



The Star



Washington and Lee Hillel Newsletter

Winter 2015/5776

2015-2016 Hillel Officers:

Executive Board

President: Madeleine Boireau '17
Vice-President: Laura Wiseman '16
Treasurer: Keith Denning '18

Chairs

Shabbat: Jordan Goldstein '18
Communications: Jacob Rosen '18
Speakers: Shlomo Honig '18
Social Action: Batsheva Honig '17 and
Caroline Birdrow '16
Holidays: Ron Perets '18
Engagement: Rachel Reibach '18
Israel: Rebecca Orsak '18
VMI Liaison: Stephen Reibach '18

Editor-in-Chief

Hannah Falchuk '18

Hillel Advisory Board

Executive Board

Chair: Dean Marcia France
Faculty Advisor: Professor Simon Levy

Board Members

Sarah Wilson, Jan Kaufman, Professor
Harvey Markowitz, Professor David
Novack, Professor Hank Dobin, Andy
Reibach '87 P'18, Eric White '74,
Arie George '08, Audrey Horn '08,
Mitch Wapner

Ex-Officio Members

Madeleine Boireau '17
Laura Wiseman '16
Keith Denning '18
Dean Tammy Futrell
Director of Hillel: Megan McLean



JULIE GOLDMAN

by Madeleine Boireau '17

Washington and Lee, as a whole, surprises me more and more every day. A highlight of this year, by far, was being able to watch comedian Julie Goldman perform in the Stackhouse Theater during W&L PRIDE Week. Julie Goldman exemplifies two of Hillel's core values, "creating a pluralistic, welcoming and inclusive environment" and "balancing the need for both a distinctly Jewish and universal human identity." As a "proud, queer, Jewish woman," not afraid to be herself and encourage others to do the same, we couldn't imagine a better representative for Hillel and the Rockbridge community.

I can say with confidence that so much laughter had yet to fill Stackhouse Theater

until that day. Words were said that I would never have imagined would be spoken on the Washington and Lee Campus. This event was probably one of the most successful Hillel has ever had. With the Stackhouse completely full, there had to have been approximately 200 people present. It felt great to see students and faculty so supportive of diversity on the W&L campus. Hillel Director, Megan McLean, worked with Rallie Snowden and the LGBTQ Resource Center to include Washington and Lee on Julie Goldman's college tour. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion also cosponsored. Hillel International, Keshet and OUTmedia sponsored the tour. We can't wait to work more with Rallie and the LGBTQ Center to bring more events like this to W&L!



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

💻 hillel.wlu.edu

☎ (540) 458-8443

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



At W&L Hillel, the Academic Year 2015/16 and the Hebrew Year 5776 are off to a great start! The first weekend that school was in session at Washington and Lee, we celebrated Rosh Hashanah as an inclusive Jewish Community, with undergraduate and law students, faculty and staff from W&L, cadets and rats

from VMI and residents of Rockbridge County. Everyone enjoyed and felt uplifted by the services with Student Rabbi Emily Langowitz from the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. We gathered together again during Yom Kippur and shared an incredibly meaningful and blessed holiday. Because of the support of our generous donors, we were able to celebrate and observe the High Holidays with great food and great company. Our Sukkot, although rainy, was a powerful experience as well, for those who helped build or invited guests to eat in, the Sukkah.

We welcomed 22 new Jewish students to campus and reconnected with those who returned from a fun and eventful summer. Our rat class (first year students at VMI) was by far the largest ever this year - nine - bringing our cohort of Jewish cadets to 19. We also met many wonderful families during Washington and Lee and VMI's Parents and Family Weekends. And we connected with some of our beloved alumni during the Five Star Festival, Capital Campaign Celebration and Young Alumni Weekend.

We have started new programs and grown programs that bring new people and new energy into our Hillel House. Our brand new Gan Katan has brought families into Hillel House, and given children in Rockbridge County a chance to learn about Jewish customs and holidays with their neighbors and peers. Washington and Lee is offering Hebrew courses for credit for the first time ever, and the students enrolled are getting an opportunity they have never had before, to read and understand the Torah as it was originally written. The students in our Modern Hebrew class are able to have conversations in Hebrew and are more confident as they plan their travel to Israel. And speaking of travel to Israel, we had eight students register for our Birthright Israel trip this winter - by far the largest group we've ever had. We are

excited to travel with students from other small schools in Virginia and look forward to sharing our journey with you in the Summer issue of The Star.

Our 13-member Student Board has been working hard to keep up the positive momentum and plan a year of exciting and engaging programs for our students. They have just ratified their new constitution and are creating their own identity as a new student group called JCA (Jewish Cultural Association). The Executive Board Members of JCA sit on the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) Student Board and are thrilled to be part of a movement to create more multicultural programs for W&L students. Our Hillel Advisory Board is working on a new Constitution as well and has been working equally hard to ensure that Washington and Lee is home to a vibrant, thriving Jewish community that is welcoming to all and helps fulfill W&L's mission of encouraging a diverse and engaged student body.

We know that we are so successful at what we do because not only do we have amazing leadership here on campus, but we have incredible supporters all over the country. We rely on our alumni, parents and community members to meet our financial goals. As I am writing this, we have raised just over \$19,000 towards our operating budget this year (goal: \$54,000) and \$670,000 has been pledged towards the Hillel Endowment for Programming (goal: \$1.1 million). We also have been awarded three grants so far, and have applications for several more in the works.

Thank you for your support of Washington and Lee Hillel, financial, moral or otherwise. We welcome your involvement and encourage you to follow us on our social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), sign up for our emails and look for updates on our website. And we hope that you'll read all of the articles in The Star every December and June. We're so proud of what we've done and love to share our success stories with you. In this publication you will see what our students have been up to and how we are striving to keep our promise to you, the promise to use your support to grow and expand our programs, to reach and engage more people, to sustain Jewish life on this campus and in Lexington, and to repair the world in whatever way that we can. And, as always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments about Hillel at Washington and Lee.

*With sincere gratitude,
Megan McLean, Director of Hillel*

THE STATE OF HILLEL

by Madeleine Boireau '17, President

For the 2015-2016 academic year, my biggest goal as the president of Hillel, is to turn this organization into what Washington and Lee is: a student run group. Working with our Executive Board, Laura Wiseman, vice president and Keith Denning, treasurer we have been collaborating with the rest of the board positions to create events to bring Hillel to the students. Our weekly Shabbat Shalom dinners have drawn students from a variety of organizations to learn about Jewish culture in a very informal situation.

