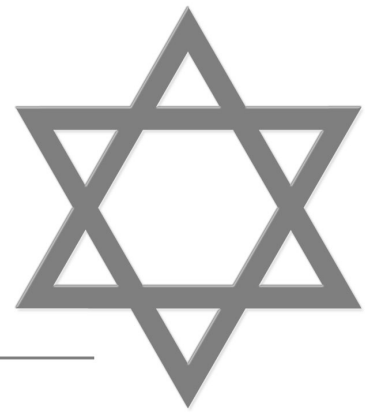




HILLEL

The Star



WASHINGTON AND LEE HILLEL NEWSLETTER

W&L Hillel House, 204 W. Washington St., Lexington, VA 24450-2116

hillel.wlu.edu

bschwartz@wlu.edu

DECEMBER 2012

(540) 458-8443

TEVET 5773

A Senior's Perspective

Natasha Lerner '13

Almost four years ago to this day, I received my W&L early-decision acceptance letter. I was ecstatic — knowing that this school was the ideal place for me in every way, except possibly one: I was apprehensive about what being Jewish in a small, southern school would mean. And yet, I was also comforted by the Hillel website, which looked welcoming — posted with smiling photos of Jewish students and a triumphant announcement that the money needed to build a Hillel house was finally raised and construction would begin that year and be completed soon.

While I found it odd during my first year that many of my new friends had never met a Jewish person and even odder that they had never experienced the comfort of matzo

ball soup or the superiority of challah bread, I did not feel any different from my peers. My first year I was relatively uninvolved in Hillel, able to count the number of events and services that I attended on one hand.

During my sophomore year, I traveled to Israel on a Birthright trip and became a sturdier presence in Hillel, attending one or two events each week. While I didn't seek Hillel out due to any ostracism, I did realize that being away from my family and beloved New York City meant that I missed celebrating being Jewish: the holidays, traditions, community, food, and, yes, jokes and sense of humor. At Hillel, I found a new home away from home, a place filled with others who also longed to sing songs learned in Hebrew school, eat rugelach, and shake groggers.

Soon my non-Jewish friends began to wonder: "What is Natasha doing?" My disappearances and peculiar habits raised more questions: "Where are you going on Friday nights?" "Why is the E-Café called kosher and what does kosher mean?" "How do you play dreidel?" So I invited them along — to see for themselves.

Although we are attending a school with a small Jewish community, we are a school with an open, no-pressure Jewish community, embraced by an interested and supportive student body. For me, being able to bring my non-Jewish friends to all Hillel events has really enriched my Hillel experience and kept me involved. Some of my happiest memories at W&L have been

Continued on page 2

A Summer In Israel

Brenden Strauss '15

As a politically conservative Jewish college student, the Yameena Fellowship opportunity was the perfect experience where the entire group was able to embrace our love of Judaism and politics, specifically pertaining to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. On the program that lasted two weeks, I met influential Israeli and American decision makers and leaders, networked with fellow politically conservative young Jewish students from all around the US, and learned what Judaism really says about hot-button political issues. Speakers included Ari Fleischer, former White House Press Secretary; Michael Medved, nationally syndicated talk radio host; Danny Ayalon, Israel's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; Natan Sharansky, Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel; Matt Brooks, Executive Director of the Republican Jewish Coalition; Ron Dermer, Senior Advisor to PM Binyamin Netanyahu; and many other scholars, politicians, and leaders.

Continued on page 2

Director's Corner

High school students from all over the country are trying to decide which schools they are interested in applying to in the fall. They are deciding where they want to spend the next four years of their life.

I have spent countless hours meeting and speaking with parents and students about Jewish student life at Washington and Lee. Sometimes I spend over 30 minutes speaking with a prospective family and I find myself still wanting to say more about our wonderful Hillel community.

The shock that there is any sort of Jewish life at W&L is overwhelming. I have

Continued on page 2



continued from page 1, A Summer in Israel

Our group wandered off the typical trail that most tours follow when leading American students throughout the Jewish homeland. We visited Judea and Samaria as well as “East Jerusalem” and learned firsthand why these areas are integral parts of modern Israel and Jewish history. While we all felt a little nervous before approaching Sderot and the Israel-Gaza border, the IDF soldiers that accompanied us provided a strong sense of security; however, we did spend the greatest amount of time in Jerusalem.

This is a unique program, and a once in a lifetime opportunity to equip oneself with the skills and motivation to make a difference as a young Jewish conservative. Touring Israel with like-minded, dynamic, and accomplished peers while learning from some of the most effective and entertaining conservative leaders and activists was a joy from start to finish and an experience I will cherish for the rest of my life.

continued from page 1

seen high school students find out there is a thriving Jewish community at W&L and have then decided to apply early decision.

