



Muhlenberg College
Hillel



HILLEL VISION

That each and every Jewish student will make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel.

HILLEL MISSION

To enrich the lives of Jewish undergraduate and graduate students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world.



WHY SUPPORT MUHLENBERG COLLEGE HILLEL?

- A strong Hillel develops Jewish leadership for the Jewish community locally, regionally and nationally.
- Muhlenberg College Hillel offers students inspiring staff mentors and the resources they need to be empowered, innovative Jewish creators, thinkers and leaders.
- Jewish students enter college from a wide range of Jewish backgrounds. Muhlenberg College Hillel is a pluralistic environment, which supports students as they continue to develop their Jewish identity during this transformative time in their lives.
- Hillel is an inclusive Jewish organization for students. We meet students where they are, encourage their exploration of what it means to be Jewish, and empower them to create their own Jewish path.

Make a gift to support the work of Muhlenberg College Hillel

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Rabbi Melissa B. Simon

“We are uniquely positioned to reach students at this formative time in their lives by providing the tools they need to create the Jewish future.”

MESSAGE FROM HILLEL DIRECTOR AND JEWISH CHAPLAIN RABBI MELISSA B. SIMON

Through Muhlenberg College Hillel, students are a part of one of the largest, most vibrant and deeply caring Jewish communities on a college campus in North America.

In a given week through Muhlenberg College Hillel, there could be a gathering of MiShelanu: Israeli-American students speaking in Hebrew, a session of “Ari Explains it All” with our Ezra Fellow who engages students through Jewish education, “tabling” in the campus center for an upcoming social excursion to go bowling, Shabbat dinner with over 100 students reflecting the diversity of the college campus and a meal and social program at my home as part of our TZADDIK: Social Justice initiative.

Muhlenberg College Hillel’s student-driven and staff-supported vision leads to religious, social, cultural, educational and Israel programming. We are constantly working with our student leaders to help their peers access Jewish life and community on their own terms.

We are uniquely positioned to reach students at this formative time in their lives by providing the tools they need to create the Jewish future.

The Hillel building is a “Jewish Home Away from Home” for our students with nooks and crannies in which to study, free laundry and snacks and trusted and beloved staff. Hillel is more than just a building; it is also a holy Jewish community. In an age where we are more and more siloed, Muhlenberg College Hillel is a rare space where people come together despite their differences. Hillel welcomes everyone in the Muhlenberg College community, regardless of their denomination, faith tradition or background.

Together we create a pluralistic, welcoming and inclusive Jewish community at Muhlenberg College.





President John I. Williams, Jr.

MESSAGE FROM MUHLENBERG PRESIDENT JOHN I. WILLIAMS, JR.

I am so proud of the decades-long legacy of strong Jewish life on our campus through Muhlenberg College Hillel. My wife Diane and I have joined with Muhlenberg College Hillel to celebrate Shabbat, Simchat Torah and Chanukah with students.

Muhlenberg College is consistently ranked among the top 10 U.S. colleges that Jewish students choose. With delicious Kosher food, an inspiring Jewish studies program and an outstanding Hillel, Muhlenberg is known in the Jewish community as a great place for Jewish students to learn and grow.

Muhlenberg College's vibrant Jewish community is made possible by the strong support of families who value Hillel's assistance for our students. Programs such as Shabbat dinner, special film screenings and speakers challenge our Jewish students to embrace and explore their heritage, while also serving as a resource for all of us on campus who seek a deeper understanding of Judaism and Israel.

I am extremely grateful for the past support of Muhlenberg College Hillel by alumni, students' families and community members, and hope you will join with the College in continuing this investment both now and in the years ahead.





Catherine Schwartz '11 (left) with Muhlenberg College Hillel alumni Sarah Cromwell '16 and Michael Binstok '13

ALUMNI PROFILE CATHERINE SCHWARTZ '11

Without a doubt, engagement in the Jewish community through Muhlenberg College Hillel was part of the path that led Catherine Schwartz '11 to a fulfilling career in Jewish nonprofits.

