



Slifka Center

Jewish Life at Yale

Enriching the lives of
Yale students in a way
that endures.



**Slifka Center for
Jewish Life at Yale**

**80 Wall Street
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Our purpose

Slifka Center nurtures Jewish life at Yale, cultivating cultural, spiritual, religious, and intellectual experiences that enrich the lives of Yale students in a way that endures.

We empower Yale students to grow as Jewish adults, connect with each other across personal histories, and drive compassionate and welcoming community — all inspired by Jewish ideas, traditions, and values.

**“It’s the place where
I’ve found and built
a community...
Everyone cares for,
and about, each other.
I cannot imagine who
I would be at this
point if I hadn’t found
Slifka Center when I
first got to campus.”**

Alan P., Class of ‘22



Impact across the Yale campus

We enrich the lives of Yale students in numerous ways — some more formal, others organic. Our reach is far beyond our building, interacting with students across campus and through online means. While our work spans the breadth of student needs and Jewish life, our efforts are focused into seven key programming areas:



Warm celebrations
of Shabbat and
Jewish holidays



Engaging explorations
of Jewish texts and
ideas



Welcoming meals
in our kosher
dining hall



Soulful expressions of
Jewish religion and
spirituality



Constructive
opportunities to
engage with Israel



Stimulating
experiences with
the arts



Productive actions to make
the Jewish values of kindness
and justice real in the world

Our Values:

- A student-centered, student-led community
- A portal to transformative ideas and conversations
- A convener across difference
- A comfortable place to eat and spend time
- A point of contact with caring mentors
- A representative of and advocate for the Jewish community at Yale

Slifka Center has been impacting Yale's Jewish community for a quarter century, but it reflects the history of nearly a hundred years of Jewish life at Yale. Our approach is rooted in the ethics that have sustained the Jewish people for millennia, guided by the principles of the student organizations that came before us, and influenced by contemporary thinking.



A student-centered, student-led community:

At Slifka Center, students create a community of meaning with and for one another.

Transcending our dynamic programming, all Slifka Center initiatives are developed out of student needs and interests to ultimately serve the student body.

A portal to transformative ideas and conversations:

A hundred generations of Jewish wisdom come alive in open-hearted conversations guided by teachers who care as deeply as students do. In classes, trips, and conversations, intellectual partnership and spiritual seeking fuse with, and elevate, one another as we write the next chapter of the Jewish tradition — together.





A convener across difference:

Slifka Center welcomes and values all students across diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and identities. We are as deep and diverse as the Yale student body. Opportunities for self expression and interpersonal growth abound — across an unlimited spectrum of Jewish interests, passions, and ideas.

A comfortable place to eat and spend time:

During weekday lunch and Shabbat dinner alike, food and friendship go hand-in-hand in Slifka Center's dining hall. Grab a sandwich to go, or stay for hours.



A point of contact with caring mentors:

Profound, heartfelt conversations with students are the core of our staff's work — no concern is too weighty or too trivial. Our doors are always open, literally and figuratively, to accompany students on their journeys across all starting points and destinations.

A representative of and advocate for the Jewish community at Yale:

We represent the Jewish community to the Yale faculty and administration, advocating for students, professors, and alumni — including confronting every manifestation of antisemitism.

“Slifka Center was the first Jewish community I actively chose for myself as a young adult, and it gave me the tools and flexibility to forge a relationship to Judaism that is uniquely my own.”

Laura G., Class of '21



Slifka Center is the inheritor of a century of Jewish life at Yale, the product of generations of contributions by Jewish Yalies.

Organized Jewish life began at Yale in 1913 with the Menorah Society, followed four years later by the first Jewish fraternities on campus. Yale Hillel was founded in 1941, bringing the national Hillel movement to New Haven. In 1959, Jewish students envisioned and created the Yale Kosher Kitchen, bringing Kosher food to Yale for the first time — arranged for and cooked by students themselves. Yale Hillel and the Kosher Kitchen operated separately in basement facilities on and off campus for decades until they came together under Slifka Center's roof in 1995 — out of the basements and into the broad daylight of Wall Street on central campus.





Since 1995, many of the most creative and compassionate Jewish communal leaders have been a part of our community. Today's Slifka Center embraces the legacies of being student-centered, pluralistic, and committed to Jewish culture and traditions. We provide the infrastructure and staff resources to partner with students in building a vibrant Jewish life at Yale built on understandings of Jewish living that inspire — helping students to make their lives richer and more meaningful.

Slifka Center is a living expression of the idea that Jewish life and Yale are deeply resonant. By nurturing a rich student life, we aim to instill a lifelong dedication to Jewish practice, values, and community.



We can't do this without you.

Slifka Center's efforts to enrich the lives of Jewish Yalies are successful thanks to the generosity of our alumni, parents and friends. Hosting programs, supporting our staff team, and operating our building, all requires your support, and we are grateful for your care and concern for the Jewish community at Yale. Slifka Center is an independent non-profit that does not receive direct financial support from Yale.

Thank you!

Ways to support Slifka Center:

- 1 Make a secure online credit card gift at slifkacenter.org/donate
- 2 Mail your check made payable to Slifka Center to:
Slifka Center
80 Wall Street
New Haven, CT 06511
- 3 Recommend a grant from your Donor Advised Fund.
- 4 Authorize a charitable distribution from your IRA account.
- 5 Check if your employer has a corporate matching gift program.
- 6 Make a stock or securities donation through the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.
- 7 Think of Slifka Center in your estate planning.
- 8 Arrange a wire transfer.

Need more information? Contact Melinda Papowitz
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Slifka Center is a
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