By using our website, Facebook, Twitter, blog posts, magazine ads, college fairs, mailings, pamphlets and newsletters, we have been working diligently to get the word out about Jewish student life on campus at Washington and Lee.

There are many that still don't know we have a Hillel House, a full time Hillel Director, a kosher dairy café, a programming endowment, an active student group, and a Rabbi for the High Holidays. People also don't know about the Max and Sylvia Weinstein Scholarship (full tuition scholarship, renewable for four years) that recognizes an entering Jewish first-year student.

So as you can see, we still are in need of help getting the word out about the growing and thriving Jewish community at Washington and Lee University. You can help by sharing this newsletter, our website, and our Facebook page with those around you. If you would like us to send you brochures or additional newsletters to help spread the word of Jewish life at W&L, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me at any point.

We at Hillel wish you and your family health and happiness and we hope to hear from you soon.

L'Shalom

Brett Schwartz, Hillel Director

High Holiday Days at Washington and Lee

Elizabeth Engel '13, Shabbat & Holidays VP

High Holidays at Washington and Lee Hillel were very successful this year! We had Benjamin Ross, a student Rabbi who lives in New York City, join us for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to lead us in services.

We began the High Holidays with an Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner in Evans Dining Hall with over eighty people in attendance, followed by an evening service. The next morning we gathered for morning services followed by lunch and a Tashlich service at Woods Creek on campus.

For Kol Nidre, we had a plentiful pre-fast dinner followed by a meaningful service to start Yom Kippur. The service included having a member of the community, Julia Goudimova, play Kol Nidre on cello. The next morning, we continued with services, then later in the afternoon held a Yizkor service, followed by Ne'ilah, Havdalah, and finally the break-the-fast meal.

The High Holidays occurred early on in the school year, so we embraced that as a way to get first-year students involved. Before the start of the holidays, we all gathered for casual dinners, held once at Tong, a local Chinese restaurant and once at Salerno's, an Italian establishment. This was a great way to get to know other students, Rabbi Benjamin, and Brett in a more relaxed way while enjoying some delicious food. During the dinners, we also allowed time for students to sign up for



parts in the service. Almost every student in attendance at the dinners signed up to participate.

Students and community members participated in services in all sorts of ways. We had ten individuals read from the Torah, and this group included undergraduate and law students, a VMI cadet, and our faculty advisor, Simon Levy. Our Hillel Director, Brett Schwartz, a senior, Max Chapnick and a member of the community, Zachary Dubit blew Shofar, and we had over 30 other people participate in leading prayers and responsive readings throughout the holidays.

Rabbi Benjamin did a great job coordinating and leading services, and his sermons were relevant, informative, and interesting. Everyone, from students to faculty, to community members, seemed to respond well to his leadership. All told, High Holidays went very well this year and we are looking forward to another successful year when we ring in 5774!

continued from page 1, A Senior's Perspective

sharing my traditions with friends. Indeed, the shock on my face when I brought my best friend, who is Christian, to our Hanukkah party only to have her beat everyone in the dreidel competition, including me — with my impressive upside-down spin that I had been perfecting for nearly a decade! — was priceless! I realized that the memory of showing another non-Jewish friend exactly what it is like to eat while reclining to the left during Passover Seder is beautiful. Eating Shabbat dinner with Jews and non-Jews at the end of the week offers up a cherished retreat — to relax, reflect, and smile, as we all try to perfect our “ch” sound! Now my favorite W&L annual Hillel event is

the Great Latke-Hamantash Debate, during which everyone belly laughs and I show non-Jewish friends just how much sour cream each latke really requires (a lot!).

While I originally became involved in Hillel in order to form friendships and a community with those of a similar faith and tradition, I now look back on my four years at W&L and know that the open exchange of new experiences, humor, and lessons that I shared with my non-Jewish friends was most meaningful and poignant. Those eye-opening encounters quelled my original nerves and showed me just how wonderful and accepting W&L can be.

Hillel Donor Roll

Gifts made to the Annual Hillel Fund Immediately contribute to the exceptional religious, cultural, educational, social, leadership development and community service programming at Hillel. The Hillel fund is what keeps Jewish student life viable at W&L. Our diverse quality programs and opportunities depends on the financial support of alumni, parents, community members and friends.

Thank you to all those who made contributions to Hillel!

