



— THE OU —

JLIC

GUIDE

JEWISH LIFE ON THE COLLEGE CAMPUS

CHOOSING
THE RIGHT
CAMPUS

PROFILES
OF TOP 25
SCHOOLS

2016

STANDING
UP FOR
ISRAEL

GUIDE TO
KOSHER
MEAL PLANS



Jewish
Learning
Initiative
on Campus



AJC is an OU program
in partnership with Heschel

A PUBLICATION OF THE ORTHODOX UNION
SUPPLEMENT TO JEWISH ACTION



**Jewish
Learning
Initiative
on Campus**



*JLIC is an OU program
in partnership with Hillel*

THE ORTHODOX UNION'S SEIF JEWISH LEARNING INITIATIVE ON CAMPUS **COLLEGE GUIDE**

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2016

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VARIETY OF MEAL PLANS





Practical Experience for Complicated Choices

RABBI ILAN HABER
NATIONAL DIRECTOR, OU-JLIC

Students who have chosen to pursue a university education consider a myriad of different factors when deciding where they will attend college. Whether a student wants to live close to or commute from home, prefers a large state-university atmosphere over a small private college environment, or has particular academic interests are only some of the many elements that may go into making his or her decision. Many students, following a day school education and often one or two years studying in Israel, will elect to enroll in a school attended primarily by other observant students and in which Torah study is embedded in the school's curriculum. Others elect to attend a secular university. In either event, students will likely be intending to maintain their Jewish values and commitments while at university.

The Orthodox Union, through its Seif Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus Program (OU-JLIC), has a great deal of practical experience in helping students navigate the opportunities and challenges that a secular college presents. OU-JLIC is now entering its 16th year of providing educational programming, personal support, chizuk, and communal leadership to day school graduates who attend secular colleges throughout North America. OU-JLIC partners with local Hillel foundations to place rabbinic couples, who live on campus in Hillel communities, as educators and mentors to Jewish students, primarily from traditional backgrounds. In 2014-2015, OU-JLIC couples served in 22 campus settings, and serviced students at over 2 dozen campuses. At any given time there are approximately 4,800 day school graduates attending universities served by OU-JLIC.

Determining which college option will best suit which student in terms of campus Jewish life can entail complicated considerations. Of course there are great Orthodox schools, such as Yeshiva University and Touro College, where students can study in a supportive, Jewish environment and also focus on further development in their Torah learning. For those considering secular universities, however, there may be significant differences in the actual nature of the Jewish amenities provided by schools, even when they appear to be the same in different campuses. For example, two campuses may be described as offering "kosher food," but while one campus offers a full meal plan that is affordable and centrally located on campus, the other campus may be referring to the availability of kosher sandwiches in a convenience store. Whether a university allows students the opportunity to choose their own rooms or suite mates, or has unisex bathrooms, or accommodations for Shomer Shabbat students to enter their residence hall, all play a role in how students balance their own observance with their broader environment. Some students may thrive on a campus with a small Orthodox community, where their presence is noted and their active involvement is needed for the community to function, while others may prefer a campus with hundreds of observant students and a richer Orthodox infrastructure.

OU-JLIC rabbis have witnessed many students who have grown and further developed their Jewish identity, Torah knowledge and commitment, even as they have succeeded academically and matured as student leaders, or at least as active and contributing members of the campus Jewish community. At the same time, the opposite is also observed; many students, through social, academic, or other pressures, have succumbed to the challenges posed by the university environment and have lost, or even actively shed, their Jewish religious connections and commitments.

This guide is designed to distill OU-JLIC's broad experience and understanding of Jewish campus life, and be a helpful tool for students choosing to attend secular universities. It includes articles on campus housing, kosher food, profiles on individual campuses and much more. It will aid students heading to university in determining not only which campus environment or setting will enable them to grow and mature in academic or social terms, but also which is most attractive in their quest to maintain and develop the Jewish values and commitments that they hold dear.



Daunting, But Exciting

DR. SHIMMY TENNENBAUM
CHAIRMAN, OU-JLIC

Just starting the process of choosing prospective colleges is truly a momentous occasion. The transition to independent living entails many important decisions such as: Which college best fits my academic interests? How will I best broaden my horizons? How far do I want to be from home? There are numerous questions; but the most important one is this: Which college campus will afford me the best opportunity to maintain and further develop my observant Jewish life?

In your search for the answer to this question you will compare and contrast the various communities to find out about access to kosher food, Shabbat atmosphere, availability and environment of minyanim on campus, Torah learning, Jewish programming, and volunteer opportunities among other realities on each respective campus.

The Orthodox Union's Seif Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (OU-JLIC) addresses all of these issues and more. As of September 2015, we will have educator couples, rabbi and wife, on 22 campus settings across America.

They fully share responsibilities in developing and executing each college program. Most campuses are located in the Northeast region with a few in the Midwest and some in California. These couples attend to all the needs of the observant and non-observant Jewish students on these campuses. They serve as anchors to the students for both spiritual and practical matters and are (almost) always available.

This guide will assist families in choosing an appropriate college to further their son or daughter's education while at the same time broadening and further strengthening their Jewish identity and involvement.



A Dream Realized

RABBI DAVE FELSENTHAL
DIRECTOR, OU NEXTGEN

I am extremely proud of Rabbis Ilan Haber, Menachem Schrader and Josh Ross, as well as Adam Dickter, Hani Lowenstein, Rebecca Rubinstein, Eliana Steinreich, Michael Goldman and the OU Communications team for creating this important guide.

It has been a dream of mine for over twenty years to publish such a guide and the Orthodox Union's Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (OU-JLIC) has gone above and beyond turning that dream into reality. Twenty years ago when I wrote a guide for use by our student leaders, the college scene looked nothing like it does today. In reaction to the tremendous growth of Orthodox Jewish students on campus, OU-JLIC now has educators servicing our children on 22 campus settings around the United States and Canada. They not only act as teachers, but are there for thousands of students as friends, pillars of support and mentors on a daily basis. While OU-JLIC educators are on many popular campuses, we have included in this guide additional universities with significant Orthodox or NCSY Alumni Jewish life on campus as well as services the OU provides those students even though an OU-JLIC couple is not available.

As you will see throughout this guide, OU-JLIC is part of the greater OU NextGen team, which works to provide Jewish collegiates with as much support as possible. This includes but is not limited to:

Heart to Heart, which enables students to host their friends for Shabbat dinners through subsidies and guidance.

THEHEART2HEARTPROJECT.ORG

Kahal Fellows, which provides training

and funding for Jewish student leaders on campuses with smaller Jewish communities to improve Jewish life.

KAHALFELLOWSHIP.WIX.COM/HOME

Israel Free Spirit, the OU's Birthright Israel trip provides campus-based trips as well as trips focused on our population and their unique needs and interests.

ISRAELFREESPIRIT.COM

Alumni follow-up, which keeps contact with alumni of our various programs and connects them with opportunities for mentorships, Social Action trips, scholarships to learn during breaks or year abroad and more.

PARTNERSINTORAH.ORG/SIGNUP/OU-FELLOWSHIPS

Young Professionals, to keep the post-college demographic involved in the Jewish community and to open up leadership opportunities for them, now being piloted in Washington Heights and San Diego.

ISSUU.COM/ORTHODOXUNION/DOCS/REUNION-SUMMER2015/30

The kind of personal attention our students receive from the OU-JLIC couples is the quality we all want for our own children. The NextGen team works together to create a leadership network for campus community leaders, especially on small campuses where the need is so much greater.

This guide and the Jewniversity app (ALUMNI.NCSY.ORG/MAP) featured within are just two more great examples of resources we provide to help you identify the Jewish services you need on the campus you or your child attend.

Enjoy and please feel free to share your feedback with Eliana at steinreiche@ou.org.



CAMPUS RESOURCE GUIDE



CHOOSING THE RIGHT CAMPUS JEWISH COMMUNITY

FOR YOU

A FOUR-STEP PROCESS

RABBI ILAN HABER

1

KNOW YOURSELF

While growing up in a supportive religious environment and day school setting, it is often very hard to separate which religious convictions, values, and activities are coming from peers, school, community or family as opposed to what one truly feels internally.

College is the first time in the development of a young Orthodox person's identity in which most of his or her Jewish expression and living will come from internal considerations, not external pressures.

For many, this is an excellent opportunity to develop a personal sense of Jewishness and conviction. However, without a strong sense of self, it is easy enough to make wrong choices that have lasting consequences. This process of self-exploration is best begun before the transition to campus, whether in high school or in a gap-year setting. It not only enables a student to enter university focused on short- and long-term goals and values, but also will help in the decision to go to a campus that creates the best environment for nurturing those goals and values.

For example, some students may find that the intensive learning opportunities and cohesive Jewish environment offered by Yeshiva University or Touro are more in line with their spiritual or professional goals. Others may feel that they are best served on campuses in which the excitement and opportunities of a large, active secular-campus Orthodox community such as those at Penn, Maryland, Queens, or NYU best meet their needs. Still others may find that they would best thrive in a close-knit smaller community in which they would not get "lost," where they can be a part of a community that needs every student to participate, such as Johns Hopkins. However none of these considerations are really possible before the student knows his or her personality, inclinations and goals.

2

BECOME FAMILIAR WITH CAMPUSES AND THEIR RESOURCES

Use this guide as a first step in becoming familiar with campuses and the resources they offer. It can help identify which campuses offer the most robust resources and opportunities for Orthodox students such as the presence of an OU-JLIC couple, an active Chabad or Hillel, regular Orthodox minyanim, a cohesive Orthodox student leadership group and programming and the availability of kosher food.

In addition, the Orthodox Union has developed a Jewish Resource app to help students identify what resources or personalities exist on each campus and where to find them. Access the app at ncsyalumni.org/map. You can also find additional information about any particular campus on the Hillel or Chabad website, or through OU-JLIC at jliconline.org.

The Heart2Heart project, also supported by the Orthodox Union, has developed incredibly useful resources for Orthodox students at: kahal.theheart2heartproject.org/prospective-students, including a map of kosher food offerings on campuses and overview of campus resources. Also, take advantage of theheart2heartproject.org/map, courtesy of Heart to Heart.

3

DIG DEEP

And then dig deeper. While all of the resources mentioned above may provide a good start in helping to start focusing on the best potential matches, you should absolutely NOT stop there. Please do not make your campus decisions solely through consulting with this guide or other print or online resources. It is important to reach out and talk to current or former students, as well as campus professionals, such as the local OU-JLIC educator, Chabad rabbi, Meor or other kiruv professional, or Hillel staff member. Each may provide a specific, though important perspective on the college experience at any particular university.

Prepare a list of general questions, such as “how does one succeed at this campus religiously?” or questions that hone in on specific issues such as:

“How does an Orthodox student on this campus handle the challenges of coed residence halls?”

“Can I choose my own roommate?”

“Why does it seem to be only freshmen and sophomores, as opposed to upper-class students who are involved in religious leadership and community at this university?”

4

SPEND A SHABBAT ON CAMPUS

Or at the very least make a campus visit. Once you have limited your college considerations to a few options, the best way to get a real feel for a campus and its community and resources, as well as to speak to stakeholders in-the-know, is to spend time on campus.

Any perspective you may gain through speaking to people, as opposed to seeing it firsthand, is likely to be highly subjective and limited, and potentially deceptive. Just as you wouldn't normally buy a car, or a house, or relocate to a new community without checking it out in person, you should not make a campus decision without seeing it firsthand.

The best time to get a full sense of a Jewish community on campus is to visit on Shabbat, where you can meet the campus Jewish professionals and see if they are a good match for your needs and personality. Shabbat is when you are most likely to find students willing to spend time with you, answer your questions, and introduce you to what the community has to offer. You can get a feel for the intangibles such as the characteristics of the students,

whether the community is as warm and welcoming as you would like, as well as a feel for the overall chemistry. In addition, the Shabbat atmosphere on a campus will quickly indicate whether or not the community is vibrant, positive and active. Of course, contrasting this with time spent during the week is also helpful, but given a choice between the two, visit for Shabbat.

In addition, if you are considering commuter campuses, don't rule out participation in the campus community. Brooklyn College or Queens College in New York are both primarily commuter campuses, yet boast vibrant campus communities and robust OU-JLIC programs. While a Shabbat visit may not be as relevant at a commuter campus (though Queens College does have an increasingly vibrant Shabbat atmosphere and community for resident students), visit when it is relevant, such as during club hours, or check out the campus Mincha and stick around to speak with students and staff.

You won't regret any time spent on considering your potential “home” for the next four years.

ORTHODOX COLLEGES

A UNIQUE OPTION

TOURO COLLEGE

Touro's Lander Colleges are a vibrant and important component of the North American Orthodox Jewish community contributing to the fabric of communal life and educating generations for professional advancement and careers. Serving an undergraduate population of 1,575 students, Lander Colleges boast three convenient locations — Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan. All three campuses offer an Honors Program track and generous academic scholarships, up to full tuition.

Lander College of Arts and Sciences-Flatbush (LAS), with separate men's and women's divisions, is a hub of Jewish life in Brooklyn. LAS provides yeshiva and seminary students with an excellent academic preparation for career growth and professional advancement in an environment that is supportive of their religious needs and attentive to their personal goals.

The Lander College for Men/Beis Medrash L'Talmud (LCM) boasts dedicated faculty, professionally oriented majors, exceptionally high acceptance rates to graduate and professional programs and a beautiful seven-acre campus in Queens. But what sets LCM apart is the entirely balanced dual curriculum of intensive Torah learning and rigorous academic studies.

A center of academic excellence, **Lander College for Women-The Anna Ruth and Mark Hasten School (LCW)**, located on Manhattan's Upper West Side, is a magnet for young women from across the country and around the world who seek affordable academic excellence in an environment imbued with Torah values and rigorous preparation for graduate and professional programs.

Additionally, students who spend a year or two abroad in Israel have the opportunity to pursue higher education while studying in yeshivas or seminaries and connecting with the land of Israel. Touro College Israel (TCI) allows students to work toward an undergraduate or graduate degree while they advance their Jewish learning.

REALISTIC RETURNS

Touro is **ranked #2 in the nation for the Best Returns on Investment*** for projected long-term earnings. Touro students will be among

the nation's most employable earners over the coming decades. In addition to the Jewish environment and Torah values, Touro offers an affordable education, critical financial assistance and outstanding professional training.

KOSHER FOOD:

All food served on campus, in all student cafeterias and at any event, as part of the meal-plan option at LCM and in vending machines, is strictly kosher.

ERUV:

The status and boundaries of the Kew Garden Hills eruv (which encompasses the whole LCM campus) can be checked at kgheruv.com.

SERVICES, STUDY & AMENITIES:

Minyan services for Mincha and Maariv are held on campus at the Lander College in Flatbush during weekdays. There are three shuls within one block of the Campus.

In Queens at LCM, there is a set morning schedule of one Shacharit for everyone, followed by complimentary breakfast for all students, morning seder, lunch and shiur.

LCM offers a number of shiurim catering to various levels and styles of Talmud study. The afternoon is dedicated to college study, followed by an evening seder consisting of multiple shiur options on different topics or chavruta study. LCM also hosts its own beit midrash, Smicha, and Kollel program in the same beit midrash as the college students.

Additionally, LCM offers a warm weekly Shabbat experience with various Rebbeim, as well as vibrant davening and programs for the Chagim.

Lander College for Women students enjoy a new and beautiful campus in the heart of Manhattan. They take advantage of New York City cultural events, such as concerts and the ballet at nearby Lincoln Center. On campus, students experience lively Shabbat meals and a social dorm life. Student gatherings, such as the motzei shabbat kumsitz and sushi nights, promote camaraderie and create lifelong friendships.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

Student societies at the Lander College in Flatbush organize a variety of programs with

outside speakers, information sessions on professional fields, community service events and student research journals.

At Lander College for Men in Queens, numerous student clubs, academic and non-academic, sponsor frequent programs, and the College offers a number of professionally coached athletic activities.

At LCW, whether students are interested in music or chemistry, there is a club for them. All clubs are organized by students with support from faculty mentors.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Lander College for Men-Beis Medrash L'Talmud has developed and hosts an annual Model Beis Din competition.

Each year the students from the Lander College of Arts & Sciences in Flatbush publish five journals with student research in Accounting and Business, the Natural Sciences, Psychology, Political Science, and Speech Language-Pathology.


In the last year the career services office at the Lander College for Women have placed student-interns at prestigious companies like Google, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Goldman Sachs, as well as the United States Congress and research labs at Columbia and Yale Universities.

WHAT STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY:

"At Lander College for Men, through the integration of college classes between morning and night sedarim, we were able to pursue our careers while following the Torah's directive to study it day and night." —**Simcha**

"I loved it. It's a really good balance between learning and the special group of students who come here. From the deans to the faculty and staff, they cater to the students and want them to have the best educational opportunities and succeed." —**Aliza**

*As cited in The Wall Street Journal, Touro College ranks #2 in the nation among the "best private colleges for Returns on Investment" (PayScale College ROI Report, 2014).



When selecting which college to attend, students should seriously consider whether they will thrive spiritually and religiously at a secular college. While there are significant learning opportunities at these secular colleges, it does not add up quantitatively or qualitatively to the learning opportunities found at Yeshiva University or Touro College. These colleges are specifically designed with an environment to help students with their religious and spiritual growth. They enable students to excel in their secular education while in a supportive Jewish environment. Both of these institutions also offer a range of majors and minors as well as an honors program for gifted students. The following are profiles compiled by each of these institutions regarding what they uniquely have to offer.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

As the preeminent Jewish university in America, Yeshiva University is set apart by the unique ability to combine Torah study on each student's individual level with a world-class secular education. This is the actualization of our commitment to Torah Umadda, the simultaneous pursuit of Torah learning and the best of secular academic knowledge.

Yeshiva University serves an undergraduate population of approximately 2,250 students; 1,050 women at the Israel Henry Beren Campus in Midtown and 1,200 men at the Wilf Campus in Washington Heights. In addition, there are over 600 men and women enrolled in the Yeshiva University S. Daniel Abraham Israel Program, spending the first year of college abroad studying at various institutions in Israel. Our diverse student population comes from countries as far away as Australia, South Africa, England, France, Morocco, South America and Canada, to name a few.

At YU, students don't have to choose between their cultural and spiritual priorities and a full college experience. Everything at Yeshiva, from the academic calendar to the makeup and focus of student organizations to the food served in the cafeterias, celebrates the priorities of modern Orthodox life. The Shabbat Enhancement program supports weekly Shabbat activities focused on creating a relaxed, peaceful environment for communal celebration. On average, more than 500 students choose to stay on campus for Shabbat; men and women may choose to remain on their own campuses, or men may travel to the Israel Henry Beren Campus in Midtown for joint Shabbat programs, which include student organized programming, speakers, forums, discussions and community service opportunities.

KOSHER FOOD:

All food served on campus, in YU's four student cafeterias is strictly kosher. In

addition, the university partners with local food establishments at both campuses, who honor the student dining card. All off-campus student events sponsored by YU provide kosher food as well.

ERUV:

The status of the YU eruv in Washington Heights can be checked at yueruv.org. The Midtown campus is included in the eruv maintained by Congregation Adereth El.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Over 30 different minyanim are available each day on the Wilf Campus, allowing times for tefillah to fit any schedule. The integrated curriculum of Jewish and general studies exists across the campuses, and students on each of the campuses may choose the style of learning that best suits their interests and strengths, be it a beit midrash-style program or one more classroom based, on every level from beginner to advanced. Student organizations often invite guest lecturers to address current events and concerns, politics and Torah. Celebration of the holidays are held throughout the year with faculty hosted Shabbatonim, Chanukah and Purim chagigot, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaZikaron commemoration, and the Yom Ha'Atzmaut barbeque serve to enhance the academic and social experience on campus.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

Both men and women can participate in 16 NCAA athletic teams across the two campuses, and over 100 student-run clubs and organizations. Students participate in Service Learning missions around the globe, as well as in Counterpoint programs in Israel every winter and summer break. Each year hundreds of students travel across North America on Torah Tours, visiting schools and synagogues, enhancing the holiday experience in communities small and large.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 450 students from Jewish day schools around the world participate in the Yeshiva University Model UN each year.

