

# The Star

## W&L WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF JEWISH LIFE



*Maggie Shapiro Haskett poses for her official picture on the Colonnade.*

After a lengthy search, Washington and Lee University is happy to announce the hiring of Maggie Shapiro Haskett as the new director of Jewish life. Maggie currently lives and works in Danville, Kentucky, where she serves as the education director at an arts non-profit.

Maggie lived in Lexington from 2009 to 2011, when her husband, now a professor at Centre College in Danville, taught in W&L's Religion Department.

Her earlier stint in Lexington made her excited to apply for the director of Jewish life position.

Reflecting on her time in Lexington during a recent campus visit, she said, "I got to know the community then, and I was terribly excited at the chance to come back here and take on a leadership role in the Jewish community at Washington and Lee University."

Since leaving Lexington, Maggie has lived in Utah and Danville. She also lived for a year in India. Lexington, though, has remained an important town for her.

"I really love the history of the town. I love how close-knit it is and how easy it is to get involved with neighbors and other people," she said.

Her love of Lexington informs some of her vision for W&L Hillel. "I hope to see Hillel become a force within the larger community for *tikkun olam*, for service and good works, and for outreach into the broader Rockbridge community, and also as a resource for Rockbridge's small but mighty Jewish community."

First and foremost, Maggie is excited to work with the students. Establishing Hillel as a Jewish student's home away

from home, she says, resonates with her and serves as the backbone of her mission in the new position.

Meeting students has only increased Maggie's enthusiasm for the job. Speaking of the students, she said, "their passion for their Jewish engagement and their Jewish life is really remarkable, as is their ability to go from a serious, intellectual conversation to just goofing around and being ridiculous. They're genuinely fun to hang out with."

Students have weighed in on Maggie. Said Hailey Glick '19, student board member, "I think Maggie is going to bring a lot to the table. She's got a great motherly energy about her, but she also give you that 'cool hip aunt' kind of feel." Glick added that she thinks Maggie will be a great professional and personal resource for current and prospective students, and community members.

"I think she'll be a great liaison for parents of prospective students, seeing as she has raised Jewish kids here. She'll also be an excellent resource for the community members since she really knows what it's like to be Jewish in Lexington."

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## 2016-2017 HILLEL STUDENT OFFICERS:

Madeleine Boireau '17, *President*

Shlomo Honig '18, *Vice President*

Keith Denning '18, *Treasurer*

Alex Meilech '18, *Engagement Chair*

Hailey Glick '19, *Social Action Chair*

Rachel Reibach '18, *Shabbat Chair*

Isaac Rosenthal '19, *Holidays Chair*

Max Louman '19, *Speakers Chair*

Lee Bernstein '20,

*Communications Chair*

Zack Dubit '17, *Israel Chair*

Jordan Goldstein '18, *Star Editor*

David Pody '17 VMI, *VMI Chair*

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Tamara Futrell, *Ex-officio*

## FELLOW'S CORNER

During the 2016-17 academic year and 5777 Hebrew year, W&L Hillel celebrated the holidays, threw some great events, and created a welcoming and inclusive environment.

A month into the school year, we came together as a community - undergraduate and law students, W&L faculty and staff, VMI cadets, and residents of Rockbridge County - to observe Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Student Rabbi Stephanie Crawley of Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in New York led our services, just as she had two years earlier. Her sermons and singing touched the community, and made our holy days especially delightful. She even gave a blessing over the food at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's Parents' Weekend Dinner! Our wonderful holiday season continued with Sukkot, as sunshine and warm weather made our sukkah a popular spot for lunch, s'mores, and stargazing.

We welcomed many new people to our Jewish community, including new students from W&L and VMI, new members of the Hillel Advisory Board, and new Jewish professors. Parents' Weekend at W&L connected us with many families, and Alumni Weekend gave us an opportunity to see old friends.

We continue to host Shabbat dinners every week, but with an added emphasis on cooking ourselves. On Friday afternoons, members of Hillel gather in the Hillel House kitchen to prepare our meals for that evening. Students sit and chat, and it has become a great time for us to come together even before Shabbat and catch up with each other. We have also hosted monthly Shabbat celebrations with the community in which we have a short service led by our own Jordan Goldstein '18! Community Shabbats allow us to come together with the Jewish community of Rockbridge, which helps strengthen Jewish life for both the county and the university.

We also enjoyed several fun Shabbat dinners at the home of Prof. Jeffrey Schatten, a new professor of business administration. He and his wife graciously (and bravely) welcomed 15 W&L and VMI students into their house. They also have a beautiful baby daughter who is a huge hit with our students!

Shabbat is not the only thing we do. We have also co-sponsored events with Student Activities, engaged in charitable activities to help schoolchildren in Rockbridge County, hosted highly successful study breaks during finals weeks, and became more involved with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. We also hosted Cpt. Alex Keisch, a Holocaust refugee, to share his experiences in honor of Yom HaShoah. Our Hillel, though small, still manages to put on one or two events every week.

The Hillel Student board works tirelessly to plan and execute our programs. They seize the initiative and do everything with a smile. Though a lot of hard work goes into every event, we always have plenty of fun. We come together, making our tasks easier to complete, and a good collective sense of humor really makes the time fly!

Beyond our outstanding student leaders, we owe much of our success to our generous donors. We rely on our alumni, parents, and community members to help support our financial needs, allowing us to bring in our rabbi for high holy days, organize events with great speakers, and enjoy time together with

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Members of the university and the Jewish community of Rockbridge have already expressed their delight in Maggie's arrival.