The Student Board is composed of nine chair positions and ten total students: Jordan Goldstein '18 (Shabbat chair), Jake Rosen '18 (communications chair), Shlomo Honig '18 (speakers chair), Batsheva Honig '17



President Madeleine Boireau '17 with our new mascot Jamal haGamal (Hebrew for: the camel).
Photo credit: Nicole Eldred

and Caroline Birdrow '16 (social action chairs), Ron Perets '18 (holidays chair), Rachel Reibach '18 (engagement chair),

Rebecca Orsak '18 (Israel chair), and Hannah Falchuk '18 (Star newsletter editor). For the first time, since the development of the Student Board, we created a VMI liaison chair, Stephen Reibach VMI '18. It has always been very important to us to include VMI in our events in order to create a stronger Jewish community in Rockbridge County. With this chair position we have a better understanding of how VMI works and how to better include all cadets in Washington and Lee Hillel.

We are very excited for the upcoming year and hope to bring Washington and Lee as well as Rockbridge County many more great events!



Students celebrating Simchat Torah for the first time at W&L Hillel. Ron Perets '18, Laura Wiseman '16, Rachel Reibach '18 and Rebecca Orsak '18 lead Kiddush after the Torah ceremony, which took place before our weekly Shabbat Shalom Dinner. Photo credit: Megan McLean

SIMCHAT TORAH

by Ron Perets '18

Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are the Jewish holidays marking the end of the Torah reading cycle. They occur the day after and two days after the end of Sukkot, respectively. In Israel, only Shemini Atzeret is celebrated as a one day holiday, while the rest of the world celebrates both Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, with Simchat Torah holding greater significance.

Simchat Torah is a major celebration known for its joyful feasting. It is a major holiday, meaning that observant Jews refrain from going to work or school, using electricity and writing. During the celebration, the Torah scroll is removed from the ark and is accompanied by people marching and dancing, called a hakafot. The celebration of the Torah is not solely based on its content; the physical scroll has its own religious significance. It is the most religious book in Judaism and is treated with immense care.

Torah scrolls are written by hand using a quill and ink well, and their pages are made of bonded parchment. The scroll is normally wound on wood pegs and often adorned with silver and gold. It is also customary during Simchat Torah for men, and even boys, in Orthodox and Conservative congregations, to get an aliyah to the Torah. An aliyah means "a rising" and involves the physical act of rising up to the Torah and reading a prayer from it. After one reading cycle of the Torah is officially closed, a new one is immediately opened, and reading of the Torah starts all over again from the book of Genesis. The reasoning behind this is that the Torah is believed to have an infinite number of meanings and interpretations, and there is always more that can be uncovered by reading the Torah over and over again. Concluding Simchat Torah is a feast generally held in the Sukkah, which is left up for a few days after Sukkot.

BUILDING THE SUKKAH

by Maxwell Louman '19

During a late September and early October afternoon during the first few days of fall, W&L and VMI students gathered with a local community member to build and eventually take down the Hillel sukkah. These were great bonding experiences, one of which ended with some pizza and a nice conversation. Building the Sukkah involved a lot of manual labor and a couple of power tools and nails, but eventually the job was finished and the Sukkah ready to be used.

Building the Sukkah took a while, but the end result was definitely worth the effort. There were a few dilemmas involved, including an inability to locate a hammer, trying to find an electric outlet for a saw, and finding ourselves literally in a sticky situation (sticky

hands from tree sap). The entire process couldn't have come together if it weren't for the help of Mitch, a community member, directing us and lending a hand. Once the Sukkah was finished, we were able to enjoy the natural wooden walls and pine branch roofing. In addition, we were lucky to have missed the rain that started almost immediately after we finished.

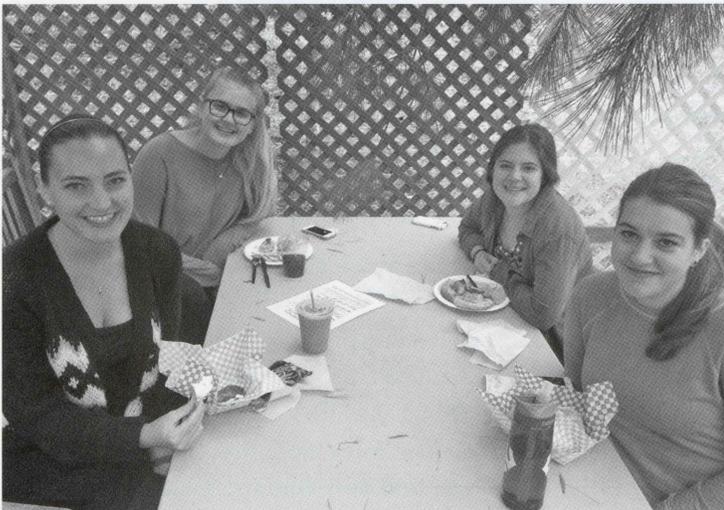
Taking down the Sukkah was a much easier process, which included unscrewing a few nails and putting the wood back in the basement. At one point, due to a miscalculation, the entire structure nearly collapsed. Luckily, this did not happen, and we slowly took down each wall, putting everything carefully away in preparation to do this again next year!



Madeleine Boireau '17 shows off her skills with a drill while building the Sukkah. Photo credit: Megan McLean



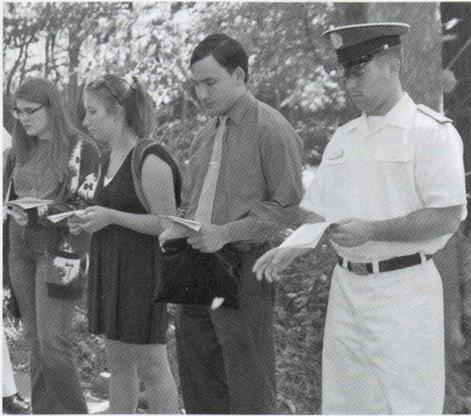
Hillel Advisory Board Member Mitch Wapner, Ron Perets '18 and Max Louman '19 replaced the older wood beams and panels on The Sukkah. Photo credit: Megan McLean



Alex Meilech '18 (second from right) shares the mitzvah of eating in the Sukkah with her friends. Photo credit: Alex Meilech



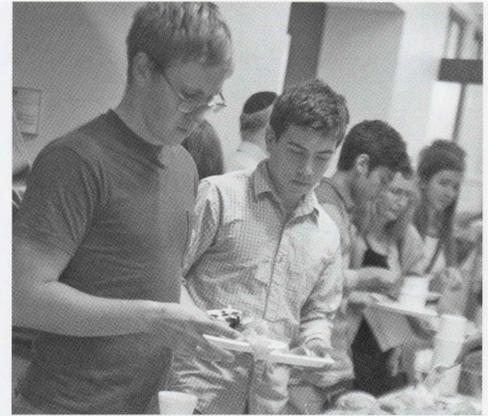
The finished product! Photo credit: Megan McLean



