

***Finding the Right School in the Age of  
Campus Anti-Zionism***

---

**A Jewish Parents'  
Guide to Colleges**

---

**Jerome Ostrov  
Summer 2024**

# ***Finding the Right School in the Age of Campus Anti-Zionism***

## **DEDICATION**

This Guide is dedicated to my parents, Harold and Etta Ostrov, who never went to college and who spaced their three sons five years apart to make it easier to provide each with four years of college. Heedless of our parents' careful planning, my brothers and I went on to log thirty years of schooling and earn ten degrees. To my parents who, of course, were delighted in seeing their best laid plans thrown to the wind, I appreciatively say thank you for your inspiration and for giving us the jump start that made it all possible.

# ***Finding the Right School in the Age of Campus Anti-Zionism***

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **Chapter 1: The Changing Campus Environment**

A. Overview	1
B. The BDS Goal	44
C. BDS Arrives on Campus	50
D. Is BDS Winning on Campus?	58
E. The Intersectionality Phenomenon	59
F. How Intersectionality Stigmatizes Pro-Israel Students	67
G. Suppression of Pro-Israel Speech on Campus and former President Trump's December 11, 2019, Executive Order	3
I. When Does Anti-Israel Behavior become Anti-Semitic Behavior	81
J. Hate Speech and the Free Speech Debate	92
K. Where We are Now	109
L. Six Additional Factors that Fan the Flames	111
Anti-Israel Academics Polemicize Israel on Social and Departmental Media	111
Jewish Students are Excluded from "Safe Spaces" on Campus	116
Employment of the Anti-Normalization Phenomena as a Means of Denying Dialogue on Israel	120
Some Campus Groups Have Likely Exacerbated the Problem by Providing Jewish Cover to the BDS Movement	123
Increasingly Aggressive Opposition to Pro-Israel Speech May Become the Norm	127
Jewish Students Who Support Israel are Being Typecast as White Supremacists	134
M. Encouraging and Discouraging Signs as We Go Forward	139

### **Chapter 2: Knowing Israel's History as a Means of Responding to the Campus Assault on Israel**

146

### **Chapter 3: Choice of School**

152

<b>Chapter 4: Overcoming the One-Time Jewish Barrier to Academia</b>	155
<b>Chapter 5: Preparing College-Bound Kids Jewishly</b>	160
<b>Chapter 6: Tips on Applying to and Visiting Colleges</b>	
A. Early Decision	164
B. Second Early Decision	167
C. Rolling Admissions	167
D. The College Trip	168
E. Playing the Athletic Card	169
<b>Chapter 7: Profiles of Large Schools with Significant Undergraduate Jewish Populations</b>	
Schools with New SATs of 1450 or Higher (corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1400 or Higher)	179
Schools with New SAT Scores of 1360-1440 (corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1300-1390)	446
Schools with New SAT Scores of 1270-1350 (corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1200-1290)	536
Schools with New SAT Scores of 1170-1260 (corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1100-1190)	633
<b>Chapter 8: Profiles of Small Schools with Significant Undergraduate Jewish Populations</b>	
Schools with New SAT Scores of 1450 or Higher (corresponds to old SAT of 1400 or Higher)	653
Schools with New SAT Scores of 1360-1440 (corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1300-1390)	653
Schools with New SAT Scores of 1270-1350 (corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1200-1290)	712
Schools with New SAT Scores of 1170-1260 (corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1100-1190)	793
<b>Chapter 9: Profiles of Interesting Schools with Small Undergraduate Jewish Populations</b>	
Schools with New SAT Scores of 1450 or Higher (corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1400 or Higher)	797

Schools with New SAT Scores of 1360-1440 (corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1300-1390)	821
Schools with New SAT Scores of 1270-1350 (corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1200-1290)	827
<b>Appendix A: Yiddish Glossary</b>	<b>833</b>
<b>Appendix B: Schools I Have Visited</b>	<b>834</b>
<b>Appendix C: Guide to Israel and Palestine for the New Jewish College Student</b>	<b>840</b>

***Finding the Right School in the Age of Campus  
Anti-Zionism***

**TABLE OF COLLEGES PROFILED**

***Large Schools with Significant Undergraduate Jewish  
Populations***

American University	536
Arizona State University	633
Binghamton University	542
Boston University	179
Brandeis University	183
Brown University	186
Carnegie Mellon University	194
Case Western University	197
College of Charleston	637
Columbia University	201
Cornell University	219
Dartmouth College	226
Duke University	235
Emory University	246
Florida International University	640
Florida State University	544
Georgetown University	254
George Washington University	446
Harvard University	259
Hofstra University	643
Indiana University	548
Ithaca College	551
James Madison University	553
Johns Hopkins University	282
Lehigh University	456
MIT	285
McGill University	458
Miami University Ohio	307
Michigan State University	557
Northeastern University	560

Northwestern University	290
NYU	300
Ohio State University	564
Pennsylvania State University	464
Princeton University	313
Rice University	323
Rutgers New Brunswick	571
San Diego State University	645
Stanford University	327
Stony Brook University	468
Syracuse University	471
Texas A&M College Station	579
Tufts University	337
Tulane University	348
University at Albany	589
University of Arizona	592
University at Buffalo	594
University of California Berkeley	352
University of California Davis	476
University of California Los Angeles	368
University of California San Diego	485
University of California Santa Cruz	596
University of Central Florida	601
University of Chicago	382
University of Colorado Boulder	603
University of Connecticut	605
University of Delaware	608
University of Denver	610
University of Florida	488
University of Georgia	612
University of Hartford	650
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	493
University of Kansas	615
University of Maryland	502
University of Massachusetts Amherst	618
University of Miami	506
University of Michigan	391

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	508
University of Pennsylvania	403
University of Pittsburgh	624
University of Rochester	411
University of Southern California	415
University of South Florida	627
University of Texas Austin	520
University of Vermont	629
University of Virginia	423
University of Washington	523
University of Wisconsin Madison	527
Vanderbilt University	430
Virginia Tech	583
Washington University in St. Louis	434
Yale University	437
Yeshiva University	587

***Small Schools with Significant Undergraduate Jewish Populations***

Amherst College	653
Bard College	712
Barnard College	656
Bates College	716
Bowdoin College	660
Bryn Mawr College	719
Bucknell University	721
Claremont McKenna College	662
Clark University	772
Colgate University	665
Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art	725
Dickinson College	434
Drew University	775
Emerson College	793
Franklin & Marshall College	727
Goucher College	777
Hamilton Coll	
ege	668
Hampshire College	780



Haverford College	670
Kenyon College	438
Lafayette College	732
Macalester College	736
Middlebury College	673
Muhlenberg College	786
New College of Florida	788
Oberlin College	739
Pitzer College	751
Pomona College	678
Reed College	683
Sarah Lawrence College	791
Scripps College	757
Skidmore College	759
Smith College	761
Swarthmore College	687
Trinity College Connecticut	766
Union College	770
Vassar College	690
Wellesley College	694
Wesleyan University Connecticut	701
Williams College	706

***Interesting Schools with Small Jewish Populations***

Boston College	797
Caltech	799
Carleton College	801
College of New Jersey	827
College of William & Mary	603
Colorado College	803
Davidson College	808
Grinnell College	812
Mount Holyoke	821
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	823
University of Alabama	829
University of Mary Washington	831
University of Richmond	814
Wake Forest University	816
Washington & Lee University	818



# CHAPTER 1

---

## THE CHANGING CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

### A. Overview

I am immeasurably proud of Jewish academic achievement in America and I have a passion for colleges, although I am not a college counselor. I have personally visited, with or without kids, 130 colleges (see Appendix B for a state-by-state listing of the schools I have visited), consumed mounds of literature about colleges and spoken to countless college students about where they have gone to school and what they thought about the places they've been. I have used this knowledge to counsel aspiring Jewish high school students and their parents over the years. In addition to helping kids find the right college, I've also tried to pass along a little historical insight into how we Jews overcame obstacles to get to where we are, using the academic highway to forge our way to success.

However, with the brazen and unfathomable October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas on unarmed Israeli civilians, not to speak of the confrontational encampment protests that broke out at numerous universities during April 2024, I'm no longer confident that the insights I have acquired over the years will apply in the years to come.

There is no question that the protests of April and May 2024 were in large part a reaction to Israel's retaliation against Hamas and the deaths that, on the one hand could largely have been avoided had not Hamas cynically hid behind and underneath Gaza's civilian, religious and medical institutions, but on the other, resulted from Israel's pursuit of its enemy. However, the protests also suggest an even more troublesome pattern: that, in a world of ascendant campus voices who see themselves as the victims of Western cultural and colonial settler oppression, Israel and its Jewish student supporters have become the targeted scapegoats for an increasingly aggressive response to such perceived grievances.

That the protests were not merely anti-Israel response to the events following October 7, 2023, is exemplified by the "death to America" slogans found in a pamphlet at the April 2024 Columbia encampment, the defacing of the statues of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin at the George Washington University and the

University of Pennsylvania encampments, and the replacement of the American flag with a Palestinian flag at the University of North Carolina encampment.

As highlighted by the following excerpts are from the July 7, 2024, *Algemeiner*, the foregoing contempt was on full display on the Fourth of July, 2024, long after the academic year had ended.

Anti-Israel activists burned American and Israeli flags and waved the flags of terrorist groups at July 4 protests in Philadelphia, New York City, and Los Angeles.

Activists at a Philly Palestine Coalition protest in Philadelphia chanted “empire will fall” and “long live the intifada” as they set American and Israeli flags and Independence Day banners on fire.

A flag of the Popular Front for the Liberation for Palestine was raised by the burning flags, in a video posted to the group’s Instagram on Saturday. As fire consumed the American flags, activists performed the inverted triangle hand gesture, a reference to the red triangle used to denote targeting of personnel or vehicles in Gazan terrorist propaganda.

As previously acknowledged, many of the students who participated in the protests may have been well intentioned, however poorly informed. But, even for them, the horrific events of October 7, 2023, had long since faded into oblivion as the victim, Israel, was unsparingly painted as the oppressor and, Hamas, the perpetrator, was extolled for the worst slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust. It seemed that Hamas was being exonerated from its wholesale and indiscriminate rape and slaughter of defenseless Israelis on the theory that it was merely exercising its rights as victim.

In this binary construction of oppressor and oppressed, any course, program or point of view perceived as colonialist is vulnerable to the most extreme form of criticism, with pro-Zionist Jewish students exposed to the strongest form of rebuke and ostracization for supporting the oppressor Jewish state. This phenomenon was well summarized in an interview given by Harvard donor and Jewish alumni, Kenneth Griffin, in an interview given to the *Financial Times* and reproduced in the below excerpt from the May 11, 2024, *Jerusalem Post*:

Billionaire investor Kenneth Griffin called on his alma mater, Harvard University, on Saturday to embrace "Western values," saying that the turmoil across college campuses was the product of a "cultural revolution" in US education.

Griffin, the founder of US hedge fund Citadel, told the Financial Times in an interview that the US had "lost sight of education as the means of pursuing truth and acquiring knowledge" over the past decade.

"Harvard should put front and center (that it) stands for meritocracy in America...", Griffin said, adding that schools should "embrace Western values that have built one of the greatest nations in the world."

Griffin, who has donated more than half a billion dollars to Harvard University, said in January that he has halted donations to the school over how it handled antisemitism on campus.

"What you're seeing now is the end-product of this cultural revolution in American education playing out on American campuses, in particular, using the paradigm of the oppressor and the oppressed," Griffin told the FT.

A similar sentiment was expressed by Marc Rowan in an interview with the *eJewish Philanthropy* published on May 16, 2024, from which the following excerpts are taken:

Marc Rowan, the CEO of Apollo Global Management who has emerged as a leading voice of the donor-class against antisemitism on college campuses, described the anti-Israel protests at universities across the country as having less to do with Israel and the Jews than with "anti-Americanism."

"It's not antisemitism. It is anti-Americanism," he said on the Aleph venture capital firm's latest podcast, which aired yesterday. "We are in the middle of a takeover of our elite academic institutions by a dominant narrative that you can call post-colonial education: Oppressed versus oppressor, powerful or powerless," said Rowan, who successfully led a group of alumni threatening to withhold donations unless the university removed its president, Liz Magill, and board of trustees chair, Scott Bok.

Similarly, the following excerpts from a May 22, 2024, *New York Times* article illustrates the new campus orthodoxy and the anti-Zionist litmus test it has produced:

This spring, college campuses became the main stage for the American protest movement against Israel's seven-month-old war in Gaza. In April and May, dozens of pro-Palestinian encampments sprang up at universities around the country, as students called for institutional divestment from (and, at times, for the total dismantling of) Israel.

The protests have been characterized by heated rhetoric around the term “Zionist,” a word that typically refers to people who believe Jews have a right to a state in their ancestral homeland in present-day Israel (regardless of how they may feel about the war in Gaza). Many Palestinians and those who support them associate the word with mass displacement during the 1948 war triggered by the creation of Israel, as well as the killings over the past months of thousands of civilians and the decimation of Gaza.

Through chants, statements and sometimes physical obstruction, many protesters have made clear they don’t want to share space with people they consider Zionists — and indeed, that they find the ideology unacceptable. At the University of California, Los Angeles, pro-Palestinian students blocked peers who identified themselves as Zionists from parts of campus. Given that a large majority of American Jews say caring about Israel is an important part of their Jewish identity, these instances of exclusion have led to a debate over whether the encampments are de facto antisemitic. (Complicating matters, some of the most outspoken anti-Zionist protesters are Jewish.)

Some Jewish students on campus believe these dynamics amount to a kind of litmus test: If you support Palestine, you’re in. If you support the existence of or aren’t ready to denounce Israel, you’re out. And they say this is not limited to pro-Palestine protests. It is, instead, merely the most pointed form of a new social pressure that has started to drip down from the public square onto the fabric of everyday campus life, seeping into spaces that would seem to have little to do with Middle East politics: club sports, casual friendships, dance troupes.

Rabbi Jason Rubenstein, the incoming executive director of Harvard Hillel, said the more explicit litmus tests of the protests were “making visible and physical something that’s happening in a lot of places.”

While the anti-Zionist events that have taken place since October 7, 2023 have mushroomed in the way they have marginalized and intimidated Jewish students, they are new only in their audacity and scope. As one may read in the pages that follow, the anti-Israel radicalization of today’s campuses has been years in the making with not just the Students for Justice in Palestine spearheading the movement.

Faculty, particularly in Middle East and gender studies, have fanned the flames of anti-Israel hostility, progressive groups, no matter how high minded, have bought into the anti-Israel philosophy in a showing of “intersectional” solidarity, and school administrations have turned a blind eye to the way in which Jewish students on campus have been marginalized and mistreated. It is for this reason that I believe

the reservoir of historical material that appears in the pages of this book and in the other features of this website, despite ending with the protests and encampments that brought chaos and hatred to so many college campuses during the spring of 2024, will remain valuable to prospective Jewish college students and their parents who are coping with the fallout of Hamas' invasion of Israel.

\*\*\*\*\*

Until Hamas' deadly attack on Israel (and Israel's response), yesterday's Jewish academic successes had largely continued. However, even before the October 7 attack, Ivy League acceptances of Jewish students had begun to decline precipitously one big exception. One insight into this phenomena was provided by Armin Rosen in his April 18, 2023, *Tablet* article, entitled "Ivy League Exodus":

At every point in their history the Ivies have revealed what the existing elite values and whom it is willing to welcome into its ranks. Jews benefited from the meritocratic system of elite production that the Ivies administered in the postwar years and are at an apparent disadvantage now that the old system is considered exclusionary, unrepresentative, and otherwise ill-suited to the current needs and values of the people overseeing it.

The following two paragraphs from an article by Sara Weissman (entitled, "Jewish Student Enrollment Is Down at Many Ivies") published in the May 8, 2023, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, illustrate the magnitude of the fall in Jewish attendance at Ivy League schools by contrasting Jewish attendance at such schools in 1967 to comparable Jewish attendance figures for today:

The *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, a Jewish news wire service, reported in 1967 that Jewish students had reached high numbers at the Ivies after decades of low enrollments. The news outlet cited a *New York Times* survey at the time, which found that the student bodies at Columbia University and University of Pennsylvania were 40 percent Jewish. Jewish student populations at Harvard, Yale and Cornell were estimated to be between 20 and 25 percent, while those at Dartmouth, Princeton and Brown hovered between 13 and 20 percent.

Jews now make up 9.9 percent of Harvard's undergraduate enrollment and 12.2 percent at Yale, according to estimates on Hillel's website. The share of Jewish students at Columbia University is an estimated 22.3 percent. Roughly 8.8 percent of Dartmouth students, and 9.6 percent of Princeton students, are Jewish. Cornell and Brown are the only two Ivies to buck the trend of significant declines compared to

the 1960s, with Jewish students making up 21.5 percent and 23.9 percent, respectively, of the enrollment.

There are exceptions to this phenomena, including pre-October 7, 2023 Brown and Cornell where, as the above account points out, Jewish populations had been increasing. Although after October 7, 2023, Jewish parents may want to think twice before sending their talented children to Ivy League schools where they are threatened, hounded on social media and, as with Cornell, forced to overcome disruptions in their studies due to roving bands of pro-Palestinian students marching through university buildings.

Even before the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack against Israel, there had existed a stubborn anti-Israel—and, increasingly, anti-Semitic—dynamic at play on many of the nation’s campuses. This dynamic (and the societal anti-Semitic backdrop that reinforced it) is vividly illustrated by a number of recent reports and their antecedent studies (as well as other reports noted below).

Most recently, numerous surveys confirmed the unfortunate trend of students feeling uncomfortable, unwelcome or unsafe on their college campuses. 12, 2023, *New York Post* article written by Ronald Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress, described a poll commissioned by Jewish on Campus, with which WJC works cooperatively, in which 3,000 Jewish undergraduates were asked about their experience with campus anti-Semitism. As reported by Lauder:

The results are alarming.

Nearly 60% of Jewish students reported facing antisemitism directed against them personally.

More than half have been subjected to antisemitic hate speech to their face.

Nearly half have been forced to see hateful vandalism on their campuses targeting Jews, such as swastikas etched into dorm-room doors at Stanford and spray-painted on offices at Columbia.

More than 20% of Jewish students disclosed hearing other students make calls for violence, genocide or deadly pogroms against them — simply because they are Jewish.

As president of the World Jewish Congress, I am outraged.

Then, one day later, as reported the September 13, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, ADL, on that date, released its annual report of campus anti-Israel incidents. As summarized in the *Algemeiner* account: “The [ADL] report tallied 665 campus anti-



Israel incidents during the 2022-2023 academic year — nearly double the number of incidents from the prior school year. As further quoted from the ADL report, the *Algemeiner* wrote:

“Every year, young Jewish people go to college with the hope that their Jewish identities, including their connection to the Jewish state, will be welcome on campus,” ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said in a statement. “This sense of community is increasingly at risk as concerning anti-Israel incidents increase. University leaders must respond effectively to this hatred so that Jewish students feel safe.”

Unfortunately ADL’s findings were consistent with its surveys conducted the two previous years. On December 8, 2021, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) issued a news release regarding its report of that date entitled “Inflammatory Anti-Israel Activity and BDS Calls Are Vilifying Many Jewish Students on Campus.” According to the ADL news release, the report, in pertinent part, states:

During the 2020-21 academic year, a vocal segment of the anti-Israel groups and activists on campus continued to engage in rhetoric that often demeaned or ostracized many pro-Israel Jewish students. At times, antisemitic tropes were invoked. This became a flashpoint during the conflict between Israel and Hamas in May 2021, according to ADL’s (Anti-Defamation League) annual assessment of anti-Israel actions on campus.

ADL experts identified a pattern of anti-Israel groups and activists blatantly demonizing pro-Israel and Zionist students, which disproportionately impacted Jewish students. Occasionally, these activists espoused antisemitic tropes, such as those alleging Jewish or Zionist power and control over the media and political affairs. Such language can create a corrosive climate for many Jewish students on campus. ADL’s Center on Extremism, which monitors anti-Israel activities across the country, found this language primarily came from a handful of student activist organizations that often work in concert to spread anti-Israel and anti-Zionist messages on U.S. college campus.

“As we saw acutely during the May conflict with Hamas, the anti-Israel movement’s drumbeat of rhetorical attacks on Zionism and Zionists can truly hurt and offend many Jewish students, leaving them feeling ostracized and alienated,” said Jonathan A. Greenblatt, ADL CEO. “Freedom of speech does not mean freedom to harass and intimidate. While all students have a right to express their views about Israel openly, expressions of antisemitism under the guise of Israel criticism are unacceptable. Administrators, student and faculty need to ensure a

safe and inclusive environment for all students, regardless of religion, nationality, or ethnicity.

Third, as reported in the November 13, 2023, *eJewish Philanthropy*, Hillel: more than a third of Jewish college students report hiding their identity since the October 7, 2023 attack against Israel. Further, the poll included the following discouraging results:

The poll, which included 300 Jewish college students, found that the Israel-Hamas war is influencing students in several ways. More than four out of five (84%) said that the situation is affecting them, more than two-thirds (68%) said they were sad, and most (54%) said they were scared.

One in three Jewish students (35%) said there have been acts of hate or violence against Jews on campus. A majority of those surveyed said they are unsatisfied with their university's response to those incidents.

Fourth, in late October 2023, the ADL Center for Antisemitism Research (CAR), Hillel International, and College Pulse conducted "a longitudinal survey of American college students before and after the Hamas terror attacks on October 7, 2023."

As stated by ADL: "The [following] topline results, presented in this report, highlight concerning trends that underscore the urgent need to protect Jewish students on campus and foster an inclusive and safe educational environment for all.

*Jewish students are experiencing a wave of antisemitism, and non-Jewish students are much less likely to see it.*

73% of Jewish college students surveyed have experienced or witnessed some form of antisemitism since the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year alone. By comparison, 43.9% of non-Jewish students reported the same during that period. Prior to this school year, 70% of Jewish college students experienced at least some form of antisemitism throughout their entire college experience.

*Of the non-Jewish students erroneously assumed to be Jewish, nearly half (46%) stated that they had been targeted based on their assumed Jewishness.*

26% of students assumed to be Jewish by others reported being on the receiving end of offensive anti-Jewish remarks, compared to 8.7% of those not assumed to be Jewish. Since 10/7, the proportion of non-Jewish students assumed to be Jewish has increased from 7.2% to 12.7%. Of

this group, 29.5% reported being the targets of offensive anti-Jewish remarks.

*Since October 7, the percentage of Jewish students who said they feel comfortable with others on campus knowing they are Jewish dropped by nearly half.*

Since October 7th, students who have felt comfortable with others knowing they're Jewish decreased significantly. 63.7% of Jewish students pre-October 7th felt "very" or "extremely" comfortable but now only 38.6% feel the same.

*A majority of all students — Jewish and non-Jewish — feel like their campus administration has not done enough to address anti-Jewish prejudice at their universities, with 70 percent of students saying their university should do more to address the issue.*

When asked who should do more to address the issue, most students (48.2% of Jewish students and 38.5% of non-Jewish students) placed the onus on campus administrators.

*More than a third of Jewish students said they felt uncomfortable speaking about their views of Israel, and roughly the same proportion said they feel uncomfortable speaking out against antisemitism.*

Nearly a third (31.9%) of Jewish students indicated that they have felt unable to speak out about campus antisemitism, while only 17.6% of non-Jewish students felt the same. 29.8% of Jewish students said that they would be uncomfortable with others on campus knowing about their views of Israel, compared to only 13.9% of non-Jewish students. After 10/7, these numbers increased to 38.3% and 18.9%, respectively.

*A plurality of Jewish students do not feel physically safe on campus.*

Prior to 10/7, two-thirds (66.6%) of Jewish students said they felt "very" or "extremely" physically safe on campus, compared to less than half (45.5%) post-10/7. Feelings of emotional safety among Jewish students changed even more dramatically – two-thirds (65.8%) of Jewish students said they felt "very" or "extremely" emotionally safe before 10/7, which fell to a third (32.5%) after 10/7.

Fifth, as reported in the March 11, 2024, *eJewish Philanthropy*, "more than a third of Jewish college students report hiding their identity since Oct. 7, such as no longer wearing jewelry with the Star of David, in order to fit in — double the number

of university students who said they did so before the Israel-Hamas war, according to new research.” The story went on to state:

The study, conducted by Tufts University political scientist Eitan Hersh in partnership with College Pulse and funded by the Jim Joseph Foundation, found that more than three-quarters of Jewish students (77%) have noticed a social stigma around supporting Israel’s right to exist. Non-Jewish students surveyed also agree that there’s a social stigma associated with supporting Israel — with the highest agreement (50%) coming from those on the far left or who identify as socialist.

Sixth, in the wake of the April 2024 college encampment protests, *eJewish Philanthropy*, on May 13, 2024, reported on a Hillel study regarding the impact of the protests on Jewish college students. The following is from the *eJewish Philanthropy* synopsis of the Hillel study:

Anti-Israel campus protests and encampments have made it harder for most Jewish college students to “learn, study or concentrate,” according to a new survey by Hillel International, with some 30% saying the demonstrations have made them scared to attend classes or be on campus.

Roughly half of Jewish students — 51% — said the demonstrations disrupted their ability to attend class, including 20% who said that they were physically blocked from attending a class, according to the study. The rest said classes were canceled, interrupted or moved to Zoom.

A majority of respondents, 61%, said there has been antisemitic, threatening or derogatory language directed toward Jewish people during protests at their school. Nearly a quarter of the respondents from schools with encampment protests said that they personally were either physically assaulted (7%) or verbally assaulted (17%).

\*\*\*\*\*

The foregoing is consistent with the recent incidence of antisemitism in the nation at large. On January 7, 2024, the *Jewish Insider*, reported that “antisemitic incidents in the United States tripled in the three months since Oct. 7, compared to the same period a year ago, according to newly collected data from the Anti-Defamation League released exclusively to *Jewish Insider*.” The *Jewish Insider* report continued with the following synopsis of the ADL data:

The ADL's preliminary data found that there were 3,283 antisemitic incidents between Oct. 7, 2023, and Jan. 7, 2024 — nearly as many recorded incidents as there were in the entire calendar year of 2022.

The 3,283 recorded examples of antisemitic activity include: 60 incidents of physical assault, 553 incidents of vandalism, 1,353 incidents of verbal or written harassment and 1,317 rallies that included antisemitic rhetoric, expressions of support for terrorism against Israel and/or anti-Zionism.

“It’s shocking that we’ve recorded more antisemitic acts in three months than we usually would in an entire year,” Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said in a statement. “The American Jewish community is facing a threat level that’s now unprecedented in modern history,” Greenblatt continued.

College campuses were hit with 505 incidents, according to the new data. Another 246 were reported in K-12 schools, while at least 628 incidents were reported against Jewish institutions such as synagogues and community centers.

Though dispiriting, the foregoing data is not shocking given the anti-Semitic environment that existed following the Hamas attack and Israel’s response. However, even before the Hamas attack, the kind of post-October 7, 2023, anti-Semitism experienced by society at large, not to speak of the nation’s campuses, was foreshadowed by numerous other studies

As set forth in the October 14, 2022, *Times of Israel*, the ADL had previously issued an October 12, 2022, report, which, itself, was a followup to a previous December 2021 report. The October 12, 2022, report, entitled “Anti-Israel Activism on U.S. Campuses, 2021-2022), was summarized by the *Times of Israel* as follows:

The Anti-Defamation League tallied over 350 anti-Israel incidents on US college campuses during the last school year, the organization announced this week, saying the activities had negatively impacted Jewish students and were part of a growing trend to ostracize Zionists.

The incidents ranged from harsh criticism of the Jewish state to harassing and excluding Jewish students due to their perceived stances on Israel.

“The antisemitic vitriol directed at pro-Israel students is deeply unsettling and makes our colleges and universities feel less safe and

secure for Jewish students,” the head of the ADL, Jonathan Greenblatt, said in a statement.

Also in 2022, American Jewish Committee Executive Director and former United States Congressman, Ted Deutch, summarizing a then newly released AJC report, entitled “State of Antisemitism in America (2022), wrote the following in the February 13, 2023, edition of *Newsweek* in an article, entitled “American Jews Shouldn’t be Afraid to be Jewish“:

Do you go through a metal detector before entering your house of worship? Are you worried about being verbally or physically assaulted if you wear meaningful jewelry that your grandmother gave you? Likely, your answer is no. But for an alarming number of American Jews, this is what life is like today in America.

The newly released State of Antisemitism in America Report by American Jewish Committee (AJC) shows that nearly four in 10 Jews surveyed changed their behavior at least once this past year out of fear of antisemitism. Forty-one percent American Jews believe the status of Jews in the United States is less secure than a year ago, a 10-percentage-point jump from 2021.

The virtual world is even worse. Eighty-five percent of American Jews, ages 18-29, have experienced antisemitism online. A stunning 26 percent of those young Jews told us they feel physically threatened by these incidents.

Once again, the 2022 AJC Report described by Deutch replicated and reinforced the views expressed in two earlier reports commissioned by AJC. The first was an October 2020 AJC Report, entitled “The State of Antisemitism in America 2020: Survey of American Jews”. The survey had been conducted by the research company SSRS and was based on telephone interviews carried out between September 9, 2020 and October 4, 2020, with a national sample of 1,334 Jews over the age 18. Among its most significant finding were the following as reported by *AJC Global Voice* on October 26, 2020:

American Jews remain deeply concerned about rising antisemitism in America. Nearly nine out of ten American Jews (885) believe antisemitism is a problem in the United States today and more than four out of five (82%) believe it has increased over the past five years, with a plurality (43%) saying it has increased a lot.

\*\*\*\*\*

More than one in three American Jews (37%) say they have been the victims of antisemitism over the past five years, including a quarter (25%) who say they have encountered antisemitic remarks in person, by mail, or by phone; over a fifth (22%) who have been targeted by antisemitic remarks online or through social media; and 3% who have been physically assaulted for being Jewish.

\*\*\*\*\*

[With particular applicability to this Guide,] notably, younger respondents—American Jews between the ages of 18 and 29 and between 30 and 49—were more likely than older respondents to have been targets of antisemitism, four out of ten (41%) saying they’ve been victims of an antisemitic incident, compared to 31% of those over 50. Nearly a quarter (23%) of respondents say they or someone they know have experienced antisemitism on a college campus over the past five years; perhaps unsurprisingly, that number rises to 43% of those between the ages of 18 and 29.

On October 26, 2021, AJC’s William Petschek Contemporary Jewish Life Department, released a follow-up to the 2020 report, entitled “2021 State of Antisemitism in America.” Once again, the report demonstrated the severity of antisemitism in America. As stated in the AJC release, the report was “based on the largest-ever surveys of American Jews and the U.S. public on their experiences and perceptions of antisemitism in the United States” and “reveals the scope of antisemitism in America, as well as a disturbing disconnect between American Jews and the rest of the U.S. public on the extent of the problem.” As summarized by AJC, the reports four key findings are as follows:

- One in four American Jews has been the target of antisemitism—through in-person remarks, online or on social media, or by way of physical attacks—over the past 12 months.
- Four in ten American Jews have changed their behavior due to fears of antisemitism over the past year, with 22% saying they have avoided wearing or displaying things that would enable others to identify them as Jewish.
- While 82% of American Jews believe antisemitism has increased over the past five years, only 44% of the general public agrees—even though 41% of Americans say they’ve witnessed at least one antisemitic incident over the past year.
- Most American Jews who heard about attacks on Jews in the United States and around the world during the May 2021 conflict between Israel and Hamas said they made them feel less safe as Jews in America—but most of the general public was largely unaware the attacks had even happened.

The ADL and AJC reports paralleled two earlier, contemporaneous reports by other organizations. First, in a November 17, 2022, report by AMCHA, a relentless Jewish campus watchdog organization. The report was entitled “A Looming Crisis for the American Jewish Community: “Campus Anti-Semitism and the Assault on Jewish Identity.” The following is AMCHA’s description of the report’s principal findings:

AMCHA Initiative’s groundbreaking report released yesterday, unearthed an insidious phenomenon taking root on college campuses: a pervasive and relentless assault on Jewish identity. Unlike other campus studies released this year and in previous years, which examine whether campuses are safe or unsafe for Jewish students, this study investigated the nature, scope and trajectory of the threats to Jewish identity on U.S. campuses, and it found a staggering doubling of such threats at 60% of schools most popular with Jewish students.

The threats uncovered in the report include attempts to dissociate Zionism from Judaism, pit Zionism against progressive values, accuse Zionist Jews of undue privilege, power and control, and purge Zionism and Zionists from campus life. As highlighted by a recent Pew survey, which found that more than 80% of Jews view Israel as integral to their Jewish identity, the threats documented in AMCHA’s study constitute a direct assault on the identity of many Jewish students.

The study also exposes the main sources of these threats, details how if left unaddressed this pervasive and relentless assault on Jewish identity will result in dire consequences for the Jewish community in the years to come and offers recommendations to begin addressing this profoundly alarming problem.

#### Main Findings:

Incidents involving threats to Jewish identity were found on over 60% of the campuses most popular with Jewish students, with several schools playing host to 10 or more such incidents in the 2021-2022 academic year, including Harvard University, University of Chicago, Tufts University, UCLA and Rutgers University.

Incidents involving attacks on Jewish identity increased 100% to 200% in the academic year following the Israel-Hamas war, with the number of affected schools also increasing dramatically.

Faculty and academic departments played a significant role in attacks on Jewish student identity: schools with academic BDS-supporting faculty were three to seven times more likely to have such attacks, and



more than one-third of anti-Zionist challenges to well-established definitions of Zionism, Judaism and antisemitism took place in programs sponsored by academic departments.

Jewish anti-Zionist individuals and organizations such as Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) played a significant role in attacks on Jewish identity, with the presence of JVP or similar Jewish anti-Zionist group more than doubling the likelihood that a campus will play host to incidents involving the redefinition or denigration of Jewish identity.

The second report was an August 30, 2021, report by Alums for Campus Fairness (“ACF”), another Jewish watchdog organization. The report, entitled, “A Growing Threat: Antisemitism on College Campuses,” described the results of a survey conducted by ACF in which 506 Jewish college students and recent alums on campus were canvassed with respect to antisemitism on campus. Alarming, the following are the key findings of the report as reproduced from its the introduction:

- 95% percent of Jewish college students and recent graduates felt that antisemitism is a problem on their campuses
- Nearly 80% of Jewish students and recent graduates had either experienced or heard firsthand about a fellow student making offensive or threatening antisemitic comments in person
- 44% of students and recent grads, they themselves, someone they know, or both had been physically threatened because they were Jewish.

Third and equally daunting were the results of a third report conducted by the Cohen Research Group with the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law (the “2021 Brandeis Study”) and discussed in the September 20, 2021, edition of the *Algemeiner*. The report described a poll of 1,027 members of the Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) fraternity and Alpha Epsilon Phi (AEPi) sorority during the COVID-19 pandemic. As reported by the *Algemeiner*, the poll “found that half of ‘openly Jewish’ college students (as evidenced by their affiliation with the historically Jewish AEPI fraternity and AEPi sorority) had at times attempted to conceal their religious identity on campus. Specifically, as also reported by the *Algemeiner*, the poll found that:

(i) Fifty percent of students have masked their Jewish identity and more than half have hidden their support of Israel, while some two-thirds experienced or were familiar with antisemitic incidents that occurred over the past 120 days.”

(ii) Thirty percent of the polled students who concealed their Jewish identity did so out of concern for receiving low marks from their

professors. Others feared being targeted for the kinds of verbal and physical attacks on campus they had seen or heard about; the respondents reported 47 assaults, with 16 Jewish students being spit on and 14 attacked with a weapon.

Earlier, on July 26, 2021, Ben Cohen of the *Algemeiner*, had interviewed Cary Nelson—the Jubilee Professor of Liberal Arts & Sciences Emeritus at the University of Illinois, a former president of the AAUP and current chair of the Alliance for Academic Freedom (a watchdog organization made up of pro-Israel academics). The interview, entitled “Antisemitism Now Has ‘Academic Mandate,’ Leading Expert on Academic Freedom Tells Indiana Conference on Jew-Hatred,” encapsulated the progression of anti-Zionism and associated anti-Semitism taking place on many of today’s college campuses. Cohen first set the stage as follows:

Nelson is a well-known veteran of the political conflict over the academic boycott of Israeli universities. What was different about the present situation, he explained, was the formal adoption of anti-Zionist positions by teaching departments, and not only professional academic bodies like the American Anthropological Association and the National Association of Women’s Studies, both of which endorsed the boycott of Israel in 2019.

Cohen then went on to quote Nelson as he expressed his concerns regarding the changing anti-Zionist environment on campus:

“Once a department and its administrator embrace political convictions, the academic freedom of those who disagree is compromised,” Nelson told a Monday morning panel on educational theory at the ongoing conference on antisemitism in the US convened by the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism at Indiana University, Bloomington.

“Students who hold other views can face the bullying power of their professors. Dissenters—faculty, staff, and students—who remain in perfectly good standing as scholars and teachers are branded outlaws,” he stated.

What Nelson described as a “huge change in terms of academic freedom” took place in May of this year, during the renewed clashes between Israel and the Hamas terrorist organization in Gaza. At the height of the fighting, more than 100 women’s and gender studies departments endorsed an anti-Israel statement that, as Nelson put it, “formally committed them to an anti-Zionist departmental policy.”

\*\*\*\*\*

On campus, anti-Jewish hostility—greatly amplified since October 7, 2023, has played out with a vocabulary that uses new anti-Israel terms such as BDS, intersectionality, pinkwashing and anti-normalization (all discussed later in greater detail) and tactics, such as the staging of “Israel Apartheid Week” that now takes place annually on dozens of college and university campuses, whose only purpose is to demonize Israel. Related to these terms and tactics are catchwords that describe the new campus orthodoxy at many institutions. Thus, one hears reference to “microaggressions,” offending some student listeners though not necessarily by intent, “safe spaces,” insulating some students from discussions or presentations they may find hurtful although, not necessarily, unscholarly or inappropriate, “deplatforming,” depriving speakers of the opportunity to speak on subjects that some campus elements may find offensive, “being woke,” being aware of—and, increasingly, being pressured into subscribing to certain views—of social justice issues particularly as applied to minorities, and “decolonization,” sanitizing college curricula from what some may consider inappropriate emphasis on courses that once fell under the time-honored heading of western civilization, and “critical race theory,” the division of society into oppressed and oppressor usually stemming from race and class; and, most perniciously, “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” a call to eradicate Israel from the map of the Middle East..

Ethnic studies programs that ought to celebrate the diversity that characterizes America and that should include the histories of all minorities including Jews, frequently have dissolved into (perhaps, well intentioned, but, equally often, confrontational) finger pointing at white privilege and have the potential for singling out Jewish students for special opprobrium because they are perceived as both the product of white privilege and supporters of an “apartheid” Israel. These considerations are illustrated in a January 27, 2021, *Tablet* article, entitled “California is Cleansing Jews From History” which focused on the heavily-CRT-influenced California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum “CESC”), then in its third draft (and since enacted into law).

Among other matters of note, the January 27, 2021 *Tablet* article noted above quoted Elina Kaplan, a former high-tech manager who originally had supported the concept of an ethnic studies curriculum but who read the first draft of the CESC with dismay:

[W]hen the first draft of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) was released, Kaplan couldn’t believe what she was reading. In one sample lesson, she saw that a list of historic U.S. social movements—ones like Black Lives Matter, #MeToo, Criminal Justice Reform—also included the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement for Palestine (BDS), described as a “global social movement that currently aims to establish freedom for Palestinians living under apartheid conditions.” Kaplan wondered why a foreign movement, whose target

was another country, would be mischaracterized as a domestic social movement, and she was shocked that in a curriculum that would be taught to millions of students, BDS's primary goal—the elimination of Israel—was not mentioned. Kaplan also saw that the 1948 Israel War of Independence was only referred to as the “Nakba”—“catastrophe” in Arabic—and Arabic verses included in the sample lessons were insulting and provocative to Jews.

Kaplan, 53, a Bay Area mother of two grown children who describes herself as a lifelong Democrat, was further surprised to discover that a list of 154 influential people of color did not include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis, or Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, though it included many violent revolutionaries. There was even a flattering description of Pol Pot, the communist leader of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge, who was responsible for the murder of a quarter of the Cambodian population during the 1970s.

Kaplan began calling friends. “Have you read this?” she asked, urging them to plow through the 600-page document. The language was bewildering. *“Ethnic Studies is about people whose cultures, hxrstories, and social positionalities are forever changing and evolving. Thus, Ethnic Studies also examines borders, borderlands, mixtures, hybridities, nepantlas, double consciousness, and reconfigured articulations. ...”* [italics added] This was the telltale jargon of critical race theory, a radical doctrine that has swept through academic disciplines during the last few decades.

The new curriculum, which will eventually be promulgated throughout the California school system of 6 million children, would “critique empire and its relationship to white supremacy, racism, patriarchy, cisheteropatriarchy, capitalism, ableism ... and other forms of power and oppression,” according to the proposal. It would “build new possibilities for post-imperial life that promotes collective narratives of transformative resistance.”

Capitalism was classified as a form of “power and oppression,” and although “classism, homophobia, Islamophobia, and transphobia” were also listed as forms of oppression, anti-Semitism was not. Jewish Americans were not even mentioned as a minority group.

As to the impenetrable ESMC definitional language quoted above in italics, the *Tablet* article quoted a scathing critique from the Los Angeles Times as follows:

The unassailably liberal *LA Times* editorial board weighed in, criticizing the offering as “an impenetrable mélange of academic jargon and

politically correct pronouncements” that served as an “exercise in groupthink, designed to proselytize and inculcate more than to inform and open minds.” It warned it was “in bad need of an overhaul.”

Further, with regard to the meaning of the language employed in the ESMC lexicon, the January 27, 2021 *Tablet* article quoted from a letter signed by three hundred emigres from the former Soviet Union as follows:

“We escaped a Marxist-socialist system and its associated tyranny and oppression. Never could we have imagined that, decades later, the same ideology and concepts that we escaped, would show up in, of all places ... the California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum.”

They wrote of their shock at seeing Marxist “code-words” in the text, such as urging students to fight for a “truer democracy,” which Marx used to refer to the abolition of private property. They also noted other terms that look innocuous or even enlightened to the uninitiated, such as “transformative resistance,” “radical healing,” “critical hope,” have specific meanings in critical race theory, which the ESMC explicitly directs teachers to use as the key theoretical framework for teaching ethnic studies.

As a result of widespread criticism of the first ESMC draft, a second draft was completed in August 2020. But, the second draft was also criticized for merely repositioning objectionable material to the appendices and footnotes. When a third draft was released in December 2020, the January 2021 *Table* article noted that:

[S]ome of the most offensive material was actually moved back in. For example, an historical resource was added with the following description of prewar Zionism: “the Jews have filled the air with their cries and lamentations in an effort to raise funds and American Jews, as is well known, are the richest in the world.”

The following excerpts are from an article by David Bernstein that appeared in the March 28, 2022 issue of *The Jewish News of Northern California*, and that looked at the ESMC, four months after it became law in October 2021:

In October 2021, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 101, making California the first state to require high school students to complete one semester of an ethnic studies course. Jewish leaders concerned that the legislation provided a way in for radical activists to push antisemitic versions of the ethnic studies curriculum managed to convince legislators to erect “guardrails” that would supposedly prevent such an abominable outcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

Yet here we are, not four months later, and the very radical groups pushing anti-Israel teachings are now signing contracts with individual California districts, ready to teach students that Israel is a “settler colonial state.”

\*\*\*\*\*

A group called Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Coalition is trying to convince numerous school districts to approve a curriculum that, according to information gathered by the Alliance for Constructive Ethnic Studies, glorifies revolution and violence, divides students into victims and oppressors, dismisses nonviolent leaders and promotes antisemitism.

LESMCC’s curriculum refers to “the current apartheid in Israel” and explains that Zionism calls for the “creation and expansion of Israel as a Jewish state” in “historic Palestine” using “any means necessary.” It calls on teachers to “make clear the connections between the struggle for Palestinian rights and the struggles of Indigenous, Black, and brown communities ...”

Notably, LESMCC is offering virtually the same fanatical model curriculum that California’s State Board of Education explicitly rejected as an early draft of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC).

In a recent webinar, LESMCC outlined its plans to persuade dozens of school districts across the country to adopt its curriculum.

In the same vein, Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, director of AMCHA Initiative, whose work on behalf of Jewish college students is referred to extensively in this Guide, wrote the following on May 17, 2023, after a number of California school districts adopted ethnic studies curricula similar to the LESMCC:

When California governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill mandating ethnic studies as a high school graduation requirement (AB 101) in October 2021, he was explicit about why he felt confident approving a bill that was almost identical to one he had vetoed the year before. Expressing his appreciation for augmented “guardrails” added to the bill to help ensure the courses would be “free from bias and bigotry,” Newsom singled out one guardrail in particular: “[I]t is the intent of the Legislature that local educational agencies not use portions of the first draft model curriculum that were not adopted by the Instructional

Quality Commission due to concerns related to bias, bigotry, and discrimination.”

The “first draft model curriculum” that he mentioned was released for public review in May 2019 and immediately rejected by Governor Newsom and the State Board of Education (SBE) after widespread complaints, and after Jewish legislators, tens of thousands of Californians, and almost every Jewish organization in the state expressed outrage over the draft’s overtly anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist content. Although the SBE had approved a substantially revised final model curriculum in March 2021, this new guardrail signaled legislators’ concerns that local school districts, not obliged to consider the state-approved model curriculum, might instead choose the first draft’s “liberated ethnic studies” content that was vigorously marketed by the first-draft’s authors, who had gone on to establish a fee-for-service consulting group, Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Consortium (LESMCC).

A month before legislators’ final votes were cast moving AB 101 to the Governor’s desk, LESMCC posted “Preparing to Teach Palestine: A Toolkit,” which included antisemitic tropes of Jewish wealth and power that were used to vilify Jews and Jewish organizations; smeared Israel with false charges of “settler colonialism” and “apartheid;” promoted the work of anti-Zionist organizations calling for dismantling the Jewish state and offering advice on how to launch campaigns to boycott Israel; and urged teachers to organize their schools and districts to fight “Zionist backlash.” This blatantly biased and bigoted display, even more explicitly anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist than the first model curriculum draft, may well be what convinced legislators to add language to the bill expressing the intent of the Legislature that school districts not adopt discriminatory curricula.

While legislative intent is not law, legislators — and the Governor — clearly felt that stating their intentions could influence local school districts’ selection of an ethnic studies curriculum. According to Jesse Gabriel, then chair of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, “my hope is that the guardrails are so unambiguous that any school board, or any teacher, looks at this and says, ‘we do not want to get close to that problematic curriculum.’”

So much for hope and good intentions. Last month, despite opposition from members of the Jewish community, the Santa Ana Unified School District’s Board of Education voted in favor of adopting two ethnic studies curricula containing egregiously anti-Israel content for use in SAUSD’s 11 high schools. Similar scenarios had already played

themselves out at school board meetings in Hayward and Castro Valley, where board members ignored strenuous community objections, and approved lucrative contracts with LESMCC.

\*\*\*\*\*

What does the ESMC mean for California's Jewish students, not to speak of the BDS movement? The January 27, 2021 *Tablet* article discussed above sums up both considerations by quoting Tammi Rossman-Benjamin:

Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, director of AMCHA Initiative which fights campus anti-Semitism, points out that all 13 founding members of the Critical Ethnic Studies Association (CESA) are BDS activists. CESA, the national home base for critical studies, passed a resolution to boycott all Israeli academic institutions in 2014, and the group's past four biennial meetings included multiple sessions demonizing Israel. "There are a couple thousand academic boycotters of Israel in the country," she said, "and the largest percentage of them come from ethnic studies. Anti-Zionism is built into the theory and the discipline of ethnic studies, which demonizes Israel as an apartheid settler-colonialist Nazi state."

But of even greater concern to Jews, she believes, is the singling out of Jewish students as enjoying racial privilege. "I don't see any way that Jewish students can sit in an ethnic studies class and not feel they have a double target on their backs," she said, fearing hatred and violence will ensue. First, because they're Jewish, and considered white and part of the 1%, the purported villains of the teaching, and then through an assumed association with Israel. "There's a state requirement that you have to sit through a class that says to Jewish students they have extraordinary racial privilege and yet forbids them from speaking because 'this course is not about you?' If you don't accept it, you're publicly shamed and ostracized—you can't even speak up and say, 'I'm not sure if I think that all white people are racists.'"

According to the July 19, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, in June 2023, the Hayward Unified School District (HUSD) in Northern California signed a contract worth over \$90,000, with the LESMCC. The following quotes extracted from the *Algemeiner* account are a condensation of the article:

While empowering students to understand America's diverse society, fight racism, and build a better future is vital, HUSD's embrace of LESMCC shows how such efforts can go off the rails.



The LESMCC was formed in 2020 by writers of the first draft of California's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC), which was rejected by state officials in 2019.

That draft was widely criticized for promoting antisemitism, anti-Israel narratives, and other forms of bias. However, the LESMCC insisted that this curriculum represented the only authentic way to teach ethnic studies. Since then, they have been marketing their services directly to California school districts.

Many Jewish groups have sounded alarm bells about LESMCC's record. Its leadership has smeared the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) as a "white supremacist" group, and its website promoted false claims that erase 3,000 years of the Jewish people's history in their ancestral homeland.

The group also co-founded the national Coalition for Liberated Ethnic Studies (CLES), together with a close ally who is on record claiming that, "bringing down Israel really will benefit everyone in the world." The goals of this coalition include opposing the consensus IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

Nevertheless, in 2021, HUSD became one of LESMCC's first clients and soon published an official policy saying that its ethnic studies curriculum will prioritize "Palestinian narratives."

When Jews raised concerns and asked to be included as well, the district responded that, "Jewish Studies and Israeli Studies are not part of the Ethnic Studies discipline."

LESMCC leaders have gone even further, claiming that including Jewish American voices is "arguably racist." This approach is in conflict with the White House Antisemitism Strategy, the California State Board of Education, and leading ethnic studies scholars such as Ronald Tataki and James A. Banks.

On September 11, 2023, the *Algemeiner* reported that the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, and the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law were among a number of prominent Jewish and civil rights organizations who had brought suit against another California school district, the Santa Ana Unified School District, for "allegedly concealing from the public its adoption of an ethnic studies curricula containing antisemitic and anti-Zionist themes and refusing to intervene when members of the Jewish community were harassed at school board meetings."

Regarding the suit, the *Algemeiner* quoted Rachel Lerman, general counsel of the Louis D. Brandeis Center, as follows:

“The Santa Ana School Board has allowed ethnic studies courses with substantial antisemitic content to slide through the approval process without giving the public legally required notice or a meaningful opportunity to comment. . . . As a persecuted minority, we know all too well the importance of a strong ethnic studies education, but antisemitism does not belong in ethnic studies or anywhere in our classrooms. Teaching kids to hate Jews is a recipe for disaster and must be addressed, particularly now at a time of rising levels of antisemitism.”

Anti-Semitism in the nation’s high schools, and even middle schools, is not a matter to be taken lightly. On November 4, 2022, Station KSHB in Kansas City reported on the release of a survey on “Anti-Semitism in the Schools” conducted by the Kansas City Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee. As reported by KSHB, the following were among the findings of the survey:

Of the survey's 83 responses, 81% of Jewish students said they had experienced or witnessed at least one form of antisemitism in schools, and that number jumps even higher for situations on social media.

In addition, 35% of students said antisemitism has increased a lot or somewhat in schools in the past two years, and 75% of students say antisemitism is somewhat or a serious problem in their schools.

As reported by AMCHA, in a December 20, 2023, article in the *Jewish Journal*, on November 3, 2023, “an obscure, 12-member committee of the University of California academic senate known as BOARS (Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools) Committee voted 6 to 5, with one abstention, to halt further consideration of a disastrous proposal for establishing a UC ethnic studies admissions requirement that would result in every high school in the state being forced to offer a ‘critical’ ethnic studies course likely to include antisemitic portrayals of Jews and the Jewish state.”

As also noted by AMCHA in the same article, alarm bells for the above proposal that had roiled the Jewish community had been rung three months earlier :

The BOARS Committee meeting followed a September 2023, letter by the UC Ethnic Studies Faculty Council [the group behind the ethnic studies admissions proposal] sent to California Governor Gavin Newsom and Superintendent of Schools Tony Thurmond contending that anti-Zionism should be one of the “animating commitments” of state-mandated high school ethnic studies courses. The Council also stated their firm *opposition* to the “guardrails” that legislators had added to the ethnic studies graduation requirement bill to ensure that these

courses do not "reflect or promote...bias, bigotry, or discrimination," especially antisemitism.

As reflected by the following excerpts from a December 19, 2023, *The Free Press* article, entitled "How U.S. Public Schools Teach Antisemitism, antisemitism stoked by ethnic studies indoctrination is also pervasive in the New York City school system:

In the New York City public school system, which educates more than one million students, the indoctrination began as far back as 2018, when it was codified in a new curriculum called the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework (CRSE), sources said. The CRSE seeks to mold students into citizens who "have a critical lens through which they challenge inequitable systems of access, power, and privilege."

While New York City's CRSE does not explicitly refer to Jews or antisemitism, its teachings have led to a belief that "Jews have to be categorized as white and oppressors," said Shufutinsky.

According to the oppressor vs. oppressed narrative, "the only reason Jews as a minority could be overrepresented in positions of prestige is because they must have oppressed somebody," Shufutinsky said. "And if you accept that people who've achieved success only got it through ill gain, then of course, it's going to fuel Jew-hatred."

That hatred was on full display in the hallways of Hillcrest High School in Queens on the morning of November 20.

Hillcrest pupils, who discovered that a Jewish teacher at the school had supported Israel on her personal Facebook page, started spreading calls for a "raid" on their social media accounts. One student even commented that the teacher "is getting executed in the town square." Suddenly, around 11 a.m., hundreds of students flooded the hallways chanting "Free Palestine" as the teacher barricaded herself in an office. Later, she released a statement to the media that she was "shaken to my core by the calls to violence against me"—and refused to comment further.

\*\*\*\*\*

Returning to the college campus: long before the October 2023 Hamas invasion of Israel and the backlash against Jewish students spawned by Israel's response, for some college students the anti-Zionist drumbeat presented a relentless, everyday battle that threatened their ability to participate in progressive causes and bring on unwanted exposure. In a remarkable March 29, 2021, *New York Daily* op-ed, Cornell student and co-founder of the Jewish campus website, *Jewish on Campus*, Isaac de

Castro, described this kind of exclusion and notoriety as a “modern-day inquisition”. The following are excerpts from his head-turning op-ed.

Ever since I co-founded the social-media-based organization Jewish on Campus, I have been constantly asked why the stories of anti-Semitism we post are done so anonymously. While I would love to be leading a movement with the names and images of those whose stories I tell at the forefront, we face an unfair reality where I must ask myself: “If this platform were not anonymous, would anyone come forward?”

With a scroll of our Instagram page, the answer is clear. At Columbia University, Jewish students were spat on and called murderers on their way to class, and professors have told their students anti-Semitism is no longer an issue. At Cornell, a student assembly member was threatened to be outed to his family if he did not vote for BDS (boycotting, divesting from, and sanctioning Israel). At USC, the student body vice president resigned from her position after being the victim of bullying and harassment for her identity as a Zionist. At Tufts, a student judiciary member was silenced when discussing an unquestionably anti-Semitic referendum because his Jewish identity allegedly made him biased.

There is no question about what will happen if a student is open about supporting Israel’s right to exist, or even open about their Jewish identity; the precedent has been set. Those who choose to remain silent out of fear and pressure are constantly reminded that their views are not welcome. When we try to protect our communities from this blatant discrimination, our efforts are smeared as attempts at censorship, and infringements on academic freedom and freedom of speech. Faculty biases and student body bigotry are not addressed. At the end of February, hundreds of scholars defended David Miller, a lecturer at University of Bristol, on that premise after he called Jewish students “pawns” of the Israeli government.

\*\*\*\*\*

We are witnessing a modern-day inquisition and inevitably, Jews are the archetypal heretics. In the college campus model, professors have become the preachers, and students have become an active mob seeking apostates. Those who dare to speak out are not subject to a mass burning or torture, but certainly to the wrath of the crowd. The offenders face “cancellation,” social ostracization and public “dragging” on social media with the potential of ruining lives and careers. Their ironic calls for “academic freedom” are a mutation of what has become, in this case, the unquestionable left. It behaves like a cult or a medieval religion, in which morality and universal truth are defined. To be a good person, one must accept a number of divine tenets, anti-Zionism being one of them.

The phenomena described in de Castro's op-ed, has been reported by others. Thus, Bria Rosenberg, a student at the University of California Berkeley described her encounter with anti-Zionism on campus as exhausting. In a July 3, 2019, *Jewish Telegraph Agency* (JTA) account of Jewish campus life at Berkeley, entitled "What it's like to be a Jewish student at a college with an anti-Israel reputation," she described her experience as follows:

*I'm tired.* This is a common sentiment shared by many Jewish students across campus at the University of California, Berkeley.

Before continuing, I would like to emphasize that I am just one voice, one student in an extremely diverse Jewish community. With students ranging from Reform to Orthodox, liberal to conservative, pro-Palestine to pro-Israel, and everything in between, I could not possibly encompass every Jewish student's unique perspective. I'm only speaking for myself and from my experiences.

As an infamously liberal university, UC Berkeley has also become increasingly pro-Palestine and anti-Israel. Don't get me wrong, I *love* Berkeley and am immensely grateful for the opportunity to study here. But being a Jew on this campus is exhausting.

When I meet new people and they ask me about my extracurriculars or what I'm involved in on campus, I always wince and hesitate to admit that I am involved in Hillel and the Jewish community, afraid of how they may react. Being the best public university in the world (sorry not sorry @UCLA), the home of the free speech movement and notorious for protesting in the name of social justice, you would think that the UC Berkeley community would recognize Jewish students as a minority group who has faced a history of persecution and suffering. Yet many people view us as the oppressors, echoing the classic anti-Semitic trope that Jews are responsible for everything wrong with the world.

On many occasions, UC Berkeley students have equated Judaism with Zionism, as if our entire religious identity is based solely on our relationship with Israel, and further equate Zionism with white supremacy and settler colonialism, using these words synonymously. Most notable, claims of this nature were made at a live-streamed student senate meeting in April. Not to mention that this meeting was about senate elections and had essentially nothing to do with Israel.

During public comments one student said, "All I was hearing for a fat minute was some white tears, some Zionist tears, some Greek tears

about some disenfranchisement. Y'all don't know what disenfranchisement even means, alright?"

This provoked other comments around the topic of Israel, such as one student claiming that the Israel Defense Forces trains American police to kill black people and that if you don't call out your Zionist friends, you are "implicit in the oppression of Palestine and the oppression of settler colonized countries all across the world," as well as implicit in the "prison-industrial complex," "prison militarization" and "modern-day slavery." You can watch the video of the entire meeting [here](#). I'm not making this up.

It deeply disturbs and saddens me when our Jewish identities are reduced to nothing more than our politics and relationship to Israel, ignoring all of the beautiful religious and cultural nuances that come with being Jewish. To me, "tikkun olam" has always been at the core of my Jewish identity more than anything else. Heal the world. Love thy neighbor as yourself. I've always thought of Judaism as a peaceful, loving religion, yet here we are, being accused of violence and oppression.

Earlier, on October 25, 2017, then-rising-third year McGill student Noah Lew, in a *Canadian Jewish News* article, entitled "The BDS campaign to stop Jews from serving on McGill student council," described his campus struggles in the following stark terms:

At the end of the last school year, my second as an undergraduate student at McGill University in Montreal, I applied to serve as a director of the Students Society of McGill University (SSMU). I did so because I was tired of the SSMU not serving the best interests of McGill students, and because I was upset by the repeated scandals that have plagued the organization.

When I applied, an older Jewish student with a great deal of knowledge about the SSMU told me that I needed to remove everything related to Judaism and Jewish organizations from my resume, or else I would have no chance of even being considered for the position. The idea that I needed to hide my Jewish identity and affiliations, in order to have a chance of being accepted into McGill's student government, was deeply upsetting to me. Nevertheless, I complied, as I knew that the best way for me to facilitate positive change was by getting involved and gaining a platform from which to speak.

The SSMU board of directors is the student union's highest governing body and has the final say on all legal, operational, human resources

and financial matters. Due to my previous experience in student government, especially in dealing with legal and financial matters, and because I serve as the elected vice-president finance of the Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill, the largest faculty association at the university, I was chosen to serve on the board of directors in June.

At the beginning of this school year, the SSMU's judicial board asked the board of directors to take a second look at a decision that it had previously made, but which had been ignored by the board of directors for 15 months. The decision asserted that boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) motions violate the SSMU constitution, because they are discriminatory in nature. At our board meeting, I vocalized my support for ratifying the decision and voted in favour of it.

The backlash from the McGill BDS Action Network was swift. Shortly after the vote, members of the pro-BDS group held public meetings, where they outlined their planned response. Their plan was a campaign called Democratize SSMU, which intended to remove all Jewish and anti-BDS students from SSMU's leadership. On the Democratize SSMU Facebook, the page specifically targeted me and two of my fellow directors, simply because we are Jewish and/or having connections to a Jewish organization. My Jewish identity was now public, and a target was placed squarely on my back by the McGill BDS movement.

At the University of Massachusetts, Tahlee Yichye, whose open letter in the *Times of Israel* is excerpted more extensively in the profile for UMass in Chapter 7 of this Guide, expressed her frustration and disappointment as follows:

But that is what happened to me here at UMass. The campus I call home became suffocating when my people's very right to exist was questioned and even threatened. Every time a professor slips in an anti-Semitic remark in class or a swastika is graffitied on campus, I feel more and more unwelcome.

Similar are the remarks of then George Washington University student, Blake Flayton, who reported his experience at GW to former *New York Times* and current *Tablet* columnist, Bari Weiss, herself a refugee from conformist views of anti-Zionism. Flayton's experiences on campus were quoted by Weiss in her eye-opening October 14, 2020, *Tablet* article, entitled "Don't Be Shocked":

"It's hard to overstate how suffocating this worldview is to specifically Jewish college students," Blake Flayton, a progressive Jewish student at GW, wrote me recently. "We don't fit into 'oppressor' or 'oppressed' categories. We are both privileged and marginalized, protected by those in power and yet targeted by the same racist lunatics as those who target

people of color. The hatred we experience on campus has nothing to do with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It's because Jews defy anti-racist ideology simply by existing. So it's not so much that Zionism is racism. It's that Jewishness is."

Flayton, who is now a college graduate, and Julia Jasse, a visionary, then rising senior at the University of Chicago, were interviewed by Mallory Simon in a July 1, 2021, *CNN* article, entitled "Not just neo-Nazis with tiki torches: Why Jewish students say they also fear cloaked anti-Semitism." Jasse is the founder of "Jewish on Campus," a social media platform for Jewish students who report anonymously on their experience in being targeted, increasingly by their peers, due to their support for Israel. What Flayton and Jasse had to say about the marginalization of Jewish students who want to maintain both pro-Israel and progressive views is very concerning. The following represents relevant passages from their interview:

Jassey and Flayton both consider themselves progressives. They want to support social justice movements, fight climate change, to join clubs championing progressive causes on campus. But they found their religion being used as a litmus test. And if they tried to talk, it became a Catch-22: explaining the history of being an oppressed people only to have that argument dismissed.

"I was often put in this position where I had to defend Israel before I could be taken seriously with my other political opinions," Jassey explained. "A lot of the time, you can be as progressive as you'd like to be on anything else. But the second that you accept Israel's existence as something that you want to remain, or something that's important to you, you're ostracized from those circles."

Flayton knows that feeling all too well, like the time when organizers said he couldn't bring a Pride flag with the Jewish star on it to a LGBTQ march because it was deemed nationalist and could offend someone.

"You have Jews, especially Jewish young people, who, their Zionism is a part of their identity," Flayton explains "And they're entering these spaces like the campus, and they want to get involved in all of these organizations and movements. They want to fight for \$15 minimum wage, they want to fight for universal health care. They want to push for the legalization of marijuana nationwide, but they're being forced to check their Zionism at the door -- any sense of Jewish peoplehood, they're being told to check it at the door."

Obviously, not every Jewish student experienced campus life in the way described by students Bria Rosenberg, Noah Lew, Tahlee Yichye, Blake Felton and



Julia Jasse (the observations of Felton and Jasse regarding the challenges of being Jewish on campus may also be found later in this volume in the respective profiles of George Washington University and the University of Chicago in Chapter 7 of this Guide). Although, post-October 7, 2023, what yesteryear's Jewish students experienced episodically may become the new normal.

For many students, it had once been thought that the campus anti-Israel dynamic could either be easily ignored or dealt with by an uneasy form of disengagement. Thus, in September 2017, the Stanford Graduate School of Education's Concentration in Education and Jewish Studies released a study, entitled "Safe and On the Sidelines--Jewish Students and the Israel-Palestine Conflict ("Safe and On the Sidelines Study").

Based on interviews with 66 undergraduate students at five California universities known for their campus hostility toward Israel, the study concluded that the interviewed students (who were either "unengaged or minimally engaged in organized Jewish life") felt safe on campus. The study, however, also noted that the cost of feeling safe may have been the need to "stay on the sidelines" and that the interviewed students "feared" entering political debate, especially when they felt that "the social pressures of both Jewish and non-Jewish activist communities would carry social costs that they were unwilling to bear." Unfortunately, even a willingness to stand on the sidelines may no longer be enough to insulate Jewish students from anti-Semitism or, equally importantly, enable them to feel comfortable with their educational experience. (For an additional discussion of the Safe and On the Sidelines Study, see the profile for Stanford in Chapter 7 of this Guide.)

The intensity of campus anti-Israel attitudes had varied from school to school (although, clearly such attitudes are more far flung and intensive since October 7, 2023), often spearheaded by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), a national anti-Israel student organization described in the following terms by Mitchell Bard, Director of American-Israel Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) and the Jewish Virtual Library, in an article that appeared in the November 7, 2018, edition of the *Algemeiner*, (a watchdog online Jewish newspaper):

Like many others spouting anti-Semitic views, SJP members typically claim they are just critics of Israeli policy. But one need only look at their Facebook page and other posts to see the truth.

On November 2, [2018], for example, the SJP Facebook page had a graphic regarding who controls the press. A dozen media outlets were listed — along with the names, photos, and titles of Jews who work at them. Next to each picture was a Jewish star. One year ago, the founder of SJP, UC Berkeley lecturer Hatem Bazian, retweeted photos mocking Jews as entitled people who "kill, rape, smuggle organs & steal the land

of Palestinians.” SJP chapters have also used Nazi-like propaganda and comparisons of Israelis to Nazis, another hallmark of antisemites.

As Dan Diker noted in his expose of SJP, “Students for Justice in Palestine Unmasked,” the group “has maintained links to convicted terrorists and terror groups” and “sanctions violence, bigotry, harassment and intimidation of Jewish and Israel-friendly students and faculty on campus.”

The group’s support for terrorists is reflected, for example, by past invitations to the [National SJP] conference given to convicted terrorists such as Khader Adnan, a senior member of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Rasmia Odeh, a former member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

SJP’s increasingly undisguised ambition of eliminating Israel as a Jewish state was demonstrated by the following excerpts from pages 12-13 of the September 2019, report of the campus watchdog organization, AMCHA Initiative (“AMCHA”), entitled “The Harassment of Jewish Students on U.S. Campuses: How Eliminationist Anti-Zionism and Academic BDS Incite Campus Antisemitism”:

- At the University of Houston, an article in the student newspaper praised two Palestinian women who had committed terrorist acts against Israel, calling them “heroic women in battle...ones of resilience, resistance, and perseverance that every woman can continue to learn from as their fight for liberation continues.”
- At anti-Israel rallies on several campuses, including at CUNY City College, New York University, Ohio State University, University of California Irvine and UCLA, students promoted “Intifada,” terrorist campaigns against Israel, with expressions such as “Intifada, Intifada, Long Live the Intifada!”, “Intifada revolution!”, “Intifada, there is only one solution!” and “From Gaza to the Plaza, globalize the Intifada!”.
- A speaker at an SJP event at UCLA said, “When you are fighting against an enemy like the Zionists, you do not deny any avenue of resistance...[including] armed resistance”.

\*\*\*\*\*

- An SJP-authored op-ed in the student newspaper at the University of California Davis stated, “[I]t is an ideological fantasy to really believe that progress is possible so long as the state of Israel exists...The goal of Palestinian resistance is...to completely dismantle those forces at play.”

As quoted in the July 7, 2020 *Algemeiner*, AMCHA's follow-up 2020 annual report, entitled, "Understanding Campus Anti-Semitism in 2019 and Its Lessons for Pandemic and Post-Pandemic U.S. Campuses," had demonstrated that "campuses with strong anti-Zionist activist groups, primarily Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), have increased levels of anti-Jewish harassment." According to the *Algemeiner*, the report also noted the following disturbing trends:

AMCHA linked academic support for BDS with several troubling trends including the boycotting of educational programs, refusing to write letters of recommendation for Israeli schools and programs, denigration of students which may include public shaming and defamation due to their pro-Israel politics (which increased 67% from 72 incidents in 2018 to 120 in 2019), suppression of pro-Israel expression (a 69% increase in a year from 29 to 49) and discrimination against students based on their association with Israel (a rise of 51% since 2018, from 41 to 62 incidents).

Admittedly, the campus BDS movement had drawn some, if not much, of its strength from student opposition to former President Donald Trump. By extension, Trump's support of Israel during his much reviled presidency likely added to the BDS cause—a phenomenon that appears not to have changed much now that Joe Biden is president. But, wherever it exists, BDS's seeks to demonize the only Jewish state in the world, give it pariah status and eat away at Jewish student support for and identification with Israel.

This concerted effort at freezing out Israel from mainstream college life had the effect of causing some of its young proponents to feel left out and marginalized, and even physically insecure. In an August 8, 2016, article in the left-leaning Israeli newspaper, *Haaretz*, then Northwestern University Jewish student Lauren Sonnenberg described how she sought to join a 2016 march against racism but was told by the march's organizers that she was not welcome because "you support Israel, so you can't support us". Her conclusion: "Unquestioning support for BDS and implacable opposition to Israel have become the litmus test for students' progressive credentials, acceptance into the campus community and, most of all, acceptance by one's peers."

According to a January 2016 open letter signed by more than 200 Oberlin alumni and 20 students, one Oberlin student described an incident on campus when, "One speaker drew laughs when she said that Zionists should be burned at the stake." According to the March 8, 2016 blog *Martini Judaism*, written by Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin of Temple Sanai in Hollywood, Florida, another Oberlin student claimed that, "As a supporter of Israel, I no longer feel safe on this campus." Similarly, in the January 8, 2019, edition of an *Algemeiner* article entitled,

“Antisemitism and the Decline of Oberlin College, a Jewish student at Oberlin was quoted as saying:

“The first time I ever felt uncomfortable being Jewish was as a student in Oberlin College,” stated Julia Redden, class of 2017. “My freshman year started on an ominous note. I recall talking with a senior in my dorm, and incidentally brought up our shared Jewish heritage. ‘It’s terrible to be Jewish here,’ she said, without skipping a beat. ‘You always have to prove you’re a good Jew. The good Jews have to be anti-Zionist.’”

At San Francisco State, a Jewish student, quoted in the August 2, 2017, *Washington Post*, stated “I didn’t have the right to speak on my own campus; I felt afraid as a Jewish student.” At Duke, a freshman student, quoted in the November 28, 2017, *The Tower Magazine*, observed that the anti-Israel bias within the anthropology department “makes it really hard for me to seek out cultural anthropology classes...if they are being taught by professors who are actively supporting a movement which is an attack on who I am and the lifeblood of my people.” As reported by David Mikics in his October 16, 2018, *Tablet* article, entitled “Ivory Tower Bigots,” “[a] student at UC Santa Cruz burst into tears when her classmates responded to her research paper on Zionism by calling her a Nazi and her professor stayed silent.” At the University of Massachusetts Amherst, one young woman wrote in the November 9, 2017, edition of the student newspaper, the *Daily Collegian*, that she had been called a “baby-killing Zionist” and that she had “not spoken up enough in my UMass career about my love and affection for Israel out of fear of being silenced and shut out of my social circles . . . .”

At the University of California Davis, one Jewish student, writing in the November 2, 2017, edition of *The California Aggie*, the campus newspaper, described her experience at the hands of anti-Israel campus students in the following harrowing terms:

When Arab-Israeli Diplomat George Deek came to speak on campus, anti-Semitic students shouted, “Death to Jews” at my friends and me. I’ve known Jewish students who are afraid to speak up in class against anti-Semitic professors because they’re afraid of what might happen to their academic reputations. I’ve seen the clear and blatant anti-Zionist newspaper clippings that were in Hart Hall for at least two years, even after multiple complaints by Davis Faculty for Israel and Aggies for Israel.

In a June 21, 2017, letter to the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin, that followed an Associated Students of Madison (ASM) student government meeting at which a BDS resolution was adopted, the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights

Under Law included the following episode in a lengthy list of anti-Semitic episodes that occurred during and following the ASM meeting :

A Jewish student member of the group “Badgers United Against Hate,” a pro-Israel group, received the following Facebook message: “yo fuck israel and fuck their war crimes and fuck zionism in palestine it’s racist and so are you” (see screenshot, Appendix 3).

When the names of ASM Representatives for next year were announced, a Jewish student who will be an ASM Member next year received the following Facebook message: “hey israel is a shit racist country and asm is shit racist org and i swear i will boycott every asm meeting just becaus you are their you racist zionist shit.” (See screenshot, Appendix 4.)

According to the account of Rabbi Jill Jacobs in her May 20, 2018, *Washington Post* opinion piece, entitled “How to tell when criticism of Israel is actually anti-Semitism”, a University of Virginia student told her that “some progressive campus groups responded to the neo-Nazi [Unite the Right] incursions there (anti-Semitism on the right is often easier to spot) by dismissing Jewish students as “Zionist baby killers.”

Echoes of this theme were reported just two days later in a May 23, 2018 *Algemeiner* report on the disruption of a speech the previous day by Niki Haley, the then United States Ambassador to the United Nations, at the University of Houston. According to the *Algemeiner* account, during January 2017, a dozen University of Houston students affiliated with Students for Justice in Palestine (“SJP”) and the school’s Muslim Student Association were reported to have shared anti-Semitic tweets dripping with hatred, including statements such as “Jews are our dogs,” “I hate Jews and Israel,” and “May Allah curse the Jews.”

At the Claremont Colleges, the five-college consortium located in Claremont, California, one student reported:

While SJP [Students for Justice in Palestine] claims to “promote justice, human rights, liberation and self-determination for the Palestinian people,” this narrative is false; their hateful actions prove otherwise and are emblematic of the group’s true goals. SJP is not pro-Palestinian; they are anti-Israel and anti-Jew. Student members of Zionist and Jewish groups on this campus have been systematically harassed, shamed, and

silenced by SJP. SJP's "anti-normalization policy" has made it impossible for students to hold dialogue.

At Pomona College, one of the constituent schools of the Claremont Colleges, another student reported:

I find it frustrating that all Jewish issues have become so politicized on our campus. Students feel like they can't be active as Jews, even with something as simple as having Shabbat, without being forced into getting involved in politics, especially with this controversial issue that often gets very personal if you don't hold a certain narrow set of beliefs. It has a chilling effect on the Jewish community on a campus which prides itself on helping communities express themselves.

In response to a Pomona student government resolution that had originally imposed BDS strictures on all clubs on campus, but was later revised to limit the scope of the BDS requirements to student government activities, Janie Marcus, who headed the Claremont Progressive Israel Alliance, was quoted by the May 7, 2021 *Jewish Journal* as saying that:

The [amended] resolution "remains insulting to Jewish students" and is "highly divisive." "It terms Israel, the democratic Jewish homeland, 'unethical' and equates it to South Africa's apartheid regime. I am disappointed that the senate passed this bill even after Jewish and Pro-Israel students explained their feelings at the ASPC meeting last week. Dropping the last clause does not erase the history of this bill, which was animated by a desire to target Israel and Jewish students at Pomona.

"As a Jewish student at Pomona, I am beginning to feel uncomfortable and unwelcome on campus," she added. "And I know I am not alone."

At Swarthmore College, where a BDS resolution was defeated on February 10, 2019, one Jewish student who spoke against the resolution (and whose account of the proceedings was reported in the February 14, 2019, *Jewish Journal*) stated that the "anti-Israel, often antisemitic, environment at Swarthmore already makes it a difficult place to be proudly Jewish."

At Syracuse, one student noted in a July 1, 2020 *Daily Orange* article that addressed online attacks against a pro-Zionist professor: "The heinous anti-Semitic insults directed at [Professor] Elman send a clear message: shed your Zionist identity or get canceled." Excerpts from the article appear later in the profile of Syracuse in Chapter 7 of this Guide.

Following a drive-by, anti-Semitic slur hurled at Indiana University students who had assembled at the Indiana Hillel House for a September 20, 2020 outdoor Yom Kippur service, freshman Gabriella Smith, who was at the service, said she felt unsafe after the incident because they were out on the front lawn with no security. According to the October 11, 2020 *Indiana Daily Student*, Smith said she felt “anti-Semitic behavior had become so normalized for her that she wasn’t surprised at first.” It took her a couple of minutes to process what had happened. She said she knew she shouldn’t feel scared, but, according to the *Indiana Daily Student* account, “she thinks about how there are threats everywhere. She said the incident made her more nervous about going to future services.”

At the University of Illinois, senior Lauren Nesher told the *Jewish Insider*, in an October 23, 2020 article entitled, “University of Illinois faces Title VI complaint over antisemitic incidents”:

“Every time I consider doing something Jewish in public I have to think about who might see it,” University of Illinois senior Lauren Nesher told JI. “Will I get doxed [publicly reviled on the internet]? Will I be endlessly harassed online like other students have been? Will I be attacked as others have been? There’s been property destruction, and swastikas on campus.”

In his November 25, 2020 *Tablet* article entitled, “The Hate That Can’t Be Contained,” former George Washington University student Blake Felton described a *cri de coeur* that appeared in an Instagram communication he received from a Jewish student at Northwestern: “I don’t even identify as a Zionist,” one Northwestern student wrote me on Instagram, “but Jewish students like me are being completely gaslit by an organization we overwhelmingly supported”. An extensive excerpt from Ms. Felton’s *Tablet* article appears later in this Guide in the profile of Northwestern in Chapter 7 of this Guide.

At Butler University, seven of Hillel’s principal officers and committee chairs wrote in the April 1, 2021, *Butler Collegian*:

We have been targeted and called out in our classrooms, dorm rooms, greek houses and social circles. We feel intimidated, fearful and yes, unsafe on a campus that is now toxic with antisemitic rhetoric. So much so that some of us are hesitant to share that we are Jewish. And we know that unfortunately, even this statement itself will be used against us.

At Tufts, as reported in the September 10, 2021, *Jewish News Syndicate*, a Jewish student was afraid to leave his room as he heard laughter outside and the sound of a mezuzah being ripped off his doorpost.

On February 12, 2022, edition of YNet.com, contained a report of an Israeli student at American University, who had experienced the following equally distressing experience:

My first confrontation with this anti-Israel hate took place during one of my days at the American University, in Washington D.C. I sat in the floor's common room of my dorm building, conversed with other students, and each of us said where he/she came from. This was the first time in my life when most of my friends weren't Jews.

I introduced myself, and someone asked me where I was from, because my name sounds weird. When I said I was Israeli, he looked into my eyes and called me an "apartheid supporter" and "white occupier". I was in shock. I didn't understand how he could use such blunt and offensive words towards someone he had just met.

As reported by the February 21, 2022, *Algemeiner*, one Jewish student who was denied entry into a sexual assault club at SUNY New Paltz because of her pro-Zionist views remarked:

"The idea of an anti-Zionist sexual assault club and a Zionist sexual assault club doesn't make sense," Preis said. "Everyone in the student body is going to be split on, 'do we fight sexual violence with these people or with these people?' The whole point was that all survivors and all people who support the cause should be able to participate together."

"We can't just shut off one of our identities," Blotner added. "We're both always going to be survivors, and we're always going to be proud to be Jewish and Zionist, and I just wish people weren't trying to make us choose between one or the other."

According to the May 3, 2023, *Algemeiner*, a Jewish student at the University of Western Ontario was too intimidated to speak up at a class discussion suddenly dominated by pro-Palestinian students and a sympathetic faculty member. Her account includes the following:

During class that day, I was too scared to speak up. I feared the repercussions of identifying myself as a Jewish student or speaking up and saying the wrong thing. I needed more time to come up with an educated response that was not made from fear or anger.



\*\*\*\*\*

At the University of Michigan, one of the four schools (along with Brandeis, Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania) surveyed in a generally upbeat 2017 Brandeis University Steinhardt Social Research study regarding Jewish life on campus, 51% of the Michigan students reported an anti-Israel environment on campus (an evaluation underscored by a series of unsettling events on the Michigan campus during the fall 2018 semester (discussed in detail in the profile for the University of Michigan found in Chapter 7 of this Guide) that included the denial of recommendations for two Jewish students who wanted to study in Israel.

As one University of Michigan student put it in an October 17, 2018, *Forward* opinion piece describing her opposition to BDS but also her desire to criticize Israel where appropriate:

I am in turmoil. On one side, there are the vehemently pro-Israel advocates who unabashedly support Israel and its government and condemn all critics as traitors or anti-Semites. They often lack empathy for the plight of the Palestinians, and sadly, they are often the only option on campus for people who love and support Israel. On the other side is the social justice universe. These organizations are increasingly uninterested in engaging with anyone who has not disavowed the state of Israel, out of fear of “normalizing” the conflict.

In a similar vein to the episodes at the University of Michigan, on November 14, 2018, the *Jewish Journal* reported that a University of Toronto professor “reportedly refused to provide career advice” to a graduate student in Middle Eastern studies because of the student’s involvement in the pro-Israel Hasbara fellowship program. According to Hasbara’s website:

Hasbara Fellowships is a leading pro-Israel campus activism organization working with over 80 Universities across North America. Hasbara Fellowships, a program spearheaded by Aish HaTorah since 2001, brings hundreds of students to Israel every summer and winter, giving them the information and tools to return to their campuses as educators about Israel.

Even more upsetting, according to the November 26, 2018, *Claremont Independent*, the Pitzer College faculty, on November 8, 2018, voted to suspend its study abroad program with the University of Haifa in Israel. Within the Jewish community, the action of the Pitzer created widespread concern and condemnation. As reported by the November 29, 2018, *Jewish Journal*, Pitzer’s president, Melvin Oliver, saw the action of his faculty in the same way. In a speech given on November 27, 2018, Oliver condemned the vote of his faculty regarding Israel. But an apparent pernicious trend had begun. On May 2, 2019, the *Jewish Journal* reported that NYU’s

Department of Social and Cultural Analysis had also passed a resolution to boycott the university's study abroad program in Tel Aviv.

In a post-October 7, 2023, setting faculty involvement in anti-Zionist activity has taken an increasingly disturbing turn. Not only have individual faculty members expressed admiration for Hamas' vicious attack against Israel, but in addition faculty members at some of America's most elite colleges are now mobilizing to create support groups for extremist student groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine. See, for example, the profile for the University of Michigan where such a group was created in late December 2023, under the name "Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine."

Returning to pre-October 7, 2023, examples of Jewish kids being made to feel uneasy, if not anxious, over Israel are found in the college profiles set out in this guide. However, four more incidents are noteworthy because they illustrate that BDS's tactics are not merely directed at individual Jewish students because of their views, but, in addition, are also directed at campus pro-Zionist organizations, themselves—the collective organs that give strength to what would otherwise be individual voices.

Thus, according to the April 13, 2018, *Jewish Telegraph Agency* (JTA), 51 student groups at New York University pledged to boycott Israel and two pro-Israel campus organizations.

Then, three weeks later, JTA also reported that "student groups at California Polytechnic State University [at San Luis Obispo] led by the Black Student Union had called on the university to increase the funding of all cultural clubs at the university except those that are "aligned with Zionist ideology."

There followed a notorious action by the Williams College Council taken in April 2019 (and later overturned by the college's administration, as discussed in detail in the profile for Williams College that appears in Chapter 8 of this Guide), the Council refused to recognize a student group called Williams Initiative for Israel ("WIFI"). In a May 20, 2019 *Tablet* article, entitled "Separate and Unequal for Jewish Groups on Campus," author K. C. Johnson, a former Williams professor, described the objections raised by WIFI's detractors. Johnson's following observation highlights the preposterous criterion employed by the detractors in opposing speech supportive of Israel:

As the decision generated national and international attention, WIFI opponents reiterated their ideological rationale. "The state of Israel does not need a student group defending its 'right to exist' on this campus any more than we need to 'defend' the rights of wealthy, straight white men," 11 Williams students wrote in *The Williams Record*, the

campus newspaper. Articulating an unusual form of the heckler's veto, they added that WIFI supporters violated a condition of "free speech on campus" by not showing "basic respect" for their viewpoint—presumably by disbanding the group.

(For an equally prejudicial student government action callously prohibiting recognition of another pro-Israel student organization, this one occurring in late 2021 more than two years after the Williams exclusionary action, see the profile for Duke in Chapter 7 of this Guide.)

As discussed more fully at the profile for Pomona College that appears in Chapter 8 of this Guide, the Pomona student government adopted a resolution named "Banning the Use of ASPC Funding to Support the Occupation of Palestine." However, unlike most divestment resolutions, this one was aimed directly at the college's student organizations, not the university, itself, so as to eliminate the need for administration concurrence. As pointed out in the May 3, 2021, *San Diego Jewish World*, one of the results of the resolution is that "Jewish student groups, some of which may well support Israel and would feel discomfort in participating in a boycott against companies doing business with the Jewish state or in the disputed territories, [may well] potentially jeopardize their group's funding if they refused to become economic enemies of Israel." In response to an outcry from members of the student body who faulted the student government for not addressing opposition voices in the passage of the resolution, it was soon modified to govern only internal student government spending as compared to club-related expenses.

At Tufts, as reported by the March 15, 2022, *Algemeiner* (and as discussed in greater detail in the profile of Tufts found in Chapter 7 of this Guide), Tufts SJP urged students to sign a pledge which asked students to 'refuse to be involved with advocacy groups that normalize Israel and seek to improve its economic, social, and political standing' — specifically naming campus organizations Tufts Birthright Israel, J Street U Tufts, TAMID, Friends of Israel, and Tufts Hillel's Visions of Peace program."

A poignant example of an SJP-inspired campaign against campus Jewish organizations is described by DePaul student, Barbara Schiffer, in her April 15, 2022, *Times of Israel*, blog, entitled "I am a Jewish Student at DePaul. I am scared." In her blog, Schiffer states:

I am a Jewish student at DePaul University in Chicago and I am scared. Over the last couple of months, Students for Justice in Palestine has been making more and more accusations about Jewish organizations; specifically, Hillel and Birthright Israel. Out of context, their messages don't seem harmful, but by calling out Jewish organizations as oppressors, it's no longer about the Israeli government or Palestinian

statehood but about the Jewish people. And that's where anti-Zionism becomes antisemitism. Which is why I'm scared.

When SJP dropped tons fliers from the top of Arts and Letters, they didn't speak about Christian trips to Israel or Muslim trips to Israel or interfaith trips to Israel... all of which exist. They only spoke about Hillel and Birthright, which just so happen to be major Jewish organizations. So, what happens when a call for Justice is actually activism against Jews?

As previously noted, at SUNY New Paltz, an Israeli student was denied membership in a sexual assault awareness group for survivors of campus assaults, which she had co-founded, because of the favorable views she had of her own country. As reported in the August 18, 2022, *Jewish Insider*, she and a fellow Jewish member of the group brought suit against the university for failing to do anything about the online harassment that followed her expression of support for Israel.

At Berkeley Law School, nine student organizations adopted bylaws in late September 2022 pledging to exclude pro-Zionists as invited speakers, prompting two Jewish Law School students to publish an article with the subtitle "Even if there are no 'Jewish-free' zones here, there are quite a few places where Jews are decidedly unwelcome."

\*\*\*\*\*

It is this marginalization—not on every campus, but at enough places to make it worrisome—that has served as the impetus for writing (and updating weekly) this fourth edition of my college guide. Even before Hamas' deadly rampage of October 7, 2023, there was the potential for such marginalization to infiltrate the general marketplace of ideas after college. In his November 25, 2020 *Tablet* article entitled, "The Hate That Can't Be Contained," George Washington University student Blake Felton put it this way:

"Anti-Zionism" on college campuses is not a political disagreement confined to the boundaries of academic discussion in the classroom. It is an obsession. It is an insistence on making Jews feel uncomfortable—or worse—wherever, whenever, under whatever conditions. And this hatred does not disappear when you walk off campus and into the real world. It is finding its way into American political discourse and our most cherished democratic institutions.

Anti-Zionism on campus had caused many to sit up and take note, even to the point of addressing the phenomenon as a security issue. Thus, on November 29, 2017, JTA published a story entitled "Jewish Groups Coordinating Security for Jews on

Campus” described an emerging collaborative campus security effort based on the recognition that “that conditions on campuses and student organizations required a collective and collaborative approach to deal with Jewish security issues.” The collaboration involved the Jewish Federations of North America, Hillel International, Chabad and AEPi Fraternity,

Equally troubling, the anti-Zionist movement has now found its way into some of the nation’s most prominent high schools pitting impressionable young minds against an increasing barrage of anti-Israel polemics, and, in the process, predisposing students to take positions against Israel even before they arrive on campus. In a January 16, 2020, *New York Times* opinion piece, entitled “The Anti-Israel Craze Hits High School,” two prominent New York area reform rabbis took on the problem of anti-Israel attitudes seeping into the nation’s high schools as follows:

We recently spoke to some 500 high school students, teachers and administrators at Ethical Culture Fieldston School in the Bronx. As the senior rabbis of two major Reform synagogues with which dozens of Fieldston families are affiliated, we presented the Jewish community’s perspectives on the surge in anti-Semitic incidents in our area and throughout the country. We clarified that while we do not claim to represent all Jews, our views do fall within mainstream Jewish opinion.

We shared statistics from the New York City police and the F.B.I. about the pervasiveness of attacks against Jews. We also addressed the controversy that had erupted in the aftermath of Fieldston’s November assembly, in which a guest speaker equated Israelis with Nazis and asserted that Israelis are an example of “victims becoming the perpetrators.” Several hours after we spoke last week, Fieldston fired a teacher who had posted tweets demonizing Zionism. Students reported that while we were speaking, the teacher flipped a middle finger at one of us.

\*\*\*\*\*

The events at Fieldston have broad importance, and are reflective of a much bigger problem. Anti-Israel activism has spread beyond the college campus and into the elementary and high school classroom. In Newton, Mass., a high school taught that Israel was “murdering and torturing Palestinian women.” In 2016, a Palestinian activist visiting an elementary school classroom in Ithaca, N.Y., inveighed against Israel and called on students to “be the freedom fighter” for the Palestinians.

\*\*\*\*\*

With the advent of the post-October 2023 backlash directed at Jewish students due to their support for Israel, much of the foregoing episodes of Jewish student marginalization or alienation began to pale by comparison to the new pressures placed on and outright hostility directed at Jewish students.

At UC Davis, a teacher posted a threat aimed at “Zionist journalists and their families.” At Cooper Union, a school not known for its anti-Semitic proclivities, several orthodox Jewish students had to be locked in the school library to protect them menacing pro-Palestinian students.

At Tulane University, perhaps the foremost private university in America (outside of Brandeis) from the standpoint of percentage of Jewish students, a Jewish student’s nose was broken by pro-Palestinian students.

At NYU, Jewish students were aghast when pro-Palestinian students tore down posters with the faces of the hostages who had been taken to Gaza by Hamas.

At George Washington University, in Washington DC, pro-Hamas slogans, such as “Glory to the Martyrs,” were projected on to the outside wall of the school library.

At Cornell, the kosher dining hall on campus was placed on lockdown and Jewish students were said to be hiding in their dormitory rooms following a spate of threatening messages on campus social media.

At the University of California at Berkeley, the *Algemeiner* reported that “[a] mob of hundreds pro-Palestinian students and non-students shut down an event [the evening of February 26, 2024 “featuring an Israeli soldier, forcing Jewish students to flee to a secret safe room as the protestors overwhelmed campus police.” One Jewish student was spit on by the a protester who pejoratively called him “you Jew.”

## **B. The BDS Goal**

The boycott, divestment, sanctions (“BDS”) movement began in 2005. As summarized by BDS-foe, Alan Dershowitz, formerly of Harvard Law School, in a description of his November 2015 Oxford Union debate with Peter Tatchell, there has never been much of a mystery about the goal of the BDS movement—nothing less than the delegitimization of Israel and ultimately its end as a Jewish state. As Dershowitz said in his debate description:

Mr. Tatchell's main argument was that BDS was a nonviolent form of protest against Israel's occupation and settlement policies that mirrored

the boycott movement against apartheid South Africa, and followed the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King. He was articulate in arguing that boycott tactics generally were a non-violent alternative to war and terrorism. The force of his argument was somewhat weakened by the recent spate of terrorist knife attacks by Palestinians against Israelis, which leaders of the BDS movement such as [Omar] Barghouti [the Qatari-born, Israeli-educated, co-founder and spokesperson of the BDS movement] have justified as resistance to the "decades-old regime of occupation."

I argued that BDS was not an alternative to war but rather an alternative to peaceful negotiations by the Palestinian leadership. This is because the BDS movement is firmly opposed to the two-state solution. Omar Barghouti confirmed as much when he said, "definitely, most definitely, we oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine." Thus, the BDS movement makes it more difficult for the Palestinian leadership to accept the kind of painful compromises that both sides must agree to if there is to be a negotiated resolution.

Together with other efforts to delegitimize and isolate Israel, BDS also sends a false message to the Palestinian street: namely, that international economic and political pressure can force Israel to capitulate to all Palestinian demands, without any compromise on territorial issues.

During December 2017, Dershowitz participated in another debate, this time in Dallas against then Harvard Professor Cornell West. Dershowitz again synopsized his response to West's arguments, in particular, West's claim that BDS was a non-violent movement and that it was the best way to protest Israel's "occupation" and settlement policies. Dershowitz's January 1, 2018, *Fox News* report of his response to West's foregoing argument captures the misleading sophistry of the BDS movement in one paragraph:

I responded that BDS is not a "movement" – a movement requires universality, like the feminist, gay rights and civil rights movements. BDS is an anti-Semitic tactic directed only against the Jewish citizens and supporters of Israel. The boycott against Israel and its Jewish supporters (to many Palestinians, all of Israel is one big "settlement;" just look at any map of Palestine) began before any "occupation" or "settlements" and picked up steam just as Israel offered to end the "occupation" and settlements as part of a two-state solution that the

Palestinians rejected. BDS is not a protest against Israel's policies. It is a protest against Israel's very existence.

In March 2017, Eric W. Kaler, then president of the University of Minnesota (and, more recently, president of Case Western Reserve), called out the BDS movement, as Dershowitz had done, for its seeming opposition to Israel's existence. In his opposition to the ultimately-successful BDS resolution adopted by the Minnesota student body, Kaler's concerns were quoted by the March 8, 2018, *Minnesota Republic* as follows:

In general, our university should be wary about such boycotts, given our . . . concerns that we may be unfairly singling out one government and the citizens of the country in question. In this case, my concerns are heightened by the fact that the Global BDS movement does not seem to distinguish between opposition to the policies of the government of Israel and opposition to the existence of Israel.

In the March 27, 2018, *Columbia Spectator*, Columbia University student, Adele Stolovitz, put it this way: "BDS at its core is an attempt to delegitimize, isolate and eliminate the state of Israel. BDS is not new or innovative; it is part of a decades-long campaign to wipe the state of Israel off of the map." Her words were later echoed by David Mikics, in his earlier-cited October 16, 2018, *Tablet* article, entitled "Ivory Tower Bigots," in which Mikics laid bare the goal of BDS founder, Omar Barghouti, as follows:

Effectively destroying Israel is the purpose of BDS. "If the refugees were to return, you would not have a two-state solution," proclaimed Omar Barghouti, co-founder and spokesman of the BDS movement. "You would have a Palestine next to a Palestine, rather than a Palestine next to Israel." During a talk at UCLA, Barghouti reportedly replied to a 10th-generation Israeli student, "You aren't indigenous just because you say you are." He added that if the student intermarried with Arabs for a few generations, though, she would have a chance to become a native of Palestine. So Barghouti's BDS, unlike Israel, has a racial definition of citizenship.

The following excerpt from an April 23, 2018, *New York Post* editorial scathingly criticizing a Barnard College resolution (adopted less than a month after Stolovitz's above-referenced article) and called out the BDS movement for what it is:

The BDS movement, which wages economic war against Israel via boycotts, divestment and sanctions, was founded by men committed to extinguishing the world's only Jewish state. That is a fact.



By targeting the Jewish homeland for isolation for alleged human-rights abuses, while ignoring far more pervasive sins across the Arab and Muslim world, its logic is anti-Semitic. That is a fact.

And along the way, many people of good will have been duped into becoming unwitting followers in this virulent campaign. That is a fact.

The latest thus conned are the supposedly smart, overwhelmingly progressive young women of Barnard College. They voted 2-to-1 this week to ask their student government to urge the college to divest from eight companies that “profit from or engage in the State of Israel’s treatment of Palestinians.”

The innocent-sounding referendum was pushed by a campus BDS group called Columbia University Apartheid Divest, whose name disgustingly equates Israel with racist South Africa.

While it is more than fair game to criticize Israel, its leaders and its policies, it is beyond odious to cast as an aggressor a democracy that seeks to coexist with its neighbors and protect itself from hostile forces including Hamas and Hezbollah.

On an international scale, in February 2019, the Israel Strategic Affairs Ministry found more than 100 links between Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—two anti-Israel movements recognized by the United States as terrorist entities—and organizations promoting BDS. According to a February 3, 2019, *Jerusalem Post* article on the report:

There are more than 100 links between the internationally-designated terrorist organizations Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) with NGOs promoting the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, some of which receive funding from European states and philanthropic funds, a new report by the Strategic Affairs Ministry has found.

More than 30 members of Hamas and PFLP hold senior positions in BDS-promoting NGOs, the vast majority of whom have been in prison for terrorism-related crimes, including murder, and maintain active ties with the terrorist groups.

Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan said the research “reveals the true nature and goals of the BDS movement and its connection to terrorism and antisemitism.”

“When people talk about the goals of the BDS movement, they don’t bother to read official statements from its leaders,” Erdan lamented. “If you do, it becomes clear that the goals of its leaders are the same as those of the leaders of Palestinian terror organizations. BDS rejects Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state within any borders. They want to see Israel wiped off the map.” “Promoting boycotts is [just] a different means to achieve this goal,” he added.

According to the Jewish News Syndicate (*JNS*) as reproduced in the December 19, 2019, *Israel Hayom Newsletter*, Israel’s Shin Bet security agency announced the previous day that it had arrested some 50 members of the United States designated terrorist group, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), completing a months-long investigation of the terror group’s role in the August 23, 2019, murder of an Israeli teenager hiking with her father and brother. Among those arrested by the Shin Bet was Khalida Jarrar, 56, who, according to the Shin Bet, was the head of the terror group’s operations in the West Bank.

With respect to Jarrar’s and the PFLP’s links to the BDS movement, the *Israel Hayom* story noted that Jarrar also recently had served as the vice chairperson, director and board member of the BDS organization, Addameer. The story went on to quote Marc Greendorfer, president of the Zachor Legal Institute and author of “The New Anti-Semites: The Radicalization Mechanism of the BDS Movement and the Delegitimization Campaign Against Israel,” as saying:

With regard to Jarrar, this is really the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the BDS/terror connection.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jarrar is simply one example of the extensive overlaps between terror organization leadership and BDS, going all the way to the top, where the organizing and operational leadership of BDS [the BDS National Committee, or BNC] includes a coalition of groups designated as foreign terror organizations by the United States and other countries.

As reported by *Times of Israel*, on May 17, 2019, the German Parliament’s three governing parties weighed in on the issue, calling out the BDS campaign for its anti-Semitic objectives. As reported by the *Times of Israel* article, the resolution described BDS’s methods as reminiscent of Nazi-era calls to boycott Jews:

The campaign’s calls to boycott Israeli artists, along with stickers on Israeli goods that are meant to dissuade people from buying them, are also reminiscent of the most terrible phase of German history,” it added. “The BDS movement’s ‘Don’t Buy’ stickers on Israeli products inevitably

awake associations with the Nazi slogan 'Don't Buy from Jews!' and similar scrawls on facades and shop windows.

As reported by the November 19, 2020 *Jewish Journal*, the State Department on that date announced that it was classifying the BDS movement as anti-Semitic and that it would be taking measures to block funding from organizations that support BDS. The following are excerpts from the State Department's announcement which was issued under Secretary Michael Pompeo's name and entitled, "Identifying Organizations Engaged in Anti-Semitic BDS Activities":

It is the policy of the United States to combat anti-Semitism everywhere in the world and in whatever form it appears, including all forms of discrimination and hatred rooted in anti-Semitism. The United States strongly opposes the global discriminatory boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaign (Global BDS Campaign) and practices that facilitate it, such as discriminatory labeling and the publication of databases of companies that operate in Israel or Israeli-controlled areas.

As we have made clear, anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. The United States is, therefore, committed to countering the Global BDS Campaign as a manifestation of anti-Semitism.

BDS founder, Omar Barghouti's, openly expressed goal of eliminating Israel as a Jewish state was set out in stark relief in the following opinion piece by Paul Miller that appeared in the June 10, 2020 issue of *Newsweek*:

In the wake of international protests over the murder of George Floyd, we are reminded that hate has no place in civil society. When bigotry is hidden under the mask of human rights, it is important for the real goal be exposed—and for good people to do the right thing.

Since its beginning in 2005, the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement has been hiding behind the façade of a "peaceful" effort to influence Israel's treatment of the Palestinians and forge ahead with a two-state paradigm. This is the narrative espoused by leftist college students, progressive activist groups and mainstream media outlets. But if they would listen to the words of its co-founder, Omar Barghouti, they would know that BDS is about ending Israel's very existence.

In a May 21 interview on The Gazan Voice Podcast, Barghouti clearly explained the goals of the BDS movement.

"If the refugees return to their homes [in Israel] as the BDS movement calls for, if we bring an end to Israel's apartheid regime and if we end

the occupation on lands occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, what will be left of the Zionist regime? That's the question. Meaning, what will the two states be based on? International law and the right of return? There won't be any Zionist state like the one we speak about. There will be two states: One democratic for all its citizens here [Palestine] and one democratic for all its citizens there [Israel]. The Palestinian minority will become a Palestinian majority of what is today called Israel."

This is not the first time Barghouti has gone on record admitting unequivocally that peaceful co-existence is the last thing BDS is about.

"Most definitely we oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine," declared Barghouti at a conference on socialism. "Palestinians and Arabs in general have never, and will never recognize Israel as a Jewish state."

### **C. The Arrival of BDS on Campus**

The Columbia-style tent encampment protests that emerged in April 2024 and the nationally publicized anti-Zionist demands that accompanied the protests rocketed the campus BDS movement into the public realm. Everything that had come before paled in the face of the increasingly hostile behavior and demands of the protesters. But, the protests didn't arise out of whole cloth. There were years of buildup in the BDS campus arena that provided a launching pad for the April 2024 protests. What follows as a cautionary tale is a chronology of the many actions over a period of many years that fueled the BDS movement and set the stage for the strident and uncompromising demands that emerged from the tent cities of April 2024 academia.

As early as 2009, the BDS movement had already spread to the college campus where allied student organizations, such as the earlier mentioned Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), called on universities to divest from companies that did business with Israel. Most of the earlier initiatives had quietly gone by the wayside. But, by the beginning of the 2010's, divestment resolutions began to find resonance.

In February 2011, Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, passed a student referendum calling for divestment from "companies that profit from Israel's occupation of Palestine." Immediately afterward, Jewish students at Evergreen reported that they felt uncomfortable in even discussing the Israeli perspective of the issue.

In June 2012, the student senate at Arizona State University passed a similar resolution demanding that ASU divest from companies doing business with the Israel Defense Forces. In November 2012, the University of California Irvine Student

Senate passed a resolution calling upon the university to divest from all companies doing business with Israel. (The resolution was repealed on March 31, 2020, but reinstated on February 9, 2021.) Also, in November 2012, the Brown Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Policies, naming Boeing and Caterpillar, requested Brown University to divest from companies “profiting from the illegal occupation of Palestine.”

In 2013, the student governments at the University of California Riverside, the University of California San Diego, the University of California Berkeley and Oberlin College passed divestment resolutions, as did student governments at UCLA, the University of California Santa Cruz, DePaul and Wesleyan in 2014.

In 2015, student governments at Northwestern and Stanford followed suit, and, in 2016, student governments at the University of South Florida, the University of Minnesota, Portland State University and University of California Davis passed similar divestment resolutions (though the Davis resolution was overturned in May 2019 as being unconstitutional). During 2017, student governments at Pitzer, the University of California Riverside, the University of Michigan and the University of Wisconsin weighed in with their own divestment resolutions. On other campuses, student government resolutions aimed against Israel during 2017 were timed to take place when Jewish students would be away during Jewish holidays. “Sneak attacks” of this kind took place during Passover 2017 at both Tufts and the University of Wisconsin, and during the week between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur at the University of Illinois in 2020.

In the Spring 2018 semester, the University of Minnesota student body enacted the above-referenced BDS resolution (urging the university to divest from companies such as Boeing that were alleged to be “complicit in Israeli violations of Palestinian human right”). Also, as noted above, in April 2018, Barnard College, with one of the highest percentages of Jewish students in the nation, adopted a BDS resolution by a large margin. Then, in late April 2018, the George Washington University student senate adopted a resolution “To support the divestment of all of the investments in the George Washington University’s endowment profiting from violation of international law and human rights affecting Palestinians, but also other communities globally, specifically The Boeing Company, Lockheed Martin, Elbit Systems Ltd., Caterpillar Inc., CEMEX, General Electric, Northrop Grumman Corporation, The Raytheon Company, Motorola Solutions, Inc.” In December 2018, the NYU Senate adopted a BDS resolution by the margin of 35-14.

In March 2019, following the action of its faculty, Pitzer’s College Council voted to end its study abroad affiliation with the University of Haifa. Also during March 2019, the Brown student body endorsed a BDS referendum. Later in the year, on December 2, 2019, the Brown Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Practices voted to recommend that the University divest from “companies

identified as facilitating human rights abuses in Palestine.” On March 11, 2020, the Advisory Committee followed up this recommendation by recommending that Brown divest from “any company that profits from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.” In late September 2020, Columbia’s student body (with fewer than half of the students voting) passed a BDS resolution. According to the June 9, 2021, *Jewish Journal*, a BDS resolution at UC San Diego’s Graduate & Professional Student Association failed on June 7, 2021. On December 21, 2021, Brown’s Graduate Labor Organization passed a referendum calling on school officials to endorse the BDS campaign against Israel. On March 3, 2021, the UCLA student government voted to divest from companies doing business in Israel. On March 24, 2022, the University of Houston student government passed a BDS resolution. During April 2022, the Ohio State student government passed a BDS resolution targeted against Caterpillar and Hewlett Packard; however, the resolution was not implemented because a change in the student government occurred before the outgoing president signed the resolution. On April 13, 2022, the Princeton student government passed a BDS resolution amidst controversy that the voting methodology was changed in midstream to favor the resolution (see discussion in the profile for Princeton in Chapter 7 of this Guide). On April 25, 2022, the Marquette Student Senate passed a BDS resolution, and on May 4, 2022, the University of California Riverside passed a BDS resolution and accused Israel of being an apartheid state, as did the student government association of Case Western Reserve in November 2022. In February 2024, the University of California Davis student government passed a BDS resolution. Shortly after, on February 20, 2024, UCLA’s undergraduate student government followed suit with its own BDS resolution. Also, in the latter part of February 2024, the University of Virginia’s student body voted to adopt a BDS resolution.

As reported in the April 4, 2024, *The Tufts Daily*, the Tufts Senate voted “to approve three out of four resolutions formally calling on University President Sunil Kumar to recognize genocide in Gaza, for the university to divest from Israeli companies and for it to cease selling Sabra products in dining halls. It did not, however, pass a resolution calling on the university to end approval for study abroad programs at universities in Israel.”

Despite the high visibility of the foregoing passed BDS resolutions, of equal importance is the fact that, for every campus divestment resolution adopted, there have been at least as many that have failed (although, there are already indications that this dynamic may be changing as the post-October 7, 2023 fallout plays out). As more fully set out at the *Jewish Virtual Library* website (the website may be found at [jewishvirtuallibrary.org](http://jewishvirtuallibrary.org)), BDS resolutions leading up to 2017 had failed at Bowdoin, Cornell, Georgetown, Harvard, NYU, Northeastern, Princeton, Rutgers, San Diego State, Scripps, University of California Santa Barbara, University of

Illinois, University of Massachusetts, University of Texas and University of Washington.

In 2017 alone (and in early 2018), student government BDS resolutions were voted down at Case Western Reserve, Columbia (but later passed in September 2020), Northeastern, Ohio State (although a watered-down version that did not explicitly reference Israel passed in a chaotic, late night secret ballot at the end of January 2018), University of California Santa Barbara (2017), University of Illinois (both in 2017 and in 2018, but reinstated during the 2020 Jewish High Holidays when cynically combined with an ostensibly social justice resolution involving Black Lives Matter) and University of Maryland.

On April 30, 2018, Swarthmore's president, Valerie Smith, announced that the college would continue serving Sabra hummus, despite an SJP petition requesting that the Sabra sales be boycotted.

In May 2018, a BDS resolution was again blocked at the University of California Santa Barbara, but the student senate meeting at which the vote took place was subsequently shut down by protestors. According to the account of the UC Santa Barbara chapter of Students Supporting Israel, as quoted in the May 25, 2018, *Algemeiner*, the disturbances following the student senate vote were so unsettling that:

“Many senators and audience members immediately fled the scene after this abominable display of aggression and intimidation, which caused many to feel targeted and unsafe as Pro-Israel and Jewish students in a public space on our campus,” it wrote. “It is not a place that should allow for any one group of students, regardless of political affiliation or opinion, to take control of its meetings and silence the voices of other students.

In December 2018, Ohio State's student government rejected a BDS resolution by a substantial margin, but later passed a BDS-inspired resolution in April 2022.

In January 2019, the Student Government Association at Georgia State, citing state anti-BDS legislation passed in 2016, rejected demands from certain student groups to enact a BDS resolution. On February 10, 2019, Swarthmore's Student Government Organization defeated a BDS resolution by a vote of 20-7. despite Swarthmore's Students for Israel being informed about the resolution at the last minute. Then, in April 2019, yet another BDS resolution at University of California Santa Barbara was defeated 14-10 following a ten and one-half hour session. In addition, a BDS resolution at Cornell failed on April 11, 2019, as did a BDS resolution at the University of Maryland on April 25, 2019 (despite the fact that the Student

Government Association vote on the resolution was cynically scheduled during Passover when many Jewish students would be away from campus).

As reported by the Jewish News Syndicate (*JNS*) on May 3, 2019, the student government at California Polytechnic State University passed a bylaw amendment condemning anti-Semitism and preventing discrimination, including against Jewish students. As described by *JNS*, “the bylaw amendment established a roadblock for any future attempts at introducing a BDS measure at California Polytechnic State University.”

In February 2020, the Illinois student government passed a BDS resolution, only to have it vetoed by student government president Connor Josellis, whom the February 18, 2020 *Jewish Journal* quoted as saying:

One of my primary obligations as student body president is to make sure that all students are able to participate in a campus environment where all feel safe to learn and be themselves. Approving a resolution that hundreds of students have said will do the opposite would not be doing my job.

As noted above in Section 1(B), the vote was retaken during the 2020 High Holiday period and passed as a result of its combination with a Black Lives Matter initiative that essentially required supporters of Israel to choose between their democratic principles as Zionists and their social justice principles regarding the Black community.

In February 2021, the Student Senate at Florida State University voted down a series of BDS resolutions which, according to the February 9, 2021 *Jewish News Syndicate*, had been authored by former Student Senate president Ahmad Daraldik, who according to a June 18, 2020 *JNS* account, had at one time posted on Instagram using language like “stupid Jew thinks he is cool,” “#f\*\*\*Israel” and “#f\*\*\*the occupation.”

On December 4, 2018, the watchdog organization, AMCHA Initiative, coordinated a letter signed by AMCHA and 100 additional organizations and directed to 250 college and university presidents asking them to sign a statement condemning academic boycotts against Israel on their campuses. As reported by the December 13, 2018, *Jewish Journal*, within ten days the chancellors of all ten University of California campuses responded affirmatively to AMCHA’s statement. As reported in the *Jewish Journal* article, the chancellors’ response stated the following:

We write to affirm our longstanding opposition to an academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions and/or individual scholar.



“Our commitment to continued engagement and partnership with Israeli, as well as Palestinian colleagues, colleges and universities is unwavering,” the statement read. “We believe a boycott of this sort poses a direct and serious threat to the academic freedom of our students and faculty, as well as the unfettered exchange of ideas and perspectives on our campuses, including debate and discourse on the Middle East.

On March 31, 2020, the University of California, Irvine, student senate voted, 15-6-2, to repeal a 2012 resolution—one of the country’s first—calling for the university to divest from companies conducting business with Israel. According to the April 16, 2020, *Jerusalem Post* account of the repeal:

The resolution to appeal was passed by the student senate declared that the original BDS resolution R48-15 has established a hostile environment for Jewish students on campus and that the use of the terms 'apartheid' in reference to Israeli policies is akin to a 'Blood Libel.' It also denounced the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement as “contrary to the foundational ideals of Higher Education and thus the values of the UC.”