"W&L Hillel is very fortunate to have Maggie Haskett joining us as Director," said Prof. Simon Levy, chair of the Hillel Advisory Board "In addition to a wealth of experience in campus and community organizations in other parts of the country, Maggie is already familiar with the Jewish community of W&L and Lexington as an active participant. We are delighted to see her returning to us in a leadership role."

In addition to her roles within W&L Hillel, Maggie will be a part of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's efforts to promote diversity on campus. The head of that office, Dean Tamara Futrell, expects Maggie to serve as a vital member of the university's campus ministry team.

Futrell also remarked on the timeliness of Maggie's hiring, as she comes to the university during a time of strategic planning. "I think that she will be instrumental in helping us take a critical look at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the needs

for the university in terms of diversity issues and issues of social justice."

Still, Futrell is most excited about working with Maggie to take W&L Hillel and Jewish life on campus to the next level.



*Maggie Haskett, incoming director of Jewish life, shares a laugh with Jewish Life Fellow Joe Yankelowitz.*

Hillel student president Maddi Boireau '17, who has dedicated herself to developing a thriving Jewish life on campus, feels safe knowing she can entrust W&L Hillel, which she has served for three years as an executive board member, to Maggie. Maggie's hiring, said Boireau, helps relieve the "anxiety" of graduating.

Maggie will officially begin working at Washington and Lee in the middle of July, when she will jump headlong into preparations for the arrival of new Jewish students and the High Holidays. Until then, the Jewish community will wait expectantly for the new director to start her tenure.

Yet, for Maddi Boireau, the thought of Maggie's arrival remains bittersweet. "Every time we speak I become more and more excited about the fresh perspective she will bring to the organization and it saddens me that I will not be here to see it. She is already devoted to the student body, and the community could not be more lucky to have her."

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Madeleine Boireau '17

Saying we hit the ground running this year is an understatement. I went into the school year thinking we wouldn't have any form of Hillel director, and the thought was absolutely terrifying. I spent all summer planning our 2nd annual board retreat, speaking with Rabbi Stephanie about the High Holidays, and working with Dean Tammy Futrell, Dean Marcia France, and folks from VMI to coordinate Rat Sunday. It was absolutely overwhelming.

Then, the week before school started, I answered a phone call from Dean Tammy, who asked, "How do you think Joe would do as Hillel Director?" I was initially surprised. Joe Yankelowitz, known around town as Joe Yank, is a 2015 W&L graduate. I remember him from my sophomore year, always joking around about being interim Hillel Director. My response to Dean Futrell was, "Well, he would finally be able to live his dream." A few days later, I was in Charlottesville picking him up from the train station.

I could not have been happier to have someone back in that office. Joe, Student Affairs, the Hillel Board, and I have worked

incredibly well as a team. We put together some of the most meaningful holiday services I have been to during my time at Washington and Lee. We have put together VIP dinners, events for Sukkot, and extremely popular Shabbat services and dinners.

During Winter Term, we continued to have weekly Shabbat dinners, but we looked for ways to spice them up a bit. Hillel teamed up with the African Society and the Latino Student Organization to plan themed Shabbat dinners. We introduced the Jewish community to different food and cultures. Additionally, we have been invited to another dinner at Professor Jeff Schatten's home. He, his wife, and their lovely daughter first opened their home to us during Fall Term - it was such a hit and we're so happy we were invited back! Other events this year included Purim, the infamous Latke-Hamentashen debate, and Tu B'shvat. I have been incredibly thankful for the wonderful board we have this year and I can't wait to see what next year has in store for Washington and Lee Hillel!

food and cheer. Thank you all for your support of Washington and Lee Hillel – financial, spiritual or otherwise. We welcome your involvement and encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and sign up for our email distribution list. And, of course, please visit us if you find yourself in Lexington!

I am so proud of all Hillel has done over the past year, and I hope you enjoy the articles in this edition of the Star. Take a look at what our students have been doing and their take on Jewish life in Lexington. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments about Washington and Lee Hillel, and get ready to welcome Maggie as the new director of Jewish life in July.

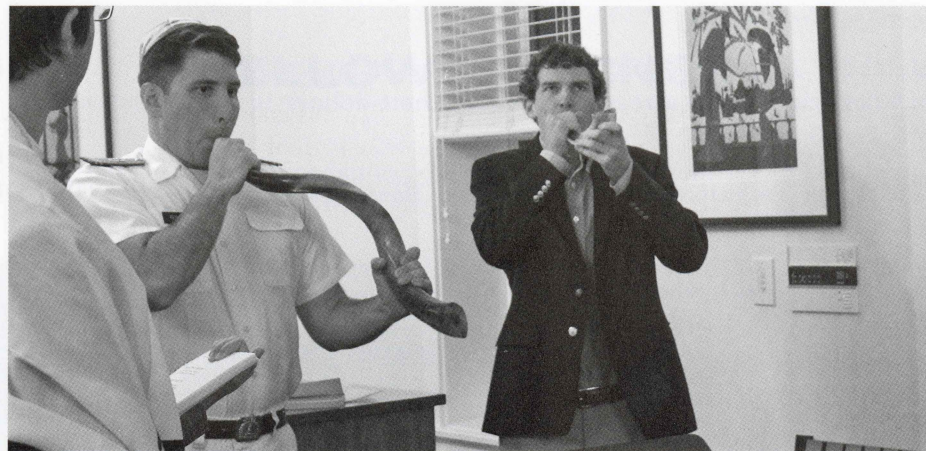
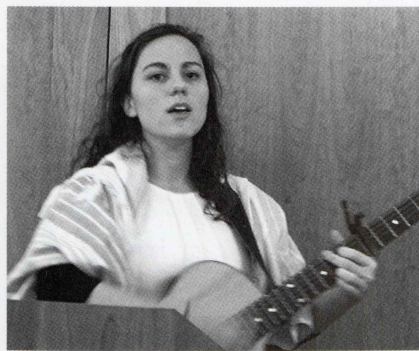
Many thanks,

