



They say, good things come to those who "bake" ...Or something like that.



My mom has always made her own challah but, back in high school, I decided to try something new.



I graduated from high school early, so I had a little time to travel around. I went to Israel to explore my Jewish heritage.

When I entered Scripps College in the fall, I longed for a connection to my Jewish identity. Thoughts of my mom baking challah popped into my head. I began baking challah regularly in my dormitory, much to the joy of my friends.



I asked around in search of a good cause to raise money by means of challah sales. My friend Melinda, who had volunteered for American Jewish World Service, had a suggestion...



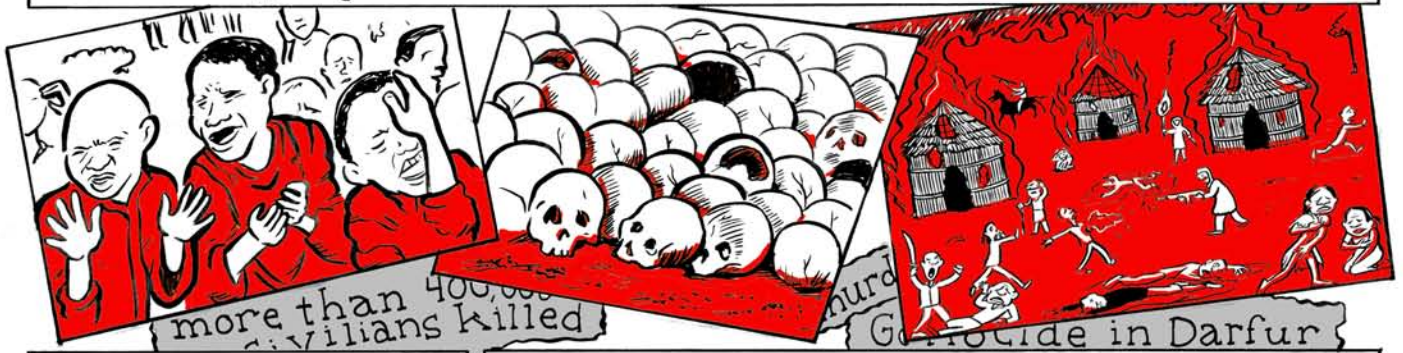
We needed a place to bake lots of challot (plural of challah) to sell on campus. We asked the college kitchen for permission.



I guess they had temporary insanity because they agreed. After that, they never wanted us to leave.



I didn't know much about the issue, but I learned quickly that people were being killed for who they are. The Jewish people had said, "Never again!" Yet, this is happening in front of everybody's eyes!



more than 400,000 civilians killed

Genocide in Darfur

Our first sale was at a 2004 election party on campus.



We completely sold out.

After our first success, we began selling regularly. We grew very fast.



One day President Clinton came to speak on my campus. I was determined to meet him, and devised a special 'recipe' to smuggle in some challah to give him.



Recipe for Smuggling Challah to Clinton:

Ingredients:

- 2 credible names
- 1 challah
- 1 brochure
- 1 big t-shirt

Directions:

Step 1: Use credible names to convince others that you are authorized to enter:



Step 2: Hide a Challah under your shirt. Stand in line for pictures.



Step 3: Sneak yummy challah to Clinton's hands.



Sometimes, if you put things out there, they become reality.



After graduation, I traveled to Europe. It was there that I received an incredible e-mail.



SO DAD, I KINDA GOT AN E-MAIL FROM BILL CLINTON.

HIS ASSISTANT CALLED HERE YESTERDAY FOR YOU!!



It turned out that President Clinton wanted to interview me for a book he was writing about giving. We arranged a time to meet by phone the next day.

WHEN PEOPLE BUY CHALLAH FROM US, THEY'RE USING THEIR PURCHASING POWER TO DO ALL SORTS OF GOOD THINGS.

THANK YOU, ELI. IF YOU NEED ANYTHING FROM ME, LET ME KNOW.



I was in Bosnia when my Dad called me with some more news.

ELI, SOMEONE FROM MTV ASKED TO SEND SOME OF YOUR CHALLAH FOR HUNGER PHOTOS.



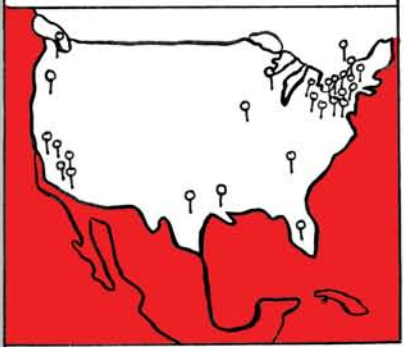
It turns out President Clinton had mentioned me on MTV in a segment about youth activism.

HOW CAN WE MOTIVATE THE YOUTH TO REALLY TAKE ACTION TOWARDS ISSUES THAT THEY FEEL PASSIONATE ABOUT?

LAST SPRING, I MET A SENIOR AT SCRIPPS COLLEGE NAMED ELI WINKELMAN. SHE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH MONEY, BUT SHE HAD THE GIFT OF BAKING... YOU START WHEREVER YOU ARE, WHATEVER YOUR GIFT IS.



We started growing very rapidly. From one branch in 2004, we've grown to 31 active chapters today. So far, we've raised over \$150,000.



Working on projects alone isn't easy. Thanks to organizations like ROI, I have wonderful networks I can turn to for help. It's also great for promoting projects and events...



For the most part things have been running smoothly, but there have been the occasional glitches. Such as the time when we had to refrigerate dough for 500 challot in a Temple refrigerator. The fridge apparently wasn't equipped for the mission, and the dough fermented. It was a far cry from the usual delightful smell of challah.



My family works to create change in the world. We each utilize our own talents to give back however we can.



Weaving dough to make challah has allowed me to weave my own path in life.



What path will you weave for yourself?

