

The food truck is kosher, b presence at GW?

By Daniel Schere
Political Reporter

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Steiner said so far the truck has received a good deal of support with sandwiches selling out before 1 p.m. on some days.

Their most popular locations include the intersection of 18th and L streets, Gallery Place near the Verizon Center and Friendship Heights. The staff posts the location each day on its Twitter feed, which Steiner said has hundreds of followers.

"We've had a lot of interest from the kosher consumers, trying to figure out where we are on one specific day," he said. "I

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Steiner said all kosher food options on campus disappeared from campus about four years ago. He then set out to advocate for a kosher restaurant, but no one wanted to commit.

"At that point I decided I wanted to be involved in helping Jewish students maintain their Judaism," Steiner said.

Finally in September 2015 Carly Meisel, then a freshman, came to Steiner with the suggestion of starting a food truck to offset the lack of a kosher option on campus. The Chabad, which Steiner said attracts 1,000 Jewish students to events throughout the year, raised \$65,000 to acquire a truck and hire a culinary director from Brooklyn, N.Y., giving birth to Brooklyn Sandwich Company.

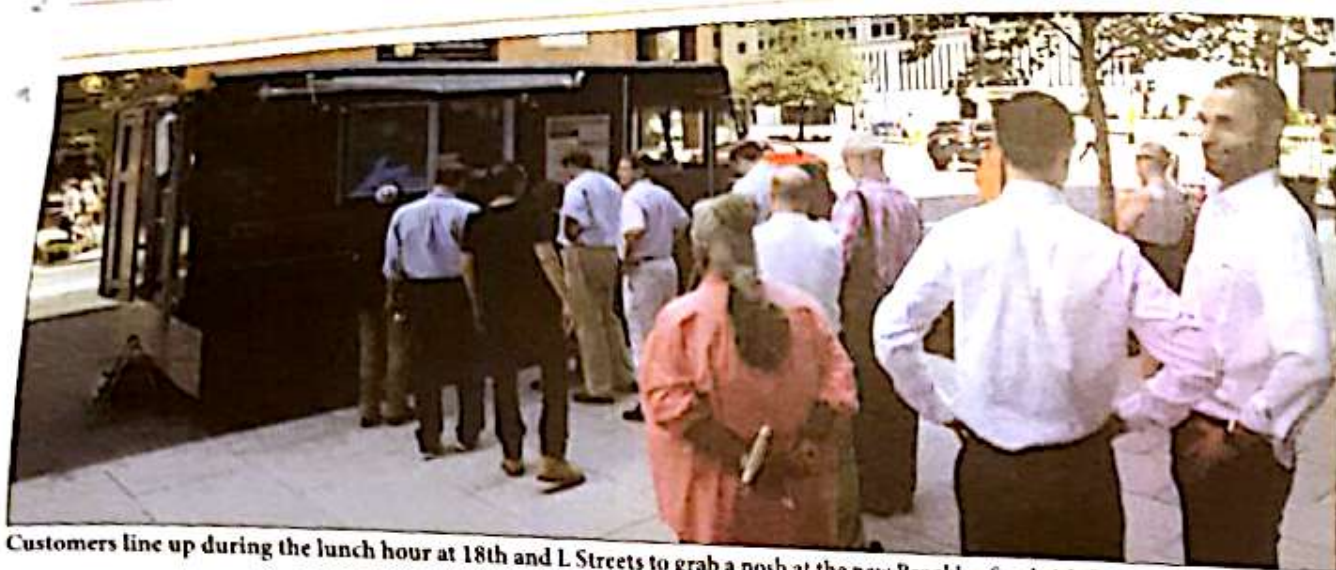
think we're the only truck where there's a built in constituency."

Steiner served students as a Chabad rabbi on GW's campus for eight years, but has only been operating Jewish Colonials Chabad since 2014. The new Chabad came about after a longstanding feud with Rabbi Levi Shemtov, who runs the Washington office of the umbrella organization American Friends of Lubavitch, resulted in the termination of its contract with Steiner.

In December of that year, Washington Jewish Week reported that Superior Court Judge Neil E. Kravitz issued an order barring Steiner from running any Chabad-related programming within one mile from campus. Since then, said Steiner, he has been operating under the

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Customers line up during the lunch hour at 18th and L Streets to grab a nosh at the new Brooklyn Sandwich Company food truck.

Photo by Yudi Steiner

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direction of Rabbi Shmuel Kaplan Chabad Lubavitch of the Maryland Region.

Additionally a Jan. 12, 2015 letter from Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, the chairman Chabad's educational arm, Merkos I'Inyc Chinuch, states that he contacted Shemtov and Steiner, instructing each submit the name of a candidate to sit on a religious court in order to settle their dispute, and that not doing so would result in the delisting of their names from the M database. It states that Steiner did not submit a candidate by the Jan. 5 deadline, resulting in his removal from the database.

Shemtov explained that the termination of the contract he had with Steiner was not to affiliate with any Chabad or entity doing similar work in the

