

# **Boston University**

**The JLIC educators at Boston University are Rabbi Avi and Shira Heller.**

## **Demographics:**

There are approximately 3,500 Jewish undergraduate students at Boston University, which is 15% of the entire student population. A typical Orthodox Minyan on Friday night will attract around 90 students, of which 35 have spent a year in Israel prior to enrolling at BU. Approximately 125 students identify as Orthodox.

## **Kosher Food:**

There is a kosher dining plan that consists of eleven meals every week and is slightly more expensive than the regular meal plan. Anyone not on the meal plan can eat at kosher dining, but there is a surcharge of \$3 (payable in “points” on one’s student card). The kosher café at Hillel also accepts points and is open in the mornings, evenings, and on Sundays. The university caters kosher meals for university events and trainings. Supervision is provided by Hillel Rabbinic staff (Rabbis Polak and Heller) and is nominally under the KVH (Rabbinical Council of New England).

## **Programming and Shiurim:**

There are many events offered each semester. Some include the Jewish Literacy Kickoff (a discussion about the importance of being literate from a Jewish and civic perspective), It Takes Two to Torah (a dinner and learning program), and Seminars in Jewish Experience (a series on various topics led by the JLIC rabbi, Rabbi Avi Heller).

Current Jewish learning opportunities at Boston University include: Ten Minutes of Torah, Run with the Rabbi (students get a chance to exercise their body and soul on 2-3 mile runs with Rabbi Avi Heller), Talmud, Jewish philosophy and Maimonides, Women’s Halacha, women and Judaism, and Prime Time Parsha (high-level Parsha Shiur).

## **Orthodox Community:**

The Orthodox Minyan has two representatives who are appointed to the Religious Life Council as well as a semi-official Gabbai. Creating an Orthodox Advisory Council is under discussion. There is a daily Minyan and regular Shabbat services.

Freshmen in the Orthodox community usually live in residence halls and brownstones within a five-minute walk from Hillel. Some students, however, live in South and West Campus which is further from Hillel, and can be up to a twenty minute walk away. Upperclassmen usually live in apartments in Brookline and/or South Campus.

The Orthodox community has remained fairly consistent in size over the past few years, though morning Minyan has grown stronger since Rabbi Heller arrived at BU and there is a marked increase in learning opportunities and Chavrutas since the arrival of the JLIC couple.

The Young Israel of Brookline is close to BU, and MIT, Northeastern and Harvard are all within walking distance. There is kosher food available in Brookline.

**Shabbat:**

There are sometimes scholars in residence or other events on Friday nights such as a comedian and/or a Tisch at Hillel or in student apartments. Students relax, hang out, or learn at Hillel throughout Shabbat. On Shabbat day there is a Shiur in the morning followed by Minyan at 9 am. This is followed by Kiddush and a short Dvar Torah and then lunch. Towards the end of Shabbat, students run a Seudah Shlishit and Havdalah service.

There is an Eruv around BU, which is an extension of the Boston community Eruv.

**Additional Resources:**

There is a Jewish Studies minor available through the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies on campus.

There is a Chabad on the edge of campus that attracts a small group of BU students as well as MIT and Northeastern students, and holds services during semester breaks. There are two Meor (Maimonides) rabbis who have some relationships with Orthodox students and occasionally invite them for Shabbat meals.

There is also an Aish presence and interested Orthodox students can help staff Aish trips.

“Since Rabbi Avi and Shira Heller have arrived on campus, you can see the obvious re-  
invigoration of the Orthodox community at BU as well as the other Jewish communities on campus.”

– Dan Hazony, ‘09

# **Brandeis University**

**The JLIC educators at Brandeis University are Rabbi Elliot Kaplowitz and Toby Goldfisher Kaplowitz.**

## **Demographics:**

There are approximately 1,600 Jewish undergraduate students at Brandeis University, which is approximately 50% of the entire undergraduate population. There are between 200-250 Orthodox students at Brandeis, and a typical Orthodox Friday night Minyan has about 200 attendees. Many of the Orthodox students spent a year of study in Israel prior to enrolling at Brandeis.

## **Kosher Food:**

There is a full-service kosher meal plan, with 21 meals per week available. The kosher meal plan is run through the university and costs the same as non-kosher meal plans. Most of the kosher dining takes place at Sherman dining hall, which features all-you-can-eat cafeteria-style dining. There are some "Kosher to Go" options (e.g. sandwiches) available at the Kosher Convenience Store (in Sherman) and at Usdan Student Center. Supervision is provided by Rabbi Chaim Zirkind and was established under the auspices of the Bostoner Rebbe.

## **Programming and Shiurim:**

There are several programs at Brandeis, including: Good Times Emporium, Shabbat Onegs and Tisches, Communal world playoff and World Series games, Communal Mnorah lightings with Chabad

Jewish learning opportunities include: Intro to Talmud, Advanced Talmud, Intro to Judaism, Sefat Emet, Tefillah: Spiritual Workshop, Student-led Chaburot, Halachot of College, Teshuvah Drasha, Parsha Shiur on select Shabbatot.

The Brandeis Orthodox Organization (BOO) also hosts a variety of guest lecturers throughout the semester.

## **Orthodox Community:**

The Brandeis Orthodox Organization is in charge of social, religious, Tzedek, and other programming, and is tightly affiliated with the Brandeis Orthodox Minyan (which is a separate group in name only, at this point). Elections are held annually. There is also an active Chabad House near campus with its own student board. Chabad offers classes as well as Shabbat dinners. In addition to elected positions, BOO offers many leadership opportunities for students who want to get involved. BOO operates as a member group of Hillel. Brandeis Hillel supports well over 20 student groups with interests ranging from arts and culture, Israel, Tzedek, etc. Each member group has its own board. There is also a Hillel Board that oversees all the member groups. Orthodox students participate in all aspects of Hillel life. To learn more about BOO, visit <http://www.booweb.org/>.

Brandeis students live in residence halls (some set aside specifically for first year or sophomore students) or off-campus Brandeis-owned apartments. A small number of Orthodox undergraduate students, including married couples, live off campus, usually in apartments in Waltham.

There is no Hillel building. There is a Hillel lounge, but programming takes place all over campus. BOO (Brandeis Orthodox Organization) has a Beit Midrash located in the basement of a residence hall. The Beit Midrash is accessible 24/7 and is recently expanded. There are many opportunities for Chavrutot, Chaburot and a student-initiated Sunday Night Learning program (akin to Study with a Buddy). Every Thursday night there is Mishmar featuring Torah and Cholent.

There is no Orthodox community in Waltham. The closest community is Newton, MA, which is a modern Orthodox community about five miles away. It is also the site of the Ta'am China II restaurant, a popular kosher Brandeis student hangout on Saturday nights. There is generally not much interaction between the Brandeis Orthodox community and local Jewish communities; however, some Orthodox students at Brandeis are from Newton, and they sometimes have other students for a Shabbat at the beginning or end of a Brandeis break.

There is daily Shacharit Minyan, and two Mincha and two Maariv Minyanim. There are Shabbat Minyanim Friday night, Saturday morning, and Mincha/Maariv. Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat features a lot of singing. A Carlebach-style "Ruach" Minyan takes place occasionally, featuring dancing and even more singing. A "Neshama" or Shira Chadasha Minyan occasionally meets Friday nights as well. Women's Tefillah groups occur on an occasional Rosh Chodesh.

