



Northeastern University

Jewish Student Life

Jewish students of every background make up an active and vibrant University community. The Albert S. Frager Jewish Student Center (better known as Hillel) is the foundation of Jewish student life on campus, while the Jewish Studies Program represents the academic side of Jewish life. Hillel is in a lovely brownstone on St. Stephen Street, adjacent to the heart of campus. Hillel provides weekly Shabbat and holiday meals and kosher dinners during the week. (Northeastern's food services also offers kosher dinners Mondays through Thursdays in the Stetson East Dining Hall's Levine Marketplace). On Friday evening, a free Shabbat dinner is served at Hillel after services. We welcome all students to join us for meals, services, and programs throughout the year. The Jewish Studies Program welcomes students to participate in its wide variety of courses, public programs and experiential education opportunities.

Services and holiday celebrations The Hillel sanctuary is a comfortable place for services, discussions or quiet contemplation. Hillel offers weekly Friday night services. Students lead both Reform and Conservative services weekly and Orthodox services once a month. After services the students gather for a community kiddush and free Shabbat dinner subsidized by Northeastern University's Dining Services. Hillel offers both Reform and Conservative High Holiday services as well as holiday meals. During Passover, Hillel hosts two community Seders, and kosher Passover meals throughout the week. On other holidays, like Simchat Torah and Purim we visit other synagogues or Hillel Houses in the area for larger celebrations. Guest speakers frequently lead lively discussion on Jewish history, culture, music and politics.

Community service and advocacy Jewish students at Northeastern have myriad opportunities to have fun together while serving the Boston community. During Thanksgiving week, we participate in the PBJam, joining Northeastern fraternities, sororities, and residence halls to make hundreds of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for delivery to food pantries in Boston. Before Rosh Hashana and Passover, Northeastern students deliver food baskets to the elderly residents at the nearby Symphony West Apartments. A Hillel team raises money for Project Bread by walking twenty miles in the annual Walk for Hunger, and we are participating in the Jewish Coalition for Literacy by tutoring area children.

Israel Northeastern Hillel sends dozens of students yearly on the free Taglit-birthright Israel trips. In December 2007, a Birthright trip specifically for Northeastern students was offered for the first time; Northeastern Birthright trips are now being offered twice a year. A campus group, Students for Israel at Northeastern (SFIN) organizes Israel programs with a variety of speakers and trainings on Israel advocacy on campus.

Social and Cultural Activities Hillel hosts a variety of weekly social events in and around Boston. From "Rolling our own Sushi" or having a Scavenger Hunt around Boston, we also gather with other Hillels in the region for several events during the year, including the citywide "Falafel Ball" (the pre-Ball party for Northeastern students is an event not to be missed.) Hillel has an annual Semi-Formal and Awards Banquet each spring for students to celebrate the year-end and award students for their hard work. The Hillel board goes on an annual leadership retreat, and we are always looking for more ideas, input, and better ways to serve the University's Jewish population.

Albert S. Frager Jewish Student Center Northeastern's Hillel boasts two lounges with a pool table and wide-screen TV, two kosher kitchens and a dining hall, a sanctuary, student administrative space including computers with high-speed Internet access, and two double apartments on the third floor. You can always find someone to talk or study with in our extensive Judaic library. We welcome Jews of every background and denomination in an open and free exchange of thoughts and ideas, and we urge every Jewish student on campus to get involved to make Hillel a vibrant home away from home.

Jewish Studies Program The Jewish Studies Program gives students the opportunity to explore the culture, religion, and history of the Jewish people and investigate the impact of Jewish thought and belief on civilization. The program offers courses in history, literature, music, political science, religion, and sociology. Over 700 students take Jewish Studies courses each year. Features of the Program include:

Experiential Education: The Jewish Studies Program encourages students to learn about the contemporary Jewish community through service-learning or experiential education and helps place students *interested* in doing an internship or *co-op* in Jewish communal organizations.

International experiences: students who wish to spend time in Israel can do so through an *International Co-op* or through the *Dialogue of Civilizations* study abroad program.

Scholarships: each year, the Jewish Studies Program gives out the *Ruderman Scholarships*, a \$5000/year scholarship (renewable for up to five years) awarded to a Jewish Studies minor or major, and the *Gideon Klein Award*, a \$3000 grant for the study of the work of artists and musicians persecuted by the Nazis.

Hebrew College partnership: A cooperative relationship between Northeastern University and Hebrew College in Newton allows cross-registration as well as an integrated five-year program through which students can earn a BA from Northeastern and an MA or MEd at Hebrew College.

Human Services partnership: Through a unique partnership, the Jewish Studies and Human Services Programs offer a *Social Justice, Identity, and Religion* specialization within the Human Services major.

Public lectures and events: Jewish Studies sponsors frequent *public lectures, performances, and exhibitions*. Recent programs have included a lecture series on "Seers, Spirits and Sages: Magic, Mysticism and Jewish Experience," a conference on "Forgetting to Remember: America, France, and the Holocaust," an on-campus film series and regular sponsorship of the Boston Jewish Film Festival.

Study: In addition to taking individual Jewish Studies courses, students may *minor in Jewish Studies* or complete a *Dual Major in Jewish Studies*.

Albert S. Frager Jewish Student Center

Beth Meltzer
Director of Hillel
Northeastern University Hillel
70 St. Stephen Street
Boston, MA 02115
617.373.3937 (voice)
617.373.8085 (fax)
www.hillel.neu.edu

Jewish Studies Program

Professor Jim Ross
9 Holmes Hall
Northeastern University
Boston, MA 02115
617.373.8701
www.northeastern.edu/jewishstudies