YU students visit local public schools and work with students to enrich their education, as part of Project START, a YU student initiative.

Over 200 YU undergraduates and Jewish high school students joined together for the YUPAC mission to Washington, DC.

WHAT STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY:

"Nowhere but here can you receive a top-notch secular education while living and learning in a Jewish environment. At YU, students can be president of student government, or an NCAA athlete, while not having to worry about meetings or games on Shabbat or holidays". —**Eli S.**

"Yeshiva provides a singular, comprehensive, and immersive Jewish experience. The enriching and stimulating Judaic classes are taught by the leading rabbis and scholars of our time, who serve as role models and mentors to all their students. Moreover, Yeshiva boasts a dynamic and active student body that organizes countless events during the week and on weekends for a holistic and diverse campus life." —**Shlomo F.**

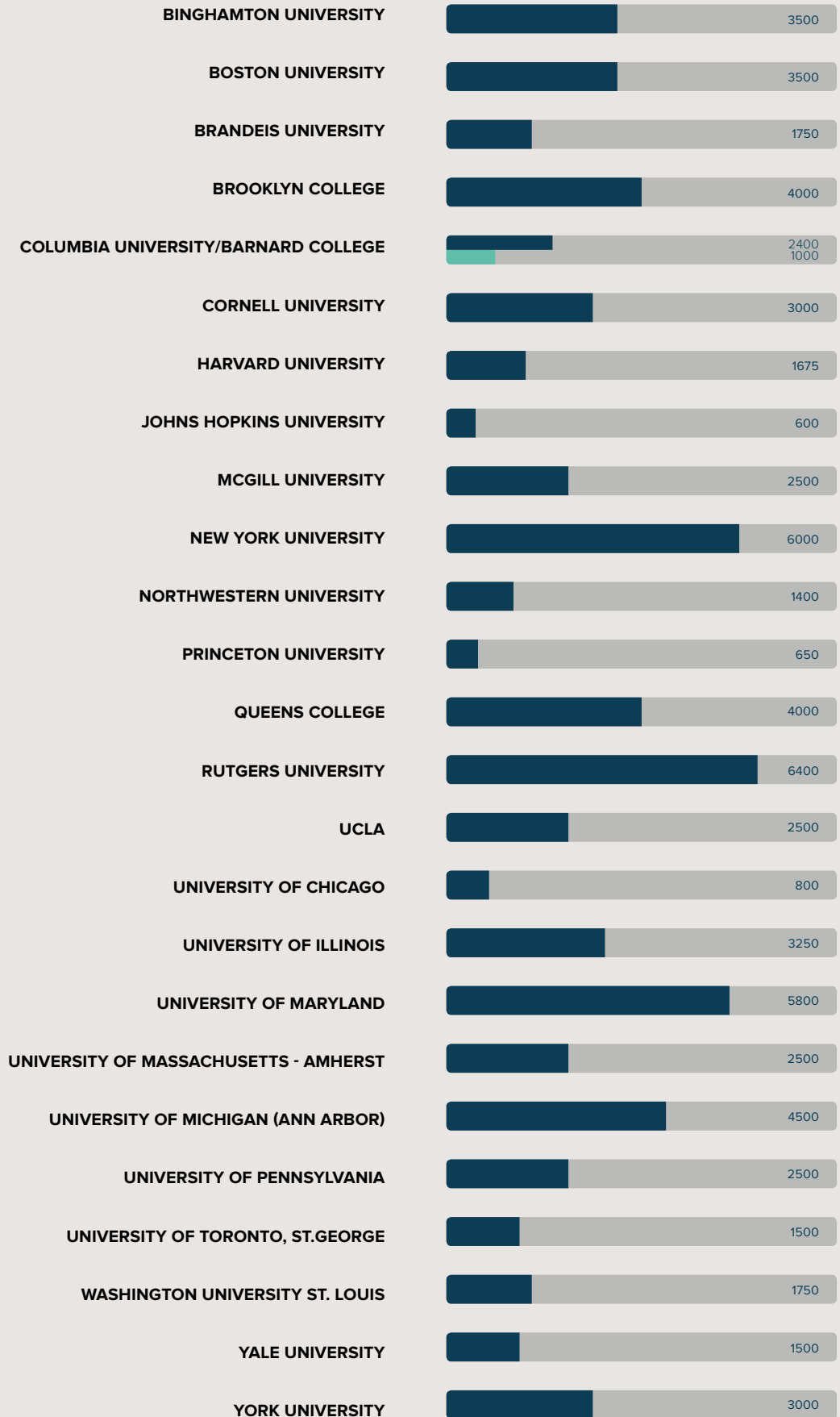
"Yeshiva University's Jewish community and philosophy of Torah Umadda are evident in all areas of campus life, in and out of the classroom. The dual curriculum of Judaic studies along with general studies is a unique experience that has greatly contributed to my undergraduate education. Also, having Shabbat programming every week has been a highlight for me, allowing me to meet other students and create a sense of community on campus." —**Anonymous**

**Got Questions? Answers@yu.edu
Apply at yu.edu/admissions**

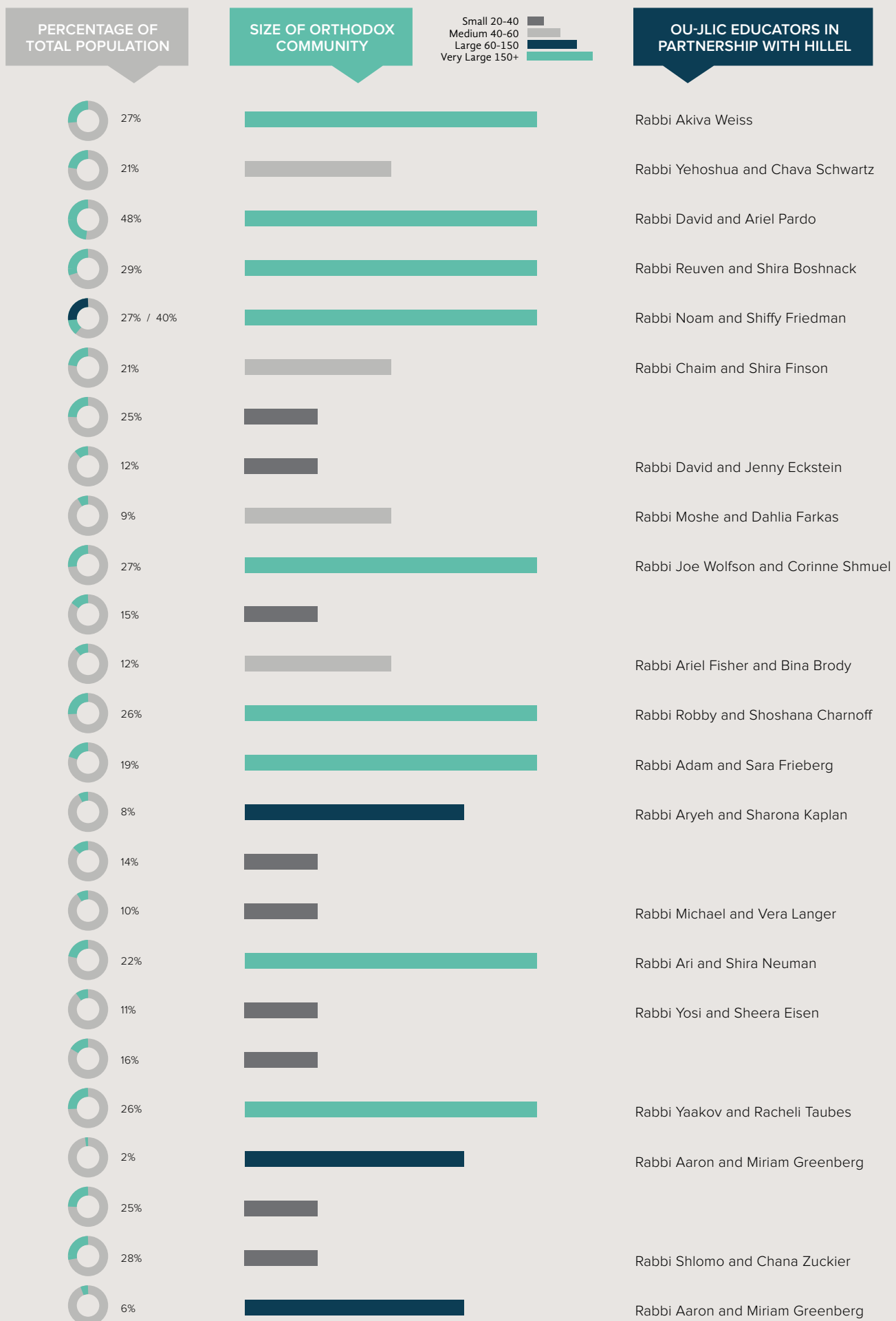
QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

THE TOP COLLEGES FOR JEWISH STUDENTS

NUMBER OF JEWISH UNDERGRADUATES



All numbers are subject to change



Figures based upon estimates made by OU-JLIC educators, Hillel professionals as referenced in the Hillel College Guide, and data from Hart Levine, Director of Heart to Heart



FEATURED CAMPUSES

A DETAILED GUIDE TO PROGRAMS,
SERVICES, FOOD AND CAMPUS LIFE AT
25 NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGES



BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

The State University of New York at Binghamton enrolls 13,000 undergraduate and 3,000 graduate students, located on a mid-size and easily accessible campus that one can traverse in 25 minutes.

Binghamton is home to 3,500 Jewish students, or 27 percent of the student body. The Orthodox community is comprised of around 200-300 students. Hillel, Chabad and Meor offer programming for the Jewish students on campus. At Hillel, there is an OU-JLIC rabbi, and the OU-JLIC student board offers a variety of programming ranging from learning opportunities to social events for students by students. All the Jewish organizations on campus work hard to ensure that students thrive on campus. They work to offer a plethora of opportunities across the religious, cultural and social spectrum.

Because of the large Jewish student body, the university works hard to accommodate the religious needs for all of its students. The university is known to go above and beyond to make sure its students are well taken care of. They make sure students are able to make up any missed tests, catch up on missed classes, and that they can access dorms and university buildings on Shabbat and holidays. Students live both in on-campus housing and off-campus buildings near the university. Those students who live on-campus choose to live in Newing and Dickinson, which is near the Kosher Korner. If students choose to live off campus many of them live in two specific buildings, Hayes or University Plaza.

Shabbat at Binghamton has extensive programming at both Hillel and Chabad. Every Friday night there is a minyan at both Hillel and Chabad followed by Shabbat dinners where over 500 students partake in one or both of the dinners. Shabbat morning minyan is hosted at Chabad followed by Shabbat lunch.



"At Binghamton University I have found a home in the Jewish community on campus. With other like-minded individuals and numerous learning opportunities, I have the tools to thrive as an observant Jew at a secular college."

JOSH



IT'S TRUE

SUNY/Binghamton's roads are modeled after a human brain.



KOSHER FOOD:

Binghamton University provides Kosher dining on campus. "Kosher Korner" located in one of the dining halls, is open three meals a day except on Shabbat. On Shabbat, Hillel and Chabad provide kosher meals. In addition, there is packaged to-go kosher food available in every other dining hall.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

There is a daily minyan at Chabad. OU-JLIC, Chabad and Meor offer learning programs for students, in addition to being available for one-on-one chevrotot.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Chabad, Hillel, MEOR; there are two Israel advocacy groups: Bearcats For Israel, named after the university mascot, and BUZO (Binghamton U Zionist Organization). Kaskeset: Jewish a capella group, AEPi: Jewish Fraternity, SAepi, SDT, AEPi: Jewish sorority.

HILLELATBINGHAMTON.ORG • 607.777.3424

HILLEL AT BINGHAMTON: BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY, UUW-208B, BINGHAMTON, NY 13902

BOSTON UNIVERSITY



KOSHER FOOD:

Hillel has a dining room that serves kosher food, including a salad bar, hot and cold vegetarian options, and desserts. The dining plan at Hillel is part of the BU dining program and is open to anyone with a student meal plan on campus. Breakfast is served Monday through Friday and lunch and dinner are served Monday through Saturday. There is also a ready-to-go option that can be ordered in advance and picked up in the dining hall at Hillel.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

The Orthodox minyan at Boston University holds all weekly Shabbat services, holiday services, as well as a daily morning, afternoon and evening minyan.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, OMG: Orthodox minyan group, Holocaust education committee, Challah for Hunger, BUSI: Boston University Students for Israel, as well as several social cultural clubs.

Boston University has over 16,000 undergraduate students, nine schools and colleges. The university has a 13:1 student to faculty ratio in its classrooms, which makes a big school seem much smaller. On average, class size is kept to 27 students.

The undergraduate Jewish community on campus has a large population with a total of 3,500 students. The Orthodox community is a tight-knit community that has more than 40 Orthodox students. Students feel very comfortable playing an active role in the community. As of Fall 2015 there is an OU-JLIC couple on campus. The Orthodox minyan at Boston University holds all weekly Shabbat services, holiday services, as well as a daily morning, afternoon and evening minyan. With a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere, the minyan invites all to join in and explore their connection to Judaism and to God. These predominantly Hebrew services are student-led. Many of the prayers are sung to traditional, Carlebach and other popular Jewish tunes and all students are encouraged to participate and sing along.

In terms of housing, most students are in the campus dormitories. The campus is part of an eruv. Because college can be a little overwhelming at first, Boston University Hillel can help with the adjustment by connecting you with an older BU Hillel student before you arrive or during the first few weeks of school.

Shabbat at Hillel is a big part of the college experience. Friday night davening has around 25-50 students at each of their three minyanim. They have Orthodox, Conservative and Reform services. The community joins together after services for the singing of kiddush in the 4th floor foyer. Dinner Friday night gets anywhere from 150-200 students. Shabbat morning has between 25-50 students for davening and lunch. After services and kiddush, some people invite students to a meal and others stay and eat at the dining hall. Students hang out at Hillel reading, napping, playing billiards, ping pong and various other board games.

STUDENTS SPEAK

"Hillel gave me my best friends, my confidence to lead, and an endless number of great memories."

ANONYMOUS



IT'S TRUE

Since William P. Leahy became president in 1996, Boston's campus has grown 150 acres and its endowment has increased to \$1.83 billion.

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FLORENCE AND CHAFETZ HILLEL HOUSE: BOSTON UNIVERSITY HILLEL, 213 BAY STATE ROAD, BOSTON, MA 02215

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1948, Brandeis is one of the youngest private research universities, with over 3,500 undergraduate students. It is also the only nonsectarian Jewish-sponsored college or university in the country.

Brandeis hosts approximately 1,750 Jewish undergraduate students, including 200 Orthodox students. This number makes Brandeis home to one of the largest and longest established Orthodox campus communities in the United States. There has been a full and active beit midrash on campus for over 30 years and a campus-wide eruv.

Brandeis is home to a very active Orthodox group open to students from all different backgrounds. BOO, Brandeis Orthodox Organization, offers a wide variety of programming from social to learning and everything in between. The close-knit but welcoming community is in part created by the housing situation on campus. Almost all students live on campus until their senior year when students move into nearby apartments or houses. However, many students chose to remain living on campus. Brandeis does offer single-gender floors upon request. The university is closed on all major Jewish holidays including the second days of Sukkot and Pesach, making Brandeis accessible to all religious practice and observance.

Shabbat at Brandeis is a wonderful and welcoming experience. More than 150 students come to a lively kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv followed by a delicious community-wide Shabbat dinner. Chabad also offers a traditional Shabbat dinner with about 150 students. Shabbat morning about 100-150 students come to davening followed by a kiddush. Shabbat lunch is offered in the dining hall that serves kosher food throughout the week. Many students often host Shabbat lunches in their dorms. The OU-JLIC family will also occasionally open up their home for Shabbat lunch and students will spend the afternoon hanging out and playing board games.

STUDENTS SPEAK

"While there is so much to learn in the classroom, Jewish learning on campus is not just enhanced, but is truly created by our OU-JLIC couple. They provide the guidance needed to grow during these formative years through teaching and being incredible role models who can relate to the Jewish students on campus."

LUKY GUIGUI

IT'S TRUE

In a 2005 marathon, one student studied the entire gemara.



KOSHER FOOD:

There is a full meal plan offered to students and kosher dining available in one of the major dining halls on campus. Additionally, there is a kosher deli, kosher options at the campus Dunkin' Donuts, a kosher vending machine, and kosher groceries at campus supermarkets. Lastly, Brandeis is located about 20 minutes outside of the town of Brookline, which has a handful of kosher restaurants to choose from.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

There are three daily minyanim on campus. There is a fully stocked beit midrash and students can be found learning round-the-clock. There are also a variety of learning opportunities offered by OU-JLIC, student-led Chaburot and much more.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Hillel, Chabad, Meor, BOO, Mitzvah Corps, Jewish a capella groups, Brandeis Sephardic Initiative B'yachad, Brandeis' Israeli dance troupe, Hillel First Year Council (FYC), Hillel Theater Group (HTG), Yiddish Club, Klal Hillel Pluralism Initiative, Brandeis Israel Public Affairs Committee (BIPAC).

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HILLEL AT BRANDEIS: BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY, MS205, 415 SOUTH STREET, WALTHAM, MA 02454-9110

BROOKLYN COLLEGE



KOSHER FOOD:

While there are many kosher restaurants close to campus, Brooklyn College provides its own kosher food in a separate section of the cafeteria (Kehilla Kashrus, Dairy). Brooklyn Hillel also hosts a Subsational, an affordable meat restaurant, open in the afternoons supervised by Kehilla Kashrus. There is no official meal plan and students buy meals as they wish.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Students daven at the many minyanim in local neighborhoods and there is a daily Mincha minyan at the Hillel. OU-JLIC and the Orthodox club work together to create many innovative programs including concerts, a yearly birthright trip, and many intercollegiate projects with other campuses. The OU-JLIC couples give weekly shiurim on varying topics and have chavrutas with students.

ERUV: Yes. Some people use an eruv and others do not.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Hillel, Orthodox Club, LINK (all women's group), Sephardic Club, Israel Club, Hatikvah newspaper.

BC has a student enrollment of approximately 17,000 students. The college offers 120 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the creative arts; humanities; social, behavioral and natural sciences; mathematics; education and business.

Brooklyn College has a Jewish student population of 4,000. There are more than 1,500 Orthodox students at the college. There, OU-JLIC and the Orthodox Club work together to provide the community with positive Orthodox experiences. Many of the students stay in close contact with the OU-JLIC couple on campus long after they graduate Brooklyn College. Because of the large Orthodox population BC is very accommodating to religious observance. The college is closed for Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur, and spring break is always Pesach vacation. OU-JLIC creates a warm Shabbat environment for students of Brooklyn College. Each week they host students for one meal at their house. On Shabbat morning there is an OU-JLIC minyan at the Kingsway Jewish Center. The OU-JLIC couple maintains long-lasting relationships with alumni and invite them regularly for Shabbat meals and run events for them.



"The Rabbi and Rebbetzin are always available to listen to anyone that reaches out as well as constantly inspiring the Jewish student body as a whole. Their events are out of this world and it's definitely one of the reasons of why I love college."

RIKKI



IT'S TRUE

Brooklyn College has been the scene of numerous location shoots for movies, including "The First Wives Club" and "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," as well as TV shows like "Law and Order" and "Gossip Girl."

COLUMBIA/BARNARD

Founded in 1754, Columbia University is the oldest institution of higher education in the state of New York. Barnard College is a private women's liberal arts college affiliated with the university. Together, there are over 10,000 undergraduates on campus.