### **Shabbat:**

The Orthodox Minyan on Friday night features a lot of singing and attracts 200 students. Shabbat dinner is coordinated by Hillel and brings together 200-300 students per week. Chabad dinner draws another 50-100 students. More than 100 students attend services on Shabbat day. Shabbat lunch is eaten in the dining hall, but there is still a fair amount of singing. The Beit Midrash is very popular on Shabbat. There are also student-led Chaburot and JLIC Shiurim and occasional scholars-in-residence on Shabbat. There is a Hillel Oneg every Friday night, and students often put together their own Onegs and Tisches in upperclassmen suites. Shabbat day Kiddush is informal and features cereal and milk, cakes, and pies. Students give Divrei Torah at services (as does Rabbi Kaplowitz) and at Shabbat dinner and Seudah Shlishit. Seudah Shlishit also features lots of communal Zmirot.

There is an Eruv at Brandeis.

### **Additional Resources:**

The Orthodox community has remained constant in size over the past few years. The Beit Midrash was recently expanded and the number of student-led Shiurim and Chaburot has also increased. In general, the community has expanded in terms of openness and services offered while maintaining the same student population size.

There is a Near Eastern and Judaic Studies major and minor, as well as a Hebrew major and minor and a Yiddish Culture-related minor.

Since Brandeis is a Jewish sponsored university, there are no classes scheduled on both days of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, the first day of Sukkot, the first day of Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah and for the entire Passover holiday.

# Brooklyn College

The JLIC educators at Brooklyn College are Rabbi Reuven and Shira Boshnack.

## Demographics:

There are about 3,000 Jewish undergraduate students at Brooklyn College. Approximately 50% of the Jewish students are Orthodox and attend Shabbat services regularly. Most have not spent a year of study abroad in Israel prior to enrolling at 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 (Vaad of Flatbush, Dairy). Brooklyn Hillel hosts *Hillelicious*, a meat option open in the afternoons supervised by Rabbi Reuven Boshnack, the JLIC educator.

## Programming and Shiurim:

The Orthodox club at Brooklyn College runs numerous programs, including Shabbatonim, a spa day, a Lag B'omer barbecue and bonfire, a Shavuaton (Shavuot Shabbaton), and Simchaton (Simchas Torah Shabbaton.)

Some current Jewish learning opportunities include: two weekly women's Shiurim, weekly Mishmar and Parsha classes, a weekly Wednesday lecture series, Beit Midrash program, women's learning lab, Chavrutot with Rabbi and Shira Boshnack.

## Orthodox Community:

Brooklyn College is located in a Jewish hub with many kosher restaurants located within walking distance from campus, as well as many nearby Battei Midrash, Orthodox schools and Yeshivot and Orthodox synagogues. Indeed, Brooklyn is home to one of the largest Orthodox Jewish communities in the world.

Brooklyn College is a commuter campus and students typically live at home or in student apartments.

The Orthodox club at Brooklyn has a board which meets to organize events. There are five elected officials in the club, as well as volunteers who work on different projects. The Hillel board is predominantly Orthodox as well.

Most students at Brooklyn College live at home, and most are reasonably close to campus. Some travel via public transportation from various boroughs in New York, with a few from New Jersey or Far Rockaway, New York. Some students rent apartments in the Brooklyn area.

There are daily Mincha, and early Maariv (during the winter) Minyanim at Brooklyn College.

**Shabbat:**

There is no real Shabbat atmosphere at Brooklyn College because most students commute, but the JLIC educators have worked to create a Shabbat experience for students starting in the 2008-09 school year that includes bi-weekly Shabbat Onegs and a Shabbat Minyan for those in the area. In addition, the JLIC couple opens their home to students every Shabbat for meals and has invited guests such as Chaim Dovid to spend an uplifting Shabbat with Brooklyn students.

The Eruv in Brooklyn is a matter of dispute: some rabbis accept it, while others do not.

**Additional Resources:**

Brooklyn is one of the largest concentrations of Orthodox Jews in the world so there are many resources available to Jewish students at Brooklyn College. Many local families open their homes to students for Shabbat meals or other needs.

The Orthodox community at Brooklyn College was strengthened through the addition of a JLIC couple five years ago. The couple brought Orthodox students to Hillel and created a vibrant Orthodox life through programming and their presence on campus.

There is a Jewish Studies major and minor available at Brooklyn College.

“Rabbi Boshnack and Shira are great, their home is open to everyone. If you ever have a question or want to learn something or just want to talk, they always have time.”

-- Akiva Dym '10

“For a Rabbi, he makes really good sushi.”

--Ksenia Bundarianko '08

# **Cornell University**

**The JLIC educators at Cornell University are Rabbi Jason and Chana Leib.**

## **Demographics:**

There are about 3,000 Jewish students at Cornell University, which is about 20% of the entire student population at Cornell. Approximately 60-70 identify as Orthodox. About 60 students attend Minyan on Friday nights, and 15 have spent a year in Israel prior to enrolling at Cornell. There are a few Orthodox graduate students at Cornell. All freshmen (no exceptions) live on North Campus. Most upperclassmen live off campus, either in apartments or fraternities or sororities. There are 25 people (Men & Women) who live in the Center for Jewish Living (CJL). Some upper classmen choose to live on campus.

## **Kosher Food:**

The Kosher Dining Hall is located next door to the Center for Jewish Living (CJL), serving three meals a day, except for two on Shabbat and Sunday (brunch). The kosher dining Hall also provides hot meals on north campus from Sunday through Friday, called North Star. Kosher sandwiches prepared and labeled by the Kosher Dining Hall can be found in many of the cafeterias around campus.

## **Programming and Shiurim:**

Some past programs include: Edible Sukkah Making, Tishes, Bowling Night, Murder Mystery Night, Speed Dating, Mystery Maccabees, Movie Night and Jews on Ice (ice skating).

Jewish learning opportunities include: advanced Gemara Shiur, Contemporary Issues, two Shiurim on Shabbat, individualized learning with the either of the Leibs'. Mishmar on North (with Cholent), Two session Mini Series that include such topics as "Judaism on Rape," and "Hell from a Different Perspective,"

## **Orthodox Community:**

The Center for Jewish Living (CJL) is an independent, student-run community center unique to Cornell. The building boasts student dormitories as well as the kosher dining hall, a Shul and a Beit Midrash. The CJL is the center for Orthodox students on campus, but all types of Jews are welcome. The CJL functions according to Orthodox standards of Jewish law.

The CJL has an elected board with 8-15 students, as well as an alumni advisory board. A Kedma group (Orthodox student group) also exists on campus, co-sponsoring periodical events.

The CJL provides housing for up to thirty male and female students every year.

There is a small Chabad community near Cornell that offers programming and hospitality on Shabbat. A few members of the small local community sometimes invite students over for Shabbat as well.

There is a daily Minyan three times a day.

**Shabbat:**

An Orthodox Minyan is available throughout Shabbat.

At the Kosher Dining Hall there are typically 150-200 students at Shabbat Dinner. Dinner features a communal singing of Shalom Alechem, followed by Kiddush. As part of the standard program, a student delivers a Dvar Torah, followed by announcements from Jewish student groups about upcoming events and activities. The CJL hosts an Oneg Shabbat at the adjoining house, and there is a Tisch bi-or tri-weekly with singing and Cholent. On Shabbat morning about 35-45 students eat at the Dining Hall. A full Seudat Shlishit buffet (meat) takes place between Mincha and Maariv, with traditional slow Shira. Shiurim are offered at the CJL on Friday after Maariv and on Shabbat morning after Kiddush. Cornell is in the process of constructing an Eruv, which will hopefully be completed by fall 2009.