W&L undergraduate and law students, along with VMI Cadets and Rats, participate in the Tashlich service at Woods Creek on Rosh Hashanah afternoon. Photo credit: Laura Wiseman



Joan Robins (left) blesses the Torah before Director of Hillel Megan McLean's (second from center) reading during the Rosh Hashanah Morning Service. Student Rabbi Emily Langowitz (second from right) helps hold the Torah in place. Photo credit: Laura Wiseman



Hungry students breaking their fast with E. Café bagels and lox. Photo credit: Laura Wiseman

HIGH HOLIDAYS AT HILLEL

by Madeleine Boireau '17

For the third time, I rolled into Lexington with my mother to move into my new home and settle in for what I always expect to be another great year at Washington and Lee. As we said our goodbyes, I automatically began to think about the events that I plan on attending to kick off the school year: O-week, welcome-back barbeques and the high holidays with Hillel! Then it hits; the realization that I won't be with my family to reel in the New Year. When services start, though, I'm reminded that I do have a family here; it just comes in the form of supportive faculty, community members and students.

Emily Langowitz, a fourth-year rabbinical student from Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion, more easily referred

to as HUC-JR, came to Lexington to help us lead services. She invested so much time into making the services inclusive of everyone's backgrounds, which makes the holidays that much more enjoyable. For Erev Rosh Hashanah, Hillel hosted a student-only dinner, making this year a little different than prior years when Hillel hosted a community-wide dinner. Since the holidays were so early in the school year, this was a perfect opportunity to meet the new first-years and welcome them to our first school celebration.

Following Rosh Hashanah morning services, Hillel hosted a picnic catered by the E. Café. The weather was great for eating outside, making the New Year that

much sweeter. After a quick walk to Woods Creek, Hillel held a Tashlich Service, which really reminded me both how beautiful our campus is and how lucky we really are to be here together.

Ten days later, as a community, we observed Yom Kippur. All Jewish students had the option to be excused from class if they chose to fully observe the holiday. Many VMI cadets and W&L students stayed at the Hillel House throughout the day in order to fast as a community and give each other support. Following a Yizchor Service and Ne'ilah, the whole community broke the fast together with bagels and lox. Some may say that's cliché, but I say it was perfect.



Community members and champions of W&L Hillel, Betty Taylor and Joan Robins, catch-up with Emily Danzig '16 while preparing Kiddush before the Rosh Hashanah picnic lunch. Photo credit: Patrick Hinely



The Congregation stands as Student Rabbi Emily Langowitz and her service co-leader Jordan Goldstein '18 open the ark to reveal our Torah during the Kol Nidre service. Photo credit: Jonathan Schwab

DISCOVERING ISRAEL THROUGH BIRTHRIGHT

by Rebecca Orsak '18

Having grown up attending religious school and Jewish youth group, I was well versed in the importance of Israel. However, this summer I had the chance to experience the state first-hand, and I fell in love with its culture, history, and people. Through Birthright, I was able to spend twelve days travelling to all corners of Israel with thirty other Jewish college students. The bus was crowded, the days were long and hot, but the memories will last a lifetime.

From my first step off of the plane, I felt welcomed by the Israelis around me. They were quick to teach me local customs and useful phrases so that I could get the most

out of my experience. Our group mostly stayed at various kibbutzim at night, and we were able to get an understanding of community living in Israel. We played guitars and sang until the late hours of the night, enjoying the cool evenings and bright stars. During the days, we divided our time among hiking the terrain, browsing through markets, visiting key historical sites and relaxing with our newfound friends.

While I value all of our experiences, there is one that stands out especially. One day at three in the morning, our group woke up with the hopes of climbing Masada before sunrise. It was a steep climb and some

people struggled. However, we were able to pull together and support one another, making it to the top of Masada just in time to watch the sun rise. There, we stood and sang the Hatikvah, Israel's national anthem. At that moment, I felt an unparalleled connection to this land, and I could not contain my pride for all that the Jewish people have been through.

In the short time that I was there, I was able to create lasting friendships, with both my new American and Israeli friends. Now, I truly feel that I have two homes: America and Israel.



Above: Rats and Cadets talk excitedly while waiting in line for the famous buffet at Tong Dynasty. Right: VMI Liaison to the Student Board, Stephen Reibach '18, leads the Rats to lunch. Photos by Megan McLean

RAT SUNDAY

by Max Horowitz VMI '19

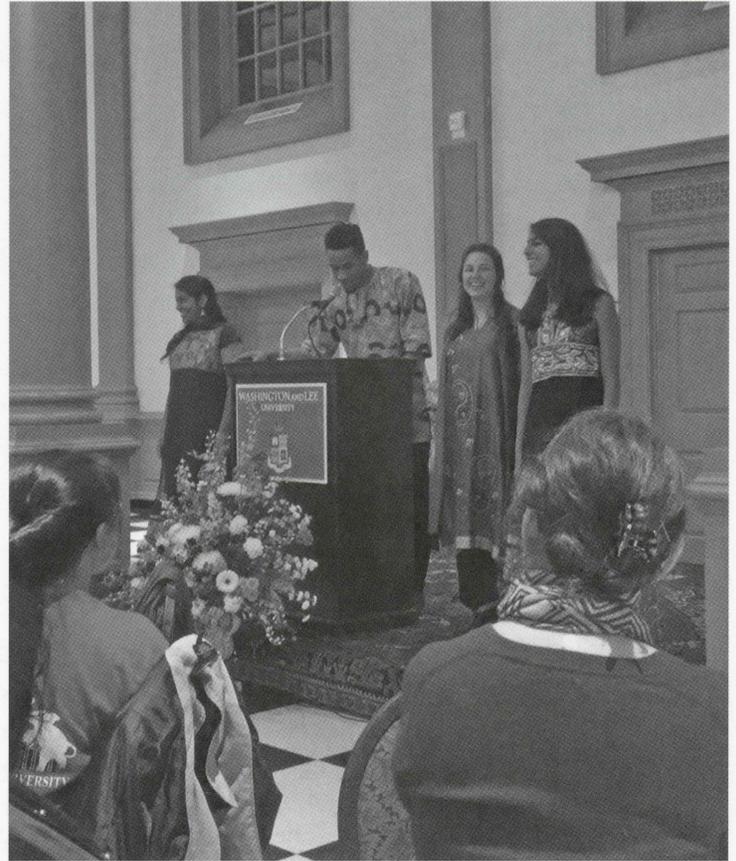
Every year, the academic year at the Virginia Military Institute begins with Hell Week, our first introduction to VMI's system. It was easily one of the longest weeks thus far at VMI, perhaps of my life. At the end of the week, the Sunday before the classes is called Rat Sunday. We all filed into Jackson Memorial Hall, the chapel on VMI's campus, where we heard presentations by local religious groups and were given the option to go with them. This was the first time since we arrived at VMI that we were able to leave post. I was worried that day that there would be no place for me to go. As I heard them listing off available groups, I heard that there was an organization for Jewish students. I was very pleasantly surprised. After we were dismissed, I met with the group and we began our walk over to Hillel House. It was the first real and much needed



