

# KOL KOREH

## DOING JEWISH AT DARTMOUTH: THE PROGRAMMING ISSUE

5777

Spring 2017



First night Seder at the Roth Center.

This issue of the Kol Koreh focuses on many of the programs at Dartmouth Hillel. Compared to other Ivy league schools, Dartmouth has a relatively small Jewish population. Despite, or maybe because of its size and rural location, Dartmouth Hillel is incredibly active in promoting its mission through varied student-led social, religious, educational and experiential programs.

Pesach is Hillel's premiere social and religious pro-

gram. The student board works closely with staff months in advance to plan for the celebration of Jewish freedom.

This year, one hundred and ten students came to the Roth Center for a first night Seder. Vice President of Religion, Jonah Kelly '18 led the service with twenty students, from all different background and years, reading the Haggadah portions.

The Seder meal was pro-

vided by the Pavilion, the kosher branch of Dartmouth Dining Services. Students mingled long after the last macaroon was eaten; there were jocular and raucous versions of "Echad Mi Yodea" and "Dayenu." Cameron Moser '20 said his first Dartmouth Seder was "a nice opportunity to participate alongside a large group of Dartmouth students. I really enjoyed both sharing a meal with friends and meeting new people from different class years."

Hillel's Seder programming did not end after the first night. Hillel provided kosher meals and Seder "kits" to three hundred and fifty students who attended second night Seders across campus including fraternities, sororities, libraries, and lounges. Julie Solomon '17 said, "hosting

a second Seder at EKT for the past three years, has become one of my favorite traditions. It's been hard to get home for Passover, so I love sharing my family traditions with my new Dartmouth family." Medical student Lawrence Kogan said his Seder, held in the Remsen medical building, was "a great opportunity to escape from the books and come together to celebrate a favorite holiday."

From running Seders to organizing food drives and planning campus-wide events that promote Jewish values, Hillel's varied and inclusive programming provides Dartmouth students many opportunities to become the dedicated Jewish leaders of tomorrow.

Med students at a second night Seder in the Remsen building.



A second night Seder at Epsilon Kappa Theta.



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Mort Wise, Friend

# BOARD OF OVERSEERS MESSAGE

Dear friends,

Spring is upon us and with it comes to end another academic year. I don't think any of us could have imagined the world we'd be living in just eight months ago when the year started. It's been tumultuous around the world, across the United States, and even on the Hanover plain. Anti-Semitism has shown its ugly face in a fervor we haven't seen in a generation. Complicated discussions and protests have taken place on campus, whether it's immigration, government policy, or Israel – these are world events that have truly punctured the Dartmouth bubble. Given the circumstances, that's a good thing.

A Dartmouth education must include grappling with real world issues with students from varied backgrounds, perspectives, and beliefs.

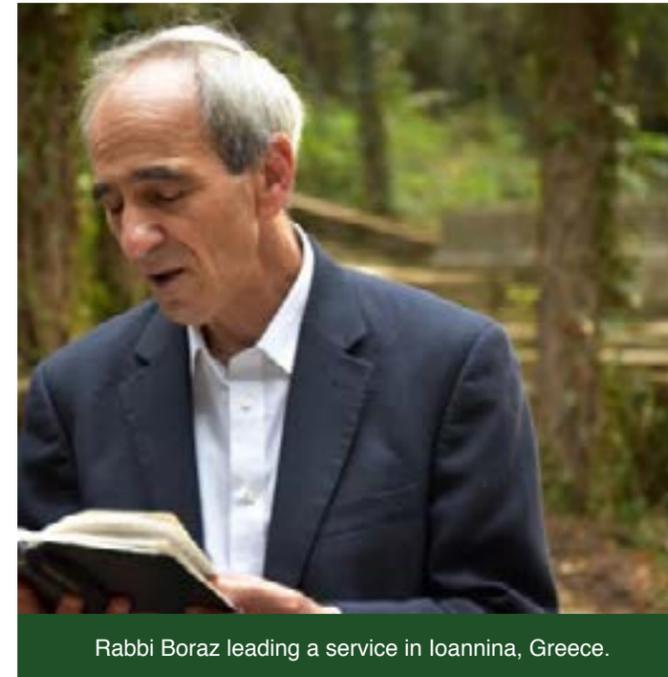
All of this has highlighted the role that Dartmouth College Hillel plays on campus. During this period, the student and professional leaders have held educational, social, and religious programs for the entire community. Dartmouth Hillel has remained a comforting and constant place for students to gather, playing a significant role in helping students explore these issues through the context of their Jewish identity. I want to personally thank you all for your generous support of our Hillel in the