**Additional Resources:**

The Super Seder program, the largest Seder in North America, continues to draw 700-1000 students per year and is organized by the JLIC couple.

There is a Jewish Studies major and minor concentration available.

”Something that drew me to Cornell as an Orthodox student was the size of the community and the opportunity to get involved right away. It never felt too big as to be intimidating, and yet it is big enough to keep meeting and interacting with new people constantly.”

- Dan Kohn, '08

# **Johns Hopkins University**

**The JLIC educators at Johns Hopkins University are Rabbi Binyamin and Miriam Marwick.**

## **Demographics:**

There are approximately 400 Jewish undergraduates at Johns Hopkins University, which is 13% of the student population. About 35 students attend the Orthodox Minyan on Friday nights.

## **Kosher Food:**

There is a kosher meal plan that provides lunch and dinner Sunday through Friday in the campus dining facility (FFC) and on Shabbat and holidays in the Hillel building. The food is under the supervision of Star-K. There is also kosher food available in the campus supermarket.

## **Programming and Shiurim:**

One of the popular annual social events at Johns Hopkins is the Latke/Hamentaschen debate, in which professors argue the respective virtues of the Latke and the Hamentaschen. Approximately 150-200 students attend the debate.

Current Jewish learning opportunities include: Sunday morning Breakfast and Learning Program, which focuses on Jewish philosophy, a Halacha series, Biblical Hebrew Grammar, an intensive Talmud Chabura, "Pizza and Parsha" on Thursday evenings, and a "Science and Torah" lecture series on Shabbat. There is also a women's "sisterhood" which provides social and educational programs for female students.

## **Orthodox Community:**

The Orthodox community has a Minyan coordinator who acts a liaison to the Hillel. There is also an active Beit Midrash.

Freshmen and sophomores live in University housing while juniors and seniors live in apartments within a couple blocks of campus. Baltimore's Orthodox community is eight miles away from campus.

There is a daily Minyan three times a day, as well as a Minyan on Shabbat.

## **Shabbat at Johns Hopkins:**

Approximately 35 students attend the Orthodox Minyan on Friday night. After meals, students usually hang out and play board games or ping-pong in the Hillel building.

An Eruv was recently built around the Johns Hopkins campus in the spring of 2008.

## **Additional Resources:**

A Near Eastern Studies major is available, and Jewish History and Hebrew classes are offered at Johns Hopkins University.

"The JHU Jewish community represents individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds and observance levels; nevertheless, the community is extremely inclusive and open. Daily Minyanim, Shiurim, kosher food, and a friendly group of committed students make this a great community." -- Mike Basilyan, '10

# **New York University**

**The JLIC educators at New York University are Rabbi Yehuda and Michelle Sarna.**

## **Demographics:**

New York University has between 4,000-5,000 Jewish undergraduate students (more than any other private university in the U.S.), comprising about 20-25% of the undergraduate population. There are about 350-400 Orthodox students at NYU. Approximately 250 students attend Friday night services, and about 150 attended post-high school programs in Israel.

## **Kosher Food:**

NYU has a kosher cafeteria, and Olympic Pita and Moishe's Bakery provide local options for kosher food. Many Midtown kosher restaurants deliver to the NYU area for a minimal charge.

On campus, the Kosher Cafeteria is certified by the Kof-K and is open daily 11:30am-7:30pm. It is an all-you-can-eat meal plan offered as one of NYU's meal options. The Caf also hosts large Shabbat dinners.

## **Programming and Shiurim:**

NYU offers a myriad of activities for Jewish students to enjoy. In the past, NYU hosted a carnival, poker night, dinner and a movie, a tie-dye and ice cream pre-finals stress fest, intercollegiate battle of the bands, Yachad Chanukah party, Purim party, and Shabbat for 2000.

Jewish learning opportunities include: Literary Approaches to Tanach, Hot Topics, Tanya, Parsha, Development of Halacha, Gemara shiur (separate shiurim for men and women), Student led-Shiurim, JELO – Jewish Enrichment Learning Opportunity (open Beit Midrash), LISHMA lecture series, Midrash on the Parsha.

## **Orthodox Community:**

The Orthodox community at NYU is called Shalhevet and has a board consisting of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, social chair and Shabbat and holidays chair. Other leadership opportunities include the JELO committee, which plans a weekly open Beit Midrash, and the LISHMA committee, which plans a weekly lecture series. To learn more about Shalhevet, visit <http://www.nyu.edu/clubs/shalhevet/>.

Most first year Orthodox undergraduate students live in Weinstein Hall, which houses the Kosher Cafeteria, and is located at the center of NYU's campus. Most sophomores live in residence halls, though many juniors and seniors choose to live in apartments. Most live within 15 minutes walking distance, though some seniors live on the Upper West Side.

Forty graduate students live on campus. They organize their own Friday night Minyan and dinner, which attracts 50-100 Jewish grads and young professionals.

The Bronfman Center, NYU's Hillel, has a fully stocked Beit Midrash. The NYU library has an extensive collection of Hebrew and English Jewish books and periodicals. The Center for Jewish History, a few minutes walk from campus, has one of the largest Jewish archival collection as

well as Jewish art exhibits. Independent cinemas in Greenwich Village regularly screen films of Jewish interest.

NYU is walking distance to Midtown Manhattan, Stern College (YU) and the Lower East Side. It is a one hour walk to the Upper West Side or Upper East Side. Within a fifteen-minute subway ride are Penn Station, Grand Central Station, dozens of kosher restaurants, kosher butchers and Judaica stores.

There is a daily Shacharit Minyan as well as two Mincha and two Maariv Minyanim everyday. On Shabbat there is Kabbalat Shabbat (Carlebach style, Sephardic and Chabad—every week), Shacharit (Ashkenaz, Sephardic and Chabad), Mincha and Maariv.

**Shabbat:**

NYU's large, active Orthodox community is matched with an inspiring Shabbat experience. Over 200 students attend Friday night services on any given weekend, though NYU is close enough for students to make a trip to visit family or friends for the weekend. After services, the community moves to the dining hall for a Shabbat dinner with Zemirot, followed by a short Parsha Shiur (few students make private dinners). 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 a Midrash Shiur. 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 following Maariv.

NYU built an Eruv in 2007 in collaboration with other Manhattan synagogues. The Eruv extends to Stern College, the Upper West Side and Upper East Side.

**Additional Resources:**

Over the past five years, the Orthodox community has grown exponentially. This growth has brought with it a proliferation of learning opportunities and a more solid infrastructure, including a more extensive meal plan, an Eruv, superb on-campus Holiday programming, budget increases, fundraising efforts, a larger prayer space and more leadership opportunities.

There is a Jewish Studies major and minor available. NYU is well known for its excellent Judaic Studies program, and its Orthodox professors and PhD students participate in and contribute substantially to the community.

“NYU's Orthodox community is welcoming and offers a great religious and social environment.”

-- Aaron Levine '10

# Princeton University

The JLIC educators at Princeton University are Rabbi David and Sara Wolkenfeld.

