



# AN IOTA'S WORTH

THE ALUMNI AND PARENTS NEWSLETTER OF THE IOTA CHAPTER OF ZETA BETA TAU OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



1959 SOUTH COLUMBINE STREET | DENVER | COLORADO 80210 | WWW.DUZBT.COM | SUMMER 2014

## IOTA WINS AGAIN... AT ZBT'S INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



*Nick Young, Iota President accepting the Lee Dover Award for Best Chapter Programming.*



*Nick Young proudly displays Community Service award.*

Early this summer Gage Crispe, Ben Brentin, Scott Graham, Peter Throckmorton, John Kopec, Robert Roetzel and myself were fortunate enough to represent the Iota Chapter at the International Convention in our nation's capital. Not only were we able to learn many different things from other chapters and see the many attractions in the city, we were able to bring home some hardware. It was great to have Iota alumni: Dan Goodman, Chris Fettig and Gregg Witt there as well.

The most interesting part of the trip was the fraternity trip to the Holocaust Museum and the Holocaust survivor, which spoke to us. This was an awesome experience that I will never forget.

At the awards ceremony we brought home a handful of trophies giving recognition to the hard work of our officers, chairmen, their committees, the brothers and the alumni advisors who serve as our mentors. The Iota Chapter won the following awards:

- Brummer Cup, Best Chapter in all of ZBT, Runner Up
- Lee Dover Best Chapter Programming Award
- Best Chapter Publications Award
- Intramural Sports – Runner Up
- Community Service – Runner Up

I would like to take this time to congratulate Gage Crispe on his award as outstanding campus leader from ZBT International. This is an outstanding award and very well deserved.

A big thanks to alumnus Don Reisfeld who is the publisher of **An Iota's Worth**. Without his assistance we would not have won the Best Chapter Publications award.

I am very proud of every brother that gave there time and effort to make this chapter better, however we all know there is still some things that we can improve on and achieve our ultimate goal.

Nick Young, Chapter President

## At the 100th Zeta Beta Tau's International Convention and Leadership School in Washington, D.C., the Iota chapter received the following awards and recognitions...

Brummer Cup, Best Chapter in all of ZBT, Runner Up

The Lee Dover Award for Outstanding Chapter Programming

The Frauenthal Award for Intramural Participation and Results, Runner Up

The Omega Award for Outstanding Publications

Outstanding Campus Leader from ZBT International: Gage Crispe

The Leonard S. Malmud Certificate for Participation in Community Service Projects, Runner Up



Left to Right: John Kopec, Ben Brentin, Peter Throckmorton, Chris Fettig, Nick Young, Iota Chapter President, Scott Graham, Robert Roetzel and Gage Crispe

### Recruitment Rush Recommendations Welcomed

Please send your rush recommendations to John Kopec via email at:

[kopec795@gmail.com](mailto:kopec795@gmail.com)

Recommendations for other ZBT chapters can be at:

<http://www.zbt.org/join-a-chapter/recruitment-recommendation.html>

### Making our House 'Our Home'...

Our thanks to those that have donated or pledged to do so. In our efforts to continue to improve our chapter house further improvements are planned for this summer. You can support this effort by giving to DU and making sure you earmark it to ZBT Iota Renovation Fund. To pledge on line go to:

<http://www.du.edu/givetozbt>

Thanks again for supporting your chapter. Please add your name to the list of Iota supporters.

## ***Can't Remember Where My Keys Are, But I Can Remember 50 Years Ago Like it Was Yesterday.***

Never had a dog, not as a youth nor as an adult. Not until a couple years ago. I recall my first overnight train ride from Denver to Salt Lake City as a DU freshman 1958. I also recall how much dog waste there was on San Francisco sidewalks in the 1960s. How does all this relate?

An attorney friend of mine had a standard (large) poodle puppy. Soon after, friend was diagnosed with cancer and a few months later was dead. Before he died, he asked if I and Phyllis, my spousal unit, would take the dog. We agreed. After dog school, much reading and watching almost every Dog Whisperer episode, I am reconciled to daily backyard poop patrol, and clever plastic baggie manipulation. (See Don Ohsman's thoughts on this matter.)

