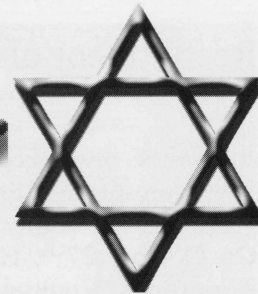




# The Star



WASHINGTON AND LEE HILLEL NEWSLETTER

FALL 2002

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Joan Robins

One of the great joys of being the Hillel director is helping to build Jewish community at Washington and Lee. This semester we reached out to others and felt the strength of the larger Jewish community.

At times our community became quite large—at Yom Kippur we were seventy people strong breaking the fast, including VMI cadets and W&L professors. Imagine our surprise when two Israelis wandered into the University Center looking for fellow Jews to celebrate with!

When we built the very first sukkah on campus, it was a collaborative effort. Students and community members drilled and decorated together. It was both a pleasure and a mitzvah to invite the campus community to "Pizza in the Hut".

During Parents' Weekend, we collaborated again, this time with the MSA for a very successful multicultural reception. The "unity" theme brought students and families from Spanish, Jewish, Muslim, Asian, and African-American traditions together for an enjoyable feast.

In November we participated in International Day, co-sponsoring a movie with the Muslim League and presenting a program on Hanukah for local children. More opportunities to serve the larger community have been donating money to Mazon, collecting food for the local food bank, and starting a child mentoring program.

As our Hillel community grows, and as we collaborate with others, our own sense of community deepens. Something invites us to reach beyond the familiar, to experience the goodness of life, friendship, laughter and good work. The experience can draw us closer to who we are. We feel more connected not only to W&L but to the larger community. I like to think that students are beginning to feel that they are a link in the continuity of the Jewish people.

*Joan Robins*



*Robin Okin '03 meets with a high school senior and his father at the Jewish College Fair in Rockville, MD.*

## RECRUITMENT OF JEWISH STUDENTS TO W&L

By Robin Okin '03

This year the issue of Recruitment has been of key importance for W&L Hillel. The small numbers of Jewish students who actually matriculate each year as freshman have frustrated Jewish alumni, faculty, parents, and students for a long while. However, this year we have taken steps to address the situation.

With the support of Provost Boetsch and Bill Hartog, the Director of Admissions, W&L Hillel formed an Ad Hoc Committee for the recruitment of Jewish students earlier this year. As a result, students and other concerned members of the Jewish community have devised a strategy. We proposed to increase student contact with prospective Jewish students instead of simply going through the regular admissions process with brochures and the like. The low number of Jewish students at W&L is often attributed to the misconception that there is no Hillel or even a Jewish presence on campus. Therefore, we have strived to

## Recruitment of Jewish Students to W&L

*continued from front page*

correct this misconception by going out and speaking with Jewish prospective students in person and on the phone.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, Hillel Director Joan Robins, a W&L Admissions Counselor, and I traveled to Rockville, Maryland to attend a college fair at a Jewish Community Center, sponsored by the DC Jewish Federation. It was an invaluable experience that confirmed our suspicions that many people just do not know that Washington and Lee has Jews. In fact, many parents and students were relieved to learn that we had a Hillel. It was a very positive experience for all, and we hope to attend more of these events in the future.

In addition, students with Hillel gathered at the admissions office for a Phonathon one Sunday night this term. We contacted close to 100 high school seniors who have shown some interest in Washington and Lee, or have already applied, and casually chatted with them about life and academics at W&L. In speaking with the prospective students, some of them brought up the fact that they were Jewish and what was it like for Jewish students at W&L. Since we all happened to be Jewish (what a coincidence!) we took advantage of the opportunity to boast about our current Hillel activities and efforts on campus.

As a senior, I am very excited about the new approach W&L Hillel has taken toward recruitment this year. Although the numbers have not drastically increased since my freshman year, we have made huge strides in making our presence known on campus and throughout the Lexington community. We have to start somewhere, and I have great hopes that our efforts will pay off in the long-run.