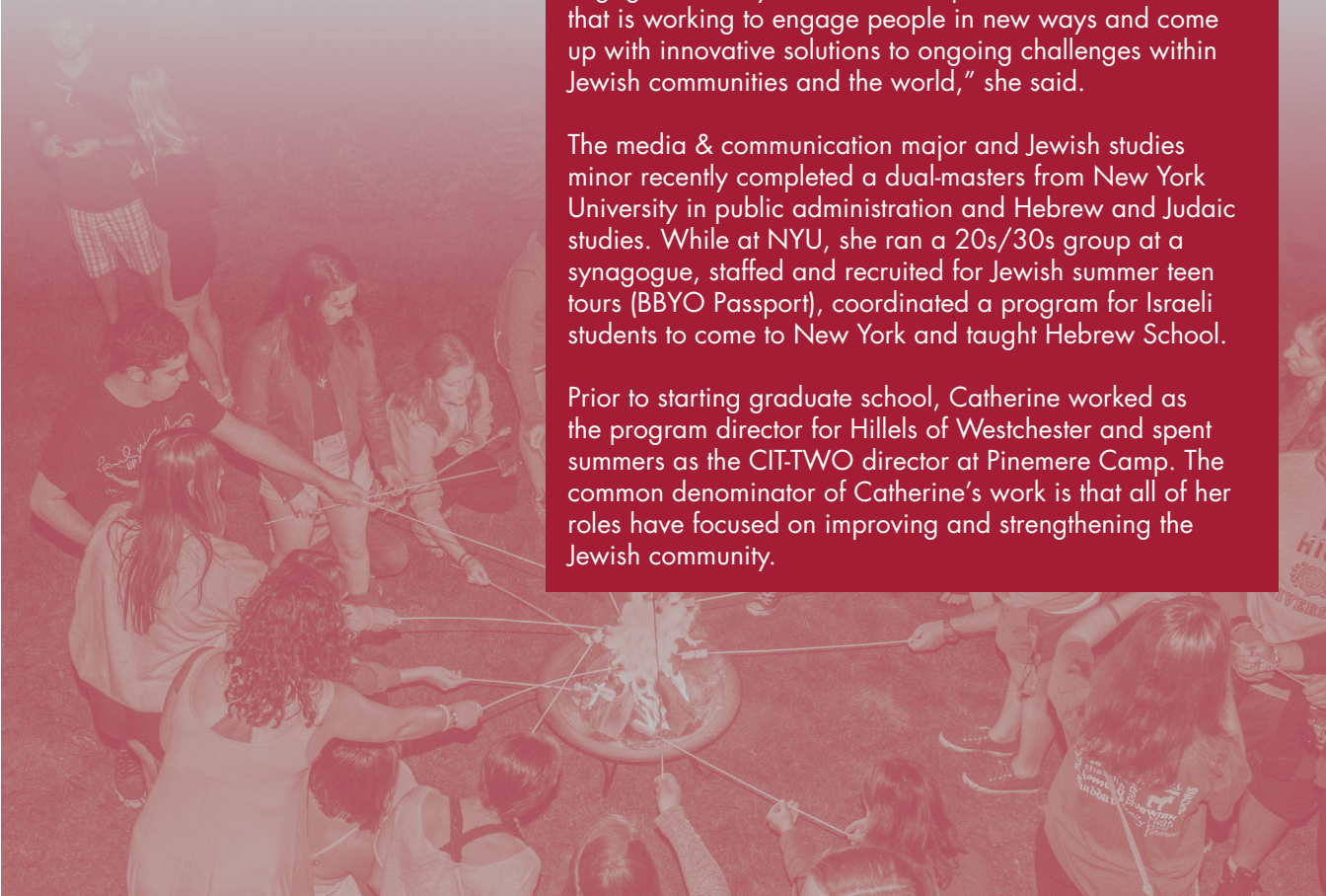
"It was at Muhlenberg that I made the decision to become a Jewish professional. My time at Hillel greatly impacted me as a person, and as a Jew. I wanted to be able to give to others a similar experience," said Catherine, the project manager for two teams at The Jewish Education Project in New York City.

At The Jewish Education Project, Catherine works with the congregational education team and on a grant to develop Jewish enrichment programming for students attending Hebrew Language Charter Schools.

"I believe in this work because I believe that being Jewish is an important part of my identity. The culture, traditions and more have been passed down for so many generations that I think it is important to continue to engage people (especially kids and young adults) to show them the richness of this history, and the importance of being engaged Jewishly. I want to be a part of the narrative that is working to engage people in new ways and come up with innovative solutions to ongoing challenges within Jewish communities and the world," she said.