The Jewish population at Columbia and Barnard combined is estimated to be approximately 3,500, and Yavneh, the Orthodox community at Columbia/Barnard, is several hundred strong. First-year students typically live in dormitories while many upperclassmen live in suites with several bedrooms and kitchen facilities. Shabbat dormitory access varies by building, but reasonable accommodations are made in all cases. Yavneh, the Orthodox community on campus, has a vibrant Shabbat life. Over 200 students daven in the Orthodox minyan on Friday night. There are 100 students who eat Friday night dinner in the cafeteria and over 50 who eat Shabbat dinner at meals in students apartments. Additionally, Hillel hosts a Friday night dinner every week in the Kraft Center, Columbia/Barnard's Hillel. Shabbat morning services are attended by more than 150 students followed by kiddush and often a shiur. Fifty students eat lunch in the cafeteria and over 100 in students apartments. In the afternoon people gather in the Kraft Center. After Mincha there is Seudah Shlishit attended by 150 students with singing and a d'var Torah.

STUDENTS SPEAK

"My involvement with the Columbia/Barnard Jewish community has caused me to grow personally, spiritually, and religiously in ways that I never anticipated. One of the benefits of having such a large and active community is that there are endless avenues with which to connect, ranging from chessed/social justice and Israel, to music and challah baking, to Torah and Tefillah. The infinite opportunities have led me to build a college life based around Jewish learning and practice, and have allowed me to define who I am as a person and as a Jew. Throughout my four years, I have felt a great sense of belonging and ownership within Yavneh (the Orthodox community on campus), within the diverse Hillel community, and within the Jewish community beyond college."

HANNAH SPELLMAN



IT'S TRUE

At midnight on "Orgo Night," the night before the Organic Chemistry final, the Columbia marching band invades the library's main reading room to distract students with music and all kinds of frivolous fun.



KOSHER FOOD:

Two kosher meal plans on campus, through Columbia and Barnard; Shabbat meals in conjunction with Hillel in Barnard cafeteria; large Shabbat meal hosted by students; Kraft Center hosts intimate Shabbat dinners in Hillel building; kosher café in Kraft Center; many kosher eateries on Upper West Side.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

A full suite of religious, educational and social programs is available, with regular minyanim and shiurim, and kosher food readily available. All daily minyanim, including two Minchas; all Shabbat minyanim; minyanim on many chaggim; frequent shiurim and classes; robust social programming.

ERUV: Columbia and Barnard campuses are enclosed within the Manhattan eruv.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

A wealth of student-led organizations, from political action groups to a capella ensembles, including Columbia/Barnard Hillel, ProIsrael Progressives, LionPac, Jews for Social Justice, The Current (journal of Jewish studies), Yiddish Club.

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THE KRAFT CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDENT LIFE: COLUMBIA BARNARD HILLEL
606 WEST 115TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10025

CORNELL UNIVERSITY



KOSHER FOOD:

Cornell University's dining program manages 104 Westl, the kosher dining hall (OU) with dairy lunches, meat dinners and Shabbat and holiday meals; there is a kosher stand at college dining hall across campus; prepared sandwiches available at campus cafeterias.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Three daily minyanim; all Shabbat minyanim, with shiurim, onegs and all meals; beit midrash learning and shiurim.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Center for Jewish Living, student-run organization with residence hall, kosher dining and full events schedule; Hillel, Jewish a capella (The Chai Notes), CFI (Cornellians for Israel).

Cornell hosts 3,000 Jewish students, over one fifth of the total population, including about 50 Orthodox. Freshmen live on campus, while most upperclassmen live off campus, either in apartments, fraternities or sororities, with 25 men and women living in the Center for Jewish Living. The university is accommodating to religious observance. If students miss an exam because of a Jewish holiday they will be given an alternative test date. In addition they are exempt from attending mandatory classes on Jewish holidays. In terms of housing, the university will provide a Shabbat key to a side entrance of the dorms upon request.

Shabbat is filled with a robust program of tefillot, meals, and programming. There are 20-30 students who attend the Orthodox Friday night davening and around 100 students who eat at the Friday night dinner. After dinner on Friday night, students will either stick around for zmirot or a tisch on Friday night, or hang out in the CJL, which is a social hub for all Jewish students on campus. Approximately 15 students attend the Orthodox Shabbat morning services and lunch. Students will also host Shabbat meals at their apartments. Shabbat day includes a student drasha at shul and a shiur by one of the OU-JLIC educators after kiddush. In the afternoon, students can oftentimes be found going on walks through the Ithaca gorges (weather permitting) or hanging out in the CJL. Seudah Shlishit is a time for everyone to come together and sing among friends and community.

STUDENTS SPEAK

"Jewish life on campus is quite vibrant. There is a ton of kosher food, great learning programs, awesome guest speakers, and fun events. It is much, much stronger than I expected."

JEREMY



IT'S TRUE

Every year the dining hall opens its doors to the entire, diverse Cornell community for a "161" Shabbat dinner.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Harvard University has over 6,500 students in its undergraduate program. Harvard is known as one of the top Ivy League universities in the United States.

Around 1,600 of the graduate students identify as Jewish. The Harvard University Orthodox community serves the Cambridge Orthodox community as well. The full Orthodox community on campus is 250 people, which includes graduate students, undergraduate students and community members. The Orthodox minyan serves this larger community, while "OSM," Orthodox Student Minyan functions as a social group for undergraduate students. The "OSM" is comprised of over 20 students.

First-year students live in Harvard Yard, which puts them in a great location in terms of all the buildings on campus. Three of these dorms are very accommodating to Orthodox Jews as these dorms in particular have manual keys making them accessible on Shabbat and holidays. Before spring break, first-year students are divided into one of the 12 upper-class houses on campus. All of the college houses have manual key capabilities which makes them all viable living options for Orthodox students. Professors and teaching fellows work with students to make up work missed due to holidays, and being absent from a class over Jewish holidays is almost never a problem.

Shabbat on campus includes a Friday night davening that attracts a few dozen undergraduates students that spans all three services that take place. The Orthodox minyan averages about 15-20 students Friday night, but could be as large as 30. Friday night dinner ranges from 60-100 people on any given week. Students from all the different minyanim as well as the larger Harvard community join in for the "family style" Shabbat meal. Shabbat morning has about 25 people who show up for davening and lunch. Lunch could be attended by as many as 40 students. On Shabbat day students often spend large parts of their day at Hillel, hanging out with friends, playing games, learning b'chavruta, reading, and napping. Between Mincha and Maariv is a community Seudah Shlishit. Havdalah is a beautiful transition from Shabbat to the work week and Hillel provides a catered dinner after Shabbat ends.



"Although I expected the transition from my Bais Yaakov-type high school to Harvard to be tough, there was very little struggle. The Orthodox life here is vibrant, and the Jewish community as a whole is very warm and inviting. It didn't take long for me to realize that Harvard is my home."

TALIA



IT'S TRUE

The Judaica division of the Harvard College Library maintains the largest collection of Israeli and Israel-related materials outside of the State of Israel.



KOSHER FOOD:

The regular Harvard meal plan entitles every student to eat at every dining hall, so Jewish and non-Jewish students alike can enjoy Hillel food. Hillel serves dinner every night, and lunch on Shabbat and chagim. Bagged lunches can be ordered daily through Hillel. Each morning after Shacharit the Orthodox minyan sponsors a kosher breakfast in Hillel. Additionally, every dining hall has a kosher corner stocked with food.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

During the week, there are three minyanim daily. Staff rabbis are available to learn b'chavruta with students and students also coordinate chevrutot and chaburot on their own.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

Crimson Krav Maga, Friday Night Lights, Harvard Students for Israel, Progressive Jewish Alliance, RecKlez (klezmer band), Shani (a cappella), TAMID (Israel investment group), Jewish Women's Group, AEPI, OSM (Orthodox Students).

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HARVARD HILLEL: ROSOVSKY HALL, 52 MOUNT AUBURN STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY



KOSHER FOOD:

A kosher meal plan is available at the Fresh Food Café dining hall, as well as kosher meals for Shabbat and holidays at Hillel. There are kosher groceries available in many campus supermarkets and the local grocery stores. The largest kosher supermarket in the United States, Seven Mile Market, is about 20 minutes away in Pikesville, MD.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

The community strives for a daily minyan although it is subject to change on a year-to-year basis. On Shabbat there are morning and afternoon minyanim. They strive to have a Maariv minyan on Motzei Shabbat. There are minyanim during many of the chagim. The learning opportunities on campus include: weekly shiurim, a weekly program that is a small group discussion about various Jewish topics, and various guest speakers throughout the year.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Coalition of Hopkins Advocates for Israel (CHAI), Hopkins American Partnership for Israel (HAPI), Jewish a cappella group on Campus.

JHU has nine academic divisions and campuses and over 6,000 undergraduates. It attracts students from all over the world for subjects ranging from biomedical engineering to Africana studies. Founded as a research institute, Johns Hopkins is committed to change both inside and outside the classroom.

The Orthodox community at Johns Hopkins is small but lively. With around 50 to 75 “regulars” out of a total of 600 Jewish students, the group of committed Orthodox and Conservative students sometimes feels more like a family than a group of friends. The Hillel is never more than a 20-minute walk away from most locations on campus. As a small community, each student is an important part of Orthodox life. Everyone has a role to play, whether it is through planning events, leading services, choosing the Shabbat menu or any of the many other tasks that keep the community strong.

Housing at Hopkins gives way for the vibrancy of the small yet strong community. Students are required to live in the dorms for the first two years. The first-year students can choose to live in either a suite-style dorm with a bathroom and kitchenette or a classic dorm-style building. Shabbat keys are available on request and JHU Housing is very respectful to the needs of observant students. Many of the upperclassmen live in one or two buildings within a two minute walk from Hillel. Many of these apartment buildings are Shabbat-friendly and the apartments have been handed down through generations of Jewish students. In addition to the housing office, professors are extremely accommodating to students who need to miss class due to religious holidays.

Shabbat at Hopkins is a wonderful experience. Hillel hosts three different services Friday night: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. All three communities join together for a free Shabbat dinner with anywhere between 80 and 150 students depending on the week. After dinner there is an oneg hosted by the upperclassman which offers a warm welcoming and Shabbat-friendly environment. There is an Orthodox minyan every Shabbat morning, followed by a delicious kiddush and lunch all taking place at Hillel. On Shabbat afternoons students can be found around Hillel learning, studying, playing games, or just socializing. Seudah Shlishit is hosted alternatively between the home of the OU-JLIC educators and Chabad.

STUDENTS SPEAK

“OU-JLIC at Johns Hopkins has enriched my Jewish experience at college immensely. Whether it is through shiurim, meals, or just by being around, the OU-JLIC couples I’ve had the chance to know have helped me navigate the road through being an Orthodox Jew on a secular campus.”

CAREN

IT’S TRUE

The mummy in the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Collections is nicknamed “Boris.”

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Boasting 39,000 students, McGill University is ranked the No. 1 university in Canada and ranks among the world's best. The students enjoy the academic vigor while engaging in all the clubs and activities that campus life has to offer.

McGill has a large Jewish community of 2,500 students that participate in a variety of organizations and clubs. The community is made up of many commuters, from the suburbs of Montreal, as well as students who live in the commonly called "McGill Ghetto" neighborhood.

The Orthodox community is small but growing. There are approximately 50 Orthodox students in the downtown Jewish community. There are learning programs throughout the week as well as Shabbat programming that the students enjoy together. In the suburbs of Montreal there are approximately 100-150 Orthodox students who are part of the larger McGill Jewish community. First-year students from out of town often live in residences but they find it difficult to observe kashrut as there is no kosher dining option on the meal plan. Observant students often choose to live in the Jack Reitman Hillel House as it has a kosher dairy kitchen in the residence, or they rent apartments with their fellow students in the Ghetto. After the first year all students, regardless of religion, live in off-campus apartments, predominantly in the "McGill Ghetto."

Shabbat life at McGill offers many religious experiences to students. Hillel offers Friday night services, including an Orthodox Sephardic minyan, an Egalitarian, and a Reform service followed by Shabbat dinner every other week. On off weeks, all students are invited to the OU-JLIC/ Hillel rabbi's house for Shabbat dinner. Ghetto Shul, a student-run organization, and Chabad also provide services and meals on Friday nights. After the meals are over, students usually go to their friends' homes to hang out. During Shabbat day, students pray at either the Bagg Street Shul, a historic congregation founded in 1921, or at Chabad. After davening at Bagg, there is a kiddush provided after which students come to the OU-JLIC couples' home for lunch. Others go to potluck lunches in students' apartments. Following lunch, students hang out at the OU-JLIC home or at students' homes before attending Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit and Maariv.

STUDENTS SPEAK

"I would describe it [the OU-JLIC community] as a warm, vibrant community that caters to the needs of McGill's Orthodox community; an institution that promotes belonging for many who lack a sense of 'community' in their new university lives away from home."

JEREMY



IT'S TRUE

The first modern football games were played between Harvard and McGill University on May 13 and 14, 1874.



KOSHER FOOD:

Hillel's Yoel Dizengoff Cafe is a meat restaurant where students can easily go for food. For those on the meal plan there are kosher sandwiches available. There are grocery stores with some kosher products downtown. For meat, fish or cheese, one can take a short trip on a city bus to supermarkets with kosher sections or join the OU-JLIC rabbi for his frequent expeditions. Additionally, the Hillel Cafe, a meat restaurant based in the Jack Reitman Hillel House, provides students with kosher meat at a reasonable price.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

There are Friday night services every other week at Hillel. There are services every week at Ghetto Shul and Chabad. Every Monday and Thursday Chabad has Shacharit services. Weekly and biweekly shiurim are given by the OU-JLIC Torah educators.

ERUV: No.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

Hillel, OU-JLIC, Ghetto Shul.

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HILLEL MONTREAL: JACK REITMAN HILLEL HOUSE, 3460, STANLEY, MONTREAL, QC H3A 1R8, CANADA

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



KOSHER FOOD:

Weinstein Hall, one of the residence halls, has a kosher cafeteria that serves a hot lunch and dinner, either to stay or go. Local kosher restaurants will deliver to NYU.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Minyanim are organized by student gabbaim (two gabbaim and one gabbait) with full support by the OU-JLIC educators. These minyanim include daily Shacharit, and multiple Mincha and Maariv minyanim; full Shabbat services, with dinners and onegs. In addition there are many learning opportunities organized by the Shalhevet education chair and the educators of OU-JLIC. These include: shiurim, student led chaburot, and chevrot. In addition, NYU Kollel allows students to learn and earn a stipend over the course of the semester.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Shalhevet: Orthodox Judaism at NYU, Orthodox Women's Leadership Hillel Student Board, Ani v'ata a capella choir, Jewish Theatre group, Gesher Israel Club, TorchPAC, Yovel: The Green Zionist Alliance, The Jewish Voice Magazine at NYU, and many more.

At NYU, there are over 22,000 undergraduate students from almost 100 countries and each of the 50 states. The university awards more than 25 degrees among 2,500 courses.

With roughly 400 Orthodox Jews, NYU houses one of the strongest Orthodox communities in any university in America and a total of 6,000 Jewish students, making it one of the largest Jewish campus communities. There are minyanim every day, a kosher cafeteria (well-known both for its food and social scene), and the university is surrounded by kosher downtown eateries. The Orthodox community is diverse with students coming from different high schools across the country. Many students live in a residence hall for their first year, and then begin to rent apartments later. Both housing departments and the professors are accommodating and sensitive to the needs of observant students. The Bronfman Center, which is the Hillel of NYU, hosts most of the programming. There is a beautiful and fully stocked beit midrash, beit kneset. It also hosts an art gallery, several student lounges, and meeting rooms. Chabad also runs programming for the Jewish students, both observant and non-observant, on campus.

OU-JLIC at NYU and Shalhevet, the Orthodox student community, as well as Chabad, provide abundant programming. Shalhevet also works very hard to create an amazing Shabbat experience. In turn, hundreds of students stay on campus although home could be a short bus or train ride away. Over 200 students attend Friday night services on any given weekend. After services, the community eats Shabbat dinner together. When dinner is finished the students go to the Bronfman Center for a speaker or entertainer, followed by an Oneg and/or Tisch. On Shabbat morning, about 100 students attend services followed by a kiddush and shiur or discussion. While students can eat in the kosher cafeteria, most students host their own meals. This is followed by Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, and some singing as the end of Shabbat approaches. At the end of Shabbat, there is a spiritual communal Havdalah filled with singing and dancing following Maariv.



"Orthodox life at NYU is an incredibly positive experience. From an abundance of kosher food and meaningful davening to an inquisitive and friendly community, there's not a better place outside of Israel to be a college-aged Jew."

LAURA



IT'S TRUE

A student initiative, Bridges: Muslim-Jewish Interfaith Dialogue at NYU, has been winning awards and, more important, changing lives, bringing together devout Jews and Muslims in constructive discussion. The group runs educational and social events and runs several service programs around the country.

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NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Northwestern is one of the top academic schools in the country. Students come from many different backgrounds, but as President Morton Shapiro describes it, “It has a distinctly Midwest feel.” The campus, on the shore of Lake Michigan, is home to about 9,000 undergraduate students.

Northwestern is home to approximately 1,400 Jewish students. The Orthodox community on campus is small but close-knit (around 40 students). Everyone knows each other, which creates a sense of caring and appreciation. The campus Hillel prides itself on the multiple communities housed within its four walls. A strong Orthodox community is a critical piece to that larger vision, led by an Orthodox campus rabbi who makes sure that the needs of Orthodox students are met.

Shabbat at Hillel is a warm, welcoming, and diverse experience. Friday night begins with either Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox services, followed by a communal dinner. Saturday mornings include weekly Orthodox services and a communal lunch.

Northwestern is extremely accepting of religious observance, thanks in large part to President Shapiro, who identifies as a proud and faithful Jew. The university functions on a quarter system resulting in classes usually starting after Rosh Hashanah and, at times, Yom Kippur. The school is very respectful of students who need to miss class for holidays and Shabbat.

Students tend to live in the dorms for the first two years and then off campus for the last two. Some students live in AEPi, the Jewish fraternity, which has kosher food options every day. Others live in Allison, which also offers two kosher meals a day (except on Shabbat, when Hillel provides free meals for students). But Jewish students can live in any dorm and walk to Allison for meals.

STUDENTS SPEAK

“The strength of the Jewish community here comes through in the large amount of time we spend playing games together on Shabbat and chagim.”

LEO



IT'S TRUE

A quota limiting Jewish students at Northwestern was in place just 50 years ago, while more recently the three past presidents of the university have been Jewish.



KOSHER FOOD:

Kosher food is available in the Allison dining hall, Monday through Thursday for lunch and dinner. In addition, there is an “on-the-go” option with pre-made kosher sandwiches being offered on campus at Tech Express.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Chabad has a daily minyan, Hillel has minyanim Friday nights and Saturday morning. There is an Orthodox rabbi (Rabbi Aaron Potek) on staff at Hillel who provides learning opportunities during each quarter on campus. He also provides one-on-one learning opportunities with students who are interested. There are kiruv organizations on campus that offer different learning opportunities as well.

ERUV: Currently there is no eruv, however one is in the works.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

Jewsday Tuesday, First Year Students at Hillel (FYSH), Jewish Theater Ensemble (JTE), JUF On Campus (Jewish United Fund), Ritual Life Committee, ShireiNU, Speakers Committee, Challah for Hunger, ZOOZ, TAMID At Northwestern.

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FIEDLER HILLEL AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: 629 FOSTER STREET, EVANSTON, IL 60201

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



KOSHER FOOD:

Meal plan with three daily meals in dining hall. CJL is one of the official university dining halls.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Three daily minyanim, learning programs, speakers, holiday events; regular oneg on Friday night.

ERUV:

The eruv is in its planning stages.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Yavneh chapter, Center for Jewish Life/Hillel, Jewish acapella group, Tigers for Israel, Sharsheret, Challah 4 Hunger, CJL, Shomer Shabbat Play.

At Princeton, more than 1,100 faculty members instruct over 5,200 undergraduate students and 2,600 graduate students. The university's financial aid program ensures that talented students from all economic backgrounds can afford a Princeton education.