*Lunch before the college fair: (left to right) Jonathon Webster, Admissions, Katie Rusmak, Bunny Weinstein, Pete Weissman '96, Robin Okin '03, Paul Weinstein '55, Joan Robins.*

## HILLEL OFFICERS: "THE JEW CREW"

President: Seth Martin '04  
Vice President: Robin Okin '03  
Secretary: Jordan Wolf '03

VP Chair, Shabbat and Holidays: Lauren Tiuli '03  
VP Chair, New Students: Geoff Rogow '04  
VP Chair, "Very Interesting Professors": Matt Fink '04  
VP Chair, Jewish Learning: Kernal Levi '04  
VP Chair, Community Service: Jon Philipson '06  
VP Chair, Social: Laura Samuels '04

## PROJECT HOPE

By Jon Philipson '06

A cornerstone of our faith is a service to others or more accurately, a dedication to performing mitzvot. As college students, we dedicate ourselves so tirelessly to classes and a budding social life that at times we forget about a service to others. With these thoughts in our mind, Hillel has initiated a new mentoring program at Washington and Lee under an alliance called Project Hope. Project Hope's alliance incorporates members of Hillel, Minority Student Alliance, NAACP, Muslim Student League, SAIL, and the Turkish Student League.

The major goal of Project Hope is to provide mentors to adolescent emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Project Hope will officially begin mentoring his Winter Term at highland Belle Alternative School and Natural Bridge Juvenile Correctional Facility. Many of these adolescents lack the presence of a positive role model and feel ignored by the majority of society. At least once a week, W&L students go to Highland Belle and Natural Bridge to either tutor the youth at these locations, participate in athletic events with them, or simply discuss life and future plans. The YMCA will train each of these mentors in child development skills.

As Project Hope expands, we hope to include mentors beyond these six organizations. Besides providing a necessary aid to these adolescents, the minority organizations at W&L will form a stronger bond and, above all, be performing mitzvot.

## THE FIRST SUKKAH AT W&L

By Kara Lehman '05

Members of Hillel and the Lexington Jewish community recently built Washington and Lee's first Sukkah on the lawn between the Admissions building and the Alumni House. The sukkah was donated to Hillel, and decorated with tree branches, dried corn stalks, and a variety of colorful gourds. Upon completion of the Sukkah, services were held in the sukkah, complete with a lulav and an etrog led by Professor Marks. On Sukkot, in the rain, Hillel held a "pizza in the hut" party to celebrate the holiday. The Jewish community and Washington and Lee Hillel are very proud of this "first" to commemorate the holiday of Sukkot, which began on Tishri 15, the fifth day after Yom Kippur and lasted for 7 days. The holiday of Sukkot commemorates not only the forty-year period during which the children of Israel were in the desert living in temporary shelters, but also gives thanks for the harvest.



*Sarah Wilson and Kara Lehman '05 decorate the Sukkah.*



*Students step into the Sukkah after enjoying "Pizza in the Hut".*



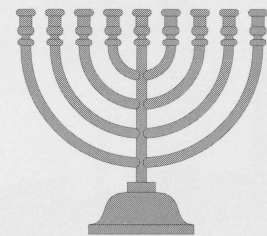
*Paul Dampf '03, Dr Tom Peck and Michael '06 Build the Sukkah.*

## INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

On Saturday November 16, members of Nabors Service League, SAIL, and Hillel gathered for an International Holiday Celebration. This was an effort to bring holidays from around the world to the Lexington community. As a result, 25 third through fifth graders enjoyed an entire day of games, food, learning, and fun.

The moment the kids arrived at 9 am, they received a passport and their picture was taken. They then rotated through various stations that taught them about Hanukah, Christmas, Kwanza, and International Holidays. At the Hanukah station, Kara Lehman and I read Hanukah stories to the kids and taught them how to play dreidel.