## **Demographics:**

Princeton University has about 500 Jewish undergraduates, which is approximately 10-12% of the entire undergraduate population. There are about 250 Jewish graduate students. Among the undergraduates, about 35 are Orthodox, and a small handful of students spend a year of study in Israel before enrolling at Princeton. The size of the Orthodox community has remained fairly constant over the years, yet in the past two years the number of Orthodox undergraduates has grown.

## **Kosher Food:**

There is a kosher dining hall at the Center for Jewish Life (Hillel) under the supervision of the OU. Any student on a university meal plan can eat three meals a day, seven days a week, at the kosher dining hall, including Shabbat and holiday meals for no additional cost while school is in session. The CJL currently offers free Shabbat dinner to graduate students and upper classmen who might not be on a meal plan.

## **Programming and Shiurim:**

Jewish learning opportunities include two levels of Gemara Shiurim, and Parshanut (Torah commentary). Students may also learn one-on-one with the JLIC educators on any topic. Additionally, several scholars in residence come to Princeton each year.

Yavneh, the Orthodox student organization at Princeton runs a “Mishmar” open Beit Midrash each Thursday evening, where several dozen students learn individually or in pairs and eat pizza together. In addition to Shiurim, Yavneh also organizes social events and other programming.

## **Orthodox Community:**

The Orthodox student group is called Yavneh, which is affiliated with the Center for Jewish Life (Hillel) but is an independent organization run by its own student board.

The Center for Jewish Life – Hillel at Princeton houses the kosher dining hall, and Beit Midrash, where all Orthodox prayer services take place.

There is a Mikveh at a nearby Chabad. A local Shoprite contains a kosher butcher and an extensive kosher section.

The closest large Orthodox community is Highland Park, NJ, which is a 30-minute drive from Princeton. New York City and Philadelphia are easily accessible by train.

Several Princeton community members and graduate students host undergraduate students for meals on Shabbat and holidays. All undergraduate students live in campus residence halls during all four years at Princeton.

Minyanim are available three times a day throughout the year.

**Shabbat:**

Between 100 and 150 students attend Friday night dinner each week at the Center for Jewish Life. Following dinner, students usually remain in the building well into the evening. There are occasional Tisches on Friday nights, and there is usually an informal Oneg hosted in a student's residence hall.

The campus Chabad is a very popular option for Shabbat meals for both the Orthodox and non-Orthodox communities.

There is no Eruv in Princeton.

**Additional Resources:**

There are several Jewish Studies and Hebrew language courses offered each semester. A Jewish Studies minor is available.

“I chose to attend Princeton because of the unique Orthodox Jewish community. It is a small, and therefore warm and close-knit, community of individuals. My friends and I support each other, religiously, personally, and academically, to develop into thinking and active Jewish leaders. My relationship with the other Jewish students and the constant encouragement and positivity of the Wolkenfelds are my major supports here in Princeton to not only maintain my values, but to grow in Avodat Hashem even on a college campus.”

-Miriam Rosenbaum, class of 2011

# Rutgers University

The JLIC educators at Rutgers University are Rabbi Yisroel and Shoshana Porath.

## Demographics:

Rutgers University has approximately 5,000 Jewish undergraduate students, which is about 17% of the entire undergraduate population. About 350 students are Orthodox, and about 100+ attend Orthodox Friday night services at Hillel. Many Orthodox Students have spent a year in Israel prior to enrolling at Rutgers.

## Kosher Food:

The Chabad house runs a full-service kosher meal plan, providing three meals a day, seven days a week, and students can choose from a meal plan that offers different numbers of meals per week. Kashrut is under the supervision of the Chabad House. Packaged kosher sandwiches and meals are also available in some campus cafeterias.

Hillel provides breakfast after morning Minyan, Shabbat dinner, and various program-related meals.

## Programming and Shiurim:

The variety of programming includes: Rosh Chodesh events, Pre-Purim party with Yachad, “Cholympics” chulent cook-off, Social events (crafts nights, open-mic night, Freshmen Fiesta, Chillfest), Israel-related activities (Israel related films, Chug Ivrit Hebrew Speaking Club, etc.), Chessed programs, “Life after College” dinner panel with observant Rutgers alumni for upper classmen, Health & Halacha Series.

Jewish learning opportunities include weekly Shiurim and special guest Shiurim. These have included: Daf Yomi, Parsha, Hilchot College, Mens’ dinner shiur, Women in Tanach, Na”Ch, Pre-holiday Halacha, Mishmar with guest speakers, Giants: Inspiring Torah Personalities, Student-taught Mishmars, Dinner n’ Learns with visiting teachers from Yeshivot and Seminaries in Israel, TGIT (Thank God It’s Thursday) Chavruta and pizza night.

## Orthodox Community:

Mesorah, the Orthodox community at Rutgers Hillel, is run by a student board. They organize social, educational and religious events geared towards the Orthodox students at Rutgers and open to all. They aim to strengthen and expand the Orthodox community at Rutgers. To learn more about Mesorah visit: [www.rutgersmesorah.org](http://www.rutgersmesorah.org).

The board is comprised of a president and chairs that include social, Shabbat, communication and Freshmen Representative. There are also sub committees such as Chessed, Beit Midrash and Rosh Chodesh.

Most upper classmen and some freshmen live in off campus houses and apartments together (right off of College Ave, the main street of campus). A few students commute from home and the rest live in either university residence halls or the Chabad womens' residence hall. Students may request a College Ave. campus residence in order to be within walking distance to Hillel and Chabad.

There is an Orthodox Minyan three times a day Monday through Shabbat and sometimes on Sunday mornings.

Highland Park is the closest Orthodox community. Individuals from the community offer hospitality and some neighborhood Shuls offer students free or discounted High Holiday seats. There is a selection of kosher restaurants on the main street.

### **Shabbat:**

Shabbat at Rutgers includes Minyanim, Shiurim, and meals at Hillel, Chabad and students' apartments. Hillel offers free Shabbat dinners that typically attract 200-300 students. Chabad offers free Shabbat dinner and lunch. Mesorah sometimes sponsors communal Shabbat lunches as well. Hillel and Chabad both offer free seudah shlishit. There is a Carlebach style Havdallah service at Hillel with lots of singing.

Rutgers Hillel students help maintain the New Brunswick Eruv, which is connected to the Highland Park Eruv.

### **Additional Resources:**

The Orthodox community at Rutgers has grown in both quality and quantity over the past few years. More Orthodox students are coming from all over the country as well as New Jersey. As Rutgers' Orthodox programs and staff grow, the Orthodox community and its reputation grow as well. Despite the increase in size, Rutgers has achieved the reputation of being a warm, friendly and lively community.

“What I like about Rutgers is that even though we're young adults we're able to create community atmosphere where people help each other out and pitch in for the common good.”- Gabe Homa '09

“The Orthodox community at Rutgers is laid back with lots of opportunity for leadership and involvement.”- Eytan Morgenstern '08.

“From the moment I stepped into Hillel I felt extremely comfortable. Hillel has been amazing for my transition to college because living in the residence halls is hard over Shabbat and the holidays...Hillel is an amazingly warm and inviting community. I have made such strong bonds and connections with people...” - Kim Schwartzman, '11

# University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

The JLIC educators at UCLA are Rabbi Aryeh and Sharona Kaplan.

## Demographics:

There are about 3,500 Jewish undergraduate students at UCLA, which is about 10% of the undergraduate student population. Approximately thirty\*\* students attend an Orthodox Minyan on Friday night, and about fifteen students have spent a year studying in Israel after high school.