The Jewish undergraduate population at Princeton is comprised of 650 students. Princeton hosts an Orthodox population of more than 50 undergraduates. The university is accommodating to students' religious needs. Students can receive mechanical keys rather than electrical keys upon request and university staff is aware and respectful of the Jewish holidays. All students live on campus for all four years. Students do not choose their roommates during their first year on campus. Yavneh is the name of the Orthodox community on campus. The Shabbat environment on campus is warm and welcoming with students eating all meals at the Center for Jewish Learning, or the Hillel. The minyanim throughout Shabbat are comprised of students and faculty. There are around 60 people who daven at the Friday night services at Hillel. The Center for Jewish Learning, or the CJL, hosts one Friday night dinner for all members of the Jewish community. On average there are around 175 students who attend this dinner. Some students choose to eat Friday night at Chabad and others are hosted by the OU-JLIC couple for dinner. Around 40 people attend Shabbat morning services and the kiddush, shiur, and lunch that follow. During Shabbat afternoon many students hang out at the CJL and there are learning opportunities available. There is a robust Seudah Shlishit that 40-50 students attend each week.

STUDENTS SPEAK

"Between helping out students directly and interfacing with the university on our behalf, OU-JLIC has made Princeton a great environment for my own experience and growth these past three years."

JEREMY



IT'S TRUE

In years when Princeton's football team beats both Harvard and Yale, the university sanctions a giant bonfire in the center of campus. The fire is so big that it can be seen from many blocks away. The bonfire may very well be a bigger social event than the football games themselves.

QUEENS COLLEGE

Queens College enrolls over 18,000 undergraduate and graduate students pursuing more than 100 degree programs. The New York Times ranks Queens as the No. 2-rated college in the U.S for “best bang for the buck.”

There are over 4,000 Jewish students at Queens College, making for a Jewish-friendly academic calendar, giving time off for Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Passover. The college offers credit for post-high school study in Israel. Queens College has over 1,000 Orthodox students, the second largest Orthodox student population in the nation. While traditionally a commuter school, Queens College has a strong Orthodox on-campus community comprised of dozens of students living in The Summit, the new QC dormitory, as well as hundreds living in apartments in the surrounding area. The on-campus Hillel Shabbat community provides weekly Orthodox services, drashot, kiddush, OU-JLIC’s Seudah Shlishit which draws 150 students, and five Hillel Shabbatonim per semester, with special programming and communal meals. Minyanim are in Hillel, and many shuls are in walking distance. Potluck meals are organized in student rooms and apartments and a Shabbat Committee ensures that anyone who wants one has a communal meal to attend. Queens College is located in the heart of Kew Gardens Hills, with shuls on many blocks and diverse kosher food options.



“The most meaningful Simchat Torah I ever had was at QC. The dancing lasted for hours and everyone who participated invited each other to meals. I grow and develop my faith at the various shiurim and Jewish History courses. Queens College has personally been the best choice of college for me, both academically and religiously.”

YEHUDA



IT'S TRUE

The photo-op star of the annual ISA-run Israel Independence Day celebration on the Quad is a live camel.



KOSHER FOOD:

The Dairy Stop storefront is in the Kosher Cafe dining hall on campus. Additionally, many kosher food establishments are just a few blocks away on Main Street, including Mediterranean and Mexican cuisine, pizza shops, sushi, dairy restaurants and kosher supermarkets.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Three daily minyanim, full Orthodox Shabbat services, including drasha from the OU-JLIC rabbi. Weekly communal Seudah Shlishit at the OU-JLIC educators home. OU-JLIC new student Shabbaton, three Hillel Shabbatonim and two Hillel Free Friday Night Dinner Shabbatot per semester. Multiple daily Orthodox learning opportunities through OU-JLIC in the Hillel Beit Midrash. Full daily OU-JLIC Women’s Midrasha Program in the afternoons. Multiple OU-JLIC-Ateret Women’s Lunch and Learn programs with renowned guest speakers.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Hillel Club, Israel Student Association (ISA), Persian Club, Chabad Club.

JLICQUEENS.ORG · QCHILLEL.ORG · 718.793.2222

QUEENS COLLEGE HILLEL: 15245 MELBOURNE AVENUE, FLUSHING, NY 11367



CLOSE- UPS



LIFE AS AN OU-JLIC RABBINIC COUPLE

OU-JLIC rabbinic couples such as Rabbi David and Ariel Pardo of Brandeis provide important and necessary amenities for the modern Orthodox students on campus.

Michael Orbach
OU-JLIC Staff

It's a regular Friday morning for Rabbi David and Ariel Pardo and their two young daughters, Haviva, a toddler and Tiferet, an infant. Like many young parents, by 8:00 a.m. their day is already in full swing. However, unlike most young parents their age, their task, in addition to raising a family, is to shepherd several hundred Jewish students at Brandeis University through one of the most spiritually trying times of their lives.

As the Orthodox Union's Seif Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus couple at the Waltham, Mass., campus, the Pardos are the lifeblood of a program launched in 2001 by Rabbi Menachem Schrader.

Nowhere is the work OU-JLIC does more vital than on the campus of the nationally ranked university named after Jewish Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis. Roughly half of Brandeis's 4,500 students are Jewish, including several hundred who are Orthodox.

In a scene that plays out similarly on top university campuses with OU-JLIC couples across North America, Rabbi Pardo returns

from helping make the Orthodox minyan around 8:30 and begins scheduling the day's activities. Ariel and Rabbi Pardo have a quick breakfast before Ariel takes Haviva to Brandeis' staff day care and she runs to a class in the academic study of Talmud, a topic she's not exactly familiar with, as she much prefers Tanach.

"I take the class so that students see me as someone they can learn with," she explained.

The Pardos' work at Brandeis offers a snapshot of how the entire OU-JLIC program works, based heavily on the selection of a couple that is compatible with the student body at a campus and will be able to appreciate and understand its needs.

How the Pardos became an OU-JLIC couple is a story in itself. Each grew up in a traditional Jewish home and Ariel's family gradually became more Orthodox over the years. Rabbi Pardo became halachically observant on his own through the Jewish Student Union of North Hollywood Hills and National Conference of Synagogue Youth, two programs of the Orthodox Union. His relationship to Orthodox Judaism was further cemented by his friendship with Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan, half of the OU-JLIC educator couple of UCLA, where Rabbi Pardo went for his undergraduate degree.



Rabbi David and Ariel Pardo

The Pardos met on Rabbi Pardo's first day as a student at UCLA, which was also Rabbi Kaplan's first day as a OU-JLIC educator.

The setting was an Intro to Communications class at UCLA. Despite both being heavily involved in UCLA's OU-JLIC, the two only began dating years later.

Like many students, Rabbi Pardo's college experience put him at a crossroads. He had already earned a prestigious internship with Merryly Lynch and was destined for a lucrative career in finance. But he experienced what he described as "a quarter-life crisis." He enjoyed finance, but what he really loved was learning and teaching Torah. The thought of getting ordained seemed foreign to him. "I can't be a rabbi," he recalled thinking. "Rabbis are only the sons of other rabbis."

Following Rabbi Kaplan's advice, Rabbi Pardo left the finance world and decided to attend Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, where he earned semicha. He reconnected with Ariel and the two began dating and married in 2010 with Rabbi Kaplan performing the ceremony. They spent the next two years in Yeshiva University's Gruss Kollel in Israel. Afterward, they settled happily in Toronto to work at a young adult Jewish education program. However, when they heard that the OU-JLIC program was expanding to new college campuses, they applied.

As part of the selection process, couples are sent to different college campuses to allow the college students to determine whether the couple is a good fit. The Pardos described their stay at Brandeis as a "really good first date."

The Pardos moved to the campus weeks later and, in their words, parked themselves

in the kosher cafeteria for two weeks to meet students. The approach worked and the Pardos soon found an eager coterie of students who surrounded them.

"The first year of college was extremely hard, since it was the first year I was away from home," said Brandeis student Moshe Yaghoubian. "I felt that the Pardos were people who I could talk to not just as religious figures, but

also as wise friends who would serve the role of a bastion for me to rely on when I was confronted with so much pressure — both religiously, socially, and academically. Besides my parents, they have been the only other people who I am most comfortable holding deep life conversations with."

Their home became a hub of student activity. Each Shabbat meal the Pardos invite four students on the condition that each student brings someone who hasn't yet been to the Pardo household. Additionally, each student must bring one story, one song or a d'var Torah.

Operating at 22 campus settings across the country, OU-JLIC places a young couple, frequently with children, on college premises where, together with the Hillel staff, they work as spiritual guides, friends and mentors to Jewish college students as they negotiate the perilous spiritual time known as the college years.

"Modern Orthodox kids were going to secular university and for all intents and purposes they were being abandoned," explained Rabbi Joshua Ross, deputy director of OU-JLIC.

The flagship college program of the Orthodox Union, OU-JLIC was largely the work of Rabbi Menachem Schrader, who created the program when he was a teacher at Yeshivat HaMivtar in Israel in 1982. He found himself watching students, frequently in the midst of their college years, arrive in turmoil.

"It became clear that we were getting students from secular universities with significant Jewish populations that had no religious leadership," he said. "Hillel wasn't Orthodox and Chabad was different. There

was no conventional Torah presentation of traditional ideology and practice on campus to the students. Many of the students come from a year or two in Israel where they had rabbis around them every moment and their lives are directed. Then they come to campus and suddenly their religious lives fall apart." At Brandeis, as on many other campuses, both Rabbi Pardo and Ariel give shiurim during the week and maintain several chavrutas; Ariel gives a special shiur devoted to rebutting Biblical criticism. They say that their proudest achievement on campus is the nightly Kollel that they help organize which has more than a dozen students learning by themselves in the beit midrash, or religious study hall, every night.

Rabbi Pardo that when Orthodox alumni return to Brandeis, they're flabbergasted at the continuing quality of Orthodox Jewish life there.

"The Pardos are the full package — thoughtful, dedicated and passionate," explained Rabbi Ilan Haber, national director of OU-JLIC. He noted that the key to the program's success has always been the high caliber of the couples who are drawn to participate, often at some sacrifice in the formative years of their marriage and family, for the sake of helping others by creating a comfortable haven for Orthodox observance and values.

"[The Pardos] are down-to-earth while at the same time serve as great religious role models for students. Brandeis students tend to be highly self-motivated and intelligent and I believe that the Pardos, with their substance and personal charm, are ideally suited to work with this population."

Some of the shifts in the culture of Brandeis since the Pardos arrived have been subtle. "The longer I'm here, the more questions I get," Rabbi Pardo said. "People always had the same number of questions, but now they're seeking the answers."

Eight students feature the Pardo children in their Facebook profile photos. Recently, Rabbi Pardo followed in the example of Rabbi Kaplan when a Brandeis student asked him to officiate at his wedding.

"Here was this kid who passed through every Orthodox institution and he didn't find someone to share his life with," Rabbi Pardo said. "But that's where OU-JLIC comes in." ■

A HOME FOR OUTREACH AND INSPIRATION

CHABAD ON CAMPUS

The Chabad on Campus International network is comprised of the largest group of campus rabbis and trained Jewish educators serving universities and college campuses in the world.

Chabad student centers serve as a "home away from home" for Jews on campus and offer a wealth of social, educational and spiritual programs. At college, students are exposed to new ideas and experiences and Chabad seeks to ensure that students graduate as stronger and more empowered Jews than when they entered.

Chabad on Campus fulfills its role educating, inspiring and supporting students using its unique non-judgmental approach to each individual. At Chabad, all students are welcome regardless of background, affiliation, or level of observance. Every student becomes part of the community. Every Jew is family.

Chabad on Campus Centers offer warm and welcoming spaces. The joyful and energetic personas of the Shluchim combined with

the family-oriented atmosphere make the Chabad House a comfortable place for students to congregate.

Through informal and formal experiences students are given opportunities to engage in their majestic Jewish heritage.

Chabad on Campus serves students, faculty and greater campus communities on more than 400 campuses with more than 230 permanent campus centers with full-time professional staff members.

Chabad on Campus has experienced rapid growth on campus over the last 15 years that still continues today. In 2013 alone, Chabad on Campus added more than 20 new campus centers.

In addition to the hundreds of campuses in the United States, Chabad on Campus is active in Canada, Israel, UK, Austria, Germany, Grenada, Former Soviet Union, France, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Russia, Argentina, China and Australia. ■

A HUB FOR JEWISH LIFE



HILLEL

Hillel welcomes students of all backgrounds and fosters an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel. As the largest Jewish student organization in the world, Hillel builds connections with emerging adults at more than 550 colleges and universities, and inspires them to direct their own path. During their formative college years, students are challenged to explore, experience, and create vibrant Jewish lives.

For nearly a century, Hillel's network of dedicated student leaders, professionals and volunteers have encouraged generations of young adults to celebrate Jewish learning and living, pursue social justice (tikkun olam and tzedek) and connect to their peers and the global Jewish people. By participating in life-changing trips and campus initiatives, students learn to make a meaningful impact on the future of the Jewish people and the world while they grow intellectually, socially, and spiritually. At the heart of the Hillel network is the Charles and Lynn Schusterman International Center, supporting local Hillels to ensure that they achieve their mission "to enrich the lives of Jewish students so they may enrich the Jewish people and the world."

The Orthodox Union's Heshe and Harriet Seif Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (OU-JLIC) is a 15-year-old partnership between Hillel and the Orthodox Union (OU). There are currently OU-JLIC rabbinic couples in 22 campus settings. OU-JLIC rabbinic educators receive their training and support from the OU, and Hillel International has increasingly sought to include them in Jewish educational strategies, both for the benefit that Hillel's professional skill building can bring to the OU-JLIC educators, and for the knowledge and skills the OU-JLIC educators can bring to the rest of the Hillel professional world.

OU-JLIC is a shared financial model, funded by the local Hillel and the OU, and Hillel International hopes to work with the OU to increase the number of Hillels with OU-JLIC rabbinic couples.

Hillel engages with and inspires the leadership of more Jewish college students than all other endeavors combined. Understanding that 90 percent of Jews in the United States go to college, a rich and diverse Hillel network is proud to serve them at more than 550 colleges and universities. ■

ROYAL TREATMENT

Observant students at Queens College enjoy a wide variety of programs, facilities and amenities without a high price tag or long commute.

Adam Dickter
OU-JLIC Guide Editor

On a recent spring morning, visitors to the Quad at the center of the Queens College campus were greeted by the familiar sights of administrative buildings with red, Spanish-tile roofs, blooming cherry blossoms on trees around the quad, a pickup Frisbee game — and a camel.

"Is this the selfie line?" someone asked as a crowd formed around the pen. Within 15 minutes the quad had transformed into the annual Israel-Fest: the Israel Business Club handed out free bags of Bissli snacks, and long lines formed for free food and the chance to climb "Masada" (actually an inflatable "Tiki Island" contraption renamed for the day).

On other campuses, a show of pro-Israel pride might have been met by protesters and a whole "megillah" of back and forth on the Middle East, but at Queens, believed to have the highest Orthodox Jewish population at a secular school in the U.S., it was just another day's club hour.

"Queens College is your home away from home," said Judd Eisenberg, 18, of West Hempstead. "It is a place where you can come and feel comfortable in your own skin as an observant Jew. I can easily walk around with a kippah on my head. I am able to attend Torah classes during lunch, daven Mincha at the QC Hillel, then attend math class where my teacher wears a kippah and tzitzit."

As befits a campus in the heart of one of New York City's most vigorous Orthodox communities, just blocks from a shomer Shabbat shopping strip on Main Street, Queens College has it all.

With thriving Jewish clubs and interest groups, Torah classes on campus, abundant activities and Shabbatons, the school's solid academic reputation and course offerings make it a great fit, at a bargain price, for students from as close as Kew Gardens Hills, the Five Towns or Great Neck and as far away as New Jersey.

Walk around the kosher cafeteria, with meat and dairy offerings (separately) available in the QCaf (now including \$5 meat sandwiches, pizza and sushi), check out minyans or classes at the Hillel, enjoy Shabbat hospitality or a communal holiday celebration and you'll see not only a thriving Jewish campus community but a diverse one. Among the estimated 4,000 Jewish students on campus, about one quarter are Orthodox, spanning from Modern to Haredi, with large concentrations of Bucharian, Persians, Syrians and Israelis.

As on many campuses, Jewish life revolves around the Hillel center, with close coordination between the staff at Queens College Hillel, OU-JLIC and Chabad. "We attend weekly meetings and have a very positive relationship with our Hillel director," says Shoshana Charnoff, the OU-JLIC Torah educator at Queens, with her husband, Rabbi Robby Charnoff.

OU-JLIC works in partnership with Hillel and the Charnoffs are considered members of the staff.

Reflecting the diversity of the campus, OU-JLIC at Queens caters to Orthodox students across the entire Orthodox spectrum with events and shiurim for single gender as well as coed groups. "We also offer events and shiurim during the day as well as at night so that commuters and residential students can all attend," says Shoshana Charnoff.

The primary challenge faced by the Charnoffs is building a sense of community at a commuter school, where Jewish students can spend as little as four or five hours a week on campus. Their biggest challenge



Shoshana Charnoff, left, says Jewish growth at QC has 'only just begun.'

in doing this came early in their tenure when Superstorm Sandy struck in the middle of the fall semester of 2012. They rallied by organizing some 50 Orthodox students who had dorm rooms and hundreds more in apartments nearby to house commuters who faced transportation issues, with homes and cars destroyed and gasoline in short supply. The Hillel also pitched in with extended hours for studying and connecting with friends. There were numerous opportunities for students to pitch in collecting food and offering support for those in need.

"Something like that forces us to reevaluate what it means to have a rabbinic figure on campus and what it means to create a campus community," said Rabbi Charnoff at the time. "Our goal as Queens College OU-JLIC Torah Educators is to respond in a way in which we can help college students beyond the assistance offered by their shul or home communities. We want them to be able to focus on their schoolwork and social lives and resume as normal a life as possible as college students."

There's no question the opportunity to graduate with little or no student debt is a big part of the lure at Queens (a 12-credit semester in 2015 costs \$3,120 for New York state residents, and \$6,420 for others). Additionally, top students can qualify for the Macaulay Honors Program, a full scholarship, or other partial scholarships.

The laid-back atmosphere is also attractive. While Middle East-related tensions are a seemingly inevitable part of every campus, the situation is fairly cordial at Queens.

"It's a great school at a great price, and our Hillel provides an elite level of infrastructure, support, and Jewish growth opportunities for observant students that can be found on

only a handful of campuses in the U.S.," said Queens' Hillel director Uri Cohen. "Queens College has a reputation now for a great community — that's why most of the students I talk to chose to come here. With Hillel and OU-JLIC providing for Jewish needs, and a Jewish calendar-friendly academic culture, it's a wonderful place to learn and to grow as a college student and as a Jew."

Rikki Bulka of Woodmere, NY, added, "The Jewish life on campus is vibrant and animated, and there really is so much opportunity to get involved and form lasting relationships with people who come from the same place as you do."

Others say Queens offers an opportunity to broaden horizons, and the ability to expand a social network while maintaining a strong Jewish base amounts to the best of both worlds. "There is a large enough percentage of Jews at QC that I don't feel out of place or ostracized, but not too large a percentage where I feel as if I am living in a bubble," said Brian Small of Teaneck, NJ.

Added Daniel Ash of Cedarhurst, NY, "I like how the Jewish community is incorporated into the Queens College community, unlike high school which was entirely Jewish. I have the opportunity to meet up with my Jewish friends and have lunch in a kosher cafeteria as well as take classes with them."

Betty Aboff of West Hempstead, NY, a 1988 Queens alumna, never had much doubt that her kids would follow in her academic footsteps. Natan, 23, graduated last year with a degree in economics, and Robbie, 20, will be a junior in the fall. "I had a very positive experience" said Aboff, who also has a daughter, still in high school. "I always wanted to send my kids to have the same great experience I did." While the short commute was a "high percentage" of the appeal, the campus environment and Jewish activities were also important.

It's hard to pinpoint any particular event as the highlight or focal point of Jewish life on campus, since each semester has its own flavor. "We have a very successful weekly Seudah Shlishit in our home which has been consistent since our first week on campus

almost three years ago," said Charnoff. "Rosh Chodesh events for women are very popular. This year, our new intensive learning program HaMidrasha@QC has taken off and currently has 32 women enrolled in two- or four-day-a-week learning in the afternoon."

