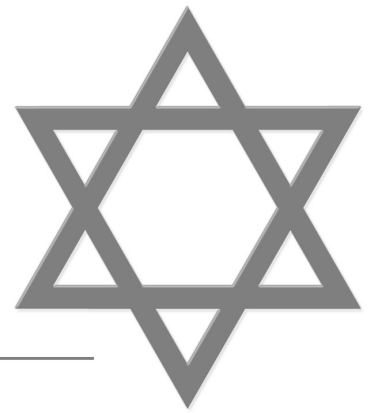


HILLEL

The Star



WASHINGTON AND LEE HILLEL NEWSLETTER
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MAY 2005

Holocaust Remembrance Week—May 2 - 6 -

By Joan Robins

It has been 60 years since the Holocaust. To survivors, the Holocaust remains real and ever-present, but for some others, 60 years makes the Holocaust seem part of ancient history. This year, freshman Arie George proposed that Hillel sponsor a week of events "to try to get students to connect with the Holocaust." George formed a committee, received a grant from the Soref Initiative for Emerging Campuses (Hillel International) and a pledge from Warner Isaacs '57 to sponsor the program. George felt that the week was successful, since the events were well-attended, and the program received wide publicity.

On May 2, Elizabeth Strassburger, a Holocaust survivor, spoke about her experiences. She told a very interesting story of being hidden as a young child by a Polish-Catholic family. This was a different story—most people have heard about the horrors of the concentration camps. But these stories of the hidden children have recently been featured in talks and in an exhibition at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. Stranded or trapped in regions under Nazi occupation, only a few thousand miraculously survived.

Shindler's List, winner of seven Academy Awards in 1993, was shown several times during the week in the Commons Theater.

has also served as editor with *American Lawyer Media Inc.* and *The Hartford Courant*.

In *Buried by The Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper*, Leff provides an in-depth look at how the *New York Times* failed in its coverage of the fate of European Jews from 1939-1945. She also explores how the newspaper's tendency to downplay news of the Nazi's "final solution" influenced other media and caused Hitler's ultimate aim to be hidden from Americans.



Students meet with Holocaust survivor Elizabeth Strassburger before the speech in the Commons. - (l to r) Jon Philipson '06, Whitney Rothstein '08, Elizabeth Strassburger, Justine Dargahi '07, Arie George '08 and Rachael Levine '07. -

Since students were just 10 or 12 years old in 1993, this was a good opportunity to see the film from an adult perspective. After the viewing, many students talked about the film's overwhelming emotional impact, and engaged in thoughtful discussions.

Another highlight of the week included a lunch and speech by author Laurel Leff, associate professor of journalism at Northeastern University. A former reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Miami Herald*, Leff

On Friday, a special Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Day) service was held, led by Rabbi Manes Kogan of Roanoke. In his opening remarks, Rabbi Kogan asked everyone to learn one story about a Holocaust victim in order to make the Holocaust more real. Other parts of the service included readings by students of all faiths and a candle lighting by members of the community.

The student Yom Hashoah committee planned these events to stress the importance of remembering—recalling the victims of this catastrophe and insuring that such a tragedy never happen again anywhere, to any people. The committee members were: Arie George '08 (chair), Whitney Rothstein '08, Rachael Levine '07, Michael Kern '06, Carly Cowley '07 and Justine Dargahi '07.

Director's Corner

By Joan Robins

It's been an outstanding year for W&L Hillel. Here's what I loved most about being the director this year:

Welcoming prospective students and their families to W&L and watching their surprised faces when they hear about Hillel.

Writing letters of thanks to 200 contributors. Really! It is a joy to acknowledge all of the financial support for our organization.

Helping Arie George '08 coordinate the first annual Holocaust Remembrance Week's events. The best thing about this program was that it was conceived by a student and managed by a committee of students. It also brought us great visibility in the community.