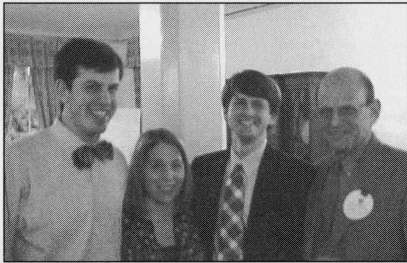
The international students made food from about a dozen countries for lunch. After lunch, the kids sang Christmas carols in Spanish and French and Santa Clause visited with goodies for all. The International Holiday Celebration was a great success and was very fulfilling for everyone who participated.



## PARENTS' WEEKEND RECEPTION

By Seth Martin '04

At 5:30pm on the Saturday of Parents' weekend, Hillel had a multicultural reception for the parents in conjunction with the Minority Students Association. Students and their families met with professors and faculty. There was a great turnout, including former Hillel President Stephen Philipson '01 and his fiancé Laura Adelman '01. As we socialized, everyone in attendance ate delicious food, including sushi, Spanish tortilla, black-eye pea dip, peanut chicken and of course, Hillel provided challah, chopped liver, hummus and pita, and bagels and lox. My stomach was full afterwards!

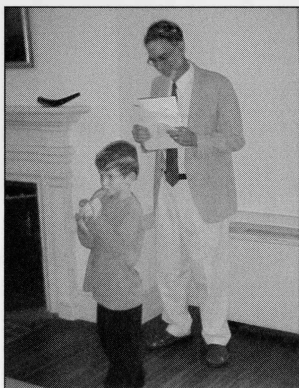


*(left to right) Stephen Philipson '01, Laura Adelman '01 announce their engagement at Parents' Weekend Reception. With them are Stephen's brother, Jon Philipson '06 and Dad, Lyle Philipson.*

## HIGH HOLIDAYS

Jewish students entered the 2002–2003 year at W&L with a celebration—Rosh Hashanah. Like the apples and honey they tasted at Freshman Activities Fair, Hillel was there throughout the high holiday season to ensure that their new beginning was a sweet one.

We were warmly welcomed at Temple House of Israel in Staunton on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The concluding service for Yom Kippur, Ne'ilah, led by Professor Marks, was held on campus, followed by a community break-the-fast.



*Zach Dubit sounds the shofar at the end of the Yom Kippur concluding service led by Professor Marks.*

## THE STUDENT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Seth Martin '04

This year is going great. I am lucky to be a part of such a fantastic Hillel. For me, Hillel involves friends, Jewish culture, religion, fun, and food! We have such a wonderful Hillel today because when I was a freshman Washington and Lee hired Joan Robins as its director. With her dedication and leadership, along with student presidents Stephen Philipson and then Graham Frankel, Hillel blossomed into a vibrant group.

It's more than a group. It's a community. I consider Hillel to be a community made up of the students, the faculty, the alumni, the Lexington community, the parents, and anyone that supports it. Anyone who shows up to our events or simply supports our events (in anyway possible) keeps Hillel going and growing. So thank you!

While the Hillel group itself is strong and has so much to offer, it is small. That is why this year we have made it a priority to recruit Jewish students. We formed an Ad Hoc Committee for the recruitment of Jewish students, held a phon-a-thon, and Joan and Robin already took a trip to a college fair. Based on my personal experience, I think prospective college students could benefit tremendously from coming to W&L and being a part of our Hillel. It is an enriching experience.

Seth Martin

## ADVISORY GROUP

Joan Robins, Director

Prof. Barry Kolman

Jan Kaufman, Director of Health Education

Prof. Sascha Goluboff

Prof. Richard Marks

Tom Peck, MD

Law Prof. Louise Halper

Prof. David Novack

Prof. Marcia France

Maryann Fleming

Arnold Masinter '62

Bill Jacobs, MD '71

Michael Okin, MD '76

Seth Martin '04

Robin Okin '03

Jordan Wolff '03

Alan Corwin '62

Law Prof. Mark Grunewald

## ALUMNI NEWS

THE REAL BIG NEWS!! **Stephen Philipson '01** and **Laura Adelman '01** are engaged! The wedding will be held in April, 2004, in Lee Chapel. Mazel tov Stephen and Laura!