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY — HILLEL FUND (2011-2012)

With heartfelt thanks to those Hillel supporters who made gifts during the 2011-2012 campaign (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012).

2011-2012

Sustainers W&L Hillel, recognizing those donors with gifts of \$1,000 or more

Myrna & John Blume '54, '56L
 Chuck Cahn '70
 Mark Eaker '69
 Boots & Ralph Evans '59
 Vicki & David Friedfeld '83L
 Annette & Dan Gordon P '92
 Helane & Warner Isaacs '57
 Meg & Howard Jacobs '58
 Leslie & David Kantor '73
 Barbara & Sandy Maslansky '56
 Judy & Stan Mitchell '43, P '71
 Marianne & Ken Novack
 Sara Belle & Neil November '48
 Alyson & Bennett Ross '83
 Nita & Charlie Tomm '68, '75L, P '13
 Jon Weigle '74
 John Zamoiski '74

ORGANIZATIONS:

Bottlerocket Marketing Group
 Daniel P. and Annette B. Gordon Foundation
 Jewish Community Federation of Richmond
 Jewish Endowment Foundation
 Novack Family Foundation
 The Sam and Marion Golden Helping Hand Foundation, Inc

W&L ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Rich Aberson '60
 Elizabeth & Richard Abrams '70
 Rachel Ostry & Ed Adler '79
 Jeffrey Adler
 James Ainoris
 Gail & Jay Altman '72, P '13
 Ruth & Scott Apter '69, P '94
 Dick Bank '55
 Leslie Becker P '15
 Cindy & Gary Benedetti P '12
 Windy & Pete Besson '70
 Cindy & Joe Brams P '15
 Joan & Bruce Brenner
 Jenny & Bob Broh '60
 Linda & Scot Brower '70
 Beverly & David Bruck

Sammy Brusca '10
 Jay Caplan '64
 Sharon & Irv Caplan '58
 Joy & Ari Cartun P '13
 Adrienne Laitman & Lowell Chapnick P '13
 Brian Cherry '11
 Estie & Nick Cohen '64, P '95
 Leslie & Craig Coller '76
 Carrie Luria Cooper '00 & Truitt Cooper '99
 Alan Corwin '62
 Joan Robins & Malcolm Cothran
 Leslie J. Croland and Sandra I. Tart P '14
 Sara Cunningham
 Paula & Daniel Dreyfuss P '13L
 Patricia Schirmer & Scott Dubit
 Michelle DallVechia Egorin '99 & Noah Egorin '98
 Liz & Dan Einstein '83
 Jenny Elmes '91
 Mary & Bruce Engel P '13
 Steve Epstein '67
 Vickie & Mark Evans '70
 Elizabeth Evans
 Kitty & Jim Farrar '74, P '11
 Alison & Andrew Fass P '12
 Cathrine & Danny Fetterman '83, '87L
 Phyllis & Alan Fink P '04
 Fay & Stan Fink '64L
 Diane & Ron Fishman P '14
 Gini & Henry Fleishman '70
 Gordon Flint
 Marcia France
 Becky & Tony Frank '59
 Linda & Jim Freund '62
 Ruth Gillman
 Julie & Brian Ginsburg '81
 Jan Kaufman & Art Goldsmith
 Beth & Adam Goldstein P '15
 Jeff Goldstein
 Dana & Kevin Gray '82L
 Eydie & Barry Greene '64, P '94L
 Brian Greene '94L
 Bobbie & Curly
 Greenebaum '56, '58L, P '88, '95L
 Sally & Mark Grunewald
 Dilrukshi & Dennis Gubler P '15
 Joan & Tom Guthrie '50
 Candy & Rich Hachenburg '82

