

JOSEPH SLIFKA CENTER *for Jewish Life at Yale*

August 18, 2021 • 11 Elul 5781

Dear Families of First Year Students,

We hope that you and your family are well, savoring these last weeks of summer. We are reaching out to you to share the resources Slifka Center is providing for all Jewish Yale students, including your child, this year.

Many parents of first year students received an emailed invitation from us to invite you and your family to complimentary Shabbat meals on August 27-28. As you may know, Yale's updated COVID-19 protocols, tightened due to concerns about the Delta variant, no longer permit visitors, including parents beyond students' assigned move-in window. As a result, we can no longer host parents of incoming students for Shabbat dinner of August 27th, and we look forward to welcoming you to campus at a later date.

In the meantime, please mark your calendars for Monday August 30 at 8pm for a session especially for you called "A Parents' Guide to Jewish Life at Yale" via Zoom. The link is below.

Here are the other highlights of the first weeks of the year:

Friedlaender-Krohner First-Year Welcome Shabbat Dinner for first year students is on Friday, August 27 starting at 6:45 pm. The class of 2025 and returning students who are already in New Haven are invited to a complimentary, warm, family-style Shabbat dinner at the end of move-in day. If your student is interested, there will be Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox services at 5:45pm. Students who would like to attend these Shabbat meals may [register online here](#). The deadline to make these meal reservations is this Thursday, August 19 at 11:59 pm. This program is for students only.

"A Parents' Guide to Jewish Life at Yale" facilitated by Slifka Center staff, originally scheduled to be in-person, will now be held on Zoom on Monday, August 30 at 8pm ET. This conversation is specifically for families of first year students. We hope that you will join us online, please contact evan.wexler@yale.edu for the zoom link.

General Parent Zoom Call on Monday, October 4 at 8:00 pm ET. Parents of all current Yale students are invited to join Slifka Center staff to hear about our programs this year and ask questions. This session will feature a presentation by our professional leadership including details of programs and arrangements for this year, updates to COVID guidelines and accommodations, and to answer parents' questions. Please contact evan.wexler@yale.edu for the zoom link.

In-Person High Holiday services will be held for current Yale students. There will be Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox services, along with holiday meals, learning, and nature walks – all outdoors. Information will be sent directly to your child. Parents, alumni, and friends are invited to join Rabbi Jason Rubenstein for an online evening of learning and reflection on the themes of this solemn season:

“Love’s Responsibilities: Yom Kippur and the Work of Human Connection” will take place on Zoom on Monday, September 13 at 8pm ET. Please register for this free online event here - <https://form.jotform.com/212146014440137>.

Yale’s Family Weekend begins on Friday, October 8. We will provide additional information about what Slifka Center is offering, along with updated health and safety guidelines as we get closer.

Slifka Center’s most central commitment connecting with each Jewish student, and connecting them with one another and the Jewish tradition in a community of meaning they create with and for one another. We invite you to further explore our website at slifkacenter.org to learn more about our staff of educators and campus professionals.

We are eager and honored to welcome your child to campus and guide them in these years of boundless growth as Jews and as human beings – as are our kind and dedicated student leaders, who are focusing on engaging first-year students more than anything else. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Jennifer Rogin Wallis, Director of Development at jennifer.wallis@yale.edu or 203-432-7376 if you have any questions, or if we can help in any way.

All our best,



Uri Cohen
Executive Director
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Rabbi Jason Rubenstein
Howard M. Holtzmann Jewish Chaplain at Yale
jason.rubenstein@yale.edu

P.S. You may be receiving this letter because your child completed a Religious Information Form from Yale’s Office of the Chaplain and expressed an interest in Jewish life on campus. If you know of other incoming first-year students who would like to learn more about Slifka Center programs or join us for Shabbat Dinner on August 27, please forward our contact information to them, or send us their contact information.

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