\*\*UCLA is a commuter campus and the Friday night Orthodox Minyan numbers do not nearly reflect the full extent of the broader Orthodox community. There are over 100 Orthodox students on campus, which is about 3% of the entire Jewish population at UCLA.

## Kosher Food:

A Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf is located on the first floor of Hillel, where students can purchase cold and hot drinks, snacks and bagels throughout the week. There is a kosher meat restaurant that operates out of Hillel Monday through Thursday during lunch that offers a diverse array of fresh food that can be purchased with cash or a Bruin card (the ID card of UCLA). There are kosher, prepackaged dinners sold in the residence halls as part of the university meal plan. An extra fee is required to participate in the kosher meal plan. All meals are certified by the Heart K, the Kehilla of Los Angeles.

## Programming and Shiurim:

Past programs at UCLA include: numerous social and learning events, cultural activities, and an Alternative Winter Break, where the JLIC Rabbi led a delegation of 12 orthodox students to coastal Mississippi as part of Hillel's Alternative Winter Break program. The students spent a week doing serious rebuilding work and learning more about the devastation inflicted on the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina. There are also Onegs and Shabbatonim throughout the semester.

Jewish learning opportunities include: Chavrutot with the JLIC Educators, Parsha and Pizza, a Halacha Chabura, a Law School Shiur, Medical School Shiur, Coffee and Kaballa, Women's Talmud, Women's Chabura, and Women's Talmud.

## Orthodox Community:

The Orthodox community at UCLA is increasingly student led. Official posts currently include two community co-chairs, a Gabbai, a Beit Midrash librarian, a women's chair and a student intern. A number of Orthodox students hold positions on Hillel's student board and represent the needs and interests of the JLIC community to Hillel.

Most of the Orthodox students live at home, within a ten mile radius of campus. The majority of Orthodox students living on campus live in the Bayit, a Jewish co-op a few blocks from campus. A handful of students live in the residence halls and another handful live in private apartments around Westwood Village.

There is a fully stocked Bet Midrash at Hillel as well as a kosher lunch program and a beautiful space for Shabbat minyan. The Young Research Library at UCLA has an extraordinary collection of Seforim including rare editions and manuscripts that are available for students to

access. Chabad, right off campus, offers Shabbat Minyanim and hospitality. The Shul rabbis from many of the area synagogues regularly come to UCLA to deliver shiurim and orchestrate dialogues with students. They are also available to answer Sheilot and provide mentorship.

Graduate students or married couples (as well as a number of the single undergraduates) live in the Pico-Robertson community, approximately five miles away.

There are two Ashkenazi Shuls (aside from Chabad) and two Sephardic Orthodox Shuls off campus that readily offer learning, hospitality and mentorship for students and open their homes and Shuls for student Shabbatonim throughout the year.

The Westwood Kehilla is an Orthodox shul and Kollel approximately one mile from campus. It is an extremely warm and welcoming community and offers an extensive range of classes on all levels and ongoing hospitality to students, particularly around Jewish holidays.

The Pico-Robertson area, located five miles from campus, offers a plethora of Kosher restaurants, caterers, markets, Shuls, Judaica stores and a Mikvah. A myriad of Jewish organizations offer social events, learning opportunities, holiday celebrations and Shabbat experiences that are designed for students. A weekly learning program for women, Torah Learning for Collegiates (TLC), is housed there and attracts a significant crowd of Orthodox women for regular social and educational gatherings. Students frequent the area to partake in the rich Jewish and cultural life available there.

There are daily Minyanim available on campus for Shacharit, Mincha and Maariv, except on Sunday. There is one, unified Orthodox service on Friday night and Shabbat day.

### **Shabbat:**

Shabbat on campus is a highlight of the Orthodox life on campus. Rather than a weekly exodus every Friday, there is an influx of energy and excitement as commuter students are hosted by their 'on-campus' friends to join an experience uniquely suited for college-aged members of the Orthodox community.

Following services on Friday night, the Orthodox community partakes in a Kiddush, with Zemiros and socializing before dinner. Students then join the rest of the Hillel community for a free dinner and educational or social program, followed by dessert, ping-pong and shmoozing in the Coffee Bean lounge on the first floor of Hillel. From the Hillel, the Orthodox students head to the Bayit or a student's apartment for an Oneg.

Shabbat morning begins with services at Hillel and is followed by another free, catered meal. Students then remain in the Hillel building all day playing board games, ping-pong, pool, etc. On Shabbat afternoon, the JLIC rabbi offers a Shiur, and the Beit Midrash is open with Chevruta learning all day.

After Shabbat, many students meet in the center of campus to begin the new week with a weekly mens' football game.

There is an Eruv that encompasses the entire campus as well as the residence halls and off campus housing.

**Additional Resources:**

The Orthodox community has grown dramatically, demonstrated by the sheer number of students, not from UCLA, who flock to campus for Shabbat, holiday celebrations and educational opportunities that are offered by JLIC at UCLA.

Kosher food is now available at Hillel and in the residence halls. The number of Shiurim offered each week has grown and the popular weekly Parsha and Pizza class has spiked to an average attendance of 25 students each week.

There is a Jewish Studies major and minor available.

“As an Orthodox Jew living in the dorms, the Orthodox life at Hillel has become central to my life at UCLA...My closest friends are the people I’ve met through JLIC programs, morning minyan and Shabbat dinner. The Orthodox community at Hillel means a lot to me; I really don’t know how I’d fit into UCLA life without it.” --David Bardo, ‘08

# University of Illinois

**The JLIC educators at the University of Illinois are Rabbi Naftali and Tali Rothstein.**

## **Demographics:**

There are about 3,500-4,000 Jewish students, including undergraduate and graduate students, at the University of Illinois, making up about 10% of the student population. About 20-30 students spend a year in Israel prior to enrolling at U of I. There are about 30 students who identify as Orthodox at University of Illinois. There are about ten Orthodox graduate students who live on campus.

## **Kosher Food:**

Hillel currently offers a variety of packaged meals from English Hedgerow Catering, available five days a week, Monday through Friday from 12PM to 12AM, and on Sundays by special request. Hillel also offers free Shabbat dinner, lunch, and Seudah Shlishit. Supervision of both the packaged meals and Shabbat meals are provided by CRC (Chicago Rabbinical Council). The University offers kosher dinner from Monday through Thursday as an option for the required meal plan for freshmen. Upperclassmen may buy a meal plan or use pay-as-you-go. The University Kosher Dining Hall is under the supervision of Rabbi Teichtel of Chabad at UIUC.

## **Programming and Shiurim:**

Jewish learning opportunities are provided by the JLIC couple, and include: Lunch N' Learn, Weekly Shabbat class, "Nashim" women's Rosh Chodesh circle, and students may have personal Chavrutot with the JLIC couple. There is an open Beit Midrash, and special programs for the Chagim. There are also social events and guest lectures.

## **Orthodox Community:**

The Orthodox community at the University of Illinois is a tight-knit group of approximately thirty students. Leadership roles are available for interested students. In addition to Hillel, there is an active Chabad house on campus. Most students live in university residence halls or apartments across campus, though some live off-campus. There are Minyanim for Shabbat, which take place at The Cohen Center for Jewish Life (Hillel) and at the Chabad house. Minyanim during the week are a joint effort of JLIC and Chabad and depend on students' schedules during the semester.