past. It is because of this support that Dartmouth Hillel can play such a critical role in the lives of so many students and the community at large. As we look forward towards twenty years of the Roth Center, we can appreciate the progress of tolerance and inclusion at Dartmouth and feel proud to have been part of that journey. Join me in laying the groundwork to ensure Dartmouth College Hillel can continue this progress for the next twenty years.

L'shalom,

Evan Konwiser '03 Tu'08  
Chair, Dartmouth College  
Hillel Board of Overseers  
New York, NY

# RABBI'S MESSAGE



Rabbi Boraz leading a service in Ioannina, Greece.

In December 2016, the Trustees of Dartmouth College, on behalf of our Hillel, and the Upper Valley Jewish Community entered into an historic agreement with the Memorial Scrolls Trust of England to accept, on permanent loan, a Torah Scroll that survived the Shoah. The sacred scroll will be housed permanently in the Ark of the Alperin Sanctuary, covered by the beautifully designed *parochet* (ark covering) that was created by the Jewish students at the time of the Roth Center dedication.

We have since engaged the services of a dedicated Sofer Rabbi Kevin Hale who, with the approval of the Memorials Scrolls Trust, will fully restore this Torah. It will be used as all of the Torah Scrolls for Shabbat, Festivals, and High Holy Days.

This Torah Scroll was first dedicated in 1866 in Brno, Czechoslovakia. It will be rededicated on its refurbishing in 2017. However, what is truly being renewed is not the Scroll, for at the end of the day, it is only a handwritten set of letters that tell a story and inspires us to do *mitzvot*. Rather, our dedication will also celebrate the people and Jewish institutions that have taken its words to heart, so that the Jewish faith may long endure, no matter the hardship, the difficulty, or challenges.

Our modest Hillel is a very small part of this covenant. In the foothills of the White Mountains, we are a quiet, small segment of the larger world in which our people are both dispersed and also live in our homeland of Israel. Yet, each gen-

eration of Jewish students who become part of the Dartmouth legacy, are like this Sofer. They renew, indeed 'refurbish,' this sacred covenant through their infusing of Jewish life each minute, hour, and day that they are here.

True, you may not read or see our work in any of the numerous types of social media. Some may think we are not dedicated enough to the Jewish people and Torah. But if need be, I would take an oath and attest that the future of our people is in very good hands precisely because of the Jewish students who live and breathe their Jewishness at the Roth Center and on our campus.

None of this is possible without you being a part of our life at Dartmouth through your support in all its varied dimensions – whether through donation, discussions or visit, or your kind notes that tell us of your appreciation for our work.

Last month, we celebrated Passover, the movement from slavery to freedom and beyond – that is to a life of meaning and purpose through our commitment to embrace and to live the eternal covenant that began with Abraham, continued at Sinai all the way to our little community here at Dartmouth.

L'Shalom,  
Rabbi

## Spring 2017 STUDENT BOARD

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## SPOTLIGHT ON A FRESHMAN: TALIA LORCH '20



**Where did you grow up?**  
I grew up on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. I have one older and one younger sister.

