



Building Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-11 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
Saturday: Shabbat morning services and lunch (call for details)
Sunday: 1 p.m.-11 p.m.

Offices will be closed for Jewish and University Holidays

Israel Program Information

The Hillel Center has extensive information on travel, work and study programs in Israel. The staff is available to help you find a program that is right for you.

Counseling

Rabbi Summit is available for counseling or for informal conversation. To make an appointment, call the Hillel Center at (617) 627-3242 or email jsummit@emerald.tufts.edu.

Open Hillel Board Meetings

Every Monday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

During the open block, everyone is invited! New ideas for programming, social events, classes and social action projects are welcome.

Alumni & Parents

More than thirty parents and alumni gathered last winter at the Boca Raton, Florida, home of **Harriet and Bernie Shavitz (A'61, AP '88 and '91)** to meet informally with students and to enjoy an intimate concert with Shir Appeal, Hillel's award-winning a cappella group. Following the concert, students and guests had enjoyed an informal reception where they talked about Tufts, Hillel and Shir Appeal's soon-to-be released cd, "Unpealed." For more information about Shir Appeal, visit www.tuftshillel.org.

At its Annual Meeting last May, the Tufts Hillel Board of Directors welcomed new members **Jonathan Plaut, A92, David Rosenberg**, the husband of Joan Rosenberg, N84, **Kevin Thurm, A83** and students **Erika Robbins, J03, Melissa Frankel, J04** and **Neil Hirsch, A05**.

Tufts Hillel congratulates **Brooke Menschel, J02**, on receiving the Senior Legacy Award at the 2002 Student Activities Awards Banquet. Brooke served as Hillel student president and recently graduated from Tufts with a major in American Studies.

If you are interested in hosting or attending an Alumni and Parent Event in your area, please contact Jerry Tuckman at (617) 627-3242 or email jerry.tuckman@tufts.edu.

from the Center

Hillel Foundation at Tufts University, Granoff Family Hillel Center, Medford, MA • 2002-2003

Educating Leaders for Difficult Times

By **Rabbi Jeffrey Summit**

I am used to having parents ask me if it is safe for their son or daughter to visit Israel. Recently, I've had a number of parents calling to ask if it was safe for their child, as a Jew, to go to France. The increase in anti-Semitic incidents throughout Europe, especially in France has received wide publicity and travelers are cautious. This summer, I taught a seminar on the Holocaust and contemporary anti-Semitism in France with nineteen of our students at the Tufts European Center in the French Alps. Together, we examined the roots of anti-Semitism in Europe and the culpability of the Vichy government during the Holocaust. We considered the role of righteous gentiles who risked their lives to help and shelter Jews and the disturbing increase in anti-Semitic attacks against property and people in France today. Rarely has a seminar felt more relevant. It was common for a discussion to begin in class, move out to the garden and then to the local café. Faculty and students from other classes joined our seminar to hear the stories of Holocaust survivors who live in Annecy. We sat with one courageous woman, Jeanne Brousse, who told us how she forged papers for hundreds of Jewish families in that town during the war when she was just nineteen years old. The president of the Jewish community in Annecy explained how the local synagogue worked to develop good relations with local Muslims and how those connections helped to prevent the anti-Semitic violence experienced in other cities in France. Throughout the seminar, I kept thinking about the essential role of Hillel on our campus, both to raise and address these issues and to build relationships in our community that foster understanding and respect.

The anti-Semitism in France today is not the anti-Semitism that rocked France during the Dreyfus trial in the 1890s, when calls of "Death to the Jews" echoed in the streets. It is not the anti-Semitism of the Vichy government that did not bother to look deeply at the fate of those shipped "to the East" and was so eager to expel Jewish refugees that they exceeded the quotas set down by the Nazis. Today's anti-Semitism is primarily the work of disenfranchised Arab immigrants in France who take out their anger about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict against visible Jewish targets. In our seminar, we concluded that, while the mainstream press, the government, the general population of France does not show

a marked increase in anti-Jewish sentiment, a new form of anti-Semitism is growing, one that is serious and dangerous. While some people argue that this violence is anti-Israel, not anti-Semitic, its proponents often revive and repeat horrific lies against Jews that were first circulated in the Middle Ages and then again in Nazi Germany. It is profoundly disturbing to hear claims of blood libel (that Jews use Christian and Moslem blood to make matzah) and charges of a "Jewish conspiracy to take over the world." It is imperative that our students can recognize, address and refute these lies.

