S I G M A
L P R H O A

THE ORDER:
ΣΑΡ 2002-2007
This publication contains a variety of information regarding the past, present and future of Sigma Alpha Rho. For more detailed information on any of the people or events described, please visit www.sigmaalpharho.com. If you would like to assist with future chapters or events or if you know of any eligible young men who might be interested in joining the fraternity, please contact the SER at ser@sarfraternity.org.
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On a certain night, in late 1917, a group of boys gathered in Talmud Torah, a synagogue on Larchwood Avenue in Philadelphia. Amidst the buzz of voices, a rapping on the table was heard, and President Jules Feinstein called the meeting of the Soathical Club to order. The Soathical Club, which was established the previous spring by a group of Jewish students in the West Philadelphia High School, derived its name from a combination of the words social and athletic, and included a baseball team.

The procedure at the meeting revealed nothing of phenomenal importance. But, with the oncoming of new business, there was born a fraternity. Ponderous Bill Braude arose and, in his sincere voice, pleaded that the Club be formed into a fraternity, primarily for the advancement of Jewish student interests in the West Philadelphia High School.

No visible hand of God stretched out from the sky that night; no strange whispers were carried by the winds; no spiritual bell was heard ringing; but deep in the fertile soil of that group, the seed of The Sigma Alpha Rho Fraternity was planted; to be nourished by eleven valiant hearts. Through voicing’s of unfriendly criticism, internal strife and racial prejudices, the young seed neither wavered, faltered nor was it hindered in its becoming a noble tree with wide spreading branches.

The metamorphosis the Soathical Club underwent, its regeneration into the Phi Chapter of Sigma Alpha Rho Fraternity, and its radical effect upon the members, were nothing short of miraculous. Combined with a fraternal spirit never tasted before, a ritual was drawn up, a truly inspired work, that stimulated the essence of brotherhood.

One of the first matters adopted by the new Fraternity was the selection of a pin, an emblem that would certify brotherhood and be a symbol of all it might stand for. Brother Alexander Meisel was entrusted with this work, and, after much deliberation and forethought, he presented the design that we now wear as our emblem. At that time, the pin did not have the ritualistic significance that it possesses today, those being refinements added by the scholastic and ritualistic experts who came later, yet its name stood out - The Gleaming Eye.

The second matter of importance considered by the new Fraternity was the selection of their colors, Royal Purple and White. Chosen for the exact significance that they portray today, perhaps they represent the original rites of this Fraternity.

Jules Feinstein was elected as President of the Fraternity, still a one-chapter organization. Louis Marios was elected as Vice President, Nathan Goldman as Secretary, Benjamin Landau as Treasurer, and Harry Katz as Financial Secretary.

In the spring of 1918, the first affair ever held under the auspices of the Sigma Alpha Rho Fraternity occurred. At that affair, a number of new men were introduced, some of them, such as Jerry Abramson and John Borska, were brothers who were to exercise a powerful influence on the development of Sigma Alpha Rho. By the fall of the year, Jerry Abramson became the foremost member of the group, and was elected as President to succeed Jules Feinstein.

Under his capable leadership, SAR forged rapidly ahead. It began to taste the sweets of prestige, of an honored name, of victories, of exerting a potent force in the activities of the West Philadelphia High School. It was only natural that some outlet be sought for this exuberance of spirit that pervaded the one "chaptered" fraternity. Thus, it was decided that an expansion by the establishment of chapters in other high schools would allow other Jewish youth taste the spirit of the first born of the Sigma Alpha Rho Fraternity. In preparation for this expansion, the fraternal and ritual minded members of the group polished, revamped, and rewrote the rituals and rites of...
Sigma Alpha Rho, until finally they assumed the proportions and composition that we have today.

June 10, 1921, marked the momentous occasion of taking a second chapter into the fold of the Sigma Alpha Rho Fraternity. Thus, on the evening of June 10, in the Roof Garden of the Lorraine Hotel, ten members of the Central High School of Philadelphia were solemnly ushered in and formally constituted as The Sigma Chapter under the newly revised rituals. Sigma Alpha Rho hence became an institution rather than a group.

One by one, as the flower of Sigma Alpha Rho burst into bloom, every high school in Philadelphia was drawn into the bounds of the fraternity. Reaching out in a broad fan-like swoop, the Fraternity successively drew into its fold chapters in Camden, Wilmington, New York and Pittsburgh. With this expansion came the need for a central governing body to link all chapters together, no matter how widely they were distributed. An eight member Executive Council was created to handle the day-to-day problems of the organization in September 1921. This Council at first consisted of Brothers Rosenthal, Abramson, Segal and Herman representing Phi and Horowitz, Good, Buten and Hoffman, members of Sigma.

This Executive Council set up the first plans for the conduct of the National Organization, and today our complex system still hearkens back to the original fundamental laid down by those eight men. They named the national officers, and at their first meeting elected officers including Supreme Exalted Ruler Leon S. Rosenthal. This Council served as the bond that wove the different Philadelphia chapters into a much stronger association. In the beginning, composed of only the four delegates from each chapter, the Council possessed very limited powers and duties.