**Graham Frankel '02** writes that she is sad not to be a part of Hillel anymore, and misses "First Fridays at Five". Graham reports that Asheville is getting better and better all the time. She works for a production company called Ironwood media. ([www.ironwoodmedia.com](http://www.ironwoodmedia.com)) She is a producer/VP of operations, and gets to do a little bit of everything. She works with clients and works on producing and arranging all of the videos and film projects that the company is working on, as well as trying new ones. As of October, Graham directed her first "shoot". Graham was sorry to have missed Homecoming—she took the LSATs—but hopes to visit Lexington soon, and says hello to the Jew Crew!

**Dave Wolf '51** writes that **Jim Paradies '51**, **Dick Pizitz '51**, and he celebrated their 51<sup>st</sup> reunion together. He hopes to get back to W&L before his 60<sup>th</sup>!

**Andy Schwartz '92L** sends kind words of support in our efforts to revitalize Hillel, and compliments the newsletter's strength of community feeling and pride in heritage. Andy sends best regards to Professor Mark Grunewald.

**Olliver Mendell '50** writes that the last issue of *The Star* never looked better! He writes, "After almost 44 years, I decided to retire from Chase Manhattan Bank—and I'm thoroughly enjoying retirement. Still involved with a number of Not-for-profits...and as a matter of interest have taken several trips sponsored by W&L. We returned in March from a wonderful visit to the very bottom of So. America!"

Joan Robins, Robin Okin '03, and Jonathan Webster were delighted to meet **Judge Paul Weinstein '55**, and his wife, Bunny, and **Pete Weissman '96** and his friend, Katie Rusmak, for lunch in October. Pete told us that he remained as an intern in the White House press office for a year and a half after graduating from W&L, then got a job working for President Clinton's national economic advisor for another year and a half. For the past three years, he's been working as speechwriter and deputy communications director for U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-Wash). **Judge Weinstein** told us that he will retire next spring, and may be presiding over the sniper case before then! The lunch proved to be engaging, spirited, and productive. We have many new ideas for recruiting Jewish students to W&L!

**Alan Corwin '62** sent a clipping from *Sportscene*, the official newsletter of Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel. The article reports that lots of athletes who competed in the last Winter Olympic Games are Jewish—including Sasha Cohen, Irina Slutskaya and Sarah Hughes. The clipping

also reports about Jeff "Goose" Agoos, a former Maccabiah competitor who was a central defender for the US World Cup Team.

**Don Hillman '46** has been very supportive in our efforts to address the Jewish enrollment issue. He and his wife went to Normandy, France last August for two weeks.

We were pleased to meet **Senator Elliot Schewel '45**, and his wife Rosel at the Alumni College last summer. We agreed that if we are to have any Jewish families in the next century, all of us have to be working on it now.

**Heather Turner '92** writes, "I have greatly enjoyed receiving your latest issues of *The Star*...Since graduation, I have been lucky enough to visit Israel twice, once for an extended stay on a kibbutz for 4 months and once for vacation. It is a beautiful country and people, undeserving of such continual destruction and heartache. I was glad to hear that Niv is safe and, as everyone, hope for a quick end to this most recent upheaval. Perhaps, by such groups as Hillel, we can increase public awareness and sentiment and make a difference. Please extend a warm hello to Dr. Marks!"

**Arnold Vedlitz '68** is the Assoc. Dean, Bush School of Gov. and Public Service, Texas A&M University. He supports Hillel there, and has sent his support of W&L Hillel as well. Dr. Vedlitz has offered to help any W&L graduates if they are interested in learning more about the Bush School and careers in Public Service.