Unfortunately, as reported in the February 10, 2021 *Algemeiner*, the Irvine student government later voted to rescind the 2020 resolution that had repealed the 2012 BDS resolution.

In November 2023, the University of Michigan halted a campus-wide BDS resolution on procedural grounds as the sponsoring student organizations had not obtained proper clearances for use of the university’s communication systems. However, the handwriting was probably already on the wall.

As reported in the February 2, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, the Cornell Student Assembly, following a semester of tumult and intimidation of Jewish students, took the remarkable action on February 1, 2024, of rejecting “a resolution accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza and demanding that school officials ‘divest’ from companies it deems as ‘complicit’ in the country’s policies, according to a report by *The Cornell Daily Sun*.”

Importantly, prior to April 2024, no university had ratified the actions of any student group endorsing divestment. Then, at the beginning of April 2024, Pitzer College eliminated its study abroad program with the University of Haifa, in what observers have suggested was a capitulation to anti-Israel student demands. Later in the month, as protest encampments sprung up throughout America, some university administrators, notably at Brown and Northwestern, chose to submit to student

protestors, presumably to avoid the kind of student occupation and subsequent arrests that had occurred at Columbia.

According to the April 30, 2024, *Forward*: “Student protesters at Brown University agreed Tuesday [April 29, 2024] afternoon to dismantle their encampment in exchange for concessions from administration, including the right to present their case for divestment from Israel at the next meeting of the board that oversees the university’s investments. One student protester, addressing about 80 students who gathered for a rally to announce the agreement, called it a “huge win.”

As reported by the April 30, 2024, *The Jewish Insider*, Northwestern reached an agreement on April 29, 2024, with the leaders of the Palestinian encampment on campus pursuant to which the university agreed, among other conciliatory commitments, to “allow students to weigh in on university investments and continue to protest if they end encampment.” The agreement was immediately slammed by local Jewish organizations as a capitulation to lawlessness and intimidation. As reported by April 30, 2024, *AJC Global Voice*:

Sarah van Loon, Regional Director of American Jewish Committee (AJC) Chicago, released the following statement in reaction to the agreement made between Northwestern University and protest encampment leaders.

"I am appalled at the cowardly actions of Northwestern University’s administration yesterday. In order to avoid exhibiting real leadership by enforcing its own recently amended policies, Northwestern succumbed to the demands of a mob, which has intimidated Jewish students, espoused antisemitic, hate-filled speech, and whose members have celebrated Hamas terrorists.

This agreement clearly communicates that if your protest threatens with escalation or violence, the university will acquiesce to your demands. This is a sad day for Jewish students, faculty, and staff and for the university itself.

Why should we believe the administration that in the future it will “enforce University rules and policies,” if they refuse to do that now? How does this agreement actually make the University safer for Jewish and Israeli students and faculty, particularly when it rewards protesters for the intimidating, harmful environment they created on campus? In fact, in its agreement with these disruptors, Northwestern touts steps it will take to foster inclusivity, yet there is only a passing mention of how Jewish students may be supported in that process.

The agreement - which includes the creation of new scholarships, new professorships, new housing, the creation of new committees and more - makes only a glancing reference to antisemitism, and even then only brackets it with other forms of hatred. In the wake of these protesters' well-documented antisemitic vitriol, the university remains silent, and leaves its community of Jewish students, faculty, and staff to fend for themselves.

As reported by the May 4, 2024, *New York Times*, Vassar College followed suit in early May. The *Times* article reported that "Pro-Palestinian protesters dismantled their encampment at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on Saturday after reaching an agreement with the institution that requires administrators to review a divestment proposal." The article described the agreement as follows: "In the agreement reached on Saturday, Vassar officials agreed to review a proposal to divest funds from "defense-related investments, such as militarized surveillance and arms production," and to support student fund-raising efforts in support of refugees, according to a statement by the president, Elizabeth H. Bradley."

As reported in the following May 22, 2024, *ADL Daily Campus Crisis Alert*, Wesleyan University also agreed to examine its ties to Israel:

Protestors at Wesleyan University in Connecticut cleared their encampment on Monday evening after the University [gave in](#) to many of their demands. Among Wesleyan's capitulations are: offering SJP protesters a meeting with the trustee members of the Investment committee, re-examining study-abroad programs, career services, and other academic ties to Israel, and offering "amnesty" to these anti-Israel protesters. Adding insult to injury, Wesleyan's [statement](#) failed to acknowledge or offer any support of Jewish students there.

Similarly, as reported in the following May 28, 2024, *ADL Daily Campus Crisis Alert*, the University of Oregon, bowing to encampment pressure, also agreed to form a task force of students and faculty to examine its investment decisions:

As reported in the May 15, 2024, *Jewish News of Northern California*, Mike Lee, the president of Sonoma State University in California, announced a boycott of Israeli institutions, only to find himself suspended the following day. According to the May 17, 2024, *Inside Higher Ed*, Mr. Lee, who had come out of retirement two years earlier, announced his second retirement shortly afterwards.

Going against the grain, as reported in the May 24, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, the Williams College Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility (ACSR) rejected a divestment proposal. See description of the ACSR's action in the profile of Williams set forth herein.

As reported in the May 30, 2024, *Jewish News of Northern California*, “more than 300 people, including some 60 faculty members and a handful of major donors to UC Berkeley, have signed a letter calling on University of California leadership to reverse concessions made to the pro-Palestinian tent encampment by outgoing Chancellor Carol Christ.”

#### **D. Is BDS Winning on Campus?**

In the Spring of 2023 (obviously prior to Hamas’ deadly October 7, 2023, attack against Israel), the *Jewish Virtual Library* published the following statistics on campus BDS resolutions during the period 2005-2023:

- A total of 157 BDS measures have been considered – 97 were defeated (62%), including those vetoed by student government presidents or repealed.
- Those votes were limited to a total of 76 schools, less than 2% of America’s 4,298 four-year colleges. (The California Community College Association is counted as one college, and the UC Student Association, which has no power and represents no individual schools, is excluded, as were five graduate student programs).
- A total of 50 schools have approved a BDS resolution in the last 18 years, which represents about 1% of universities (excluding those vetoed).\*
- A total of 56 schools have rejected BDS (there is some overlap as some of these have adopted BDS in other years) .
- A total of 32 schools had two or more votes; 14 schools had three or more, and 8 schools had four (Michigan, Michigan Dearborn, UC Riverside, UCSD, UCSB, Ohio State, UIUC). Schools holding the most votes - 7 (UCSB [defeated every time], Michigan, Michigan-Dearborn, UC Davis).
- Only 6 schools (Michigan Dearborn, Northwestern, UC San Diego, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, and UC Davis) have passed BDS more than once.
- Of the 76 schools that voted on BDS, 11 were ranked (at the time of the vote by *US News & World Report*) in the top 20, and 12 of 18 (67%) resolutions were defeated.
- A total of 23 schools in the top 50 entertained BDS initiatives and 40 of 63 were defeated (63%).
- In 2019, Brown became the first Ivy League school to pass a divestment resolution.

However, the foregoing pre-October 7, 2023, metrics (even though they show that a majority of the BDS resolutions introduced on campus were rejected) no longer tell the whole story for they could not consider the climate of pro-Zionist suppression that has occurred since October 7, 2023, often targeting campuses historically favored by Jewish students and isolating those same Jewish students—many of them strong

supporters of liberal causes—and subjecting them to ridicule and ostracism due to their support of Israel.

The profiles of the more than 125 colleges and universities contained in this Guide highlight many instances in which Jewish students have gone on record through student newspapers and otherwise to express their frustration, concern at, and fear of anti-Jewish sentiment on campus. These stories don't apply to all Jewish students (and probably not to most), but they are a mounting concern since October 7, 2023. A counterbalancing consideration, however, is the almost ubiquitous presence of Jewish protective and watchdog agencies on the nation's campuses. Hillel (with 550 campus locations in the US and Canada) and Chabad (with 207 campus locations in the US and Canada) are flourishing. Israel Independence Day celebrations and Holocaust remembrance events are staples on many college campuses and Jewish studies programs abound. The American Jewish Committee estimated that in the first half of the 2017-18 academic year, there were almost 1,000 pro-Israel events across the nation's campuses.

Still, the problem was present long before October 7, 2023, and now as then behooves us to try to piece together why Jewish students, most from open-minded backgrounds, are experiencing resentment, sometimes in the form of outright hostility, from some of their equally progressive peers on some of the nation's most liberal campuses? Not surprisingly, the answer is complex and touches on a number of sensitive themes, although post-October 7, 2023, anti-Zionist antipathy and related demonstrations threaten to drown out all of the nuances in one large wave of animosity toward Israel and its Jewish student supporters.

### **E. The Intersectionality Phenomenon**

In “The Impact of Academic Boycotters of Israel on College Campuses, a 2017 study of nearly 1,000 faculty members conducted by the AMCHA Initiative, AMCHA concluded that (i) about 70% of pro-BDS faculty came from departments specializing in ethnic, gender and Middle East studies, (ii) departments with one or more pro-BDS instructors were about ten times more likely to schedule anti-Israel events than similar departments without any pro-BDS instructors, and (iii) “schools that host BDS-supporting speaker-events sponsored by Gender, Ethnic, and Middle East Studies academic units are twice as likely to have occurrences of student-produced anti-Zionist expression than schools with no BDS-supporting speaker events.”

Why are the identified departments most likely to have pro-BDS faculty? One explanation may have to do with the instructional theme of exploitation—slavery, colonialism, racism, misogyny and homophobia—that may be found in the pedagogy of these departments.

Issues having to do with exploitation and social justice—sometimes referred to

as grievance studies—are of course extremely important and have constituted a recognized academic discipline for quite a while. However, where these issues become all encompassing, there may be a tendency for faculty members to reduce sensitive issues down to a simple calculus of oppressed and oppressor and to adopt positions reflexively that support their views—a phenomenon sometimes referred to as bias confirmation.<sup>1</sup>

In the case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, that appears to be what has happened. There are, of course, untold numbers of contested issues in the world's longest running dispute. But, based on AMCHA's findings, it is a fair guess that many academics in the identified departments—a number of whom have ties to the Palestinians—see the conflict only in terms of power politics and subscribe to views that support their perspective.

During the period between October 28 and November 5, 2022, University of Maryland researcher, Shibley Telhami, and George Washington University researcher, Marc Lynch, surveyed professionals who belonged to the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) and the American Political Science Association (APSA) and requested the members views on boycotting Israel. As reported in the November 22, 2022, *Algemeiner*:

---

<sup>1</sup> A hilarious, but troubling, example of bias confirmation was reported by the *Times of Israel* and the *Epoch Times* on October 5, 2018. According to the *Epoch Times* account, “Three academics rewrote parts of Adolf Hitler’s book “Mein Kampf,” infused it with far-left buzzwords, and made it a major part of an intentionally absurd “research paper. . . . The paper was a part of a broader effort . . . to expose political bias in humanities research fields such as race, gender, and sexuality, according to a press release.” As seen in the *Times of Israel* account, the most ridiculous component of the story occurred when the group submitted their papers for publication. Fully seven out of twenty papers they produced were accepted for publication. As also recounted in the *Times of Israel* story, one of the papers, “Our Struggle is My Struggle: Solidarity Feminism as an Intersectional Reply to Neoliberal and Choice,” was written under the alias Maria Gonzalez, PhD, [and] claimed to be based out of the fictitious Feminist Activist Collective for Truth (FACT). Continued the *Times of Israel*:

According to the real-life authors, “The last two-thirds of this paper is based upon a rewriting of roughly 3,600 words of Chapter 12 of Volume 1 of ‘Mein Kampf,’ by Adolf Hitler, though it diverges significantly from the original. This chapter is the one in which Hitler lays out in a multi-point plan which we partially reproduced why the Nazi party is needed and what it requires of its members.”

Only nine percent of 500 responding experts from the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) and the American Political Science Association (APSA) would “oppose all boycotts of Israel.” 91 percent, Telhami and Lynch [noted](#) on Tuesday in an op-ed for The Washington Post, “support at least some boycotts.” 36 percent also favor “some boycotts” but not against Israeli universities.

Since Israel is seen as the more powerful society, it is treated as the aggressor. This is true irrespective of the origins of the conflict during which Israel was anything but the aggressor and irrespective of the perpetuation of the conflict in which the Palestinians have played an outsized role in resisting accommodation or negotiation. For a historical discussion of the Israel-Palestinian conflict in a question and answer format, see Appendix C. For an example of the type of academic departments referenced by AMCHA, one need go no further than the profile of Rutgers which may be found in Chapter 7 of this Guide.

How does the foregoing tie into the student intersectionality movement now found throughout academic America? As with the academic departments noted by AMCHA, student communities such as the African-American, women’s equality, and LGBTQ communities, began to find common cause. In the first decade or so of the new century, these student groups found strength in reaching out to one another (as well as to supporting faculty) in their fight against discriminatory practices viewed as affecting all of their numbers. In addition to forming alliances, what was now different is that an act of discrimination or oppression directed at any of the allied interest groups was viewed as an attack on all. Even more remarkable was the attitude of these tethered groups to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Joined together by a common sense of mistreatment, these student alliances now welcomed into their ranks pro-Palestinian student groups, such as SJP, whose one-sided narrative of Israeli aggression was uncritically accepted. SJP could now look to its new alliance counterparts for near-unquestioned support in the emerging, anti-Israel BDS movement. Even more important, a perceived threat to the Palestinian cause was now seen as a threat against all in the alliance.

As Mark Yudoff, the former president of the University of California put it in a March 3, 2018 article by Cathryn J. Prince, entitled “Where is the right to free speech for Israel advocates on campus, academics ask?”:

It used to mean that people had diverse identities. It meant you could be Jewish, you could be gay, you could be hirsute challenged — as I am. Now it means all forms of oppression are related. That a killing in Missouri is somehow linked to violence in Israel.”

The phenomenon of these disparate student groups coming together as one in

their quest for social justice took on the name “intersectionality,” a term coined by Columbia and UCLA law professor Kimberle Williams Crenshaw in the late 1980’s and then used in employment discrimination cases to indicate that forms of prejudice can overlap, particularly in the case of black women who then (and still) operate at the intersection of two pernicious forms of discrimination. However, a May 21, 2017 *Chronicle of Higher Education* article about Professor Crenshaw and the intersectionality phenomena noted that the theory had changed well beyond its original conception:

The theory has expanded well beyond that narrow legal description. While discussions of intersectionality still often focus on the voices and experiences of black women, the term is now used to encompass other markers of minority identity, like sexual orientation, disability, and class.

As the new version of intersectionality took hold on college campuses, the narrative of Israeli oppression against Palestinians began to acquire outside allies whose views resounded within academia. Among these was the Black Lives Matter (“BLM”) movement that emerged following the Ferguson Missouri demonstrations. In August 2016, BLM adopted a platform that tarred Israel as apartheid and genocidal. According to the August 15, 2016 *Washington Times*:

The Black Lives Matter movement blindsided its Jewish supporters with the recent unveiling of its social and political policy agenda, a far-left manifesto that strays well beyond police brutality and accuses Israel of “genocide” and “apartheid.”

“The U.S. justifies and advances the global war on terror via its alliance with Israel and is complicit in the genocide taking place against the Palestinian people,” said the platform’s “Invest-Divest” policy brief.

On August 29, 2020, the *Jerusalem Post* reported that, unlike the infamous platform described above, a 10-page summary obtained by the *Post* of the BLM 2020 platform “contained no mention of Israel, Zionism, Palestinian rights or the BDS movement.” However, whatever the intention, the omission in the 10-page summary was short lived. On May 25, 2021, in the aftermath of the May 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict, the *Washington Post* quoted the founder of the Los Angeles chapter of Black Lives Matter as follows:

“We understand that the liberation of Black people in the United States is tied to the liberation of Black people all over the world, and tied to the liberation of oppressed people all over the world,” said Melina Abdullah, co-founder of the Los Angeles chapter of Black Lives Matter. “Being in solidarity with the Palestinian people is something that’s been part of



our work as Black Lives Matter for almost as long as we've been an organization."

and also quoted St. Louis Congressman Rep. Cori Bush (D-Mo) as follows:

"As we march in defense of Black lives, we are not just saying that Black people in this country should be able to live full and joyous lives," Bush said in a statement to The Post. "We're saying that our own government is funding a brutal and militarized disposition towards our very existence — from Ferguson to Palestine."

Previously, in June 2017, three women carrying rainbow flags embossed with a Star of David were kicked out of the annual Chicago Dyke March. According to an opinion piece written by Barry Weiss in the June 27, 2017, *New York Times*:

[T]he women were kicked off of the celebration on the grounds that their flags were a "trigger." An organizer of the Dyke March told the Windy City Times that the fabric "made people feel unsafe" and that she and the other members of the Dyke March collective didn't want anything "that can inadvertently or advertently express Zionism" at the event.

\*\*\*\*\*

Has there ever been a crisper expression of the consequences of "intersectionality" than a ban on Jewish lesbians from a Dyke March?

\*\*\*\*\*

[I]n practice, intersectionality functions as kind of caste system, in which people are judged according to how much their particular caste has suffered throughout history. Victimhood, in the intersectional way of seeing the world, is akin to sainthood; power and privilege are profane.

By that hierarchy, you might imagine that the Jewish people — enduring yet another wave of anti-Semitism here and abroad — should be registered as victims. Not quite.

Why? Largely because of Israel, the Jewish state, which today's progressives see only as a vehicle for oppression of the Palestinians — no matter that Israel has repeatedly sought to meet Palestinian claims with peaceful compromise, and no matter that progressives hold no other country to the same standard.

Campus groups who found inspiration from the Black Lives Matter platform and the much heralded Chicago Dyke March now had influential outside support for their anti-Zionist views toward the Israel-Palestinian conflict. As reported in the June 21, 2021, *Algemeiner*, this message was brought home all too clearly in an Instagram promotional image of its then forthcoming Chicago Dyke March's 2021 event. The image depicted a woman standing atop a burning car holding the two flags, one Israeli and the other American, both of which were in flames. According to the *Algemeiner* account:

The Instagram promotional post was removed by the company for "hate speech or symbols," in a warning that threatened to delete the group's account.

The March responded by urging followers to capture a screenshot of the post, "and share to prevent any attempts by Z1ON1ST and Instagram to censor our account."

Using numbers or other characters to deliberately misspell key terms is a common tactic on the web to skirt content moderation.

In a subsequent post, the Dyke March then altered the image, superimposing animated yellow and orange flames to conceal the two flags. The image was otherwise identical.

Unfortunately, it appears that the BDS movement has also found internal support from the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) offices prevalent at virtually every major university and college and whose ostensible charter is to protect against discrimination, no matter its intended target. Highly informative on this important issue is a July, 2021, *Heritage Foundation Backgrounder* study, entitled "Inclusion Delusion: The Antisemitism of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Staff at Universities," (Heritage Foundation Backgrounder No. 3641, July 27, 2021, <https://www.heritage.org/education/report/diversity-university-dei-bloat-the-academy>) reported in the Fall 2021 *SPME Monitor*. SPME summarized the Backgrounder's findings as follows:

One of the most important analyses of BDS activity on campus in December was a new report that revealed the extent to which 'diversity, equity, and inclusion' (DEI) officials are pervasively biased against Israel. The study analyzed the Twitter feeds of 741 DEI staffers at 65 institutions and found that 96% of Israel-related tweets were negative while 62% of China related tweets were positive. DEI officials routinely condemned Israel as an 'apartheid state' and accused it of 'genocide' and 'ethnic cleansing

The report noted the disproportionate attention paid to Israel and concluded “university DEI staff are better understood as political activists with a narrow and often radical political agenda rather than promoters of welcoming and inclusive environments. Many DEI staff are particularly unwelcoming toward Jewish students who, like the vast majority of Jews worldwide, feel a strong connection to the state of Israel.” In contrast, tweets about China were largely supportive, while expressions of disapproval did not include terms such as ‘apartheid.’

Following Hamas’ October 7, 2023, deadly invasion of Israel, *Tablet* contributor, Armin Rosen, conducted a small survey of DEI officers to ascertain whether they were providing support to Jewish students who might be overwhelmed by the fallout from the invasion. The following excerpts from his article, entitled “The DEI Complex Will Never Protect Jews,” published in the October 24, 2023 edition of *Tablet*, are disheartening:

Young Jews have never felt more alone on American campuses as they have during these past two weeks [since Hamas’ murderous invasion of Israel]. Classmates and soon-to-be-former friends have rallied in large numbers to celebrate the burning and torture of 1,400 Israelis. Professors have announced their glee at the redemptive spilling of settler blood. University administrators who treat every scratch of racist graffiti as a kind of communitywide soul-murder have discovered a newfound sense of nuance when faced with the 21st century’s worst butchery of Jews.

The nation’s army of campus DEI staff presumably exists for moments like this one, where an already unpopular minority group confronts an unanticipated surge of stress and potential danger. Yet DEI offices haven’t even bothered with pro forma expressions of fake concern. This week, I called or emailed over a dozen equity divisions at prominent colleges and universities to ask whether they had released any statements, held any events, or created any new programming for Jewish students since the Hamas rampage of October 7 and the wave of campus unrest that followed. The answer is no.

On a more positive note, not all groups who see, or have seen, the world through an intersectional lens need be anti-Semitic. An excellent example is the following November 2018 post by the Denver Women’s [spelled Womxn’s] March (reported in the November 15, 2018, *Jewish Journal*) in which it excoriated then National Women’s March co-leaders Tamika Mallory and Linda Sarsour (see discussion of Sarsour’s anti-Israel vitriol in the profile for Rutgers found in Chapter 7 of this Guide) for their embrace of notorious Nation of Islam anti-Semitic leader, Louis Farrakhan:

Womxn's March Denver denounces all forms of anti-Semitism and the National Women's March leadership team's failure to clearly disassociate from anti-Semitic public figures. We proudly support our Jewish sisters and brothers. We condemn all language and actions of hate directed at the Jewish community.

“Womxn's March Denver is an independent VOLUNTEER grassroots team of local Colorado women. We are not affiliated with the national Women's March organization. We oppose all forms of oppression and operate from an intersectional lens. We stand in solidarity with all marginalized communities and ask that those communities stand together with us against oppression in all its forms.

The post-October 7, 2023, amplification of the direct line between anti-racism and anti-Semitism was the subject of an January 27, 2024, article by *Jewish News Syndicate* editor-in-chief, Jonathan S. Tobin. Entitled, “How ‘anti-racism’ made antisemitism fashionable,” the article began as follows:

With each passing week since the Oct. 7 Hamas pogroms in Israeli communities in southern Israel, the magnitude of the sea change in attitudes towards antisemitism becomes more and more apparent. But as the 110-day mark since the terrorist assault approaches, the straight line that runs between what fashionable liberal American opinion likes to call “anti-racism” and hatred for Jews has become not just obvious but undeniable.

The evidence for this has been readily seen on the streets of American cities and college campuses as mobs march, signs held high and chanting slogans calling for Israel's destruction (“from the river to the sea”) and in favor of continued terrorism, if not genocide against Jews not just in Israel but wherever they live (“globalize the intifada”). What is most striking about all of this is that wherever these demonstrations pop up—whether at elite schools or while blocking traffic on major thoroughfares, bridges or tunnels, or outside Jewish-owned businesses as so-called “progressives” emulate the tactics of Nazi Germany in the 1930s—the language they use is not that of the tropes of traditional Jew-hatred. Rather, the tenor of their remarks and the tactics that are employed are those of the political left and the Black Lives Matter movement.

The woke ideology that fuels BLM—ideas like intersectionality, white privilege and critical race theory—have nothing to do with the conflict

between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East. But for both veteran ideologues and young progressives who have been indoctrinated in these specious concepts, the same bogus way of looking at the world is just as easily applied to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. The result is that a significant portion of young Americans are quick to view the events of Oct. 7, as well as the subsequent fighting in Gaza, as essentially an extension of their assumptions about racial strife in the United States.

## **F. How Intersectionality Stigmatizes Pro-Israel Students**

Views such as those expressed by the Black Lives Matter movement helped to galvanize anti-Zionist groups on campus as well as their increasingly sympathetic cohorts on the intersectionality spectrum. Equally importantly, pro-Israel students who were also committed to social justice causes found themselves in a dilemma. The ideology of many, if not most, of these students may have been supportive of many of the causes championed by BLM as well as related causes on the intersectionality spectrum such as fighting racism, homophobia, income inequality and misogyny. However, as the Palestinian narrative of oppression became a mainstay of the intersectional movement, Jewish identification became problematic and even a liability. Now one's credentials as a liberal Jewish student were sullied because of association with Israel.

As student governments, often disproportionately represented by SJP and other affinity groups on the intersectionality spectrum, began to take up the cause of BDS, Jewish students and their gentile sympathizers increasingly found themselves on the margins. For a particularly poignant description of this phenomena, see Northwestern Jewish student Lauren Sonnenberg's account cited earlier and reproduced in the school's profile in Chapter 7 of this Guide. Or, as one University of Michigan student stated in an article appearing in the October 6, 2016, edition of the *Michigan Daily* (and reproduced more fully in the profile for Michigan that also appears in Chapter 7 of this Guide):

On Tuesday, I felt as I have felt many times over the past year: excluded from the larger narrative on this campus because of my Jewish identity. We are told we don't know how it feels to be ostracized and oppressed, and thus can't participate in conversations revolving around diversity and inclusion.

In several cases, students sympathetic to Israel were driven from student government positions due to their pro-Israel sentiments. At UCLA, in a highly publicized case, a gentile student leader was blackballed from serving on the student government (and then later hounded ceaselessly) because she had accepted a trip to

Israel and was therefore no longer reliable as a BDS supporter. As the *Times of Israel* reported on June 10, 2014:

The BDS campaign knows no bounds. Individuals, even college students, apparently are fair game for the aggressive effort to punish those who engage with the State of Israel.

Lauren Rogers, a UCLA junior, recently found herself targeted by a well-organized, malicious campaign spearheaded by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).

Rogers could not have imagined that her visit to Israel last December on an [American Jewish Committee] Project Interchange (PI) educational seminar would lead to the kind of abuse by fellow students that she was forced to endure. The SJP took her and another student, Sunny Singh, who visited Israel with ADL, to the campus-based student-run Judicial Board, a quasi-court that holds trials and renders opinions.

The alleged “crime” was a purported violation of a conflict-of-interest code that is supposed to bind elected members of the UCLA student council. What was the violation? Well, by coincidence, in February, barely two months after Rogers and other California college students returned from the PI trip, the UCLA student council on which Rogers and Singh served as elected members considered a resolution to divest from American companies doing business with Israel.

In another high visibility case at UCLA, Milan Chatterjee, the president of the UCLA Graduate Students Association (“GSA”) and a law student of Indian-American ancestry, was forced to flee the campus and enroll at NYU because he refused to inject BDS into the affairs of the GSA. Mr. Chatterjee’s ordeal was reported in the September 6, 2016, edition of *IndiaWest*:

Milan Chatterjee, former Graduate Students Association president at the University of California Los Angeles who was embroiled in a controversy over a “boycott Israel” movement, has decided to quit campus politics and move to New York University for his last year of law school.

Chatterjee, an Indian American from Colorado, told UCLA Chancellor Gene Block that he was being harassed and discriminated against by anti-Israel students for simply attempting to be neutral. Explaining his

reasons for leaving the school, Chatterjee said the campus climate was “hostile and unsafe.”

“Since November 2015, I have been relentlessly attacked, bullied and harassed by (boycott, divestment and sanctions) BDS-affiliated organizations and students,” he wrote to Block, according to the Daily Bruin.

\*\*\*\*\*

In an interview to *The Algemeiner*, Chatterjee said: “It is very scary how BDS activists will go to any measure to destroy people’s reputations and careers. UCLA should be ashamed of themselves for refusing to take action, and rather joining in the harassment I endured by BDS groups. I am not the first student, nor will I be the last.”

At the Madison campus of the University of Wisconsin, a school that had passed a contentious divestment resolution in the spring of 2016, members of the school’s student council, the Associated Students of Madison (“ASM”), were scorned by their peers at a December 2017 ASM meeting for having accepted a privately-funded trip to Israel. Similarly, at Tufts, a November 15, 2017 op-ed in the student newspaper asked the university to intervene to prevent students from participating in the school’s Fletcher Spring Break Israel Trek. Similarly, according to the January 23, 2019 *Algemeiner*, at Georgia State University

Protesters, some representing chartered groups such as Faces for Feminism and Panthers for Black Feminism, gave a wish list allaying their opposition to four SGA members for going on a complimentary trip organized by Maccabee Task Force, which combats BDS efforts on college campuses.

\*\*\*\*\*

According to the December 1, 2019, *Algemeiner*, the Students’ Society of McGill University attempted to remove second-year Jewish student, Jordyn Wright, from her position on the Legislative Council as a result of her decision to accept a Hillel-sponsored trip to Israel and the West Bank.

When Chelsea Clinton attended a solidarity rally at NYU following the massacre of fifty Muslims at worship in New Zealand, she was mercilessly and unjustifiably reviled as having stoked the hatred that contributed to the massacre. According to a March 19, 2019, *Tablet* article by James Kirchik, one student confronted Clinton outside a memorial for the dead and, in a video that went instantly viral, stated: “This, right here, is a result of a massacre stoked by people like you and

the words that you put out into the world.” According to the article, another student followed up with the devastating accusation: “Forty-nine people died because of the rhetoric you put out there.”

What was Clinton’s crime? What could she possibly have done to evoke such a response? Simply put, days earlier she had criticized Congressman Ilhan Omar for her disturbing (and classic) anti-Semitic statements suggesting that legislators who supported Israel were being bought off or were guilty of dual loyalty. i.e., elevating their support for Israel over their duty to the United States.

As noted by Alan Dershowitz in a March 19, 2019 *Hill* article, the Muslim student leaders whose views were quoted above followed up their diatribes against Clinton with a March 16, 2019 *Buzzfeed* piece in which they wrote, “We were shocked when Clinton arrived at the vigil, given that she had not yet apologized to Rep. Omar for the public vilification against her. We thought it was inappropriate for her to show up to a vigil for a community she had so recently stoked hatred.” Stated Dershowitz in response, “Instead of being condemned for her criticism of Omar, Clinton should be praised for standing out among silent Democrats who have refused to single out anti-Semitism as a growing phenomenon on both the extreme left and right.” For a no-holds-barred article supporting Dershowitz, see James Kirchik’s above-cited March 19, 2019, *Tablet* article.

## **G. Pre-October 7, 2023, Suppression of Pro-Israel Speech on Campus**

Despite opposition, Jewish student groups have brought pro-Israel speakers to campus. However, in what has become all too familiar, these pro-Israeli speakers have often been shouted down or denied the opportunity to speak. Perhaps, the most notorious incident occurred when a Muslim student group at the University of California Irvine shouted down a 2010 speech by then Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren, and reportedly yelled out, "Michael Oren, propagating murder is not an expression of free speech!" and "You, sir, are an accomplice to genocide!" In the wake of this disturbance, the Muslim Student Union at Irvine was suspended for an academic quarter and ten of the participating students were later found guilty and placed on probation for disrupting speech. However, the damage had been done. In like fashion, in April 2015, a tour promoting IDF soldiers’ stories was similarly shouted down at the University of California Santa Cruz as well as at other campuses.

On April 8, 2016, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat was prevented from giving a speech at San Francisco State University, a hotbed of anti-Zionist fervor. According to a blog of the same date by Aaron Parker in the *Times of Israel*, the real tragedy of the day was not so much the denial of the speaker to express a pro-Israel perspective as much as the willingness of the university to let it happen. As stated by Parker, “in a decision that should deeply disturb all who value a civil society, and one that I as a



Jews find profoundly demoralizing, the police were instructed not to remove the disruptors and instead to stand by and watch the event be completely shut down.”

Anti-Israel disturbances on University of California campuses have become all too common, but few as demoralizing as the events surrounding the May 2017 Israel Independence Day event at the University of California Santa Cruz that, according to the May 30, 2017 AMCHA Bulletin, “scores of Jewish and pro-Israel students had devoted hours of planning for many months and that was to be Hillel’s largest event of the year” [and which was disrupted and ruined by student protesters]”. AMCHA’s description of the disruption is sobering:

Shortly after the Hillel students had set up their event, protesters streamed into Quarry Plaza and, for more than an hour, purposefully blocked Hillel’s tables from being accessed and used a public-address system at full blast, making it impossible for attendees to hear and enjoy the program planned for the Hillel event. In addition, after A/BSA [the African/Black Student Alliance] leaders called for standing in solidarity with their Palestinian brothers and sisters, some protesters yelled “Free Palestine,” “F\*\*\* Jewish Slugs,” “F\*\*\* Zionist Slugs,” and tore down an Israeli flag at the Hillel event.

AMCHA and like-minded stakeholders within the Santa Cruz community had had enough. Citing the California Regents’ Principles Against Intolerance, 133 such stakeholders joined AMCHA in an open letter to Santa Cruz’s chancellor demanding that action be taken against the stifling of pro-Israel speech on the Santa Cruz campus.

At the University of Virginia, less than six months after tiki torch-carrying, Unite the Right nationalists yelled out “Sieg Heil” and other anti-Semitic slogans as they marched through the UVA campus, another assault on Jewish values occurred at UVA, this time from the left. As reported by the February 23, 2018, *Washington Post*, the Brody Jewish Center-Hillel at UVA had convened a panel of IDF soldiers “to share their personal stories and answer tough questions from the university community.” However, the panel was not to be as student and non-student protestors with megaphones disrupted the discussion while, according to the *Post* article, shouted “intimidating and hostile slurs directed at students, staff, and panelists.”

In an echo of Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren’s disrupted 2010 speech at UC Irvine, Syracuse University students in combination with non-student activists disrupted a speech given by Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Dani Dayan in April 2018. According to the April 25, 2018, *Algemeiner*, a student yelled out “Danny Danon [sic], you have blood on your hands. Israeli settlements are entirely illegal under international law.” Also, according to the *Algemeiner* account:

[T] he student was promptly removed by campus security, but her chants were echoed seconds later by Ursula Rozum, a member of the anti-war Syracuse Peace Council's Justice for Palestine Committee. 'Free Palestine, end the bloodshed in Gaza,' shouted Rozum as she was escorted out. 'Sanctions now, Dayan is an international criminal.'

As noted earlier, on May 22, 2018, a speech by Niki Haley, the then United States ambassador to the United Nations, was interrupted by University of Houston protesters waving Palestinians flags. According to the earlier-referenced *Algemeiner* account of May 23, 2018, about three minutes into the ambassador's speech, "about two dozen students, some affiliated with the school's Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter, quickly rose in unison and chanted, "Nikki, Nikki can't you see, you are on a killing spree," and "free, free, free Palestine."

Why is the mere utterance of pro-Israel speech so offensive to Israel's campus detractors? After all, universities are supposed to be places where disparate points of view not only exist but are also to be encouraged. The answer may lie in the new anti-Zionist campus orthodoxy described in the following excerpt from a March 21, 2018, *Tablet* article, entitled "The Silencing of Pro-Israel Students on Campus":

While some may see in Israel a prosperous (if flawed) liberal democracy facing unprecedented security challenges, the growing campus orthodoxy sees only an "apartheid regime" founded upon "racism," "ethnic cleansing," and "colonialist imperialism." Zionism, anti-Israelists believe, can be neither defended nor corrected, both because the very idea of a Jewish state in that region depends on dispossession of others and because the concept of Jewish democracy is an offensive oxymoron. Israel, and Zionism, are thus cast as illegitimate, incorrigible *abominations*. The problem isn't Israel's alleged "crimes," then, but its sinful *essence*. "A crime," wrote Hannah Arendt, "is met with punishment; a vice can only be exterminated."

Put differently, when Israel's very presence on the map offends, there is very little that can be said in remediation since any speech that promotes a positive view of Israel is at least as abhorrent as the fact of Israel's existence.

There have been positive developments. In response to harassment directed at Jewish students and described in a 2015 AMCHA Study, a March 2016 working committee of the University of California's Board of Regents unanimously adopted (with the full Board affirming the action the next day) what it called a statement of "Principles Against Intolerance." In a March 23, 2016, story, entitled "University of California's 'Principles Against Intolerance' say Opposition to Israel can be Anti-

Semitic,” *Newsweek* described the good intentions behind the Principles but also the difficulty of implementing them in light of First Amendment concerns:

“Anti-Semitism, anti-Semitic forms of anti-Zionism and other forms of discrimination have no place at the University of California,” the working group said in a statement accompanying the principles. “Members of the UC community have come forward with concerns that anti-Semitic stereotypes and tropes of Jewish people appear coded as political discourse about Israel and its policies.” It added that anti-Muslim sentiment in the wake of global attacks by “self-identified religious fundamentalists” is just as problematic.

Still, the working group emphasized that the First Amendment and academic freedom are crucial in guiding UC as it responds to bias, prejudice and intolerance. It said it aims to keep an equal campus learning environment for all.

“The Regents call on University leaders actively to challenge anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination when and wherever they emerge within the University community,” the principles state. They condemn actions that “interfere with the ability of an individual group to assemble” and “harassment, threats, assaults, vandalism and destruction of property.”

The principles go on to state that members of the university must consider their responsibilities, “regardless of whether one has a legal right to speak in a manner that reflects bias, stereotypes, prejudice and intolerance.”

Almost all of the school’s with regard to which suppression of pro-Israel speech has been an issue receive Federal funds and, therefore, are subject to the anti-harassment provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. So, one might have reasonably expected that, under Title VI, schools would have felt themselves legally bound to ensure that harassing behavior on the part of anti-Zionist campus elements didn’t limit or suppress the free speech of pro-Zionist Jewish students. However, until then President Donald Trump’s December 11, 2019, executive order treating Jewish students as entitled to the protections of Title VI (see discussion at the end of this section), Jewish students were treated as members of a religion, rather than an ethnicity, and, therefore, not entitled to protected status under the civil rights statute.

By contrast, as pointed out by AMCHA in a June 12, 2018, *Jewish News Syndicate* (JNS) commentary: “On many college campuses, not only are positive statements about Israel demonized and delegitimized, but individuals who express

these opinions are often intimidated, ostracized and literally bullied into silence.” AMCHA continued as follows:

While freedom of speech is constitutionally guaranteed to each and every student regardless of opinion, belief or identity, this is not the case when it comes to freedom from harassment. In fact, federal anti-discrimination law administered by the U.S. Department of Education, which defines “harassment” as behavior that is “sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent so as to interfere with or limit the ability of an individual to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or privileges provided by any recipient [of federal funds],” only deems such behavior “harassment” if it is directed at individuals because of their race, color, national origin, gender or other federally protected characteristics. Identical behavior directed against students who do not share those protected characteristics is not considered harassment under federal law, and these students are denied the federal protection afforded their peers.

\*\*\*\*\*

This inequity trickles down to federally funded colleges and universities. . . . Take California, for example. Although the state’s two massive university systems—California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC)—both tout the importance of freedom of speech for all members of the campus community, they also have harassment policies that effectively limit protection from behavior that suppresses speech to only some portion of their student body. At CSU, Executive Order 1074 defines harassment as “unwelcome conduct engaged in because of a Protected Status,” and a CSU student who wishes to file a university complaint form in order to find relief from harassing behavior must indicate “the protected status(es) that was/were the basis(es) of the alleged ... harassment.” UC policy on harassment is similarly limited in its scope to protected classes, and so, too, is UC’s online form allowing students to seek redress from harassing behavior.

In theory, federal anti-discrimination law and university harassment policies should afford protection to Jewish students, either by virtue of their ethnicity in the case of federal law or their religion in the case of university policy. But, in practice, Jewish students have been denied protected status in both cases when those same harassing and intolerant behaviors are motivated by anti-Zionism. This is a double whammy for pro-Israel Jewish students. They must not only suffer the routine suppression of their speech and assembly, as well as the freedom to fully participate in campus life, but must also accept the reality that their

aggressors—often members of a protected class—will go unpunished and receive a free pass to carry on their unfettered, anti-Zionist-motivated harassment.

Almost as if on cue, as reported by the *New York Times*, on September 11, 2018, Kenneth L. Marcus, the then new head of the Civil Rights office at the Department of Education reopened a seven-year-old suit against Rutgers in which the claimants contended that the university allowed a hostile environment against Jewish students. According to the *Times* account,

In so doing, the Education Department embraced Judaism as an ethnicity and adopted a hotly contested definition of anti-Semitism that included “denying the Jewish people the right to self-determination” by, for example, “claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor” and “applying double standards by requiring of” Israel “a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.”

The Department of Education’s endorsement of the view that Judaism may be regarded as an ethnicity as well as religion under Title VI of the Civil rights Act carried with it the potential for many more suits brought by Jewish students in response to hostile campus environments brought about by anti-Israel activities.

That potential came to a formal reality with an executive order signed by then President Trump on December 11, 2019. The executive order endorsed the Education Department’s above-expressed view that Judaism is a protected classification under the Civil Rights Act and that the Act prohibits discrimination based on Jewish ethnic, racial or national characteristics. As reported by the December 11, 2019 *New York Times*, at the signing ceremony, then President Trump stated: “This is our message to universities: if you want to accept the tremendous amount of federal dollars that you get every year, you must reject anti-Semitism, it’s very simple.”

In a companion *New York Times* op-ed of the same date, Jared Kushner, the then president’s son-in-law and the grandchild of Holocaust survivors, described how the executive order would support and defend Jewish students:

For the first time, a president is making clear that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act’s prohibition against discrimination based on race, color or national origin covers discrimination against Jews.

The executive order does not define Jews as a nationality. It merely says that to the extent that Jews are discriminated against for ethnic, racial or national characteristics, they are entitled to protection by the anti-discrimination law.

\*\*\*\*\*

This new order adopts as its definition of anti-Semitism the language put forth in 2016 by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, while also accounting for other forms of anti-Semitism [discussed more extensively later in this Chapter One].

For example, the alliance defines “the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity,” and those who deny “the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a state of Israel is a racist endeavor” or those who compare “contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis” as examples of anti-Semitism.

The Remembrance Alliance definition makes clear what our administration has stated publicly and on the record: Anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. The inclusion of this language with contemporary examples gives critical guidance to agencies enforcing Title VI provisions.

Anti-Semites have grown increasingly brazen in claiming that attacks on Israel — and even on Jewish students who may or may not support Israel — are not anti-Semitic. It has become fashionable among Jew haters to characterize any discriminatory behavior — no matter how loathsome — not as criticism of Jews, but of Israel. This is a lie. Especially on college campuses, where discrimination, harassment and intimidation of Jewish students has become commonplace and is routinely, but wrongly, justified.

From a BDS perspective, Jonathan Tobin described the impact of the Executive Order as follows in his December 16, 2019, *JNS* editorial:

Trump’s effort orders that the government use the definition of anti-Semitism promoted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, which is also the one recognized by the U.S. State Department and many other countries. That definition correctly states that ‘denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor, applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation, using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism ... to characterize Israel or Israelis’ and ‘drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis’ and ‘holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel’ are anti-Semitic.

The BDS movement routinely violates every one of those points. That means that while it is not anti-Semitic to criticize Israel's policies, it is an act of hate to support Israel's elimination or to engage in rhetoric that is drenched in hatred for Jews. Universities that don't protect their students against that are now going to hear about it from the federal government.

As quoted in the July 7, 2020, *Algemeiner*, AMCHA's annual report, entitled, "Understanding Campus Anti-Semitism in 2019 and Its Lessons for Pandemic and Post-Pandemic U.S. Campuses," reported the following with regard to SJP's efforts to undermine the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism:

Much of last year's anti-Zionist activism was linked to efforts to challenge a school's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, which includes anti-Zionism as a form of antisemitism.

AMCHA discovered that 94% of challenges against the definition were put forth by SJP, JVP and other campus anti-Zionist groups. This form of antisemitism nearly quadrupled, from 34 incidents in 2018 to 126 in 2019.

The report said that "schools where these challenges occurred were more than twice as likely to host anti-Semitic incidents targeting Jewish students for harm, and the more challenges the higher the number of incidents."

While emphasizing the importance of free speech on campus, the American Jewish Committee stated its support for the Executive Order (and by extension, its reliance on the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism). The following excerpt is from AJC's December 11, 2019, edition of its *Global Voice*:

AJC does not consider the EO, or longstanding Department of Education guidance, to be designed to suppress rational criticism of Israel or its policies, and we will speak out against any attempt to do so. AJC also recognizes that there will be hard cases where it will be necessary to decide whether the speech in question is constitutionally protected or not.

To date, though, responses to antisemitism on many campuses have often fallen short, leaving Jewish students vulnerable. Existing federal policy has not been fully enforced and today's order merely gives Jews what other groups have long enjoyed—the right not to be subject to a hostile environment on campus. There is nothing inconsistent with

protecting freedom of expression and providing Jews the same protections accorded other minorities.

Predictably, a variety of elements opposed the adoption of the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism, ostensibly on free speech grounds. This reaction is described by Gerald M. Steinberg in his January 25, 2021 *Jewish Journal* article, entitled “What the War Over the IHRA Definition Obscures,” excerpts from which follow:

[F]or some vocal organizations and individuals, the Israel-related examples of anti-Semitism [accompanying the IHRA definition] are unacceptable and are portrayed, or distorted, as attempts to “silence criticism” of Israeli policies in the conflict with the Palestinians or even as “threats to democracy.” NGOs at the forefront of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, are among the most vocal in attacking the IHRA definition.

\*\*\*\*\*

Like so much of the discourse on Israel, the Jewish people and anti-Semitism, the IHRA debate has become entangled in fierce ideological wars and the accompanying symbolic politics. Joining the campaign under the banner of “progressive values,” influential groups that frequently critique Israel — including J-Street, the New Israel Fund and American Friends of Peace Now — claim that the “codification of the IHRA working definition,” specifically its “contemporary examples,” create the potential for misuse to “suppress legitimate free speech” and prevent “criticism of Israeli government actions.”

On the opposite end of the free speech spectrum, i.e., Jewish-themed free speech, a June 2021 incident indicates how illusive the goal of protecting such speech has become. On June 24, 2021, Dexter Van Zile, a research fellow for CAMERA (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis), was covering a UMass Boston SJP rally in front of the Anti-Defamation League’s regional office in Boston. Then, as reported by the October 28, 2021, *Jewish Journal*, in an article entitled, “Brandeis Center Calls on UMass Boston to Investigate SJP Over Harassment of Pro-Israel Reporter”:

One of the speakers at the rally pointed out that Van Zile was in the crowd taking notes and accused him of attempting “to smear and muckrake our righteous movement.” The speaker then urged the crowd to start chanting “Zionist Go Home!” at Van Zile, and they did. Video footage of the incident shows several people surrounding Van Zile, calling him a “Nazi” and a “pig.” He was also shoved and spat on; a



handful of people urged the crowd to stop and not give him “ammunition.”

## **H. Studies that Chronicled the Prevalence of BDS on Campus well before October 7, 2023**

As early as February 23, 2015, a Trinity College and Louis D. Brandies Center for Human Rights Under Law study of 1,157 self-identified Jewish students at 55 university and four-year colleges found that a majority (54%) of Jewish students in the study reported having been subject to or having witnessed anti-Semitism on their campus during the first six months of the 2013-14 academic year. Moreover, the study concluded that “there was only a slight variation in the rates across the regions of the United States, strongly suggesting that anti-Semitism on campus was even then a nationwide problem.

The following year, AMCHA published a study of 113 schools with the largest Jewish populations, entitled “Report on Anti-Semitic Activity in 2015 at U.S. Colleges and Universities with the Largest Jewish Undergraduate Population (the “2015 AMCHA Study”).” Of the top five campuses where the targeting of Jewish students, anti-Semitic expression and BDS activity was the highest, the report concluded that four were within the University of California system (the other school being Northwestern). AMCHA followed up its 2015 report with a study of campus anti-Semitism during the first half of 2016. In that report, entitled “Report on Anti-Semitic Activity During the First Half of 2016 at U.S. Colleges and Universities with the Largest Jewish Undergraduate Population,” AMCHA concluded that “the occurrence of BDS activity was strongly associated with the occurrence of anti-Semitic activity in general, and with incidents that targeted Jewish students for harm in particular.”

On May 2, 2019, Tel Aviv University's Kantor Center published a report on antisemitism worldwide during 2018. As regards anti-Semitism on the campus, the report incorporated an AMCHA synopsis from its 2018 study, entitled "Antisemitism on U.S. Campuses and Efforts to Address It." As reported by AMCHA in an announcement published May 7, 2019, its study highlighted the following worrying trends (also set out in pages 118-120 of the Kantor Center report):

- Expression openly promoting the elimination or destruction of the Jewish state more than doubled, with 129 reported incidents, including a three-fold increase in such expression at events sponsored by academic departments.
- Incidents involving attempts to suppress the expression of Zionist students or exclude them from campus life more than doubled from 2017 to 2018, with 73 incidents reported. These incidents also became more flagrant, with increasing numbers of open calls for the boycott or

expulsion of Zionist students or student groups from campus.

- Although the overall amount of BDS activity – including anti-Israel divestment resolution votes and statements, petitions, op-eds and events calling for or promoting BDS – remained relatively constant from 2017 to 2018, there were 127 incidents involving student or faculty attempts to implement or promote an academic boycott of Israeli universities and scholars (academic BDS) in 2018, which was more than twice the number of academic BDS-related incidents in the previous year.

As noted earlier in Section 1A this chapter, in September 2019, AMCHA also published a campus report, entitled “The Harassment of Jewish Students on U.S. Campuses: How Eliminationist Anti-Zionism and Academic BDS Incite Campus Antisemitism”. In addition to the report’s description of SJP’s worrisome anti-Israel activities (discussed earlier in this chapter), the following summary findings (quoted from page two of the report) highlight a number of ongoing concerns for the Jewish campus community:

In an effort to better understand the substantial rise in Israel-related acts targeting Jewish students for harm and its possible linkage to academic BDS, the current study looked more closely at the nature of those antisemitic acts, as well as at the quantity and quality of anti-Zionist discourse and activity that accompanied them and their change from 2017 to 2018. We found: •

Shift in types of antisemitic harassment: Classical antisemitic incidents significantly decreased, Israel-related incidents significantly increased in both number and intensity:

- Classical antisemitic harassment decreased by 42% from 205 in 2017 to 118 in 2018.
- Israel-related harassment increased by 70% from 71 in 2017 to 121 in 2018.
- Antisemitic acts involving the singling out of Jewish and pro-Israel students and groups for personal vilification more than doubled, with a tripling of expression falsely implying these students or groups are linked to “white supremacy.”
- Antisemitic acts involving the unfair treatment of Jewish and pro-Israel students or attempts to exclude them from campus activities more than doubled, with expression calling for the total boycott or exclusion of Zionist students or expression from campus life nearly tripling.

Significant increase in quantity and severity of Israel-related antisemitic discourse from 2017 to 2018, particularly language calling for or condoning violence against Israel or Israel's elimination:

- Expression demonizing and delegitimizing Israel increased by 32%, with expression accusing Israel or Zionism of “white supremacy” more than doubling.
- Expression promoting or condoning terrorism against Israel increased by 67%.
- Expression promoting or condoning the elimination of Israel more than doubled.

On January 8, 2020, AMCHA released what it called a “new groundbreaking study” which it claimed provided “strong evidence” that, worrisomely, pro-BDS faculty members were using classrooms to promote their BDS agendas. In its summary of the study, AMCHA stated:

New research released today by AMCHA Initiative provides the first empirical evidence suggesting that faculty who support the academic Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel are actively promoting that political agenda directly to students in their classrooms.

The study, which examined 50 syllabi at 40 public and private colleges and universities over an eleven-year period, reveals that:

- Academic BDS-supporting instructors had an average of 78% of their course readings authored by BDS supporters, whereas non-BDS-supporting instructors had an average of 17% of their course readings authored by BDS supporters.

## **I. When Does Anti-Israel Expression become Anti-Semitism**

Particularly since October 7, 2023, Israel's most virulent foes on campus have argued that anti-Zionist speech on campus is not anti-Semitic, no matter how maliciously Jewish students are singled out for their support of Israel and no matter how the actions of such anti-Zionists might disrupt or even threaten the lives of Jewish students. Even before the April 2024 Columbia tent encampment protests, rhetoric has become so polemical and so hateful as leave little doubt that it crossed the line, with student anti-Israel leaders at Michigan (see the April 9, 2024, *Detroit Jewish News*) and Columbia (see April 25, 2024 *New York Times*) calling for the death of all Zionists. No person of any integrity can dispute the effect of such incendiary outbursts on Jewish students in those communities. However, as most observers of

the ongoing campus conflict can attest, these developments are not new, only more unambiguous in their intensity and purpose.

Then President Donald Trump's December 11, 2019 executive order regarding anti-Semitism on the college campus (see the end of Section 1G above) was by no means the first attempt to define and give examples of when the anti-Israel polemicizing can be regarded as anti-Semitism. However, it was the first time a president announced that the Department of Education would invoke Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as a means of withholding funds from campuses where it could be shown that ostensible criticism of Israel had taken so egregious a course as to constitute anti-Semitism. Before the issuance of the executive order, many views had coalesced around the criteria for identifying when such tactics constituted such anti-Semitism.

Thus, in her May 20, 2018, *Washington Post* article, entitled "How to tell when criticism of Israel is actually anti-Semitism," Rabbi Jill Jacobs, the executive director of *T'ruah*, a Jewish human rights organization, offered some useful yardsticks for determining when anti-Israel criticism becomes anti-Semitic expression. These are set forth in excerpted format below:

*Seeing Jews as insidious influencers behind the scenes of world events*

On the left and the right, anti-Semitism often manifests in a nefarious belief in a worldwide Jewish conspiracy that wields outsize power. On the right, it's "globalists" and "elites" who manipulate events. On the left, it's "Zionists." The terms may differ, but the fundamental conspiracy theory is the same. For example, after news broke that a private investigative firm made up of former Mossad officers had been digging up dirt on Obama administration officials who helped broker the U.S. nuclear deal with Iran, Columbia University professor Hamid Dabashi [another of whose astounding anti-Israel polemics is reproduced later in this chapter] tweeted, "Every dirty treacherous ugly and pernicious act happening in the world just wait for a few days and the ugly name of 'Israel' will [pop up]."

Also in this category is the theory, popular on the left, that Israeli trainers are to blame for racism and violence against people of color by U.S. police. (Durham, N.C., for instance, recently barred its police department from partnering with the Israeli police or military for training, citing this notion.) This includes insinuations that American Jewish organizations that help send U.S. police officers to Israel for counterterrorism training should be held responsible for the shootings of unarmed people of color. American police have used violence against marginalized people since long before Israel existed. White people have

never needed Jews to teach them how to brutalize people of color on American soil.

*Using the word “Zionist” as code for “Jew” or “Israeli”*

“Zionism” denotes a movement, forged in the late 19th century and evolving ever since, for the existence of a modern Jewish state in the land of Israel. A Zionist, as I define myself, supports one or more of the many variations on this vision, which differ wildly in their political, religious and cultural emphases.

The “Zionist” label attempts to reduce a state full of living, breathing humans to a simplistic political notion. It’s common for Palestinians and their supporters to refer to “Zionist occupation forces” instead of the “Israeli army,” or to the “Zionist entity” instead of “Israel.” At a demonstration I walked by this past week, protesters held signs mourning 70 years of “Israel,” in quotes.

*Denying Jewish history*

As a means of rejecting the legitimacy of Israel, some stoop to asserting that Jews have no national history there — that they are, in other words, nothing more than European colonizers. For instance, the website Middle East Monitor referred recently to the “alleged Temple” in ancient Jerusalem (the ruins are still there). Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, likewise, resurrected the old canard that today’s Jews descend from Khazar converts in a recent and much-criticized speech.

Some critics also reduce Judaism to religion, in the mold of Western Christianity, rather than acknowledging our more complex sense of ourselves as a people with a history and an ancestral land, as well as religious and cultural practices.

*Dismissing the humanity of Israelis.*

In a conversation about terrorist attacks by Palestinians, one young activist told me, “I can’t judge how other people carry out their liberation movements.” Such lack of concern for Israeli lives is evident in failures to condemn rocket attacks against civilians, in the rejection of the term “terrorist” for anyone who acts against Israelis and in statements blaming Israelis for their own deaths. A movement motivated by concern for human rights requires caring about the dignity, well-being, concerns and self-determination of all people.

*Assuming that the Israeli government speaks for all Jews*

Rabbis who speak at rallies on domestic issues (the Trump travel ban, police killings, etc.) regularly tell me that audience members shout at them, “What about Palestine?” An explicit disavowal of a connection to Israel shouldn’t be a prerequisite for Jewish involvement in broader social justice issues, as has become the norm on college campuses and in many progressive spaces.

In an October 14, 2018, *Tablet* article, entitled “Anti-Zionism has No Place in the Progressive Movement, Carly Pildis, a former Bennington College student who had experienced “a variety of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism in [her] college days,” put it this way:

[T]he notion that Jewish self-determination is a form of racism is purely anti-Semitic. If you do not believe that self-determination is a human right, or are an anarchist anti-nation-state radical, I’ll accept that there is no anti-Semitism in your anti-nationalism. That said, if you believe in the right of South Sudan, Kurdistan, and Kosovo—and France, and Sweden, and Japan, and Ghana—to exist, you should embrace self-determination for Jews. Academic rhetoric that applauds ethnic cleansing, terrorism, forced relocation, and the dismantling of the Jewish state should be challenged at every opportunity. Attempts to intimidate and silence Jewish students who are Zionists are civil rights violations.

In November 2018, Yossi Klein Halevi, the noted author of “Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor,” was on a speaking tour with Walid Issa, executive director of the American Palestinian Hope Project. According to an online post by Halevi, at DePaul University, a student asked “whether “humanizing” Zionists was comparable to asking African Americans to “humanize members of the KKK.” According to the November 20, 2018, *Jewish Journal*, in an article entitled “Defining the Root of Anti-Semitism, Halevi’s response included the following compelling statement of when anti-Israel criticism becomes anti-Semitic:

My understanding of anti-Semitism is the following: Anti-Semitism is not simply hating the other — the Jew as other. Anti-Semitism works a little bit differently. What anti-Semitism does is turn the Jews — “the Jew” — into the symbol of whatever it is that a given civilization defines as its most loathsome qualities. And so, under Christianity, — before the Holocaust and Vatican II — the Jew was the Christ-killer (“His blood be upon our heads and upon our children” [Matthew 27:25] ). That’s forever. Under Communism, the Jew was the capitalist. Under Nazism, the Jew was the race polluter, the ultimate race polluter.

Now we live in a different civilization, where the most loathsome qualities are racism, colonialism, apartheid. And lo and behold, the greatest offender in the world today, with all the beautiful countries of the world, is the Jewish state. The Jewish state is the symbol of the genocidal, racist, apartheid state. That's Israel. That's the Jewish state. An Israeli political philosopher named Yakov Talmon once put it this way: "The state of the Jews has become the Jew of the states." What that means to me is, criticism of Israel is not anti-Semitism. Criticism of Israel's existence — denying Israel the right to exist, calling Israel the Zionist entity — *that* is anti-Semitism. That is a classical continuity of thousands of years of symbolizing the Jew. So, using that kind of language places you in very uncomfortable company. That kind of language can come today from the far left. It can come from white supremacists. It can come from Islamist extremists. It can come from many sources, but all of those groups converge on one idea: The Jew remains humanity's great problem.

In reaction to a piece by New York Times columnist Michelle Goldberg, entitled "Anti-Zionism Isn't the Same as Anti-Semitism," David Harris, the revered CEO of the American Jewish Committee, wrote the following statement on how anti-Zionism has taken on the trappings of anti-Semitism:

If anti-Zionism isn't a form of anti-Semitism, what is? To deny the Jewish people, of all the peoples on earth, the right to self-determination surely is discriminatory, all the more so 71 years after the United Nations General Assembly voted to recommend the creation of a "Jewish" state. And if the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (B.D.S.) movement isn't another form of anti-Semitism, what is?

To single out Israel, the only liberal democracy in the Middle East, for demonization and isolation, while ignoring egregious human rights violators aplenty, once again smacks of anti-Jewish hatred. After all, the very same B.D.S. movement does not even focus on the mistreatment of Palestinians in the Arab world, including the thousands killed and imprisoned in the Syrian carnage, the many professional fields closed to Palestinians in Lebanon, or the internecine wars between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority. If Israel is not involved, the B.D.S. movement has no interest.

Nor does it take into account the many efforts by Israel to forge a peace deal with the Palestinians, beginning 70 years ago, only to be spurned time and again.

Criticize Israeli policies? Sure. It's done every day in Israel itself by the media, nongovernment groups, and in the Knesset. But that's a far cry

from treating Israel differently from any other country in the world, which is at the core of the anti-Zionist and B.D.S. outlook.

A working definition of when anti-Zionism can become anti-Semitism had been employed by the US State Department in its diplomatic outreach. (But see below). According to the State Department, the following are among the ways in which anti-Semitism may be manifested through the prism of anti-Israel speech:

Demonization of Israel:

- Using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism to characterize Israel or Israelis
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis
- Blaming Israel for all inter-religious or political tensions

Employing a double standard when it comes to Israel:

- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation
- Multilateral organizations focusing on Israel only for peace or human rights investigations

Delegitimizing Israel:

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, and denying Israel the right to exist

See also the February 2021 comments of a ranking State Department official quoted below in which she states that the Biden Administration “embraces” the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism (also discussed below).

There is, nevertheless, considerable support for the idea that criticism of Israel can readily morph into anti-Semitism. For historical and religious reasons, Israel’s right to exist, its role as a place of refuge for the world’s Jews and its achievements are an integral part of Jewish identity. When Israel, as the world’s only Jewish state, is held to a double standard and subjected to criticism not levied against other states and when its right to self-determination and its right to exist are challenged through demonization and other forms of delegitimization, then it is proper to claim that such attacks strike at what it is to be a Jew.

According to the April 13, 2018, *Jewish News Syndicate*, on that date, South Carolina became the first state to pass a campus anti-Semitism bill modeled on the State Department formulation. According to the bill’s summary, H3643 was, in the



main, designed to: “Define Certain Terms Concerning Anti-Semitism, [and] Provide that Institutions Of Higher Learning In This State Shall Consider This Definition When Reviewing, Investigating, Or Deciding Whether There Has Been A Violation Of An Institutional Policy Prohibiting Discriminatory Practices On The Basis Of Religion.”

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has defined anti-Semitism as follows: “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.” The following examples of anti-Semitism, as listed by IHRA on its website, approximate closely the State Department’s recitation of when action constitutes anti-Semitism.

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

For a number of years, the State Department's construction of what constitutes anti-Semitism had been the highest Executive Branch pronouncement on the issue. However, on May 25, 2023, in response to an unprecedented spike in anti-Semitism in the United States, the Biden Administration released a 60-page strategy for fighting antisemitism, replete with one hundred action items. Most importantly, the strategy embraced the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. But, in deference to Zionist-skeptical elements within the Democratic Party, the strategy also noted that there are several constructions of what constitutes anti-Semitism, among others the so-called, less-pointed Nexus Document.

As reported by the May 25, 2023, *The Algemeiner*, in the following quotes, the Administration's announcement was not with full-throated enthusiasm by the Jewish community:

Many Jewish groups and leaders including the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) had called for the IHRA definition to be adopted as the "sole" definition of antisemitism in the plan.

Chairman of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law Kenneth Marcus, who was consulted by the Biden administration ahead of the plan's release, told *The Algemeiner* that on the issue of definitions, the plan was better than what IHRA-only advocates had feared, but worse than they had hoped.

"It will come as a relief to some that the strategy forcefully embraces IHRA, and yet it's disappointing that they nevertheless acknowledge and commend Nexus," Marcus said. "Much of the language of the document is far more consistent with IHRA than with Nexus... It's just unfortunate that they muddle what would otherwise have been a very good discussion of definitions by praising a definition inconsistent with their approach."

On June 28, 2023, Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME) had this to say about the Administrations embrace of the Nexus document:

Two areas [of the Administration's announcement] attracted criticism, the first being the resources used to understand antisemitism, specifically the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition:

There are several definitions of antisemitism, which serve as valuable tools to raise awareness and increase understanding of antisemitism. The most prominent is the non-legally binding "working definition" of antisemitism adopted in 2016 by the 31-member states of the

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which the United States has embraced. In addition, the Administration welcomes and appreciates the Nexus Document and notes other such efforts.

The phrase “welcomes and appreciates the Nexus Document,” which does not explicitly state that demonization and double standards regarding Israel constitute antisemitism, was immediately taken as evidence the administration was seeking to dilute the far more widely accepted IHRA definition.

According to an opinion piece in the August 30, 2023, *Jerusalem Post*, San Francisco State University Professor Rabab Abdulhadi and University of Massachusetts Boston Professor Heike Schotten--two academic leaders of the U.S. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (USACBI)--co-authored an article in the August 24, 2023, edition of *Mondoweiss*, entitled “Why we created the Institute for the Critical Study of Zionism (ICSZ).” The following analysis is excerpted from the *Jerusalem Post* opinion piece:

Describing ICSZ as “explicitly anti-Zionist” and “strictly committed to abiding by the BDS picket line,” Abdulhadi and Schotten link their new Institute to “the long history of struggle” against efforts “to conflate Zionist politics and ideology with Jews or Jewishness.”

In October, the Institute will be holding an inaugural conference entitled “Battling the ‘IHRA definition’: Theory & Activism” to provide academics and activists with tools for delegitimizing the most widely accepted definition of antisemitism, which rightly identifies anti-Zionism as a form of antisemitism, but is being portrayed by conference organizers as “a tool of and a shield for repressive state power.”

In addition to the Biden Administration’s adoption of the IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism (qualified though it may have been), the IHRA’s working definition of anti-Semitism has also been adopted by a number of universities and domestic entities as well as by many foreign countries, municipalities, and universities. Excluding US universities and specific states and counties such as New Mexico and Montgomery County, Maryland, in historical order, the adopting entities are: the United Kingdom, Israel, Austria, Scotland, Romania, Germany, Bulgaria, Lithuania, North Macedonia, France, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, predominantly Muslim, Kosovo, the Canadian province of Ontario, the government of Quebec, the Muslim nation or Bahrain, the University of Cambridge, the City of Paris, South Korea, Australia (New South Wales), Columbia, and the Canadian province of Manitoba.

Also, on June 1, 2017 the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on its member states to adopt and apply the IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism, and, on June 5, 2019, the Organization of American States announced that it would

follow the working definition. On October 30, 2020, the Global Imams Council, the largest nongovernmental organization of imams in the world with over 1,000 Imam members from all walks of Islamic life, also announced that it would follow suit, as did the Kentucky General Assembly on February 25, 2021. On November 3, 2021, Italy's top soccer league, the Serie A division, announced that it would adopt the IHRA working definition.

As set forth in the February 2, 2021 *AJC Global Voice* (and reproduced, in pertinent part below), the American Jewish Committee (AJC) welcomed the remarks of a State Department official in which she stated that the Biden Administration “embraces and champions” the IHRA working definition of antisemitism. Stated AJC:

“We must educate ourselves and our communities to recognize antisemitism in its many forms, so that we can call hate by its proper name and take effective action. That is why the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s working definition of antisemitism, with its real-world examples, is such an invaluable tool,” said Kara McDonald, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

Addressing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Expert Meeting on Combating Antisemitism in the OSCE Region, McDonald noted, “As prior U.S. Administrations of both political stripes have done, the Biden Administration embraces and champions the working definition. We applaud the growing number of countries and international bodies that apply it. We urge all that haven’t done so to do likewise.” The U.S. has long recognized the IHRA working definition as a vital educational tool.

In the case of *Volk v. Board of Trustees*, two San Francisco State University (SFSU) Jewish students identified as Kern and Volk claimed that SFSU engaged in anti-Semitic behavior against them when the university prevented the campus Hillel from participating in the school’s “Know Your Rights” fair in February 2017. According to an account of the matter in the March 20, 2019 *Jewish Journal*, the case was ultimately settled in favor of the students, with the California State University System agreeing to acknowledge that, for many Jewish students, Israel and Zionism may be an important part of their identity. The following are excerpts from the *Jewish Journal* article:

Kern and Volk also alleged that the university failed to effectively respond to anti-Semitic incidents on campus. These would constitute as violations of California’s Unruh Civil Rights Act, Kern and Volk argued. They were represented by The Lawfare Project and Winston & Strawn LLP.

According to a copy of the settlement obtained by the Journal, CSU will issue a statement stating that it will protect the rights of all students at SFSU, including Jewish and pro-Israel students, and will acknowledge that “for many Jews, Zionism is an important part of their identity.

As reported by *Newsweek* in its November 18, 2019 edition, a student at the University of Toronto (one of Canada’s premiere universities, though not profiled in this Guide) asked the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union (UTGSU) to support Hillel of University of Toronto’s "Kosher Forward" campaign. Stunningly, the UTSGU responded by saying that it couldn't support the campaign because the Hillel chapter had conducted "pro-Israel" activities (a response which it later qualified in a half-hearted apology).

According to the *Newsweek* account, Toronto Hillel responded by strongly condemning:

this type of rhetoric, which associates support of the state of Israel with a campaign to make campus more accessible for Jewish students.

The attempt by this student body to change the conversation away from the needs of Jewish students to their support for the Jewish state is a blatant attempt to marginalize Jewish students connected to Hillel simply for their identity.

In addition, it stated that, by refusing to support a kosher food campaign “undertaken by a religious minority group on campus to gain access to food they can eat, the UTGSU is failing in its mandate to represent the interests of minority groups on campus.” On the anti-Semitic implications of the UTGSU’s actions, *Newsweek* reported as follows:

Citing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of anti-semitism as holding Jewish people or Jewish organizations collectively responsible for the Israeli government's actions, it added: "The inability to separate Jewish individuals from the Israeli government's actions is, indeed, a form of antisemitism. The UTGSU has made it explicit that it would rather see Jewish students' needs go unmet than to support Hillel U of T in its equity campaign."

In an encouraging sign of both support for the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism as well as support for Jewish students in the crosshairs of increasingly aggressive and sometimes violent post May 7, 2023, anti-Zionist protests, the May 1, 2024, *Boston Globe* (and numerous other outlets), reported that the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation on April 30, 2024, that “would establish a broader definition of antisemitism for the Department of Education to enforce anti-discrimination laws, the latest response from lawmakers to a nationwide student

protest movement over the Israel-Hamas war.” The *Boston Globe* account went on to state:

The proposal, which passed 320-91 with some bipartisan support, would codify the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of antisemitism in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a federal anti-discrimination law that bars discrimination based on shared ancestry, ethnic characteristics or national origin. It now goes to the Senate where its fate is uncertain.

Action on the bill was just the latest reverberation in Congress from the protest movement that has swept university campuses. Republicans in Congress have denounced the protests and demanded action to stop them, thrusting university officials into the center of the charged political debate over Israel’s conduct of the war in Gaza. More than 33,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war was launched in October, after Hamas staged a deadly terrorist attack against Israeli civilians.

## **J. Hate Speech and the Free Speech Debate**

As noted elsewhere on these pages, Hamas’ deadly October 7, 2023, rampage into southern Israel (and the subsequent, extraordinary campus backlash against Israel) has changed everything. Included within those changes has been a reassessment of the ways in which the so-called free speech movement has coddled just about every imaginable interest group on campus except for Jewish students. However, following the disastrous December 2023 Congressional testimony by the presidents of Harvard, MIT and Penn in which none could bring themselves to acknowledge that chants of Jewish genocide constituted intimidation, even liberal advocates are beginning to reassess how Jews on campus are being harassed and intimidated by the hate speech of others (often those falling into so-called protected classes). The following excerpts from the December 10, 2023, *New York Times*, under the subtitle “Republicans have been attacking elite universities for years. After a tense congressional hearing last week, many on the left are joining them”:

For years, conservatives have struggled to persuade American voters that the left-wing tilt of higher education is not only wrong but dangerous. Universities and their students, they’ve argued, have been increasingly clenched by suffocating ideologies — political correctness in one decade, overweening “social justice” in another, “woke-ism” most recently — that shouldn’t be dismissed as academic fads or harmless zeal.

The validation they have sought seemed to finally arrive this fall, as campuses convulsed with protests against Israel's military campaign in Gaza and hostile, sometimes violent, rhetoric toward Jews. It came to a head last week on Capitol Hill, as the presidents of three elite universities struggled to answer a question about whether "calling for the genocide of Jews" would violate school rules, and Republicans asserted that outbreaks of campus antisemitism were a symptom of the radical ideas they had long warned about. On Saturday, amid the fallout, one of those presidents, M. Elizabeth Magill of the University of Pennsylvania, resigned.

For Republicans, the rise of antisemitic speech and the timid responses of some academic leaders presented a long-sought opportunity to flip the political script and cast liberals or their institutions as hateful and intolerant. "What I'm describing is a grave danger inherent in assenting to the race-based ideology of the radical left," said Representative Virginia Foxx, Republican of North Carolina, at the hearing, adding, "Institutional antisemitism and hate are among the poison fruits of your institution's cultures."

The potency of the critique was underscored by how many Democrats joined the attack.

The three college presidents were denounced by a spokesman for President Biden. He was echoed by other Democratic officials, like Pennsylvania's governor, Josh Shapiro, who joined calls for Ms. Magill's firing. Some prominent business leaders with liberal leanings said they had failed to understand what was really happening in higher education.

"For a long time I said that antisemitism, particularly on the American left, was not as bad as people claimed," wrote Sam Altman, head of the artificial intelligence firm OpenAI and a major Democratic donor, on X. "I'd like to just state that I was totally wrong."

Just as celebratory rallies in the aftermath of Hamas's October rampage have split Jewish progressives from some of their own longtime allies, anti-Israel protests on campus in recent weeks have driven a wedge into the Democratic Party more broadly. They have turned prominent politicians and executives against institutions where they are more accustomed to send their children or deliver commencement addresses.

Despite the new normal, the following historical record of the skewed manner in which speech has been dealt with on campus in recent years (particularly, as applied to Jewish students) remains as a useful chronology of how the issue has been

brewing for a number of years.

Even before the catastrophic August 2017 Unite the Right demonstrations in Charlottesville, the campus free speech debate had been boiling over and was defined by clashes involving polarizing figures such as right-wing, nativist provocateur, Richard Spencer. Thus, the terms of the debate were being shaped by persons perceived as agents of hate. And not by accident, according to the January 12, 2018, *Washington Post*:

White supremacist and neo-Nazi groups in America had a goal for 2017: Leave the virtual confines of online forums and social media platforms and occupy physical space.

\*\*\*\*\*

It was a decision that led to a year of tumult, violence and even death, and nowhere was that decision felt more acutely than on college and university campuses. They became the primary battlegrounds for far-right groups that sought out the schools for organized rallies and speeches, and made them the focus of recruiting efforts.

The examples of this effort are unfortunately many. In April 2017, the incendiary Milo Yiannopoulos, a nativist Breitbart News editor, was scheduled to speak at the University of California Berkeley as part of his "Dangerous Faggot" tour. According to a May 2017 *Chronicle of Higher Education* story, entitled "Trump Can't Cut off Berkeley's Funds by Himself":

more than 1,500 students gathered outside the venue to peacefully protest. Then about 100 additional protesters — mostly nonstudents, Berkeley officials said — joined the fray and hurled smoke bombs, broke windows, and started fires. The violence forced the campus police to put Berkeley on lockdown and led university leaders to cancel the event.

According to the foregoing story, Berkeley's then chancellor, Nicholas Dirks, had, on First Amendment grounds, stated the following in refusing the week before to submit to demands that Yiannopoulos' speech be canceled:

"In our view, Mr. Yiannopoulos is a troll and provocateur who uses odious behavior in part to 'entertain,' but also to deflect any serious engagement with ideas," Mr. Dirks wrote.

But, he added, "we are defending the right to free expression at an historic moment for our nation, when this right is once again of paramount importance." Mr. Dirks went on to warn that the university "will not stand idly by" if anyone tries to violate university policies by



disrupting the talk.

The next month, another conservative firebrand, Ann Coulter, cancelled a speaking engagement at Berkeley, claiming that the school could not ensure her safety.

In Middlebury, a similar outbreak of violence occurred in the wake of a March 2017 speech by Charles Murray, the author of a 1994 book, *The Bell Curve*, that claimed genetics played a role in the achievement gap between white and black students. Over 400 protestors had so loudly shouted down Mr. Murray that his talk was moved to a private room where it was streamed. However, after the talk, events got ugly and someone grabbed the hair of Allison Stranger, the faculty professor who had moderated the talk, causing her to sustain a concussion as she was thrown to the ground.

As suggested by then Berkeley Chancellor Dirks in his statement quoted above, the prospect of violent confrontations precipitated by hate-tinged speakers (or by speakers whose views are perceived as hateful) raises numerous thorny issues ranging from the question whether universities can suppress speech on public safety grounds to concern over the tactics employed by some oppositional groups, such as “Antifa,” not to speak of the insurrectionists who stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2022, intent on undermining the expressed will of the American people during the November 2021 presidential elections.

A distressing first-hand account of *Antifa*’s willingness to employ violence appeared in an opinion piece by Andy Ngo, published in the July 2, 2019, *Wall Street Journal* under the title, “A Leftist Mob attacked me in Portland.” The following paragraphs from the article set the stage for Ngo’s harrowing experience at the hands of *Antifa*:

No hate! No fear!” chanted the left-wing crowd as they marched downtown Saturday. I walked to the front of the line to record the protesters with my new GoPro camera when I was suddenly slammed on the back of my head with something hard. Dazed and still hearing faint chants of “no hate,” I was then punched and kicked by perhaps a dozen masked people in black. At an Antifa event meant to resist “fascist violence,” I—a gay journalist of color—was beaten so badly that I was hospitalized for a brain hemorrhage.

Since last year, I have been targeted by Antifa and its allies for my critical coverage of their violent extremism. I’ve reported those incidents to the Portland Police Bureau, and in some cases I’ve identified suspects, but there were no arrests. The mainstream media describe Antifa as “antifascist,” but in fact it is a far-left paramilitary-style movement of anarchists and communists agitating for a revolution.

Antifa is known for wearing black and concealing faces with masks to commit crimes under the protection of group anonymity. The Homeland Security Department has described some of Antifa's activities as "domestic terrorist violence," but Portland recently voted to withdraw from the Joint Terrorism Task Force, citing concerns the Federal Bureau of Investigation targeted left-wing activists.

On June 29, Antifa organized a milkshake-themed counterprotest against two small right-wing groups. The event was inspired by the new practice—a British import—of throwing milkshakes on conservative or right-wing figures. Vox.com's Carlos Maza encouraged such assaults in a May tweet: "Milkshake them all. Humiliate them at every turn. Make them dread public organizing."

Earlier that day, I left my house wearing a helmet, but I took it off after catching a glimpse of my reflection. I didn't want to look like a combatant. I wore goggles instead, knowing Antifa activists often target bystanders with bear spray, as happened to me on May Day.

As soon as I arrived at the staging area in a downtown park, masked protesters began to follow me. One person openly carried a metal bat. In a July 2 news release, the Portland police reported that officers had observed "participants in the crowd who concealed and brandished weapons, including collapsible batons, projectiles, and firearms." At various points I was threatened, cursed at, and blocked from walking around. I ignored them. Police watched from a distance and did nothing.

Later, a masked person approached me from behind, dumped the contents of a cup on my head, and ran away. The paper cup had an Antifa logo on it and was handed out at a "shake station" in the park. I immediately reported the incident to police. Officers told me they would not approach the suspect, who was still in sight, because that might "incite" the crowd. This is a refrain I hear every time Antifa harasses or attacks me with a Portland police eyewitness present. Policing in the city has become so feckless that neighboring county deputies are withdrawing or reducing their support for the Portland police.

For an entirely different and supportive view of *Antifa* and its activities, see the profile for Dartmouth in Chapter 7 of this Guide, in which a young Dartmouth professor expresses his support for the *Antifa* movement.

As regards white supremacist hate speech, an ADL study released on January 31, 2018 concluded that white supremacist propaganda on college campuses had increased by 258% from the fall of 2016 to the fall of 2017. In October 2019, the American Jewish Committee released a study of general Jewish attitudes toward

anti-Semitism. According to the report, almost nine of ten Jews in America believe anti-Semitism is a problem is on the rise.

According to the ADL, these confrontational campus episodes were increasing and at an accelerating pace. As reported by the January 12, 2018, *Washington Post*:

The Anti-Defamation League found that in the past 15 months, organizations such as the Traditionalist Worker Party, Identity Evropa, American Renaissance and Vanguard America directed campaigns at more than 200 college campuses in 42 states. The pace of their provocations has only accelerated in recent months. The civil rights group counted 140 reported incidents — displays of organized racist activity — from Sept. 1 through Dec. 18. For the same period the year before, 41 incidents were reported.

As noted in the June 20, 2018, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, ADL's Center on Extremism reported the next year that, "during the 2017-18 academic year, [it] had recorded 292 instances of white-supremacist propaganda on campuses—a 77-percent increase from the 165 cases it documented in the 2016-17 academic year."

According to the June 29, 2019, *Times of Israel*, an ADL report released on June 27, 2019, "found 313 cases of white supremacist fliers, stickers and posters on campuses in the 2018-2019 year, an increase from [the above-noted] 292 during the previous year.

On February 7, 2018, a federal judge further defined the free speech/provocative speaker battle lines by declaring that the University of Washington could not charge a right-wing campus organization, Patriot Prayer, the cost of providing security for a controversial conservative speaker.

In early March 2018, Richard Spencer made another college appearance, this time at Michigan State University, where he was relegated to a speaking platform well removed from the core of the campus, at the school's Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education. According to a March 6, 2018, *Washington Post* account of the event, fights broke out as Spencer supporters and protesters came in contact with one another. The following excerpt from the *Washington Post* story describes the scene and the potential for violence when, in the name of the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech, nativist speakers bent on provocation encounter aggrieved protesters, some of them intent on violent resistance:

As some of Spencer's supporters and people planning to attend the speech arrived on campus, masked protesters shouted obscenities at white supremacists and at police. A group of white nationalists marching down the road toward the venue — Pavilion for

Agriculture and Livestock Education — was blocked by protesters. Shouts turned to punches thrown at protesters, but the group was forced by protesters away from the pavilion where Spencer later spoke.

Of course, what defines speech as hate speech or even offensive speech is often subjective and may be no more than a political point of view particularly, when students encounter public officials whose views they consider intolerable. Thus, as reported by the January 28, 2020, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, protesters prevented Kevin McAleenan, a former acting secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, from giving the keynote address at Georgetown Law Center's October 2019 Immigration Law and Policy Conference. The *Inside Higher Ed* article noted that, "[b]y denying audience members the opportunity to hear McAleenan's speech, the protesters violated the university's written policies for speech and expression."

To its credit, the Law Center responded by convening a meeting of its Speech and Expression Committee. The committee's charge was to consider whether "the law center should control who is invited to speak at the campus and who may invite them, what the law center's response should be to "disruptive protests" during speaking events, and if "possible disciplinary or other administrative action" should be pursued against student and faculty member "disrupters" in the future, according to the email sent to law center students.

The University of Colorado at Boulder took a different approach by directing that its communications staff run any "sensitive topics" by the President's office before publication. As reported in the excerpt from the August 25, 2020, *Colorado Daily* set forth below, at least one member of the school's Board of Regents lamented that the policy would have a chilling effect on campus:

The University of Colorado has instructed communications staff on the school's campuses to avoid partisan language and submit any statements dealing with "sensitive" topics — including COVID-19 science, race relations, climate change and the First Amendment — to the office of President Mark Kennedy prior to publication.

That directive, made in a July memo recently obtained by The Denver Post, was denounced Monday by a CU regent and the chair of the systemwide Faculty Council as a move to control speech.

But the memo was not sent to, nor intended to impact, faculty, said Ken McConnellogue, the CU system spokesman who authored the document. Rather, he said, it was a heads-up to campus higher-ups calling for more measured, coordinated communication as the election approaches.

Regent Linda Shoemaker, D-Boulder, said she recently learned of the memo and felt it has a "chilling effect" over the campuses. She said she

believes it could pressure CU's campus leaders to censor themselves as to not offend the Republican majority on the Board of Regents.

Even during the era of pandemic-fueled distance learning, the suppression of conservative speech as “offensive” speech continued. According to the August 7, 2020 online edition of *FIRE*, “a student at Stockton University was facing disciplinary charges for a political Facebook post and making his Zoom background a photo of then President Donald Trump during class, causing other students to feel “taunted.” While politically unpalatable to many, particularly after the then president’s mishandling of the corona virus and callous indifference to the killing of George Floyd, the student’s suspension was particularly disturbing given that he tried to defuse the situation by withdrawing from the Zoom session. According to the *FIRE* account:

Doctoral student Robert Dailyda used a photo of the president as his Zoom background during a July 1 virtual class, prompting complaints from other students in a private GroupMe chat after class. Dailyda removed himself from the chat in order to, as Stockton acknowledged, “avoid continued conflict.” The administration wrote in an incident report that the photo caused students “to feel offended, disrespected, and taunted.”

A little less than two weeks later, *FIRE* reported on August 19, 2020 that all charges had been dropped against Dailyda. But, the clash between free speech and what in recent times has been referred to as “cancel culture”—the suppression of unpopular ideas, even if not threatening—goes on. As Michael S. Roth, the Jewish president of avowedly left-leaning Wesleyan University, put it in his September 19, 2020, *New York Times* opinion piece, entitled “Colleges, Conservatives and the Kakistocracy”:

Lately, one hears a lot about threats to freedom of expression posed by the intolerant left. And not all of these complaints are coming from the right. Intellectuals who think of themselves as moderate liberals are using their platforms to complain about threats posed by “wokeness” or “cancel culture.”

Those critics do have a point. On college campuses, students sometimes denounce those with whom they strongly disagree as unworthy of being heard at all. That “canceling” can be (but is not always) a problem. It’s one thing to see speakers who advocate hateful violence canceled; not everything is permitted. It’s another thing to cancel speakers just because their ideas are unpopular.

Then, according to the March 29, 2022, *Inside Higher Ed*, “Yale [Law] students protested a panel that included Kristen Waggoner of the Alliance Defending

Freedom, an advocacy group that often takes legal positions in opposition to LGBTQ+ rights. Students at the event shouted over Waggoner and jeered a moderator who reminded them of Yale's free speech policies. Ultimately students left the event after a warning but continued to protest noisily in the hallway." The *Inside Higher Ed* article went on to describe the reactions to the protests of Yale Law School Dean Heather K. Gerken:

Yale Law School dean Heather K. Gerken described the behavior as "unacceptable," noting in a Monday email to the campus community that it violated Yale's norms but fell short of a disciplinary offense.

"In accordance with the University's free expression policy, which includes a three-warning protocol, those protesting exited the room after the first warning, and the event went forward. Had the protestors shut down the event, our course of action would have been straightforward—the offending students without question would have been subject to discipline," Gerken wrote.

Gerken also chastised students for the way they treated professor Kate Smith and dean Mike Thompson, who tried to restore order, adding, "This is not how lawyers interact."

"I expect far more from our students, and I want to state unequivocally that this cannot happen again," Gerken wrote. "My administration will be in serious discussion with our students about our policies and norms for the rest of the semester."

According to the September 20, 2022, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, the "University of New Mexico became the latest stage for a now-familiar campus drama on [September 15, 2022], when student protesters disrupted a controversial speaker's event and reignited discussion on the state of free speech on American college campuses." As further described in the *Inside Higher Ed* article:

Over 100 students gathered on Thursday outside the Albuquerque university's Student Union Building to protest conservative commentator Tomi Lahren, who the UNM chapter of right-wing campus group Turning Point USA invited to speak at a ticketed event.

Though the protests outside had been relatively calm, tensions rose once demonstrators entered the building. Students banged on the walls, putting a hole through one of them; during the confusion, somebody pulled a fire alarm.

In a March 13, 2023, *New York Post* article entitled, “Stanford finally apologizes to Trump-appointed judge whose talk was ambushed by students, woke dean,” the paper reported that Stanford University President Marc Tessier-Lavigne and Stanford Law School Dean Jenny Martinez had written to Trump-appointed US Circuit Court Judge Stuart Kyle Duncan and apologized to the judge whose talk was disrupted by student protesters and subjected a six minute scornful reprimand by Tirien Steinbach, the law school’s associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion. The following is the text of the letter:

Dear Judge Duncan,

We write to apologize for the disruption of your recent speech at Stanford Law School. As has already been communicated to our community, what happened was inconsistent with our policies on free speech, and we are very sorry about the experience you had while visiting our campus. We are very clear with our students that, given our commitment to free expression, if there are speakers they disagree with, they are welcome to exercise their right to protest but not to disrupt the proceedings. Our disruption policy states that students are not allowed to "prevent the effective carrying out of a "public event" whether by heckling or other forms of interruption. In addition, staff members who should have enforced university policies failed to do so, and instead intervened in inappropriate ways that are not aligned with the university's commitment to free speech. We are taking steps to ensure that something like this does not happen again. Freedom of speech is a bedrock principle for the law school, the university, and a democratic society, and we can and must do better to ensure that it continues even in polarized times.

On July 21, 2023, *Inside Higher Ed* reported that Tirien Steinbach had stepped down from her post as associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion at Stanford Law School .

In a similar vein, according to the June 1, 2023, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, BU students at the school’s May 2023 graduation ceremony “swore and jeered at” keynote speaker, David Zaslav, CEO of Warner Bros. Discovery, “in a show of support for the then Hollywood writers’ strike.” In response, *Inside Higher Ed*, quoted BU president, Robert Brown, as follows:

Robert Brown issued a powerful rebuke Wednesday to students who shouted obscenities at this year’s commencement speaker, calling them “appallingly coarse and deliberately abusive.”

“Our students were not picking a fight. They were attempting to implement the cancel culture that has become all too prevalent on

university campuses,” Brown said. “The attempt to silence a speaker with obscene shouts is a resort to gain power, not reason, and antithetical to the mission and purposes of a university.”

As reported by the August 15, 2023, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the Institute for Citizens & Scholars (“IC&S”), announced a new initiative called “Campus Call for Free Expression” intended to bolster free speech on campus. According to IC&S, “the initiative brings together the following thirteen college presidents “who are committed to addressing the challenge of ensuring today’s young people are well-informed, productively engaged, and committed citizens”: Benedict College: Roslyn Clark Artis; Claremont McKenna College: Hiram Chodosh; Cornell University: Martha Pollack; DePauw University: Lori White; Duke University: Vincent Price; Georgetown University: Jack DeGioia; James Madison University: Jonathan Alger; Purdue University: Mung Chiang; Rollins College: Grant Cornwell; Rutgers University: Jonathan Holloway; University of Notre Dame: Father John Jenkins; University of Pittsburgh: Joan Gabel; University of Richmond: Kevin Hallock; Wellesley College: Paula Johnson; and Wesleyan University: Michael Roth.

On September 23, 2023, the University of Chicago announced the creation of the Chicago Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression, whose purpose is to “to expand and enhance the University’s engagement across a range of issues related to academic freedom and open discourse.”

\*\*\*\*\*

By contrast to the type of reactionary, hate-filled rhetoric described in many of the foregoing anecdotes, Jewish students might have thought that speech offered in support of Israel merely contributed to a dialogue. However, that is not the way it has been seen by Israel’s detractors. As previously noted, to such persons, pro-Israel speech is by definition hateful because of the implacably-held view among some that such speech supports an oppressive and colonialist regime that has no right to exist.

In one remarkable case, a transgender activist was discouraged from speaking at a college campus because her presentation had been co-sponsored by a Jewish campus organization. The Jewish group’s co-sponsorship was seen as an attempt at unfairly broadcasting Israel’s exemplary record on gay rights—a “tactic” that the anti-Israel community calls “pinkwashing,” the camouflaging of Israel’s claimed oppression of Palestinians by “cynically” brandishing its admirable human rights record regarding gays. The inherent absurdity of “pinkwashing” was well captured by a Vassar student in the opinion section of the October 5, 2016, issue of the school newspaper, *The Miscellany News*:

Israel is the only safe place for homosexuals in the Middle East. In Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, homosexuality is



punishable by death. In Gaza, homosexuality is illegal. In the West Bank, homosexuality is legal, but being outed would be a death sentence (Washington Post, “The State of Gay Rights Around the World”, 06.14.2016).

Israeli attitudes toward homosexuality are far less than perfect. Like every country, it has its fair share of bigots. However, Israel, unlike most countries in the world, recognizes same-sex marriages performed outside the country, welcomes LGBTQ+ people to serve in the military and allows same-sex couples to adopt children jointly. Tel Aviv is even considered one of the most gay-friendly cities in the world.

What if I told you that by giving you that series of objectively truthful information, I played my part in a global Zionist conspiracy to distract the world media from Israel’s human rights violations against the Palestinian people by co-opting the cause of LGBTQ+ rights?

You’d probably say that I’m an idiot, an anti-Semite and that I should go back to 4chan. That’s because you are at least a semi-rational person. However, that is the philosophical basis of pinkwashing, an idea that has gained popularity among supporters of the BDS movement, anti-Zionists and other fervent critics of Israel.

Writing in the July 23, 2019, *Tablet*, commentator Liel Leibovitz described *pinkwashing* in the context of his assessment of the American press’s propensity to put on blinders when it comes to the Israel-Palestine conflict:

*It All Comes Out in the Wash:* One of the more successful achievements of the pro-Palestinian movement is the introduction of the suffix “washing,” suggesting that all that Israel does is secretly a plot to cover up the occupation. Israel supports gay rights? It’s pinkwashing. Israel invents innovative new recycling technologies? It’s greenwashing. Israel invites a bunch of athletes over for a visit? It’s sportswashing. According to this conspiratorial way of seeing the world, even immensely intricate things like modern-day democracies can and should be reduced to one essentialist element, which, in turn, serves to explain everything and anything.

The shameful anti-Semitic behavior of the organizers of the 2017 Chicago Dyke March has already been discussed at Section 1(E) above. On June 7, 2019, the leaders of the Washington DC Dyke March employed the same tactic forbidding rainbow flags embossed with Stars of David while permitting the Palestinian flag. One writer in the June 6, 2019, *Forward* expressed his outrage as follows:

The organizers have insisted that their ban is on Zionist symbols, not Jewish ones. But the star of David is one of Judaism's oldest symbols. It dates back many centuries before the founding of Israel.

If a Jewish symbol makes you feel uncomfortable, the problem is with you, not the symbol.

And what kind of a march bans rainbow Jewish flags while allowing Palestinian flags? LGBTQ people have no rights under the Palestinian Authority and are even killed in Gaza for being open with their identity.

\*\*\*\*\*

In addressing the intolerance shown toward right wing speech on campus (and, by extension, any speech considered unacceptable for any reason, such as pro-Israel), one might take note of a September 13, 2018, opinion piece written by the respected commentator, Fareed Zakaria, excerpts of which appear below:

It has become commonplace to hear cries on the left to deny controversial figures on the right a platform to express their views. Colleges have disinvited speakers such as Condoleezza Rice and Charles Murray. Other campuses were unwilling or unable to allow conservative guests to actually speak, with protests overwhelming the events.

A similar controversy now involves Stephen K. Bannon, who, in recent months, has been making the rounds on the airwaves and in print — including an interview I did with him on CNN.

The real fear that many on the left have is . . . that his ideas, some of which can reasonably be described as evoking white nationalism, will prove seductive and persuasive to too many people. Hence his detractors' solution: Don't give him a platform, and hope that this will make his ideas go away. But they won't. In fact, by trying to suppress Bannon and others on the right, liberals are likely making their ideas seem more potent. Did the efforts of communist countries to muzzle capitalist ideas work?

Liberals need to be reminded of the origins of their ideology. In 1859, when governments around the world were still deeply repressive — banning books, censoring commentary and throwing people in jail for their beliefs — John Stuart Mill explained in his seminal work, "On Liberty," that protection against governments was not enough: "There needs protection also against the tyranny of the prevailing opinion and feeling; against the tendency of society to impose . . . its own ideas and practices . . . on those who dissent from them." This classic defense of

free speech, which Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes later called the “freedom for the thought that we hate,” is under pressure in the United States — and from the left.

We’ve been here before. Half a century ago, students were also shutting down speakers whose views they found deeply offensive. In 1974, William Shockley, the Nobel Prize-winning scientist who in many ways was the father of the computer revolution, was invited by Yale University students to defend his abhorrent view that blacks were a genetically inferior race who should be voluntarily sterilized. He was to debate Roy Innis, the African American leader of the Congress of Racial Equality. (The debate was Innis’s idea.) A campus uproar ensued, and the event was canceled. A later, rescheduled debate with another opponent was disrupted.

The difference from today is that Yale recognized that it had failed in not ensuring that Shockley could speak. It commissioned a report on free speech that remains a landmark declaration of the duty of universities to encourage debate and dissent. The report flatly states that a college “cannot make its primary and dominant value the fostering of friendship, solidarity, harmony, civility or mutual respect. . . . it will never let these values . . . override its central purpose. We value freedom of expression precisely because it provides a forum for the new, the provocative, the disturbing, and the unorthodox.”

The report added: “We take a chance, as the First Amendment takes a chance, when we commit ourselves to the idea that the results of free expression are to the general benefit in the long run, however unpleasant they may appear at the time.” It is on this bet for the long run, a bet on freedom — of thought, belief, expression and action — that liberal democracy rests.

A month following the above Zakaria article, Rutgers announced on October 12, 2018, that it had canceled a speech on “Radicalism on College Campuses” by Lisa Daftari, a Rutgers alumna and journalist specializing in the Middle East and counter terrorism. Daftari, whose parents are Jewish-Americans of Iranian descent, was accused of Islamophobia as a result of a 2015 speech on ISIS she gave at the Heritage Foundation. In the petition calling for her Rutgers speech to be canceled, Daftari was accused of “equating Muslims everywhere with ISIS.” According to the October 12, 2018, account of the story by the *Jewish Journal*:

In a video of the speech cited by the petition, Daftari stated, “Islamic terror, as we know, claims to take its teachings and its guidance from the Quran, which is Sharia Law.” Before that, Daftari said, “What ISIS claims to be doing is to take the Quran and its teachings and Sharia law

in a very literal way. What others, more moderates claim is that they've hijacked [the religion]."

By contrast to the actions taken by some college administrators in cancelling appearances by conservative speakers whose views were considered repugnant—often with cause—to progressive elements of the college community, UCLA's Jewish Chancellor, Gene Block, took the high ground by allowing the national SJP conference to take place at UCLA, in spite of the organization's hate-filled stance on Israel and support for terrorism. This, he did despite opposition by numerous Jewish organizations, the entire Los Angeles City Council and a petition signed by more than 35,000 people, who also found repugnant the organization's hate-filled and polemicized stance on Israel, not to speak of the conference's website that described Zionism in terms of "ethnic cleansing, destruction, mass expulsion, apartheid, and death."

As quoted by the November 18, 2018 *Forward*, Bloch, who emphasized that he had "fundamental differences with SJP" stated:

Ultimately, we must combat speech that is distasteful with more and better speech. If universities can find ways to rise above the current rancor and if our students in particular can model our values, then that may well provide the very best hope for our future.

Given the heated climate occasioned by campus speakers espousing extreme positions, it likely will be a while before Bloch's hope for the future is realized. During November and December 2017, Gallup, the Knight Foundation and the American Council on Education partnered with the Charles Koch Institute and the Stanton Foundation to conduct a survey of 3,014 college students, including an oversample of 216 students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. One of the key findings of the study was that more students than in a comparable 2016 survey (61% in 2017 as compared to 54% in 2016)) "agree[d] that the climate on their campus prevents some students from expressing their views. Although a majority of college students, 69%, believe political conservatives on campus are able to freely and openly express their views, many more believe political liberals (92%) and other campus groups are able to share their opinions freely."

However, the relative openness to free speech suggested by the foregoing 69% of students who believed political conservatives were able to freely express themselves on campus and the reality of how conservative speakers are being shut out of political debate on campus is exemplified by two incidents in which conservative speakers were unable to appear in college environments. In one case, according to the March 29, 2019, *Inside Higher Ed*, Erik Prince, the controversial founder of the security firm Blackwater and a confidant of then President Donald Trump, was prevented from speaking at Beloit College as a result of students banging

drums and piling chairs on stage to prevent him from beginning his speech. In a second case, students at Rice University—a university not normally thought of as a hotbed of activism—mounted a petition drive to prevent Vice President Mike Pence from giving an address at Rice’s Baker Institute on the subject of Venezuela. In pertinent part, the petition read:

The values of this university have been clearly expressed: Responsibility, Integrity, Community, and Excellence. The invitation of Vice President Pence goes against every one of these values. Its disregard for both LGBTQ+ people and POC on Rice campus is clearly expressed in Pence's own policies.

On March 18, 2022, the Editorial Board of the New York Times published a lengthy article entitled, “America Has a Free Speech Problem,” that outlined the growing intolerance within both liberal and conservative America for speech that is seen as controversial—a circumstance that does not bode well for the free exchange of speech in the public marketplace. The following are excerpts from that article

For all the tolerance and enlightenment that modern society claims, Americans are losing hold of a fundamental right as citizens of a free country: the right to speak their minds and voice their opinions in public without fear of being shamed or shunned.

\*\*\*\*\*

However you define cancel culture, Americans know it exists and feel its burden. In a new national poll commissioned by Times Opinion and Siena College, only 34 percent of Americans said they believed that all Americans enjoyed freedom of speech completely. The poll found that 84 percent of adults said it is a “very serious” or “somewhat serious” problem that some Americans do not speak freely in everyday situations because of fear of retaliation or harsh criticism.

\*\*\*\*\*

Consider this finding from our poll: Fifty-five percent of respondents said that they had held their tongue over the past year because they were concerned about retaliation or harsh criticism. Women were more likely to report doing so — 61 percent, compared to 49 percent of men. Older respondents were less likely to have done so than other age groups. Republicans (58 percent) were slightly more likely to have held their tongues than Democrats (52 percent) or independents (56 percent).

At the same time, 22 percent of adults reported that they had retaliated against or were harshly critical of someone over something he or she

said. Adults 18 to 34 years old were far more likely to have done so than older Americans; liberals were more likely to have done so than moderates or conservatives.

\*\*\*\*\*

While the level of national anxiety around free speech is apparent, the solutions are much less clear. In the poll, 66 percent of respondents agreed with the following: “Our democracy is built upon the free, open and safe exchange of ideas, no matter how different they are. We should encourage all speech so long as it is done in a way that doesn’t threaten others.” Yet a full 30 percent agreed that “while I support free speech, sometimes you have shut down speech that is antidemocratic, bigoted or simply untrue.” Those who identified themselves as Democrats and liberals showed a higher level of support for sometimes shutting down such speech.

\*\*\*\*\*

The progressive movement in America has been a force for good in many ways: for social and racial justice, for pay equity, for a fairer system and society and for calling out hate and hate speech. In the course of their fight for tolerance, many progressives have become intolerant of those who disagree with them or express other opinions and taken on a kind of self-righteousness and censoriousness that the right long displayed and the left long abhorred. It has made people uncertain about the contours of speech: Many know they shouldn’t utter racist things, but they don’t understand what they can say about race or can say to a person of a different race from theirs. Attacking people in the workplace, on campus, on social media and elsewhere who express unpopular views from a place of good faith is the practice of a closed society.

\*\*\*\*\*

At the same time, all Americans should be deeply concerned about an avalanche of legislation passed by Republican-controlled legislatures around the country that gags discussion of certain topics and clearly violates the spirit of the First Amendment, if not the letter of the law.

\*\*\*\*\*

On college campuses and in many workplaces, speech that others find harmful or offensive can result not only in online shaming but also in the loss of livelihood. Some progressives believe this has provided a necessary, and even welcome, check on those in power. But when social norms around acceptable speech are constantly shifting and when there

is no clear definition of harm, these constraints on speech can turn into arbitrary rules with disproportionate consequences.

### **K. Where We are in the Aftermath of October 7, 2023**

As I have suggested earlier, prior to October 7, 2023, Jewish students were doing quite well with Jewish representation at the nation's best colleges remaining high despite a push for multiculturalism and the cascade of international applications. Further, as noted earlier, no college or university had yet endorsed a student initiative advocating any aspect of BDS. However, the anti-Zionist backlash since October 7, 2023, has created a new reality, one where students at traditionally welcoming schools such as the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia are now questioning whether an elite education is worth the price of being singled out and subjected to harassment due to support for Israel.

There were potentially incendiary occurrences on campus long before October 7, 2023, but, in retrospect, these episodes pale by comparison to the treatment Jewish students have been subjected to since at noteworthy campuses such as Harvard and UC Berkeley. The concerns described below, all serious in their time, demonstrate how much greater are the concerns since Hamas' deadly rampage through Southern Israel.

Incidents such as the May 2018 opening of the US embassy in Jerusalem and the deadly April and May 2018 "March of Return" demonstrations in Gaza unleashed strong campus responses. For example, according to the May 17, 2018, *Jewish Journal*, the March of Return border clashes prompted the University of California Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) to cancel its scheduled June 2, 2018 celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the UCEAP study abroad program in Israel.

Moreover, as American Jewish Committee's Seffi Kogen pointed out in his February 2017 article in the *Connecticut Jewish Ledger*, partisan politics had the potential of galvanizing the anti-Israel bias on campus. Felicitously, support for Israel had been a nonpartisan issue in American politics for many decades. However, if support for Israel could be seen as the domain of the Republican Party, there was concern college campuses, especially those that had been BDS leaning, might become anti-Israel due to the liberal bent of college students and their disdain for President Donald Trump.

In a January 21, 2022, *Jewish Journal* article, Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, the director of AMCHA Initiative, commented on the measures announced by USC to help combat anti-Semitism on the USC college campus. (The circumstances prompting USC to act are discussed in the profile of USC in Chapter 7.) Her comments emphasized the double standard that has failed to protect pro-Zionist Jewish students from harassment while protecting a myriad of other protected

classes, and the need for USC to adopt policies that protect all students. As much as any other issue, it was (and continues to be) this double standard that undermines the ability of Jewish students to express themselves without being subjected to hateful harassment. The following is excerpted from Ms. Rossman-Benjamin's article:

[To] make significant and lasting change, there is more to be done [by USC]. Most importantly, the university must acknowledge and address the underlying nature of the problem: the unacceptable double standard when it comes to the university's response to the harassment of Jewish and pro-Israel students.

\*\*\*\*\*

By now, this double standard is well known on campuses across the country. The anti-Zionist motivated verbal harassment of Jewish and pro-Israel students is generally treated as free speech and ignored or downplayed by school administrators, while similarly harassing speech directed at other minority groups is addressed promptly and vigorously, with the harassers duly disciplined.

\*\*\*\*\*

While all school harassment policies include "religion" as a prohibited characteristic, and most, such as USC's, also include "ethnic origin" or "ethnicity," Jewish students who fall victim to harassment motivated by their support for Israel are often not covered by these policies, since many administrators do not consider support for Israel an expression of a Jewish student's religious beliefs or ethnicity.

\*\*\*\*\*

Although most universities proudly advertise their firm commitment to protecting their students' freedom of expression, these same schools carve out an exception for the verbal harassment of protected groups, which is *not* considered free speech and will be subject to punishment.

\*\*\*\*\*

Except that's *not* how it works at USC or on most other campuses for students who aren't members of a protected identity group. Their right to be protected from verbal harassment does *not* outweigh their harasser's right to free speech. This is a double whammy for pro-Israel students: not only are their harassers afforded free speech protection that is, in effect, license to continue verbally harassing them, but their



own freedom of speech and academic freedom are diminished by the harassment.

\*\*\*\*\*

Which brings us back to USC and its newly announced efforts to address campus antisemitism.

[For] these efforts to succeed, they must include an acknowledgment of the elephant in the room, namely, the gaping inequality between “protected” and “unprotected” students in USC’s harassment policy and its profound impact on student safety and freedom of expression. They must also commit to expanding the school’s policy or establishing a new one that will apply the same stringent standard of protection from harassment prescribed by federal and state law to *all* students at the University, not just some.

Clearly the foregoing events and concerns tended to indicate BDS was having at least some effect in deterring Jewish students from identifying with Israel or engaging in constructive dialogue. However, since October 7, 2023, all of that seems like a mere preamble to the problems now being experienced by Jewish students on campus.

#### **L. Six Additional Factors that have Fanned the Flames**

Contributing to the combustibility of the BDS movement are a number of phenomena, each of which has added fuel to the fire. Six of these are discussed below. While a number of the anecdotes in this section are several years old, they have been preserved in this Guide because, sadly, the cautionary tales they convey have changed little.

***Long Before October 7, 2023, Anti-Israel Academics were Polemicizing Israel on Social and Departmental Media, a Practice that has since Intensified and Morphed into Faculty participating in Columbia-style Protests***

As released by AMCHA on March 21, 2024, “[a] new AMCHA Initiative report documents a more-than-10-fold year-over-year increase in the number of incidents of faculty-supported anti-Zionist agitation [much of which occurred since October 7, 2023]. The AMCHA release “includes several appendices, which provide a grim sampling of the nearly 100 confirmed faculty-driven anti-Zionist incidents,” among them, as found by AMCHA:

- “A UC Irvine professor cancelled classes so that students could participate in anti-Israel “civil disobedience, boycotts... and protests.”

- A UC Berkeley graduate student teacher offered extra credit to students who attended a walkout “against the settler-colonial occupation of Gaza” or emailed their “local California representative” in support of Palestine.
- UC Santa Cruz’s Critical Race and Ethnic Studies used its departmental website to justify Hamas’ October 7th massacre, rape, torture and kidnapping of Israeli civilians, falsely claiming that Israel was wholly to blame because of “75 years of settler colonial displacement.”
- The UC Berkeley Black Studies Graduate Students called for a boycott of the school’s study abroad programs in Israel, and called for the murder of Israeli Jews, declaring that “the Zionist Israeli state must end.” “

The AMCHA report “also includes a powerful appendix containing statements from Jewish current UC students and faculty about the increasingly hostile and dangerous environment they face on various campuses,” among them, as found by AMCHA:

- “UC Berkeley, where 85% of Berkeley’s Jewish students felt that “the [Berkeley] administration has [not] adequately addressed the safety concerns of Jewish students impacted by the recent violence in Israel,” and 75% of Berkeley’s Jewish students do not feel safe expressing their Jewish identity on campus (e.g., wearing a Star of David necklace or talking about being Jewish with peers/faculty): “[I]t’s become unbearable to learn in an atmosphere so hostile to Jews,” and “Why is it that I can’t walk to class without facing intimidation... Why do I get threats just for being Jewish?”
- UCLA: “When I walk on campus, I’m not just scared about verbal altercations, but I’m honestly scared for my life. And I know many students in the community feel the same way.”
- UC Santa Barbara: “The most serious concern is that many Jewish students are now afraid of their professors. Jewish students are isolated. You’d think, in the wake of the last four years, with BLM, Asian American students, others, Jews support everyone. We’re pretty liberal, especially about civil rights. But no one is supporting us.:
- UC San Diego: “[Y]ou need to imagine how we feel now and just imagine how I’m still afraid to wear my Jewish star necklace.” “

However, long before the grisly events of October 7, 2023, and their aftermath, pro-Palestinian academics from departments where victimization dominates the dialogue had not only institutionalized a view of Israel as the oppressor, but had also made BDS a central feature in their programming. For example, as brought out by an AMCHA opinion piece in the December 28, 2017, *New York Daily News* (and discussed later in the profile for Columbia in Chapter 7 of this Guide), during 2015 and 2016, there were 44 Israel-related events sponsored by Columbia’s Center for Palestine Studies, 41 of which included anti-Israel, pro-BDS speakers, and, during

the same time frame, Israel-related events sponsored by Columbia's other two Middle East studies departments—the Middle Eastern, South Asian and African studies department and the Middle East Institute—also overwhelmingly included anti-Israel, pro-BDS speakers.

As pointed out by a November 13, 2018, letter to then Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, signed by AMCHA and 68 other signatories (the “Group of 69 letter”), many academic departments that address middle east issues receive support from the Department of Education as Middle East Studies National Resource Centers (NRCs). As pointed out by the Group of 69 letter, the open and free exchange of research and training is a key requirement for such funding:

NRCs were established by Title VI of the Higher Education Act in order to equip university students and faculty with a full and unbiased understanding of regions and countries vital to US security. The federal legislation providing these NRCs with millions of taxpayer dollars stipulates that the funding is specifically intended ‘to promote access to research and training overseas, including through linkages with overseas institutions.

\*\*\*\*\*

[Where] a faculty member take[s] steps to obstruct or prevent others from accessing opportunities to engage with overseas institutions through research or training, it would clearly violate the stated purpose of the law.”

In consequence, the Group of 69 letter asserted that “no area studies program should receive federal funding if its director or faculty members engage in behavior that thwarts the very purpose of that funding.” Specifically, the letter requested Secretary DeVos to:

(i) “instruct the NRC’s that “an academic boycott of one of the countries in the NRC’s purview would be a direct subversion of the stated purpose of Title VI funding,” and (ii) “require of NRC directors that they sign a statement affirming that neither they nor any of their program’s affiliated faculty will, as part of their academic responsibilities, implement an academic boycott of any of the countries within the purview of their program.”

On March 9, 2023, The Louis D. Brandeis Center addressed this issue in a letter commending Senator James Risch (R-Id) and fourteen of his senate colleagues on a letter they wrote to the Department of Education “highlighting concerns about taxpayer-funded anti-Semitism on college campuses.” The following is excerpted from the Brandeis letter:

The letter to Secretary Cardona, signed by fifteen U.S. senators, questions whether the Department of Education is properly enforcing a Higher Education Act (HEA), Title VI requirement that federally funded college programs must “reflect diverse perspectives and a wide range of views.” It is apparent that many of the federally funded Near East and Middle East Studies programs show extraordinary bias against Israel and have been driving increased anti-Semitism in American higher education. Senator Risch and his colleagues have commendably underscored this issue with the Department of Education.

