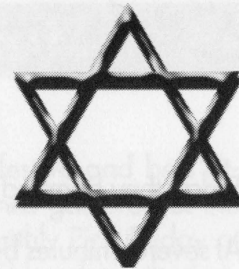




The Star



WASHINGTON AND LEE HILLEL NEWSLETTER ————— SPRING 2002

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(540) 463-8443 Fax: (540) 463-8498

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Hillel is, of course, primarily a spiritual and intellectual home for Washington and Lee's Jewish students. But its diverse and vibrant program is a cultural resource for all of the W&L community, one without which we would be a lesser university.

Hillel has enjoyed the full support of the University's administration since it's "revitalization" last year. We have been warmly welcomed by faculty, staff, and the development office, and by other student organizations. For a year, we worked in the computer lab in Newcomb Hall, but now we have a beautiful new office in Washington Hall! This is quite an honor, especially considering the lack of office space on campus at this time. It is a pleasure to be here. In addition to having everything organized, we now have a place to meet and greet students, prospective students, and alumni.

This "presence" is not lost on prospective students and their parents. Parents are reassured when they can visit an office dedicated to Hillel. Students drop by to talk. The space is even large enough to have a small meeting! Perhaps someday soon we will have a large enough program to build a Hillel House near the campus.

Hillel events have sparked more interest among Jewish students in Jewish activities. Students know that their work is important and essential in building a Jewish community on a campus where we are such a minority. Now they understand that the Administration supports their program and values their efforts to build community. We hope that by continuing to strengthen Hillel we can attract more Jewish students to Washington and Lee.

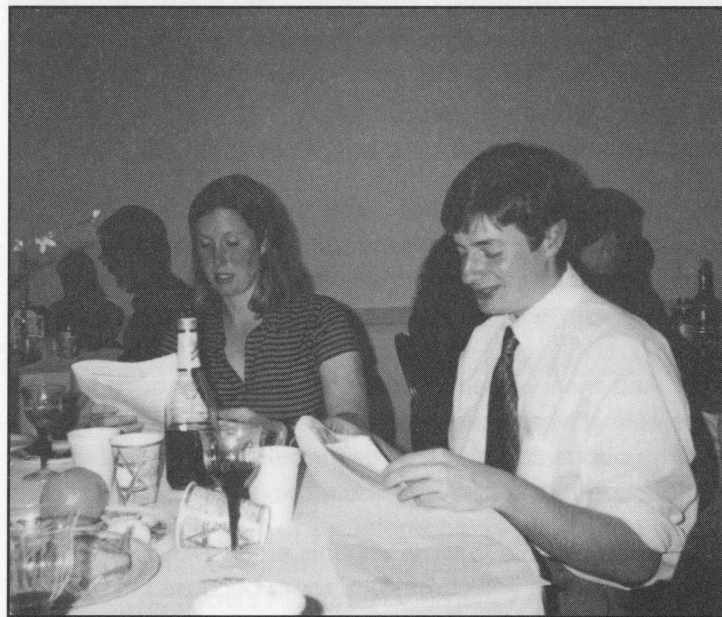
Joan Robins

PASSOVER

by Kemal Levi '04

The annual Pesach celebrations in W&L were held in the University Center this year. The seder was headed by religion professor and Hillel advisor Prof. Marks with much student participation. The high number of people who were present for the seder was a clear indication of the success of this year's organization. During the ceremony, all the guests sang the traditional Jewish songs while remembering to the days of bondage. The resistance of Jewish people against oppression was once again recalled.

In keeping with W&L tradition and Hillel's developing reputation, this year's festive meal was outstanding. The homemade charoset, matzah ball soup, kugal, and desserts were delicious. The catered meal from Woods Creek Grocery was appreciated by all.



Enjoying the seder: Jordan Wolfe '03 and Kathleen Gibson '03 read from the Haggadah which was composed by Prof. Marks.

