

A MESSAGE FROM VANDERBILT HILLEL'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Vanderbilt Hillel is the home away from home while our students are on campus. We are more than a building, we are a community, one that plays a pivotal and vital role for our students.

After a spring and summer of uncertainty, it is difficult to know what the coming year will bring. There is one thing that I do know, however. Throughout these unsettled times, our Hillel has remained open for business, and we will continue to do so no matter what the future brings. Whether we are “open in person” or “open virtually”, we will be present and vibrant for our students as we continue to do what we do best: build and strengthen the Vanderbilt Jewish community and provide a family network to support our students’ religious, social, and cultural needs.

Vanderbilt Hillel accomplishes these lofty goals by supporting and empowering our exceptional student leaders to create, build, and strengthen groups that focus on the causes that inspire them. We build Jewish community and connectedness through innovative programs, inspiring religious observances, exciting activities, and delicious food. Our dedicated and creative staff support our student leaders while we tirelessly seek new ways to connect with and engage new students in Jewish life.

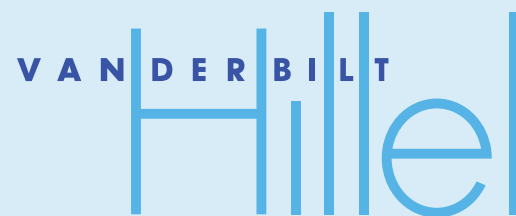
More than 25 different student groups and initiatives operate under our umbrella, and around 200 students hold one or more ongoing roles within those groups. Hundreds more students regularly participate in programs, services, and other experiences, from Shabbat and holidays to Falafel at Midnight, Pizza Parties, and our FYSHFest pre-orientation program for first year students.

While these amazing opportunities may not look the same this year, Hillel is committed to retain the spirit of our programs and groups. We are determined to ensure that students continue to find their home at Hillel, continue to learn and grow Jewishly, and retain their connection to Jewish life at Vanderbilt and beyond. In the face of the challenges we all face, we must join together and use this opportunity to ascend to even greater heights.

Sincerely,

Ari Dubin

Ari Dubin
Executive Director
Vanderbilt Hillel
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Vanderbilt Hillel

OUR COMMUNITIES, YOUR VANDERBILT FAMILY | FALL 2020



**Vanderbilt Hillel serves the religious, social, and educational needs of students.
Take a look inside and see how you can become part of our community.**

Visit vuhillel.org



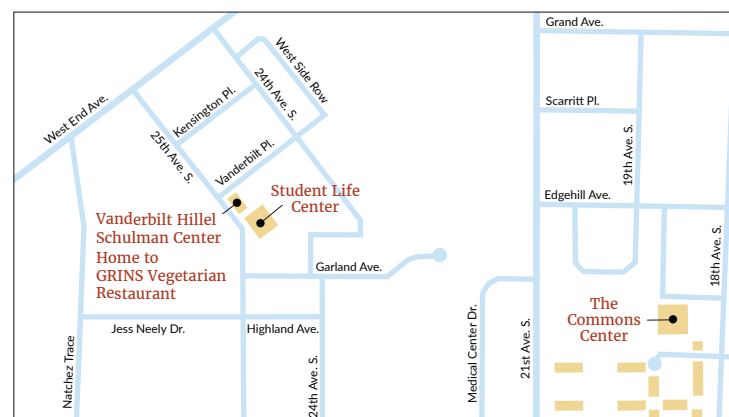
2020-2021 JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Rosh Hashanah	Fri-Sun, Sept. 18-20, 2020
Yom Kippur	Sun-Mon, Sept. 27-28, 2020
Sukkot	Fri-Fri, Oct. 2-9, 2020
Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah	Sat-Sun, Oct. 10-11, 2020
Hanukkah	Thurs-Fri, Dec. 10-18, 2020
Purim	Thurs-Fri, Feb. 25-26, 2021
Passover*	Sat-Sun, March 27-April 4, 2021
Shavuot	Sun-Mon, May 17-18, 2021

* Only the first two and last two days of Passover are observed as full holy days, with restrictions on work and travel.

Student-led weekly Shabbat services begin at 5:30 p.m. every Friday night, followed by a free catered Shabbat dinner at 6:30 p.m. (when University and safety rules permit).

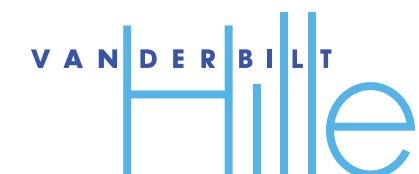
Special dietary restrictions can be accommodated with advanced notice. Email Brian to learn more: brian.j.small@vanderbilt.edu



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THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.



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OUR COMMUNITIES

Heal the World with Hillel



Through bi-weekly challah bakes, **Challah for Hunger** raises money for local and international organizations that fight hunger, including Mazon and the Nashville Food Project. More than just a bake sale, Challah for Hunger provides opportunities for leadership, entrepreneurship, and social justice awareness.