Hillel approaches these issues on campus through education, community partnerships and activism. This year, we will begin two new initiatives: a "Confronting Contemporary Anti-Semitism" seminar and an Israel Round Table that will examine the connection of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. We will examine the roots of anti-Semitism and educate students to respond and combat misinformation when it appears in the press, lectures or on the internet. Hillel is deeply committed to continuing the strong partnerships we built during our award-winning post-9/11 project "Patches for Peace," when we brought 88 diverse student groups together in the Hillel Center for discussion, dialogue and understanding. We are

excited to continue the productive work we began last year with the Pan African Alliance. Through a series of programs, we examined how Jews and Blacks worked together during the struggle for civil rights. We considered the factors that complicated that relationship and will continue to explore how it can best be reestablished.

Hillel also worked actively to support the efforts of students involved in a Jewish/Arab dialogue at Tufts last year. Dialogue was far from easy but those discussions put a human face on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. They also brought a group of Jewish and Arab students together to decry violence as the conflict in the Middle East became increasingly serious. These experiences strengthen our resolve to bring Jews, Christians and Muslims together and to use education and imagination to move communities closer together. We must structure opportunities for productive dialogue here at our university. If not here, where can we ever expect to talk?

The challenges before us will take creativity, commitment, strength, insight and humor. At Hillel, we will work to bring all of our resources to the task. To paraphrase the sage Rabbi Tarfon, we don't have to finish this work, but we are obligated to engage in it with energy and dedication.



This commitment strengthens our resolve to keep bringing diverse students together, Jews and Arabs, Jewish, Christian and Muslim, left and right, to use our imagination for reconciliation and productive education.

hillel at a glance



Senior Tal Unrad and Rabbi Jeffrey Summit dance at Hillel's "Mock Jewish Wedding".

Education Committee

Cultural Committees

Social Committee

Jewish Women's Collective

Social Action/Advocacy Committee

Echad B'minyan (GLBT Jews)

Literary Magazine

Read by the River (Children's literacy project)

Shir Appeal (a cappella group)

Theater Troupe

Freshmen Committee

Upperclassmen Committee

Kesher: Reform Jewish Students Committee

KOACH: Conservative Jewish Students Committee

Holidays Committee

Shabbat Committee

Tufts Friends of Israel



Shir Appeal sings to alumni and parents in Florida last January.

Hillel Receives Top Honors at Annual Awards Banquet

Hillel was honored for its accomplishments this year at the Tufts' Office of Student Activities Awards Banquet Thursday, April 24, 2002. The organization received highly coveted praise for two original programs, in addition to winning an award for valuable contributions to the Tufts Community.

At the banquet, where Hillel accepted half of the awards available to all student organizations, Tufts Hillel was recognized as the organization with the most substantial impact on the campus community. Patches for Peace, the Hillel spear-headed Tufts response to September 11 won the award for Program of the Year, and Hillel, alongside the Pan-African Alliance (PAA) and the African Students Organization (ASO), accepted the award for co-sponsored program of the year for the collaboration they formed that produced the Black-Jewish Programming Series.



Jodie Nealley, the Director of Student Activities at Tufts, lauded Hillel for its accomplishments: "The Office of Student Activities has always valued the contributions Hillel has made to the Tufts community," she said. "The fact that they received three awards this past year proves that to the rest of the University."

The Standing Room Only award for Patches for Peace as the Program of the Year recognized the efforts of a group of Hillel students to organize a campus-wide banner and program as a response to the terrorist attacks on September 11. Their work over the course of three months produced a 96 square foot banner and incorporated visions of peace from 88 different student organizations, ranging from the Arab Students Association to the track team. The project culminated with a daylong program. An uncovering ceremony for the banner which is on permanent display in the Mayer Campus Center was followed by an address by local businessman and former Democratic National Committee Chair Steve Grossman, and concluded with a dinner and dialogue program bringing together students and faculty from across the campus community. Though the program itself lasted only one day, Patches for Peace laid groundwork for intergroup relations and deeply affected inter-cultural programs such as the Black-Jewish relations series and the Arab/Jewish students dialogue group. Programming based on the quilt is expected to continue through the 2002-2003 academic year.