Watching the smiling faces of local children. I like to think that Hillel has made an impact on the Jewish children during our First Fridays at Five services, Purim Party, Seder and Yom HaShoah service. It was also fun to see how responsive our first-graders were during the Adopt-a-Classroom program.

Listening to Carly Cowley's '07 excitement about her birthright trip to Israel.

Taking a new Hebrew class with students, sponsored by the President's Office.

Watching Leah Greenberg '05 develop in her leadership role and make history at W&L by leading our services and seder.

Relaxing with students at my home.

Appreciating the Weinstens' and the Sandlers' heartfelt enthusiasm for W&L Hillel and understanding that W&L is beloved by many, many other generous alumni.

Tasting Mary Feibelman's delicious home-made gefilte fish at our April 24th Passover seder. And doubling attendance at the seder—from 65 last year to 108 this year!

Visiting our updated web site—great job, Todd Martin '07! hillel.wlu.edu

Congratulating special seniors Leah Greenberg, Kara Lehman, Jared Harrison, Zack Bausch, Jeff Stein and Adam Chesbrough on their commencement. They are a confident, ambitious and fun-loving group—Mazel tov to all!

Joan Robins



The "Jew Crew" 2005-06

Community Service

By Justine Dargahi '07

Hillel focused on two larger community service projects during the second part of the school year. After returning from Washington Holiday students from Hillel began participating in W&L's Adopt-a-Classroom program. Through this program students from W&L visited local elementary schools and read stories to the children. Hillel adopted a classroom at Waddell elementary, and once a week, would read and work with the first grade students of Mrs. Fontenot. The children were always excited when Hillel came to read. They would often ask for an encore presentation, even if it involved hearing the same book twice. Before leaving, Hillel would donate the book to the classroom so the children may read it as many times as they like. Our other major community service project was to organize a Purim party and lesson for the local Jewish children. This project was a lot of fun and was enjoyed by many children of varying ages. The children participated in numerous activities which worked to fulfill the four requirements of Purim. They got to bake their own hamentashen to bring home, make their own graggers to drown out the evil name of Haman, make shalot manot baskets filled with sweets and trinkets to give to a friend or family member and, finally, Leah Greenberg '05 led the children in a special reading of the Magillah. Of course no Purim celebration would be complete without collecting food for those who are in need, so each child was asked to bring a canned good to be donated to the local food pantry. It has been a great term for Hillel, I know those who participated will not forget the smiling faces of the children they worked with.



Justine Dargahi '07 reads to Effinger Elementary first graders as part of the Adopt-a-Classroom program

Jew Crew '05-'06

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Co-VPs: Joel Katz '07 and Justine Dargahi '07

Secretary: Tara Rubenstein '08

VP Chairs:

Shabbat: Justine Dargahi '07

New Students: Audrey Horn '08

Jewish Education: Arie George '08

Recruitment: Max Vilenchik '08

Holidays: Seth Feibelman '08

Community Service: Rachael Levine '07 and Taylor Lawch '09

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Diversity: Whitney Rothstein '08

VIP/Speakers: Alex Burpee '08

Social: Carley Cowley '07

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IN HONOR OF THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF WARNER ISAACS '57

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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Mr. Shepard Buckman '99: *"Very Interesting Professors" Lunch* -
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 Mr. and Mrs. Alan K. Fendrich '74: *Purim* -
 Mr. and Mrs. James Freund '62: *"Very interesting Professors" Lunch* -
 Dr. Mark and Eva Horn: *Speakers* -
 Mr. Warner Isaacs (and friends and family): *Holocaust Remembrance Week*
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Lawch: *Freshman Welcome/ Student Activities Fair* -
 Mr. Paul Marc Maslansky '54: *Recruitment of Jewish Students to W&L* -
 Dr. Robert Maslansky '52: *Recruitment of Jewish Students to W&L, and Speakers* -
 Mr. John Zamoiski '74: *Reunion Weekend* -

