



E-NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019

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CELEBRATE, EDUCATE,
CONNECT, EXPLORE



Upcoming Events!

Annual Dinner 2019
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH

GAIL ALEXANDER BINDERMAN
Barnard College '62

DANIEL BONNER
Columbia College '13

Special Young Alumni & Class of 2019 Parent Pricing!

Register & place ad here:
www.hilleldinner.org/registration

Alumni


COLUMBIA/BARNARD HILLEL

Sign up for Reunion Weekend 2019

Shabbat Dinner	Reception
Friday, 5/31 @ 8PM	Saturday, 6/1 @ 4PM

Email jocy@hillel.columbia.edu with any questions or to learn more!

[Know someone coming to Columbia or Barnard in the fall? Send them this link to welcome them to campus with a free t-shirt!](http://www.columbiabarnardhillel.org/welcome/)

CELEBRATE

Mega Shabbat

This year, we had our most "mega" Mega Shabbat yet on Friday, March 1st, with more than 550 students filling the Roone Alredge Auditorium on Columbia University's campus. In addition to a packed dinner, students and staff led post-dinner events ranging from a Birthright reunion, a Senior Toast, and an LGBTQ+ Dessert Reception. We love seeing so many students enjoying themselves in the community!

Columbia/Barnard Shabbat

Written by Sarah Senkfor, BC'19, VP Programming on Columbia/Barnard Hillel Student Executive Board
Columbia Barnard Shabbat (CBS) is an opportunity for as many people in the community to come together for Shabbat dinner several times each semester. On a CBS week, many groups that celebrate Shabbat individually - religious groups, suite meals - come together to share the unique experience of a fully communal Shabbat, with a fun or meaningful theme. Our next CBS is going to be super hero themed!



Pictured left to right: **Noa Shapiro**, BC'19 (President of the Student Executive Board), **David Offit**, GS/JTS'13 (one of the original students who helped start Mega Shabbat), and **Sarah Senkfor**, BC'19 (VP Programming on the Student Executive Board)

EXPLORE Four Trips over Winter Break

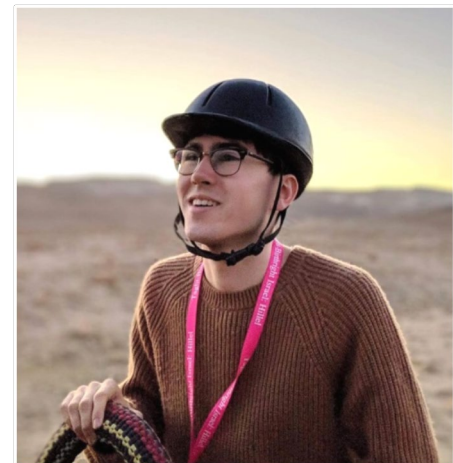
ALTERNATIVE WINTER BREAK - ISRAEL

"If I had to sum up AWB-Israel in a word, it would be "perspective." In a cohort that varied widely in terms of religion, politics, and previous exposure to Israel, every participant brought a unique lens to each site and speaker we encountered. Not only did I learn about the country and its neighbors, I also learned about how other people learn about Israel – how we can share experiences and reach different conclusions. **By providing a context for dialogue and exploration, AWB: Israel gave me the confidence to articulate, challenge, and defend my own perspective.** I left with a greater understanding of my positionality in both Jewish and non-Jewish spaces and hope to continue the religious and political conversations that we started on the trip for years to come." - Jordan Singer, CC'19



BIRTHRIGHT

"My 10 days spent in Israel were a whirlwind of adventure, reflection, and connection. Before Birthright, I had never been outside the US before—so I was both super excited and nervous at the start of the trip! I knew a couple of people going in, and by the end I made so many more amazing friends who I can't wait to hang out with again during the year. Exploring Israel with everyone on my bus was such a once in a lifetime experience so it's hard picking my favorite parts of the trip! I'm a bit of a history geek so walking around the old city of Jerusalem was kind of surreal, considering how historic and sacred it's been for pretty much ALL of human civilization. Hiking up to the ancient ruins of Masada was also just breathtaking—I'll never forget those majestic desert mountains that seemed to stretch on forever around us! **Though I didn't know what to expect in the beginning of Birthright, I'm so glad I went to Israel for the first time. I sure hope it won't be my last.**" - Callum Kiser, CC'21



ALTERNATIVE WINTER BREAK - HOUSTON

Seven students joined by Rabbi Sarah, Senior Jewish Educator and Avigail, Student Life Administrator, participated in a four day community service trip in collaboration with Repair the World and a social justice group in Houston working to repair houses.