We were saddened to hear about the death of **Rabbi David Wice '28**, last Feb, 2002. From 1947 to 1981 he served as senior rabbi of Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Philadelphia. "He was the ideal rabbi", said Rabbi Bill Kuhn, the congregation's senior rabbi since 1998. "His greatest strength was in pastoral work. There was hardly anybody in the congregation who didn't consider him a friend" Rabbi Wice kept a personal scorecard of one aspect of his pastoral work, recording by hand in a notebook every wedding ceremony he performed. There were, according to his little black book, 2,147 of them. His first wedding was in January 1934 in Omaha, Neb.; his last in November 1996. (taken from the Philadelphia Inquirer) May his memory be for a blessing.

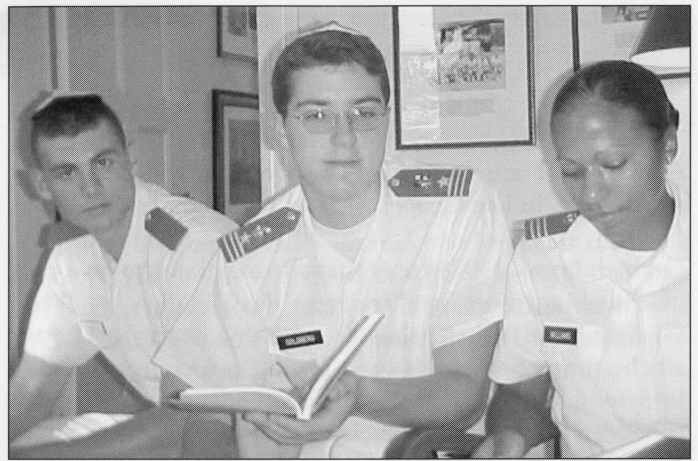
## FIRST FRIDAYS AT FIVE

by Lauren Tieuli '03

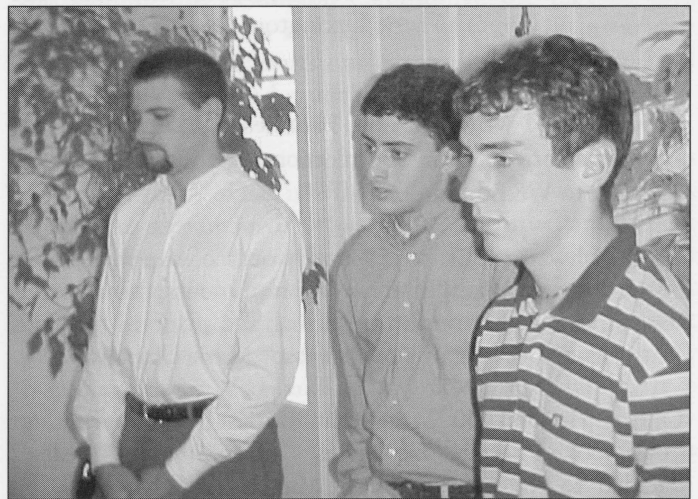
This fall our monthly First Fridays at Five Shabbat services have been more popular than ever. When I became the Chair of First Fridays, I was taking on a new experience because I had never before observed Shabbat. I was a bit nervous at this seemingly ironic assignment, but I ended up learning so much and having a wonderful time. When everyone arrived at the Alumni House that first Friday in September, the evening began with songs and the lighting of the candles. Then, Hillel students, professors, and Lexington residents all gathered in a circle for the inspirational service. Afterwards, the whole group ate dinner together buffet-style. The wonderful food was provided by townspeople and professors who graciously prepared not only traditional Jewish dishes, but other delicious international fare. This warm and inviting celebration has been repeated throughout the Fall, and has become a tradition for me and everyone involved. Celebrating Shabbat together helps Jews at Washington and Lee and in Lexington form a small, close community and makes us all feel at home.