The local Orthodox community, which consists mostly of professors and alumni of the University of Illinois, is very warm and welcoming. Community members participate in the JLIC Minyan and are known for their hospitality, often inviting students over for Shabbat meals. The closest large Orthodox communities are in Chicago and Indianapolis.

## **Shabbat:**

About 45-50 students attend the Orthodox Minyan on Friday nights. All Shabbat meals at Hillel are free, sponsored by the Takiff Family Foundation and the 1st Bank of Highland Park Foundation. Shabbat programming includes Friday night Onegs that run late and Seudah Shlishit. Students are highly involved in coordinating Shabbat programming. The JLIC couple is usually at Hillel throughout all of Shabbat, or at their home hosting students for Shabbat meals.

There is no Eruv at University of Illinois.

**Additional Resources:**

A Jewish Studies concentration is available as part of the Religious Studies major.

More information can be found at <http://www.illinihillel.org/> and at <http://www.jliconline.org/index.php/school/C45/>

The University of Illinois JLIC Jewish learning Facebook group can be found at: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=22264454709>

The local Chabad website is [www.jewishuiuc.org](http://www.jewishuiuc.org).

Please contact [rabbi@illinihillel.org](mailto:rabbi@illinihillel.org) with any questions.

“The University of Illinois has a small young growing community where one can find Jewish learning of all kinds and experiences of all kinds. This is a place where one has the opportunity to grow and explore his or her Jewish identity because of the resources and facilities U of I has to offer. U of I is a place where a Jew can be a Jew.”

-Matt LeVee '09

# University of Maryland

The JLIC educators at the University of Maryland are Rabbi Eli and Naomi Kohl.

## Demographics:

There are approximately 5,500 Jewish undergraduates at the University of Maryland. About 200 students spent a year of study in Israel prior to enrolling at UMD. The Orthodox community at Maryland is one of the fastest growing collegiate communities in America. Currently, there are approximately 425 Orthodox undergraduate students at Maryland.

## Kosher Food:

There is a full kosher meal plan available for students who live in the residence halls (students in residence halls are required to be on a full meal plan if the residence does not have a kitchen). Hillel serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Shabbat meals are included in the full meal plan. Students who do not wish to be on the full meal plan can purchase a smaller meal plan or may pay with cash. Hillel also has a café/coffee shop in the lobby that serves hot and cold drinks, smoothies, soup, pizza, and salad and is open all day. In order to sign up for the Kosher meal plan, students should visit the Hillel website at [www.marylandhillel.org](http://www.marylandhillel.org), and click on dining. They should then call the University of Maryland dining services to cancel the university meal plan. Students living in residence halls without kitchens must sign up for the kosher meal plan prior to canceling the University meal plan.

There is a Kosher Israeli style meat restaurant, Pita Plus, in College Park as well.

## Programming and Shiurim:

Past programs include: Shabbat Across Maryland that attracted over 1,000 students, the Iron-Latke bakeoff, open-mic night, and Manicure For The Cure, a manicure event in which the proceeds were sent to Sharsheret to benefit Jewish women with Breast Cancer. There are many Jewish social action groups that run Tzedek/Chessed events. There are also four Jewish a cappella music groups, and an acting troupe that does not perform on Shabbat.

Shomer Shabbat Alternative break trips are available (Hillel offers six trips, three domestic and three international).

Jewish learning opportunities include Shiurim that are offered every night of the week by various members of the College Park and surrounding communities. Mini-shiurim are offered daily following services. The JLIC couple offers one-on-one learning, Shiurim, personal guidance, and Shabbat meals and Onegs to benefit the Orthodox community.

Shiurim include: Practical Halacha, Talmud, Sefer HaChinuch, Pizza and Parsha (attracts 100 people a week in Chavrutah style), The Jewish Woman, Tanach of Nechama Leibowitz, Philosophy of Rav Kook, Mishmar on Thursday nights, Women's Parsha, and Men's Parsha. There is also The Hebrew Table, where students gather weekly to speak in Hebrew with members of the Kollal Torah MiTzion of Silver Spring, Maryland. Yomei Iyun are also held, and past topics have included Women and Judaism, Medical Ethics, and Kashrut.

JLIC and Hillel recently started a student Kollel, which has been very successful. The JLIC Kollel is a program where students commit to learning either 5 or 10 hours a week, including several Chavrutot and attendance at Mishmar or one Shiur a week, and in return are given a gift certificate to use towards the purchase of Seforim (Jewish books). There are three tracks in the Kollel: Gemara, Halakha, and Tanakh. Currently, about 25 students participate in this program.

### **Orthodox Community:**

Kedma is the official Orthodox Student group on Maryland's campus. Students elect the Kedma student board every spring for a one-year term. Kedma works with the Gabbaim to coordinate Minyanim during the week and on Shabbat and holidays. Kedma also works to create various programs throughout the semester that meet the social, religious and educational needs of the Orthodox community on campus.

The University of Maryland has a Beit Midrash filled with Seforim in the Hillel building. Many students take advantage of the Beit Midrash, and there is also a large Jewish Studies section in the main university library.

Most freshmen are placed in North Campus residence halls, but freshmen on the kosher meal plan may request to be placed in the freshmen residence halls on South Campus, which is closer to the kosher dining. While most students live on campus for their freshmen and sophomore years, most move into off-campus apartments for their junior and senior years. The South Campus Commons is a popular place for upperclassmen to live. Other popular off-campus apartments include the Knox Towers, Hartwick Towers, and the "Knox Box" apartments. All of these residential areas are approximately a five-minute walk to Hillel.

The College Park Orthodox student community is extremely active, with daily Minyanim, numerous Shiurim and a beautiful Shabbat atmosphere. College Park is a fifteen-minute drive from Silver Spring, MD, and is a large Orthodox community with many kosher dining opportunities. Many students also visit the Silver Spring community for Shabbat.

There is an Orthodox Minyan that meets three times daily and attracts about 65 students. There is a women's Tefillah group on Rosh Chodesh and some holidays.

### **Shabbat at UMD:**

There are two Orthodox Minyanim for Friday night services. About 300 students attend the Friday night Orthodox Carlebach Minyan and an additional 40 students attend a traditional Orthodox Minyan. Chabad does not host a separate Minyan but joins with Hillel in a collaborative effort. After Minyan, underclassmen eat meals either at the Hillel or at Chabad. Following dinner, many students attend various Shabbat Onegs around campus. Most upperclassmen who live in apartments host their own Shabbat meals, offering a more intimate Shabbat atmosphere. Shabbat morning Minyan draws about 150 students. Following services there is a Kiddush, Shiur and lunch at Hillel, though many students host their own lunches as well. In the late afternoon there is Seudah Shlishit and a lively community Havdalah. There is an Eruv at the University of Maryland.

**Additional Resources:**

The Jewish community at Maryland has significantly increased over the past five years, and the number of Orthodox students on the kosher meal plan has more than doubled.

There is both a Jewish Studies major and minor available.

"Maryland, with its various educational and social programming, has something to offer everyone at all ends of the religious spectrum. The community has a welcoming environment, making everyone, no matter how religious they may be, feel at home."-Ari Rosner, Class of 2010

"University of Maryland Hillel is the 'it' place to be. I came not knowing much about the Jewish life here, expecting to leave every weekend to go away for Shabbat. After the first week, which I stayed on campus for, I was hooked. I was overwhelmed with the sheer number of people that were actively involved. It's just amazing!" –Beverly Kramer, Class of 2010

# University of Massachusetts

The JLIC educators at the University of Massachusetts are Rabbi David and Ariella Ruderman.