The work of Hillel, the PAA and the ASO earned the organizations recognition through the Synergy Award for best co-sponsored program of the year. The coalition which formed at the end of the 2000-2001 academic year, jointly produced several community programs in its inaugural year. Highlights from the series include a Jewish/African food exchange, a speech and presentation by a Ugandan Rabbi, a community service program benefiting local underprivileged children and a Passover Freedom Seder revolving around common themes in the Black and Jewish experiences. The program is set to continue building bridges across the two communities on campus this year.

Those two programs, along with much of the organization's other work this past year, lay a basis for recognition as the organization that made the most significant contributions to the campus community. Other community-based initiatives included work with the Arab Students Organization, a campus-wide Interfaith Thanksgiving, an educational program dedicated to the Japanese plight in World War II and the third annual Read by the River literacy project, winner of the 2000 Hillel International Haber Award.

"Students worked diligently to produce a very thoughtful and comprehensive calendar that reached out to the community and affected Jewish students and the Tufts campus as a whole," said Hillel Program Director Lauren Bloom. "This year was an exemplary year because of all of the work we've done with social justice work and community-based programming. Hillel has had a visible affect on campus and it was so nice to see students' dedication formally recognized by the University." Bloom said she expects the strong programs and deeply effective work to continue this year and in the future.

what students are thinking

interview with student rachel narrow

Tufts Hillel: Why did you choose Tufts?

Rachel Narrow: I was completely overwhelmed by the college decision process. Beyond all the reasons that you can read in the Princeton's guide to colleges, [Tufts] just felt right. When I spent an overnight at Tufts I remember sitting in the library, feeling so completely at home, and realizing that I could very much see myself at school at Tufts the next year. So I applied early decision, my one and only college application.

TH: How did you first find out about Hillel on campus?

RN: My mother pretty much dragged me into the Tufts Hillel against my will. I remember feeling so embarrassed because we didn't realize at the time that it was a Saturday morning, and we had interrupted services. But one of the students came out to talk to me. He was extremely friendly and patient, completely happy to step out of services to talk to an overwhelmed pre-frosh. My mother was thrilled and as the two of us left she commented to me on what a "nice, good looking, Jewish boy" he was.

TH: What initially drew you to Hillel?

RN: When I first came to Tufts I swore I was never going to set foot in Hillel. I grew up in a Conservative home, but always felt like I was being forced to do things I didn't want to and that held no meaning for me. My parents begged me to just try going to Hillel, at least once. I went to the Bagel Brunch during orientation and the Freshman Scavenger Hunt. I also went to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. After the beginning of the school year I didn't go to Hillel much at all. I was having a rough time adjusting to college, and I was very shy.

TH: What types of activities did you participate in your first year?

RN: Once in a while I did go to Friday night services, which is where I found out about Birthright Israel – a Hillel-sponsored program that sends thousands of college students to Israel for free! I had an incredible time and met a bunch of new friends in the kind of

closer environment I had been hoping for. So I went back for more, and Hillel reeled me in! There was a vacant position on Hillel's student board, which another Birthright alum and I filled. We ran the annual United Jewish Communities/Combined Jewish Philanthropies telethon. Another project I worked on at the end of my freshman year was "Shabbat 500" – a special project to engage 500 Tufts students in a variety of Shabbat experiences. I went from almost no involvement, into a leadership position. Being on board and being a part of these programs made me feel like I was part of something, doing something important.



Rachel Narrow and Erin Baldinger share Chanukah songs with hundreds of students.

TH: You're now in a leadership role on the Student Board. How did you decide to take on this challenge?

RN: It's not so much that I see Student Board as taking on a challenge, as just finding more ways to get involved with an organization that's been such a huge and wonderful part of my college experience. It was a decision to take a more active role at Hillel. I'm going abroad to Spain for the fall semester this coming year and I honestly am missing my Hillel family already. I'm really looking forward to being at Tufts again in the spring and I hope to be on Hillel's executive board my senior year.

TH: What are you most looking forward to at Hillel when you return to Tufts in the spring?

RN: I'm going to miss freshmen orientation and meeting all those new people. I know that my freshmen year would have been one hundred percent

better if I had figured out how awesome Hillel was early on. I think Hillel provides a wonderful resource to help make freshmen year easier for new students. I'm most looking forward to working on that kind of outreach programming, even when I return in January.