Joe Yankelowitz  
*Jewish Life Fellow*

## ROSH HASHANA

by Rachel Reibach '18

Rosh Hashana is always an awesome way to get the year started. After a hectic beginning to the semester, everyone is able to come together to celebrate the New Year. Back by popular demand, Rabbi Stephanie led us in some amazing services that combined many different traditions, stories and songs to help us celebrate the holiday. She was a great resource throughout the holiday season. As always there was awesome food and awesome people. We were glad to be able to welcome the first years and community members into our special Hillel community!



Zack Dubit '17 blows the shofar alongside Stephen Reibach VMI '18

## HILLEL AND THE LEXINGTON COMMUNITY

by Zack Dubit '17

The sound of the shofar can be heard during High Holidays at almost every college campus in America – or throughout much of the world, for that matter. At Washington and Lee's Hillel, the shofar sounds to students and community members alike. Local people, including woodworkers, homemakers, doctors, lawyers and shopkeepers, rely on W&L's Hillel for prayers and services. I have been fortunate enough to be both on the community side and the student side of Hillel.

As a senior at Washington and Lee, and as a current board member of Hillel, I cherish my long past association as a community member attending Hillel services. I am a native of Rockbridge County and have been attending Hillel services long before there was a Hillel house. These services, at one time, were held in W&L's Alumni House. I have fond memories of searching for the afikoman during the annual community Passover Seder, and I recall rushing into Shabbat services after middle and high school soccer games. With the closest synagogue an hour away, my family and I turned to W&L's Hillel to be the epicenter of our faith-based practice. Hillel has always been welcoming to its local patrons, and it relies on community support and involvement.

While a number of events at Hillel are designed for students, there are regular services that welcome Jews from Lexington and the surrounding area.

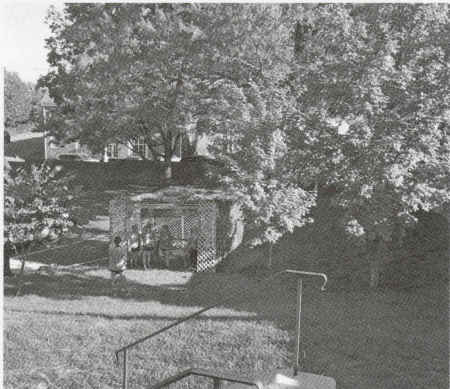
Once a month, Hillel hosts a Community Shabbat, with a potluck meal following a student-led service. During Rosh Hashanah, it is not uncommon to find Hillel serving homemade round challah baked by a local community member. My childhood High Holidays and Passover services all took place at Hillel, and I still love seeing the local families pile in to hear the shofar's blast.

Before I started college I remember helping build the sukkah for Sukkot. The construction effort is spearheaded by a local organic farmer who donates hours of his time, as well as his expertise with a cordless drill, to help Hillel. As a result, both students and community members can enjoy eating lunch in the sukkah, and its construction allows students to celebrate the ever popular S'mores, Stars, and Sukkot – with kosher marshmallows, of course.

My identity as a Jew has largely been shaped by my experiences at Washington and Lee. It was at Hillel services that I learned my prayers and chants. I even took Hebrew lessons during middle school from a W&L student from Israel.

Washington and Lee's Hillel and the local Jewish community have more than just a synergistic relationship. In many ways, they are one and the same thing. Participating in Hillel services at Washington and Lee means more than just being part of a Jewish organization; it means that you are a member of the community.





## SUKKAH GOES UP WITHOUT A HITCH

by Max Louman '19

Our Sukkot began with a perfect day to erect our sukkah, as it was warm and sunny outside. We also built the sukkah in a timely manner, with great team work with the rest of our volunteers. Yet again this year, we were under the guidance of Mitch Wapner, who helped us build the perfect sukkah.

We started off by transporting the building materials to the building site and setting them up for construction. This was different from last year, when we had to go to the Hillel basement to retrieve the materials. After that, we had to retrieve the rest of our supplies, including nails and power drills. Then, we could finally start building the sukkah.

One of the drills was battery-powered while the other had to be plugged in, so we had to go to the front of the building with the world's longest extension cord to find a socket.

We also had some young children volunteer as they helped create our decorations. They helped make paper chains and some finger paintings. After assembling the actual sukkah, we put up the roofing with some sap-covered branches and hung up the decorations. Lastly, we put in the chairs and table. After everything was set, we all gathered in the sukkah and commemorated the event with some pictures. This was yet another successful year.

Top-left: Amber Cooper '12 of admissions smiles during lunch in the sukkah.

Top-middle: Students and staff enjoying lunch in the sukkah.

Top-right: Shlomo Honig '18 gets ready to say blessings during Sukkot.

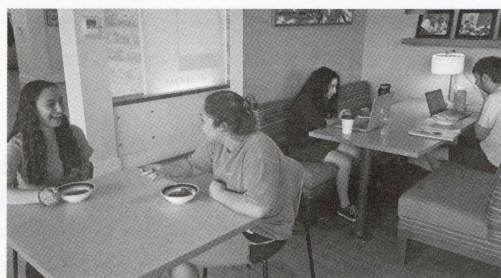
Left: Students pose in front of the sukkah after building it.