With the advent of distant Chapters, it became necessary to form a governing council that would include their representation. Obviously, the Executive Council had served its purpose, and so, on January 20, 1924, the Supreme Exalted Ruler dissolved the Executive Council, and called the National Executive Council, representing every Chapter in the Fraternity, into session. New elections were held, and Leon S. Rosenthal was again elected Supreme Exalted Ruler. A new Constitution, drawn up by the Constitutional Revision Committee lead by Brother Rosenthal, was formally approved and adopted by the delegates. At the yearly Conventions that followed, meetings of the National Executive Council became more and more complex. Delegates from every chapter were given the opportunity to express themselves and to introduce resolutions. Discussions of policy and methods grew more and more heated; the meetings indeed took on the air of the United States Senate. Such baptism by verbal fire served to reveal the potential of new leaders and to bring brothers into closer mental as well as social contact with each other.
The Torch Is Passed To A New Generation

As the new century was about to begin, Sigma Alpha Rho activity expanded in leaps and bounds under the leadership of our 60th Supreme Exalted Ruler, Adam Goldstein. Adam served from 1997-1999 and became known as one of the most enthusiastic leaders of the Current Generation. During his three terms as SER, not only did the fraternity grow in size and level of activity, but also in its ability to retain great leaders for the future. SAR became the elite organization for Jewish boys to join in order to become men. From hockey leagues, to dances, from Preakness weekends to leadership seminars, Sigma Alpha Rho saw its young leaders step into larger roles due to Goldstein’s pioneering fraternal spirit and insistence on chapter activity.

In 1999, the fraternity reins were handed over to Michael Mendelson, the millennium's first Supreme Exalted Ruler. Riding a wave of momentum, Mike provided focus to a prospering fraternity. Under SER Mendelson, 1999 to 2002 saw dramatic growth and continued activity.

A veteran board member of both SER Goldstein and SER Mendelson was Jason Eric Saylor, who continued the tradition of hard work and fraternal dedication upon his election as Supreme Exalted Ruler in 2002. During brother Saylor’s terms as SER, he became the “traveling SER,” going from chapter to chapter and council to council to hold face-to-face meetings with future leaders, ensuring continued enthusiastic growth and activity with great fraternal pride.

Young leaders continued to emerge as the first half of the decade ended. Sigma Alpha Rho saw Eric Matisoff, one of the leading figures in Sigma Alpha Rho’s growth in Central New Jersey, take the helm of the fraternity as Supreme Exalted Ruler in 2004.

True to his reputation as one of this Generation’s most dedicated brothers, Brother Saylor returned to the top post in Sigma Alpha Rho in 2005 and has continued in that role to today.

Perhaps the evolution of this era is best dramatized by the remarkable growth in suburban Philadelphia, Central New Jersey, Northern New Jersey, Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC. Communications also changed dramatically, from the classic monthly letter from the SER to the SAR website and, finally, to mass e-mails. Training in fraternal excellence moved from pep talks at meetings to overnight leadership seminars and strategies initiated by motivational experts.

As the last ten years has seen new leaders emerge, Sigma Alpha Rho has also seen the creation of a new type of leader. Past Supreme Exalted Rulers Charles Bogdanoff, Carl Bagell, Stuart Discount, Larry Blumenthal and Robert Malmud continue to serve the fraternity on a daily basis as “Active PSERs.” The assistance, mentoring, and time these men have put into the active fraternity has been priceless. But their most important contribution has been the example they have set, that Sigma Alpha Rho will prosper both now and years and years from now.

The quality of the SAR experience has never changed, but the traditions have clearly been augmented. Midyear Convention has grown in size and scope, often attracting two and three times the attendance of Summer Convention. Creative event presentation, coupled with targeted chapter problem solving, added to the social, athletic and religious agendas. Chapter and Pledge Manuals were updated to guarantee chapters’ ability to run independently. Fraternity travel grew, as Convention sites such as Toronto were added to the list. Finally, and maybe most importantly, Rathblott scholarships have grown in number and dollar amount thanks to the great effort by PSER Nathan Strauss.

Every month, newly ritualized fraternity men accept the challenge to make SAR stronger, more focused and a greater force for good within the Jewish community. Today’s brothers proudly carry forth those cherished goals begun in little Talmud Torah in Philadelphia in 1917. These ideals have withstood the test of time and will be limited in the future only by the strength of our initiative and the devotion of our brotherhood.
Did you Know…

… That Tau Xi Chapter ran a campaign against Anti-Semitism in 2006 to fight Anti-Semitism in the Plymouth Meeting/Lafayette Hill area when their high school was vandalized with NAZI Symbols?

… That Sigma Phi chapter helps Fight Cancer by participating in the annual Upper Dublin (PA) “Relay for Life” walkathon to help raise money for Cancer research?

…That Nu Beta chapter participated in the MS walk in North Jersey to raise money for a brother’s family when his mother was diagnosed with the disease?

…That many SAR chapters have participated in numerous canned food and clothing drives to assist the poor?