The media & communication major and Jewish studies minor recently completed a dual-masters from New York University in public administration and Hebrew and Judaic studies. While at NYU, she ran a 20s/30s group at a synagogue, staffed and recruited for Jewish summer teen tours (BBYO Passport), coordinated a program for Israeli students to come to New York and taught Hebrew School.

Prior to starting graduate school, Catherine worked as the program director for Hillels of Westchester and spent summers as the CIT-TWO director at Pinemere Camp. The common denominator of Catherine's work is that all of her roles have focused on improving and strengthening the Jewish community.





Samantha Rosenfield '18

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Students have traveled to Israel on Muhlenberg College Hillel's Birthright Israel trips since 2010.

STUDENT PROFILE BIRTHRIGHT ALUM SAMANTHA ROSENFELD '18

For Samantha Rosenfield '18, a Birthright trip to Israel opened her eyes to the array of opportunities for involvement and connection within Muhlenberg College Hillel.

"When I was a prospective student, one of the things I liked about Muhlenberg was the Jewish population," said the dance major, who is also pursuing education certification. "I had previously lived in St. Louis in an area with almost no Jews, so a Jewish community was something I wanted."

During her first year on campus, however, Samantha was still figuring out where she fit in. "I joined a few organizations, did an internship and went to some Friday night dinners at Hillel, but I was still figuring out what I wanted to dive into," she said.

In February of her freshman year, Samantha noticed that Muhlenberg College Hillel was planning a Birthright trip to Israel, and she didn't waste any time signing up. The trip proved transformational. While she knew no one else going on the trip, she jumped in enthusiastically, quickly bonding with others.

"What was eye-opening to me is that in Israel, Judaism is as much about the culture as it is about the religion. I really enjoyed that, along with connecting with individuals that I may not have otherwise known." Samantha said.

The Birthright trip was only the beginning for Samantha. She has since become the head of publicity and communications for Muhlenberg College Hillel's student board and a Hillel engagement intern. She has also represented Hillel at events such as June Advising Days for incoming students.

"It was the Birthright trip that pulled me in to Muhlenberg College Hillel," Samantha said. "It is the great people and staff that keep me coming back."





FOSTERING EMERGING JEWISH LEADERS

ISRAEL FELLOW

Muhlenberg College Hillel continues to partner with Hillel International and The Jewish Agency for Israel to welcome an Israel Fellow to campus each year. The Israel Fellow creates and leads unique and innovative strategy for Israel engagement and education, and to help link students to Israel experiences such as 10-day trips to Israel on Birthright, summer-long internship through Onward Israel and study abroad on four College-approved university programs. Thanks to the generosity of an alumni donor, Muhlenberg College Hillel welcomed Liron Daniel as its second Israel Fellow for the 2016-2017 school year. The Israel Fellow works hand-in-hand with Muhlenberg College Hillel's professionals on campus, supporting students and helping them to grapple with complex issues as they develop a lifelong connection to Israel and a sense of global Jewish peoplehood.

EZRA FELLOW

Through a partnership with Hillel International, Muhlenberg College Hillel has hired a program and engagement associate who serves as an Ezra Fellow, participating in a national fellowship program for top Jewish leaders and educators. The Ezra Fellow is empowered to use her own Jewish experiences to incorporate Jewish thought into daily conversations with students, whether in formal programs or casually over coffee. Innovative engagement through education program has helped make Jewish learning accessible and meaningful to our students.

ENGAGEMENT INTERNS

Muhlenberg College Hillel is beginning its inaugural year of Engagement Interns, a national program that builds Jewish life on campus through peer-to-peer engagement, community building initiatives, and Jewish learning. Student engagement interns tap their personal social networks (greek life, business majors, foodies, artists) to connect friends and friends of friends to each other, and to help freshmen feel connected to Jewish life on campus. They learn to build authentic relationships, create new Jewish experiences, expand communities, and impart sophisticated and relevant Jewish content.



YEAR END REVIEW

It is difficult to reduce Muhlenberg College Hillel into facts and figures. Hillel is about relationships. It is about numerous cups of coffee and deep conversations. Hillel is about late night snacks in the kitchen and even later nights planning student-led programs. Hillel is asking questions and exploring Jewish tradition. Muhlenberg College Hillel staff and student leaders work tirelessly to build and strengthen a pluralistic Jewish home on campus.



