

Groundbreaking Speech- November 7, 2010 – Jeff Dworkin

Past Supreme Masters Berman and Kaplan, Supreme Master Elect- Blustein, Brothers, Parents and guests I want to welcome you to the groundbreaking of our new AEPi home here at The University of Texas! My Name is Jeff Dworkin- Past Master 1986, I am Chairman of the Building Committee of the Gamma Deuteron Housing Corp.

Wow, it is hard to believe, but this will be the 3rd time that AEPi will be on Rio Grande in its' 70 year HISTORY at UT. The first time was when the Chapter was chartered in 1939 and rented a house at 19th and Rio Grande. The latest was the Tejas house on the corner of 26th Street, which we purchased in 1946 and resided in, until the San Pedro house was built in 1954. Now we stand here about to embark on a special time in the Chapter, something that we have not done in over 50 years, build a new house! For most of us, this will be the first and last groundbreaking of an AEPi house at UT that we ever see! For a few in the crowd, they have seen this before.

When we think about AEPi at UT, it is hard to believe that PSM Kaplan and 12 other men first started this Jewish Fraternity here at UT, before World War II. We want to thank the other family members of some of those founding fathers, that have joined us here today. Not only has this Chapter left its' mark throughout AEPi over the years, but here at UT as well. For it is one of our founding fathers, Bernard Rapoport, the first Master of the Chapter, that was Chairman of the Board of Regents for The University and has a building on the West mall named in his honor.

Though this Chapter has struggled over the years, it has thrived more often than not, with the number of active brothers exceeding 100 many different times. Now as we have over 50 active Brothers, it is time to get this new home built. This home, designed by one of our own Brothers- Barry Bubis, will be a "state of the art" facility. Heck, it is so "state of the art", we even decided to leave out the phone lines!

The last 4 years has seemed like an eternity, as we searched endlessly for the right property, in the right location, at the right price, to build this new house. I want to thank the members of the Building Committee that have worked tirelessly on this project. They are Brothers Alex Ray, Shawn Ackerman, Seth Grubstein, Philip Applebaum, Bryan Caplovitz and of course Harold Berman.

This is truly a special moment for PSM Berman as his tireless work for the Fraternity for 65+ years has helped lead us to this point. As a matter of fact, it was Past Supreme Masters Berman and Kaplan that headed the building committee back in 1954 that built the San Pedro house! If not for his dedication and fraternalism over all these years, I truly am not sure AEPi would have survived here at UT.

It is my honor to now introduce to you, the one that many call "Mr. Gamma D", an "Order of the Lion" recipient, a Past Supreme Master, Mr. Harold Berman!