Terry & Gary Herman '70, P '98, '01
 Beth & Larry Higginbotham P '14
 Enid & Don Hillman '46
 Rochelle & Victor Horadam P '13
 Ellen Humphries P '13
 Daphne Raz & Philip Hyre
 Susan & Bob Jacobi '53, '54L
 Mary & Bill Jacobs '71, P '02
 Rachel Zloczover Jones '94 & Robert Jones
 Carmen & Rich Kampf '71, P '07
 Susan & Alan Kaplan '51
 Joseph Keller
 Arvilla & Cliff Kern '70, P '05
 Sally & Michael Kliegman P '14
 Cindy & John Klinedinst '71, '78L
 Mimi & Kopie Kopald '43, P '78L
 Suzanne Kosmas
 Anne & Eddie Kramer '81
 Phil Krampf '74
 Pia & Michael Krasnov P '13
 Roberta Alpert & Sam Kuckley P '10
 Lynne & Buddy Kullman '58
 Barbara & John Lankalis P '13
 Vivian & Mel Lapes '65
 Carrie LaRose
 Mal Lassman '60, '63L
 Lynn & Ron Laupheimer '66
 Laura Manske & Chester Lerner P '13
 Gail & B.J. Levin '68
 Sarah & Dave Levinson '00
 Barbara & Larry Levitan '55
 Simon Levy
 Carole & Steve Lichtenstein '53
 Kathy & Jay Lutins '79
 Peter & Ann Macheras P '11
 Barbara & Earl Magdovitz '65
 Heather & Hardin Marion '55, '58L
 Harvey Markowitz
 Mary Lynn & Steve Marks '59
 Walapa & Richard Marks
 Leona & Alan Marx '65
 Donna & Michael Masinter '58, '61L
 Joe Mendelsohn '52
 Carol & Bruce Meyers '70
 Jeanne & Stephen Miller '60
 Priscilla Miller
 Jan & Sheldon Miller '70
 Corky Miller
 Eddie Mintz '81
 Debby & Mike Missal '78, P '16

Continued on page 4

Dedi & Julian Mohr '52
 Ashley Moore
 Joyce & Garrett Moore
 Robin & Ken Murov '72
 Lesley & David Novack
 Ken Novak
 Elissa & Gary Okin '74
 Debbie & Michael Okin '76, P '03
 Jim Paradies '51
 Francine & Jerry Perlman '69
 Barbara & Phil Phillips '51
 Marcy Panzer & Manny Pokotilow P '98
 Terry & Stuart Porter '70
 Robert Posner P '12
 Linda Posner P '12
 Carol & Kerry Reynolds '62
 Ben Rippe '72
 Maureen & Doug Robins '65
 Mort Robins †
 Linda & Norton Rosensweig
 Helen & Michael Rossi
 Kim & Ken Ruscio '76
 Dorothy & Jerry Sacks '40
 Gillian Sacks '12
 Jim Sagner '62
 Susan & Walter Sales '70
 Toni & Steve Sandler '70
 C.J. & Brian Sands
 Ellie & Mark Schaul '53
 Rosel & Elliot Schewel '45
 Maggie & Marc Schewel '69
 Jack Schewel '80
 Sara & Spike Schulist '53
 Claudia & Fred Schwab
 Martha & Stu Selonick P '12
 Ellen & Max Shapira '65, P '96
 Kristin Lawrence Shapira '96 & Andy
 Shapira '96
 Margie & Neil Shapiro P '15
 Elyse & David Shaw P '13
 Arthur Sher '65
 Joyce & Sonny Shlesinger '51
 Mira & Dane Shralow '68
 Linda & Ron Sklar '70
 Howard Sklaroff '77
 Dana & Philip Smith P '15
 Francie Cohen Spahn '95 & Jared
 Spahn '95
 Edie & Firth Spiegel '61
 Linda & Lane Steinger '68

Susan & Harlan Stone P '14
 Cindy & Jack Straton P '14
 Karen & Paul Sugar '70
 Betty Taylor P '80 '90
 Arnold Vedlitz '68
 Joan & Sol Wachtler '51, '52L
 Jim Warm's '42
 Rich Weinstein '91
 Vicki & Eric White '74, P '10
 Beverly & Roger Williams P '08L
 Jill & Marc Winston '67
 Ed Wise '53
 Audrey & Marc Wisotsky P '13
 Lynne Abraham-Yadlin & Yoram
 Yadlin P '12
 Elisabeth Guthrie & Stanley
 Yankelowitz P '15
 Ellen & John Zimmerman P '09

ORGANIZATIONS:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
 The Greene Company
 Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish
 Campus Life
 Jewish Foundation of Memphis
 Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority
 Lynchburg Jewish Community Council
 Rockbridge Area Master Gardener Assoc.
 Rockbridge Historical Society
 Virginia Military Institute

PROGRAM SPONSORS

Shabbat

John Zamoiski '74
 Jim Sagner '62

Latke/Hamentashen Debate
 & Purim Celebration
 John Zamoiski '74

VIP Dinner:

Debby & Mike Missal '78, P '16

Passover:

Eric and Vicki White
 Scott Apter

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

In honor of Joseph E. Dreyfuss '13L
 Paula & Daniel Dreyfuss P '13L, P '13L
 In honor of David R. Novack
 Ken Novak
 In honor of Lesley Novack
 Ken Novak
 In honor of Joan N. Robins
 Roberta Alpert & Sam Kuckley P '10
 Judy & Stan Mitchell '43, P '71
 C.J. & Brian Sands
 In honor of Paul H. Weinstein '55
 Dick Bank '55