Farewell from the Co-Presidents

By Leah Greenberg '05 and Kara Lehman '05

As the two of us end our terms as the co-presidents of Hillel, we would like to thank many people. First, we want to thank every member of Hillel. Participation and involvement were outstanding this year, especially on the part of all our new freshmen. We would also like to thank our alumni. This year marked a resurgence in alumni involvement which has really served as an inspiration to all of the students. Many

thanks to Admissions for their continued involvement with recruitment of Jewish students. And finally, we could have accomplished nothing this year without the help of our fearless leader Joan Robins. Joan single-handedly kept Hillel running. While we may be presidents, Joan is the real backbone of the organization and we love her dearly. We will miss you all next year, but don't worry we'll be back to visit!!

Shalom Y'all

By Jon Philipson '06 and Todd Martin '06 -

As the new Hillel co-executive presidents, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our predecessors, share a little about ourselves, and mention the exciting year Hillel has had and will have next fall.

First, we would like to thank Leah Greenberg and Kara Lehman for their amazing job as co-executive presidents this past year. Leah and Kara led our organization with enthusiasm, pride and humor. Their contribution to Hillel and the Lexington Jewish community will be sorely missed.

As we step into these big shoes, we would like to tell you about ourselves. Our names are Jon Philipson (an economics and romance languages double major from Lakeland, Fla) and Todd Martin (a chemistry major from Bryn Mawr, Pa.). An interesting fact about us is that we are the first legacy co-presidents of Hillel. Our brothers, Seth Martin '04 and Stephen Philipson '01 are both former presidents of W&L Hillel.

As co-executive presidents, we are enthusiastic about the prospects for next year. Based on the dedication and level of participation of our members this year, we expect nothing but greater accomplishments for the foreseeable future. During this past

year, Hillel volunteered on a regular basis at an elementary school, sponsored films in the Elrod University Commons and created a Holocaust Remembrance week to name just a few of our activities. Next year, we hope to build upon the foundation that these activities have established and continue to promote a strong Jewish voice for the W&L and Lexington Community.

Sincerely,

Jon M. Philipson & Todd S. Martin
 W&L Hillel Co-Executive Presidents



Leah Greenberg '05 and Kara Lehman '05 receive Mazuzot for graduation.

Jon Philipson and Todd Martin welcome Dean Hank Dobin who joins W&L this July.



Passover *By Jared Harrison '05 -*

While just the thought of Passover can trigger a craving for a pizza, pasta and pastries, this year's seder left everyone's appetite satiated. The annual Washington and Lee Hillel seder was not just a culinary success, however. It was a vibrant community affair hosting over 100 W&L faculty and students and Lexington residents. In Hillel's spirit of inclusiveness, Co-President Leah Greenberg lead the service and encouraged those from 9 to 90 to participate in singing and reading from the Haggadah. We were even graced by the presence of many visitors, especially the families of many Hillel members.

Also in typical Hillel fashion, this event was a great learning experience. While it is easy to go through the motions of any religious activity, this

year's seder was particularly educational and inspirational. Each part of the service was explained for the unfamiliar and those whose knowledge of the traditions may have gotten rusty over the past year. The search for the Afikomen was, however, in need of little explanation as the young children and college students alike raced to find the key to the ultimate prize: the pride found in winning and sharing your gift with friends and neighbors. From matzah ball soup to Manichewitz (yes, all 4 glasses), the 2005 seder was a success thanks to the diligent efforts of Joan Robins and the rest of Hillel, Washington and Lee and the Lexington Jewish community. We look forward to next year's seder and the inclusion of even more friends of W&L Hillel on one of the calendar's most special holidays.

Very Interesting Professors

By Joan Robins

Each month a group of students gathers at a local restaurant for informal conversation with a Jewish professor. During Winter and Spring Terms, students invited five truly interesting people to be our featured guests for this series.