**What was your connection to Judaism before Dartmouth?**  
My father is a Rabbi and

was, for a long time, the Head of the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan, where I went through eighth grade. I attended high school at Solomon Schechter of Westchester.

**Why Dartmouth?**  
I didn't really hear about Dartmouth until my junior year. I quickly noticed that whenever Dartmouth came up, people would mention how much their friend or relative had loved it. They often talked about the wonderful friends their family member had made. Community didn't seem to be mentioned as much

when I talked about other schools.  
**What brought you to Hillel?**  
I went to the Hillel's welcome brisket BBQ and felt comfortable right away. I new I'd be involved from the start. I became education coordinator in the fall, community service coordinator in the winter and am currently vice president of programming, which I'm excited about.

**Favorite Hillel programs?**  
I've loved weekly Jew Croo to get to know my fellow '20s. The Purim ball was a great way to celebrate and kick off a great spring!

# AVI SCHAEFER MULTI-FAITH SHABBAT



Julia Feinstein '19, Rachel DeChiara '17, and Ariel Klein '17 prepare dinner for the Avi Schaefer shabbat.

In mid-February, Hillel hosted its annual Avi Schaefer multi-faith Shabbat. This event commemorates Avi Schaefer, a twenty-one year old Brown student who was killed by a drunk driver in 2010. In his short-life, in the name of peace and social justice, Avi made a tremendous impact on the lives of those that knew him. The shabbats in his name, take place on college campuses throughout the United States, preserve his memory and continue his legacy.

Reaching out to other religious organizations, winter term Vice President of Religion Michael Bodek '19, said he was inspired by the diversity and number of faith groups on campus, most of which were receptive to the Avi Schaefer shabbat invitation. This inspired Michael to think that Hillel's multi-faith shab-

bats should become a termly event. "While remembering Avi Schaefer's legacy is important," Michel said, "there's no reason that Hillel can't do more outreach and events with other religious organizations."

For this year's Avi Schaefer shabbat, Rabbi Boraz led a learners service in order to introduce the visiting, non-Jewish students and clergy to a Jewish service. Brett Seeley-Hacker '18, a member of Aquinas House, said he found the prayers and songs especially beautiful, and was "happy to jump right in because the Rabbi kindly walked us through the Hebrew. The atmosphere was most welcoming! I learned a lot about the Jewish community on campus and found that it deepened my own Christian faith by leading me to a greater understanding of the rich historical and

religious roots we share."

After the service, Rabbi Boraz, Rabbi Litwin, Dean and Chaplain of the Tucker Center for Spiritual life, Aquinas House campus minister Megan Costantini, UVJC members, and a group of religiously diverse students joined together for blessings, a kosher dinner, and conversation.

Michael Bodek sat at table with two Catholic students, campus minister Megan Costantini, and Rabbi Litwin. Although each table had discussion prompts, Michael said conversation at his table arose organically. "We talked a lot about the differences and similarities between Judaism and Catholicism. I left the Avi Scahefer Shabbat feeling inspired and connected to my fellow classmates."

Upon reflecting on her first

Avi Scahefer shabbat at Dartmouth Rabbi Litwin said, "Multifaith Shabbat was a beautiful and meaningful reflection of Avi's spirit and the intersection of Hillel and the Tucker Center's shared values of learning, interconnection, and community building. Students from many different backgrounds and traditions built a stronger sense of relationship and understanding through deep conversation, story-telling, and breaking bread together."

Aquinas House campus minister Megan Costantini said her experience of the Multi-Faith Shabbat "was primarily one of community, prayer, and unity. I was humbled by the generosity and hospitality of Hillel, drawn deeper into relationship with God through prayer, and strengthened by what unites our diverse communities."

