



Slifka Center

Jewish Life at Yale

2021- 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

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



TOTAL ENGAGEMENT

 **6,965** Total # of student interactions



677

individual
undergrads
engaged at
least once



178

individual
undergrads
engaged at least
six times



251

individual
grad students
engaged at
least once



Slifka Center
Jewish Life at Yale

SERVED



227 undergraduates via
public square programs
e.g. tabling on Cross-Campus

 **671** undergraduates via
Jewish education programs
*e.g. Jewish Learning Fellowship,
Lunch & Learns, Yeshivat Yale*



198 undergraduates via
Israel activities and trips
e.g. speakers, discussions, Birthright



552
undergraduates via
one-on-one meetings
*e.g. coffee conversations,
pastoral counseling,
leadership mentoring*

2,523 Meals
for Shabbat
and Holidays



Dear Friends,

Looking back at Yale's Jewish life over the past year conjures up the celebratory lyrics of Dayyeinu from the Passover seder. Had we navigated COVID as a vibrant community — it would have been enough for us. Had we completed a major renovation of our building — it would have been enough. Had we reached hundreds of Jewish students, and helped dozens travel to Israel — it would have been enough. And like Dayyeinu — we know that while each individual gift or accomplishment is meaningful, it's the sum of them that makes this community truly flourish.

Writing now in late 2022, we can report successfully facing these challenges, emerging with profound organizational and communal health, and a growing ability to build on the foundation we built last year. This Annual Report shares some snapshots about what we did, how we did it, and why it matters.

A year ago, almost everything we did was outdoors, with services and meals under tents and canopies. As the weather cooled, "Slifka North" — an off-campus storefront — became our main base, at which we supplied Yale's kosher food without a kitchen, built a Sukkah in a parking lot, and gathered constantly, constrained by occupancy limits. You can imagine our relief and excitement upon returning to 80 Wall Street for Commencement and Reunions just as the program year concluded!


Dayyeinu celebrates the completion of a difficult passage through the desert, and the arrival at a new place and time of possibility. In that same spirit we look back on the past year, with gratitude for the difficult terrain we traversed together — and forward to this coming year, with its boundless potential for what we and Yale's Jewish students can and will create together. Each step of this journey was possible because of the hundreds of volunteers, staff, and students who believe in this community and gave so much to it, especially when the going got tough. We will always be grateful to them — and every generation of Jews at Yale will, knowingly or not, be in their debt.

We can already start to feel the excitement we can create with and for students in 2023 — and continue the tradition of strengthening this community for the years and generations to come. You'll be hearing about the Slifka Legacy Drive as part of Hillel International's Centennial Campaign and other opportunities to join us. We need you as partners as we move from the crises of COVID and renovation to the diligent work of creating a flourishing Jewish community worthy of the boundless potential of today's and tomorrow's Yale students.

We hope you enjoy this snapshot of the 2021-22 year, in all its challenges and accomplishments, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

Sincerely,


Uri Cohen
Executive Director


Rabbi Jason Rubenstein
Howard M. Holtzmann Jewish Chaplain

OUR PURPOSE	 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		 Slifka Center advances the interests of Yale's Jewish community in times of crisis and every day



1 Shabbat services outside in the Fall 2021 semester



2 Getting ready for Shabbat dinner under the tent in the Fall 2021 semester



3 Students at the Yom Kippur food drive last year



4 A cohort of students from the Jewish Learning Fellowship



5 Students participate in the creation of a collaborative mural Fall 2021 that now hangs in the renovated Slifka building



6 Staff and students make latkes at the Slifka Hanukkah Party in Hopper College

2021-2022: Cultivating Cultural, Spiritual, Religious, and Intellectual Experiences



13 The first Shabbat dinner of the Fall 2022 semester finally back in our renovated building



12 Students and staff welcome incoming first years on move-day



11 Student leaders and staff at the Hillel Student Board Retreat at Lighthouse Point Park in the summer before the Fall 2022 semester