"It was very meaningful to be a part of a hands-on service project in a new community. Interacting with members of the community, I learned about their local challenges and pride. Returning to campus, I have become more invested in Houston's history and environmental threats." - Eytan Penn GS/JTS'19



iENGAGE

Partnering with the Shalom Hartman Institute, students discuss contemporary issues in Israel through value-based discussion before their trip to Israel.

"iEngage reached its apex with our trip to Israel over winter break at the Hartman Institute, but much of the deep work that we did started in our classroom in America. The program brought people into a room that I once thought would never sit at the same table, and even within our small group iEngage broke down assumptions I held about the left and the right, and the people who find themselves within this spectrum" - Danielle Harris CC'20



EDUCATE & CONNECT

Judaism & YOU (J&Y)

These seminars led by students and staff explore various issues in the lives of students and how it relates to their Judaism. Here are just a few of the many different J&Ys that have been offered this year! [Learn more here.](#)

Judaism & The Core: The students in this fellowship engage with the most penetrating philosophical and literary works of Western tradition through a new Jewish lens. Curated by Rabbi Yonah Hain, Campus Rabbi, this year includes incredible scholars from Columbia University and other universities.

Judaism & Wellness: Meetings alternate between a variety of fitness experiences (both on- and off-campus) and discussions with guest facilitators and practitioners. Participants explore what wellness means for the Jewish mind, body, and soul. Led by Navah Kogen, Director of Student Life.

"Judaism and Giving was such an exciting opportunity to explore what it means to give as both an individual and a member of a community. As I prepare to graduate and enter adulthood and the workforce, it is important for me to consider deeply my own values, how they pair with the values of my communities, and how I can most effectively contribute in order to honor and achieve those values." -Sami Frankel CC'19



Columbia/Barnard Hillel Gets the Vote Out Columbia/Barnard Hillel, under the leadership of the Springboard Social Justice Fellow Sam Stettiner, joined Hillel International's Mitzvote Campaign. This program was rolled out to get college students to vote in the midterm elections. With this support and the support of other student groups, a coalition called **ColumbiaVotes** was formed. **ColumbiaVotes engaged 300 students -- registering students to vote in NYC, signing up students for their absentee ballots in their home states, and handing out stamps to return absentee ballots.**

Sankofa Tzedek

Sankofa Tzedek is a new Black Jewish dialogue cohort in collaboration with Columbia Multicultural Affairs. Ten students meet once a month for an all-day program and also meet in smaller groups once a month. In January, the students learned and discussed *Anti-Jewishness*, *Anti-Blackness*, and *unconscious bias*. They then took a trip to B'nai Jeshurun to visit and learn about the synagogue.



Columbia/Barnard Hillel Comes Together for a Pittsburgh Vigil

In a beautiful night of unity, hundreds of students joined together with staff and students from Columbia/Barnard Hillel and the community of Columbia University in a night of remembrance for those who died in the shooting at The Tree of Life Synagogue. Students and staff who had a personal connection to Pittsburgh lit a candle in honor of each of the lives, and students and participants were able to share stories. The ability to come together to support each other eased the pain that many of us felt.



The Hannah Weiss Sustainability Team

Written by Kayla Pollack, GS/JTS'20, Weekly Meeting Coordinator

The Hannah Weiss Sustainability Team continues the work of Hannah Weiss z"l who helped found the group and inspires our passion for a more sustainable Earth, Hillel, and lifestyle. Last year, we helped bring composting and a water bottle filling station to Columbia/Barnard Hillel's Kraft Center. Last semester, we planned: Sustaina-Shabbat, a park cleanup, and a clothing swap and donation initiative. In addition to these social events, we worked on improving awareness, food waste prevention, improving composting, and making Shabbat meals more environmentally conscious. This semester, we will also integrate more education into our events, and plan more amazing volunteering and social opportunities.