…That a past President of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, Rabbi Mordechai Liebling,… is a brother from Alpha Iota Chapter?

…That the President of Federation of Jewish Agencies, and past president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Mike Belman is a brother from Theta Epsilon Chapter.

…That multiple chapters, including Beta Tau and Zeta Tau, have run unbelievable MAJOR DANCES with 300-400 guests!
Midyear and Summer Conventions since 2002

Summer 2002
Sigma Alpha Rho enjoyed the many distractions that Stamford, CT and its locale had to offer. The convention started with a stop at a classic New York amusement park where brothers enjoyed rides and games alike. We then spent time at the local malls, beaches, and had a trip to Manhattan for a night! On the way home, brothers spent a memorable day in the bleachers of Yankee Stadium.

Midyear 2003
Sigma Alpha Rho will remember the great times staying in our nation’s capital. Attendees ventured over to the nationally renowned DC Improv, the most popular and exclusive comedy club in the DC area. The following day, SAR explored the Holocaust Museum, learning much about Jewish past and our heritage.

Summer 2003
Sigma Alpha Rho hit the beaches of Ocean City, Maryland for a great Summer Convention. Major football tournaments, pie eating contests and the most beautiful sun set awards dinner in years. This convention was full of fraternalism, beaches and major SUN!

Midyear 2004
Sigma Alpha Rho in NYC... the brothers asked and received one of the most memorable Midyear Conventions ever. From the SAR cruise ship to the comedy club to staying in the heart of Midtown Manhattan.

Summer 2004
The invasion of Virginia Beach took place in 2004! Hypnotized brothers and TEX girls are definitely the thing to remember from this convention as well as a full day at Busch Gardens!

Midyear 2005
SAR brothers and guests headed to Baltimore, MD. The group went on an evening boat cruise and had a fantastic breakfast at the ESPNZone. The highlight for many brothers was the free time in the great atmosphere of the Inner Harbor.

Summer 2005
Brothers ventured to Allentown, PA for an exciting weekend outdoors. Whitewater rafting and a day of competitive paintball made the convention exciting for all in attendance.

Midyear 2006
Sigma Alpha Rho returned to our nation’s capital for another exciting Convention in Washington, DC. Brothers and guests enjoyed plenty of free time in Georgetown as well as attending a hockey game featuring the Washington Capitals and the Pittsburgh Penguins. The brothers even endured a snow storm which came in the middle of convention!

Summer 2006
Brothers met for this convention in downtown Philadelphia, PA. The International Executive Council elected Brother Jason Saylor to an unprecedented fifth term as Supreme Exalted Ruler. The highlight was the awards dinner where a relatively young Supreme Board of Chancellors was sworn in.

Midyear 2007
Brothers and guests traveled up to Split Rock Lodge, in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, to enjoy a weekend of skiing and other activities. The brothers competed in a basketball tournament and enjoyed the various amenities available at the resort.
Irving Rathblott Story

By Brother Leon L. Linder, Past Supreme Exalted Ruler 1951-1953

Death, iron-faced and silent, came suddenly on January 9, 1945 in the dirty hold of a Japanese prison ship as it wallowed helplessly under a rain of American bombs in Taku Harbor, Formosa. Quiet, efficient, a habitual pipe-smoker with groomed mustache, a pleasant voice, conscientious and thorough—Irving Rathblott is forever a Sigma Alpha Rho symbol. No, Not because he was twice elected Supreme Exalted Ruler, nor because he authored the present Fraternity induction ritual. Certainly not because he was Sigma Rho of Omega Chapter, nor Exalted Ruler of Philadelphia District Council, nor Chancellor, Supreme Exchequer, or Exalted Mortal Ruler on the Supreme Board...or Director of Convention when the roof was raised in Baltimore in 1939 (the infamous days that Hitler began his mad conquest into death). "Mr. Sigma Alpha Rho" lived S.A.R. Brotherhood. He ate it, worked it, slept it—and died for it! Now he's memorialized it. Ironically, the fatal blow was delivered by a B-29. Blame not the Yank airmen—the prison ship was not identified—the bombardier's squint at the target could have revealed nothing more than a junky piece of Jap shipping. If reports are true, Irv lies buried in an unmarked grave 50 yards off Taku Harbor, surrounded by some 70 of his buddies killed with him as they lay sweating and scared in the lousy leaky hold, inwardly cheering the return of the Americans. Irv was a reserve officer in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps—also Supreme Exalted Ruler—when called into service in 1941. He was sent to Hot Springs, Arkansas. But a promotion to a first lieutenancy, which he achieved, prompted him to ask for an overseas assignment. He finished his second term as S.E.R. in Manila. He was on Bataan when the Japanese struck at Pearl Harbor. He was captured there in May with Lieut. Joseph Goodman, of Xi Chapter, and Private Lewis Goldstein, Phi Chapter. All three survived the Death March. Joe was talking to Irv on that Jap prison ship when the American bomb fell. Irv spent from May 5, 1942 to December 12, 1944 in Jap prison camps in the Philippines. Then the Japs decided to move the Americans to Japan. The Nipponese loaded some 1200 men into a slimy boat, but American bombs sank that boat before it had scarcely moved out of Manila Harbor, killing 900 men. Irv was rescued with Joe only to be put on another boat and sent to Formosa. There, in Taku Harbor, you know what happened. "Irv! Irv! Irv!" he yelled. No answer. Ever.