## WHY I BECAME INVOLVED IN HILLEL

by Lee Bernstein '20

While growing up, being Jewish was always a large part of my life, from going to Hebrew School weekly to celebrating holidays with my family. When I left for college I had no idea how much Judaism would play a role in my life. I knew that I would attend major events at Hillel, but at a small school where there is so much to get involved in, would I really be there every week?

During my first week at school I went to Shabbat dinner to see what Hillel was like. From the moment I walked in I was welcomed by everyone there. All the returning students could have focused on the friends that they had not seen during the summer and ignored me, but instead everyone introduced themselves and actually wanted to get to know me. When I returned the following week I was amazed by the fact that everyone



Lee Bernstein '20, far left, sits down with Maddi Boireau '17 while Allie Lefkowitz '20 and Keith Denning '18 study in the Hillel House.

remembered my name and seemed genuinely happy that I came back.

Throughout my first semester here becoming more involved in Hillel has meant becoming involved in one of the kindest and most welcoming groups of people I have known. Not only have I found a Jewish connection on campus but I have also found a community. No matter how stressful my week may be I always know that when I end my week with Hillel it is an opportunity to unwind and relax, even if it is just

for a little while. Being a part of Hillel has offered me so many opportunities, including a leadership role and friendships that I could have never imagined as an incoming first-year student. Becoming a part of Hillel was one of the best decisions I could have made, and I encourage everyone to become more involved in whatever way they can.

## W&L HILLEL ASSUMES LEADERSHIP ROLE ON CAMPUS

by Madeleine Boireau '17

Washington and Lee Hillel recently has been more involved on campus than ever before. From attending monthly Office of Diversity and Inclusion board meetings to participating in a Student Leadership group that meets three times a term, Hillel is off to a great start this academic year. Meeting with these two groups has helped Hillel take part in discussions and any other topics that student find important.

The Student Leadership group has representatives from all over campus: Interfraternity Council, Student Bar Association, Gender Action Group, Friday Underground, Student Association for Black Unity, Nabors Service League, Peer Counselors, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Student Judicial Council, the Executive Committee, PanHellenic Council, Generals Unity, the Women's Law Student Organization, the RA staff, and Hillel. More organizations get added to this list every meeting. These meetings take place over dinner in the Morris House sunroom. It has been an amazing way to facilitate conversations with students that we may not encounter

every day. We've discussed everything from Greek Life to diversity on campus.

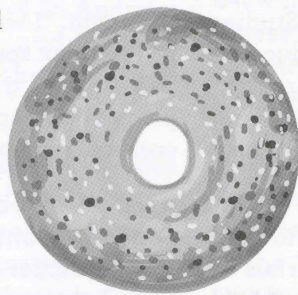
At the first meeting, Hillel had the opportunity to explain to everyone what a Hillel house was on a campus like W&L, events that we put on, and a brief description of the High Holidays. These student leaders then went back to their organizations and educated those students. I believe this has helped immensely to increase understanding on campus about why we close the Hillel house on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as well as why students skip class and why Hillel offers services in general. This has given other organizations a chance to educate, as well. For example, after hearing directly from the Interfraternity Council and PanHellenic, many independent students understand the politics of recruitment and the workings of Greek life.

The Office of Student Affairs put together the first meeting but it has since been taken over by the officers of the Executive Committee. It is another great example of students taking initiative and creating a campus atmosphere we are proud of.

## PARENTS AND FAMILY WEEKEND BAGEL BRUNCH

by Alex Meilech '18

The traditional Parents and Family Weekend bagel brunch took place again this year. Many families came and enjoyed the bagels, as it was the last event on the Parents' and Family Weekend calendar. Generously catered by the E-Café, the brunch was enjoyed by all. Who doesn't love bagels and lox? Tired after an energetic weekend entertaining families, everyone much appreciated the coffee. "I love brunch - it's my favorite meal of the week," said Kaleigh Hinton '18.



The bagel brunch was a nice way for families to get some food and quality time with their students before heading home. Parents especially like to see their students enjoying Hillel - it's like a home away from home. My mom, Laura Meilech, said, "I love seeing students at Hillel. It's like a melding of the two worlds - Jewish life and W&L life." Many families of first years were impressed by the activity and great atmosphere at the brunch, and are excited that their students will have such a great community for their time at Washington and Lee.

## W&L HILLEL HOSTS AVI SHABBAT

by Hailey Glick '19

On Friday January 27, W&L Hillel hosted an evening of discussion on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The event, co-sponsored by the Avi Schaefer Fund, brought students from across campus together to learn about and engage with the conflict from varying points of view.