This then reminds me of a motorcycle ride to San Francisco for Phi Sig brother Jack Greenbaum's wedding. I indeed did step into "something" on the sidewalk. Just a few feet away was a sign, "Curb Your Dog", remember those? Lacking a shoe scraper, popsicle stick, or twig, I endured using the curb as a scraper and delicately employing newspaper. This was in the mid 1960s.

As a Denver University freshman French horn marching band member, I and fraternity brother, drum major Herb Tobin, along with the football team, boosters, hangers-on, et al, went to Salt Lake City on a chartered Denver Rio Grand overnight train. The rest room at each end of the cars had posted notices, "Don't Flush in Train Stations". Before it got too dark, I did flush and could clearly see the blur of tracks.

Here we are, 50 years later, and far more digestive waste sensitive. We carry politically correct dog waste baggies, employ waste holding tanks on our boats, and so on. Nevertheless, I sometimes think I'd rather curb my dog. By the way, in the days of the DC-6B flying over Rapid City, Iowa, what happened when we flushed?

Thanks, Don Ohsman, for the memories.

Hey, all you brothers, have you been reading the Ohsman blogs?

Ed Ned Porges '62, Seattle, Washington

### **Hershel Shapiro Memorial Golf Las Vegas – Oct. 26-29, 2014**

For more information on attending Hersh's Memorial Golf weekend October 26-29th in Las Vegas contact Ken Friednash via email: [kfriednash@gmail.com](mailto:kfriednash@gmail.com)

Place: Paris Hotel, limited rooms reserved

### **Iota's Photo Gallery**

Click on Multimedia tab and then click on the Photo Gallery at <http://www.duzbt.com> to find photos of themselves and friends at:

<http://duzbt.com/photogallery>

View pictures from yesteryears and today,

Visit: <http://www.facebook.com/ZBT.Iota.DU>

### **Golf Outing to be held in Denver late June/early July '15**

This past February the Iota brothers of the early sixties got together for the first time as a group in over 50 years. We met in South Florida and quickly realized that no amount of time, even 50 years, can break the bonds of brotherhood that had been formed. The one theme repeated over and over was when and where will we be doing it again.

The answer is now becoming clearer and clearer. We have tentatively set the last week of June/first week of July as the target date and we'll all plan on returning to the scene of the crime, Denver. Lots of loose ends to take care of between now and then but it truly is a labor of love.

Marty Chernoff

Email: [mchernoff99@gmail.com](mailto:mchernoff99@gmail.com)

## *Intramural Skiing 1958 at Denver University*

As a DU freshman in 1958, I naively volunteered for my Phi Sigma Delta fraternity ski team, poles, flags and all. An intramural DU ski event was scheduled at Winter Park, a Denver city park about an hour west of Denver. My wood skis and boots came from Dave Cook Sporting Goods downtown Denver. Zolly Scheidler worked at the store and had special rates for 'Phi Swig' fraternity brothers.

I had been at Winter Park a few times before. Learned how to use the rope tow, snow plowed down, did it again, this time parallel like the way it was supposed to be done and, of course, totally out of control. Did some falling, did it again. Was exhausting. Then did the next big thing...the chair lift. The day of the intramural came and I thought I was prepared. One of the brothers, Mike Canges, suggested that I wear jeans with newspaper in the legs to stay dry. I heard someone call out, 'Phi Sig's up!' I took off from the top of the hill, got around one flag and fell. Got up, continued on down to the next flag and fell. Got up ...you know the rest. I might still have university record for taking the most time to get to the bottom and the most sitzmarks.

Perhaps it was the next year I got a winter quarter job at Winter Park. I was paid a few dollars per day, a ski pass, room and board. The room was a cabin with two bunk beds and a potbellied stove for heat and a single, pendulum like, 25 watt light bulb. The "board" of the room and board was all you could eat at a place called The Hot Spot which was at the top of a slope. It served a very limited menu of hot drinks, hot dogs, and bagged chips. There were three of us who worked at the top. We had a toboggan to load up in the morning with all the product including jugs of water for the day and attached it to the chair tow for the long pull up hill. One of us would sit atop the load, the others rode the chairs.