## **Demographics:**

There are about 2,000-2,500 Jewish undergraduates at the University of Massachusetts, which is about 13% of the entire student body. About fifty students attend the Orthodox Minyan on Friday nights, and about ten students spent a year of study in Israel prior to enrolling at UMass.

## **Kosher Food:**

The Kosher Dining Common (KDC) is centrally located and integrated into one of the main dining commons. Kosher dining is open Sun. through Thu. 11:00am – 7:00pm and Fri. 11:00am – 3pm. The kitchen is under the supervision of the Vaad of Springfield, MA.

## **Programming and Shiurim:**

There are many programs at UMass, including Meals on Wheels, Beit Midrash with dinner, “Challa for a dolla” (baking to raise money for Darfur), Krav Maga course, Sababa (Hebrew language social events), and comedy night, among others.

Jewish learning opportunities include weekly Talmud Shiurim, Shiurim on Jewish holidays, Women in the Bible through Text and Artistry, Parsha Shiurim, Chassidut and even a cooking class. The University considers these “enrichment” courses, and participants receive one academic credit through the Judaic Studies Department. Students also receive credit for learning in Chavruta with the JLIC educators.

## **Orthodox Community:**

The Orthodox community, called Kehilat Hillel Ha’azinu (KHH), consists of a leadership group with elected positions. For more information see [www.umasskhh.org](http://www.umasskhh.org).

The top floor of the Hillel building is student housing. Several Orthodox students live together with other Jewish students in the JLLC (Jewish Living and Learning Community). On the first floor of the building are staff offices, a large common space and the Beit Midrash. Most Orthodox students, however, live in the central part of campus, which is close to both Hillel and the kosher dining hall.

There are three daily minyanim at UMass.

The community of Springfield is a half-hour away.

## **Shabbat:**

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. Hillel provides a catered, free dinner. Following dinner there is an Oneg with snacks, socializing, guest speakers and late night learning. Shacharit on Shabbat morning is followed by a Kiddush and lunch prepared by the students. The Hillel House is “Shomer Shabbat,” so many students stay in the building all day socializing, resting and learning. There is mincha and a

shiur in the afternoon, followed by third meal with zmirot and divrei Torah, Maariv and Havdallah.

There is no eruv at UMass.

**Additional Resources:**

The Orthodox community at UMass is growing. With the arrival of the JLIC program, shiurim are being offered for the first time. The Beit Midrash recently opened with great success. UMass Hillel now offers Orthodox High Holiday services and Pesach Seders, and there is now a Sukkah at the Kosher Dining Common as well as Megillah readings on Purim. The university recently upgraded the food quality and Kashrut standards of its kosher dining program. The number of newly enrolled Orthodox students increases every year, with an increasing number spending a year of study in Israel prior to enrolling at UMass.

UMass Amherst has a strong Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies. Courses include Music of the Jewish People, Sephardic Culture and Literature, Film and Society in Israel, Jewish Thought, Jewish Law and Society, Holocaust, Modern Israel, Arabic, Hebrew Language and Literature and Yiddish.

A Major and Minor are offered in Judaic Studies, Hebrew, and Middle Eastern Studies

“KHH (Kehilat Hillel Ha’azinu) breathes religious life into the secular campus.”

--Elliot Gerber '09

# University of Pennsylvania

The JLIC educators at the University of Pennsylvania are Rabbi Mordy and Limor Friedman.

## **Demographics:**

There are at least 2,000 Jewish undergraduates at Penn, which is about 20% of the entire undergraduate population, and approximately 350 identify as Orthodox. About 250-300 students attend the weekly Orthodox Friday night minyan. Each class has about 30-40 students who spent a year of study in Israel so there are well over 100 students in the Orthodox Community at Penn (OCP) who spent a year in Israel prior to enrolling at Penn.

## **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 on 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. The dining hall has a Mashgiach Temidi and Kashrut supervision is provided by the Va'ad of Philadelphia.

## **Programming and Shiurim:**

The OCP offers a wide variety of programs and services for Orthodox Jewish students at Penn and at neighboring schools. These include social events like the ever-popular Casino Night, wine & cheese tasting, murder mystery night, Jews on Ice (ice skating), dodge ball competition, Football league, Onegs, occasional Melaveh Malkas and Tisches and celebrations for Jewish Holidays.

The OCP also provides a number of educational opportunities. Many prominent rabbis and world-renown scholars come to the community as Scholars in Residence. In addition, the Bet Midrash for Women (BMW) brings in female scholars on a bi-weekly basis to learn with female students in an intimate setting.

The OCP Shiurim Committee ensures that Shiurim constantly take place at Penn. These include: Advanced Talmud, Hilchot Brachot, Hilchot Shabbat, Hilchot Niddah, Parshat Hashavua, Tanach – Shoftim, Literary approach to Sefer Tehillim, Mesilat Yesharim and Rav Hutner, Philosophy of Rav Kook, Philosophy of Rav Soloveitchik, Sunday Mussar, Thursday night Mishmar.

The hallmark of OCP learning at Penn is its Sunday Night Learning (SNL) program in which over 120 students come together on Sunday night for dinner, and to learn for an hour of one-on-one Chavrutah study.

## **Orthodox Community:**

There is a formalized community structure for the Orthodox students called the Orthodox Community at Penn (OCP), which is entirely student run. It is run by two elected co-chairs. Over 15 committees oversee various aspects of daily life, such as Shiurim, Tzedakah, hospitality, Divrei Torah, Chessed, and many more. Each committee has committee head and committee

members. There are also two carefully appointed Gabbaim who oversee the religious aspects of the community. To learn more about the OCP, visit [www.pennocp.org](http://www.pennocp.org).

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 houses anywhere from 50-75 Orthodox students on the lower floors. Many upperclassmen live in houses off campus, and many freshmen live in mandated freshman housing all over campus (though mostly in the Quad and Hill House).

Penn Hillel has a large, fully-stocked Beit Midrash filled with thousands of Seforim. The Penn library also has a large collection of Jewish books, as does the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies which is in downtown Philadelphia and is one of Penn's affiliated libraries.

There are about 125 Orthodox graduate students on campus, and another 50 or so Orthodox grads or young professionals who live in downtown Philly or in the suburbs. There are several Orthodox communities within a twenty-minute car ride, but these communities generally do not offer programs or hospitality to undergraduate students. A handful of students run Bnei Akiva programs in the Lower Merion community.

At Hillel, there are two Shacharit Minyanim and two Mincha Minyanim. Depending on the time of year, there are either two or three Maariv minyaim, one of which takes place in High Rise North. Minyanim are always available on Shabbat and holidays. Depending on the week there may be a Sefardi Minyan option as well, and the main Minyan has a Cerlebach-style service once a month. On occasion, there have been women's Kabbalat Shabbat services.

### **Shabbat at Penn:**

There are three different types of Shabbat services offered on Friday night, and about 250 students attend the Orthodox service. Several hundred students eat together Friday night at Hillel, and many some students make private meals as well. Once a month Penn Hillel has a program called PHridays that brings 400+ students together to eat in the kosher dining hall. On Friday night there is occasionally an Oneg or Tisch.

There are numerous education and social opportunities that occur on Shabbat for Orthodox students. Students give Divrei Torah on Friday night and on Shabbat morning, and a graduate student gives a short Sefer Hachinuch Shiur following services Shabbat morning.