The Sigma Alpha Rho general scholarship fund is named in honor of Brother Rathblott. These scholarships are funded through generous donations and fundraising events organized by alumni as well as the active chapters. Over the past five years, the fund has provided the following deserving brothers with over $35,000 to assist with their college educations.

2002: Justin Drew, Gene Drubetskoy, Josh Rubin, Jason Levine, Brian Discount, Matt Bagell, Eric Matsoff, E.J. Goldstein, Dan Holtz

2003: Josh Rubin, Matt Doner, Matt Bagell, Brian Discount, Eric Matisoff, Mike Mishnik, Dan Holtz

2004: Brian Discount, Andrew Sigal, Josh Rubin, Eric Matisoff, Mike Mendelson

2005: Ricky Lynx, Seth Kaplan, Brian Discount, Josh Rubin

2006: Seth Kaplan, Mark Cormack, Max Smith, Terry Rubin
Awards: 2002-2007

Edward Ross Abramson Award for Best Chapter ("Abbie")
2002-Delta Eta  2003-Phi  2004-Phi  2005- Sigma Phi  2006- Sigma Phi

Harold J. Pastner Award for Most Improved Chapter

Jerry Krader Memorial Award for Brother of the Year
2002-Mike Michnik (BT)  2003-Andrew Sigal (Φ)  2004-Elan Vinokurov (Φ)  2005-06- Not Given

Jerry C. Schaefer Award for best Newly Inducted Chapter

William Broade Memorial Award for Best Rho Program

Howard B. Pastor Memorial Award for Inter-Chapter Relations

Bernard Defren Memorial Award for Best Newspapers

Max Bogdanoff Memorial Award for Best Flyers

Saul Medoff Memorial Award for Jewish Affairs

Emil F. Goldhaber Memorial award for Community Service

Herbert Heft Memorial Award for Athletics

Jack R. Wallner Memorial Award for Outstanding Alumnus
2002-Larry Blumenthal (Ξ), Rob Malmud (ZT)
2003-Mike Mendelson (Σ)
2004-Charles Bogdanoff (Ω), Jason Saylor (ZΞ)
2005-Stuart Discount (ZT) 2006- Charles Bogdanoff (Ω)

Leon S. Rosenthal Memorial Award for Brothers who Induct New Chapters
2002: Gene Drubetskoy, Josh Rubin, Matt Bagell, Eric Matsoff
2003: Gene Drubetskoy, Adam Weinberg, Jason Saylor
2004: Jason Saylor, Andrew Sigal, Dan Holtz
2006: Ben Kurland, Terry Rubin, Jody Grodnitsky
Tribute to Past Supreme Exalted Ruler  
Max Solomon  
By Past Supreme Exalted Ruler Nathan A. Strauss  

It is said that "The best gifts come from the smallest boxes" and this saying can describe MAX SOLOMON to a "T".

Max did not have a tall body but the gifts he gave to our Sigma Alpha Rho Fraternity will always be remembered. He served our fraternity for many years as he supported those Supreme Exalted Rulers who preceded him. As an accountant, he kept the records of the Omega Chapter of Philadelphia for several years prior to becoming the National Supreme Exchequer, an office he served in for three years.

In 1946 he was elected as the Supreme Exalted Ruler. He was responsible for bringing back to active duty in Sigma Alpha Rho many of the Brothers who returned after serving in the military during World War II. He led these Brothers to complete a very outstanding and memorable year.

At this 90th anniversary of the Sigma Alpha Rho Fraternity we must thank Max Solomon who, as the shortest Supreme Exalted Ruler, gave us one of the most exciting, outstanding and biggest leaderships.
Tribute to Past Supreme Exalted Ruler
Ben Solomon
By Past Supreme Exalted Ruler Charles Bogdanoff

It was no coincidence that whenever Ben attended a meeting he was called upon to render the Invocation. He was known universally as MR. SINCERITY. It was obvious that his inspirational messages were directly from the heart.

At Northeast High he played Varsity football and ran track and was known as “Slim Solomon.” He joined Omega chapter and quickly became one of its leaders. He not only led his Chapter, his Council and the Fraternity but he inspired his Brother Paul to have a major impact on SAR as a National Vice President.

He was famous for the stories of his own wonderful years in SAR, but few could doubt his words when they heard about the hiking trip where he was one of the two “Bennies” who hiked to Washington D.C. and then personally met President Calvin Coolidge.

His wife Annabelle was at least as dedicated to SAR as he was. He described their courtship as the best “win” that he had ever had. He was married all through law school and while he served as SER. Annabelle became the first woman Cantor in Philadelphia and was well known for her beautiful singing voice.