The three-year HaMidrasha program, unique at a secular campus, aims to help students take serious and consistent Torah learning and Jewish life into the college years and beyond. It focuses on core ideas and philosophies in Judaism as well as in-depth, chavruta learning of Chumash, Navi (prophets), halachah, and hashkafah (ethics).

Among social events, OU-JLIC's hamantashen baking, Melaveh Malka, and Hagaddah Round Robin have been extra popular as well its First-Year-Student on Campus Shabbatonim, for freshmen and transfer students.

Because of these amenities, a student at Queens who arrives from a yeshiva in Israel or a religious high school setting isn't likely to experience much culture shock.

"For someone leaving the safe confines of Jewish day school and seminary/yeshiva, when they arrive at Queens College, they are met with a lot of options and are surrounded by people they may never have interacted with before," Shoshana Charnoff told OU-JLIC. "Classes and professors will be speaking about topics, asking difficult questions. OU-JLIC is an anchor for the students on campus, guiding them to help them navigate the challenges that will come up through their college career and enabling them to grow in their personal religious journey through shiurim and chevrutot. Additionally, we help to provide a community where students can feel comfortable to grow and explore."

OU-JLIC at Queens regularly revises and customizes programs based on students' interests and schedules; indeed some of the most successful Jewish learning opportunities have been generated in collaboration with the students, and therefore meet their particular interests and work within the confines of their particular schedule.

As solid as the Jewish presence at Queens may be, Shoshana Charnoff sees further growth ahead.

"We have only just begun," she said. "We do anticipate continued growth of Jewish student life both in terms of quality and quantity." ■

LOW IN NUMBERS, HIGH ON CONNECTION

A small but cohesive Orthodox cohort works hard to enrich Jewish life at Johns Hopkins University.

Michael Orbach
OU-JLIC Staff

Looking to ensure a daily minyan on campus, Jewish students of Johns Hopkins University created a computer program that sent an automated text message to male students asking if they were coming to minyan. Once it received a response, it tabulated the number of affirmative answers versus the negative ones, and then told students if there would be a quorum for the morning services.

The program's name? The Gabbai-bot.

The Gabbai-bot is also an emblematic symbol of Orthodox life on campus: short on numbers, big on innovation and heart. Of the 5,600 students on campus, roughly 600 are Jewish and fewer than 40 self-identify as Orthodox at the twelfth ranked university in the United States, according to the most recent guide from U.S. News & World Report. (The president, Ronald Daniels, has vowed to make it into the top-ten by 2020.)

Johns Hopkins is primarily known for its engineering program, but

it also has one of the country's best writing programs, a facet that drew Danielle Pitkoff to the school after graduating from New York's SAR Academy and spending a gap year at Midreshet Ein HaNatziv.

"I'm really passionate about writing and ... I wanted a nice supportive Jewish community and I found that here," she said.

But Pitkoff wasn't exactly prepared for the size of the community. "It's definitely smaller than I expected, but that doesn't say anything about the type of passion and connection the students who go here have. It's made up of a group of people who are committed to making Jewish life on campus the best it can be, which has been really nice."

Rabbi Debbie Pine, who leads the campus Hillel, said that the smaller size of the campus has an oversized effect on the community's enthusiasm.

"We're small proportionally [compared to Penn or Brandeis] and I actually think that's part of our strength," explained Rabbi Pine. "A lot of our students are from around the New York area — Ramaz, Frisch and SAR — and they look around at a group of 30 students and realize this isn't New York and they're not surrounded by Jews."



Renowned engineering, writing programs draw Jewish students to JHU.

Photo: JHU

They find their way to Hillel very quickly. We have a very high rate of participation.

"I love Shabbat morning minyan they know everyone's Hebrew name," she explained. "It's a family."

The Smokler Center for Jewish Life, located across the street from the Baltimore campus, is the home of the Hopkins Hillel and the base of operations for most of the Jewish community in the university. (During Sukkot, a scenic porch was outfitted with schach.) Each week during the last school year, thanks to a grant from the Smokler family, close to 150 students gathered for a free kosher Friday night dinner catered by Accent, a kosher restaurant located in nearby Pikesville, home of a large and thriving Jewish population.

Rabbi Darren and Avital Levin represented the Orthodox Union's Seif Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus between 2012-2015. The Levins were a focal point for Orthodox Jewish life for the last three years. Rabbi David and Jenny Eckstein are the current OU-JLIC educators.

During a recent visit, a writer from the OU-JLIC Guide met Rabbi Darren and Avital Levin in the cafeteria, which houses a

special section for kosher students living on campus. The Levins talked while attempting to eat and feed their children at the same time, periodically interrupted by passing students stopping by and cooing at one of their two children. The Levins stressed that the school is very accommodating for religious students but students should also know what they're getting into.

"It doesn't have the luxuries that an Orthodox community has, like daily minyanim and a variety of shiurim," Avital said. "But if you have an appetite for leadership, there's no greater potential place for someone. Everyone who wants to step up has the ability to do so."

For example, Rabbi Levin recalled, a student spontaneously commandeered their kitchen to make hundreds of latkes for Chanukah. The small number of Jewish students also affects programming, as OU-JLIC attempts to cater to the different Jewish students on campus. Both Darren and Avital worked with the fraternities on campus, and maintained high-level learning sessions with Orthodox and non-Orthodox students.

Religious students on campus tend to come from the more liberal, academically driven Orthodox schools in the Metropolitan area

like Ramaz, SAR and Frisch. Recently, Rabbi Pine noted that a group of freshmen came to the college after a gap year spent in an Israel learning program, which is likely to affect the religious outlook of the campus.

The community strives for a daily Shacharit minyan and afternoon minyanim are sporadic and dependent on the seasons. Much like any small Jewish community, when there are so few Jewish students, the lines between strict denominations are blurred. One of the mainstays of the Orthodox minyan and a disciple of Rabbi Levin's is Jon Weinreich, 20, who described himself as ideologically Conservative but practicing Orthodox.

"The OU sponsors a role model for me," he said about the OU-JLIC program, "You can't model ideology, but you can model how to keep a kosher home."

Karen Reitman, 21, who was the head mashgiach of the Hillel kitchen said that the secular nature of the campus isn't a bad thing for spirituality.

"Hopkins students pride themselves on being no-nonsense people," she said. "It leads to great discussions and great discoveries." ■



FEATURED STORIES



STANDING UP FOR ISRAEL

EXPECT ANTI-ISRAEL CLASHES ON MOST MAJOR COLLEGE
CAMPUSES; BUT MORE RESOURCES THAN EVER ARE
AVAILABLE TO HELP ZIONISTS PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS.

ADAM DICKTER

When New York University students living at the Palladium Residence Hall woke up on April 24, 2014 to find mock eviction notices slipped under their doors, informing them that their home was to be demolished, some felt unsafe in their own quarters.

Many on campus felt the tactic by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), intended as a taste of Arab life under Israeli control, crossed a line. But the university administration, in response to complaints, viewed this behavior as free speech, not harassment. And when Laura Adkins, head of the pro-Israel group TorchPAC tried to argue otherwise, she found herself targeted for sanctions by SJP for promoting "disruption of the campus environment."

In other incidents, students at NYU and elsewhere have had to print and wield copies of campus guidelines and protest rules to uphold their right to organize events and counterprotests without being dispersed by overzealous security guards or uninformed administrators.

"We have been vocal in our concern with anti-Israel sentiment at NYU and often meet with the administration to discuss this," said Adkins, who is now a senior. "However, legally, there's not much the administration can do to sanction groups like SJP, which act maliciously but enjoy the equal protection of free speech."

■ EVEN WHEN THINGS DON'T GET UGLY, AGGRESSIVE ANTI-ISRAEL EVENTS POSE A DILEMMA FOR JEWISH LEADERS ON CAMPUS ■

To be a proudly pro-Israel college student in America these days is to be on guard, and never quite sure where the enemies are.

Last November, at Cornell University, a group of pro-Israel students had to call campus police to protect them when they were surrounded by members of SJP who called them "Zionist scum."

And at the University of Ohio in September, the student government president poured a bucket of fake blood over her head to protest against Israel. At Stanford, the student government passed a resolution calling on the

college to divest from companies that do business with Israel.

Aside from student organizations, or student governments, Zionist activists have had to go up against security guards, professors and administrations as they try to exercise their right to be speak out or respond.

In March 2014, following sustained pressure and an independent investigation, Brooklyn College President Karen Gould apologized to four Jewish students who were wrongfully ejected from a boycott Israel event in February, 2013. An administration official claimed the four were being disruptive, when all they were doing at the time were holding pro-Israel fact sheets, which they hadn't even yet distributed.

On Israeli Independence Day 2012, Ithaca College's Hillel organized a celebratory barbecue, an event that drew students of many religions to enjoy the food and music.

It was all going well until a group of students showed up with black balloons and protest posters, denouncing Israel for its treatment of Palestinians.

"Many students, including myself, found it incredibly disturbing that people would be so disrespectful at a holiday celebration," said Nicole Hakimi, a 2013 Ithaca graduate who was at the barbecue.

While respecting the importance of balanced dialogue on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Hakimi said, "this protest was inappropriate and counter-effective. The protestors were demonstrating thinly-veiled anti-Semitism, and it was protected as free speech."

After the summer-long conflict between Israel and Hamas stretched into the fall of 2014, Hillel directors and OU-JLIC professionals geared up for an even bigger backlash on campus as the anti-Israel Free Gaza movement and its sympathizers cast full blame for the conflagration on the Jewish state.

Students returned to campus after a summer of sampling harsh anti-Israel rhetoric on social media and seeing news reports that highlight the lopsided Israeli/Palestinian death tolls.

At the University of California at Los Angeles, the Jewish community faced an ardent student movement pushing for a student government resolution supporting boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel. But those advocates faced a strong, united reaction from an array of organizations, from Bruins for Israel to Hillel and the OU-JLIC chapter, headed by Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan and his wife, Sharona.

"It was highly coordinated, but so was the response," Rabbi Kaplan said. "There were literally 12 to 13 hours of debate, but at the end of the day the Israel side won. It was a very well-oiled machine."

While the clashes with left-leaning, pro-Palestinian students, including some Jews, has been a bitter experience for some, the overall effect was that it created greater unity on the campus between traditional Jewish Israel supporters.



All over North America, an increasingly confrontational, fast-growing offensive is targeting pro-Israel and Jewish students with pro-Palestinian messages.

During Operation Pillar of Defense in November 2012, 200 students at Rutgers University held a rally sponsored by Hillel, Chabad, and Rutgers Jewish Xperience to show solidarity with Israel's troops fighting in Gaza. But by day's end, they were outflanked by 500 people, including the anti-Israel Haredi group Neturei Carta.

"Five hundred people stood in the center of Rutgers College life and rallied against Israel," said Talia Friedman, a Rutgers senior whose twin brother was fighting in Gaza at the time.

At many campuses, students actively support the boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign against the Jewish state. Participation or even leadership by Jewish students in these efforts is not uncommon. Jewish Voice for Peace, a radical anti-Zionist group that supports boycotts against Israel, saw a huge spike in membership over the summer of 2014, The New York Jewish Week reported. A recent Gallup poll showed that just 25 percent of young adults 18-29 believe Israel's response to Hamas rockets is justified.



Above: Brandeis students at Israel Day Parade

Photo: israelcampusroundtable.org

Right: Students distribute pro-Israel literature at California State University, Northridge.

Photo: ZOA



Everyone's entitled to an opinion. But pro-Israel Jewish organizations are concerned that the temperature of Middle East discussions has risen to the point that pro-Israel Jews may be cowed into silence rather than risk being ostracized on campus or even face a physical confrontation.

Even Hillel houses — traditionally safe havens for pro-Israel events — have become battlegrounds as a small but growing movement of Jewish students want to shake off restrictions against events linked to pro-BDS groups or individuals who deny Israel's right to exist. Dueling online petitions call for the abolition or preservation of Hillel's international guidelines in favor of an Open Hillel movement in which almost anything goes.

In recent years, the Zionist Organization of America has fielded so many complaints about hostility directed at pro-Israel students that it set up a legal service to help protect their rights.

"When I came to ZOA I had no idea that this would be so much of my job," said Susan Tuchman, who is in charge of the project.

In the mid-2000s, Tuchman was in touch with students at University of California Irvine who felt physically threatened and intimidated. "I was flabbergasted by how many efforts they had made on their own to get relief from these problems. Outside organizations had reached out to the administration. They were saying, let's talk about issues in a way that doesn't hurt one another and not use swastikas or flags smeared with blood, or equating Israel's leaders with Adolf Hitler," Tuchman said.

This led ZOA on a path of working with students on many campuses where there have been problems. "I didn't hear about everything but there were students who would never come forward or were afraid, or if they do report problems the administration doesn't do anything."

Tuchman added that BDS activists have become increasingly proficient at public relations and are "painting Israel as evil and all Arabs as victims and many students buy into that." While

college administrations have issued statements upholding freedom of speech, some students have encountered harassment which is not protected by the Constitution.

"They have been called kike and dirty Jews." She cited a March incident in which University of Michigan police were reportedly contacted after two pro-Palestinian activists shouted threats of violence at a student who refused to support their boycott initiative during a sit-in at the student government's headquarters.

"We didn't ask them to make new rules, just enforce your own rules and policies that prohibit bullying and then hold students who violate them accountable," Tuchman said.

She cited another incident at Cornell, following a student government meeting discussing a BDS measure, in which a Jewish student leader was told "you're lucky I don't bash your face in."

"That's exactly what we're trying to do, use federal law to address when the environment becomes hostile to the point where Jewish students are afraid even to come to campus. That's unacceptable."

Tuchman said students who face intimidation on campus over Israel should reach out to her program for legal assistance at 212.481.1500. Students can also call the local Jewish Community Relations Council or the Anti-Defamation League for information about countering protests, or check for resource material online (see following page.)

Also taking up the cause of helping students protect their protest rights is Melanie Goldberg, one of the four who won the apology from Brooklyn College for wrongful removal from an event. Now a student at Benjamin Cardozo Law School, she founded a chapter of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights to provide legal advice to undergraduates who feel they are victims of anti-Semitism.

Efforts are underway to provide proactive information, rather than react to demonstrations and stunts like the eviction notices posted on dorm rooms at New York University.

"If you do not vacate the premise by midnight on 25 April, 2014 we reserve the right to destroy all remaining belongings. We cannot be held responsible for property or persons remaining inside the premises," read the notices, courtesy of Students for Justice in Palestine.

The scene echoed an earlier one at Binghamton University where Jewish students were unwillingly initiated into Israel

Apartheid Week with similar eviction notices, meant to evoke what happens when families of terrorists have their homes destroyed.

Eviction notices were posted at Florida Atlantic University, and it is not uncommon for Israeli flags to be burned or pro-Israel events to draw protestors or even to be disrupted. At Vassar College in May 2014, the Students for Justice in Palestine chapter came under fire from the administration after posting a grossly anti-Semitic cartoon online featuring a Jewish monster trampling a European town. (The group later apologized.)

In perhaps the worst such case, Michael Oren, then the Israeli ambassador to the U.S., was so severely heckled at an appearance at the University of California at Irvine in February 2010 that he had to call off the lecture at the behest of security guards.

Even when things don't get ugly, aggressive anti-Israel events pose a dilemma for Jewish leaders on campus. While it's important to provide information to counter defamatory speakers, there's also a risk of unwittingly giving them a boost.

"The anti-Israel campaign meets its goal when we respond publicly," said Nadya Drukker, executive director of Brooklyn College Hillel, where a series of events at the college in recent years sponsored by students and faculty have made the Midwood campus a Mideast battleground.

"The challenge is conveying our point of view, in a way that is effective in the long term. We see real change and understanding exhibited through personal relationships, with a variety of diverse groups on campus. Working on the micro level and developing networks for open communication proves to be far more essential for the future of a campus community."

But sometimes pro-Israel students have no choice but to respond to a public display. At the University of Pennsylvania, pro-Palestinian groups have been known to put up a so-called "apartheid wall" on campus as a representation of how Israel has treated the Palestinians. "A number of Jewish students took it upon themselves to stand by the wall throughout the day and provide the other side of the story to interested parties," said Daniel Raikin, a former Penn student.

OU-JLIC chapters wholeheartedly support the efforts of student groups to defend and honor Israel, and work to assure high attendance at events. But there's another important component. "We are the only group that brings religious significance to Yom Haatzmaut [Israel Independence Day] and Yom Yerushalayim [Jerusalem reclamation day] with special minyans," said Rabbi Kaplan. "Our shiurim are laced with the perspectives of OU-JLIC educators not only about the past — Avraham Avinu — but Zionism now."

Oren Siegel, director of the Anti-Defamation League's center on extremism, said there are between 400-500 anti-Israel events on campuses each year that seek to demonize and delegitimize Israel. Pro-Israel students are generally well equipped to counter anti-Israel programming and disseminate positive messaging, he said. But the growth of the anti-Israel movement in the last 10 years has created some significant challenges.

"Groups like Students for Justice in Palestine are able to attract

support from various student groups, including minority student organizations and others," Siegel said.

Often faculty play a negative role. Hakimi, the former Ithaca student, recalled a politics professor who offered extra credit to any student who attended any on-campus political protest. But the only political protest taking place that week was against Israel. "Students had to choose between attending the anti-Israel protest and missing the extra credit," said Hakimi.

Moreover, there has been an evolution from student-led BDS resolutions to faculty-driven support for anti-Israel programs and to academic associations passing boycott resolutions at their annual conferences.

As evidenced by the Open Hillel movement, tension and dissonance within campus communities is also an increasing concern.

There are now five anti-Zionist Jewish groups established on campuses in the past several years, and there are Open Hillel movements at three campuses — Swarthmore, Vassar and Wesleyan, with a similar movement at UC Berkeley.

The ADL cautions students and Hillel professionals against trying to campaign for shutting down anti-Israel programs. "Instead, we encourage students to combat anti-Israel speech with pro-Israel speech by organizing counter-events that can indirectly call into question the veracity of claims made at anti-Israel events," said Siegel. "Before doing so, however, we advise students to consider whether drawing more attention to a specific anti-Israel event outweighs the benefits of not doing so."

As in any situation, knowledge is key. "We encourage students to do research into the anti-Israel speakers being invited to their campus and we often provide research to them. The more educated students are about those speaking on their campus, the better prepared they will be to address biased and false narratives during potential Q & A sessions or in the campus newspaper," Seigel said.

Also important, he said is coalition building. "Forging relationships with other students and student groups on campus is integral to achieving tangible success on campus." ■

ONLINE RESOURCES

stopbds.com

factsandlogic.org

bdsglobaldigest.wordpress.com/category/responding-to-bds

besacenter.org

jerusalemu.org

standwithus.com

stepupforisrael.com



KEYS TO SUCCESS

CHALLENGES TO OBSERVANCE CAN BEGIN WITH
ACCESS TO THE RESIDENCE HALL ON SHABBAT,
BUT THERE ARE OTHER OBSTACLES AS WELL.

BETHANY MANDEL

When Saritte Perlman of Toronto decided to attend Guelph University in Ontario, Canada in 2010, many of her parents' friends expressed concern. They told the Perlmans, "you're setting your daughter up for failure" before she even set foot on campus.

After all, she would be the only Orthodox Jew on campus (a second would arrive two years later), without an observant Jewish minyan, with little kosher food, no eruv, and few of the amenities to which she was accustomed growing up in an Orthodox community.

How would it work living in a residence hall among non-Jews? To Perlman's relief, the transition into residence hall life was remarkably easy, with residence staff making as many accommodations as possible.

For students across the country attending universities with Jewish populations large and small, the extent of flexibility of the residence life staff, when matched with a student's sense of commitment, can make the biggest impact on maintaining a frum lifestyle on campus.