EMAIL EMILY TO LEARN MORE: emily.kahn-perry@vanderbilt.edu

Hillel's **Tikkun Olam Committee** is committed to saving lives and doing good on campus and in the Nashville area. They spearhead the annual MLK Day Hillel Blood Drive on campus and, last year, added over 800 people to the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

EMAIL BRIAN TO LEARN MORE: brian.j.small@vanderbilt.edu



Be an Advocate for Israel

'Dores for Israel is a pro-Israel advocacy club at Vanderbilt that consists of passionate students who discuss Israel in an



intellectual and open setting, enjoy social events such as Falafel at Midnight, learn about current political events, lobby for bipartisan support of Israel-U.S. relations with our AIPAC cohort, and provide Israeli cultural experiences.

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Vanderbilt Hillel is proud to support the Vanderbilt University chapter of **Tikkun Olam Makers (TOM)**. Through TOM, engineering, physical therapy, and other Vanderbilt students from a variety of disciplines unite to create inventive solutions for individuals with disabilities. TOM grew from one community in Israel to dozens of locations around the world and have made an impact here in Nashville.

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Be a Leader

The **Hillel Executive Board** consists of the Hillel president and a variety of area-specific vice presidents. The Hillel Executive Board oversees aspects of Jewish life at Vanderbilt Hillel. Elections are held every spring.

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The Membership and Programming (MaP)

Committee is responsible for creating large-scale social programming for students and also organizes peer-to-peer coffee dates to help students connect with each other. MaP facilitates deep and meaningful connections between students.

EMAIL BRIAN TO LEARN MORE: brian.j.small@vanderbilt.edu



The **Jewish Life Committee** provides the Vanderbilt community with meaningful Jewish experiences by creating educational programs, Shabbat services and dinner experiences, and other holiday celebrations. The committee consists of student representatives from a variety of Jewish movements and traditions.

EMAIL EMILY TO LEARN MORE: emily.kahn-perry@vanderbilt.edu

Vanderbilt Hillel extends its outreach to the Jewish populations of Belmont University and Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), among other local higher education institutions, to provide every student in the Middle Tennessee region with a meaningful Jewish experience. Throughout the year, students from all the campuses have the opportunity to meet each other through **Hillels of Middle Tennessee** mixers and programs.

EMAIL BRIAN TO LEARN MORE: brian.j.small@vanderbilt.edu



Learn with Hillel

Vanderbilt Hillel's speaker series, **Schmoozeday**, features a variety of professors leading discussions on a diverse range of disciplines connected to Jewish life. Students have the opportunity to network with some of the university's top educators while exploring complicated Jewish identity questions.

EMAIL EMILY TO LEARN MORE: emily.kahn-perry@vanderbilt.edu

The **Holocaust Lecture Series** was founded in 1977 and is the longest-running series of its type at any American university. It is run by the University Chaplain and the Office of Religious Life in partnership with Vanderbilt Hillel. A diverse committee of students, faculty, staff, and the wider community works to promote continuing education and conversation on the Shoah and other genocides, their lasting effects, and how we can continue to honor the memory of their victims.

EMAIL ARI TO LEARN MORE: ari.dubin@vanderbilt.edu

Attend our **Ethics with Emily** sessions over delicious food and explore important Jewish concepts and ideas. Look to Jewish wisdom for answers about how to be a good friend and the importance of self-care, and to learn more about holidays.

EMAIL EMILY TO LEARN MORE: emily.kahn-perry@vanderbilt.edu



Travel with Hillel

Taglit: Birthright-Israel

Campus Trip provides students the opportunity to have an amazing adventure with their friends. Birthright is a free ten-day trip to Israel organized by Hillel every summer.

EMAIL BRIAN TO LEARN MORE: brian.j.small@vanderbilt.edu



Experience the natural beauty of Nashville and its surrounding areas with our new outing club, **Hillel Out'Dores**. Explore Jewish concepts while navigating the great outdoors on hikes everyone can enjoy.

EMAIL VERONICA TO LEARN MORE: veronica.l.grady@vanderbilt.edu



Social Opportunities for Every VU Class



The **First-Year Students of Hillel (FYSH) Board** is a student-run initiative that empowers first-year students to create Jewish community on The Ingram Commons through social, religious, and academic programming, while building relationships with upperclass students and honing important leadership skills. FYSH can be a student's first step into the Hillel community.

EMAIL VERONICA TO LEARN MORE: veronica.l.grady@vanderbilt.edu

Vanderbilt Hillel's **Senior Leadership Initiative (SLI)** Committee creates "bucket list" social, community service, networking, and educational programs and activities to enhance the senior experience.

SLI creates meaningful and enduring relationships between senior participants and the greater Nashville Jewish community. This project is underwritten through a grant from the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

EMAIL BRIAN TO LEARN MORE: brian.j.small@vanderbilt.edu



Vanderbilt Hillel provides both individual and combined experiences for the **Jewish Graduate Student Groups** affiliated with many Vanderbilt University schools. These include Jewish clubs at Vanderbilt's business, law, education, and medical schools. Graduate students can join a group for bar nights, unique Passover seders, and more.

EMAIL BRIAN TO LEARN MORE: brian.j.small@vanderbilt.edu