E-MAIL FROM JERUSALEM

by Niv Goldberg '93

Today they bombed my supermarket. (March 30, 2002)

At several minutes before two this afternoon, a sixteen-year-old Palestinian girl exploded herself at the entrance to my neighborhood supermarket, killing two (in addition to herself) and injuring some thirty others. For hours the streets adjacent and leading to the supermarket were closed, as various crews were involved in cleaning the debris and deactivating the unexploded artillery shells which had composed part of the explosive package strapped on her body.

I was almost there.

Tanya and I had made plans in the later morning, sometime around eleven, to go shopping, including a stop at the fruit-and-vegetable stand adjacent to the supermarket. I myself had planned to stop into the supermarket for two minutes to get a few things. The plan was to be there just before two o'clock.

At about eleven-thirty, a friend called - a friend who had just been drafted into the army, and was home on leave for Passover. I hadn't seen him for a month - in fact, since I dropped him off at the enlistment station the day of his induction. He asked if I wanted to come over, and go shopping with him at a department store in town. I spoke with Tanya, and we decided to go for it - plus we would get to see our friend, and at the same time, use the supermarket which adjoined this department store.

We enjoyed our shopping. We even decided to grab a bite at a downtown cafe before heading home - a potentially risky thing. How ironic, that as we ate we heard the hourly news brief come on the music radio station playing at the cafe - the downtown cafe - the decidedly dangerous downtown cafe - we heard that our neighborhood supermarket, the one at which we were just then supposed to be shopping, had been rocked by a suicide bomber.

We called Tanya's mother. She was at home. My aunt Sabina, who also frequents the same supermarket, was also home. We called my grandmother (who lives a three minute walk from the supermarket - but wouldn't go there without me) to let her know we were ok, and the rest of the family as well. And then we left the cafe. Because it's hard to continue eating when you know that but for the grace of God, and the phone call of a friend, it would likely have been us in that supermarket.

I'm glad to be able to write you this email. And I hope that soon things here will change. I hope, because I'm not sure what I can expect.

My best regards to you all, Niv

VERY INTERESTING PROFESSORS

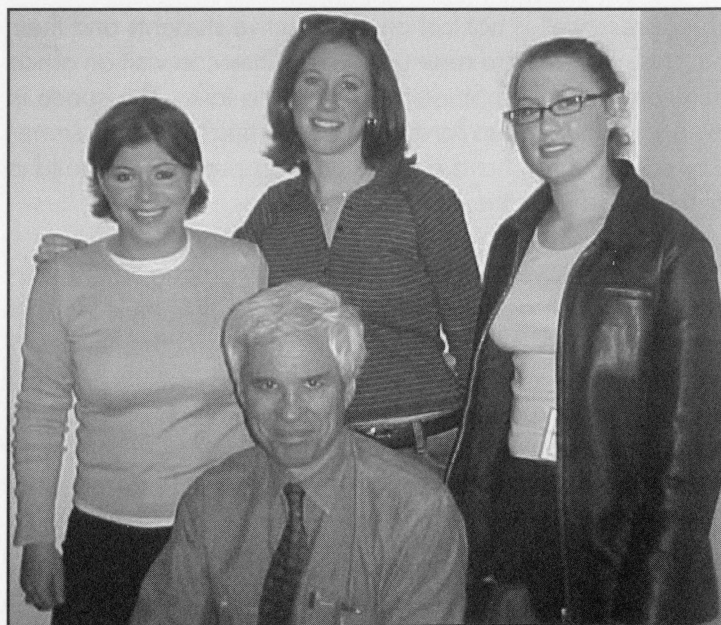
by Jesse Rockoff '02

One of the highlights of the Hillel calendar this year was certainly the "Very Interesting Professors" series. About once a month Hillel members met Jewish undergraduate or law professors at the Sheridan Livery Inn for stimulating lunch-time discussions on the professor's experience with and/or research on an issue of concern to Jewish students.