At the end of the day, we would load up the toboggan again for the ride down hill. One person would ski in front of the load and one would be in the rear holding a rope to slow the sled. After unloading we would have time for perhaps one or two runs before it got dark. I stayed at the park for the winter quarter. My parents were unaware of this dalliance. Looking back, it was one more folly of mine. My excuse was that there would be girls to meet, (there weren't many) being a ski bum would be glamorous, (it wasn't) and that the experience for a hotel and restaurant major would be significant, (it also wasn't.) I did, however, become a fair skier with fewer sitzmarks.

I never skied after graduating from DU. Its been 50 years since last strapping on skis. I do not like snow and I do not like being cold. Fie on skis, I say. The tropics or other year round warm place is my destiny.

Edward Ned Porges, DU HRM 1962

Seattle Dec., 2013 impatiently awaiting Summer

### **Third Thursday Lunches a Big Success!**

Thanks to Jay Reano for his efforts in keeping the bonds of brotherhood alive and well in Denver. Every third Thursday local alumni meet for lunch. We share stories, mostly lies, about the past and catch up on current events.

We are hoping more local alumni will join us, contact Jay: [jreano@comcast.net](mailto:jreano@comcast.net) for more information.

**Why not consider doing this in your fair city?** Contact Steve Ehrlich: [ehrllich14@aol.com](mailto:ehrllich14@aol.com) and he'll get you contact information for alumni in your area.

### **News about you... for the next *An Iota's Worth***

Please send us news about you and your family for the next **AN IOTA'S WORTH**. Please include your name, year of graduation, e-mail along with an update on you and/or your family to Steve at: [ehrllich14@aol.com](mailto:ehrllich14@aol.com). Thanks!



FRATERNITY FOR A LIFETIME

ZETA BETA TAU  
FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release  
July 25, 2014

Contact: Laurence A. Bolotin  
Executive Director  
lbolotin@zbtnational.org

## Zeta Beta Tau Honors Veterans at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana — Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity was honored to take part in one of our nation's most reverent ceremonies commemorating those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country earlier today in Washington, D.C., as part of ZBT's 2014 International Convention and Leadership School.

Representatives of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity and Zeta Beta Tau Foundation placed a wreath at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, July 24, 2014. The Fraternity historically has honored veterans and the families of those who have served in this manner when hosting International Convention in the nation's capital.

"The ceremony was incredibly moving," International President Michael D. Cimini, Kappa (Cornell University) '92, said. "It's humbling to be in the presence of the Unknown Soldiers and the guards who care so much about our nation."

International President Michael D. Cimini was joined by International Treasurer Matthew J. Rubins, Kappa (Cornell University) '90, Foundation President Barry M. Aarons, Gamma Tau (Arizona State University) '71, and Foundation Executive

Director Faron A. Lewitt, Psi (University of Alabama) '97, in placing the wreath.

"That was one of the most memorable occasions I have ever experienced. It's was an unforgettable ceremony," Foundation President Barry M. Aarons, Gamma Tau (Arizona State University) '71, said.



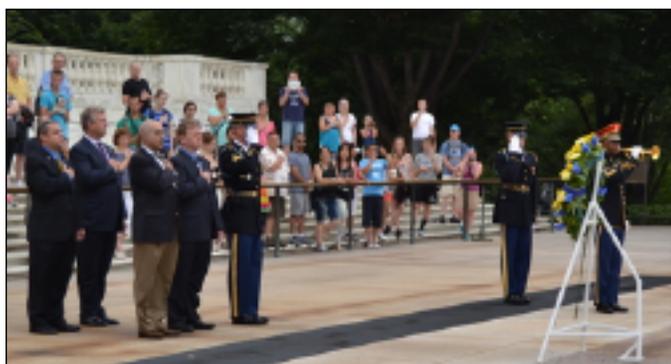
"The perfection that the Tomb Guard sets is a standard that we should all aspire to reach,"

International Treasurer Matthew J. Rubins, Kappa (Cornell University) '90.