The Brandeis Center raised public awareness of this issue in our 2014 whitepaper, *The Morass of Middle East Studies: Title VI of the Higher Education Act and Federally Funded Area Studies*. As *The Morass* explains, many university-based Middle East Studies programs have misused federal Title VI funds, which were intended to provide a pipeline of well-educated, multi-lingual recruits for America’s defense and national security agencies. Over the years, the purposes of this program have been perverted, as Middle East Studies programs have become propagandizers of politically monolithic anti-Zionist indoctrination. This serves neither the purposes of the federal program nor the aims of higher education. Congress wisely responded to this problem by requiring grant recipients to certify that they would provide diverse perspectives and a wide range of views. Unfortunately, recent reports suggest that the Education Department is not taking seriously its role in this process.

In addition to the foregoing, faculty members have given their views more universal coverage by spewing anti-Israel rants on social media. As a result, Jewish students taking courses from these instructors have been made to feel uncomfortable even before they set foot in the classroom.

In a well-publicized case at the University of Illinois, a conditional contract extended to Steven Salaita was withdrawn over an outcry associated with Professor Salaita’s twitter feed that contained statements such as: “At this point, if Netanyahu appeared on TV with a necklace made from the teeth of Palestinian children, would anybody be surprised?”

As reported by the November 27, 2017 *Haaretz*, Hatem Bazian, a University of California Berkeley lecturer and the founder of SJP, begrudgingly apologized for retweeting cartoons that the school said, “crossed the line” into anti-Semitism. According to *Haaretz*, “one cartoon showed a Jewish man with his arms raised, juxtaposed with the caption, ‘Mom, look! I is chosen! I can now kill, rape, smuggle organs & steal the land of Palestinians.’ Another included in the retweet was an image of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un with the title, in caps, ‘I just converted

all of North Korea to Judaism.”

At Rutgers, according to a December 11, 2017 *Forward* article, Professor Michael Chikindas was stripped of his departmental chairmanship and of his ability to teach required courses due to his having “blamed Jews for the Armenian genocide, posted anti-Semitic memes depicting Jews as hook-nosed merchants, and called Judaism “the most racist religion in the world.” On March 1, 2018, Chikindas posted an open apology in the school newspaper, *The Daily Targum*.

In late February 2018, Leslie Wong, the then president of San Francisco State University apologized for declining to say in a year-old interview that Zionists would be welcome at the SFSU campus. According to a March 22, 2018, *Jerusalem Post* article Wong, who has since retired, stated: “My comments about Zionists and whether or not they are welcomed at San Francisco State University caused a lot of anguish and deeply hurt feelings.” (Amidst much distress on the part of Connecticut College’s Jewish community, the June 10, 2023, *Times of Israel* reported that Wong had been named interim head of the college).

However, the February 2018 San Francisco State controversy did not end with Wong’s belated apology. Again, according to the *Jerusalem Post* article, soon after Wong issued his apology, “Professor Rabab Ibrahim Abdulhadi took to the official site of the Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas (AMED) program at the university’s College of Ethnic Studies and posted the following message that equated Wong’s statement ‘to a declaration of war’ “:

“I consider the statement... from President Wong, welcoming Zionists to campus, equating Jewishness with Zionism, and giving Hillel ownership of campus Jewishness to be a declaration of war against Arabs, Muslims, Palestinians and all those who are committed to an indivisible sense of justice on and off campus,” Abdulhadi’s Facebook post reads.

As reported by a later April 22, 2018, *Algemeiner* account, on February 4, 2017, Kwame Zulu Shabazz, a visiting professor of Africana Studies at Knox College—a liberal arts college in Illinois founded in 1837 on abolitionist principles—tweeted, “I said the Jews act like Nazis.”

According to the April 5, 2019, *Forward*, Hamid Dabashi, an Iranian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia University (and a founding member of the Center for Palestine Studies at Columbia), wrote on Facebook that “the only difference between Israel and the Islamic State is that Zionist columnists defend the Jewish state’s “terrorist cause.” Specifically, the article quoted Dabashi as stating:

The “murderous thugs” of the jihadist group “conquered parts of Syria and declared a ‘caliphate,’ Dabashi wrote. “Their ISRAELI counterparts

meanwhile conquered parts of Syria and declared it part of their Zionist settler colony.”

He added: “The only difference: ISIS does not have a platoon of clean shaven and well coiffured [sic] columnists at the New York Times propagating the cause of the terrorist outfit as the Zionists columnists do on a regular basis.”

Faculty employment of social media for outrageous statements that stretch the boundaries of academic freedom are not limited to anti-Israel extremism. For example, the October 2, 2018, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, reported that C. Christine Fair, a Georgetown University faculty member enraged at the way the Kavanaugh Supreme Court hearings were proceeding, tweeted: "entitled white men" deserve "miserable deaths while feminists laugh." After an initial period of indecision and following Kavanaugh's confirmation, Georgetown relieved Fair of her teaching responsibilities, citing the security of the Georgetown community, and placed her on research leave.

The Fair episode notwithstanding, a disproportionately large amount of cyber print continues to be spilled at Israel's expense, often with little response, if any.

### ***Long Before October 7, 2023, Jewish Students were Excluded from “Safe Spaces” on Campus***

Second, while various elements within the intersectionality spectrum have vociferously advocated for “safe spaces,” and “qualified speech,” so as to insulate impressionable listeners from hurtful or offensive language, no such limitations have been placed on speech that, in the most vituperative manner, attacks Israel and, by extension, its Jewish campus supporters.

In a lengthy piece that appeared in December 20, 2015 *Jerusalem Post*, Chantal Eidelstein, the then president of Students Supporting Israel at San Diego State University and a 2015-16 StandWithUs Emerson Fellow, put it this way in describing the expletive-filled events of an SJP conference at SDSA that had just taken place:

In the aftermath of the [SJP] conference, I reached out to my members, lending them a hand as they coped with the hate they experienced only to receive the message written above: “Sometimes I'm scared to admit that I'm Jewish.” Why is SDSU allowing these events that target and victimize students on campus to take place? In an educational setting, students should feel free to be who they are. Instead of providing students with the safe space they want and deserve on college campuses, they are met with synchronized chants calling for their demise.

In a February 2016 *Tower* article, then San Diego State University student, Anthony Berteaux, described the exclusion of Jewish students from the protective environment afforded other minorities in an article, entitled “In the Safe Spaces on Campus, No Jews Allowed.” The article focused on two Jewish sophomores at UCLA. Mr. Berteaux first set the scene:

The University of California Student Association’s “oldest and largest conference,” the Students of Color Conference (SOCC) has maintained a reputation for 27 years as being a “safe space” where students of color, as well as white progressive allies, can address and discuss issues of structural and cultural inequality on college campuses. Students who attend are encouraged to be cognizant of their language while exploring topics that directly affect students from marginalized communities: the school-to-prison pipeline, sexual violence, decreased funding to ethnic and LGBT studies departments, racially insensitive speech, and perhaps most importantly, a “disquieting trend” of hate crimes on university campuses statewide.

Berteaux then went on to discuss how the concerns of the two Jewish students with regard to the disturbing trend of hate speech on the UCLA campus led them to the SOCC and how they were unnerved at the rude anti-Israel reception they received at a session of the SOCC:

It was this disquieting, yet growing, trend of hate speech and crimes directed towards Jewish students within the UC system that spurred Mokhtarzadeh and Rosenberg [who used an alias], both Jewish sophomores at UCLA, to attend the conference. Their freshman year was punctuated by incidents of anti-Semitism that were both personal and met with national controversy. They were shocked during their first quarter in school, when students entered the Bruin Cafe to see the phrase “Hitler did nothing wrong” etched into a table.

\*\*\*\*\*

But their experiences as Jewish students at the SOCC would soon inspire a rude awakening: the campus progressives who were fighting for justice on college campuses for students of color weren’t only ignoring anti-Semitism and attacks on Jewish identity—they were sometimes the ones perpetuating it.

This was quickly made clear on the first day at a session called “Existence is Resistance,” hosted by leaders of UC San Diego’s SJP chapter. Students discussed the boycott of Israel as an issue of urgency for students of color. Rosenberg and Mokhtarzadeh told me that they

originally had no intention to engage in dialogue about Israel at the conference, but they were horrified at how attacks on Israel soon devolved into attacks on the Jews. “The session went way beyond the boundaries of what was appropriate or truthful at the SOCC,” Rosenberg recalled.

“For example, they said that Israel was poisoning the water that they sell into the West Bank, and raising the price by ten times. Any sane person knows that this is not true. They also said that when Jewish-American students go on Birthright trips, the Israeli government offers you money to live on a settlement. A number of things like that.”

Rosenberg also stated that “there was also no mention of the Holocaust when talking about the history of Israel. They said that in the late 19th century, Jews decided to move into this land and take over it. They completely whitewashed our history as a people.”

Mokhtarzadeh was also horrified by the rhetoric used during the session.

Over the course of what was probably no longer than an hour, my history was denied, the murder of my people was justified, and a movement whose sole purpose is the destruction of the Jewish homeland was glorified. Statements were made justifying the ruthless murder of innocent Israeli civilians, blatantly denying Jewish indigeneity in the land, and denying the Holocaust in which six million Jews were murdered. Why anyone in their right mind would accept these slanders as truths baffles me. But they did. These statements, and others, were met with endless snaps and cheers. I was taken aback.

At Binghamton University, another student addressed the dismissal of anti-Semitic concerns in an article published in the May 3, 2017 *Forward* article, entitled “Dear Allies, Don’t Downplay Anti-Semitism in Trump’s America”.

At my school, Binghamton University, I repeatedly see student activists brush aside Jewish students’ concerns because there are so many of us on campus – 25 percent of the student body – and because we’re mostly white and middle-class. But this argument would never be applied to any other historically oppressed minority group. Moreover, it misrepresents the unique nature of anti-Semitism, a form of racism which thrives on the notion that Jews are a privileged and wealthy elite. As a Jewish student activist, I find it both frustrating and downright perplexing that our communities are threatened by far-right forces across the country and around the world, but most student activists, who



otherwise jump at the mere mention of combating racism, don't seem to notice.

At Occidental College in Los Angeles, freshman Maddie Solomon, described the absence of safe spaces for Jewish students in a an April 24, 2019 *Jewish Journal* article, entitled "I stand with the Occidental Student":

Jews, who represent less than one percent of the world's population are increasingly pushed out of leftist spaces, including college campuses. Students on my campus openly advocate for the demolition of Israel — a country that is home to almost half the world's Jews. It's discouraging to think that these same voices are going to be deciding the future of BDS on college campuses, or our nation's next political leaders. Until these movements provide spaces where Jews feel comfortable reclaiming their definitions of anti-Semitism, we are denying the same freedoms our institutions claim to embody.

Unfortunately, the view that Jewish students do not need, or are not entitled to, the same level of protection accorded to other minorities may have worked its way into the mindset of some university administrators and presidents. As Mark Yudoff, the former president of the University of California, put it in the March 3, 2018 article by Cathryn J. Prince noted above in Section 1E: "[T]here is a consensus among some university presidents and chancellors that 'Jewish students are too white, too privileged and not needy,' and therefore don't need protection."

Thus, according to the May 17, 2019, *Jewish News* Syndicate, when a student at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee protested an Israel Independence Day celebration by holding up a sign that featured a swastika and anti-Semitic language, the university's president blandly stated:

Under the First Amendment, displaying offensive symbols, such as a swastika, to a general audience in a public space is protected akin to speech. Nevertheless, please know that we emphatically renounce such hateful symbols and do not support or condone any viewpoint that is hurtful, harmful or disparaging."

According to the *JNS* account, it was only a week later that the university's president took note of the real harm caused by the incident in the following more compassionate message:

Many of you have expressed concern that my last campus message—which came in response to a student carrying a sign with a swastika on it during an Israeli Independence Day event on our Milwaukee campus last Monday—inadequately addressed the significant harm that it caused," he said in a statement on Tuesday. "Please know I have heard

you and acknowledge my message did not fully capture or reflect how deeply saddened, frustrated and angry I am personally, as a member of this community, that anyone would inflict such pain and fear on our Panther family. I am sorry.

***Even Before October 7, 2023, Employment of the Anti-Normalization Phenomenon was a Means of Denying Dialogue on Israel***

Third, a campus phenomenon as disturbing as the absence of “Jewish safe spaces”, is the refusal of Israel’s detractors to engage in debate. The refusal is based on the argument that discussion gives credence to, or “normalizes,” an unacceptable Israeli perspective on the Israel-Palestine conflict. But, in truth, as with the BDS movement itself, this self-serving and tendentious approach to squelching dialogue has no less an objective than the delegitimization of Israel through denial of a voice to its supporters. As quoted in the October 10, 2017 *Daily Targum*, the Rutgers student newspaper, Lamis Deek, a Palestinian activist, put it this way at a Rutgers SJP-sponsored event: “Deek said that the importance of BDS is that it rejects the legitimacy of Israel, thus preventing the normalization of Israel in the world order.”

In an August 3, 2016, *National Post* article entitled, “The anti-Israel Movement's 'Anti-normalization' Campaign,” Asaf Romirowsky, the executive director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME), set the context for the anti-normalization movement as follows:

In an era when Syrians have died by the hundreds of thousands and Iran is poised to develop nuclear weapons, BDS activists are upset that Arab states have moved on from their cause.

Perhaps because anti-normalization is having no success in the West Bank or the Arab world, it has become the official policy of the BDS movement in the U.S. The National Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), whose parent organization, American Muslims for Palestine, was recently shown to be connected to the same American Muslim Brotherhood supporters who funded Hamas through the Holy Land Foundation, has long trained its activists in “Countering Normalization of Israeli Oppression on Campus.”

The New York City SJP chapter’s manifesto states, “We reject any and all collaboration, dialogue and coalition work with Zionist organizations through a strict policy of anti-normalization and encourage our comrades in other organizations to do the same.”

BDS activists in New York have taken this to heart by, among other things, crashing faculty meetings to demand “Zionists off campus.” Their continual harassment of Jewish students and disruption of

campus life has prompted New York state legislators to call for their suspension and helped push Governor Andrew Cuomo to ban the state from doing business with companies that boycott Israel.

Accordingly, in episodes like the San Diego State SOCC episode described above under the heading, Jewish Students are Excluded from “Safe Spaces” on Campus, it may have been business as usual for Palestinian students and professors to demonize Israel in whatever terms resonated on the intersectionality spectrum. However, it has not similarly been permissible to give a platform to members of the Jewish community on campus to respond to the calumnies being leveled against Israel. To allow such debate would, in the view of the Israel castigators, give legitimacy to a point of view that was unacceptable from its earliest roots. Thus, at the University of Michigan, Victor Lieberman, the Raoul Wallenberg Distinguished University Professor of History and Professor of Asian and Comparative History, was denied the opportunity to speak publicly against a divestment resolution at a November 2017 student government forum where the resolution was being considered.

Unfortunately, Lieberman is not the only academic to be denied the opportunity to speak out against BDS. On January 8, 2018, Cary Nelson, professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a past president of the American Association of University Professors, was in attendance at an “open and free” meeting at New York University that was taking place during the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association (“MLA”). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss strategies for applying BDS on campus. According to the January 8, 2018, *Washington Free Beacon*:

The program was advertised in a manner that looked like it was part of the official MLA convention offerings, said Nelson. The event was hosted by MLA Members for Justice in Palestine, whose logo in the Facebook invite bears a striking resemblance to that of the general organization, and “co-sponsored” by the official MLA contingents of Arabic Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, West Asia Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and the Race and Ethnicity Forum.

The meeting was chaired by Judith Butler, an endowed comparative literature professor at the University of California-Berkeley and an advocate of academic boycotts of Israel. By contrast, Nelson is the leader of the anti-BDS wing of the ALS, its “Members for Scholars’ Rights.” According to the *Washington Free Beacon* account, once the meeting was underway, Butler proposed a vote to kick Nelson out of the meeting and asked him whether he would abide by the vote. When Nelson said he would not, Butler announced that the group would not proceed with its BDS planning.

In an account published in the April 9, 2017, edition of *Medium*, a Pitzer College student described the anti-normalization campaign on his campus as follows:

“Student members of Zionist and Jewish groups on this campus have been systematically harassed, shamed, and silenced by SJP. SJP’s “anti-normalization policy” has made it impossible for students to hold dialogue.”

Bria Rosenberg, in her July 3, 2019 JTA opinion piece cited earlier in Chapter 1(A) of this Guide, entitled, “What it’s like to be a Jewish student at a college with an anti-Israel reputation,” described her frustration in not being able to engage in thoughtful discussion on the subject of Israel:

Last spring, I was sitting at a popular cafe near campus, getting a coffee with my friend, telling him how excited I was to be going to Israel for the first time that summer. Having been there many times before, he shared some of his favorite memories like praying at the Western Wall and relaxing in the sun at Gordon Beach.

A girl sitting at the table next to us was listening in. After a few minutes, she turned to us and asked if she heard me correctly that I was going to Israel.

“Yes, why?” I answered, suspicious of where this conversation was going.

“Why are you going?” she asked angrily.

“For Birthright and a summer internship.” My excitement from moments prior began to fade.

“No, but why *Israel*? Don’t you know that by going you are supporting a murderous regime?”

“A mur—” She cut me off.

“Israel is a murderous regime. Everyone in the IDF is a murderer. How could you possibly go there and give them your money knowing this?”

“I’m going because ...” Cut off again.

“You should cancel your trip. You shouldn’t go there. You’re supporting oppression. You’re supporting murder” she screamed.

“But ...”

“You need to re-evaluate your moral compass, you’re a terrible person.” And with that she stormed off. Everyone in the cafe was staring at me, having witnessed the entire interaction.

Beyond the aggression and public humiliation, what bothered me most was that I never had the chance to speak. With all of the accusations she made, both about Israel and myself, I never got the chance to defend or explain myself. And to me, that is the root of the issue: people's unwillingness to be open minded and hear the other side. Being so stubborn as to not even let someone voice their opinion, whether you agree with it or not, means that we are never going to progress. Nothing will get resolved this way. We need to communicate more. We need to *listen* more.

In her article published in the April 24, 2019 *Jewish Journal*, and referenced above in the section entitled, Jewish Students are Excluded from "Safe Spaces" on Campus, Occidental College student Maddie Solomon described the way in which anti-normalization suffocates dialogue and deprives students of the opportunity to get a full perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict:

Furthermore, suppressing voices or engendering social pushback is often key to these movements' interactions. Groups like JSU and SJP often heavily support anti-normalization. Broadly, this is a policy of many anti-Israel extremists to not engage with Jews, Israelis and anyone who believes in Israel's right to exist. Specifically on college campuses, these groups will refuse to work with any groups that support the concept of a Jewish homeland. They'll shut down any viewpoints that contradict theirs, hindering any chance at healthy dialogue.

An example of how the non-normalization phenomena has been ingrained in academia relates to a then-forthcoming meeting of the American Political Science Association (ASPA). According to the August 16, 2019, *Algemeiner*, The Academic Engagement Network (AEN), a network of pro-Israel academics sent a letter to ASPA's executive director warning that BDS activists, who are "uninterested in debate or dialogue" could be planning to take over the scheduled August 31, 2019, meeting of ASPA's Foundations of Political Theory Section.

In response to the AEN assertion, the meeting's chairperson claimed: "I do not believe the Foundations should be a partisan organization nor do I believe that I am promoting an agenda or that the organization has been 'captured' by activists." As reported in the *Algemeiner* account, AEN replied by warning that "the resolution's sponsors have already shown that they are uninterested in debate or dialogue with those opposed to academic boycotts in general, and of Israel's academy in particular," and further noted that, at the previous year's meeting, "the same group now calling for a discussion of a BDS resolution organized a session that explicitly stated 'we have no interest in giving another platform to BDS opponents' in its description."

Following the Columbia tent protests, anti-Zionist professors began taking to the streets in support of protesting students. The following excerpt from the April 26,

2024, the *Algemeiner*, illustrates the extent of faculty involvement in activities designed to both demonize Israel and its campus supporters:

University faculty have been joining pro-Hamas demonstrators in taking over US campuses over the past week, fueling concerns that higher education institutions have become hatcheries of dangerous, anti-Western political ideologies that foster hatred for Israel and could hasten a new age of antisemitism.

\*\*\*\*\*

On many campuses — including George Washington University in Washington, DC, New York University, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Michigan, and the University of Southern California, among others — members of the faculty have attached themselves to the anti-Israel, pro-Hamas demonstrations.

In some instances, faculty attempted to prevent police from dispersing unauthorized demonstrations and detaining lawbreakers, resulting in their arrest. That happened, for example, on Thursday at Emory University in Atlanta, where economics professor Caroline Fohlin intervened to stop the arrest of a student. In response, officers tackled her to the ground while she said repeatedly, “I’m a professor!”

At Northeastern University in Boston, professors formed a human barrier around a student encampment to stop its dismantling by officers, and at the University of Texas at Austin, members of the group Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine have openly called for the resignation of their president, Jay Hartzell, because he requested police assistance in restoring order.

***Some Campus Groups Have Provided Jewish Cover to the BDS Movement and have Continued to Demonstrate Against Israel since October 7, 2023***

Fourth, in their zeal to precipitate a peaceful solution to the Israel Palestine conflict, some Jewish campus groups, especially the Jewish student organization, Jewish Voice for Peace (“JVP”), have inadvertently, if not intentionally, served the role of foil, providing cover to the campus anti-Israel movement. Founded in 1996, JVP is often an anomalous contributor to campus anti-Israel demonstrations and divestment resolutions. JVP’s website states its objectives in the language of a high-minded cause:

Jewish Voice for Peace members are inspired by Jewish tradition to work together for peace, social justice, equality, human rights, respect for international law, and a U.S. foreign policy based on these ideals. JVP opposes anti-Jewish, anti-Muslim, and anti-Arab bigotry and oppression. JVP seeks an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank,

Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem; security and self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians; a just solution for Palestinian refugees based on principles established in international law; an end to violence against civilians; and peace and justice for all peoples of the Middle East.

However, others see JVP quite differently. Thus, in a January 9, 2018 *Forward* article, Andrew Mark Bennett (a lawyer and then doctoral fellow in the “Human Rights Under Pressure” program at the Freie Universität Berlin) argued that, at bottom, JVP is obsessed with Jewish wrongdoing. Stated Bennet: “Specifically, JVP’s agenda is obsessed with Jewish wrongdoing. Beyond its anti-Zionism, JVP consistently positions Jews as the cause of society’s ills.” Bennet offered the following as one example of JVP’s preoccupation with claimed Jewish transgressions.

The most glaring example of JVP’s obsession with Jewish wrongdoing is its Deadly Exchange campaign. According to JVP, Jewish organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League sponsor “exchange programs that bring together police, ICE, border patrol, and FBI from the U.S. with soldiers, police, border agents, etc., from Israel.” Through these exchanges, JVP says, “worst practices” are shared “to promote and extend discriminatory and repressive policing in both countries.” A promotional video for Deadly Exchange released in late June alleged that exchanges of arms, security technologies and ideologies exacerbate violence and discrimination against communities of color in both countries. The campaign sought to hold the Jewish institutions accountable for their complicity in funding and promoting this state violence.

The campaign was undeniably anti-Semitic libel designed to paint Jews with blood and hold Jews responsible for state violence.

Another critical view, but one more pointedly directed at JVP’s anti-Israel campus activities, was expressed by Jarrod Tanny, a University of North Carolina Jewish studies professor. In his July 5, 2017, *Tablet* article, entitled “Jewish Voice for Peace is Spreading Hate on Campus. It’s Time for Jewish Academics to Speak Up,” Tanny argued that each time JVP has supported a divestment resolution, it has played into the hands of Israel’s campus detractors who may speak in the language of oppression but who have no less an objective than an Israel brought to its knees and eliminated.

Drawing upon the anti-Israel assaults typical of the intersectionality phenomenon, Tanny took his Jewish colleagues to task for not speaking out against JVP:

[N]ot taking a stand against JVP—especially if you are one of the many who has taken a stand against the heinous treatment of minorities in

America since the election—implies that:

You agree that Israel's occupation of Palestine plays a crucial role in the oppression of Muslims, the deportation of Mexicans, and the shooting of black people.

You agree that the liberation of blacks, the LGBT community, and other oppressed groups in America is contingent upon eliminating Israel as a Jewish state.

You agree that Israel's pro-LGBT policies are nothing but "pinkwashing," a duplicitous tactic to make Israel look progressive and hide its oppression of the Palestinians.

You agree that shaming gay Jews is fine if they support a Jewish state because it is hypocritical to be part of an oppressed group while showing pride in Jewish self-determination.

You agree that there is no difference between Zionism and white supremacy.

You agree that it is OK to subject American Jews to a litmus test, and, if they see merit in a Jewish state, then they have failed; they have no business being part of the American left and should be removed, forcefully if necessary, from progressive causes.

You agree with a movement that rejects dialogue as a constructive approach to conflict resolution because dialogue is merely a smokescreen for the perpetuation of violence and oppression.

The following account appeared in a January 9, 2019, *Jewish Journal* story, entitled "JVP Posts, Deletes Tweets Defending Palestinians' 'Right to Resist Military Occupation' ":

On Wednesday morning, JVP shared a piece of art from 1978 that showed a Jewish woman shaking hands with an armed Palestinian woman with text that read, "Being Jewish is not the same as being a Zionist!" Several people pointed out that the fact there is an armed Palestinian woman in the picture, which does not promote peace, prompting JVP to respond numerous times that they support "the right to resist military occupation".

On March 14, 2023, the *Forward* quoted Jonathan Greenblatt, executive director of the ADL, as saying: anti-Zionist organizations like Jewish Voice for Peace were fueling anti-Semitic violence.



***Even Before October 7, 2023, Increasingly Aggressive anti-Zionist Campus Conduct was becoming the Norm and More So Since***

Fifth, and long before Hamas' deadly rampage on October 7, 2023 (but, considerably magnified since then as dramatized by the April and May 2024 eruptions at the UCLA and other campuses discussed below), disruptive and sometimes violent pushback had become commonplace in response to nativist speakers such as Richard Spencer and Milo Yiannopoulos. Such aggressive behavior already appeared to be setting the tone for demonstrations against any speaker, particularly one who, by virtue of making a pro-Zionist presentation, violated the norms of intersectionality. At the University of California Irvine, for example, in May 2016, protesters prevented students and others watching a pro-Israel film from leaving the room where the film was being shown.

As reported by the September 18, 2017 *Washington Post*, a Brookings survey of students conducted by UCLA Professor John Villasenor concluded that a fifth of undergraduate students "now say it's acceptable to use physical force to silence a speaker who makes 'offensive and hurtful statements.'" Fortunately, an October 2017 study conducted by the Foundation for Individual Rights on Campus ("FIRE") concluded that the number was more like one percent.

Along the way, there appeared to be indicators pointing to the potential for nonaggressive behavior is there. Serving as an example is the experience of the Israeli reservist organization, Reservists on Duty (RoD), which provides support for pro-Israel campus organizations in the United States. In a June 5, 2019 *JNS* interview, Jonathan Elkhoury, an Arab-Christian RoD representative who spent two months in the United States visiting college campuses, reported his experience as follows:

This year we felt a distinct difference in their approach, and we felt it nationwide.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the past few years, pro-Palestinian activists were very loud and very aggressive, and you could tell that every campus had its own approach, its own language in talking about Israel. We were often pushed, spat on, verbally and even physically assaulted when visiting campuses.

\*\*\*\*\*

There were still a few incidents where we were spat on or assaulted, and, of course, there were still 'Apartheid Walls,' but for the most part what we saw was a more calm and cohesive language among all SJP

groups across the U.S., whether in their demonstrations or with regards to their lectures.

But then October 7, 2023, occurred. As reported in the following excerpt from the January 17, 2024, edition of *Tablet*, increasingly aggressive, sometimes violent, protests against Israel and her supporters began to intensify with alarming frequency.

Anarchic, pro-Palestinian rallies have continued to intensify across the United States ever since Oct. 7, when Hamas massacred 1,200 people and took another 240 hostage. These nationwide protests, marked by highly disruptive tactics, have raised critical questions about the nature of protest, the boundaries of dissent, and the willingness of Western governments to assert and protect basic social values. When one delves deeper into the protesters' driving ideology, it becomes clear that mass disruption is not a byproduct of their agenda, but the agenda itself.

These groups' tactics have included blocking roads to international airports on New Year's Day; endangering passenger planes by launching balloons over the runways; blocking highways that delayed the delivery of organ transplants to hospitals; illegally occupying a House office building near the U.S. Capitol; vandalizing stores supposedly complicit in Israel's "genocide" of Gaza; disrupting the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and Christmas tree lighting ceremonies in major cities; and storming the World Trade Center, defacing public monuments, targeting a cancer hospital, and attacking the White House gates while screaming "Allahu akbar" and "intifada revolution."

Sadly, as pointed out earlier in this chapter and in a number of the college profiles, disruptive and occasionally violent episodes also began to characterize protests on the college campus. For example, the following account is from the January 25, 2024, report on the civil rights complaint brought by the Department of Education against Ohio State University:

The school has been plagued with antisemitic incidents since Hamas' massacre across Israel on Oct. 7, which triggered a global wave of antisemitism. Just over ten days after the terror onslaught, a male OSU student spit on another student buying a bracelet that said, "I stand with Israel." The next month, two female students were let into the campus Hillel, where they screamed "f\*\*\* you" and "free Palestine," and two men assaulted students, suspecting that they were Jewish. One of the students, *The Lantern* added, was hospitalized. In Dec., fraternity members of Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi), a predominantly Jewish Greek

Life organization, reported that a small group of people screaming “Jewish bastards” pelted bottles at their house.

In an February 26, 2024, article, entitled “The Takeover: A massive increase in foreign money and students on American campuses is driving radicalization and subsidizing institutional failure,” *Tablet Magazine* reported that a new dimension of aggressive behavior on today’s post October 7, 2023, campuses is, in part, fueled by the presence of foreign students, many of whom come from country’s hostile to Israel, with some sponsored by such countries requiring that they do the bidding of their sponsoring countries. The following are excerpts from the article:

Something new and peculiar stands out about the wave of anti-Israel student activism that has rocked American university campuses since October: There is a visibly more radical element to these protests. Student activists almost seemed to take glee in Hamas’ massacre of innocent civilians—when they weren’t denying that it happened at all. The antisemitic rage struck a different tone than the typical anti-Israel fare that has become a central part of American student activism since Students for a Democratic Society formed in the 1960s.

So what changed? The answer is clear to anyone who watched the videos: these student protests are no longer composed solely of left-wing American students steeped in critical theory and post-colonial ideology. The protests are now havens for foreign students, especially those from Arab and Muslim countries, with their own set of nationalist and tribal grievances against Israel and the United States. In some cases, such foreign students appear to lead the protests in their pro-terrorism chants—some of which are in Arabic, or translations of Arabic slogans.

\*\*\*\*\*

To shed light on the flood of foreign tuition money into U.S. universities, I obtained data on international student tuition payments at several state universities through public records requests. Texas A&M University was of particular interest—it is one of the top recipients of foreign funds nationwide and a major public research university. Pre-pandemic, international students comprised between 8-9% of Texas A&M’s student body. It dropped slightly to 7% of students post-pandemic.

The top countries of origin for foreign students are typically China and India, and Texas A&M is no exception. These countries are therefore the top sources of international student revenue to American universities. But Texas A&M’s data allows for an investigation of international students who are sponsored by foreign governments and organizations,

rather than simply paying their own way. And the top countries of origin for sponsored students tell a more troublesome story.

From 2010 to 2022, Saudi Arabia was the top country of origin for sponsored international students at Texas A&M. The university received a whopping \$293 million in tuition revenue from Saudi Arabian organizations during this period. Second to Saudi Arabia was Turkey, from which the university received \$108 million in tuition revenue. Rounding out the top five were Mexico at \$56 million, Kuwait at \$43 million, and Thailand at \$36 million.

In other words, three out of the top five countries which sponsor foreign students at Texas A&M were Middle Eastern states.

As reported by the February 27, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, and many other Jewish news outlets, “[a] mob of hundreds pro-Palestinian students and non-students shut down an event Monday evening [February 26, 2024] at the University of California, Berkeley featuring an Israeli soldier, forcing Jewish students to flee to a secret safe room as the protestors overwhelmed campus police.”

According to the February 28, 2024, the *Forward*:

A multicultural center at the University of California Santa Barbara was plastered with signs condemning Zionism and targeting the Jewish student body president by name.

“You can run but you can’t hide, Tessa Veksler supports genocide,” read one of the many handwritten signs taped to the walls of the center last weekend.

“I do not feel safe on campus,” Veksler, 21, a senior, wrote on Instagram earlier this week in a series of posts that included photos of the signs. “How can Jewish students feel safe at UCSB when they see a Jewish leader being explicitly targeted? This is dehumanizing and rooted in anti-Semitism.”

As reported by the March 1, 2024, *New York Jewish Week*, “Hunter College’s Hillel condemned the targeting of Jewish students, and the school has conducted an investigation, after demonstrators demanded Jews “pick a side” at a protest on campus.

At Columbia, as the tent encampment protests began spreading across the nation, the April 27, 2024, *Times of Israel*, repoted that a leader of the Columbia protests, Khymani James, was captured in a video “stating repeatedly and emphatically that

Zionists ‘don’t deserve to live’ and should be killed.” In the story, James was quoted as follows:

“The existence of them and the projects they have built i.e. Israel, it’s all antithetical to peace. So yes I feel very comfortable — very comfortable — calling for those people to die,” Khymani James said in the January video.

“Be glad, be grateful that I’m not just going out and murdering Zionists,” he added.

On April 9, 2024 (as also reproduced below in profile for the University of Michigan), the *Detroit Jewish News* reported that, on March 22, 2024, “Salma Hamamy, a senior and the president of Students Allied for Freedom and Equality (SAFE), the school’s version of Students for Justice in Palestine, stated on her Instagram page: ‘Until my last breath I will utter death to every single individual who supports the Zionist state. Death and more. Death and worse.’” The story went on to state that :

The administration increased security patrols on campus in recognition of the severity of the threat, but no other consequences seem to have transpired for Hamamy’s actions.

In January of 2023, Hamamy and members of SAFE led a protest on campus calling for an “Intifada Revolution.” Since the beginning of Hamas’ war with Israel, Hamamy, SAFE and other organizations have been shouting this slogan in marches for months. They accuse the university of genocide. They disrupt foot traffic, block entrances to buildings and overtake campus administration buildings.

This past January, the University of Michigan honored Hamamy and SAFE with the 2024 Spirit of MLK Jr. Award for “exemplifying Dr. King’s leadership and extraordinary vision.”

On May 1, 2024 (as also reproduced below in profile for UCLA), the *Forward* reported the following harrowing events, apparently instigated by pro-Zionist counter protesters, at the UCLA anti-Israel tent encampment:

A quiet weeknight at UCLA descended into mayhem after hundreds of pro-Israel protesters descended on the campus and began trying to dismantle a pro-Palestinian encampment.

Violence raged outside the encampment for nearly three hours — from around 11 p.m. Tuesday to a little before 2 a.m. Wednesday — before police officers arrived at the scene and began dispersing them.

Some of the violence appeared instigated by a pro-Israel contingent, according to eyewitness accounts as well as footage of the scene broadcast on the news. Wearing black masks or balaclavas to cover their faces, they threw a variety of projectiles — traffic cones, liquid infused with pepper spray, poles and at least one firework — at and over the makeshift plywood-and-steel fence separating the encampment from the rest of the quadrangle outside the school's Royce Hall. The encampment withstood the assaults and was still intact at 4 a.m., by which time only a few dozen pro-Israel protesters — pushed hundreds of feet away from the encampment by law enforcement officers — remained. But a loudspeaker playing Israeli children's music ensured that the encampment continued to feel their presence.

The scenes marked the most violent confrontations between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel protesters in the six months since the Gaza war began. It left pro-Palestinian protesters wondering why law enforcement had allowed hours to pass before intervening.

"It was like a scene out of a horror movie," Kaia Shah, a postgraduate researcher who is a media liaison for the encampment, told a local reporter after the mayhem died down. "We got viciously attacked for hours and hours."

Shah said she did not have a count of people injured or an estimate of how many students were in the encampment. But she said some had been evacuated to the hospital.

She said some of the assailants appeared to be teenage boys — and not UCLA students — and emphasized that the encampment had done nothing to provoke them into violence.

Unlike other schools where encampments have sprung up at universities in the last two weeks, UCLA has taken a largely hands-off approach since Thursday, when students set up a couple dozen tents in front of Royce Hall with a list of demands that included the university's divestment from Israel.

But the school's chancellor, Gene Block, said Tuesday that the encampment was "unlawful" and that students who refused to leave would face suspension or expulsion.

The Jewish Federation Los Angeles issued a statement that read, in part, "The abhorrent actions of a few counterprotesters last night do not represent the Jewish community or our values. We believe in peaceful, civic discourse."

Then, as reported by the May 2, 2024, *Forward*, the next night saw the following remarkable scene at the UCLA encampment:

Law enforcement breached a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of California, Los Angeles, in the early hours of Thursday morning following an hours long standoff with thousands of people who came to defend the encampment.

Hundreds of officers from the California Highway Patrol arrived at the encampment at around 3 a.m. in full riot gear and proceeded to dismantle the encampment's makeshift plywood board wall as flash grenades exploded overhead. Officers could be seen on news broadcasts making dozens of arrests.

The Palestine Solidarity Encampment, which formed April 25 amid a wave of similar campus demonstrations nationwide, was possibly the one that stood the longest. And much of the night, it looked like it might last another sunrise. A phalanx of LAPD officers that entered the encampment at around 1 a.m. was forced to retreat out of it by hundreds of protesters.

But as dawn approached, the CHP force was gradually advancing through the waves of students, faculty and other supporters defying the university chancellor's call — and the police's orders — to leave. They cleared Royce Hall, the building abutting the encampment, at around 4:45 a.m.

They then began quashing the dozens of tents still up as about 200 people — most wearing white helmets — formed a human chain along the east side of what remained of the encampment.

UCLA Chancellor Gene Block had called the encampment “unlawful” in a statement Tuesday and warned students they faced academic discipline if they did not vacate the area.

The law enforcement efforts to clear the encampment began about 24 hours after a pack of pro-Israel protesters showed up and started trying to rip off its walls and lobbing poles, cones and other objects toward the tents. A melee ensued, with an encampment spokesperson saying that dozens were taken to a hospital.

Thousands of people turned out at the encampment Wednesday evening when it appeared its clearing was imminent. As knots of officers in riot gear amassed outside multiple entrances to the encampment, even larger contingents of protesters gathered to block their progress.

But despite some tense moments, the scene was considerably less violent than the night before. Most protesters appeared to surrender, some in large groups, and make way once officers began pushing forward.

The following is from the May 29, 2024, *ADL Daily Campus Crisis Alert*:

It’s been two weeks and despite calls from [University of Denver](#) Chancellor Jeremy Haefner, the anti-Israel encampment still remains — and is becoming more hostile. “It was just a huge mob ... I had them come up into my face and try to hit me,” said one student. Another student described how he was assaulted by protesters as he walked around campus with an Israeli flag: “I wasn’t saying anything hateful toward the camp at all ... And then I just got shoved really hard.” Another added: “They told me that they wished Hamas killed my family, that was terrible.”

The following is from the May 30, 2024, *ADL Daily Campus Crisis Alert*:

Several hundred” protesters [blocked](#) entrances to the University of California, Santa Cruz campus on Tuesday, prompting the University to move classes for the Banana Slugs online through Thursday. In a statement, Chancellor Cynthia Larive described the protests as an “extremely dangerous effort to cause intentional harm to our campus community.” Larive added: “Members of our community were unable to leave campus to pick up their children, to access medical care off campus, to show up to off-campus jobs, to leave campus after an early morning shift or to come onto campus for an afternoon or evening shift.”



## ***Jewish Students Who Support Israel were Being Typecast as White Supremacists even Before October 7, 2023***

Sixth, and, perhaps, most frightening, is the typecasting of Jewish students as white supremacists, due to their support of Israel. As identity politics has become a campus mainstay, the intersectionality lines have been drawn in rigid and unexpected ways. In the world of oppressor and oppressed, there is little room for niceties. In this binary setting, persons of color, who now include Palestinians, are viewed as the victims of a white supremacist world. As supporters of Israel, Jews are, therefore, regarded as white supremacists or examples of “Jewish privilege,” a pejorative intended to typecast Jews as members of those whose “white privilege” leads not only to advantage but also to repression. As one anti-Israel student put it in the aftermath of the later-discredited University of Wisconsin “sneak attack” BDS vote that occurred while Jewish students were away for the Passover holiday: “yo fuck israel and fuck their war crimes and fuck zionism in palestine it’s racist and so are you”. This quote is included in an extensive discussion of the Wisconsin BDS vote that appears in the profile for the University of Wisconsin in Chapter 7 of this Guide.

Ironically, the white supremacist label ignores the almost 2,000 years of discrimination suffered by Jews. Rather, it is linked solely to Jewish support for Israel. Most disturbing, if Jews can be viewed as racist with regard to one member of the intersectionality spectrum, then, despite the unassailable role played by Jews in the fight for civil rights, they can be viewed as racist with regard to all minority groups on the spectrum. In consequence, Jewish students, many of whose great-grandparents had been unable to escape from Nazi Germany to America due to the prejudices of an America dominated by anti-Semites and whose grandparents fought and died for persons of color in this country, are being painted as white supremacists.

As Seth Frantzman put it in a December 26, 2018, *Forward* article:

It is particularly interesting, given the history of antisemitism, how Jews are now considered not only recipients of white privilege, due to their often passing as white, but are seen as emblematic of whiteness and a part of white supremacy. The concept of antisemitism was coined by anti-Jewish activist Wilhelm Marr, who objected to the idea that Jews would assimilate into Germany. Antisemitism became entwined with the idea that Jews were a separate “race” from white Europeans, particularly Germans and northern Europeans. Today that has come full circle and Jews are portrayed as not just passing as white, but of being an example of white supremacy.

There is an equally disturbing flip side to the view that Jews may be linked to the world of white supremacy due to their support for a claimed agent of power—

Israel. For, in a campus environment dominated by those who see themselves as historic victims of white power, Jewish students are at risk of being typecast merely because of the successful place of the Jewish community in society at large. Once relegated in this manner, anti-Jewish prejudice can take any form since it legitimized by the notion of the underclass speaking to power.

An August 11, 2018, *Forward* article on the highly publicized hiring of Sarah Jeong, a tech writer for the *Verge*, to the *New York Times* editorial board addresses the issue in a broad sense, but its import might easily apply to the college campus. The *Forward* article noted that, following the hiring, “[t]he internet very quickly unearthed tweets Jeong had written in 2014 that seemed to expose her pleasure in mocking “white people” . . .

The *Forward* article then went on to cite examples of some of Jeong’s most controversial tweets, such as “#CancelWhitePeople” and “Oh man it’s kind of sick how much joy I get out of being cruel to old white men,” and noted that such “tweets were seized upon as examples of racism against white people by the right, only to be vigorously defended by the left on the grounds that one can’t be racist against white people.” The article then observed that “the question of whether or not whites can be subjected to racism is one in which Jews have a lot at stake.” The following excerpts from the article address this question, with strong implications for the college campus:

[A]djacent to the question of whether it’s possible to be racist against whites is the question of whether the left’s definition of racism—prejudice plus power—would include or preclude Ashkenazi Jews.”

\*\*\*\*\*

“Racism is about prejudice, but it is also about power imbalance,” wrote Sarah Jones in *The New Republic*. . . . The word societies for centuries have used for punching up is satire. The word we generally use for punching down is bigotry.”

This point of view — that one can’t be bigoted against someone who has institutional power — is mainstream in the left today.

\*\*\*\*\*

And yet, we Jews know how inadequate, and even dangerous, defining racism as contingent on power can be, precisely because anti-Jewish racism is always based on the belief that Jews *have* power, and are therefore deserving of hate.

Unlike racism against people of color, which stems from white people believing they are superior to people of color, hatred of Jews stems from the belief that Jews have supernatural powers, controlling the rest of the world from a secret cabal that is almost mystical in its structure and influence. In other words, anti-Semitism is based on the notion that Jews are dangerously and despicably *superior* to whites, using their evil powers to the detriment of white society.

As John-Paul Pagano wrote in these pages, “anti-Semitism differs from most forms of racism in that it purports to ‘punch up’ against a secret society of oppressors, which has the side effect of making it easy to disguise as a politics of emancipation. If Jews have power, then punching up at Jews is a form of speaking truth to power — a form of speech of which the left is currently enamored.”

During a guest lecture at a UCLA on May 14, 2019, San Francisco State University Arab and Muslim Ethnicities Professor Rabab Abdulhadi spoke to around 100 students during a mandatory lecture for an anthropology class. As reported in a May 21, 2019, *Jewish Journal* article, “a Jewish student in the class, Shayna Lavi, told the Journal that Abdulhadi discussed Islamophobia at the beginning of the lecture then veered into a “rant” against Israel, which Lavi said Included “a claim that those who support Israel want to ethnically cleanse the Middle East and those affiliated with Israel and pro-Israel organizations are white supremacists.”

The experience of Jonathan Elkhoury, an Arab-Christian with the Reservist on Duty (RoD) organization, who spent two months in the United States visiting college campuses (and whose June 5, 2019, *JNS* interview was noted above and is in part again reproduced below) suggests that the equation of Israel and white supremacy is now an integral component of the campus assault on Israel:

[Elkhoury] added that many campuses had replaced “Apartheid Week” with “Oppression Week,” so that rather than single out Israel, they now “tried to frame the narrative that Israel equals white supremacy,” said Elkhoury. “And it was clear that this was a well-thought-out strategy directed to coincide with the debate currently going on in the U.S. regarding oppressed minorities.”

In a July 17, 2020 *Newsweek* article, Paul Miller, President and executive director, Haym Salomon Center, a right-leaning Jewish advocacy group with whose views many may not agree, discussed the “Jewish privilege” phenomena in the following terms which, though stark, do sound an alarm worth considering:

On a recent Sunday afternoon, #JewishPrivilege was trending on Twitter. What does this even mean?

To be a Jew in America apparently means you are privileged to be the most targeted ethnic and religious group in the country, according to the FBI. Jewish students on college campuses have had the privilege of being victimized in more than 175 incidents of anti-Semitism so far this year, notes the anti-Semitism watchdog group AMCHA Initiative. Is it a privilege that in 2019, over half the hate crimes in New York City were committed against Jews? Maybe it's growing up hearing stories about your relatives murdered by the Nazis, or during the pogroms that ravaged the Jews of Eastern Europe. Anti-Semitism is a "privilege" only in Orwellian doublespeak.

This latest form of Jew-hatred began just a few years ago. I recall flyers posted on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago in the spring of 2017 that read, "ENDING WHITE PRIVILEGE STARTS WITH ENDING JEWISH PRIVILEGE." The flyers depicted Jews at the peak of a pyramid of wealth, claiming that 44 percent of Jews were in the top one percent. The horror in this story is not the falsehood of the statistics, but that the goal of the flyers was to elicit hatred toward Jews.

\*\*\*\*\*

[T]his new hatred is only the tip of the iceberg. Jewish privilege "means always having to say you're sorry"—sorry for all the sins immortalized in centuries-old canards that continue to flourish in America and around the world.

As more fully discussed in the profile for the University of Southern California found in Chapter 7 of this Guide, in early August 2020, Student Government Association Vice-President Ruth Rich resigned, stating, among other claims of harassment, that "I have been told that my support for Israel has made me complicit in racism, and that, by association, I am racist."

In a November 15, 2021, *Tablet* article entitled, "Whitewashing Success," author Ari Blaff noted that "In the minds of many, Israel has become the embodiment of global whiteness, a concept synonymous with racial supremacy." Blaff's introductory observation in his article is also worth considering:

Americans have long made the mistake of grafting their domestic culture wars onto foreign conflicts, and the one between Israelis and Palestinians is no exception. Contemporary concepts of race, oppression, and privilege are now the yardsticks by which many Americans measure unrelated events thousands of miles away in the Middle East. At a rally in May, in the midst of hostilities between Israel and Gaza, Michigan Rep. Rashida Tlaib declared, "What they are doing to the Palestinian people is what they continue to do to our Black brothers and sisters

here.” Missouri Rep. Cori Bush similarly informed the House, “Until all our children are safe, we will continue to fight for our rights in Palestine and Ferguson.”

## **M. Encouraging and Discouraging Signs as We Go Forward**

The purpose of this introductory chapter has been to set the stage in a very general way. More extensive discussions, on a college by college basis, appear in the individual college profiles in this Guide, beginning with Chapter 7.

Prior to Hamas’ deadly October 7, 2023, attack against Israel, I had said that:

Most Jewish students will lead perfectly normal campus lives, largely by not involving themselves in any of the matters discussed above or in the profiles. Unfortunately, while the standard bearers of anti-Israel words and deeds have in the past, often constituted a small minority, alliances with organizations such as Black Lives Matter are increasingly changing that dynamic. In addition, the wake of Hamas’ invasion of Israel’s rightful response, the chorus of anti-Zionist voices is likely to get louder, much louder.

In light of the poisonous backlash against Jewish students across the country in response to Israel’s military response to the Hamas attack, I’m no longer confident of any predictable parameters for Jewish life on campus. Even so, much of what follows, good or bad, still applies.

One might have hoped that campus programs focused on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) would be of value to Jewish students who seek inclusion. However, to date, such programs do not appear to have benefitted Jewish students, according to a summer 2023 article in the quarterly journal, *Sapir*. Entitled “DEI Programs Can’t Address Campus Antisemitism, the article focuses on the often disconnect between such programs and the aspirations of Jewish students. The following excerpt is from the article:

The blindness of DEI programs to Jewish students and antisemitism is likely the result of two factors.

First, although Jews were once a historically marginalized and underrepresented group in American higher education, that is certainly no longer the case. Consequently, despite having endured thousands of years of oppression, including one of history’s largest genocides, and even now suffering more hate crimes in America than any historically marginalized and underrepresented group except African Americans, Jews are not *viewed* as oppressed at all within a DEI framework. On the

contrary, they are generally seen as white, privileged oppressors who do not merit the attention of DEI programs.

Second, even if Jewish students manage to secure a seat at the DEI table, a thornier problem awaits. Although a growing number of DEI officials are willing to respond to and educate the campus community about acts of classical antisemitism, such as swastikas painted on a Jewish fraternity house or neo-Nazi fliers distributed on campus, many of those same officials are unwilling to acknowledge and address anti-Zionist-motivated harassment. Yet this is by far the predominant form of antisemitism facing Jewish students today.

The disparate treatment of these two types of antisemitism is very much related to the ideological leanings of most DEI programs. Because instances of classical antisemitism are often perpetrated by individuals associated with white-supremacist groups, who are also perpetrators of racist attacks on many historically marginalized groups, calling out and educating about this type of antisemitism actually kills two birds with one stone.

On the other hand, many instances of anti-Zionist harassment on campus are perpetrated by members of identity groups served by DEI programs. In addition, many DEI staff themselves harbor virulently anti-Israel sentiments, as demonstrated in a 2021 report examining the social-media postings of DEI staff at major universities. Drawing heavily on ideologies undergirding most DEI programs, these postings portrayed Israel as a racist, settler-colonial state, linked the plight of Palestinians to the struggles of oppressed minorities in America, and implied that it was the duty of antiracist activists to support the liberation of Palestine “from the river to the sea,” a rallying cry for the elimination of the Jewish state.

On a more positive note, anti-Israel attitudes and the corresponding pressure placed on Jewish students will vary greatly from campus to campus, with Jewish students being exposed to only a few hateful voices on some campuses. In this regard, Fordham University’s decision to ban SJP and the 2021 affirmation by the New York courts of the university’s action may have served as a precedent for other campuses, with Brandeis following suit in November 2023 and Rutgers suspending its chapter in December 2023. However, after the bloodshed perpetrated by Hamas, all this could change in unforeseeable ways. An influential, positive factor taking place at some of the nation’s most elite campuses is the newfound, post October 7, 2023 Hamas attack

against Israel, willingness of prominent Jewish donors to sever ties with universities that don't clamp down on anti-Semitism.

The foregoing notwithstanding, few prospective Jewish college students are going to give up their dream of going to a particular college because it has become a hotbed of anti-Zionist fervor. Nevertheless, reassurance never hurts. For all entering Jewish students, there should be some reassurance in the knowledge that organizations such as Hillel (and its new affiliate, the David Project, which focuses on positively shaping campus opinion on Israel by setting the record straight through educating, training, and empowering student leaders), will be working tirelessly to promote Israel's stature on campus and, in the process, deterring anti-Semitism. On August 2, 2021, Hillel and ADL, one of the nation's leading anti-hate organizations, announced that they would be collaborating "to proactively address the disturbing rise in antisemitic activity on campus through new educational programs and assessments of the climate on campus for Jewish students." The ADL announcement also contained the following statement.

"Jewish college students are increasingly subjected to antisemitism today, both on campus and on social media, and are urgently seeking support and tools to effectively respond," said Adam Lehman, President and CEO of Hillel International. "Bringing together ADL's expertise and Hillel's deep relationships on campus, we can empower Jewish students to speak out against hate and educate the broader campus community to ensure antisemitism is not tolerated at colleges and universities."

Then, according to the August 14, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, ADL and historically Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) have launched the new AEPi Antisemitism Response Center. According to the *Algemeiner* account:

Coming amid a 41 percent increase of antisemitic incidents at US institutions of higher education, the center, announced on Monday, will serve as a "centralized system for reporting and tracking antisemitic incidents on campuses" and launch other initiatives that alert the wider public to growing problem of antisemitism.

In addition to Hillel, AEPi and ADL, there are a number of other Jewish groups dedicated to addressing the needs of Jewish students on campus. These include (i) the Israel on Campus Coalition (made up of over 30 pro-Israel organizations each of which has at least one staff person dedicated to Jewish campus issues), (ii) Alums for Campus Fairness, a nonprofit organization with more than 10,000 alumni engaged in over 40 campuses for the purpose combatting antisemitism, demonization of Israel, and other forms of bigotry at American universities, (iii) the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, (iv) the American Jewish Committee, which has a senior administrator dedicated to campus affairs and which also sends numerous university educators to Israel, through its Project Interchange program, to learn

firsthand what life in Israel is really like, (v) the campus-based Israel advocacy organization, Students Supporting Israel, (vi) the Israeli IDF advocacy group, Reservists on Duty (RoD), (vii) the academic-integrity and anti-BDS faculty organization, Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME), (viii) the well-respected Tikvah Fund which has sponsored a number of on air programs dealing with Jews and college, (ix) the student run social media site, Jewish on Campus (which, on October 26, 2021, entered into a partnership with the World Jewish Congress), where students can anonymously report anti-Semitic events on their campuses, (x) the student-run advocacy organization, New Zionist Congress, as well as (xi) watchdog organizations such as Stand With Us, *Algemeiner*, the Maccabee Task Force, and the tireless AMCHA Project, whose website and daily tweets provide alerts to anti-Israel episodes on campus and whose letters, publications and data base has served as a motherlode for much of the information in this Guide.

Additionally, through organizations such as Taglit-Birthright, young Jewish students and young adults are being given the opportunity to see Israel first hand, learn what is really happening in the only democracy in the Middle East, and return to campus nourished and invigorated.

An example of the difference these organizations can make is illustrated by the following account of Nofar Salman, the Jewish Agency Israel fellow to Houston Hillel at the University of Houston. In the June 7, 2019, *JNS* story about Reservists on Duty (RoD) cited above, Salman described the important role played by RoD at the University of Houston as follows:

“anti-Israel and anti-Semitic rhetoric is a weekly occurrence at the University of Houston. The school administration allows student organizations to feel free to be openly anti-Semitic under their right of ‘freedom of speech.’

Salman said that pro-Israel students on campus were living under a hostile atmosphere, especially during the spring months where anti-Israel activity reaches its peak. She said they had invited Reservists on Duty to campus multiple times because “they’re knowledgeable about Israel and have the stamina to combat this phenomenon.”

“This can make the difference between being in a position of defeat or in a position of controlling the narrative on Israel on campus,” she said.

According to Salman, since Reservists on Duty began to work with pro-Israel students, there has been a change in the atmosphere; now, the pro-Israel organization “shapes the conversation and is not only in a position to respond to accusations.”

But, most success is attributable to the hard work of the Jewish students on



campus who serve as the foot soldiers in the ongoing battle to paint a fair picture of Israel in America's colleges and universities—a task made immeasurably more difficult by Hamas' barbaric attack on Israel and Israel's response. Until now, however, there has been forward momentum and accompanying positive results.

In a June 5, 2019, *Forward* article entitled, "Cornell's BDS Fight Backfired. It Made Our Pro-Israel Community Stronger," Josh Eibelman concluded his description of the Jewish student community's successful opposition to a BDS initiative on the Cornell campus as follows:

Being Jewish and pro-Israel at Cornell has many challenges. But I will not let BDS activists and anti-Semites define my university experience. The Jewish community has emerged stronger from the BDS fight, and we are not going to let the bullies and haters win.

As noted earlier, on March 31, 2020, the University of California, Irvine voted to repeal one of the nation's earliest BDS resolutions adopted in 2012. The following quote from the April 16, 2020, *Jerusalem Post* account of the vote highlights the positive change of direction accomplished by the repeal.

The Associated Students of UC Irvine (ASUCI) Senator Marshall H. Roe, a Jewish student and Navy veteran, said that the BDS movement "created a noxious atmosphere" on campus.

\*\*\*\*\*

Roe added that the resolution passed by the senate is a return for neutrality on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: "The Senate felt it was impossible to have a constructive campus conversation about the conflict without embracing neutrality...I think, in many ways BDS legislation, helped to create a noxious environment that has allowed years of harassment."

In August 2021, the student-run organization, Israel on Campus, announced its new Ambassador Program. The Israel on Campus website describes the new initiative as follows:

We seek to maximize impact. Each individual campus is distinct in its landscape and challenges. Our campus representatives will represent their school in a coalition of action-minded students. In communication with our representatives, Jewish on Campus will give support to individual schools in the form of representation, legal advising, and grassroots campus organizing. This coalition of students will be formatted as an assembly, representing their schools in joint efforts to

sign letters of support, pushing against BDS and Deadly Exchange referenda, advocating for the IHRA definition of antisemitism, and campaigning for more robust Jewish studies programs. With student representatives, Jewish on Campus will stay true to our mission of amplifying the voices of Jewish students.

In April 2024, the ADL chose to take the offensive and published its campus antisemitism “report card.” As pointed out in an April 12, 2024, *Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA)* account, “[o]nly two schools — Brandeis, which was founded by Jews, and Elon — earned an “A.” Many others fared quite poorly, with Harvard, Stanford, Princeton and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology among the 13 “F” grades. Another 24 came away with “D”s, from Columbia and Barnard to Northwestern, Rutgers and Ohio State.” Not all Hillel chapters agreed with the ADL grades. For example, according to the ADL account:

“Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, executive director of Princeton’s Center for Jewish Life, called the ADL’s “F” grade for the university “misleading.” “In truth, over the past two years of my deep engagement with Jewish life on Princeton’s campus, I can say very clearly that Princeton is a great place to be Jewish,” Steinlauf wrote in a statement. He added that Princeton’s leadership, administration and faculty are “deeply supportive of our Jewish students.”

Whatever the merits and flaws of the ADL grading system, it is clear that anti-Zionism and, by extension, anti-Semitism on many of the college campuses favored by Jewish students has skyrocketed since Hamas’ barbaric October 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel. Accordingly, the ADL scores are shown, at minimum, as a cautionary tale, for each campus profile where they apply.

In an encouraging sign of support for Jewish students in the crosshairs of increasingly aggressive and sometimes violent anti-Zionist protests, the May 1, 2024, *Boston Globe* (and numerous other outlets), reported that the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation on April 30, 2024, that “would establish a broader definition of antisemitism for the Department of Education to enforce anti-discrimination laws, the latest response from lawmakers to a nationwide student protest movement over the Israel-Hamas war.” The *Boston Globe* account went on to state:

The proposal, which passed 320-91 with some bipartisan support, would codify the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of antisemitism in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a federal anti-discrimination law that bars discrimination based on shared ancestry, ethnic characteristics or national origin. It now goes to the Senate where its fate is uncertain.

Action on the bill was just the latest reverberation in Congress from the protest movement that has swept university campuses. Republicans in Congress have denounced the protests and demanded action to stop them, thrusting university officials into the center of the charged political debate over Israel's conduct of the war in Gaza. More than 33,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war was launched in October, after Hamas staged a deadly terrorist attack against Israeli civilians.

## CHAPTER 2

---

### KNOWING ISRAEL'S HISTORY AS A MEANS OF RESPONDING TO THE CAMPUS ASSAULT ON ISRAEL

Seventy-one miraculous years ago, the State of Israel was created. In addition to the events chronicled in this Chapter 2, a supplemental chronology of such events appears in question and answer format in Appendix B of this Guide, entitled “Guide to Israel and Palestine for the New Jewish College Student.”

Midwived by the United Nations which gave its blessing to a Jewish homeland in the ancestral land that had been settled by Jewish patriarchs and matriarchs several thousand years ago, the events of November 29, 1947, are now the stuff of both history and legend. Older Jews within our community can recount clearly where they were when the final vote of the UN General Assembly, meeting at Lake Success, was counted with 33 nations voting in favor of partition, 13 against, 10 abstentions and one absence—more than enough for the two-thirds vote needed for passage. The partition plan was intended to resolve the bitter hostilities between Arabs and Jews by apportioning the land based on population and location. Under the Partition Plan, the Jews of Israel—the *Yishuv*—would receive about 56% of the territory (then occupied by about 500,000 Jews and about 400,000 Arabs) and the Arabs would get the remainder (then occupied by about 800,000 Arabs and about 10,000 Jews).

Those countries that supported the partition vote were helping to create a homeland for the tattered remnants of what had been European Jewish society. Socialist countries, including the Soviet Union, cheered the communal instincts of the new country, and, in particular, its system of *kibbutzim*, or collectives, where adults shared the work of the community according to their means and children were nurtured in equally collective environments. But, almost as soon as the vote was taken, all hell broke loose in this new country, with more than one percent of the population (Arabs and Jews) perishing after the first few months of the conflict.

Amin al-Husayni, the mufti of Jerusalem and a Nazi collaborator during World War II, issued instructions for the Muslim evacuation of the country so that the armies of the Muslim world could slaughter the Jewish population without killing Muslims in the process. On the day after the partition vote, Arab mobs attacked Jews in Jerusalem and thus began the most perilous five months of Israel's existence. On May 14, 1948, a day that saw the end of British mandatory authority over Palestine (an administrative period dating back to the 1919 Treaty of Paris that followed the fall of the Central Powers in World War I), and the declaration of the establishment

of the State of Israel, the armies of the Arab World combined forces and unleashed a fearsome holy war, or *jihad*, against the fledgling Jewish state.

The war waxed and waned while world Jewry, not yet powerful enough to mobilize either US or international support in favor of the new nation, held its breath. Armed with primitive weaponry, Molotov Cocktails (home-made incendiary devices first used by the Finns against the invading Russian army during the 1939 “Winter War”) and sheer grit, a mere 35,000 *Haganah* fighting men and women and a few thousand settlers held off the British-trained Transjordan Arab Legion as well as the armies of Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Jerusalem, and its 100,000 Jews, most old, religious and non-arms bearing, along with a few *Haganah* fighters were cut off by the Arab armies. The Jerusalemites were denied water and held in siege for much of the time from early 1948 until June of that year, with their lifeline to the outside world being strangled day by day. The main coastal road to Jerusalem became impassable despite several attempts to break through the commanding Jordanian fortress of Latrun. Jerusalem’s Jewish inhabitants were in constant peril as Egyptian columns marched toward Jerusalem from the South and the British trained and battle-hardened regiments of the Arab Legion advanced from the North and the East. The *Yishuv*, the Jews of Palestine, became desperate.

After repeated defeats, 1,500 *Haganah* fighters, under the command of the legendary Mickey Marcus, a retired U.S. army colonel and West Point graduate, were assigned to forge a lifeline to Jerusalem that was not within range of the guns at Latrun. They were again rebuffed at great loss. Finally, Israeli freedom fighters were able to hew a back-door supply route to Jerusalem via the Judean Hills. Called the “Burma Road,” the route traversed old donkey trails and high desert passes and ravines, and marked the beginning of victory for the Jews of the *Yishuv*. The Jewish world heaved a sigh of relief.

The first of two truces occurred during the period June 11 to July 8, 1948, at which time a U.N. partition plan that would have given the Galilee to the Jews and the Negev to the Arabs was rejected by both sides. Only ten days later and after significant Israeli battlefield gains forced the Arabs’ hands, a second truce took place during the period July 18 to October 15, 1948. It was at this time that Folke Bernadotte, the U.N. Mediator for the Arab Israeli conflict, attempted to forge a lasting agreement, again based upon a Jewish state in the Galilee, and the annexation of the Arab areas, including the Negev, by Transjordan. The plan was again rejected by both sides, but, this time, Bernadotte was assassinated.

After a continued period of fighting, during the period February 24, 1949 through July 20, 1949, the new State of Israel signed separate armistices with Egypt, Lebanon, Transjordan and Syria, with the result that Israel remained on a

land area about 50% larger than originally provided by the U.N. partition proposal of the first truce. Significantly, the armistice lines were not borders in the sense of the national borders adopted by the Treaty of Paris in 1919. Rather, as noted, the lines reflected the military placement of the day—lines which are commonly referred to today as the pre-1967 borders or the Green Line.

For the Arab world, the armistice lines were a tragedy, conveying, as they did, considerably more territory to the Jewish state than would have been allocated had the Arab world acceded to the partition vote earlier in the year. But, for almost 30 years, these lines held, with Jordan having annexed the lands east of the Jordan River, including Old Jerusalem, and Egypt having placed Gaza under military control. During this period, there is no account of any Arab ruler arguing for a Palestinian state on the land annexed by Jordan or militarily controlled by Egypt. Rather, each of Jordan and Egypt ruled on its own terms and Jews were denied access to the Old City.

There were, of course, incidental skirmishes and “warm” wars. Most noteworthy, in 1956, after Egypt’s Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal, Israel, at the behest of France and England, invaded the Sinai so that English and French forces could establish positions at the Suez Canal, based on the pretext that the area was too unstable for Egypt to manage. While the plan worked militarily, the timing was unworkable for the United States which had its hands full with the Hungarian uprising of 1956 and other international matters. Ultimately, the U.S., fearing a more widespread military engagement, called off its allies. But, by and large, the status quo was maintained, with a United Nations Emergency Force stationed at Suez to provide a buffer between Israel and Egypt.

Then, in 1967, the clouds of war hovered in earnest over Israel. Once again, the armies of the Arab world began to mobilize in a combined effort to push the Jewish state into the sea. Egypt expelled the U.N. peacekeeping force at Suez, closed the Strait of Tiran (in the southern reaches of the Red Sea) to all Israeli flag vessels and massed 100,000 troops and 1,000 tanks on the Sinai in preparation for invading Israel. Israel entreated King Hussein of Jordan not to enter the war, but, it was too late. Jordan had signed a defense pact with Egypt and was readying itself for the invasion of Israel, as was Syria.

On May 23, 1967, the Knesset (Israel’s governing body) huddled in alarm and determination. A furious period of international diplomacy followed. But, fearing their country isolated, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin decided to attack the Egyptian air squadrons on the ground. The

Israeli attack came on June 5, 1967, and, in the aftermath, virtually every one of Egypt's 300 fighting aircraft was demolished and 100 of its best pilots killed.

Nevertheless, the war continued, with Egypt's tank divisions moving north through the Sinai and Jordanian units attacking from the Jordanian West Bank. With victorious campaigns in both sectors, the Israeli army took both the Sinai and the West Bank. The ancient lands of Judea and Samaria were again in Jewish hands after 2,000 years.

Who, among those Jews who were old enough to read and take note at the time, can forget the picture of a young Israeli, Yosi Ben Hanaan, on the cover of *Life Magazine*, as he became the first Israeli soldier to emerge from the Red Sea onto Egyptian soil. And, who, among those who can remember, will ever forget the scenes of Israeli soldiers marching triumphantly into the old city of Jerusalem and kissing the stones of the Western Wall, the storied foundation wall of the Temple of Solomon. Further into the former territory of Jordan marched the brave, victorious Israeli soldiers, with heartbreaking numbers being killed or maimed. In the end, as a result of a defensive war instigated by an Arab world bent on Israel's destruction, Israel won, as the spoils of war, the area now known as the West Bank, consisting of such ancient biblical areas as Jericho, made famous by Joshua's three- thousand year old military campaign, and Hebron, the second most venerated site in Israel and the ancient burial ground of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs.

Many Arabs fled the West Bank, not wishing to remain under Israeli rule, and with elation and relief, Israel began reclaiming the biblical sites that had been denied to the Jewish people for over two thousand years. In East Jerusalem, not a single Jewish temple or holy site remained, all having been destroyed by the withdrawing Arabs, many of whom fled further into Jordanian territory.

Those Arabs who had lived in the area previously annexed by Jordan now found themselves in refugee camps. After repeated attempts on the life of Jordan's King Hussein, the king fought back a number of emerging militant refugee groups. Bloodshed reached a peak during September 1970—a month named "Black September" by Yasser Arafat, the leader of one of the militant refugee groups, the Palestine Liberation Organization ("PLO"). In July 1971, the PLO, was expelled from Jordan with Arafat and his followers being forced to take up quarters in Lebanon.

These refugees, who now called themselves Palestinians, found themselves unwanted in the Arab world. In no Arab nation other than Jordan (in a limited manner) had the 1948 refugees been granted citizenship. Instead, as the sheiks and kings of the Arab world wallowed in oil revenues, the Palestinian refugees were confined to squalid refugee camps. The image of Palestinians as hapless refugees

served the rest of the Arab world as a convenient whipping boy for condemning alleged Israeli aggression and cowardice.

Oil money talks and eventually the world succumbed to the Palestinian created myth that a nation called Palestine had existed before the 1967 war and that its valiant people had been dispossessed because of Israeli aggression rather than Arab bellicosity. As developing and developed nations alike worried over the prospect that Arab oil producers would turn off the oil spigots, these same nations conveniently lost sight of the fact that never, in the history of warfare, had a victorious nation fighting a defensive war against outside aggressors given back territory it won, without even a negotiation.

Importantly, not enough of the foregoing history now reaches the ears of prospective Jewish college students. The reasons are manifold: Jewish kids today only know of the Holocaust and the previously unimaginable founding of the modern State of Israel as history. By contrast, to the Jews of a generation or two ago, both of these events were real and seared into their DNA.

Today, in the face of nonstop negative propaganda, Israel's army, the Israel Defense Forces, is viewed by much of the outside world, including many of today's college bound children, as being heavy handed if not oppressive. This, despite the fact that the tiny nation of Israel is surrounded by several hundred million inimical Arabs, was almost defeated in the Yom Kippur War of 1973, has few reliable allies other than the United States and has been on the receiving end of terrorist action, indiscriminately lobbed missiles, suicide bombers or Intifada-hungry masses, almost from the moment that Yasser Arafat and his forces were allowed to return to the West Bank as part of the now discredited attempt to reach peace known as the August 20, 1993, Oslo accords.

It should, therefore, be of little surprise that many of our young people are ill-prepared to deal with, let alone respond to, the highly organized effort to discredit Israel they may well encounter on campus. Without adequate preparation, it will not be easy for impressionable and idealistic young Jewish minds to appreciate that the anti-Israel divestment campaigns are the 21st century version of anti-Semitism clothed in a veil of political correctness. It is incumbent on we Jewish parents to impart to our children a sense of Jewish identification, Jewish pride and an understanding of Jewish and Israeli history as they head off to college and into a potentially more strident environment than they have ever experienced in the past.

In addition to what our young people learn at home, there are numerous Federations and other Jewish organizations addressing the need to educate prospective Jewish college students so that they are better prepared when they go off to college. Among these are the American Jewish Committee's Leadership for Tomorrow ("LFT") program that, in three years, has already introduced hundreds of



promising high school students to an enormously wide range of views on Israel and its relations with the Palestinians and its other Arab neighbors. According to AJC's LFT website,

“Leaders for Tomorrow (*LFT*), *AJC's* education and advocacy program for teens, empowers young Jews to speak up for Israel and the Jewish people. *LFT* helps high school students develop a strong Jewish identity and trains them as advocates for Israel, and to be voices against anti-Semitism. *LFT* gives students the tools to talk about the issues impacting world Jewry today, and the confidence to stand up for these issues in college and throughout their lives, no matter how difficult the situation.

As mentioned, I have included in capsule form as Appendix C an overview to the Israel-Palestine conflict. For others of you who find such a tool too simplistic or just plain not helpful, I urge you to marshal the resources of your respective Jewish communities and the materials made available from many Jewish organizations to prepare your kids for the opposing points of view which they will likely encounter while in college. In particular, I highly recommend the American Jewish Committee's legal guide for college students, entitled “Know Your Rights: A Student's Guide to Pro-Israel Activism,” available on AJC's website.

## CHAPTER 3

---

### CHOICE OF SCHOOL

I have approached this guide from the perspective of a Jewish parent of college age kids because I have been one. I have gone through the college application process three times. I have also counseled many, many other families. During what should be a happy, uplifting experience, I have often observed the kind of anxiety one normally associates with awful events such as sickness, divorce and career change. And, it is just not worth it.

The important thing for you and your kids is to tailor your expectations. All of the anxiety in the world is not going to influence a university's decision. Furthermore, the complexities of the application pool make admission to the hottest and best schools unpredictable at best and a crap shoot at worst. Compounding the problem is the fact that admissions offices are governed by admissions prerogatives that change from year to year depending on the goals of the college.

It is true that some schools will provide your child with a jumpstart. A diploma from schools such as the eight Ivies, Stanford, MIT, Cal Tech and Chicago will give your child a leg up. But, a leg up as to what? There is no question that high-ranking students from these schools will place well at the best medical schools, law schools and Ph.D. programs. And, why shouldn't they? These kids are very, very smart. Indeed, here is an axiom: kids who get into the best undergraduate programs do so, to a large degree, if not in the main, because they score very high on the ACTs or SATs. Once in college, these kids don't go into test-taking amnesia. It stays with them. And, lo and behold, the best medical, law and graduate schools crave high test scores.

So, what does that mean for the rest of us? What it means (of course, with exceptions for people at the elite margins) is that there is little strategic difference between someone who graduates from one school and someone who graduates from a lesser ranked school. Indeed, some studies have shown that the lifetime socioeconomic success rate of college graduates is affected very little by the college attended, particularly where the school graduated from has a recognizable (though, not necessarily, elite) brand. Thus, Dalton Conley, writing in the April 1, 2012 edition of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, stated the proposition as follows:

A 2002 study by the economists Stacy Dale and Alan Krueger followed kids who were admitted to elite colleges but for whatever reason—usually related to finances or family—instead went to their local state U. Their post-college socioeconomic success was equivalent to other students who attended the fancy institutions those students shunned.

Of course, they may have been a self-selected group with the intellectual confidence to eschew a Brown University degree in order to take care of an ailing parent, or to save that parent tuition. So, in a more recent study, Dale and Krueger examined where folks applied, assuming that the range of institutions, from safety to dream school, represented a self-assessment of a student's relative strength on the admissions market. Once that range was accounted for, it didn't seem to matter where the student went.

In other words, while the difference between Stanford and no-name college may still matter, within a general range—say Stanford versus San Diego State University—it doesn't make much of a difference where a student goes.

In the end, how well kids perform in college (along with a little luck on the standardized tests, should they pursue graduate school) will determine how well they fare afterwards. Indeed, if they are not interested in graduate school, many other factors enter into the mix, such as personality, leadership and determination. These are important guideposts to keep in mind as you read further into this guide.

This eyes-open approach to applying to college becomes even more important when one considers how the pool of applicants to the nation's best schools has increased over the past decade or two. Today, admissions officers can sculpt a diversified and varied class without sacrificing boasting rights based on test scores and class rank. No longer does the applicant with stellar test scores, grades and activities have a lock at the elite school of his or her choice, even one where his or her parents attended. Instead, at elite school A, there may be a surplus of similar applicants, but a shortage of applicants who are considered important to the school's enrollment goals, such as students in the performing arts or those applicants whose multicultural backgrounds make them attractive.

This guide is written for both the parents of the truly gifted Jewish student as well as for the vast majority of parents whose kids are just as wonderful but not as gifted. If your kid is in the Ivy League category, there will be no letup of helpful attention. I can assure you that his or her guidance counselors will be lining up to help with the application process and neither you nor your kid will have any difficulty learning whatever you need to know. My descriptions of the eight Ivy League schools (as well as the rapidly-increasing number of comparable schools) should provide a starting point for such families.

It is for the rest of you that this Guide is primarily, though not exclusively, written—the parents of kids who discover that an A- GPA interspersed with a reasonable spattering of AP credit courses and a 1450 new SAT score will no longer constitute a shoe-in for Michigan, Tufts or Vanderbilt, not to speak of the Ivies; the parents of kids who discover that the University of Maryland or the University of

Georgia of their childhood now require academic credentials comparable to what Emory or Washington University required during the same era; and the parents of kids who discover that “should-get-into” schools of a few years ago are now very competitive.

But, I really don’t want to come off sounding negative. Applying to college should be an educational and uplifting first step in the road to adulthood. The goal of this Guide is to make that first step as easy as possible.

## CHAPTER 4

---

### OVERCOMING THE ONE-TIME JEWISH BARRIERS TO ACADEMIA

Most of us who are parents can remember (or at least remember stories of) grandparents or great grandparents who were first generation Americans. Escaping the pogroms, they came from small *shtetl's* and large cities—but, always with the goal of improving their lives and, more importantly, the lives of their children.

At first, only a trickle of immigrant Jews entered college, while most labored in sweat shops during the week and prayed in tiny storefront *shtievals* when the weekend arrived. Life was hard and often the greatest of Torah scholars worked in the most menial of positions. My own grandfather was secretary to the *Bosteneh Rebbe*, a much-respected position within the orthodox Jewish world of 1920s and 1930s Boston, but earned his living repairing Singer sewing machines.

In those days, the elite schools imposed a strict college quota on Jews consistent with their demographic representation in the country. For many professional schools, the specific percentage was 3% and it was well known. When my uncle was admitted to Tufts and then to Tufts Medical School, Jews living in the modest walk-ups of the West End of Boston celebrated by banging on the pipes. Everyone knew instantly, and everyone shared in the joy.

In some places, where there were large concentrations of Jews, exceptions to the strict quotas took hold. Thus, from the 1920s onward, the Jewish American world produced a remarkable plethora of graduates from urban citadel institutions such as Boston's Harvard University and New York City's Columbia University. From Harvard, the world was introduced to Nobel laureate, Sheldon Glashow (physics), Pulitzer Prize winners, Ellen Goodman and David Halberstam, Viacom CEO, Sumner Redstone, art historian, Bernard Berenson, and Congressman Barney Frank. From Columbia, Jews could claim graduates such as song writer, Oscar Hammerstein II, actor, George Segal, conservative intellectual, Norman Podhoretz, musician, Art Garfunkel, science fiction writer, Isaac Asimov, and Nobel laureate, Simon Kuznets (economics).

In New York City, opportunity was the greatest. There, the door was opened wide to Jews through the medium of the city's highly competitive, free universities (City College of New York, Brooklyn College, Queens College and Hunter College). In particular, at City College and Brooklyn College, admission was based on two criteria: a qualifying GPA and performance on entry examinations. At one time, it became hard to find non-Jews in Brooklyn College. Once competitive Jewish students performed at a lofty level in a very competitive environment such as Brooklyn

College, it became increasingly difficult for graduate schools to keep them out. Extraordinary graduates from City College and Brooklyn College found their way to graduate schools at the highest pantheons of American education.

City College's Jewish graduates have included Supreme Court Justice, Felix Frankfurter, Anti-Defamation League head, Abraham Foxman, stock market genius and presidential advisor, Bernard Baruch, conservative intellectual, Irving Kristol, New York City mayor, Edward Koch, and Nobel laureates, Julius Axelrod (medicine), Kenneth Arrow (economics), Robert Hofstadter (physics), Arno Penzias (physics) and Robert Altmann (economics). Among Brooklyn College's Jewish graduates are former California Senator Barbara Boxer, humorist, Sam Levenson, playwright, Erwin Shaw, Nobel laureate, Stanley Cohen (physiology), and Adobe CEO, Bruce Chizen.

Yet, the advances made on local levels did not translate into success at the work level because much of pre-War America was rigidly discriminatory. Corporate America and Wall Street (except for the established Jewish firms) were still closed shut to Jews. Without access after college, Jews gravitated to professions they could perform at the local level: pharmacy, accounting, small firm lawyering and medicine. The assurance of college as an unlimited entry to opportunity was still some years off.

Even in the world of medicine, hospitals would not offer admission privileges to Jewish doctors, giving rise to alternative Jewish hospitals such as Beth Israel in Boston, what is now Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, and Montefiore Medical Center in New York City. Until the 1960s, one could survey the major law firms in New York City (or, virtually, any major city) and find only a handful of Jewish partners. My wife once worked as an associate for an all Harvard Law School firm in Boston made up of brilliant lawyers who were not yet welcome in Boston's legal establishment. Early in my career, I worked at a "Jewish" firm, Weil Gotshal & Manges, where I met Martin Ginsburg, husband of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and, over his life, the most heralded corporate tax lawyer in America.

What changed it all? First, there was World War II and the numbing awakening caused by the Holocaust. The waging of the War had crossed cultural lines, brought together equally dedicated GI's from all backgrounds and, through such cross-cultural exposure, opened up the country to new ideas and alliances. The Marshall Plan that helped rebuild Europe's war-torn economy and infrastructure caused all eyes to look to America. America's wartime manufacturing colossuses continued to churn on, with giants such as General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, cranking out unprecedented numbers of cars instead of mind-numbing volumes of wartime vehicles and tanks.

The can-do attitude of the "Greatest Generation" produced wonders such as television, the polio vaccine and commercial jetliners. The Holocaust itself, once its

horrors became truly known, created a wave of sympathy and, to a great degree, helped pave the way for the formation of the State of Israel. And, most significantly, the GI Bill that gave Jewish and non-Jewish veterans the opportunity to go to college and, at the same time, the ability to participate after school in the new fabric of America, opened up educational avenues previously unknown. Through the GI Bill, bright young Jewish scholars, such as my father-in-law (who went on to earn three degrees at MIT), were no longer limited to places like Brooklyn College, and could, instead, attend revered institutions.

Spearheaded by educational opportunity, the academic floodgates began to open. Particularly, in the late 1950s and 1960s, Jewish presence on college campuses hitherto reachable by only the few became widespread. Bastions of the old order began to open their portals to the talented and highly motivated pool of Jewish applicants who had both credentials and, increasingly, the wherewithal to pay for a college education.

Stubbornly, some schools held on to stereotypes of the perceived negative influence of too many Jewish students. But by the 1970s, many schools had gone so far as to open their admissions completely based on intellectual performance, without any quota of any kind. At venerable Columbia, such a policy once produced a class of young Jewish scholars who accounted for more than 50% of the entering students. This entering class, derisively known to history as “Dudley’s Folly,” after Columbia’s then Dean of Admissions, resulted in a backlash and a new approach to admissions.

Soon, grade and test-based admissions policies were replaced at Columbia and at most other schools with admissions policies that evaluated the whole student and did not rely solely on grades and test scores alone. Cynically, such admissions policies were often channeled into emphasizing students from parts of the country where Jews were not a demographic factor. Nevertheless, as young Jewish scholars with stellar grades began emerging from the nation’s finer undergraduate schools, the great graduate schools began opening their doors more widely as well. By the beginning of the 1970s, law schools such as Harvard and Columbia were graduating newly minted Jewish lawyers in large numbers. With so many high caliber Jewish law school graduates, the law firm barriers also began to tumble. Today, there are few, if any, Jewishly-identified large law firms and few, if any, Gentile-identified large law firms. Instead, the large law firm world has integrated, religiously, across the board.

The same cracking of ceiling glass began to take place in business and politics. Entry barriers had existed throughout industry, with the great brokerage houses and corporations often being unwelcome places for Jewish graduates. Of course, exceptions existed, such as Goldman Sachs and Lehman Brothers in the banking world, and the great Hollywood movie studios. But, as talented Jewish graduates emerged from the upper ranks of the college world, especially from the great

undergraduate business schools such as the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, industry and the world of finance began to discover the Jewish graduate.

Today, of course, it would be an outrage, if not downright foolish, for a major company to reject a Jew on religious grounds. Today, Jews work and succeed in all walks of life. Indeed, Jews have excelled in business beyond the wildest imagination of their immigrant parents and grandparents who worked in sweat shops, pushed carts, owned delicatessens and repaired sewing machines.

Among the Jewish business greats are Philip Anschutz, movie theater mogul and founder of Qwest Communications, Ted Arison, founder of Carnival Cruise Lines, Jeff Bleustein, former CEO of Harley Davidson, Larry Ellison, founder of Oracle, Max Factor, founder of the pseudonymous company that bears his name, Paul Fireman, founder of Reebok, Donald Fisher, founder of GAP, Andrew Grove, Holocaust survivor and co-founder of Intel, Jeremy Jacobs, CEO of Delaware North sports venues and concessions, Ronald Lauder, co-owner of Estee Lauder, Ralph Lauren, owner of the iconic company that bears his name, Bernard Marcus, co-founder of Home Depot, Donald Newhouse and Samuel Newhouse, founder and owner, respectively, of Newhouse Publications, William S. Paley, one of the architects of CBS, the Pritzker family of Chicago (of which, Penny Pritzker was a chair of then-first-time candidate Barak Obama's election finance committee and, later, became his Secretary of Commerce), owners of Hyatt Hotels, Sumner Redstone, CEO of Viacom, William Rosenberg, owner of Dunkin Donuts, Howard Schultz, founder of Starbucks, Zev Siegal, co-founder of Starbucks, Laurence Tisch, former owner of CBS, Ed Zander, CEO of Motorola, Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, and Mortimer Zuckerman, owner of *US News and World Report* and former chairman of Boston Properties, one of the largest real estate investment trusts in the country.

In the world of politics, Jewish involvement has always been disproportionately large because of the high incidence of Jewish voting. This phenomenon was often based on the overriding feeling that if Jews did not take a position on issues of social justice as applied to others, then they might well be next in line when the pendulum of injustice swung once again. In the largely Jewish precincts of New York and the Northeast during the second half of the twentieth century, such voting patterns produced Democratic as well as Republican officials, such as Senator Jacob Javits of New York and Senator Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut, and numerous urban Jews, such as the notoriously brash, hat-wearing Congresswoman Bella Abzug of New York City.

But, Jews were not able to project themselves beyond the high density Jewish demographic pockets until they were able to provide an economic underpinning to political campaigns in previously untapped areas such as Minnesota, Wisconsin and



Nevada. Here, in particular, the economic boost provided by the acceptance of Jewish students in the upper ranks of collegiate America was an essential ingredient.

Today, Jewish leadership in the sciences, business, politics and philanthropy is indisputable. Check out the major Jewish donors identified in the schools profiled in Chapters 7-9 of this Guide. In sports, Jewish ownership is equally impressive. According to the February 1, 2018, *Jerusalem Post*, of the 32 NFL teams, 10 have Jewish owners, and, according to the May 6, 2014, *Forward*, half of the NBA's principal owners at that time were Jewish.

Perhaps, such success has been no more evident than in the world of academia. In addition to current University of Pennsylvania president Amy Guttmann (the daughter of Holocaust survivors), current Caltech president, Thomas J. Rosenbaum (the son of Holocaust survivors), current University of Chicago president Robert J. Zimmer, current Cornell University president, Martha E. Pollack, current University of Michigan president Mark Schlissel, current Northwestern University President, Morton Schapiro, former Harvard presidents Lawrence Summers and Neil Rudenstine, former Cornell President Jeffrey S. Lehman, former Tufts and current Harvard president Lawrence S. Bacow (the son of an Auschwitz survivor), former Yale President Richard S. Levin, and former University of California president Mark Yudoff, there are now Jewish presidents of colleges and universities that only two generations ago were virtually off limits to countless young Jewish scholars.

## CHAPTER 5

---

### PREPARING COLLEGE-BOUND KIDS JEWISHLY

The chances are fair that if you are taking the time to read this guide, you probably already have a working awareness of the universe of plausible colleges for your child. There is also a good chance you are proceeding from a position of accomplishment in your own right. But, for what I have to say next, it doesn't matter.

Think for a moment about what you want most for your aspiring college kid. Now, think of what you hope for him or her as a Jew. Probably, success and acceptance are two of the ingredients you hope for your child. These are wonderful goals. Religiously, however, the assimilation that often accompanies success and acceptance, has taken a toll on the continuity of Judaism in the United States. Recent studies indicate that more than 70% of young non-Orthodox Jewish adults are marrying outside of the faith, and, of that number, substantially fewer than half are likely to raise their children as Jews.

But, acceptance is not the only cause for young Jewish adults who stray from the fold. Secularism is also a major factor. So many of us are so busy dealing with life's daily demands and advancing our position in the world, as well as the position of our children, that we leave precious little time for instilling in our children a sense of Jewish identification, let alone a strong Jewish foundation, that will be accessible to them when they are ready for college and courting.

Once our kids become B'nai Mitzvot, we tend to think of them (or, at least, conduct our lives, as if they had) "graduated" from Judaism. Admittedly, attending *shul* on a regular basis is time consuming for all of us and often mind-numbing for young adolescents. But, less demanding and considerably more user friendly is the observance of *Shabat* at home through a Friday night *Shabat* dinner.

The rule in my home when I was growing up and the rule in my wife's and my home from the time our kids were small was that *Shabat* dinner, replete with all of the embracing rituals, was mandatory. After dinner, each child's time was his or her own. Imagine, one evening meal a week dedicated to wonderful food, the singing of ritual songs and recitations from the children as to what went right and wrong during the week, as well as those activities, school or otherwise, of which the child is particularly proud. For many of us, the time is not too late to introduce such a tradition, and, with it, the immersion of our children into a world of Jewish

identification that will help nurture them through their adolescence and into their college years.

There are, of course, many ways of instilling Jewish learning and values in our children, among the most prominent, is attendance at a Jewish Day School. Admittedly, some non-orthodox Jewish Day Schools are seeing declines in attendance, largely due to cost. However, where they are doing well, these institutions provide Jewish kids from K through 12th grade with an awareness of their Jewishness that traditional Hebrew School cannot provide. The curriculum at a typical Jewish Day School is referred to as a “dual curriculum,” with kids spending equal time on general studies courses as well as on Judaic studies. In most instances, admission is open. However, because of the demands of the curriculum, the cost and the emphasis on Hebrew, attendees at such schools are from a self-selecting pool of applicants.

Once in a Jewish Day School environment, kids are immersed in a world of Jewish culture, observance and ethics they are unlikely to encounter anywhere else. *Tfillot*, or prayer, is a daily phenomenon in many such schools, as is an emphasis on ethics and morality from day one. Many times, Jewish Day School students will impart so much of a sense of Judaism to their parents that the parents are forced to negotiate for a continuation of their accustomed, secular lifestyle. Occasionally, of course, the kids will become so enamored of Jewish observance and culture that their parents will throw up their hands in submission. But, of course, that is the point.

At most Jewish Day Schools that go to grade 12, close to 100% of the students go on to college, and, I assure you, the colleges that you care about are well aware of the difficulty of the curriculum and the type of inquiring minds that come from such programs. However, what the colleges don't know is how utterly mind expanding these programs can be to young inquiring minds. In early elementary school, many of these kids will learn Rashi Hebrew—an 11th century form of Hebrew used by Rashi, one of the great Jewish scholars of all time—to enable such youngsters to study Talmud (the 3rd through 5th century commentary on the Torah) in its original script. In addition to general studies research papers, Jewish Day School kids will investigate vigorously and write copiously on any manner of subjects, including Jewish history, Israeli history, and ethics and rites of passage. Some schools, such as the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville, Maryland, where my children went to school, will graduate their kids early in their senior year so that they can spend several months visiting Jewish heritage sites in Europe and in Israel.

Make no mistake, the Jewish Day School phenomena is not just a goody two shoes educational program for those of us who want the satisfaction or *nachas* of providing their kids with a Jewish education. It is and, increasingly, will be the main agent for launching a new generation of Jewishly-identified young adults who not only feel confident about their Jewish tradition, but who are also primed for success

when they get to college. Though both of these traits are essential, the former of these cannot be overstated in its importance. As we will see in the college profiles set out in Chapter 7-9, Jewish kids will need as much help as they can get in navigating their way through the torrent of anti-Israeli rhetoric they will encounter on campus. Will your kids be ready to respond? Hopefully, the answer will be yes. But, if your kids have attended a Jewish Day School, there will be no “perhaps” in the equation.

Riding close in importance on the heels of Jewish Day Schools is the Jewish summer camp phenomena. Long in existence, summer camps, like the Conservative Movement’s Ramah camps, enable Jewish kids to learn about their heritage and make lasting friends in an unhurried environment, not pressured by the demands of school. I, and countless other parents, can attest to the life-long friendships that are established at these institutions. Fellow campers are often treated like family—Jewish family—and the families of fellow campers are often greeted as relatives. At such places, *Shabat* and morning prayer can be both a joyous and Jewishly reinforcing agent. Kids can learn more about themselves and their heritage in more of a relaxed environment than practically any place else. And, equally pertinent to the subject of this Guide, the number of Jewish camp kids who go on to college also approaches 100%. Further, the counselors are excellent Jewish role models and excellent sources of information about Jewish, as well as academic and athletic, life on campus.

I started this chapter with some concerning statistics on the future of Judaism in this country and on the toll of assimilation and the absence of Jewish observance. But where do matters really stand, particularly for our kids who are about to complete their college years? The picture is considerably more nuanced than the original statistics might suggest. For one thing, there has been a remarkable resurgence of participatory interest by young adult Jews in all of the streams of Jewish life in America. On *Shabat* morning in places such as Washington D.C.’s *Adas Israel*, *minyanim* (services) are teeming with young, professional Jewish worshippers who are attached to the rich fabric and intellectual appeal of the Jewish religion. Further, these young people now meet with greater and increasing frequency in study groups and *havurot* intended to solidify their knowledge and awareness of Judaism and to provide social outlets that extend beyond the synagogue.

Equally interesting is the phenomenon of online dating agencies such as JDate that have enabled young Jewish adults and college students to meet like-minded companions in an environment of anonymity, security and compatibility. I have known more than a few young Jewish adults who have met long-term companions or spouses through JDate. For young post-college, Jewish professionals who tend to find themselves in time and energy-consuming positions, JDate (and

the numerous other Jewish dating services that are now available) can be a real avenue to social success and Jewish continuity.

Finally, the Jewish education programs for high school age students that are springing up throughout many Jewish Federations and through organizations such as the American Jewish Committee are helping prepare aspiring young students with the intellectual tools they will need to confront an increasingly anti-Israel bias when they get to college.

In sum, while the returns are mixed—with the percentage of Jews in the United States having declined from its all-time high of over 3% after World War II to less than 2% today—I am cautiously hopeful for the continuity of Jewish life in America. Consider the role models—owners of sports teams, politicians, university professors and members of the scientific community. But, even more interesting to me is the position enjoyed by members of the rabbinate who still seem to be solidly locked in with Jewish America and, in particular, with young Jewish adolescents and adults. From my vantage point, the young rabbi, both the traditional pulpit rabbi and, increasingly, the collegiate Chabad or Hillel rabbi, not only plays a pivotal role in traditional Jewish life and continuity, but, equally importantly, often plays an essential role in providing young, college age Jewish adults with direction and support.

## CHAPTER 6

---

### TIPS ON APPLYING TO AND VISITING COLLEGES

#### A. Early Decision

The early decision phenomena has given way to the emergence of non-binding, early action at a number of schools. Nevertheless, the early decision regime continues to be highly popular. As noted in an article by Scott Jaschik, entitled “New Data on Admissions: Criteria that Matter, Early Decision and More,” published in the November 12, 2018, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*:

Between fall 2016 and fall 2017, colleges reported an average increase of 4 percent in the number of early-decision applicants and of 5 percent in those admitted through early decision. This builds on previous increases. From fall 2016 to fall 2017, colleges reported that the number of early-action applicants increased by 9 percent, and the number accepted through early action went up 10 percent. Early programs were most popular with those colleges with greater levels of competitiveness (lower admit rates).

As reported in <https://www.collegetransitions.com/dataverse/early-decision-enrollment> (collegetransitions.com), early decision is flourishing at many elite colleges and universities, with a number of schools, such as Bates, Barnard, Boston University, Claremont McKenna, Colgate, Emory, Johns Hopkins and Tulane accepting near or more than 60 percent of their entering class from early decision. Even more selective schools such as Brown, Dartmouth and Duke accept near or more than 50 percent of their incoming class from early decision.

With two exceptions, the advantages of early decision (for those schools that do not offer early action (non-binding early acceptance)) can be significant.

The exceptions:

- First, simply put, most early decision programs require that your kid commit to a school by November 1 or November 15 of the year of application. For some families who have not had the opportunity to visit all colleges of interest, the November 1 or November 15 early decision deadline may be impractical if not downright anxiety provoking.
- Second, early decision deadlines will likely preclude families from learning about aid available from other schools that might take on greater

importance if acceptance comes with a more generous financial package than the one offered by the early decision school.

The advantages:

- First, if a kid is a qualified applicant to a given school, it is at least marginally, and sometimes, appreciably, easier to be admitted to that school where the kid is competing against a pool that represents a fraction of all of the students who will eventually submit applications to the school. In the case of Boston University, BU's dean of admissions put it this way: "It's the difference between applying in an ED applicant pool of 2,500 students or a regular decision pool of 60,000-plus students." For BU, that number has now increased to an early decision pool of almost 7,000 applicants (from which around 1,800 will be accepted) out of a total applicant pool of almost 80,000 applicants.
- Second, by definition, an early-decision applicant shows great interest in the school. For some places, such an expression of interest may be meaningless. But, for others, letting the school know that you elevate it above all the others will be meaningful to admissions officers who love to be stroked.
- Third, the early decision process helps colleges with their projections, budgeting and decisions on how many students to admit from the general applicant pool. For example, assume that College A wants to fill a freshman class of 500 students and knows that about 20-30% (or, on average, 25%) of the students it accepts from the general applicant pool will attend the college. If, in a given year, College A accepts 200 students from the early decision pool, it will know that, on average, it only has to accept about 1,200 students ( $25\% \text{ average acceptance rate} \times 1,200 = \text{the needed additional 300 students}$ ) from that year's general applicant. This approach may result in over acceptance in some years and under acceptance in other years, but, at least 40% of the class is solid. By contrast, if College A had to choose all of its students from the general applicant pool, then, on average, it would have to accept 2,000 students ( $2,000 \times 25\% \text{ average acceptance rate} = 500 \text{ required students}$ ). The possibility of going high or low with an admit pool of 2,000 is appreciably greater than the possibility of going high or low with an admit pool of 1,200.
- Fourth, yield—the number of students who accept a college's invitation relative to the number of acceptances offered by the college—is an important statistic for most schools. Why do I say most? Because places like Harvard and Princeton have little to worry about. Their yield is astonishingly high and they do not have to (and don't) turn to early decision to influence a higher yield. But, for the rest, if yield can be massaged upwards, the school looks better in the eyes of the outside world: Again, let's focus on College A (with its 200 early

admits out of a desired class size of 500). Remember, I mentioned that, on average, 25% of the students from the general applicant pool to whom acceptances are offered will choose to attend the school. Well, 25% is not bad for most colleges. But, let's say that College A is in competition with a number of other schools in its peer group and that one of the distinguishing factors among these schools is yield. In this circumstance, early decision really helps College A's yield numbers because, out of its class of 500, it had a 100% acceptance/attendance rate from the 200 students who were accepted out of the early decision pool. When weighted against the 25% acceptance/attendance rate applicable to the remaining 300 members of the class, the early decision pool enables the school to announce a weighted yield of 55%. This number is the combination of  $25\% \times 300/500$  general pool acceptances = 15% +  $100\% \times 200/500$  early decision acceptances = 40%.

- Fifth, early decision provides those who are lucky enough to be accepted with a senior year that is considerably less pressure packed than will otherwise be the case. Admittedly, some kids will use this opportunity to slack off during the last half of their senior year. But, what is also the case is that kids who are committed students tend to stay that way whether or not they are early-decision admits. And, don't underestimate the psychic value of having a less anxious child in what may well be the most anxious year of his or her adolescent life. It is often no fun hanging around a teenager who is consumed with only the thought of where he or she will be admitted in April. Early decision takes the edge off of this hairy monster and it does it three-plus months earlier than the standard spring acceptance period.

The foregoing benefits notwithstanding, there is controversy over the early decision regime. Why? First, the early decision program is thought to benefit those families who have enough interest, sophistication, wealth and leisure time to visit enough colleges early enough in the game to determine which one really fits. For many of you who are reading this Guide, the foregoing category probably applies. But, it surely does not describe everyone and the fact is many think it is unfair. Secondly, as mentioned earlier in this chapter, if your kid applies early decision and is accepted on December 1 or December 15, your family will not have had an opportunity to determine which of the various schools you considered would offer the best financial package. In fact, the only financial package available to you will be the one offered by your kid's early decision school. In mitigation of this consideration, many schools now guaranty that students admitted as early decision applicants will receive the same financial aid package as if they had been admitted during the regular application process. Whatever the case, relative cost may be important, but not as predominant a consideration as admission. But, for the many in the rest of the applicant pool,



relative cost may be the most important consideration and for this part of the pool, early decision, despite its strategic importance, is not an option.

Bottom line: If your kid is not fooling himself or herself and really is in love with a given school and really has a shot, ranging from realistic to reachable, then early decision is a powerful tool and should be considered very, very seriously.

## **B. Second Early Decision**

Intelligently reaching for an early decision school does not have to be a zero-sum game with regard to a less competitive, but attractive second choice school where your kid might have had a higher likelihood of early-decision admission. The reason: most schools now have a second-round, early-decision program which will afford your kid a second bite at the apple if he or she does not make it into his or her first early choice. Moreover, most of the second early programs have an application deadline far enough into the process so that your kid will have a chance to hear the bad news from his or her first early decision school and still have an opportunity to meet the second early decision application deadline for his or her second-choice school.

But, won't those second-round, early-decision schools know that your kid didn't make it into his or her first-early choice? Maybe yes and maybe no, particularly since many such programs exist in part to welcome early decision applications from students who cannot make up their minds by November 1 or November 15. But, the fact remains that the second-round, early-decision programs, although admitting a smaller group of students than the first-round early-decision programs, exist to admit students not to taunt them.

## **C. Rolling Admissions**

Rolling admissions is one of greatest gifts that a college has to offer your fragile young applicant. Why: because if your kid is nimble enough to get his or her application into a rolling admission school, he or she may receive a favorable response even earlier than will be the case with early decision or early action. Such an acceptance may even influence his or her early decision posture. But, at the very least, a rolling admission acceptance will put your kid on the map and take a good deal of pressure off even if he or she subsequently chooses to go the standard acceptance route for other schools and wait until late March or April.

Most public universities, but not all, accept students on a rolling admission basis. There are some stunning opportunities for tapping into the rolling decision

process, particularly with regard to member schools of the Big Ten, such as Michigan and Indiana.

If your child has a favorite, it will really behoove him or her to get his application in as soon as the school accepts applications, which may be as early as September. Also, it is important to alert your high school guidance department to your kid's interest in applying early in the game to a rolling admission school. Some high school guidance departments may not be geared up for shepherding college applications to rolling admissions schools as early as September. But, with a little bit of gentle persuasion, many will be willing to accommodate your kid.

Of course, in today's market, there is no certainty that your child will be admitted, irrespective of his or her credentials, but the rolling admission process can be a pretty good bellwether for whether your kid is reaching too high (or, possibly too low). For example, for any number of reasons, outstanding students may find themselves not being admitted to or being deferred at a place like Michigan. If this phenomenon occurs, your kid may want to aim at a few schools that are less competitive than Michigan's peer group or even reevaluate his or her early decision school. And, because of the rolling admission process, he or she will likely have time to do so.

#### **D. The College Trip**

The college trip is where parents earn their stripes. The college trip can be dream fulfillment—a chance to watch your kid be dazzled and a chance for you to reminisce and marvel at how fast you have gotten to this point. Or, the trip could be a disaster, filled with pot holes and traps for the unwary. If you go with an open mind and recognize that the trip is your kid's opportunity to discover things about himself or herself and to experience his or her own dream fulfillment, you will stand a much better chance of weathering the trip or maybe even experiencing the kind of bonding that happens only a few times during your child's adolescent years. Whatever the case, the following are a few tips that may help you on your college tour:

- First, try to visit schools in your child's junior year, particularly during his or her spring recess. Why the junior year? Three reasons: (i) it gets the process going early enough so that there is ample time to accommodate for changes of heart; (ii) the earlier your kid visits schools of interest, the better positioned he or she will be to consider the early-decision application route; and (iii) there is no guaranty that a trip will turn out the way you or your child had planned and an unsuccessful trip taken in the spring can more readily be followed up with a second trip later on.
- Second, try to go in good weather. Seriously, if you want to visit a Northern or Midwestern school, try hard not to go during a cold weather

month. I know your kid is well centered, but you will not believe how a cold or rainy day can negatively affect a child's attitude toward a given school. On the subject of rainy days, I, personally, have never had a good experience during a rainy day. If you are on your trip and have the opportunity to finesse a rainy morning or afternoon, sleep late or go to the movies.

- Third, try to schedule your trip when class is in session. I know this may not always be possible, but there is a huge difference between visiting a bustling college campus and visiting one that feels like a ghost town because all the students are on vacation or have left for summer or winter break.
- Fourth, try to avoid visiting a college campus on a Sunday morning or even on a Saturday morning. College kids sleep late on weekends—I'm talking about really late. If you show up at ten or eleven on a Sunday morning, or even a Saturday morning, the place is going to feel abandoned and your kid may not have a positive experience.
- Fifth, try to schedule an information session before the tour. Otherwise, your kid may be on *shpilkes* during the information session and neither you nor your kid will get much out of it.
- Sixth, most college tours are led by student volunteers. Most of the volunteers are well prepared, enthusiastic representatives of their school—that's why they're volunteers. However, as with people in any walk of life, there will be a few duds along the way. Prepare your kid for this possibility so that he or she is in a position to discount the negative effects of a bad tour guide. Many a kid has come back from a bad college visit resulting from a weak tour guide only to discover that there are still a lot of reasons for liking the school.
- Seven, most importantly, don't fight with your kid. Remember, the trip is his or her time to look into his or her future. There will be inevitable areas of disagreement. You may have set your heart on the Ivy League, but if your kid likes the not dissimilar Northwestern, Vanderbilt or UVA, there will be little you can do about it; so, don't fight. Similarly, if you see the college that might have been your dream school, don't try to superimpose your fantasies on your kid.

## **E. Playing the Athletic Card**

Some time ago the sports-minded rabbi of our congregation was watching his star, but diminutive, softball-playing daughter come to bat for our local Jewish Day School where my daughter was also a team member. As the rabbi scanned the field and observed the disproportionately large size of the opposing pitcher and infielders, he sighed, "Why couldn't God have made us a larger people?" For most of us, this

lament sums up the relationship between Jews and sports (except, of course, for the owners).

But, Jewish athletes do abound. There a variety of reasons why there are more Jewish athletes today than in past years.

- First, along with other kids, Jewish kids are growing bigger.
- Second, Jewish girls now have sports outlets not available to them a couple of decades ago.
- Third, Jewish kids benefit from the sports nurturing and exposure that comes with affluence. A reasonably talented young boy or girl who starts receiving tennis, golf, swimming or soccer coaching at an early age has a more than moderate chance of growing into a high school player who shows promise as a small college athlete (or, even as a large-college athlete such as UCLA's former quarterback, Josh Rosen).

The benefit of your kid applying to college as an athlete is a serious and worthy of consideration. If your kid is a front-line starter on a high school athletic team, even a team made up of Jewish Day School *buchers*, there may be a place for him or her at the collegiate level. I am not saying it's a lock. But, we are talking about meal ticket time. All schools with intercollegiate athletic programs—and, that is every institution referred to in this Guide (yes, even including MIT and the University of Chicago)—are looking for collegiate athletes. More importantly, the 2019 athletic admissions scandal notwithstanding (see discussion below), all coaches, depending on their place on the pecking order at the institution in question, have priority rights to student-athletes, with the emphasis on athletes.

Even coaches within the venerable Ivy League have priority picks when it comes to student athletes. Although not advertised, the picks tend to fall within several layers based upon criteria that are related to the sport in question and the caliber of the player. So, you can be sure that a coach at Cornell or Harvard will have a lot to say about a talented hockey player, despite the fact that his academic credentials are significantly lower than the average. So, too, will be the case with a lacrosse player who applies to Johns Hopkins.

The following excerpt from the March 22, 2019, *Washington Post* article, entitled “Five Myths about the Ivy League,” illustrates the point:

[A]thletes are a special case and are given vastly more preference than other recognized categories [of admissions preference]. Varsity coaches exert tremendous influence by giving the admissions office a list of recruited athletes—a list that is usually respected. Equally

outstanding musicians, artists, actors and dancers do not receive the same treatment. This preference outweighs even the preference given to legacies or minorities. In a study of 30 selective institutions conducted by James Shulman and former Princeton president William G. Bowen, athletes were 48 percent more likely to be admitted than applicants without a hook, compared with 18 percent for racial minorities and 25 percent for legacies. But the best evidence on varsity athletes comes from data revealed during the recent Harvard lawsuit: Non-athletes with a mediocre academic rating of 4 (on a 1 to 6 scale) had an admit rate of 0.076, compared with about 70 percent for athletes—a probability nearly 1,000 times greater.

The importance of athletic candidates, especially at the nation's most elite schools, was spelled out in even greater detail in a June 13, 2019, *Washington Post* article, written in the wake of the nationwide 2019 admissions scandal where, for a price, applicants were given false athletic credentials. In the article, entitled "Scandal reveals 'side door' to top schools," the authors provided the following insights into the importance and pervasiveness of athletics at some of the nation's most selective colleges:

- "At Williams, Bowdoin and Amherst colleges, federal data shows at least 30 percent of students are Division III athletes.
- At Amherst, athletic applicants "account for at least 10 percent of annual admission offers and as much as a third of a typical incoming class.
- At Claremont McKenna, with a student body of about 1,300, "a coach's endorsement provides a strongly influential admissions "tip" for about 50 to 60 student athletes a year."
- Yale University said about 200 students a year, or 13 percent of an incoming class, matriculate with backing from athletics.
- Out of 35,438 applicants for its fall 2018 entering class, Brown admitted 2,566, or 7 percent. Of those admitted, . . . 219 were recruited student athletes. All but three of the 219 matriculated.
- Brown's program appears typical for the league. Federal data show 14 percent of Brown undergraduates were varsity athletes in 2017, compared with 15 percent at Yale, 16 percent at Harvard, 19 percent at Princeton University and 21 percent at Dartmouth College.

For most of your kids, Harvard or Cornell hockey or Johns Hopkins lacrosse will not be an option. But, there are many more sports than hockey and lacrosse and many varieties of schools who field intercollegiate athletic teams. For example, I have known a Jewish football player who went to Wesleyan, a Jewish tennis player who went to Bucknell, a Jewish sailor who went to Harvard, a Jewish coxswain who

went to Dartmouth, and a Jewish baseball player who went to Haverford? At each of these institutions, the ability of the kid to make a contribution to the school's athletic program undoubtedly accounted for a lot. In the case of your kid, it is worth planning for early. For events such as swimming, all that will be necessary is your kid's posted times. For sports such as tennis, local ratings will be important. But, for other sports, you will need videos, an athletic resume and the endorsement of your kid's coaching department. Get these out early and get them directly to the coach of the team or teams that might be of interest to your child.

Of course, collegiate athletics take time and, for many kids, one season may be enough or even too much. But, unless your kid is one of the few who has been able to win an athletic scholarship, there is nothing lost if your kid decides to hang it up after a year or two. Once your child is admitted and remains in good standing academically, he or she is in irrespective of the tenure of his or her sporting career.

## CHAPTER 7

### PROFILES OF LARGE SCHOOLS WITH SIGNIFICANT UNDERGRADUATE JEWISH POPULATIONS

By large schools, I am not limiting the discussion to super large state schools. Rather, I am referring to schools that have both significant undergraduate and graduate populations. For example, Brandeis, Tufts and the University of Rochester are included in this category even though they are much smaller than several of the Ivy League schools, not to mention some of the large state schools such as the University of Wisconsin and the University of Michigan. In other words, what I have in mind here are schools that don't fit the standard conception of a small liberal arts college of 1,800 to 3,000 undergraduates with few graduate students. These schools are profiled in Chapter 8.

There are any number of college rankings that one may look to for guidance. But, at bottom, most rankings are beauty contests based largely, if not obsessively, on selectivity. In the selectivity process, test scores—whatever one may think of them—remain the principle determinant, although a number of schools have become test score optional. The following profiles in this Chapter 7 (and in Chapters 8 and 9, as well) do not rank the schools involved, but, consistent with admissions reality, group schools by SAT performance employing the so-called “New” SAT test results derived from reported scores for the current crop of freshman, the class of 2021. However, in the college profiles set out in Chapters 7 and 8 (schools with significant undergraduate Jewish student bodies), I do include as a line item two sets of recent rankings.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Increasingly, reliance on standardized test scores has come under fire from a variety of different quarters, with the criticism ranging from lack of predictability, distortion due to test preparation and cultural bias. In addition, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, many universities announced they would suspend standardized test scores (or go test optional) for the duration of the pandemic—a circumstance that continued through the 2021-22 academic year and thereafter. As reported by *Inside Higher Ed* on March 3, 2023, Columbia was the first Ivy League school to take the test optional concept further by going test optional on a permanent basis.

