

VANDERBILT HILLEL

OUR COMMUNITIES, YOUR VANDERBILT FAMILY

F A L L 2 0 2 6

Vanderbilt Hillel serves the religious, social, and educational needs of students. Take a look inside and see how you can become a part of our wonderful community!



vuhillel.com



hillel@vanderbilt.edu

VANDERBILT
Hillel



[@vandyhillel](https://www.instagram.com/@vandyhillel)



[vanderbilt.hillel](https://www.facebook.com/vanderbilt.hillel)

What can I do at Hillel?

Learning with Hillel

Jewish Learning Fellowships

Hillel's Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF) is a 10-week seminar for college students looking to explore Judaism on their own terms. Topics Include: Life's Big Questions, Ancient Wisdom for Modern Well-Being, and more.



Kol Yisrael

Kol Yisrael is a 6-week cohort learning program for students to explore big ideas and big questions with Israel as a real-world case study.

4 the Moment

A 4-session learning cohort for Hillel student leaders to go beyond labels and explore Jewish voices on Zionism.

Senior Wine and Wisdom

Tour Nashville's bustling brewery scene as we connect with the senior class to discuss their college journey and its impact on Jewish identity and life after college.



Social Programs

First Year Programming and Leadership

Vanderbilt Hillel has extensive programming for our First Year Students of Hillel (FYSH). This includes our pre-orientation program, FYSH Fest, a mentorship program, a leadership and programming board, and social programming.



Hillel B'nai Mitzvah Party

New this fall- a celebration of both milestones and missed moments-honoring our students' completion of 13 years of education while giving them the party many never got to experience.



Social Excursions

Students gather together for rock climbing, farmers market trips, trampoline jumping, line dancing, axe throwing around Nashville and more!



Israel Programs

'Dores for Israel

'Dores for Israel (DFI) is Vanderbilt Hillel's active pro-Israel group on campus. Members come together to hear from high profile speakers, discuss Israel in intellectual settings, enjoy social functions such as Falafel at Nightfall, and provide Israeli cultural experiences at the annual Israel Fest in February.



Tamid

Vanderbilt Hillel is proud to advise the Vanderbilt chapter of Tamid. Tamid is a nonprofit that seeks to forge a strong connection to Israel for the next generation of business leaders and provides internship experiences to students each summer in Israel.

Miznon

Miznon is a program that provides an opportunity for students to learn about Israeli culture through cuisine and cooking.



Travel Experiences

Israel Travel Experiences

On our Birthright trip, students are led through Israel by Jewish professionals and will experience Jewish history and Israeli culture with unforgettable tours, hikes, and unique activities.

Onward Israel is a two month immersive and resume building experience in Israel for students. Students on Vanderbilt Hillel's Onward cohort have the opportunity to live together in Tel Aviv, build their professional skills through internships, and explore all that Israel has to offer!



Alternative Fall and Spring Break Programs

Vanderbilt Hillel offers both fall and spring break travel experiences. This past spring, our students visited Buenos Aires, Argentina where they engaged with the local Jewish community, built relationships with young Jewish adults in Argentina, and deepened their understanding of the Jewish Diaspora. Through a thoughtfully curated itinerary, students experienced both the vibrancy and complexity of Jewish life in Buenos Aires.



Micro-Communities

Hillel Out 'Dores

Hillel Out'Dores is a community passionate about exploring the natural beauty of Middle Tennessee with a Jewish lens. Join your friends on monthly hikes, raft trips, and overnights.



Senior Leadership Initiative

The Senior Leadership Initiative meets regularly, engaging in social programs, community service, networking, and educational activities in order to enhance the sense of a senior class community. This initiative establishes connections between seniors and the Nashville Jewish community.

Fantasy Football

Join our Fantasy Football League this fall and track your team's progress with an amazing cohort of sports fans!



Gift of Life

The Vanderbilt Hillel chapter of Gift of Life works with the Nashville Predators to help get everyone involved in curing blood cancer, whether as a bone marrow donor or a volunteer.

Jewish Holidays

Shabbat

Every week, we run student-led Shabbat services and a free, kosher Shabbat dinner.



Rosh Hashanah Seder

This unique Vanderbilt Hillel tradition combines the structure of a Passover Seder with the themes of Rosh Hashanah to give students a meaningful hands-on ritual experience around the dinner table.

Fall Fest

The Hillel community brings the high holiday spirit to campus with musical performances, carnival games, booths, and activities that link to Jewish holiday traditions, symbols, and themes.



Passover

Beyond the Seder table and other meals, Vanderbilt Hillel offers social and traditional opportunities such as matzah pizza making, text-based learning, and our famous brunch buffet.



A MESSAGE FROM VANDERBILT HILLEL'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ARI DUBIN

Vanderbilt Hillel is a home away from home for our students on campus. We are more than a building. We are a community, one that plays a pivotal and vital role for our students. Throughout these unsettled times, our Hillel has remained the center of Jewish life and we will continue to be in the future. We will be present and vibrant for our students as we do what we do best: build and strengthen the Vanderbilt Jewish community and provide a family network to support our students' religious, social, and cultural needs.

**Sincerely,
Ari Dubin, Executive Director**



Fall 2026 Schedule

Thursday and Friday, August 20 and 21	All Day	FYSH Fest Orientation Program	Welcoming New Students and Families at Vandy Hillel!
Sunday, August 23	9:00 a.m.	Welcome Families Bagel Brunch	Bagels on Us! Students and Families Welcome!
Wednesday, August 26	6:00 p.m.	First Day of Class Pizza Party	Grab a slice to celebrate the first day of classes!
Friday, August 28	TBD	Welcome Back Shabbat and Dinner	So glad to have you back for Friday nights at Hillel!
September 18-21	Friday-Sunday	Family Weekend: Shabbat Happy Hour, Services/Dinner, Tailgate, Brunch	Experience Shabbat with your family, hang out before the football game, and grab a bagel before your flight!
October 16-17	Friday-Saturday	Reunion Weekend: Open House, Wine and Cheese, Shabbat Services/Dinner, Tailgate	Alumni- Come for a building tour, enjoy some wine and cheese before Shabbat, experience Shabbat with Hillel, and come hang out before the football game!
October	TBD	Gift of Life Megadrive	Get swabbed to be a match to help fight cancer!
October	TBD	Tikkun Olam Makers Make-a-thon	Students create alternative solutions to devices for people with special needs
October	TBD	Falafel at Nightfall	Enjoy a nighttime snack and learn about Israel
November	TBD	Sigd Holiday Celebration	Ethiopian Jewish holiday celebration- open to all

Join one of our amazing micro-communities this semester!

'Dores for Israel	Birthright	Onward	Tikkun Olam Makers	Gift of Life
Challah 4 Hunger	Fantasy Football	Jewish Learning Cohorts	Hillel Out 'Dores	Dor L' Dore Mentor Program
Miznon	Schmooze Crew	Tamid	Fall and Spring Break Trips	JewNetics



Rosh Hashanah	September 11-13 2026
Yom Kippur	September 20-21 2026
Sukkot	September 25-October 2 2026
Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah	October 2-4 2026
Hanukkah	December 4-12 2026
Purim	March 23, 2027
Passover	April 22-29 2027

Dates, times, and locations are subject to change. An up-to-date calendar of Hillel events is available on our website, vuhillel.com

Holidays begin at sundown as reflected on the the listed dates above.

Shabbat services are held at 5:30pm each Friday night, followed by a free catered Shabbat dinner at 6:30pm. Dietary restrictions can be accommodated with advance notice, please contact Sydney Harlow at sydney.harlow@vanderbilt.edu.