9 Students posing at the masquerade themed Slifka Formal



7 Staff and students hand out Shabbat boxes



14 Students pose for a picture at Slifka Fest



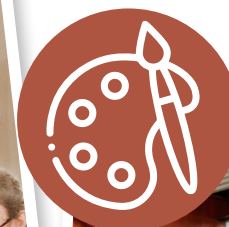
15 A student poses with Handsome Dan at the Slifka Fest carnival at the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester



10 More fun at the annual Slifka Formal



8 Sukkot event at The Yale Farm



Our Donors

\$50,000+

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 David A. Messer
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 Abigail S. Pogrebin and David Shapiro
 Alan B. Slifka Foundation

\$10,000-\$49,999

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Rob Bildner '72 (left) with Hillel Student Co-Presidents Sam P. (center) and Maayan S. (right)

\$1,800-\$4,999

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“We support Slifka Center because it inspires Yale’s Jewish students through Jewish learning, cultural activities, religious and spiritual growth. Its wonderful facility and superb staff leverage these together with kosher food to create strong community.”

– Rob Bildner '72

Endowments and Prizes

Slifka Center is grateful for the following Endowed Funds:



- Sidney '81 MAH and Ann Altman Library Endowment Fund
- The Robert '59 and Louise Arias Yom Kippur Break-Fast Endowment Fund
- Beit Midrash Endowment Fund
- Bellin Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Frank Bernstein '61 Family Music Endowment Fund
- The Elisa Spungen Bildner '75 and Robert Bildner '72 Israel Travel Grant Endowment Fund
- David and Goldie Blanksteen Endowment Fund
- Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Endowment Fund
- The Cohen Rabbi Endowment Fund
- Henry N. Cohn Family Oneg Shabbat Endowment Fund
- Matthew Eisenfeld Memorial Endowment Fund
- David and Iris Fischer Judaica Project Endowment Fund
- The Fleischer Passover and High Holy Days Endowment Fund
- Matilda and Julius Fleischer Volunteer of the Year Endowment Fund
- Friedlaender-Krohner Endowment Fund
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- Arthur and Dale Galston Environmental Ethics Endowment Fund
- Dr. Milton '32, '36 MD and Gladys Godfried Medical Ethics Endowment Fund
- Goldman Family Programmatic Endowment Fund
- Hauptman Arts and Media Arts Endowment Fund
- Howard M. Holtzman Jewish Chaplain at Yale Endowment Fund
- William '29, '65 MAH and Miriam Horowitz Judaica Project Endowment Fund
- Rabbi Richard Israel Shabbat Table Endowment Fund
- Elka Klein Endowment Fund
- Henry Kohn Lecture Endowment Fund
- Littauer Student Engagement Fund
- The Bernard and Norma Lytton Apples and Honey Kiddush Fund
- David Henry Marks Passover Endowment Fund
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- Jack Matloff, Class of 1954, Torah Endowment Fund
- Noah Wellness Fund
- Rabbi James Ponet Educational and Cultural Endowment Fund
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- The Rose A. and Jack Schwartz Jewish Publication Fund, Endowed by Joseph B. Schwartz, YC '62, in Memory of His Parents
- Marilyn G. and Joseph B. Schwartz '62 Endowed Fund for Israel Education
- Arthur I. Shapiro Social Justice Endowment Fund
- Alan Slifka Fellowship Endowment Fund
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- Spungen Bildner Family Endowment Fund
- Talpins Israel Program Endowment Fund
- Eric Zahler '72 and Karen Gantz Zahler Faculty Fellowship Endowment Fund
- Norman Zolot '41, '47 JD Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Charles and Lotty Zucker Art Prize Endowment Fund
- The Eugene M. Zwilling Memorial Seder Endowment Fund