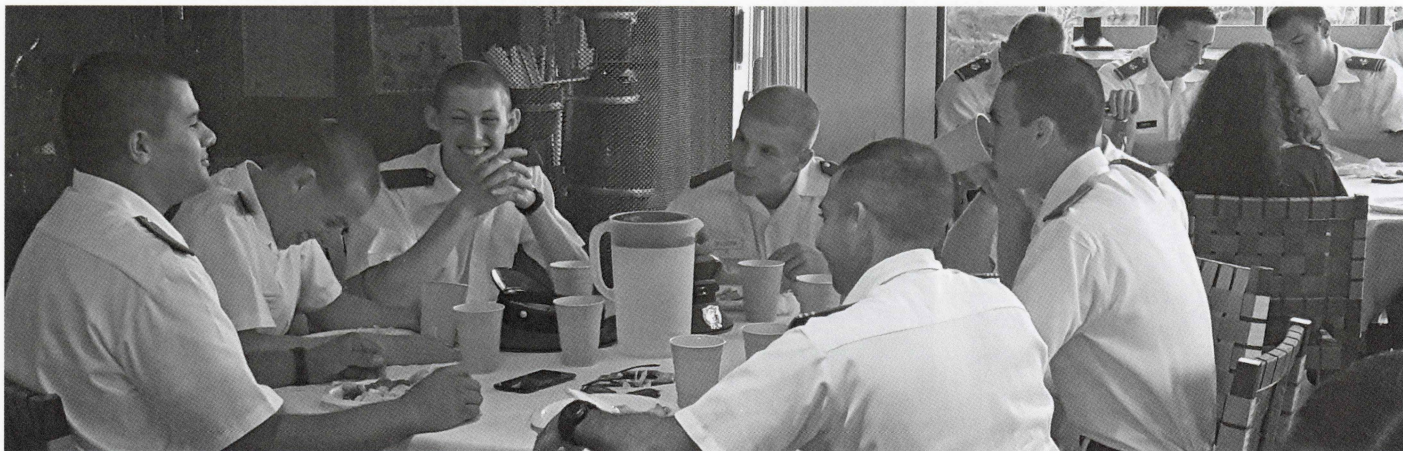
Zack Dubit '17, the Hillel student board Israel Chair, organized the event, which featured roundtable discussions. Leading these conversations were Assistant Professor of Sociology Lynn Chin, Assistant Professor of Politics Seth Cantey, Knight Professor of Media Ethics Aly Colón, Assistant Professor of Business Administration Jeff Schatten, and Associate Professor of French and Acting Head of the Department of Africana Studies Mohamed Kamara, who previously worked as a journalist.

After saying the blessings over the candles, wine and bread, participants made themselves plates of falafel and found a seat. At their tables, professors probed students and community members with questions aimed at sparking debate and reflection on the nature of Israeli-Palestinian relations in the region.

"I feel like I learned a lot," said Alex Meilech '18. "Professor Schatten took a few minutes to give us a historical overview of the conflict, which really helped contextualize the issues."

The Avi Schaefer Fund offers grants for Jewish organizations to host conversations on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a neutral point of view, a vision that informed our event.

"I was very impressed with how many students came ready engage critically with the issues," offered Chris Moore, Residence and Greek Life Coordinator at W&L. "The students were incredibly thoughtful and balanced, and remained respectful and open to varying points of view. I think this was a wonderful event."



VMI cadets enjoy Shabbat dinner at the Hillel House.

## WHAT HILLEL HAS MEANT TO ME

by Zachary Bugalla VMI '17

As I near the end of my time in Lexington, I find myself in a period of reflection. I take a look back at three years of waking up early, physical training sessions, marching parades, and a considerable amount of schoolwork. In addition, I reflect on my experiences at Hillel and how they fit into the rest of my rather unusual college experiences.

Before I matriculated at VMI, I had heard that W&L had a Hillel house and that's where the Jewish cadets attended services. Initially, I didn't realize just how often I would end up attending Hillel. As a freshman, I took every opportunity I

was presented with to get away from VMI for a few hours. Going to Hillel meant a few hours of relaxation, a good meal, and the opportunity to hang out with normal college kids. Needless to say, it was exciting to see girls in civilian clothes for the first time since matriculation. Because of the relaxing atmosphere, every week I would tell myself to make it to Friday night so I could enjoy my time away from VMI.

When I became an upperclassman myself, I continued to attend Hillel on most occasions. At the time, I was really only interested in the food or trying to

find a date. Only now, however, do I see the real reason I kept going back. If I had gone through four years of college and not gone to Hillel, I certainly would have felt that something was missing. I would have missed opportunities to exchange ideas and get to know people who were having different college experiences than myself. I would have missed meeting people with differing views of the world and of Judaism. Without a doubt, I can absolutely say that I made the right choice by choosing to be a part of Hillel. Hillel provided me with a sense of perspective that I couldn't get at VMI, and I am thankful for that.

## TU B'SHVAT: LEARNING AND GIVING BACK

by Hailey Glick '19

Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish "New Year's for trees," fell on a Friday this year, so we combined our celebration of the holiday, co-hosted with the Office of Sustainability, with a Community Shabbat, bringing together students, faculty and community members for an environmental celebration.

Our program began with a presentation by Isaac Rosenthal '19, who shared with us the history of the holiday, highlighting the importance of Tu B'Shvat for the Jewish farmers of ancient times. He brought us through the present day, discussing the meaning and celebration of the holiday today in Israel and elsewhere in the world.

Maddi Boireau '17 then took the stage to present her Environmental Studies capstone research. Boireau educated us about the protracted drought in California, and how the problems and policies surrounding water usage affect agriculture in the state.

"Maddi's presentation brought to light many nuances of the water crisis in California that I did not know," said Jewish Life Fellow Joe Yankelowitz. "I have read about the drought in the news, but it really helped my understanding to have Maddi explain what it all meant. Also, it was great to have Maddi as our main speaker. It's always wonderful when we can showcase the work of our Jewish students."

Boireau had her own takeaway from the event. "I was nervous to share my research, but speaking to the community gave me a great opportunity to practice my capstone presentation and organize my findings."

As part of our programming, we collected donations for Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden, a local community center dedicated to teaching and empowering children to champion environmental responsibility and veneration. Members of Rockbridge County's Jewish community brought donations to Hillel (before sundown, of course!), which were matched by W&L Hillel and the Office of Sustainability. Together, we raised more than \$1,300!