This is not to underestimate the challenges faced by observant students, who may face everything from loud music on Friday night to non-kosher roommates who borrow kosher cutlery to flat-out discrimination because of practices, beliefs or appearance.

layers of security, to students' benefit. The first entry into most buildings for most campuses is the swipe of an ID card. Identification cards are calibrated in order to serve several functions on campus, one of which is to permit entry for students into only their residence.

For shomer Shabbat students, this can be an obstacle or hindrance to maintaining observance while living on campus.

The swipe of an ID is standard, but most campuses, especially those familiar with the needs of Orthodox students, can and do provide manual keys that can be used on Shabbat. In Saritte's case, because her school is unaccustomed to the needs of Orthodox Jews, the outside door key can only be opened with a universal key, something the university was unable to provide to a student.

On Shabbat Saritte either lingered outside the heavily trafficked front door waiting for someone else to enter, or knocked for a resident assistant to let her into the building.

"At first it was awkward standing around," she said. "But soon people started to recognize me and resident assistants would come to expect me on Fridays and Saturdays."

At New York University, by contrast, Gabrielle Lasher faced the typical ease with which Orthodox students are accommodated at more heavily Jewish institutions. She had a manual key and showed security her identification, without swiping it. Lasher said that most of the security officers on campus had no issue with the special arrangements

that Orthodox students made.

For a school like Princeton, which is working on building an eruv, the challenge to keeping Shabbat is clear. Not only is it necessary to have keys to the outside doors, but without an eruv it is also impossible to carry them or keep them in pockets, according to halachah.

While the university is working on building an eruv, in the meantime the office of residence life makes it as easy as possible for religious students to carry their keys on campus.

Rebecca Dresner, a senior at Princeton, told OU-JLIC, "At orientation male students are given Shabbat belts and female students are given bracelets to carry their keys. The belts and bracelets don't cost a lot and what we pay is a deposit — it was \$10, if that. If we return the bracelets and the belts, the fee is returned at the end of the year."

While any student could purchase a Shabbat belt or bracelet themselves, the fact that Princeton provides them made it clear to Dresner from Day 1 on campus that the school was aware of and sensitive to the needs of Orthodox students.

High-rise residence halls present another unique challenge for shomer Shabbat students, who try to avoid getting placed on the higher floors. Fortunately most school residence halls cap out at around four floors — though at urban schools like NYU, they can be much higher.

For Lasher at NYU, the stairs during her freshman year were a challenge. Despite requesting a lower floor residence hall room, she ended up on the seventh floor. While it was an unexpected workout every Shabbat, Gabrielle would have obviously preferred being on the first three floors with most of her peers. She told OU-JLIC that NYU did its best to accommodate Orthodox students' requests to live on a low floor, but she was one of the unlucky few who found herself hiking up the stairwells.

Once inside the residence hall, there are often a few potential halachic obstacles to avoid. In stairways and sometimes in bathrooms, motion sensors are an obstacle for Orthodox students. Some universities will agree to deactivate them on Shabbat.

Leah Sarna, a graduate of Yale University, found that the residence life staff went above and beyond to ensure a smooth transition into residence hall living. Before orientation weekend, students have the opportunity to inform Yale that they are Sabbath observant.

The university then assigns a member of the maintenance staff to ensure that their needs are met on move-in day, a Friday. This maintenance staff member gives out manual keys and automatically deactivates motion sensors. The rest of the year, this staff member goes around

■ GREAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN RESIDENCE LIFE ON CAMPUSES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ■

Hart Levine, founder of Heart to Heart, a college program that organizes friendly Shabbat meals, faced many adversarial situations at the University of Pennsylvania.

"I had a roommate who was Jewish by birth alone, and it was challenging to create a really vibrant Jewish space in our room," said Levine, who said the roommate was once offended at an assumption that he would attend services on Yom Kippur. "It created some tension."

Most residence halls have multiple

before holidays and on Friday afternoons to deactivate the sensors in every bathroom and stairwell that Orthodox students use. Jewish students on campus grew to form a relationship with this staff member, named Hesh, who Sarna deemed “The Man” in an endearing tone.

While most major universities are accommodating overall of the requests from Orthodox students, few waive the freshman lottery system for roommates.

Gabrielle Lasher at NYU worried that living with a non-Jewish or non-observant Jew would be a stress on both roommates.

What if the non-Jew wanted to watch TV or left the bedroom lights on after leaving the room on Friday night? While NYU was once willing to place Orthodox students with one another, the college recently changed that policy. Lasher believed that it was because residence staff wanted to integrate students more across religious lines.

The university did not respond to OU-JLIC’s request for comment about the current policy.

Lasher said she would not have objected to living with a non-Jew, as she wished she had made more friends with students outside of the Jewish community.

“Most of the places [where] we made friends were in our dorms and in the dining halls the first year,” she said. “We were all on the same floors for the most part — the lower floors of certain buildings, because we requested to be there so we didn’t have to climb to higher ones on Shabbat. We all went to the kosher dining hall together, which was separate from the ones that other students went to. While I made some friends in my classes, the Jewish students tended to bunch together in groups because it was easy and the most comfortable.”

Saritte Perlman at Guelph became so passionate about the experience she had as a residence hall resident that she became a resident assistant for the next two years. Other students said that there were few adjustments that needed to be made with non-Jewish roommates, as there were no kitchen and kashrut questions in the equation.

In 1997, Yale University was embroiled in a lawsuit with a group of five students (“The Yale Five”) who claimed their religious needs were not accommodated by the school. Campus policy then prohibited the students from living off campus together with other Jews of the same gender, which would have been a contradiction of policy requiring first- and second-year students to live on campus on mixed gender floors.

At the time, the case was a source of tension between the university and Orthodox students, but Sarna insists that she had no issues requesting single-gender bathrooms at Yale, despite living on mixed gender floors. Sarna also found ways to reduce tensions with non-Jewish roommates.

“I really recommend that people buy a KosherLamp (a lamp able to be dimmed on Shabbat) for their side of the room,” she said. “I always remind my roommates to turn the light off on Shabbat and holidays, sometimes with a sticky note next to the switch. As it is people normally watch TV shows on their computers or in the common room, so my roommate watching stuff on Shabbat isn’t ever a problem, we don’t have a TV in our room.”

David Barkey, an expert on religious freedom for the Anti-Defamation League, said great progress has been made in residence life housing on campuses across the United States.

“The issues we have on campus are less about religious accommodation and more issues pertaining to anti-Israel professors that have a clear anti-Israel bias,” Barkey said. “Nothing has come across my desk where there was a school that was refusing to accommodate.”

Hart Levine urges those who encounter compatibility issues with roommates, residence hall neighbors or others, particularly if they are non-observant Jews, to keep things civil and not give up on the ability to reach compromises.

“I had a roommate who played music on Shabbat, but when we asked him not to when we had Shabbat dinner in the room he was totally OK with that,” Levine said. “We often invited him to join us. Open communication along the way can be the most important asset.” ■

HOW TO EVALUATE CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

Do freshmen choose their roommate or does the university select their roommate?

Are there Jewish residence halls on campus run by Hillel, Chabad, or another Jewish organization?

Do Orthodox students live in particular residence halls?

Do residence hall rooms include kitchens?

Are residence halls or specific floors of residence halls single gender?

Do individual rooms include bathrooms or are there communal bathrooms?
Are these bathrooms single gender or coed?

Can Orthodox students request to live on a low floor because they are Shomer Shabbat?

How do people enter and exit the residence hall on Shabbat?

What is the distance between residence halls and Hillel, Chabad, and kosher food on campus?

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MICHAEL ORBACH

It wasn't the beaches of Eilat or the Tel Aviv nightlife that stuck with Oliver Baron, a recent Birthright Israel participant.

Baron, who works for HubSpot, a Google-backed startup, said that he was surprised by what had the most impact on him.

"I know it sounds cliché, but touching the Western Wall and realizing that thousands of years of energy have flowed through it affected me," said Baron, 24. "Knowing that my ancestors prayed at that wall and that it was the foundation of all religions did something for me."

Baron's trip provider for the international program that takes young Jewish adults to Israel for an all-expense-paid ten-day mission was Israel Free Spirit, a part of the Orthodox Union's NextGen division that is run quietly out of OU's office in downtown Manhattan.

Birthright and the OU were a natural match, explained Rabbi Dave Felsenthal, director of NextGen.

"The Orthodox Union's mission is 'Do good for the Jews' and this is the largest project doing good for Jews right now," he said.

Since serving as one of the "beta testers" of the Birthright program in 1999, the OU has since taken more than 15,000 young adults to Israel. Last year alone, Israel Free Spirit ran 50 buses touring the Jewish homeland; Israel Free Spirit's work was recognized by the national Birthright organization with a coveted certificate of excellence.

Rabbi Felsenthal said Israel Free Spirit's success comes from the serious approach that the program takes.

"We're not the party trip," Rabbi Felsenthal said. "We invest a lot of money and time into our trips. We have more spiritual experiences than other trips. It's more substance, less fluff."

While Israel Free Spirit maintains the same intense schedule all Birthright trips have, from a night in a Bedouin tent under the stars to hiking Masada, Israel Free Spirit also packs in some spiritual adventures as well: a Friday night service at the Western Wall (a feature that was adopted by all Birthright trips); Shabbat in Jerusalem with meals overlooking Har Habayit, the Temple Mount; bar and bat mitzvah services; a lengthy stay in the mystical city of Tzfat. In addition, since the Orthodox Union is a non-profit, Israel Free Spirit is able to spend more on their trips without worrying about making a profit, like renting ATVs in Israel's north and rafting down the Jordan River.

"We want to give [participants] a feeling of their identity and their homeland," explained Penny Pazornick, associate director of Israel Free Spirit. "We try to give them the experience that, when they come back, they'll have a little more sense of who they are as individuals and where they come from as part of the Jewish people."

"We offer a very balanced religious message without watering down the experience," added Rabbi Felsenthal.

Another advantage is Israel Free Spirit's connection with other Orthodox Union divisions like NCSY and Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (OU-JLIC). Rabbi Reuven Boshnack, who together with his wife, Shira, are the OU-JLIC couple in Brooklyn College, recently spent 10 days with 40 students who knew each other from university.

"We didn't need ice-breakers," Rabbi Boshnack explained. "A lot of relationships were cemented and we were able to capitalize on the gains we made when we returned to Brooklyn."

Among its many accomplishments, Israel Free Spirit boasts of its high rating for participant satisfaction. Additionally, 17 percent of Israel Free Spirit Birthright participants chose to extend their stay. The high rate of extension stems from the quality of the staff, according to Yael Tamari, Israel Free Spirit's Israel-based education director.

"Our average staff member is either a full-time educator, rabbi, someone interested in Jewish education or alum or graduate of our program," she said. "Our staff forms relationships with participants that continue to last."

Scott Shulman, Israel Free Spirit's program director, said that he derives a great deal of satisfaction from the cumulative effect Israel Free Spirit trips have.

"One person can make a difference," he said. "If you're running a meaningful trip for 40 people you can't possibly try to summarize what the impact will be. Birthright is an incredible way to change the world."

Israel Free Spirit has also expanded to run niche trips across a spectrum of interests like athletics and arts. This year Israel Free Spirit organized a program under the leadership of Shlomo Veingrad — the now-Orthodox, Super Bowl-winning, former lineman with the Dallas Cowboys — and a political trip led by former Congressman Peter Deutsch, a Florida Democrat. Tamari said the most powerful moment on any Birthright trip emerged from a trip that Israel Free Spirit ran in conjunction with a Jewish alcoholic recovery program.

"One of the participants said that he had tried suicide multiple times before he signed up," said Tamari; however after exploring his heritage, the participant, "is on a new road now."

Some victories for Israel Free Spirit are smaller, but just as important. For Oliver Baron, the trip was an opportunity to change the way he felt about his faith and heritage.

"I wasn't always proud to be Jewish," he admitted. "But seeing those aspects of Israel, it made me really proud." ■



Left: Gabby Joachim and Sasha Kranz

Above: Ilana Peck with Israeli soldiers



THE BEAT GOES ON

HEART TO HEART STARTED AS A SHABBAT DINNER
AT UPENN. IT HAS NOW SPREAD TO 50 CAMPUSES
AROUND THE WORLD.

MICHAEL ORBACH

Photo: Kuvien

Hart Levine has some advice for Orthodox high school students looking for the best college campus next year.

Looking at the number of observant students on campus is one thing, said the University of Pennsylvania alumnus. But it's also a good idea to look at potential.

"Look at where there's a need, and where you can contribute," said Levine. "When you do that, it can be one of the greatest sources of support."

He should know. As an underclassman in 2008, Levine saw a way to contribute to Jewish life at Penn and stepped up to the plate.

Penn Hillel was one of the best in the country, with multiple daily minyanim and informal Jewish night classes. But what about all the Jewish students who just didn't go to the Hillel house?

"There were 3,000 Jews on campus," Levine, 20 at the time, recalls himself asking. "Where were the other 70 percent?"

So, along with some friends, he invited a few Jewish classmates to share a Friday night dinner together at the campus quad. The result surprised him. After the meal ended and the food was finished, no one left. Finally, at 2 a.m. people reluctantly left the Shabbat table.

"These were people I had never met before who had gone to the Hillel once," he said. "My whole life, I was a part of the Jewish community. I felt really blessed and privileged. Being in college was the first time I was exposed to the other 80 percent of Jews who didn't have those experiences or even had negative experiences."

Levine quickly realized the power of a traditional Shabbat meal and began hosting more Shabbat meals for Jewish students in his other classes, then people who lived in his hall. The idea spread throughout the college campus and soon, Levine wasn't the only one hosting meals on campus for unaffiliated Jewish students.

"There was a relatively low barrier to entry," Levine said. "It was a bunch of people inviting their friends."

Over the next two years, Levine hosted 40 Shabbat dinners and the grassroots Shabbat table movement loosely coalesced into his organization Heart to Heart (H2H). His approach worked, he said, because he had no real agenda, he wasn't from Hillel or Chabad, but simply Hart Levine, studying for a degree in bioengineering.

"I started speaking to students at other schools and they all said the same thing: 'We have a great Orthodox community, but 80 percent don't come to anything,'" Levine recalled. "I realized this wasn't an issue unique to Penn. Even at the best colleges [programs] reach only 25 percent."

By the time Levine graduated, his idea had spread to college campuses across the United States and he gradually decided to pursue H2H on a full-time basis. He reached out to Hillel International and the Orthodox Union for seed money and the following year, Heart to Heart joined the Orthodox Union's Next Gen division.

Rabbi Dave Felsenthal, director of Next Gen, said that H2H was a natural fit for the Orthodox Union.

"Our best and brightest Jewish students are reaching out to their peers and showing them the beauty of Shabbat," he said. "I really think that it's our best chance to bring our brothers and sisters closer to Judaism."

H2H is now on 50 college campuses all over the world, from South

America to Hong Kong, and Levine himself travels frequently to ensure that their Shabbat has the warm and welcoming atmosphere that Heart to Heart is known for. The formula for college students is simple: host a Shabbat meal and H2H will pay for it.

The organization's programs have broadened. While Shabbat dinners are still the core experience of H2H, the organization also offers programs for the chagim, runs Shabbatons on college campuses and aids students who want to make their campus more Orthodox-friendly.

Levine travels to Israel to meet students who are learning in Israel for their gap-year to talk about the importance of reaching out to their fellow Jews. During the course of his travels, Levine also compiled the first comprehensive map of all the kosher dining options on campuses across the United States, a feat for which he was profiled online in Tablet Magazine.

Part of the success of H2H is that it doesn't seek to impose anything on participants, said Tamar Feigenbaum, a student from Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh, who often hosted H2H Shabbat meals.

"It's not about kiruv," Feigenbaum explained. "It's not pushing anyone to be something, that's not the goal. [H2H] is about showing people that there are Shabbat meals; that there are Jewish things beyond AEPi and matzah ball soup and beyond any institution. It's really important for students to see that Judaism is a way of life and it's a way of life that is accessible and relatable."

But H2H isn't only affecting the Shabbat guests, as Ben Bolnick, a student at Levine's alma mater discovered. He heard about H2H while shopping at J Levine Judaica, the store owned by Levine's family in Manhattan, and quickly signed up to host meals.

"It helps me shift my focus away from myself and towards helping others," he said about hosting. "I've grown a lot."

Levine's final piece of advice for students who are narrowing down their choices for next year: "Make sure you are giving yourself a chance to succeed [religiously]. Choose a college with a base of support like a Hillel or Chabad house or OU-JLIC family, where you can feel at home and have a place to escape to."

Or, if you're like Hart Levine, help create or enhance one. ■



Left: Hart Levine says his only agenda is hospitality.

Above: Hart Levine educates fellow college students about Shabbat.



A LOT ON THEIR PLATES

FOR SOME STUDENTS, CHOOSING KOSHER
MEAL PLANS CAN BE A LOT TO CHEW ON.

BETHANY MANDEL

At his orientation at George Washington University several years ago, former GW student Daniel Wein remembers how lavish the proceedings were that weekend.

"They see orientation as a way to get students excited about their upcoming undergrad experience," he said.

Freshman orientation has an enormous budget that has been cut over the years, he explained, but it's still one of the most expensive events that GW holds. Food is all-inclusive and is catered by the dining halls, caterers and local restaurants. The budget for the weekend is incredible. "They have been known to spend \$75,000 on a laser light show, so you can imagine what they have spent on food."

Food is an important way that a university woos its students. So what can kosher-keeping students expect at universities around the country?

The answer, of course, depends on the school. At Brandeis University in Waltham Mass., and Johns Hopkins University (JHU) in Baltimore, kosher students can enjoy a freshly made hot meal while breaking bread (on different plates and trays, of course) alongside their non-kosher-keeping classmates.

While several schools offer a kosher cafeteria option, these meal plans often have to be purchased separately from the school's traditional meal plans and are almost always served in separate facilities.

Kosher students at Brandeis and JHU, among other schools, are able to partake in their kosher-certified, freshly made meals alongside their peers as part of their general meal plan. Students at JHU can order from a wide variety of options at Taam Tov, certified by the Orthodox Union (OU) inside the Fresh Food Café. While only 11 of the 14 weekly meals offered in the café are available kosher, the JHU Hillel provides the rest, which take place on Shabbat.

At Sherman Dining Hall, an all-you-can-eat cafeteria on the Brandeis campus, a kosher meal plan is the same price as the standard meal plan, around \$3,000. Kosher students are given a special ID card in order to eat from the kosher side of the dining hall.

Brandeis Hillel explains how this is possible: "Meat and dairy products are prepared in separate, dedicated kitchens, utilizing two completely separate sets of utensils, dishes, stoves, dishwashers, and all other cookware," says the organization's website. "The kosher side of Sherman has rules to make sure that all the food is kept kosher; however, students sit wherever they wish in the cafeteria. Students use trays, and whenever they eat from the kosher side they make sure that everything stays on it. On Shabbat, trays are not available, and all of the plateware and silverware are disposable."

Ariel Pardo, co-director of the OU-JLIC on campus, was amazed at the options, saying they were "incredible and delicious, not just edible." In addition to the integrated cafeteria at Sherman, Pardo said there are two other options on campus: a kosher deli called Louis's and a Dunkin' Donuts, which, while not kosher, has select labeled baked goods and drinks available for observant Jews.

Another option for kosher college students affords them the ability, with their regularly priced university meal plan, to eat at a full-service university-operated kosher cafeteria. Several schools, including Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania, and New York University have this option. The first two kitchens are certified by the OU, and UPenn is certified by the Va'ad of Philadelphia.

NYU's kosher cafeteria, located in Weinstein Hall, offers both meat and dairy options, alternating daily. (Tuesdays and Thursdays are dairy and

every other day of the week is meat.) It is under Chof-K certification.

NYU's cafeteria offers a wide selection including fresh fruit, salad, and dessert bars, wraps, sandwiches, soup, and four entrées per day. According to NYU's former OU-JLIC educator Rabbi Gideon Black, the cafeteria is a "hub" for Orthodox students, who spend several hours studying, davening with a minyan that meets there, and getting the most food possible out of their all-you-can-eat plan. NYU students, unlike those at many other schools in the country, are also afforded access to dozens of kosher restaurants across New York City, just a subway ride away.