Building Forward

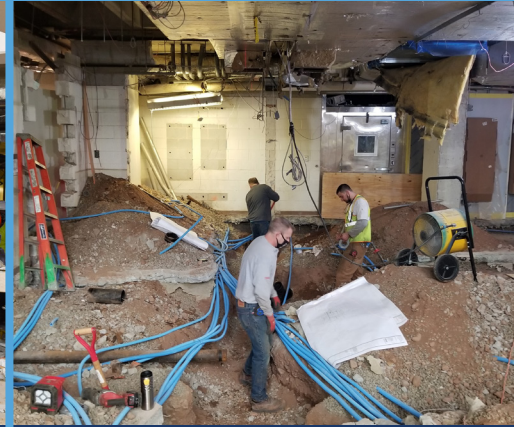
Behind the Scenes: Renovation Snapshots



Uri Cohen and Rabbi Jason Rubenstein at the ceremonial groundbreaking – November 2020



Taking down the concrete wall that separated the kitchen from the dining hall – January 2021



The kitchen completely gutted – plumbing, flooring and all – February 2021



Plumbing and ceiling debris from the kitchen – February 2021



New kitchen concrete slab, with plumbing and electrical runs complete – April 2021



New terrace walls and drains being installed – July 2021



Steel and concrete going in to enclose the lower level courtyard – July 2021



Enclosure complete, starting to install floors, walls and lights – October 2021



Installing and waterproofing the skylight – April 2022

Student Groups

Jewish Yale students organize the following independent groups that connect with Slifka Center:

AEPi - Alpha Epsilon Pi

Challah 4 Hunger

Egal Minyan

Hillel Student Board

Jewish Christian Bible Study

**JLSA - Jewish Law
Student Association**

JStreetU

**Kehillah - Jewish Grad Student
Organization**

Klezmer Band

Krav Maga - Israeli Martial Arts

Magevet - Jewish A Cappella Group

**PDLI - Peace and Dialogue
Leadership Initiative**

Reform Chavurah

**Shibboleth - Student Literary
Publication**

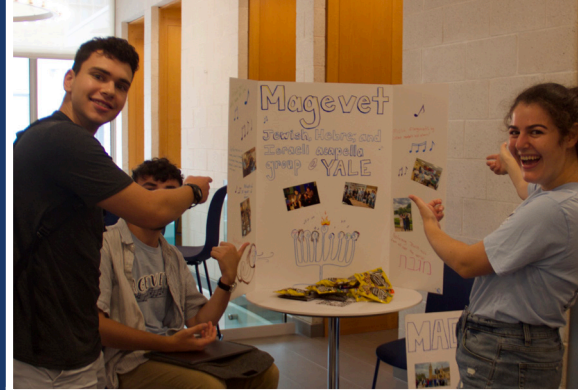
**SOM JSA - School of Management
Jewish Student Organization**

**TAMID - Israel-Focused Consulting
and Investment Club**

YFI - Yale Friends of Israel

Yiddish Table (Tisch)

YIHY - Young Israel House at Yale



Board of Trustees

Executive Committee

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** Student representatives
Names in italics, board term ended 6/30/22
Names in bold, board term began 7/1/22*

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and Hadassah Lieberman P '89
David Schizer '90, LAW '93

Slifka Center Staff

Uri Cohen, Executive Director
Rabbi Jason Rubenstein, Howard M. Holtzmann
Jewish Chaplain at Yale
Ziv Eisenberg, Managing Director
Rachel Leiken, Associate Jewish Chaplain
Rabbi Alex Ozar '22 PhD and Lauren Steinberg,
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**Names in italics, outgoing staff
Names in bold, incoming staff*

Did You Know...

- Slifka Center is an independent 501(c)3 organization (our EIN is 06-1257354) – gifts are fully tax deductible.
- Slifka does not receive any direct funding from Yale.
- Slifka covers 57% of all kosher and Jewish community dining costs. The Yale meal plan covers 43%.
- Slifka is the central Yale resource advancing the interests of Yale's Jewish community in times of crisis (including the fight against rising antisemitism) and every day.
- Slifka relies heavily on charitable contributions to maintain its operations. We need your help!

Donate Now:



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slifkacenter.org

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