"We're proud to have the opportunity to honor the ZBTs and all citizens who have served our country, and we are proud to carry on the tradition of honoring our military in this way, as we have at past International Conventions," said Foundation Executive Director Faron A. Lewitt, Psi (University of Alabama) '97.

2014 International Convention and Leadership School is the 100th ZBT Convention, as well as the 100th anniversary of antecedent group Phi Alpha Fraternity, founded October 14, 1914, at The George Washington University in Washington.

Zeta Beta Tau International Convention is a four-day event that includes educational programming, social events, hands-on workshops and seminars for both undergraduates and alumni brothers. This is the finest opportunity for Fraternity brothers to learn new ideas from experts in various fields and grow together as a brotherhood.



## Israel's Outspoken Envoy Is Wise to U.S. Ways

July 25, 2014

WASHINGTON — As an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania, Ron Dermer reluctantly accepted an assignment to argue that Israel should be condemned for its treatment of Palestinians.

"You'll do it or I'll flunk you," his professor, the Republican pollster Frank Luntz, recalled telling Mr. Dermer, the quick-witted son of a prominent Miami Beach family. Mr. Dermer, barrel-chested and unrelenting, turned in such a passionate performance that Mr. Luntz declared him the debate's victor. Mr. Dermer celebrated with a call to his Israeli-born mother.

"How did you do it?" Yaffa Dermer recalled asking incredulously.

"I lied," Mr. Dermer said. "Like they do."

More than two decades and a renounced American citizenship later, Mr. Dermer is the Israeli ambassador to the United States,



Ron Dermer, Israel's ambassador to the United States. Credit|Joshua Roberts/Reuters

with such a close relationship to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he has been called "Bibi's brain." He is now at liberty to make a full-throated case for Israel.

In recent weeks, he has countered criticism of Israel's invasion of Gaza and its mounting civilian toll in at least 55 television, radio and print interviews. He has also made Israel's case on Capitol Hill, in briefings with administration officials and at a Christians United for Israel summit on Monday night at the Washington Convention Center. There, he responded to protesters who shouted "war criminal" by calling them "moral idiots" and asserting, "The truth is that the Israeli Defense Forces should be given a Nobel Peace Prize."

Because of Mr. Dermer's unabashed hawkishness and his role in organizing Mitt Romney's 2012 visit to Israel, White House officials — including Denis McDonough, President Obama's chief of staff — long resisted his appointment, according to people close to the administration. But in the renewed push last year for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, Secretary of State John Kerry, who attended Mr. Dermer's Passover Seder this spring, thought having a Netanyahu confidant close at hand would present an opportunity to sway the prime minister.

That turned out to be a misreading. Nearly 10 months after Mr. Dermer became ambassador, it is clear in Washington that he is his boss's ideological twin. "I can authoritatively speak for the prime minister here," he said dur-

ing a nearly two-hour interview on Thursday in the heavily fortified Israeli Embassy in Washington. "I think people understand that."

A 43-year-old father of five, he spoke in a blizzard of words interrupted only by a call from Mr. Netanyahu. "There were people who thought I was going to play politics, that I was going to rally Congress, Republicans," he added. "But I was confident that after I got here, after I worked for a few months, they would understand that I was here to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship."

On Friday, Mr. Netanyahu's man in America was in constant contact with the prime minister about a possible cease-fire, and in recent weeks he has spoken often with Mr. McDonough. He has worked with Antony J. Blinken, the deputy national security adviser, on requests for American money to repair Israel's Iron Dome defense system and on lifting the Federal Aviation Administration's ban on flights to Israel.

It was Mr. Dermer who helped arrange a meeting between Mr. Netanyahu and former Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York after Mr. Bloomberg pushed the case that the Tel Aviv airport was safe by taking what was, for him, a rare commercial flight.

"I told him, 'There's no limit to the sacrifices you are willing to make for the Jewish people,'" Mr. Dermer said.