Isaac Rosenthal '19 (front right) poses with friends while studying abroad in St. Andrews, Scotland.

## FROM LEX TO SCOTLAND

by Isaac Rosenthal '19

Studying abroad in Scotland was amazing! The experience was great; I had opportunities to immerse myself in a new culture, tour amazing scenery like the Highlands and Loch Ness, and overall have a really fun time. There were obvious differences between being home in America versus Scotland, but the reasons I am going to remember this semester are the events and the people. The University of St. Andrews was founded in 1413, and because of its extensive age the culture is extremely rich.

A month into the semester there was the long-held tradition of Raisin Sunday, when upperclassmen dress up the small families of lowerclassmen they “adopted” in whatever ridiculous costumes they want. I was a grape, who then went with all my fellow underclassmen to a field for a giant foam fight. Everyone was covered head-to-toe, and you were pretty lucky if you could see with all that foam in your eyes. There were many more events, from meet and greets with staff to other celebrations like fireworks on

Guy Fawkes Night. St. Andrews also hosts several balls throughout the year, ranging from Christmas balls to themed balls hosted by different residence halls. I went to one themed after the 20s, which was a roarin’ good time.

There are also dozens of clubs to join, with topics ranging from TV shows to academics, and there were also quite a few interesting ones (the “wine and cheese” society is pretty popular with American students for some reason). It was honestly very hard to be bored because there was at least one club meeting every day, so even if you were not in that many you easily could have half your evenings booked. I was in the “Dr. Who,” “Sherlock,” Swing Dance, Jewish and Classics societies, and I regularly had plans for almost every weekday. Between all the events hosted through various organizations on campus, there was always fun to be had, but what was really striking was how kind and welcoming everyone was. The residence halls routinely hosted Tea and Cakes, and I had weekly lunches

and dinners with the Jewish Society. Honestly, everyone I met was not only friendly but more than willing to be helpful in any way they could.

Academia is, of course, very strong as well, as the classes were both engaging and challenging. I studied organic chemistry and two classics courses, and I have to say the Latin professors were fantastic. Even though everyone was working hard, there was still plenty of room for enjoyment. I had all the societies and movie watching during weekdays, and went out with friends for dinner on the weekends. I will definitely miss all of the friends I made. Everyone was so warm and open; sadly, I will no longer get to have wacky conversations every meal with those lovely people.

Everything that went on in St. Andrews was great, but what really made it fun and enjoyable was being with everyone else. From a crazy Christmas dinner and an American Thanksgiving takeover, to just simply chatting daily, the friends I made in Scotland are the real reason I truly enjoyed it.

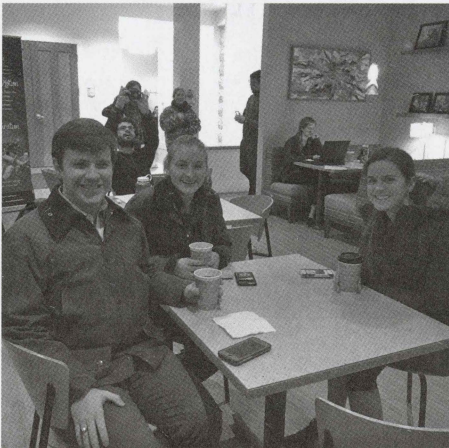
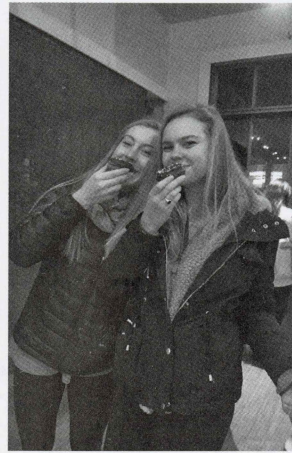
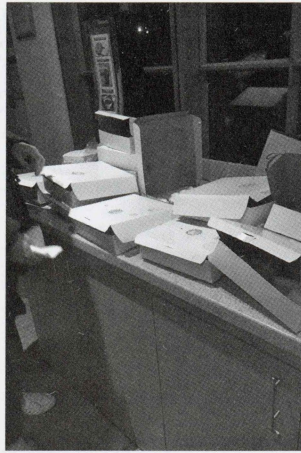
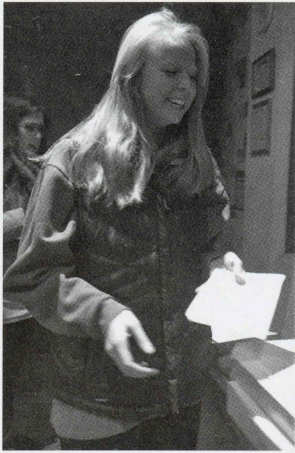
## STUDY BREAK

by Rachel Reibach '18

Finals week can be stressful and time-consuming, but W&L Hillel was there in our time of need. With Pure Eats doughnuts, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and an excuse to get away from piles of textbooks, it was obvious why the event was so popular. It was great to see everyone catching up and goofing around after days of being trapped in the library. The doughnuts, while delicious, also helped everyone get into the Hanukkah spirit and look forward to Winter Break. Hopefully everyone was able to relax, even if they were simultaneously stocking up on coffee for a long night of studying!

*Left: Highlights from Hillel's coffee and doughnuts study break during finals week.*

*Below: Bogdan Bors '17, Kasiet Toktomusheva '17, and Trenton Babcock '17 enjoy coffee and doughnuts during Hillel's finals week study break.*





From left: Max Louman '19, Paqui Toscano, Kelsey Goodwin, Madeleine Boireau '17, Jim Goodwin, Joe Yankelowitz, and Genna Fierson '20 at the Latke-Hamentashen Debate.