In January, our speaker was Ronen Kraus, a native Israeli, who is currently teaching the Beginning Hebrew class on campus. Professor Kraus practiced his English by describing his view of cultural differences between Americans and Israelis. One striking feature about Americans, according to Prof Kraus, is how polite we are!

Law Professor Beth Belmont was our guest in February. In addition to talking about her work with undergraduates for Mock Trial, Professor Belmont led an engaging discussion about inter-faith marriage.

In March, current students as well as Honor Scholarship candidates were treated to a lively discussion about the death penalty by David Bruck, director of the Virginia Capital Case Clearinghouse at the Law School. Professor Bruck has served as one of four part-time Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel to the federal defender system nationwide since 1992. He has also served as a county and state public defender in South Carolina and has argued seven death penalty cases in the United States Supreme Court.

We thoroughly enjoyed having Judge Paul Weinstein '55 on campus for the Hillel Advisory Board meeting on March 29. Students had an opportunity to meet Judge Weinstein and his wife, Bunny, for lunch that day. It was interesting to share stories about past and current Jewish life on campus.

In May, during Holocaust Remembrance Week, Professor Laurel Leff met with students to discuss her new book, *Buried By The Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper*. Professor Leff is a veteran journalist and professor of journalism at Northeastern. The book recalls how news of the Holocaust was hidden from *Times* readers and, because of its influence on other media, from the American public.



Israeli citizen Ronen Kraus chats with students during January's "Very-Interesting Professors" lunch. -



Judge Paul Weinstein '55 and his wife, Bunny, meet with students for a "Very Interesting Professors" lunch. -

Five Star Generals

By Jon Philipson '06 -

This is the first in a new series highlighting alumni at the time of their 50th reunions. -

At Washington and Lee Hillel, one name seems to be always on our tongues. Whether we are talking about the lecture series or the scholarship he sponsors, this individual has personally helped to secure the Hillel we have come to cherish at W&L. This philanthropist is none other than the Hon. Paul Weinstein, Class of 1955. Recently, Judge Weinstein sat down with Hillel to reminisce about his college days, his career and his hopes for W&L and W&L Hillel.

Hillel: How did you come to choose W&L?

Weinstein: I was recruited to play football. I was also accepted at the University of Virginia, but as soon as I visited the W&L campus I knew immediately it was the place that I wanted to attend.

H: What was it like being Jewish at W&L?

W: Nothing much different from the atmosphere today, except that we had two Jewish fraternities. I never had any experience of prejudice in any circumstance at W&L.

H: What was it like to be in a Jewish fraternity?

W: ZBT and PhiEp had members who were always campus leaders. ZBT was usually first academically. Social life revolved around the fraternities.

H: What keeps bringing you back to W&L?

W: I credit the University and the education that I received here for any success and accomplishments that I have attained in my professional life. Additionally I am grateful for a large circle of people that I met in my years at W&L that have remained important to me over the years.

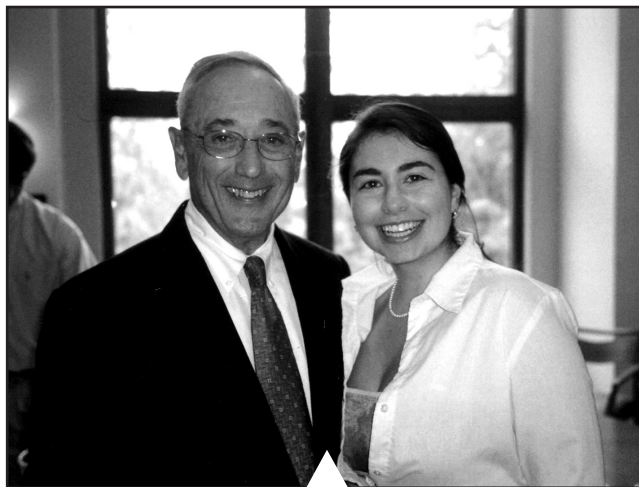
H: How do you think W&L is different today from when you attended?

