

TO: STUDENTS AND PARENTS
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 CHABAD AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
 ROHR CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE
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Memo

RE. CHABAD'S INITIATIVES FOR OBSERVANT STUDENTS

Welcome to WashU! Chabad strives to be a welcoming space for students of all Jewish backgrounds and affiliations. Students who choose to follow a religiously observant Jewish lifestyle are pillars of the campus community and exemplars to their peers. We – along with our campus partners – offer many opportunities and resources that enable students to maintain a meaningful sense of Jewish involvement while in college.

Members of the campus community celebrate with each other during good times, and support each other during challenging ones. Our team is always available for students and their families. If you have any questions, contact Rabbi Hershey Novack at 314-757-2884 or Chana R. Novack at 314-359-0085.

Following is a list of programs and initiatives that may be of interest to observant students and their families:

KOSHER FOOD

Kosher food, prepared by WashU Dining Services, and certified by the local Vaad Hoesir, is readily available on campus. Hot lunches and dinners are served Sunday through Thursday in the Bears' Den eatery on the South 40, the main dining area for First Years and Sophomores.

Pre-packaged sandwiches and salads available at most campus eateries for purchase with cash or meal points. Look for the Kosher stickers.

On Pesach, Dining Services provides Kosher-for-Pesach meals as well as pre-packaged options available for purchase.

For info on Shabbat and holidays meals, read on!

TEFILA

Chabad House hosts a Shacharis Minyan on weekdays, subject to student participation. During 2017/18 we were successful in getting a morning Minyan about 80% of the time. Daily Mincha and Maariv have proven to be trickier to organize on a regular basis.

Each Friday evening and Shabbat morning we host a Minyan in the Chabad House. Additionally, there are a number of Shuls in the community, including Bais Abraham, on the Delmar Loop. Further down Delmar, there is the Bais Menachem (Chabad), Young Israel, and others.

SHABBAT INFO

Shabbat Dinner – Approximately 150 students attend the family-style Shabbat dinner held at Chabad every Friday, which means that it is the largest gathering of Jewish students at WashU each week!

A wonderfully diverse group of students choose to participate, together building the campus community. Often the crowd includes prospective students, parents, deans, professors and other guests. Shabbat dinner continues during most school breaks as well.

Shabbat dinners are sponsored by families, alumni and community members who help provide these festive meals at no charge to students.

Please contact Rabbi Novack if you know someone who may be interested in becoming a sponsor.

Post-Shabbat Dinner – Onegs, Farbrengens and social activities – including board games and tea – take place most Friday nights, either at the Chabad House or at nearby student apartments. We also invite professors and community members to engage students and to share their insights.

Shabbat Lunch – After services conclude on Shabbat morning, the “Shabbos-lunch community” comes together to enjoy a delicious and festive weekly meal. Lunches rotate between Chabad and Hillel. Our pledge is to ensure that students always have a place to celebrate Shabbat lunch at an accessible location and at no direct cost to students.

Shabbat Spot and Seduah Shlishit – The Chabad House is open all Shabbos with a stocked refrigerator for students to lounge, grab a bite and hang out!

About an hour before the conclusion of Shabbos, students gather for a light meal, soulful singing, followed by Havdala.

Eruv – Chabad has partnered with the St. Louis Eruv Committee to include most of WashU’s Danforth campus within the Eruv. All of the South 40, most of the academic buildings, the Chabad House, Hillel, and Bais Abe are all within the Eruv.

*Please note: The Eruv **does not include** the Loop Lofts, the Moonrise Hotel, Cheshire Inn, or any of Forest Park. More at www.stleruv.org.*

Shabbat Keys – Mechanical keys are available for Shomer Shabbos students through Residential Life. *If you would like to request a mechanical key, please reach out to Rabbi Novack.*

JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Jewish holidays are a special time to develop community. Chabad hosts Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services and holiday meals. For Sukkot, we construct a large Sukkah in the lot behind the Chabad House and another on the main campus.

Chabad also helps students find hospitality with observant families proximate to campus. Students

may also sign up for home hospitality using our Google Doc matching system.

Holiday exams – Under recent guidelines that were sought by enterprising undergraduates, WashU faculty members ought to be “understanding” and accommodating of students who face religious conflicts with exam scheduling. *If there are any difficulties, please contact Rabbi Novack.*

TORAH LEARNING

Torah study is available in a variety of settings, and many students choose to participate!

Chabad hosts a Beit Midrash-style program called The ARI Fellowship. Additionally, we host lunch-and-learn programs throughout the year, and help set up Chavrusas with a peer or with a professional educator. There is also a weekly Mishmar (learning gathering) hosted by students with refreshments provided by Chabad. Chabad also offers classes in Chasidus.

Chabad House has a library of hundreds of Sefarim that are available for students to study.

OTHER SERVICES

Mezuzahs – For a \$40 deposit, Chabad provides a handwritten scroll with a case and double-stick tape approved by ResLife for use in the dorm buildings.

WUCholent – Is the irreverently-named email group listserv that facilitates communication among the observant student population. It serves as a forum for connecting students with each other in order to build a sense of community.

Kehila – Is an initiative to create a student leadership infrastructure to continue to advance these and other issues of concern or importance to the observant community in regards to observance and Jewish life on campus.

The Kehila board will also participate in the efforts to recruit prospective students by reaching out to college counselors, organizing hospitality, and arranging for Day School alumni to speak with prospective students whenever possible.