TH: How has being a part of Hillel influenced your college experience?

RN: Hillel gave me a family. I've met the best friends through Hillel. The people are what make Hillel so amazing. It's their passion and compassion that make Hillel so much more than just another campus organization.

It's also because of what I've accomplished with Hillel that I feel I've become a much more confident person. I was so painfully shy coming out of high school, and sometimes I still am, but working in Hillel gave me leadership, creative and organizational skills that I never even realized I was getting while I was doing it.

TH: Lastly, what advice would you give to an incoming freshman who's exploring Tufts and Hillel?

RN: Talk to people, meet people and learn about other people! Get past that, "Hi, what's your name? Where are you from? What dorm are you in?" which makes up most of freshmen conversation during orientation. You'll learn and grow the most by being open-minded and by interacting with others who you may have thought you'd never speak to, people who have had different experiences than you, people who have different opinions and ideas. I really believe that college is about the people – actually, that life is about the people. Make it that.

As for Hillel specifically, I would of course encourage everyone to jump in. There's really something for everyone, you can find everything from volunteer opportunities to religious services to arts and crafts. But don't do it because you feel you have to, or because your friends are. Don't do anything for those reasons. You're at college now. You can do things on your own terms, because you want to and how you want to. If Hillel is ever not offering something that you think it should, Tufts Hillel is fortunate enough to have the resources and the people so that you can make it happen. I think that's one of the most wonderful things about Tufts Hillel: we really can do anything.



rachel narrow is a junior at tufts majoring in english.

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**The Hillel Foundation
at Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155
617-627-3242
fax: 617-627-3044**

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Meet the Hillel Center Staff

Rabbi Jeffrey Summit, Executive Director, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Hillel Foundation. He is also Tufts' Jewish chaplain and teaches in the Judaic Studies Program and the Department of Music. He holds a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology and is interested in music, identity and religious experience.

Leonard Goldstein, Associate Director, is the Chief Operating/Financial Officer of the Hillel Foundation. He works closely with the Executive Director on issues regarding strategic planning and organizational management and is responsible for fiscal and budgetary management, facility utilization, staff management and administration and board resource development. Lenny holds an MBA from Boston University.

Lauren Bloom, Program Director, is responsible for overseeing the vast array of programming that occurs at the Hillel Center. Lauren is a Syracuse alumna, and holds a graduate degree in Social Work. Prior to her appointment at Tufts Hillel, Lauren directed youth programming at a large synagogue and has also worked extensively with the foster care system and troubled youth.

Gerald M. Tuckman, Director of Development, is responsible for all annual fund and major gift activities. Past voluntary activities include work with the New England Holocaust Memorial and the WGBH Community Advisory Board and current activities focus on The National Conference for Community and Justice. Jerry holds a

graduate degree in social work from Boston College.

Jeremy Goldstein, Administrative Coordinator, earned his BA in English from Tufts and is pleased to return to campus as part of a thriving and energetic organization such as Hillel. A minor in Drama, Jeremy was active in student theater at Tufts and spent the past year working for theater companies in and around the Boston area.

Deborah Wachenheim, University Social Justice Coordinator. Through a strategic partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, Deb works with both Tufts Hillel and Brandeis Hillel in coordinating their Tzedek Hillel social justice programs. She graduated from Cornell University in 1993 and she has a Masters in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. She most recently worked as the Government Affairs Director at RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association.

JulieSue Thorner, Jewish Campus Service Corps Fellow, comes to Tufts Hillel after recently receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Political Communication from the University of Maryland, where she also served as President of the Jewish Student Union. JulieSue was also elected President of the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) in high school, representing over 50,000 Reform Jewish Youth.

Hillel's International Board of Governors Meets at the Granoff Family Hillel Center, May 20, 2002



International Board of Governors members Myra and Bob Kraft hosted a welcoming reception before the annual Board meeting at Tufts. The Krafts are parents of Tufts Hillel Board of Directors member Dan Kraft, A87.



Board of Governors Co-Chairperson Michael Steinhardt (L) and member Keith Rosenblum (M) talk with Barry Shrage (R), President of Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston.

Visit our website at www.TuftsHillel.org

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