The "VIP" lunch with David Bruck, the Francis Lewis Scholar-In-Residence and a prominent anti-death penalty advocate, was one of the most memorable. Practicing law in South Carolina, Bruck defended Susan Smith during the sentencing phase of her widely publicized trial for the drowning of her children in the lake. Bruck fielded Hillel's questions about the social and economic damage done by the death penalty, the media circus surrounding the Smith case, and—of course—what the future held for U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC).

Other "VIP" lunches this semester featured Rabbi Ariel Friedlander discussing "Women in Judaism", Professor David Novack speaking on the "Stigmatization of Jews in Central and Eastern Europe: A Spring Term Pilgrimage", and Professor Jack Wilson and his wife, Marjorie Schiff on the engaging and relevant topic "Interfaith Marriage".

The wide variety of "VIP" speakers exemplified the ways in which liberal arts schools such as Washington and Lee nurture the Jewish tradition of learning. Additionally, the series provided an enriching, unique, and fun complement to the usual classroom and Jewish activities at W&L.



"Very Interesting Professors" luncheon featuring (seated) Frances Lewis Scholar-In-Residence David Bruck. Standing are (l - r) Laura Samuels '04, Robin Okin '03, Margaret Zaydman (visiting Honors Scholar candidate)

DONORS (2001-2002)

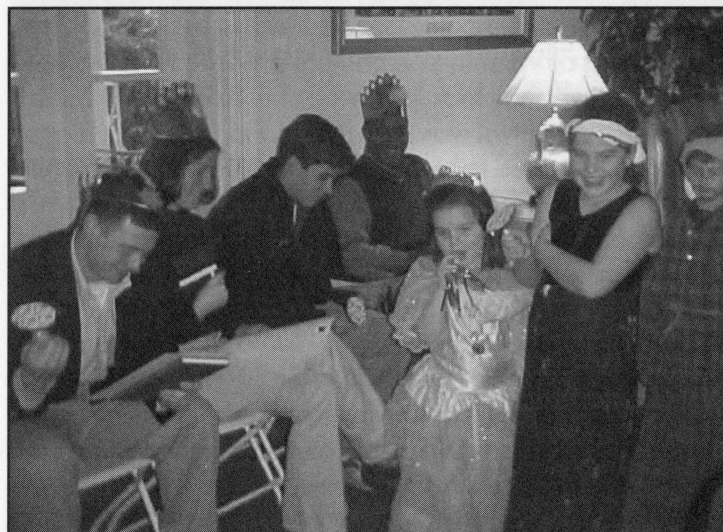
Sylvia Armentrout
Peggy and Marvin Belasco, MD
Charles C. Cahn '70
Jay M. Caplan '64
Teri and Alan Cohen, MD '67
Alan M. Corwin '62
Judith and Ralph Evans '59
Phyllis and Alan Fink, MD
Maryann and Stewart Fleming
Ann and David Frankel
Eydie and Barry Greene '64
Richard L Greenberg
Louis C. Greentree '42
Joseph Goldsten
Sally and Mark Grunewald
Louise and Frederic Halper
Mr. and Mrs Michael A. Harris
Charles M. Helzberg '58
Alyse and Richard Hirsekorn
Franklin R. Horstman
Jan Kaufman and Art Goldsmith
Lyudmila Komornik
Barbara Lehman
Mary Lynn and J.S. Marks '59
Walapa and Richard Marks
Barbara Shay Martin
Arnold Masinter '62
Robert A. Maslansky MD '52
Robert S. Mendelsohn, MD '50
Cornelia A Miller
Joyce Moore
John P. Moyer '58
Leslie and David Novack
Neilson November '48
Deborah and Michael Okin, MD '76
Dawn Peck, MD and Tom Peck, MD
Stacey and Andrew Reibach '87
Jewish Community Federation of Richmond
Roanoke Jewish Community Council
Joan Robins and Malcolm Cothran, MD
Mort Robins
Toni and Steve Sandler '70
Schewel Fund
Elliot S. Schewel '45
Jonathan B. Schewel '80
Marc A. Schewel '69
Patricia Schirmer, MD and Scott Dubit, MD
Claudia and Fred Schwab
Jules R. Shaivitz '50
Soref Initiative for Emerging Campuses
Mr. and Mrs. Barry J. Stein
Karen and Paul S. Sugar '70
Washington and Lee Chaplaincy Fund
Paul Weinstein '55
Weinstein Fund
John Zamoiski '74