## GOODWIN V. GOODWIN: MARRIED COUPLE COMPETES IN LATKE-HAMENTASHEN DEBATE

by Alex Meilech '18

One of Hillel's best events of the year happened in March with the legendary Latke-Hamentashen Debate. Kelsey Goodwin, confidante to the likes of Adele and Beyoncé, joined forces with internationally renowned genius (and new Rhodes Scholar) Paqui Toscano to form Team Hamentashen. In true Goodwin v. Goodwin fashion, they faced off against Jim Goodwin, the only known person to get a degree in "Being Right," and resident Jewish Life Fellow Joe Yank, who got through a year teaching in Vietnam using only the power of latkes (and friendship).

MC Maddi Boireau '17, latke coach Genna Fierson '20, and hamentashen coach Max Louman '19 kicked off the evening with serious speeches. Did you know that Jim and Joe are Jew-jitsu champs? Thanks to Genna, now we do. And Max revealed

that Kelsey can regrow her limbs like a salamander - wow!

Team Latke won the debate, mainly due to Jim's blatant exploitation of young son Finn in an adorable video that had the audience in the palm of his hand. Isaac Rosenthal '19 was impressed, saying "Out of the four, I have to pick Jim as my favorite. He used creative, underhanded techniques, putting an emergency latke in Kelsey's bag and using their son in his presentation." Even Kelsey had to concede the brilliant move: "It was hard to lose so dramatically. Jim really did such a good job. The atmosphere was awkward, to say the least, especially given that my son had gotten in on the action and was clearly on his dad's side." Teammate Joe knew he was lucky to have such an amazing teammate. "I was blown away by Jim," he said. "I

have been to three Latke-Hamentashen Debates, and he was easily the funniest competitor I had seen. His faux-expert persona was hilarious, and he masterfully undermined his wife's argument with a video of their three-year-old son." Jim also Photoshopped Facebook posts to "prove" that Kelsey was a treasonous member of Team Hamentashen due to her years-old love of latkes.

Reviews of Joe's contribution to the team were mixed, with Kelsey saying, "Oh, right! Joe was in it, too. He was fine, I guess." Joe's tales of narrowly escaping danger and healing a severed toe through the humble latke were fascinating, almost unbelievably so.

Team Hamentashen put up a valiant effort, and really impressed with their effort and planning. Kelsey got her good

friends Beyoncé and Adele (voiced by the impressive Jordan Goldstein '18) to record songs in favor of the hamentashen, which everyone enjoyed. Competitor Joe knew he was outmatched in terms of musical talent. "I love how Kelsey

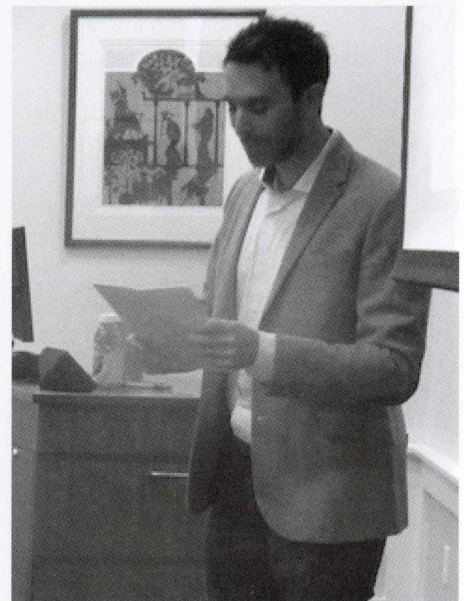


*Paqui Toscano during the Latke-Hamentashen Debate.*

enlisted an army to create those Beyoncé and Adele song parodies, as well as beautiful album covers. The production value of her presentation impressed me."

Isaac loved how creative she was ("She went with a more free-reign approach!") and no one would pass up a chance for a sneak preview of the best Purim songs of all time. Wait for the album drop in Purim 2018!

Paqui gave a brilliant presentation of the use of the hamentashen in modern literature. It pops up more than you would think! Kelsey enjoyed having Paqui as her teammate. "Paqui is a peach. It was a pleasure working with him. He elevated the academic credibility of our team. He was really the brains of the operation." Joe had critique based on the biblical origins of the hamentashen as a (tasty!) symbol for supervillain Haman, "Jim really carried the day for us, but Team Hamentashen made a mistake in expressing support for Haman." If being incredibly successful in many other ways does not work out for Paqui, he has a hidden talent for stand-up comedy, serving some major sass to rival Joe. Joe couldn't help but be amused: "Paqui unleashed biting funny remarks in response to our arguments. I was trying hard to stifle my laughter."



*Jim Goodwin delights the audience during the Latke-Hamentashen Debate.*

And the most important thing was that everyone had fun. Isaac said that he really enjoyed watching the Goodwins face off. "I thought it was fun and added a subtlety to the debate." Of course, we all enjoyed a hamentashen and latke feast afterward, so everyone was a winner.

## DIVE WEEKEND

*by Shlomo Honig '18*

This year's Diversity and Inclusion Visit Experience (DIVE) weekend brought an enthusiastic group of prospective students to Washington and Lee's campus. During the weekend, I participated in a panel of student groups that promote diversity and inclusion. The panel included representatives from Questbridge, LGBTQ, the Student Association for Black Unity, the Latino Student Organization, and Hillel. The engaging discussion shed light on a multitude of programs offered by our organizations, student life, and the community.