Yale University's kosher kitchen is operated by the Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale. It is located on the bottom floor of the Slifka Center, but is fully integrated in the university dining plan. It is certified by the Va'ad of Fairfield. There are several other kosher options around Yale that are under local certification, including the dairy restaurants Claire's Corner Copia and Edge of the Woods. At many other universities, such as Cornell and Princeton, while one can find kosher food on campus, there are very limited kosher offerings nearby other than what one can find in the supermarket.

At Yale, student Micah Sukol said he had "nothing but good things to say" about his meal plan options on campus. He said, "the food is delicious and it isn't just members of the Jewish community that eat there, because of its central location and the fact that it's on a different meal rotation than the rest of campus."

Kosher students will also on occasion stop into a non-kosher cafeteria for a breakfast of packaged yogurt and coffee if it is more convenient than going to the Slifka Center. Rabbi Noah Cheses, former OU-JLIC educator at Yale said of the dining hall's offerings, "Slifka Dining at the Slifka Center serves meals three times daily. Breakfast and lunch are dairy and dinner is a meat meal. On Shabbat, dinner and lunch are meat and Seudah Shlishit is dairy. The Slifka Dining hall is supervised by the Va'ad HaKashrus of Fairfield County. Slifka Dining is open when Yale is in session and on select weekends during school breaks."

At several state schools including the University of Maryland and Rutgers University, students can purchase private kosher meal plans with Hillel or, in the case of Rutgers, the local Chabad. At the University of Maryland the plan is currently listed at \$2,750 and at Rutgers University Chabad it is \$2,050. The University of Maryland publishes its weekly menu online and features brunch on Sundays, lunch and dinner throughout the week. For lunch and dinner there is a vegetarian soup, a meat-based soup, a meat entrée and a vegetarian entrée, a starch, vegetable and dessert.

An average lunch at the University of Maryland might feature a split pea soup, beanless chili, mushroom meatballs, lentil roasted pepper medley, tomato garlic fettuccine, steamed red cabbage and blueberry pie. Rutgers Chabad does not list menus online, though they usually include pizza, falafel, overstuffed hero sandwiches, pepper steak, tacos, wraps, grilled vegetables, burritos, and a variety of hot soups, fresh fruits and salads.

This private model does not allow strictly kosher students to accompany friends or grab a cup of coffee or a bowl of cereal in non-kosher dining halls, nor can they invite their non-observant friends to join them for a meal without using a guest pass or paying for them outright.

Maryland Hillel's website explains how their plan works: "The kosher meal plan does NOT work at any other campus dining hall or at campus restaurants. Likewise, University Dining Plans, Points and University Dollars will not work at Hillel."

For Rutgers students one has to fully commit to eating in the Chabad Dining Hall by purchasing a meal plan that is less costly than the

university's through Chabad. For students where there is no university-sponsored meal plan, anyone who chooses to buy into the private kosher option is locked in for the rest of the semester. While this isn't an issue for students who are committed to keeping kosher from the start of the school year, it can make it more difficult for those who are growing in their observance while on campus.

Several schools, like Brooklyn and Queens Colleges as well as York University in Toronto, have pay-as-you-go meals available on campus or nearby at restaurants for students and faculty throughout their urban campuses, with no university or Hillel-sponsored meal plans attached.

The Brooklyn College Hillel now hosts a Subsational glatt kosher meat restaurant and Queens College also operates a full-kosher option within its cafeteria. Their website explains: "The Kosher Dairy Stop is an all-kosher food service option located in the main cafeteria area, and is under the supervision of the Va'ad Harabonim of Queens. It operates Monday-Friday most of the day."

Students at the two schools, part of the City University of New York system, include many commuters who bring lunch from home. Brooklyn College student Steven Appelbaum said that when he forgets to bring lunch or doesn't have time to prepare it he purchases food on campus or nearby. Appelbaum said, "There aren't many options on campus itself. The kosher cafeteria has pizza and sushi and Hillel serves meat and sandwiches. Outside of that, [students] leave campus and walk to [nearby] kosher options."

Students like Natan Ross at Guelph University in Ontario would be happy with any of the above options. At Guelph there is no kosher meal-plan option, and while the university's hospitality service offers kosher frozen airplane meals from Toronto purchased 24 hours in advance, there are currently no students on campus who do so. Ross is just one of very few frum students on campus currently, and strongly warned against subsisting on the frozen dinners for any lengthy period of time. For students at Rutgers University who choose not to buy into the Chabad meal plan, the frozen food route is also an option if one wants to stay on a university-sponsored meal plan. While this would be appealing for students living in residence dorms not on the main College Avenue campus, there are few, if any, students who choose to do this at Rutgers on any given year.

At Guelph, Ross survives on individual meals that his mother sends to him frozen, heated up double-wrapped in aluminum foil in a non-kosher apartment shared with several non-Jewish roommates. Ross keeps close tabs on all of his pots, pans, and utensils and explained that his roommates are incredibly respectful and careful. Obtaining kosher food is a logistical and necessary challenge, but not an insurmountable one, even for those with next to no on-campus offerings.

Dani Klein, the founder of YeahThatsKosher.com, which helps kosher-keeping travelers find food, said kashrus is one of the biggest challenges for observant students.

"I think in general, kosher observant students tend to choose universities that have a large Orthodox community, and thus kosher options," he said. "This isn't new." As a Jewish campus professional working with the pro-Israel group Stand With Us from 2005-2010, Klein said he "did notice students who became more observant and those were the students who struggled the most keeping kosher, partially because they didn't always keep kosher [in the past] and because local options were scarce."

He added that students increasingly rely on local Chabad chapters, which have made campus outreach a high priority, as well as their local supermarkets, which today tend to carry a wide array of kosher products, even in traditionally non-Orthodox areas.

Klein added that part of his time is now dedicated to helping students and parents figure out the kosher campus options.

For those at schools with a wide variety of choices, life is simple and convenient by design. Jake Altholz, a junior at Brandeis, told us that the availability of kosher food was "definitely" a deciding factor in his school selection process.

"While a lot of factors played into making my college decision, the availability of kosher food and just the campus' way of making it so easy to be an observant Jew definitely played a major part in choosing Brandeis University for my undergraduate experience," he said.

Students on campuses where obtaining kosher food requires more effort, like those at Guelph, tend to say that as long as they were aware of what it would take to keep kosher before stepping onto campus, they didn't mind the extra steps necessary to keep kosher. ■

HOW TO EVALUATE KOSHER FOOD AVAILABILITY ON CAMPUS

Is there a kosher meal plan on campus or is there only kosher food (pre packaged, frozen items) ?

Is lunch and dinner offered every day on campus? Are there meals on Shabbat and Holidays, including Pesach?

What organization (Va'ad) provides the hashgacha to the kosher food? What are their standards? For example, is there a Mashgiach Tmidi (full time dedicated supervision)?

Are a full range of menu options available (vegetarian, allergies, gluten free)?

Which meals are meat and/or dairy?

Are kosher meals fast-food only, or are healthy options available?

Is the kosher meal plan part of the university meal plan or is it purchased through Hillel or Chabad?

Is one required to be on a university meal-plan as a first year student, and how does this impact one's flexibility with regard to obtaining kosher food?

Do students typically participate in the kosher meal plan as upper-classmen? Do they have the option of maintaining their own kosher kitchens in their residence halls or off-campus housing?

Are students able to sit in the cafeteria with friends not eating kosher food?

Where is the kosher food on campus located? Is it in a central location?

Are there "to go" options that can be pre-ordered and picked up or delivered for meals instead of eating in the cafeteria?

If you don't finish all of the money on your meal plan, what happens with the extra balance?

Is kosher food available locally, off-campus, in supermarkets or restaurants?

For more information about kosher food on campus check out: theheart2heartproject.org/koshermap created by Hart Levine, Founder & Director at Heart to Heart

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Rutgers University is comprised of five campuses, New Brunswick being the largest campus with Camden and Newark right behind. The New Brunswick campus has over 33,000 students.

Rutgers-New Brunswick is home to over 6,000 Jewish undergraduate students and over 150 Orthodox students, making it a strong religious campus community. The New Brunswick Campus consists of five smaller campuses and students will find themselves taking classes at any of these five campuses. Hillel, Chabad and Rutgers Jewish Experience (RJX) are the three major Jewish organizations on campus. They provide a plethora of programming and learning opportunities for Jewish students. Rutgers Hillel has an OU-JLIC couple on staff. OU-JLIC works closely with Mesorah, the Orthodox student group on campus, to provide a comprehensive array of programming including daily and Shabbat minyanim, countless shiurim and learning opportunities, social events, community service activities and much more.

Although classes do meet during the Jewish holidays the university is very accommodating to the practices and needs of religious students. Students can live either in campus residence halls or off campus in surrounding apartments and houses. If you wish to live in Rutgers Housing you can request a room on the College Avenue Campus to be in walking distance of Hillel and Chabad and within the eruv. Chabad also has its own residence halls for both men and women for guaranteed College Avenue housing. Additionally, many Orthodox students live in off-campus houses and apartments.

Hillel, through the OU-JLIC/Mesorah Community, offers traditional Orthodox Friday night services which have an average of 50 to 70 students in attendance. Chabad also has a Friday night minyan. Hillel and Chabad both provide free Friday night dinners where there are between 150-200 students at each. Shabbat morning Hillel and Chabad both offer Shacharit services. The OU-JLIC educators host large groups of students, between 40 and 70, in their home for a free Shabbat lunch each week with no RSVP required. Lunch is also offered at Chabad. On Shabbat afternoon students can be found hanging out on campus, in each other's dorms, or at the park. Hillel sponsors a weekly Seudah Shlishit, which ends with Maariv and Havdalah.

STUDENTS SPEAK

"At Rutgers we have a thriving Jewish community where people and ideas come together. There is so much that is great about Rutgers Hillel, but most of all it is a great place to be Jewish!"

ALEX HAMILTON



IT'S TRUE

The first ever college football game was played on November 6, 1869, when Rutgers hosted Princeton University, then called the College of New Jersey. Rutgers defeated Princeton, 6-4. The rules were quite different from modern football.



KOSHER FOOD:

Students interested in a kosher meal plan should sign up with the Chabad House, which offers the only kosher meal plan on campus. First-year residential students must sign up with at least a 14-meals-per-week plan, while upperclassman residential students must sign up with at least a 10-meals-per-week plan with Chabad in order to be exempt from a Rutgers Dining meal plan. Students who live off campus can also purchase smaller meal plans at Chabad. As of Fall 2016, Rutgers Hillel will be in its new facility which will include a dairy kosher café.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

There are daily and Shabbat minyanim available, learning opportunities through Hillel, Chabad and RJX. Mesorah and OU-JLIC provide a variety of different opportunities and student-led learning initiatives.

ERUV: Yes, although it does not cover all five campuses. The College Avenue campus is within the eruv.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Hillel, Mesorah, Chabad, RJX, Kol Halayla: coed Jewish a capella, Israel Groups.

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KOSHER FOOD:

The Hillel houses two restaurants between the two locations, where breakfast, lunch and dinner are available. Passover food is served during the holiday, and free Shabbat meals are available. The restaurants are not part of a university meal plan and students living on campus are required to purchase one.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

OU-JLIC offers three minyanim daily, except for Sunday. A wide range of shiurim and chaburot are offered throughout the week as well as the opportunity to learn with OU-JLIC educators. Additionally, OU-JLIC invites prominent local rabbinic personalities to speak on campus.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC; Hillel; Bruins for Israel, (FYSH) First Year Students at Hillel, Hillel intramural teams, Bearing Witness, Alternative Spring Break, Ha'am-the Jewish Newsmagazine of UCLA, Jewkbox, Social Justice groups, Challah for Hunger, and Persian Community at Hillel. There is also a vibrant, active campus Chabad.

University of California, Los Angeles is a prestigious university with a sprawling campus, nestled in scenic Westwood California. It enrolls close to 30,000 in a total of 337 undergraduate and graduate programs. It is conveniently situated only five miles from the vibrant, established modern Orthodox community of Pico-Robertson in West Los Angeles.

There are an estimated 2,500 Jewish students and about 100 Orthodox Jewish students, living both on campus and in the nearby Orthodox communities of Pico-Robertson, Hancock Park and the Valley region of Los Angeles. OU-JLIC at UCLA represents the only independent, fully functioning Orthodox student community on the West Coast. Students from other local campuses are drawn to UCLA to participate in the unique communal experience OU-JLIC offers. The Orthodox students living on campus typically live in the dorms, in The Bayit, a Jewish co-op off campus, or in off-campus apartments. Professors will generally make alternative testing arrangements for students when tests occur on Jewish holidays. Students are required to give these professors a note from a rabbi. While there are no Shabbat keys for the dorms, individual roommates and staff in the dorms will help students get in on Shabbat and Yom Tov.

Shabbat at UCLA is a wonderful experience. There are two different services on Friday night. Approximately 20 students attend the Orthodox service with another 20 at the general service. Shabbat morning there are around 20 people at the Orthodox minyan. Shabbat lunch brings in around 40 students on any given Shabbat. On Shabbat day students typically hang out at Hillel for davening and the meal. On select Shabbatot, the meal is hosted at the home of the OU-JLIC educators. Students tend to gather at the Jewish Co-op or private apartments in the afternoon.



"Because of the smaller Jewish campus community, I have been able to make a unique difference that might not have been realized at another university. The tight-knit Jewish community creates a strong sense of personal responsibility; inspiring me to step up and take a leadership role, which I feel is maximizing my Jewish growth and passion."

DANIEL LEVINE



Whereas many campuses empty out for the holidays, people are drawn to UCLA for the extreme and memorable holiday celebrations. The annual Simchat Torah Rock n' Scroll celebration, the Shavuot Dvar Tournament and the Purim Palooza are just some highlights that make holidays one of the most treasured parts of the campus experience.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

The University of Chicago is a private research university, with approximately 5,000 undergraduate and 10,000 graduate students. The university adheres to an academically rigorous core curriculum and a culture that emphasizes the “life of the mind.”

The University of Chicago is home to approximately 800 Jewish undergraduates for four years. The campus Orthodox community comprises approximately 20-30 students. The university is highly flexible in matters of religious observance. Professors are tolerant toward holiday absences and the housing department emphasizes accessibility. The dining provider readily offers a wide range of kosher dining options. Yavneh at U Chicago, the Orthodox group on campus, offers a variety of programming ranging from learning to social. They also provide a variety of different resources enhancing college life for Orthodox and religious observant students. Yavneh is a flourishing community of close friendships and sincere intellectualism. They pray together every day, maintain a kosher kitchen and take time every week for learning and text study.

Shabbat at University of Chicago is a warm and welcoming environment. Shabbat meals are free and are hosted at Hillel along with minyan. There are 15 students attending the Orthodox Friday night davening. Between 75 and 100 students attend Friday night dinner. On Shabbat day, Shacharit is always followed by a kiddush with around 15 students attending. Shabbat morning davening attracts 15 students and around 25 students attend Shabbat lunch. The Rohr Chabad Center also offers traditional services every Friday evening, followed by a delicious, home-cooked Shabbat dinner and a Shabbat morning service once a month. The community is friendly and tight knit, so students will hang around Hillel or Chabad most Shabbat afternoons, learning, playing games, reading magazines. Students will host onegs in their apartments once or twice a month and then will gather to eat and learn together elsewhere.

STUDENTS SPEAK

“It’s like a family — we all love each other. It’s a community where every individual is noticed and every individual is important.”

ANONYMOUS

IT’S TRUE

A recent d’var Torah quoted the Rambam, Socrates, and Eminem’s “Rap God.”



KOSHER FOOD:

All dining halls serve fresh kosher food as part of the regular campus meal plan, under the supervision of the CRC. Students partake of fresh food in Hillel on Shabbat and holidays supervised by student mashgichim. Chabad also provides holiday meals for students. There are several nearby grocery stores with many kosher packaged goods.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Hillel holds daily morning minyanim plus full Shabbat and holiday services. Yavneh offers weekly shiurim and student-run chaburot in partnership with several local organizations.

ERUV: Under construction.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

Hillel, Chabad House, jUChicago, Yavneh, Rhythm ‘n’ Jews, Challah for Hunger, University of Chicago Friends of Israel (UCFI), The Jewish Students Association (JewSA), J Street UChicago, MAKOM, Student Alliance for Jewish Enrichment (SAJE).

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



KOSHER FOOD:

There are kosher meals available during the week. This includes a free hot breakfast served daily after davening. There are hot lunches four afternoons a week and dinner four nights a week at Allen Hall on university dining plan. There is free Shabbat dinner, lunch, kiddush and Seudah Shlishit at Hillel. Many of the Hillel events have food as well.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Students enjoy regular shiurim every week, which include opportunities for private study, text-based classes and discussion based classes. There are opportunities for students to lead shiurim. There is a joint daily minyan with Chabad six days a week, Shabbat morning minyan year-round and a fully equipped mikvah on campus.

ERUV: An eruv is in the early stages of construction planning.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Hillel, Jewish Federation, Jewish Education Team, Chabad, Program in Jewish Culture and Society, Challah for Hunger, Illini Students Supporting Israel (ISSI), Tikkun-Chambana, Illini-PAC, Hire-U, TAMID, Don't Mentchen It (a Capella).

The University of Illinois in Urbana/Champaign was established in 1867. There are over 32,000 undergraduate students. The university is a member of the Big Ten athletic conference and hosts a wide range of competitive Division I athletic teams.

A Jewish student body estimated at 3,200 undergraduates draws much of its ranks from the greater Chicago metropolitan area. A small but vital Orthodox student community numbers about 25-30 students. Illinois Hillel runs about 700 social, ritual, and educational programs per year. The OU-JLIC Torah Educators work very closely with the Hillel staff to infuse Jewish education into as many Hillel programs as possible and to support the religious observance of students on campus as well as local community members. The campus also has a Chabad which caters to students as well as the local community. Jewish Education Team (JET) is a kiruv organization which runs a Maimonides Introduction to Judaism class in the Hillel building. There is also a local Jewish Federation, the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation (CUJF), based in the Hillel building.

As a state school, the University of Illinois administration is very accommodating to students with religious needs. Every year, Illinois Hillel sends a letter to every department in the university with a list of religious observances that students may need to miss class for and the OU-JLIC Torah educators regularly write notes to professors to excuse students from class on holidays. There are multiple housing options for observant students at U of I. At Illini Tower, every dorm room contains a kitchenette and Allen Hall contains a kosher dining hall that is on the university dining plan and serves dinner five nights a week. By sophomore year, most students live in private apartments.

The Orthodox community at the U of I is very diverse and contains students from day school backgrounds, baalei teshuvah, and local community members. There are many areas of opportunity for active leadership in the community including mashgiach shifts, delivering divrei Torah and leading classes and discussions. There are Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform services at Hillel on Friday night that regularly attract around 80 students. Friday night dinners attract 120. Shabbat day includes an Orthodox minyan which attracts about 20 people, a kiddush, a halachah discussion, and lunch for 40. Students regularly spend the whole day hanging out at Hillel until Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, Maariv and Havdalah.

STUDENTS SPEAK

"The Orthodox community at U of I is very close-knit. Even though we are in the middle of cornfields, we take care of each other to make sure everyone gets the kosher food, minyanim, and anything else they need."

MARISSA

IT'S TRUE

The campus Hillel was the first in the United States, opening its doors 90 years ago.

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

UMD is a public research university located in the city of College Park, Maryland, approximately eight miles from Washington DC. UMD offers over 100 undergraduate majors and 120 graduate programs, and boasts enrollment upwards of 37,000 students, making it the largest university in the state.

There are around 5,800 Jews on the University of Maryland Campus. The Orthodox Jewish community at Maryland is one of the largest collegiate communities in America. Currently, there are approximately 470 Jewish day school graduates who attend the University of Maryland. Over 500 of them are Orthodox and many spent a year studying in Israel prior to enrolling at UMD. Practicing Jews have made their impact on the university at large: residence accommodations are made for Shabbat and holiday observance and extensions and rescheduling of exams are expected for Shabbat and holiday observance. Maryland Hillel offers a free roommate matching service that pairs Jewish students. Apartments with kosher kitchens are often passed down from student to student. OU-JLIC at Hillel works closely with Kedma, the Orthodox student organization, to ensure that Orthodox life is rich and accessible.