GIFT IN MEMORY OF

In memory of James D. Farrar '49
 Kitty & Jim Farrar '74, P '11
 In memory of John A. Gold '57
 Meg & Howard Jacobs '58
 In memory of John H. Margolis '73
 Leslie & David Kantor '73
 In memory of Mortimer M. Robins
 Beverly & David Bruck
 Brian Cherry '11
 Sara Cunningham
 Elizabeth Evans
 Ruth Gillman
 Jan Kaufman & Art Goldsmith
 Joan & Tom Guthrie '50
 Suzanne Kosmas
 Helen & Michael Rossi
 In memory of Stephen L. Tabakin '70
 Elizabeth & Richard Abrams '70
 Windy & Pete Besson '70
 Linda & Scot Brower '70
 Chuck Cahn '70
 Vickie & Mark Evans '70
 Gini & Henry Fleishman '70
 Terry & Gary Herman '70, P '98, '01
 Jan & Sheldon Miller '70
 Robin & Ken Murov '72
 Terry & Stuart Porter '70
 Susan & Walter Sales '70
 Toni & Steve Sandler '70
 Linda & Ron Sklar '70
 Karen & Paul Sugar '70

† deceased



2012-2013: COMMITMENTS MADE AS OF DECEMBER 11, 2012

*We extend appreciation to those who have already made a commitment to support Hillel during this year's campaign.
All gifts for the 2012-2013 campaign must be made by June 30, 2013.*

Sustainers W&L Hillel, recognizing those donors with gifts of \$1,000 or more

Alan Corwin '62
Mark Eaker '69
Eva & Mark Horn P '08
Rosel & Elliot Schewel '45
John Zamoiski '74

ORGANIZATIONS:

Jewish Community Federation of
Richmond

W&L ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Gail & Jay Altman '72, P '13
Ruth & Scott Apter '69, P '94
Lori & Russell Berman P '16
Nancy Yanofsky & Ed Brown '62
Chuck Cahn '70
Adrienne Laitman & Lowell
Chapnick P '13
Estie & Nick Cohen '64, P '95
Joan Robins & Malcolm Cothran
Sherri & Ira Danzig P '16
Patricia Schirmer & Scott Dubit
Mimi Elrod
Mary & Bruce Engel P '13
Lauren Becker & Greg Epelbaum P '16
Steve Epstein '67
Fay & Stan Fink '64L
Diane & Ron Fishman P '14
Maryann & Stewart Fleming
Marcia France
Jan Kaufman & Art Goldsmith
Beth & Adam Goldstein P '15
Dilrukshi & Dennis Gubler P '15
Rochelle & Victor Horadam P '13
Ellen Humphries P '13
Andrea & Bruce Hyatt '74
Daphne Raz & Philip Hyre
Marlene & John Isaacs '53
Judith Aronowitz & Bruce Jaeger P '16
Leah Greenberg Katz '05 & Philip Katz
Doree Kesselbrenner P '15

Sally & Michael Kliegman P '14
Manes Kogan
Barbara & John Lankalis P '13
Carrie LaRose
Laura Manske & Chester Lerner P '13
Barbara & Earl Magdovitz '65
Lisa & Leslie Maister '96
Harvey Markowitz
Donna & Michael Masinter '58, '61L
Lee & Bob Maslansky '52
Lynne & Scott Mason P '10
Sascha Goluboff & Alan McRae
Carol & Bruce Meyers '70
Sylvia & Al Milberg '54L
Jeanne & Stephen Miller '60
Priscilla Miller
Joyce Moore
Ellen & Jim Myerberg P '00
Lesley & David Novack
Jonathan Pakula '82
Dennis Powers P '15
Janice Baker & Jeffery Pesin P '16
Lynne & David Raphael P '15
Faye & Scott Rickoff '73
Anne & Greg Russell '88
Jim Sagner '62
Elizabeth & John Samet '64
Elyse & David Shaw P '13
Arthur Sher '65
Howard Sklaroff '77
Dana & Philip Smith P '15
Laura & David Solomon P '16
Francie Cohen Spahn '95 &
Jared Spahn '95
Cindy & Jack Straton P '14
Betty Taylor P '80, '90
Joseph Tilghman '13
Cindy Downes & Mitch Wapner
Cindy Atkins & Phil Welch '83
Vicki & Eric White '74, P '10
Eric & Sarah Wilson
Kate Winkler
Audrey & Marc Wisotsky P '13
Elisabeth Guthrie & Stanley
Yankelowitz P '15

