

# OTTAWA REPORT

AN UPDATE ON JEWISH LIFE IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

By MIKE COHEN

**NEW US AMBASSADOR TO CANADA:** The U.S. Embassy in Ottawa recently announced the arrival of a Jewish Ambassador in David L. Cohen. "I'm deeply honored that President Biden chose me to serve as his representative in Canada, one of the United States' closest friends, most important partners, and strongest Allies," he said. "I'm proud to lead the terrific Mission Canada team, including at our embassy in Ottawa and our seven consulates in Calgary, Halifax, Montreal, Quebec City, Toronto, Vancouver, and Winnipeg. Together with our Canadian

partners, my agenda is to advance our shared priorities as President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau outlined in the Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership. I pledge to devote my full efforts to strengthening the close relationship between our countries by continuing to build back better from the pandemic; tackling the challenge of climate change; building societies that are more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible for all; renewing our commitment to democracy; and advancing our shared foreign policy priorities around the world. My wife Rhonda

and I are very excited and happy to be here, and we look forward to meeting Canadians from all walks of life, from coast to coast to coast."

**KETTLEMANS EXPANDING:** Kettlemans Bagel in Ottawa recently added a second location in the Greater Toronto area. In late spring they will set up shop near the Bell Centre downtown. Kettlemans hand-rolled Montreal style bagels, unique spreads, fresh salads, and sandwiches make the perfect breakfast-to-go, boardroom power lunch or late-night indulgence. Founder and Montreal native Craig Buckley

opened the first store in August of 1993. When he started the business, he simply wanted to make the best bagels you could find. By rolling, "kettling," and baking traditional Montreal Bagel in a wood burning-oven using handpicked hardwood, and maintaining an unwavering commitment to the traditional quality of the food, Kettlemans has become a food institution — 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year — for 28 years. There are now four Kettlemans locations in Ottawa. Here you can also get a kosher dill pickle, a Hebrew National

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bagel hotdog, knishes, latkes and more. For all the information you will need log on to [www.kettlemansbagels.ca](http://www.kettlemansbagels.ca).

**FRAT RETURNS TO OTTAWA:** Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity (AEPi), the world's leading Jewish college fraternity, has re-

opened its chapter in Ottawa to provide a Jewish fraternal home to university students in Ottawa. The chapter was first started in 2004 and has been dormant for several years. Current members include students who attend the University of Ottawa and Carleton University. The group currently includes 10 re-founding fathers. Working tirelessly with AEPi's Educational Leadership Consultant, Idan Mualim, the group is continuing to recruit additional founders. AEPi operates chapters on more than 150 college campuses around the world. Founded in 1913, AEPi has more than 100,000 living alumni. The fraternity's mission – developing the future leaders of the Jewish community – is demonstrated every day through acts of brotherhood, Tzedakah (charity), social awareness and support for Jewish communities and the State of Israel.

Alpha Epsilon Pi, the largest fraternity in Canada, has chapters, colonies and interest groups in Canada at: Dalhousie University, McMaster University, Queens University, Ryerson University, University of British Columbia, University of Guelph, University of Toronto, University of Waterloo/Wilfrid Laurier University, Western University and York University. The fraternity is also looking to open a new chapter at McGill University in the coming weeks. Those interested in the new AEPi chapter in Ottawa or those who have recommendations for other Canadian chapters, should contact Idan Mualim at [imualim@aepi.org](mailto:imualim@aepi.org). "We are thrilled to bring our special brand of fraternity back to Ottawa and look forward to working with men on those campuses to develop the future leaders of the Jewish community," said AEPi CEO Rob Derdiger.

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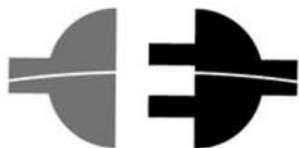
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**THE OTTAWA CHAPTER OF  
AEPi COLLEGE FRATERNITY**



*SEEN FROM THE LEFT, HOLDING THE FLAG: Evan Moore, Zachary Reiken, Dylan Fritz, Michael Kanter (President of the new group), Evan Kanter (AEPi member from U of T who attended the event), Jordan Morgan, Ben Goldstein, Dodek Jordan Cohen, Gideon Katz (AEPi member from U of T who attended this event), Daniel Gold (alumnus from previous Ottawa AEPi group), AEPi International Educational Leadership Consultant Idan Mualim is behind the flag.*

**BIG DONATION FOR SCHOOL:** The Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS) has recorded its largest single gift ever received. An anonymous donor has decided to invest \$1,500,000 to help ensure that the classrooms and learning spaces are as innovative as our teaching and programming are. This represents an extraordinary moment for the school - its students, parents, teachers, supporters and community - on its journey towards long-term sustainability. Officials note that it is also worth saying that this new commitment to the school not only validates the hard work their teachers and board have put in over these past few years, but raises the bar for what they hope to accomplish in the years ahead. This statement says it all: "We hope that it also puts a smile on the faces of our current and

prior set of major donors, including the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, without whose contributions would never have made this gift possible. We accept this gift not as a celebration of what we have done, but as a charge for what we now must do."

Have an item: Email [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca)

**OTTAWA KOSHER FOOD BANK:** The OKFB is a project of Kehillat Beth Israel synagogue. It is dedicated to providing healthy kosher food to Ottawa families in need.

The pandemic has made it especially challenging. Part-time manager Dahila Milech and her team of dedicated volunteers have had to continue to deliver food while keeping everyone safe.

Donations can be made by phone at 613-728-3501, ext 235, or through the KBI membership website at Shulcloud.

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