There is a vibrant Shabbat life on campus. An average of 300 people attend the Orthodox Minyan on Friday night and 150-175 people join together for Friday night dinner. There is a hashkama minyan of around 30 people each Shabbat and a main minyan with an average of 200 people. After minyan there is a lunch at Hillel. On Shabbat afternoon many of the Orthodox students hang out on the Quad, one of the large grassy areas on campus, and there is a Tanach shiur an hour before Mincha. The Seudah Shlishit includes singing and divrei Torah every week.



"The University of Maryland has a vibrant Orthodox community, full of diverse people. Jews from different backgrounds come together to build a community that is welcoming, active and self-run. There's no other place that can unify Jews like this college campus."

CHANA



IT'S TRUE

Maryland Hillel students are the founders (2011) and hosts of the National Hillel Basketball Tournament, a weekend that includes Shabbat with Jews from campuses across America and fast-paced basketball competition.



KOSHER FOOD:

Kosher dining is available at the Maryland Hillel.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Two Shacharit, two Mincha, two Maariv, and regular Shabbat and Holiday services, with kiddush; a full-service beit midrash, daily shiurim/chaburot, and regular chevrutot with peers and the OU-JLIC educators, multiple scholars-in-residence for Shabbat.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

Six different Israel Organizations and groups, various social justice groups, environmental groups, Challah for Hunger, Jewish a capella groups, and Avirah, the Israeli Dance Troupe. Students participate in the university intramural sports teams.

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MARYLAND HILLEL: 7612 MOWATT LANE, COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740

UMASS AMHERST



KOSHER FOOD:

Kosher dining is handled through the award-winning UMass Dining Services in the Franklin Dining Commons where lunch and dinner are available. Friday night, Shabbat lunch, and Seudah Shlishit meals are all available at UMass Hillel (free for members of the UMass Amherst community). Off-campus, the local grocery stores carry a variety of kosher options. The KDC and Hillel are both under the Vaad of Springfield, Massachusetts.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Daily davening; students meet weekly to learn in groups, attend classes, have chevrutot, or schedule time to learn one-on-one with the OU-JLIC couple. Each semester, several distinguished speakers visit campus and give shiurim, including visiting rabbis and professors.

ERUV: In development.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

There are over 20 uniquely Jewish groups at UMass Hillel. The Jewish Student Union, Jewish Leaders in Business, and Student Alliance for Israel hold the status of registered student organization at UMass as well.

University of Massachusetts at Amherst sits on nearly 1,450-acres in Western Massachusetts, 90 miles from Boston. The campus provides a rich cultural environment in a rural setting close to major urban centers. UMass enrolls approximately 22,000 undergraduate students, 6,300 graduate students with 1,232 full-time instructional faculty.

There are 2,500 Jewish students on campus including over 40 Orthodox. Orthodox students live all over campus with the majority choosing the Central or Orchard Hill Residential areas. Both of these areas are near Franklin Dining Commons, where the kosher dining is located, and are minutes from the UMass Hillel House, which is in the southeast part of campus. Another option that many students choose is the JLLC (Jewish Living and Learning Community) located on the third floor of the Hillel House. UMass is very understanding regarding missing classes for holidays and any housing concerns. Formally founded in 2002, Kehillat Hillel Ha'azinu, the Orthodox student group, consisted of a small group of religious students interested in enjoying a traditional Shabbat atmosphere. Students would gather together each Shabbat to daven and eat together. Since then, KKH has branched out from only making Shabbat minyanim to having daily davening, shiurim, and an entire community of Orthodox students.

Shabbat at UMass is the highlight of the week. There are frequently visiting scholars who join for Shabbat and help enhance the community. There are Shabbat services at UMass every week. On Friday nights, the Conservative, Orthodox and Reform students sing Yedid Nefesh together before separating to their separate locations for services. Around 25 students attend the Orthodox Friday night davening.

Hillel provides a catered, free dinner that is attended by around 100 students. Following dinner, there's usually an oneg for all the students to enjoy, with singing, learning, eating, socializing and unwinding from the week. About 15 students take part in the Shabbat morning davening and 30 students attend Shabbat lunch. On Shabbat morning before davening there is a short shiur on the parsha and on long Shabbat afternoons there is generally a shiur as well. Mincha is followed by Seudah Shlishit and then Maariv. Rabbi Yosi Eisen and his wife Sheera are the OU-JLIC educators at Amherst.

STUDENTS SPEAK

"Pesach at the Eisens is the closest you'll come to going home for a Passover seder. You have the traditional aspects like constant questions and discussions, delicious food, familiar tunes and of course squeezing as many people as you possibly can around a table, because at the Eisens there is always room for one more."

ANONYMOUS

The UMass library is 296 feet and 28 stories tall and is reported to be the second tallest library in the world and the tallest university library in the world.

IT'S TRUE

UMASHILLEL.ORG • 413.549.1710

THE GRINSPOON HILLEL HOUSE: UMASS AMHERST HILLEL, 388 N PLEASANT ST, AMHERST, MA 01002

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

University of Michigan has approximately 28,000 undergraduate students. The university is an intense academic environment with plenty of opportunities for extracurricular involvement, hundreds of student organizations and a beautiful campus full of students with tremendous school spirit.

There are 4,500 Jewish undergraduate students. The Orthodox community is between 25-35 students. The Jewish life at UM is robust with a myriad of clubs and organizations run through Hillel. Chabad and the Jewish Resource Center (JRC) are also active in Jewish and religious life on campus. The Orthodox community on campus (O-Minyan) is a small tight-knit and active community. Many of the Orthodox students assume leadership positions on campus, either through O-Minyan or through Hillel in general. Upon request the university will put students in the Oxford dorm which is located close to Hillel and is inside the eruv. Teachers are accommodating when it comes to missing classes and exams for holidays. They expect students to make up the work, making the time before and after the chagim. The Shabbat environment on campus is vibrant. Between 25-30 students participate in the Orthodox minyan on Friday night and between 200-350 students attend Friday night dinner. Around 25 students daven in the Orthodox minyan Shabbat morning and attend Shabbat lunch. After davening and kiddush at Hillel there is a large communal Shabbat lunch at the JRC where people eat, shmooze, and sing zemirot (Shabbat songs).

STUDENTS SPEAK

"Michigan allows students to think about the word community in a different light. Students have the opportunity to become leaders and forge strong connections with each other and the greater Ann Arbor Orthodox community."

BENTZI



IT'S TRUE

Apollo 15's entire crew were UM alumni.



KOSHER FOOD:

The Hillel Kosher Café provides a delicious kosher meal plan for students living in the dorms. The Kosher Café is open to students living outside of university housing. The Hillel also provides pre-packaged sandwiches to university cafés around campus.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

The weekly services switch off between Chabad and Hillel, and Shabbat services can be found at both Hillel and Chabad. There is generally a Mincha/Maariv minyan during the early fall and late spring when Mincha is held later in the day. Rabbi Rod Glogower, rabbi of the Orthodox minyan and Orthodox community of Ann Arbor, gives weekly shiurim. There is also a beit midrash night where students can give chaburot or learn with a chavruta.

ERUV: Yes. The eruv encompasses much of the area near Hillel and includes the Oxford dorm.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

There are numerous Jewish clubs on campus. The clubs range in focus from culture, dialogue and identity, health and environment, Israel, outreach, social action to religious life.

MICHIGANHILLEL.ORG • 734.769.0500

MICHIGAN HILLEL: 1429 HILL ST, ANN ARBOR, MI 48104

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



KOSHER FOOD:

Penn offers a kosher meal plan as part of the university meal plan, and there is a kosher dining hall located in the Hillel building. The kosher dining hall serves lunch and dinner every day except Sunday, when it is closed. In addition to the full-service cafeteria, there are various packaged kosher goods such as fresh sandwiches available for sale in the kosher dining hall and in other locations and dining halls around campus.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

During the week (Sunday through Friday), there are several daily minyanim. This includes a 7:40 and 8:40 a.m. Shacharit minyan, early Mincha, Mincha-Maariv, and an 11 p.m. Maariv minyan. The Orthodox community at Penn is proud to have at least one shiur given each day as well as a daily night seder from 9 p.m.-11 p.m.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Hillel, Israel Cultural Committee, Penn Israel Public Affairs Committee, Social Justice, Penn Shabbatoness, Shabbat committee, J-Bagel, Penn Zoremet, Sunday Night Learning, Seudah Shlishit committee, Kiddush Committee, OCP.

The University of Pennsylvania is home to over 9,000 undergraduate students. UPenn is one of the oldest universities in America and, as a member of the Ivy League, one of the most prestigious institutions of higher learning in the world.

Penn is home to 2,500 Jewish undergraduate students, with approximately 350 Orthodox students. Penn has one of the largest and most active Orthodox campus communities. With numerous shiurim, minyanim, events and programs, there's always something to do and ways to be involved. The Orthodox Community at Penn (OCP) offers a plethora of programs and services for Orthodox Jewish students at Penn. OCP offers courses for students interested in studying Torah, Talmud, halachah (Jewish law), Jewish women's issues and many more topics. OCP hosts a number of social events and celebrations for Jewish holidays. World-renowned scholars-in-residence join OCP each year, and the community makes an extraordinary effort to raise money for the needy around the world. Although classes do meet during religious holidays, the Penn professors are extremely accommodating and understanding of the students' needs and practices. Students should contact all professors in the first two weeks of each semester with the dates that will be missed for all of the holidays that semester. Orthodox students at Penn live in many places all over campus. The largest concentration of Orthodox students is in High Rise North, or Rodin College House, which is directly across from the Hillel building and upperclassmen houses. Many upperclassmen live in houses off campus, and many freshmen live in mandated freshman housing all over campus (though mostly on the Quad and Hill College House).

Friday night davening is vibrant and lively with over 250 students joining together for Orthodox kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv. Many students eat together Friday night at Hillel and some students make private meals as well. On Friday night there is occasionally an oneg or tisch. There are numerous educational and social opportunities that occur on Shabbat for Orthodox students. Students give divrei Torah on Friday night and on Shabbat morning. There are often speakers, guest lecturers, learning opportunities and scholars-in-residence on Shabbat.

STUDENTS SPEAK

"The OCP is an amazing support system — religiously, socially, and even academically — full of passionate, caring and diverse Orthodox students."

BEN



IT'S TRUE

Penn traces its origins to 1740, claims Benjamin Franklin as its founder and is recognized as America's first university.

PENNHILLEL.ORG • 215.898.7391

PENN HILLEL: 215 S. 39TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The University of Toronto enrolls 67,000 undergraduate and 16,000 graduate students from over 150 countries, pursuing 1,000 degree programs, located on a large campus in historic downtown Toronto.

The University of Toronto is a commuter institution that has 1,500 Jewish students and around 200 Orthodox students, within a large, vibrant Jewish metropolitan community that is as close as a 15-minute drive time from campus and boasts a host of synagogues, day schools and food resources. The university is very accommodating to missing classes because of religious observance. The Chabad on campus provides regular Shabbat meals. The university hosts the Centre for Jewish Studies and the Jewish Education Program for future teachers, which allows students to spend a year of study at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, as well as other institutions inside Israel, with stipends provided for those who are eligible.

STUDENTS SPEAK

"With Jewish connection opportunities so scarce, it's great to have OU-JLIC's resources and guidance available to build a small but significant community."

ANONYMOUS



IT'S TRUE

Kosher dinners available for students living downtown is made possible by the generosity of a single donor.



KOSHER FOOD:

On-campus dairy restaurant; daily dinner at Hillel; kosher food sources throughout city; Mount Sinai Hospital near campus offers sandwiches and snacks.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Daily afternoon minyan, beit midrash, library at new Hillel building; regular lunch and learn programs.

ERUV: No.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Hillel, Chabad.

HILLELTORONTO.ORG • 416.913.2424

HILLEL AT UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE WOLFOND CENTRE FOR JEWISH CAMPUS LIFE, 36 HARBORD ST., TORONTO, ON M5S 1G2

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS



KOSHER FOOD:

The university sponsors a kosher meal program. Hot kosher dinners are available each weeknight in the main dining area, along with pre-packed meals for breakfast and lunch, all certified by the Vaad Hoeir of St. Louis. In fact, the school was ranked No. 1 in "Best Kosher and Ethnic Food Options" from CollegeProwler.com.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

Morning prayer meets in the basement of a dormitory each morning during the week. Full minyanim are not guaranteed but are frequent. In addition to one-on-one learning and lunch and learns, Chabad hosts a weekly beit midrash, with a dvar Torah by students and a peer chavruta learning session.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

Hillel, Chabad, JLE.

Washington University in St. Louis welcomes 14,000 undergraduate and graduate students in over 90 programs, with emphasis on teaching, research, patient care and service to society. The school is a two-hour flight from the East Coast.

Washington University has many resources for Orthodox students, beginning with a modest-sized observant Jewish community. There are approximately 1,750 Jewish undergraduate students. Around 30 of these students attended a Yeshiva high school and come from an Orthodox background. Mechanical Shabbat keys are available on request. Officially, professors are told to schedule around Jewish holidays and are often very flexible about extensions and alternative exam dates. Almost all freshmen and sophomores live on campus, with most upperclassmen choosing to live just off campus in apartments. There is no official Orthodox group.

There is a listserv for "religiously involved students" that helps foster community among religious students. The Shabbat life for Orthodox students takes place both on the Washington University campus and in the surrounding Orthodox community. On Friday night there are around 15 students who attend services and it is hoped that this Minyan will grow. Shabbat dinners are hosted weekly in the Chabad House, with up to 200 guests from diverse Jewish backgrounds.

Hillel hosts Shabbat dinners about once per month. After dinner, there can be singing, onegs, board games, or just schmoozing over coffee and tea. Shabbat lunch attracts about 50 diverse but generally more observant group of students, held on a rotating basis between Chabad, Hillel, and a local modern Orthodox shul, Bais Abraham. Mincha is held after lunch. On Shabbat afternoon, students sometimes go for a walk in nearby Forest Park or read on hammocks. Havdalah is held together. Yomim Tovim meals are always available on campus. For Yomim Tovim many students walk to the "other side of town," a 45-minute walk, where there is a thriving Orthodox community including another Chabad House, a Young Israel, and an Agudas Israel shul. Local families often invite students for Yom Tov meals and even to stay overnight.

STUDENTS SPEAK

"I value the fact that every student matters in our community. We think of ourselves as a small group of friends, and we invite everyone in."

ANONYMOUS



IT'S TRUE

From high places: The eruv that now includes the campus is physically connected to the residence of the chancellor and the prestigious Faculty Club.

STLOUSHILLEL.ORG • 314.935.9040

ST. LOUIS HILLEL AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY: 6300 FORSYTH BLVD., ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

YALE UNIVERSITY

Yale University includes Yale College (the undergraduate program), the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the professional schools, with over 12,000 students in 65 academic programs.

Of 5,300 Yale undergrads, around 1,500 are Jewish. Approximately 500 undergraduates are active participants in Slifka Center activities. The Orthodox undergraduate community is comprised of approximately 25 students with additional Orthodox graduate students. The university provides students with mechanical keys to their dorms for Shabbat and holiday use. New Haven has a citywide eruv. The chaplain's office informs all of the professors about upcoming holidays and students are not required to attend class or take exams on Yom Tov. If a student misses an exam due to Shabbat or Yom Tov, the make-up test procedures differ by the professor. Yale boasts a vibrant and inclusive Shabbat life. Sixty people attend the Orthodox minyan on Friday night followed by communal dinner in Yale's kosher dining hall with about 200 participants. Some Fridays OU-JLIC educators invite students for home-cooked meals. Frequently there is an oneg with a guest speaker, singing, schmoozing and dessert. On Shabbat day the Orthodox minyan has an attendance of more than 40 people. Shabbat lunch is also attended by over 40 students who are both graduate and undergraduate students, followed by zmirot singing and parsha discussion, then Mincha, Seudah Shlishit and Maariv.



"OU-JLIC has really been vital to my Jewish life in my first year at Yale. OU-JLIC has done a wonderful job of providing everything that Orthodox students need, be it shiurim or just a sympathetic ear."

ANONYMOUS



IT'S TRUE

Yale's president, Peter Salovey, is a member of the famous Soloveitchik family, which also includes Torah sage Rav Joseph Soloveitchik.



KOSHER FOOD:

Slifka Dining, Yale's kosher dining hall, provides three daily meals during the week and all Shabbat meals. The dining plan is part of the Yale University Dining System. There are several kosher restaurants and food stores in New Haven.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

There are three daily minyanim at the Slifka Center as well as a wide variety of learning opportunities. OU-JLIC works with Young Israel House, the Orthodox community of Yale, to sponsor guest speakers and host various seasonal events including a simchat beit hashoeva on Sukkot, a Chanukah party, a Purim seudah, and a Lag Ba'Omer barbecue. OU-JLIC Educators give shiurim throughout the week. Students from every Jewish affiliation participate in Orthodox-sponsored functions.

ERUV: Yes.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Young Israel House, Hillel, Yale Friends of Israel, Jewish a cappella group, Krav Maga, Yale Klezmer band, Jews and Muslims, Yale Israel Journal, Shibboleth.

SLIFKACENTER.ORG • 203.432.1134

JOSEPH SLIFKA CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE AT YALE: YALE HILLEL, 80 WALL STREET, NEW HAVEN, CT 06511



KOSHER FOOD:

Dairy restaurant; kosher muffins and wraps at the Second Cup.

SERVICES, STUDY AND AMENITIES:

The York Hillel boasts a spacious beit midrash filled with sefarim and space for many of the shiurim and programs. There is a daily Mincha minyan at Hillel, where students find several “Lunch and Learn” opportunities. OU-JLIC Rabbi Aaron Greenberg can be found at York during work hours, Monday through Wednesday, giving classes, meeting students and providing for the diverse needs of the Jewish community.

ERUV: No.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

OU-JLIC, Hillel, Hasbara and Chabad.

York University in Toronto has over 50,000 students making it the third-largest university in Canada, with longstanding research specialization in areas such as space science, vision science, aboriginal and indigenous studies, history, psychology, violence and conflict resolution and atmospheric chemistry.

York hosts 2,000 Jewish students on campus, of which approximately 150 are Orthodox. The group is comprised of graduates from public schools, Jewish community schools, yeshiva day schools, Ner Yisroel and Bais Yaakovs. All of the Orthodox students commute to York daily. The university is accommodating to those missing class due to religious observance. York offers opportunities to major or minor in Jewish studies and houses an acclaimed Centre for Jewish Studies. York is home to the internationally recognized Jewish Education Program that offers students an unparalleled opportunity to pursue a bachelor of education in both secular and Judaic studies, while concurrently pursuing a bachelor of arts degree. Students who graduate this program go on to receive job offers in both the public schools and Jewish day schools of their choice. York students can also receive a substantial stipend from various universities in Israel if they wish to spend a year abroad. Most programs at York will give you full year of credit for studying in Israel.

STUDENTS SPEAK

“When I first got to York, I was nervous! I had never gone to such a big school and worried it would be overwhelming. In my first semester I got very involved in OU-JLIC and this contributed enormously to my smooth and easy adjustment into university life. Whenever I have a break, I go to the Hillel and meet up with friends. There is always so much going on between shiurim, lunches and events, and Rabbi Greenberg makes everyone feel comfortable no matter what their background is. It’s so nice knowing that there is a place on campus where you can go and feel at home. I feel very fortunate to be a part of OU-JLIC!”

RACHELI SAMUELS

IT'S TRUE

The beit midrash has over \$5,000 worth of seforim.

HILLELTORONTO.ORG • 416.843.0245

HILLEL @ YORK: THE ZACK KAYE LOUNGE, STUDENT CENTRE; ROOM 442, 4700 KEELE ST., TORONTO, ON M3J 1P3

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