While DIVE weekend was an incredible opportunity for prospective students to learn about organizations promoting acceptance on campus, it also reminded

me of why I joined Hillel and decided to pursue a leadership position. Hillel is an organization that goes out of its way to provide a welcoming environment to every student, regardless of religion.

To me, Hillel is a place to celebrate Jewish holidays and engage in meaningful discussions and programming with both Jewish and non-Jewish students and community members. Now that I am a junior, I realize in retrospect just how much Hillel has helped me grow as a person. Since my freshman year, I have gone from a regular at Shabbat dinners to fulfilling the duties of Speakers' Chair, and now to the position of Vice President. One of the most important things I have learned is the value of inclusivity in Judaism. By opening Shabbat dinners,

VIP dinners, study breaks, and many of our events to individuals of any or no spiritual observance, we embody what it means to care for our neighbors as we would care for ourselves - Ve'ahav'ta lere'acha ka'mocha - a core tenet of Judaism.

In embracing this value of Judaism, Hillel and the student groups represented on the DIVE weekend panel demonstrated what makes Washington and Lee an even more incredible place. Through readily sharing our values, thoughts, and experiences with prospective students, we are reminded of the importance of our collective commitment to unity and inclusion in our community, which continually serves to provide enriching experiences for all.

## VIP DINNER WITH PROFESSOR McCORMICK

by Alex Meilech '18

In November, Hillel hosted its fall Very Interesting Professor Dinner with VIP Stephen McCormick. McCormick and his husband, Rocky Parker, joined 12 students for a delicious meal at Rocca, complete with great conversation. McCormick is a French and Italian professor in his third year at Washington and Lee, while Parker is a JMU biology professor who used to work at W&L. Our Hillel president, Maddi

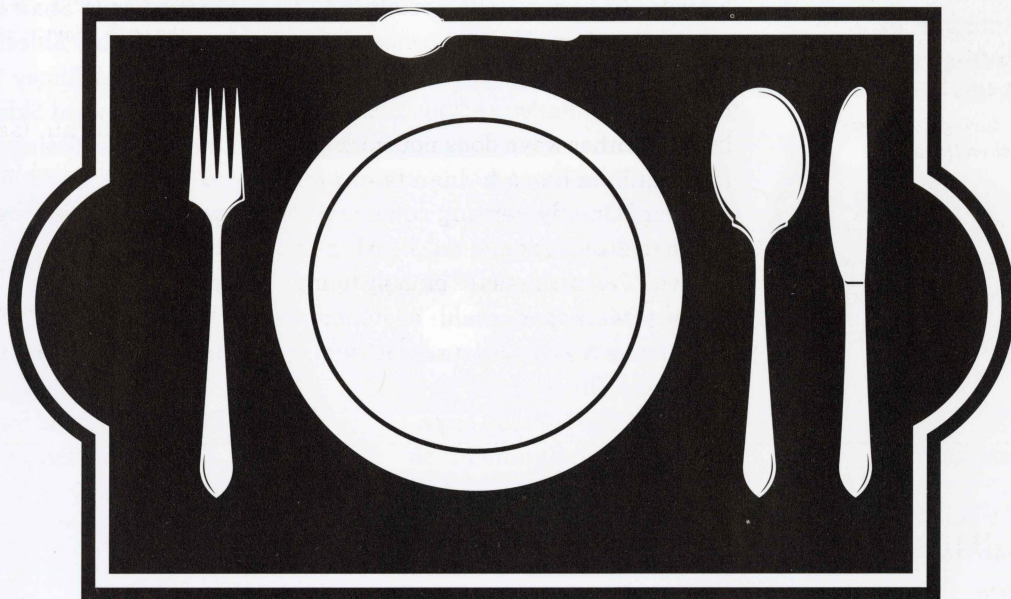
Boireau, counts McCormick as one of her favorite professors.

We learned some fun facts about the two professors: McCormick is a classically trained violinist, and his cat is named Snapdragon. Parker's research subject is garter snake sex pheromones.

Alicia Martinez '18 said, "I learned a lot about snake sex! But in all seriousness, it was a great time among a group of diverse

people, and it was a fun escape from all the election drama. And it reminded me that, despite all the awful things happening, I'm surrounded by a lot of really awesome, fabulous, funny people."

We all enjoyed the chance to talk with professors in a setting separate from academics, and the chance to break up the week with an elegant meal. It was a real treat.



## DINNER AT THE SCHATTENS

by Aaron Kubat VMI '20

Washington and Lee's Hillel does more than cater to the religious needs of the Jews on the Washington and Lee campus; it gives the Jewish cadets of the Virginia Military Institute a much-needed respite from their busy schedules. I proudly count myself among the Rats who come to Hillel every Friday for Shabbat Services. It gives me time to relax, but more importantly, it gives me a chance to interact with people outside the confines of campus.

Before the Thanksgiving Furlough, Professor Jeff Schatten, a new business professor at Washington and Lee University and a member of the Jewish community, invited the Washington and Lee Hillel to a Shabbat dinner at his house. We were joined by

his wonderful wife and beautiful 10-month-old daughter, who, incidentally, had just learned to walk five days prior.

A combined group of W&L students and VMI cadets made the short walk to Professor Schatten's house, and we were immediately greeted by friendly smiles and the smell of a delicious meal. Being in college, half the time we were focused on the food but the other half of the time was spent in lively conversation. Brothers and sisters had their entertaining squabbles, the professor told stories about his travels in China (as well as his aversion to authentic Chinese food), and us cadets got to talk to people from the outside world.

It was an opportunity that I was happy to have, and one that I hope comes up again in the near future.

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*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!*

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