FIRST FRIDAYS AT FIVE

By Robin Okin '03

This year's Purim Party was the most festive and best attended yet! Students, faculty, and friends gathered at the balloon-filled Alumni House for the monthly First Friday at Five Shabbat service on March 1st. Children from the Lexington Jewish community dressed up in traditional holiday costume as Haman, Queen Esther, and King Ahashverosh and participated in the lively reading of the Magillah. People booped and groggers were twirled to make as much noise as possible whenever the wicked Haman's name was mentioned.

At the conclusion of the service, everyone congregated for a festive meal of meat and hamantashen, graciously provided by the Lexington Jewish community. What could have been better? Good times, great songs, delicious food, and amazing traditions! Washington and Lee Hillel definitely knows how to live!



"PRIDE" joined the W&L Jewish community this year in celebrating Purim. Gathered for the reading of the Magillah are Geoff Rogow '04, Robin Okin '03, Seth Martin '04, and Robert "Earl" Benson '03. Rachel, Hannah and Zach Dubit dressed for the party.

AMBULANCE CAMPAIGN

During our April Shabbat service and dinner, the W&L and Lexington Jewish Communities collected money to help purchase an ambulance and medical supplies for the people of Israel. This was part of an international campaign in collaboration with UJC's Israel Emergency Fund from Magen David Adom, Israel's National Emergency Medical Service. MDA is entirely non-sectarian and provides life-saving services to every man, woman, and child throughout Israel, regardless of race, religion, creed, or political beliefs.

NABORS SERVICE DAY

By Laura Samuels '04



The students of Washington and Lee's Hillel co-sponsored a Kid's Carnival that took place on the Front Lawn by Lee Chapel. The carnival was a part of Nabor's Service League Day, a day devoted to helping out the Lexington community. The students and the children played goldfish toss, drenched each other in water gun fights, and played tag and musical chairs. Face painting and story telling were some of the other highlights of the afternoon. By the laughter and smiles ringing throughout the Colonnade, it was difficult to decide who was having more fun, the kids or the students. This day was just another opportunity for the members of Hillel to do mitzvot not just with each other, but also with those of both the W&L and the Lexington community.



WORDS FROM THE STUDENT PRESIDENT

At first I thought to write about how sad I am to leave and how I will miss everybody terribly. The missing everybody part is true, but the leaving part is not. I am ecstatic to leave W&L Hillel this year. I am ready to go, because Hillel could not be left in any better hands and could not have grown into something more ideal in only one year.

Four years ago, I joined a meager fledgling club that was struggling to survive. I am leaving a club where nearly everyone on campus has heard its name, knows what we do, and they are even interested enough to show up to a few things every now and then. The T-shirt sale really put that into perspective. Thinking that we would only be selling T-shirts to our members, we purchased about twenty. After they all sold out faster than we could swipe them home, we were tormented by people who wanted shirts for their friends and relatives and themselves. I will tell you that I received a very threatening phone call telling me to get the T-shirt stand up and running again!

I will graduate this year, and be relegated to the role of alumnus who is asked for money. Although I have none at the moment, I know a cause worthy of my meager funds. I personally find it hard to donate money to a group whose intentions I know are good, but does not have the means or talents necessary to implement them. This could not be farther from true with Hillel. Joan Robins is a powerhouse who will not stop until Hillel is firmly rooted on the campus. The student aspect of Hillel is second to none. I leave behind a dedicated, excited, motivated council who will continue to grow over the next few years. I can honestly say that they are the type of people that any Hillel would want as their poster children.

I feel that over my past four years at W&L, the University is growing in the right direction. Hillel has grown with them, and I was honored to be a part.