W: The two biggest changes are the women present on campus now and that we were required to wear coat and tie to class.

H: If you could change one thing about W&L what would it be?

W: Well certainly I wish there was a Jewish

population comparable to what we had. Hopefully something is being done to increase the numbers. W&L attracted Jewish applicants from all over, St. Louis, Cleveland, Baltimore, New York, as well as the South.



Reunion '05: Judge Paul Weinstein '55 meets Victoria Kesselman '07, a current Weinstein Scholarship recipient. -

H: What is the one thing that you hope never changes about W&L?

W: The relationship between students and faculty is unique.

H: What do you think is your greatest accomplishment professionally?

W: Becoming the chairman of the Maryland conference of circuit judges and having the opportunity to revamp the calendar system for the court.

H: How do you think Hillel has changed W&L?

W: It has given the Jewish students a sense of belonging, now particularly that the two fraternities are gone. Dr. Richard Marks and Joan Robins have done a spectacular job in making Hillel a "with-it" kind of place for students and giving the students and faculty the opportunity to celebrate Jewish traditions and holidays in a comfortable atmosphere.

H: What goals do you have as a new member of Hillel's advisory board?

W: As a member of the Hillel advisory board I hope to continue to keep the focus on reintroducing W&L as a great place for Jewish

students. Not only can they get a wonderful education, but without sacrificing any Jewish identity that they have.

H: If you could share one message with current W&L students, what would it be?

W: My message to alumni or W&L students would have to be that we have all been given the wonderful opportunity to be educated in an environment that celebrates the individual. The close relationship between faculty and student is well known and has helped to make W&L the respected university that it is.

Judge Weinstein has been an innovator in the Maryland courts and promoter of Jewish life at W&L. Hillel hopes that his words of wisdom will be taken to heart by the W&L community, current students and alumni. Without the dedication of men like Judge Weinstein, Hillel would not be where it is today. -

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Social Events

By Todd Martin '06

On March 27, Joan Robins, director of Hillel, invited a group of students over to her house to teach them how to bake challah. Joan also prepared a great dinner that was much appreciated and was a great break from the monotonous University meals. Since challah takes about four hours to prepare and bake, the group decided to watch "Sex in the City" during the downtime. The episodes, however, were chosen carefully. We watched a few hilarious episodes, loaded with Jewish humor, in which one of the characters wants to convert to Judaism. Once the challah came out of the oven, each student was given his/her own loaf of the delicious, made-from-scratch challah. Here's Joan's recipe for challah:

CHALLAH

2 ½ cups warm milk (may substitute water)
2 Tbsp. (2 pkgs) yeast
2 ½ teas. salt
⅓ cup honey
¼ cup melted butter, optional
¼ cup oil -
4 eggs, beaten
9 cups flour (aprox)

Dissolve yeast in milk. Add salt, honey, oil, butter; stir well. Beat in all but 2 Tbsp. of egg (reserve). Stir flour into liquid until dry enough to knead. Knead till smooth and elastic (approx. 10 minutes). Let rise until double (approx. 90 minutes). Shape into 2 loaves (each loaf is a double braid), and let rise again on oiled baking sheet for aprox 60 minutes. Brush with 2 Tbsp. egg just before baking in a pre-heated oven (350 degrees) for 30 minutes.

Another exciting and memorable event occurred on Thursday, April 28. A small group of eight students, along with Joan and her husband, drove to Charlottesville to see the documentary "Paper Clips." It was a film about how middle school children from Whitwell, Tenn., when attempting to learn about the Holocaust, decided to collect six million paper clips to represent the six million Jews who were killed. The story of their collection and the phenomenon it created was fantastic and moving. If you have not yet seen "Paper Clips," I highly recommend it. -



Local children Hannah Dubit, Grace Lambeth and Jenna Cunningham make hamantaschen.



Students and local children enjoy a festive meal during Purim Party at the Alumni House.