ORGANIZATIONS:

Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish
Campus Life
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Hillcrest Jewish Center
Jewish Foundation of Memphis
Rockbridge Area Hospice, Inc.
The Healthy Foods Market

PROGRAM SPONSORS

Fridays @ 5 (Shabbat Services
and Dinner)
Lynne & David Raphael P '15

Rosh Hashanah Eve Dinner
Marlene & John Isaacs '53

Yom Kippur Break the Fast
Elyse & David Shaw P '13

Sukkot

Lynne & Scott Mason P '10
Parents & Family Weekend
Vicki & Eric White '74, P '10
John Zamoiski '74

Hanukkah

Lee & Bob Maslansky '52

VIP Dinners

Alan Corwin '62
Jeanne & Stephen Miller '60

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

In honor of Bonnie Bernstein
Mimi Elrod
In honor of Douglas B. Brown '92
Nancy Yanofsky & Ed Brown '62
In honor of Laurence B. Brown '94
Nancy Yanofsky & Ed Brown '62
In honor of Arnold P. Masinter '62
Donna & Michael Masinter '58 '61L
In honor of Betty K. Taylor P '80 '90
Mimi Elrod
In honor of Howard N. Dobin
Mimi Elrod

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

In memory of Joseph Goldsten
Betty Taylor P '80 '90

VIP (Very Interesting Professor) Dinner Series

David Fishman '14, Speakers VP

Hillel has continued to host its monthly “Very Interesting Professor” dinners. These dinners serve as a forum for the Jewish student body to discuss intriguing research that Washington and Lee faculty is working on during the year. Hillel hosted its first VIP Dinner of the year, on October 18th at the Sheridan Livery. The featured guest was Professor Arthur Goldsmith of the Washington and Lee University Economics Department. After a little candid schmoozing, Professor Goldsmith discussed with the students a piece of research he and Professor Diette are working on. Their research investigates how the psychological impact from traumatic events at different points in an individual’s youth affects one’s likelihood to drop out of school. Due to the clear link between education and success, implications from the research are valuable. Moreover, the Livery, as usual, provided an environment conducive to discussion along with delicious meals.

Hillel hosted its second VIP Dinner of the year, on November 15th at Niko’s. The featured guest was Professor Simon Levy of the Washington and Lee Computer Science Department. He currently serves as the department head as well as the faculty advisor to Hillel. While the students enjoyed the Greek cuisine, the discussion



centered around Professor Levy’s work in defense—primarily, artificially intelligent defense drones. The insightful conversation inevitably took a brief digression to George Orwell’s work, “1984,” but the general concept of artificially mindful drones is certainly profound. We also discussed an app he designed for a French toy, along with his experiences at other universities... Obviously, the Washington and Lee Student Body was astoundingly superior and much more ethical! But, that did not surprise anyone.

Hillel is excited to have the opportunity to host Professor Angela Smith of the W&L Philosophy Department in January. Prof. Smith’s research is primarily in political and moral philosophy. These topics are very conducive to discussion and relevant to contemporary societal issues. As political, social, and economic disparities continue to expand, the Hillel student body is looking forward to hearing an academic analysis from an individual so well-versed in the field. We are expecting both a great turnout a continued trend of lively discussions!

The Festival of Lights – Hanukkah At Hillel

Lauren Michnick '14, Social VP

On Saturday, December 8—the first night of Hanukkah— W&L Hillel held its annual Hanukkah party. With over eighty Jewish and non-Jewish students, celebrating Hanukkah, this was certainly one of the largest torn-outs Hillel has ever seen.

Social VPs, Lauren Michnick '14 and Rimona Cartun '13, and Hanukkah Chair, Max Chapnick '13, made the party an evening to remember. Leading up to the event, exam week goodie bags were hand delivered to each Jewish student on campus,

personally inviting them to our Hanukkah party, setting the tone for what would be a great night. Even if you didn’t receive goodie bags, the days leading up to Hanukkah, you could certainly smell the latkes being made and see the decorations going up.

Because of the number of non-Jewish students at the party, it made the event seem even more special. Jewish students were able to share and teach Hanukkah traditions to students who had never experienced Hanukkah in their own homes. After lighting the Hanukkah candles, we taught students how to play dreidel and served dozens of latkes along with Chinese food and sparkling cider. At the end of the night, not a latke was left. Everyone had a great time and said they cannot wait until next year’s party!