Graham Frankel

President of Hillel '02

ALUMNI NEWS

Kerry Reynolds '62, from Bethesda, MD, writes that he is Jewish by choice. When he matriculated at W&L, he was Episcopalian and attended St. Bob's. "We never know the many surprises that life has in store for us, do we?" Kerry's daughter Rachel, a junior in high school, will be travelling with his in-laws this summer to Europe to see where they lived before the Holocaust.

Harvey Savitt '68L, writes from Suffolk County, NY, "I was one of the few students who would not (and still won't) eat any pork or ham. One of the cooks at Evans Dining Hall had worked at a Jewish run camp in Virginia and whenever ham or pork was served he made sure that I had roast chicken or beef—that is until the week before graduation. I had been working as a waiter at banquet when I served a platter of what I thought was rolled pastrami. It tasted kind of different and suddenly I heard this loud guttural voice saying "Do you know what you're eatin' boy? You eatin' swine! I don't want to hear any more of your BS and from now on you get what everybody else gets, etc, etc. I still get a chuckle out of it 34 years later."

We were delighted to visit with **Bob Maslansky '52**, and his wife, **Lee** at the reunion on May 4th. Bob reminded us that the Maslanskys have been a presence at W&L since his time. His brother **Paul '54**, cousin **Sandy '56**, and cousins **Harris '68** and **Steve '70** followed him. His dad, **Manny M.** spent six months on campus in **1942**. He was in the army and was there for Special Forces training in that early phase of WW2. "Dad was smitten with all aspects of the campus, its physical beauty, its traditions, indeed its aura." Bob has practiced Internal Medicine since 1956, and has developed a passion for the treatment of people with substance abuse disorders...all of them: alcoholism, heroin addiction, cocaine abuse, and compulsive use of marijuana. He is currently the Medical Director of the Addiction Rehab Services at Bellevue Hospital of NYU School of Medicine. "I have instructed my staff—27 excellent nurses, doctors, social workers and addiction counselors that if the 'ole doc' starts missing a step they'll hoist me on the nearest petard and look for another boss. Hasn't happened yet. Albert Camus said, 'the happy man is what he does'".

John Zamoiski '74 writes that he had four of the best years of his life at W&L where he made lifelong friends. He regularly talks to classmates and friends **Irv Wolfson '75**, **Mike Cimino '74**, **John Lane '74**, **Alan Fendrich '74**, **Steve Heinecke '74**, **Marv Daniels, '74**, **Steve Hagey '74**, **Eric White '74**, **Neil Lutins '74**, **Herb Rubenstein '74** and others. Since leaving W&L, John has been in entertainment marketing for over 25 years, beginning his career as a marketing director for Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus. Today and for the past 7 years he has been CEO of Vertical Mix Marketing in NYC which oversees the market-

ing for such clients as A&E, AOL, The National Thoroughbred Racing Association, Simon Brand Ventures, The gravity Games, CNBC, Showtime, Clear Channel Entertainment and others. John teaches an undergraduate course in sports and entertainment marketing at NYU. He won a Peabody Award this year for the A&E movie "The Crossing" (The story of George Washington crossing the Delaware) and was ranked as one of the 100 most influential people in cable television by Cable Fox Magazine.

Neil November '48, writes that along with his classmate **Elliot Schewell '48**, he tried to get Dean Gilliam to drop the Jewish quota but to no avail—it was stuck at 30. Today Neil November is known in Richmond, VA as "Mr. Airport", as he played an integral part in the airport's evolution into a self-supporting, modernized facility. He was given a 1996 First Freedom Award for his effort toward interfaith understanding and community involvement: he has been chairman or president of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond, the Virginia-Israel Commission, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Capital Regional Airport Commission, and Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. Joan Robins and David Long were pleased to meet with Mr. November, **Lewis Greentree '42**, **Andrew McCutcheon '48**, and **Frances Lewis** in January to discuss enrollment of Jewish students at W&L.