break since I had arrived at VMI. We spent the morning at the house, drinking coffee from the E. Café and getting to know the other Rats as well as the Jewish upperclassmen who came to Hillel to spend the day with us. We all walked to Tong Dynasty, a local Chinese restaurant, for a nice lunch. It also happened to be the first meal where no one was yelling at us since we had started at VMI; it was also definitely the tastiest. Not only was Hillel something that helped me keep going through the first week at VMI, it also has always been a place that I can go to and gather motivation to keep going. I attend Shabbat at W&L Hillel House almost every week and it has been a great help to me. Both the people there, and the organization as a whole, give me a place to rest and relax and it's something to look forward to at the end of the week.



Maya Epelbaum '16 speaks at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Parents' Weekend Dinner. Photo credit: Megan McLean



Hannah Falchuk '18 (second from right) models traditional Indian clothing at the ODI Parents' Weekend Dinner. Photo credit: Megan McLean

WHAT DIVERSITY MEANS TO ME

by Maya Epelbaum '16

Before coming to W&L, I never understood why colleges aimed for diversity or how affirmative action was used to get a better student body. To me, people are people: diversity of thoughts matter. Skin color and parents' nationality - not so much.

While I still believe diversity of thoughts matter, different cultures, experiences and countries of origins have such a defining impact on everything from how we celebrate leisure time dancing and eating, to answering the tough ethical questions of how to treat women or the justice of war.

Before coming to college, I didn't know that yet. Diversity wasn't on my radar, so I decided to go to a school that is not known for its diversity.

Luckily, since there are so few people from the same culture, it forces us to branch out and meet people from different cultures. Even before starting college, at my pre-orientation trip, I talked to Murtaza, the first Muslim I've ever met, who explained to us how he just finished fasting during Ramadan. Over the next few weeks I ate Indian food with Meera and Mithra, chatted about

military differences with Ale from peaceful Costa Rica, and even discussed Israeli-Palestinian relations with Mohammed. For all of these people, diversity wasn't a resume builder; it was why they approach life the way they do.

That begged the question, though, what do I bring to the table? If you look at my skin color, I'm obviously white, yet I am a first-generation immigrant, a Jew, and I have learned to fully appreciate diversity. Out of all these traits, the first one is what makes me technically "diverse," but the last one, my appreciation, is what I believe truly makes me diverse. The most important part about having diversity on a campus, is having open-mindedness as well. During a birthday party one year, my friend pointed out that no one around the table was white. I reminded them that I was there, and she said, "Well, you're Jewish." I realized that that was not what made my friends consider me diverse. It is that I bring something new to the table with my own background and culture, just as everyone else can. To me, diversity isn't a skin color; it's a state of mind. It is your individual, independent, background that you are willing to share with others.

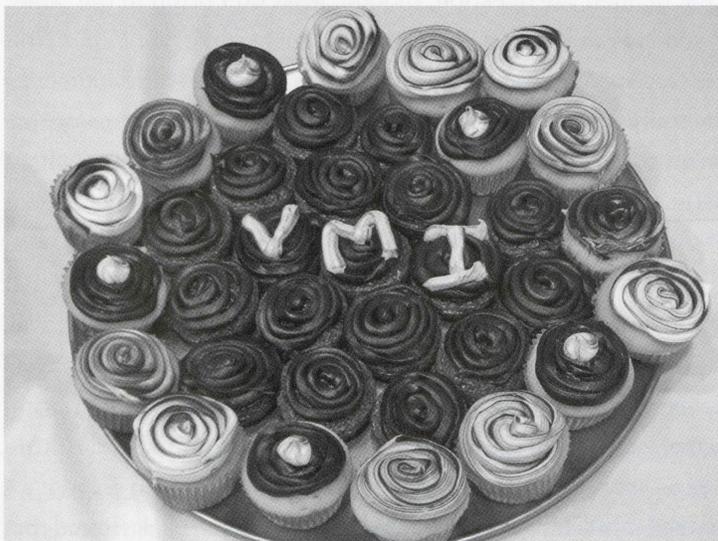


Samuel Green '19 enjoys a visit from his family. Photo credit: Megan McLean

VMI PARENTS WEEKEND

by Stephen Reibach VMI '18

On October 16th, while W&L students were off for reading days, W&L Hillel was busy hosting Jewish cadets and their families for the Virginia Military Institute's Parents Weekend. The cadets were given the opportunity to show their families how they spend their Friday nights by lighting candles and eating a wonderful Shabbat barbecue dinner together. The families in attendance were able to witness how their cadets remain active in a Jewish community while away at college and deal with the difficult time constraints that the rigorous military lifestyle VMI provides for its students. The dinner was amazing and Megan McLean and the W&L Hillel Student Board Members in attendance did a wonderful job of making the cadets' families feel welcome and at home. The dinner was a resounding success and did a wonderful job of showing the families just how important Hillel has been in providing cadets with a place where they can feel at home and comfortable while actively embracing their Jewish cultural and religious identity.



The W&L Hillel student board made special cupcakes to welcome our special guests! Photo credit: Madeleine Boireau



Instructors Hailey Glick '19, Jordan Goldstein '18, and Laura Wiseman '16 say Hamotzi with Ruthie and Dylan. The beautiful challot, as well as the challah covers, were made by the kids. Photo credit: Megan McLean

GAN KATAN IN LEXINGTON

by Hailey Glick '19

Gan Katan is bringing students of a different kind into the Washington and Lee Jewish community. Once a month, children ages two to ten gather at Hillel House to make crafts, sing songs and read stories with Washington and Lee students. The goal of the program is to teach the children about their Jewish roots and culture.