Ben practiced law until he was 91 years of age. He was President of the Men’s Club of Beth Zion-Beth Israel where he worked with PSER Beryl Price who designed the synagogue. He served repeatedly as an executive of the Middle Atlantic Regional Movement of Conservative Men’s Clubs.

Ben and Annabelle left their earthly existence within two weeks of one another and their gravestone read, “A Love Story.” In a greater sense, it is clear that there were four loves of his life; his wife and family, his Jewish people, his fellow Americans and his cherished Fraternity.
Tribute to Past Supreme Exalted Ruler
Milt Lubar
By Past Supreme Exalted Ruler Charles Bogdanoff

Milt Lubar had a long and fabled career in SAR. He attended Northeast High School and eventually followed his brother Sam into the Fraternity. In those days, he was known as Milt Lubarsky and he joined the Order principally to keep up his association with other Jewish teens. Omega Chapter was an extremely active group that was well known for producing national leaders for SAR.

Although he was a loyal Omegan, he is probably best known for his post-chapter activity. After attending college he decided to become a dentist and matriculated to the University of Maryland in Baltimore. Even though he had a full schedule, he placed an advertisement in the local Jewish newspaper describing SAR and asking young men to contact him.

He attended the first meeting and worked with the new young men in order to form the Theta Epsilon Chapter in 1935. He was encouraged in this endeavor by his friend and fellow Omegan Ben Solomon, the SER at the time.

His interest in the vitality of SAR was not limited to the new chapter he founded. He went on to serve on national committees and ultimately was elected Supreme Exalted Ruler for the year 1938-39 even though he was in a full time dental practice. He was one of the earliest examples of a Brother who considered himself a member of two chapters, both Omega and Theta Epsilon. He attended many Theta Epsilon reunions and was considered to be an excellent speaker.

At the September 2006 National Executive Council he was recognized as a great early symbol of an alumnus whose life in Sigma Alpha Rho did not end with his graduation from high school. The Fraternity will now be presenting an award in his honor to alumni who have made substantial contributions to the health and success of our great organization many years beyond their induction.
Tribute to Past Supreme Exalted Ruler
Al Roth
By Past Supreme Exalted Ruler Larry Blumenthal

Alan Roth was one of the fraternity’s all time greats in getting young men interested in Sigma Alpha Rho (the true master of the “pitch call”). He was an enthusiastic, creative thinker, and motivator to so many.

Alan was inducted into the Zeta Xi Chapter in February 1974 and helped the chapter win the Schaeffer Award (best newly inducted chapter) that year. He transferred to Tau Xi the next year, served as Sigma Rho, and eventually earned the prestigious chapter honorary active status.

Alan was a leader on the Supreme Board for many years. In one year alone, he helped re-induct MSDC, started 5 new successful chapters, helped to organize Rho programs, and supported reactivating the Theta Theta Chapter in New Orleans.

The recognition that Alan earned included: Royal Order of the Gleaming Eye, PDC Honorary Active, Honorary Active in Tau Xi, and PDC Alumnus of the Year.

One of Alan’s greatest contributions occurred in 1987 when Past Supreme Exalted Ruler Larry Blumenthal requested that Alan come back to the Supreme Board once again as SMR. This commitment was especially meaningful, as Alan introduced Larry to SAR six years prior. Alan was instrumental in a tremendously successful fraternal year and positioned himself to become the next SER.

Alan was elected as Supreme Exalted Ruler in 1988, and in 1989, he received SAR’s highest honor, International Honorary Active.

Hundreds of brothers have Al to thank for introducing them into SAR, and it was an honor for everyone that had the opportunity to know him.
SUPREME BOARD OF CHANCELLORS BIOGRAPHIES

Supreme Exalted Ruler Jason E. Saylor

Brother Jason Eric Saylor was inducted into the Zeta Xi chapter on October 17, 1995. He became Sigma Rho in June of 1997.

On December 27, 1997, Brother Saylor re-activated the Philadelphia District Council board, and was immediately elected Exalted Ruler. While serving as ER, Jason trained and re-inducted a new chapter, Eta, in Cheltenham, PA.

At Summer Convention 1998, Brother Saylor was elected to the Supreme Board of Chancellors as Supreme Chancellor. During that fraternal year, Jason re-inducted the Iota chapter, and served as Editor of the Purple and White Yearbook, Master of the Rolls, and Convention Director for Summer Convention 1999 in Virginia Beach. He also re-wrote the Pledge Manual, which is still being used today.

At Summer Convention 1999, Brother Saylor was re-elected Supreme Chancellor. During the 1999-2000 fraternal year, he was re-elected Exalted Ruler of PDC. He also re-inducted the Alpha Xi chapter, was Master of the Rolls, and Editor of the Yearbook.

At Summer Convention 2000, Jason was elected Supreme Scribe. That fraternal year he trained his old chapter, Zeta Xi along with his old rival chapter Zeta Tau while serving as Master of the Rolls. At Summer Convention 2001, Jason was elected to serve as Supreme Mortal Ruler. Under SER Mike Mendelson, Jason oversaw growth in NJDC and MSDC as well as chairing multiple national committees.