Earlier, a blue-ribbon commission, chaired by William R. Fitzsimmons, the dean of admissions at Harvard, and commissioned by the National Association for College Admission Counseling, recommended that less reliance be placed on the standardized test scores as a criterion for admission to college and that more

---

emphasis be placed on high school grades and the quality of the courses in the student's transcript. This sentiment has been echoed by almost three hundred schools. In particular, the view is shared by the following highly regarded schools, most of whom are discussed in this Guide, which make test scores optional: Bates, Bowdoin, Smith, Goucher, Hobart & William Smith, Muhlenberg, University of Chicago, University of Texas (subject, in the case of the latter, to satisfying minimum class rank and/or GPA requirements) and Wake Forest. Also, Connecticut College, Hamilton College and Middlebury College will forego SATs or ACTs provided that suitable substitute credentials are presented such as SAT subject tests, AP courses and/or an international baccalaureate.

For test optional schools, one still has to face the reality that applications submitted without SATs or ACTs will be going toe to toe with applications that present high achievement in both grades and test scores. As Andrew Flagel, senior vice president for students and enrollment at Brandeis University, put it in an interview following the University of Chicago's June 13, 2018, announcement that it was going test optional:

Getting in through a score-optional program is often more competitive. That's because you're weighting even more on that academic record. A student who may be a little more borderline on academic record who has exceptional scores can help themselves. Whereas a student with a mediocre academic record who decides to go score optional is rarely helping themselves.

According to the May 22, 2020, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, the University of California Board of Regents voted unanimously approve President Janet Napolitano's groundbreaking plan to phase out the SAT and ACT over five years and to replace both tests with "a new test to be developed by University of California faculty members." However, as reported in the May 17, 2021 edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, the Board of Regents reversed course on May 14, 2021, as a result of a law suit. As of that date, The University of California agreed to stop considering the SAT and ACT in admissions.

Had the law suit not forced the university system's hand, the Napolitano plan would have done the following:

- For freshmen entering in 2021 and 2022, Napolitano proposes the UC system become test optional. (The system has already done this for 2021, citing COVID-19.) Students who opt to submit SAT or ACT scores will not have to submit the SAT writing test.



- 
- For freshmen entering in 2023 and 2024, UC would be test blind, meaning that SAT and ACT scores would not be used in admissions decisions for California residents. Out-of-state applicants could use the new test or the SAT/ACT. Historically, few colleges have gone test blind, but UC would only in part do so. That's because UC applicants could continue to submit SAT and ACT scores during this period for use in awarding scholarships, and for the state guaranteed admissions provision that grants admission to those in the top eighth of California high schools.
  - For freshmen entering in 2025, a new admissions test would be created and used instead of the SAT and ACT. All California students would take the test to apply, and it would be made available to private schools and out-of-state schools to use. Nonresidents and international students could submit either SAT/ACT scores or scores on the new test.
  - If no new test is available by 2025, the state will go fully test blind and eliminate the role of standardized testing in admissions.

As reported by the Associated Press on January 26, 2022, the California State University, the largest-four year university system in the country, was also then poised to eliminate SAT and ACT standardized tests from its admissions process.

By contrast to the foregoing, in a 2018 study reported by Nathan Kunzel and Paul Sackett in their March 8, 2018, *Wall Street Journal* article, entitled “The Truth About the SAT and ACT, the authors concluded that “standardized tests tell us a lot about an applicant’s likely academic performance and eventual career success.” In addition, the authors determined that the advantage gained by test preparation only accounted for an increase of about 15-20 points on the math portion of the SAT and increase of about 8-10 points on the verbal portion of the SAT.

More recently, as reported in the January 7, 2024, *New York Times*, in an article written by David Leonhardt and titled, “The Misguided War on the SAT,” “research has increasingly shown that standardized test scores contain real information, helping to predict college grades, chances of graduation and post-college success. Test scores are more reliable than high school grades, partly because of grade inflation in recent years.” In Pertinent part, Leonhardt’s article also reported the following:

Without test scores, admissions officers sometimes have a hard time distinguishing between applicants who are likely to do well at elite colleges and those who are likely to struggle. Researchers who have studied the issue say that test scores can be particularly helpful in

---

identifying lower-income students and underrepresented minorities who will thrive. These students do not score as high on average as students from affluent communities or white and Asian students. But a solid score for a student from a less privileged background is often a sign of enormous potential.

“Standardized test scores are a much better predictor of academic success than high school grades,” Christina Paxson, the president of Brown University, recently wrote. Stuart Schmill — the dean of admissions at M.I.T., one of the few schools to have reinstated its test requirement — told me, “Just getting straight A’s is not enough information for us to know whether the students are going to succeed or not.”

An academic study released last summer by the group Opportunity Insights, covering the so-called Ivy Plus colleges (the eight in the Ivy League, along with Duke, M.I.T., Stanford and the University of Chicago), showed little relationship between high school grade point average and success in college. The researchers found a strong relationship between test scores and later success.

Findings such as those made by Kunzel and Sacket, as well as the studies reported by Leonhardt, do suggest that the debate will continue and that the most competitive schools, as well as those trying to achieve most competitive status, will likely continue to place significant reliance on the SAT and ACT.

According to the March 29, 2022, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, MIT announced that it was reinstating standardized test scores as a requirement for admission. The *Inside Higher Ed* article quoted Stu Schmill, dean of admissions and student financial services as follows: “Our research shows standardized tests help us better assess the academic preparedness of all applicants, and also help us identify socioeconomically disadvantaged students who lack access to advanced coursework or other enrichment opportunities that would otherwise demonstrate their readiness for MIT. We believe a requirement is more equitable and transparent than a test-optional policy.”

As reported in the February 4, 2024, *Wall Street Journal*, Dartmouth is the first Ivy League school, post-Covid, to reinstate the SAT. According to the article: “The research, by faculty from Dartmouth and Brown University and published last month by Harvard University’s Opportunity Insights research center, found that test scores predicted variations in first-year college success even among students with similar characteristics and high school grades. Dartmouth faculty also reviewed

The first set of rankings is comprised of July 2017 and July 2018 rankings by *The Forward*, a well-regarded Jewish daily newspaper, that ranked schools on several factors, but largely on the combined basis of academic excellence and the quality of the campus experience for Jewish students.

The second set is a May 2018 ranking by the *Algemeiner*, an online Jewish newspaper that devotes much of its focus to campus issues as they affect Jewish students. The *Algemeiner* ranking is based largely on anti-Israel campus events, in particular, student government votes advocating BDS, that transpired during 2017, and identifies what it calls the “40 Best Colleges for Jewish Students, 2017” and the “40 Worst Colleges for Jewish Students, 2017.” In its inaugural 2016 rankings, *Algemeiner* indicated that it had taken the following factors into account: “the number of anti-Semitic incidents on each campus; the number of anti-Israel groups, and the extent to which they are active; the Jewish student population, and number of Jewish or pro-Israel groups; the availability of Jewish resources on campus; the success or lack thereof of Israel boycott efforts; and the public positions of faculty members with respect to BDS.”

In this chapter and in chapters 8 and 9, I have separated schools into four brackets, using the new SATs, with the highest bracket encompassing combined new SAT test scores above 1450—the equivalent of 1400 in the old SAT’s and a pretty fair

---

anonymized data specifically for that college, issuing a report to Coffin and the school’s president endorsing the return to testing.” According to the February 22, 2024, *New York Times*, Yale, employing a rationale similar to that expressed above by Dartmouth, reinstated standardized test scores for the class entering in 2025. As reported in the March 12, 2024, *Inside Higher Ed*, the University of Texas, one of the nation’s most prestigious public institutions, soon followed suit, as did Harvard and Caltech, according to the April 11, 2024, *New York Times*, and Cornell, according to the April 23, 2024, *Inside Higher Ed*. The University of Georgia and Georgia Tech followed suit on May 15, 2024 according to the May 16, 2024, *Inside Higher Ed*, as did Stanford according to the June 11, 2024, *Inside Higher Ed*.

standard of excellence. The three lower brackets respectively reflect schools with combined new SAT test scores of 1360-1440, schools with combined new SAT test scores of 1270-1350 and schools with combined new SAT test scores of 1170-1260. In grouping schools into a given bracket, I do not mean to suggest that all such schools are equally competitive. Far from it. The Ivy League schools and their equivalents can easily demand test scores in excess of 1450 and practically anything else they want. By comparison, a newcomer to the new SAT 1450 bracket, such as Boston University, will likely be happy to have students at the 1450 threshold.

**Schools with New SATs of 1450 or Higher  
(corresponds to Old SAT Scores of 1400 or Higher)**

**Boston University**

*Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 4,000 (22%)*

*Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes*

*Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate*

*2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C*

*2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 22*

*2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 31*

*2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 23*

*FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 152/248*

*Comparable Schools: Case Western, George Washington University, NYU, Tulane, University of Rochester and University of Wisconsin*

*Major Jewish Donor: 2012 gift of \$18 Million by Sumner Redstone to the Boston University School of Law*

Larger than George Washington University and smaller than NYU, BU possesses a bountiful Jewish student body of 4,000 undergraduates and a highly desirable, though not beautiful, Charles River location across from both Harvard and MIT. Though BU lacks a campus quad or a central green area, it does have an identifiable core of collegiate Gothic buildings that distinguishes it from both NYU and GWU. In addition, BU's location in the Kenmore Square section of Boston's Back Bay, only a few-minutes from Fenway Park, not only offers students easy access to all parts of Boston, but also provides a high-energy setting in one of the country's most popular collegiate towns. Three distinct living environments are offered: small, charming brownstone residences on Bay State Road which parallels the Charles River; large high-rise dormitories on bustling Commonwealth Avenue; or equally large high-rise dwellings in the greener and more traditional-feeling, West Campus area.

It's not easy being a rising presence in a town populated by such luminaries as Harvard, MIT, Tufts, Brandeis, Wellesley and even Boston College. To accomplish BU's ascendancy into the higher ranks of collegiate education, it took a great leader to seal the deal. Just as Robert Maynard Hutchings put the University of Chicago on

the map in the 1930s and 1940s, John Silber (who died in 2012) did the same for Boston University during the more than three-decade period encompassing the 1970s through the 1990s. In addition to overseeing the expansion of BU's footprint into the West Campus area on the west side of the BU Bridge, Silber also attracted high caliber of scholars, many from the West Coast and abroad, in all disciplines.

President Silber had little patience for detractors and, for a long time, he was in a constant state of warfare with the faculty and others. But, what emerged from his tenure is a university that, in most respects, can hold its own with the likes of local stalwarts, Tufts, Brandeis and Boston College. The new data analysis center, located on Commonwealth Avenue and shaped like a skewed stack of books, is an architectural and sustainability marvel and is the spearhead to BU's leap forward into the field of computer sciences.

BU is a place where it is equally acceptable to work in the library on a Saturday night as it is to go to a party. Students accepted into BU's Class of 2022 had an average class rank in the seventh percentile and an average new SAT of 1452, placing BU in the top selectivity bracket for the first time. For the class of 2023, the average new SAT increased to 1468. About 60% of BU's undergraduate student body is made up of women, with a large portion of the student body coming from the west coast and abroad. On January 10, 2021, BU announced it was going test optional for all undergraduate admissions, as a result of the pandemic. On February 17, 2021, the university announced it was extending its test optional policy for those students applying to the fall 2022 semester, a policy that remains unchanged.

BU is not known as a sports school—with the notable exception of hockey. In 2009, BU won its fifth national hockey championship, with Jewish defenseman, Colby Cohen scoring the winning goal in overtime and garnering the award for most valuable player in the championship series. In the Fall of 2013, BU joined American University, Army, Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh, Loyola University Maryland, and Navy in the Patriot athletic league in all sports except for hockey and football (which it does not play).

There have been numerous anti-Israel incidents on the BU campus typified by SJP's protest against a Hillel-sponsored celebration of Israel Independence Day in April 2016. During the event, one of the protestors provided the *Boston University Daily Free Press* with a pamphlet claiming that Hillel was guilty of Islamophobia.

Perhaps, the most blatant anti-Semitic episode in recent times was the discovery of Nazi recruitment posters on campus in May 2016. The foregoing

notwithstanding, BU's Jewish student body is one of the largest among private universities and the number of Jewish students keeps increasing.

On October 22, 2022, *BU Today* announced a new major in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. As set forth in the announcement: "BU's new interdisciplinary major in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies (HGHRs) will ask students to dig deep into the roots of these cataclysmic events and look for ways to head them off in the future."

According to the March 21, 2023, *The Boston University Daily Free Press*, BU's Student Government discussed and endorsed a proposal for BU to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. The following is from the *Daily Free Press* account:

The IHRA definition of antisemitism is "a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities." It has been adopted by 39 countries and approximately 30 universities.

According to Hillel International, out of all the private universities in the United States, BU has the largest number of Jewish students, with approximately 4,000, which is 22% of the population. Despite consisting of 2.4% of the U.S. population, Jewish people are the subject of nearly 60% of religiously motivated hate crimes.

Soon after, as reported in the January 22, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, Boston University became the only US university to have adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism in 2023, "according to a new report by Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM), a US antisemitism watchdog." The *Algemeiner* article continued to state:

"Only Boston University's student government has adopted the IHRA working definition in 2023," CAM said on Monday in a statement. "These figures help put into context the atmosphere on college campuses that led to high-profile incidents of antisemitism on the campuses of Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, the George Washington University, Cooper Union College, and Cornell University, just to name a few."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Florence and Chafetz Hillel House at 213 Bay State Road).
- *Kosher meals*: Full 14 -21 university meal plan available through Hillel House.

- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Reform plus daily orthodox minyan.
- High Holiday and Passover services: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad of Greater Boston, 491 Commonwealth Avenue (also serving the Berklee School of Music, Emerson College, Northeastern University and Simmons College).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- Friday night services: Yes.
- High Holiday and Passover services: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies): 4



## Brandeis University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 1,300 (35%)(down from 40%)

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Moderate-High

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade:*** A

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 18

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 15

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 5

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 138/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Boston University, Emory, NYU, Tufts and Washington University

***Jewish President:*** Ronald D. Liebowitz

***Major Jewish Donors:*** 2017 gift of \$50 Million bequest from Rosaline and Marcia Cohn

Founded in 1948, the same year Israel became a nation, Brandeis came into the world as a place where gifted Jewish students could learn and study from renowned faculty without having to worry about the Jewish glass ceilings that existed in other quality institutions of higher learning. For its first two decades, Brandeis filled this role nobly and uniquely. However, with the advent of the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War, colleges and universities around the country began, unprecedentedly, to open their doors to Jewish students.

As a result, Brandeis' brand name as a Jewish destination began to lose some of its uniqueness. To deal with this bittersweet dilemma, Brandeis began to think of and market itself as a college for everyone, albeit with a Jewish provenance. Controversy struck during the presidency of Evelyn Handler when the college proposed to serve pork and shrimp in the college's dining hall and to drop the Hebrew word *Emet* (meaning truth) from its logo. Both proposals were reversed in response to furious alumni. Today, Brandeis is strong academically and Jewishly, though in

recent years, its percentage of Jewish students has dipped decidedly below 50 percent.

Brandeis' alumni roll reads like a directory of notable Jewish professionals, including journalist Tom Friedman ('75), actress Debra Messing ('90), author Mitch Albom ('79), Jewish educator Jonathan Sarna ('75), University of Chicago president Robert Zimmer ('68) and physicist Edward Witten ('71).

Brandeis is almost universally referred to as a Boston school and it is, indeed, a Boston-area school conveniently accessible by Logan Airport in Boston. It is also true that Brandeis is a mere nine miles from Boston and, at some points on the campus, especially near the Castle, one can see the Boston skyline. However, Waltham, Massachusetts, where Brandeis is located, is a suburb detached from the city of Boston. A 30-minute shuttle bus to Harvard Square is available, but only runs about every hour and a half. For most students, this is barely more than a consideration since there is so much happening on campus. But, it is a consideration worth noting.

SJP has been active on the Brandeis campus and has held a number of anti-Israel events, including a March 2016 forum on "pinkwashing" (SJP's term for what it describes as Israel's cynical openness to gays as a means of deflecting attention from its alleged oppression of Palestinians) and a November 2016 forum on "greenwashing" (SJP's term for what it describes as Israel's portrayal of itself as environmentally responsible as another way in which to deflect attention from its alleged crimes against Palestinians).

On August 23, 2017, school officials put the campus on lockdown after receiving threatening emails.

According to the March 3, 2023, *Algemeiner*, Brandeis "has partnered with Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, a nonprofit founded by New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft," to fight rising antisemitism across the United States.

As reported by the October 25, 2023, *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, a resolution condemning Hamas's rapacious invasion of southern Israel failed to pass the Brandeis student senate. Despite the foregoing, the November 7, 2023, *Jerusalem Post* reported that Brandeis is revoking recognition of the campus chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, saying the group "openly supports Hamas."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: The university offers a full 14-21 meal kosher meal plan.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Both conservative and reform services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad House of Brandeis, 54 Turner Street.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau; Sigma Alpha Mu.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)*:  
10.

## **Brown University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,700 (24%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 8***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 1***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 37***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 6/248***

***Comparable Schools: Cornell, Dartmouth, Rice, Swarthmore and Williams***

***Jewish President: Christina Paxson***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2023 gift of \$25 from Ronald Perelman; 1993 bequest of \$50 Million from Walter H. Annenberg; 2004 gift of \$100 Million from Sidney E. Frank; and 2007 naming gift of \$100 Million from the Warren Alpert Foundation to the former Brown University School of Medicine***

Once the also-ran within the Ivy League, Brown, with a superior student to faculty ratio of 8-1, has emerged as one of the most attractive and sought-after schools in the Ivy League. How has this come about? In part, the answer lies with the New Curriculum adopted by the school in May 1969 during the height of the Viet Nam era. Under the New Curriculum, distribution requirements were dropped and grading was simplified. Henceforth, a Brown student could drink from the cup of knowledge without having to choke on irrelevant or uninteresting core curriculum courses. As noted in May 6, 2019, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, "The process played out in a time of turmoil at many campuses, an era in which many college leaders agreed to demands to calm things down. Brown is notable, however, in that the curriculum adopted then remains in place."

Among the Ivies, Brown (along with Columbia) is the place to go for progressivism and political correctness. Indeed, Brown's former president, Ruth J. Simmons, was the first African American president of an Ivy League institution. It is

hard to believe that such a bastion of progressivism was once anything but politically correct when it came to admitting Jewish Students.

But, politically incorrect Brown was, particularly during the era prior to World War II. Consider the following from Amy Sohn's 2006 book, entitled *Probing Brown's Dark History*:

A Brown humor magazine of the 1920s, Brown Jug, devoted an entire issue in 1921 to mocking "carpetbaggers": commuting students who brought big book-bags to school and were antithetical to the ideal of the athletic, jovial and well-dressed "Brown man." The issue caricatured these supposed interlopers as short, stooped men with large noses and glasses, and real Brown men as robust and muscular with strong jaws. This anti-Semitic spirit was in keeping with the anti-immigrant sentiment of the time; Harvard's own president, A. Lawrence Lowell, was vice president of the Immigration Restriction League and helped pass the Immigration Quota Act of 1921. A popular college song of the late 1910s went: "Oh, Harvard's run by millionaires/And Yale is run by booze/Cornell is run by farmers' sons/Columbia's run by Jews/So give a cheer for Baxter Street/Another one for Pell/And when the little sheenies die/Their souls will go to hell." Fearful of being tagged, like Columbia, as too Jewish, and of losing valuable financial support from the Protestant elite, Brown began to search for ways to restrict its Jewish numbers. In order to do this, the administrators had to broaden admissions requirements beyond the exam-driven system.

Over the next two decades [to avoid being thought of as too Jewish], Brown's administrators implemented three policies that still exist today at most elite colleges: legacy preference (priority given to children and grandchildren of alums), "geographic" diversity (which penalized Jews, who were concentrated in big cities) and personal interviews (which let school officials guess applicants' ethnicity according to their physical appearance). Gradually, the notion of the "whole" applicant became more important. Who you were, not just how you did on a test, would affect your chances of getting in. A 1932 form sent to references included the questions, "Is the applicant attractive and well-bred in appearance and deportment?" and "Is the applicant the kind of man whom you yourself would welcome as a classmate in college?"

All of this, of course, is history, dark though it may have been. However, a new form of negative reality focused on Israel has settled in on the Brown campus. Jewish students are not now prevented from going to Brown. Rather, once there, they are discovering that pro-Israel or even pro-Jewish speech is being drowned out by a constant drumbeat led by the Brown SJP. One could recite a litany of events and episodes on the Brown campus designed to delegitimize Israel and alienate its

supporters. For example, on March 21, 2016, SJP published an article in the Brown Daily Herald in which it condemned Hillel and demonized Israel as follows:

How can Hillel claim to speak against oppression and for intersectionality while supporting a state that sterilizes African Jewish refugees, collectively punishes entire communities with bombings and arrests en masse and imprisons them behind an apartheid wall: There is no pink door in the apartheid wall. Trans liberation, racial justice and intersectional feminism — the topics which Mock’s talk was to cover — cannot be discussed without considering the violence of the Israeli regime, which is supported by organizations like Hillel International.

The following excerpt from an August 2016 article in the *Forward* by a Brown student, entitled "Dear Incoming Freshman: Brace Yourself for Insane Anti-Semitism," summarizes the full extent of SJP’s oppressive tactics:

For SJP, nothing has a higher priority than pushing to obliterate the Jewish State and attach a high personal price to Zionism (or, in some cases, Judaism) on campus. In March, SJP circulated a petition against a talk by activist Janet Mock, who is a leader on issues of trans rights, racial justice, and more, because the group that had organized her visit to campus was Jewish (although it had no affiliation with or position on Israel).

SJP consistently facilitates anti-Semitism. Their attack on Janet Mock’s presentation was an anti-Semitic initiative, and that incident was followed by graffiti evoking the Holocaust and threatening Jewish and LGBTQIA+ students, which SJP pointedly refused to condemn. SJP kicked off last semester by protesting an event on “Jewish journeys” and accusing actor Michael Douglas, who is Jewish but not Israeli, of serving as an insidious agent for the Israeli government. They also shamelessly erased Mizrahi and Sephardic Jewry by pushing Brown’s eateries not to offer Israeli hummus, claiming that Southwest Asian foods are culturally appropriated by Israel, as though Southwest Asian Jews had not been producing and consuming the same foods for centuries.

SJP has also consistently demonstrated total disregard for the wellbeing of Palestinians. Aside from opposing efforts to support Syrian refugees, many of whom are themselves Palestinian, they also refuse to engage constructively on issues directly related to Israel/Palestine. They have rebuffed many invitations from Brown Students for Israel and other groups to contribute to dialogues and represent Palestinian perspectives, and they have even rejected offers to collaborate in bringing to campus voices that speak directly in support of Palestinian

rights. They are not interested in supporting Palestinians, only in destroying Israel.

While SJP is the crux of the anti-Zionist movement on campus, anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism certainly exist beyond its membership. I have been accused of fascism several times for my support of a two-state solution. Professors turn a blind eye when students in my classes express their discomfort with the existence of AEPi (now Beta Rho Pi) on Brown's campus because it has a high percentage of "Zionists" (read: Jews) and express discomfort with the existence of Hillel (the center of Jewish life on campus) for the same reason. Countless well-funded events and panels, organized by academic departments, give credence to one narrative on Israel/Palestine, carefully avoiding viewpoints that leave room for Jewish statehood. Teachers' assistants take advantage of awkward power dynamics to harass Zionist students; once, a TA showed up to one of my classes wearing a shirt that said "intifada" on it and depicted a gun-toting insurgent the day after the Brown Jewish community was shocked by the murder of Boston-area student Ezra Schwartz during his year abroad in Israel/Palestine. Professors openly peddle anti-Zionist narratives in class, and it is a rare, brave student who speaks up against that power dynamic.

A year and a half later, another Brown student, writing as a staff columnist in the March 16, 2018, *Brown Daily Herald*, took the pro-BDS activists on campus to task for promoting a cause that, at its heart, suffocates the free exchange of ideas. The following excerpt from the column highlights the objections to BDS:

What makes academic boycotts so pernicious is that they establish one standard of pedagogy for teaching Israel, and another standard of pedagogy for teaching all other countries. Israel is, along with Saudi Arabia, Iran and Turkey, one of the Middle East's four most politically influential countries. It is the region's only non-Muslim state. It wields emotional and symbolic influence wildly disproportionate to its actual power — or perhaps it actually wields such disproportionate power because of its emotional and symbolic influence. It is simply impossible to properly instruct students on the history and politics of the Middle East while out-of-hand ignoring a major actor's academic institutions. Universities are crucial to the development of a nation's moral ethos and political strategy, often incubating ideas before they take root in media, government and laws. If these institutions are made into lepers, how are students supposed to learn about Israel in the same way they learn about Egypt or Iran or Saudi Arabia?

Even so, in March 2019, the Brown student body supported a BDS referendum. As reported by the March 22, 2019, *Jewish Journal*, the following was the reaction of Brown Students for Israel (“BSI”) to the referendum:

This referendum is a defeat for all students who believe there is a better way to pursue peace between Israelis and Palestinians, who seek intellectually honest discourse about Israel and the conflict, and who prioritize a safe and inclusive community at Brown,” the group wrote.

BSI added, “Divestment is an empty promise and does nothing to improve the situation in Israel and Palestine. Now, we now must work together to ensure that our campus remains a safe place for all students and come together to achieve peace.”

Jesse Raviv, a member of BSI and a StandWithUs Emerson Fellow, said in a statement, “As predicted, the Brown Divest vote polarized the student body, induced incidents of hate through online forums, and created a hostile environment for pro-Israel students. The passing of this vote further legitimized BDS, a movement that twists the truth and only shares one side of an incredibly nuanced conflict.

On February 4, 2021, Brown University student, Bassem Eid, a Palestinian wrote an *Algemeiner* article opposing Brown Divest’s efforts to persuade the Corporation of Brown University—Brown’s governing body—to subscribe to the BDS movement. Much of Mr. Eid’s article is reproduced below because of its insightfulness:

Despite all evidence to the contrary, detractors of Israel continue to make the case that forcing colleges and universities to divest from Jewish-owned businesses in Israel can somehow better the lives of Palestinians. Brown University has become the latest US campus targeted by the BDS movement, and as a Palestinian, I urge the Brown community not to fall for it.

Under the banner of “Brown Divest,” and spearheaded by the radical Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), anti-Israel campus activists are pushing for the Corporation of Brown University, the institution’s governing body, to divest from what SJP calls “Israeli settler colonialism and apartheid” in a vote to take place this week.

Israeli “apartheid” is nothing more than a political slogan that has nothing to do with reality.

I will be the first to acknowledge that conditions between Israel and the Palestinians are not perfect, but demonizing our Jewish neighbors is not the answer.



Far from having any measurable impact on Israeli policies, the most frequent outcome of BDS campaigns, wherever they appear, is to spark antisemitism and create hostile environments for Jews. They do nothing to improve conditions for Palestinians. On the contrary, they often have the opposite effect.

For all of the divisive rhetoric spurred by outside groups, Palestinians and Israelis are interdependent, particularly when it comes to economic matters. Attempting to punish Israelis for their supposed sins against Palestinians with divestment and sanctions actually harms Palestinians, tens of thousands of whom are employed in Israel and work for Israel-based companies.

\*\*\*\*\*

BDS exploits Palestinians, using us as a prop to demonize Israel and the Jewish people for the benefit of a political agenda that has nothing to do with us. If BDS were to become official policy for Brown University, it would go to show that it has fallen prey to BDS propaganda — not a good look for an Ivy League institution. The Corporation of Brown University must ignore Brown Divest’s demands and reject BDS.

Despite Eid’s enlightened entreaty, the December 22, 2021, *Algemeiner* reported that, on December 21, 2021, Brown’s Graduate Labor Organization passed a referendum calling on school officials to endorse the BDS campaign against Israel.

According to the November 1, 2022, *The Brown Daily Herald*, an antisemitic note was discovered the evening of October 30, 2022 in the reception area of the Weiner Center at Brown RISD Hillel. As quoted in the article, Hillel Executive Director and Rabbi, Josh Bolton, stated: “It’s not an easy moment for Jewish students” on campus, Bolton told The Herald. “It’s scary to have this type of rhetoric show up in your home.”

On the other hand, as pointed out by Armin Rosen in his April 18, 2023, *Tablet* article, entitled “Ivy League Exodus:”

The percentage of Jews at Brown is reportedly going up: from 15% in 2015 to 24% in 2022, according to the nonscientific count in Hillel’s college guide, which is based on self-reported numbers supplied by the various campus Hillels. There are also other, perhaps even more reliable signs of an increase: A vastly expanded *eruv* opened in College Hill in 2017. The kosher dining hall will [move](#) to the main dining hall on campus next year. “It’s going to be amazingly positive for the student experience here at Brown,” George Barboza, vice president for dining programs, said when the news was announced. “This really allows for a

robust community where students of many religious backgrounds and ethnicities can get good meals and share them in a dining hall, without the restriction of having to eat certain meals in particular places or at certain times.”

\*\*\*\*\*

It is possible Brown sees an opportunity in the decline of day school admissions at the other Ivies—by rapidly building up its infrastructure for religious Jews, Brown can enroll the talented Orthodox students that Penn and Harvard no longer seem to want.

There are signs that Brown’s approach may be less cynical than that. Christina Paxson, the university’s president since 2012, has repeatedly spoken about the importance of having religious Jews on campus. In 2017, Paxson, a noted academic economist and convert to Judaism, addressed the dedication of Brown’s *eruv* expansion, making her perhaps the only American college president in history to have appeared at such an esoteric Jewish event. Her remarks showed that she did not consider a physical marker determining what religious Jews can and can’t carry one-seventh of the week to be the least bit esoteric. “God’s presence is reflected across the public good, in many beautiful and meaningful ways, and I think what we’re doing here adds to that,” Paxson said. . . .

As reported in the February 12, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, “[t]wo officials of Brown-RISD Hillel, a Jewish life center serving both Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design, were sent ‘violent threats’ early Sunday morning [February 11, 2023], according to a report by *The Brown Daily Herald*.

\*\*\*\*\*

Located in a historic section of Providence, Rhode Island, the university is adjacent to the much smaller Rhode Island School of Design. Brown possesses a collection of stately and historic buildings. Some, such as University Hall, date back to the late 1700s. Green spaces are pleasant, but limited. However, what Brown lacks in bucolic charm, it makes up for in academic feel. While on campus, one has the feeling of being in a place steeped in academic tradition.

Effective with the 2018-19 academic year, Brown replaced loans with scholarships for all incoming and returning undergraduate students.

According to the April 30, 2024, *Forward*: “Student protesters at Brown University agreed Tuesday [April 29, 2024] afternoon to dismantle their encampment in exchange for concessions from administration, including the right to present their case for divestment from Israel at the next meeting of the board that oversees the

university's investments. One student protester, addressing about 80 students who gathered for a rally to announce the agreement, called it a "huge win."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Brown RISD Hillel.
- *Kosher meals*: Full kosher meal plan available. A section of the Sharpe Refectory is reserved for Kosher (and Halal) meal service.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Orthodox, conservative, and reform services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad of College Hill (12 Olive Street, Providence).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night and Saturday afternoon).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Beta Rho PI (since the former Alpha Epsilon Pi separated from the national fraternity in November 2015).

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## **Carnegie Mellon University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 400 (>5%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 40***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 30***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 23/248***

***Comparable Schools: Caltech, Cornell, Johns Hopkins, Lehigh, MIT and Rice***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2013 gift of \$67 Million by David A. Tepper, bringing his total giving to Carnegie Mellon to more than \$125 Million***

This highly competitive university is outstanding in computer science, architecture, business and engineering. In addition, unlike virtually any other school renowned for science and technology, Carnegie Mellon packs a formidable punch in the fields of art, drama and music.

Located in a pleasant part of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon's 149-acre urban campus is grassy (with a classic central lawn called the "Cut"), utilitarian and very attractive at the same time. Particularly stunning is the College of Fine Arts building, which was designed by then-renowned architect, Henry Hornbostel, and which houses CM's schools of art, architecture and music.

CM tends to be a no-nonsense institution where students work hard, but profit from what they learn. About 5% of Carnegie Mellon's 6,000-plus undergraduates are Jewish—a surprisingly smallish number given CM's east coast location and its academic standing. However, the university attracts applicants in droves, with Jewish applicants likely to increase in the future, particularly since the BDS movement has been relatively quiet on campus.

However, it would be unwise to be complacent about potential anti-Israel activity on the CMU campus. Indicative of such concern is an op-ed that appeared in the November 13, 2016 issue of the school's newspaper, *The Tartan*. In that editorial, the writer took issue with a recent state law that prohibited any Pennsylvania agency

from contracting with a business that boycotted Israel. In opposition, the editorial stated as follows:

But this law is also the morally wrong choice for Pennsylvania. Rather than punishing businesses that practice BDS, Pennsylvania should join the ranks of the BDS movement, divesting all state funds from any Israeli businesses and boycotting all Israeli products, especially those made in illegal Israeli settlements. Governor Wolf said that Pennsylvania “will not encourage economic punishment in place of peaceful solutions to challenging conflicts.”

\*\*\*\*\*

The truth is, we ought to use every peaceful tool at our disposal, including economic pressure, to dismantle situations of injustice and oppression. Experts from Jimmy Carter to John Kerry have likened the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to apartheid in South Africa and segregation in the United States. Not only has Pennsylvania stayed on the sidelines rather than standing up for justice, with this law it has actively and willfully chosen the side of the oppressor.

In a revolutionary move, Carnegie Mellon opened a branch-campus in the African country of Rwanda in 2012, making Carnegie Mellon the first American college to operate a full-fledged campus in Africa. Today, Carnegie Mellon University Africa offers masters’ degrees in information technology and in electrical and computer engineering.

According to the December 2, 2018, *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, a Jewish student at Carnegie Mellon University discovered two swastikas and anti-Semitic comments written inside a campus library book. As reported in the *JTA* account, “[i]n addition to swastikas on two pages, one page had the words “Jews have no business at CMU!” Written in a different handwriting, just below it, read “you are right :)”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes: Carnegie Mellon shares a Hillel House with the University of Pittsburgh.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meals may be obtained at the Pomegranate, located in Resnik House, Tartans Pavilion.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Orthodox, conservative and reform services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Chabad of Carnegie Mellon University, 5120 Beeler Street, Pittsburgh.
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* None.

## Case Western University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 615 (10%<)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate-High***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 74***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 62***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 29***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 128/248***

***Comparable Schools: Boston University, Carnegie Mellon, Purdue, RPI, University of Illinois and University of Rochester***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2015 gift of \$30 Million by the Maltz Family Foundation; 2002 gift of \$25 Million by Bart and Iris Wolstein***

How many universities can boast the presence of a gorgeous symphony hall on the grounds of the university? Case Western Reserve can. Severance Hall, home of the Cleveland Orchestra, is located on the campus of Case Western Reserve. In addition, Case Western's downtown Cleveland location places it adjacent to the Cleveland Museum of Art and its beautiful lagoon.

Case Western University is the 1967 amalgamation of what had been very different next-door neighbors, Case Institute of Technology and Western Reserve University. It is somewhat novel that two institutions of such fine caliber managed to survive separately virtually across the street from one another for most of a century before discovering that there was strength in synergy. But strength is what they have achieved.

As indicated by its former name, the Case side of the equation offers outstanding programs in all areas of technology and is a favorite for budding computer scientists and business students. The Western Reserve side of the equation offers the full spectrum of liberal arts programs that one expects of a fine university, with strengths in areas as diverse as music and pre-med.

Case Western has a reputation for being a hard-working school. However, academic life has not stunted a flourishing social life grounded on a Greek system that features almost 30 fraternities and sororities. The university's access to Severance Hall and the other cultural and social outlets provided by Cleveland make

the university attractive to students from around the country. Case Western's undergraduate Jewish population has almost doubled in size in recent years as has Jewish matriculation at its graduate schools.

There have been relatively few episodes of anti-Semitism or anti-Zionism on campus. However, starting in 2016, the Case Western Radical Student Union began to get involved in anti-Zionist activities. In September 2016, it screened the anti-Israel propaganda film, "The Occupation of the American Mind: Israel's Public Relations War in the United States," featuring anti-Zionist figures such as Noam Chomsky, Norman Finkelstein and Stephen Walt (for a more extensive discussion of the film, see the profile of UCLA, *supra*). The day after the screening, chalk writing was found on the Case Western campus calling for BDS against the Jewish state.

According to the April 12, 2018, *Cleveland Jewish News*, a BDS resolution was tabled at the April 10, 2018, meeting of the CWRU student General Assembly because of a determination that the resolution "was brought up in an improper manner and fell beyond the scope of student government."

As reported in the November 4, 2022, edition of the student newspaper, *the Observer*, the school's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) announced on October 26, 2022, that it would be bringing Bill 31-15, calling on the CWRU administration to divest from Israel, to the floor on November 8, 2022. As reported in the *Observer* account, the school's Hillel expressed concern as follows:

"Cleveland Hillel is deeply invested in promoting a welcome, respectful and inclusive campus community, and is gravely concerned that the boycott and divestment campaign and related resolutions aim to flatten all nuanced conversations about Israel into a 'yes or no' question. This breaks down the communal dialogue that the Hillel community is committed to upholding," the organization said.

"Criticism of Israel, like criticism of any other sovereign country in the world, can be reasonable, legitimate and productive. Bill 31-15 is none of these and will only serve to negatively divide our [u]niversity and our student community, and could create a harmful environment for Jewish students. BDS campaigns can make students feel isolated, traumatized or attacked, no matter where you stand on the issue. We ask all members of the CWRU community to continue treating one another with respect and dignity.

As reported in the November 8, 2022, *the Observer*, the CWRU General Assembly (GA) voted 35-17 in support of BDS Resolution 31-15, the "Students for Justice in Palestine" bill, which "calls on CWRU administration to investigate whether any of its financial assets are invested in companies that support violence



against Palestinians, and divest from them if they are found to do so.” Also, as reported in *the Observer* account, the following were the reactions of the administration to the General Assembly’s action:

Before debate began, USG President Ananya Hari reiterated that civil discussion must be the goal, saying, “My utmost concern today is the safety of every single one of you. So I implore all of you to respect all the people here that are making their voices heard and to treat them with the utmost respect and kindness you all would like to be treated with.”

Numerous Jewish students spoke out against the resolution, citing fears for their personal safety on campus. They mostly reiterated that resolutions passed on college campuses that support the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel lead to increased antisemitism.

One speaker said, “Before tonight, I reached out to every Jewish student I knew on campus, asking them to come speak. They either said yes, and are here, or were too afraid to speak out. This is because of one simple fact: BDS acts as a litmus test for Jewish safety on campus.”

Other students listed incidents that have happened on other campuses targeting Jewish students, along with increased public instances of antisemitism, specifically by celebrities such as the rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, and basketball star Kyrie Irving.

Another Jewish student said, “If you pass this resolution tonight you are condemning the only place in the world where I feel safe being Jewish,” referring to the State of Israel. Another said, “Voting ‘yes’ on this bill is a vote blind to rising antisemitism, it’s a vote for division on campus, it’s a vote that tells me as a Jewish student that my concerns aren’t valid.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Norma Geller Hillel Student Center (completed in 2014).
- *Kosher meals*: Available on weekends.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Unknown.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Chabad at CWRU (2049 E 115th St, Cleveland, Ohio 44106)
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday, Sukkot and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies:* 1.

## **Columbia University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,500 (22%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 9***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 4***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 3 (in 2016: 1)***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 214/248***

***Comparable Schools: Harvard, Yale, University of California Berkeley, University of Chicago, and University of Pennsylvania***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2021 gift from David Geffen to construct two buildings at the Columbia Business School; 2017 bequest of \$700 Million from Florence and Herbert Irving to Columbia University and New York-Presbyterian; 2013 gift of \$100 Million from Ronald O. Perelman; 2012 gift of \$200 Million from Mortimer B. Zuckerman; 2010 gift of \$100 Million from Henry R. Kravis; and 2006 gift of \$200 Million from the Dawn M. Greene and Jerome L. Greene Foundation***

Never one of the Big Three (Harvard, Yale and Princeton), Columbia may have worked its way into Big Four status. As New York City has increased in popularity, so has Columbia. Located in the Morningside Heights section of Harlem, not too far from the top of the trendy Upper East Side, Columbia has been a centerpiece of New York City academic life since 1754. If one approaches the main quad from the main gate at Barnard, the effect is eye-popping. Here, in the middle of New York City, recessed into the side of the sloping Manhattan terrain, is academic tranquility and fervor all at the same time. The feel is that of a stage set, anchored by the iconic Low Library and bejeweled by a huge diagonally divided green, with Ivy League written all over it. As reported by *Inside Higher Ed* on March 3, 2023, Columbia has likely further enhanced its attractiveness by going test neutral on a permanent basis. In addition, as reported by the June 12, 2023 *Inside Higher Ed*, Columbia has also chosen to remove itself from the *US News & World Report* annual college rankings (not that it will matter much for Columbia).

As noted elsewhere in this Guide, Columbia has produced numerous Jewish graduates of high repute. Columbia's Hillel and Chabad are both thriving. Hillel's

Robert Kraft Center for Jewish Life opened with much acclaim in 2002, and, today, almost 25% of all undergrads are Jewish. Further, in addition to its own Jewish studies courses, Columbia offers combined degree programs with the Jewish Theological Seminary that is only about a block away.

However, Jewish life at Columbia was not always this rosy and had to go through many fits and starts before Columbia came to grips with a significant Jewish presence. The evolution of this relationship is an interesting one because it tends to track the evolution of the acceptance of Jewish life within New York City.

Jews have attended Columbia since 1770 when Isaac Abrahams studied medicine at then Kings College and later became a doctor. However, as late as 1882, the Jewish population at Columbia was quite small, probably about 4%. In the 1880s and 1890s, Columbia received its first Jewish faculty members. By the late nineteen teens, New York City's Jewish population mushroomed, and, by 1921, Jews were estimated to account for 40% of the students at Columbia College and 50% of the students at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Unfortunately, Jewish success was not taken lightly by New York City's cultural and intellectual society. Personages no less influential than the headmaster of Horace Mann—perhaps the then most influential feeder school to Columbia—were decrying the growing presence of Jews at Columbia. According to one account, rather than attend Columbia with its growing Jewish population, more than 95% of the elite prep school graduates in New York City favored going out of town, with 84% going to Harvard, Yale or Princeton.

Jewish involvement in the labor movement and in other perceived socialistic causes also contributed to the hysteria over the “Jewish problem” at Columbia. The following quote (taken from Jerome Karabel's, *The Chosen*) from a member of Columbia's Board of Trustees provides a flavor of the times:

In character, they are terribly persistent. They realize that there has been 2000 or more years of prejudice against them, and they are always seeking after special privileges for themselves and their people . . . . They form the worst type of our immigrants. They supply the leaders to anarchists, socialists and other movements of social unrest. In the recent election, the socialistic vote was confined largely to the East Side and Brownsville, in Brooklyn, where they live.

Soon enough, open admissions at Columbia were replaced by a quota system, particularly under the presidency of the otherwise renowned Nicholas Murray Butler. The quota system limited Jewish enrollment at Columbia to a 15-20%--percentages far higher than at many prestigious institutions outside of New York City. Still, no Jew was appointed to Columbia's Board of Trustees until the appointment of future

Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo in the late 1920s. The 1930s and 1940s continued the quota system established in the 1920s. Indeed, from 1928 until 1936, Columbia maintained a junior college in Brooklyn, called the Seth Low Junior College, to accept qualified Jewish students who were not admitted to Columbia. These discriminatory practices culminated in a suit filed by the American Jewish Congress in 1946, challenging Columbia's tax-exempt status on the ground that its admissions policies had violated the anti-discrimination clause of New York state's tax exemption law.

However, by the mid-1960s, Columbia's mercurial Jewish past had become history. Indeed, in 1960, the Director of Admissions at Columbia, one David Dudley, decided to open admissions to all comers based strictly on merit. As a result, a staggering number of New York City Jews were admitted to Columbia in that year, and the admissions class became known as "Dudley's Folly." Open admissions were never seen again at Columbia. However, by then, the die had been cast: an estimated one-third of Columbia's faculty was then Jewish and close to 30% of its Board of Trustees were also Jewish—conditions which, happily, have continued to this day.

In October 2016, the Steinhardt Social Research Institute housed in the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University released a study derived from interviews with Birthright college students from 50 selected campuses. As noted in Chapter One, the prevalence of anti-Israel attitudes at Columbia was then and is now pronounced. In this regard, the study stated as follows:

This study obtained 52 responses for students at Columbia University not enough to allow for robust, quantitative comparisons between Columbia and other schools in this study. Yet an examination of the responses of these students strongly suggests that many Jewish students at Columbia perceived it to have particularly high levels of hostility toward Israel. Thirty-six out of the 52 respondents at Columbia (70%) at least somewhat agreed that there is a hostile environment toward Israel on their campus. Although these estimates are not particularly stable, and would be noticeably different if even a single respondent changed his or her answer, they still place Columbia at or near the top of all the schools studied in terms of hostility toward Israel.

Also, as noted above, in late 2016, the *Algemeiner* published its first list of the "40 Worst College for Jewish Students," with Columbia being listed as number one. *Algemeiner's* rationale: "Ultimately, it's the extraordinarily high number of anti-Jewish incidents and the presence of a constellation of anti-Israel groups on campus that have pushed Columbia to the top of the list."

Evidencing the concerns raised by the two foregoing studies was a February 2017 speech given at Columbia by Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Dannon. Prior to the speech, Rudy Rochman, the president of Columbia's pro-Israel student advocacy group, Students Supporting Israel, characterized the heated anti-Israel hostility on campus as a "war zone." Indeed, campus officials, citing security concerns, limited the participation of non-university attendees who wanted to hear Dannon speak. Dannon gave his speech on February 14, 2017, and had to endure numerous disruptions, with many demonstrators chanting "from the river to the sea," a call for the elimination of the State of Israel. Afterward, the watchdog campus publication *Algemeiner* quoted Dannon as saying the slogan's message denotes "a very important point: that there are those who don't want to see the existence of a Jewish state, within any borders."

The foregoing notwithstanding, the vibrancy of Jewish life at Columbia is beyond dispute. Of equal importance, the imperative of protecting Jewish values is not limited to the Jewish student body. On April 2, 2017, the school's student council soundly rejected a proposal by Columbia University Apartheid Divest to attach a divestment referendum onto the council's forthcoming student body election ballot.

On December 28, 2017, in an opinion piece that appeared in the New York Daily News, the AMCHA Initiative delivered a stinging indictment of Columbia's Middle East studies departments, in particular, the Center for Palestine Studies, for their anti-Israel political activism. In pertinent part, the AMCHA piece, titled "Anti-Israel Bias Reigns at Columbia," exposed the following about the Center's activities as well as the activities of the school's other Middle East studies departments:

When Columbia University's Center for Palestine Studies was established in 2010, Rashid Khalidi, its founding and current director — and a supporter of an academic boycott of Israel — stated that steering clear of political activism was an important goal of the center:

\*\*\*\*\*

However, just seven years later, new research from our organization reveals that the Center for Palestine Studies has become an academic epicenter for anti-Israel political activism, as well as the promotion of an academic boycott of Israel and its mother movement, boycott, divestment and sanctions, otherwise known as BDS.

In 2015 and 2016, of the 44 Israel-related events sponsored by the Center for Palestine Studies, 41 included anti-Israel, pro-BDS speakers. During the same two-year period, Israel-related events sponsored by Columbia University's other two Middle East studies departments — the Middle Eastern, South Asian and African studies department and the Middle East Institute — also overwhelmingly included anti-Israel, pro-BDS speakers.

Columbia's three Middle East studies departments hosted 46 events with pro-BDS speakers in 2015 and 2016, more than double any other U.S. school.

Not coincidentally, academic boycotters constitute two-thirds of the Center for Palestine Studies' core faculty, and both of its directors have endorsed an academic boycott of Israel. About half of the tenure-track faculty in the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies are academic boycotters. And the Middle East Institute's director and the majority of its executive committee have endorsed an academic boycott of Israel.

According to an April 13, 2018, account by the *Algemeiner*, Students Supporting Israel ("SSI"), a pro-Israel student group at Columbia, filed a complaint with the school's Student Governing Board, claiming that Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Jewish Voices for Peace (JVP) and Columbia University Apartheid Divest (CUAD) had "systematically [been] violating the civil rights of Jewish students at Columbia as well as school policy. According to the *Algemeiner* account, the SSI complaint asserted that:

SJP, JVP and CUAD have monopolized the conversation on campus relating to the Israeli-Arab conflict and have systematically maligned, harassed and silenced" Zionist voices. The behavior of SJP, JVP and CUAD contributes to an unacceptably hostile environment for those who wish to exercise their constitutionally protected rights in ways that differ from the narratives of these groups. One individual's right to protest does not supersede another individual's right to lawfully assemble, speak and listen.

According to the May 9, 2018, edition of the *Algemeiner* (and, as noted earlier in Chapter 1), in the wake of then President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Iran deal, "Hamid Dabashi, a professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia, wrote on Facebook, 'Every dirty treacherous ugly and pernicious act happening in the world just wait for a few days and the ugly name of 'Israel' will pup [sic] up as a key actor in the atrocities. ' "

On September 29, 2018, the *New York Post* published an interview with Ofir Dayan, a student at Columbia and daughter of Dani Dayan, the Israeli Consul General in New York City. The following excerpts from the story highlight how SJP's bullying tactics have caused the younger Dayan to worry about her safety:

As an officer in the Israel Defense Forces, Ofir Dayan served in hostile territory in Gaza and Lebanon. But, the undergrad told The Post, nothing prepared her for life at Columbia University.

Ofir, the 24-year-old daughter of Israel Consul General in New York Dani Dayan, said she is harassed and threatened over her background by the group Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), and that the school is failing to protect her.

“SJP is violent,” she said. “I’m worried about my personal safety.”

The political science major had her initial run-in about a month into the fall 2017 semester, when she was in the lobby of Knox Hall — home to the Middle East Institute — having a phone conversation in Hebrew.

“A girl heard me and started screaming, ‘Stop killing Muslim babies! . . . You’re a murderer!’ ” Ofir said. “Then she screamed, ‘Zionist, get out!’ A nearby public-safety administrator did nothing.”

In the aftermath of the October 27, 2018, shootings at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Columbia’s student life office sent out what was undoubtedly intended as a statement of comfort to the Columbia community. However, according to the October 29, 2018, *Jewish Journal*, the statement inexplicably made no reference to either Jews or anti-Semitism. Rather, according to the *Jewish Journal*, the statement employed an oblique reference to Pittsburgh and then adopted an intersectionality tone. As quoted by the *Jewish Journal*, the message stated:

[We are] deeply saddened by the senseless violence and stand strongly against these efforts to create fear and terror.

For some in our community, this is a particularly frightening time as we have seen a growing number of highly visible attacks directed at faith and identity – on worshippers and people of faith as they go through their daily lives, on groups gathered to celebrate an LGBT Latin night at Pulse Nightclub, on civil rights and anti-racist protesters in the streets of Charlottesville, and in so many other places, as occurred in last Wednesday’s shooting of two African-American shoppers in Kentucky. Please know that you are not alone, and that you are a part of this community founded on the fundamental dignity and worth of all.

After criticism on social media, Columbia amended the statement so that it made explicit reference to “the horrific anti-Semitic attack on Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life Synagogue.” However, the damage had been done by the university’s original insensitivity in employing neutral language in the face of an incontrovertibly anti-Semitic attack. For example, according to the *Jewish Journal* account, the following was the reaction of Simon Wiesenthal Center Associate Dean Rabbi Abraham Cooper:



11 Jews are mass murdered in a synagogue on Shabbat morning by a gunman who was screaming ‘kill all Jews’ and a university in New York City with massive Jewish alumni is caught disrespecting a grieving Jewish people? Updating? How about a wake-up call for all universities to stop coddling anti-Semites on their campuses?

These academics get an F,” Cooper added. “They simply refuse to say the A word. And too many university leaders refuse to deal with anti-Semitism on their own campuses leaving Jewish students targets for anti-Semitic intimidation and worse.

This refusal to recognize, let alone combat, anti-Semitism explains why the Simon Wiesenthal Center supports a Congressional bill to define the term, so the U.S. Dept. of Education can finally defend Jewish students when Universities won’t.

On November 29, 2018, the *Columbia Spectator*, the school’s student newspaper, reported that: “[t]he office of Jewish professor Elizabeth Midlarsky, who teaches and researches the Holocaust at Columbia Teachers College, was vandalized with swastikas and anti-Semitic slurs on Wednesday [November 27, 2018].”

The incident was picked up by the national press, including by CNN’s *The Situation Room*, with Wolf Blitzer, which, coincidentally, had been running a series on anti-Semitism.

Following the tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue and the defiling of Professor Midlarsky’s office, Columbia student, Morgan Raum, wrote an opinion piece in the December 3, 2018, *Columbia Spectator*, in which she presented her view of anti-Semitism on the Columbia campus. As with Ofir Dayan’s above-quoted remarks, Raum’s observations bear repeating. In pertinent part, her article stated the following:

In October, Columbia released a short statement—two brief paragraphs—in the aftermath of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting. They used extremely vague, non-specific language and somehow neglected to mention Jews or antisemitism. In taking an intersectional approach rather than one that explicitly decried anti-Jewish bigotry, they also diluted and drew attention away from the specifically antisemitic nature of the crime, which shocked the community and personally affected many Columbia students. In the administration’s more recent statement on the enormous red swastikas and the antisemitic slur spray-painted on the walls of 77-year-old Jewish Holocaust studies professor Elizabeth Midlarsky’s office on Wednesday, the Administration wrote two generic, three-line paragraphs expressing its “shock and anger” and listing the school’s available resources in this

“difficult time.” If this statement was in any sense an attempt to make up for their previously lacking one, they did not do so adequately.

\*\*\*\*\*

In just the last year alone, numerous Columbia professors have also invoked dangerous antisemitic tropes in order to criticize Israel. While criticism of the Jewish state is perfectly acceptable and warranted, using harmful canards in order to do so is not. On one occasion, Professor Rashid Khalidi stated during a radio interview that Israel supporters would “infest” the Trump administration. He used the same word three times. In doing so, he implicates that Zionists are vermin. This Nazi-era rhetoric dehumanizes an entire group of people, many of whom are Jewish, by likening them to pests. Another Columbia professor, Hamid Dabashi, wrote numerous controversial Facebook posts this summer, including one in which he called Israel a “key actor” in “every dirty treacherous ugly and pernicious act happening in the world.” His claim invokes the familiar antisemitic trope that Jews are responsible for all the world’s evils. Though he does not mention Jews specifically, his comment is reminiscent of language historically weaponized against Jews, much like Khalidi’s language.

Both professors still teach here, and Columbia did not care to make a statement or distance itself from their careless, irresponsible, and potentially dangerous rhetoric.

I’m only highlighting a couple of incidents that have taken place during my time so far at Columbia, but rest assured, there have been many more. Some Jewish students have historically reported feeling intimidated or discriminated against on religious grounds by other professors who were later granted tenure. And, as Professor Midlarsky suggested, Wednesday’s blatant and vitriolic antisemitic graffiti is disgusting and shocking, but it is not surprising. It shouldn’t surprise anyone at this point. If you weren’t already aware, Columbia itself is a breeding ground for antisemitism.

As reported in the April 1, 2019, *Jewish Journal*, Columbia Iranian Studies Professor Hamid Dabashi wrote in a March 17 op-ed for *Al Jazeera* that Zionists are “the beneficiaries of anti-Semitism.” In pertinent part, the *Jewish Journal* article quoted Professor Dabashi as follows:

“Today, anti-Semitism is real and Zionists are categorically unqualified even to detect, let alone to fight it. Jews are the victims, Zionists the beneficiaries of anti-Semitism,” Dabashi wrote. “The Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, freely and openly elected as the top

political figure of the Zionists, is a rank racist with a widespread coalition with all other racists, including anti-Semites, chief among them the US President, Donald Trump.”

Dabashi added that Zionists don’t have the “moral authority” to combat anti-Semitism because they are “hardcore or liberal advocates of that ideology of land theft, occupation and incremental genocide of Palestinians.”

In early October 2019, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, an avowed anti-Semite, came to speak at Columbia University’s World Leaders Forum. The following is an excerpt, from an October 24, 2019, *Jerusalem Post* article written by Jewish Columbia University student Eva Wyner, entitled “The Sound of Silence”:

The program began with a perfunctory, and quickly forgotten, acknowledgment of the prime minister’s controversial reputation. As the Q&A portion began, students quickly ran to the microphones to ask about issues of global concern. Eventually, a Jewish student rose to demand that Mohamad address his history of Holocaust denial and antisemitism. I watched as all eyes turned attentively to both the questioner and the prime minister, as Mohamad proudly declared, “[if] you cannot be antisemitic, then there is no more free speech.” He continued to deflect the question and avoided repudiating his past antisemitic comments, while asserting that Holocaust numbers, like any statistic, can be fabricated. The response? Polite inaction. The moderator, Professor Lien-Hang Nguyen, did not challenge or question his hate speech. She sat there in deferential silence.

According to the November 25, 2019, *Algemeiner*, on November 24, 2019, the Columbia College Student Council supported a resolution introduced by the Columbia University Apartheid Divest to hold a referendum on divestment from Israel that would appear on the school’s Spring 2020 elections ballot.

The overheated anti-Israel and anti-Semitic atmosphere on the Columbia campus finally reached a tipping point on May 6, 2020 when, under the heading “President Bollinger Condemns Anti-Semitism in a Statement Before the Senate Plenary,” Columbia’s office of the President released a statement by President Lee Bollinger excerpted below:

I plead with everyone on our campus to be careful and vigilant against legitimate debate turning into anger, then to hatred and demonization, and invidious discrimination.

I want to speak about a difficult matter—about a concern I have regarding the risk of a rising anti-Semitism on our campus.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is an upcoming vote among undergraduate students on a proposal to recommend that the University divest from companies doing business with Israel involving the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. There is no question that this is a highly contentious issue, both the underlying issues of Israel and the Palestinians and the idea of divestment as a means of protest about Israel's policies.

I do not support the proposal for divestment.

\*\*\*\*\*

My concern today, however, is not just with this proposal . . . . Critical matters are at stake, to be sure. But what must be avoided at all costs, and what I fear is happening today, is a process of mentality that goes from hard-fought debates about very real and vital issues to hostility and even hatred toward all members of groups of people simply by virtue of a religious, racial, national, or ethnic relationship. This must not happen.

\*\*\*\*\*

With respect to anti-Semitism, there are now assertions by outsiders that Columbia is an "anti-Semitic" institution with systemic bigotry. This is, of course, preposterous. No Jewish student, faculty member, or staff I know believes this to be the case; nor do I. But the absurdity of the claim does not and should not stop me or us from speaking out against instances and episodes of anti-Semitism that do exist.

On September 30, 2020, the *Jewish Insider* reported the passage of a Columbia College referendum calling for the boycott of a number of companies doing business in Israel, including the divestment of its holdings and interests in Bank Hapoalim, Hyundai and Boeing.

On the brighter side, on December 6, 2019, *The Times of Israel* reported that Tel Aviv University and Columbia had announced the launch of a joint undergraduate degree program starting in the Fall of 2020. Students participating in the program will receive a degree from each of the universities. The first two years will be spent at Tel Aviv University and the last two years will be spent at Columbia. An update of the program was published in the October 6, 2020 edition of the *Jerusalem Post*.

As reported by the February 14, 2020, *Columbia Spectator*, swastikas were found on the sixteenth floor of an East Campus building. Again, according to an

October 7, 2020 post by Columbia's Office of Student Life, just seven days after the passage of the September 7, 2020 BDS resolution, a swastika was found on the steps of the Low Library, the university's main library. As reported in the October 8, 2020 *Jewish Journal*, Students Supporting Israel (SSI) at Columbia University wrote in a Facebook post of the same date:

It is not a coincidence that this despicable act of antisemitism occurred only days after a BDS [Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions] referendum was passed by undergraduates at Columbia. When one kind of antisemitism is normalized, all others follow. Passing the referendum is a dangerous precedent and it is a shame that the Columbia community did not listen when Jewish and pro-Israel students warned time and again that passing it would cause a rise in antisemitism on campus.

As reported in the June 18, 2021, *Algemeiner*, in the wake of the May 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict and on the heels of calls for others within the university to end its relationship with Israeli institutions, over 180 Columbia faculty members wrote an open letter supporting the school's academic ties with Israel. As quoted in the *Algemeiner* article, the letter, in pertinent part, stated as follows:

"As a democracy with constitutional protections for the individual rights of all citizens, and as the home to great universities, Israel shares values, interests, and aspirations with us. Columbia benefits from ties with Israeli faculty, students, research, and technology," it continued.

On October 12, 2023, the *Algemeiner* reported that an Israeli student had been assaulted on the Columbia campus. The following is from the *Algemeiner* account:

*The Columbia Spectator*, a university newspaper, first reported the incident. The victim spoke to *The Spectator* on the condition that he be only identified by his initials IA, citing fears for his safety. "This is because [of] me being an Israeli these days," he said.

IA said he was outside the university library with four other friends and noticed the suspect with a bandana covering her face, ripping off flyers they had put up earlier with names and photos of Israelis that Hamas has reportedly taken as hostages.

When the group approached her, IA said the suspect screamed obscenities toward the students and hit the victim with a stick. IA said he defended himself when the suspect allegedly tried to punch him in the face.

As reported in the October 21, 2023, *Times of Israel*, Columbia Business School's Shai Davidai called out university president, Minouche Shafik, for not banning student

groups who celebrated Hamas' massacre of unarmed Israelis, calling the barbaric actions "resistance." The following is excerpted from the Times of Israel's report.

In a viral video, Columbia Business School assistant professor Shai Davidaide denounced university president Minouche Shafik's "cowardice" for allowing the proliferation of "pro-terror student organizations" on campus, and told parents that students were not safe.

Standing at a small pro-Israel rally at the school's Morningside Heights campus in New York City on October 19, Davidai recorded what he called "An Open Letter to Every Parent in America." The academic said he was sending "a message to every parent in America who sends their kids to NYU, to Harvard, to Stanford, to Berkeley, and I want you to know one thing: We cannot protect your child."

According to the November 11, 2023 issue of *Forbes* billionaire investor Henry Swieca severed ties with Columbia Business School's board, his alma mater, citing "blatantly anti-Jewish student groups and professors" at the university.

On November 10, 2023, the *Algemeiner* reported that Columbia had suspended Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace as official student groups through the end of the fall semester. According to the *Algemeiner* article:

Gerald Rosberg, senior executive vice president of the university, made the bombshell announcement in a statement on Friday afternoon.

"This decision was made after the two groups repeatedly violated university policies related to holding campus events, culminating in an unauthorized event Thursday afternoon that proceeded despite warnings and included threatening rhetoric and intimidation," said Rosberg, who also serves as chair of Columbia's Special Committee on Campus Safety.

On January 18, 2024, the *New York Jewish Week* reported that the suspensions had been continued through the Spring 2024 semester. According to the *Jewish Week* account: "A university official said the groups have not yet agreed to adhere to university rules that would allow their reinstatement. The official said administration staff had met with representatives from the groups to discuss steps toward ending the suspension."

As reported in the October 17, 2023, *CNN.Com*, the Department of Education launched investigations after receiving complaints about alleged incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia. The investigations include five antisemitism cases and two Islamophobia cases. The schools include one K-12 school, the Maize Unified School District in Kansas, and six colleges: Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, Cornell University in New York, Columbia University

in New York, Wellesley College in Massachusetts, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York, and Penn.

According to the December 3, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, Columbia's School of Social Work (CSSW) canceled an anti-Israel event week celebrating Hamas's murderous October 7, 2023, invasion of Israel as a "counteroffensive," in a callous attempt to rationalize the brutal onslaught in which Palestinian terrorists led by Hamas murdered over 1,200 and kidnapped 240 others as a defensive measure. The following passages are from the *Algemeiner* account:

Columbia University's School of Social Work (CSSW) has canceled an anti-Israel event scheduled to take place this week celebrating Hamas' Oct. 7 massacre across southern Israeli communities as a "counteroffensive."

Columbia Social Workers 4 Palestine planned to hold the "teach-in and discussion" at CSSW on Wednesday. Promoting the event on social media, the campus group described Hamas' surprise invasion of Israel on Oct. 7 as a "counteroffensive," seemingly rationalizing the brutal onslaught in which Palestinian terrorists led by Hamas murdered over 1,200 and kidnapped 240 others as a defensive measure.

\*\*\*\*\*

In its communications, Columbia Social Workers 4 Palestine has continually referred to the Oct 7. massacre as "Palestinians resisting the ongoing occupation." On Nov. 8, the group occupied CSSW demanding the university issue a statement supporting "Palestinian resistance," divesting any holdings "connected to Israel," and the rewriting of the school's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) mission statement to "center explicitly anti-imperialist perspectives" and favor "Palestinian national resistance."

As reported by the December 11, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, Anti-Israel students at Columbia "organized a 'strike' to withhold their tuition payments unless the school accedes to their demands, which include purging the campus of investments, trustee members, and academic programs linked to the Jewish state."

On February 12, 2024, the *Algemeiner* contained a report of a February 9, 2023, speech given by Hilary Clinton at Columbia during which she was heckled by pro-Hamas demonstrators, one of whom yelled out: "You will burn!! Free, free, Palestine!"

On a related front, according to the February 13, 2024, *Israel Times*, Columbia's "handling of antisemitism is now the subject of an official Congressional committee investigation." In particular, the *Israel Times* story reported that:

In a 16-page letter citing “grave concerns regarding the inadequacy of Columbia’s response to antisemitism on its campus,” the House Workforce and Education Committee, chaired by Rep. Virginia Foxx, a Republican, demanded Monday that Columbia furnish any and all documents related to antisemitic acts or incidents on campus by February 26.

One day after Columbia University president, Minouche Shafik, and other university officials testified before Congress on the measures the university was taking to address antisemitism on campus, the *New York Times*, on April 18, 2024, reported as follows:

The police cleared out a protest at Columbia University on Thursday afternoon, arresting dozens of demonstrators who had occupied a lawn on campus and throwing out their tent encampment. The actions came the day after university leaders pledged to Congress that they would crack down on unauthorized student protests tied to the war in Gaza.

Police officers, clad in riot gear and prepared with zip ties, began taking protesters into custody just before 1:30 p.m., loading them onto buses without resistance as other students chanted “Shame!” Officers removed about 50 tents, but demonstrators later reconstructed at least two of them alongside a “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” sign.

\*\*\*\*\*

Columbia got backup on Thursday afternoon from one of its most prominent alumni: Representative Jerrold Nadler, Democrat of New York. Nadler is one of House’s leading civil libertarians and its longest-serving Jewish member. “Columbia has an obligation to protect students and their learning environment,” he said. “The university has set guidelines for peaceful protests on campus, and Columbia has a right to enforce their own rules. Those who continue to violate campus policies are putting members of the Columbia community at risk.”

\*\*\*\*\*

A truck just drove past the protest on Amsterdam Avenue. On its side was a screen that said, “Minouche Shafik, it’s time to resign and we’re here to help you move,” referring to the Columbia University president. Cheers erupted from the protesters.

As reported in the April 21, 2024, *Times of Israel*, [t]he White House condemn[ed] the pro-Palestinian protests that have rocked New York City’s Columbia



University over the past week, leading the school's campus Orthodox rabbi to urge Jewish students to stay away from campus for the time being." The article quoted White House deputy press secretary Andrew Bates as telling *The Times of Israel*.

"While every American has the right to peaceful protest, calls for violence and physical intimidation targeting Jewish students and the Jewish community are blatantly antisemitic, unconscionable, and dangerous – they have absolutely no place on any college campus, or anywhere in the United States of America."

As reported in the April 27, 2024, *Times of Israel*, a leader of the Columbia protests, Khymani James, was captured in a video "stating repeatedly and emphatically that Zionists 'don't deserve to live' and should be killed." In the story, James was quoted as follows:

"The existence of them and the projects they have built i.e. Israel, it's all antithetical to peace. So yes I feel very comfortable — very comfortable — calling for those people to die," Khymani James said in the January video.

"Be glad, be grateful that I'm not just going out and murdering Zionists," he added.

The following May 8, 2024, *Jewish Insider* article describes a letter written by hundreds of Columbia Jewish students:

Hundreds of Jewish Columbia University students signed on to an open letter to the university community on Wednesday, declaring that they are "proud to be Zionists" while speaking out against the anti-Israel protesters that have engulfed the Ivy League campus since the Oct. 7 terrorist attacks.

The letter, titled "In Our Name," was authored by four students — Eliana Goldin '25; Elisha Baker '26; Eden Yadegar '25 and Rivka Yellin, Barnard College '26. By Wednesday night, it garnered more than 400 signatures.

"Over the past six months, many have spoken in our name," the letter opens. "We are here, writing to you as Jewish students at Columbia University, who are connected to our community and deeply engaged with our culture and history. We would like to speak in our name."

"Most of us did not choose to be political activists," the students wrote. "We do not bang on drums and chant catchy slogans. We are average students, just trying to make it through finals much like the rest of you."

“If the last six months on campus have taught us anything, it is that a large and vocal population of the Columbia community does not understand the meaning of Zionism, and subsequently does not understand the essence of the Jewish People,” the letter continued. “Yet despite the fact that we have been calling out the antisemitism we’ve been experiencing for months, our concerns have been brushed off and invalidated.”

The letter goes on to reference several incidents that have occurred on campus.: “We sounded the alarm on October 12 when many protested against Israel while our friends’ and families’ dead bodies were still warm. We recoiled when people screamed ‘resist by any means necessary,’ telling us we are “all inbred” and that we ‘have no culture.’ We shuddered when an ‘activist’ held up a sign telling Jewish students they were Hamas’s next targets... We ultimately were not surprised when a leader of the CUAD [Columbia University Against Apartheid] encampment said publicly and proudly that ‘Zionists don’t deserve to live’ and that we’re lucky they are ‘not just going out and murdering Zionists.’ We felt helpless when we watched students and faculty physically block Jewish students from entering parts of the campus we share, or even when they turned their faces away in silence. This silence is familiar. *We will never forget.*”

“One thing is for sure,” the students wrote. “We will not stop standing up for ourselves. We are proud to be Jews, and we are proud to be Zionists.”

On May 16, 2024, the Columbia task force on anti-Semitism published an op-ed in the *Columbia Spectator* with regard to its findings. The following are two eye-opening paragraphs from the op-ed:

Another consistent theme in our listening sessions was the discomfort and fear that the increasingly violent and threatening rhetoric at protests and on Sidechat and other social media platforms engenders. Students who are visibly Jewish, because they wear kippot or six-pointed stars, or have mezuzahs on their dorm room doors, feel especially threatened. We hear stories about these Jewish insignia being torn down or pulled off of students’ bodies. Jewish students’ families and friends ask them if they are all right; Jewish prospective students ask them if they would be safe at Columbia. Some students are afraid to walk across campus, or to use the libraries. One student told us, in tears, that when she had converted to Judaism, she never expected that one result would be being subjected to harassment.

It isn't just their fellow students who have made students at our listening sessions feel excluded or mistreated. Jewish and Israeli students described being singled out in class by their teachers and subjected to public ostracism, in the name of making them answer for the supposed misdeeds of the Israeli government. Departments and faculty have institutionally endorsed efforts to deny Israel's long-established right to exist as a Jewish state, which of course makes many Jewish students feel uncomfortable taking courses with them. Professors have encouraged students to participate in anti-Israel demonstrations, or have conducted classes at protest sites, knowing that students whose sympathies are with Israel won't feel comfortable there. In the early weeks of the protests this year, Jewish students who demonstrated in support of Israel and followed the University's protest rules watched pro-Palestinian protesters ignore these rules. We often heard from students—including Jewish students who oppose Zionism—that they long for opportunities to engage in empathetic constructive conversations with people who disagree with them, but in the current climate these seem impossible.

The following is from the May 28, 2024, ADL Daily Campus Crisis Alert:

At a campus that has been at the center of anti-Israel protests and antisemitic harassment, it's refreshing to hear from someone there dedicated to stop it. [David Schizer](#)—who when he became Dean of Columbia Law School was the youngest Dean in its history — is now a professor there and co-chairman of Columbia's newly formed Task Force on Antisemitism. In a recent interview, he discusses reports that Jewish students have been barred from student groups unless they renounce Zionism, calling this exclusion “the most painful thing that I've seen in 26 years at Columbia.” The article describes another “potential Title VI violation,” where during the week before protesters temporarily [took over](#) a campus building, “campus security advised Jewish students not to enter certain areas of campus because it couldn't guarantee their safety.” Schizer made his frustration with this situation clear: “You can't limit the access of Jews or any other minority group—and that includes clubs, and it includes programs and classes and it includes physical spaces.”

The following is from the June 4, 2024, *ADL Daily Campus Crisis Alert*:

Students for Justice in Palestine's group at Columbia has [migrated](#) its social postings to Telegram. The group has shared posts there that explicitly support acts of terror, including Resistance News Network's fawning guide to "the resistance," which features terror orgs like Hamas.

According to the June 22, 2024, *Times of Israel*:

Columbia University has suspended three administrators for sending disparaging text messages during a panel about Jewish campus life last month.

During the May 31 panel discussion, the administrators sent texts to each other mocking the panelists' remarks and, in one instance, calling them "difficult to listen to." One of the deans wrote that a panelist was leveraging the discussion of antisemitism for its "huge fundraising potential."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: The Kraft Center.
- *Kosher meals*: Full 14-21 meal kosher meal plan available,
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Orthodox, conservative, reform and bi-weekly women's services, as well as daily morning, afternoon and evening orthodox services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Resource Center, 625 West 113<sup>th</sup> Street
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night and Saturday afternoon).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities* (Columbia): Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities* (Barnard): Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies* (Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies): 7.

## **Cornell University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,500 (21%).***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest (largely, as a result of campus intimidation of Jewish students following Hamas' October 7, 2023, deadly invasion of southern Israel and Israel's counter attempt to rid Hamas from Gaza)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 7***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 9***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 20***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 1/248***

***Comparable Schools: Brown, Dartmouth, Duke, Rice, Stanford, University of Michigan and University of Virginia***

***Jewish President: Martha E. Pollack (resignation announced as of June 30, 2024)***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2015 gift from Michael R. Bloomberg for Cornell Tech, the Cornell-Technion campus in New York City; 2014 gift of \$75 Million to the Cornell University Weill Medical Center from Sandra and Edward Myer; 2013 bequest of \$133 Million from Irwin Mark Jacobs and Joan Klein Jacobs for Cornell Tech; 2013 gift of \$50 Million from the Einhorn Family Charitable Trust; 2013 gift of \$100 Million to the Cornell University Weill Medical Center from Sanford I. and Joan Weill and the Weill Family Foundation; 2011 gift of \$100 Million from Renee and Robert Belfer; 2007 gift of \$50 Million from Sanford I. and Joan Weill; 2002 gift of \$100 Million to the Cornell University Weill Medical Center from Sanford I. and Joan Weill; 2002 gift of \$50 Million to the Cornell University Weill Medical Center from Maurice R. and Corinne Greenberg; 1998 gift of \$100 Million to the Cornell University Weill Medical Center from Sanford I. and Joan Weill***

Cornell is located in the Finger Lakes region of Central New York State and, as the school's song goes, it sits on a hilltop high above Lake Cayuga's waters. Beebe Lake and Fall Creek are an integral part of the campus as is the series of gorges and waterfalls carved out by Fall Creek.

The gorges have given rise to the expression, "Cornell is gorgeous," which in fact it is. It is clearly one of the most beautiful campuses in America. Modern buildings, such as the School of Hotel Management and the new (Bill and Melinda)

Gates Hall for computing and information science, may be found throughout the campus. However, what makes Cornell exceptionally attractive are its older buildings. The Arts Quad is surrounded by period buildings dating back to 1865. The university's large array of collegiate gothic buildings from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century is absolutely stunning with the lower residential complex providing as beautiful a representation of such architecture as may be found anyplace in the country. The law school buildings are also collegiate gothic in design and, like the University of Michigan's law school complex, comprise one of the most attractive law school complexes on any college campus. In the center of campus rises the McGraw Clock Tower, one of the great architectural symbols of the campus.

Cornell is a hybrid New York State and private institution, with three of its undergraduate schools being part of the State University of New York. These are the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (a step up in pedigree from its origins as the "Ag School"), the College of Human Ecology (also a step up from its original provenance as the "Home Ec. School"), and the renowned School of Industrial and Labor Relations. For those from New York State, the first two of these schools have historically provided a somewhat easier path through Cornell's highly competitive admissions gauntlet.

Known for engineering and science (and everything else, for that matter), Cornell also is the proud possessor of the country's premier School of Hotel Management. Endowed by the Statler hotelier family, the school offers a world-class background in hotel management. Equally significant, the School of Hotel Management provides an excellent grounding in general business, making Cornell the second-best place to go to in the Ivy League for an undergraduate business education, after the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

Though not a bowl-eligible football school, Cornell maintains top quality Division I teams in a number of sports, in particular hockey and lacrosse. Social life takes place on the campus and in upper and lower Collegetown, the latter of which occupies a few blocks of restaurant-laden streets in downtown Ithaca. Fraternities, of which there are almost 40 on campus, lead the way. Many of the fraternities occupy impressive-looking houses, some of which date back many years. However, in response to an alcohol-related hazing incident at one of the Cornell houses, on May 6, 2018, Cornell decreed that hard liquor was off limits in all residential Greek houses and that, starting in 2021, all such Greek houses will have to have a live-in adviser.

Fueled by an anonymous \$350 million contribution, Cornell and Israel's Technion University were the 2011 co-winners of a high-profile competition for establishing an institute of technology on New York City's 10-acre Roosevelt Island. Now known as the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute (or Cornell Tech), the institute opened its doors in on September 2017 at a cost of \$700 million. The

campus is currently home to 30 faculty members and about 300 students, including 35 Ph.D. candidates.

Not all elements on the Cornell campus welcomed the Cornell-Technion collaboration. On November 19, 2015, the Cornell SJP chapter held a teach-in condemning the collaboration. The SJP website announcing the teach-in condemned Cornell for implicating itself in “human rights violations” against the Palestinians:

You might have heard about Cornell Tech, the new tech-focused campus of Cornell in New York City. However, what they don't tell you is that it was formed from a partnership between Cornell and Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, an Israeli university that engages in the development of weaponry used in the occupation and subjugation of Palestinians. In partnering with Technion, Cornell has implicated itself in human rights violations . . . , such as the indiscriminate killing of civilians in the 2014 Gaza War. Come learn more about this partnership, what it means for our complicity in the situation in Israel-Palestine, and what we as students can do about it.

According to the October 19, 2017 *Cornell Daily Sun*, SJP's view of the Cornell-Technion collaboration remained hostile and unchanged. SJP's views on the Cornell-Technion collaboration is, by no means, an isolated instance of its anti-Israel stance on campus. During a Hillel-sponsored *Yom Haatzmaut* event celebrating the 69th anniversary of the State of Israel, SJP disrupted the event by staging a “die in.” The “die in” consisted of SJP students lying on the ground beneath a banner emblazoned with the words “Celebrating 69 years of Genocide,” underscoring SJP's goal of painting Israel as an illegitimate, occupying country not just since the 1967 Six Day War but also from its inception as a state in 1948.

In October 2017, Cornell black American history professor, Russell Rickford, at a “knee in” designed to express solidarity with black athletes who had “taken a knee” at athletic events, led the chant “Free Palestine” just before the crowd kneeled. According to the excerpt from the October 5, 2017 *Cornell Sun* quoted below, Professor Rickford used the occasion to link Israel to white supremacy:

“The colonial occupation of Palestine remains one of the world's most visible campaigns of white supremacist violence,” Rickford said. The event was held not just to bring awareness to violence against black Americans, but as an expression of resistance against acts of white supremacy — to which Rickford said Palestinians were subject without exception under Israeli occupation.

On October 23, 2017, anti-Semitic posters bearing the message, “Just say no to Jewish lies,” were discovered on the Cornell campus.

According to the November 19, 2018, *Cornell Daily Sun*, over a period of just nine days, three swastikas were reported on the Cornell North Campus, two in dormitories and one near a dining hall. According to the *Sun* account:

The anti-Semitic signs were found across the residential area and provoked a mixture of surprise, concern and disgust amongst the Jewish community, freshmen and other Cornellians aware of the incidents.

As reported in the January 7, 2021, *Algemeiner*, in the fall of 2020, Ariella Aisha Azoulay, a guest lecturer from Brown University, spoke to students in Cornell University's architecture department. According to the *Algemeiner* story:

Azoulay gave a biased, anti-Zionist presentation titled "Palestine Is There, Where It Has Always Been." In it, she showed photographs of the early pioneers of the State of Israel working the land, each with their faces blacked out. She excused this erasure by saying, "I can't bear to look at them."

Despite these troubling episodes, Cornell has always been popular with smart Jewish students, many from the downstate, Metropolitan New York area. There is no suggestion that this popularity will abate any time soon.

In the wake of rising anti-Semitism spawned in part by the May 2021 conflict between Israel and Gaza, Cornell president Martha E. Pollack went on line to make the following May 26, 2021, statement: "As we arrive at the end of the academic year, our nation is again grappling with disturbing acts of hatred and bias, the latest being an alarming national rise in anti-Semitic hate crimes, including several reports of bias incidents on our Ithaca campus, amid ongoing tensions in the Middle East."

As reported by the September 20, 2022, *Algemeiner*, Cornell's Jewish community held a rally on September 19, 2022, "to protest the carving of a swastika into a sidewalk near Bebe Lake, a reservoir on the university's 745 acre campus."

Under the heading "War in Mideast inflames college campuses and raises fears of antisemitism," the October 18, 2023, *Washington Post* highlighted the difficulty experienced by Jewish students following Hamas' deadly invasion of Israel. The following excerpts from the article apply to Cornell:

Cornell was roiled after an associate professor of history, Russell Rickford, spoke at a pro-Palestinian rally in Ithaca, N.Y. The Cornell Daily Sun, a student newspaper, and others published video of his remarks. In the speech, Rickford cited "many Gazans of goodwill, many Palestinians of conscience, who abhor violence — as do you, as do I." But



he also said many who support the Palestinian cause had strong feelings after learning of the Oct. 7 attack.

“It was exhilarating,” he said. “It was energizing. And if they weren’t exhilarated by this challenge to the monopoly of violence, by this shifting of the balance of power, then they would not be human. I was exhilarated.”

As reported by the October 29, 2023, *The Forward*, the following messages appeared on internal campus forums, following Israel’s response to the October 7 Hamas murdering spree:

“If you see a jewish ‘person’ on campus, follow them home and slit their throats. rats need to be eliminated from cornell.” Another read, “the genocidal fascist zionist regime will be destroyed. rape and kill all the jew women, before they birth more jewish hitlers. jews are excrement on the face of the earth. no jew civilian is innocent of genocide.”

Another user posted Sunday afternoon, “gonna shoot up 104 west,” referring to the kosher dining hall on campus. “If i see another synagogue another rally for the zionist globalist genocidal apartheid dictatorial entity known as ‘israel’, i will bring an assault rifle to campus and shoot all you pig jews,” one user posted. “Jews are human animals and deserve a pigs death.

According to the November 1, 2023, *Wall Street Journal*, and multiple other sources, the alleged perpetrator, a 21-year old Cornell junior, was arrested and charged with making a threat using international communications.

As reported in the October 17, 2023, *CNN.Com*, the Department of Education launched investigations after receiving complaints about alleged incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia. The investigations include five antisemitism cases and two Islamophobia cases. The schools include one K-12 school, the Maize Unified School District in Kansas, and six colleges: Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, Cornell University in New York, Columbia University in New York, Wellesley College in Massachusetts, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Jewish Cornell student, Zoe Bernstein, in an article entitled, “Jewish Students at Cornell are Hurting—But No One Seems to Care,” published in the the December 14, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, wrote the following:

Students come to Cornell expecting to be protected from threats and harassment, and the administration has a responsibility to maintain a learning environment in which every student can feel comfortable going to class without fear of intimidation, and express their ideas without being attacked.

When we walk through a campus literally vandalized with spray painted profanity, and have our classes disrupted by loud chants for violence, many Jewish students feel as though Cornell is failing us in this regard.

The Community Belonging section of the Cornell Student Code of Conduct states that “students, faculty, and staff with different backgrounds, perspectives, abilities, and experiences can learn, innovate, and work in an environment of respect...”

Below that, it details that “to assemble and to protest peacefully and lawfully are essential to academic freedom and the continuing function of the University as an educational institution.”

Furthermore, the code of conduct clearly states that disorderly conduct, harassment, misconduct related to student organizations, property damage, and disruption of university activities are forbidden.

Accordingly, I have a few questions I feel compelled to ask.

When Jewish students trying to learn in the classroom are distracted by their peers shouting “From the River to the Sea” just out the window, does this count as harassment and a disruption of university activities?

Do the students shouting those hateful words know the meaning behind them, regardless of their individual intent? Are they aware that those words are a rallying cry for the complete destruction of the State of Israel, and the establishment of a Palestinian state in the entirety of the land that is modern-day Israel, at the expense of the one Jewish state on planet earth? This phrase is used by terrorist organizations and was cited as a component of the US House of Representatives’ censuring of Rashida Tlaib (D-MI). Allowing students to shout this phrase and disrupt classes does not cultivate “an environment of respect.”

When students march on campus and call for the “globalization of the intifada” and shout that “resistance is justified,” are they actually protesting peacefully or are they calling for violence against Jewish and Israeli students?

According to the January 24, 2024, *Jewish Insider*, “As students at Cornell University returned to campus on Monday after the winter recess, some freshmen in a writing seminar learned their course instructor canceled class for the day ‘in

solidarity with collective calls for a Global Strike for Palestine,’ . . . Alyiah Gonzales, a course instructor in Cornell’s College of Arts and Science, canceled the first day of “ENGL 1160: FWS Intersections: Race, Writing, and Power.”

On the brighter side, as reported in the February 2, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, Cornell University’s Student Assembly, on February 1, 2024, “rejected a resolution accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza and demanding that school officials ‘divest’ from companies it deems as ‘complicit’ in the country’s policies, according to a report by *The Cornell Daily Sun*.”

Hillel: •

- *Hillel House*: Yes (The Yudowitz Center for Jewish Campus Life).
- *Kosher meals*: Yes. Available at 104 West, located next to the Center for Jewish Living.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Reform, Egalitarian and Orthodox services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell University, 102 Willard Way, West Campus.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night and Saturday afternoon).
- *Friday night services*: Yes. Also, weekly challah baking.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Program of Jewish Studies)*: 4.

## **Dartmouth College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 400 (9%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 31***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 21***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 27***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 240/248***

***Comparable Schools: Cornell, Duke, Princeton and University of Virginia***

Early on in 1819, Dartmouth became famous as a result of the Dartmouth College case, argued before the Supreme Court by Daniel Webster on behalf of the college. In the case, New Hampshire unsuccessfully attempted to amend the college's charter and make it a public school. Webster's words have resonated for two centuries: "It is, sir, as I have said, a small college. And yet there are those who love it." Today, Dartmouth is still small by Ivy League standards, with about 4,300 undergraduates and about 2,000 graduate students, but it looms big in all other areas of academia. Dartmouth's bucolic campus, with its large New England green, is designed in the Georgian Colonial style. Wentworth and Thornton Halls, both of which date back to the early 1800s, are the oldest exponents of this style of architecture on campus.

Dartmouth is located on about 300 acres in the rural, collegiate town of Hanover. Perhaps, only the college towns of Charlottesville (Virginia), Princeton (New Jersey) and Chapel Hill (North Carolina) provide as much charm in a collegiate setting. Dartmouth's rural location was once a disincentive to gifted Jewish students who preferred the more familiar urban setting of a Pennsylvania, Columbia or Harvard. That has changed, although Dartmouth's Jewish population is still the lightest in the Ivy League.

In days gone by, Dartmouth was steadfastly insistent on a small Jewish population. Indeed, for many years, Dartmouth subscribed to a 5-6% quota on the admission of Jewish applicants, and, at least one of its presidents stated that the purpose of the college was to educate Christian students. Many of these practices came to light in 1997 when, in the course of dedicating a social and religious center

for Jewish students, then Dartmouth president, James O. Freedman, read from documents drawn from the Dartmouth archives. The documents included a 1930's era exchange of letters between alumnus Ford H. Whelden of Detroit, and Robert C. Strong, the then Director of Admissions at Dartmouth.

As reported by the *New York Times* on November 11, 1997, in the exchange of letters, Mr. Whelden complained that "the campus seems more Jewish each time I arrive in Hanover. And, unfortunately, many of them (on quick judgment) seem to be the 'kike' type."

Mr. Strong replied: "I am glad to have your comments on the Jewish problem, and I shall appreciate your help along this line in the future. If we go beyond the 5 percent or 6 percent in the Class of 1938, I shall be grieved beyond words."

Also, according to the *Times* article:

In a clipping from a 1945 issue of *The New York Post*, Ernest M. Hopkins, the president of Dartmouth, was quoted as saying that a number of Jewish students who applied for admission were turned down simply because they were Jews.

Mr. Hopkins added: "Dartmouth is a Christian College founded for the Christianization of its students."

Indeed, before the World War II GI Bill, followed by the upheaval of the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights movement, Dartmouth, along with Princeton, was not seen as a very embracing place for Jewish students. Today, all that has changed. Now, Dartmouth boasts both a Hillel and Chabad center, with almost 10% of Dartmouth's 4,300 undergraduate students being Jewish.

Dartmouth's year-round, ten-week, quarter system and its emphasis on study abroad also provide an attraction to students of all origins. In January 2015, hard liquor was banned on the Dartmouth Campus, closing a chapter on Dartmouth's long history as a hardcore drinking school.

In May 2016, a member of Dartmouth Chabad, accused a Dartmouth faculty member of threatening him with force after he attempted to record a lecture being given by Rutgers anti-Zionist professor Jasbir Puar. Though the stated topic of the event was supposed to focus on feminism and the environment, to the consternation of Jewish students in the audience, Puar devoted her time to attacking Israel, claiming among other things that IDF soldiers shoot to maim and cripple.

As reported in the school's newspaper, *The Dartmouth*, Sergei Kan, an anthropology professor who was in the audience characterized Puar's statements as

“academic anti-Semitism.” Also, according to *The Dartmouth*, Kan went on to say that he saw one Jewish student close to tears while others were emotionally distraught because their faith was “being covered in dirt.”

In May 2017, Dartmouth President Philip Hanlon appointed Professor Bruce Duthu to the position of Dean of the Faculty. In 2013, Duthu had promoted an academic boycott of Israel by the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association’s (NAISA). Ironically, at the same time Duthu was expressing support for an academic boycott of Israel, Hanlon was busy renouncing the concept. To his credit, following his appointment, Duthu did recant his prior support for a boycott of Israel: “I continue to believe in the right of private citizens to express criticism of any country’s government policies. At the same time, I do not believe that a boycott of academic institutions is the appropriate response.”

Following the Charlottesville Unite the Right Demonstration, Mark Bray, a young Jewish lecturer at Dartmouth found himself the target of a national debate on *antifa*, shorthand for anti-fascist. *Antifa* adherents take the view that they may use whatever means is necessary to deny platforms to alt-right speakers and others whose views they find odious. Often masked and dressed in black, *antifa* demonstrators sometimes employ sticks, pepper spray and old-fashioned pummeling to achieve their objectives, as they did earlier in the year at Berkeley when they protested against right-wing provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos and later at Middlebury College when a faculty member who had sponsored a right-wing speaker was sent to the hospital with a concussion.

As described by an article in the August 30, 2017, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Mr. Bray’s book, *Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook*, “is part history of the movement, part argument for why it should be taken seriously.” In the *Chronicle* article, Mr. Bray is interviewed and is asked the question: “You make it very clear in your introduction that this isn’t a nonpartisan look at *antifa* and you’re even donating part of the proceeds to an antifascist group. Why did you choose to frame it that way?” Mr. Bray’s responded:

I don’t think that we can be neutral about fascism or neutral about white supremacy. Given the stakes of the current political moment and a really dangerous attempt by the “alt-right” to make racism great again, I felt it was incumbent upon me, not only as a scholar but as an activist and also as a Jew who lost part of my family in the Holocaust, to encourage people through whatever means they see fit to organize against white supremacy. To me that involves taking a stand. I’m trying to explain to the general public what this political point of view is about, so, agree or disagree, the public will at least have an accurate view of it. I also want to empower a new generation with the

methods and strategies used by the 60 anti-fascists from 17 different countries who I interviewed.

President Hanlon found Bray's views on violent protest to be sufficiently anathematic as to publicly distance the university from them. However, the debate did not end with Hanlon's public rebuke of Bray. In addition to prime-time interviews on NBC and NPR, Mr. Bray also received the public support of over 100 Dartmouth faculty members who called upon Hanlon to retract his statement.

In September 2018, Dartmouth was the first Division I collegiate football program to hire a woman as an assistant coach.

On October 29, 2018, in the aftermath of the murders at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue, President Philip Hanlon sent out an email to the Dartmouth student body expressing his concern. As was true of a similar communication described in the above profile for Columbia University, Hanlon's email never referred to the killings as an act of anti-Semitism—a failure that precipitated a scathing rebuke in the October 30, 2018, school newspaper, *The Dartmouth*. Entitled "*Verbum Ultimum*: Say It Like You Mean It, the editorial in pertinent part stated the following:

Last Saturday, 11 Jewish congregants were murdered and six others were injured as they worshipped at a Pittsburgh synagogue. The Anti-Defamation League believes it was the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in U.S. history. Last Wednesday, two black people were shot and killed in a Kroger grocery store in Kentucky. Authorities are currently investigating the murders as a hate crime; before the shooting, the alleged shooter tried to enter a predominantly black church but was unable to get inside. Across last week, explosive devices were mailed to more than dozen prominent individuals and organizations — including former U.S. President Barack Obama, 2016 presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, billionaire and liberal donor George Soros, and CNN — who have criticized President Donald Trump. These actions were disgusting examples of hate crimes and politicized violence, and the Editorial Board stands in solidarity with the victims.

But you wouldn't know that [it and other hate-induced incidents against other communities] had happened from reading the email College President Phil Hanlon sent to campus Monday morning.

The email, sent with the subject line "Recent National Events," is astounding in its vagueness and passivity. One would assume that the purpose of such an email would be to condemn the violence of the attacks and provide support for students who feel threatened or who are in mourning. But if this was Hanlon's intention, then he utterly botched

the execution. Not once does his email mention the nature of the attacks or the identities of the victims, or even specify what events he is referring to. Instead, he lumps acts of violence together, reducing them to “events across our country this past week targeting people for who they are--their religion, political views, gender identity, race, and ethnicity,” and notes that they have left “many of us saddened and concerned.” In an email meant to provide support for “people in our community [who] are feeling afraid,” it is disgraceful that Hanlon cannot legitimize these people’s fears by naming, with specificity, why they are afraid. It is disgraceful that the only emotions he seems to find worth mentioning are sadness and concern — not outrage, not disgust, not moral indignation.

On November 6, 2018, *The New Hampshire Union Leader* reported that Hanlon, at a school forum on anti-Semitism, apologized to those who had taken offense from the email.

On December 13, 2021, the *Algemeiner*, quoting from a December 10, 2021, *Valley News* story, reported that Dartmouth student, Carlos Wilcox, had been indicted on felony charges for shooting a menorah with a pellet gun during Hanukkah. The *Algemeiner* article further stated that Wilcox had shot out seven electric bulbs of the menorah which had been mounted on the Dartmouth Green. Wilcox was subsequently dis-enrolled from Dartmouth and banned from campus.

In a February 2, 2023, *The Dartmouth* article, entitled, “Hillel, End Birthright,” Dartmouth student Ramsey Alshekh, wrote, in pertinent part, the following:

The Birthright trip is far-right, anti-Palestinian and anti-peace. Why does Hillel continue to sponsor it?

To the far-right billionaire Sheldon Adelson, “the Palestinians are an invented people” and Muslim student organizations are “taking over” college campuses. This bigot wouldn’t typically matter to Dartmouth students — but his money funds a program on our campus.

As they do every year, Hillel at Dartmouth organized a contingent of the Taglit-Birthright Israel trips, sending Jewish students on a week-long tour through the country in order to “explore their Jewish identity and support for Israel.” While the trip claims to be politically neutral, in reality it is funded by state institutions that play an active role in the violation of Palestinian human rights. Indeed, Taglit-Birthright Israel, the nonprofit organization that funds the trips, is financed by the Israeli government and quasi-governmental agencies, such as the Jewish Agency and Keren Hayesod.



\*\*\*\*\*

Beyond the Israeli state and its apparatuses, funding is also sourced from far-right American donors like Adelson, one of Trump's biggest supporters in 2016 and Birthright's largest single contributor in the history of the program. Up until his death in 2021, Adelson actively promoted the Orientalist conspiracy theory that "the purpose of the existence of Palestinians is to destroy Israel." Unsurprisingly, he has also expressed disdain for democracy: "So Israel won't be a democratic state, so what?"

These funding sources ensure that the trip serves to further the Israeli right's political interests. In the past, when Birthright determined that an individual has a "hidden agenda" (e.g., a difference in opinion), they have been prevented from participating. If they somehow manage to be admitted to the trip anyway, they face harassment and intimidation from Birthright: Former trip participants report having been singled out from the tour for interrogation by security after bringing up the Palestinians, as well as having been completely "banned...from asking political questions to speakers."

Taking issue with Alsheikh, Walter Holzberg, in a February 22, 2023, *Algemeiner* article, entitled, "Dartmouth Student Newspaper Article Slanders Birthright Israel," wrote the following:

---

Alsheikh appears to have no firsthand experience with Birthright, instead relying on a twisted view of the Arab-Israeli conflict to draw his conclusions.

"The Birthright trip is far-right, anti-Palestinian, and anti-peace." Alsheikh writes in the subheading.

He seems to throw in everything — except empirical evidence — to try and make his case.

For instance, he cites an off-color remark from philanthropist Sheldon Adelson, who died in 2021 and was one of Birthright's most prominent benefactors.

Alsheikh conveniently does not mention that the Birthright Foundation has a diverse pool of more than 40,000 donors from across the political spectrum. He also fails to disclose that investigations into Birthright's ability to maintain political neutrality have turned up no evidence of "right-wing influence."

A 2014 study conducted by researchers at Middlebury College and Brandeis University concluded that: “The present research generally finds that Taglit achieves its declared aim of fostering forms of homeland attachment that are politically neutral in the Israeli context.”

A 2017 report also drew similar conclusions as the 2014 study, finding that “The majority also felt that they heard authentic accounts of the conflict and that diverging opinions were respected.”

Alsheikh’s assertions that Birthright, its funders, and the State of Israel are “far-right” are likely attempts to excuse his bigotry, cloaking his antisemitism as political grievances. This is a common tactic pulled from the Soviet anti-Zionist playbook.

On April 21, 2023, *The Dartmouth* reported that: “Safety and Security was notified that a swastika — a hate symbol representing antisemitism, genocide and hatred co-opted by Adolf Hitler’s Nazi Party — had been etched into the dirt on the side of the Green, according to an email sent to the Dartmouth community by the Provost’s Office.”

Under the heading, “Many universities fumbled reactions to Hamas’ attack. Here’s how Dartmouth got it right,” the *Forward* reported on October 25, 2023, that Dartmouth would hold two public forums on the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, featuring professors from Israel, Lebanon and Egypt. The *Forward* quoted Dartmouth’s president, Sian Leah Beilock, as follows:

“Like many of you, I watched with growing horror the Hamas attack on Israel this weekend, the escalating violence, and the devastating loss of life, especially among civilians,” wrote Sian Leah Beilock, the university’s president, in a letter to the campus community urging students and faculty to attend the forums.

As reported in the February 4, 2024, *Wall Street Journal*, Dartmouth became the first Ivy League school, post-Covid to reinstate the SAT. According to the article:

The research, by faculty from Dartmouth and Brown University and published last month by Harvard University’s Opportunity Insights research center, found that test scores predicted variations in first-year college success even among students with similar characteristics and high school grades. Dartmouth faculty also reviewed anonymized data specifically for that college, issuing a report to Coffin and the school’s president endorsing the return to testing.

\*\*\*\*\*

[Lee Coffin, vice president and dean of admissions and financial aid,] said Dartmouth puts scores in context for each applicant, as it seeks to enroll students with diverse backgrounds. While a 1400 on the SAT might not wow admissions officers if it is reported by a student attending a high-achieving high school, he said, that same score would be notable from a student in a community where average scores were far lower.

According to the study, less-advantaged applicants—as measured by their financial situation or status as a first-generation college student—who submitted a 1400 score had twice the probability of admission to Dartmouth as more advantaged students with the same score.

In an ironic twist from the image of reasoned dialogue on Middle East issues that had won Dartmouth praise, as reported in the May 2, 2024 *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, “[s]tudents at Dartmouth announced their intention to create an encampment on Wednesday, two weeks after the protest movement’s first encampment went up at Columbia University. The *Jewish Telegraph Agency* story continued in part as follows:

Within an hour of the first tent going up, the students got an “arrest warning” from the school, and riot police arrived and began moving in an hour later, according to a timeline in the student newspaper.

\*\*\*\*\*

The escalation at Dartmouth was particularly notable for flying in the face of the public image the Ivy League school has cultivated since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

Many other schools — including fellow Ivies like Columbia and Harvard — have faced turmoil since the war’s start, including criticism from alumni alleging an inadequate response to Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel and protests from students angry about Israel’s ensuing war on Hamas.

Dartmouth, on the other hand, heavily touted its efforts to cultivate civil dialogue about the conflict among students and faculty, an approach that won the school a profile on “60 Minutes” and plaudits from the U.S. secretary of education. It is the only Ivy League university not to have had a federal discrimination investigation over antisemitism opened against it since Oct. 7.

Shortly after the foregoing, the May 22, 2024, *ADL Campus Crisis Daily* published the following:

In a disappointing move, the Dartmouth College Faculty of Arts and Sciences [voted](#) 183-163 to censure President Sian Leah Beilock for her decision to ask for police support in bringing a swift end to the growing anti-Israel encampment on May 1, a move that led to the arrest of 89 people. Religion professor Christopher MacEvitt introduced the motion, condemning Beilock's decision to involve the police. The motion seems to hold no purpose, but to further divide faculty at the New Hampshire college, as an administrator present shared that the measure has no formal consequences.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Dartmouth College Hillel of the William Jewett Tucker Foundation.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meals available at The Pavilion (located in the *FOCO*, otherwise known as the Class of 1953 Commons, the main dining hall on campus).
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes. According to Hillel: "Every year, Dartmouth Hillel teams up with Chabad at Dartmouth College for a Shabbat Dinner where we attempt to get all of the Jewish students on campus to attend. Chani Gray, the wife of Chabad's Rabbi Moshe Leib Gray, cooks all of the delicious food with the help of students from both organizations."
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad of Dartmouth, 19 Allen Street, Hanover
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Jewish Studies Program)*: 2.

## Duke University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 790< (12-13%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Modest (upgraded from a previous Highest: see article at the end of this profile )***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 19***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 22***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 124/248***

***Comparable Schools: Brown, Cornell, Dartmouth, Northwestern, Stanford and University of Virginia***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2023 gift of \$10 Million from the Robert and Lisa Margolis Family Foundation to extend the work of the Margolis Center for Health Policy; 2011 gift of \$50 Million from Bruce and Martha Karsh***

Duke, the ACC basketball titan, is increasingly the school of choice for gifted, but basketball nutty, students, over places such as Brown, Cornell and Dartmouth. Regularly ranked high on everyone's list, Duke's student body has chosen athletic fun and academics over what it might have encountered at institutions with more of a single focus. Take in the sights walking around Duke's Oxford-inspired campus and you will encounter collegiate Gothic buildings equaled only by Yale, but in a considerably more relaxed North Carolina setting. Duke's chapel competes in grandeur with the most impressive in the country, including the splendid Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago.

If all this architectural formality gets to you, there is always the Duke Gardens. Designed and excavated in the late 1930s and 1940s, the Gardens evoke the splendor of European royalty, but, again, in the laid-back setting of North Carolina. Dumbarton Oaks in the District of Columbia and Longwood Gardens in New Jersey have cause to be envious when compared to the Duke Gardens.

As with many colleges of its ilk, Duke's students have been at the forefront of combatting intolerance. However, as has also been true of many other similar institutions, this willingness to confront prejudice appears to stop when Jewish students are at the receiving end of anti-Israel hostility. This phenomenon is summed up by an article in the September 16, 2016, *Washington Post* focusing on the absence

of “safe spaces” when Jewish students are involved. In the article, a Duke student is quoted as follows:

Tyler Fredricks, a student at Duke, has noticed the variation in responses from the SJP-aligned progressive crowd when instances of anti-Semitism occur.

“When someone wrote ‘No n—s, whites only’ on a Black Lives Matter flyer, the Duke community held a march where over a hundred students marched and rallied in support. They did the same thing when someone wrote a homophobic slur in the dorms,” Fredricks said. “When someone wrote anti-Semitic comments on a Duke Friends of Israel flyer, there was no march, rally or campus outrage.”

This apparent willingness to tolerate anti-Semitism appears to go hand in glove with the conflating of SJP claims of oppression against Palestinians with the grievances advanced by more mainstream segments of society such as greens, gays and people of color. The following account of such a conflating of interests appeared in a November 2, 2015 *Workers World* account of an SJP-sponsored march in Durham, North Carolina where Duke is located.

People marched and rallied here on Oct. 30 to show solidarity with the uprising in Palestine. The demonstration also centrally connected the struggle against racist police terror and the prison-industrial complex, and for Black liberation at home, to the Palestinian struggle against the state of Israel and U.S. imperialism.

The march gathered at a park near downtown, where solidarity statements were read by representatives of Black Workers for Justice, the Duke University chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, Workers World Party and the Green Party. A statement prepared by march organizers and read prior to the start of the march asserted: “We stand in solidarity with the #BlackLivesMatter Uprising. We want an end to occupation, racist violence and displacement .....

With chants of “Free, free Palestine!” and “From Durham to Gaza, globalize the Intifada!” the march stepped off and passed by crowded downtown bars and restaurants.

In late October 2017, Duke found itself in another anti-Israel political storm. At that time, the Duke University Press announced the forthcoming publication of a book by Jasbir Puar, entitled “The Right to Maim: Debility, Capacity, Disability. According to the October 30, 2017, *Washington Free Beacon*, a conservative

newspaper owned by Jewish financier Paul Singer, Puar, a notorious anti-Israel polemicist and a women and genders study professor at Rutgers, argues in her book:

[T]he Israel Defense Force has "shown a demonstrable pattern over decades of sparing life, of shooting to maim rather than to kill," an "ostensibly humanitarian" policy that is actually part of Israel's project of "creating injury and maintaining Palestinian populations as perpetually debilitated, and yet alive, in order to control them."

Puar has touted the foregoing theme at college venues such as Columbia, Dartmouth, NYU, Rutgers, Vassar and Stanford. According to the *Free Beacon* article, in one such presentation at Vassar, "Puar refused to permit the college to record her talk—in which she allegedly claimed Israel 'mined [Palestinian bodies] for organs for scientific research'—and restrictions were placed on the recording of her Dartmouth appearance."

The decision to publish Puar's screed was the subject of a November 28, 2017, article in *The Tower*, entitled "Bedeviled by Anti-Israel Boycotters at Duke." The article described the composition of Duke's Editorial Advisory Board and goes on to take aim at the prevalence of anti-Israel voices on the Duke faculty:

Recently, Duke University Press (DUP) published *The Right to Maim: Debility, Capacity, Disability*, by Jasbir Puar. Elsewhere, I have written about Puar's modernized brand of blood libel, which often relies on the fog of absurd, self-consciously academic jargon to disseminate anti-Semitism. At least six members of Duke's Editorial Advisory Board and a number of DUP staff members publicly support initiatives related to the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel. As the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) explains, "The predominant drive of the BDS campaign and its leadership is not criticism of policies, but the demonization and delegitimization of Israel."

No less a source than the U.S. Department of State recognizes the demonization of Israel, the application of a double standard to that nation, and attempts to delegitimize it, as three distinct examples of anti-Semitism. Numerous members of the faculty and staff at Duke commonly engage in such acts. Sometimes, the validity of an entire department may be in question. The Cultural Anthropology Department lists ten faculty members with the title of Professor. Of these, seven have supported initiatives related to the BDS movement. . . .

During an interview with me, Duke freshman Natalie Ecanow observed that such a situation "makes it really hard for me to seek out cultural anthropology classes...if they are being taught by professors who are actively supporting a movement which is an attack on who I am and the

lifeblood of my people.” She added “Having Duke professors support BDS divides the campus into two camps. It fragments our communities.”

Max Cherman, Duke class of 2020, shares his sentiments: “Many academics are not aware of the intricacies and complexities of issues regarding Israel....[They] feel obligated to support the non-European, darker-skin and supposedly ‘indigenous’ people (even while Jews have lived in the Holy Land for millennia). Many academics seemingly interpret highly complex geo-political situations from a single lens: that of white oppression and colonialism,” Cherman explained.

As reported in the March 1, 2020, edition of *Algemeiner*, almost three years after publication of Puar’s book, the Duke University Press published a review of the book in its own *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*. As reported in the *Algemeiner* account:

In the review, Stephen Sheehi, Professor of Middle East Studies and Professor of Arab Studies at the College of William and Mary — makes the grotesque, thinly veiled comparison of Israel to the Third Reich when he suggests that Israel may wish to exterminate the Palestinians: “One seriously wonders if Israel would want to completely erase the Palestinian people (through death or displacement) if they could get away with it.”

According to the May 2, 2018, *Jewish Telegraph Agency* (“JTA”), anti-Semitic and white supremacist posters were found near the Duke campus in downtown Durham. According to the *JTA* article:

One of the posters showed a silhouetted man pointing a gun at an image of a bearded man with a long nose wearing a kippah, with tentacles wrapped around the earth. The poster reads “Right of revolution. Your ancestors threw off foreign oppression, time for you as well.” Other posters read “Greedy Jews” and “End Zionist Oppression.”

According to the November 20, 2018, *Jewish Journal*, a swastika was found painted on a mural at Duke commemorating the victims of the Tree of Life tragedy in Pittsburgh. As described by the *Journal* account, the mural

had been painted by students in October at East Campus Bridge shortly after the shooting and featured a Star of David, the Pittsburgh Steelers emblem, and the names of the 11 victims of the shooting. The swastika was drawn over the Star of David in bright red marker.

According to Carly Pildis, the author of an April 2019 *Tablet* article about anti-Semitism on campus, entitled “Enough is Enough,” one Duke student told her:



“It’s been especially hard as a Jewish activist of color seeing a bunch of my friends condemn a ‘white settler colonial state’ and completely whitening my culture and erasing my family’s story,” said a student at Duke. “Especially when I feel so passionately about the work I’ve done with these people on domestic issues.”

As reported in the February 25, 2019, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, forty-eight percent of female undergraduates at Duke say they were sexually assaulted.

According to a July 15, 2019 *Associated Press* story, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said her “department [was then] investigating a March conference on the Middle East that was organized by Duke University and the University of North Carolina. The event, which was funded with an Education Department grant, drew complaints of anti-Israel bias.” According to the January 31, 2020, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, Duke ultimately reached an agreement with the De Vos’ Department of Education to resolve the complaints. As reported by *Inside Higher Ed*, “[i]n the agreement, Duke agreed to issue a statement saying that the university does not tolerate anti-Semitic harassment or discrimination. The university also agreed to revise its discrimination policy to ‘provide a description of forms of anti-Semitism that can manifest in the University environment.’ The university did not as part of the agreement admit wrongdoing.”

On October 23, 2019, a speech by former Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni was interrupted by around two dozen Duke protesters. Around 2 ½ minutes after the protest began, the students began to file out of the auditorium shouting “shame” and “you don’t belong here.”

According to the October 24, 2019, edition of the Duke student newspaper, *The Chronicle*, the event was sponsored in part by the American Grand Strategy Program. *The Chronicle* quoted Professor Peter Feaver, director of the program, as saying he was disappointed by the protesters’ tactics: “I understand their passion, but I was disappointed in the approach they took, which had the effect of closing off discussion rather than promoting it.” The article also quoted one of the protestors, a Duke sophomore, as saying that Feaver had asked the organizers of the protest to “explore whether there [were] more constructive ways” of organizing. However, employing the language of identity politics, the student responded by saying the assumption that “everyone would benefit from the conversation was based on ‘white privilege’ and was an ‘act of violence,’ necessitating a protest.”

In an October 6, 2020 *Algemeiner* article, Ben Stone, a 2020/21 CAMERA on Campus Fellow at Duke University, wrote a critique of Duke’s SJP chapter’s efforts at conflating anti-Zionism with anti-colonialism and to ascribing responsibility for the killing of George Floyd to Israeli training received by the Minnesota police officers involved in the killing. In pertinent part, Stone’s critique stated the following:

Many proponents of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement conflate the struggle for racial justice in the United States and the war against Israel's existence as a Jewish state. Duke University's Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter, unsurprisingly, is no exception; they hide behind their social media accounts to promote outright falsehoods, attempting to paint anti-Zionist activism as a virtuous fight against colonialism.

\*\*\*\*\*

To quote Duke SJP's Instagram page directly: "We are motivated by that revolutionary love and support that has existed between both communities of color who live under white supremacist settler-colonial states."

This is racist and uneducated agitprop.