As Mr. Bloomberg spoke on an Israeli television station playing behind him, Mr. Dermer leaned back, exhibiting the self-assurance common to former resi-

dents of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity houses — he accepted the fraternity's Man of the Year award that evening — and the competitive streak of a Hall of Fame Israeli flag football quarterback.

"The key to becoming a great Jewish athlete is to play with Jews," he said.

Born and raised in Miami Beach, where his father was a conservative Democratic mayor, Mr. Dermer spent his summers at a Jewish camp in the Poconos, where an antiauthoritarian impulse led him to stage a hunger strike. "He's not stupid," his mother told the camp director, who called in concern. "He'll eat."

Weeks before Mr. Dermer's bar mitzvah, his father died of a heart attack. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," Mr. Dermer said at the start of his bar mitzvah speech.

He applied only to the University of Pennsylvania for its top Wharton business school and started a multicollege business selling "exam buster" study aides with answers to previous tests. Then he enrolled in a political class taught by Mr. Luntz.

"You did not want to have a verbal argument with him," said Jeffrey Pollock, a leading Democratic pollster who was in the same class. "You were destined to lose."

Mr. Dermer graduated in 1993, worked with Mr. Luntz on projects including Republicans' 1994 takeover of the House of Representatives, and then went to Oxford University in England. There, he hung on his wall an Israeli flag given to his father by a Miss Israel during a beauty pageant in Miami Beach. The flag led to debates and friendships with

Muslims, one of whom visited Mr. Dermer's Miami Beach home for a Seder and returned to Pakistan with boxes of matzo.

By that time, Israel had captured Mr. Dermer's imagination. "Israel is perceived internationally as this big bully," he said. "I saw it very differently."

In 1995, Mr. Dermer worked in Israel with the Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky — Mr. Luntz was the connection — to establish a new immigrant party. In 1997, he began the process of becoming an Israeli immigrant himself, and the next year he married Adi Blumberg, an artist and daughter of the chairman of the Bank of Jerusalem.

Mr. Dermer declined to talk about Ms. Blumberg, who died less than two years after their wedding, but in his eulogy he said, "For those few who understood her — and there were indeed very few who did — the magic of her presence will never fade."

Mr. Dermer spent the next years writing hawkish columns for The Jerusalem Post and informally advising Mr. Netanyahu, whose term as prime minister had ended in 1999. (The two had met through Mr. Sharansky.) In 2001, he managed his brother David's successful campaign for mayor of Miami Beach, and in 2002 he married Rhoda Pagano, a Baltimore-born woman who had been a clerk for Israel's top judge. His mother gave the couple bulletproof vests as wedding gifts. Devoted to the memory of his father, he named their son Mayor Dermer.

In 2004, Mr. Dermer and Mr. Sharansky published a book, "The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror," which cap-

tivated President George W. Bush and helped shape his foreign policy. The next year, Mr. Netanyahu, then Israel's finance minister, appointed his protégé as economic envoy at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

When Mr. Netanyahu became prime minister again in 2009, Mr. Dermer joined him in the Aquarium, as Israelis call their leader's glass-encased inner sanctum. In the subsequent years of negotiations, some American officials viewed Mr. Dermer as an essential back-channel broker with the influence to get deals done.

Israeli officials said Mr. Netanyahu had wanted to keep Mr. Dermer close through the end of his term and the establishment of a new coalition. They disputed the notions that White House concerns had delayed his appointment and that he was especially close to Republicans.

Once in Washington, though, he found a receptive audience among Republicans, arguing to Congress that Mr. Obama was dangerously reducing pressure on Iran and that Israel's actions in Gaza were necessary, despite the civilian casualties.

"The price of sovereignty is imperfection," Mr. Dermer said, in a riff that could have come from the lips of his mentor. "And if people can see that and recognize it, they can be a little more understanding that Israel, given its challenges, is a truly remarkable country. That's why I said this week the I.D.F. deserves the Nobel Peace Prize. I wasn't joking."

By Jason Horowitz

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/26/world/middleeast/israels-outspoken-envoy-is-wise-to-us-ways.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/26/world/middleeast/israels-outspoken-envoy-is-wise-to-us-ways.html?_r=0)