Lauren Tieuli '03 lights the Shabbat candles.



VMI students join our "First Fridays at Five" Shabbat services.



Zach Bausch '05, Michael Kern '06 and Todd Martin '06 watch candlelighting at "First Fridays".



Jon Philipson '06, Robin Okin '03, Alicia Yaffe from UVA, and Kara Lehman '05 watch the candlelighting at "First Fridays".

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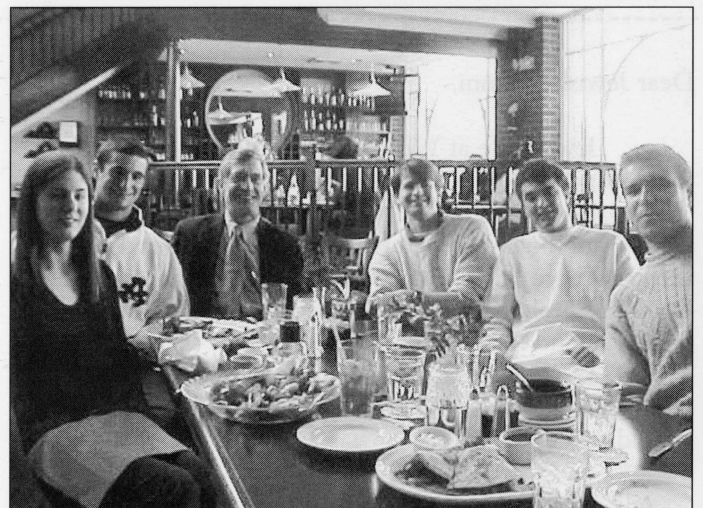
## VERY INTERESTING PROFESSORS

One of the highlights of our "Very Interesting Professors" series took place on December 3rd when President Burish was our featured guest. The discussion centered around diversity issues on campus, and how to recruit Jewish students to W&L. Many ideas were suggested by students, and supported by President Burish. It felt good to listen to President Burish offer to help recruit and develop a plan for more Jewish scholarships.

The first "Very Interesting Professors" lunch this semester featured Law Professor Mark Grunewald leading a discussion about "The Importance of September 12th", during which we talked about our reactions to the events of September 11th. Last fall Professor Grunewald was a visiting scholar at New York University and watched the World Trade Center collapse from his apartment. His current research concerns information privacy law. Students had the opportunity to think about personal privacy issues balanced against other interests, including terrorism.

Another memorable luncheon guest was Professor Alan McRae (Jewish by association—dating Professor Sascha Goluboff.) He started to answer the question, "Can we travel backward in time?" Students will have to take his course if they want to complete this journey, the ultimate thrill-ride of all time! Professor McRae also talked about his experiences dating a Jewish woman, and some interesting family reactions. Of course, this provoked a fun discussion about our own Jewish families.

The wide variety of "VIP" speakers continues to nurture the Jewish tradition of learning, complementing the usual classroom activities at W&L.



*President Burish meets with students for the December Very Interesting Professors lunch.*



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Dear Jewish Alumni,

Jewish life at W&L is in the middle of a Renaissance and you can be part of this exciting period.

In meeting with Jewish high school seniors who are considering Washington and Lee, we've found that they are more likely to apply if they have made personal contacts. Building a network of current Jewish undergraduates and local alumni will help.

We're looking for alumni to help strengthen Jewish life at W&L, and attract Jewish students. Would you:

- talk on the phone with prospective students
- refer high school students to Washington and Lee
- refer our Hillel Director to your temple, JCC or high school counselor
- help build our network of Jewish alumni by referring Jewish classmates
- be interested in a Jewish alumni meeting

\_\_\_\_ organize a gathering of Jewish high school students for a presentation by W&L Admissions and Hillel  
\_\_\_\_ do you have ideas about how we can make W&L more attractive to Jewish students?

Thank you for being part of this exciting effort!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address update \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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