\*\*\*\*\*

Another howler that Duke's SJP chapter has uttered is that Israel is somehow responsible for police brutality in the US, and therefore also responsible for the murder of George Floyd. As I recently wrote, these claims "[aren't] rooted in seeking justice for a murdered man, but in advocating hatred of Israel." Specifically, the Duke SJP post in question says that the "officers from the US police force responsible for the killing of George Floyd received training in restraint techniques and anti-terror tactics from Israeli law-enforcement officers." This is an entirely unfounded claim.

A recent article published in the *Morning Star* — a UK-based far-left outlet — made a similar claim, only to later issue a public correction of their statement, clarifying, "We have amended this and the headline as there is no evidence that the conference mentioned in the report involved training in restraint techniques specifically. We would like to apologize for any confusion caused."

According to its November 18, 2021, News Desk, *FIRE* reported that, on November 15, 2021, Duke's Student Government President, Christina Wang, overturned the Student Government's prior recognition of a new chapter of Students Supporting Israel. The *FIRE* account stated that her veto was "based solely on a social media post that Wang said 'was unacceptable for any student group and appeared antithetical to the group's stated mission to be welcoming and inclusive to all Duke students.'" The *FIRE* account went on to state:

SSI's "offense" was that on its Instagram page, it posted a screenshot of a Duke student's public tweet — which criticized the student senate's recognition of SSI just three days prior as promoting "settler colonialism" — with a caption offering to educate the student "on what 'settler colonialism' actually is and why Israel does not fall under this category whatsoever."

*FIRE* further stated:

With this move, Duke's student government is consciously punishing SSI for engaging in debate and responding to its critics — engagement that should be encouraged, not punished, at an institution dedicated to free expression. After all, how one responds to a critic *without* singling them out is a mystery. Even if one believes the organization's response to be uncivil, Duke's student government may not deny students the rights Duke guarantees because the students' expression does not meet subjective standards of civility.

In an article that focused on the hypocrisy of the Duke Student Government in barring SSI from campus while failing to take action against blatant anti-Jewish actions by SJP students, the November 22, 2021, *Algemeiner* noted the case of a former Duke student named Hadeel Abdelhy. According to the *Algemeiner*:

In late 2019, Abdelhy repeatedly posted an altered picture on social media of 10 students from the Duke Israel Public Affairs Committee (DIPAC). Superimposed over each DIPAC student's face was a clown face, which made Jewish students feel targeted and harassed on campus.

Rather than publicly condemn this action, Duke SJP members "liked" the image on social media, thus throwing their support behind the specific targeting of Jewish and pro-Israel students on campus.

After Jewish students raised concerns, Abdelhy publicly tweeted, "So I'm going to repeat myself again, f\*\*k DIPAC and every Zionist."

Two weeks later, Abdelhy tweeted, "Dear DIPAC ... I will continue to viciously attack y'all."

In the tweet, Abdelhy singled out a Jewish Duke student at the time, Max Cherman, by name.

In a 2020 tweet, Abdelhy brazenly bragged about bullying pro-Israel students on campus. And the Duke Student Government did nothing. They took no action against Abdelhy or SJP.

As reported in the November 22, 2021, *Duke Today*, Duke President Vincent E. Price and Provost Sally Kornbluth issued a statement regarding the foregoing actions of the Duke Student Government in denying recognition to SSI. In pertinent part, the statement stated that:

The recent vote by Duke Student Government to overturn an earlier decision to recognize the Students Supporting Israel (SSI) has raised concerns about whether students have been treated in accordance with university policy that prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon national origin and religion, which includes anti-Semitism. Duke's Office of Institutional Equity and the Office of Conduct and Community Standards are reviewing this matter to determine whether further actions are merited.

\*\*\*\*\*

To be clear, the actions of Duke Student Government are independent of, and not determined by or sanctioned by, the university. Nor does a lack of formal recognition by student government prevent students from organizing in groups as they wish; there are many organizations that continue to operate at Duke in different ways without such recognition, and the university has identified options for SSI to secure financial and programmatic support.

We want to take this opportunity to underscore our steadfast commitments to Duke's Jewish community; to our shared values; to robust and open debate; to students' rights to associate, including student self-governance; and to a campus free from racism and anti-Semitism.

As reported by the December 18, 2021, *Jerusalem Post*, the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Civil Rights, adding its voice to those demanding that the SSI at Duke be recognized, alleged that federal civil rights law had been broken due to 'special scrutiny' that other non-Jewish groups are not subjected to. According to the article, the Brandeis Center stated that "recognition is the only way to ensure the University's compliance with federal law, arguing that Duke ha[d] discriminated on the basis of national origin and shared ethnicity in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

In his March 21, 2022, *Forbes* article entitled, How Universities Continue To Turn A Blind Eye Toward Campus Anti-Semitism, senior contributor, Evan Gerstmann, described Mohammed El-Kurd, a then forthcoming speaker invited by the Duke student government, as follows:

The student government at Duke University has recently voted to fund a campus speech by a virulent critic of Israel. There is nothing wrong with criticizing any nation, but this speaker, Mohammed El-Kurd, says that Israel and Jewish settlers have “an unquenchable thirst for Palestinian blood . . .”. This is an obvious allusion to the ancient anti-Semitic “Blood Libel” that Jews use Christian children’s blood to bake Matzah’s.

El-Kurd also describes Zionists (those supporting the existence of the State of Israel) as “Fascists. Terrorists. Colonizers.” On top of that, he describes Zionism as a “death cult”, “murderous”, “genocidal” and “sadistic”.

If a campus speaker spoke about any other group of people this way it would be seen as hate speech.

As reported in the April 13, 2022, *Algemeiner*, Mohammed El-Kurd, a columnist for *The Nation*, conducted a college tour in support of his new book, “Rifqa,” during which he made a stop at Duke. According to the *Algemeiner* account, “El-Kurd has trafficked in antisemitic tropes, demonized Zionism, and falsely accused Israelis of eating the organs of Palestinians.” Duke Students Supporting Israel (“SSI”) president, Alexandra Ahdoot, attended the El-Kurd event. The following excerpt from the *Algemeiner* story was her account of the event:

Ahdoot herself attended El-Kurd’s speech, during which, she said, “he actually had the audacity to call me out personally.”

“Not by name,” she continued, “but he did try to ridicule me in front of the entire audience, saying that this was the most backlash he had ever received for an entire event, and then he said he didn’t care. But what got really under his skin the most was a student who published an op-ed saying that she felt endangered by his presence, and that student was me.”

“There was something interesting I noticed: he used the terms Jews, Israelis, and Zionists interchangeably, which many anti-Semites do, but I honestly thought he was going to be more careful coming here so that we wouldn’t have anything to use against him; but he was clearly calling out the Jewish people as a religious group.”

During El-Kurd’s remarks, audience members hooted when he mentioned Zionist students and advocates, Ahdoot recounted. Later, a response he gave during the event’s Q&A portion triggered uproarious applause.

“At one point, someone asked, ‘Mr. El-Kurd, we know you say ‘from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,’ but what about Israelis living in the area?’” Ahdoot recalled. “And, [El-Kurd] says, I quote, ‘I don’t care, I truly sincerely don’t give a f\*\*\*.’ The audience gave him a standing

ovation, it was really deafening. And in that moment, I wondered, ‘What has the world come to?’”

According to the June 1, 2022 edition of *Campus Reform*, “on May 19, [2022] Duke University posted a series of pictures to its Instagram account showcasing Duke students on a Birthright trip to Israel. The university then removed the post approximately 24 hours later following criticism from anti-Israel voices on social media.”

As reported by the September 22, 2022, *Algemeiner*, human rights activist Bassem Eid, a Palestinian native and chairman of The Center for Near East Policy Research, was invited to the university by the Duke Students Supporting Israel, which as noted above, had survived an attempted denial of recognition in 2021. As reported by the *Algemeiner*, “Eid accused progressive organizations, including Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), of leveraging the Palestinian plight to aggrandize and enrich themselves, charging that ‘they are using us.’ ”

The following is excerpted from an uplifting article that appeared in the May 20, 2024, *Forward*:

While Jewish students at other schools say administrators have mismanaged the protests or disregarded their concerns about antisemitism, many at Duke praised top leadership, which swiftly condemned the Hamas attack on Oct. 7 and subsequently banned a popular pro-Palestinian slogan from campus. Some said that two dozen students walking out of Seinfeld’s speech as he addressed 6,900 of their peers is less notable than the fact that Duke had welcomed the comedian in the first place, given that he had been heckled as a “genocide supporter” for his defense of Israel in recent months.

“It’s the very fact that they invited him,” said Rabbi Nossen Fellig, who runs the Chabad house for Duke undergrads.

Fellig himself seems to be key to the comfort of pro-Israel students on campus. He has helped organize and mobilize them to become zealous advocates at a university where concerns about political issues are overshadowed by sports fandom. Enrollment in the humanities has cratered over the past decade in favor of career-focused majors like computer science and economics.

“Different people apply to Duke than apply to northeastern Ivy Leagues,” said Jonah Scherl, a senior who served as co-president of Chabad on campus. “Duke has a less political campus.”

Duke wasn’t always a bastion of pro-Israel activism, or home to any kind of Jewish community.

When Joel Fleishman came to campus as a law professor in 1971, he was assured that the southern university was committed to ending its restrictions on Jews. “The president said, ‘We’ve now canceled the Duke quota, Jews can feel welcome at Duke,’” Fleishman recalled. “And I think they were.”

Duke’s Jewish enrollment soared from the 3-5% allowed under a series of quotas beginning in the 1930s to as high as 20% in the 1960s and has settled at around 800 undergraduates, or roughly 12% of the school, according to Hillel.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Rubenstein-Silvers Hillel which is housed at the Freeman Center).
- *Kosher meals*: Available during the week at Henry’s Place in the Heyman Dining Hall at the Freeman Center. Kosher meals also available on Shabat.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes (Conservative and reform).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad of Duke University Undergrads, 1308 W. Markham Avenue, Durham.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: None.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Center for Jewish Studies)*: 2.

## **Emory University**

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,200 (17%)***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate (Incited by outside elements, highest since October 7, 2023, and Hamas' deadly rampage through southern Israel)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 1***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 3***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 5***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 202/248***

***Comparable Schools: Brandeis, Cornell, Northwestern, Vanderbilt, University of Virginia and Washington University in St. Louis***

***Jewish President: Gregory Fennes***

Located in the tree-lined suburb of Atlanta popularized by the movie *Driving Miss Daisy*, Emory is an increasingly ascendant national university, with a caring administration, an immaculate marble-faced campus, a highly successful pre-med program, and a devoted alumni (many of whom in recent years have been Jewish). Students at Emory enjoy considerable latitude in satisfying a variety of core curriculum requirements. On January 31, 2022, Emory announced that, beginning with the 2022-23 academic year, it planned to eliminate need-based loans as part of undergraduate student financial aid packages, and would be replacing them with institutional grants and scholarships.

Funded with Coca Cola money, Emory has a perfectly manicured campus and an increasingly superlative student body. However, its history of antisemitism is not as perfect. On October 6, 2012, the *New York Times* published an article entitled, *Emory Confronts a Legacy of Antisemitism*. The following are the first three paragraphs from the article:

Early in the summer of 1952, after his first year of dental school at Emory University in Atlanta, Perry Brickman received a letter from the dean. It informed him that he had flunked out.



Mr. Brickman was mystified. He had been a B-plus student in biology as an Emory undergraduate and had earned early admission to dental school. He had never failed a course in his life.

Over the next few weeks of that summer, Mr. Brickman found out that three of his classmates had also been failed. All of them happened to be Jewish. Yet instead of fighting back, Mr. Brickman and his friends searched for other dental schools and swallowed a shame that lasted decades.

Emory's rise to national prominence may be credited in large part to a 1979 gift of \$100 million—at the time, the largest gift ever made to an educational institution—by former Coca Cola CEO, Robert Woodruff. The gift was part of a national promotion of Emory, with the goal of reaching regions where Emory had previously not had a significant presence, such as the Northeast corridor. Prior to that time, the Jewish population at Emory had held fast at less than 10%. However, with its push for national prominence and the establishment of one of the first Jewish Studies programs in the South, Emory began to attract Jewish students from all over the country.

Today, Jewish students abound at the Emory campus. The Holocaust scholar, Deborah Lipstadt, whose legal battle against Holocaust denier, David Irving, was the subject of the acclaimed movie, *Denial*, has been one of Emory's teaching treasures.

Fortunately, Emory's Jewish students have not had to confront the level of anti-Zionism seen at other elite campuses. In 2015, however, the Emory SJP did construct an "Apartheid Wall" at the Dobbs University Center Terraces. According to the February 24, 2015 *Emory Wheel*, the wall was subsequently torn down in what was described as an act of vandalism. In the story, the *Wheel* described the Wall "as meant to raise awareness of Israel's oppression of Palestinian people."

Then, in early April 2019, mock eviction notices were left outside dorm rooms, particularly rooms displaying a mezuzah. According to the April 3, 2019, *Algemeiner*,

Emory Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) left the fake notices in residence halls and on dorm doors as part of its "Israeli Apartheid Week" program, which coincides with Emory Eagles for Israel's ongoing "Israel Week." The flyers shared allegations, disputed by Israeli officials, that Israel "routinely" gives Palestinians eviction notices "for no other reason than their ethnicity," and is attempting to "ethnically cleanse the region of its Arab inhabitants."

According to Carly Pildis, the author of an April 2019 *Tablet* article about anti-Semitism on campus, entitled "Enough is Enough," one Emory student, Melissa

Harari, told her: “This has been one of the most anxiety ridden weeks of my life. I went to an SJP event and introduced myself and said I’d love to have coffee and speak with them. The students dismissed me, rolled their eyes and laughed.”

Unfortunately, Emory’s response to the eviction notice episode was tepid when considered in conjunction with the widespread concern expressed by Harari and other Jewish students who were worried about invasion of their personal space. While acknowledging that the manner in which speech is expressed has consequences, the Emory administration also seemed to treat the posting of the fliers as a procedural violation. As noted in the *Algemeiner* account:

In its own statement, Emory noted that “while a student group received permission to post the flyers, they did not comply with posting guidelines and the flyers were removed.” The violations appeared related to leaving the flyers on the doors of students without their consent.

According to the April 8, 2019, *Atlanta Jewish Times*, various Jewish organizations urged the university to punish the Emory SJP for having posted the fake notices on dormitory doors. In reaction the SJP called for a boycott of numerous Jewishly-affiliated campus organizations. Specifically, as reported by the *Jewish Times*, SJP demanded the following:

We call on Emory University to cease validating the bigoted smear campaign and to discipline students and other Emory community members that are complicit in the ongoing harassment. We further call on all community members to avoid endorsing or co-sponsoring events and activities with Emory Hillel, the Zionist Organization of America, EIPAC [Emory Israel Public Affairs Committee], Emory Eagles for Israel, Emory Chabad or others complicit in this activity until they rescind and curtail their ongoing harassment campaign,” said a statement by the Emory Students for Justice in Palestine on April 5, which was followed by the names of dozens of supporters from inside and outside the university.

No punishment was meted out. Instead, the Emory University Senate Standing Committee for Open Expression issued an opinion on April 15, 2019, in which it determined that [aside for the confusion it may have caused to residents with limited English skills] the flyer is fully protected political speech under the Open Expression Policy, and Residence Life staff acted properly in approving the flyers for posting according to the posting guidelines.

In an op-ed entitled, “Dialogue on Israel-Palestine Should Be the Beginning,” published in the November 17, 2019, edition of the *Emory Wheel*, the school’s student newspaper, two Jewish Emory students called out the Emory Students for Justice in

Palestine (ESJP) for their failure to engage in any form of dialogue regarding the Israel-Palestine dispute. The following excerpts from their article capture the anti-Semitic character of ESJP's intransigence and the importance of engaging in thoughtful discussions.

Emory Students for Justice In Palestine (ESJP) claims that people having honest conversations with people of different perspectives is actually "a guise to control and silence those speaking the truth about the state of Israel." We believe that people meeting in good faith to share their different views in order to find common ground is virtuous. We find ESJP's belief to be alarming, ahistorical and antithetical to academic values.

\*\*\*\*\*

ESJP has proven incapable of having difficult conversations about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict without employing stereotypes. They've shared cartoons from an artist who participated in an Iranian Holocaust cartoon competition; accused their fellow students and the Emory administration of being under the spell of an Israeli "program" and notably said the quiet part out loud: they do not believe Israel has a right to exist. They don't believe that the Jewish people deserve the right to self-determination. This is literally textbook anti-Semitism. Part of the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism is "making allegations about the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy" and "denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination." These views should be beyond the pale and viewed as extremist, but the opposite has happened. The Wheel has awarded them credibility, and a portion of the student population undoubtedly believes this is all fine.

\*\*\*\*\*

ESJP has remained skeptical of dialogue by calling it "a means of violence." This position is antithetical to the values of higher education. The cornerstone of the college experience is conversation in which your beliefs may be challenged. It is through honest discussion of multiple divergent perspectives and the interaction of conflicting ideas that students become stronger critical and analytical thinkers. Diversity of thought sharpens our ideas by making us see the world more holistically. The Narratives Dinner was an attempt to achieve that noble goal. Far from being a violent event, it epitomized our shared educational values.

\*\*\*\*\*

The day after ESJP declared that they'd refuse to be a part of any dialogue, the Narratives Dinner, arranged by a Jewish student and a Muslim student, took place — with some ESJP members present. The event's stated aim to "bring together the Emory community to engage in dialogue on personal experiences with the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" was realized. People of vastly different backgrounds with different perspectives came together in good faith and respectfully discussed the very personal stories and connections to the conflict. It was a big win for the students present, and a bigger win for our democracy.

In a January 9, 2020, *Washington Post* article, Emory University student, David Kulp, described what it was like wearing a kippah on campus. After describing how his kippah had opened up many avenues of discussion, Kulp described the downside of wearing a religious article that openly identified him as a religious Jew.

It has made me — and many others — targets of anti-Semitic and discriminatory mocking, stereotypes, words, attacks and violence. And admittedly, at times, I'm afraid to wear it in public. This deeply disturbs and upsets me, particularly as the grandson of Holocaust survivors who fought so hard to ensure a safe life for me as a Jewish young adult in America.

Last year during a heated campus-wide debate over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I found "Treat all faiths equally, not just the ones with money" chalked on the sidewalk of my university quad, harking back to age-old stereotypes about Jewish people. I've been called a white supremacist and militant Zionist, and I've been excluded from campus organizations because of my affiliation with Jewish community clubs. The visible sign of a kippah makes me a target for vitriol from both sides of the political spectrum.

I've always felt safe wearing my kippah at Emory, but recently — for the first time — I feel increased vulnerability in being publicly recognized as Jewish.

Despite the foregoing, Kulp finished with the following upbeat note:

Even with recent threats, I feel empowered to wear my kippah even more proudly in hopes of building a more cohesive community of global citizens that can engage respectfully in civil discourse. And I encourage myself and other Jews to stand proud of their Jewish practice, heritage and tradition. I won't be a victim. I am Jewish and proud.

Writing in the June 27, 2022, *Algemeiner*, Emory student, Samantha Strelzer, described as follows how she had been harassed on campus as a result of participating

in a Taglit Birthright trip to Israel: My name is Samantha Strelzer, and I am the President of the Rollins Student Government Association at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University.

I recently went on a Taglit-Birthright trip to Israel, and since that time, I have been the victim of a harassment and defamation campaign both online and offline. I know that this is sadly an all too [common](#) occurrence, and that across the country, students who dare to express a pro-Israel point of view or visit the Holy Land are [ostracized](#) on campus. But I have decided to fight back, because spreading lies and hate to score political points is simply unacceptable.

My chief attacker is actually a fellow board member at Rollins, who did not even have the decency to engage me in conversation before she began to assault and demean my character in public.

First, she falsely accused the State of Israel of a number of crimes, including apartheid and genocide. Then, building off those false and inflammatory accusations, she went on to claim that *I*, an American Jewish student of Public Health on a week-long educational trip to the region, am actually a “direct contributor to this apartheid and killing of indigenous people.”

My fellow student accused me of “promoting war and genocide,” and of “support for colonial murderers”; she labeled me a “hypocrite and coward,” with “crumbling morals and a weak moral compass”; and she called for me to lose my position as an elected student leader.

Putting aside (but not dismissing the above episodes), Emory does pride itself in having a nurturing environment amidst four years of academic excellence—a factor which historically has added to its attractiveness among Jewish students. Further, owing to its holistic approach to educating its students, Emory gets the nod over other highly regarded private institutions. But, a word to the wise, if your child is interested, even if he or she is Ivy League material, you had better make sure that his or her interest is well conveyed to the Emory admissions department. Emory does not look kindly on Ivy wannabes who settle in disappointment for Georgia’s finest.

On June 7, 2019, *Inside Higher Ed* reported that Emory had received a \$180 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—the largest grant in the history of the school—in support of its Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance Network, which focuses on the prevention of child.

As reported in the July 31, 2021, *Jerusalem Post*, President Joe Biden formally named Deborah Lipstadt, the renowned professor of Modern Jewish History and

Holocaust Studies at Emory, as the Special US Envoy to combat and monitor Antisemitism. It took a while for Professor Lipstadt to be confirmed. However, on March 31, 2022, the Emory University website reported that professor Lipstadt had, indeed, been confirmed by the Senate to the foregoing position with the rank of ambassador. The website account went on to state:

Described by the White House as “a renowned scholar of the Holocaust and modern antisemitism,” Lipstadt is Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies in Emory’s Tam Institute for Jewish Studies and the Department of Religion.

As reported by the April 2, 2024, *The Emory Wheel*, “in a tense protest Tuesday night [April 2, 2024], pro-Palestinian protestors “assaulted” an Emory University School of Law student in front of Chabad at Emory’s house. The protest began around 6:30 p.m., with pro-Palestinian demonstrators gathered around the front entrance with signs and Palestinian flags.” The *Emory Wheel* account continued as follows:

Emory Students for Justice in Palestine (ESJP) helped organize the protest in response to Emory Chabad hosting an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Reservist Commander for dinner and a talk. The Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States, Anat Sultan-Dadon, was also in attendance.

The law student, who requested to remain anonymous due to safety concerns, brought his car adorned with American and Israeli flags to the Chabad house parking lot. The student said he was holding an Israeli flag at the Chabad fence when the assault occurred.

“Multiple guys came up to me from the bottom [of the fence], and they reached through the fence to grab the flag because I was on my side of the line,” the student said. “They punched me in the stomach, grabbed the flag and started a back and forth, and then one of them spit at me. And then I went to the cops, and apparently one of the guys that engaged in that had flashed his gun that he was carrying.”

Then, on April 26, 2024, Emory’s Vice-President for Public Safety issued the following message to the Emory community:

I’m writing to share further information about the events that took place on our Atlanta campus earlier today and the actions taken by the Emory Police Department (EPD). At 7:41 a.m. a few dozen protestors arrived on campus. When they arrived, these individuals ignored and pushed past EPD officers stationed on the Quad and set up tents in an area where equipment and materials were staged for Commencement. Based on their actions and refusal to confirm their connection to Emory, EPD

made the assessment that these individuals were not Emory community members. Officers with the Atlanta Police Department and Georgia State Patrol were then called to provide further assistance. Around this time, several social media accounts announced a protest and occupation of the Quad and issued a public call for non-Emory community members to join them. EPD issued multiple warnings at different intervals advising individuals in the encampment that they were trespassing on private property and instructing them to leave. When those requests were ignored, Atlanta Police and Georgia State Patrol officers assisted EPD with dispersing the crowd and taking individuals into custody for criminal trespass.

During this process and the subsequent confrontations, objects were thrown at police officers. To our knowledge at this time, an individual attacked a non-EPD officer and appears to have been tased. Video of this incident has been widely shared on social media. Based on current information, this individual is not a member of the Emory community. Due to the direct assault of officers, law enforcement released chemical irritants into the ground to assist with crowd control. As of this message, we have been notified that 28 individuals have been arrested, including 20 Emory community members, some of whom have been released. We are working with responding agencies to expedite the release of any Emory community members who remain in custody. Our primary goal today was clearing the Quad of a disruptive encampment while holding individuals accountable to the law.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes: Marcus Hillel Center, a 10,500 square foot facility at 735 Gatewood Road.
- *Kosher meals*: Café 613 at the Marcus Hillel Center has a kosher café. In addition, kosher meals provided on Shabat and Holidays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Several services available.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad House at Emory University, 1526 North Decatur Road
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.  
*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Tam Institute for Jewish Studies)*: 4.

## **Georgetown University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 450 (6%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: High***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 107***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 106***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 28***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 245/248***

***Comparable Schools: Boston College, Emory, Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame, University of Virginia and Vanderbilt***

Though a traditionally Catholic school, Georgetown has attracted Jewish undergraduate and graduate students for decades. At the undergraduate level, the percentage of Jewish students is small. However, the 450 Jewish undergraduate students who are proud to call themselves Georgetown Hoyas are close knit and mutually supportive. At the graduate level, Jewish representation exceeds 10%, with substantially higher levels in the professional schools.

Georgetown's academic prowess is matched by its impressive, although compact, campus. The university is situated in the charming Federalist and brownstone Georgetown section of Washington DC. The stupendous old campus boasts three gorgeous Gothic-spired buildings surrounding a beautiful green. The newer part of the campus is a combination of tastefully designed residential and classroom buildings, most in the neo-Gothic style. The school, however, has become so popular (and, the corresponding need for construction so great) that there are few places on the new campus, save for the playing field, where one can find grassy areas.

Georgetown's campus does not project a predominant Catholic environment, although its magnificent collegiate Gothic buildings at the front end of the campus clearly speak to its Catholic origins. Once in the dense, but well designed, rear part of the campus, one feels very much part of a classic collegiate setting with little Catholic influence.

Jewish Life at Georgetown tries to make it easy for new students to engage in Jewish activities at the university through a mentoring program cleverly described



as *GUish Interns*. As described by *Jewish Life at Georgetown*, “[t]hrough one-on-one conversations, small interest group meetings, cultural events and ongoing relationships, interns become friendly companions for new students’ forays into all things Jewish at Georgetown.”

Although known best for its undergraduate program in international affairs and diplomacy, Georgetown is also strong in any number of other areas, including business, as evidenced by the recently constructed McDonough School of Business located in the center of the new campus. Georgetown’s basketball team won a national championship in 1980. However, it has not been a force for a while. Under the guiding hand of former Georgetown and NBA star, Patrick Ewing, Georgetown is hoping to regain its former basketball glory

SJP is very active on the Georgetown campus and student efforts to demonize Israel and promote BDS have been frequent. The following opinion piece, which appeared in the March 24, 2017 edition of the student newspaper, *The Hoya*, describes the tactics employed by SJP in its efforts to delegitimize Israel:

Delegitimization of Israel is the beating heart of anti-Israel activity at Georgetown. Israel is not simply flawed, the thinking goes, but inherently illegitimate. This can be seen in some of the claims promoted on SJP’s “Apartheid Wall” — that Zionism, the ideology that there should be a Jewish state in the Jewish homeland, is “racism,” that Israel exists on “stolen Palestinian land” and that the Israeli Defense Forces should be “abolished.” This form of delegitimization even extends to students; both the SJP and GU FREE have a policy that bars contact with the Georgetown Israel Alliance, comparing dialogue with Israel to dialogue with slave owners.

Even more alarmingly, a trope at SJP events is to delegitimize Israel by delegitimizing Jewish peoplehood itself. This was made painfully clear at a March 13 SJP event titled “The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine.” The speaker, Osama Abu Irshaid, insisted that Jews are “an invented people” without ancestral connection to the Biblical ancient Israelites. More than just flying in the face of genetic, linguistic and historical evidence, this anti-Semitic conspiracy theory, which was reiterated by three speakers at an SJP event March 15, serves to undermine Israel’s right to exist. Indeed, Abu Irshaid said that pro-Palestinian activists must help dismantle “this enterprise called Israel.”

In March 2017, *The Hoya* reported that swastikas were found scratched into the interior walls of an elevator in the Village C West area of the campus. In May 2017, *The Hoya* also reported that anti-Semitic graffiti (including a death threat) had again been found on campus, this time in a public restroom next to the Makom Jewish gathering space in the Levey Center, the university’s student center.

Following the above incidents, the Georgetown Christian Ministries issued a timely and pointed condemnation of anti-Semitism on the Georgetown campus. In the concluding paragraph of its stricture, the Ministries stated the following:

Georgetown is a home to our Jewish community; any attempt to alienate or exclude them contradicts the founding spirit of this university and the mandates of our Christian faith. The Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Christian communities pledge themselves to be sowers of “seeds of goodness” through our unwavering commitment to the safety and dignity of our Jewish family.

During the first week of September 2017, three more swastikas were found painted on or carved into the interior walls of two campus elevators. Later in the month, on *Rosh Hashanah*, September 20, 2017, a swastika was found in a residence restroom. In a September 29, 2017 editorial, the editorial board of *The Georgetown Voice* scathingly condemned these acts of intolerance and called upon the administration to take action and to take it quickly: “Georgetown needs to embody solidarity in action. The university continuously describes the value of diversity as part of our Jesuit heritage. For the sake of our Jewish community and all those threatened, we must create a Georgetown that lives up to this promise.”

On February 2, 2018, *The Hoya* published an extraordinarily gracious editorial in which it first noted the following anti-Semitic episode from Georgetown’s past:

Last month, Lauinger Library published archived editions of *The Hoya* dating back to 1930. The new digital collection included a 1939 editorial calling for more coverage of persecuted Christians and less coverage of Nazi-persecuted Jews.

The editorial asked why Adolf Hitler’s “anti-religious scourge has received such tremendous publicity in this Christian country.” The 1939 editorial board then answered its own question: “The great syndicates are controlled mainly by the brethren of the victims of Nazi oppression,” meaning the Jewish people.

*The Hoya* editorial continued by condemning the above-referenced incidents of anti-Semitic graffiti on campus and by noting the results of a student survey in which 71% of the 38 Jewish respondents stated they had experienced anti-Semitism on campus. The editorial concluded with a clarion call for greater vigilance against anti-Semitism on campus:

The record of Georgetown students on anti-Semitism is imperfect, and the too-often unaccepting climate of the present has been exposed; the

abhorrent views of our distant predecessors and the reckless actions of our peers serve as unflattering evidence.

Georgetown has evolved since 1939, but there is much more work to be done. For the Jewish community to be fully accepted and included at Georgetown, we students must honestly confront the frequent anti-Semitism present in the lives of our peers.

According to the December 25, 2022, the *Algemeiner*, on November 23, 2022, Georgetown SJP “posted a carousel on Instagram that featured the profiles of 16 ‘young Palestinians killed by Israeli forces.’ ” However, as pointed out by the *Algemeiner* account:, the carousel was derived from posts

by the anti-Zionist propaganda group Palestinian Youth Movement, the carousel listed names, photos and a brief “description” that presented the individuals as innocent victims of the IDF.

Cursory research, however, reveals a likely reason for Georgetown SJP’s omission of certain details regarding the deaths of these individuals: Of the 16 people listed, 12 were directly involved in acts of terror:

On November 3, 2023, the *Algemeiner* reported that Georgetown had posted the following: “We were recently made aware of hateful, antisemitic social media commentary alleged to have been made by a recently hired staff member who started working at the School of Foreign Service earlier this week,” Joel Hellman, dean of Georgetown’s Walsh School of Foreign Service (SFS), said in a statement. “The employee has been placed on immediate administrative leave, pending an investigation of the comments ... We strongly condemn antisemitism in all its forms.” The following is from the *Algemeiner* account:

Aneesa Johnson was hired by SFS to be the “primary point of contact” for master’s students on “everything academic.” Antisemitism watchdog groups were quick to flag that Johnson has a history of antisemitic social media posts and involvement in anti-Israel activity. Canary Mission, a group that tracks antisemitism online, has a lengthy profile on Johnson’s history, documenting her anti-Zionist activity.

According to social media posts published by Canary Mission, in July 2015, Johnson tweeted, “Ever since going to [Northwestern University] I have a deep seeded [sic] hate for Zio [sic] b—ches. They bring out the worst in me.”

Zio is a derogatory reference to Zionists that is often used as an antisemitic slur.

Johnson also posted, “You know why I call them Zio b—ches, because they’re dogs.”

Also following Hamas’ deadly rampage into Southern Israel, the December 19, 2023, *Times of Israel* reported that “[o]ne medical student mocked the massacre on TikTok: ‘People will wholeheartedly say that they would ‘kill for their family’ and yet not understand this.’ Another student castigated people on Instagram for “criticizing Palestinian resistance efforts.” The story continued as follows:

The posts shocked the handful of Jewish students who attend the nation’s largest Catholic and Jesuit medical school. Jewish students account for 3.8 percent of the university’s 13,337 graduate students.

“These posts are inciting, divisive, and inappropriate. The posts often reference ‘Zionist colleagues,’ which most likely attempts to call out the few Jewish students at the medical school. Furthermore, the posts all rely on ancient antisemitic themes and tropes such as Jews controlling the media, claiming that Jews simultaneously orchestrated the October 7 massacre and deserve what happened to them,” said one Jewish student at Georgetown’s medical school.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No, but the Jewish Chaplaincy/Hillel maintains offices on campus.
- *Kosher meals*: Yes, but only on Shabat and Jewish holidays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: High Holiday and Passover services are open to the public.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Operating out of temporary quarters.
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown.
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Harvard University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 700 (10%)(however, most recent entering class was noticeably less)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Highest

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade:*** F

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 4

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 2

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 31

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 248/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Columbia, Princeton, Stanford and Yale

***Jewish President:*** Alan M. Garber (through 2026)

***Major Jewish Donors:*** 2021 \$100 Million gift by Penny Pritzker for the Department of Economics; 2021 \$150 Million by Bloomberg Philanthropies for a new Center for Cities; 2018 gift of \$200 Million by the Blavatnik Family Foundation to the Harvard Medical School (the largest gift in in history of Harvard Medical School; 2015 gift of \$400 Million by John A. Paulson (the largest gift in in the history of Harvard University) to endow the School of Engineering and Applied Science; 2014 gift of \$26 Million by Bill and Karen Ackman (but see below for Bill Ackman's scorching letter calling out the university for its antisemitic environment following the October 2023 Hamas attack against Israel) 2013 gift of \$50 Million by the Blavatnik Family Foundation, for the purpose of supporting basic biomedical research and student entrepreneurship; 1995 gift of \$70.5 Million from John L. and Frances Lehman Loeb; 1994 gift of \$60 Million from Isabelle and Leonard Goldenson to the Harvard University Medical School. (However, on October 15, 2023, in the wake of a statement signed by thirty-four campus organizations expressing support for the Hamas' terrorism and Harvard President Claudine Gay's tepid response, longtime Harvard Kennedy School supporter, Leonard Wexner, announced he was cutting financial ties with the university (see below).

To MIT students down the road, Harvard was once upon a time referred to as Cambridge's playboy school. But say what you will about Yale's Oxonian architecture, Princeton's rarified atmosphere or Stanford's premier west coast status, *Fair Harvard* has and, during our lifetimes, will continue to be, the paragon of American education. With alumnae of extraordinary stature and Nobel prize winners galore,

this venerable institution that hugs the Charles River and boasts a yield of 84% among accepted students is the Valhalla of American education.

For the Class of 2023, Harvard received more than 43,000 applicants and accepted fewer than 2,000 of them, for an astonishingly low acceptance rate of 4.5%. According to a March 28, 2019 *Harvard Gazette*:

This year's admitted class hails from every state and from 89 countries throughout the world. International citizens make up 12.3 percent of the class, and 8.9 percent are U.S. dual citizens; 21.7 percent come from the mid-Atlantic states, 19.6 percent are from the South, 17.3 percent from the Western and mountain states, 16.6 percent from New England, 11.8 percent from the Midwest, and 13 percent from the U.S territories and abroad.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fifty percent of those admitted to the new class are men and 50 percent are women; the applicant pool showed nearly the same divide. The Class of 2023 reflects the increasing diversity of the College's applicants, with 14.8 percent of admitted students indicating they are African-American/black, 25.4 percent identifying as Asian American, 12.4 percent identifying as Latinx, 1.8 percent identifying as Native American, and 0.6 percent identifying as native Hawaiian. First-generation students are 16.4 percent of the class.

What accounts for Harvard's commanding position in the world of higher education? Answer: Harvard is the oldest, richest (think an endowment of \$37.1 billion at the end of its June 30, 2017 fiscal year) and best-established university in America. The name connotes genius caliber achievement and a diploma from Harvard is often a ticket to the most sought-after graduate schools, many of which also bear the name Harvard. In addition, its gushingly New England, cupola-adorned residence halls, the Harvard Yard (which is made up of two quads brimming with Ivy and an overwhelming feeling of academia), its location in frenetic Harvard square and its easy access to downtown Boston make it an irresistible attraction if the name, by itself, were not already sufficient.

But make no mistake about it. Harvard is a place where undergraduates do have to work hard to find their place in the sun. Harvard is first and last a research university; but, during the tenure of president Lloyd Gilpen Faust, Harvard's first woman president, the university strove to improve both the academic and social experience of its undergraduates. Among other Faust initiatives, Harvard reached out to undergraduates by increasing the number of small seminars, doubling the number of freshman advisors, establishing the School of Engineering and Applied

Sciences, expanding the campus into nearby Alston, increasing the number of minors, beefing up student aid, expanding offerings in the fields of arts and theater, and encouraging the disbandment of Harvard's traditional, but all male, "final clubs."

As to the final clubs: What many interpreted as the death knell for them (perhaps, save for the two that had begun accepting women) was sounded on December 5, 2017, when, according to the *Wall Street Journal* of that date, Harvard said "it is going ahead with its plan to bar members of unsanctioned single-gender social groups, including fraternities, sororities and final clubs, from leadership positions in campus organizations and from receiving formal endorsements for prestigious awards like the Rhodes Scholarship." Then, on December 3, 2018, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that a group of fraternities, sororities, and three students had filed lawsuits in both state and federal court, alleging that Harvard's ban on single-gender social groups was discriminatory. The fate of the policy is now up to the courts.

As with Columbia, Harvard, entering the 1920s, was a haven for Jewish students, most coming from the environs of Boston, then the fourth most populous Jewish community in the United States. By 1921, 21.5% of Harvard's undergraduates were Jewish and by 1924, Harvard was nearly 25% Jewish. Harvard's President, A. Lawrence Lowell had seen enough and convened committees to compile statistics on Jewish representation at Harvard, in particular the geographic areas of greatest Jewish concentration. The upshot was an admissions system, based as much on geographic diversity as scores on Harvard's admissions exam, with the result that Jewish representation declined sharply. Lowell's antipathy toward Jews was well known. At a time when other prestigious schools were embracing Jewish professors who were seeking refuge from Germany, Lowell pointedly declined to do so.

As observed by the June 30, 2023, *Times of Israel*, "Harvard's 20th-century antisemitic Jewish quotas were a key part of the Supreme Court's holding [in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*, decided on June 29, 2023] to gut affirmative action, as the winning litigant and two conservative justices cited them in the landmark case." As further stated in the *Times of Israel* account:

Students for Fair Admissions, the conservative advocacy group that brought the cases against Harvard and the University of North Carolina, claimed that the holistic admissions approach Harvard uses — which includes seeking an "extraordinary and diverse class of undergraduate students by conducting a wide-ranging review of every aspect of each applicant's background and experience" — had its roots in the 1920s quota system "to discriminate against Jewish applicants."

In 1922, Harvard's president, A. Lawrence Lowell, noticed a precipitous rise in the number of Jews accepted to the university and proposed accepting a quota of only 15% Jewish students. Other American and Canadian universities followed suit.

At least two justices were sympathetic to the SFFA argument. Neil Gorsuch and Clarence Thomas each raised the Jewish quotas in separate concurrences.

"According to then-[Harvard] President Abbott Lawrence Lowell, excluding Jews from Harvard would help maintain admissions opportunities for Gentiles and perpetuate the purity of the Brahmin race," Thomas wrote.

Gorsuch quoted the advocacy group's findings in his concurrence. "Harvard made this move, SFFA asserts, because President A. Lawrence Lowell and other university leaders had become 'alarmed by the growing number of Jewish students who were testing in,' and they sought some way to cap the number of Jewish students without 'stat[ing] frankly' that they were 'directly excluding all [Jews] beyond a certain percentage.'

With the emergence of Lowell's successor, the eminent chemist and future Manhattan Project leader, James Bryan Conant, in late 1933, Harvard returned to a merit-based admissions policy and its Jewish population once again increased to about 25 percent.

In recent years, a significant part of the increase in Harvard's record setting endowment has been due to Jewish donors. Among other reminders of the Jewish generosity at Harvard are the Joan Shorenstein Center on Press, Politics and Public Policy, and the Taubman Center for State and Local Government, both at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

An indicator of what a huge endowment can do for a university such as Harvard may be found in the salaries it pays to its full professors. According to an April 2011 analysis by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Harvard paid its full professors an average of \$193,800. By contrast, the next highest average salary paid by Massachusetts schools for full professors was in the \$160,000-plus range (MIT and Babson), followed by four other Massachusetts schools whose average salary for full professors was in the \$140,000-plus range (BC, BU, Northeastern and Wellesley).

During the 2016-17 school year, Harvard's sports programs experienced both highs and lows. In November 2016, following revelations that Harvard's men's soccer



team had created a misogynistic “scouting report” in which women soccer recruits were rated on the basis of appearance, the university cancelled the men’s soccer season. The following month, Harvard placed the men’s cross-country team on probation for similar offenses. But, in March 2017, the school gained a considerable measure of satisfaction when its men’s hockey team made it all the way to the NCAA “Frozen Four” hockey tournament.

Harvard’s Hillel is one of the finest in the country and offers an immense array of social services, not to speak of several varieties of religious services on a weekly basis. If one adds Chabad, Harvard is a campus where the truly gifted Jewish student, no matter his or her religious orientation, can truly thrive.

However, both anti-Israel sentiment and anti-Semitism are alive and real on the Harvard campus. An example of anti-Israel attitudes at Harvard is illustrated by Mitchell Bard’s October 16, 2015, *Jerusalem Post* article, entitled “Looking for Israel at Harvard,” in which he comments on the anti-Israel bias of Harvard’s Center for Middle East Studies, a center partially funded by government funding under Title VI of the 1958 Defense Education Act. As noted in the “Group of 69 letter” signed by AMCHA and 68 other signatories and sent to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in November 2018 (see discussion in Section 1(L) above), these centers:

were established by Title VI of the Higher Education Act in order to equip university students and faculty with a full and unbiased understanding of regions and countries vital to US security. The federal legislation providing [these centers, known as] NRCs with millions of taxpayer dollars stipulates that the funding is specifically intended ‘to promote access to research and training overseas, including through linkages with overseas institutions.

Yet, as Bard and the Group of 69 letter point out, many of these centers are problematic because of their undisguised efforts to exclude scholarship pertaining to Israel. As to Harvard’s Center for Middle East Studies, Bard states:

Today, the Center for Middle East Studies at Harvard remains problematic. For example, in Fall 2015, 126 courses were offered by the center and affiliate departments. Of those, only two related directly to Israel, one on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the other an Advanced Seminar in Modern Hebrew: Israeli Culture: Cinema & Literature. The former is taught by Marjorie Sa’adah, whose published works are focused on Europe and her only apparent publication related to the Middle East is a study of political identity in the Arab Middle East. The second course focuses on the works of the well-known Israeli writer Sami Michael, whose personal views are hypercritical of virtually every aspect of Israel.

A prominent example of anti-Semitism is captured in the following account from the April 18, 2016, *Harvard Law Record* in which a Harvard Law student and member of SJP smeared visiting Israeli MK Tzipi Livni:

Dear HLS Community,

Anti-Semitism is still very real today, and it just showed itself in our community at Harvard Law School.

At the Q&A section of an event last Thursday [April 15, 2016], an HLS student asked Jewish, Israeli dignitary Tzipi Livni: “How is it that you are so smelly? . . . A question about the odor of Ms. Tzipi Livni, she’s very smelly, and I was just wondering.”

We are writing to condemn what we view as blatantly anti-Semitic rhetoric. We demand a public apology to Ms. Livni, the Jewish students of HLS, and Harvard Law School at large. Further, we demand respectful behavior from students at our events in the future.

Thursday’s event was hosted by the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School and co-sponsored by the Jewish Law Students Association and Harvard Hillel. It was titled “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict & the U.S.” The event was a conversation between former Israeli Foreign Minister (and current Israeli Parliament Member) Tzipi Livni and American Diplomat Dennis Ross. It was a civil discussion, moderated by HLS Professor Robert Mnookin, on the complex and important topic of the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations.

Given the opportunity to ask a question and to engage in productive dialogue with an Israeli political leader, this HLS student, who is the president of a student organization on campus, revived the antiquated and offensive notion of the “smelly Jew” – a term reeking of anti-Semitism – in order to insult her.

Unfortunately, the anti-Zionist left is not the only manifestation of anti-Semitism on the Harvard campus. In November 2016, Harvard Law School was attacked from the anti-Semitic right when Sandy Levinson, a visiting professor of government and law from the University of Texas, received a vicious postcard, mailed from the United Kingdom. According to the November 22, 2016, *Boston Globe*, the post card stated: “You just got your kike ass kicked. Fuck you Hymie. We’re gonna drain the swamp at Harvard Law [paraphrasing a Trump campaign slogan].” The writer then signs off with the phrase “Juden raus!”, a Nazi-era German slogan meaning “Jews out!”

On the brighter side, in April 2018, Harvard hosted its first-ever “Israel Summit.” According to the April 9, 2018, *Harvard Crimson* account of the event, the summit was “aimed at broadening all students’ horizons on Israel.” Also, according to the *Harvard Crimson* account: “Notable speakers included University Provost Alan M. Garber ’76, who gave opening remarks, fashion designer Elie Tahari, former University President Lawrence H. Summers, political analyst and former presidential adviser David Gergen, NBA allstar Amar’e Stoudemire, and Ron Prosor, a former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations.”

However, the anti-Israel drumbeat continued in 2019. According to the April 2, 2019, *Jerusalem Post*, which, in turn, referenced an article in the *Harvard Crimson*, Harvard’s undergraduate council voted to provide \$2,050 to the Palestine Solidarity Committee for Israeli Apartheid Week, with the funds coming “from the student government Grant for an Open Harvard College budget, which supports ‘mental health, race, culture and faith relations, sexual assault and harassment prevention, social spaces and financial accessibility.’ “

Responding to the \$2,050.00 appropriation in support of Israeli Apartheid Week, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the Associate Dean and Director of Global Social Action at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and Dr. Harold Brackman, a historian and consultant to the Simon Wiesenthal Center, wrote a piece in the April 2, 2019, edition of the *Jewish Journal*, entitled “Anti-Semitism No Stranger to Harvard.” The following is excerpted from their essay:

Just recently, Harvard’s student government gave over \$2,000 to the “Palestinian Solidarity Committee” and its “Israeli Apartheid Week” meant to “raise awareness of Israel’s treatment of Palestinians.” The money came from a grant for an Open Harvard College that’s supposed to fund the University’s “compelling interests” like fighting racism. Jewish students protested fearing that the grant might be used to provide a free ride to campus for BDS instigator Omar Barghouti who supports “the euthanasia of Zionism”. Barghouti had previously received a Gandhi Peace prize at Yale.

Last year, Harvard’s Israel Apartheid Week contribution to improved race relations on campus was achieved by blanketing a dormitory with mock detention notices targeting Jewish students for guilt by association with the mistreatment of “Palestinians in Israel-Palestine.” The false notice was “formally cosigned” by Harvard Concilio Latino, the Harvard Islamic Society, and the Harvard Black Students Association. The Harvard Administration accepted a faux apology.

Also in 2018, CAIR founder Nihad Awad was awarded as an inspirer of “a deeper engagement with critical social issues on campus and in the wider community.” Past recipients included the Children’s

Defense Fund's founder Marian Wright Edelman. Beneath a veneer of interfaith good works, Awad is a supporter of terrorist Hamas that uses the UNRWA schools to brainwash new generations of violent Jew-haters.

Bringing anti-Semitism into the classroom, Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies imported Ali Akbar Alikhani as a visiting professor from the University of Tehran. In a major paper he authored titled "The Conceptual Characteristics of Post-Zionism," Alikhani suggests that criticisms of the modern Israeli state are immaterial given the "historical violence of Zionism. Israel is a country that from its inception was based on force, coercion and oppression of others."

Until the publicity became too intense in 2016, Harvard President Drew Faust Gilpin stonewalled Jewish students requesting a meeting about her administration's infrastructure of student clubs dedicated to demonizing Israel. Harvard law student and BDS leader Husam El-Coolaq verbally assaulted former Israeli Minister Tzipi Livni with the question: "How is it that you [ Israelis] are so smelly?"

According to the September 2, 2020 *Jewish Journal*, PLO Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat, who later died of complications from coronavirus in November 2020 while being treated in an Israeli hospital, had received an appointment to mentor students at the Harvard Kennedy School. As noted in the *Journal* account, Erekat, who, prior to his untimely death, had also served as the secretary general of the Executive Committee of the PLO, said in a 2014 interview with Al Jazeera that "I will never recognize Israel as a Jewish state."

In the aftermath of anti-Zionist professor, Cornell West, claiming his denial of tenure was due to his opposition to "the settler colonial violence of Israel's occupation of Palestine", ninety student organizations at Harvard circulated a petition supporting West's claim. The petition was the subject of a March 11, 2021 *Harvard Crimson* article, entitled, "Harvard Hillel Executive Director Accuses Cornel West, Supporters of Furthering 'Anti-Jewish Conspiracy Theory' In Tenure Controversy." The following are pertinent excerpts from the article:

Responding to vigorous campus support for Professor Cornel R. West '74 — who said last month Harvard declined to consider him for tenure in part due to his outspoken criticism of Israel's treatment of Palestinians — Rabbi Jonah C. Steinberg, executive director of Harvard Hillel, criticized West for having "egged students on" in "scapegoating and demonizing" Jewish people.

In an email to Hillel affiliates Friday, Steinberg wrote he believes a student petition condemning Harvard's alleged decision to not consider West for tenure is based on "an anti-Jewish conspiracy theory."

The petition cites West's belief that he was denied tenure consideration due to his opposition to "the settler colonial violence of Israel's occupation of Palestine" and references Zionism in a list of ideologies it says West has critiqued, alongside "white supremacy, racial capitalism," and "the military-industrial complex."

As of Wednesday night, the petition had amassed the support of more than 90 student organizations and more than 1,800 individual signatories.

"It is painful to see representatives of so many student organizations maneuvered into signing a petition that attaches itself to a long chain of demonizing anti-Jewish libels through the centuries," Steinberg wrote in the email. "Student leaders who have signed the petition likely do not realize how the words 'Israel's occupation of Palestine' are used to suggest that the entire country of Israel is illegitimate, and perhaps they are not sensible of how eliding 'white supremacy, racial capitalism, Zionism, and the military-industrial complex,' as the petition does, is a dangerous ethnic slander."

According to the February 9, 2022, *The Harvard Crimson*, Harvard Out of Occupied Palestine (HOOP) held a rally in Harvard Yard to call on the University to stop serving Sabra hummus in its dining halls due to the company's ties to the Israeli Defense Forces. The *Harvard Crimson* account also noted that the HOOP Protesters chanted phrases like "Don't buy products laced with hate, Sabra funds a racist state."

As explained by the February 9, 2022, *National Review*:

The QR code [on Sabra hummus] takes you to a document that states that Strauss Group, the company that co-owns Sabra with PepsiCo, has "openly and proudly admitted to funding the Israeli army." Strauss Group is the largest food company in Israel. Sabra itself is headquartered in White Plains, N.Y. (I'll quickly add that the linked document suggests "moral alternatives" to Sabra, including Cedar's Hummus. Oh please, *Cedar's*? Too much lemon if you ask me. I'll also add that my Lebanese food snobbery leads me to look askance at Sabra too . . . but I digress.)

Strauss Group sends food and care packages to the Golani Brigade in the IDF. To pro-Palestine activists at Harvard, this amounts to the sponsorship of murder.

Also, according to the *Harvard Crimson* account, the Harvard Israel Initiative — a student group supportive of Israel — posted the following statement on its February 8, 2022, Facebook page in response to the HOOP protest.

We stand against any attempt to single out the State of Israel and uphold the right of the Golan Brigade — a unit dedicated to combatting terror groups, including Hamas and Hezbollah — to defend Israel from those who wish to annihilate it,” the statement reads. “Choosing to accuse a New York-based hummus company of “murder” is a bad-faith attempt to delegitimize Israel’s right to exist.

On April 20, 2022, the Jewish organization, StopAntisemitism, posted the following tweet:

While Russia is continuing its brutal invasion of Ukraine, the ‘Palestine Solidarity Committee’ at Harvard instead is focusing on vilifying the world’s only Jewish nation for daring to be Jewish.

In a related report, the April 20, 2022, *Algemeiner*, quoted Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, as follows: “[On April 20, 2022, Greenblatt stated], that anti-Israel activists on college campuses are “growing more aggressive in targeting Jewish students and organizations,” pointing to [a University of Illinois demonstration (discussed in the profile of Illinois in this Guide) as well as a recent display of anti-Zionist materials outside the Harvard University Science Center.”

As reported in the April 29, 2022 *Algemeiner*, the editorial board of the *Harvard Crimson* endorsed the BDS movement. The following excerpt from the *Algemeiner* account is indicative of the reaction that followed:

“It is sad to see the Harvard Crimson’s Editorial Board endorse BDS in an unsigned editorial on behalf of the paper this morning,” Rabbi Jonah C. Steinberg, Executive Hillel Director and Harvard Chaplain, wrote Friday in an email to community members seen by *The Algemeiner*. “Sadder still is the alienation some of our students connected with the Crimson feel, as well as the way this move on the part of the Crimson will reflect on Harvard generally in the perception of Jewish and other people far and wide.”

According to the May 10, 2022, *Jerusalem Post*, in early May, 2022, seventy Harvard staff members including a number of luminaries wrote an open letter condemning the *Crimson* editorial. The following is from the *Jerusalem Post* account:

Signatories include psychology prof. Steven Pinker, the law school's Jessie Fried, former US Treasury secretary and university president Larry Summers and distinguished academics including Ruth Wisse and Alan Dershowitz.

The letter, which was organized by Harvard-affiliated members of the Academic Engagement Network (AEN), states: "As members of the faculty of Harvard University, we are dismayed by The Crimson Editorial Board's enthusiastic endorsement of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel."

For a scathing condemnation of the *Harvard Crimson* editorial and related acts of anti-Semitism at Harvard, see "When will Harvard acknowledge its entanglement with anti-Semitism?" by Mitchell Bard, published by JNS on May 5, 2022. See also the article written by Jewish Harvard Crimson editor, Gemma J. Schneider, published in the June 24, 2022 *Harvard Crimson*. Among other things, Ms. Schneider responded, as follows, to the oft repeated BDS falsehood that Zionism is a settlor colonial enterprise:

It is my intuition that Zionism is not what the Editorial Board — or most people backing an anti-Zionist agenda in the name of justice — believes they are rejecting, or likening to racism and cruelty. Instead, they are rejecting a false projection of Zionism — one that has been carefully constructed by movements like BDS, whose entire narrative is founded upon a hefty hijacking of Jewish identity and history.

BDS's official website explicitly writes that Israel's origins can be found within a "racist ideology" of European colonialism, which it then ties to the Zionist movement. But the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not rooted in a racial struggle, nor in an ideology of superiority or hate. On the contrary, Zionism was born in 1896 as a movement of liberation, of freedom, and of resisting unfair power imbalances during a period in which Jews across Europe were persecuted — barred from government assemblies, attacked in the press, and excluded from business dealings, hotels, social circles, and clubs.

During September 2022, the Harvard Kennedy School announced that former Tunisian president, physician and human rights activist, Moncef Marzouki, had been appointed as a guest lecturer. As described by the following excerpts from the September 16, 2022, edition of *Front Page*, what the announcement didn't note was Marzouki's proclivities toward the Gazan terrorist organization, Hamas.

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance at Harvard's Kennedy School announced that its appointing the international fugitive and longtime Islamist ally as a senior fellow. The Harvard announcement

makes no mention of either Marzouki's support for Islamic terrorism against Jews or the fact that he is a wanted criminal. But they do hail him as a hero of the Arab Spring.

Last year, after a barrage of Hamas rockets and terrorist attacks, Marzouki had phoned Hamas boss Ismail Haniyeh to congratulate him for the "victory for the Arab and Muslim Ummah."

In an interview with *Al Jazeera*, Marzouki told the Qatari Islamist media operation, "I have always supported Hamas because it is a national resistance movement. When I was president of Tunisia, I received Khaled Meshaal and Ismail Haniyeh [leaders of Hamas], totally ignoring the US ambassador's indignation at the meeting."

On December 4, 2022, an article appeared in the *Algemeiner*, entitled "Harvard University Ranks First in Antisemitism." The following excerpts are from that article:

This is not 1990s Harvard, when the "student body was said to be nearly a quarter Jewish" and those students were warmly welcomed. A mere 5.3% of Harvard's class of 2023 identifies as Jewish, along with 5.2% of the class of 2024 and 7.4% of the class of 2025. So, not only is the campus climate more hostile, but there are fewer Jewish students to protest it.

Harvard sophomore Alex Bernat recalled Passover 2022, when "a swastika is found in [undergraduate dorm] Currier House, which went underreported by [student newspaper] *The Crimson*, the PSC [Harvard College Palestine Solidarity Committee] put up a wall with Holocaust imagery and antisemitic statements and the school paper endorsed BDS." Bernat reflected, "Day-to-day, I don't feel much antisemitism or anti-Zionism, but when it flares up here, it flares up quite massively."

One Jewish, Zionist Harvard graduate who works at the university, Ira Stoll, said, "having been around the university now on and off for more than 30 years, the level of antisemitism on campus over the past year is shocking, embarrassing, disgraceful—like nothing I've seen before."

According to the January 19, 2023 *New York Times*, the Harvard Kennedy School reversed course and said it would offer a fellowship to Kenneth Roth, the unrelenting critic of Israel and erstwhile director of Human Rights Watch. The school relented, according to the *Times*, "after news of the earlier decision touched off a public outcry over academic freedom, donor influence and the boundaries of criticism of Israel." Also, as stated in the *Times* story:



The controversy erupted earlier this month, when *The Nation* published a lengthy article revealing that last summer, the school's dean, Douglas Elmendorf, had vetoed a proposal by the school's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy to offer a one-year fellowship to Kenneth Roth, the recently retired executive director of Human Rights Watch. At the time, Elmendorf told colleagues that he was concerned about perceptions that Human Rights Watch had a bias against Israel, according to two faculty members.

In a scathing January 25, 2023, *Algemeiner* article, entitled "Harvard Deserves Kenneth Roth — the Master of Human Wrongs," commentator Gil Troy took aim at the Roth appointment. In part, his article contained the following telling observations:

---

The controversy should never have pivoted around Roth's stance on Israel — it's not like academia or Harvard lacks obsessive Bash-Israel-Firsters. One anti-Zionist more here or there won't really make a difference. The real problem is that Roth would be a negative role model for aspiring activists who should learn to get their facts right as a precursor to righting wrongs.

Roth's anti-Israel animus led him to act sloppily and push false accusations in ways that should concern any academic committed to truth. He throws around the "apartheid" word ahistorically, injecting irrelevant but damning race-based questions and false South African analogies into the national conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. He promoted a Human Rights Watch analysis that foolishly treated all Arabs as if they are stuck in the same polity — be they Bedouins who aren't Palestinians, or Israeli citizens who have democratic rights, or Hamas' mass hostages in Gaza, or the long-suffering subjects of the Palestinian Authority.

And, in January 2021, Roth accused Israel of discriminating against Palestinians by not vaccinating any Palestinians against Covid-19 in the territories — overlooking the inconvenient fact that under the Oslo protocols, the Palestinian Authority is responsible for vaccinations.

In his sustained, decades-long, anti-Israel fury, Roth derailed Human Rights Watch and mis-educated the entire human rights community. Most outrageously, he blurred the important distinction between open and closed societies. Human Rights Watch, Robert Bernstein explained, always "sought to draw a sharp line between the democratic and nondemocratic worlds, in an effort to create clarity in human rights."

Liberty-loving students committed to defending freedom globally need to understand that democracies like Israel and the United States have corrective mechanisms that dictatorships lack. In rushing to demonize

Israel, Roth sacrificed that fundamental tool distinguishing between imperfect but fixable free countries, and perfectly awful regimes.

What serious academic would want some zealot teaching students how to trash facts, ignore subtleties, and eradicate useful distinctions in the name of human rights? Foisting this truth-twister on the Kennedy School undermines its stated mission ‘to improve public policy and leadership, so people can live in societies that are more safe, free, just, and sustainably prosperous.’ This dishonorable honor also dishonors Harvard’s motto: “Veritas,” which used to mean “truth.”

In the wake of the Kenneth Roth episode, the January 19, 2023, Boston Globe quoted former Kennedy School student, Shai Kivity, as follows:

---

Kennedy School alumni Shai Kivity, who is Israeli and has served in the Israel Defense Forces for nine years, said he feels sorry the decision was reversed and said Roth has had problematic views.

Kivity, who graduated in 2020, said he feels the Palestinian cause and pro-Palestinian groups have a large voice on campus.

“Harvard Kennedy School is not a place you feel safe as an Israeli or Jewish person,” said Kivity, who now works for an Israeli tech startup. “You don’t feel that you can be yourself or speak your mind, or your opinion is accepted, if it’s not the right opinion.”

According to 50 interviews conducted by student’s, Sabrina Goldfischer, for her senior thesis, which was titled “The Death of Discourse: Antisemitism at Harvard College,” Jewish students at Harvard face ideological bias and discrimination. Goldfischer’s research was summarized by the April 3, 2023, edition of the *Algemeiner*, as follows:

According to Goldfischer’s research, who also serves as Harvard Hillel’s Intern for Combating Antisemitism, 62.5 percent of students reported experiencing antisemitism or personally know someone who has, 68.7 said they self-censor in academic and social settings, and 83 percent said they have experienced anti-Zionism. One interview subject said that during a pre-orientation tour of the campus, a program leader stopped at Hillel and described as one of the “bad parts of Harvard” and accused it of being “part of an effort to dominate the conversation about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on campus.”

In another incident, during a class for a course on the Holocaust, students allegedly “downplayed the desecration of the Holocaust and the extent to which Jewish people were persecuted,” demanding to know, for example, why discussions focused on Jewish suffering. The instructor allegedly affirmed their views and was later dismissed.

“The types of challenges Jewish students face cannot be seen in a vacuum, and have dark implications for the state of Jews everywhere,” Goldfischer concluded. “The experiences of Jewish students at Harvard matters, therefore, for these students, for conceptualizing the larger experience of American Jews, and for understanding various minority experiences and the wider dangers of self-censorship.”

According to the October 9, 2023 *Politico*, “some of Harvard University’s most prominent political alumni are criticizing the school for not condemning a student-led statement [signed by 34 student organizations] that blamed Israel for the surprise Hamas attack [in early October 2023].” The article went on to state the reaction of Lawrence Summers, a professor at Harvard and a former president of the university:

“The silence from Harvard’s leadership, so far, coupled with a vocal and widely reported student groups’ statement blaming Israel solely, has allowed Harvard to appear at best neutral towards acts of terror against the Jewish state of Israel,” Lawrence Summers, a former Harvard president and longtime Washington economic policy hand, wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter.

As reported in the October 16, 2023, *Jewish News of Northern California*, the Wexner Foundation, in the wake of Hamas’ cruel and bestial invasion of Israel and what the Foundation perceived as Harvard’s tepid response to the thirty-four student groups that had supported Hamas, announced that it was ending its program that paid for Israelis to earn master’s degrees at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. According to the *Jewish News* account, “[s]ince its launch in 1989, the Wexner Israel Fellowship Program has paid for more than 500 Israelis to earn master’s degrees in public administration at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.” The *Jewish News* story went on to quote the Wexner Foundation as follows:

“We are stunned and sickened at the dismal failure of Harvard’s leadership to take a clear and unequivocal stand against the barbaric murders of innocent Israeli civilians by terrorists,” the foundation said in a letter provided to the *Forward* and other media outlets.

The foundation accused Harvard President Claudine Gay and other university leaders of “tiptoeing” and “equivocating” rather than condemning Hamas’ attacks on Israeli civilians as “evil.”

As reported in the November 2, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, more than 1,200 Jewish alumni of Harvard University signed a letter to the university’s president and dean “declaring that they will no longer walk delicately around the college administration when it comes to the issue of antisemitism on campus.” Also as reported by the *Algemeiner*:

The timing of its letter to Gay and Kumar coincided with the release of a video showing a mob of Harvard students, some of them clad in Palestinian keffiyeh scarves, jostling and harassing a Jewish student as he walked across the campus. Among the mob was Ibrahim Bharmal, the editor of the prestigious *Harvard Law Review* — a publication whose past editors include former US President Barack Obama.

As reported in the November 5, 2023, billionaire Harvard alumnus and multimillion dollar Harvard backer, Bill Ackman, wrote a scathing letter to Harvard's president calling out the university for its campus anti-Semitism. Ackman also stated that he would not hire any students who had blamed Israel for Hamas' murderous October 7, 2023 attack.

According to the November 28, 2023, *Boston Globe*, The US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights on November 28, 2023, opened an investigation into Harvard. As reported by the *Globe*: "The investigation was prompted by a complaint that alleged Harvard 'discriminated against students on the basis of their national origin (shared Jewish ancestry and/or Israeli) when it failed to respond appropriately to reports of incidents of harassment' last month, according to portions of a letter from the Department of Education seen by the *Globe*."

On November 30, 2023, Harvard Hillel wrote the following plea for protection of Harvard's Jewish and Israeli students:

On November 29th, Harvard College students had classes disrupted by a coordinated protest using bullhorns to blast abhorrent antisemitic calls to "globalize the intifada," and demands for the elimination of the Jewish state "from the river to the sea." These calls for genocide and anti-Jewish violence throughout the world represent antisemitic speech and are not protected by the University's community standards.

The interruptions of classes are not protected by the University's free speech guidelines. We wholeheartedly support free speech on campus - a sacred right necessary in a free and democratic society. Yet that right does not encompass disruptions to University classes nor hateful slogans chanted on University property. Harvard recognizes this distinction, and therefore rightly does not protect threatening speech or speech that is disruptive to learning on campus. Students were terrified by this protest and the violence it endorsed, and some were unable to resume work for hours after the protests passed.

Protests of this nature have become increasingly normalized on our campus, causing Jewish and Israeli students to avoid class,

University events, and dining halls. We therefore call on the University to hold both the individuals and organizations involved in this protest accountable, including the PSC who promoted these actions that are inconsistent with University policies.

Further, we ask that President Gay send a University-wide email to students, staff, and faculty, explaining why such actions are beyond the University's protected speech and clarifying the regulations and the consequences for violating them. President Gay has written that Harvard is a "a place of civil behavior and civil discourse" and will not ignore "antisemitism, Islamophobia, acts of harassment or intimidation, or threats of violence." These inspiring words must be followed by action.

After an appearance before Congress by Harvard president Claudine Gay on November 5, 2023, that was uniformly criticized by the mainstream Jewish community for her equivocation on whether calling for the genocide of Jews constituted bullying and harassment, Gay attempted to control the damage by walking back her remarks the next day. The following are excerpts from the *Algemeiner's* December 6, 2023 account of the testimony and walk back.

"There are some who have confused a right to free expression with the idea that Harvard will condone calls for violence against Jewish students," Gay said in a statement posted to X/Twitter by Harvard. "Let me be clear: Calls for violence or genocide against the Jewish community, or any religious or ethnic group are vile, they have no place at Harvard, and those who threaten our Jewish students will be held to account."

Gay's statement came after she received a wave of criticism for her testimony before the US House Committee on Education and the Workforce regarding campus antisemitism, which has been surging since Hamas' Oct. 7 massacre across southern Israel. For three hours, Gay and the presidents of the University of Pennsylvania and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology evaded questions about their plans to combat an alarming spike in antisemitic incidents, including demonstrations calling for Israel's destruction and the intimidation and harassment of Jewish students at college campuses across the US.

In one tense exchange during the hearing, all three presidents gave indirect answers when asked by Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY), a Harvard alumnus, whether calling for the genocide of Jews constituted bullying and harassment. Stefanik referenced the chanting of slogans such as "globalize the intifada," "there is only one solution, intifada revolution," and "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free"— all widely

interpreted as calls for violence against Jews and the destruction of Israel.

“We embrace a commitment to free expression even of views that are objectionable, offensive, hateful — it’s when that speech crosses into conduct that violates our policies against bullying, harassment, and intimidation,” Gay said, refusing to provide a definitive answer.

“Does that speech not cross that barrier? Does that speech not call for the genocide of Jews and the elimination of Israel?” Stefanik asked, visibly disturbed by Gay’s answer.

President Gay survived her disastrous December 5, 2023, testimony before Congress. However, As reported in the December 13, 2023, *Jerusalem Post*, the heat was still on for her to do something meaningful regarding anti-Zionist intimidation on the Harvard campus. For example, as reported in the above *Post* article, a group of former Israeli scholars, including postdoctoral fellows and visiting professors issued a “scathing open letter directed to President Gay and the Harvard administration condemning the rise of antisemitism on campus.” The following is excerpted from the *Post* account:

The letter stated, “We have been closely following the organized pro-Hamas riots approved by Harvard University,” referring to incidents following actions by the Hamas terror organization. It goes on to describe these events with alarming language, “Protesters freely chanting for the extermination of Israel or, to be more precise, the elimination of the Jewish population from Israel.”

These former scholars highlight a troubling inconsistency at Harvard, noting, “This type of hate speech would be castigated and forbidden if aimed at any other ethnic, national, or religious group.” They point out the irony in the university’s response, or lack thereof, to what they term as “celebrating the massacre” and calls for genocide, albeit directed towards Jews.

Perhaps the most striking quote in the letter captures the essence of their frustration and fear: “The deafening silence by Harvard’s leadership is a support for mayhem directed at any person with ethnic, cultural, religious, and moral links to Judaism.”

In addition, as reported in the December 15, 2023, *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, the House of Representatives on that date, by a vote of 303-126, with three present, passed a resolution calling for President Gay and Sally Kornbluth, the president of MIT, to resign. Ultimately, as reported by the *New York Times* on January 2, 2024 (and countless other sources, given Harvard’s meme status in the academic world), Gay resigned, in the words of the *Times*, “as she faced backlash over the university’s

response to antisemitism on campus, which led to increased scrutiny of her academic record.”

According to the January 12, 2024, the *Times of Israel* (citing *Reuters*), in a complaint filed on January 12, 2024, “six students accused Harvard of selectively enforcing its anti-discrimination policies to avoid protecting Jewish students from harassment, ignoring their pleas for protection, and hiring professors who support anti-Jewish violence and spread antisemitic propaganda.” The *Times of Israel* quoted the complaint as stating: “Based on its track record, it is inconceivable that Harvard would allow any group other than Jews to be targeted for similar abuse or that it would permit, without response, students and professors to call for the annihilation of any country other than Israel.”

On January 21, 2024, the *Jewish Insider* reported that interim President Alan Garber announcement of the “creation of two new ‘presidential task forces,’ one focused on combating antisemitism and another focused on Islamophobia, [had] fueled concerns about the credibility of the school’s efforts.” The *Jewish Insider* story went on to state that:

The antisemitism-focused group came under immediate scrutiny for naming Derek Penslar, a historian and the director of Harvard’s Center for Jewish Studies, as co-chair. Penslar’s appointment drew the ire of Jewish communal leaders and prominent figures at Harvard over comments he made in recent weeks minimizing concerns over antisemitism at Harvard, and for past statements he has made about Israel.

As reported in the February 7, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, Harvard became “enmeshed in another antisemitism controversy following reports that a Middle Eastern studies professor has invited Dalal Saeb Iriqat, an extreme anti-Zionist and alleged advocate of terrorism, to the Harvard Kennedy School.” The following excerpts from the *Algemeiner* account provide context:

According to *The Harvard Crimson*, Tarek E. Masoud, director of Harvard’s Middle East Initiative (MEI), invited Dalal Saeb Iriqat as a speaker for MEI’s “Middle East Dialogue Series,” a slate of interviews that will also include former government officials such presidential adviser Jared Kushner and former Palestinian Authority (PA) prime minister Salam Fayyad.

Iriqat, a Palestinian instructor employed by Arab American University, located in the West Bank city of Jenin, is most known for defending Hamas’ murdering and raping of civilians during its massacre across southern Israel on Oct. 7, an act she described on social media as “just a normal human struggle.”

According to the February 13, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, Harvard students “continue[d] to chant slogans widely deemed genocidal against Jews, according to new footage of a ‘die-in’ protest that has gone viral on social media.” The story continued as follows:

On Monday [February 11, 2024], dozens of students, led by “Harvard Out of Occupied Palestine,” amassed on the steps of the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library and chanted “From water to water, Palestine will be Arab” in Arabic, following the phrase with a rhythmic, call-and-response chanting of “Free, Free, Palestine!”

“They’re clearly calling for a very frightening vision of what they think should happen in Israel and Palestine,” Harvard University student Charlie Covit told *The Algemeiner* on Tuesday. “Just imagine students chanting that America should be white from the Atlantic to the Pacific. One might argue that doesn’t constitute calling for a genocide of minorities, but it’s still immensely frightening and racist.”

The students, according to *The Harvard Crimson*, later lay on the steps of the library, pretending to die.

On February 16, 2024, the *Washington Post* reported that a House Committee had issued a subpoena to a number of Harvard officials “to compel the university to turn over more documents in its investigation into campus antisemitism.” The story noted that:

Dara Horn, a novelist and alumna of Harvard who served on the antisemitism advisory group convened by Gay in October, said it was devastating to hear from Jewish students about their experiences on campus and see how little the university had done to help them. She said Gay and Garber, who was then the provost, attended the advisory group’s twice-weekly meetings, so they were clearly invested in the issue.

As Harvard’s volatile situation continued, the *Algemeiner* reported on February 20, 2024 that Harvard had “denounced an antisemitic image depicting a Jew lynching an African American and an Arab which was posted on social media by an anti-Zionist faculty group.” The *Algemeiner* story described the faculty group that had managed to exacerbate tensions on campus as follows:

Harvard Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine (FSJP), a group which describes itself as a “collective” committed to falsely accusing Israel of genocide and dispossession — terms one finds on the fringes of the extreme right — initiated this latest controversy. The image it shared shows a left-hand tattooed with a Star of David containing a dollar sign



at its center dangling a Black man and an Arab man from a noose. In its posterior, an arm belonging to an unknown person of color wields a machete that says, “Liberation Movement”.

As reported in the March 29, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, “the Harvard Law School (HLS) Student Government has passed a divestment resolution that falsely accuses Israel of genocide and ethnic cleansing in Gaza, a controversial charge which some scholars and lawmakers have deemed as antisemitic in accordance with the world’s leading definition of antisemitism.” As further noted in the *Algemeiner* article:

The measure’s passing — by a vote of 12-4 with 3 abstentions, according to *The Harvard Crimson* — follows what has been described by dissident students as a “rushed” process to bring it before the body for a vote and questionable amendments to its constitution to allow for a secret ballot concealing from the public how members voted. Normally, per its own bylaws, the student government would hold an in-person roll call vote.

On May 16, 2024, the *Boston Globe* published the following account of a report by the House Education and the Workforce Committee:

A congressional committee hammered Harvard University for “major flaws” in its response to antisemitism on campus following Hamas’s Oct. 7 attack on Israel, saying the school’s failures led to a hostile environment for Jewish students.

Harvard could have improved the campus climate by implementing recommendations from its own advisory group on antisemitism such as cracking down on classroom disruptions and enforcing existing university rules, the House Education and the Workforce Committee said in a report on Thursday. Former President Claudine Gay created the group before abruptly resigning in January.

“The committee’s report proves that former President Gay and Harvard’s leadership propped up the university’s Antisemitism Advisory Group all for show,” Virginia Foxx, the North Carolina Republican who chairs the committee, said in a statement.

The following astonishingly depressing account of Jewish life at Harvard both before and during the protest encampment period is from a June 5, 2024, *Tablet* article, written by graduating Harvard senior, Shabbos Kestenbaum:

“I was called antisemitic by power and money because they want power and money.”

Thus said Harvard's 2024 commencement speaker, Maria Ressa. Fittingly, her deployment of antisemitic tropes in front of tens of thousands of students, professors, and families at graduation last week encapsulated the absolute chaos that has engulfed Harvard University for the last year.

Even as I took my seat at commencement, I was handed a newspaper, *The Harvard Crimeson* (a pun on the country's oldest newspaper, *The Harvard Crimson*) which accused Jews of racism for arguing that calls for an intifada are a direct call for violence. The 10-page paper went on to defend chants of "from water to water Palestine is Arab," "from the river to the sea," and "globalize the intifada."

I shouldn't have been surprised. After all, just the week prior, dozens of students and faculty gathered by the gates of Harvard to gleefully exclaim "intifada, intifada, coming to America."

This of course followed an almost monthlong illegal encampment of students and professors in the center of Harvard Yard demanding a complete and total divestment from "the Zionist entity." Although the participants used bolt cutters in an attempt to break open Harvard's gates, depicted our Jewish President as a devil replete with horns and a tail, violated all time, place, and manner restrictions, called for the violent destruction of the Jewish state, and established a self-appointed security system that monitored and recorded Jews like me on our way to class, they were handsomely rewarded.

In exchange for packing up their foul-smelling tents and open-air laundry, all graduate and almost all undergraduate students had their suspensions revoked. The encampment leaders will meet with senior university officials to discuss a Palestinian studies department, and the Harvard Management Corporation, which oversees Harvard's \$50 billion endowment, will invite them for a seat at the table to discuss divestment, and President Garber personally asked for reinstatements and an expeditious disciplinary process.

That same week, the Harvard antisemitism task force, led by a professor who has repeatedly labeled antisemitism at Harvard as "exaggerated," quietly updated their timeline. Rather than submit recommendations to combat Jew-hatred during the spring semester as promised, the task force now has a revised date of fall 2024.

Although both the Harvard Jewish Alumni Alliance (HJAA) and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce released damning reports pertaining to the systematic

silencing of Jewish and Israeli voices on campus, the university has yet to announce or implement a single policy in response.

In fact, although the reports found that a Jewish student was spat on, an Israeli student was asked to leave class as her nationality made classmates “uncomfortable,” another Israeli was assaulted at the business school, a staff member taunted me with a machete and challenged me to debate the Jewish involvement in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Harvard didn’t acknowledge these incidents publicly or failed to address them for months.

On June 27, 2024, the *Times of Israel* reported the following: “Israeli students at Harvard University are facing “dire” exclusion on the US campus and other students are suffering because of “political litmus tests” to participate in clubs and activities, a task force charged with reporting on antisemitism at Harvard has concluded.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (The Riesman Center for Harvard Hillel at Rosovsky Hall).
- *Kosher meals*: Available at Hillel's Rabbi Ben-Zion Gold Kosher Dining Hall.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Conservative and reform services, as well as daily orthodox minyan.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad House at Harvard, 38-40 Banks Street.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat.
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities: Alpha Epsilon Pi.*

*Historically Jewish Sororities: No.*

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Center for Jewish Studies):*8. Harvard’s Nathan Littauer Professorship of Hebrew Literature and Philosophy, established in 1925, was the first Chair in Jewish Studies established at an American university.

## **Johns Hopkins University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 450 (8%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low/Moderate***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 17***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 20***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 10***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 58/248***

***Comparable Schools: Cornell, Emory, Vanderbilt, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, University of Virginia and Washington University in St. Louis***

***Jewish President: Ronald J. Daniels***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2024 gift by Michael R. Bloomberg to the Johns Hopkins Medical School; 2021 gift by Michael R. Bloomberg to establish the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation; 2021 gift of \$150 Million by Michael R. Bloomberg to aid in diversifying the school's PhD programs; 2018 gift of \$1.8 Billion by Michael R. Bloomberg (the largest gift ever given to a university anywhere in the world); 2016 gift of \$50 Million by Michael R. Bloomberg; 2016 gift of \$50 Million by Sidney Kimmel; 2013 gift of \$350 Million by Michael R. Bloomberg; 2006 gift of \$100 Million by Michael R. Bloomberg; 1992 gift of \$50 Million by the Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund***

Positioned between Baltimore's worst and best neighborhoods, this first university to offer graduate programs boasts a stunningly beautiful Georgian campus, replete with marble columns and staircases, as well as superb undergraduate programs in engineering, music, international relations, the sciences and pre-med. As with Washington University in St. Louis, the hallmark of this fine university is its medical school that is perennially ranked among the top five, if not the top two or three. Students here are very serious, and, aside from lacrosse, at which Johns Hopkins is a powerhouse, college life is academics. Close to sixty percent of the student body is made up of women and the student-faculty ratio is an exceptionally fine 7-1.

Baltimore is a pleasant enough city, but a sizable, unattractive area sits close to the university. Nevertheless, after a brief stroll through the campus, one emerges with a sense of total security and an enhanced appreciation of the idyllic academic environment offered by the school. For those who are medical school bound, it is nirvana. A recommendation from the Johns Hopkins pre-med faculty is tantamount to a medical school admission somewhere, with Johns Hopkins itself being a predictable destination for many of the college's best pre-meds.

Johns Hopkins has experienced little in the way anti-Israel disruptive activity. However, SJP is active on campus. A review of the SJP website disclosed six events that were scheduled in 2016 and five events that were scheduled in 2017, including a May 14, 2017, workshop on divestment. A 2018 \$1.8 billion dollar gift by alumnus Michael R. Bloomberg will ensure need-blind admissions at the college in perpetuity.

On April 3, 2019, student protesters began a sit-in at a Hopkins administration building near the center of campus. The protesters opposed the university's application to the State of Maryland to create an armed campus police force. As reported in the May 8, 2019, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the sit-in ended on that date when Baltimore police arrested five of the protesters.

According to the January 7, 2020, *Forward*, Johns Hopkins has launched an investigation into allegations against a chemistry graduate student and teaching assistant for "alleged anti-Semitism and potential abuse of authority in the discharge of academic responsibilities on our campus." As set forth in the *Forward* account:

Published reports have identified the teaching assistant as Rasha Anayah, who is also a graduate student in the chemistry department at Johns Hopkins. It is alleged that in a tweet she posted Nov. 15, she wrote, "ethical dilemma: if you have to grade a zionist students exam, do you still give them all their points even though they support your ethnic cleansing? Like idk." When 77% of the respondents replied, "Free Palestine! Fail them," she wrote, "like I agree but also too many of you want me to get fired."

On February 14, 2024, the *Jewish Telegraph Agency* reported that the Department of Education's Title VI office opened a probe of Hopkins with a focus "on two ceasefire calls that university personnel put out in the weeks after the war began. One came from a group of more than 120 Johns Hopkins faculty, the other from a union representing graduate students at the school."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: The Smokler Center for Jewish Life in the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building.

- *Kosher meals:* Full 14-meal kosher meal plan available at the Fresh Food Café. Shabat and holiday kosher meals available at the Smokler Center.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat:* Both conservative and reform services. In addition, there is a daily orthodox minyan at the Smokler Center followed by a kosher breakfast.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Chabad of Johns Hopkins & Central Baltimore (serving also the University of Maryland-Baltimore and the University of Baltimore), 3701 North Charles Street.
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities: Alpha Epsilon Pi.*

*Historically Jewish Sororities: No.*

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Jewish Studies Program): 2*

## MIT

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Low-Moderate prior to October 7, 2023, but following Hamas' deadly rampage through southern Israel, organized anti-Israel activity on campus has mushroomed to the highest level

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 450 (6%<)

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus:*** No, but an organization called Coalition Against Apartheid functions in the same manner

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade:*** F

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 21

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 12

***2017 Algemeiner :Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 40

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 136/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Caltech, Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, University of California Berkeley and University of Chicago

***Jewish President:*** Sally Kornbluth

***Major Jewish Donors:*** 2001 gift of \$50 Million from the Jeffrey M. and Barbara Picower Foundation; 2018 gift of \$350 Million from Stephen A. Schwarzman for the MIT Schwarzman College of Computing

Here, the meek need not apply. Unless your kid is equipped to deal with enormous pressure and can handle brilliance at every bend of the road, don't even think of applying to MIT. This place is full of incredible teachers and students, a number of whom I've been lucky enough to know. At MIT, it used to be fashionable, and may still be, to refer to Harvard as a playboy school.

Courses of every kind are offered at MIT, but the central irreducible element is math and science. Whether one is a pre-med, an engineering, an economics or a management major, math and science will bite you in the tail unless you can handle it comfortably. The then president of MIT once lamented to a relative of mine that one of his saddest tasks was to oversee an admissions process where incredibly talented students, many with straight A's and perfect SAT scores, had to be turned away.

Located on the Cambridge side of the Charles River, MIT exudes solidity. Its Greek Revival and modern white buildings are attractive but very heavy in design. Fraternities do abound and MIT kids do, somehow, manage to have fun. Ask some of the fraternity brothers who live in BU territory on Bay State Road.

There have been few anti-Israel incidents on the MIT campus, although in April 20, 2015, the student group Palestine@MIT attempted (unsuccessfully) to persuade the MIT Undergraduate Association to cancel an Israel Independence Day celebration, claiming the event made them feel unsafe. The following is an excerpt from the group's open letter to the Undergraduate Association:

The Israeli Independence Day raises politically sensitive questions given that it just so happens to represent the 1948 Palestinian Exodus, also known as the "Nakba". This is a day of extreme tragedy and traumatic loss for millions of people, including many students here at MIT. As Palestinians and supporters of Palestine in the MIT community, we are alarmed by the fact that the UA are endorsing this event, given that the UA represents us as well. We feel unsafe in an environment that celebrates a catastrophic day for one nation at an official school-wide [event] by a body that represents all students, with no regards or sympathy towards our tragedy.

As reported by the *Jerusalem Post* on November 14, 2023,, MIT suspended a handful of students from "non-academic" activities after they participated in a recent pro-Palestinian "die-in." According to the *Jerusalem Post* account:

The decision was announced in a Nov. 9 letter from MIT President Sally Kornbluth, who did not specify how many students will be suspended. The protest, which occurred that day, was put on by a campus group known as the Coalition Against Apartheid. The action was taken because "a line had been crossed" in the protesters' occupation of a university building, Kornbluth wrote.

"Today's protest – which became disruptive, loud and sustained through the morning hours – was organized and conducted in defiance" of guidelines the university had issued to the students ahead of time, wrote Kornbluth, who was appointed president of MIT last year, on Thursday.

Despite the foregoing, President Kornbluth was one of three college presidents who equivocated when asked, at a December 5, 2023, Congressional hearing, whether advocating Jewish genocide constituted harassment or intimidation. Kornbluth managed to retain her position and the support of the MIT Corporation, even though Penn's president, Sally Magill, one of the other presidents who testified on December 5th, lost hers. However, Kornbluth's testimony will continue to be a following



lightning rod that won't likely go away, as evidenced by a responsive letter from a large number of Jewish MIT alumni reported in the December 12, 2023, issue of the *Algemeiner*. Excerpts from the letter appear below:

We are a growing group of MIT Jewish alumni and MIT allies writing to express our alarm over the Congressional testimony of President Kornbluth of December 5, 2023; the subsequent public relations fallout; and the continued failure of the MIT administration to address the growing antisemitism on MIT's campus.

Calls for genocide of any group of people, including Jews, constitute bullying and harassment. Such calls originating from MIT's campus should *never* be tolerated by the MIT administration and should instead be met with swift disciplinary consequences.

Yet, during the Congressional testimony of December 5, 2023, President Kornbluth implied that calls for genocide of Jews may not constitute bullying and harassment under MIT's code of conduct, depending on context. Protecting violent antisemitic rhetoric on MIT's campus, rather than Jewish victims of such rhetoric, sends a strong signal to the rest of the world that violent words of hate are acceptable, at least as they relate to the Jewish people. Understandably, President Kornbluth's testimony was met with a public uproar.

\*\*\*\*\*

We call for immediate and concrete actions by the MIT administration to combat antisemitism on campus and to demonstrate zero tolerance for calls for genocide of Jews irrespective of the "context":

*Enforce meaningful consequences for individuals who violate MIT's rules*

Students have disrupted classes, protested in areas that MIT has explicitly said were off-limits for protests (such as 77 Mass Ave steps), and occupied Lobby 7 for an entire day after being repeatedly warned that this does violate MIT policy. These events happened over one month ago with no meaningful consequences to date. We call on the MIT administration to discipline those responsible for violating MIT's rules.

*Create an antisemitism-specific task force on campus*

We call on the MIT administration to implement concrete solutions to address the rise of antisemitic rhetoric and harassment in the immediate term through an antisemitism-focused task force to work on ensuring the physical safety of Jewish students and combating the root causes of antisemitism's spread on campus. MIT has a responsibility to clarify that public calls for violence against civilians are grounds for

expulsion, and amend the MIT Code of Conduct to include this if necessary.

*Publicly announce that calls for violence against civilians is grounds for expulsion and amend the MIT Code of Conduct to include this if necessary*

The MIT code of conduct cannot allow for the calls for murder of any minority group. . . It is not asking for that much courage or moral clarity to announce this publicly without comments about “context,” “public statements vs. individuals,” or other such equivocation.

In addition, as reported in the December 15, 2023, *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, the House of Representatives on that date, by a vote of 303-126, with three present, passed a resolution calling for President Kornbluth and Claudine Gay, the president of MIT, to resign. Also as reported by the *Jewish Telegraph Agency* on December 21, 2023, MIT is being investigated by the civil rights division of the Department of Education for antisemitic incidents directed at Jewish students.

As reported by the January 3, 2024, *Haaretz*, a day after Harvard President, Claudine Gay’s, resigned in response to multiple sources of pressure, campaign organizers at MIT were creating their own pressure by “urging Jewish graduates and their allies to reduce their annual gift to MIT to a token \$1, in response to what they described as ‘continued inaction following numerous antisemitic incidents on campus’”.

According to the February 14, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, MIT suspended the anti-Zionist group, Coalition Against Apartheid, for staging an unauthorized demonstration in the Stratton Student Center on February 12, 2024.

As reported in the May 9, 2024, *Tablet*, “MIT became the first elite private school to ban DEI statements in faculty hiring and promotion.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Norman and Muriel Leventhal Center for Jewish Life at the Religious Activities Center.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meals served in the main dining hall on campus. Kosher meals also available on Fridays and Holidays through the MIT Religious Activities Center, Building 11.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Conservative, reform and orthodox services Friday night; orthodox service Saturday morning.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Chabad at MIT, 38 Pearl Street, Cambridge.
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night and Saturday afternoon).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.*

*Historically Jewish Sororities: Alpha Epsilon Phi.*

## **Northwestern University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,200 (14%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***Original 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***Revised 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: F***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 33***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 7***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 18***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 242/248***

***Comparable Schools: Cornell, Dartmouth, Duke, Emory, Princeton, Rice, Vanderbilt, Washington University in St. Louis and University of Michigan***

***Jewish President: Michael H. Schill (formerly president of the University of Oregon)***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2021 gift of \$5 Million by Michal and Cari Sacks; 2015 gift of \$100 Million from J.B. and M.K. Pritzker; 2002 gift of \$75 Million from the Joseph and Bessie Feinberg Foundation to the Northwestern University Medical School***

Situated on Chicago's north shore in the tony suburb of Evanston, Northwestern is the evocation of any real estate agent's three guiding principles: location, location and location. While the school's linear campus is certainly pleasant and provides ample space for the huge construction projects that have cropped up in recent years, it is its location on the shore of Lake Michigan that makes it uniquely attractive. Stand near the water on a sunny day and watch the sun dance on the lake as the shimmering Chicago skyline to the south comes into view, and you will know what I mean.

For years, Evanston's formerly unwelcoming attitude toward Jews was reflected in a relative dearth of Jewish students at the university. But, today, Northwestern attracts Jewish students with numbers sometimes approaching twenty percent of the student body. Further, as all top-grade colleges become more competitive, high-achieving Jewish students will continue to reach out to elite destinations, like Northwestern, that a generation or so ago were not nearly the favorites they are today. In 2011, the Holocaust Educational Foundation, a thirty-

five-year-old organization that records the testimony of Holocaust survivors, became part of Northwestern.

Like Stanford and USC in the PAC-12, Duke and Wake Forest in the Atlantic Coast Conference, Vanderbilt in the Southeastern Conference, Rice in the Big Twelve (formerly of the Southwestern Conference) and Tulane in the American Athletic Conference, Northwestern is one of a handful of superior private, non-Catholic colleges that competes at the highest level of collegiate athletics. Athletics aside, Northwestern's tradition of excellence, expansive campus and lakefront setting make it a perennial winner.

Northwestern is a Greek campus. More than 35% of the student body is affiliated with a Greek organization.

For Jewish students at Northwestern, all is not peaches and cream. The student body is heavily influenced by the Palestinian narrative and by the view that Jewish students cannot support liberal causes and also support Israel. There have been numerous incidents at Northwestern, many of them instigated by SJP and the pro-BDS, Northwestern Divest, involving swastikas on campus, anti-Israel demonization and suppression of Jewish student voices. The following August 8, 2016 *Haaretz* article written by a Northwestern student, entitled "Want to Fight Racism? Renounce Israel. This Is My Campus Reality," tells the tale in stark terms:

Students on college campuses talk about creating "safe spaces" for people with all sorts of ideas, but increasingly the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement, through the doctrine of intersectionality, is creating only two spaces: one for those that are "appropriately" liberal and caring, and one for those who are not. BDS does this by creating a false but unbreakable relationship between the plights of oppressed peoples throughout the world and the Palestinian cause.

NU Divest is a group that started at Northwestern University in January 2015 by Students for Justice in Palestine. Through their efforts, Black Lives Matter, the pro-clean energy Fossil Free Northwestern and the pro-BDS NU Divest have merged their respective messages. They cohosted events, met with the president and demanded the university "divest from corporations profiting off human rights violations, especially those occurring in Palestine."

NU Divest has co-opted the other two to draw in students who might otherwise not be engaged by conflating support for Israel with support for oppression of all types.

So where does that leave progressive Jews who want to fight racism in America and care about green issues but don't want to renounce Israel to find their space in a campaigning student organization? The NU Divest campaign quoted approvingly on its Facebook page the response by Steven Salaita to the recent Black Lives Matter platform that accuses Israel of committing genocide: "That the endorsement has angered and alienated so many liberal Zionists is a good thing. No radical movement can achieve its goals under the influence of liberal Zionism, which by definition aims to preserve a racialized status quo." Not much room there for me.

But BDS's biggest success, at least on my campus, is not only its appeal to students' natural liberal tendencies and desire to support the perceived underdog but, more importantly, its appeal to the basic human desire to be accepted and to belong.

Liberal students will support liberal ideas of social justice. And to be accepted, to be a supporter of the oppressed, one MUST accept the pro-BDS iteration of the pro-Palestinian narrative without nuance or variation.

In late October 2016, the Steinhardt Social Research Institute housed in the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University released a study derived from interviews with Birthright college students from 50 selected campuses. (See earlier discussion in Chapter One.) The study identified Northwestern as one of the "hot spot" schools where a majority of the students interviewed (in the case of Northwestern, 60%) sensed a hostile attitude toward Israel. Also, in the case of Northwestern, a high percentage of the students reported "being blamed for Israel's actions because they were Jewish."

However, later events have suggested that the organized Northwestern Jewish community has developed techniques for pushing back against anti-Israel hostility. Thus, in response to a May 2017 "Israel Apartheid Week" speech given by Palestinian Rasmea Odeh, a terrorist slated for deportation and charged with complicity in the bombing of a supermarket and the murder of two Israeli students, three Northwestern Jewish organizations (Hillel, Wildcats for Israel and J Street U) organized a vigil to memorialize Odeh's victims. Among the more than 150 people in attendance at the vigil was university president Morton O. Schapiro.

In a November 25, 2020 *Tablet* article entitled, "The Hate That Can't Be Contained," George Washington University student Blake Felton detailed numerous incidents reported to her by fellow Jewish students who mistakenly believed that learning remotely would provide them with a respite from incidents of campus anti-Semitism masking as anti-Zionism. Among the more notable of such incidents was

the following account relating to a Northwestern University student organization called Northwestern University Community Not Cops

For Jewish college students like me who were sent home from our colleges and universities last March, the effect was at first chaotic. We were, like everyone else in the nation, afraid for the health and safety of our families and of our communities. Add to this that we were about to process all of the madness away from our campus Jewish communities—the social gatherings, Shabbat services, and holiday meals that anchor our lives.

But for some of us, I confess, there was a bit of relief. As outspoken opponents of anti-Semitic activity on campus, we suspected we were in for at least a little reprieve.

\*\*\*\*\*

We couldn't have been more wrong.

The animosity against “Israel” on campus, used to mask animosity against Jewishness, did not cease, even as the classroom was replaced with the Zoom call. The controversies and scandals kept coming, from California to Massachusetts. Designated terrorists were invited to virtual lectures. Zionism was denounced as racism in official organization statements. And the harassment campaign against Jewish students persisted—only now, the harassers were behind screens.

“Anti-Zionism” on college campuses is not a political disagreement confined to the boundaries of academic discussion in the classroom. It is an obsession.

\*\*\*\*\*

[On an October night in 2020], I am sitting in my childhood bedroom comforting dozens of Jewish students scattered across the country on social media.

On this particular October night, the flashpoint is Northwestern University. There, a student organization called Northwestern University Community Not Cops was ostensibly undertaking an effort to protest the presence of police on campus. Somehow, part of their work involved branding Morty Shapiro, the school's religiously observant Jewish president, “piggy Morton” and burning a school banner in front of his home. Shapiro accused the organization of anti-Semitism.

In response, Northwestern University Community Not Cops published a statement condemning Zionism as racism and Zionists for silencing Palestinian voices. They wrote: “False claims of anti-Semitism have been used throughout Northwestern’s history to shut down student activists, especially Palestinian activists, and to divide coalitions by falsely claiming that anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. Because of the pervasive myths of colonialism and white supremacy, we find ourselves having to repeat: Anti-Zionism is not anti-Semitism.”

Neither Israel nor Palestine were, until this point, pieces in this unfolding drama, yet this student organization decided to frame Shapiro’s reactions to them as a Zionist conspiracy.

“I don’t even identify as a Zionist,” one Northwestern student wrote me on Instagram, “but Jewish students like me are being completely gaslit by an organization we overwhelmingly supported. Another noted: “I’m a little worried for myself and fellow Jewish students right now.”

On November 9, 2022, Op-Ed contributor and Northwestern student, Lily Cohen, wrote the following article in the *Daily Northwestern*, entitled “I am more proud of my Jewish identity than anyone can ever hate me for it.” The following are excerpts from that article:

I love being Jewish, every part of it. I love attending Shabbat services and dinner, I love spending my days at Hillel, I love studying Jewish texts, I love baking challah with my mom, I love setting up the Seder plate, I love chanting Haftarah, I love wearing my Hebrew name around my neck.

I love Israel. In a place and time fixated on cancel culture, I’m sure this simple three-word phrase may get me canceled by some. But it’s a crucial part of my Jewish identity.

I love America. I criticize the U.S. and Israel, their leaders, systems, and laws, while feeling immense passion for and commitment to the success of both nations. Criticism is not the antithesis of patriotism; it’s a reflection of it.

Still, I understand there is a line between criticizing a government and harming a people. Because that line can get blurry, words really matter. “From the River to the Sea” is a slogan used by Hamas — a terrorist organization — as a rallying cry to destroy the entire State of Israel and all of its Jewish inhabitants. The phrase originated more than 30 years ago, evolving from language in the 1988 Hamas charter that promoted



the destruction of Jews, echoing Adolf Hitler's messaging on the merits of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

This is where I draw the line.

When that slogan is plastered around the walls of buildings where I study, when it's hung across The Arch that I walk under every day, when it's painted over The Rock that I helped paint only five hours earlier — in support of voting for gun safety and reproductive rights — I take offense. I feel hurt. I get angry.

Spewing hate will never end in peace, and tearing down other causes is not a constructive way to promote your own.

When similar situations have taken place on campus in the past, I've remained silent, writing down how offended, hurt and angry I am, leaving it in the safety of my Google Drive. But, nothing ever changes, so I'm done staying silent. I'm done being blamed for the actions of the Israeli government. I'm done being told I'm undeserving of a safe, secure Jewish homeland.

\*\*\*\*\*

The NU administration should consider "From the River to the Sea" as a hateful slogan and treat it as such.

To my fellow Jewish students: Take pride in your Judaism. Call on the University to condemn a terrorist organization's tagline. Speak up when you too take offense, feel hurt or get angry.

According to the November 15, 2022, *Jerusalem Post*, the Northwestern Jewish community "was shocked" the preceding day to discover that Ms. Cohen's op-ed had been turned into a big sign painted with the words "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." According to the *Jerusalem Post* account, copies of Ms. Cohen's op-ed had been "taped together and painted over with the words 'from the river to the sea Palestine will be free'".

On November 16, 2023, the *Algemeiner* reported that "Dozens of student groups at Northwestern on November 15, 2023, 'dismissed concerns of rising antisemitism amid the Israel-Hamas war as 'mass hysteria and collective psychosis,' seemingly calling for the destruction of the Jewish state and joining faculty in castigating the school for forming a new panel to combat Jew-hatred on campus." The *Algemeiner* account went on to report the following:

Comprising faculty, staff, students, alumni, and trustees, the committee was formed in response to an explosion of pro-Hamas sentiment and acts of antisemitism on campus following Hamas' Oct. 7 massacre across southern Israel.

The school's Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter has falsely accused Israel of apartheid, genocide, and "settler-colonialism" at its events and in its social media posts. The group also marched around campus earlier this month chanting, "Hey, Schill, what do you say, how many kids did you kill today?" In one incident — in which SJP has denied any involvement — an unknown group vandalized print copies of *The Daily Northwestern*, the campus newspaper, covering them in leaflets headlined, "Northwestern complicit in genocide of Palestinians."

In Monday's announcement, Schill disavowed such activity while noting specifically that chants of "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" are perceived by "significant parts of our community" as "promoting murder and genocide." The popular slogan among pro-Palestinian activists has been widely interpreted as a call for the destruction of Israel, which is located between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

Nonetheless, in response to Schill's announcement, 65 student organizations on Thursday signed an op-ed in *The Daily Northwestern* that was headlined, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

On the brighter side: According to the April 17, 2020, edition of *Israel Today*, Israel and the United States have launched a joint \$21.4 Million research consortium, led by Northwestern University and BGN Technologies, the technology transfer company of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, to develop and commercialize technology for energy-efficient enhanced water supply, wastewater reuse and energy-water systems. Professor Aaron Packman of Northwestern will co-direct the effort together with Professor Moshe Herzberg of Ben-Gurion University.

On December 21, 2023, the *Algemeiner* reported that "Alums for Campus Fairness said it is 'exposing' Northwestern University, alleging that the school has deliberately not punished antisemitic behavior on campus. In pertinent part, the story described the watchdog group's plans and demands as follows:

The group plans to air its advertisements online during a streaming of the Las Vegas Bowl college football game between the Northwestern Wildcats and the Utes of the University of Utah. Among other things,

ACF is demanding that Northwestern adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

The IHRA definition of antisemitism includes examples of anti-Israel bias, such as “claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor,” “denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination,” and “applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.” It has been adopted by dozens of governments and hundreds of civic institutions around the world — such as the US State Department, European Union, and United Nations — and is supported by lawmakers across the political spectrum.

“By refusing to define and denounce antisemitism, Northwestern is tacitly endorsing the climate of fear and intimidation for Jews on campus,” ACF executive director Avi D. Gordon said in a statement. “Faculty and student groups are openly supporting Hamas terrorism and calling for the genocide of Jews. It’s beyond time for Northwestern President Michael Schill to take decisive action against individuals violating university policy and adopt the internationally accepted definition of antisemitism.”

The story also contained Northwestern’s strenuous rejection of the watchdog group’s claim as follows:

“Northwestern University is aware of a planned advertising campaign by an outside, unaffiliated advocacy group alleging that the university and president are not taking a strong enough stance against antisemitism on campus,” spokesperson Jon Yates said in a statement. “These are outlandish claims not based on facts, including the claim that student and faculty groups ‘resoundingly support’ Hamas terrorism.”

As reported in the January 24, 2024, *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, “[o]n the same day the president of Northwestern University announced the new members of a task force formed to combat antisemitism on campus, the school became a target of a federal investigation into its handling of antisemitism. The story, in part, continued as follows:

The confluence on Tuesday would seem to be good timing for the private Big Ten school in Evanston, Illinois, as it tries to restore its Jewish community’s faith in the institution. Except the committee itself has already come under fire in some circles before it has even begun its work.

\*\*\*\*\*

“Northwestern President’s ‘Advisory Committee on Preventing Antisemitism and Hate’ launches with clear intent to block any recognition of antisemitism at the university,” posted Richard Goldberg, a Jewish former intelligence officer and Northwestern alum who worked in the Trump White House and, before that, for a Republican governor of Illinois. “The co-chair and membership make that clear. This is absurd.”

As reported by the April 30, 2024, *The Jewish Insider*, Northwestern reached an agreement on April 29, 2024, with the leaders of the Palestinian encampment on campus pursuant to which the university agreed, among other conciliatory commitments, to “allow students to weigh in on university investments and continue to protest if they end encampment.” The agreement was immediately slammed by local Jewish organizations as a capitulation to lawlessness and intimidation. As reported by April 30, 2024, *AJC Global Voice*:

Sarah van Loon, Regional Director of American Jewish Committee (AJC) Chicago, released the following statement in reaction to the agreement made between Northwestern University and protest encampment leaders.

"I am appalled at the cowardly actions of Northwestern University’s administration yesterday. In order to avoid exhibiting real leadership by enforcing its own recently amended policies, Northwestern succumbed to the demands of a mob, which has intimidated Jewish students, espoused antisemitic, hate-filled speech, and whose members have celebrated Hamas terrorists.

This agreement clearly communicates that if your protest threatens with escalation or violence, the university will acquiesce to your demands. This is a sad day for Jewish students, faculty, and staff and for the university itself.

Why should we believe the administration that in the future it will “enforce University rules and policies,” if they refuse to do that now? How does this agreement actually make the University safer for Jewish and Israeli students and faculty, particularly when it rewards protesters for the intimidating, harmful environment they created on campus? In fact, in its agreement with these disruptors, Northwestern touts steps it will take to foster inclusivity, yet there is only a passing mention of how Jewish students may be supported in that process.

The agreement - which includes the creation of new [Muslim-oriented] scholarships, new professorships, new housing, the creation of new committees and more - makes only a glancing reference to antisemitism,

and even then only brackets it with other forms of hatred. In the wake of these protesters' well-documented antisemitic vitriol, the university remains silent, and leaves its community of Jewish students, faculty, and staff to fend for themselves.

The following appeared in the May 23, 2024 *ADL Campus Crisis Daily*:

A (second) [lawsuit has been filed against Northwestern University](#) for its failure to protect Jewish students from severe antisemitic harassment. The lawsuit alleges that Jewish students faced harassment and hateful rhetoric, saying the administration's inaction created an "unbearable" atmosphere on campus. This news comes after Northwestern made a "deal" with student protestors that protests can continue no later than June 1st in exchange for the University restarting an Advisory Committee on Investment Responsibility that will give students and faculty a say on the University's investments.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes: Fiedler Hillel at Northwestern University.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meal plan available at additional cost.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Orthodox, conservative and reform.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Tannenbaum Chabad House, 2014 Orrington Avenue, Evanston
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: None.

## NYU

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 3,500 (13%). For NYU's Jewish graduate student population, the numerical representation and percent are 2,500 (10%)

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Highest

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade:*** C

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 12

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 10

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 26

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 224/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Boston University, Brandeis, Columbia, George Washington University, Tulane, University of Michigan and University of Southern California

***Jewish President:*** Linda G. Mills (effective June 2023)(Dr. Mills will be NYU's first woman president)

***Major Jewish Donors:*** 2022 gift of \$100 Million from John A. Paulson; 2021 gift of \$50 Million from Leonard N. Stern for the Stern School of Business; 2011 gift of \$50 Million from the Hassenfeld family; 2009 gift of \$100 Million Dollars by Fiona and Stanley F. Druckenmiller for the NYU Langone Medical Center; 2006 gift of \$200 Million Dollars by Leon Levy to create The Institute for the Study of the Ancient World; 2002 bequest from the estate of Julius Silver

Once acquired, academic reputations—whether good or bad—are tenacious. In the realm of colleges and universities, there are exceptions to this generality, but none so poignant as New York University and its 3,500 undergraduate and 2,500 graduate Jewish students.

Formerly, the occupant of an uptown Bronx campus (known today as Bronx Community College) that rivaled Columbia in feel and attractiveness, NYU moved its entire operation to Greenwich Village in the 1960s and 1970s. From a university distinguished by its ornamental structures, NYU became the owner of a motley collection of buildings near or bordering on Washington Square—a green area in the Village encompassing several acres and easily identified by a huge arch on the north side of the square.

At about this time, NYU's law school, flush with funds from its operation of the Mueller Macaroni Company, started its ascendancy into the top ranks of American Law Schools. NYU's business, theater, math, dentistry and medical schools also began jockeying for a high rank within their respective disciplines. All that remained was to pull up the reputation of the undergraduate school to the level of the graduate and professional schools. This was not such an easy job for a school that had just moved its campus and had become known as a rich kid's destination, at least by comparison to students attending the much less expensive colleges comprising the City University of New York system (Brooklyn College, City College, Queens College and Hunter College).

But, as the reputation of New York City began its ascendancy, particularly around the time of the Giuliani administration, NYU's reputation as a good undergraduate school located in an intriguing part of a great city also began to climb. First with the undergraduate departments of the Stern School of Business, the Courant School of Mathematics and the Tisch School of Performing Arts, NYU began accumulating superior teachers who were also attracted to life in the big city and then it began a frontal assault to acquire similarly talented students.

Success begets success and NYU is expanding like crazy. In October 2016, NYU announced that it was going forward with the construction of the 588,000-square foot, 23-story sports complex at its Greenwich Village campus. Though litigation delayed the project for another eight months, the university received the final go ahead from the New York Court of Appeals in June 2017. The building will also include housing for over 400 students and is the first of several giant structures planned for the Greenwich Village area, with total square footage expected to exceed that of the Empire State Building. Also, in 2017, NYU announced a \$500-million expansion of its campus in downtown Brooklyn. To be located at 370 Jay Street, the new construction will add to the 600,000 square feet of space already occupied by NYU's Tandon School of Engineering.

In February 2017, the university's Labowitz Theatre for the Performing Arts was the scene of a Black History Month panel on intersectionality titled "When I See Them, I See Us: Black Palestinian Solidarity." The lead speaker at the panel was George Mason University professor Noura Erakat, a notoriously outspoken critic of Israel, the niece of Palestinian Authority negotiator Saeb Erakat, and lead producer of the video "When I See Them, I See Us," from which the panel took its name.

There have been numerous anti-Israel demonstrations at NYU typified by the annual "Israel Apartheid Week (IAW)." During the March 2017 staging of this event, SJP constructed an "Israel Apartheid Wall," now found on many campuses. According to SJP's website, the purpose of the wall was to "raise awareness of Israel's settler-colonial project and its apartheid system over the Palestinian people, and to build support for the growing Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement."

In its 2016 rankings, the *Algemeiner* ranked NYU as the ninth worst campus for Jewish students, based on the frequency of anti-Israel activities on campus. In response, the January 24, 2017 *Washington Square Times*, NYU's independent student newspaper, ran an article on the *Algemeiner* ranking. In the article, the *Washington Square Times* interviewed an NYU Jewish freshman with respect to anti-Israel and anti-Semitic activity on campus. Her insights regarding the marginalizing effect of intersectionality are informative:

CAS freshman Jordana Meyer said that although she initially questioned NYU's elevated position on the list, she felt there was some justification to the claims of anti-Semitic instances cited in the article.

"At first, I thought nobody would expect that from a school with such a large Jewish population, especially one in lower Manhattan," Meyer said. "But after remembering the various anti-Israel gatherings I've walked through in Washington Square Park, and the swastika vandalism incidents I've heard about, I began to think that maybe it could be accurate."

Meyer said that in the aftermath of the election, students often overlooked the continuing struggles of the Jewish community. She said that the swastika's sudden appearance on campus acted as a symbol of intolerance and hatred, and encouraged her to show more support for other religious groups on campus whose freedom was threatened.

"Although of course I was upset by anti-Semitic rhetoric from Trump supporters, I was also struck by comments from students who spoke about the renewed importance of protecting minorities, before turning around and belittling any concerns expressed by Jews about anti-Semitism," Meyer said. "It felt as though our concerns were less valid and less important than those of other communities."

According to the April 13, 2018, *Jewish Telegraph Agency* (JTA), 51 student groups at New York University pledged to boycott Israel and two pro-Israel campus organizations, Realize Israel and TorchPAC. According to the JTA post, "NYU's chapters of Jewish Voice for Peace and Students for Justice in Palestine organized the [pledge campaign], and its signatories include[d] groups such as the African Student Union, the Black Students Union, College Libertarians, the Mexican Student Association and the Muslim Students Association."

To its credit, the NYU administration reacted quickly and in a condemnatory manner. On April 16, 2018, JTA reported that a spokesman for NYU condemned the resolution, stating "The University opposes any kind of boycott or official refusal by



some student groups to interact with other student groups because of differing points of view. It is at odds with our traditions and values, especially our core belief in the free exchange of ideas.”