Nathan Friend and Florence Beanland color Sukkot-themed pictures during the first Gan Katan. Photo credit: Laura Wiseman

Professor Jemma Levy, whose two children participate in Gan Katan, explained the significance for all involved. Speaking on the benefits to her children, Professor Levy says, "They get very little Jewish cultural education and don't exactly realize that other people, besides their mom, are Jewish. It's good for them to see that there are other kids like them."

Gan Katan certainly benefits the younger participants, but W&L students also reap rewards from the program. As Professor Levy says, "Teaching other people forces you to understand the material better yourself."

More than anything, Gan Katan benefits the Hillel community as a whole. "At Hillel services, you see professors and students, and that's about it. Having this younger generation shows that our community has a future. It strengthens all of us to realize that the community will live on," Professor Levy says.

In the following months and years, Gan Katan hopes to grow in numbers, providing cultural education to the children of the Lexington community, giving them a place of their own in which to explore their history and grow among friends.



Madeleine Boireau '17, Stephen Reibach VMI '18, Rebecca Orsak '18 and Jordan Goldstein '18 bond over dinner. Photo credit: Megan McLean



The Alone Mill Schoolhouse, near Goshen, was our home for the weekend. Photo credit: Megan McLean

W&L HILLEL STUDENT BOARD RETREAT

by Hannah Falchuk '18

Before the school year started, the Hillel Student Executive Board went on a retreat to plan the year's events and outreach and to kick-start a new cultural student organization. We spent the weekend before Orientation Week living together at a house hidden behind Lexington's steep hills and gravel roads, where cell service and technology distractions were nonexistent. Instead, we played badminton and roasted marshmallows in between planning sessions and speaker visits.

All of the members of the board - Maddi Boireau '16, Laura Wiseman '16, Caroline Birdrow '17, Batsheva Honig '17, Keith Denning '18, Hannah Falchuk '18, Jordan Goldstein '18, Shlomo Honig '18, Rebecca Orsak '18, Ron Perets '18, Stephen Reibach VMI '18, Rachel Reibach '18, and Jacob Rosen '18 - gathered with ideas for innovative outreach programs, new holiday celebrations and improved cultural awareness on campus. Some of the ideas from the retreat that have already been put in place are the student-led Torah study that Maya Epelbaum and Batsheva Honig now lead

each Friday before dinner and the Simchat Torah celebration that Ron Perets organized during October.

During the retreat we were able to hear from some speakers in administration. Brooke Hessney, assistant director of admissions, spoke about the prospective student events that would be held this year and asked for our own opinions about how best to connect with students of Jewish faith both in their high schools and while they are visiting. Kelsey Goodwin, assistant director of student activities, also spoke to us about event planning and the resources available to Hillel and its new student organization.

The retreat allowed the Executive Board to collaborate and create new ideas for how to improve Hillel's efforts both on campus and in the community. The work that was done before the school year started has made the transition between holidays and events much smoother and has made it easier to focus on the holidays and gatherings themselves, rather than their preparations.

PARENTS AND FAMILY WEEKEND AT W&L

by Rachel Reibach '18

Parents' Weekend can be a stressful time for students, especially when faced with the challenge of showing family members around campus. The Parents' Weekend Friday night service and Sunday morning bagel brunch were the perfect opportunities to show parents the amazing Hillel community, as well as prove that we do eat food other than pizza here at W&L.



Jordan Goldstein '18 enjoys Shabbat Dinner with her parents, Rich and Suzanne. Photo credit: Megan McLean

Friday night began with a beautiful service led by Jordan Goldstein '18, with lots of student participation. The service was followed by a delicious dinner catered by the Southern Inn - fish, spinach, and wild rice (my personal favorite). While Shabbat

dinners are always great, we really stepped it up for our families and showed that we know how to make Shabbat special here in Lexington.

After a relaxing Saturday, Hillel put on a Sunday morning bagel brunch, featuring cream cheese, lox and all other bagel essentials. Most parents were preparing to get back on the road on Sunday, so the brunch provided a great way to end the weekend with some final family bonding. Overall, it was a great weekend, and it was

great to have so many parents and family members in town, sharing in our love of DUBYAHNELL!

Summer Camp



A NEW ADVENTURE AND A NEW HOME

by Jordan Goldstein '18

This summer, I was lucky to have the opportunity to work as a music specialist at URJ Camp Harlam, a reform Jewish summer camp in Kunkletown, Pennsylvania. Similar to what I do here for W&L Hillel, I led Shabbat services for the community, but I also found myself in a variety of other leadership situations: teaching guitar lessons, playing songs around campfires, calming a bunch of 12-year-old girls in the middle of a storm, and even steering a boat while whitewater rafting. Being a music specialist evolved into something much larger than my specialty — while I was helping kids of all ages find themselves and their Jewish identities, I found more of myself too.



Many studies suggest that one of the best ways to check that you fully understand a concept is to teach it to someone else. While teaching all of Camp Harlam about Judaism and music, my passions for both were renewed, and I learned a bit more about each as well. Who knew that we cover the challah on Shabbat because, in order to say Hamotzi, we have to pretend that we didn't already say Kiddush? Even as a staff member, I had my own opportunities to have Torah study and learn from Jewish professionals about possible future careers. Now I'm more excited than ever to bring back new melodies, insight and energy for all of our First Fridays — and I have plenty of new repertoire for Gan Katan, too.

Pictures: top, The Camp Harlam songleading team with popular Jewish songleader and songwriter Alan Goodis; bottom, staff and campers of Kineret Girls 1, session 1 (my first cabin ever at Camp Harlam)



Keith and his bunk.

MY SUMMER AT COLEMAN

by Keith Denning '18

Last summer, I was placed in charge of two groups of ten rambunctious thirteen-year-olds in the middle of rural Cleveland, Georgia. I had the awesome opportunity to be a camp counselor at URJ Camp Coleman. Located near the Appalachian Mountains, Camp Coleman is a Jewish sleep-away camp for 3rd to 10th graders. For both three and a half week sessions, I was a cabin counselor for Nachshonim (rising 8th graders). In my bunk, I also had a co-counselor Ian, two Machon (counselors in training), and ten energetic campers. My main job was to watch over them throughout the day and make sure they went to bed at a “reasonable” hour. (I usually resorted to telling them funny stories instead.) During the day, we did tons of fun activities with the campers, such as biking, Jewish cooking, rock climbing, playing ultimate Frisbee. I had an awesome experience at Coleman, and I will always look back on the experience with a smile.



THIRTEEN YEARS AND COUNTING

by Rachel Reibach '18

Thirteen years ago, I waved goodbye to my parents at the bus stop and started what became one of the greatest experiences of my life. Sure, it was awkward when my school friends were making plans for the summer and I had to explain that I would be spending seven weeks in the West Virginia wilderness, but it was always worth it.