# SKATING & SKIING & SWIMMING, OH MY



Happy Boraz 2017: (L to R) Sam Libby '17, Gabe Zuckerberg '20 Josh Pearl '17, David Mannes '17, Sam Greenberg '20, Jack Hutensky '20, Zach Port '20, Jake Greenberg '17, (goalie) Michael Bodek '19. (Not pictured: Rebecca Assoulin '17)

Winter brought cold temperatures, many feet of snow and a lot of social programs to Hillel. In early February, Hillel hosted its signature Winter Carnival event Cookies & Cocoa. This year, because mother nature cooperated and students were able to plunge into Occom Pond, more than two hundred and fifty students came to the Roth center to warm up with

cocoa and a wide variety of cookies. By the end of the two hours, the floor was soaked, more than twenty-five gallons of cocoa had been drunk, and students had eaten nearly one thousand cookies.

At the end of March, Hillel students went skiing at nearby Killington in Vermont. Students skied, sang songs on the bus,

and warmed up in the lodge. Senior Jessica Fedin said the day at Killington was beautiful and a "great way to remember my senior winter in Hanover."

Throughout winter term, Hillel's intramural hockey team, Happy Boraz, skated late into the night, at Thompson Arena. Josh Pearl '17 said playing hockey for the last time as a Dartmouth student was "a lot of fun and a great way to spend cold winter nights. It was especially fun to watch my friends flail around on the ice." Hillel's Happy Boraz hockey team had what many consider to be a winning season with two wins, one loss, and one tie.



Friends warm up at Cookies & Cocoa.

# L'DOR V'DOR

Your support makes it possible to sustain the programs that enrich the lives of generations of Jewish students so they can contribute to the Jewish people and the world. Your commitment strengthens Jewish programs at Dartmouth.

## ONLINE GIVING

It's easy to support us online!

## DARTMOUTHILLEL.ORG Double or Triple Your Impact with Employer Matching Gifts

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions. If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form and send it completed and signed with your gift. Gift Recording will do the rest. The impact of your gift to Dartmouth College Hillel can be doubled or possibly tripled!

*"I WAS THRILLED TO USE MY EMPLOYEE MATCH PROGRAM TO BENEFIT DARTMOUTH HILLEL. I KNOW THAT THE AMOUNT OF MONEY HAD EVEN MORE IMPACT ON FUTURE PROGRAMS."*

-LYNNE KOREMAN '91 DP

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# PRAYER, SONG, AND MAC & CHEESE: FIFTEEN YEARS OF CLAUDALLAH



Claudallah Fall 2105.

For the last fifteen years, administrative assistant and Hillel "mom" Claudia Palmer along with her husband, Colin, have welcomed hundreds of students into their Vermont home for evenings of prayer, song, and homemade food that always includes macaroni and cheese. This termly program has been referred to, for the last decade, as Claudallah. The name originated with Evan Michaels '07 as the combination of Claudia and Havdallah, the ceremony that ends the Sabbath.

Claudallah began in 2002, when Claudia, a few years into her position, thought it would be nice for students to spend a night off campus in a local's home. It was Rabbi Boraz's idea to make

it a Hillel event. Claudia remembers being nervous because her Norwich house was tiny. But the students were thrilled to be off-campus and the mood was cozy and joyful as they sat on the floor chatting and eating, what would become Claudia's renown, mac and cheese.

For the first few years, the program was only on Saturdays after sundown during the fall and spring terms. By 2005, Claudallah was so popular that students demanded it happen every term. In recent years, the day and time of the event has become more flexible.

In the early years, in Norwich, Claudia and Colin's three daughters

would help and hang out with the students. One highlight of the Norwich house was the trampoline in the yard. When the Palmers moved to Hartford in 2005, the trampoline stayed behind. Students have enjoyed the addition of a fire pit and new desert items including s'mores and Anna's Bananas a delicious desert invented by Anna Lugosch-Ecker '10. Now, Claudia's grandchildren, ages 8, 4, and 5 often come for Claudallah so they can spend time with the "Hillel big kids."