Unfortunately, only two weeks later, the anti-Israel drumbeat continued when two students were arrested and charged with reckless endangerment and assault for their roles in protesting that day’s Rave in the Park celebration, a pro-Israel celebration sponsored by Realize Israel, an NYU student organization. According to an April 30, 2018 *Algemeiner* account of the two incidents:

While some protesters waved the Palestinian flag as their peers danced to Israeli music in blue-and-white garb, others wiped their feet and stomped on an Israeli flag, according to video footage. Police officers interrupted the protest at around 1 PM, arresting a member of JVP who set an Israel flag on fire, the student-run *NYU Local* reported.

Later in the afternoon, a male student was filmed grabbing the arm of a Realize Israel member who was singing “Hatikvah” along with dozens of students and forcibly taking her microphone before shouting, “Free Palestine, end the occupation.” Several members of the surrounding group quickly circled the protester before he was removed from the premises by police officers. The same student had allegedly stolen an Israeli flag from participants of the rave.

On October 22, 2018, more than 30 NYU student groups, including SJP, Young Democratic Socialists of America and Jewish Voice for Peace, participated in an open letter in which they declared they were boycotting NYU’s study abroad program in Tel Aviv. The action cited the disciplining of University of Michigan Associate Professor John Cheney-Lippold for refusing to write a letter of recommendation for a student wishing to study in Israel and also came in the wake of Israel’s initial (but, ultimately, overturned) retraction of a student visa issued to pro-BDS, Florida student, Lara Alqasem.

As demonstrated by the following reaction of the Anti-Defamation League New York-New Jersey region, as quoted in the October 24, 2018, *Jewish Journal*, the action taken by the NYU student groups is alarming because it exposes Israeli study abroad programs as the newest target in the BDS campaign against Israel: “This action is another indication that university-endorsed study abroad in Israel is the newest tactic in the effort to delegitimize and demonize Israel. We should be encouraging all students to explore and investigate for themselves. This effort to shut down opportunities for New York University students to conduct academic exploration in Israel is counter to all that higher education stands for.”

In late November 26, 2018, NYU student, Finlay McIntosh, wrote the following in the *Washington Square News*, the school’s student newspaper, regarding the non-

representativeness and lack of transparency in NYU's student government assembly, which was preparing to vote on a BDS resolution:

NYU's Student Government Assembly is soon poised to vote on a Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions resolution. If passed by the University Senate, the resolution would cause NYU to cut all ties with companies that work with the Israeli government, including General Electric, Caterpillar Inc. and Lockheed Martin, the latter of which is a corporate partner of the Tandon School of Engineering. As this is a fairly momentous decision for Student Government to take, one would hope that those making it were transparently elected and representative of the student body. Actually understanding how the byzantine structure of SGA works is no simple process; however, when one looks into the mechanisms, it quickly becomes clear that this structure is barely democratic and about as transparent as mud.

The first obstacle to this government being useful is that a large chunk of those claiming to represent you as students were never elected by you. Of the 79 people able to vote in the Student Government Assembly, 14 are "Senators at Large," who are elected by the previous year's Student Senators in a closed ballot. As such, the NYU student body does not have a say on who makes up over 17 percent of SGA, making the structure akin to an oligarchy that appoints its own members. This makes SGA's claim to be fully representative of NYU flatly ridiculous.

Secondly, the Student Government election results are not publicly released. It is impossible, therefore, to know how many people voted for the elected senators or what the student body's voter turnout was. With no way of knowing the details of how a candidate won an election, there is a major transparency problem. This information is crucial as it would allow us to assess whether students are actually engaged in the electoral process and to what degree those in SGA can claim to represent them.

There is also the problem that even for the positions where the representatives are elected, the amount of people they represent wildly varies. Each of NYU's undergraduate programs gets one senator despite the fact that the populations of these programs are significantly different. For instance, the undergraduate population of the Stern School of Business is 2,705 while the undergraduate enrollment of the Silver School of Social Work is likely under 200 — estimated from the 2017 graduating class for 40 undergraduates. With this figure, an undergraduate at the Silver School of Social Work is 13.5 times more represented than an undergraduate at Stern, exemplifying the disparity in representation.

Finally, there is the issue of secret votes, which will be used to decide upon the upcoming resolution. A representative democracy works on the premise that you can keep your representative accountable by telling them what you think of their actions. Secret voting makes this completely impossible. While it is understandable that members of SGA are keen on not receiving criticism for passing resolutions that people don't support, this measure makes it impossible for students to keep their representatives accountable. It allows members of SGA to be entirely deceitful and vote directly against their constituents' interests with no way of anyone knowing.

According to the December 6, 2018, *Jewish New Syndicate*, the NYU student government on that date passed a BDS resolution calling on the university to divest from firms such as Lockheed Martin, General Electric and Caterpillar Inc., which do business with Israel. According to the *JNS* account:

The final tally, which was conducted by a secret ballot during the fifth night of Hanukkah, was 35 votes in favor, 14 against and 14 abstentions. The BDS measure was backed by 51 campus groups and 34 faculty members.

As reported by the December 12, 2018, *Algemeiner*, on that date the Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at NYU closed temporarily, citing "heightened tensions" due to the recent BDS vote. As quoted in the *Algemeiner* article, the Center found it necessary to close temporarily "due to several public online postings by an NYU student which were anti-Semitic in nature and potentially threatening."

Improbably, according to the April 4, 2019, *Jewish Journal*, NYU's SJP chapter announced in an April 4, 2019, Facebook posting that it had been notified it was receiving an award for "exemplary contributions to the NYU community." According to the *Journal* story:

The post features a screenshot from an apparent email to NYU SJP stating, "The President's Service Awards recognize outstanding NYU students who have made significant contributions to the university community in the areas of learning, leadership, and quality of student life." The email added that NYU SJP has "positively impacted the culture of this institution and the members of our community."

"We are thrilled to announce that we have been selected to receive a presidential service award at NYU," NYU SJP wrote in their Facebook post. "Despite the pushback we have received from our institution, we agree that we have made 'significant contributions to the university community in the areas of learning, leadership, and quality of student life.' Anyway, New York University, divest from Israeli apartheid."

The *Journal* article went on to quote the amazed reaction of Roz Rothstein, a co-founder and CEO of Stand With Us, as follows:

It was less than a year ago that SJP members harassed and assaulted Jewish students at NYU simply for showing pride in Israel and their identity. The last thing SJP deserves is an award, and if it is true that they received one we urge the NYU administration to rescind it immediately.

SJP did receive the advertised award on April 17, 2019. On the same day, SJP posted a photo of pro-Israel students at NYU with a caption that read “Thumbs up if you’re a racist!” According to the April 18, 2019, *Jewish Journal*, SJP “later took the post down and uploaded the same photo but covered up the faces of the Realize Israel members with a caption that reads, ‘Thumbs Up If You’re a Racist: they intimidated to sue us because they don’t like getting called out version!’ “

According to an October 2019 ISGAP (Institute for the Study of Global Anti-Semitism and Policy) report on SJP, entitled “Anti-Semitism, Violent Extremism and the Threat to North American Universities,” a week after NYU bestowed its honor on SJP, Omar Barghouti, the co-founder of the BDS movement was barred from entering the United States to speak at several college venues including NYU. As stated by the ISGAP report:

The reason Barghouti was denied entry to the US was not because he advocates for BDS or for Israel’s destruction. This was not an issue of freedom of expression. He was barred due to the fact that the group Barghouti founded and directs includes five US-designated terrorist organizations in its membership, including Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Barghouti, who consistently incites antisemitism and supports Jihadist terrorism, was intending to speak at several venues, including NYU as a guest of SJP, the recipient of NYU’s President’s Service Award.

As noted in Chapter One, on May 2, 2019, NYU’s Department of Social and Cultural Analysis (“SCA”) passed a resolution to boycott the university’s study abroad program in Tel Aviv. As reported in the May 2, 2019 *Jewish Journal* account of the resolution, Adela Cojab, an NYU student who had filed a legal complaint against the university after it issued the above-noted award to SJP, told the *Journal* in a Facebook message:

The fact that SCA pledged non-compliance with Tel Aviv when *no student or faculty has ever been denied entry*, while continuing partnership with NYU-Abu Dhabi after *two professors have already been turned away* because of their Shiite heritage is hypocritical as it is

absurd. SCA does not care about equal opportunity or ethical conduct, they only care about demonizing the Jewish state.

At graduation ceremonies for NYU's Graduate School of Arts & Science, doctoral candidate and graduation speaker, Steven Thrasher, added his voice to severing NYU's association with Tel Aviv University. As reported in the May 24, 2019, edition of *Newsweek*, Thrasher stated the following:

I am so proud, so proud of NYU's chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voices for Peace and of [Graduate Student Organizing Committee] and of the NYU student government and of my colleagues in the department of social and cultural analysis for supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions [BDS] movement against the apartheid state government in Israel.

According to the May 24, 2019 *Jewish Journal*, it was subsequently shown that Thrasher had previously released anti-Israel tweets, including a May 2018 tweet that stated:

As the Nazis did on Jews, Africans & the disabled... as the enslavers did to Africans... and as U.S. police departments have on Black urban neighborhoods, US backed Israel is testing the limits of what it can get away with in controlling humans in Gaza. Will the world care?

Also as reported in the May 24, 2019 *Journal* article, NYU President Andrew Hamilton told the *Journal*: "We were shocked when we were made aware of these undoubtedly vile and anti-Semitic tweets. Steven Thrasher should never have been a speaker for the doctoral convocation."

In October 2019, NYU's Asian/Pacific/American Studies Institute hosted anti-Zionist lawyer Noura Erakat in conjunction with a new book she had written on the Israel-Palestinian conflict, entitled "Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine." According to the Scholars for Peace in the Middle East's ("SPME") *BDS Monitor*, which quoted CAMERA, a Jewish watchdog organization focusing on the press, "Erakat's book claims that the 'Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be understood through a settler-colonial framework; the international community has failed Palestinians by bending the laws in favor of the Jews; and attempts should be made to prosecute Israeli veterans for war crimes.'" In response, an NYU student requested that the Institute's department of social and cultural analysis (SCA) host a pro-Zionist speaker to respond to Erakat's book tour event. According to a November 17, 2019, *Algemeiner* account of the matter, the students request was denied. The article *Algemeiner* article reported the following suspect explanation for the denial: "The SCA professor that invited Erakat, Lisa Duggan, emailed [the student] Newhouse on Oct. 17 that Erakat wasn't invited "in connection with any

book tour or for the purpose of political debate,” rather “to share her research with some of our graduate students, and then decided to open her talk more widely.”

Following then President Trump’s December 11, 2019, executive order formally extending the protective provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to Jewish students on campus, Adela Cojab Moadeb, the student who had filed the above-noted anti-harassment suit against NYU, wrote the following in the December 14, 2019, *New York Post*:

When I first started at NYU, I was excited to go to a school that championed diversity and inclusion — until that diversity and inclusion applied to everyone except my community. After years of overt protests, boycotts, and direct aggression toward Jewish students from NYU’s chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), the university honored the organization with the President’s Service Award for “outstanding contribution to NYU life.”

What did SJP do to “earn” this prize? They organized a 53-group boycott against Realize Israel, a non-political student organization, depicting assault rifles on flyers calling for a revolt. Further, at the 2018 Rave in the Park in which NYU students celebrated Israel Independence Day, one SJP member burned an Israeli flag and another physically assaulted a Jewish student; both students were arrested.

\*\*\*\*\*

The presidential award solidified the university’s stance: violent acts against students on the basis of their views are not only tolerated, but celebrated, and the concerns of Jewish students are not to be taken seriously.

When I sued NYU for campus anti-Semitism, college leaders shrugged. It took the US president to do something about it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Although my legal complaint argued that NYU’s reaction — or lack thereof — to its Jewish community’s plight already violated Title VI, religion was not a protected class under civil rights law — at least until this week. President Trump’s new executive order not only changes that reality, but corrects a longtime gross injustice against Jewish students. The order expands Title VI’s existing protections to explicitly include discrimination against Jews.

During the coronavirus pandemic that his Israel, Aryeh Even, an 88-year-old Israeli Holocaust survivor, died. He was the first Israeli fatality due to the virus. As reported by the March 26, 2020, *Jerusalem Post*, a former NYU student who oversaw the school's SJP chapter "apparently expressed a morbid pleasure over the death of [the] Israeli Holocaust survivor". NYU was so incensed by the action of the former student that, as reported in the *Jerusalem Post* article, NYU spokesman John Beckman wrote:

With almost 500,000 alumni, NYU does not routinely respond to its graduates' social media posts, but the reported Twitter post by a former NYU student about the first Israeli death from COVID-19 was shameful and callous. The death and disruption caused by this pandemic should be reason to draw us together in sympathy, not be fodder for divisiveness and indifference. NYU denounces such insensitivity; it is at odds with our campus' values.

As reported in October 3, 2020 edition of the *Jerusalem Post*, NYU and the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) reached a landmark settlement over charges of antisemitism at NYU. The agreement was announced by The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law the previous day. According to the *Jerusalem Post* article:

[T]he settlement requires that NYU's anti-harassment policy include a "statement of the university's commitment to academic freedom and free speech." Additionally, as a result of the settlement, NYU will use the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. NYU President Andrew Hamilton will also issue a statement that "antisemitism will not be tolerated, [the university will] conduct town hall meetings on antisemitism and work with NYU student groups to combat antisemitism."

In what it called a "Statement of Commitment to the Boycott, Divest, Sanctions Movement," Volume 46 of the *N.Y.U. Review of Law & Social Change* stated:

The *N.Y.U. Review of Law & Social Change* ("RLSC") expresses our firm commitment to the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions ("BDS") movement and our solidarity with Palestinians collectively struggling towards liberation.

As reported by the December 17, 2021, *Algemeiner*, the Academic Engagement Network published a response during the week of December 13, 2021. In pertinent part, the response (which may be found at <https://academicengagement.org/faculty-in-law-response-to-nyu-bds/> and which was signed by 25 legal scholars as of December 23, 2021) stated the following:

□ An academic boycott of Israel's institutions of higher education, in compliance with the Guidelines for the International Academic Boycott of Israel established by the *Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel* ("PACBI"), runs roughshod over the commitment to the fundamental principles of the academy. As noted by the *American Association of University Professors* and hundreds of university leaders, academic boycotts are inherently discriminatory and detrimental to the core values that define the academy, namely the open and unfettered communication of ideas and the academic freedom to conduct intellectual exchange and research without fear of retaliation.

□ Adopting a unified viewpoint with respect to a controversial set of issues and a field of study is an intolerable stance for an academic journal to adopt and enforce (See Statement, Academic Boycott of Complicit Institutions, Article 5). The Statement explicitly states that those journal submissions which fail to conform to the virulently anti-Israel political viewpoints of the Board and Staff Editors will be summarily rejected. Academic journals do not typically articulate or adopt foreign policies in their mission statements. While many academics in Israel object to the Israeli government's policies and practices, for the RLSC to require Israeli universities and academics to adopt a specific position on controversial political debate chills the free expression of viewpoint and is a serious infringement of academic freedom. Such political litmus tests impede the exchange of ideas and are reminiscent of practices in authoritarian regimes, where academic journals have established similar rules and requirements.

□ The Statement's assertion that the "academic boycott targets complicit *institutions*, not individuals" has been shown to be false. The boycott of Israeli universities cannot be meaningfully separated from the faculty and students who work, teach, and study in them. The BDS/PACBI boycott of Israeli academic institutions is therefore more aptly described as a blacklist which punishes and discriminates against individual academics on the basis of their nationality, political views, and the policies and actions of their employers and their government. Furthermore, unless the RLSC is also committed to extending its boycott to Arab faculty of Israeli universities, the Statement should be seen as calling for discrimination on a religious basis as well, since only Jewish-Israeli academics will be ensnared by it.

According to the April 19, 2022, *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, Jewish students at the School of Law called on the university to investigate the law school's SJP chapter as a result of a group SJP emails they say crossed the line between criticism of Israel and antisemitism. The *JTA* article stated that the "emails [that] were sent out by



NYU Law Students for Justice in Palestine on a student listserv accused Israel of being an “apartheid regime” and said the violence by a presumed Palestinian gunman was “a direct result of the Israeli occupation.”

On August 4, 2023, NYU’s president and interim provost, Linda G. Mills and Georgina Dopico published the following statement in opposition to the American Anthropological Association adoption of a BDS resolution:

We are opposed to and deeply disappointed by the AAA’s recent resolution calling for an academic boycott of Israel. By their very nature, academic boycotts contravene the concept of the free exchange of ideas, a key tenet of academic freedom. NYU has long and consistently objected to academic boycotts for just these reasons.

“It is regrettable that the AAA, a scholarly organization meant to promote the advancement of knowledge throughout the discipline, an organization that has reaffirmed its commitment to academic freedom, has taken a step seemingly so at odds with those objectives. “We urge them to reconsider.”

Then, as reported in the September 6, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, NYU announced that it would not host a conference, titled “Battling the IHRA Definition,” that the California-based anti-Zionist organization, Institute for the Critical Study of Zionism (ICSZ), planned to hold the following October 13 and 14 at both NYU and UC Santa Cruz. According to the *Algemeiner* account, ICSZ “declares on its website that Zionism is a “colonial racial project” and that Israel is a “settler colonial state.”

As reported by the October 17, 2023, *Newsweek*, three students were filmed tearing down pictures of missing Israeli hostages abducted by Hamas during its October 7, 2023, rampage.

According to the November 28, 2023, the *Forward*, students at NYU Law School “voted to remove the president of the student bar association, Ryna Workman, after Workman wrote a column in the group’s newsletter blaming Israel for Hamas’ Oct. 7 attacks.” As also reported in the *Forward* account, 428 students out of 1,135, voted against removing Workman.

The following excerpt from the July 29, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, suggests that the pro-Hamas demonstrations and disturbances that took place during the spring 2024 semester are likely to continue at NYU when the fall 2024 semester convenes:

A pro-Hamas student group operating at New York University has reiterated its support for political violence and terrorism after being

censured by the school, heightening concerns that the new academic year will see escalations of extremist activity on the campus.

“Decolonization and abolition are not metaphors. We uphold the right of any oppressed people to resist their oppression, by any means necessary,” the group, which calls itself NYU People’s Solidarity Coalition (NYU PSC), said in a “Statement of Intention.” “Resistance takes many forms, including armed struggle ... As members of the NYU PSC, we will not condemn the brave actions of our allies, nor will we limit ourselves to resistance through organizational means.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes: Edgar M. Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meals available in kosher dining hall (14-21 meals a week).
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Orthodox, conservative and reform (as well as daily minyanim).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Orthodox, conservative and reform.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at NYU, 353 Bowery 2nd Floor.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies)*: 10.

## **Princeton University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 500 (10%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: High-Highest***

***Original 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: F (but, see demurrer by Princeton's Hillel director cited at the end of this profile)***

***Revised 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 13***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 11***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 31***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 187/248***

***Comparable Schools: Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Stanford, Yale and University of Virginia***

***Major Jewish Donor: 2005 gift of \$101 Million by Peter B. Lewis***

Along with Harvard and Yale, Princeton is generally referred to as one of the Big Three—a characterization that connotes Princeton's academic stature although not its size since Harvard and Yale are larger in student population and in the array of graduate programs offered. Indeed, Princeton is primarily a college with a traditional graduate school (though one which boasts over 2,500 students), in the mold of Brown (which also has a medical school) and Dartmouth (which has a medical school, business school and school of engineering). Princeton, of course, also boasts the acclaimed Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and has ties with both the Princeton Theological Seminary and the Institute for Advanced Study.

Located in the charming and elite community of Princeton, New Jersey, Princeton's campus is, for lack of a more elegant way of stating the obvious, everything that a campus should be. From the colonial era Nassau Hall (Old Nassau) to the impressive array of Collegiate Gothic structures throughout the campus, such as the immense Princeton University Chapel and the Cuyler Hall and Walker Hall dormitories, Princeton is an idyllic, richly-treed and traffic-free campus of stately and lovely buildings surrounded by lawns, walkways, courtyards with arched entries and attractive neighboring streets. Princeton operates on the residential college system,

much like Oxford and Cambridge. There are six undergraduate residential colleges, with each having its own dormitories, dining halls and assigned faculty.

Until the 1960s, Princeton was a largely WASP enclave and, in many respects, a Presbyterian one. Indeed, prior to the presidency of Woodrow Wilson, every prior president of Princeton had been a Presbyterian minister. Wilson, himself, was the son of a Presbyterian minister. During the latter part of the nineteenth century, then President Landon Patton (1888-1902) paid so much attention to religious imperatives that Princeton's faculty rebelled at his relative failure to address academics.

Princeton's renowned eating clubs, made somewhat infamous by Princeton student F. Scott Fitzgerald, served as the backbone of Princeton society. In his 1920 debut novel, *This Side of Paradise*, Fitzgerald described the eating club scene at Princeton as the "pleasantest country club in America." Being admitted to the right eating club not only meant arrival but was also a validation of one's social status and prep school rearing. As late as 1950, the children of Princeton alums were admitted to the university on the sole basis of whether their records indicated they were capable of graduating, thereby contributing to an inbred-like atmosphere, which, in turn, attached itself to the eating club environment.

In a letter written by a former Jewish student to then Princeton President Woodrow Wilson, Leon Michael Levy described the eating club scene as representing "class prejudice." To avoid some of the notoriety associated with its eating clubs, Princeton adopted a 100% eating club membership standard in the 1950s. However, matters came to a head in 1958. During that year's Bicker (eating club rush), 41 Princeton sophomores who had not been chosen for eating club membership were quite literally left out in the cold of an outside porch while their eating-club fate was being decided inside. Of these 41, nine were Merit scholars (accounting for more than 50% of the Merit scholars in the sophomore class). Further, of the 23 who eventually were denied an eating club bid, 15 were Jews (although, to be fair, 75 other Jewish men had found homes within the eating club system). The 15 "men in trouble," as they were then known, signed a petition claiming discrimination. The Bicker of 1958 became known as the "Dirty Bicker".<sup>3</sup>

Whatever the legitimacy of the claims of discrimination during the Dirty Bicker, there is certainly anecdotal evidence that Princeton had maintained a strict quota on Jewish students prior to World War II. Robert Caro, the Pulitzer-Prize-winning biographer of Lyndon Johnson and a Princeton man during the mid 1950s, was profiled by the *New York Times Magazine* in 2012. According to the *Times*, the following was Caro's characterization of Jewish life at Princeton during his student

---

<sup>3</sup> Material in this paragraph drawn from Jerome Karabel's, *The Chosen: The Hidden History of Admission at Harvard, Yale, and Princeton* (2006).

days: “Princeton in the mid-‘50s was hardly known for being hospitable to Jews, and though Caro says that he did not personally suffer from anti-Semitism, he saw plenty of students who did.”

In 1970, Steven L. Buening, a Princeton senior was doing research on former Princeton President John Grier Hibben who presided over Princeton in the 1930’s. Buening contacted former University of Chicago President Robert Maynard Hutchins who was known to have visited Hibben in the early 1930’s and asked Hutchins about Princeton’s Jewish quota system during the Hibben years. Hutchins responded on December 17, 1970. According to Hutchins, Hibben claimed that the number of Jewish students annually admitted just happened to be about four percent, whereupon Hibben’s wife exclaimed: “Jack Hibben, I don’t see how you can sit there and lie to this young man. You know very well that you and Dean Eisenhart get together every year and fix the quota.”

In the immediate years following the Dirty Bicker, Princeton’s yield dropped considerably relative to Harvard and Yale. In 1960, Princeton lost 107 men to Harvard and 70 to Yale. By 1964, Princeton was feeling the pinch and adopted a policy of making itself less homogeneous. In 1972, Princeton opened a kosher kitchen—the first kosher kitchen in the Ivy League. In 1993, the Center for Jewish Life opened on 70 Washington Road.

Today, Princeton students come from all walks of life and from all religious backgrounds, including a Jewish population which accounts for almost 10% of Princeton’s 5,000 undergraduates. Princeton has become very popular among orthodox Jewish students. Indeed, the Center for Jewish Life has its own Dining Hall, supervised by the Orthodox Union. The dining hall is, however, available to all Princeton students. The Scharf Family Chabad House is thriving. The Perelman Institute for Judaic Studies at Princeton was endowed by entrepreneur Ronald Perelman. In September 2012, a grant from Sidney and Ruth Lapidus established the Lapidus Family Fund in American Jewish Studies, a collaborative program between the Department of American Studies and the Program in Judaic Studies, created for the purpose of offering courses and events related to American Jewish Studies.

In December 2016, following disclosures that members of Princeton’s men’s swim and dive teams had used a team listserv to exchange vulgar, racist and misogynistic messages, the university cancelled the teams’ remaining schedule.

Princeton has had its share of anti-Israel demonstrations and events on campus. Two episodes exemplify the ongoing assault against the Jewish state and the breadth of anti-Zionist sentiment on campus. In February 2016, the Princeton DREAM Team and the Princeton Committee on Palestine constructed an “apartheid wall” to condemn both the US-Mexico border fence and the Israeli security fence. As

concerning as was the “wall” itself, even more so was the related February 8, 2016, Facebook page’s expression of appreciation to university supporters of the project: “this project would not have been possible without the generous support of the Lewis Center for the Arts, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the Davis International Center, and the American Studies Program.”

Then, in February 2017, the Princeton Program in American Studies and the Princeton Committee on Palestine convened an event entitled “Is Zionism Separable from Judaism?” According to a Jewish student’s account of the event in the March 6, 2017 *Daily Princetonian*, “the well-known political scientist and Israel critic Norman Finkelstein repeatedly equated Zionism with ethnic cleansing. He called Zionism a denial of historical truth and compared Zionist endeavors to Stalin’s.” Tellingly, the student’s account began: “I’m afraid to say it out loud sometimes because it’s become a bad word of late. I believe in Israel’s right to exist and its necessity. I put great faith in the Jewish right to self-determination and have a deep love for the State of Israel. This makes me a Zionist.”

Judith Rodin, a former Jewish president of Princeton, is now president of the Rockefeller Foundation. According to the July 1, 2013 edition of *Haaretz*, Princeton’s current president, Christopher Eisgruber was working on a school project with his son Danny, then a fourth grader, when he made a stunning discovery.

Eisgruber, who on July 1 becomes president of Princeton University, was raised Catholic, though he has identified as a non-theist (he prefers the term over atheist) since adolescence, and was married in the Episcopal church. His son’s teacher asked students to look for relatives who came through Ellis Island, so on a March day in 2008 Eisgruber began searching its archives. On a ship’s manifest listing his mother and her parents, he found an unexpected notation: “Hebrew.”

In September 2017, under the auspices of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton, a number of Princeton, Harvard and Yale professors wrote an open letter to incoming students at those institutions urging them to resist dominant opinion on campus and think for themselves. In pertinent part, the letter stated as follows:

Thinking for yourself means questioning dominant ideas even when others insist on their being treated as unquestionable. It means deciding what one believes not by conforming to fashionable opinions, but by taking the trouble to learn and honestly consider the strongest arguments to be advanced on both or all sides of questions—including arguments for positions that others revile and want to stigmatize and against positions others seek to immunize from critical scrutiny.

The love of truth and the desire to attain it should motivate you to think for yourself. The central point of a college education is to seek truth and to learn the skills and acquire the virtues necessary to be a lifelong truth-seeker. Open-mindedness, critical thinking, and debate are essential to discovering the truth. Moreover, they are our best antidotes to bigotry.

The message may not have gotten through to Princeton Hillel. In November 2017, Princeton Hillel canceled a speaking engagement by conservative Israeli Knesset member, Tzipi Hotovely, allegedly because the invitation had not been reviewed by Hillel's Israel Advisory Committee. Princeton Hillel did offer a half-hearted apology, but the damage had been done.

On December 4, 2017, anti-Semitic flyers were discovered at several locations on the Princeton campus.

In February 2018, Lawrence Rosen, a Princeton anthropology professor and the recipient of both a MacArthur Fellowship as well as a Guggenheim Fellowship for Social Sciences, felt obliged to terminate a course, entitled "Cultural Freedoms—Hate Speech, Blasphemy and Pornography," after black students objected to a question in which Rosen employed a racial slur to illustrate unacceptable speech. The question at issue: "What is worse, a white man punching a black man, or a white man calling a black man a n\*\*\*\*r?"

In a letter to the editor of *The Daily Princetonian*, Professor Carolyn Rouse, the African American chair of the Princeton Department of Anthropology, defended Professor Rosen as follows:

In the last two years academic institutions have been caricatured as liberal bastions for snowflakes. Actually, that has never been the case. In the Department of Anthropology, for example, our entire pedagogical mission has never been about reaffirming the political points of view of the day, right or left. Our goal is to get students to move beyond their common sense to see how culture has shaped their beliefs and emotions. If our students leave our classes knowing exactly what they knew when they entered, then we didn't do our jobs. Rosen has used the same example year after year. This is the first year he got the response he did from the students. This is diagnostic of the level of overt anti-black racism in the country today. Anti-American and anti-Semitic examples did not upset the students, but an example of racism did. This did not happen when Obama was president, when the example seemed less real and seemed to have less power.

In a February 15, 2018, *Forward* article, Professor Rouse was again quoted in defense of Professor Rosen:

“I feel bad for the students who left the class not trusting the process,” said Carolyn Rouse, chairwoman of Princeton’s anthropology department. “Rosen was fighting battles for women, Native Americans, and African-Americans before these students were born. He grew up a Jew in an anti-Semitic America, and recognizes how law has afforded him rights he would not otherwise have.”

While the May 2021 Israel-Hamas conflict was raging and while Hamas was indiscriminately launching over 4,000 missiles into Israeli territory, over fifty Princeton faculty members and staff signed a statement castigating Israel’s actions as based on “Jewish supremacy,” while making no mention of the Hamas missile attacks. As reported by the May 17, 2021 *Algemeiner*, the letter contained the following statements:

“We condemn the displacement of Palestinian families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem — part of a decades long campaign of warfare, expulsion, unequal residency rights, and discriminatory planning policies that advances the ethnic cleansing of Jerusalem,” said the Tuesday letter. “The brutal system that controls Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is ideologically founded on Jewish supremacy.”

On May 29, 2021, Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (“SPME”) responded to the Princeton faculty letter. In pertinent part, SPME’s response is reproduced below:

We, members of the Princeton University community,” the statement read, “condemn the ongoing attacks on the Palestinian people in Gaza by the Israeli armed forces, which represent the latest chapter of a nearly-fifteen-year blockade that has transformed the territory into a prison for its two million inhabitants . . .,” carelessly omitting the fact that Israel completely disengaged from Gaza in 2005, removing every Jew, living and dead, and leaving the Palestinian Arabs with thriving greenhouses and a base for the development of a Palestinian state. Instead, Gaza was transformed by Hamas into a launching pad for mortar and rocket fire into southern Israeli towns, so that the terror group has launched over 30,000 lethal rockets over the years with the express purpose of murdering Jewish civilians.

That is the reason for the blockade instituted by Israel against Gaza—to prevent the transport of arms and materials used by Hamas to



enhance its military capability. And deadly rocket fire, each one of which constitutes a war crime by Hamas, is the cause of the current conflict and what has necessitated Israel's measures to suppress rocket fire meant to kill its citizenry. As for the "prison" thereby created, like accusations of genocide and ethnic cleansing, it stretches the use of the term beyond recognition, and is a convenient, though disingenuous way, that Israel's enemies have to pretending that Gaza is still essentially occupied. Though Jewish bodies are gone, the blockade—and the alleged creation of an open-air prison—represent Israel's imagined control and suppression of the Palestinians. In this analysis of the situation, the Arabs, of course, are entirely exempt from responsibility for the condition in which they find themselves.

According to the April 15, 2022, *Washington Free Beacon*, Princeton's "student government manipulated its voting rules to ensure the success of a Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions referendum that passed on Wednesday [April 13, 2022]." As reported by the Beacon, "the referendum, which demanded that Princeton boycott a construction company with ties to Israel, received a minority of votes but passed nonetheless after the school's chief election administrator misled pro-Israel students about how the vote would be tallied." As further reported by the *Beacon*, the asserted manipulation occurred as follows:

The controversy over the vote counting began on March 28, when Tigers for Israel president Jared Stone asked the student government's elections manager, Brian Li, whether abstentions would count in the final vote total. The referendum, held between April 11 and April 13, required a 50-percent-plus-1 majority to pass, according to the student government constitution, if the denominator included abstentions, those votes would effectively count against the referendum, giving pro-Israel students a procedural edge.

Li told Stone abstentions did count, so Tigers for Israel developed a campaign that encouraged students to abstain. Rather than persuade students to vote against the referendum, Stone explained, Tigers for Israel assured them it was OK to remain neutral about a complicated geopolitical issue.

"Opposition campaigners told student after student that it was better to abstain rather than not vote at all," Myles McKnight, a member of Tigers for Israel, said in an email to Princeton's student government.

But hours after voting closed on April 13, Li abruptly changed course, telling pro-Israel student leaders that abstentions wouldn't be counted

after all. The reversal changed the outcome of the vote: Including abstentions would have given the referendum only 44 percent support, according to preliminary results published by the *Daily Princetonian*. Excluding them gave it 52 percent support—just 1 point above the cutoff.

For an opinion piece on the foregoing BDS vote, see “A response to BDS at Princeton,” published in the May 22, 2022 *Jerusalem Post*.

In a September 23, 2022, *Wall Street Journal* op-ed, student journalist, Danielle Shapiro, described how Princeton had used a Title IX no-communication order to prevent her from communicating with an anti-Israel student activist regarding a *Princeton Tory* story Shapiro was writing about a March 1, 2022, anti-Israel protest.

As reported in the November 19, 2022 *The Daily Princetonian*, in a special meeting on Wednesday, November 16, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) voted to pass a resolution to “condemn and combat antisemitism. The article went on to describe, as follows, the failure of the Senate to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism:

The special meeting was called following an extended session on Sunday, Nov. 13, during which the Senate debated a referendum proposal that would have called on the University to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. On Sunday, some USG members raised concerns about the application of the definition with regards to free speech and anti-Zionism; the proposal ultimately failed to gain the support needed to appear on the ballot.

As reported in the January 31, 2023, *the Algemeiner*, Mohammed el-Kurd, “a controversial pro-Palestinian activist whom Jewish groups have accused of ‘blatant’ antisemitism,” according to the *Algemeiner*, was scheduled to speak on February 8, 2023, at the invitation of Princeton’s Department of English. Mr. el-Kurd was further described by the *Algemeiner* account as follows:

Currently a columnist for the left-wing magazine *The Nation*, the 24-year-old el-Kurd has trafficked in antisemitic tropes, demonized Zionism, and falsely accused Israelis of eating the organs of Palestinians. Over the past two years he has toured American university campuses, heightening concerns about rising antisemitism and harassment of pro-Israel students. During stops last year at Duke University and Arizona State University

(ASU) el-Kurd insulted students and told the audience at ASU, “if you heckle me, you will get shot.”

According to the August 9, 2023, *Algemeiner*, “the International Legal Forum (ILF), a nonprofit organization based in Tel Aviv which advocates for equality in Israel and the Middle East, on Sunday asked Princeton University to remove from the syllabus of a Department of Near Eastern Studies course a book that accuses the Israeli Defense Forces of “maiming” Palestinians and harvesting their organs.

In April 2024, the ADL published its campus antisemitism “report card.” As pointed out in an April 12, 2024, *Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA)* account, “[o]nly two schools — Brandeis, which was founded by Jews, and Elon — earned an “A.” Many others fared quite poorly, with Harvard, Stanford, Princeton and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology among the 13 “F” grades. Another 24 came away with “D”s, from Columbia and Barnard to Northwestern, Rutgers and Ohio State.”

Also according to the above *JTA* account, “ ‘Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, director of Princeton’s Center for Jewish Life, called the ADL’s “F” grade for the university “misleading.” “In truth, over the past two years of my deep engagement with Jewish life on Princeton’s campus, I can say very clearly that Princeton is a great place to be Jewish,” Steinlauf wrote in a statement. He added that Princeton’s leadership, administration and faculty are “deeply supportive of our Jewish students.’ ”

The following is from the May 23, 2024, *ADL Daily Campus Crisis Report*:

In a vote on Monday afternoon, the [Princeton faculty](#) passed a non-binding resolution by a slim margin that condemns the University’s handling of disciplinary action against protesters. The resolution also called for legal and disciplinary amnesty for arrested protesters. While the University has said it is still considering next steps, the *Daily Princetonian* reported that two members of the student group Princeton Israeli Apartheid Divest, who were arrested on May 18, have already been allowed back on Princeton’s campus.

“Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Center for Jewish Life).
- *Kosher meals*: Full university 14-21 kosher meal plan available at Center for Jewish Life.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Conservative and reform services, plus a daily orthodox minyan.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Scharf Family Chabad House at Princeton University, 15 Edwards Place.
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night and Saturday afternoon).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Perelman Professor of Judaic Studies):* 1.

## **Rice University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 200 (5%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate (but, see ADL grade below)***

***Original 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***Revised 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 50***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 61***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 158/248***

***Comparable Schools: Carnegie Mellon, Caltech, Cornell, Georgia Tech, Johns Hopkins and University of California at Berkeley***

***Jewish President: David W. Leebron***

The brainchild of William Marsh Rice, a cotton tycoon, Rice was founded in 1891. Not as well known within Jewish circles as comparable institutions with outstanding engineering and science programs, such as Johns Hopkins and Cornell, this powerhouse small university of 4,000 undergraduates, located in Houston, Texas, is gradually cementing itself in the Jewish conscience.

Superb in engineering and architecture, Rice also offers a beautiful 290-acre campus in the center of Houston highlighted by Lovett Hall, an extraordinary Mediterranean style structure with decorative arched walkways and windows. Rice also features a residential college system patterned after Oxford. Students are assigned to one of eleven residential colleges, each of which has its own dormitories, cafeteria and common areas. There are no fraternities or sororities at Rice.

Rice is unique among the highly competitive technology-oriented schools in that it maintains a full range of NCAA Division I athletic programs. Indeed, along with Wake Forest University, Rice is the smallest university in the country to field Divisions 1 teams in football, basketball and baseball. Rice's baseball team has been a serious contender for many years and in 2003 won the NCAA national championship. In 2008, its football team, following a fifty-year bowl hiatus, finished the season 10-3 and the Owls went on to win the Reliant Bowl.

In February 2015, Houston Hillel invited two IDF soldiers who were touring the country under the sponsorship of the Israel advocacy organization, Stand With

Us, to speak at Rice. According to the February 26, 2015, *Jewish Herald Voice*, speakers were disrupted by a walkout staged by another Rice student organization, Rice Left. Rice Left had earlier advertised the planned walkout on its February 16, 2015, Facebook page as follows:

At Rice University on Monday, Houston Hillel is partnering with StandWithUs to bring Israeli soldiers from the IDF (Israel Defense Force) to speak on campus. Hillel has described the event as a discussion on “how the IDF employs the strictest moral standards while fighting a terrorist foe that callously puts civilians on both sides in harm's way.” We, students of Rice, disagree with this presence on campus and the motivations of this event. We support all people of Israel and Palestine, thus, we do not and cannot support the state, military occupation and aggression, and the reprehensible propaganda of StandWithUs and the campaign.

In protest of this event, in solidarity with Palestine, and in the goal of demonstrating that there are informed Rice University students, friends, and allies who do not condone such events, we are staging a walkout.

Rice’s wealth and its renown enable it to draw top-notch faculty. In May 2011, Rice lured three prominent cancer researchers from the University of California at San Diego, a research team characterized by Rice’s then provost as the “center of gravity of theoretical biophysics in this country.” For a combination of very serious technology-oriented academics and Division I sports, Rice is hard to beat.

In February 2017, the word “TRUMP” and a swastika were written in chalk on the statue of Rice’s founder.

In October 2020, San Francisco State University attempted to host a Zoom event featuring Leila Khaled, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—a US recognized terrorist organization. Following an intense campaign against Khaled’s participation, including legal arguments based on her support of terrorism, Zoom’s EO Eric Yuan’s withdrew the use of the Zoom platform for the SFSU event.

As noted by student David Getter in his November 10, 2020 *Rice Thresher* article, entitled “Urge Rice Left to Rethink its Support for Terrorists”:

In 1969, Khaled and a group of fellow terrorists hijacked a civilian flight from Rome to Tel Aviv and planted bombs in the nose of the plane, which were detonated moments after the passengers, children and elderly among them, had hastily exited the plane. The plane having been diverted to Damascus, two Israeli civilians aboard the flight were held

hostage by the Syrian government for three months after being delivered by the hijackers.

Despite the foregoing, Rice Left published the following condemnation of Yuan on Instagram, giving rise to Getter's article:

Join us in demanding that Rice University rescind Eric Yuan's, the CEO of Zoom, invitation to speak on campus as part of the Lilie Lecture Series and President's Lecture Series. Under his leadership, Zoom has censored Palestinian voices in academia across the country and his presence on our campus signals that Rice University is complicit in this silencing. We firmly believe that the presence of Eric Yuan at a university-sanctioned event creates an unsafe environment for Palestinian, as well as other marginalized students.

As reported by JTA in the September 28, 2023, *Jerusalem Post*, Rice Pride, an LGBTQ student group at Rice, "cut ties with the school's Hillel, in the latest instance of backlash from a progressive group against the Jewish campus organization's support for Israel." The article went on to report the following from Rice Pride's statement:

The LGBTQ group, Rice Pride, announced the split last week in a statement on Instagram that said Hillel's international umbrella group was "not reflective of the values of inclusion upheld by Rice Pride."

\*\*\*\*\*

"Rice Pride's ultimate goal is to provide a safe space for queer students of all backgrounds, and to recognize the intersectionalities between queer identity and race, ethnicity, and religion," the statement said. The group did not respond to a request for comment and, on Wednesday, made its Instagram account private after drawing criticism from pro-Israel groups.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes: Houston Hillel (Ida and William Zinn Building) serving all Houston colleges.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and High Holidays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Pluralistic service.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at Rice (1950 Dryden Road, Houston).

- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* None.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* None.



## Stanford University

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 550 (8%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Original 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: F***

***Revised 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 32***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 25***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 13***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 207/248***

***Comparable Schools: Caltech, Cornell, MIT, Princeton, Rice and University of California Berkeley***

***Jewish President: Jonathan Levin (son of former Yale president, Richard Levin)***

The gold standard of the West. Stanford's Mediterranean-tiled red roofs adorn lovely low-lying, stucco buildings connoting as much the feel of a Mediterranean villa as a college campus. As with much of the West, Stanford is new when it comes to established colleges, having been endowed by railroad baron Leland Stanford, Jr. little more than a century and a quarter ago. But, Stanford's relative youthfulness has not prevented it from ascending into the most rarified ranks of American college life. Strong in virtually everything, but particularly in engineering and computer science, Stanford holds its own with the very best. Its graduate schools are all regularly ranked in the top ten, if not the top two or three, and its law school and business school command the same level of admiration as Harvard's law school and business school. Nineteen Nobel prize winners can be found on its faculty. With a student teacher ratio of 4-1, Stanford's extraordinary student body has ample opportunity to capitalize on its many talents.

The only problem is that it's so hard to get in. Stanford no longer publishes its acceptance rate. But, for the Class of 2020, Stanford received over 42,000 applications and accepted slightly fewer than 5% of all applicants. Thirty years earlier, Stanford's acceptance rate was 26%, and, remarkably, 25 years before that, in 1961, Stanford accepted 62% of all applicants.

With equal claim to the country's best, Stanford can not only draw from the Ivy League's traditional base in the East, but it also has a virtual lock on the West (with the notable exceptions of the University of California Berkeley and Caltech). But, unlike any of the Ivy League schools, Stanford (like the University of California Golden Bears) has big time sports and big-time student support for its athletic programs. If one takes into account the so-called lesser sports, such as gymnastics, volleyball, tennis, baseball and golf, Stanford is annually near or at the top of the universities with the greatest number of championship sports teams. Indeed, for most of the past twenty years, it has been ranked as the university with the best intercollegiate sports program. Plus, it is located in a beautiful climate and in a beautiful part of the state.

In August 2016, Stanford adopted a hard liquor policy, pursuant to which hard liquor was completely banned from on-campus parties (with the exception of graduate school parties where only mixed drinks can be served). In the dormitories, students 21 and older may possess hard liquor, provided that the bottle does not exceed 750 ml. Beer and wine are still allowed at on-campus parties.

There have been numerous instances of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic behavior on campus. Among these, in 2015, a Jewish-Hispanic woman running for the student senate was challenged on whether she could be impartial given her Jewish heritage. The challenge came from the Students of Color Coalition ("SOCC"), a Stanford student organization whose endorsement the student was seeking. According to the April 15, 2015 *Stanford Daily*, the exchange between the woman and her pro-BDS interlocutors took place as follows:

Across from me in the room sat eight members of SOCC, who took notes throughout the interview. Part way through the lead interviewer asked me, "Given your strong Jewish identity, how would you vote on divestment?" I couldn't quite process that I had actually been asked this question. Did me being Jewish mean I wasn't qualified to serve on Senate? Did SOCC doubt my commitment to serving students of color on the basis that I am Jewish? Somewhat stunned, I asked for clarification. The SOCC interviewer responded that she had noticed I talked about my Jewish identity in the application and was wondering how this would affect my decision on divestment.

Sadly, anti-Semitic overtones are not uncommon in Stanford's student senate. For example, as reported in the *Stanford Review*, an independent monthly political magazine, during a fractious debate over the use of anti-Semitic trope on campus, one member of the Stanford Senate running for reelection in 2016 argued that it was not anti-Semitic to question whether Jewish people control the media and the banks:

The resolution] says: 'Jews controlling the media, economy, government, and other societal institutions' [is] a fixture of anti-Semitism that we

[inaudible] theoretically shouldn't challenge. I think that that's kind of irresponsibly foraying into another politically contentious conversation. Questioning these potential power dynamics, I think, is not anti-Semitism. I think it's a very valid discussion."

As reported by the April 5, 2016, edition of the *Stanford Review*, "[The student] apologetically clarified twenty minutes later that he understood how the 'Jewish community could be offended by that'. However, he added that declaring this statement—which has been used to persecute Jews for centuries—to be unambiguously anti-Semitic remained a 'political statement' of which the Senate should be wary."

The next day, in an article that also pertained to the Senate election, the *Stanford Review* reported on anti-Semitic claims made by seven Stanford student senators that Jews are not entitled to a homeland in Israel:

Seven ASSU Senators yesterday declared that "delegitimization" of Israel – a clear standard used by the US State Department – should not count as anti-Semitic on campus. Time and time again, Senators argued against 'recognizing the Jewish people's right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland.' If they knew more about the history of the persecution of the Jews, and their denial of a place they could call home, perhaps they would have reconsidered."

The foregoing episodes were well summed in a biting student editorial that appeared in the *Stanford Daily* on April 7, 2016: "Stanford students sometimes seem to think that their intelligence is a bubble protecting them from idiocy. But as we learned again at the ASSU Senate meeting on Tuesday night, anti-Semitism, though stupid, is not the sole provenance of stupid people."

In September 2017, the Stanford Graduate School of Education's Concentration in Education and Jewish Studies released a study entitled, "Safe and On the Sidelines--Jewish Students and the Israel-Palestine Conflict." The study was based on interviews with 66 undergraduate students at five California universities known for hostility toward Israel. The following excerpts from the study's Executive Summary illustrate why the study was called "Safe and on the Sidelines":

- Students feel safe on campus. None of our interviewees characterized their campus as anti-Semitic. They acknowledge the presence of antisemitism, but they neither feel threatened nor targeted by it. When students do feel threatened, the feeling of threat derives generally from campus activism related to the tone of debate about Israel-Palestine conflict.
- Students find the tone of campus political activism in general, and around Israel and Palestine specifically, to be severe, divisive, and alienating. They fear that entering political debate, especially when they feel the social

pressures of both Jewish and non-Jewish activist communities, will carry social costs that they are unwilling to bear.

- Students who wish to speak up often opt out, choosing silence and avoidance over direct engagement in a political arena they find off-putting.

A December 11, 2017, study published by the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (“ISGAP”), entitled “Campus Antisemitism and Pseudo-Intellectual Complicity” challenged the “Safe and on the Sidelines” study’s attempt at discrediting “the argument that colleges and universities have become ‘breeding grounds and ‘hotspots of antisemitism’.”

The ISGAP study noted that since 2014 there had been at least seven separate studies dedicated to “tracking campus political discourse as it pertains to anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment.” ISGAP then took issue with the Stanford study’s contention that “what [these other studies] offer in numerical impressions, they obscure in the subtleties of student experience.” In other words, ISGAP challenged the Stanford Study’s claim that the prior studies were deficient because they lacked the personal interviews that were present in the Stanford study. In rebuttal, the ISGAP study asserted that the “Safe and on the Sidelines” study was, itself, flawed because it “intentionally sought out Jewish students who were either unengaged or minimally engaged in organized Jewish life,” thereby excluding students who were most likely to either be the targets of anti-Semitic attacks or be cognizant of antisemitism on campus.

According to the July 23, 2018, *Jewish Journal*, a Stanford SJP member and dormitory resident assistant (“RA”) wrote on his July 20, 2018, Facebook page that he wanted to “physically fight” Zionists. The student later apologized saying that he didn’t want to make anyone feel unsafe; but the damage had been done and one Jewish student was quoted in the article as expressing concern for students in the RA’s charge. The RA soon after resigned his position.

Several flyers advertising a then-forthcoming Students for Justice in Palestine (“SJP”) event were found at Stanford on May 3, 2019. According to the following May 7, 2019, *Jewish Journal* account of the incident, the flyers bore vulgar and anti-Semitic cartoons.

One of the cartoons depicted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attempting to turn American Jews into evangelicals in order to protect Zionism, only to have the American Jews turn into dinosaurs who want to return to Israel. At one point, Netanyahu says, “A giant reptile that lobbies on behalf of Israel is a reptile I can get behind!” Another flyer featured a cartoon depicting Daily Wire Editor-in-Chief and Journal columnist Ben Shapiro in a sinister-looking manner defending Pharaoh at a Passover *seder*. Netanyahu is also depicted in a

sinister manner in another cartoon. Cartoonist Eli Valley is the author of the aforementioned cartoons and is scheduled to speak at the Stanford SJP and JVP event.

Stanford SJP, along with its co-sponsor, Jewish Voice for Peace, later issued an apology in the *Stanford Daily*. However, as described by Stanford Law student Ari Hoffman, in an op-ed published in the *Stanford Daily* on May 6, 2019, the destructiveness of the message had taken its toll. Characterizing the images contained in the flyers as reminiscent of those found in the Nazi publication, *Der Stürmer*, Hoffman wrote:

For those unfamiliar with Mr. Valley's work [the cartoonist whose images appeared in the flyers], it ranges from the morally repugnant to ethically disgusting. Under the fig leaf of criticizing Israel, it depicts Jews and Jewish rituals in the most grotesque of terms; yellow stars, concentration camp uniforms, blood libels and the reliable hooked noses. Like most hate, it's remarkably lacking in insight. It is crude and disgusting, and its ceaseless recourse to Nazi imagery is matched only by its slavish devotion to the age-old tropes of Jewish caricature. In an email message sent on May 5 to a list-serve used by Stanford's Jewish community, SJP has apologized for disseminating the cartoons "out of context."

Let me be as clear as I can: the images are indefensible in any context. They are not justifiable, and they are not explainable. The sin is not against sensitivity. It is one of smearing a Jewish minority under attack here and abroad in the name of a skewed vision of a foreign conflict. SJP's promise that "Eli's knowledge and guidance" will ameliorate these facts is akin to entrusting fire safety to an arsonist. To apologize for the flyers but insist on continuing with the event is equal parts absurd and appalling.

On July 28, 2020, the *Stanford News* reported that the Stanford Department of Public Safety was investigating the appearance of two swastikas drawn on a hallway wall in the school's Memorial Church.

In the wake of the May 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict, the Stanford Jewish Student Association published an open letter in the May 20, 2021 *Stanford Daily*. In pertinent part, the letter stated:

We are concerned that much of the rhetoric circulating on social media and on campus fails to recognize the legitimacy of Jewish self-determination, the role of Israel in Jewish identity and the security of Jews around the globe and the scale of the threats that Israel faces.

According to the June 15, 2021, *Jewish News of Northern California*, two Jewish mental health professionals at Stanford’s on-campus counseling clinic—Dr. Ronald Albucher, a psychiatrist and associate professor in the Stanford Medical School, and Sheila Levin, a therapist specializing in eating disorders—filed workplace discrimination complaints claiming “severe and persistent” anti-Jewish harassment from colleagues. The *Jewish News* story, in pertinent part, describes the complaint and the alarming anti-Semitic sentiment at Stanford as follows:

On Jan. 8 of this year, the complaint alleges, Levin was . . . subjected to a hostile environment when, during a seminar for psychology students – prospective CAPS interns – a DEI program facilitator said the program would “explore how Jews are connected to white supremacy and will address anti-Semitism.” Another DEI representative said she “takes an anti-Zionist approach to social justice.”

\*\*\*\*\*

The complaints come as Stanford grapples with other reports of anti-Jewish bias. On June 8, Hillel at Stanford director Rabbi Jessica Kirschner sent an email to her mailing list describing an “alarming amount” of online and in-person incidents stemming in large part from anti-Israel animosity in the midst of violence in Israel and Gaza. One Jewish student was told, “Don’t talk to me if you’re Jewish,” while another was told by a classmate, “I’m not going to talk to you, Nazi,” Kirschner wrote.

According to the October 3, 2022, *Algemeiner*, a mezuzah was stolen from the door of a Jewish graduate student on the second day of Rosh Hashanah.

On October 13, *The Algemeiner* and multiple other news outlets published stories regarding an announcement made by Stanford the previous day in which it admitted to having limited Jewish enrollment in the 1950’s and 1960’s. In part, the *Algemeiner* story reported the following:

Stanford University on Wednesday issued a bombshell report admitting that it limited Jewish enrollment in the mid-twentieth century.

The report is the work of a panel the university convened in January to investigate claims published in August 2021 by Cornell University postdoctoral fellow Charles Petersen that the university had once implemented a quota system for Jewish students.

“We discovered evidence of actions taken to suppress the number of Jewish students admitted to Stanford during the early 1950s,” the university report said. “Second, we found that members of the Stanford administration regularly misled parents and friends of applicants,

alumni, outside investigators, and trustees who raised concerns about those actions throughout the 1950s and 1960s.”

According to the January 22, 2023 *The Stanford Daily*, a “Protected Identity Harm” report was filed after the circulation of a Snapchat screenshot of a student reading “Mein Kampf.” The Protected Identity Harm Reporting process is Stanford’s system for addressing incidents where a student or community member feels attacked due to their identity.

The story went on, as follows, to describe a series of events on campus that had upset Jewish students during the Fall Quarter:

The fall quarter started on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year. (To address this conflict, the University announced that fall quarter would not conflict with Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, in the future.) A mezuzah was also ripped off of a graduate student’s door during fall quarter, and the University also released a report in October apologizing for limiting Jewish student enrollment in the 1950s.

On March 14, 2023, the *Stanford Report* published the following with respect to Nazi graffiti that appeared on a student’s dormitory door:

We are writing today with the deeply disturbing news that multiple Nazi swastikas and an image of Adolf Hitler were found on a whiteboard affixed to a Florence Moore Hall dormitory room door. A student who resides inside the room was alarmed to find the images on their whiteboard, and reported the incident to residential staff members. The Stanford University Department of Public Safety is investigating the matter and believes the incident could be a crime given that a resident of the room identifies as Jewish and the location of the Nazi swastikas may have been selected to intimidate the occupant.

On April 13, 2023, *The Stanford Daily* reported that a “swastika had been discovered in one of the first floor bathrooms of the History Corner, near the end of Passover. According to the *Daily*, “This incident marks the second recent act of antisemitic vandalism after a mezuzah was ripped from the doorframe of an undergraduate residence on April 3, according to a Protected Identity Harm Report.”

According to the October 13, 2023, online edition of *CNN*, a Stanford instructor was “removed from teaching duties as the school investigates reports that during a discussion on the conflict between Israel and Hamas, the instructor downplayed the Holocaust and singled out students “based on their backgrounds and identities.”

On October 12, 2023, the *Jewish News of Northern California* quoted Stanford's Hillel director as follows:

Pro-Hamas slogans displayed across campus this week and a classroom incident where Jews allegedly were targeted have left Stanford University's Jewish students "feeling unsafe," the head of Hillel said Thursday.

Students are wondering, "Can I trust the people who live in the room next to me because they put something up on the wall that negates my existence?" Rabbi Jessica Kirschner, executive director of Stanford Hillel, told J.

The following is from an interview published in the May 2, 2024, the *Jewish News of Northern California* which contains a harrowing account of the antisemitic abuse experienced by a Jewish student journalist on Stanford's campus:

Throughout March and April J. interviewed Jewish undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, alumni and campus rabbis to understand how Stanford compares with other universities fraught with tension and activism around the Israel-Hamas war and how effectively the administration is handling the situation.

At Stanford, "there are principled protesters, there are ignorant protesters and there are malicious protesters — and that applies to all sides," said Theo Baker, 19, a Jewish sophomore and a noted student journalist. "A lot of people are actually closer together than they think they are."

Since the Oct. 7 Hamas massacre in Israel and the subsequent war, Stanford has become a difficult campus for Jewish students to navigate both socially and academically, J. found. Many of them have decided to start keeping quiet in public about their Judaism and their views on Israel — fearful of harassment, bullying and social ostracization.

In January, wearing black face masks or kaffiyehs covering their faces, anti-Israel Stanford students protested outside a university forum about antisemitism and tried to disrupt the event before it started, though it did continue as planned. In a video circulated across social media, a masked female activist shouted, "Go back to Brooklyn!" and others chanted "Zionists, Zionists, you can't hide! We charge you with genocide!"



Baker described the chaotic and “ugly” scene that evening in a lengthy, first-person article in late March for *The Atlantic* titled “The War at Stanford.”

“At one point, some members of the group turned on a few Stanford employees, including another rabbi, an imam, and a chaplain, telling them, ‘We know your names and we know where you work.’ The ringleader added: ‘And we’ll soon find out where you live.’ The religious leaders formed a protective barrier in front of the Jewish students. The rabbi and the imam appeared to

Since the article was published, Baker has faced an onslaught of threatening, antisemitic messages on Fizz, a social media platform popular among Stanford students and described by the *Stanford Daily* as a “Twitter-Reddit hybrid” where everyone is anonymous. The site can only be accessed by students using their university email address.

“I’ve gotten tons of death threats. I’ve gotten lots of people telling me I should be cooked alive, that I should be waterboarded, but with gas and then set on fire,” Baker told J. One anonymous Fizz post likened Baker to “Hitler’s propaganda writer.”

As reported in the June 6, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, Stanford “will withhold degrees from any seniors who participated in occupying the school president’s office during a pro-Hamas riot that broke out this week and caused the injury of a public safety officer.” The story continued to state:

“Thirteen individuals were arrested inside Building 10 this morning,” Stanford president Richard Saller and provost Jenny Martinez wrote in a message to the campus community on Wednesday. “In addition to going through the law enforcement process, any arrested individuals who are students will be immediately suspended. Any seniors will not be allowed to graduate.”

On June 21, 2024, the *Jewish Insider* reported that: “A new report from a Stanford committee focused on addressing antisemitism and anti-Israel bias determined that antisemitism is ‘widespread and pernicious’ at the elite Palo Alto, Calif., university, capturing the atmosphere on campus in its eye-catching title: ‘It’s in the air.’ The 148-page document is the first official account to be released publicly by the committee, which was created by Stanford President Richard Saller in November weeks after the Oct. 7 Hamas terror attacks in Israel set off a wave of antisemitism on American campuses.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Taube Hillel House at the Ziff Center for Jewish Life).
- *Kosher meals*: In conjunction with Hillel, Stanford offers three kosher dinners a week served at the Florence Moore residence. The dinners are available Monday through Wednesday from 5:15 to 6:30 pm. Friday night kosher dinners are also available at Hillel.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad House at Stanford, 1289 College Avenue
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Taub Center for Jewish Studies)*: 5.

## **Tufts University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,000 (15%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: F***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 16***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 13***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 2***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 183/248***

***Comparable Schools: Brandeis, Colgate, Hamilton, Vassar and Wesleyan***

***Major Jewish Donor: 2023 gift of \$10 Million from Steve Tisch***

Occupying a traditional campus with a classic New England quad, Tufts is just plain excellent. Anyplace else in America, Tufts would be the school to beat. Unfortunately, it's Medford location places it in the shadow of Harvard and MIT. But, for the generations of fine students who have chosen to go there, Tufts is Number One. In addition to solid academics in all undergraduate departments, especially engineering, Tufts boasts superb graduate schools such as the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine and Tufts Medical School and Dental School).

So, what if Tufts has long been the bride's maid to Harvard? If your kid goes to Tufts, you'll still *kvell*. Indeed, even fair Harvard has saw the light by hiring former Tufts president, Lawrence Bacow, as its president. Moreover, Jewish life at Tufts is alive and well. I recall one Tufts freshman telling me that there were over 400 Tufts students in attendance for the first night of Passover at a Tufts Hillel sponsored *Seder*.

Tufts competes in the New England Small College Athletic Conference, which includes many other well-known New England colleges such as Amherst, Bates, Bowdoin, Colby, Middlebury, Trinity, Williams, and Wesleyan.

Tufts classic and attractive, grey stone campus is located high on a hill in the blue-collar suburb of Medford, a relatively easy T-ride away from downtown Boston—

a ride that will be even easier with the planned summer 2023 extension of the Green Line to the Tufts campus. But students don't have to go to Boston to have fun. Indeed, according to the September 24, 2009 edition of the *Tufts Daily News*, students were having so much fun that the Tufts Office of Residential Life and Learning had to add a new stipulation to its guest policy to prohibit any sex act in a dorm room while a roommate was present. In 2011, Tufts ended a wintertime tradition by terminating the annual Naked Quad Run.

There are, however, tensions on the Tufts campus, particularly for Jewish students who are supportive of Israel. The following excerpt from a *New York Times* article published in early August 2016 illustrates the difficulties encountered by Jewish students at Tufts:

What some see as a celebration of culture through food, others see as a political statement, and an offensive one at that. Just slip an Israeli flag on a toothpick.

To the Tufts chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, last fall's Taste of Israel was appropriation, pure and simple.

"I don't think the Palestinian students on this campus would see it as 'cultural' if they were to walk in and see flags of Israel all over the food their grandmother used to cook before she was evicted from her village," said Nic Serhan, an S.J.P. member who is part Arab, part African-American.

As students sampled pomegranate seeds, hummus, falafel and pita, Mr. Serhan and fellow protesters strode into the event carrying signs reading "Taste of Israeli Occupation," "Don't dip into apartheid" and "Fresh from stolen Palestinian land. . . ."

This was not the biggest or loudest such protest at Tufts, a private university of some 12,000 students just outside of Boston. But it was the last straw. Whenever Friends of Israel or Hillel staged a lecture or event, it seemed, S.J.P. was there. There had been die-ins (students had to step over bodies on red cloths signifying blood) and checkpoints (mock Israeli soldiers conducted security checks around campus). Friends of Israel had already requested campus security at programs, but after the food festival they filed a complaint with Tufts' judicial affairs office.

The concerns of the Tufts Jewish community came to a head in April 2017. As many Jewish students were leaving for the Passover holiday, the Tufts Community Union student senate announced a last-minute ballot initiative and voted 17-6 for an SJP-inspired boycott resolution. Because the Senate vote was timed to deny departing

Jewish students the opportunity to mobilize against the initiative, it was roundly condemned by the Tufts Jewish community. Reflecting this sentiment are the following remarks, reported by the *Algemeiner*, of Tufts Jewish Chaplain, Rabbi Jeffrey Summit:

Yesterday [Thursday], without any forewarning, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) put forward this resolution, to be voted on by the student senate this Sunday night. The Hillel Jewish community is deeply disturbed by this vote, and by the way the resolution was brought so close to Pesach, at a time when many students are home with their families, readying themselves for the holiday,” Summit said.

Shortly after the student senate vote, the Tufts board of trustees announced that it would not divest from companies doing business in Israel. In an email communicating its position, the board of trustees stated: “Our decision is consistent with...our expressed opposition to academic boycotts of nations, including Israel.”

On August 15, 2018, *JNS* described a new anti-Israel course that was being offered at Tufts. Titled “Colonizing Palestine,” *JNS* reported that, according to the course description, it was ‘being offered by the Colonialism Studies and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies departments, and will explore the history and culture of modern Palestine and the centrality of colonialism in the making of this contested and symbolically potent territory. ‘ ” Due to its one-sided presentation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the course created predictable concern within the Tufts Jewish community. Writing in the August 29, 2018, *The Tufts Daily*, one Tufts Jewish student expressed his consternation as follows:

On August 15, the Jewish News Syndicate published an article exposing a new class offered this Fall titled “Colonizing Palestine.” The course description blatantly states that students “will address crucial questions relating to ... the Israeli state which illegally occupies Palestine.” This language is not merely inflammatory — it positions a one-sided narrative as truth from the outset of the semester.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am a Jew of Israeli descent with Israeli family. I am entering my third year at Tufts with the same fear that I felt when I was called a “Zionist scum,” an anti-Semitic slur, my first year. Jewish students are frequently discriminated against in conspiratorial terms and age old tropes on Tufts Secrets, an anonymous Facebook page. I no longer question why Tufts Friends of Israel is the only culture club at Tufts that requires a security detail at the majority of our events. I have become accustomed to the rapid spikes in my heart beat when asked about my heritage . . . .

In the Fall 2017 edition of the widely-promoted *Tufts University Disorientation Guide*, an unofficial, non-university guide created by and for leftist student groups on campus (and intended for the “benefit” of Tufts students of color, low-income students, the LGBT community and women), Tufts Hillel is described as “an organization that supports a white supremacist state.” According to a September 7, 2017, *Jewish Telegraph Agency* (“JTA”) report on the Guide, the only place in the publication where Jewish groups or activities are referenced is in a section on “Israel Apartheid Week,” and in a description of a 2015 protest involving Hillel’s invitation to the parents of Trayvon Martin to speak at the Tufts campus. According to JTA’s account:

The accusation that Tufts Hillel exploits “black voices” stems from three years ago when Hillel brought to campus the parents of Trayvon Martin, the black teenager who was shot in 2012 by a neighborhood watch volunteer in Sanford, Florida, to speak about gun violence.

According to the guide, “Students were outraged that Hillel, an organization that promotes a white supremacist state, were bringing Trayvon’s parents to exploit black voices for their own pro-Israel agenda.”

This repugnant accusation is very much like the vile and accusatory trop associated with pink washing, the notion that anything Israel, or by extension, Hillel, does to promote the interests of the underserved or the oppressed, such as its openness toward the LGBT community, is merely a subterfuge aimed at diverting attention from Israel’s claimed offenses against the Palestinians.

In a frank April 5, 2019, op-ed, the *Tufts Daily* published an op-ed piece, titled “Real Justice in Palestine,” which criticized some of the tactics employed by SJP during its 2019 “Israel Apartheid Week” activities, particularly the inexplicable use of a drag show to deliver its message. In part, the op-ed stated as follows:

As part of its Israel Apartheid Week, Tufts Students For Justice in Palestine (SJP) is protesting cooperation between American and Israeli police departments — again. SJP’s campaign is part of a broader one by Jewish Voice for Peace called the “Deadly Exchange,” which peddles a conspiracy theory claiming racist policing in the United States is the result of practices learned from the Israeli police and military. SJP tried to launch a similar campaign last spring, which we responded to then, but it fizzled. This year, SJP has repackaged its message and is delivering it to the student body, incongruously, by way of a drag show. SJP’s attempt to align itself with progressive movements fighting for civil rights in the United States in order to demonize Israel while ignoring the abuse of Palestinian civil rights as recently as last week at

the hands of their own totalitarian governments, should be called out by all those interested in real justice in Palestine.

It is hypocritical of Tufts SJP to host a drag show to promote its campaign for the rights of Palestinians while failing to highlight the persecution of LGBT+ people in Palestine. Homosexuality and transsexuality in Gaza and the West Bank, like in other neighboring Arab countries, is taboo and, often illegal. Hamas, the Islamic terrorist organization that has governed Gaza since a 2007 military coup, has even executed its members for alleged homosexual acts. Broadcasts on its TV network have likened those accepting of homosexuality to animals and declared that “homosexuality carries the death penalty.”

Apparently, the hot glare of reality engendered by the op-ed was too much for the newspaper’s editorial board. On May 10, 2019, it published the following “clarification” in the May 10, 2019, edition of the *Tufts Daily*. As applied to the op-ed excerpt quoted above, the “clarification” stated as follows:

To the Tufts community, especially our Arab, Muslim, LGBT and Palestinian members,

The Tufts Daily published the op-ed titled “Real Justice in Palestine” on April 5, 2019.

“Real Justice in Palestine” drew a false equivalency between countries with largely Muslim populations and Arab countries, and further suggested that such places are uniquely homophobic, in contrast with Israel, a country where same-sex marriage is illegal.

This op-ed also characterized the idea that training programs in Israel have impacted the way American police do their jobs as a conspiracy theory without providing evidence for this claim.

\*\*\*\*\*

We recognize that such mischaracterizations, omissions and distortions have a serious negative impact on groups targeted by them and have no place in a fair press. We apologize for providing a platform for unfair portrayals of certain groups. In light of this lapse in the rigor of our editing, we are revising the op-ed submission and editing processes.

As reported by the March 11, 2020, The Tufts Daily, Tufts Community Union Senate, at its February 9, 2020, meeting, approved 14 funding requests, among them:

The Muslim Students Association requested a total of \$3,200 to fund a series of five guest speakers. TCU Senate passed this request in full, with 29 Senators in favor, none opposed and none abstaining.

Students for Justice in Palestine requested \$2,250 to fund two guest speakers. TCU Senate passed this request in full with 28 Senators in favor, none opposed and one abstaining.

The Arab Students Association requested \$3,045 to cover per diem and travel costs to host [San Francisco State professor and BDS advocate] speaker Rabab Abdulhadi from March 26 to April 2 [who was the subject of a letter written by eighty Jewish groups alleging that she had violated California law by using a Facebook page associated with her department and the university to spread political messages and solicit legal funds].

According to the following excerpt from the April 25, 2020, *Jerusalem Post*, Anthony Monaco, the president of Tufts, vehemently disapproved of an award given to SJP for collaboration by the Office for Campus Life.

In a statement Thursday, Anthony Monaco said he would be “reviewing the awards process” and that no university leadership had been involved in the decision to recognize Students for Justice in Palestine. The Collaboration Award was through the Office for Campus Life.

“We as senior leaders take responsibility for this outcome, which should not have happened, and recognize the award has caused a great deal of pain and concern for Jewish members of our community and others who share concerns about SJP’s policy positions, particularly in light of rising antisemitism in the US and around the world,” Monaco said.

As reported by the November 23, 2020 *Jewish Insider*, anti-Israel activists at Tufts were promoting a campus-wide referendum condemning the forthcoming participation of university police in an exchange program with Israeli police forces. Materials posted by the Tufts SJP referenced a 2017 program sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), one of several organizations that have brought police chiefs and other senior officials to Israel for security training, which was led by Kevin Maguire, who headed the Tufts University Police Department from 2011-2019. According to the *Jewish Insider* account:

Maguire told JI that the seminar largely focused on best practices for handling emergency situations. “I was committed to learning how to prepare for, prevent and respond to all types of emergencies,” he said. “The trip to Israel offered a unique learning experience in preventing terror and other attacks in the U.S. Terror attacks in cities throughout



the U.S., including Boston, and on college campuses, such as Ohio State University and some others, have demonstrated the need for local and university police departments to prepare for potential terror attacks and to know how to prevent and respond to them.”

According to the December 20, 2020, *Algemeiner*, the resolution passed on December 19, 2020. The pro-Israel Tufts student advocacy group, Real Reform at Tufts Campaign, strongly condemned the resolution which, in the words of the *Algemeiner*, blamed “Israel for police violence against people of color,” with the group calling it “a modern-day antisemitic blood libel.” According to the *Algemeiner* account, the resolution called for the “demilitarization” of the Tufts University Police Department (TUPD) due to its alleged connections with Israel. A full report of the referendum may be found in the December 19, 2020 edition of the student newspaper, *The Tufts Daily*, which noted that the resolution passed with two major violations of the election process. The following is excerpted from the *Algemeiner* account:

The Real Reform at Tufts Campaign, a grassroots student movement which opposed the resolution, said in a statement, “We are deeply disappointed in the results of the antisemitic ‘deadly exchange’ referendum.”

“We strongly believe that voting for a referendum based on mistruths that propagates a modern-day antisemitic blood libel will not fix a broken policing system in America or get us closer to racial justice,” they asserted.

On February 1, 2021, the *Tufts Daily* reported that the university had released a statement announcing that it would not be taking action in response to the referenda. The following is from the university’s explanation as quoted in the *Tufts Daily* account:

“As stated previously, we believe the SJP-sponsored referendum was misinformed and factually incorrect,” Collins wrote in an email to the *Daily*. “The choice presented to students was unfair and inaccurate, effectively asking them to denounce a program because of its affiliation with Israel or be perceived as supportive of militarizing the TUPD.”

On February 23, 2021, *The Jewish Insider* published a story about a member of the Tufts student judiciary who, according to a February 3, 2021, complaint filed on his behalf by the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, accused the university of failing to protect him during “a months-long campaign of intimidation, harassment and discrimination” at the hands of student government leaders and the Tufts SJP chapter. According to *The Jewish Insider* story:

Max Price, a junior at Tufts, is one of five undergraduates who serve on the student judiciary, which works in part to ensure that legislation voted on by the student body is fact-checked and neutral. During an effort to pass a controversial anti-Israel referendum during the fall 2020 semester, Price was tasked with removing biased and misleading information from the text of the ballot initiative.

In a personal statement submitted to the university through the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law on February 3 and obtained by *Jewish Insider*, Price, who has served on the school's student judiciary since April 2020, said that because of his efforts, he has "been targeted and marginalized, called a racist, a fascist, a Nazi, an enemy of progress." In one screenshot of a group text message with members of the school's senate, which was provided to JI, one student leader wrote, "Fuck Max Price."

On February 27, 2021, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that SJP had terminated its efforts to have Price removed from office. The *Jerusalem Post* article quoted Price as saying:

"While I am relieved that my Judaism is no longer on trial, this change in course does not absolve SJP of their behavior," Price said after the complaint against him was removed. "I am disappointed that university administrators failed to intervene, and have not yet reached out to me to address my concerns. Unless Tufts introduces sweeping reforms to combat antisemitism, this will happen to somebody else."

According to the May 2, 2021, *The Tufts Daily*, members of an athletic team found a large swastika painted on the shed at Bello Field.

As reported in the September 10, 2021, *Jewish News Syndicate*, a student was awakened by laughter in the early hours of a Saturday morning, and later discovered that a mezuzah had been torn off his door. The following is from the *JNS* account:

The group Jewish on Campus, which encourages college students to speak out against anti-Semitism, posted an account of the incident from the student on an anonymous basis.

In the post, the student wrote, "In the middle of the night on my first Shabbat of the year, a group of students walked by my room making a lot of noise; it sounded like they were banging on the wall or my door. Eventually, I heard one of them rip the *mezuzah* off the doorpost, and the rest of the group laughed. I was too afraid to leave my room until well into the morning."

*Jewish on Campus* later reported that a second mezuzah had been ripped off of another student's door during the same month.

As reported by the March 15, 2022, *Algemeiner*, Tufts SJP urged students to sign a pledge which instructed signatories to boycott goods targeted by BDS. According to the *Algemeiner* account, "SJP likewise asked students to 'refuse to be involved with advocacy groups that normalize Israel and seek to improve its economic, social, and political standing' — specifically naming campus organizations Tufts Birthright Israel, J Street U Tufts, TAMID, Friends of Israel, and Tufts Hillel's Visions of Peace program. As further reported by the *Algemeiner*, "Tufts University spokesperson Patrick Collins called the campaign 'divisive and harmful,' and said it would 'ostracize' fellow students from important conversations around difficult issues. Collins was further quoted by the *Algemeiner* as saying:

"As we have stated in the past, the university rejects the BDS movement, elements of which we believe are rooted in antisemitism. We strongly oppose this renewed campaign at Tufts," Collins said. "It is particularly disappointing that the Students for Justice in Palestine have chosen to ask fellow students to boycott not just companies but other student groups on campus."

On October 7, 2022, Tufts President, Tony Monaco, wrote the following to members of the Tufts community:

I am writing to you in great dismay and sadness regarding an alleged antisemitic incident that I was informed of today. This incident involved some members of a club sports team during their recent visit to another higher education institution in New England to compete at a match. The alleged conduct is appalling and goes against our values as an institution, and those values do not end at the borders of our campus.

According to the February 22, 2023, *The Tufts Daily*, masked protestors disrupted a Roots event (described below) the previous evening. As stated by the *Daily*, the event, had been organized by Tufts Friends of Israel and Tufts J-Street U, and was designed as a dialogue between Roots representatives Sarah Mandel, an Israeli citizen, and Khalil Sayegh, a Palestinian. The *Daily* account also included the following:

In a statement to the *Daily*, President Tony Monaco condemned the protest.

"The disruption of the event and the offensive language directed toward the Jewish and Palestinian guest speakers are absolutely unacceptable and a violation of our community standards," Monaco wrote. "Tufts University police and other relevant offices at the university are

investigating and we will hold accountable any members of our community who are found to be responsible.”

Just before the talk started at 7:30 p.m., protestors entered the room dressed in masks and makeshift face coverings and congregated in the back.

About 15 minutes into the presentation, loud music interrupted the discussion as the protestors began to shout phrases such as, “Roots, Roots, you can’t hide, you’re protecting genocide.”

Roots, a Palestinian-Israeli initiative, describes their aim as “to transform enemies into partners through direct human contact, deep listening and recognition of the other’s history and experience.” The group is entirely based in the West Bank, but Mandel and Sayegh were visiting Tufts as part of a speaking tour to U.S. colleges and universities.

After a few minutes of chanting, one protester began to directly address Sayegh. Remarks included various profanity and insults in both English and Arabic. One of the protestors called Sayegh a “slut” in Arabic.

Language used by the protestors resembled previous activism by Tufts Students for Justice in Palestine, but no group has taken credit for organizing the demonstration. In an Instagram post, SJP wrote they were “not responsible” for the protest, but were “proud that individuals chose to protest.” SJP did not respond to the Daily’s request for comment.

According to the November 12, 2023, *The Tufts Daily*, “[I]n a message to its e-list on Monday, Tufts Students for Justice in Palestine praised the “creativity” of the Hamas-led surprise attacks on Israeli civilians launched on Oct. 7. Tufts denounced the student group’s message and University President Sunil Kumar called the attacks acts of “pure barbarism.”

As reported in the April 4, 2024, *The Tufts Daily*, “On April 1, 2024, “the Tufts Community Union Senate voted [anonymously] to approve three out of four resolutions formally calling on University President Sunil Kumar to recognize genocide in Gaza, for the university to divest from Israeli companies and for it to cease selling Sabra products in dining halls. It did not, however, pass a resolution calling on the university to end approval for study abroad programs at universities in Israel.” The report also noted the displeasure of the university with the vote as follows:

“We’re disappointed that a majority voted to pass three of the resolutions,” Patrick Collins, Tufts’ executive director of media relations, wrote in an statement to the Daily. “To be clear, as we have done in the past, we reject the boycott, divest, and sanction movement; we wholeheartedly support academic freedom and all our academic, exchange, and affiliated study abroad programs; and we will continue to work with all companies that we engage with and do business with now.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Granoff Family Hillel Center).
- *Kosher meals*: *Kosher meals*: The Granoff Family Hillel Center prepares kosher meals for Friday night dinner, Shabat lunch, and holidays. Kosher meals also available at the Pax and Lox Glatt Kosher Deli located at the campus center.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes: Conservative and reform, with between 80 and 150 students in attendance.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center, 21 Chetwynd Rd #2, Somerville (also, serving Boston University and several smaller area schools), 21 Chetwynd Road.
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## **Tulane University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 3,200 (42%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

*Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low, prior to October 7, 2023. However, see below for antisemitic activities on campus following Hamas' deadly October 7, 2023 rampage into southern Israel (and a Department of Education investigation into Tulane's response to those activities).*

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 9***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 18***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 1***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 238/248***

***Comparable Schools: Boston University, Brandeis, Emory, George Washington, NYU and University of North Carolina***

Tulane was not so much buffeted by Hurricane Katrina as it was by the aftermath to Katrina when students who otherwise would have been strong Tulane candidates, avoided the university because of the uncertainty surrounding New Orleans. However, New Orleans has roared back to life, and, with it, applications have climbed, if not skyrocketed, at Tulane. To lure exceptional students, this bulwark Southern university with a Northern flavor has been very generous with scholarship grants. Newcomb College, once the separate women's coordinate institution of Tulane, did fall victim to Katrina and eventually was absorbed by Tulane after a long legal battle.

According to an October 14, 2019, *Inside Higher Ed* article that contained quotations from Tulane's Director of Admissions, Jeff Schiffman, between 2015 and 2019, the number of students applying to Tulane spiked by 61 percent to more than 42,000. In 2015, Tulane had a 30 percent admit rate. In 2019, its admit rate had fallen below 13 percent.

Located on a compact campus in a pleasant part of New Orleans, Tulane has always been an attraction for Jewish students. Today is no exception. It is often said that Tulane evokes as much of a Northern feel as it does a Southern one. But, socio-political feel notwithstanding, Tulane is clearly in the South. On a beautiful spring

day, Tulane is ensconced in azaleas and its iconic buildings, such as Cudd Hall, look like they were gift-wrapped in floral abundance.

Once upon a time, Tulane could hold its own athletically, even when it belonged to the Southeast Conference, a football powerhouse. However, today, Tulane plays in the American Athletic Conference, a considerably lesser athletic conference.

Fortunately, Tulane has been a quiet campus as to anti-Israel activity. However, the following opinion piece of a Tulane student that appeared in the February 15, 2017 edition of the English language newspaper *Haaretz* illustrates how anti-Jewish resentment may be present even in a campus relatively free of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict:

[O]n December 6th, 2016 following another challenging and compelling Critical Race Theory class, I approached my professor in attempts to follow-up on a provocative statement he had made just 20 minutes prior.

“What’s a Jew?” he asked, somewhat rhetorically, to his silent 3000 level elective classroom.

Giddy at the controversial theme—“Jew” is a word I seldom hear in classrooms beyond the Hillel building—I rolled up my sleeves; I smelled an intellectual conversation simmering. After the drawn out pause, he concluded that Jews in American society are tantamount to Whiteness, suggesting that Jews in today’s secular society reap the same privileges that the collective White majority does. Jewish people today, in his eyes, exist in a much larger social structure embedded in anti-Blackness in the U.S., and thus are actively benefitting from a colonialist and imperialist government.

\*\*\*\*\*

Needless to reiterate, I looked forward to following up on this topic during his office hours after class. But much to my surprise, the excitement was not mutual.

“If you want to argue your opinion on this matter, I’d be happy to read a 12-page paper with Chicago style citations,” he snapped. “But until then, this conversation is over.”

Anti-Israel sentiment arose again following a September 24, 2019 visit by former IDF Sergeant Shai DeLuca-Tamasi who came to Tulane to talk about his experiences as a gay man in the IDF. Instead of DeLuca-Tamasi’s visit being welcomed as a positive example of a gay man coming out in the military, two students

wrote an op-ed piece in the October 2, 2019, *Tulane Hullabaloo* criticizing DeLuca-Tamasi's visit as "pink washing"—the allegedly cynical employment of Israel's acceptance of its gay community as a means of diverting attention from its treatment of the Palestinians. As reproduced below, the October 16, 2019 edition of the American Jewish Committee's online newsletter, *AJC Quad*, succinctly exposed the lie in the op-ed piece.

Shai DeLuca-Tamasi was invited to speak at an event at Tulane University to discuss his time in the Israeli army as a gay man. In response to his visit, several students wrote an op-ed piece on October 2, 2019, in the *Tulane Hullabaloo* claiming that Mr. DeLuca-Tamasi was "pinkwashing" the situation in Israel, or presenting Israel as pro-LGBTQ in an effort to hide other problematic Israeli behavior. But the reality on the ground tells a different story. This past summer, the Palestinian Authority banned LGBTQ activities in the West Bank, while 250,000 people marched the streets of Tel Aviv in the largest gay pride parade in the Middle East. There are still obstacles for gay people in the country, but the claim of pinkwashing is patently ridiculous and demonstrates a clear bias against Israel.

As reported by the October 27, 2023, *Algemeiner*, in the wake of Hamas' deadly attack on Israel, a Jewish Tulane student "whose nose was broken during a vicious assault by pro-Hamas demonstrators at Tulane University in New Orleans stated defiantly that the "Jewish people will never be defeated" during an interview with the *Algemeiner*. The *Algemeiner* article went on to report the incident as follows:

Amateur video of the assault on Tulane freshman Dylan Mann went viral on the internet following the confrontation, as well as being widely shown on broadcast networks.

Draped in an Israeli flag, Mann was among a large group of Jewish students staging a pro-Israel protest near the Tulane campus when a pickup truck carrying pro-Hamas demonstrators drove past them. When one of the demonstrators took a match to an Israeli flag, a Jewish student attempted to prevent him from setting it alight. As Mann ran towards the fray to aid his fellow student, he was set upon by two pro-Hamas demonstrators, one of whom rained punches on his head and body while the other struck him over the head with a megaphone, breaking his nose.

As reported in the December 15, 2023, *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, the Department of Education opened 12 new investigations into "the handling of discrimination at colleges and school districts since Thanksgiving 2023", in the [then] latest expansion of the department's scrutiny of civil rights issues since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war." Among these was Tulane.



Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Tulane Hillel).
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meals available on a 14 to 21-day plan. Tulane Hillel boasts HK NOLA, a casual fine eatery within the Hillel building. The Hillel dining room serves three hundred students and guests six days a week.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center at Tulane (7033 Freret Street, New Orleans).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.

## University of California Berkeley

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,500 (8%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 44***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 16***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 5***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2023 gift of \$25 Million by Jim and Marilyn Simmons; 2021 gift of \$50 Million by Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim for the UC Berkeley School of Optometry; 2021 gift of \$25 Million by Scott Shenker for the construction of a building to house the university's Division of Computing, Data Science and Society; 2021 gift of \$10 Million by the Helen Diller Foundation; 2020 gift of \$24 Million by Robert and Colleen Haas to support undergraduate scholarships***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 147/248***

***Comparable Schools: Caltech, Columbia, Stanford, UCLA, University of Chicago and University of Pennsylvania***

Located in the perennially funky community of Berkeley across the bay from San Francisco, this iconic institution and flagship school of the University of California system has a marquee name that evokes now-dimmed memories of Mario Savio, Sproul Plaza and the free speech movement of the Sixties. But, much more significantly, Cal's renowned faculty provides the best undergraduate public education in America. Indeed, Cal's faculty boasts seven Nobel laureates, 13 National Medal of Science winners and 144 members of the National Academy of Sciences. Its graduate schools go toe to toe with virtually every university in the country. Increasingly populated by high-achieving Asian students (accounting for more than 40% of the student body) as well as high achieving Hispanic students (accounting for more than 13% of the student body), Berkeley still boasts a sizeable Jewish student body. Any Jewish kid, particularly one interested in math and science, would be hard pressed not to choose Berkeley over a host of other schools.

Berkeley offers a big-time athletic program with competitive teams in all sports sponsored by the Pac-12. In fact, not too long ago Berkeley completed an entire overhaul of its football stadium at a cost, most of it in pledged funds, of \$321 million—

a remarkable measure considering the economic stresses confronting the university and the State of California (not to speak of the fact that the stadium sits on an earthquake fault). Indeed, in recent years, the amount of operating funds that the Berkeley campus received from the State of California declined from 47% in 1991 to 11% in 2011. Though state funding increased to 13% in 2015, Berkeley still faced an operating deficit of \$150 million in 2016, according to a February 2, 2016 *Washington Post* story.

This free fall in state funding meant that Berkeley had to look to tuition to support its operating budget. In-state students already paid an a historically-high \$11,200 a year in tuition. So, increasing in-state tuition greatly was not the answer. The only pressure release point was in charging out-of-state and foreign students increasingly large tuition bills (now set at over \$40,000) and increasing the number of out-of-state and foreign students admitted. The process began in the 2011-12 academic year, when about 30% of Berkeley's freshman class was made up of out-of-state and foreign students. For the 2013-2014 academic year (when about 31% of the class was not from California), out-of-state tuition, fees, room and board at Berkeley came to a jolting \$50,922 (without taking expenses into account)—the highest out of state fee regimen at any public university in America.

However, pushback occurred within the state legislature, which threatened to withhold funding if the University of California system did not cut back on nonresident admissions. In May 2017, the California Board of Regents enacted an 18% limit on out-of-state and foreign students. However, even at that, the state's two major campuses, UCLA and Berkeley, were given leeway to exceed the limit. Moreover, out of state tuition continued to skyrocket. Today, the figure for tuition, room and board and fees threatens to exceed \$60,000.

Increased out of state admissions at Berkeley have likely contributed to more Jewish students applying to the Bay Area campus. But, buyer beware: True to its free speech origins, Berkeley is a campus where almost anything goes (that is to say, anything considered progressive or intersectional), including the annual Apartheid Week, held by Muslim student groups to protest claimed Israeli policies. In 2011, Jewish students felt so intimidated by this event that they filed a lawsuit (unsuccessfully, as it turned out) alleging harassment on the part of the Muslim student sponsors of the event. Since 2011, there have been numerous incidents of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on the Berkeley campus.

On March 25, 2016, campus-wide printers spewed out the slogan, "White man are you sick of the Jews destroying your country through mass immigration and degeneracy? Join us in our struggle for White Supremacy at the Daily Stormer."

In September 2016, Berkeley offered a 1-unit student-led course entitled, "Palestine: A Settler Colonial Analysis" with course facilitator Paul Hadweh and

faculty sponsor Dr. Hatem Bazian, a lecturer in the Berkeley Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies department. Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, the head of the campus watchdog AMCHA Project (one of the 43 Jewish, civil rights and education groups who wrote a letter of protest to Berkeley's then chancellor, Nicholas Dirks) contended that the course was designed as a political platform, in violation of University of California academic policy, and intended to turn students against Israel. As reported by the September 19, 2016 *Forward*, Rossman-Benjamin noted:

The telltale signs of political indoctrination were there, however. The syllabus readily revealed a politically motivated and tendentious course, whose readings were, without exception, blatantly biased, and which seemed to have the clear goal of proselytizing to students to hate Israel and to take action to eliminate it.

The syllabus alone should have raised many red flags for the faculty members reviewing this student-taught course, and motivated them to further investigate whether the course intended to misuse the classroom for political advocacy and activism. Had they done so, they would have discovered that the student instructor had a well-documented history of anti-Zionist activism, and his faculty advisor, Hatem Bazian, runs an advocacy organization devoted to providing anti-Zionist training to university students and had openly expressed the view that it is legitimate to bring anti-Zionist activism into the classroom.

For these reasons, this course should never have been offered. It is not education. It is unadulterated political indoctrination. It does not produce knowledge or foster understanding. It foments hate, corrupts the academic mission of the university and deeply erodes the public's confidence in the university it supports. . . .

In response to the public outcry, Carla Hesse, Dean of the College of Letters and Science, suspended the course on September 13, 2016. However, amidst considerable pressure, Dean Hesse reinstated the course a mere six days later.

The Berkeley community's willingness to condone anti-Israel hate speech masquerading as pedagogy is clearly troubling. It is made all the more so when one compares such tolerance for seemingly destructive speech with the same student body's unwillingness in other contexts to hear speech considered odious or in conflict with student norms. In what has become known as "the first and second battles of Berkeley," protestors (among them militant *antifa* protestors), some masked and wearing riot gear, squared off against nationalist and conservative speakers during March and April 2017 causing some, such as conservative pundit Ann Coulter, to cancel speaking engagements at the university.

The university has since adopted a security policy (at a steep price tag) intended to make its open spaces available to speakers of all stripes. The following is a *Chronicle of Higher Education* account of a September 14, 2017 speech given by firebrand, conservative political commentator Ben Shapiro as part of “Free Speech Week” at the Berkeley campus:

On Thursday night, the conservative political commentator Ben Shapiro gave a fiery speech at the University of California at Berkeley. The administration had closed off large parts of the campus, include Sproul Plaza, where the free-speech movement started in 1968, to prepare for Mr. Shapiro's appearance. These precautions don't come cheap. The university allocated \$894,000 on protest management in fiscal 2017, and a university spokesman said the campus had spent \$600,000 on security for this event alone, plus \$9,000 for internal security that a student group provided. Mr. Shapiro's talk was the first in a stretch of controversial speakers at Berkeley, and Thursday's event was largely seen as a trial run.

One of the university's new requirements for a public speaker who is to address an audience greater than 200, but who is not sponsored by a department of the university, is a notification provision that the university be given an eight-week notice prior to the event. In early October 2017, this requirement prevented renowned Harvard Law School professor emeritus Alan Dershowitz from giving a talk on the liberal case for Israel, at the invitation of Chabad and Tikva, two Jewish organizations. Though the organizations objected to the rule because it would have required that students organize the event during the summer break and though Dershowitz called the requirement unconstitutional when viewed in conjunction with the pro-Palestinian bias of various departments at the university who had refused to sponsor him, the matter was quickly resolved when Berkeley Law School dean, Erwin Chemerinsky, extended an invitation for Dershowitz to speak at the school.

Unfortunately, Chemerinsky's invitation was not the end of the story. The following October 25, 2017, *Jewish Telegraph Agency (JTA)* account of a despicable cartoon that appeared in the school newspaper, *The Daily Californian*, illustrates the deep-seated anti-Semitism that permeated the entire affair:

The chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, condemned the publication of an editorial cartoon in a student newspaper criticizing Alan Dershowitz's pro-Israel stance with anti-Semitic imagery.

The cartoon published a week ago in the *Daily Californian* depicts a grinning Dershowitz with his head poking through a cardboard cutout bearing an Israeli flag and the silhouettes of happy children. The sign

reads “The Liberal Case for Israel,” which was the topic of the Harvard Law School professor’s recent speech on the campus.

Behind the sign, Dershowitz is stepping on a Palestinian and holding up an Israeli soldier shooting an unarmed man. Only the Palestinian flag, the soldier and the blood coming from the unarmed man are in color. In a letter published Tuesday in *The Daily Californian*, Chancellor Carol Christ called the cartoon “offensive, appalling and deeply disappointing.”

“I condemn its publication,” she wrote. “Are you aware that its anti-Semitic imagery connects directly to the centuries-old ‘blood libel’ that falsely accused Jews of engaging in ritual murder? I cannot recall anything similar in *The Daily Californian*, and I call on the paper’s editors to reflect on whether they would sanction a similar assault on other ethnic or religious groups.”

As reported by the November 21, 2017, *Jewish News of Northern California*, the same Hatem Bazian referenced above retweeted cartoons that the school determined had “crossed the line” into anti-Semitism. One cartoon showed a Jewish man raising his arms in celebration above the caption: “I can now kill, rape, smuggle organs & steal the land of Palestinians.” The other showed North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, wearing a kippah, saying he has just converted his nation to Judaism: “Donald Trump: Now my nukes are legal & I can annex South Korea & you need to start paying me 34 billion a year in welfare.”

Caught in the act, Bazian apologized. However, as one student, quoted in the *Jewish News* article, noted how distressingly the episode had affected her:

“While this incident is deeply disturbing, it is unfortunately not shocking. This professor has a long history of promoting bigotry. I’m glad the UC Berkeley administration spoke out now,” said Noa Raman, Pacific Northwest campus director for StandWithUs. “I hope this is just the beginning of them standing up against the hate Jewish students and others face on campus.”

On April 17, 2019, Raman appeared to receive her answer. On that date, the Associated Students of the University California (ASUC) held a meeting which twelve Jewish student organizations criticized in a letter released the following day. According to the letter, “several speakers used the opportunity to invoke anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist views as dog-whistles to target Jews, including specific Jewish students in the room.”

As reported in April 19, 2019, *Jewish Journal*, during the comment period that followed the meeting, a student articulated a modern-day adaptation of an old blood

libel (noted in a number of occasions in this Guide), claiming that the Israel Defense Forces trained police in the United States to kill blacks:

Following the public comment section, a student leader said, “So I met my first Zionist tonight. Woohoo. I’ve never met a Zionist in my life, and it is really disrespectful if you are pro-Israeli settler-colonialist in Palestine to tell a black person you are Zionist.”

She then said she was asked why she cares about the Palestinians when she isn’t a Palestinian, prompting her to reply, “It’s because the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] trains the police departments in America to kill black people. It’s because all of our [liberations] are intertwined.”

The following excerpts from an *Alma* article, entitled “What it’s like to be a Jewish student at a college with an anti-Israel reputation,” written by Berkeley student Bria Rosenberg and reproduced in the July 3, 2019 JTA (as well as Chapter 1(A) of this Guide), summarizes the difficulty of being a Jewish student at Berkeley, in general, and, in particular, demonstrates how unquestioned currency is given to such outrageous anti-Semitic tropes as the claim that the Israel Defense Forces train police in the United States to kill blacks:

*I’m tired.* This is a common sentiment shared by many Jewish students across campus at the University of California, Berkeley.

\*\*\*\*\*

As an infamously liberal university, UC Berkeley has also become increasingly pro-Palestine and anti-Israel. Don’t get me wrong, I *love* Berkeley and am immensely grateful for the opportunity to study here. But being a Jew on this campus is exhausting.

When I meet new people and they ask me about my extracurriculars or what I’m involved in on campus, I always wince and hesitate to admit that I am involved in Hillel and the Jewish community, afraid of how they may react. Being the best public university in the world (sorry @UCLA), the home of the free speech movement and notorious for protesting in the name of social justice, you would think that the UC Berkeley community would recognize Jewish students as a minority group who has faced a history of persecution and suffering. Yet many people view us as the oppressors, echoing the classic anti-Semitic trope that Jews are responsible for everything wrong with the world.

On many occasions, UC Berkeley students have equated Judaism with Zionism, as if our entire religious identity is based solely on our relationship with Israel, and further equate Zionism with white

supremacy and settler colonialism, using these words synonymously. Most notable, claims of this nature were made at a live-streamed student senate meeting in April. Not to mention that this meeting was about senate elections and had essentially nothing to do with Israel.

During public comments one student said, “All I was hearing for a fat minute was some white tears, some Zionist tears, some Greek tears about some disenfranchisement. Y’all don’t know what disenfranchisement even means, alright?”

This provoked other comments around the topic of Israel, such as one student claiming that the Israel Defense Forces trains American police to kill black people and that if you don’t call out your Zionist friends, you are “implicit in the oppression of Palestine and the oppression of settler colonized countries all across the world,” as well as implicit in the “prison-industrial complex,” “prison militarization” and “modern-day slavery.” You can watch the video of the entire meeting [here](#). I’m not making this up.

\*\*\*\*\*

Last spring, I was sitting at a popular cafe near campus, getting a coffee with my friend, telling him how excited I was to be going to Israel for the first time that summer. Having been there many times before, he shared some of his favorite memories like praying at the Western Wall and relaxing in the sun at Gordon Beach.

A girl sitting at the table next to us was listening in. After a few minutes, she asked if she heard correctly that I was going to Israel.

“Yes, why?” I answered, suspicious of where this conversation was going.

“Why are you going?” she asked angrily.

“For Birthright and a summer internship.” My excitement from moments prior began to fade.

“No, but why *Israel*? Don’t you know that by going you are supporting a murderous regime?”

“A mur—” She cut me off.

“Israel is a murderous regime. Everyone in the IDF is a murderer. How could you possibly go there and give them your money knowing this?”



“I’m going because ...” Cut off again.

“You should cancel your trip. You shouldn’t go there. You’re supporting oppression. You’re supporting murder” she screamed.

“But ...”

“You need to re-evaluate your moral compass, you’re a terrible person.” And with that she stormed off. Everyone in the cafe was staring at me, having witnessed the entire interaction.

Beyond the aggression and public humiliation, what bothered me most was that I never had the chance to speak. With all of the accusations she made, both about Israel and myself, I never got the chance to defend or explain myself. And to me, that is the root of the issue: people’s unwillingness to be open minded and hear the other side.

There is, however, some good news. According to a July 11, 2019, *Algemeiner* article by Mitchel Bard, entitled “A Little Good News from Campus”:

For years, Berkeley was known as Ground Zero for the anti-Israel campaign on campus. The university remains a hotbed of hostility; however, it is now home to one of the best Israel Studies programs in the country, and will grow even stronger thanks to a major donation to establish a new chair in Israel Studies.

As reported by the January 31, 2020 edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, one of the most venerable names in the annals of American legal education came tumbling down as the Berkeley removed the name John Henry Boalt from its law school due to Boalt’s demonization of Chinese immigrants and his opposition, during the late 19th Century, to the further Chinese immigration.

A February 6, 2020, *Jewish Journal* article, entitled “Berkeley Jewish Students Walk Out of Student Gov Meeting as Protesters Chant Free Palestine,” provides the following tense account of a student government meeting at which a Jewish member of the student senate proposed a resolution condemning a Bears for Palestine display:

The student-run Daily Californian reported that the chaos at the Associated Students of the University of California Senate’s (ASUC) University and External Committee meeting began when the committee considered a resolution condemning a Bears for Palestine (BFP) display on campus. The resolution accused the BFP display of glorifying “violent terrorists, including but not limited to Rasmea Odeh, Fatima Bernawi,

and Leila Khaled.” Odeh, Bernawi and Khaled were members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

\*\*\*\*\*

Berkeley’s Tikvah: Students for Israel wrote in a Feb. 4 Facebook post that pro-Palestinian protesters harassed and threatened Jewish students with violence throughout the meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

“One BFP member stepped into a student’s face and said ‘I’m going to kick your ass,’ while another Jewish student was chased out of the room by BFP members,” they wrote. “We, as a community, decided that enough was enough and that we were not going to sit idly by as our members were threatened and harassed, so we walked out.”

As reported in the August 29, 2022, *Jewish News of Northern California*, a pro-BDS bylaw adopted by “a handful of student groups” at Berkeley Law “prompted the law school dean, a progressive Zionist, to write an email expressing concern to students.” The statement, written by Berkeley Law SJP “goes beyond” BDS and requires that “groups that adopt the bylaw also pledge not to invite ‘speakers that have expressed and continued to hold views ... in support of Zionism, the apartheid state of Israel, and the occupation of Palestine.’ “

In a follow-up article published in the October 12, 2022, *Jewish News of Northern California*, entitled “Jewish Students at Berkeley Law Tell Their Side of the Story, the following excerpts reveal the indoctrination aspects of the adopted BDS bylaws:

[Law student, Charlotte] Aaron described a concerning experience after the bylaws passed. Student group leaders, many of whom were novices to the history and politics of the region, had to attend a training seminar called “Palestine 101” as a stipulation of the bylaw they had just approved.

The training, which Aaron attended, painted an extremely one-sided view, she said.

“The takeaway from that event was if you are a Zionist, in any way, shape or form, then you are also a settler colonialist, and you support police brutality, and all sorts of really terrible things,” she said.

Afterward a student told her that, if given the opportunity, they would be unlikely to attend a similar training presenting an opposing view. Such an event would be “harmful” to her friends, particularly to people

of color and to Palestinians, considering what they had just learned about Zionists.

As reported by the November 20, 2022, *Algemeiner*, two attorneys filed a complaint with the Department of Education, regarding the proposed ban by the nine student groups against pro-Zionist speakers at the law school. According to the *Algemeiner* account, the complaint demanded that DOE “investigate the university for ‘profound and deep-seated antisemitic discrimination’ under violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which bars discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in federally-funded programs.”

On December 15, 2022, *The Jewish Journal* reported that DOE’s Office of Civil Rights had sent a letter to the above complainants in which it announced that it had decided to investigate:

“whether the University failed to respond appropriately in the fall 2022 semester to notice from Jewish law students, faculty, and staff that they experienced a hostile environment at the law school based on their shared Jewish ancestry when University-recognized student organizations passed a bylaw against inviting speakers who support ‘Zionism, the state of Israel, and the occupation of Palestine.’”

On May 9, 2023, the *Jewish News of Northern California* reported that the Brandeis Center lawyers had made a court filing are “looking to access correspondence between Berkeley Law administrators, Berkeley Law offices and the UC Berkeley Office of the Chancellor pertaining to the [above referenced] bylaw banning pro-Zionist speakers adopted by nearly a dozen student affinity groups in the law school last August [2022].

The newspaper account also noted that “a first request filed in December 2022 was denied, and a second was filed in January, according to the Brandeis Center. The center also said it had requested records from the Associated Students of the University of California related to two meetings at which senators failed to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.”

On the brighter side, as reported by the February 13, 2021 *Jerusalem Post*, Berkeley received a \$10 million endowment from the Helen Diller Foundation in support of the university’s Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies.

Also, during November 2022, the Associated Students of the University of California—the student senate—passed a resolution, entitled, “Senate Resolution No. 2022/2023 – 016 *Denouncing Hatred Towards the Jewish Community*”. According to the November 16, 2022, *Jewish News of Northern California*:

Five of the 20 student senators — elected to the ASUC, or the Associated Students of the University of California — protested the vote by not appearing at the Nov. 9 meeting where the resolution was considered and approved, according to Shay Cohen, the senator who introduced the measure.

The students who opposed the bill said it “penalizes” senators, “forcing them” to approve a resolution that “equates supporting Palestine with being antisemitic,” according to the Daily Cal student newspaper, quoting a student government official who spoke on behalf of the dissenting senators at the meeting.

According to the February 16, 2023 edition of the *Jewish News of Northern California*, Berkeley’s student senate failed to pass a resolution on that date which, if passed, would have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, “a widely used explanatory resource outlining the contours of anti-Jewish bias that treats certain criticism of Israel as antisemitic.”

As reported in the August 28, 2023, *Jewish News of Northern California*, Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity discovered that hundreds of shellfish had been dumped across its property and thrown through a window, on the first Shabbat of the semester.

Writing in the October 15, 2023, *Wall Street Journal*, Berkeley Law Professor Steven Davidoff Solomon, in the wake of Hamas’ murderous invasion of Israel, courageously took the following stand with regard to law firm hiring of students who belong to organizations whose actions have been anti-Semitic:

I teach corporate law at the University of California, Berkeley, and I’m an adviser to the Jewish law students association. My students are largely engaged and well-prepared, and I regularly recommend them to legal employers.

But if you don’t want to hire people who advocate hate and practice discrimination, don’t hire some of my students. Anti-Semitic conduct is nothing new on university campuses, including here at Berkeley.

\*\*\*\*\*

The student conduct at Berkeley is part of the broader attitude against Jews on university campuses that made last week’s massacre possible. It is shameful and has been tolerated for too long.

It’s time for the adults to take over, and that includes law firms looking for graduates to hire. The law firm Winston & Strawn revoked an employment offer for a student at New York University law school who

wrote an open letter that pointedly refused to condemn Hamas's attack. The letter denounced Israel instead and asserted that its "regime of state-sanctioned violence created the conditions that made resistance necessary." The NYU law school dean had issued a tepid response to the massacres, but after the student's anti-Israel screed caused an uproar, he made a second, more forceful statement condemning Hamas's attack.

Legal employers in the recruiting process should do what Winston & Strawn did: treat these law students like the adults they are. If a student endorses hate, dehumanization or anti-Semitism, don't hire him. When students face consequences for their actions, they straighten up.

Citing claims of a "longstanding, unchecked spread of antisemitism" on the University of California, Berkeley's campus, the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law filed a complaint on behalf of Jewish students on Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, alleging that the campus is a "hotbed of anti-Jewish hostility and harassment," the *Jewish Insider* reported on November 28, 2023. The following is excerpted from the *Jewish Insider* account:

UC Berkeley Jewish students wrote in the complaint that the school does so little to protect Jewish students, it feels as if the school is condoning antisemitism. They added that officials at the university display a "general disregard" for Jewish students.

"The concerns of Jewish students are not being taken seriously and incidents that are affecting Jewish students are not being treated the same as incidents that would affect another targeted minority on campus," Hannah Schlacter, an MBA student at the school, told JI.

The complaint, a copy of which was obtained by JI, details a pro-Palestinian rally following Oct. 7 in which a Jewish undergraduate who was draped in an Israeli flag was attacked by two protesters who struck him in the head with a metal water bottle.

It further cites that Jewish students and Jewish faculty are receiving hate mail calling for their gassing and murder and claims that many Jewish students report feeling afraid to go to class. Pro-Palestinian protesters, the suit continues, disrupted a prayer gathering by Jewish students and blocked the main entrance to campus, and a faculty member went on an 18-minute anti-Israel rant in front of roughly 1,000 freshmen in his lecture class.

"Frankly, I'm not sure why a Jewish student would come to [Berkeley] law school," UCB professor Steven Davidoff Solomon, who teaches an

undergraduate class on antisemitism in the law, told JI. “There’s a group of students who feel free to say the nastiest slurs as long as they substitute Zionist for Jew and they repeatedly do that while the administration refuses to take steps to condemn it . . . .”

As reported by the February 27, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, and many other Jewish news outlets, “[a] mob of hundreds pro-Palestinian students and non-students shut down an event Monday evening [February 26, 2024] at the University of California, Berkeley featuring an Israeli soldier, forcing Jewish students to flee to a secret safe room as the protestors overwhelmed campus police.” What follows, in harrowing terms, is from the *Algemeiner* account:

Footage of the incident shows a frenzied mass of anti-Zionist agitators banging on the doors of the Zellerbach Library while an event featuring Israeli reservist Ran Bar-Yoshafat — who visited the university to discuss his military service during Hamas’ massacre across southern Israel on Oct. 7 — took place inside. The mob then stormed the building — breaking glass windows in the process, according to reports in the *Daily Wire* — and forced school officials to evacuate Jewish students to a secret safe-room.

“What happened last night was deeply concerning and a violation of some of our most important rules and values as a university, including freedom of speech, respect for diversity, and the ties that bind us together as a community,” UC Berkeley assistant vice chancellor for communications and public affairs Dan Mogulof told *The Algemeiner* on Tuesday during a phone interview. “What we saw last night has no recent precedent. More than an estimated 200 protesters showed up at the venue and gained unauthorized entry into the building. There has never been anything like what occurred last night.”

Mogulof pledged that the university will launch an investigation into the incident.

“We do not and will not ignore violations of our rules and values,” he said. “When we have events like this, we always have two priorities. One, to do everything in our power so the event goes forward and the other is to do everything in our power to protect the safety and well being of our students and members of the public, and given the size of the crowd, and the violence of the crowd, we were unable to do both, even with 20 police officers. The event had to be cancelled, so that we could evacuate the building and support the safety of the students.”

During the infiltration of Zellerbach, one of the mob — which was assembled by Bears for Palestine, which had earlier proclaimed its

intention to cancel the event — spit on a Jewish student and called him a “Jew,” pejoratively.

“You know what I was screamed at? ‘Jew, you Jew, you Jew,’ literally right to my face,” the student who was attacked said to a friend. “Some woman — then she spit at me.”

Shaya Keyvanfar, a student, told *The Algemeiner* that her sister was spit on and that the incident was unlike any she had ever witnessed.

In a March 17, 2024 *Tablet Magazine* article, entitled “Berkeley is a Safe Space for Hate,” graduate student, Daniel Solomon, offered the following observations with regard to the riot:

The antisemitic riot capped months of harassment, terror apologia, and occasional outbursts of violence from the campus “Free Palestine” movement. The university’s response has been consistently craven. Meanwhile, some faculty members, such as in the history department, where I am a Ph.D. student, have justified and covered for this behavior. My department has been a microcosm of a larger institutional failure, in which “equity” and “anti-colonialism” act as shields for rank antisemitism.

Leading a coterie of Ph.D. students in the UC Berkeley history department is professor Ussama Makdisi, the chapter president of what Harold Bloom labeled the school of resentment. Makdisi wrote his first books on sectarianism in the late Ottoman Empire, and his latest volume rhapsodizes about a 19th-century *convivencia* in the Levant that Zionism supposedly ruined. Even before the Hamas pogrom, he told a lecture hall full of students that Jews should have founded their state in postwar Germany. The university press office rewarded him for this in an article in which he was lauded, including by Berkeley’s vice chancellor for equity and inclusion, for creating a “learning space” that exemplifies “what’s possible when we imagine, create and actualize the conditions that support thriving for every member of our campus community.”

As reported in the May 30, 2024, *Jewish News of Northern California*, “more than 300 people, including some 60 faculty members and a handful of major donors to UC Berkeley, have signed a letter calling on University of California leadership to reverse concessions made to the pro-Palestinian tent encampment by outgoing Chancellor Carol Christ.” The *Jewish News* story went on to state:

Shared exclusively with J. on Tuesday, the letter urges the University of California Board of Regents, UC President Michael Drake and the incoming Cal chancellor to “repudiate” a series of commitments made by

Christ to the UCB Divest Coalition, which spoke on behalf of the university's tent encampment protest. Christ will retire at the end of June, and Richard Lyons, former dean of the Haas School of Business, is set to replace her.

"In negotiating with UCB Divest and in agreeing to their demands to review the holdings of the endowment, the Chancellor has given legitimacy to this virulently anti-Israel and antisemitic group," the letter states. Signatures are being collected on separate forms, one for faculty members and one for "affiliates," which include students, alumni and parents.