Along with the party, Hillel has invited students, faculty, staff and community members to come to the house every night during Hanukkah to light the candles and take a break from exams. It is nice to have such a welcoming place on campus.



Parents and Family Weekend – A First-Year Perspective

Emily Danzig '16

From the very start of my time at Washington and Lee, Hillel has been a huge part of my experiences. I started going to events to get involved in Jewish campus life and to meet new people. We received a welcome food basket during opening week and that was a pretty good incentive to come check out Hillel as well.

Friday nights at Hillel have definitely now become one of the best parts of my week. Even though I have only been going to Hillel for about two and a half months, it's already become my Shabbat custom. Just like my family's customs, at Hillel we say the Kiddush, light the Shabbat candles and the blessing over the challah, but with friends rather than my family.

Over Parents and Family Weekend, my two worlds, home and school, fused together and it was exciting to bring my parents into the place and community that I spent my first Shabbats and holidays without them. So much of Jewish life for me and why I continue coming to Hillel on Friday nights is the friendships and bonds we create over lighting candles and enjoying dinner together, and over parents and family weekend, I got to share that bond with my parents and new friends all together.

Friday night, I wasn't sure what to expect when I brought my parents, but so many other Hillel students had come with their parents too; it was the largest turnout

ever for Hillel services and dinner! Even though there were so many people I had never met, it was truly wonderful to see such a large and spirited community come together for Shabbat. Everyone joined in on the service, especially singing, which was my favorite part because I really got to show my parents the kind of Jewish connections that Hillel fosters.

In some ways it was strange, having a Shabbat with my family away from my home, without all of our normal little things that make up a Danzig Family Shabbos. Even though my dogs weren't running around our legs when we lit candles and we didn't eat one of my mom's classic Friday night dinners, sharing my W&L Hillel Shabbat with my parents made me feel truly at home.

After sharing the whole weekend with my parents, we went to the Sunday morning bagel brunch together. Once again, my parents and me, other Hillel students, and their parents sat together, talked about Washington and Lee and Hillel (and of course playing Jewish Geography). I loved having my parents here on campus to see everything, and I know Hillel was a family favorite for the weekend for all of us.



Sukkot In Style

Ian Shaw '13

This year, the students of Hillel celebrated Sukkot the only way we know—with style. With the help of Mitch Wapner, a local community member and member of the Hillel Advisory Board, we built a beautiful sukkah. We had an abundant amount of gourds hanging from the top of the sukkah, bright green foliage covering the roof and potted plants sitting by the doorway. After decorating and putting on the finishing touches, we gathered for our annual 'Pizza in the Hut.' It unfortunately started to rain, so we had to have Shabbat inside, but we were still really proud of our work.

The next week the Hillel officers organized three lunches in the Sukkah with other members of Hillel. Students ranged from first years to seniors, and we had a solid turnout every day. Having these lunches allowed us to perform the Mitzvahs of eating in the Sukkah and saying the blessings for sitting in the Sukkah. We also got the chance to perform the mitzvah of the Lulav and Etrog and recite their blessings as well.

Our main event of the week was S'mores, Stars, and Sukkot in the Sukkah.



We created a small fire outside, roasted marshmallows, and enjoyed some s'mores. As we were gathered around the fire, we chatted, played games, and enjoyed each other's company. I can assure you we had a

great time! There was even talk of spending the night in the Sukkah, however mother nature had different plans. There is always next year though. All in all, I'd say this was another successful Sukkot here at W&L Hillel.





Hillel Institute

Rimona Cartun '13, Social VP

This past August, five Hillel Executive Officers participated in the Hillel Engagement Institute held at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference had representatives from over sixty campuses across the nation, with over 600 students.

Our days were filled with leadership development seminars, smaller group discussions, as well as larger group simulations. Together we delved into what it means to be a student leader, the importance of being interested, not just interesting, how to engage others and how to develop a sense of community on campus. We participated in simulations and discussions to help understand the techniques of peer engagement and to anticipate the challenges we may face on campus.

One of my favorite parts of the conference was Shabbat. Everyone wore white and we gathered together for singing and dancing and then proceeded to the Shabbat service of our choice.

We also got to experience one of St. Louis' popular places—The City Museum;



a museum, consisting largely of repurposed architectural and industrial objects, housed in the former International Shoe building. The museum bills itself as an “eclectic mixture of children’s playground, funhouse, surrealistic pavilion, and architectural marvel.” It was very entertaining and was

a great bonding opportunity for our board members.

The engagement institute set the ground for our year and we were truly excited to bring what we learned back to Washington and Lee.