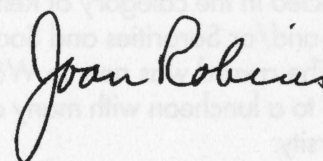
Chuck Cahn '70 has been a generous supporter of W&L Hillel: "you're off to a strong start for a worthy cause".

Steve Pockrass '87 graduated with a major in journalism, worked for a number of years as a journalist, and then attended law school. He now works as an employment and labor lawyer for Ice Miller in Indianapolis. Ice Miller has more than 200 lawyers and is one of the 200 largest firms in the country. He has a 7-year-old daughter named Allyson, "my pride and joy". Steve organized a "Jewish Student Association" in 1985 and joined ZBT as the only Jew who belonged to it in its last years at Washington and Lee. We had fun visiting with Steve at the reunion lunch on May 4th.

Dear Alumni,

There are many ways to strengthen your W&L Hillel connection. Have a question? E-mail us at robinsj@wlu.edu. Want to learn more about Hillel events? Go to <http://hillel.wlu.edu>. Interested in contributing? Send a check to W&L Hillel, Washington Hall, Lexington, VA 24450. Interested in fundraising or recruiting Jewish students? Contact Joan Robins, Director at 540-463-8443 or email. Whatever your interest, be part of the W&L tradition, and become involved!

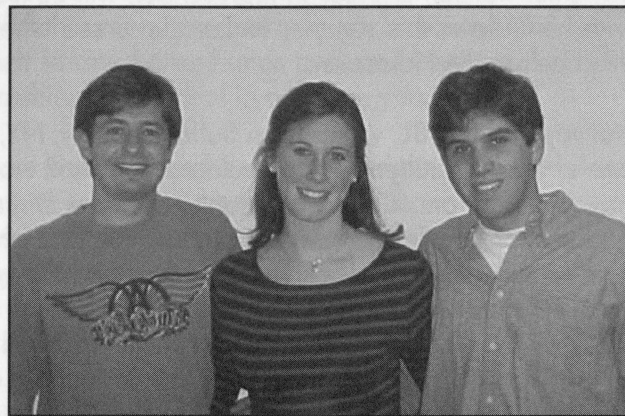
Sincerely,



THE JEW CREW



New Officers and VP Chairs: (seated L - R) Matt Fink '04, Seth Martin '04, Robin Okin '03, Geoff Rogow '04, Lauren Tieuli '03. (standing L - R) Kemal Levi '04, Jordan Wolff '03, Laura Samuels '04. missing Yana Komornik '04



New Officers: Secretary, Jordan Wolff '03; Vice President, Robin Okin '03; President, Seth Martin, '04

ADVISORY GROUP

Joan Robins, Director • Mark Grunewald
Barry Kolman • Jan Kaufman
Sascha Goluboff • Richard Marks
Tom Peck • Louise Halper
David Novak • Marcia France
Maryann Fleming • Arnold Masinter '62
Bill Jacobs '71 • Michael Okin '76
Robin Okin '03 • Seth Martin '04
Alan Corwin '62

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

by Graham Frankel '02

One might say that recently, Washington and Lee honored the underdogs-- those who work hard behind the scenes to make W&L a better place but that do not receive the fame and glory that some others do.

As President of Hillel, I was one of these such people who was nominated for the John Elrod Un-Sung General of the year award. I was selected in the category of Religious Organizations, Fraternities and/or Sororities and Social Programming Organizations. The award was new to W&L and the nominees were invited to a luncheon with many of the faculty and staff of the University.

The culmination of the award ceremony was held in Lee Chapel, where the winners of each category were presented with engraved pewter mugs. The ceremony was beautiful and the chapel was nearly full.

Possibly the best part of the award was the attention it allowed Hillel. Everyone on campus was inundated with the names of the nominees. It was a lovely way for W&L to say that they see and appreciate all that is being done to make the campus a more diverse environment.