Following morning services there is a community wide Kiddush, and Seudah Shlishit is intercommunal as well. Students sing slow Shira and one of the students gives a Dvar Torah. There are often special speakers, guest lecturers, learning opportunities and scholars in residence on Shabbat.

There is an Eruv that extends over the entire university and hospital area.

### **Additional Resources:**

Since JLIC has arrived at Penn, the community has continued to grow both in numbers and in strength as a social and learning community.

The Jewish Studies major and minor is popular among many Jewish students.

“The Orthodox Community at Penn (OCP) has played an enormous role in shaping my college experience. Over the past four years, I found amazing friends, inspiring role models, and a multitude of ways to be involved with chessed, leadership, and learning within the community. The OCP offers students all the resources that they need to grow as individuals and community members, and an environment that encourages students to take advantage of the wide-range of opportunities offered through the greater Hillel community as well.”

--Shalhevet Roth, '08 and former OCP co-chair

"Over the course of my time at Penn, I've seen a number of my friends become more religious. Kids who never before had a serious Jewish education began to show up to minyan every day, come to gemara shiur, and study in yeshiva over the summer. I think that much of this has to do with the fact that at Penn, students are exposed to a vibrant and welcoming Orthodox community, one which makes living as an Orthodox Jew both stimulating and accessible."

--Joe Scherban, '08 and former gabbai

# **Yale University**

**The JLIC educators at Yale University are Rabbi Jason and Meira Rappoport.**

## **Demographics:**

Yale has about 1500 Jewish undergraduate students. About twenty students typically attend the Orthodox Minyan and a few have spent a year of study in Israel. While 25% of the undergraduate population is Jewish, only 2% identify as Orthodox. Most of the undergraduate students live on campus, though some upperclassmen live off campus. There are about 20 Orthodox graduate students at Yale.

## **Kosher Food:**

There is a kosher food plan at Yale that includes three meals a day. On Sundays there is usually no meal plan, though on intermittent weeks there is lunch available. The Vaad Hakashrus for Connecticut (VKFC) is the supervising organization.

## **Programming and Shiurim:**

Yale has a Beit Midrash as well as a number of weekly shiurim, Chavrutot with the JLIC couple, and a Sunday night pizza and learning program. Weekly Shiurim include an Advanced Gemarah Shiur, a Bekiut Gemarah Shiur, and Pizza and Learning. There are also topical Shiurim on Rav Kook, Jewish thought and other topics. All Shiurim are open to everyone.

The JLIC educators and the student body jointly organize events for Orthodox students at Yale. These have included a Sukkah Jam (Simchat Beit Hashoeva) with a live band, a Chanukkah Party, and a Tu B'shvat Seder and visits to a local senior center. Other events have included a discussion and video screening of a film about family purity and a lecture on the evolution of Jewish Thought as well as panels on contemporary topics such as the role of women in Judaism, Biblical Criticism and Ecology.

## **Orthodox Community:**

The Young Israel House at Yale is the Yale Orthodox community's undergraduate organization. It is led by an elected President and Treasurer. The President then appoints Vice-Presidents to head up specific initiatives. The JLIC couple is the full time professional staff of the Young Israel House at Yale. The Young Israel House members work very closely with the JLIC couple.

There is a daily Minyan at Yale three times a day, and Shabbat Minyanim meet throughout the year.

The Orthodox community of New Haven is about a mile from campus and within the Eruv. While students typically do not go to these communities, there is the Young Israel of New Haven, the Yeshiva of New Haven and the Chabad in New Haven. All provide Shiurim and other community resources.

## **Shabbat at Yale University:**

Following Friday night services, Kiddush and hors d'oeuvres are served (during EST) in the Kosher Dining Hall followed by dinner and a lively Oneg on many Friday nights during the semester. On Shabbat morning, following Shacharit, there is often a Shiur given by students or a guest speaker. The Kosher Dining Hall is open for Kiddush and a song-filled lunch. In the afternoon, many students stay at the Slifka Center and relax until Mincha and Seudah Shlishit.

There is an Eruv at Yale.

## **Additional Resources:**

The Orthodox community has been slowly growing recently.

There is a Jewish studies major available.

"The Yale Orthodox Community is warm and friendly. It provides an active and welcoming home for religious life on campus."

- Zeke Miller, Young Israel House at Yale President

## **Jewish Toronto Campus Life (*new campus 2008-2009!*)**

The JLIC educators at University of Toronto and York University in Toronto are Rabbi Aaron and Miriam Greenberg.

### **University of Toronto**

The University of Toronto is located in the historic neighborhood of downtown Toronto. The campus stretches across numerous city blocks, and is in the heart of the city's urban community. U of T's Hillel, a beautiful new state of the art structure, is filled with various components of Jewish life.

#### **Demographics:**

There are about 3,000 Jewish students on campus, and fewer than 5 percent are Orthodox students.

#### **Kosher Food:**

Campus life at U of T does not benefit from the vibrant kosher establishments of the Toronto Jewish community. There is no kosher restaurant or full service Shul on campus. However, there is Mincha Minyan Monday through Thursday when school is in session and the Hillel often provides kosher meals at lunch. In Mount Sinai Hospital, about a mile and a half walk from the Hillel, there is a kosher cafeteria, which offers a selection of kosher sandwiches and snacks. The Hillel has a Glatt Kosher meat kitchen and a Kosher (non Cholov Yisroel) milk kitchen.

#### **Programming and Shiurim:**

Daily Mincha service is held at Hillel when school is in session and the building and is host to various Shiurim and visiting guest speakers. There is a selection of Sefarim for students to take advantage of as well. Rabbi Greenberg gives various Shiurim on Thursdays throughout the day and is available to learn one-on-one. Students occasionally give a weekly Shiur in the evening hours. A variety of Shiurim, programs, Shabbatonim, and numerous activities are offered on a regular basis.

There is a Friday night dinner every other week in the Hillel to service those that live in the area.

#### **Contacts:**

Rabbi Aaron Greenberg; JLI educator 416.913.2424

Zac Kaye; Executive Director of Hillel Toronto 416.913.2424

## **York University**

York University is located about 20 minutes west (driving time) of the northern Orthodox community, and about 35 minutes northwest of the southern Orthodox community.

### **Demographics:**

There are approximately 4,000 Jewish students on York's campus, and about 150-200 who identify as Orthodox.

### **Kosher Food:**

On campus, there is a Kosher Country Style (supervised by the COR), which is a dairy restaurant located in one of the colleges on campus.

### **Programming and Shiurim:**

Daily Mincha service is held at Hillel when school is in session, and there are various Shiurim and visiting guest speakers. There is a wide selection of Sefarim for students to take advantage of as well. Rabbi Greenberg offers daily Shiurim and other organizations such as Chabad, Or Sameach, or Aish offer learning opportunities as well.

There is a Friday night dinner held off campus a few times each semester.

### **Additional Information:**

Since the Toronto Orthodox student community is primarily a commuting community, campus life plays an auxiliary role to the student's Jewish religious and social life. By 5pm (if not earlier), most students are on their way home. The city offers an abundant programming, including emphasis on community involvement in various youth organizations (such as NCSY and Bnei Akiva) and various local Tzedakahs.

### **Contacts:**

Rabbi Aaron Greenberg; JLI educator 416.913.2424

Zac Kaye; Executive Director of Hillel Toronto 416.913.2424