Due to a motion made at Summer Convention 2001, elections for all Supreme Board positions were held at Midyear 2002. At this election meeting, Brother Saylor's years of work and commitment were rewarded when he was unanimously elected as Supreme Exalted Ruler. During his term, SAR continued to grow as Jason brought his excitement and enthusiasm to both the SBC and the active brothers. It was during this term that Jason first coined the slogan, “Whatever it takes!” which remains his motto to this day, in his fifth term as SER. Jason was re-elected SER at Summer Convention 2002 in Stamford, CT. Some highlights of the 2002-2003 fraternal year included 6 new chapters joining the fold, a well-attended convention in Washington, DC, and a plethora of chapter run events.

In the 2003-2004 fraternal year, as a Past SER, Jason re-inducted the Theta Epsilon chapter in Baltimore, worked with the Sigma Phi chapter in Upper Dublin, PA, and assisted the SBC in other capacities. At Summer Convention 2004, Jason was awarded Jack R. Wallner Memorial Award for Sigma Alpha Rho's Alumnus of the year.

In the 2004-2005 fraternal year, Jason ran Midyear Convention in Baltimore, MD. During this Midyear, there was a dramatic change in leadership. Jason was elected SER for the third time. In spring 2005, Jason coined the motto "Pride and Progress". In August of 2005, Jason was re-elected to a 4th term as SER. During the fraternal year, Jason mentored three new Supreme Board Members and saw the fraternity induct over 100 brothers and re-activate Zeta Tau, Theta, Theta Epsilon, Beta Iota, and Epsilon.

At Summer Convention 2006, Jason was elected to an unprecedented 5th term as SER and has guided one of the youngest Supreme Boards in the SAR's history.

Jason is currently a Senior Programmer for Eastern Research Services, LLC, a privately owned data-collection firm located in Springfield, PA. Jason currently resides in Skippack Township, PA with his wife Alison. Jason cherishes the fact that his cousins, AJ Simanglat and Brett Schapire, are his SAR brothers and is thankful that his other cousins Melissa and Erica Roth introduced SAR to him during their terms as presidents of their Zeta Gamma Phi chapters.
Supreme Exchequer Mike Mendelson

Brother Michael Mendelson was inducted into the Sigma chapter in Abington, PA on June 12, 1992. Under his leadership, Sigma became one of the most recognized chapters in the fraternity.

At Summer Convention 1995, prior to his senior year of high school, Mike won the Jerry N. Krader Memorial Award for Brother of the Year. He was also elected to the Supreme Board of Chancellors for the first time. From his first election at Summer Convention 1995 to Midyear Convention 2002, Mike held multiple positions on the Supreme Board, including Supreme Chancellor, Supreme Exchequer, Supreme Mortal Ruler and four terms as Supreme Exalted Ruler. He was first elected SER at Summer Convention 1999 and was re-elected at Summer Convention 2000, Summer Convention 2001, and Summer Convention 2003.

During Mike’s first three consecutive terms as SER, Sigma Alpha Rho saw substantial growth. The number of active chapters doubled, existing councils increased their number of active chapters and brothers, and old councils were re-activated. The day-to-day responsibility of training, inducting, and advising SAR chapters fell upon very capable members of the Supreme Board. The responsibility of keeping the Supreme Board organized, committed, and working hard fell upon Brother Mendelson. It was a perfect match. By the end of his third term, a group of veteran board members was poised to take the reigns of a prospering fraternity. They knew the value of hard work, professionalism, and organizational skills.

From Midyear Convention 2002 to Summer Convention 2003, Mike remained a key member of the SAR team in his position as Past Supreme Exalted Ruler. During that period, he was awarded the Jack R. Wallner Memorial Award for Most Outstanding Alumnus. He worked with chapters in the New Jersey District Council and advised Supreme Board members. At the 2003 Summer Convention in Ocean City, MD, Mike was re-elected to his fourth term as Supreme Exalted Ruler. He spent his fourth term guiding the Supreme Board and preparing a new generation of future leaders to take over the responsibility of running the fraternity.

Following the resignation of this year’s Supreme Exchequer, Brother Mendelson was elected to the vacant position at this past Midyear Convention in February.

Upon graduation from Lehigh University in 2000, Mike Mendelson began working at KPMG in their New York City office. While at KPMG, he earned his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license. In 2003, he went on to work in the Corporate Finance department at JPMorgan Chase & Co. Mike completed his MBA at Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business in May 2007 and will rejoin JPMorgan Chase in their finance rotation program in the coming months.
Supreme Scribe Max Smith

Max Smith was inducted into the Eta chapter in Elkins Park, PA in July 2003. After spending time with Sigma Phi chapter, Max trained and inducted two pledge classes into the Eta chapter as Sigma Rho in spring 2005. The chapter won the Harold J. Pastner award for most improved chapter at Summer Convention 2005. Max was also elected to the Supreme Board of Chancellors as Supreme Scribe at that convention.

In fraternal year 2005-2006, as he performed the duties expected of any Supreme Board member, he also served as master of the rolls, as registration chair for Midyear Convention 2006 in Washington, D.C., and as convention director for Summer Convention 2006.