A Visit to the Virginia Holocaust Museum

Samantha Rosier '14, President

In the middle of finals week, Brett, three other board members, and I travelled down to Richmond to tour the Virginia Holocaust Museum, located in the industrial part of the city near the train tracks. Mr. Neil November, a W&L alum, met us there and we were given a guided tour of the museum from a man who was born at the very end of the war to partisan parents. The only members of his family to survive and make it to America were himself, his twin brother, and his father.

At the beginning of the tour, the guide took us outside the museum and had us step up on top of railways that were taken up from the Third Reich's transportation lines in Germany. He described how millions of Jews were forced to do exactly what we

were doing, thousands probably on that very same rail. He asked for a moment of silence in memory of all those whose lives were lost.

As we balanced on top of the rails with the winter wind whipping around us, a train was going by. I tried to put myself there, back in Germany in the early 1940s. The sounds and weather transported me and for a second, I could really imagine it. The train rattled on and brought with it echoes of crying and shouting. The cold wind reminded me not just that I should have a warmer jacket, but more so that the Jews were often taken with just the clothes on their back. For a moment, I felt their fear.

When we arrived back in Lexington that night, we stopped in the Hillel House to light the candles and celebrate the second night of Hanukkah. As we sang together, I kept thinking that this is exactly what Hitler wanted to end. Our presence and observance of our traditions are the best actions we can take to honor the six million.

As the year ends, I'm reflecting on how grateful I am for my family, friends, and heritage. I'm looking at Hillel in a new way this week. We can only make sure that Judaism continues through organizations like Hillel. The friendships and programs it provides ensure that our heritage and traditions remain for generations. I am grateful to be a part of it.

Hebrew Reading Crash Course

Cory Walker '15

As I was walking through the Hillel House to get a bagel for lunch, I came across a flier that advertised that I could "Learn Hebrew!" Washington and Lee University does not offer any courses on the language, and I was intrigued. Since coming to college two years ago, I have made many Jewish friends and become fascinated with the culture that had previously been completely unknown to me. I have attended services at a synagogue, attended a Passover Seder at the Hillel House, and I lit a candle at a friend's house for Chanukah in 2011.

However, I never understood what was being said, or even how to pronounce any of the words they showed me. I always felt like I was missing a fundamental part of the culture.

Learning Hebrew is a very long process that usually takes years. However, the program that the Hillel Director, Brett Schwartz, offered was only an hour long. In this hour, we learned the entire Hebrew "aleph-bet" and the sound that each letter makes. A follow-up class was offered, and I gratefully agreed to attend. In this

second and final hour-long class, we learned exceptions to the rules and put together the letters to pronounce words. Because of just two hours of class, I can now pronounce the words that had previously seemed so alien to me, and can follow along in services without a great deal of trouble. I am very grateful for the opportunity to learn to read a completely new language in such a short amount of time, and I highly recommend the class when it is offered again in the future.



Parents' Weekend: We enjoyed meeting so many families during the Sunday morning bagel brunch and our Fridays at Five Shabbat services and dinner



The Star



WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY

204 W. Washington Street
Lexington, Virginia 24450-2116

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Washington and
Lee University

Hillel Officers 2012-2013

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President

Sammy Rosier '14

Communications VP

Stephanie Krasnov '13

Shabbat and Holidays VP

Lizzie Engel '13

Social VP (s)

Lauren Michnick '14

Rimona Cartun '13

Speakers VP

David Fishman '14

Social Action/Tikkun Olam VP

Kathryn Marsh-Soloway '13

Alumni Relations

Sunny Altman '13

Social Media

Ben Brams '15

Outreach

Alicia Bishop '13

Latke/Hamentashen Debate

Max Chapnick '13

Chanukah Chair

Max Chapnick '13

Kitchen Coordinator

Craig Shapiro '15

Jewish Culture Chair

Jared Hester '13

Israel Relations

Aaron Kliegman '14

Intramural Sports Chair

Joe Yankelowitz '15

GENERAL BOARD:

Shabbat Chair

Sam Raphael '15

Sunday Night Football Chair

Ian Shaw '13

Advisory Board 2012-2013

Prof. Marcia France

David Bruck

Jan Kaufman

Prof. Barry Kolman

Prof. Simon Levy

Prof. Harvey Markowitz

Prof. David Novack

Howard Rosenbloom '61

Marc Schewel '69

Betty Taylor

Mitch Wapner

Hon Paul Weinstein '55

Eric White '74

Josh Posner '12

Audrey Horn '08