1

Large pluralistic Jewish community on campus with Muhlenberg College Hillel

300%

Growth of the Jewish population in the past 20 years at Muhlenberg



7,842

"Swipes" by students to enter the Muhlenberg College Hillel building after-hours last year

165

Freshmen engaged before orientation by Hillel engagement interns

3,250

Chairs set out for Shabbat dinner throughout the year

1,800

Bagels served throughout the year at bagel brunches

639

Apples and honey delivered to students for Rosh Hashanah

400

Pieces of schnitzel served at a Shabbat dinner

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE HILLEL IS A CONSCIENTIOUSLY PLURALISTIC COMMUNITY WHERE WE HONOR MANY WAYS TO CONNECT TO JEWISH LIFE AND MAKE EVERYONE FEEL WELCOME.



“Hillel has given me a place to go when I need a house or a home. It has given me a much-needed outlet for my Judaism and has even helped me strengthen my Jewish identity. Without it, I would be a very sad person indeed on Friday nights. Thanks, Hillel !!”

– Justin Greenbaum '19

JEWISH LIFE

Muhlenberg College Hillel is committed to encouraging exploration of what it means to be Jewish, and empowering students to create their own Jewish path.

Each week hundreds of students celebrate Shabbat at Muhlenberg College Hillel with a delicious kosher dinner — always free of charge — and the option to attend one of three student-initiated and student-led services. From Rosh Hashanah to Passover, we work with student leaders to create a variety of ways to celebrate Jewish holidays, including services, discussions and kosher meals.

Muhlenberg College Hillel proudly welcomes students of any or no religious tradition and is an active part of the College’s Religious Life Team.





JEWISH LEARNING

Muhlenberg College Hillel fosters a growing Jewish identity and advances social justice, Jewish learning and spirituality for its students. Hillel staff engage in small group and individual study throughout the week. From “Ari Explains it All” and “TZADDIK: Social Justice Conversations” to visiting scholars and speakers to movie screenings and discussion groups, Jewish learning is at the core of our work on campus.

“The Jewish community established through Muhlenberg College Hillel is a unique one. Not only can people of all backgrounds, traditions and experiences come together and celebrate the beauty of Judaism, but the diversity of the members of our community really comes through.”

– Madison Reisler '18



EMBRACING ISRAEL & GLOBAL JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD

Muhlenberg College Hillel creates a vibrant environment to celebrate Israel on campus and promotes student support for and engagement with Israel. We encourage and nurture diverse ways for students to shape their perspective and raise awareness regarding Israel. Whether at a student leadership meeting, a holiday program, or simply an engagement coffee date, Hillel brings Judaism into the everyday.



“Because of Mishelanu, I now have an Israeli-American community on campus. I feel so lucky that I can be surrounded by other students that are as eager as me to speak Hebrew, watch Israeli movies, and just jam out to our favorite Israeli music.”

– Gili Fleekop '18

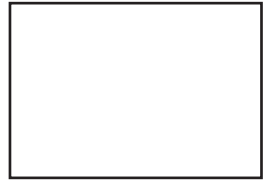


Muhlenberg College

Hillel

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www.muhenberg.edu/hillel



Hillel
International



Jewish Federation
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

ENRICHING THE LIVES OF JEWISH STUDENTS

**MUHLENBERG COLLEGE HILLEL
INSPIRES JEWISH STUDENTS TO
MAKE AN ENDURING COMMITMENT
TO JEWISH LIFE.**

Why is Hillel important to the Jewish community? College offers a fantastic opportunity to provide Jewish content to young people before they begin their adult lives. Hillel provides Jewish connections and content at a critical time in the lives of Jewish youth.

Muhlenberg College Hillel is dedicated to helping Jewish students create a positive sense of Jewish identity on their own terms. In addition, we serve as a Jewish resource for students of all faith backgrounds on campus.

BE OUR PARTNERS in ensuring that the next generation of Jewish students experience transformative Jewish life at Muhlenberg College.

MAKE YOUR GIFT

Check: payable to Muhlenberg College, subject "Hillel," mail to Muhlenberg College, 2400 Chew St., Allentown, PA, 18104

Phone: 1-800-859-2243

Online: www.muhenberg.edu/makeagift click "Other" and write-in "Hillel." Please consider making a monthly recurring gift.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!