feet in total. The next step in the process is furnishing the common areas with couches, chairs, tables and TVs. If you would like to donate an item on our wishlist or sponsor furniture for individual rooms, we would be very appreciative. We cannot wait to move in this fall and call it our home for years to come.

Accreditation

by Kevin Rosen (2020)

The annual accreditation process provides us with an opportunity to show the school our brothers' wide-ranging involvement in the Penn and Philadelphia community—both within AEPi and through our own independent extracurricular work. Thanks to a robust schedule of educational, philanthropic and cultural programming, along with our exceptionally involved brotherhood, AEPi earned the highest score of any fraternity on campus. We were the only fraternity to receive a gold level rating for the 2017 calendar year. To achieve this milestone, the fraternity hosted several brotherhood educational events covering topics from drug and alcohol safety to easy ways to reduce our carbon footprint. Additionally, every member of our newest pledge class attended multiple seminars on sexual violence prevention to ensure that our brothers remain respectable leaders in the Greek community. We look forward to continuing our on and off campus involvement and taking advantage of all the opportunities that Greek life has to offer.



A&Π in Israel

by Marc Margolis (2020)



Israel has to offer with my close friends enhanced an already incredible experience.”

In addition to the trip, two members of our chapter have been selected to go on Birthright Excel, a prestigious ten-week summer internship program that matches participants with top American companies in Israel. Two years ago, Alex Cohn (2018) interned at Amdocs after his sophomore year as a Corporate Strategy Summer Analyst. This upcoming summer, Jason Cohen (2020) accepted an investment banking internship at Barclays in Tel Aviv. In addition to Birthright Excel, six brothers will be interning in Israel this summer through Onward Israel, Tamid at Penn, or on their own.

Our chapter has a strong connection to Birthright, with many brothers participating through Penn Hillel. Last summer, ten brothers represented our chapter

on the trip, the most of any Greek organization at Penn.

Reflecting on his Birthright experience, Alec Goldberg (2019) noted how “experiencing all that

All in all, our strong connection to Israel has only enhanced our chapter and it is a relationship that will continue to thrive well into the future.

Israel Advocacy

by Marc Margolis (2020)

The brothers of AEPi Gamma have been at the forefront of Israel advocacy on campus. One of the brothers most heavily involved with Israel at Penn is Jacob Cohen (2020), our newly-elected Master for the 2018-2019 academic year. Aside from AEPi, Cohen was also recently elected to serve as the President of the Penn Israel Public Affairs Committee (PIPAC), a club determined to support a strong U.S.-Israel relationship through involvement in American politics.

On his upcoming leadership responsibilities, Cohen stated that “while both of the commitments will take a lot of time, they are not totally separate. A lot of the people involved in PIPAC are current brothers or prospective brothers of AEPi. So there is a lot of overlap.”

In the fall 2017, when Cohen was the head of PIPAC’s Legislative Committee, he and Marc Margolis (2020) lobbied the staff of Congressman and former Gamma chapter master Josh Gottheimer (1997). During the meeting, they talked about various challenges facing Jewish students and Israel advocates on campuses across the country. Additionally, Cohen and Margolis outlined ways national leaders can make a difference in fostering a more pro-Israel sentiment on college campuses.

However, this was not the first time Cohen and Margolis teamed up on behalf of Israel. In July of that same year, the two were selected to represent PIPAC at the Saban Leadership Seminar, a multi-day conference for top student activists of the the American Israel Public Affairs Committee’s (AIPAC) top student



activists. At Saban, they went through education and training on how to best promote the U.S.-Israel alliance on college campuses.



Brother Spotlight:

Danny Klyde

Danny Klyde completed his senior year and graduated this past spring. He received a bachelor's degree in bioengineering and is from Wyckoff, NJ. He is also a founding father of the most recent iteration of the Gamma chapter, and was master during the 2016-2017 school year. He oversaw Gamma as it advanced from a colony to a chapter in spring 2017. Aside from his involvement with AEPi, Klyde was the Chief of the Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) and was a member of the engineering senior society, Hex. Since graduation, Klyde has been working for an ocular reconstructionist as he applies to med school.

"This fraternity has opened so many doors for me both academically and professionally, but the true benefits come from the relationships I have made and the memories I have created with the guys who helped build this fraternity with me. For that, I will be forever grateful of and indebted to the Gamma chapter."



New Brother Spotlight:

Mike Montague



"AEPi provided me with an amazing way to connect Jewish involvement, Greek life and leadership on campus. Whether that's acappella, Israel advocacy or just having a good time, Gamma chapter always shows the best that Penn has to offer"

Mike Montague is a sophomore majoring in cognitive science from Philadelphia, PA. He is a member of the newly initiated Gamma class after transferring from George Washington University last fall. Next year, he will serve as House Manager as we move into our new house at 4040 Walnut Street. As a result of his Jewish upbringing, from shabbat dinners with his family to attending Jack M.

Barrack Hebrew Academy, Montague has become very involved in Penn Hillel. He is the head of Hillel's Israel Sector, a (Stand With Us) Emerson Fellow and a member of the Jewish acappella group, the Shabbatoners.

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"I chose AEPi because I wanted a Greek experience that allowed me to be involved in Jewish life, but that also wasn't totally homogenous. What makes AEPi Gamma so unique is the ability to bring together guys from different backgrounds and upbringings, yet still foster a strong sense of brotherhood. That's what I want from my fraternity and that's what I got."



Israel Downtown | Soup Kitchen | AEPuppies

by Joe Reinisch (2020)

During Penn's Israel Week, we decided to partner with Hillel to throw a philanthropy downtown. We hosted a party in downtown Philadelphia to raise money for the Israel Children's Cancer Foundation. We were able to raise \$1,300 while creating a social media campaign that reached thousands.



Brothers volunteered at Hillel's soup kitchen, headed by Joe Reinisch (2020), throughout the year. Serving food-insecure individuals from West Philadelphia, this service provided hot meals in the very cold Philadelphia winter on Sunday nights.

In December, we held our second annual AEPuppies event to support Comfort Caring Canines. Comfort Caring Canines is a local organization that supports therapy dogs who visit nursing homes, hospitals and childcare centers throughout the Philadelphia area. After the great turnout last year, we decided to turn this event into an annual fundraiser to not only help a great cause,



but improve the mental health of students during finals week. In order to market the event, we sold t-shirts and created a social media outreach campaign. Students and staff throughout the University came to pet ten emotional support dogs provided by Comfort Caring Canines to make their finals week a little less stressful. This year we had more than 100 attendees and raised more than \$1,500.



Important dates:

Oct. 12: New Chapter House Mezuzah Ceremony

Nov. 9-11: Homecoming Weekend w/ AEPi Barbecue

April 5-11: Gamma Chapter Centennial Celebration

May 17-20: Alumni Weekend

Alumni News: Please contact us with important life updates to be shared in our next newsletter.

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Edited by Max Goldman (2021) and David Shasha (2020)