Past Claudallahs have had as many as twenty-four people; one even had two sets of parents who arrived at the rural Vermont home in taxicabs. Claudia's beloved macaroni and cheese is always devoured

by students along with salad, challah, and desert. Claudia often makes a vegetarian chili, but lately has been varying menus with the addition of eggplant bombs and quiche. Hosting Claudallah has been a great joy and also a learning experience. Claudia says she'll never forget the time she made kosher chicken only to offer ice cream to go with the kosher desert pies. It was her husband who later pointed out that you can't mix meat and dairy.

Former Hillel president Sam Libby '17 said celebrating at Claudia's house over the past four years has been "a great a way to be able to bring together the Hillel *mischpacha* with our Hillel mom, Claudia and her family."



Claudallah Winter and Spring 2016.



# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: BIRTHRIGHT AND PROJECT PRESERVATION



Sunrise with camel in the desert in December 2016.

For decades, Dartmouth Hillel has been leading experiential learning with two unique global opportunities for interested students.

Birthright Israel allows students the opportunity to explore Israel for free. Students leave in December and travel for 10-days. For many years, Dartmouth Hillel has been coordinating trips with Union College's Hillel. The program packs a great deal of opportunities, which typically includes hiking Mount Meron, traveling to former military outposts, and hiking in the desert. Of course, when in Israel students also ride camels, float in the Dead Sea, and spend

a night in a Bedouin tent. Birthright Israel trips are student-led and, for the past four years, the trip leader has been Israeli student Asaf Zilberfarb '17.

Asaf says the opportunity to serve as trip leader for four Birthright trips has been a highlight of his time at Dartmouth. "Birthright truly makes a difference in people's lives, and I know, with confidence, that those who go on it return to the state with an ever-stronger understanding and appreciation of their relationship to Israel and Judaism."

To date, Project Preservation, which began in 2002 has brought hun-



Dartmouth Hillel at the Western Wall on the 2013 Birthright trip.



The Project Preservation team in Poland in 2014.

dreds of students to dozens of abandoned Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe.

The 2017 trip will continue the work of the 2016 trip, which, left Eastern Europe for the Mediterranean. The number of graves in the abandoned cemetery in Ioannina, Greece proved so great that the new group of students will return in June to complete their work.

Charlotte Kuller '20 says that the Sunday meetings have been interesting and have "helped me look at the Holocaust and the causes of the Holocaust with a new perspective." Charlotte says she's grateful for the "opportunity to see all that

we are learning about and then be able to go and help a community handle the lasting effects of the Holocaust."

Whether students are touring the Western Wall in Jerusalem, discussing Lawrence Rees' *Auschwitz* with Rabbi Boraz in Hanover, or scrubbing headstones in Greece, Project Preservation and Birthright, two unique, cross-cultural programs, helps Dartmouth Hillel stand fulfill its mission of connecting students with meaningful experiences to enrich their faith and commitment to our people.



Rabbi Boraz and Jonah Kelly '18 transcribe in Greece in 2016.

# The Roth Center for Jewish Life

is open daily from 8 a.m. until 10:00 pm during the academic year and staff is on site weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For directions to the Roth Center or information about upcoming programs, please call 603-646-0410. You can also find information on our website [dartmouthhillel.org](http://dartmouthhillel.org) and at [Facebook.com/dartmouth.hillel](https://www.facebook.com/dartmouth.hillel)

## Dartmouth College Hillel of The William Jewett Tucker Center

### The Hub of Jewish Activity at Dartmouth College

Dartmouth Hillel, a part of the William Jewett Tucker Center, seeks to promote a welcoming community to all those who identify with or are interested in Judaism. Hillel is dedicated to providing resources to help students express and explore Judaism on campus; it strives to engage students of all observance levels through religious, cultural, social, and educational programming. Along with weekly programming, Hillel hosts many special programs including: Passover Sedars, weekly Shabbat dinners, an Israeli film series, Birthright trips, and Havdalah, just to name a few.



Hillel mascot Maia hard at work.

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