Emma Kaufmann Camp is a Jewish sleep away camp right off of Cheat Lake in Morgantown, West Virginia, and it is where I became who I am today. I got to eat, drink, swim, climb, horse-back ride, water-ski, sing and pray with what became friends

for life. For me, there was no other place on earth where I could challenge myself every day and grow as a leader and friend. Each summer, I tossed my cell phone in a drawer and headed for the next "best summer ever."

As a child, I was able to find some of my greatest role models through the amazing counselors and staff that took care of me. Each year, some of the best staff members were honored with a captainship for the annual Maccabi Color War, where the camp was split into teams by color to decide some pressing issue. I idolized these staff members and was able to learn what made

a great leader from a very young age.

I had dreamed about being one of these leaders since I was six years old and this past summer my dream came true. I watched little kids look up to me like I had once looked up to my greatest role models. For me, Jewish summer camp was about discovering who I was (away from home) and then having the amazing opportunity to have an effect on the next generation of kids. I would not be who I am today without my time at camp, and I would not trade my experience for anything.



Top: Rachel and her friends in 2008!

Bottom: Maccabi Color War Captains 2015

☪ 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 depend 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 (2014-2015)

With heartfelt thanks to those Hillel supporters who made gifts or pledges during the 2014-2015 campaign (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015).

SUSTAINERS OF W&L HILLEL, RECOGNIZING THOSE WITH GIFTS OF \$1000 OR MORE:

ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND PARENTS

Anonymous
 Irwin Berman '58
 Myrna & John Blume '54 '56L
 Paula & Daniel Dreyfuss P '13L
 Faith Rubenstein & Mark Eaker '69
 Liz & Dan Einstein '83
 Arlie & Steve Friedlander '59
 Annette & Dan Gordon P '92
 Eva & Mark Horn P '08
 Dale & Dave Hyman '64
 Helane & Warner Isaacs '57
 Jackie & Ron Kaminer P '18
 Mimi & Kopie Kopald '43 P '78L
 Lynne & Buddy Kullman '58
 Joy & Mike Levin '64
 Ed Levy '59
 Mary Lynn & Steve Marks '59
 Shelley Mendell
 Stan Mitchell '43
 Stacey & Andy Reibach '87 P '18
 Michelle & Howard Rosenbloom '61
 Laurie Bassi & Herb Rubenstein '74
 Jim Sagner '62
 Toni & Steve Sandler '70
 Ellen & Max Shapira '65 P '96
 Louise & Jerry Sklar '59
 ☆ Charlie Thalhimer '41, z"l
 Jon Weigle '74
 Jackie & Dave Wolf '51

Organizations & Foundations

Ben and Esther Rosenbloom
 Foundation, Inc.
 Jewish Foundation of Memphis
 The Marks Charitable Foundation
 Meyer and Ida Gordon
 Foundation No. 2
 Morgan Stanley Foundation
 Steve and Toni Sandler
 Foundation, Inc.
 Temple Israel
 Jewish Community Federation
 of Richmond
 Jewish Communal Fund

☆ denotes deceased

ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND PARENTS

Roberta & Lewis Aaronson
 Stacey Aaronson P '17
 Rachel Ostry & Ed Adler '79
 Wendy & Larry Anker '86 P '19
 Ruth & Scott Apter '69 P '94
 Helene Baker
 Mary & Stu Barr P '16
 Gail & Joel Bernstein '57
 Madeleine Boireau '17
 Joan & Bruce Brenner
 Carol & Fred Brimberg '79
 Leslie & Sol Brotman '77
 Karen & Paul Brower '68
 Nancy Yanofsky & Ed Brown '62
 Shep Buckman '99
 Beatrice Kertesz & Rick Burpee P '08
 Chuck Cahn '70
 Jay Caplan '64
 Sharon & Irv Caplan '58
 Joy & Ari Cartun P '13
 Nelle & John Cohen P '17
 Estie & Nick Cohen '64 P '95
 Leslie & Craig Coller '76
 Betsy & Erik Cooper '88
 Annette & Dick Coplan '64
 Angela Cordovez
 Joan Robins & Malcolm Cothran
 Tracy & Dave De Jong '75L
 Bonnie Bernstein & Hank Dobin
 Barbara & George Dover '68
 Barbara & Mike Dubin '56
 Patricia Schirmer & Scott Dubit P '17
 Diane & Steve Ehudin '57
 Mary & Bruce Engel P '13
 Lizzie Engel '13
 Lauren Becker & Greg Epelbaum P '16
 Jeff Epstein P '17
 Kitty & Jim Farrar '74 P '11
 Seth Feibelman '08
 JoAnne & Stuart Finestone '67
 Phyllis & Alan Fink P '04
 Fay & Stan Fink '64L
 Gini & Henry Fleishman '70
 Marcia France
 Becky & Tony Frank '59
 Julie & Brian Ginsburg '81

Jan Kaufman & Art Goldsmith
 Suzanne & Rich Goldstein P '18
 Helene Rosenberg & Lloyd
 Goodman '72
 Eydie & Barry Greene '64 P '94L
 Brian Greene '94L
 Sally & Mark Grunewald
 Enid & Don Hillman '46
 Rochelle & Victor Horadam P '13
 Andrea & Bruce Hyatt '74
 Daphne Raz & Philip Hyre
 Mary & Bill Jacobs '71 P '02
 Rachel Zloczover Jones '94
 & Robert Jones
 Carmen & Rich Kampf '71 P '07
 Leslie & David Kantor '73
 Susan & Alan Kaplan '51
 Gail & Lee Katz '69
 Gail Kaufmann
 Fran MacDonnell & Suzanne Keen
 Ron Kessler '69
 Cindy & John Klinedinst '71 '78L
 Anne & Eddie Kramer '81
 Roberta Alpert & Sam Kuckley P '10
 Barbara & John Lankalis P '13
 Vivian & Mel Lapes '65
 Lynn & Ron Laupheimer '66
 Ian Leavy '97
 Natasha Lerner '13
 Gail & B.J. Levin '68
 Sarah & Dave Levinson '00
 Jemma Levy
 Stacey & Lew Lewis '83 P '10
 Carole & Steve Lichtenstein '53
 Leslie & Rick Marcus '51
 Heather & Hardin Marion '55 '58L
 Harvey Markowitz
 Walapa & Richard Marks
 Leona & Alan Marx '65
 Donna & Michael Masinter '58 '61L
 Lee & Bob Maslansky '52
 Barbara & Sandy Maslansky '56
 Megan McLean
 Carol & Bruce Meyers '70
 Cindy & Mark Miller
 Dedi & Julian Mohr '52
 Ellen & Jim Myerberg P '00

