

Your Federation Dollars at Work

NC Hillel: The Force Behind Awesome Jewish Life on Campus

By Or Mars, Executive Director
"NC Hillel is like having a home and family on campus," says Ruthie Warshenbrot, a senior from UNC-Chapel Hill. "Shabbat dinners on Friday night are such a treat because they are your only home-cooked meal of the week, but more importantly, everyone is so welcoming at Shabbat that it almost does feel like family. And, if you ever just want to hang out and take a break from work or classes, the building itself is a welcoming environment — as are the staff inside."

Sophomore, Rachel Putterman agrees, "After a long, stressful week full of classes, meetings, and the everyday hectic events, it is the most wonderful experience to spend my Friday nights where I can relax. Our Jewish bond is that special connection we have with each other. It brings us together to chat, pray, and dine on Friday nights."

Jewish life on North Carolina's campuses is thriving and nothing short of awesome - and it is certainly not limited to Friday night dinners. More and more exciting Jewish opportunities are available to students, and they are hungry for it. Thanks to NC Hillel's partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte,

we are able to serve these students in creative and excellent ways.

Serving over 1,200 Jewish students at UNC-Chapel Hill and an additional 1,000 Jewish students at schools around the state, NC Hillel creates awesome Jewish life on North Carolina's campuses. By working to empower Jewish students who will be our community's future leaders and engage Jewish students who normally would not participate in Jewish life, we create an environment in which Jewish life can thrive. NC Hillel is the only agency that works full-time with young Jewish people between the ages of 18 and 26.

NC Hillel is committed to making Jewish life exciting, meaningful, relevant and fun for Jewish students. At UNC-Chapel Hill our weekly Shabbat dinners are free, educational, and fun. An average of 75 to 125 students come for one of our three prayer services and to enjoy Shabbat dinner together. Our first Shabbat program of this semester brought out 175 students.

NC Hillel provides for all of our students' religious needs - from High Holidays to Passover Seders. NC Hillel's campus rabbi Sharon Mars works with students as a spiritual counselor and



Awesome Jewish Life - NC Hillel's Engagement Committee

teacher, meeting students on campus and wherever they are.

But, being Jewish is far more than just religious practice. NC Hillel gives students many portals of entry such as creating and supporting Jewish fraternities and sororities, a Jewish environmental program, Israel support groups, Holocaust awareness programs, women's programs, social justice initiatives, and of course lots of social and cultural activities.

This year NC Hillel is once again holding its All-Southern college retreat for students from North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia just outside of Charlotte at Camp Thunderbird. In addition to amazing orientation programs, NC Hillel will be hosting "The Ethicist" from the New York Times and bring in Yuri Lane, a hip-hop performance artist who will present "From Tel Aviv to Ramallah: A Beat Box

Journey."

NC Hillel, most importantly is a place where students can make friends. There are more than 300 Jewish students from Charlotte on campus and NC Hillel is a place that they can be with each other and meet students from around the state and country. UNC-CH Junior Sharon Lintz says, "I have met Jewish students from all over the country - despite my original assumption that I would already know everyone because we are all from Charlotte."

Jewish life at UNC Charlotte is also thriving. With fabulous student leadership, NC Hillel is engaging more and more students, holding regular Friday night dinner programs on campus, bringing speakers to campus, and connecting UNCC students to the rest of the organized Jewish Community. According UNCC Hillel's student president Sarah Fisher, "Being

part of UNC Charlotte's Hillel has been a growth experience for me. NC Hillel has been instrumental getting our local program off the ground. As a result, Jewish students in the Charlotte area can attend events and get to know other young Jews in the area."

All of this cannot be done without the help of the Jewish Federation. The Federation's allocation represents about 3.5% of NC Hillel's budget but this figure belies the significance of the Charlotte Jewish community's role in the success of NC Hillel. NC Hillel has five Charlotteans on its board of directors, Paul Putterman, Alan Sussman, Ruthie Warshenbrot, Ivy Littman and our representative from the Federation, Nicki Ostrow. There are many alumni of North Carolina's schools who live in Charlotte and care about Jewish life on campus. Finally, the largest group of students that we serve comes from Charlotte - and they are amazing leaders for Jewish life on campus. Many of our graduates will move back or relocate to Charlotte. Because of the influence of NC Hillel these students will want to and be able to be future leaders of the Charlotte Jewish Community. ☆

Or Mars can be reached at www.nchillel.org.

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING FOR OCTOBER 2004

Friday, October 1, 6:49 PM

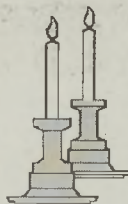
Erev Shemini Atzeret,
October 6, 6:42 PM

Friday, October 8, 6:39 PM

Friday, October 15, 6:30 PM

Friday, October 22, 6:21 PM

Friday, October 29, 6:13 PM



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