At Summer Convention 2006, Max was re-elected to his position as Supreme Scribe. Max also received a generous Theta Epsilon-Theta Iota Scholarship at the convention. This fraternal year, Max has served as Master of the Rolls, Roster Book Chairman, Editor of The Gleaming Eye and this publication, and Convention Director for Summer Convention 2007.

Max graduated from Cheltenham High School in 2006 and just completed his freshman year at The George Washington University in Washington, DC where he is pursuing a degree in International Affairs with a concentration in Cultures and Societies along with a minor in Journalism and mass communication.

Supreme Chancellor Brian Discount

Brian was inducted into the Iota chapter in 1998, immediately becoming Sigma Rho of the newly inducted chapter. In his first fraternal year, Brian won brother of the month for January for running a sold out Wings event that became an annual staple for the Iota Chapter. That year, at Summer Convention Virginia Beach, Iota won the Jerry C. Schaefer award for best newly inducted chapter.

The following year, Brian remained Sigma Rho, leading Iota to a successful year, winning the Harold J. Pastner award for most improved chapter at Summer Convention in Toronto. That year Iota grew to 20 brothers, ran many successful events including a Philadelphia Wings Game, trips to Dorney Park and South Street, and many ICRs. Iota was one of the most successful chapters, and it was difficult to find an SAR event without Brian and Iota.

Over the following two years, Brian stepped away from his chapter to help the Philadelphia District Council and Supreme Board of Chancellors. In 2000, Brian was elected Grand Ruler of PDC where he advised chapters and ran several sports leagues, including a successful hockey league. Brian was elected to the SBC as a Chancellor-At-Large at Midyear 2002.

Summer Convention 2002 began Brian’s two-year stint as Supreme Exchequer. During this time, Brian was influential in the running of Midyear 2004 in NYC and ran a successful Summer Convention 2004 in Virginia Beach. Brian also ran leadership and Sigma Rho weekends in Philadelphia and New York. At Summer Convention 2004, Brian was elected Supreme Mortal Ruler, a position he held for the next two years.

Brian graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with honors in June 2006, with a degree in Sport Management. He is currently attending Seton Hall Law School and will intern with a federal judge in the district of New Jersey this summer.
Supreme Chancellor Ben Kurland

Ben is a graduating senior at Upper Dublin High School. He was inducted into the Sigma Phi chapter in 2002. He has served as Sigma Rho, Mu Rho, Philadelphia Regional Director, Chancellor at-Large and Supreme Chancellor. As Sigma Rho, Ben helped lead Sigma Phi to their first of two consecutive Abbies in 2006. He also trained and inducted the current brothers of the Zeta Tau chapter in Wissahickon, PA. Ben plans to attend The George Washington University in the fall.

Chancellor-at-Large Terry Rubin

Terry Rubin was inducted into the Beta Tau chapter in Voorhees, NJ in December 2002. As a leader in the chapter, he was elected to the positions of Kappa Mu and Mu Rho during his sophomore and junior years of high school. During that time, he helped the chapter run numerous successful events including dances and sporting events such as semi-professional hockey games. At Summer Convention 2005, Terry was given the "Brother of the Month Award" and was elected to the Supreme Board of Chancellors as Chancellor at Large.

Since becoming a board member, Terry has successfully trained and inducted the current brothers of the Epsilon and Beta Iota chapters, located in Cherry Hill, NJ. At this past summer convention, he was re-elected Chancellor at Large and received a Theta Epsilon-Theta Iota Scholarship for his hard work and dedication to the fraternity. Terry graduated from Eastern High School in 2006 and recently completed his freshman year at Syracuse University studying Mechanical Engineering.

Chancellor-At-Large Andrew Saltzman

Andrew Saltzman was inducted into the Sigma Phi chapter in 2002. He helped Sigma Phi win its three consecutive Abbies in various capacities. He also served as Sigma Rho from winter 2006 to winter 2007, when he turned over the reins to newly inducted younger members of the chapter. Andrew was elected to the Supreme Board of Chancellors at Summer Convention 2006.

Andrew is currently a senior at Upper Dublin High School (PA) and plans to attend Temple University in the fall.

Chancellor-At-Large Alex Shelow

Alex was inducted into the Sigma Phi Chapter of Upper Dublin, PA in 2003. Alex was the Mu Rho and Kappa Mu during the time that Sigma Phi earned three consecutive Abbie Awards. He was greatly involved in the events that they held, as he ran four sold out Phillies and Sixers games, and many other activities the chapter ran. Alex was elected to the Supreme Board of Chancellors at Midyear Convention 2007 at Split Rock Lodge in the Poconos. Alex is a graduating senior at Upper Dublin High School. Alex plans to work with the SBC while attending Temple University, where he will begin his freshman year this fall.
Past Supreme Exalted Ruler Eric Matisoff

Eric was inducted into the Beta Tau Chapter on September 21, 1996. Eric held the Kappa Beta position and was an influential behind-the-scenes worker for his chapter. During the 1998-1999 fraternal year, Eric helped lead his chapter to the Abbie award for Best Chapter, awarded during the 1999 Summer Convention in Virginia Beach.