Elissa & Gary Okin '74
 Frankie & Ed Ostroff '63
 Jim Paradies '51
 Bruce & Wendy Pearlman
 Francine & Jerry Perlman '69
 Mark Peterson '78
 Barbara & Phil Phillips '51
 Carol & Kerry Reynolds '62
 Faye & Scott Rickoff '73
 Barbara Riff
 Maureen & Doug Robins '65
 Nancy Wolf & Jacob Rosengarten P '18
 Linda & Norton Rosensweig
 Dorothy & Jerry Sacks '40
 Anne & Harvey Savitt '68L
 Susan & Mark Schapiro P '08
 Ellie & Mark Schaul '53
 Jonathan Schwab
 Gloria Sender
 Selma & Jules Shaivitz '50
 Kristin Lawrence Shapira '96
 & Andy Shapira '96
 Elyse & David Shaw P '13
 Arthur Sher '65
 Graham Sheridan '11
 Mira & Dane Shralow '68
 Pat & Bob Silverman '73
 Deborah & Merv Silverman '60
 Suzanne & Egon Singerman P '17
 Linda & Ron Sklar '70
 Betsy & Steve Sklar P '18
 Susan & Howard Sklaroff '77
 Leslie Smith '90L & Marilyn Fausto
 Dana & Philip Smith P '15
 Laura & David Solomon P '16
 Francie Cohen Spahn '95
 & Jared Spahn '95
 Edie & Firth Spiegel '61
 Kathleen & Edward Stein '80L P '17
 Linda & Lane Steinger '68
 Helen & Steve Sweitzer '66
 Betty Taylor P '80 '90
 Mina & Jerry Tepper
 Rebecca & Mark Thomas
 Cheryl Alpert-Timko &
 Tom Timko P '17
 Chason Timko '17
 Anita & Charlie Tamm '68 '75L P '13
 Arnold Vedlitz '68
 Karla & Scott Wachenheim
 Joan & Sol Wachtler '51 '52L
 Beatrice Kertesz & Rick Burpee P '08
 Cary Ward
 Marc Weinberg
 Bunny & Paul Weinstein '55
 Vicki & Eric White '74 P '10
 Eric & Sarah Wilson
 Ellen Winston
 Helene & Max Wisotsky

Dick Wolf '60
 Elisabeth Guthrie & Stanley
 Yankelowitz P '15
 John Zamoiski '74

Organizations & Foundations
 Virginia Military Institute
 National Philanthropic Trust
 Vanguard Charitable
 Endowment Program
 Lynchburg Jewish Community Council
 The Zevnik Charitable Foundation
 Coddon Family Foundation
 Avi Schaefer Fund
 Hillel: The Foundation for
 Jewish Campus Life
 Leslie R. Smith, Inc.
 The Greene Company
 Coplan Art Connection, Inc.
 Full Circle Catering
 Jewish Causes of Choice, Inc.

Program Sponsors:

Parents & Family Weekend
 Stacey & Andy Reibach '87 P '18
 Eric White and John Zamoiski '74

High Holidays

The Children of Steven
 "Bushman" Sandler
 The Schewel Fund

Hebrew Class

Anonymous
 Center for International Education

Lipstadt Lecture

The Horn Family
 W&L Department of History
 The German Law Journal
 JLSA (Jewish Law Student
 Association) of Washington and Lee

Avi Shabbat

The Avi Schaefer Foundation

AIPAC trip

Joy & Michael Levin '64
 AIPAC

Finals Study Breaks

Daniel & Paula Dreyfus P '13L

Passover Seder

Scott Apter '69 in memory
 of Steve Tabakin

Tu B'Shevat

W&L Office of Sustainability
 Full Circle Catering

*To sponsor a program for the 2015-2016
 academic year, please contact Megan
 McLean, Director of Hillel.*

IN MEMORY OF

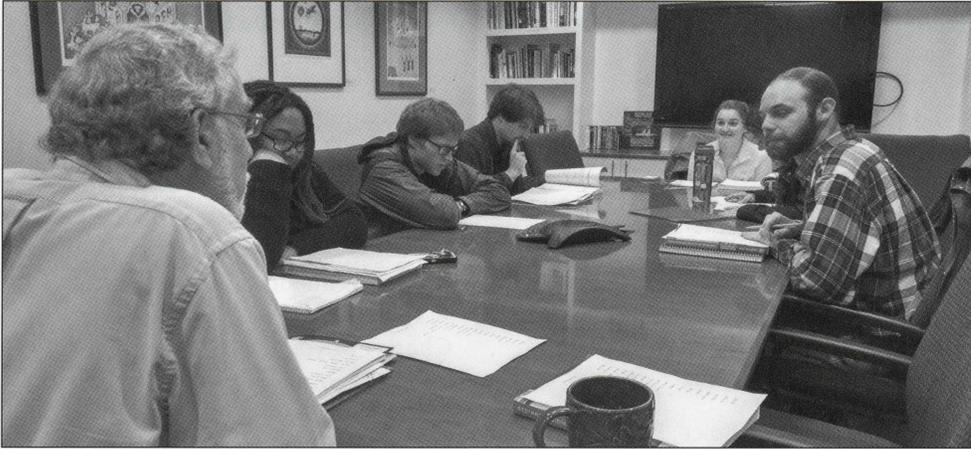
Jim Farrar '49
 Kitty & Jim Farrar '74 P '11
 Al Fleishman '41
 Gini & Henry Fleishman '70
 Curly Greenebaum '56 '58L
 Heather & Hardin Marion '55 '58L
 Mary Lynn & Steve Marks '59
 Brackett Priddy '00
 Ellen & Jim Myerberg P '00
 Don Sigmund '59
 Angela Cordovez
 Gail Kaufmann
 Mary Lynn & Steve Marks '59
 Louise & Jerry Sklar '59
 Ellen Winston
 The Zevnik Charitable Foundation
 Charley Snyder '99
 Ellen & Jim Myerberg P '00
 Charlie Thalhimier '41
 Wendy & Bruce Pearlman
 Barbara Riff
 Marc Weinberg
 Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish
 Campus Life

IN HONOR OF

Madeleine Boireau '17
 Roberta & Lewis Aaronson
 Hank Dobin
 Liz & Dan Einstein '83
 Joan Robins
 Liz & Dan Einstein '83
 Heather & Hardin Marion '55 '58L
 Adam Schapiro '08
 Susan & Mark Schapiro P '08
 Bob Shapiro '64
 Estie & Nick Cohen '64 P '95
 Stephen Snead
 Arlie & Steve Friedlander '59
 Betty Taylor P '80 '90
 Liz & Dan Einstein '83

*No matter how careful we try to be, occa-
 sionally we inadvertently fail to note all of
 our supporters. Please forgive us and let
 us know of any errors or omissions.*

ה' Chai-Lights



BIBLICAL HEBREW CLASS

This year, for the first time ever, Washington and Lee offered Hebrew courses for credit. Professor Richard Marks developed and taught Beginning Biblical Hebrew to eight eager students in the Hillel Conference Room. The group gathered every Tuesday evening from 8-9 p.m. to practice reading and translating ancient Hebrew texts. Students who didn't know the Alef-Bet in September are now reading and understanding passages from the Torah.