As reported by the July 2, 2024, the *Algemeineer*, Chancellor Carol Christ appears to have significantly walked back some of the concessions and more troublesome statements made to the protestors. The following is from the *Algemeiner* account:

University of California, Berkeley chancellor Carol Christ has issued a message assuring Jewish faculty that the school will not boycott and divest from Israel, according to a letter shared with *The Algemeiner*. The letter — written to the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Jewish Student Life and Campus Climate — followed concerns that Christ expressed agreement with the ideology and aims of pro-Hamas protesters in a previous missive announcing a settlement for ending a "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" in which students lived for several weeks and refused to leave unless the school adopted an anti-Israel stance. In it, Christ commended the protesters as "professional" and "productive" while describing Israel's prosecution of its war against Hamas as "horrific," sentiments that were reportedly dictated by the protesters as a condition of their cooperation.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the latest letter, however, Christ announced "new campus programs to provide antisemitism education to larger numbers of students, faculty, and staff." Additionally, she said that her earlier comments do "not in any way, open the door to, or have anything to do with, divestment from entities based on the fact that they do business with Israel or are situated in Israel." The outgoing chancellor also denounced rising antisemitism on the campus as "deeply disturbing" and expressed support for the school's Jewish Studies and Israel Studies fields — statements that drew praise from Jewish faculty leader and political science professor Ron Hassner.



Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Effective August 2016, a full service kosher food station opened in Café 3, the dining hall in the Unit 3 residential complex at 2400 Durant Avenue.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center at the University of California, 2516 Warring Street
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau (Colony).

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: None.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Jewish Studies Program)*: 4.

## University of California Los Angeles

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,500 (8%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***Original 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***Revised 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: F***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 15***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 24***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 22***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 169/248***

***Comparable Schools: University of California Berkeley, University of California San Diego, University of California Santa Barbara and USC***

***Jewish Chancellor: Julio Frenk (whose grandmother and father escaped the Holocaust)***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2023 gift of \$10 Million by Donald and Andrea Goodman to establish the Goodman-Luskin Microbiome Center; 2023 gift of \$10 Million by Meyer and Renee Luskin to establish the Goodman-Luskin Microbiome Center; Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker to renovate the university's psychology building; 2020 gift of \$30 Million by Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker to renovate the university's psychology building; 2019 gift of \$46 Million from David Geffen for the UCLA School of Medicine; 2016 gift of \$20 Million by Margot Leavin; 2015 gift of \$100 Million from David Geffen; 2012 gift of \$100 Million from David Geffen; 2012 gift of \$100 Million from Meyer and Renee Luskin; 2002 gift of \$200 Million from David Geffen for the UCLA School of Medicine***

Even if it didn't need the recognition, UCLA hit the national conscience like a sledgehammer with Coach John Wooden's string of ten NCAA basketball championships spanning the years 1964 to 1975. First with Lou Alcindor (Kareem Abdul Jabar) and then with Bill Walton, UCLA became a household basketball name across America in the same way that Notre Dame, Michigan, Oklahoma, Alabama and Ohio State were then synonymous with NCAA collegiate football. With a championship team year after year, a stunning campus (boasting beautiful landmarks such as Powell Library, Royce Hall and Janss Steps), expansive grassy areas and an elegant, suburban-like location bordering on the upscale LA

neighborhoods of Bel Air and Westwood, this southern California school has been on a decades-long sprint toward overtaking UC Berkeley as California's best.

Whether UCLA has or has not emerged as the best in the California system doesn't matter because even if it is second to Cal, UCLA's students are highly accomplished and second to few others. Indeed, students with less than a 4.0 need not apply to UCLA. In addition, UCLA takes in only a relative few out-of-staters. For the Class of 2022, UCLA had more than 113,000 applicants—the most in the United States—and admitted a mere 16,000 plus.

While UCLA students have always been stellar, university officials observed that a more challenging academic experience was in order, particularly for seniors who had been able to complete their college requirements without a senior seminar or serious senior research paper. The result was a new program requirement for upper-level students referred to as the capstone program—a series of cumulative projects that seniors must complete prior to graduation. Once a commuter school with immense appeal for Jewish students in the LA area, UCLA today an immense international presence, but one which still boasts a sizeable Jewish student body.

UCLA has been one of the major battleground campuses in the fight over BDS and there have been high profile episodes in which students sympathetic to Israel have been singled out and even brought before the student judiciary (most notably, student council member, Loren Rogers, a non-Jewish student whose transgression was the acceptance of a trip to Israel sponsored by the American Jewish Committee).

The March 19, 2015, *Daily Beast* reported the following incident involving a Jewish student who was vying for a position on the UCLA judiciary board:

The grilling of Rachel Beyda over whether she was unqualified to join the UCLA's student judicial board, merely because she is Jewish, shocked people with its blatant display of anti-Semitism at one of the nation's most liberal schools.

"Given that you're very active in the Jewish community, how do you see yourself being able to maintain an unbiased view?" Fabienne Roth, a member of UCLA's Undergraduate Student Association Council, asked her. After Beyda left the room, another member of the council opined, "I don't know. For some reason I am not comfortable. I just don't know why. I can definitely see she's qualified. I am just worried about her affiliations."

A March 5, 2015, *New York Times* article on Rachel Beyda's ordeal, entitled, "In U.C.L.A. Debate Over Jewish Student, Echoes on Campus of Old Biases," ended with the following quote from another Jewish student leader on the UCLA campus:

“The overall culture of targeting Israel led to targeting Jewish students,” said Natalie Charney, student president of the U.C.L.A. chapter of Hillel. “People say that being anti-Israel is not the same as being anti-Semitic. The problem is the anti-Israel culture in which we are singling out the only Jewish state creates an environment where it’s O.K. to single out Jewish students.”

In other cases, such as the following December 2015 rant posted by a UCLA student and employee at the UCLA Medical Center, the assaults have followed traditional, mindless anti-Semitic patterns:

Fucking Jews. GTFOH with all your Zionist bullshit. Crazy ass fucking troglodyte albino monsters of cultural destruction. Fucking Jews. GTFOH with your whiny bullshit. Give the Palestinians back their land, go back to Poland or whatever freezer-state you’re from, and realize that faith does not constitute race.

All the while, guest speakers have been brought in, often at the invitation of the local SJP chapter, for the specific purpose of demonizing Israel, through lectures bearing titles such as “Palestine Through My Eyes: The Queer Movement and Oral Histories of Palestine,” in which Israel’s openness toward gays was characterized as an attempt to divert attention from its alleged crimes against the Palestinians, in other words, “pink washing.”

In Chapter One, I reproduced an account of how Milan Chatterjee, the Indian-American Hindu president of the UCLA graduate student body had been hounded out of UCLA for his neutral stand against expending campus funding for programming that either supported or rejected the State of Israel. Here is an excerpt from another account, entitled “UCLA Student President Leaves Due to Anti-Israel Harassment, from the August 31, 2016, *Daily Wire*:

After a long, tedious struggle with anti-Israel harassment from administrators and student members of the Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions (BDS) movement at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), a former graduate student body president has decided to leave his UCLA education behind, in his quest for a less hostile learning environment.

Former UCLA law student and Graduate Student Association (GSA) president Milan Chatterjee has been the object of bullying and framing ever since he refused to allocate campus funding to an event that either promoted or rejected support for the State of Israel. Chatterjee’s “viewpoint neutrality” policy stated that topics surrounding Israel were

irrelevant to the nature of campus politics and thus, campus funding should not be directed to taking sides on such measures.

The Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), an anti-Israel hate group responsible for leading the smear campaign against Chatterjee, responded with a plethora of threatening legal documents, administrative pushes, and media allegations painting Chatterjee as a biased student body president and calling for his apology and resignation. SJP leaders Rahim Kurwah and Yacoub Kureh, two UCLA grad students, enlisted the help of Palestine Legal (PL) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to send lawyers after Chatterjee to intimidate him, as well as push UCLA's figurehead administration to launch a detailed investigation into his actions.

These allegations were easily debunked time after time, but that did not stop hateful anti-Israel activists from attempting to publish falsehoods and make them a supposed reality. Worse, the UCLA administration did nothing to stand by the GSA neutral policy and defend Chatterjee for doing his job. Instead, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Jerry Kang aided the SJP by taking part in the investigations and harassment directed at the student president. . . .

Finally, Chatterjee had had enough. Not only was his reputation being constantly tarnished with cruddy lies and hateful spews; he was fighting to not fall behind in his schoolwork, his health, and his sanity. In a letter to UCLA Chancellor Gene Block, Chatterjee revealed his decision to complete his final year of law school at New York University.

In November 2016, SJP hosted its widely advertised screening of "The Occupation of the American Mind," a film that takes the point of view that Americans are being manipulated by pro-Israel propaganda. In a December 1, 2016, opinion piece, in the Daily Bruin, the UCLA student newspaper, students Jackie Schaeffer and Arielle Mokhtarzadeh, took the film to task. The following are excerpts from their article:

The Occupation of the American Mind" alleges that Israel manipulates the minds of politicians and ordinary Americans by turning American media outlets into well-oiled propaganda machines. By exerting their influence through the "Israel lobby in America," conniving Zionists have managed to divert attention from "apartheid" and "genocide," and instead, rewrite a tale of victimhood by dramatizing the storyline of Jewish oppression.

The film is an intellectualization of the centuries-old anti-Semitic conspiracy theory that a group of powerful, manipulative and

domination-obsessed Jews have gained control of politics and media through a combination of wealth, power, influence and deceit. The film asserts that through sheer mendacity and careful scheming, Jews concocted stories of suffering, when in reality, they were the true oppressors.

By choosing to screen this film, Students for Justice in Palestine has unabashedly endorsed and legitimized this perception of the Jewish people. One is left to wonder: What conclusion is the campus community left to draw from this event? Are we so distanced from the shadows of history that we are unable to detect echoes of anti-Semitic conspiracy when it is brought to our very doorstep?

The attempt to normalize anti-Semitism by conditioning it to the times is an old – and unfortunately effective – strategy. For generations, Jewish people have been accused of conspiring to control the media, the economy, the government and other social institutions. It was articulated in “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” in the 1900s, in “Mein Kampf” in the 1920s and it is echoed in this film in 2016.

\*\*\*\*\*

The movie is eager to position itself as an expose of one-sided propaganda, but employs the very tactics it seeks to condemn. It is so willing to nurture dissidence that it ironically forgets to invite that very concept of debate into its own movie.

Our disappointment, however, is directed not only towards the creators of this film, but at the students who have pushed to screen it. In doing so, they have provided a platform for the legitimization of identity-based hatred that is completely out of line with our True Bruin Values and the UC Board of Regents’ Statement of Principles Against Intolerance.

Brazen actions have consequences, and broadcasting a movie that perpetuates offensive perceptions of Jewish and Israeli communities does nothing to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or bridge the gap between communities at UCLA. Films like this enable the normalization of anti-Semitism on our campus, and it will not go unchecked. We will not be pawns in a game of intellectual distortions.

On January 11, 2018, *Tablet* published the upsetting story of a mezuzah that had been stolen from the office of UCLA’s student president. According to *Tablet*:

This past May, Arielle Yael Mokhtarzadeh was elected student body president of UCLA, one of America’s largest universities. The

descendant of Iranian Jews, proudly Jewish and proudly progressive, she is one of a rising generation of young Jewish leaders on American campuses. But this Monday, when she returned to school following winter break, she was greeted with a reminder that some do not want to see Jews in such positions of public leadership. She arrived at her office to find that her mezuzah—the traditional Jewish doorpost ornament containing prayers—had been torn down.

Instead of cowering, Mokhtarzadeh expressed her disdain for the persons who stole the mezuzah under cover of darkness by calling for a public rededication of the mezuzah: “Rabbi Gurevich [of UCLA Chabad] and I will be re-dedicating a new Mezuzah at my office (Kerckhoff 317) on Thursday, January 18th at 1PM. You are all invited to join us.”

On May 17, 2018, UCLA’s Students Supporting Israel, a pro-Israel student organization, hosted an event, entitled “Indigenous Peoples Unite!”. As reported by the May 18, 2018, *Jewish Journal*, at the event, there were panelists from the Armenian, Kurdish and Jewish communities. Each discussed stories about the history and struggles of his people. However, toward the end of the evening, things took an ugly turn. As reported by the *Jewish Journal*:

Toward the end of the event, one of the protesters went to the front of the stage and tore down the Armenian flag, snarling, “This is my f—ing flag.”

The protesters then surrounded the students and began playing Middle Eastern music, leading into chants of “Free free Palestine!”, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be set free!”, “Justice is our demand, there will be no peace on stolen land”, and “One, two, three, four, four, open up the prison doors, five, six, seven, eight, Israel is a terror state!” on megaphones.

The protesters also started chants of “F— white supremacy,” prompting one of the speakers to exasperatedly shout back, “I’m not white!”

On January 17, 2019, the *Algemeiner* reported that those responsible for the disruption would not be prosecuted, but, instead, would be called to a “confidential but mandatory proceeding called a ‘City Attorney Hearing,’ an alternative to prosecution that can be described as a ‘warning’ not to repeat the conduct in question.”

The foregoing are a few examples of the unrelenting drumbeat of anti-Israel demonization taking place on the UCLA campus. Even so, the campus is a big place with ample opportunity for Jewish expression. Further, with the UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies, and its thriving array of programs, Hillel, Chabad and a

rich Jewish heritage, opportunities abound for successful Jewish involvement on UCLA's varied campus. As Hillel director, Alan Lerner, stated in an upbeat manner after the May 17, 2018, disruption: "We are incredibly proud of how our Jewish and pro-Israel students responded and have been working with them throughout the day to determine best steps forward."

In late October 2018, SJP unveiled its logo for the then-forthcoming national SJP conference at UCLA. The logo gave the impression that the conference was being sponsored by UCLA and not merely being held at UCLA. In addition, the logo portrayed a bear (UCLA's nickname is the "Bruins" and its mascot is a bear) playing with a Palestinian kite—one might guess, of the variety of arson kite employed by Gaza to wreak havoc on forests and farmlands in southern Israel. On November 1, 2018, the *Jewish Journal* reported that the university had sent a cease and desist letter to SJP demanding that it remove from the logo anything that would suggest UCLA sponsorship of the event. The following is excerpted from the *Journal* report:

The Journal has obtained a copy of UCLA's cease-and-desist letter to NSJP, which was signed by Administrative Vice Chancellor Michael Beck and dated Oct. 31.

The letter begins by noting that the logo has "the unauthorized use" of UCLA's name and Bruin icon.

"Taken as a whole, these uses claim, suggest, or imply an affiliation with or an endorsement by UCLA of NSJP and/or its annual conference, which is simply incorrect," Beck wrote.

Beck then demanded that NSJP re-work the UCLA name in the logo to make it clear that UCLA is simply the location for the conference and not in any way an affiliate or endorser of the conference. He also demanded that the UCLA name and Bruin Bear be removed from artwork "associated with a Palestinian kite which some may interpret as an intention to endorse violence against Israel."

\*\*\*\*\*

Among the criticism of the logo included the following statement from Judea Pearl, chancellor professor of computer science at UCLA, National Academy of Sciences member and Daniel Pearl Foundation president, to the Journal:

*I have served on the faculty of UCLA for 49 years and I have never thought I would see the day when the symbol of my university would turn into a Hamas recruitment poster. The NSJP Conference reminds us that hate did not stop at Pittsburgh. U.S. campuses, emboldened by our*



*blindness and inaction are now offering racist groups a fertile ground to spawn their venom, test out intimidating tactics, and gain academic legitimacy. The stench of hatred and sounds of incitement to hostilities that will emerge from the NSJP Conference will damage UCLA's reputation irreparably.*

On November 8, 2018, the *Jewish Journal* reported that SJP had agreed to remove UCLA's name from the logo and that the university was satisfied with the revision. On that date, the *Journal* also reported that the Los Angeles City Council had voted unanimously on November 6, 2018, in favor of a resolution calling on UCLA to cancel the upcoming national SJP conference at UCLA.

On March 5, 2021, the *Jewish Journal* reported that the UCLA student government, on March 3, 2021, passed a resolution claiming that the Israeli government was committing "ethnic cleansing" against the Palestinians.

On March 16, 2021, the *Jewish News of Northern California* reported that the UCLA student government had passed a BDS resolution, without prior notice to the school's Jewish community prompting "pro-Israel groups to issue a statement saying they were left in the dark about the resolution's true, anti-Israel nature before its passage." The *Jewish News* account included the following quote:

"We, the student leaders of the Jewish and pro-Israel communities at UCLA, strongly reject all forms of anti-Israel demonization, including the stealth passage of 'A Resolution Calling for UC to Divest from War,' by the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC)," wrote Bruins for Israel, Bruins for Israel Public Affairs Committee and the Hillel student board president in a March 5 public letter to the campus community.

According to the June 10, 2021, *Jewish Journal*, The UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs confirmed to the Journal that Black Lives Matter (BLM) co-founder Patrisse Cullors would be giving a pre-recorded speech as the keynote speaker to the school's June 11 graduation ceremony. As reported in the *Journal* article:

Cullors, who recently [resigned](#) from the Black Lives Matter Global Foundation, said during a 2015 panel, "Palestine is our generation's South Africa. If we don't step up boldly and courageously to end the imperialist project that's called Israel, we're doomed."

The *Journal* article quoted the reaction of Judea Pearl, UCLA Chancellor's Professor of Computer Science at UCLA, National Academy of Sciences member and Daniel Pearl Foundation president, as follows:

Pearl similarly said in a statement to the Journal, “For the thousands of Jewish students and faculty at UCLA, Cullors represents a bigoted sect of the BLM movement that criminalizes the core of our collective existence and calls for its destruction. Inviting her as a keynote speaker without explicitly retracting or addressing that bigoted part of her ideology amounts to mainstreaming that bigotry and, by implication, expelling Jewish students and faculty from equal membership in the Bruins tent of ‘equity, diversity and inclusion.’

According to the July 20, 2021, *Jewish Journal*, a May 21, 2021, Statement of Solidarity with Palestine, issued by UCLA’s Asian American Studies Department, contained the following:

The statement from the Asian American Studies Department said they “oppose settler-colonialism in all its forms, from Tovaangar to Palestine. We condemn the exploitation, theft, and colonization of land and labor and we strive for freedom and justice for all peoples.” It went on to “condemn the exchange of military tactics and financial support between the United States and Israel, noting how U.S. counterinsurgency techniques and military equipment used during the Vietnam War were then extrapolated to the Occupied Territories; how the Israeli military’s policing of the apartheid wall dividing Jerusalem and isolating the West Bank has influenced the U.S.’s own brutal border security policies along the U.S.-Mexico border; and how Israel has too often upheld its support of Asian and Asian American individuals as proof of multicultural democracy, over and against the ethnic cleansing of Palestine via a process of ‘yellow-washing.’”

On July 20, 2021, a group of pro-Israel UCLA faculty members, the Ad hoc Faculty Committee for Academic Integrity at UCLA, that included Judea Pearl, wrote to UCLA president Michael Drake arguing that the Asian American Studies May 21 statement was both “ethically wrong” “almost certainly a violation of university policy.” The Ad hoc Committee’s letter went on to describe the chilling effect of the statement on Jewish students and faculty alike:

Regardless, “it does harm to students and to the environment of mutual respect, diversity and inclusion that should characterize all academic programs. For students, an academic department represents the University as an institution. Therefore, proclamations of official departmental political positions create an unwelcoming, even toxic, atmosphere for students who disagree with them.” Jewish students who are pro-Israel and taking Asian American Studies classes “can now expect, quite reasonably, that their academic careers will suffer because

of their beliefs or identity. The same holds true for students at affiliated departments who would quickly discover the intimidating nature of the statement issued by the Asian-American Studies Department.”

UCLA has produced Jordan Farmer, a Jewish basketball player who is the proud possessor of an NBA championship ring. On January 3, 2018, Jewish UCLA quarterback, Josh Rosen, declared for the NFL draft and was the number 10 overall pick in the following April draft.

As reported by the February 22, 2024, *Jewish News of Northern California*, on February 20, 2024, the undergraduate student association at UCLA adopted a BDS resolution (as had the school’s graduate student association one week earlier). As set forth in the *Jewish News*:

The Daily Bruin reported that the resolution passed the Undergraduates Students Association Council (USAC) by a of 10-3 vote in a secret ballot following a debate that lasted nearly three hours. The resolution accuses Israel of engaging in “a genocidal bombing campaign and ground invasion against Palestinians in Gaza” as well as subjecting “the occupied Palestinian population to military rule.” It further claims that UCLA won’t “acknowledge our own complicity in settler-colonial genocide and apartheid through UC contracts, pensions, and investments in companies profiting from Israeli violations of international law.

On May 1, 2024, the *Forward* reported the following harrowing events, apparently instigated by pro-Zionist counter protesters, at the UCLA anti-Israel tent encampment:

A quiet weeknight at UCLA descended into mayhem after hundreds of pro-Israel protesters descended on the campus and began trying to dismantle a pro-Palestinian encampment.

Violence raged outside the encampment for nearly three hours — from around 11 p.m. Tuesday to a little before 2 a.m. Wednesday — before police officers arrived at the scene and began dispersing them.

Some of the violence appeared instigated by a pro-Israel contingent, according to eyewitness accounts as well as footage of the scene broadcast on the news. Wearing black masks or balaclavas to cover their faces, they threw a variety of projectiles — traffic cones, liquid infused with pepper spray, poles and at least one firework — at and over the makeshift plywood-and-steel fence separating the encampment from the

rest of the quadrangle outside the school's Royce Hall. The encampment withstood the assaults and was still intact at 4 a.m., by which time only a few dozen pro-Israel protesters — pushed hundreds of feet away from the encampment by law enforcement officers — remained. But a loudspeaker playing Israeli children's music ensured that the encampment continued to feel their presence.

The scenes marked the most violent confrontations between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel protesters in the six months since the Gaza war began. It left pro-Palestinian protesters wondering why law enforcement had allowed hours to pass before intervening.

"It was like a scene out of a horror movie," Kaia Shah, a postgraduate researcher who is a media liaison for the encampment, told a local reporter after the mayhem died down. "We got viciously attacked for hours and hours."

Shah said she did not have a count of people injured or an estimate of how many students were in the encampment. But she said some had been evacuated to the hospital.

She said some of the assailants appeared to be teenage boys — and not UCLA students — and emphasized that the encampment had done nothing to provoke them into violence.

Unlike other schools where encampments have sprung up at universities in the last two weeks, UCLA has taken a largely hands-off approach since Thursday, when students set up a couple dozen tents in front of Royce Hall with a list of demands that included the university's divestment from Israel.

But the school's chancellor, Gene Block, said Tuesday that the encampment was "unlawful" and that students who refused to leave would face suspension or expulsion.

The Jewish Federation Los Angeles issued a statement that read, in part, "The abhorrent actions of a few counterprotesters last night do not represent the Jewish community or our values. We believe in peaceful, civic discourse."

Then, as reported by the May 2, 2024, *Forward*, the next night saw the following remarkable scene at the UCLA encampment:

Law enforcement breached a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of California, Los Angeles, in the early hours of Thursday morning following an hours long standoff with thousands of people who came to defend the encampment.

Hundreds of officers from the California Highway Patrol arrived at the encampment at around 3 a.m. in full riot gear and proceeded to dismantle the encampment's makeshift plywood board wall as flash grenades exploded overhead. Officers could be seen on news broadcasts making dozens of arrests.

The Palestine Solidarity Encampment, which formed April 25 amid a wave of similar campus demonstrations nationwide, was possibly the one that stood the longest. And much of the night, it looked like it might last another sunrise. A phalanx of LAPD officers that entered the encampment at around 1 a.m. was forced to retreat out of it by hundreds of protesters.

But as dawn approached, the CHP force was gradually advancing through the waves of students, faculty and other supporters defying the university chancellor's call — and the police's orders — to leave. They cleared Royce Hall, the building abutting the encampment, at around 4:45 a.m.

They then began quashing the dozens of tents still up as about 200 people — most wearing white helmets — formed a human chain along the east side of what remained of the encampment.

UCLA Chancellor Gene Block had called the encampment “unlawful” in a statement Tuesday and warned students they faced academic discipline if they did not vacate the area.

The law enforcement efforts to clear the encampment began about 24 hours after a pack of pro-Israel protesters showed up and started trying to rip off its walls and lobbing poles, cones and other objects toward the tents. A melee ensued, with an encampment spokesperson saying that dozens were taken to a hospital.

Thousands of people turned out at the encampment Wednesday evening when it appeared its clearing was imminent. As knots of officers in riot gear amassed outside multiple entrances to the encampment, even larger contingents of protesters gathered to block their progress.

But despite some tense moments, the scene was considerably less violent than the night before. Most protesters appeared to surrender, some in large groups, and make way once officers began pushing forward.

On August 15, 2024, the *Times of Israel* reported on Judge Mark Scarsi's decision regarding the exclusion of Jewish students from the UCLA campus during the spring 2024 encampments. The following is from that report:

The University of California, Los Angeles, must take more decisive action to protect its Jewish students from any obstacles they encounter from pro-Palestinian protesters and encampments, a judge ruled Tuesday.

The temporary injunction, from US District Judge Mark Scarsi, is one of the most significant legal rulings to follow the spread of pro-Palestinian encampments, which protesters organized on campuses across the country last spring. It comes in response to a handful of Jewish students suing UCLA, alleging that they were briefly barred from entering a campus space that had been occupied this spring by people protesting Israel's military ongoing campaign in Gaza in response to Hamas's October 7 attack.

In his comments, the judge wrote that he was appalled at the state of campus affairs for Jewish students.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals: Shabat and Holidays*. Hillel at UCLA offers a kosher (dairy) meal option at the franchised Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf (Monday through Friday during the school year) a kosher (meat) meat option at The Shack, (Monday through Friday during the school year).
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Orthodox, conservative and reform services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad House at UCLA (serving UCLA since 1967), 612 1/2 Midvale Ave, Los Angeles
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Center for Jewish Studies)*: 3.

## University of Chicago

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 800 (11%). *In addition, approximately 1,000 (11%) of Chicago's graduate students are Jewish*

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Highest

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade:*** F

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 82

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 37

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 4

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 13/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Brown, Columbia, Northwestern, Rice, University of California Berkeley, University of Michigan and University of Pennsylvania

***Jewish President Emeritus and Current Chancellor:*** Robert J. Zimmer

***Major Jewish Donors:*** 2023 gift of \$100 Million by Ross Stevens to the Booth School of Business; 2021 gift of \$75 Million from James and Paula Crown in support of the newly-named Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy and Practice; 2017 gift of \$25 Million from the Neubauer Family Foundation; 2016 gift of \$50 Million from Harriet Heyman and Michael Moritz

With the exception of MIT and Caltech, the U of C is probably the most self-selecting college in America. Fully, 60% of the students who are accepted matriculate and become Maroons. Once a member of the Big Ten athletic league, with its football team coached by the legendary Amos Alonzo Stagg, U of C in the 1930s and 1940s turned in its athletic cheers for academic slogans, in particular, the transforming reference to the “Life of the Mind” coined by U of C’s then president Robert Maynard Hutchins (1929-1945). During the World War II Manhattan Project, the squash courts underneath the bleachers at Stagg Field were the site of the first atomic chain reaction.

Possibly, unlike any other institution (perhaps, again, with the exceptions of MIT and Cal Tech), students who apply and ultimately go to the University of Chicago, go with only one thing in mind—to learn, learn and learn. Known for economics, Chicago has probably spawned more Nobel prize winners in that discipline



than any other university, with a notable number, such as Milton Friedman and Robert Fogel, being Jewish.

If one includes the school's Asian students, who account for almost 23% of Chicago's student body, about 45% of Chicago's students are minority. In addition, more than 13% of its students are international. Furthermore, Chicago is about to become even more multicultural. On June 13, 2018, Chicago's Vice-President for Admissions announced that the university would become test optional for undergraduate admissions and would offer full-tuition scholarships to admitted students whose families earned less than \$125,000 a year—two moves designed to attract high achieving first generation and low-income students.

For many, the combination of hard work and multiculturalism will provide the perfect university environment. For others, it might not be the right fit. But, if the fit is there, Hyde Park is a funky, neat, mixed-development part of Chicago and a way cool place in which to go to school. And, the university, with its marvelous Oxford-inspired, collegiate Gothic architecture, has Rockefeller wealth written all over it. From the resplendent Rockefeller Chapel, the highest landmark on campus, to the university field house, this place grabs you like an Oxford don and says, "Come here to learn among the academic splendor that only a Rockefeller could provide."

In years gone by, Chicago refused to discriminate against Jewish applicants when many, if not most, of its peers were setting rigid quotas for Jewish applicants. The University of Chicago is still a great place for Jewish students, although its current Jewish population is less than it has been. Evidencing the university's open-minded attitude toward its Jewish community was the appointment in March 2017 of Laurie Zoloth, an expert in Judaism and ethics, as dean of its Divinity School.

In late August 2016, Chicago became the eye of a political correctness storm when its Dean of Students, Jay Ellison, sent a letter to all incoming freshman specifying that the university would not condone safe spaces or trigger warnings. Stated Ellison: "Our commitment to academic freedom means that we do not support so-called 'trigger warnings,' we do not cancel invited speakers because their topics might prove controversial, and we do not condone the creation of intellectual 'safe spaces' where individuals can retreat from ideas and perspectives at odds with their own."

Ellison's letter arrived at a time of national turmoil over student sensitivity to such matters as gay rights, buildings named after persons accused of intolerance and instances of police brutality. According to the August 24, 2016, edition of the school newspaper, the *Chicago Maroon*, the letter may have been a response to the failure of the student government to adopt a resolution condemning student obstruction or disruption of free speech. Significantly, the failed resolution was taken up after three highly publicized incidents in which speakers were shouted down or prevented from

speaking. Notably, one of these involved Bassem Eid, a Palestinian human rights activist and critic of the BDS movement.

The following excerpt from an account of Eid's speech that appeared in the *Chicago Maroon* is noteworthy not only because of the intolerance of Eid's detractor's, but, more importantly, because of the threatening language apparently used by some:

After Eid spoke about some of the issues facing the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian authority in the West Bank, and what he characterized as the beneficial impacts of Israeli presence, the Q&A portion of the event began.

A man in the audience seated with members of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) introduced himself as a Palestinian who had grown up in Gaza. He began to ask how the divisions in Palestinian leadership came about, questioning "what brought Palestinians to a place where they have to go work for their occupiers," when the conflict between Eid and the audience member began.

Eid and the audience member began speaking over one another, and tensions quickly rose. The audience member was eventually ushered away by I-House staff. Two more students proceeded to ask questions, the second of which followed a similar vein as the first question.

"Why are we here justifying Palestinian violence and zero things about Israeli violence?" the third audience member asked.

"On the division of the Palestinians I will never, ever accuse Israel," Eid responded. "If Israel wanted to keep us divided, what is the good to them? .... When will we, the Palestinians, start taking responsibility for what is going on to ourselves?" he said.

After this statement, the two students, along with others, began to further challenge Eid. They shouted back at the speaker and Eid and the audience members began arguing over one another once again.

When Eid began to respond, an audience member began to shout out at him, questioning his position as a Palestinian and a human rights activist. "Do not speak on behalf of the Palestinians again!" he yelled.

UCPD officers, who had been at I-House since the start of Eid's speech, eventually intervened, removing the two other audience members from the building and officially ending the event. Eid was also quickly removed from the I-House Assembly Hall by UCPD officers. According

to a statement on Eid's Facebook page, the questioner from Gaza threatened him. [A second-year student] who attended the event, said that students who were sitting near the two men asking the questions heard the questioners mutter offensive, aggressive words and expletives before approaching the microphone.

[A third-year student,] who was president of the Israel Engagement Association, which describes itself as a "platform for pro-Israeli activism on campus," said he also heard threats. [The student] was sitting in close proximity to the questioners when he heard the students threaten to kill Eid if he did not stop speaking.

In a February 22, 2017 interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, University of Chicago president Robert Zimmer supported Dean Ellison's position in opposition to "safe spaces" and "trigger warnings." When asked why the dean had sent the letter, Zimmer responded refreshingly:

The purpose [of a university] is to be a place that gives the most empowering education to students and creates an environment for the most imaginative and challenging work of faculty. Confrontation of multiple ideas and ideas that are different from one's own is critical to this.

I think it's very important not to allow universities to slip into an environment in which they are allowing a kind of suppression of speech, or are allowing discomfort with different ideas to create a chilled environment for discourse.

In February 2018, the foregoing position on free speech was already being tested as protests broke out in response to the university's decision to back a speaking invitation by one of its business school professors to the then former Trump policy strategist, Steve Bannon. According to the February 6, 2018, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, more than 100 faculty members signed a petition opposing Bannon's appearance on campus.

As reported by the June 8, 2021, *Algemeiner*, a resolution by the College Council aimed at retracting an earlier May 21, 2021 resolution, enacted in the wake of the May 2021 Israel Gaza conflict, by the school's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) in conjunction with SJP, failed to garner sufficient votes to support the retraction. The earlier resolution had called for a "Palestine that is free ... from the river to the sea." As further noted in the *Algemeiner* account, the May 21 USG statement declared its "stand against the ideology of Zionism that has been used as a justification for the murder, displacement and traumatization of the Palestinian people."

As also set forth in the *Algemeiner* account, Hillel and the university administration responded to the original resolution and the failure to retract it as follows:

The statement prompted a response from the university's Hillel condemning the letter's use of the "river to the sea" trope.

"It blatantly calls for the forced displacement of Jews from their homeland, and for the wholesale destruction of the world's only Jewish state," said the letter, which was joined by a number of Jewish groups on campus. "Its implications are clear: Jewish citizens living in the area from the river to the sea — including the State of Israel — should cease to exist."

Appearing to distance the university from the USG's actions, in an email sent on June 1, University of Chicago Robert Zimmer and Provost Ka Yee Lee said the USG "does not have an institutional position on international conflicts."

"While Student Government representatives are elected by undergraduates," they wrote, "neither Student Government nor any other student group speaks for the University or for all students on any issue."

According to the January 31, 2022, *Algemeiner*, on January 26, 2022, SJP issued a broadside on Instagram urging Chicago students not to take courses on Israel or courses taught by Israeli fellows. The following description of the Instagram post is reproduced from the *Algemeiner* account:

"Don't take sh\*tty Zionist classes," UChicago Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) said in an Instagram [post](#) last Wednesday. "Support the Palestinian movement for liberation by boycotting classes on Israel or those taught by Israeli fellows. By attending these classes, you are participating in a propaganda campaign that creates complicity in the continuation of Israel's occupation of Palestine."

The group accused university courses that aim to educate students about Israel of "controlling the narrative" to erase Palestinians, and presenting the Israel-Palestine conflict "as a conflict between two equals in an effort to legitimize its existence."

"They use the deceitful and propagandistic term '1948 Arab Israeli War,'" SJP continued. "These classes often rely on Orientalist narratives, pinkwashing, and liberal washing in an attempt to

legitimize Israel as a paragon of Western liberal values. Controlling the narrative is incredibly important to settler-colonial states.”

Writing in the June 9, 2022, *Algemeiner*, Cole Knie, a 2021-2022 CAMERA Fellow at George Washington University, reported the following:

In March, I detailed Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)’s campaign against academic freedom at the University of Chicago. Since then, the situation has only deteriorated.

SJP’s initial anti-Israel boycott targeted courses about Israel that “legitimize” the Jewish state through so-called “propaganda.” Later, SJP expanded its boycott by demanding that the student newspaper remove pro-Israel op-eds, and apologize for publishing them. Unfortunately, this worked.

On April 2, the University of Chicago newspaper, *The Chicago Maroon*, capitulated to SJP’s anti-free speech demands and removed an op-ed titled “We Must Condemn the SJP’s Online Anti-Semitism.” The paper apologized for publishing it because it enabled the support of “Zionist and racist sentiments.”

This is especially alarming, because it characterizes Zionism, the self-determination of the Jewish people, as socially unacceptable — even though the vast majority of the Jewish community identifies as Zionist. By succumbing to SJP’s witch-hunt, the *Maroon* is responsible for effectively silencing the Jewish community and enabling authoritarian tendencies to flourish on campus.

As reported in the January 11, 2023, *Algemeiner*, SJP called for a boycott of a course taught by retired Israeli Defense Forces General Meir Elran. The *Algemeiner* account noted that SJP had published a January 10, 2023 op-ed in the *Chicago Maroon*, in which it “accused Elran of “anti-Palestinian violence” and described his course as “nothing less than the incursion of Israel’s military complex onto the university’s campus.” The following are additional excerpts from the *Algemeiner* story:

Elran, head of the Homeland Security Program at the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University, is currently teaching at University of Chicago as a visiting professor through an exchange program sponsored by the Israel Institute, a nonprofit organization that connects colleges and universities with scholars who can teach courses about modern Israel.

\*\*\*\*\*

“No principle of ‘academic freedom’ or ‘intellectual inquiry’ justifies hosting classes taught by complicit Israeli military personnel,” SJP wrote on Tuesday. “Particularly not classes that misrepresent Palestinian history, treat Palestinian deaths as fodder for ‘strategic’ military reflection, and inundate students with the Orientalist worldview of Israeli colonists.”

The group added that it plans to wage a “sustained, student led campaign against Elran’s course for the duration of this quarter.”

On Wednesday, Asaf Romirowsky, a Middle East expert and executive director of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA) and Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME), told *The Algemeiner* that SJP is advancing a “classic cancel culture narrative.”

“That he’s a former military official adds more fuel to the fire, but they would have the same reaction to any pro-Israeli or Israeli scholar,” he added. “And we’ve seen this historically with other pro-BDS, SJP groups.”

\*\*\*\*\*

The proposed action against Elran is the latest campaign by UChicago SJP. Last January, the group urged students to boycott courses about Israel and those taught by Israeli academic fellows. SJP charged that university courses educating students about Israel are “controlling the narrative” to erase Palestinians, and presenting the Israel-Palestine conflict “as a conflict between two equals in an effort to legitimize its existence.”

Also as later reported by the *Algemeiner* (on February 28, 2023), over 120 academics from universities across the US have issued a letter under the auspices of the Academic Engagement Network, calling on Chicago to prevent SJP’s “in-person, disruptive” protest of IDF General Meir Elran’s course.

On September 23, 2023, the University announced the creation of the Chicago Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression, whose purpose is to “to expand and enhance the University’s engagement across a range of issues related to academic freedom and open discourse.”

Following Hamas’ deadly October 7, 2023, invasion of Israel, the November 5, 2023 edition of the *Forward*, went to eleven campuses to see how Jewish students were reacting to events at their respective campuses. The following distressing account is an excerpt from the *Forward*’s visit to the University of Chicago.

Most days for the past three weeks, the Students for Justice in Palestine group has set up a table on the University of Chicago’s leafy quad with signs saying “Israel is Starving One Million Children” or “Israel Bombs

Hospitals.” Members of the group chant, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” which many Jewish students hear as a desire to exterminate Israelis.

As on other campuses, Jewish students have taped posters of Israeli hostages on light posts.

Leah, a 22-year-old senior who spoke on the condition she be identified only by her middle name, feels assaulted by the rhetoric. She has stopped crossing the quad to get to class, where someone who sits behind her has a sticker on their laptop that says “Free Palestine, Destroy Israel.”

Her sister, a sophomore at the school, “has called me crying multiple times after crossing the quad,” Leah said. “I’m genuinely afraid.”

And she has been unable to talk about the situation with close friends who are not Jewish.

“I don’t know how to start that conversation where you disagree with my core fundamental values about Israel,” Leah said. “I feel like I’m going to be judged and people will think I have no morality and don’t care about innocent lives.”

Rabbi Anna Levin Rosen, executive director of the university’s Hillel, said that all the students she is working with “feel unsafe emotionally” right now.

“It’s very difficult to comprehend seeing Hamas as a force for freedom, and that seems to be a dominant opinion here,” she explained. “The pain of being written off by friends, and feeling pressure to choose between their public Jewish identity and friendships has created social pressure that is unbearable.”

The following disturbing report appeared in the May 20, 2024, *ADL Daily Campus Crisis Alert*:

On Friday [May 17, 2024], anti-Israel protesters occupied the [Institute of Politics](#) building at the University of Chicago. According to the *New York Times*, IOP Director former Senator Heidi Heitkamp was in the building at the time when three masked protesters burst into her office and ordered her to leave. She did not, even as she heard others

“smashing furniture in other rooms.” The protesters left via a window about 20 minutes later once police arrived. The IOP office is two doors down from the university’s Hillel and across the street from the Chabad house, which was hosting a Shabbat dinner at the time. After being cleared from IOP, protesters moved to the University president’s house, where they hung him in *effigy* from a tree outside his home. Among the *demands* of the protesters, according to a banner they hung from the IOP building, were “free Palestine,” “abolish the University,” and “F\*\*ck Gentrification.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Newberger Hillel Center).
- *Kosher meals*: full meal plan at two university dining halls.
- *Friday night services* and *Oneg Shabat*: Reform and conservative services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad at University of Chicago and Hyde Park, 5700 South Woodlawn Avenue.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 5.



## University of Michigan

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 5,000 (16%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No, but the Anti-Israel organization, Students Allied for Freedom and Equality (“SAFE”), is active on campus***

***Level of BDS Activity: Highest***

***Original 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***Revised 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: F***

***2017 Rank from the Forward’s Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 29***

***2018 Rank from the Forward’s Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 59***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 1***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 47/248***

***Schools: Cornell, Emory, Northwestern, University of North Carolina, University of Virginia and Vanderbilt***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2021 gift of \$11.1 Million by Daniel and Sheryl Tishman; 2020 gift by Stephen M. Ross of \$100 Million for the university’s capital campaign to build the Detroit Center for Innovation; 2020 gift of \$30 Million by Ronald Weiser and Eileen Lappin for diabetes research; 2020 gift of \$10 Million by Ronald Weiser to create a real estate center at the university’s business school; 2017 gift of \$50 Million by Stephen M. Ross; 2014 gift of \$50 Million by Ronald and Eileen Weiser; 2013 gift of \$200 Million by Stephen M. Ross; 2013 gift of \$50 Million by Helen Zell; 2013 gift of \$50 Million by Richard and Susan Rogel; 2011 gift of \$56 Million by A. Alfred Taubman; 2007 gift of \$50 Million by the Samuel and Jean Frankel Foundation; 2004 gift of \$100 Million by Stephen M. Ross***

Sometimes referred to as the Harvard of the Midwest, this member of the Big Ten, holder of the largest endowment of any public university outside of Texas, and perennial athletic power is a sublime mix of academic intensity and big time athletic fervor. And, as of January 1, 2018, all this became available free of tuition to Michigan residents whose family incomes do not exceed the state median of \$65,000.

Ann Arbor, Michigan’s home, is an unpretentious and pleasant community, little more than a half hour from the Detroit airport. Michigan’s campus has a great college feel with several grassy areas and a law school quad that is nothing short of stunning. Michigan’s staggering endowment (almost \$11 billion as of June 30, 2017) is the third largest public-school endowment behind the oil-rich University of Texas and Texas A&M endowments.

If one had to name the universal safety school for Jewish Ivy-League aspirants, the University of Michigan would be that school—made very clear by its admissions standards which have risen to near-Ivy League levels. Among Michigan’s illustrious Jewish alumni is Mike Wallace, the long-time host of *Sixty Minutes*, who died in 2012. In 2016, for the third year in a row, University of Michigan students received more Fulbright grants than any other state university.

While not publicly documented, the conventional wisdom is that the out-of-state student body is more competitive than the in-state student body. But, make no mistake, this is an intense, competitive university all the way around. Further, compounding matters is the fact that many of Michigan’s entry-level classes are gigantic, with some exceeding 500 students, making it all the more difficult to compete in a very competitive environment.

Nevertheless, generations of students have thrived socially and academically at Michigan. Indeed, they may have thrived a little too much. On November 10, 2017, the university’s student-run Interfraternity Council suspended all Greek life activity in response to numerous allegations of sexual misconduct, hazing and drug use.

The BDS movement is very much present at the University of Michigan. As evidenced by the following student editorial that appeared in the October 6, 2016, *Michigan Daily*, so is the apparent unwillingness of pro-Palestinian students to engage in constructive dialogue:

This Tuesday was the second day of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. The holiday focuses around self-reflection, prayer and hope for the year to come. As I sat in services Tuesday morning, I was surprised to hear, between prayers, whispering from my peers: “There’s an anti-Israel wall in the middle of the Diag.”

The wall falsely depicted Israel as an apartheid state, and the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces as vicious murderers. To have an anti-Israel display on a day when Israel’s advocates can’t adequately respond is conniving and corrosive to the dialogue many students who are passionate about the conflict have worked so hard to establish. It feels that Students Allied for Freedom and Equality [“SAFE”], the organization who put on the demonstration, has tactically chosen to demonize Israel when its Jewish supporters were unable to participate in the conversation.

Even more, many students were forced to choose between observing their Jewish religion and standing up for their Jewish homeland, which for many, like me, are incredibly intertwined and complex. Many Jewish

students were not on campus on Tuesday, as they were attending Rosh Hashanah services in synagogues across the country. Those students' voices were silenced by SAFE because they couldn't present an alternative narrative to what was so insensitively constructed on campus this week.

On Tuesday, I felt as I have felt many times over the past year: excluded from the larger narrative on this campus because of my Jewish identity. We are told we don't know how it feels to be ostracized and oppressed, and thus can't participate in conversations revolving around diversity and inclusion.

A lack of identical shared experiences shouldn't constitute an inability to participate in the conversation, or an inability to support others who are suffering. One group's pain and oppression shouldn't be measured against another group's pain and oppression — this is useless and hurtful. All minorities on this campus — whether pertaining to religion, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and so on — face their challenges and feel excluded in different, yet often intersecting ways.

Had SAFE not explicitly chosen to host this event on Rosh Hashanah, when they knew they would face little opposition on campus, I might have learned something about Israel's complexities and my fellow students' connection to the land. Yet, because I was observing the Jewish holiday, I was intentionally excluded from this conversation.

SAFE announced early in November 2017 that it was beginning “the 2017 #UMDivest campaign,” which, despite having been rejected by the student body on ten previous occasions, called for the university's Central Student Government (CGS) to “divest from companies that profit from Israel's violations of Palestinian human rights.” The divestment resolution passed on November 14, 2017, but not before the CGS denied Victor Lieberman, Raoul Wallenberg Distinguished University Professor of History and Professor of Asian and Comparative History the opportunity to speak against the resolution. In an article in the November 20, 2017, *Detroit Jewish News*, Professor Lieberman spoke out against the CGS decision to deny him a platform:

Obviously, the real motive for preventing me from speaking was UMDivest's fear that it lacked effective counter-arguments and that I might sway the vote. Free discussion therefore had to be prevented. Thus, we were treated to a surreal spectacle where a community activist from Detroit who knows nothing about Middle East history or politics and who has no connection to U of M was allowed to speak for at least half an hour — but a U of M professor who teaches the subject was not allowed to speak for 10 minutes.

Censorship is the instinctive preference of people who “know” in advance that there is only one truth and entertaining alternate viewpoints is a waste of time. “Objective discourse” means a discourse that excludes views they don’t like. This is a position unworthy of a university whose *raison d’être* is to promote the unfettered flow of ideas. It also runs counter to a lifetime of my own research and teaching, which has always emphasized the open-ended interplay between divergent historical interpretations. Uncertainty is what makes intellectual life exciting. Unfortunately, the intolerance on display Nov. 14 is part of a growing climate of intolerance that has led to the shutting down of speakers on college campuses across the country. Irony of ironies: While student representatives spoke in favor of silencing me, UMDivest supporters in the audience waved signs that read “Do Not Silence Me.”

The CGS resolution was quickly repudiated by the university. But the damage may have been done. According to the *Jewish Journal*, in its report entitled “Michigan Students Behind Divestment Resolution Made Controversial Statements About Jews and Israel, some of the SAFE members behind the BDS resolution were caught on video making highly disturbing statements about Jews and Israel. As cited by the jewishjournal.com article, the video “caught students concurring with the notion that the pro-Palestinian crowd should reconsider its ‘past nonviolent stance’ as well as a Palestinian student telling a Jewish student she wouldn’t engage in a conversation with him simply because he’s pro-Israel.”

According to the September 18, 2018 *Jewish Telegraph Agency* as well as multiple reports from other sources, John Cheney-Lippold, a professor of American culture at the University of Michigan declined to recommend a student for a semester abroad in Israel because he supported the boycott against Israel. According to the *JTA* account, in his rejection of the student’s request, Cheney-Lippold wrote: “As you may know, many University departments have pledged an academic boycott against Israel in support of Palestinians living in Palestine,” the professor’s email read. “This boycott includes writing letters of recommendation for students planning to study there.”

When reached for comment by *JTA*, Cheney was quoted as saying:

“I do not regret declining to write the letter, precisely because I am boycotting injustice,” Cheney-Lippold wrote in an email to *JTA*. “I would hope anyone who cares about injustice, such as Israel’s unequal treatment of Palestinians, would make a similar decision... Israeli universities are complicit institutions — they develop weapons systems and military training. Standing up for freedom, justice, and equality for all is something I’m proud of.

As reported by the October 8, 2018, *Times of Israel*, in a lecture required for Michigan art students, the featured speaker compared Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Adolf Hitler. According to the *Times of Israel* article, the lecture content "first came to public attention via a Facebook post . . . by a Jewish University of Michigan student, Alexa Smith," in which Smith stated:

Yesterday I was forced to sit through an overtly anti-Semitic lecture . . . In what world is it ok for a mandatory course to host a speaker who compares Adolf Hitler to the Prime Minister of Israel?

I sat through this lecture horrified at the hatred and intolerance being spewed on our campus . . . . As a Jew who is proud of my people and my homeland, I sat through this lecture feeling targeted and smeared to be as evil as the man who perpetrated the Holocaust and systematically murdered six million Jews . . . .

For a student response to the hypocrisy of a similar conflation of Jewish leaders with Nazi-like goals, see "A letter to my neighbor and fellow Badger on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," written by Wisconsin student Hillary Miller in the October 22, 2018, *Daily Cardinal*, and reproduced in part in the profile for the University of Wisconsin that appears later in this guide.

On October 9, 2018, the *Washington Post* reported that a second Michigan instructor had refused to write a letter of recommendation in support of another student who wished to study in Israel. Also, on that date, the *Detroit News* reported that Cheney-Lippold would be disciplined in the form of not receiving a merit raise during the 2018-19 academic year and not being allowed to take a sabbatical for two years.

On October 10, 2018, the *Jewish Journal* reported an apology written by Michigan's president, Mark Schlissel, with regard to the two students whose study abroad requests had been denied. In his apology, Schlissel noted the actions taken by the two Michigan instructors violated university policy.

According to the February 7, 2019 edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, the University of Michigan raised \$5.28 billion over a period of seven-plus years—the largest amount ever raised by a public university. Accordingly to the article, 94% of the gifts were from donors who made gifts of under \$5,000.

During the May 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict, as Israel was retaliating against hundreds of indiscriminately launched missiles from Gaza, the Michigan student government published the following inflammatory statement as reproduced by the May 14, 2021 *Algemeiner*: "This is not a conflict, but emblematic of Israeli settler-

colonialism, ethnic cleansing, and apartheid,” said the CSG statement, which accused Israeli authorities of “targeting Muslims during the holiest month of Ramadan.”

As also set forth in the *Algemeiner* account, the Michigan Hillel accused the student government of “furthering divisiveness” at a time when many Jewish were pained by ongoing events:

“We are deeply disappointed and surprised to see the leadership of Central Student Government issue a one-sided statement on the complicated Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” it said, noting that it was “released while rockets were being launched into Israel, with no consideration of how Jewish students with a connection to Israel may be feeling.”

“As a result, this statement ultimately made many Jewish students feel unseen and unrepresented by CSG,” the group added.

As reported by the May 30, 2021, *Jerusalem Post*, following the May 2021 eleven day conflict between Israel and Gaza, the University of Michigan central student government (CSG) released a statement blasting Israel for war crimes and for subjecting Palestinians to “Israeli settler-colonialism, ethnic cleansing and apartheid.” According to the *Jerusalem Post* account, “not a single mention [was] made of Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups attacking Israeli civilians. As reported in the same *Jerusalem Post* account “Alums for Campus Fairness, America’s unified alumni voice on countering antisemitism and bigotry, garnered more than 400 signatures on [a] petition calling out the CSG.”

On June 17, 2021, the *Jewish Journal* reported that an incoming master’s degree student and an alumnus called for the university to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism after a series of antisemitic incidents on campus. In pertinent part, the story quoted from the testimony of incoming master’s degree student Samii Stoloff as follows:

During the public comment session of the June 16 university’s Board of Regents meeting, University of Michigan graduate and incoming master’s student Samii Stoloff said, “For the past six years, I have watched antisemitism thrive on campus coming up in BDS [Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions] resolutions, CSG [Central Student Government] endorsements and most recently, incidents involving The Rock.” “The Rock,” which is located nearby campus, has been painted with various political, sporting and Greek life messages over the years. Stoloff said toward the end of the May, The Rock was painted with “phrases like ‘Israel is a terrorist state’ and words like ‘apartheid’ and ‘genocide’ appeared. Dozens of students expressed feeling unsafe on a campus that did nothing to stop the display of hate speech.”

According to the October 4, 2022, *Algemeiner*, the organization, Students for Allied Freedom and Equality (SAFE), at the University of Michigan erected an “apartheid wall” to coincide with observance of Rosh Hashanah.

On December 22, 2022, the *Algemeiner* reported that, due to a lack of identification, the university had closed an investigation of a November 2022 assault in which “an unidentified male assaulted a student, who is a young woman, by the arm while crossing paths with her on campus and made antisemitic statements.”

As reported in the January 14, 2023, *New York Post*, “social media users were shocked and outraged over a recent anti-Israel rally put on by pro-Palestinian protestors at the University of Michigan.” The story continued as follows:

Clips of the protest depicted marchers, chanting “Intifada, Intifada! Long live the Intifada” a call to violent overthrow of the Jewish state inspired by Palestinian riots and rebellions against Israel in the late 80s, early 90s, and early 2000s.

“There is only one solution!” a female marcher was seen chanting, as the crowd behind her responded, “Intifada! Revolution!”

Marchers, seen walking around the Ann Arbor campus screaming into bullhorns and waving Palestinian flags, were also heard chanting the infamous anti-Israel call to arms: “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!”

According to the August 24, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, two Jewish sites at the university were struck by anti-Semitism during July and August 2023. The first incident occurred in July at Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity where a swastika and homophobic slurs were posted on two windows and the front door. The second incident occurred at the the school’s Jewish Resource Center in August.

As reported in the November 30, 2023, *Jewish Insider*, “[a]dministrators at the University of Michigan, where students had begun voting this week on a ballot measure accusing Israel of ‘genocide,’ canceled the referendum, citing ‘extraordinary, unprecedented interference’ tied to the sending of an ‘unauthorized’ email to the entire student body encouraging support for the legislation.” The *Jewish Insider* article went on to state:

The campus-wide email encouraging students to vote in favor of the “University Accountability in the Face of Genocide” resolution, which calls on the university “to recognize the millions of people undergoing genocide in Gaza,” was sent on Wednesday by a collective of more than 60 campus organizations, including the local chapters of Jewish Voice

for Peace, Young Democratic Socialists of America and Sunrise Ann Arbor, under the banner of the “TAHRIR Coalition.”

The organization leading the push for the referendum was Students Allied for Freedom and Equality (SAFE), the campus’ chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine.

On December 28, 2023, the *Algemeiner* reported that a group of professors and other workers at Michigan had formed a “ ‘Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine’ (FSJP) chapter and as its first act published a guest column in *The Michigan Daily* accusing the school of ‘horrific suppression’ of anti-Zionist viewpoints and ‘brutal actions against students.’ ” The *Algemeiner* story continued as follows:

Claiming to be “engaged in education, advocacy, and action in solidarity with Palestinian liberation,” the group, which is a companion to the extreme anti-Zionist group Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), railed against University of Michigan president Santa Ono for taking steps to cool the campus climate and discourage rhetoric that denigrates those who have staked out positions on either side of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since Hamas’ Oct. 7 massacre across southern Israel.

One action the group singled out for opprobrium was the university’s decision in November to cancel a campus-wide vote on an anti-Israel resolution accusing the Jewish state of “genocide” and “apartheid.” Another vote on a resolution condemning Hamas as well as bigotry targeting both Jews and Muslims was also canceled. In a statement issued on Dec. 5, Ono defended the decision, saying both measures “have done more to stoke fear, anger, and animosity on our campus than they would ever accomplish” if adopted as policy.

As reported by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) on its March 26, 2024, website: “The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) today wrote a letter to the University of Michigan President, Santa J. Ono, Ph.D., condemning two recent antisemitic incidents on University of Michigan’s Ann Arbor campus. ADL is calling for immediate action to address violations of the student code of conduct and ensure that future University events can proceed without disruption.” In frank terms, The ADL announcement went on to particularize its concerns as follows:

In the first incident on Friday, March 22, a University of Michigan student stated on Instagram, “*Until my last breath I will utter death to every single individual who supports the Zionist state. Death and more. Death and worse.*” The University, understanding the severity of the threat to the Jewish community, increased security patrols on



campus. Yet it appears that no further action has been taken and this student is still part of the campus community.

In a separate incident on Sunday, March 24, the University's Honors Convocation was abruptly ended due to disturbances by anti-Israel protestors. The ceremony, honoring hundreds of students with their families in attendance, was halted during President Ono's remarks. While similar incidents have warranted removal of disruptive parties by security, the University instead abruptly ended the ceremony.

These episodes are just the latest in a string of unanswered incidents of antisemitism on the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus. Over the past few months, students on campus – in some instances led by the University of Michigan's SJP chapter, SAFE UMich – have stormed the administration building, run for student government on platforms of intense anti-Zionism and disrupted classes in the Ross Business School multiple times.

“What should have been a joyous moment for families and students to celebrate academic achievements was instead turned into a stomach-churning display of anti-Zionist fervor, enabled by the University's inaction,” said Jonathan Greenblatt, ADL CEO. “At a time when antisemitism is snowballing on campus, colleges and universities have an obligation to protect Jewish students from intimidation, harassment, and violence. The University of Michigan has failed to do so over the last few months, with the event on Sunday impacting Jewish and non-Jewish families alike. They must act immediately to prevent further disruption and harm to the entire campus community.”

According to the April 7, 2024, *Jerusalem Post*: “Two items of antisemitic vandalism equating a Star of David to a Nazi swastika were found outside the University of Michigan Hillel last week, the Jewish campus organization said in a statement on Wednesday. Graffiti comparing the Jewish symbol to the Nazi icon was reportedly found on a bench outside the Hillel building on Tuesday. Hillel also said a flier with a similar message was found on a telephone pole next to the building.”

On April 9, 2024, the *Detroit Jewish News* reported that, on March 22, 2024, “Salma Hamamy, a senior and the president of Students Allied for Freedom and Equality (SAFE), the school's version of Students for Justice in Palestine, stated on her Instagram page: ‘Until my last breath I will utter death to every single individual who supports the Zionist state. Death and more. Death and worse.’” The story went on to state that :

The administration increased security patrols on campus in recognition of the severity of the threat, but no other consequences seem to have transpired for Hamamy's actions.

In January of 2023, Hamamy and members of SAFE led a protest on campus calling for an "Intifada Revolution." Since the beginning of Hamas' war with Israel, Hamamy, SAFE and other organizations have been shouting this slogan in marches for months. They accuse the university of genocide. They disrupt foot traffic, block entrances to buildings and overtake campus administration buildings.

This past January, the University of Michigan honored Hamamy and SAFE with the 2024 Spirit of MLK Jr. Award for "exemplifying Dr. King's leadership and extraordinary vision."

The following disturbing account is from the May 16, 2024, *eJewish Philanthropy* campus update:

When Jordan Acker woke up at 6 a.m. on Wednesday in his home in Huntington Woods, a heavily Jewish suburb of Detroit, he saw several alarming notifications on his iPhone. Photos and videos from his doorbell app showed a disturbance outside his front door around 4:40 a.m., while he, his wife and their three daughters were asleep.

A stranger wearing a red *keffiyeh* over his face walked up to Acker's front door and stood there for several moments. He placed papers on the doors and took photographs before leaving. The document, a list of demands for the leadership of the University of Michigan, was signed: "In liberation, the UMich Gaza Solidarity Encampment."

Acker, an attorney and former Obama administration official, sits on the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan, a statewide position to which he was elected in 2018. He ran for the seat as a way to promote a safe campus environment and protect students from sexual misconduct. A Jewish Michigan alumnus, Acker knew Israel issues might come up — the school has been dealing with staunchly anti-Israel activists for years — but he never expected anything like the uproar of the last seven months. The disturbance at his home escalated things to a new level.

"It's not a way that we handle disputes in this country, by trying to scare elected officials. I think that is something that is enormously undemocratic," Acker told *Jewish Insider* on Wednesday afternoon. "I found it extremely disturbing and very menacing in thinking that

someone would dress like that to come to my house at 4:40 a.m. It's really surreal, and it's very, very scary."

The following is from the June 4, 2024, *ADL Daily Campus Crisis Alert*:

The exterior of the law office building of a Jewish Regent of the University of Michigan was [vandalized](#) with angry pro-Palestinian graffiti in what appeared to be a protest against Israel, the war in Gaza and the school. This comes two weeks after anti-Israel demonstrators at the University of Michigan escalated their protests with intimidation and trespassing by strewing [fake corpses](#) and bloody toys on the lawns of members of the Board of Regents' homes.

On the brighter side, as reported by the June 11, 2024, *Jewish Insider*, Michigan President Santa Ono vowed that the university will have "zero tolerance" for any efforts to re-establish an anti-Israel protest encampment on campus in the coming fall semester. The *Jewish Insider* story continued with the following insights into President Ono's management of the encampments.:

Michigan's campus played host to an encampment that lasted for nearly four weeks and was ultimately broken up by police. Ono, speaking at the American Jewish Committee's Global Forum in Washington, D.C., said that he spoke to Jewish students from Hillel and Facts on the Ground, a pro-Israel group on campus, who raised concerns that efforts to break up the encampment might interrupt the end of the semester.

"I asked them, 'Should we intervene right now?' because already it was clear that it had resulted in escalation and violence," Ono said. "I got the clear advice from the students that they said, first, 'We are the COVID class that didn't have a graduation from high school. Please don't do anything to escalate things in the last few days of class and exams, and please give us the graduation we didn't have for high school.'"

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: lunch and dinner, using university meal plan, available throughout the week at Hillel.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Carlebach partnership.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad House at the University of Michigan, 715 Hill Street
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Frankel Center for Jewish Studies)*: 4.

## University of Pennsylvania

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 1,750 (18)(also about 1,800 of Penn's graduate students (17%<) are Jewish

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Highest

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade:*** D

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 2

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 5

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 16

***Comparable Schools:*** Columbia, Cornell, Swarthmore, Stanford, University of California at Berkeley and University of Chicago

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 247/248

***Major Jewish Donors:*** 2023 gift of \$12.5 Million from Brian and Randi Schwartz; 2023 gift of \$10 Million from Daniel and Brett Sundheim; 2023 gift of \$10 Million from Marc and Robin Wolpow; 2022 gift of \$125 Million from Leonard A. Lauder for the establishment of a nurse practitioner program within Penn Nursing; 2020 gift of \$50 Million from Robert and Jane Toll for the University of Pennsylvania, Carey Law School; 2018 gift of \$50 Million by Marc Rowan for the Wharton School; 2008 gift of \$50 Million by Jerome and Anne Fisher; 2002 gift of \$100 Million from the Annenberg Foundation; 1997 gift of \$100 Million from the Abramson Family Foundation. However, on October 16, 2023, in the wake of the anti-Zionist conference, "Palestine Writes Literature Conference," held at Penn, American Jewish Congress president and billionaire Ronald Lauder announced that he was preparing to cut financial ties with the university (see below). Similarly, on November 3, 2023, in the aftermath of Hamas' murderous October 7, 2023, invasion of Israel, Marc Rowan announced that he would no longer support his alma mater as a result of Penn's failure to explicitly condemn Hamas (though, in general terms, it called the attack "horrific").

It is hard to believe, but not too many decades ago, Penn was having a hard time of it. Hemmed in by unfriendly streets, Penn was losing ground in town/gown relations. So, what happened? As with Yale in New Haven, Trinity College in Hartford, the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and Union College in Schenectady, Penn made a concerted effort to invest in and improve its own facilities, including converting what had been a busy street running through the central core of its campus into a pedestrian walkway, as well as investing in its surrounding neighborhoods. The results were dramatic.

In an October 2009 survey entitled, “Saviors of Our Cities: 2009 Survey of College and University Civic Partnerships,” Penn and the University of Southern California were recognized as the two universities most involved in their local communities. This public spiritedness has continued under the leadership of President Amy Guttmann and includes the purchase of 24 acres along the Schluykill River intended for development and educational opportunity in West Philadelphia.

Few aspiring Ivy Leaguers need to be reminded about Penn’s strengths, but a few words are appropriate. In addition to its core liberal arts programs which produce leaders in virtually all fields, Penn can boast the top ranked schools in two discrete disciplines—The Wharton School of Business and the Annenberg School of Communications. Moreover, all of this can be experienced at the edge of one of the country’s largest and most historically interesting cities, as well as in a collegiate setting which drips with Ivy League appeal. Penn’s freshman residential quarters in the Quad Dormitories are among the most Ivy feeling in the country and the Quad, itself, boasts one of the most attractive collegiate greens. Riepe College House, the School of Dentistry and the Castle are other examples of traditional architecture on Penn’s eclectic campus.

Penn boasts about 10,000 undergraduates and about 11,000 graduate students. As noted above, about 17% of both student bodies are Jewish, making the University of Pennsylvania one of the most Jewish campuses in America—this, in addition to the fact, that Penn is also one of the most diverse campuses.

Despite this Jewish presence, anti-Israel tensions have existed on the Penn campus dating back to 2012 when the university took considerable heat from the Jewish community for allowing a student group (PennDBS) to host one of the first national DBS conferences. Since then, Penn SJP, among other provocative measures, has sponsored an annual “Israel Apartheid Week,” replete with a mock “Israel Apartheid Wall” on the College Green. On April 24, 2017, *The Daily Pennsylvanian* reported that “flyers [including] phrases like ‘stop the blacks’ and ‘join your local Nazis’ [had been] posted around campus in recent days.”

According to the September 12, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, Penn’s Wolf Humanities Center was preparing to host the “Palestine Writer Literature Festival” on September 22-24, 2023. According to the *Algemeiner* account:

Middle East experts and nonprofit leaders told the *Algemeiner* that the event is an “Israel hate fest” and noted that City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center professor Marc Lamont Hill, a former associate of Louis Farrakhan who has accused Israeli police of training American officers to kill Black people, will be speaking there.

“Hill in particular is a longtime advocate of violence against Israel and staunch Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions [BDS] supporter who was

fired from CNN after a 2018 speech in which he called for the destruction of the Jewish state,” said Asaf Romirowsky, executive director of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa and Scholars for Peace in the Middle East. “Once again, we are seeing how propaganda is masqueraded as ‘scholarship.’ UPenn should take a very careful look at where it draws the lines between free speech and hate speech, especially from individuals who have a track record of racism and antisemitism.”

Other speakers listed on the event’s itinerary have also been described as antisemitic — including Islamic University of Gaza professor Refaat Alareer, who said in 2018, “Are most Jews evil? Of course, they are.” Another listed speaker, Palestinian researcher Salman Abu Sitta, previously said during an interview that “Jews were hated in Europe because they played a role in the destruction of the economy in some of the countries, so they would hate them.”

In response to the foregoing, the September 18, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, reported the following actions to be taken by Penn’s Hillel chapter:

The University of Pennsylvania’s Hillel chapter announced that it will hold a “massive” Shabbat event this Friday [September 22, 2023] in response to a controversial festival taking place on campus that will feature a gamut of anti-Zionist activists who have promoted antisemitic tropes and called for violence against Israel.

“We will be inviting students from across campus — Jewish and non-Jewish alike — to join us for a night celebrating Jewish pride, unity, and togetherness,” the Ivy League school’s Hillel said in an open letter posted on social media. “Prominent politicians and Penn alumni will be coming to celebrate along with hundreds of students, to show — contrary to what antisemites like Roger Waters would have us believe — that Jewish Penn students will NEVER stop showing their pride in Israel, their Jewish identity, heritage, and beliefs.”

As reported by the October 17, 2023, edition of the *Algemeiner*, in the wake of the foregoing Palestine Writer Literature Festival, Ronald Lauder, a major financial backer of Penn, threatened to cease his support of the university unless it did more to fight antisemitism. The following are excerpts from the *Algemeiner* account:

*The Algemeiner* obtained a letter that Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, wrote on Monday to University of Pennsylvania President Elizabeth Magill, explaining that her refusing last month to cancel an anti-Zionist festival hosted by the university that featured

activists who promoted antisemitic conspiracies and called for violence against Israel has forced him to reevaluate being a donor to the school.

“I know the conference has put a deep stain on Penn’s reputation that will take a long time to repair,” Lauder wrote. “You are forcing me to reexamine my financial support absent satisfactory measures to address antisemitism at the university.”

Similarly, as reported by the November 3, *Wall Street Journal*, Marc Rowan, the chair of Apollo Global Management and Wharton’s largest donor at the time of his 2018, \$50 Million dollar gift to the Wharton School, announced that he would no longer support the university as a result of its spineless failure to explicitly condemn Hamas for its murderous October 7, 2023, invasion of Israel (though, in general terms, it did call the attack horrific).

On October 20, 2023, the *Algemeiner* published an open letter from University of Pennsylvania senior Eyal Yakoby. The following are excerpts from her chilling testimony with regard to Penn Against the Occupation’s embrace of Hamas’ October 7, 2023, heinous invasion of Israel:

My name is Eyal Yakoby. I am a senior at the University of Pennsylvania. As a proud Jewish student, I feel unsafe on campus. I love Penn, and watching donors pull money, trustees speak out against the university, and so many of my fellow peers terrified breaks my heart. I have come to recognize, however, that this is necessary due to inaction of the university and the promulgation of moral relativism, along with preferential types of speech.

On Saturday, October 7, the same day the Hamas massacre occurred, Penn Against the Occupation promoted a rally in Rittenhouse Square to “Free Palestine.” This was directly after news broke. Not a single “move” had been made by the Israeli government other than cleaning up the blood-soaked streets.

Who in their right mind thought this was the right time to promote this event?

At the event on October 8, one of the speakers stated: “I think we should all give an applause right now, to Hamas, for a job well done. When they woke up in the morning, and they found the field hands in the house, with a knife, ready to cut their f\*\*\*ing throats. I was late to the news, but when I heard it, I smiled. I don’t want to hear that bullshit, 250, 250, innocent Israelis are dead. F\*\*\* ‘em. Again, I want to salute them, a job well done.”



While most clubs would immediately repeal their endorsement of such an event, Penn Against the Occupation continued to repost clips from the event. Who would ever smile at the death of innocent civilians?

Penn Against the Occupation continued their hate when they released their statement, signed by 10 other Penn organizations, stating that the mass killing was “dignified violence.”

\*\*\*\*\*

What has truly been concerning are the professors who use their classrooms as spaces to forward their political agenda. They have been vocal in criticizing the Israeli government, using their privilege as educators to demonize Israel through the use of Holocaust rhetoric, rather than look after the well-being of their Jewish students.

A professor’s job it is to teach facts and history. Instead, many choose to dominate the conversation with propaganda espoused and created by a known terrorist organization. One Penn professor even went so far as to say what is happening in Gaza is the same that happened in Auschwitz and Treblinka. Another, Ms. Fakhreddine, stated on camera that Israel “is the epitome of antisemitism,” and that the State of Israel “desecrates the memory of the Holocaust victims.” As a descendant of a Holocaust survivor, I can confidently tell her that Israel is not the epitome of antisemitism.

The Penn administration needs to take action against these people.

The pure evil exhibited by the Penn club is vile. It is not representative of our community whatsoever. This is beyond hate speech, it is disgusting, and as a Penn student, I am ashamed to attend a university with these students who have no regard for human life. They hide behind their social media accounts expressing hate and making uncorroborated claims that have a profound impact not just on Jews, but on all decent people.

I, along with 1,400 signatories of a petition denouncing their hate, do not feel safe on campus with them in our community. These students should be ashamed of themselves and truly reflect on their moral integrity.

If the UPenn administration will not act, they should be forced to by political, donor, and other pressure.

This kind of hate speech would *never* be tolerated against Asian groups, Black groups, or any other minority.

Yet once again, it's open season for Jews on the UPenn campus. But we're not going to be silent anymore.

As reported in the October 17, 2023, *CNN.Com*, the Department of Education launched investigations after receiving complaints about alleged incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia. The investigations include five antisemitism cases and two Islamophobia cases. The schools include one K-12 school, the Maize Unified School District in Kansas, and six colleges: Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, Cornell University in New York, Columbia University in New York, Wellesley College in Massachusetts, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York, and the University of Pennsylvania.

According to the November 22, 2023, *the Algemeiner*:

Over 500 academics and writers have signed a petition lambasting the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) for suggesting that anti-Israel activism on campus amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war has been linked to antisemitism or harassment of Jewish students, accusing the school of fostering an “atmosphere of intimidation and Islamophobia” against Arabs, Palestinians, and Muslims.

The petition came as Penn launched a new task force to combat antisemitism amid recent incidents of antisemitic vandalism and anti-Israel protests that descended into demagoguery and intimidation of Jewish students.

In consequence of her stunningly oblique and dumbfoundingly ridiculous testimony before Congress on December 5, 2023 in which she refused to acknowledge that vocal support for Jewish genocide constituted hate speech and intimidation, President Liz Magill was forced to resign her presidency. A December 8, 2023, article in the *Forward* by Columbia graduate student and former Penn undergrad, Eva Ingber, asks the question why Magill couldn't bring herself to acknowledge what seemed to be an obvious truth, and concludes, in part, as follows:

President Magill's blubbing “context dependent” answer felt rooted in the same logic as that of my professor. Both responses reflect a fear of making people uncomfortable, and a fear of not leaving enough space for *all* perspectives to safely dwell in an academic setting — even when those perspectives are truly genocidal.

These are the same reasons that most of my classmates and non-Jewish peers haven't spoken up in support of the Jewish community: They don't

want to say anything controversial, anything that will get them “canceled.”

And I get it. There’s a lot of gray area when it comes to talking about Israel and its politics, especially as they pertain to the Palestinian people. By all means, engage in rigorous debate. Ask critical, probing questions. Press on the status quo. Disagree with Israeli governmental policies.

But do not let the fraught and complicated nature of these conversations — around Israel, Palestinians, the current Israel-Hamas War, the tragic loss of innocent life in Gaza — impair your ability to stand up against what is clearly beyond the pale.

According to the March 12, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, “[t]he fate of the US House Committee on Education and the Workforce’s investigation into antisemitism at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) could be decided in federal court, as members of the school’s Faculty for Justice in Palestine (FJP) chapter have sued its administrators in an attempt to stop them from sharing key documents requested by lawmakers.” The *Algemeiner* article continued as follows:

Accusing Congress of engaging in a “new form of McCarthyism” — a historical reference to the excessive efforts of lawmakers to purge Communist Party members from important public institutions in the 1950s — and violating constitutional protections of speech and privacy, Penn faculty members are asking a US District Court to grant a preliminary and permanent injunction to end the university’s cooperation with the investigation.

According to court documents first shared by *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, the principal plaintiff in the suit, associate professor Huda Fakhreddine, engaged in actions that played an outsized role in prompting Congress to investigate Penn. Last fall, Fakhreddine organized the Palestine Writes Literature Festival, which invited to campus several anti-Zionists who have spread blood libels as well as conspiracies of Jewish control.

The event also touched off a burst of antisemitic incidents at Penn. In the days leading up to it, swastikas were graffitied on campus and a student infiltrated the campus Hillel building, where he proceeded to vandalize the place while screaming antisemitic epithets.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Steinhardt Hall).
- *Kosher meals*: Falk Dining Commons, located at Steinhardt Hall, offers a kosher meal plan.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Conservative and reform services, plus a daily orthodox minyan.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Lubavitch House at Penn, Perelman Center for Jewish Life, 4032 Spruce Street.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sorority*: Sigma Delta Tau. *Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Jewish Studies Program)*.

## University of Rochester

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 700 (10%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No, but the anti-Zionist group Students for a Democratic Society is active on campus***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate-High***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 51***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 45***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 121/248***

***Comparable Schools: Boston University, Brandeis, Carnegie Mellon and Case Western***

Without pain, there's no gain. In the case of the University of Rochester, the pain is its meteorologically bleak western New York location. But, if you can get past the overcast skies and cold, snowy winters, the University of Rochester is a gem of a smallish to medium size school. Indeed, there are few schools in the country that pack as much academic heft into a perfect-sized campus of a little more than 6,000 undergraduates and almost 5,000 graduate students. In addition, Rochester is a pleasant enough town, located on the shores of Lake Erie, with the area surrounding the university being nicer than that found at many urban universities. With Rochester Institute of Technology also being located in town, the city of Rochester can claim to be a college town.

With a renowned music school, an excellent pre-med program, and strength in all of the sciences, Rochester is a superb proving ground for students of all interests. And, prove themselves they will. This is a serious institution with students who go on to great pursuits once they complete their four years of surviving under the wintry Rochester skies.

Rochester has been an attractive destination for Jewish students for many, many years, with a large number hailing from the downstate Metropolitan New York area. However, for Jewish students concerned about Israel, there have been recent instances of disquiet. In these cases, organizations such as the Students for a Democratic Society or the university's Muslim Student Association have invited guest lecturers who have polemicized Israel by referring to it as an apartheid state or accusing it of *pinkwashing* (the claim that Israel has become a safe haven for the LGBTQ community as a way of diverting attention from the country's alleged crimes against Palestinians).

In early November 2016, Students for a Democratic Society, organized a showing of “The Occupation of the American Mind,” a film whose one-sided, invective against Israel has been widely criticized. (See a critique of the film in the profile of UCLA in this guide.) Following the showing, one student attempted to make a statement, but was cut off by the panelists. Later, the *Campus Times*, Rochester’s student newspaper, contacted the student by email and requested his assessment of the film and discussion panel. The student’s response, reproduced in a November 7, 2016, *Campus Times* article, is instructive:

“I thought it was more of an Israel-bashing ‘documentary,’ opposed to one that, ‘explains the Palestinian voice,’” he said. “I hoped that after such a video, that there would be some political discussion about the claims made (since the video was purely political propaganda), but none of that was allowed. Public Safety nearly escorted me out of the event for questioning the legitimacy of the panelist’s claim that the Palestinian schools are not forcing an anti-Israel ideology.”

He said the movie and panel discussion should have been separate events.

“Bottom line, what frustrated me and many others in the room, was not only the anti-Israel rhetoric, but that they refused to back up any of the claims being made,” he said. “They thought that the correct way to respond to a video that supposedly expresses the Palestinian suffering, that made bold claims with little to no background context, was to host a panel that spoke only about their experiences and nothing else.”

November 2017 brought perturbations of a different sort to the Rochester campus. For any Rochester administrator who was looking forward to a pleasant Thanksgiving, that hope was likely dashed when the *Washington Post* released a story the day before the holiday, entitled “400 Professors Boycott University of Rochester, Urging Students Not to Attend.” The story, which focused on the claimed predatory behavior of one of the school’s professors, opened as follows:

Hundreds of professors are urging their students not to apply to the University of Rochester, a private research university in western New York. The boycott comes after allegations that Florian Jaeger, a professor in the brain and cognitive science department, preyed on female students. Eight current and former Rochester researchers filed an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaint against the university in September for what they viewed as the administration’s failure to . . . protect its students.

On January 11, 2018, the University released a 207-page report of the Jaeger affair following a three-and-a-half-month independent investigation at a cost of \$4.5 Million. According to the *Chronicle of Higher Education* of the same date, the report “largely supported the University of Rochester’s handling of [the] sexual-misconduct controversy” and “concluded that the university was justified in finding that professor T. Florian Jaeger had not violated the university’s sexual-misconduct policies.” Also, according to the *Chronicle* article, the report additionally found that, while “Mr. Jaeger’s behavior toward women in his department was sometimes inappropriate and offensive, it didn’t violate university policy in effect at the time or federal law on sexual harassment.”

However, the entire draining episode was apparently too much for Rochester’s president, Joel Seligman. Hours after the report was issued, Seligman announced his resignation effective the end of February. As reported by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the day prior to Seligman’s scheduled departure, the university’s Senate voted to censure Professor Jaeger by a vote of 20-19 with two abstentions. On March 30, 2020, *Inside Higher Ed* reported that the university had settled a lawsuit filed by nine former students and professors with regard to the Jaeger affair for the sum of \$9.4 million.

According to the November 7, 2018, *New York Jewish Week*, anti-Semitic fliers were on a printer at the university’s Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies. According to the *Jewish Week* account, the incident with the fliers came one week after a swastika drawn on a piece of paper was left inside an elevator at the university’s Eastman School of Music.

The following anecdote relating to post-October 7, 2023, Jewish life at the University of Rochester appeared in a December 7, 2023, *Forward* article, entitled “Schools I don’t want my kid to set foot on’: For some Jewish families, Oct. 7 upended the college application process”:

Juran’s middle child is a University of Rochester freshman, but plans to leave at the end of the semester because she doesn’t feel safe there. Her mother says the campus hosts “nonstop” pro-Palestinian rallies, and the administration’s initial message about the war failed to condemn Hamas, though an apology came later. (University spokesperson Sara Miller told the *Forward* that new guidelines “require that protests are conducted in ways that allow our students to pursue their educational goals without disruption in a safe and hostile-free environment.”)

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No. Hillel based at the stunning University of Rochester Interfaith Chapel.
- *Kosher meals*: Located in the Douglass Dining Center, Kosher Comfort serves kosher meat meals. There are also take out options at five retail locations on both the River and Eastman campuses.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Conservative and reform services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Center for Jewish Life at the University of Rochester (955 Genesee St, Rochester, NY).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday, Sukkot and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1



# University of Southern California

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,000 (10%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest (but, see ADL grade below)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 24***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 23***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 109/248***

***Schools: NYU, University of California Berkeley, UCLA and University of Michigan***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2023 bequest of \$10 Million from the Annenberg Foundation; 2015 bequest of \$12 Million from the Estate of Norman Levan; 2011 gift of \$50 Million by the Price Family Charitable Fund (founded by Sol Price, founder of Price Club) used to name the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and the USC Sol Price Center for Social Innovation; 2010 gift of \$50 Million by the Annenberg Foundation; 2002 gift of \$100 Million by the Annenberg Foundation for the Annenberg School for Communication; 1998 gift from Alfred E. Mann for the Alfred E. Mann Institute for Biomedical Engineering***

It's no secret. USC's former pedigree was that of a party school. But, today, its student body, one of the largest of any private school in America (and boasting a Jewish undergraduate student population of about 2,000 students), is close or equal in caliber to the cream of California academic life—Berkeley, Stanford and UCLA. In 2001, USC admitted 34 percent of its applicants. Today, the admit rate is eleven percent.

Two of the areas of concentration that have put USC on the map are its schools of movie making and communications. The Steven Spielberg endowed USC Shoah Foundation boasts over 55,000 testimonials pertaining to the Holocaust. USC's graduate schools have acquired strong West Coast reputations, particularly in the areas of law and business.

From the garden-adorned Doheny Library to the Venice-evoking Mudd Hall, USC's beautiful campus has the look of an east coast university, but the feel of southern California. What differentiates USC from some of its west coast cousins is its proximate location to a gritty area of Los Angeles. But, as is true of other successful urban institutions located in or near poor areas, e.g., Columbia (New York),

Penn (Philadelphia), Johns Hopkins (Baltimore) and Trinity (Hartford), USC has made it work by becoming more engaged in the life of its neighboring community.

At a staggering cost of \$700 million, USC recently completed a nearby academic campus dubbed the USC Village. Consisting of six newly-constructed five-story buildings, the USC village provides new residential facilities for 2,700 students and also features street level retail establishments for both students and the community. Though intended to carry out the architectural theme of USC's main campus, the new USC Village was described by the August 21, 2017, Los Angeles Times as "a fantasia of just-add-heritage, equal parts Disneyland and Hogwarts."

Supported by its fanatic alumni, who traditionally have prized its sports programs and now prize its academics, USC is here to stay in big time academics and its attractive campus will continue to be a draw. During the 2018-19 application year, USC received a record 66,000 applications and admitted only eleven percent.

As USC has catapulted its way to academic prominence, bequests and endowments have followed, some enumerated at the beginning of this profile. In November 2012, Glorja Kaufman, Jewish philanthropist and dance *aficionado*, made a major gift to USC for the establishment of the Glorja Kaufman School of Dance. The new school was the first endowment-funded school at USC in 40 years. According to the February 15, 2017 Los Angeles Times, USC was then nearing a \$6-billion fundraising goal 17 months ahead of schedule and had decided to extend the fundraising campaign for five more years.

SJP is present on campus and does make its voice heard. For example, on September 13, 2016, SJP hosted what it called "Palestine 101," an event focusing on the pro-Palestinian movement. According to the September 13, 2016 USC student newspaper, *The Daily Trojan*, about 35 students attended the event and heard a talk given by Professor Fayez Hammad of the School of International Relations.

On February 16, 2017, a vendor was observed selling t-shirts with swastika designs on the USC campus. According to an account in the February 17, 2017, *Algemeiner*, both Jewish and non-Jewish student groups rallied against the vendor throughout the day until he was asked to leave.

In July 2017, USC found itself at the center of a national scandal when it was revealed that renowned USC ophthalmologist, Dr. Carmen Puliafito, a former dean of the medical school who had raised over \$1 billion dollars on behalf of that institution, had engaged in drug use and other highly questionable activities. According to the July 17, 2017, *Los Angeles Times*:

In one video, a tuxedo-clad Puliafito displays an orange pill on his tongue and says into the camera, “Thought I’d take an ecstasy before the ball.” Then he swallows the pill.

In another, Puliafito uses a butane torch to heat a large glass pipe outfitted for methamphetamine use. He inhales and then unleashes a thick plume of white smoke. Seated next to him on a sofa, a young woman smokes heroin from a piece of heated foil.

Three weeks earlier, a 21-year-old woman had overdosed in his presence in a Pasadena hotel room. The woman was rushed to a hospital, where she recovered. Police found methamphetamine in the hotel room, according to a police report, but made no arrests. Puliafito has never spoken publicly about the incident, which is being reported here for the first time.

On December 21, 2017, the Los Angeles *Jewish Journal* reported that USC International Studies Professor David Kang “gave a presentation on terrorism the previous October 26th in front of 200 students in his International Relations 210 class. One of the slides was titled “Who are terrorists?” and, as depicted below, listed “Israeli Zionists” along with Kim Jong-Il and Mao Zedong:

Who are Terrorists?

- FARC—Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia
- Tamil Tigers
- Israel Zionists
- Kim Jong-Il or Kim Il-Sung
- Mao Zedong—China
- Ho Chi Minh—Viet Nam
- IRA—Irish Republican Army
- William of Wallace—Scotland

According to the *Jewish Journal* article, another slide featured a quote from Hamas’ spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin stating, “We are not ready to move our struggle outside the occupied Palestinian land. We are not prepared to open international fronts, however much we criticize the unfair American position.” One of Professor Kang’s students who was in attendance was quoted in the article as saying “he was disturbed by the slides, especially since they seemed to be “legitimizing” Hamas and gave the impression that Israeli Zionists should be associated with the likes of Mao Zedong and Kim Jong Il.

As reported by the March 20, 2019, *Inside Higher Ed*, of all the colleges tainted by the “pay to play” scandal involving falsified SAT scores and athletic credentials,

USC had the greatest number of applicants and students with ties to the company at the center of the scandal. Nor, as indicated by the following excerpt from the March 21, 2019, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, was this the only prominent scandal to taint USC's otherwise meteoric rise to academic stardom:

The bribery scheme follows athletic and institutional incidents that have repeatedly injured the university's reputation. The NCAA placed sanctions on USC's athletics program in 2010, citing a lack of institutional control over the football, men's basketball, and women's tennis programs. An assistant coach of men's basketball was charged in 2017 with facilitating bribes to players. (He pleaded guilty in January.) Exposés by the *Los Angeles Times* that year shed light on a former medical-school dean's drug-fueled lifestyle and sexual-harassment allegations against that dean's successor.

As reported in the August 6, 2020 *Jewish Journal*, the resignation of Undergraduate Student Government Vice President Rose Ritch created a scandal of another variety. According to the *Jewish Journal* account:

In her letter of resignation, Ritch wrote that she was “harassed and pressured for weeks by my fellow students because they opposed one of my identities,” namely, that she openly identifies as a Zionist and is a supporter of Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state.

Because of this identity, Ritch wrote, she was “accused by a group of students of being unsuitable as a student leader. . . I have [also] been told that my support for Israel has made me complicit in racism, and that, by association, I am racist.”

As further reported by the September 2, 2020 *Algemeiner*, on that date numerous USC faculty members signed an open letter decrying the harassment of Rose Rich based on her support for Zionism. The following is an excerpt from the faculty letter as set forth in the *Algemeiner* account:

We, the undersigned faculty of USC, have followed the case of Rose Ritch and her resignation from student government with great dismay. As described in the supportive statement by President Folt, and fully detailed in the statement by the Alliance for Academic Freedom of August 24th, Rose Ritch was subjected to vicious online harassment, and her qualification to hold elected office was questioned on the basis of her professed Zionism.

We find it unacceptable that such blatant discrimination on the basis of a student’s belief, identity, or national origin could take place on our campus.

We reject in the strongest possible terms any and all attempts to associate Zionism with such inflammatory accusations as racism, colonialism, and white supremacy, which are diametrically antithetical to Zionist ideas and aims. We are appalled that such characterizations of Zionism were the basis for calls for Rose Ritch's resignation, and continue to be voiced by certain organizations on this campus.

According to the July 26, 2022, *Algemeiner*, the Department of Education formally began investigating allegations that, in the wake of Rose Ritch's ordeal, USC had not done enough to stop a "concerted campaign of antisemitic harassment" on campus.

In the wake of the May 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict, USC's Gender Studies Departments, "in solidarity with the Palestinian Feminist Collective," issued a polemical one-sided statement attacking Israel. In pertinent part, the vitriolic statement read:

We stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine. We unequivocally answer and amplify the call from the Palestinian Feminist Collective for "feminists everywhere to speak up, organize, and join the struggle for Palestinian liberation." We condemn the forced removal of Palestinians from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah, the raiding of the al-Aqsa mosque, the indiscriminate bombing of Gaza, one of the world's most densely populated areas, and the de facto annexation of East Jerusalem, which by international law is illegally occupied territory.

On August 9, 2021, the *Algemeiner* reported that, on the previous day, 53 USC faculty members issued an open letter objecting to the foregoing statement, calling it "cruelly alienating". According to the *Algemeiner* account:

Sunday's [August 8, 2021] faculty letter called [the Gender Studies Departments statement] "inflammatory and misleading," alleging "numerous distortions of vital factual information concerning the historical and contemporary reality in Israel/Palestine."

"Although, as a group, we hold wide and diverse perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and related issues, we all believe that the errors and polemic tone of this Statement are cruelly alienating to many students, staff, and faculty, who are members of the USC community," the letter said. "It is also particularly troubling that the Statement was endorsed by a USC department on behalf of all its constituents."

Addressed to USC President Carol Folt, Provost Charles Zukoski, and Chairman Rick Caruso, the letter also said that as a departmental declaration of political support, the Gender Studies Department's

endorsement was “unethical” — arguing that it appeared to speak on behalf of students, faculty and staff at the department, even those who might disagree with its content.

“Most concerning, this signing implies endorsement by USC itself,” it said. “We call on USC leadership to publicly rebuke the practice of USC departments (or units) making statements for specific political agendas that have nothing to do with the University’s educational and research missions.”

On November 29, 2021, the online news website, TND, reported that “a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) senator at the University of Southern California's engineering department, Yasmeen Mashayekh, has come under fire for allegedly celebrating antisemitic attacks and stating she wants to kill Zionists on social media.” The TND account went on to state:

According to the department’s website, those selected to be DEI senators “want to promote greater inclusivity ... and are vocal advocates against racism and discrimination.” However, alleged screenshots of social media posts from Mashayekh, captured by StopAntisemitism.org, appear to clash with that mission.

“I want to kill every mother---ing Zionist,” an alleged post from Mashayekh said. In another, she appears to be celebrating that “A Jew’s head was set ablaze,” adding “Long live the heroes’ arms.”

As reported by the December 14, 2021, *Los Angeles Times*, more than 60 faculty members at USC signed an open letter urging the university’s leadership to “publicly and explicitly rebuke” Mashayekh for her inflammatory comment\’s. According to the *Times* account:

In the Dec. 1 letter addressed to USC President Carol Folt, Provost Charles Zukoski and board of trustees chair Rick Caruso — the latest in a series of letters from several of the same signatories — the faculty asked officials to rebuke Yasmeen Mashayekh, a 21-year-old civil engineering student, and “to distance USC from her hateful statements.”

“The silence of our leadership on this matter is alienating, hurtful, and depressing,” the letter read. “It amounts to tacit acceptance of a toxic atmosphere of hatred and hostility.”

As reported in the January 14, 2022, *Jewish Journal*, USC President Carol Folt responded on January 13, 2022, in a letter to the Jewish community that announced a series of measures the school was taking to combat antisemitism on

campus. According to the *Jewish Journal* account, Folt's letter acknowledged that "recent antisemitic and anti-Zionist posts on social media" have "challenged USC's reputation as a supportive and welcoming environment for our Jewish community, and highlighted the need for us to bolster the ways in which we support Jewish life on campus." The *Jewish Journal* account went on to state:

The posts are an apparent reference to Yasmeen Mashayekh, a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Student Senator at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering's Viterbi Graduate Student Association. The posts included Mashayekh tweeting that she wanted to "kill every motherf—ing Zionist."

The measures included the establishment of the Advisory Committee for Jewish Life at USC to review proposals for ameliorating antisemitism, including a campus climate survey and identifying "a university-wide position that demonstrates our commitment to fighting antisemitism in all its forms." Additionally, the university will ensure "Jewish representation and inclusion in our university-wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts, and supplementing our bias and harassment training protocol for all students, faculty, and staff to include antisemitism."

As reported in the February 18, 2022, *Jewish News Syndicate (JNS)*, in response to President Folt's January 13, 2022 letter, a group of 1,446 individuals signed a petition urging the university to revise its policy on who it considers protected individuals. According to the JNS article:

The group, led by the AMCHA Initiative—a group that monitors anti-Semitism at colleges and universities throughout the United States—sent a letter to USC president Carol Folt, the board of trustees and members of the newly formed committee advising them about a double standard the university has when addressing hateful rhetoric against Jewish and non-Jewish Zionist students and staff as opposed to rhetoric towards other groups.

The reason behind the double standard, the petition notes, is that USC's Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation has a list of protected groups that many campus community members facing harassment for their Zionist views do not fall into.

As reported in the January 5, 2024, the *Forward*, "Jacob Wheeler, a journalism student at University of Southern California, expected to take some flack for reporting on the Israel-Hamas war, but he never thought it would get so personal."

A pro-Palestinian march stopped in front of USC's Annenberg School for Communications and Journalism last fall and a masked protester called Wheeler out by name into a megaphone, accusing him of pro-Israel bias. Wheeler, who is 21, said he stopped reporting for Annenberg after the Oct. 31 incident, both because he was disappointed in the school's response and out of concerns for his safety.

According to the April 16, 2024, the Forward, USC informed Asna Tabassum on April 15, 2024, that "it was canceling her commencement address, following pressure from pro-Israel groups who sought her removal for linking on her Instagram page to a website that called for the "complete abolishment" of Israel." The article went on to state: "Andrew T. Guzman, USC's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs — who had announced Tabassum's selection only 10 days earlier — said in a campus-wide email Monday that the school made the decision out of safety concerns amid 'an alarming tenor' of discussions related to her speech."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Available on campus.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Jewish Student Center at USC, 2713 Severance Street, Los Angeles.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sorority*: Sigma Delta Tau.



## University of Virginia

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,000 (6%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No, but the anti-Zionist Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine is active on campus***

***Level of BDS Activity: Moderate-High (Highest following Hamas' October 7, 2023, rampage through southern Israel)***

***Original 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: F***  
***Revised 2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 70***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 52***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 6/248***

***Comparable Schools: Cornell, Dartmouth, Duke, Emory, University of North Carolina, University of Michigan and Vanderbilt***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2021 gift of \$50 Million from Bruce and Martha Karsh to establish the Karsh Institute of Democracy; 2018 gift of \$43.9 Million from Bruce and Martha Karsh to UVA's Law School***

The finest public institution in the South and an architectural inspiration to the world, Thomas Jefferson's university is situated in the lovely, but recently traumatized, community of Charlottesville. Since the Unite the Right violence that occurred at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, neither the community nor the school will likely be same. However, as of the 2018-19 academic year, beleaguered UVA president Theresa A. Sullivan turned over the reins of leadership to former Virginia law professor James E. Ryan in what all hoped would be a new beginning for the university—one in which the school welcomed both the 200th anniversary of its founding and began confronting its past.

According to the wishes of Mr. Jefferson (as he is known in those parts), UVA is exhorted by its charter to serve both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation at large. In keeping with this directive, almost one third of UVA students are from out of state. Decidedly southern and now a household word as a result of the August 12, 2017, Unite the Right march on Charlottesville, UVA has, for many years, attracted talented Jewish students from both the South and the Northeast. Though public to the core, the school has anything but a public-school feel. From its flourishing Greek system, to its large endowment (the fourth highest among public schools in the country), to its esteemed honor code, to its secret societies, the school exudes tradition and a proud lineage.

However, even before the Unite the Right march that left one dead, more than a dozen injured and a library worker hospitalized with a stroke, the school's elite lineage had already become a lightning rod. Much of the discontent had focused on UVA's bigger than life, slave-holding founder, Thomas Jefferson. The following incident is illustrative.

In the wake of Donald Trump's contentious election, then President Sullivan emailed what she hoped would be a unifying letter urging the university's students to come together despite differing views on the election. In her letter, President Sullivan quoted from a letter Thomas Jefferson had written to a friend in which he said University of Virginia students "are not of ordinary significance only: they are exactly the persons who are to succeed to the government of our country, and to rule its future enmities, its friendships and fortunes." Picking up on this theme, Sullivan's email stated, "I encourage today's U.Va. students to embrace that responsibility."

The blowback came soon after the letter was released. According to the following quote from the November 13, 2016, *Cavalier Daily*, May was vilified in some quarters of the university for having found inspiration from the third president of the United States and the university's founding father:

Some professors from the Psychology Department — and other academic departments — did not agree with the use of [the quote from Thomas Jefferson]. Their letter to Sullivan argued that, given Jefferson's ownership of slaves, she should refrain from quoting Jefferson in email communications.

We would like for our administration to understand that although some members of this community may have come to this university because of Thomas Jefferson's legacy, others of us came here in spite of it," the letter read. "For many of us, the inclusion of Jefferson quotations in these e-mails undermines the message of unity, equality and civility that you are attempting to convey."

As illustrated by the many editorials and commentaries that followed the Unite the Right tragedy, the university has devoted considerable dialogue to discussing legacy issues such as the role of slavery at the time of its founding as well as unsavory episodes in its history such as when it accepted a \$1,000 donation from the KKK in 1921 (which, following the Unite the Right violence, was donated to victims of the march along with interest of \$11,500).

The need for such dialogue is great as evidenced by a protest march that occurred one month to the day of the Unite the Right March. As reported by the September 13, 2017, *Cavalier Daily*, marchers carried signs saying "TJ (Thomas Jefferson) is a racist" and "no Trump, no KKK, no racist UVA." Even more

provocatively, some of the protesters climbed the iconic statue of Thomas Jefferson and shrouded it in black, while others held up signs asserting that the nation's third president was a racist and rapist. President Sullivan was quick to characterize the shrouding as an act of defacement and desecration. But, the damage had been done.

Be that as it may, if you do have the time to visit this picturesque institution, you will be rewarded by its beautiful grounds. Designated during the 1976 Bicentennial as America's proudest architectural achievement during its first 200 years, the university offers Mr. Jefferson's original Serpentine walls, gorgeous shade trees, and, most impressively, the Rotunda, a half scale model of the Roman Parthenon.

In addition to academics, UVA provides what is probably the most prolific party scene available at any of America's elite college campuses. Despite its party pedigree, this school can go toe to toe with some of the Ivies, particularly as applied to the more than 30% of its student body from out of state.

Further, the school is a member of the basketball-crazy ACC. Prior to the current decade, UVA hadn't fielded a really-good basketball team since the days of 7' 4" Ralph Sampson. However, with the arrival of basketball coach Tony Bennett in 2009, Virginia's basketball teams have excelled. During the 2017-18 basketball season, a previously unheralded UVA team completed the regular season first in the ACC, then won the ACC basketball championship and entered the NCAA tournament ranked number one overall with a record of 31-2, only to lose to lowly UMBC in the first round. The 2018-19 basketball season offered an opportunity to set the record straight and the team grabbed it winning the NCAA championship for the first time in school history.

In 2011, four years after UVA dropped its binding early decision program, the university adopted a non-binding early action program. Early action applications must be submitted by November 1 of the year of application and successful applicants receive their acceptance letters the following January. Accepted students then have until May 1 to accept or decline.

In late 2014, UVA was the subject of nationwide notoriety almost as devastating as the later August 2017 Unite the Right march. The notoriety was the result of a 9,000-word *Rolling Stone* article, entitled "A Rape on Campus," in which a UVA student named Jackie claimed she had been gang raped at a UVA fraternity house. Fortunately, for the fraternity and the university, the story quickly fell apart when it was discovered the person identified by Jackie as the principal assailant was not a member of the UVA fraternity in question, but rather a high school acquaintance attending college in another state. Soon afterward, *Rolling Stone* retracted the story, but the damage had been done. In November 2016, a Federal jury determined that both the *Rolling Stone* reporter, Sabrina Rubin Erdley, and the

magazine had defamed a UVA associate dean in describing the way she had dealt with Jackie's sexual assault claim.

On October 20, 2019, *UVA Today* reported that the school's Arts & Sciences faculty had voted to adopt a new set of freshman general education requirements. Representing the school's most comprehensive change to the undergraduate student curriculum in more than 40 years, the new requirements are designed to offer a new first year experience centered on Engagement courses. In the words of the *UVA Today* article, engagement courses are:

designed to introduce students to fundamental modes of inquiry that structure the arts and sciences: Engaging Aesthetics, Engaging Differences, Empirical and Scientific Engagement, and Ethical Engagement. The program also focuses on a set of vital literacies: students must satisfy a robust writing requirement, achieve proficiency in a second language, and attain the quantitative and computational fluency essential to navigating an ever more data-driven world

UVA's Jewish student body had been holding at about 7-8% for a number of decades. The campus has been relatively quiet from a BDS perspective. However, during March 2016, the UVA chapter of pro-Palestine Students for Justice and Peace in Palestine (SPJP) sponsored a four-day program aimed at vilifying Israel. The organization's website described the event as follows: "Join us in solidarity as we raise awareness and engage in real conversation about Israel's ongoing settler-colonial project and apartheid policies over the Palestinian people. Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) is an annual international series of events held in cities and campuses across the globe, with UVA IAW taking place March 21-24."

On October 24, 2016, the *Cavalier Daily* reported the following incident regarding anti-Semitic graffiti at an apartment complex popular with UVA students:

Student groups are condemning anti-Semitic graffiti that was spotted Sunday outside of the GrandMarc apartment complex on 15th Street.

"The imagery painted at GrandMarc is intended to intimidate Jewish students and make them feel uncomfortable in their community," Student Council and the Jewish Leadership Council said in a joint statement Sunday night.

The groups characterized the graffiti — which depicted an orange Star of David with the word "Juden" underneath it — as hate speech.

Then, of course, there was the infamous, and, ultimately, murderous, August 2017 Unite the Right march during which armed marchers not only unleashed racial

epithets against blacks, but also invoked Nazi symbolism as marchers cried out “Jews will not replace us.”

Amazingly, despite the targeting of Jews by the March’s neo-Nazi organizers, UVA’s Minority Rights Council (MRC) refused to grant MRC membership to the Jewish Leadership Council (JLC) because one of its constituent organizations was the pro-Israel Hoos for Israel (HOI). As set forth in the following excerpt from an open letter printed in the March 12, 2018, edition of the *Cavalier Daily*, the hypocrisy of the MRC’s refusal is underscored by the fact that it had a long-standing relationship with the SPJP:

What is not encouraging is the hypocrisy of the MRC’s posture towards Hoos for Israel considering the MRC’s historical embrace of Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine. The MRC stated in a public letter that the reason they decided to withhold full membership from the JLC is the presence of HFI as a constituent organization. The MRC’s specific reservations about HFI go unstated and can only be guessed at. What must be equally guessed at is why the MRC has no similar reservations about SPJP.

While not officially considered an active CIO as of this year, SPJP is still listed in updated materials as a member of the Middle Eastern Leadership Council — one of the MRC’s full members. By definitions clear in the MRC’s letter, this makes SPJP a longtime constituent organization of the MRC. Given the clear symmetry of HFI and SPJP’s purposes, the decision to embrace one for years and exclude the other now requires thorough explanation and suggests a severe double standard.

According to the March 16, 2022, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, the UVA student body voted to amend the school’s 180-year-old “single sanction” honor code provision pursuant to which a single violation of the honor code has resulted in expulsion from the university. Instead, persons found guilty of honor code infractions will now be suspended for two semesters with the opportunity to return and finish their degrees.

As reported in the March 18, 2022, Washington Free Beacon, the UVA Student Council abandoned an effort to condemn Israel and block pro-Israeli speakers from appearing at the school, following resistance from the school’s Jewish community.

According to the October 10, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, following Hamas’ brutal invasion Of Israel, Virginia’s SJP chapter held a teach-in to show how supporters “can be in solidarity with Palestinians resisting occupation.” According to the *Algemeiner* account, the teach-in occurred after SJP had “issued a statement arguing that Hamas’ terrorist campaign against Israel over the weekend will help force a

resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.” The *Algemeiner* quoted the statement as follows:

“The events that took place yesterday are a step towards a free Palestine,” the University of Virginia’s SJP chapter said. “They reflect the power and resilience of the Palestinian people in the face of 75 years of continued brutal oppression.” The group, which also accused Israel of ethnic cleansing and “mass killings,” added, “We stand in solidarity with Palestinian resistance fighters and all oppressed people around the world seeking freedom and a better world.”

As reported by the March 1, 2024, *Jewish Insider*, “[a] University of Virginia art history professor canceled her class on Monday [February 26, 2024] in solidarity with a walkout on campus held two days before students voted overwhelmingly to call on the school to divest from companies with ties to Israel.” The following is from the *Jewish Insider* account: “I’m writing to let you know that I am canceling class today in solidarity with the ‘Yes on Divest Walkout’ that the UVA Apartheid Divest Coalition organized,” Christa Robbins, an associate professor of art history at UVA, wrote in an email to students, a copy of which was obtained by *Jewish Insider*.

In a March 25, 2023, *Jewish Insider* article, entitled “Traditionally quiet campuses now face widespread anti-Israel activity,” the *Jewish Insider* piece opened with the following story applicable to anti-Zionist activities at UVA following Hamas’ deadly October 7, 2023 rampage through southern Israel:

University of Virginia’s politically low-key climate was, in part, what drew Adin Yager to the campus. The fourth-year student had never voted in a student election.

But that changed after the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel — students on the Charlottesville campus, seemingly overnight, became activists urging the university to divest from companies with ties to the Jewish state. “I know many people who, whether they voted yes or no, had never voted in student elections before,” Yager, a music and economics double major who has served on multiple campus pro-Israel committees through Chabad and Hillel, told *Jewish Insider*. “Since Oct. 7, and especially [amid the divestment referendum], the overall climate here has been way more political.”

“There wasn’t as much talk about other issues, like Black Lives Matter, which is surprising given what happened here in August 2017,” Yager said, referring to the Unite the Right white supremacist rally. “The most talk here has been around BDS,” he said, referring to the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement. On university campuses, the BDS movement is largely represented by an effort to pass non-binding

resolutions or referendums that call on the school to divest from companies that operate in Israel. No university has ever moved forward with the recommendation to adopt the policies of the BDS movement. UVA is among several universities that have traditionally been politically sleepy regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but post-Oct. 7 are suddenly seeing their first-ever BDS campaigns and anti-Israel activity.

BDS efforts nearly disappeared on college campuses in recent years before Oct. 7, with just three resolutions being brought forward in 2022, compared to 44 at their peak in the 2014-2015 school year. But in the months since the initial Hamas attack and start of the war in Gaza — Israel’s longest conflict in decades — there has been a resurgence in efforts to bring BDS back to the forefront.

Jewish groups on campus have been mobilizing at schools where Students for Justice in Palestine has been organizing for years. But on the handful of campuses that have historically been the most welcoming for Jewish students, and now are facing BDS referendums for the first time, administrators of Jewish groups are left scrambling to quickly adapt to a post-Oct. 7 landscape.

But Yager said that the goal of SJP and the group’s campus allies may not be to actually implement a boycott, but rather to cause the “very divisive campus climate” that the vote leads to.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Brody Jewish Center at the University of Virginia)
- *Kosher meals*: Yes. Observatory Hill and Newcomb residential dining rooms offer kosher meals through an agreement with the Brody Jewish Center.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.
- 

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad House at Charlottesville, 2014 Lewis Mountain Road
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night and Saturday afternoon).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Edgar Bronfman Professor of Modern Judaic Studies)*: 1.

# Vanderbilt University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,000 (14%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No, but there is a chapter of the anti-Zionist Students in Solidarity with Palestine***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate (Highest following Hamas' October 7, 2023, deadly rampage through southern Israel)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 5***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 6***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 89/248***

***Comparable Schools: Duke, Emory, University of North Carolina, University of Virginia, Washington University in St. Louis, and William & Mary***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2016 gift of \$20 Million by Jeffrey and Marieke Rothschild***

Vanderbilt is an outstanding school with a distinct southern flavor and one that not too long ago eschewed and was eschewed by Jewish students. Fraternities and sororities abound at Vanderbilt and over half of the female student body pledges sorority (although, sorority houses only house officers, while non-officers live in university housing). Vanderbilt is an outstanding academic institution that boasts membership in a muscular athletic conference, the Southeastern Conference.

Some years ago, Vanderbilt's then chancellor, Gordon Gee, made a point of announcing that Vanderbilt intended to recruit more Jewish students because of what they had to offer academically. Although complimentary, Gee's recruitment stance was criticized as stereotyping. Be that as it may, with the creation of a Jewish student center and the hiring of a campus rabbi, Vanderbilt's Jewish student body has steadily prospered ever since.

Vanderbilt is a southern school and does take some getting used to. However, all of the Jewish Vanderbilt students I have known have loved it. With the school's southern gentility and beautiful campus, that should not be a great surprise. But, it is not necessarily the right place for every Jewish kid and should be approached with that attitude.

There is a chapter of Students in Solidarity with Palestine at Vanderbilt and, in April 2016, it held a teach-in at which divestment from Israel was one of the



advertised topics. However, aside from a 2015 swastika episode targeted at the AEPi fraternity house, there had been relatively few anti-Israel or anti-Semitic incidents on the Vanderbilt campus until the May 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict.

However, as reported by the May 31, 2021, *Vanderbilt Hustler*, on May 22, 2021, in the wake of the 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict, the Vanderbilt Student Government issued the following inflammatory statement:

“The Israeli government must be held accountable for the violent and inhumane treatment towards victims of these militarized attacks,” VSG’s statement read. “We also continue to wholeheartedly advocate for and support the Palestinian community against oppression and capitalism and stand in solidarity with those directly and indirectly affected.”

On November 13, 2022, student Ester Teper wrote a guest editorial in the *Vanderbilt Hustler*, entitled “Vanderbilt, educate your community on antisemitism.” The following are excerpts from the Teper’s editorial:

Three years since my first encounter with antisemitism, I am exhausted. I have been threatened with death, rape and isolation. Every aspect of my Jewish identity has been called into question.

\*\*\*\*\*

Administrators . . . have told me that they couldn’t take action against antisemitism at Vanderbilt because they did not have a definition for it and asked me to define it for them. I thought that after subsequent discussions, the administration would finally have clear guidelines about what constitutes antisemitism, allowing them to combat it effectively. Still, the response is the same: “We’re working on it.” The results have been negligible. Antisemitism is still undefined at Vanderbilt over a year later.

Over the High Holidays this year, these issues were magnified. In a letter that the Chabad Executive Board sent on Sept. 28 to the Chancellor, Dean of Students, Vice Chancellor of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and other administrators, we detailed some of our key concerns—namely, Jewish students were not supported in their decision to celebrate the holidays that hundreds of generations before us have fought so hard to maintain. Why is it acceptable that Jewish students are taunted by professors and other students for requesting to celebrate a Holy Day? Or that these religious absences are not excused by professors? Or that the answer to the request is a no, followed by mockingly greeting Jewish students with “Shalom”?

\*\*\*\*\*

It is unacceptable to have a university-paid staff member support Ye's recent comments, which have been openly antisemitic and discriminatory. It is outrageous that no action was taken to remove Dan Jackson [defensive backs coach] from his coaching position—even if temporarily—until three days after the incident. To claim ignorance about the relationship of Ye's words to his antisemitic conspiracy theories is nonsense. A lack of education may lead to ignorance, but it is not an excuse for antisemitism.

\*\*\*\*\*

It should not take public pressure to get a response from the administration, and that response should be something more than releasing a blanket statement with no measurable effects.

It is not difficult. Create religious accommodations, define antisemitism and consequences for expressions of it and educate your students, faculty and staff through classes, discussions, panels and programs like Vanderbilt Visions. We should not have to be anti-antisemitism. We just want to be Jewish.

On March 27, 2024, the *Algemeiner* reported that “Vanderbilt had suspended over a dozen students belonging to an anti-Zionist group that occupied an administrative building and refused to leave, according to the school’s official newspaper, *The Vanderbilt Hustler*.” The *Algemeiner* story continued as follows:

On Tuesday, the group “Divest Coalition” amassed inside Kirkland Hall, where its members clamored for administrators to reverse its cancellation of a referendum that, if passed, would have allowed the Vanderbilt Student Government to boycott companies linked to Israel. According to *The Hustler*, administrators made the decision based on the measure’s potential to jeopardize the school’s eligibility for being awarded state contracts, which nonprofits and businesses participating in the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel are, per state law, barred from receiving.