SOCIAL EVENTS

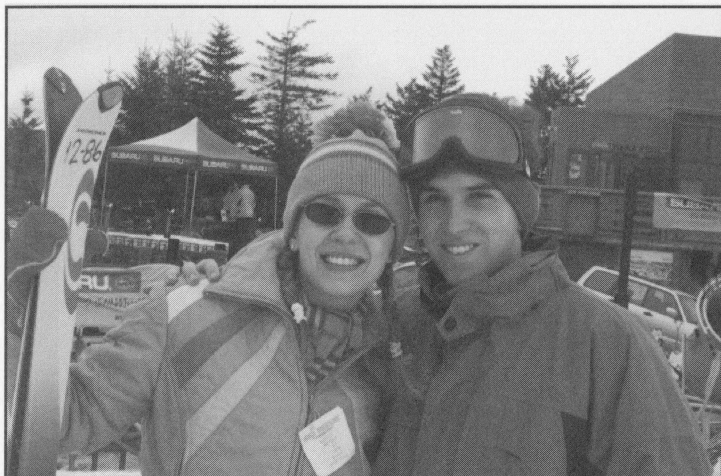
By Seth Martin '04

Hillel has taken two exciting adventures away from campus since our last newsletter was published. The first occurred December 2nd when we went sporting clay shooting (very similar to skeet shooting) about 30 minutes from campus at Quail Ridge Sporting Clays. In sporting clay shooting, a trapper sends a clay disc flying through the air and another person shoots at the disc. An ideal shot is one that knocks off a small portion of the disc because in real life this is one that would be sufficient to kill a bird and still keep it in pretty much one piece. The bullets that are actually fired consist of a bunch of small pellets. We all had a great experience.

On the weekend of March 8th, Hillel went skiing/snowboarding at Snowshoe in West Virginia. Snowshoe is an impressively large ski mountain and the slopes are wonderful. We rented a nice house minutes from the ski base and really enjoyed ourselves. Most of us skied, but some of us tried their luck with snowboarding. One of us in particular received complements throughout the weekend about their ski outfit. See if you can guess whom from the photos.



Sporting Clay Shooting: Joel Bogorad '03L tries his luck shooting at the disc, while the manager offers encouragement.



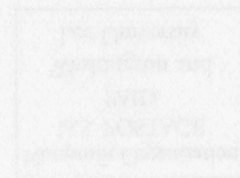
Graham Frankel '02 and Seth Martin '04.



Left to right: Kirsten Gladding '02, Becky Ostendorf '02, Lisa Mobley '04, Laura Samuels '04, Caitlin FitzRandolf '02, Graham Frankel '02.



Kirsten Gladding '02 sells t-shirts in front of the coop. Proceeds went to W&L Hillel and Mazon, a Jewish Response to Hunger. Mazon provides for those who are hungry worldwide, and helps alleviate the poverty that causes hunger.



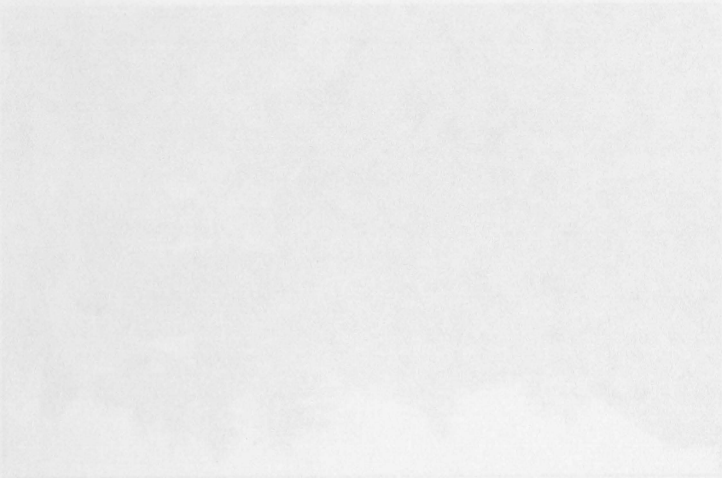


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