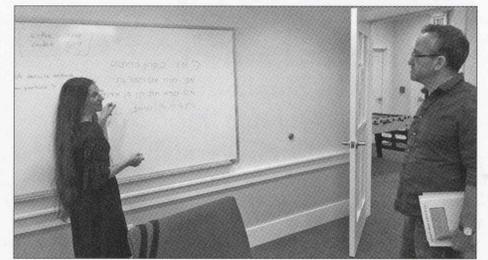
JEWCY DETAILS

Maya Epelbaum '16 started a small group this year so that students could get together once a week and talk about how Judaism plays a role in their lives while they're here at W&L. When the weather was warm, the group met in the beautiful Rain Garden outside of Hillel House. They also enjoyed some strange but delicious snacks from Israel - Bamba and Bissli!



CHALLAHWEEN!

Laura Wiseman '16 and Annie Persons '15 hand out candy during Mainstreet Lexington's Trick-or-Treat the Friday before Halloween. W&L Hillel teamed up with the Shepherd Poverty program to provide fun activities in front of the Hillel House, a prime downtown location in the heart of the city.



MODERN HEBREW CLASS

Our exceptional instructor, Dafi Agam-Segal continues to teach Modern Hebrew at W&L Hillel, this year offering a more advanced course for students, staff and faculty. The group meets for an hour every week in the Hillel House Conference room to practice reading and speaking. We are able to provide this opportunity to the community because of the generosity of our donors and the International Education Program at Washington and Lee.

YOUNG ALUMNI WEEKEND



Left: Our past President, Benjamin Brams '15 (center), reconnects with old friends (Jordan Goldstein '18, Rachel Reibach '18, Madeleine Boireau '17 and Stephen Reibach VMI '18) at our special Shabbat Dinner during Young Alumni Weekend.

Right: Three years of W&L Hillel Student Presidents. Samantha Rosier 2013-14, Benjamin Brams 2014-15 and Madeleine Boireau 2015-16. Ben always wanted us to bring a camel to campus - so we made his dreams come true this Young Alumni Weekend.



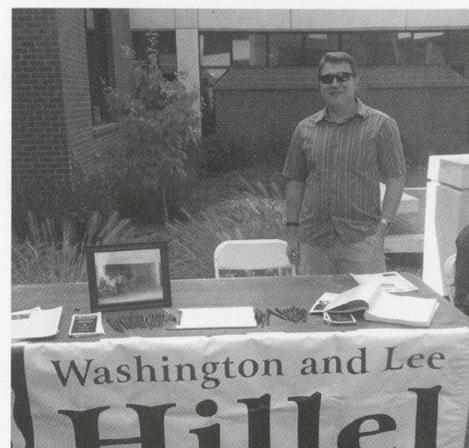


STUDENT ACTIVITIES FAIR

Laura Wiseman '16, Ron Perets '18, Caroline Birdrow '16 and Jordan Goldstein '18 created an eye-catching display of our most popular tchotchke to hand out during the Student Activities Fair on Cannan Green during O-Week.

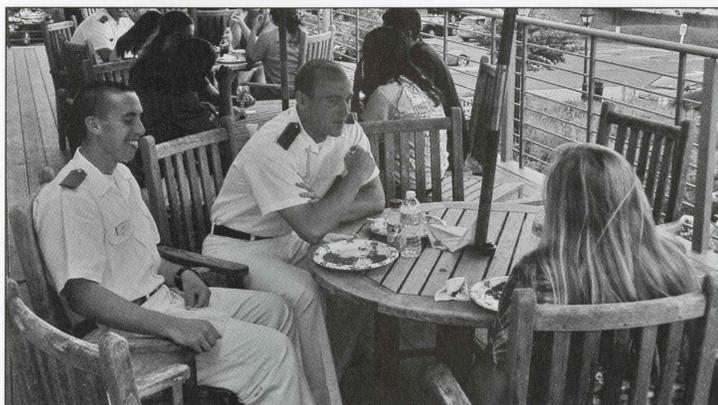
RELIGIOUS LIFE FAIR

Jacob Rosen '18 and Shlomo Honig '18 talk to a new student about W&L Hillel during the Religious Life Fair on Cannan Green. Our display this year featured two Jewish ritual objects, a shofar and a menorah, 3-D printed by our recent graduate Haley McClellan '15.



LAW SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FAIR

Robert "Ilya" Etin '16L represents W&L Hillel and JLSA (Jewish Law Student Association) at the Law School Activities Fair outside of Sydney Lewis Hall.



FIRST SHABBAT

Our first Shabbat of the 2015-2016 Academic Year was a resounding success – with close to 100 students in attendance! We served a delicious buffet of all of our favorites from Salerno – penne vodka, eggplant parmesan, garlic bread and more! We shared this special Shabbat meal with students from across campus (undergraduate and law) as well as cadets and rats from VMI. Our Shabbat Chair, Jordan Goldstein '18, led the group in our Shabbat blessings before we ate. There were too many students to fit in the E. Café that night, but fortunately the weather was perfect for eating dinner on the much-loved Hillel House patio.

MULTICULTURAL FLY-IN PROGRAM

The Admissions Office at W&L, committed to building a diverse student body for Washington and Lee, grew their Multicultural Fly-In Program this year to include prospective students from many different backgrounds – including six Jewish high school seniors from across the United States. Of the 51 students who came for the weekend, almost all of them chose to attend Shabbat Dinner

at Hillel House over their other Friday night dinner options. We were thrilled to meet these remarkable young people, show them our House, and share with them the blessings and joy of Shabbat. Most of them were completely unfamiliar with Shabbat and were excited to learn from our students! We hope to see many of our new friends back here next year as first-year students at W&L.



☆ *The Star* ☆

Washington and Lee University
204 W. Washington St.
Lexington, VA 24450

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Washington and
Lee University