Brother Matisoff continued to work tenaciously for Sigma Alpha Rho during the 1999-2000 fraternal year with the responsibility of managing the official SAR website in addition to his duties of keeping his Beta Tau chapter site up-to-date. Eric was also elected to the Eastern District Council Board as Grand Scribe.

During the 2000 Summer Convention in Toronto, after being elected to his first position on the Supreme Board of Chancellors as Supreme Chancellor, Eric received the Merrill S. Breyer Memorial Scholarship, but better yet, he had helped lead his chapter to a repeat Abbie win!

Eric's first year on the Supreme Board was incredible. While continuing to update the website throughout the year, Eric also led the pitching, training, and inductions of new Delta Eta brothers. In addition, Brother Matisoff began expanding the New Jersey District Council by starting Delta Kappa in Lawrence, NJ and gaining bid lists for expansion throughout the northern part of New Jersey, including South Brunswick and Princeton. Eric won the Oscar Spivack award for Most Outstanding Supreme Board Member at Summer Convention 2001 in Ocean City, MD, where he was also elected Supreme Exchequer.

Eric's hard work had paid off as he was elected Supreme Mortal Ruler of the fraternity during Midyear Convention 2002. He was also soon elected to the position of Exalted Ruler on the New Jersey District Council Board, as he inducted new chapters in Delta Iota and Zeta Nu. These exceptional accomplishments led Eric to his second Oscar Spivack award, which he proudly shared with fellow Beta Tau brother, Matt Bagell. Eric was re-elected SMR at Summer Convention 2002.

At Summer Convention 2003 in Ocean City, MD, Brother Matisoff was elected to the position of Exalted Mortal Ruler. During the 2003-2004 fraternal year, he continued to work with NJDC and ran Midyear Convention 2004 in Manhattan. Eric continued to work on the Supreme Board of Chancellors, and, at Summer Convention 2004, he was elected to the position of Supreme Exalted Ruler.

Brother Matisoff is a graduate of Rutgers University and currently works for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Philadelphia. He resides in downtown Philadelphia.
SIGMA ALPHA RHO FRATERNITY MISSION STATEMENT
By Supreme Exalted Ruler Jason Eric Saylor

“Our organization, our principles, our rituals are ideals and ideas of young adolescent men adopted for the young man by the young man!”

Sigma Alpha Rho Fraternity, International, Inc (ΣΑΡ) is a youth run, youth led Fraternity open to all Jewish high school students. SAR emphasizes independence as brothers organize and run any event they wish in order to develop skills for later in life. Brothers participate in democratically run groups, known as chapters, guided by locally and nationally elected volunteer leaders.

The objectives of the organization are as follows:
- To provide our brothers with the opportunities to gain leadership skills and develop their leadership potential to their fullest capabilities.
- To help Jewish youth develop a positive self-image.
- To encourage the development of friendships among Jewish youth.
- To teach young men social skills that will benefit them throughout their lifetime.
- Sigma Alpha Rho Men are always gentlemen—always courteous.
- The creation of lifelong friendships to create extensive social networks.

The multitude of opportunities available through the Fraternity prepares members for success in all aspects of their life. Every brother inducted since November 18, 1917 enjoys these benefits.

Of all the words in the English language, I believe that the word 'fraternalism' is the one which is most expressive of a condition imaginative and visionary rather than tangible and real. When the germ of it is once injected into anyone, it will cause a marked change in the life of that one, in his attitude toward his fellow man, toward life itself, yet so gradual, so unnoticeable will be that change that one cannot point to any phase of it and charge it to fraternalism.

I have the honor today of belonging to a number of fraternal orders, most of them far older, wealthier and more powerful than Sigma Alpha Rho, but none of them can compare their rituals with ours, none of them can present ideals and principles so well founded as ours. And none of them can show so complete an inculcation of its principles in its members as ours. That is because our organization, our principles, our rituals were ideals and ideas of young adolescent men adopted for the young man by the young man.

Look over our roster of members, pick out the names of those who are beginning to make a mark for themselves in life and you will find them all to be men who have given all to the fraternity, active serious workers in their day. For the incomparable training that one receives while submerging himself in the work of Sigma Alpha Rho cannot be duplicated in any school, in any course. It is with pride that I sit in the meetings of older established organizations and find that the young men who are forging ahead to leadership by reason of their ideas, their personalities and their energies are all Sigma Alpha Rho men.

Personally, I have found that the training, the friendships, the confidence I attained in Sigma Alpha Rho have been the means of molding my whole attitude toward mankind, of establishing my capacity for carrying on in this world.

If I were to advise a young initiate into the fraternity, it would be to throw himself into the work of Sigma Alpha Rho without reservation, to work zealously, ardently, religiously for the progress and dissemination of our principles; he need not fear of reward, it will appear in his own soul. It has proven so with others, it will be so for him - let him remember - "the recompense is great!"

--Leon S. Rosenthal (SER 1922-25)