The day saw bitter exchanges of words between the students and campus officials. Video footage of their demonstration shows them verbally abusing a Black officer, whom they accused of betraying his racial identity. “Shame on you!” they shouted at him. Someone else said, “You are Black in America, and you’re not standing with the marginalized people of the world. What does that make you?” Another student told the officer that he should take their side because America

is committing a genocide of Black Americans, insinuating that Israel is committing a genocide of Palestinians.

On April 5, 2024, the *Algemeiner* further reported that Vanderbilt “has suspended and expelled several anti-Zionist students who participated in occupying the administrative building last month, according a statement issued by school provost C. Cybele Raver on Friday.”

Then, on April 5, 2024, the *Algemeiner* reported that the Vanderbilt student organization, Students Supporting Israel (SSI), had been denied membership in the Multicultural Leadership Council (MLC) branch of student government. The *Algemeiner* story continued as follows:

According to *The Vanderbilt Hustler*, the group is the only one to be rejected from this year’s applicant pool, an outcome that SSI president Ryan Bauman said is evidence of febrile opposition to dialogue and coexistence among some segments of the student body. The only Jewish group to be admitted, Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), is a fringe anti-Israel organization that did not condemn Hamas’ Oct. 7 massacre across southern Israel and has long celebrated terrorism against Israelis.

Among the nine groups to be admitted to the MLC this year were the Taiwanese American Student Association, Vanderbilt Pride Serve, the Vanderbilt Association for South Asian Cuisine, and the Vanderbilt Iranian Student Association. One of the 11 total organizations that applied, Vanderbilt United Mission for Relief and Development, is still awaiting an upcoming vote.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Schulman Center for Jewish Life).
- *Kosher meals*: Yes. Grins Kosher/Vegetarian Cafe is located at Hillel and is on the University meal plan.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes (Conservative and Reform).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad House at Vanderbilt University, 111 23rd Ave N., Nashville
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 2.

## Washington University in St. Louis

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,000 (26%)***

***SJP Chapter on Campus: No, but a chapter of the anti-Zionist Students Against Israeli Apartheid is active***

***Level of /BDS Activity: Low (however, some unrest following Columbia's tent encampment demonstrations)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 3***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 8***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 135/248***

***Schools: Brandeis, Duke, Emory, Northwestern, Tufts and Vanderbilt***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2023 gift of \$15 Million by Philip and Sima Needleman***

Only a few decades ago, this handsome mid-western university was a highly regarded regional institution not well known on either coast. But, boy has it leaped to the A list in recent years. With a manageably-sized student body, excellent graduate schools, particularly in medicine and social work, and a lovely collegiate setting, the school has become immensely popular with Jewish students from all over the country.

The Clayton area, where Wash U is located, is not a college mecca, but it is decidedly pleasant. The school, itself, is very attractive, in particular the Danforth campus—one of three Wash U campuses—where the Oxford-inspired, Brookings Quadrangle features a seemingly endless array of pink-limestone architectural treasures such as January Hall and the 1900 Anheuser Busch Hall (since 1995, home to the university's school of law).

Students report an open-minded and teaching-oriented faculty, an intellectual student body and a welcoming administration. However, it is worth noting that Wash U has become so selective that a fair number of its students will have just missed the Ivies and will be very intent on proving themselves—a circumstance which might be stimulating for some, but a little unnerving for others. Nevertheless, students with whom I have spoken are quick to point out that disappointment often turns quickly into excitement as students discover the extraordinary quality of Wash U's faculty and the vast array of classes it offers.

No big-time sports are offered at Wash U, but students manage to do quite well socially and enjoy the mid-western hospitality offered by St. Louis. Greek life is important at Wash U with about 30% of the student body being affiliated with a fraternity or sorority. Clayton is not downtown and a car may be needed as your kid finds reason to leave campus.

SJP is currently inactive on the Wash U campus. However, when it was active, it did not take long for the organization indicate it had no tolerance for engaging in dialogue regarding the Israeli-Palestine conflict. Here is what the organization stated on its January 7, 2016, Facebook page in declining to engage in a discussion of the conflict:

We at Students for Justice in Palestine would like to provide the full context in which we declined to participate in the widely-circulated proposal for a series of discussions concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

\*\*\*\*\*

So-called “peace talks” and “dialogue” on Israeli terms are nothing more than further propaganda to allow Israel to seem committed to a solution while it consolidates power over the Palestinians and accumulates more land and resources. They are just one more example of Israel branding itself as peace-loving and tolerant and framing Palestinians that do not cooperate as backwards, violent, and deserving of their own oppression. The discussion program that we have declined to participate in follows this same logic. It is only able to masquerade as an effort toward peace because the orthodoxy of the “peace process” has always been controlled by Israel, the United States, and Western elites. We will not sit around and wonder about “what role, if any, the United States should play in the peace process” when the United States sponsors the occupation and shields Israel from any and all UN resolutions and punitive measures. .

..

Anybody seriously committed to justice and resolution will not participate in this event and will instead support efforts like BDS and Pro-Palestinian organizing on campuses and elsewhere. For folks who are unsure of their stances and just want to learn more, independent research (google y'all) is a more ethical means to that end, for as with all systems of oppression, there is no way to remain neutral.

In late October 2016, the Steinhardt Social Research Institute housed in the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University released a study derived from interviews with Birthright college students

from 50 selected campuses. Despite the foregoing SJP call to arms, the study found that “there are many schools where anti-Semitism and hostility to Israel are negligible” and identified Washington University in St. Louis as one of several large private universities where the students interviewed perceive “very little hostility toward Israel, and virtually all of these respondents disagree that there is a hostile environment toward Jews.”

According to the September 22, 2021, *Inside Higher Ed*, the endowment of Washington University generated a record-setting 65 percent return during the 2021 fiscal year and now stands at \$15.3 billion.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes
- *Kosher meals*: Yes (available in all dining halls).
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Weekly Friday night and Saturday morning Conservative and Orthodox services; and monthly Friday night Reform services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Center for Jewish Life at Washington University, 7018 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Program in Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Studies)*: 1.

## Yale University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 800 (12%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** High-Highest

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade:*** D

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 14

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 17

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 234/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Columbia, Harvard, Princeton and Stanford

***Jewish President:*** Peter Salovey. Prior to President Salovey's tenure, Richard C. Levin had been the longest-serving Ivy League president at the time of his retirement from Yale in the summer of 2013

***Major Jewish Donor:*** 2019 gift of \$100 Million by the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation for the creation of a tuition-free master's degree program for emerging education leaders; 2015 gift of \$150 Million by Stephen A. Schwarzman

Undergraduate home to presidents George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush and law school home to Bill and Hillary Clinton, Yale's hallowed halls have experienced unprecedented fame in recent years, not that anything else was needed to cement Yale's position in the pantheon of American higher education. Put succinctly, it is the second most famous college in America (after Harvard, of course) and even at that, whenever Harvard is referred to with reverence, it is almost always in a context that includes Yale. Indeed, within collegiate athletic circles, there is no rivalry that is more meaningful, if not particularly important, than the annual Yale-Harvard—or, if one prefers, Harvard-Yale—football game.

Within the Ivy League, Yale, along with Harvard and Princeton, make up the Big Three, a characterization which signifies both academic greatness and difficulty of admission. As with most of the Ivy League schools, applying to Yale is a matter of stellar credentials, luck and a lot more luck. There is no shame in being rejected by any Ivy League school, but, in Yale's case, all the more so. There are just too many outstanding and/or interesting students applying to make admission at Yale anything resembling a predictable science.

It used to be an old saw that, while Harvard emphasized its graduate school programs, often leaving its undergraduates to make their own way, Yale was more of an undergraduate teaching institution. Yale has not changed in this regard; however, Harvard has been taking significant steps to make its undergraduate program a more satisfying learning experience.

Easily the country's most outstanding example of collegiate Gothic architecture (with Bryn Mawr, Chicago and Duke being close seconds), the campus just exudes its Cantabrian (Cambridge) and Oxonian (Oxford) architectural antecedents. From its stone arched passageways to its beautiful grass enclosed quads, to its stately Gothic tower, Yale is Ivy picture perfect. In the fall of 2017, incoming students found two new residential colleges waiting for them, each designed to blend in with Yale's iconic collegiate Gothic campus. At an estimated cost of \$500 million (according to the *Yale Daily News*), the new residential colleges are about a ten-minute walk from Yale's main library and provide housing for 900 additional students, increasing Yale's undergraduate student body by about 15 percent.

As Dan Oren points out in his book entitled *Joining the Club—A History of Jews and Yale*, Jews have been at Yale since the very early part of the 19th century, with the first Jewish student having graduated in 1809. However, as rising Jewish applications began to conflict with Yale's self-image as an academic breeding ground for the elite, Jews were often subjected to admissions restrictions. Take, for example, Dr. Oren's quote from the 1944-45 annual report of the Board of Admissions at Yale: "The Jewish problem... continues to call for the utmost care and tact.... The proportion of Jews among the candidates who are both scholastically qualified for admission and young enough to matriculate has somewhat increased and remains too large for comfort."

With the arrival of Yale president Kingman Brewster in the 1960s, attitudes changed and the university became a much more inclusive place with a renewed emphasis on scholarship over privilege. In February 2017, the desire to promote inclusiveness prompted Yale to announce it would rename Calhoun College (named after Yale alumnus, United States vice president and slavery supporter John C. Calhoun) after having decided to the contrary the previous April. The university convened a panel to decide on the new name for the college. In early September 2017, the panel announced its decision: rear admiral and computer pioneer Grace Harper, a Yale master's degree recipient.

If Yale has a drawback, it is its location. The part of New Haven where Yale is located is not very appealing and the Yale campus stands in stark relief to the neighboring community. Fortunately, Yale has come to realize that its future is intertwined with that of its neighbors and, in recent years, the University has invested monetarily and politically in town-gown relations.



Yale has had its share of anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic activity on campus. In August 2015, the Black Student Alliance at Yale signed a statement of solidarity with Palestine. Among the recitations in the statement was the following: “On the anniversary of last summer’s Gaza massacre, in the 48th year of Israeli occupation, the 67th year of Palestinians’ ongoing Nakba (the Arabic word for Israel’s ethnic cleansing)--and in the fourth century of Black oppression in the present-day United States--we, the undersigned Black activists, artists, scholars, writers, and political prisoners offer this letter of reaffirmed solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and commitment to the liberation of Palestine’s land and people.”

In October 2015, a sign that read “Yale is a Jew hole, let’s round them up” was found near Yale-New Haven Hospital.

In April 2017, Omar Barghouti, a co-founder of the BDS movement, traveled to Yale from Israel, where an Israeli court had temporarily lifted a travel ban against him arising from suspicion of tax evasion. At Yale, he received the Gandhi Peace Award at an event sponsored by the Yale Students for Justice in Palestine and by a Yale group called Promoting Enduring Peace at Yale University. The award was presented by the executive director of Jewish Voice for Peace, whose misguided actions on behalf of the BDS movement have previously been discussed in Chapter One.

According to the April 6, 2021 *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, Yale will commence beginner Yiddish classes in the fall 2021 that will allow students to fulfill their language requirements. As whimsically noted in the April 5, 2021 *Yale Daily News*: “Starting next fall, Yalies can schmooze, kibitz and kvetch for a language credit.”

As set forth in the June 27, 2021 *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, Yale’s student council had just approved a statement accusing Israel of genocide, ethnic cleansing and apartheid. According to the *JTA* article:

The statement also likened Israel’s actions during the conflict to police violence against Black Americans.

“Just as Israel’s military imposes the apartheid system against Palestinians, the US police enforces the system of white supremacy against Black Americans,” it said. A number of left-leaning campus groups subsequently endorsed the statement. A group of anti-Zionist Jewish students and alumni released their own statement endorsing the Yalies 4 Palestine statement.

In August 2021, the Yale Postdoctoral Association’s (YPA) ‘Racial Justice Committee’ published a “Resource on Palestine” on its website. According to the August 3, 2022 edition of *Campus Reform*, the publication “included several anti-Semitic clauses, causing other members of YPA to publish [a] ‘Response to the

Resource on Palestine’ in May 2022, which called on YPA to make changes to the original source.” As reported in the *Campus Reform* account:

The YPA sub-committee initially referred to Israeli citizens as colonizers, likened Israel’s treatment of Palestinians to apartheid in South Africa, and supported the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement (BDS), an international campaign that, according to the ‘Response to the Resource on Palestine,’ aims “to isolate and pressure Israel until it ceases to exist.”

Writing in the Summer 2022 edition of *Sapir*, Rebecca Roiphe, in her article, entitled “The Rise and Fall of Jews in Law School, highlighted the following example from an incident at Yale Law School to emphasize the anti-Zionist climate that can be found at some of the nation’s most prestigious law schools:

The incident that strikes me as most revealing took place late last year at Yale Law School. The director of diversity, equity, and inclusion at Yale hosted a diversity trainer who listed “pretty privilege” and “fat-phobia” among the many forms of discrimination plaguing society — yet neglected to mention antisemitism. Asked to explain the omission, this administrator insisted that she had already covered it when she spoke about racism — because some Jews are black. She also questioned federal data showing that Jews are the most common targets of hate crimes, insisting that those who compile the statistics have an “agenda.”

And so, this diversity professional reduced thousands of years of antisemitism to a footnote, a particular brand of racism against black people. The training was based on a webinar in which participants were informed that anyone who questioned her conclusions had likely “been conditioned” to dismiss black people.

On December 7, 2022, the *Algemeiner* reported that “Yalies 4 Palestine” (Y4P), a group founded in 2019, had launched the school’s first ever boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaign.

According to the October 11, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, “[o]ver 17,000 people associated with Yale University and others have signed a petition calling for the removal from the faculty of [Professor Zareena Grewal] who said Palestinians had ‘every right’ to target Israelis through ‘armed struggle’ as Hamas was invading Israel.” The article went on to quote Professor Grewal, and comment on her statements, as follows:

“Prayers for Palestinians. Israeli [sic] is a murderous, genocidal settler state and Palestinians have every right to resist through armed struggle, solidarity #FreePalestine,” Zareena Grewal — an associate

professor of American Studies, Ethnicity, Race & Migration, and Religious Studies at Yale — tweeted on Saturday, when the Palestinian terror group Hamas murdered over 1,000 Israelis during its invasion.

Later Grewal posted, “No government on earth is as genocidal as this settler colonial state,” referring to Israel.

On her X/Twitter page, Grewal describes herself as a “radical Muslim.”

A note, written by Yale student Netanel Crispe, accompanying the petition to oust Grewal from Yale argues that the professor abused freedom of speech to promote Hamas’ violence and terrorism.

As reported in the October 31, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, the *Yale Daily News* came “under fire for removing from Yale [sophomore Sahar Tartak’s column] what it called ‘unsubstantiated claims’ of the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas raping and beheading Israelis during its Oct. 7 invasion of the Jewish state.” In removing key elements of the column, the editorial staff stated: “Editor’s note, correction, Oct. 25: This column has been edited to remove unsubstantiated claims that Hamas raped women and beheaded men.” Because of the breathless recklessness of the Yale editorial staff, much of the *Algemeiner* account is reproduced below:

The article in question lambasted Yalies4Palestine (Y4P), a campus pro-Palestinian group, for defending and seemingly applauding Hamas’ terror onslaught, which resulted in the deadliest single-day massacre of Jews since the Holocaust.

Tartak specifically implored the campus community to imagine themselves in the shoes of the young people who were killed while attending the “Supernova Sukkot Gathering” rave, into which Hamas terrorists air-glided and murdered over 260 civilians. She also discussed why civilians should not be targets in war.

“Violent resistance against the state is different from murdering babies with their families, which was Hamas’ only accomplishment this week — not liberation,” Tartak wrote. “And why is Y4P not rejecting but *celebrating* [sic] the horrors in and of themselves?”

Published on Oct. 12, the column was at some point afterward censored to no longer include a portion describing reports and eyewitness accounts of Hamas raping and beheading Israeli civilians.

Hamas murdered over 1,400 people, mostly civilians, injured thousands more, and kidnapped over 200 people as hostages during its terrorist onslaught. The brutality of Hamas’ attacks — which has been documented to include rape, torture, and the beheading of babies — has shocked the world.

Members of the Yale community have criticized the student paper's censorship as hypocritical, noting that throughout the #MeToo movement and before, the *Daily News* reported on numerous allegations of sexual assault and harassment, many of which were never challenged in a court of law.

"It defies belief that this editorial board would therefore characterize claims of rape during the Hamas attack as 'unsubstantiated' in the face of ample substantiation in news outlets," Yale alumni Chris Michel and Elyssa Friedland wrote in a letter to the paper. "And it shocks the conscience that a generation of students who implore us to 'believe women' who allege rape is suddenly willing to disbelieve the evidence of their own eyes when the women raped are Israeli."

On November 1, the *Yale Daily News* retracted its earlier retraction. However, as pointed out by Ms. Tartak, by then the damage had been done.

As reported in the December 13, 2023, the *Forward*, "a stew at Yale, also involving Ms. Tartak, over whether Israel gets credit for couscous became a veritable food fight when it bubbled up on social media." The following is a continuation of the *Forward* story:

It started Sunday, when Yale student Sahar Tartak wrote on the social media platform X that the "years-old, popular 'Israeli couscous salad with spinach and tomatoes,' has been renamed in our dining halls as the same exact dish but without the word 'Israeli.'" The post got more than 12 million views and thousands of retweets and likes.

Suggesting that the word 'Israeli' was removed in capitulation to anti-Israeli sentiment related to the war, Tartak wrote: "It's the subtle changes and redactions that are the most pernicious."

Tartak also tagged President Joe Biden, Elon Musk, CNN, *The New York Times* and other media outlets, celebrities, and politicians, including Rep. Elise Stefanik, who made headlines last week grilling the presidents of MIT, Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania in Congress.

Then on Tuesday, another Yale student, Viktor Kagan, posted a photo of a sign for the salad from one Yale dining hall showing that the sign actually did include the term "Israeli."

According to the March 7, 2024, *Jewish Insider*, “Jewish leaders at Yale denounced an upcoming [April 2024] conference being hosted by Yale Women’s Center for its ‘exclusion of Jewish women’s voices and its libelous portrayal of Israel and Israelis.’ “ The *Jewish Insider* account went on to state that:

The conference is dedicating its annual event on the New Haven, Conn., campus to the theme of “Pinkwashing and Feminism(s) in Palestine,” the group announced on Thursday [March 6, 2024].

“To the extent the Center is organizing this event, it betrays its obligations to Yale’s Jewish and Israeli women in particular, and to its mission,” Uriel Cohen, executive director of the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale, and the center’s rabbi, Jason Rubenstein, told *Jewish Insider* in a joint statement.

On April 22, 2024, the *Times of Israel* reported that “[r]iot police arrested dozens of people during a pro-Palestinian demonstration at Yale University, hours after Columbia University’s president issued a last-minute announcement that classes on Monday would be held virtually in an effort to “deescalate the rancor” on campus, one of several rocked by anti-Israel protests.” The *Times of Israel* article continued as follows:

Demonstrators on Monday blocked traffic around Yale’s campus in New Haven, Connecticut, demanding the school divest from military weapons manufacturers, prompting police to make arrests, video footage aired on social media showed.

More than 40 people were apprehended by police, according to the Yale Daily News, a student-run news site. Yale University officials could not be reached for comment.

One day earlier on April 21, 2024, *The Free Press* published the following harrowing account of an observant Yale student, entitled “I was Stabbed in the Eye at Yale”:

By April 20, the students’ encampment had grown to roughly forty tents, sleeping bags, umbrellas, and a stereo. On Saturday night, a student in a Class of 2026 group chat encouraged Yalies to come and show their support for Yalies4Palestine. As a student journalist for the *Yale Free Press*, I went to check it out. Other reporters from the *Yale Daily News* were already on the scene.

I should say here that I am a visibly observant Jew who wears a large Star of David around my neck and dresses modestly. I went over with my friend Netanel Crispe, who is also identifiably Jewish because of his beard, black hat, and *tzitzit*.

When we approached the anti-Israel protest accompanying the tent encampment to document the demonstration, we were quickly walled off by demonstration organizers and attendees who stood in a line in front of us. No one else documenting the event was blockaded this way.

In every direction we moved, demonstrators stood in front of us, arms linked, yelling along with the crowd. (Watch this video and ask yourself if this would happen to a student who did not look visibly Jewish.)

They shoved us and waved their flashlights in our eyes. One demonstrator held up a boombox in front of Netanel's face, blasting a rap song with the lyrics:

*Fuck Israel, Israel a bitch / Bitch we out here mobbin' on some Palestine shit / Free Palestine bitch, Israel gon' die bitch / Nigga it's they land why you out here tryna rob it / Bullshit prophets, y'all just want the profit*

As I separated from Netanel and tried to walk through, the wall of protest organizers in front of me remained. When I said, "I can walk. I have freedom of movement," they mocked me: "Do you hear that, everybody? She can walk!"

Before too long, the protesters encircled me in addition to the human blockade. Their arms linked, and they danced in a circle around me so that I was pinned between them, the human blockade, and a wall. Some other demonstrators noticed this and joined in on the taunting.

They pointed their middle fingers at me and yelled "Free Palestine," and the taunting continued until a six-foot-something male protester holding a Palestinian flag waved the flag in my face and then stabbed me with it in my left eye.

My assailant was masked and wearing a keffiyeh, concealing his identity. He also wore glasses and a black jacket. I started to yell and chase after him, but the wall of students continued to block me as I screamed.

As reported in the February 22, 2024, *New York Times*, Yale will require standardized test scores for the 2025 entering class.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life).
- *Kosher meals*: Full 14-21 meal kosher meal plan available at Heyman Commons and operated through the Lindenbaum Kosher Kitchen.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Conservative and reform services (often attracting two hundred or more students), as well as daily orthodox minyan.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at Yale, 36 Lynwood Place.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Program in Judaic Studies)*: 5.

**Schools with New SAT Scores of 1360-1440  
(corresponds to Old SAT Scores of 1300-1390)**

**George Washington University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 3,000 (24%)***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 46***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 137***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 30***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 185/248***

***Comparable Schools: Boston University, NYU, Syracuse, Tulane, University of Maryland and University of Miami***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2020 gift of \$12.5 Million by John Loeb Jr.; 2014 gifts totaling \$80 Million by the Milken Institute, the Sumner M. Redstone Charitable Foundation and the Milken Family Foundation in support of the renamed Milken Institute School of Public Health and the establishment of the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness***

Spearheaded by Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, GW's former Jewish president whose tenure spanned most of three decades, the school is now clearly and seriously on the academic map. Its professional schools compare favorably with those of its better-known neighbor, Georgetown University. GWU's undergraduate school is sought after by students from New York, the Mid-Atlantic area and the South, many of them Jewish.

Drawing upon sound entrepreneurial instincts, President Trachtenberg invested wisely in the real estate surrounding GW's urban campus in the desirable Foggy Bottom section of downtown DC. As GW consolidated its position by purchasing more and more of Foggy Bottom's real estate, the school cemented its reputation as an interesting place located in a safe area and one which is just a few blocks from Georgetown, one of Washington's most vibrant destinations and, certainly, its most charming.

Then, in 1999, the university acquired what had been the Mt. Vernon College campus, a bucolic, self-contained campus situated within the city limits and easily



accessible by campus shuttle. The following description from the university's website describes this newer of the school's two main campuses: "Just a few miles from the bustle of downtown, Mount Vernon Campus, affectionately known as "The Vern," provides a traditional college campus atmosphere. The Vern is home to residence halls, academic buildings, athletic facilities, dining options, a library and even an outdoor challenge course, all surrounded by rolling green hills."

GW is probably best known for its law school and for its Elliott School of International Affairs. However, its academic portfolio goes way beyond these two crown jewels and includes excellent schools of engineering and business. In 2014, in partnership with the National Gallery of Art, GW entered into a collaboration with Washington DC's Corcoran Gallery of Art, thereby enabling future generations of GW art students to take advantage of the many opportunities provided by this renowned teaching museum. GW is a test optional school.

SJP has certainly made its presence felt at GW, but not in the disruptive manner seen on other campuses. In the first half of 2017 alone, SJP and its kindred spirits on the intersectionality spectrum, participated in numerous anti-Israel events.

On February 21, 2017, SJP held an event entitled, "Palestine 101 Part 4: Checkpoints and the Apartheid Wall. In late March 2017, SJP held a series of events in conjunction with Palestine Awareness Week including a keynote address by Angela Davis. Davis' talk, "Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Why Movements for Social Justice Should Support Palestine," was also sponsored by the GW Black Student Union and the GW Feminist Student Union. In her talk, Davis accused Israel of racism, "pinkwashing" (the assertion that Israel's openness toward the LGBTQ community is merely a calculated means of deflecting attention from its claimed mistreatment of the Palestinians) and conducting an open-air prison.

At an April 13, 2017 SJP event, entitled "Tel Aviv Night Clubs & West Bank Check Points," the featured speaker, Sa'ed Atshan, again vilified Israeli openness to gays as "pink washing." Then, in early May 2017, SJP introduced a student senate resolution demanding that the University divest from almost 10 companies doing business with Israel (specifically, The Boeing Company, Lockheed Martin, Elbit Systems Ltd., Caterpillar Inc., CEMEX, General Electric, Northrop Grumman Corporation, The Raytheon Company, Motorola Solutions, Inc.). After five hours of debate, the resolution was narrowly defeated 15-14. However, the resolution was reintroduced in the student senate a year later on April 23, 2018, and, in a secret ballot, passed 18-6 with six abstentions. As reported by the April 24, 2018, *Algemeiner*, the resolution was rejected by GWU President Thomas LeBlanc.

On November 9, 2019, the *Washington Post* published a story regarding an anti-Semitic video that was circulating within the George Washington University campus. According to the *Post*,

“In a seven-second Snapchat video, a male student asks, “What are we going to do to Israel?” A female student replies, “We’re gonna [expletive] bomb Israel, bro.” A graphic on the video says, “Hot Girl Rosh Hashanah.”

Shortly after the foregoing episode, in a November 14, 2019 *New York Times* open letter, George Washington student Blake Flayton described the near impossibility of being both a pro-Zionist and an accepted member of the progressive community on the GWU campus. Stated Flayton:

Before I arrived on campus, I could proudly say that I was both a strong progressive and a Zionist. I didn’t think there was a conflict between those two ideas. In fact, I understood them as being in sync, given that progressives have long championed the liberation movements of downtrodden minorities. I viewed — and still view — the establishment of the state of Israel as a fundamentally just cause: the most persecuted people in human history finally gaining the right of self-determination after centuries of displacement, intimidation, violence and genocide. For me, this remains true even as I oppose the occupation of the West Bank. It is my Zionism that informs my view that the Palestinian people also have the right to their own state.

But my view is not at all shared by the progressive activist crowd I encountered on campus. They have made it abundantly clear to me and other Jews on campus that any form of Zionism — even my own liberal variant, which criticizes various policies of Israel’s prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and seeks a just two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — is a political nonstarter.

\*\*\*\*\*

At many American universities, mine included, it is now normal for student organizations to freely call Israel an imperialist power and an outpost of white colonialism with little pushback or discussion — never mind that more than half of Israel’s population consists of Israeli Jews from the Middle East and North Africa, and that the country boasts a 20 percent Arab minority. The word “apartheid” is thrown around without hesitation. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is repeatedly dragged into discussions ranging anywhere from L.G.B.T.Q. equality (where to mention Israel’s vastly better record on gay rights compared with that of any other country in the Middle East is branded “pinkwashing”), to health care to criminal justice reform.

At a recent political club meeting I attended, Zionism was described by leadership as a “transnational project,” an anti-Semitic trope that

characterizes the desire for a Jewish state as a bid for global domination by the Jewish people. The organization went on to say that Zionism should not be “normalized.”

On November 18, 2019, the George Washington University Student Senate passed a resolution, titled “The Anti-Semitism Condemnation Act,” which, according to the November 19, 2019, *Jewish Journal*, adopted “aspects of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism stating that equating Israel to the Nazis, accusing Jews of dual loyalty to Israel and applying double standards to Israel are anti-Semitic, as is “denying the Jewish people the right to self-determination.” However, according to the November 19, 2019, issue of the student newspaper, the *Hatchet*, the “Senators voted to omit clauses that claimed the state of Israel is a “racist endeavor” and that Israel has the right to exist as a Jewish state, omissions for which the resolution has been roundly criticized.

On May 8, 2020, *GWU Today*, reported that Ilana Feldman, vice dean of the Elliott School of International Affairs, had been named as interim dean of the Elliott School. According to the May 11, 2020, issue of *Young America’s Foundation*, “Feldman was a leading member of a group within the American Anthropological Association (AAA) which unsuccessfully campaigned for the AAA to boycott Israeli academic institutions. She claimed the campaign for boycott was justified after an AAA report which detailed “the tremendous violation of Palestinian rights by Israel.” On May 20, 2020, the *Jewish Insider* reported that the GW administration had provided assurances that Feldman would not be considered for a permanent position as dean of the Elliott School.

According to the July 15, 2021, *Jewish Journal*, GW’s Students Against Sexual Assault (SASA) Intersectionality Council posted a statement calling “Palestinian liberation” synonymous “with survivor justice.” The *Journal* account indicates the SASA statement was later removed. Also, according to the *Journal* account the SASA statement included the following:

The statement also claimed that a 2015 study found that Israeli authorities engage in “sexual torture” of Palestinian males and that it’s “systematic.” Additionally, the statement alleged that Israeli soldiers threaten Palestinian female “with rape and subjected them to sexual humiliating practices” and that the Israelis “train with the same discriminatory and violent tactics as the U.S. police and military apparatus.”

In an October 21, 2021, article, entitled “GW must take steps to combat antisemitism on campus,” that appeared in the the *GW Hatchet*, student Sabrina Soffer wrote the following:

It was only the second Shabbat dinner of this semester when a friend shared an episode that prompted me to write this piece. I hear these kinds of stories all the time – *but really?* Classes had started just two weeks before he told about this disheartening incident.

My friend was walking out of class with one of his peers. Both were Jewish. One of them carried a backpack with a pin bearing Hebrew and Israeli symbolism. From behind they heard two other students obnoxiously say, “Stupid Zionist.” The boy carrying the backpack turned around. “Yes, I’m Jewish, I’m a Zionist. Is there a problem?” The offending student replied, “Yeah, you’re going to hell.”

But this incident is far from a one-time occurrence. Chabad GW’s rabbi told me that in all of his years at GW, he has never felt such antisemitism before – “It’s chilling. I can feel it in my bones.”

Nothing is done about it.

Confirming Sofer’s above assessment of the increasing anti-Semitic climate at GWU is an incident that occurred in late October 2021, as, reported in the October 31, 2021, *GW Hatchet*. According to the article:

A Torah scroll at Tau Kappa Epsilon’s on-campus house was vandalized this weekend, the fraternity and officials said Sunday.

TKE said in a statement that its on-campus house was broken into and Jewish texts were “desecrated,” adding that the chapter was cooperating with University officials and the Anti-Defamation League. University President Thomas LeBlanc condemned the vandalism Sunday night, calling it an act of antisemitism.

A companion *Jewish Telegraph Agency* article, dated October 31, 2021, entitled “After fraternity’s replica Torah was destroyed, GWU Jewish students plan rally against antisemitism,” reported on the episode as follows:

The president of Tau Kappa Epsilon, a fraternity on George Washington’s campus, said the vandalism took place early Sunday morning, according to a report in the university’s student newspaper. He said hot sauce was poured throughout the house and many objects were thrown around, the newspaper reported.

The damage that most caught the public eye was to a replica Torah that the fraternity president said was kept in the basement and used to swear in new members. Replica Torahs, available in gift shops, are printed and not prepared by a scribe. Tau Kappa Epsilon is not a Jewish

fraternity but about a quarter of its members are Jewish, the fraternity president told the student newspaper.

“Our entire chapter is outraged and saddened by this blatant act of antisemitism and violence against our brothers,” the fraternity said in a statement Sunday afternoon.

On October 12, 2022, GW president, Mark S. Wrighton, addressed the George Washington University Community on anti-Semitic incidents on campus. In pertinent part, President Wrighton stated the following:

In recent days, we have learned of incidents that caused hurt among members of our community, particularly members of the Jewish community. We provided an update over the weekend, and we have since learned of concerns from Jewish students regarding a demonstration they felt was directed toward them based on their faith. Both incidents involved the GW Hillel building and its community members.

As reported in the November 30, 2022, the *Algemeiner*, which attributed its report to the *PalestineLegal.org*, a pro-Palestinian nonprofit, GW was then investigating its SJP chapter for vandalism. However, as reported in the December 20, 2022, the *Algemeiner*, the organization was ultimately acquitted of wrongdoing.

Also as reported in the *Algemeiner*, Stand With Us, a Jewish campus watchdog organization, “filed a civil rights complaint against George Washington University, alleging that it neglected to protect students from a psychology professor accused of a creating a hostile environment for Jewish and Israeli students enrolled in a [required] graduate level psychology program [on diversity].” According to the January 12, 2023, *Algemeiner* story, the “complaint alleges that GWU did not intervene when Psychology Professor Lara Sheehi, who teaches a mandatory diversity course, hosted an antisemitic speaker, launched a smear campaign against Jewish students, and filed disciplinary charges against them in retaliation for their accusing her of antisemitism.”

Responding to letters critical of the complaint, Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (“SPME”), an organization made up of scholars supportive of Israel, wrote an open letter to GW, of which the following is an excerpt:

Since this complaint appeared, several letters in defense of Dr. Sheehi have circulated, and gained wide support, claiming that concerns about her teaching and her online presence – which is rife with profanity and hateful rhetoric against Zionism and Israelis – are the result of a right-wing Zionist conspiracy. It is shocking to reflect that those signatories signed letters that did not even consider the possibility that the students' allegations might be true, nor demand they be given respectful

consideration. Would this be the case if the students were not Jewish or Israeli? Imagine the scandal that would erupt if a group of students from another background – Black students, Muslim students, or LGBT students – alleged that their professor excluded and shamed them based on their religion, ethnicity, national origin, or sexual orientation in a required course on diversity. The calls for such a professor's resignation or removal would be swift and severe. And while these remain allegations at present, Dr. Sheehi's tweets and online interviews regarding Israelis render the allegations quite plausible, with more than enough reason to warrant careful scrutiny. (Her deleted twitter account included statements such as the following: "Israelis are so f\*\*\*ing racist," "Zionists are unhinged," "you can't be a Zionist and also a feminist" "F\*\*\* Zionism, Zionists..." "F\*\*\* every person who is not yet an anti-Zionist," and "Zionists are so far up their own a\*\*\*\*\*".)

According to the March 28, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, based on report by the law firm Crowell & Moring LLP, the university on March 27, 2023, determined there was no evidence to substantiate claims that Dr. Sheehi was “antisemitic and discriminated against Jewish students.” Also, according to the *Algemeiner* report:

On Monday, StandWithUs accused the university of “whitewashing” the incidents students reported and denying the validity of their experiences. The group also disputed several aspects of the reports purported findings, including a claim that Professor Sheehi’s Twitter account [which the *Algemeiner* described as containing “profane language” directed at Israel, Zionists, and Zionism] was only briefly accessible to [the] public and called on the university to release a full copy of the Crowell & Moring report for which the university paid an undisclosed sum.

On March 8, 2023, the *Algemeiner* reported that “The George Washington University Student Association on [March 6, 2023] passed an “Ending Antisemitism Order,” which will establish a task force looking into the problem of antisemitism of the university’s campus, which Jewish students say has grown more menacing in recent years.

Writing in the October 19, 2023, *Tablet Magazine*, GW student, Thomas Ullman, posted the following shortly after Hamas’ murderous rampage through Israel:

Today, to be a Jewish student is to be alone. In the wake of Hamas’ devastating attack on Israel in which it brutally massacred over 1,000 Israeli civilians, American universities have proven to be treacherous environments for Jews. Our peers now extol the would-be genocidaires,

both in online posts and on stick-mounted signs. We are forced to watch as mobs of students demand the destruction of our homeland. What has been often overlooked by observers of these events, however, is the culpability of the universities themselves. The antisemitism of my classmates did not develop in a vacuum. It is the result of obfuscations by our professors, many of whom have portrayed Hamas as merely a “resistance group,” as well as the refusal of our universities to denounce the terror.

\*\*\*\*\*

I emerged from my involuntary hiding the next morning [two days after Hamas’ attack] and headed for one of the dining halls. I walked warily; every passerby could have been part of the flocks that defended the attacks. On my way there, I crossed paths with a close friend of mine. A student with a fervid interest in progressive politics, he was as compassionate a figure as one could be. I felt the tension immediately evaporate as he approached me with an outstretched hand. Our conversation began with typical niceties, but my heart sank when he told me that he was on his way to a demonstration. I dared not inquire further. I didn’t want to know that he had joined ranks with the bloodthirsty marchers, but he nonetheless found a way to force that fact into the conversation. “I’m glad to see so many people standing up to barbarism and colonialism,” he said at one point, pointing to an anti-Zionist flyer pasted onto a nearby lamppost. I pushed back gently, remarking that child murder wasn’t exactly “standing up to barbarism.” He appeared nonplussed. “Isn’t it rather hard for the Jews,” I asked, “to colonize the land from which they originated?” He stood unspeaking for a moment, as if he were reassessing our friendship. He sneered: “Of course *you’d* say that. You’re a Jew.”

\*\*\*\*\*

Our academics, who have spent all this time pontificating from their ivory towers, are deserving of blame. They have been entirely disconnected from the impact of their ideas for years. Now, they are beginning to see the consequences of their words on their own turf. The propagation of support for ethnic hatred must be challenged. As long as American colleges continue to tacitly endorse calls for antisemitic violence, I will continue to earnestly write in defense of the Jewish student.

As reported in the October 26, 2023 *Times of Israel*, On the evening of October 24, 2023, in the wake of Hamas’ massacre of defenseless Israelis, messages

supporting Hama's barbaric actions, including "Glory To Our Martyrs," "Divestment From Zionist Genocide Now," and "Free Palestine From The River To The Sea," were projected on to the side of GW's library. Shortly afterward, according to the November 15, 2023, *GW Hatchet*, school officials on November 14, 2023, "suspended Students for Justice in Palestine at GWU from hosting and participating in on-campus activities for at least 90 days following the group's anti-Israel and anti-GW [projections](#) onto Gelman Library last month."

The *GW Hatchet* article went on to state:

Officials will bar SJP from sponsoring or organizing on-campus activities on GW property and from using any indoor or outdoor University facilities for at least the next 90 days after determining the group's projections onto the library violated GW policy, according to a University statement shared with The Hatchet. A representative from GW SJP — who spoke under the condition of anonymity due to threats of doxxing and harassment — said the organization is planning to combat the decision "on every front" but declined to further discuss details at this time.

Officials will also prohibit SJP from posting communications on GW property until May 20, 2024, per the statement.

According to the April 12, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, "[a]n anti-Zionist student group at George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, DC staged an unprecedented protest of a talk by US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield on Thursday at the school's Elliot School of International Affairs." The *Algemeiner* account also noted the following:

"Zionist imperial puppet," "imperial and blackface," and "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" were among the chants yelled by members of the Student Coalition for Palestine (GWSCP) outside the building — a clamoring which could be heard throughout the Elliot School, GWU senior Sabrina Soffer told *The Algemeiner* on Friday. In addition to the demonstration, the group managed to access the roof of the building next door and drape a Palestinian flag across its front perimeter.

"They were explosively loud," Soffer said during an interview. "You could hear them all around the building, where students were taking exams or trying to study. They clearly violated community standards on disturbances and discriminatory harassment, and they're taking advantage of the university's weakness in enforcing the rules."



She continued, “Questions remain about how they managed to hang a flag over the building. That was an act that clearly took a lot of logistic coordination, and its strange that no one in security knew about it beforehand. As for the way they spoke about the ambassador, it’s absolutely disgusting.”

The following appeared in the May 21, 2024, *ADL Daily Crisis Alert*:

During George Washington University’s commencement ceremony in Washington, DC on Sunday, dozens of graduates [walked out](#) during GW President Ellen Granberg’s speech, as part of an anti-Israel protest. At least 70 students chanted slogans, raised signs, and waved Palestinian flags. While this is a relatively small number, what is notable is that protesters could be heard [chanting](#) in Arabic: “From the water to the water, Palestine is Arab,” and “There is only one solution, intifada revolution.” A two-state solution, apparently, is not something they support.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (new state of the art facility under construction at 2300 H Street NW, on the GW campus).
- *Kosher meals*: Yes.
- *Friday night services followed by Shabat dinner at various hospitality sites throughout campus*.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad House of The George Washington University, 2301 E Street NW, Level B.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 2 (the Meir Kazmir, M.D., Professorship in Hebrew Bible and the Charles E. Smith Professorship of Judaic Studies).

## **Lehigh University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 750 (15%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 28***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 35***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 30***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 148/248***

***Schools: Bucknell, Case Western, RPI, Trinity, Tufts and Union***

A perennially excellent school of engineering, Lehigh also offers an equally fine undergraduate business degree. Lehigh's ivy-covered, collegiate-Gothic buildings provide the unmistakable feel of a venerable place of learning. While not Division I in athletics, Lehigh participates in the competitive Patriot League.

Once renowned in equal measure for its engineering program and its intramural drinking, Lehigh has made serious strides in the last decade to be known only for the former. Even so, in March 2018, the university suspended one of its sororities for two years as a result of what the March 11, 2018, *ABC News* referred to as a "reprehensible scavenger hunt that involved drugs, alcohol and sexual activity."

At one point in the not-too-distant past, Lehigh's undergraduate Jewish student body tipped the scales at 30%. Today, that number is closer to 15%, but Lehigh is now well established as a popular Jewish student destination. Further adding to Lehigh's attractiveness is the fact that, sizewise, it is in the desirable medium size range.

Lehigh is located in the former steel town of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which shows a bit of wear and tear. Nevertheless, for a well-regarded school with a real Ivy League feel, Lehigh could be just the place for your kid.

The Lehigh campus has been relatively quiet with regard to anti-Israel and anti-Semitic attacks. However, that does not mean Lehigh students have been totally immune from the incendiary rhetoric of the pro-Palestine left. At a March 21, 2016 conference with the pretentious name, *Feminisms Beyond the Secular Emerging*

Epistemologies and Politics in the 21st Century,” notoriously anti-Zionist Rutgers Professor Jasbir Puar gave a talk with an equally turgid title, Inhumanist Biopolitics Prehensive Gendering in Palestine.” The following summary of her speech, posted on the Lehigh University College of Arts and Sciences website, accused Israel among other vile assertions of “maiming and stunting” the Gaza population:

This lecture theorizes oscillating relations between disciplinary, pre-emptive, and increasingly prehensive forms of power that shape human and non-human materialities in Palestine. Calculation, computing, information technologies, surveillance, and militarization are all facets of prehensive control. The saturation of spatial and temporal stratum in Gaza, for example, demonstrates the use of technologies of measure to manufacture a "remote control" occupation, one that produces a different version of Israeli "home invasions" through the maiming and stunting of population, enacting what Sylvia Wynter calls "gender as genre."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes: The Hillel Society of Lehigh University at the Jewish Student Center.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meal available on Fridays and Holidays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Pluralistic.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad at Lehigh - Joachim Schaufeld Center For Jewish Life (306 Wyandotte Street).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu (inactive).

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Jewish Studies)*: 3.

## McGill University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 3,500 (13%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No, but there is a chapter of McGill BDS Action Network***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: Unranked***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 9***

***Comparable Schools: Northwestern, University of Michigan, University of Toronto and University of Wisconsin***

Located on 80 acres in the Mount Royal section of Montreal, McGill University is one of Canada's two finest public universities (the University of Toronto being the other). Typified by the Schulich Library of Science and Engineering, many of McGill's buildings are ornamental and built from attractive gray stone. Dormitory space is limited, with most upperclassmen living off campus.

Long renowned for its pre-med program and medical school, McGill offers the same array of outstanding courses that one might expect to find at America's best public universities. Admission at McGill is very selective especially for American students. Expect that your child will need a GPA and test scores comparable to what an out-of-state student would need for admission to the University of Michigan.

McGill has always been attractive to students from the United States, not only because of its proximate location to the Northeast states, but also because it is an English-speaking university in a French-speaking province and has traditionally accepted about 20% of its student body from outside of Canada. In addition, despite charging out-of-country students twice as much as Canadian students, McGill's tuition has always been a buy as compared to many of the pricier US colleges and universities in the Northeast.

Total undergraduate and graduate enrollment at McGill is over 35,000 students. McGill has traditionally welcomed Jewish students, with more than 10% of its undergraduate student body being made up of Jews. However, of late, Jewish students have had to coexist with an active BDS movement at McGill.

In February 2016, a BDS resolution sponsored by the McGill BDS Action Network passed (with 58% of the 800-plus students voting in support of the resolution). The resolution was subsequently nullified in an online ratification

process. The process was criticized by the pro-BDS Board of Directors of the Students Society of McGill University (“SSMU”), due to the asserted involvement of “external groups.” Even so, in May 2016, more than 150 members of the McGill faculty signed a letter condemning the BDS movement. Happily, the school’s judicial board determined that the BDS resolution was unconstitutional on the ground that it singled out one country for demonization. The *Canadian Jewish News*, on September 1, 2016, reported the decision as follows:

The judicial board elaborated “that SSMU’s commitment against discrimination in favour of creating ‘safer spaces’ renders motions similar to the BDS motion, which specifically compel SSMU to adopt a platform against a particular nation, unconstitutional.”

It found that the boycott, divestment and sanctions motion brought before the SSMU general assembly (GA) in February by the McGill Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Action Network (BDSAN) was “unconstitutional and breaches [the SSMU’s] equity policy.”

Apparently, the action of the judicial board was not sufficient to deter anti-Israel elements at the university. The following testimonial, taken from the October 31, 2017 *Canadian Jewish News*, illustrates what happened to Jewish student, Noah Lew, who, while serving on the SSMU, voiced support for the anti-BDS action of the school’s judicial board:

At the beginning of this school year, the SSMU’s judicial board asked the board of directors to take a second look at a decision that it had previously made, but which had been ignored by the board of directors for 15 months. The decision asserted that boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) motions violate the SSMU constitution, because they are discriminatory in nature. At our board meeting, I vocalized my support for ratifying the decision and voted in favour of it.

The backlash from the McGill BDS Action Network was swift. Shortly after the vote, members of the pro-BDS group held public meetings, where they outlined their planned response. Their plan was a campaign called Democratize SSMU, which intended to remove all Jewish and anti-BDS students from SSMU’s leadership. On the Democratize SSMU Facebook, the page specifically targeted me and two of my fellow directors, simply because we are Jewish and/or having connections to a Jewish organization. My Jewish identity was now public, and a target was placed squarely on my back by the McGill BDS movement.

Due to pro-Israel views, Lew and two other Jewish SSMU members were barred from fulfilling their elected term on the SSMU in what should have been a

routine ratification vote. However, the SSMU's judicial board later ruled that the ratification vote was unconstitutional. According to the January 25, 2018, *Canadian Jewish News*, the vote was overruled because it was divided into separate votes rather than a single bloc vote. In consequence, the three students were allowed to resume their term.

Even so, according to the February 8, 2018, *Washington Free Beacon*, a report released by a student ombudsman on February 6, 2018, concluded that the SSMU's failure to ratify the board membership of Lew and the other two students was not motivated by anti-Semitism, this, despite the fact that the report also concluded that the failure to ratify was due to 'Lew's affiliation with Jewish organizations that are clearly supportive of the State of Israel,' and his opposition to the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement."

As described in a July 13, 2022 open letter published in medium.com, Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights McGill sponsored an online event on July 14, 2022, entitled "Standing up for student solidarity with Palestine," featuring Pink Floyd's Roger Waters, described by the open letter as a "virulent anti-Semite who has been denounced [for his] rhetoric and incitement."

As reported by the August 2, 2022, *Jerusalem Post*, Jonah Fried, a Jewish student at McGill sued the school along with the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) and the Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights McGill (SPHR) over an anti-Israel student referendum held from March 15-21, 2022. According to the *Jerusalem Post* account:

The referendum was titled "Palestine Solidarity Policy." If passed and enacted, it would have caused SSMU to make "a statement on Nakba Day, reaffirming the SSMU's solidarity with Palestinian students and with Palestinian liberation from settler-colonial apartheid," boycott any entity "complicit in settler-colonial apartheid against Palestinians" and divest from such entities and form a Palestine solidarity committee, among other things."

SSMU's board of directors [under threat from the university] ultimately declared the policy unconstitutional. Nevertheless, SPHR, which [had] promoted the Palestine policy, [was] reportedly attempting to reintroduce it, the court application stated.

As reported by the *Jerusalem Post*, in his lawsuit, "Fried demanded a declaratory judgment stating that the referendum does not lead to any rights, obligations or actions; the Palestine Solidarity Policy is inconsistent with SSMU's constitution and by-laws; the memorandum of agreement [between the university

and the SSMU] prohibits SSMU from enacting the policy; and the policy is ‘discriminatory, biased and antisemitic.’ “ The article also noted that:

Fried is grateful to have the financial backing of B’nai Brith Canada’s Legal Defense Program and legal representation from Michael Bergman.

B’nai Brith Canada CEO Michael Mostyn said in a press release, “We’re standing up for this Jewish student, and through him, all Jewish students on campus who feel unsafe and unwelcome as a result of continued anti-Israel referendums by their student society. It’s inexplicable that McGill would allow one anti-Israel referendum after another and continue to fund activities which are in violation of its own policies. In doing so, it is participating in creating an antisemitic environment.”

As reported by the March 31, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, during March 2023, McGill student, Claire Frankel submitted an opinion piece, entitled “Queer McGill Is Not a Safe Space for Jews,” to *The McGill Tribune*. The article asserted that “[T]he latest trend[s] in progressive spaces and specifically on university campuses, are only to be supportive of Jews who reject any connection to their ancestral homeland.” According to the *Algemeiner* account:

The paper refused to publish it, telling Frankel in an email that Zionism is a “settler-colonial ideology that has perpetuated the ethnic cleansing of Palestine” and “your article doesn’t align with our values as a paper. We’re not going to be able to publish it.”

Frankel reported the incident to Honest Reporting Canada, a nonprofit that promotes information and media coverage about Israel and for whom she is an intern. The group subsequently sent a letter to the university alleging anti-Jewish discrimination.

On [March 29, 2023], the university responded to Honest Reporting Canada (HRC), explaining that it expects the *Tribune* to publish “in the spirit of free speech” a “range of views and opinions.”

After the March 2023 Israel Apartheid Week demonstrations at McGill, one student wrote the following as part of an opinion piece in the June 16, 2023, issue of the *Algemeiner*: “

Protests are not an unusual sight at McGill University in Montreal. Student activism is something of a vaunted tradition at our school. But March’s Israeli Apartheid Week was not a peaceful civil rights protest.”

As I approached the McGill library, I heard violent slogans ricocheting off our buildings' walls, things like,

*McGill, McGill, we charge you with genocide!*

*I believe, I believe... I believe that Palestine will be free, from the river to the sea!*

When I got closer, I saw a large throng of people — many appeared not to be students — wearing Palestinian *kuffiyeh* scarves, draped in Palestinian flags. The crowd was surrounding a young man who, as if in a trance, swayed back and forth, leading the demonstrators along in anti-Zionist mantras. Some were in Arabic, but they said:

*Intifada until death! Revolutionaries, to the streets!*

And in English, they also intoned:

*One solution! Intifada revolution! Armed struggle is justified [sic].*

As reported in the December 19, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, McGill “banned its Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR) chapter from using the school’s name after the campus group posted on social media a statement that cheered Hamas’ Oct. 7 massacre across southern Israel.” The *Algemeiner* story continued with the following (excerpted) statement from the university:

SPHR described Hamas’ atrocities — which included the murder of 1,200 people, numerous rapes, and taking 240 people hostage — as “heroic.”

“The university cannot be, or seen to be, associated with a celebration of the taking of civilian hostages,” university spokesperson Susan Murley told *The Montreal Gazette*. “This post by SPHR was antithetical to the university’s values and stands to undermine the important work aimed at bringing our community together through the Initiative Against Islamophobia and Antisemitism.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Jack Reitman Hillel House)
- *Kosher meals*: Available weekdays (except holidays) at Yoel’s Dizengoff Café, located on the first floor of Hillel House.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Daily orthodox minyan.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.



Chabad:

- *Chabad House: Rohr* Chabad Jewish Centre at McGill, 3429 Peel St, Montreal.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- Friday night services: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies: 1.

## **Pennsylvania State University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 4,000 (10%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 43***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 97***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 18***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 189/248***

***Comparable Schools: University of Indiana, University of Maryland, University of Pittsburgh and University of Wisconsin***

Once known as house that Joe (Paterno) built, Penn State was rocked in 2011 and 2012 by a child sex scandal involving former Penn State assistant football coach, Jerry Sandusky, and the attendant claims of a cover up by the Penn State athletic department and the university's administration. The scandal claimed the career (and, probably, the life) of then 84-year-old Joe Paterno, the most successful college football coach of all time, sent Sandusky to prison for the rest of his life, resulted in a severe fine and recruiting limitations being imposed on the university and, five years after Sandusky's conviction, produced a misdemeanor child endangerment verdict against the university's former president, Ghraham B. Spanier, for failing to stop the abuse.

Scandal notwithstanding, the university has come out of the Sandusky affair humbled but not bent. Indeed, despite the scandal, 2011 saw Penn State enjoying its then second best ever fund-raising year, and, in most other respects, it has maintained its position as one of the strongest state universities, both academically and athletically, in the country.

Located in central Pennsylvania, the school attracts highly-qualified students who are eager to live and learn in a big (very big) time university setting. Many of these students are Jewish. In fact, the university has one of the largest Jewish student bodies in America. In the 2015-16 academic year, Penn State was one of the ten largest producers of Fulbright scholars, the fourth year in a row in which Penn State ranked among the top producers of Fulbright scholars and students.

Penn State is large enough to offer quality programs in just about everything, particularly engineering. As one enters the campus, the astonishingly large Beaver Stadium gives the impression of a giant steel and concrete colossus. However, the campus quickly becomes inviting and remarkably well contained, with most of the residential buildings set among pedestrian walkways. The older part of the campus offers plenty of green and conveys a real feeling of academia.

Following the February 2017 alcohol-related, hazing death of a 19-year old Beta Theta Pi pledge, the university banned the fraternity and mandated an immediate semester-long suspension of alcohol at all Greek events. In March 2017, the university released an additional set of restrictions on Greek life, including the postponement of the 2017-18 rush season until the spring semester, the banning of kegs at Greek events and the limitation of social events at Greek houses. But, the worst was yet to come. In May 2017, eight of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity brothers involved in the hazing death at their fraternity house were charged with involuntary manslaughter and ten more fraternity brothers were charged with lesser crimes. On September 1, 2017, a judge dismissed the most serious charges against the students, including involuntary manslaughter and aggravated assault.

Then, in October 2017, a second Penn State fraternity, Delta Tau Delta, was suspended on an interim basis pending an investigation of a September 28, 2017 incident in which an 18-year old student was found unconscious off campus after allegedly drinking too much at the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house.

SJP has had a presence on the Penn State campus. However, its primary activity had involved programming with guest speakers. According to the November 21, 2017, *Cleveland Jewish News*, four Penn State students were charged with “stealing a 9-foot menorah from the home of the campus Chabad rabbi and leaving it damaged outside a traditionally Jewish fraternity.”

On December 1, 2018, the *Daily Collegian*, Penn State’s student newspaper, reported that a nine-foot Menorah had been vandalized in front of the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity house.

As reported in the June 10, 2021, *Inside Higher Ed*, the university’s African American Studies department reissued a statement expressing solidarity with the Palestinians after having initially taken the statement down in response to inquiries from a dean.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No: Hillel meets at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meals available on Shabat.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Conservative and reform.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.



Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad Jewish Student and Community Center at the Penn State University and State College (443 East Waring Avenue).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.

## **Stony Brook University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,200 (7%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate-High***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 34***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 80***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 67/248***

***Comparable Schools: Binghamton University, University at Albany, University at Buffalo, University of Connecticut and University of Massachusetts***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2023 gift of \$500 Million by James and Marilyn Simons; 2011 gift of \$150 Million by James and Marilyn Simons***

Stony Brook is one of four major research universities in the SUNY system, with Albany, Binghamton and Buffalo being the other three. Of the four, Stony Brook is a tad more competitive than Albany and Buffalo and about the same as Binghamton. However, what Stony Brook possesses is location. Only about an hour or so from New York City, Stony Brook offers the benefit of a 400-acre suburban Long Island campus that is just a train ride away from the excitement of New York City. For that reason, if no other, Stony Brook is a favorite among Jewish students, particularly those from Long Island, who desire a SUNY education.

However, there are any number of other reasons to go to Stony Brook, all related to its outstanding academics. From its humble origins as a school of 100 in 1957, Stony Brook has scaled the heights in many, many academic arenas. Faculty members at Stony Brook have won Nobel prizes in physics, economics and medicine. In 1969, Stony Brook faculty members made history by dating rocks from the moon and estimating the age of the moon. In 1976, Stony Brook researchers discovered super gravity. In 1982, Stony Brook doctors discovered the cause of Lyme Disease.

Stony Brook's central campus was revitalized and beautified in the late 1990s and today stands as a pleasant part of the university. Stony Brook manages the prestigious Brookhaven National Laboratory and also boasts an outstanding Marine Sciences Research Center. Its programs in math (particularly geometry) and physics are among the best in the country, with many other fields being highly competitive.

According to the April 22, 2018, student newspaper, *The Statesman*, SJP's president stated SJP's goal was to "make the campus aware of Israel's "true heinous

nature” through protesting. Another SJP member was quoted as saying: “We want Zionism off this campus, so we want Hillel off this campus. . . . What we want is a proper Jewish organization that allows Jews to express their faith, have sabbath – everything like that, that are not Zionists, that doesn’t support Israel.”

In May 2017, Hillel, in conjunction with the Stony Brook Muslim Student Association (“MSA”) held an art benefit to support Syrian refugees. Instead of applauding the benefit’s inarguably noble goals, the Stony Brook SJP instead chose to vilify the MSA for collaborating with Hillel. The May 3, 2018, SJP statement condemning the collaboration included the following vituperation:

We at SBU SJP would like to address the collaboration between MSA and Zionist Hillel here on campus. After a week, full of events held by Hillel called “Israel Week”, we were appalled that the MSA decided to take part in an event which was an art auction for Syria and was planning to celebrate “Israel Independence Day” as well. Having a Syria relief event with Hillel is completely hypocritical since they are supporting and advocating a state that has created over 7 million Palestinian refugees and continually creates refugees through their military aggression. The MSA could have done a Syria fundraiser by themselves, but still with our club informing them, decided to work with the Zionist group. This partnership not only humanizes Hillel’s “Israel Week” but normalizes the Palestinian struggle which is perpetuated by groups that Hillel works with such as Zionist Organization of America and Stand With Us. We believe that Zionism should not be on campus and should not be mixed in with Judaism in the interfaith community.

According to the October 4, 2022, *Stony Brook Statesman*, “[a]ntisemitic symbols and phrases were written in a public area during Stony Brook’s “Wolfieland” carnival on September 10, 2022. The article also noted that student leaders said the incident was “the latest in a series of antisemitic incidents on campus throughout the prior year and a half.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Gloria and Mark Snyder Hillel Center):
- *Kosher meals*: Yes. Available at the Delancey Street Glatt Kosher Deli, located on the first floor of the Student Union Building, next to the Ballroom. With regard to campus dining, Hillel’s website advises: “Kosher dining on campus does not accept “meals” from the meal plan, however they do accept “dining dollars”. If you are a student who keeps Kosher you will need to select the special dietary restrictions section when you are signing up for your meal plan to enroll in the “Declining Balance Meal Plan” (basically a meal plan that only gives students dining dollars).”

- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat:* Daily Orthodox minyan, weekly conservative service and bi-weekly reform service.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Chabad at Stony Brook (31 Mount Road, Stony Brook).
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau; Sigma Alpha Mu.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* Sigma Delta Tau.



## **Syracuse University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,500 (16%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of BDS Activity: High***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 64***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 65***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 14***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2020 gift of \$75 Million by the Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 107/248***

***Comparable Schools: George Washington University, University of Colorado, University of Delaware, University of Indiana and University of Miami***

Book ending Miami, Syracuse is another school whose fine academics were often overshadowed by its reputation for having a good time and providing big-time athletics. Syracuse still offers both good times and big-time athletics, but its highly competent student body is now indisputable. Boasting nationally renowned schools of government, forestry (located on the Syracuse campus but part of the State University of New York) and communications, Syracuse's campus is attractive and well maintained, although parents beware, the neighborhood bordering on the university is anything but attractive.

In a quest for geographic, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity on campus, Syracuse increased its undergraduate student body to more than 15,000 students, with a predictable (but relatively small) decline in selectivity.

Jewish students, in some years accounting for as much as twenty percent of the Syracuse undergraduate student body, flock to Syracuse's inviting campus. Fortunately, their sense of contentment at the university has been marred by relatively few anti-Israel incidents. In particular, in late October 2016, the Steinhardt Social Research Institute housed in the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University released a study derived from interviews with Birthright college students from 50 selected campuses. The study identified Syracuse University as one of several large private universities where the

students interviewed perceive “very little hostility toward Israel, and virtually all of these respondents disagree that there is a hostile environment toward Jews.”

This is not to say that anti-Israel sentiment doesn’t exist on the Syracuse campus. It does. For example, in its September 2015 *Peace Letter*, the Syracuse Peace Council, employing highly inflammatory language, printed the following assessment of Syracuse’s relationship to Israel:

The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) guidelines put forth by the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) call on people around the world to resist “normalization projects.” These are initiatives, events, or activities that present a false sense of equality between the oppressors/colonizers and the oppressed/colonized. As the call explains, normalization projects emphasize “coexistence” rather than “co-resistance” and falsely suggest that Israelis and Palestinians are equally responsible for “the conflict.” Campuses are a major site of normalization projects, and Syracuse University is no exception. Like many universities across the US, SU actively promotes initiatives and research activities that seek to both normalize and legitimize the state of Israel and its settler colonial occupation of Palestine.

Then, in the late summer of 2016, A Syracuse University professor sparked outrage when she withdrew an invitation for the inclusion of a film about Israeli settlers on the West Bank that was being considered for a spring 2017 conference at the university, entitled “The Place of Religion in Film.” The Syracuse professor explained her withdrawal to the Israeli/NYU filmmaker as follows: “I am now embarrassed to share that my SU colleagues, on hearing about my attempt to secure your presentation, have warned me that the BDS faction on campus will make matters very unpleasant for you and for me if you come.” When the SU professor’s action was revealed in an *Atlantic* article about influence of BDS activity on campus, Syracuse’s provost reinstated the invitation and the Syracuse professor apologized.

More disturbingly, as noted in Chapter 1, in April 2018, student and non-student activists disrupted a speech given by Israeli Ambassador Danny Dayan. The following account by Miriam Elman, an associate professor of political science at Syracuse and one of the organizers of the speech, illustrates the effect of the disruptive tactics on attending Jewish students, despite the overall success of the speech. As set forth in the April 25, 2018, *Alegemeiner*:

“It was disruptive and hard to hear Dayan,” Elman recalled. The chanting continued increasing in volume until the protesters, led by Gold and Rozum, had entered the building and continued their demonstration directly outside the event room.

Associate Dean of the Maxwell School Carol Faulkner, who introduced Dayan, took the opportunity to ask the protesters to join the event and ask questions at its conclusion. “They shouted in her face,” Elman said.

Gold was then forcibly removed from the building by a Syracuse safety official, and the protesters followed.

Despite the disruptions, “the talk was well received [and] there were tough questions,” Elman noted. Dayan took pictures with students and wrote on Twitter that he had “excellent meetings” earlier in the day with Syracuse deans.

Nonetheless, the incident disturbed some members of the community.

“A few of the Jewish students who had also gone to the public talk ... told me how ‘shaken up’ they were by what had happened,” Elman shared. “They were really upset that the talk was disrupted and also by the level of vitriol. One student especially mentioned the signs that were held during the protest — he said it wasn’t really protesting Israel’s policies but was anti-Zionist and even anti-Jewish.”

In April 2019, it was revealed that a Syracuse faculty member had authorized at least one student to do an internship with a local group that had supported Hamas.

On July 1, 2020, Justine Murray, a political science major and 2019-2020 CAMERA on Campus Fellow at Syracuse posted an article in the school newspaper, *The Daily Orange*, entitled “Student Instagram pages broadcast anti-Semitic beliefs.” The following are excerpts from the article:

A June 19 post on the @BIPOC.Syracuse page stated “There are professors at SU who are openly Zionist to the point that it hurts Palestinian students...This shit runs deep.” This set off an anti-Semitic witch hunt targeting Miriam Elman, a Jewish faculty member at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs who was also mentioned in a @BlackatCuse post on June 20.

Despite being on leave for the past year, Elman was singled out by a malicious and libelous smear campaign for her support of Jewish self-determination and prior service in the Israeli Defense Forces.

The heinous anti-Semitic insults directed at Elman send a clear message: shed your Zionist identity or get canceled. It reeks of pure McCarthyism.

Inexplicably, while the university administration has engaged in public relations calisthenics for months to show its sensitivity to campus discrimination, their silence regarding this particular issue is deafening.

As reported by the February 16, 2021 *Jewish News Service*, Syracuse University's Student Association introduced a resolution the preceding day to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism. According to the JNS account:

SA assembly member Noah Wagner introduced the bill, saying the association's goal is to have the university adopt the IHRA definition "to have a stronger sense against anti-Semitism and to treat it similarly to how other hate crimes are treated on campus and across the country," he told the university's student-run publication *The Daily Orange*.

Syracuse can be gray and very snowy in the winter, but a strong Greek system, a thriving social scene, Atlantic Coast Conference competition and a perennially powerful basketball program keep Syracuse's student body warm for the duration.

Football has not been king in Syracuse for a while, despite the football team having knocked off then second-ranked and defending national champion, Clemson in 2017. But, one salivates at the thought of Syracuse's legendary football past. During the Ben Schwartzwalder coaching era of the 1950s and 1960s, Syracuse produced a nonstop string of four All American running backs, beginning with future Pro Football Hall of Famer, Jim Brown, who took Syracuse to a Cotton Bowl win in 1957, Ernie Davis, who not only took the team to another Cotton Bowl win in 1959, but also led the team to an undefeated season and a national championship in that year, Floyd Little and Larry Czonka.

As reported by the March 26, 2021, *Jerusalem Post*, Syracuse's Student Association, on March 21, unanimously passed a bill adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism. According to the *Jerusalem Post* account:

Among the clauses included in the newly passed bill include commitments to take "actionable steps" to inform students and community leaders about antisemitism, anti-bias programming offered by Hillel, and calls for the university administration to adopt the IHRA definition as well.

However, as pointed out by the *Algemeiner* on April 20, 2021, "although the SA did pass a bill that condemns antisemitism and endorses certain tenets of the IHRA definition, the bill removed a clause from the earlier tabled version that denounced the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement — which targets the state

of Israel—on the grounds that it “could be seen as discriminatory toward Palestinian Students”.

According to the July 10, 2021 *Daily Orange*, shortly before 1 a.m., a group of students reported being approached by a silver. The occupants of the SUV reportedly shouted anti-Semitic language and threw an egg that struck one of the student.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Winnick Hillel Center for Jewish Life).
- *Kosher meals*: Yes (full meal plan available at Shaw Dining Hall).
- Friday night services and Oneg Shabat: Conservative and Reform.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad-Lubavitch of Central New York (825 Ostrom Avenue, Syracuse).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1

# University of California Davis

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,500 (8%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 159***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 149***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 24***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 237/248***

***Comparable Schools: Texas A&M, University of California Irvine, University of California San Diego and University of California Santa Cruz***

At 5,300 acres, UC Davis has the largest campus in California and one of the largest in the country. With almost 30,000 undergraduates and a total student body in excess of 37,000, Davis' student body is the third largest in the University of California system. In Davis' case, with size comes variety, with over 100 courses offered, including a premier program in wine making and more than 800 student clubs.

Located about fifteen miles west of Sacramento in California's Central Valley, Davis is the main campus in the UC System that focuses on agricultural issues. Indeed, its sports teams are nicknamed the "Aggies." Consistent with this focus, Davis features an undergraduate school of Agriculture and Environmental Science, an undergraduate school of Biological Sciences and an undergraduate school of Engineering. But, sports nickname notwithstanding, don't even think about typecasting Davis as an aggie-only school.

Davis' undergraduate school of Letters and Science, founded in 1959, now boasts over 11,000 students and 600 faculty members. Among other academic jewels, Davis is the only school in the UC System, other than Berkeley, to have a nuclear laboratory. In addition to stellar undergraduate schools, Davis' pedigree extends to its graduate programs, including highly-regarded graduate schools in law, medicine, veterinary medicine (ranked among the top few in the country), management, education and nursing.

In recent years, Davis has experienced a relative increase in applications that has been accelerating faster than at any of the other UC campuses. If your kid is interested and does not have a strong GPA, a reality check may be in order.

Mark Hall, named after Davis' second chancellor, is the administrative center of Davis and is indicative of the architecture that characterized the early years of Davis' century-old campus. The Davis Arboretum and pond set off the administrative center in a lush and verdant array of 4,000 trees, plants and flowers, reminding any aspiring student that a UC campus can be beautiful without being located on the coast. As with UC San Diego and several other UC campuses, UC Davis lacks a big-time sports program.

Davis has an active Hillel facility. With almost 2,500 Jewish undergraduate students, Jewish students not intent on a seaside experience can easily find a rich college experience at this major UC campus. However, Jewish life on the Davis campus has not been without its issues, sometimes severe. As one student, a member of the student senate and a tour guide, put it in the April 6, 2016 edition of the school newspaper *The California Aggie*:

“As a tour guide on campus, I have seen the concerns that prospective Jewish students and their families have had in regard to increases in anti-Israel activity and anti-Semitic incidents at UC Davis and other UC campuses,” Tenner said. “If things do not improve soon, I foresee that the UC schools risk having a rapid decrease in Jewish students over the next few years.”

Even more troubling is the following account by another Jewish student in the November 2, 2017 edition of *The California Aggie*:

On July 14 and 21, [2017], Imam Ammar Shahin from the Islamic Center of Davis gave anti-Semitic sermons praying for the annihilation of the Jews. The anti-Semitic rhetoric began on the 14th, talking about the events that occurred at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and how the “wicked Jews” are prohibiting prayer at the Mosque. He went on to say, “Oh Allah, count them one by one and destroy them down to the very last one. Do not spare any of them. Oh Allah, destroy them and do not spare their young or their elderly. Oh Allah, turn Jerusalem and Palestine into a graveyard for the Jews.”

The hatred and anger toward the Jews didn't stop there. In his next sermon on July 21, he continued: “Judgement day will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews.” Throughout his speech, he prayed for Allah to “count them [the Jews] one by one and annihilate them down to the very last one, do not spare any of them ... Let us play a part in this. Oh

Allah, let us show in words and in deeds.” There are no clearer words to imply the death of Jews than the words Imam Shahin proclaimed on this day.

As a Jewish student, I have seen my fair share of anti-Semitic actions on campus. I’ve had foul and intolerable words yelled at me while I’m studying because I had a sticker of Israel on my laptop. When Arab-Israeli Diplomat George Deek came to speak on campus, anti-Semitic students shouted, “Death to Jews” at my friends and me. I’ve known Jewish students who are afraid to speak up in class against anti-Semitic professors because they’re afraid of what might happen to their academic reputations. I’ve seen the clear and blatant anti-Zionist newspaper clippings that were in Hart Hall for at least two years, even after multiple complaints by Davis Faculty for Israel and Aggies for Israel.

With the degree of anti-Jewish hatred described above, one might reasonably have expected that the Davis administration would condemn the hate speech described and take action against the Islamic Center. However, according to the article, no action has taken place:

What I haven’t seen is an open statement from the school about any of these events, let alone the events that happened on July 14 and July 21. I’ve yet to receive an email from the Chancellor showing his deepest sorrows regarding the Imam’s sermon. This lack of concern and condemnation against hate speech from the university makes us students feel as if the community and school do not recognize our issues and the struggles that we as Jewish students face on campus. But what’s more frustrating is that, due to the lack of exposure and punishment for these acts, other students don’t know what happened. They’re blind, not only to the harassment of Jews and Israelis . . . , but also to the Imam’s sermon.

Part of the answer may lie in the fact that Davis’ current chancellor, Gary S. May, did not take office until August 1, 2017, following the dismissal of the university’s previous chancellor on ethical grounds. Even so, as of the November 2017 writing of the foregoing student article, sufficient time would seem to have passed for an appropriate response to the events that occurred the previous July.

According to the September 8, 2018, *Jewish Journal*, flyers blaming Jews for Christine Blasey Ford’s sexual assault allegations against now-Justice Brett Kavanaugh were found on the Davis campus that morning. The *Journal* story states in pertinent part:



The flyers show a series of figures, including Kavanaugh accuser Christine Blasey Ford, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), billionaire George Soros and attorney Michael Avenatti, behind Kavanaugh with Stars of David emblazoned across their foreheads.

“Every time some anti-white, anti-American, anti-freedom event takes place, you look at it, and it’s Jews behind it,” the flyer states.

On April 30, 2019, a student named Noah Pearle wrote a guest opinion piece in *The California Aggie*, entitled “Why I resigned from ASUCD [the school senate].” The following excerpts from Mr. Davis’ article focus on the intolerance he encountered due to his support for Israel:

I was thankful when the newly elected president and vice president asked me to run for pro-temp, despite being from the opposing ASUCD slate, and I told them that I appreciated their willingness to work with me. But immediately before the first Senate meeting in spring, the vice president told me that members of the “community” were opposed to me serving as the next pro-temp because I attended the American Israel Public Affairs Committee policy conference. I questioned the relevance of my outside political activity to my role as pro-temp. She expressed that she would defend me against such accusations, to which I immediately responded, “Well, I am in fact a Zionist.”

I was essentially told that being a “Zionist” means I am a dirty person unworthy of the same respect given to any other student, someone who should not hold this position for the sole reason that I support the state of Israel.

\*\*\*\*\*

I expressed outrage over an attempt to prevent a qualified student from holding a certain position due to their ethnic heritage and religious background. The thought of continuing to sit on a table with people who view a foundational aspect of my Jewish identity as a disqualifying factor in my ability to serve in a leadership position was overwhelming. I finally decided that I would no longer take part in an organization which sought to discriminate against me for one of the pillars of my relationship with Judaism.

On May 13, 2019, the Jewish community at Davis received some good news as the school’s student government unanimously struck down Resolution SR-17--an extension of a May 2015 BDS resolution--as being unconstitutional. According to the May 15, 2019, *Algemener* account of the vote:

A ruling delivered by the Council's majority on Monday, following a hearing on May 8th, confirmed that SR17 contravened a section of the ASUCD Constitution that commits the Senate to "promote the welfare and interests of the members of the ASUCD."

"The ASUCD Senate must promote student welfare, meaning it cannot hinder the welfare of any student," the ruling stated. "While this Resolution caters to the welfare of a group of students, it does so at the expense of the welfare of other students."

SR17 was also found to be in breach of the ASUCD Student Bill of Rights, which rejects "discrimination and harassment on the basis of ... ethnicity ... national origin ... or political belief."

On May 25, 2020, fourth year UC Davis student, Jacob Greenstein, wrote an opinion piece in the *Algemeiner*, entitled "Anti-Israel Bias Continues at UC Davis Cultural Center". In describing the anti-Israel bias of the UC Davis Cross Cultural Center (CCC), Greenstein provided the following example:

Last year on May 16, two Jewish pro-Israel students found inflammatory posters in a UC Davis Cross Cultural Center (CCC) window facing a path that thousands of students pass through daily. The posters portrayed the complex conflict between Israel and Hamas, the world-recognized terrorist organization in control of the Gaza Strip, in simplistic terms, portraying Israel as the clear aggressor.

While misleading, these posters are certainly permitted as free speech. However, the Jewish students felt that more context was necessary and asked the Cross Cultural Center if they could put up their own posters to present a nuanced perspective. Such posters would no doubt be in accordance with the CCC's mission of cultural competency, but the CCC did not approve the Jewish students' posters.

\*\*\*\*\*

After months of frustration, the Jewish students and their attorneys sent a letter to the university arguing that the Cross Cultural Center violated many university policies.

Fortunately, Greenstein was able to finish his piece on an upbeat—though guarded—note:

Currently, there are some signs of hope. Dialogue between Jewish student leaders and the CCC is ongoing and promising. The Cross Cultural Center has promised to work with an Israel advocacy group on

campus, Aggies for Israel, to plan inclusive events at the center. There are plans to hold the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony and the Passover Mimouna celebration in the CCC community room next year. However, hosting these events at the center does nothing to make Israeli students feel included in the Middle Eastern community. For example, the CCC consistently hosts Students for Justice in Palestine's hateful anti-Zionism week, but has never permitted any Israeli celebration. If the CCC truly wants to improve its relationship with the Jewish community, it must find a way to connect with Zionists as well.

As reported in the June 8, 2020, *Jewish Journal*, Kyle Krueger, the Associated Students, University of California Davis (ASUCD) president, vetoed a student senate BDS resolution (SR #25) on June 5, 2020, that the senate had passed the night before. As reported in the *Jewish Journal* article, Krueger said in a statement that he had decided to veto the resolution because most of the Jewish community on campus had been outraged over it. The *Journal* account went on to quote Krueger as follows:

"This resolution was problematic because it included minimal to no input from the Jewish community beforehand," Krueger said. "An overwhelming majority of Jewish students at last night's Senate meeting expressed their hurt and frustration with SR #25, and every Jewish student I have spoken with since the resolution's passage has expressed to me the hurt SR #25 has brought upon them and their communities. The resolution has been widely condemned by Jewish students of many different sects/beliefs who feel marginalized by ASUCD and its actions."

The ASUCD president added that the campus doesn't have a good history regarding anti-Semitism, citing a September 2019 article highlighting how there had been two instances of neo-Nazi flyers on campus in less than a year.

As reported in the July 28, 2021, *Jewish News of Northern California*, on May 27, 2021, in the aftermath of the May 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict, UC Davis' Asian American Studies department published a six-paragraph statement on its departmental page. The *Jewish News* account described the statement, entitled "UCD Faculty Statement of Solidarity with Palestinians," as follows:

It sides squarely with the Palestinian cause, painting Israel as a deeply malevolent force in the region with reverberations in the U.S. It tells of "suffering inflicted on Palestinians" by Israeli airstrikes without mentioning Hamas-fired rockets; condemns "marauding Jewish extremists" who were filmed "lynching and beating Palestinians" without mentioning violence directed at Jews; refers to Human Rights Watch calling Israel an "apartheid state"; and mourns billions spent on

aid for Israel that could and should be directed toward “public education” and “building safer communities” in the United States.

According to the *Jewish News* account, in late July 2021, “58 pro-Israel faculty members at the university made public what had been an internal back-and-forth with administrators since late May. The group, known as Davis Faculty for Israel, released a July 19 letter sent to a university lawyer outlining concerns over what DFI’s chair called “extremist anti-Israel propaganda” published on a university website.”

As indicated in the *Jewish News* story, the anti-Israel statement raises a host of issues “because it bore endorsements not only from individual faculty members or administrators speaking for themselves but purported to speak for nine academic departments and programs, including American Studies; Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies; and the departments of French and Italian.” Among the issues raised by the departmental, the *Jewish News* story quotes from observations made by Ethan Katz, an associate professor of Jewish and European history at UC Berkeley.

“I have been following a lot of these issues across the country,” said Ethan Katz, an associate professor of Jewish and European history at UC Berkeley, who himself organized a written response to statements from Berkeley colleagues he said bore inaccurate and vilifying information about Israel recently. “It is very unusual for entire departments to be signing statements,” he said.

“It raises a host of questions,” Katz added: “Are all affiliate faculty even aware of the statement (almost surely not)? What does the department plan to say to students in that department who are deeply offended by certain parts of the statement? Does it worry at all that the perspectives of Jews and Jewish Israelis are entirely absent?”

It raises legal questions, too, according to the group of pro-Israel faculty, whose members range across departments and fields from linguistics to political science to veterinary medicine. They argue the university is in violation of state regulations against its name being used (without permission) to endorse a political position. In their view, this constitutes a misdemeanor under the California Education Code.

Despite all, the *Jewish News* account reports that the university has dismissed demands to remove or condemn the May 27, 2021, statement of the Asian American Studies department.

According to the February 15, 2022, *Algemeiner*, a February 10, 2022, virtual university talk given by Professor Sason Shaik of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

that was Zoombombed. The talk was part of a virtual symposium on “Theoretical Physical Organic Chemistry” organized by faculty from the University of Houston and University of California, Davis. The *Algemeiner* quoted Judy Wu of the University of Houston, one of the co-organizers of the symposium, as saying “Shaik’s talk on his career as a chemist was subjected to an antisemitic “Zoom attack.”

On October 13, 2022, UC Davis President, Gary S. May, released a statement related to anti-Semitic incidents on the Davis campus. The following are excerpts from the statement directed to “the UC Davis Community”:

Today, swastika drawings were found in Alder Hall, a residence hall for first-year students. The incident was reported to the Harassment and Discrimination Assistance and Prevention Program (HDAPP) and the UC Davis Police Department, and the graffiti was immediately removed.

Our Jewish community is still reeling from two antisemitic incidents that occurred in August. I condemn those cowards who once more have tried to intimidate our students. We are seeing a rise in antisemitism not only on our campus but at many other universities in California, and the Anti-Defamation League has reported an alarming rise in antisemitism overall.

The following story regarding a despicable anti-Semitic social media post appeared in the October 19, 2023, *Jewish News of Northern California*:

An individual identified as a professor at UC Davis suggested in a social media post that “Zionist journalists” and their children should be targeted in their homes.

The post, made in a private Twitter account that appears to belong to Jemma Decristo, read: “one group of ppl we have easy access to in the US is all these zionist journalists who spread propaganda & misinformation they have houses w addresses, kids in school they can fear their bosses, but they should fear us more.”

According to the December 21, 2023, *Jewish News of Northern California*, UC Davis was added to the list of schools being investigated by the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Education for campus antisemitism.

As reported in the February 19, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, the Davis student government passed a BDS resolution on February 16, 2024. According to the *Algemeiner* account, the resolution states the following:

“This bill prohibits the purchase of products from corporations identified as profiting from the genocide and occupation of the Palestinian people by the BDS National Committee,” says the measure, titled Senate Bill (SB) #52. “This bill seeks to address the human rights violations of the nation-state and government of Israel and establish a guideline of ethical spending.”

Puma, McDonald’s, Starbucks, Airbnb, Disney, and Sabra are all named on SJP’s “BDS List.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Yes.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Liberal and traditional services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad of Davis, 732 Anderson Road, Davis.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi.

## University of California San Diego

*Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate-High*

*Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 550 (2%)*

*SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes*

*2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D*

*2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 139*

*2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 70*

*2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 34*

*FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 125/248*

*Comparable Schools: San Diego State University, UCLA and University of California Santa Barbara*

*Major Jewish Donors: 2023 gift of \$22 Million by Irwin and Joan Jacobs; 2021 gift of \$12 Million by Mark and Hanna Gleiberman; 2015 gift of \$100 Million by Evelyn and Ernest Rady and the Rady Family Foundation*

UC San Diego is located in one of those places that, by virtue of its beauty, must have caught God in a particularly creative moment. With its majestic setting on the Pacific, the school, despite its 1950's architectural origins, is plain beautiful. But, make no mistake: encompassing over 1,800 sun-drenched acres (about 1,200 of which sit astride the Pacific Ocean in the La Jolla part of San Diego), this school harbors top scholars. Just about every student at UCSD graduated in the top ten percent of his or her high school class.

From marine-related programs to aeronautical engineering and other engineering programs offered at the Jacobs School of Engineering, UC San Diego offers a world of opportunity to talented California students, particularly those who, for one reason or another, do not find themselves at UCLA or Berkeley. One reason for choosing UCSD may be its unique undergraduate residential college system, modeled after the Cambridge and Oxford residential college systems.

Under the residential college program, students are organized into six distinct undergraduate campuses: Muir (liberal arts, with flexible requirements), Thurgood Marshall (culture and what it means to be American), Revelle (humanities in the style of the Renaissance man and woman), Eleanor Roosevelt (the modern world and America's role in it), Warren (engineering and science) and Sixth (art and design).

Each residential college has its own identity, emphasis, philosophy, core requirements and residence halls, and each college issues its own diplomas and provides its own commencement ceremony.

Unlike a number of its peer schools, up until now UC San Diego has lacked a Division I sports program. However, on November 27, 2017, UCSD announced that it would join four other UC members schools—UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine, UC Davis and UC Riverside—in the Division I Big West Conference.

Jewish leadership at UCSD takes place under the auspices of “Triton Jewish Leaders.” According to the UCSD Hillel website, “Triton Jewish Leaders are change agents, interested in honing their skills to make college life better for their community. TJLs, with the support of a Hillel professional coach, are at the forefront of community social activism, Israel engagement and building Jewish life.”

Though Hillel has offices in Potiker House, UC San Diego does not yet have its own Hillel facility. But, this circumstance is about to change. After two previous blocked attempts, the San Diego Planning Commission in April 2017 approved (and, on October 3, 2017, the City Council confirmed) the construction of the proposed Beverly and Joseph Glickman Hillel Center, a 6,479 square-foot facility, designed by architect, Mark Steele, who also designed the Melvin Garb Hillel Center at San Diego State University. The Hillel complex will be located at the corner of La Jolla Village Drive and La Jolla Scenic Way.

The new Hillel facility should go a long way toward bolstering a Jewish student body that has seen its share of SJP-inspired events, such as the week-long series of anti-Israel programs and demonstrations that took place in May 2017. According to the following excerpt from the May 29, 2017 issue of *The Guardian*, the university’s student newspaper, one of the aims of the week was to liken the Palestinian cause to the “Black Lives Matter” movement and the US-Mexico border dispute:

Every Spring Quarter at UC San Diego, pro-Palestine groups on campus dedicate a week toward advocating their stance on Middle Eastern politics on Library Walk and around campus, naming their advocacy as “Justice for Palestine.” In response, pro-Israel activists set up their own booth, and call it “Israel Solidarity.”

The Muslim Student Association and Students for Justice in Palestine UCSD organizations both work together in order to advocate on Library Walk from May 15–18, erecting a wall filled with statements about what it means to be a Zionist (“the three basic characteristics of Zionism are: racism, expansionism, settler colonialism”), comparisons likening Israel to an “apartheid state,” and connecting the treatment of Palestinians to movements such as “Black Lives Matter” and the U.S. Mexico border.



On April 27, 2018, AMCHA, the highly-regarded pro-Israel campus watchdog organization, posted the following on its website:

Our research indicates an increasing and frightening trend that some entire college and university departments or programs are becoming politically corrupted, controlled by, and dedicated to anti-Zionist and anti-Israel beliefs. This is true of the UC San Diego Ethnic Studies Department where the chair of the department and nearly 60 percent of the tenured faculty support boycotts against Israel, and this trend poses a direct threat to Jewish students.

Studies indicates that anti-Zionist faculty are the second biggest predictor of anti-Semitism on a given campus. Schools with one or more faculty who have publicly endorsed a boycott of Israel are five to six times more likely to play host to acts of aggression against Jewish students; and the more faculty boycotters, the greater the likelihood of such anti-Semitic acts."

On the positive side, as reported by the February 26, 2021 *Jewish Journal*, on February 24, 2021, the university student government passed a resolution, with no one speaking against it, endorsing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Construction underway. See above discussion.
- *Kosher meals*: According to Hillel, the university's Ocean View Terrace offers kosher (meat) dining Monday through Friday for lunch and dinner.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at UCSD (8901 Gilman Drive, La Jolla).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Judaic Studies Program)*: 6.

## University of Florida

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 6,500 (18%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 81***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 88***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 231/248***

***Comparable Schools: Florida State University, University of Georgia, University of Maryland, University of Miami and University of Texas***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2022 \$100 million gift to the University of Florida's Scripps Biomedical Research Institute from Herbet Wertheim; 2015 gift of \$50 Million by the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Family Foundation***

The University of Florida at Gainesville, the flagship school of the University of Florida system, is one of the great academic (and sports) institutions in the country. Further, with relatively few spaces allotted for out-of-state students, the University of Florida can be very difficult for an out-of-state student to be admitted.

Florida wears its prominence well and handsomely, as typified by the campus' beautiful walkways and the ornately-windowed University of Florida Auditorium. With a student body made up largely of students who were in the top ten percent of their high school classes, a beautiful campus, comfortable weather, abundant Greek life, and one of the largest student bodies in the country, Florida occupies a perch in the Southeast comparable to the position occupied by most of the Big Ten Schools in the Midwest. But, what grabs everyone's attention is big-time athletics. In this regard, Florida's sports programs are second to none.

Florida has the largest undergraduate Jewish student population in the country. That fact, however, has not discouraged SJP from anti-Israel activity on campus, both in act and in articles in *The Gator*, the student newspaper. In February 2015, SJP disrupted a talk given by two visiting IDF soldiers. In January 2016, SJP launched a boycott of Sabra yogurt. Two months later, in March 2016, SJP convened a workshop to discuss the boycott. SJP's Facebook described the workshop as follows:

Join us as for an interactive workshop on precisely why we are boycotting Sabra. The event will feature a very cool and informative "theater of the oppressed" activity that will help us all get a better idea of where our dollars are going when we buy this evil hummus and how that plays out in the everyday lives of Palestinians!

On October 19, 2017, white supremacist, Richard Spencer, spoke at the university, amidst the jeers of hundreds of protestors. His speech, which went off without major incident, had precipitated an earlier decision by Florida's governor to declare a state of emergency in Alachua County, where the University of Florida is located.

According to the May 27, 2020, *Jewish Journal*, University of Florida's (UF) SJP chapter took down a cartoon which had been posted to UF SJP's Facebook and Twitter accounts to commemorate Nakba Day on May 15, which "depicted an Israeli soldier with a sinister grin and hooked nose opening a window." Also as reported in the *Jewish Journal* story:

The Twitter account BDS Report described it as "depicting Jews as a vampire-like creature. Their image is eerily similar to Nazi-era cartoons."

As reported by the October 12, 2023, *Wall Street Journal*, University of Florida President Ben Sasse wrote an email to the university's "Jewish Gator Alums" in which he vociferously condemned Hamas' outrageous and bestial attack on unarmed Israeli citizens and, unequivocally expressed his support for the university's Jewish community. The following are excerpts from the WSJ account:

In the face of Hamas's atrocities, some U.S. college administrators at first said little or issued equivocating mush, such as what Dartmouth College put out Tuesday in its "Statement on the Israel-Gaza War." A notable exception: University of Florida President Ben Sasse.

Here's what Mr. Sasse wrote Tuesday in an email addressed to "Jewish Gator Alums," which deserves to be quoted at length:

"I will not tiptoe around this simple fact: What Hamas did is evil and there is no defense for terrorism. This shouldn't be hard. Sadly, too many people in elite academia have been so weakened by their moral confusion that, when they see videos of raped women, hear of a beheaded baby, or learn of a grandmother murdered in her home, the first reaction of some is to 'provide context' and try to blame the raped women, beheaded baby, or the murdered grandmother. In other grotesque cases, they express simple support for the terrorists.

"This thinking isn't just wrong, it's sickening. It's dehumanizing. It is beneath people called to educate our next generation of Americans. I am

thankful to say I haven't seen examples of that here at UF, either from our faculty or our student body. . . .

"In the coming days, it is possible that anti-Israel protests will come to UF's campus. I have told our police chief and administration that this university always has two foundational commitments: We will protect our students and we will protect speech. This is always true: Our Constitution protects the rights of people to make abject idiots of themselves. . . .

"When evil raises its head, as it has in recent days, it is up to men and women of conscience and courage to draw strength from truth and commit ourselves to the work of building something better—to the work of pursuing justice and pursuing peace. That is what we aim to do through education, compassion, and truth here at the University of Florida."

Florida's president and former Nebraska senator, Ben Sasse, is the voice of moderation in an academic arena that is often rife the type of campus orthodoxy that speaks abusively of Israel and, as the events following May 7, 2023, holds in contempt any Jewish student who support its policies or even right to exist. President Sasse's May 3, 2024, Wall Street Journal article on campus unrest, entitled "The Adults Are Still in Charge at the University of Florida (Higher education isn't daycare. Here are the rules we follow on free speech and public protests)" should be required reading for any Jewish parent and can read by pressing the "Trending Campus Events" button on this website.

The following excerpt from the May 14, 2024, *Forward* is not intended to detract from President Sasse's admirable stance, but rather to illustrate the complexity of antisemitism on campus, even at a school considered a safe haven:

It's hard for Jewish students to feel isolated at UF. There are around 6,500 Jewish undergraduates here, Hillel estimates, making the school almost one-fifth Jewish. Graduate programs enroll another 2,900 Jewish students. The campus boasts vibrant outposts of Hillel and Chabad and four Jewish fraternities.

And while protests prompted Columbia University and the University of Southern California to cancel their main graduations, UF's was held May 3 with little disruption. Unlike dozens of other schools, UF has had no "Gaza Solidarity Encampment," though that's not for lack of trying. After nine arrests in late April, pro-Palestinian students have returned daily to a small "Liberation Zone" where they continue to hold events, including a Nakba Week that started Monday. Earlier this year,

DeSantis tried to ban chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine at Florida's public universities.

But despite the crackdown on protests, and the official Florida welcome to Jewish students, many of them said they feel alienated on campus, and that it's not the utopia Jewish students elsewhere may be seeking.

One freshman told me about an April protest on a lawn in the center of campus, in which she heard calls for the destruction of Israel, but also someone saying "kill all Jews."

A group mounted a protest outside Hillel in February when it hosted a speaker who had survived the Nova Music Festival massacre.

Last semester, the Chabad House was vandalized, as was the banner of a fraternity that said "AEPi stands with Israel."

"I didn't really experience antisemitism until I got here," said Gina Roginsky, an environmental science major from the New York area. Some of it came in the form of jokes she didn't find funny. "Things like heiling Hitler."

Though the Anti-Defamation League, assessing the climate for Jewish students in its campus report cards, gave UF a "B," citing incidents before and after Oct. 7, students and faculty painted a complex picture of the university, one that seemed hard to sum up in a grade.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Yes (contact Hillel for different levels of kosher meal service available).
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Lubavitch Chabad Jewish Student & Community Center at University of Florida (2021 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night and Saturday).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday, Sukkot and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 4.

## **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 3,000 (9%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 106***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 57***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 19***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 86/248***

***Comparable Schools: Georgia Tech, Penn State, Purdue, University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin***

About a two-hour's drive from Chicago, in the quintessential university town of Champagne-Urbana, sits the flagship school of the University of Illinois system and one of the best kept secrets in the Big Ten. As Illini from all walks of life are well aware, the University of Illinois is absolutely top quality in all respects. Yet, in Jewish circles, when one hears talk of schools in the Big Ten, most of the conversation is usually devoted to Northwestern, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio State and Indiana. But, it would be a mistake not to include Illinois in a listing of the premier Big Ten institutions.

Particularly, in the areas of engineering, business and technology, Illinois is bested by few other schools in the country and possesses one of the largest library systems in the world. And, from the standpoint of fun, beautiful campus, typified by the classic, cupola-clad Illini Union in the Main Quad, and athletics, the Fighting Illinois have it all. There is, however, good news and bad news coming out of the University of Illinois system. The bad news is that the state of Illinois is hemorrhaging college students with more than 19,000 going out of state in 2016—a 15% increase over 2014, according to the February 5, 2018, *Chronicle of Higher Education*. The good news is that this exodus may make it easier for out of state students to find a home at the University of Illinois.

It may be hard to believe, but there are more than 80 fraternities and sororities at Illinois. About ten percent of the school's more than 33,000 undergraduates identify themselves as Greek.

In recent years, the large number of Jewish students who attend the University of Illinois have had to deal with SJP and other anti-Semitic provocations such as the tearing down of a nine-foot menorah in front of the Chabad House in April 2015, the construction of an “apartheid wall” in April 2016 in conjunction with “Israel Apartheid Week,” and the desecration of a number of sites on campus by swastikas also in April 2016.

In early 2016, the Program in Jewish Culture & Society organized a round table discussion to consider recent episodes of racism and anti-Semitism at the University of Illinois. The president of SJP, who was one of the participants in the round table, condemned the forum, using, in part, the following language:

I have no will, no desire, and quite frankly no fucking time to deal with Zionist bullshit. The same way I don't have time to entertain the thoughts of Men's Rights Activists, Islamophobes, etc. etc. Antisemitism exists on this campus and it is disgusting. We need to work towards stopping it. Zionist privilege also exists and we need to recognize that. Hillel, IllinPAC, ISSI, Chabad, Mishelanu UIUC, JStreet U, SAIP, etc. etc. are either defunct and subject to the whims of stronger organizations or they (the stronger orgs) are actively supported by members of the Student Senate, powerful faculty members, wealthy outside donors, and especially University higher administration. I won't name names. Some of these organizations also instantiate the conflation of Zionism with Judaism, which is not only exclusive but also makes their claims of Anti-Zionism as Antisemitism self-fulfilling. To think that members of SJP will forget this and engage in friendly dialogue or “meaningful” debate is a sick and twisted fantasy. Dialogue is all you need to succeed; we need to work for it. We face opposition at every fucking level of administration, bureaucracy, and institutional discrimination.

In late October 2016, the Steinhardt Social Research Institute housed in the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University released a study derived from interviews with Birthright college students from 50 selected campuses. The study identified Illinois as one of the schools where students sense a hostile attitude toward Israel as well as a high rate of anti-Semitism. Alarming, the study found that the high incidence of anti-Semitism was not driven solely by anti-Israel animus.

Fortunately, the perceived animus toward Israel did not translate into a vote to divest from countries doing business in Israel. In March 2017, the anti-Israel forces on campus were beaten back 56.8% to 43.2% in a campus wide divestment referendum. Nevertheless, as soon as the Fall 2017 semester began, SJP, in combination with Antifa elements, sponsored a September 5, 2017, rally in which it



conflated Zionism with fascism. SJP's website urging participation in the rally read as follows:

Join SJP and other amazing, radical organizations on campus at this rally next week. There is no room for fascists, white supremacists, or Zionists at UIUC. Tuesday, September 5th @ 11:30am, Alma Mater.

In Early September 2017, two swastikas accompanied by the slogan, "I hate Jews," were found on the doors of a dormitory bathroom. In the same week, amid chants of "No Zionists, No KKK, resisting fascists all the way, SJP demonstrators, carrying a blood-stained flag of Israel, marched at a rally designated as "Smashing Fascism: Radical Resistance Against White Supremacy." Prior to the rally, SJP issued the following statement:

"We, the collective organizers of the "Smashing Fascism: Radical Resistance to White Supremacy" rally, are disgusted with the preemptive backlash our event has received. This opposition highlights the unholy union of American fascists, white supremacists, and Zionists which seeks to weaken and destroy intersectional movements for mass liberation."

Prodded by the pro-Israel, IllinisPAC, and other Jewish organizations on campus, Illinois' chancellor, Robert J. Jones, decided to speak out. In a forceful message, Jones lashed out against intolerance on campus, especially the growing use of anti-Zionist rhetoric as a foil for anti-Semitic expression. In his September 2017 message, shared on Facebook by IlliniPAC, Jones stated:

All of us at the University of Illinois are concerned about the growing national instances of intolerance, especially on college campuses. Painted swastikas, chalked epithets on sidewalks, KKK costumes and anti-Semitic attacks hidden under the guise of anti-Zionist rhetoric are all too common. Members of our Jewish, African American, Latino/a and many other residents of our diverse community find themselves asking whether they are welcome and safe here. The answer to that – whether in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, or any place in this country – must be a clear and resounding: "Yes, you are."

Even so, in early November 2017, two Illinois students were charged with a felony for having vandalized the menorah in front of the school's Chabad Center for Jewish Life.

Fortunately, there was good news from the university later in the month. On November 27, 2017, *The Daily Illini* reported that the university planned to partner with Northwestern University and the Israeli government in the construction of a

new, privately funded, \$1.2 billion center for innovative research, called the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI), to be located in the technological hub of Chicago. In October 2018, Tel Aviv University joined the DPI consortium and then, in January 2019, Hebrew University became the second Israeli university to join the effort. In April 2019, DPI announced its first round of grants focusing on the real-time monitoring of indoor air quality, the creation of scholarly gaming environments, and the development of sustainable solutions for cities.

According to the November 21, 2018, *News-Gazette*, a swastika was found in the underground tunnel located east of the campus Quad and between the Noyes and Roger Adams laboratories.

On October 14, 2019, the *Jewish Journal* reported on an October 9, 2019, campus-wide email sent by Chancellor Robert Jones' condemning anti-Semitic content in a September 25, 2019, University of Illinois staff meeting presentation. In pertinent part, the article quoted Jones as follows:

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Chancellor Robert Jones condemned the "anti-Semitic content" featured in a presentation during a Sept. 25 housing staff meeting as well as a swastika found on campus on Oct. 7.

According to Jones' Oct. 9 email to university members, a student-worker gave the presentation "in a regularly scheduled, staff development program on diversity for Housing Resident Advisors that included 11 other student-employees and one full-time staff member."

The presentation, titled "Palestine and the Great March: Palestinian Resistance to 70 Years of Israeli Terror," equates Israel with South Africa apartheid and describes Israel's Operation Protective Edge against Hamas 2014 as an "assault on Gaza." It also defines Palestinian "martyrdom" as "death which is desired by a warrior, selected with all the awareness, logic, reasoning, intelligence, understanding, consciousness, and alertness that a human being has."

"Instead of fostering dialogue, [the presentation] incited division, distrust and anger," Jones wrote. "The program allowed our students to enter an extremely challenging and potentially volatile situation without the preparation, training, education and professional oversight they needed to succeed. This is inexcusable and unacceptable. This is a failure to our students, and that is my responsibility."

He also noted that the university was investigating a swastika that was discovered in the Foreign Languages Building on Oct. 9.

In response to Chancellor Jones's email, on October 23, 2019, the Illinois student senate passed an SJP-authored resolution titled "Condemning Ignorance of Racism and Equating Anti-Zionism and Anti-Semitism," claiming that equating anti-Zionism and antisemitism was a false equivalence and a scare tactic used against Palestinians.

As set forth in an October 25, 2019, *Algemeiner* account of events surrounding the adoption of the resolution, the language had been drafted a week prior to its adoption and had then been fast tracked so that a vote would take place during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. It had also been enacted without consulting any Jewish groups on campus as reflected in the following *Algemeiner* student quote: "This resolution was written without Jewish input," Lauren Nesher—a member of the pro-Israel group IlliniPAC—said during the meeting. "Not a single Jewish cultural house was consulted, and yet it purports to speak for the campus community."

More than 400 Jewish students walked out in protest during the meeting at which the student government adopted the resolution. As to the walkout, the *Algemeiner* quoted one Jewish student as saying: "I feel that it's actually pretty ironic, this resolution has even brought our community closer together on such a common purpose and common goal of being proud to be Jews on this campus," Katsnelson said.

According to the April 4, 2020, *The Daily Illini*, on March 30, 2020, during three prescheduled University of Illinois I-Connect meetings (virtual meetings held over the Zoom teleconferencing software due to the Coronavirus pandemic), "multiple individuals bombarded the groups in a seemingly coordinated virtual hijack, bearing swastikas and shouting racial slurs."

As reported in the September 24, 2020 *Algemeiner*, on that date, the University of Illinois' student government, during the week between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur when many Jewish students would likely be home, voted in favor of a pro-BDS resolution calling for divestment from a number of companies over their alleged involvement in human rights abuses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. As reported in the *Algemeiner* account, "companies mentioned in the resolution — titled "Human Rights Violations in University Investments and Police Forces" — included Northrop Grumman, Raytheon Company, Lockheed Martin, Caterpillar and Elbit Systems."

The BDS initiative was conjoined with a Black Lives Matter initiative, placing supporters of Israel in a position where a vote against BDS could be construed as a vote against racial justice. In response, several Jewish students read a declaration of principles into the record before the vote. According to the *Algemeiner* account, the declaration of principles included the following:

"We are steadfast in our commitment to stand up for Black life and against antisemitism," they said. "As Jews who have been targets of

white supremacist hatred and feel the pain of antisemitism, we stand proudly in support of racial justice.”

“The conflation of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement with the movement for racial justice distracts from the root cause of systemic racism in America,” they added. “The introduction of Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions tactics against Israel into the movement for racial justice is a brazen attempt to give Jewish students an impossible choice between renouncing Zionism or selecting a position inconsistent with our support for human rights and the quest for equity.”

As reported in the October 23, 2020 *Jewish Insider*, the international law firm Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP and the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights filed charges on that date with the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights against the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The charges claimed that university administrators had “simply not provided the community of pro-Israel, Jewish students with a discrimination-free academic environment.”

According to the *Jewish Insider* account, the complaint “listed nearly a dozen incidents, including defacing and destroying property owned by Jewish fraternities and sororities on the campus, the repeated vandalism of the Chabad House’s menorah and the decision by a university vice chancellor to remove a Jewish student from the school’s elections commission over concerns regarding the student’s opposition to the BDS movement.”

As quoted in the *Jewish Insider* story, Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL) stated as follows that he understood students’ concerns.

“When you have an event here, an event there, you have an issue, and you need to address it,” Schneider told JI. “When you have a series of events, repeatedly and coming time and again, creating an environment where students feel that they can’t wear a Jewish star or yarmulke, can’t celebrate their passion for their faith or for their connections to the State of Israel without being verbally or in some cases physically attacked for it — it’s not an issue, it’s a real problem at that point. And it needs a response that goes across time and isn’t just at that one moment.”

As reported by the November 17, 2020 *Algemeiner*, the university announced the previous days a series of steps it would take in response to the “alarming increase in anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist harassment and discrimination” on campus, as detailed in the above-referenced complaint filed with the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights. According to the *Algemeiner* account, the university’s announcement included the following acknowledgements and statements:

“We deplore anti-Semitic incidents on campus, including those that demonize or delegitimize Jewish and pro-Israel students or compare them to Nazis,” [the statement said].

“This subjects them to double standards that are not applied to others,” the statement continued. “All Jewish students, including those who identify with Israel or Jewish campus organizations, should be able to participate in campus activities aimed at fighting racism and achieving social justice.”

“All Jewish students should be able to proudly display religious emblems without fear of being targeted by their fellow students,” the statement noted. “All Jewish students should feel confident that if they encounter a swastika on campus, the university stands with them in rejecting symbols of hate. Anti-Semitism, anti-Semitic forms of anti-Zionism and other forms of discrimination have no place at this university. We will stand united against all forms of anti-Semitism.”

According to the November 17, 2020 *JNS*, the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights announced on that date that it had opened a formal investigation into the above-referenced complaint filed by Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP and the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights, which alleged that the university had allowed a hostile environment to proliferate on its campus in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

As reported in the February 10, 2021, *Jewish Journal*, on February 8, 2021, an Israeli flag draped over a University of Illinois student’s balcony was egged.

The following appeared in the September 27, 2021, online issue of the American Jewish Committee’s Chicago Region News:

American Jewish Committee (AJC) Chicago is horrified by the recent “Globalize the Intifada” demonstration on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus and lack of response from university administration. Speakers at the rally openly glorified violence, promoted antisemitic blood libels, and specifically targeted Jewish students and Jewish organizations on campus, posing a very real threat to Jewish student safety on campus.

“No student should be targeted for their faith or nationality,” said AJC Chicago Regional Director Sarah van Loon. “The university should denounce this dangerous rhetoric and mandate compulsory counter-antisemitism training for all students.

As reported by the April 21, 2022, *Algemeiner*, “Jewish groups denounced a University student activist group for holding an anti-Israel protest outside the campus’ Hillel center during Passover. Illini Hillel executive director Erez Cohen called SJP’s actions “unacceptable.” According to the *Algemeiner* account, the Hillel director further stated:

“Our students are celebrating Passover right now, and they come here for kosher food that they can’t get anywhere else,” he told *The Daily Illini*, a campus newspaper. “We find it really unacceptable that Jewish students need to be cornered in a situation where they need to cross through a field of yelling people to come and get their religious needs answered.”

“When people come to the Jewish center to yell against Israel, they’re creating an equation between any Jewish person and the state of Israel. That’s singling out an entire community based on a country that’s miles away.”

Cohen additionally told the campus newspaper that one of the SJP protestors committed a “verbal attack,” and that another pelted an object at Illini Hillel.

On June 9, 2022, the *St. Louis Jewish Light* reported that a 23-year old Illinois student had been charged with a hate crime for throwing a rock at a Jewish student in April during an anti-Israel march on campus. As noted by the *Jewish Light*, the march had “coincided with the intermediary days of Passover and stopped in front of the Illini Hillel Cohen Center for Jewish Life.”

On December 31, 2023, the *Jerusalem Post* reported on a delegation of student leaders from the United States who had journeyed to Israel to testify before the Knesset about rising antisemitism on America’s college campuses. One student who reported on her campus experience was Samantha Levy, a sophomore at the University of Illinois. The following is the *Jerusalem Post*’s account of her report:

Samantha Levy, a sophomore at the University of Illinois describes [an] experience while at an interfaith dinner with one another Jewish student and dozens of Muslim students.

“We sit down, and I ask the girls, ‘can I sit here?’ and they’re like, ‘yeah, yeah, yeah.’ The men were praying, and when they get back from praying, one guy comes up to the table and sees I’m wearing my Jewish star, because, come on, it’s not coming off,” she asserted. “He looks at me and looks at the [Muslim] girl and then he says, ‘you know you’re sitting with a Jew?’”

The Muslim girl responded in the affirmative. “And then he said, ‘I won’t sit with a Jew.’ And then he takes his backpack and leaves,” Levy recalled. “It was during Islamic Awareness Week, and I felt very aware,” she joked.

Levy later noted that she and her Jewish friend were the last ones at the dinner because she refused to be driven away by hatred. Still, the Illinois sophomore described the incident as a small example on a campus rife with larger systems of antisemitism.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Margie K. and Louis N. Cohen Center for Jewish Life).
- *Kosher meals*: University kosher meal plan offered at no additional cost over the standard meal plan. Also, kosher lunches available at Café Sababa at the Cohen Center.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Reform, conservative and orthodox services (often attracting between 85 and 150 students).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Jewish Center at University of Illinois & Champaign-Urbana (509 South Fourth Street, Champaign).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night and Saturday afternoon).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

## **University of Maryland**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 5,800 (19%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: High (but, see ADL grade below)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 32***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 27***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 22***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 19/248***

***Comparable Schools: Ohio State, Penn State, University of Delaware, University of Illinois and University of Pittsburgh***

Long gone are the days when a high school diploma was all that was needed for admission to the University of Maryland. Today, Maryland's admissions requirements are out of sight relative to where they were 25 years ago, but with many more students admitted from out of state. Maryland's Big Ten athletic program and easy proximity by Metro to downtown Washington make it a big draw, but not at the cost of strong academics. Among many academic attractions, Maryland offers one of the nation's best honors programs for which many participants have passed up much glitzier, name brand schools.

Maryland's many quads surrounded by columned Jeffersonian-Georgian buildings make it one of the most attractive large universities in the country, as do its many superior undergraduate programs, especially business, physics and economics. College Park, where Maryland is located, does not provide the charm of, say, a Charlottesville or a Chapel Hill. However, in recent years, the College Park area has exploded with new construction aimed at making it a vibrant hub of activity. Maryland offers an extensive Greek program with more than sixty fraternities and sororities. Many of the Greek houses occupy their own horseshoe-shaped sector of the campus.

Among Jewish students, Maryland is a sufficiently attractive lure to draw one of the largest Jewish student bodies in America. In addition, Maryland has one of the largest and best Jewish Studies programs in the country. Adding to the allure of the Jewish Studies program is the fact that Maryland is one of a number of "Academic Common Market" states located in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions of the



country. This means that students who are interested in Jewish Studies but come from one of the 15 participating Mid-Atlantic and Southern states whose state colleges do not offer Jewish studies, may matriculate at Maryland and pay Maryland in-state tuition. The Academic Common Market program also extends to many other areas of study, but the Jewish Studies program at Maryland is a magnet because of the absence of such programs in a number of the other participating states.

As has been true at other campuses with large Jewish student bodies, Jewish students at Maryland have had to endure anti-Israel tactics, particularly during the Jewish Student Union's Israel Fest event held in the spring. The following account of the 2016 event, as described in the April 21, 2016, edition of *Mitzpeh*, the university's independent Jewish newspaper, tells the story:

A group of about 22 people marched onto McKeldin Mall waving Palestinian flags and chanting against what they claimed are the crimes of the Jewish state during the Jewish Student Union's Israel Fest event Tuesday. The group stayed for about a half hour and left after University police told them they were not allowed to protest there.

JSU hosts Israel Fest, a celebration of Israeli culture with games, food and giveaways, each year. The festival is the climax of Maryland Hillel's Israel Week, an event which this year included a discussion on Israel's Iron Dome defense system, a seminar on the history of Israeli fashion and an "Israel Shabbat Dinner" featuring Middle Eastern food. About 1,000 students participated in Israel Fest this year.

Israel Fest was in full swing around noon, with volunteers from dozens of Jewish student groups staffing tables and games set up on either side of the well-trafficked sidewalk on the east side of the mall, when the protesters arrived. They started their demonstration across the mall, near the library, but chose to disrupt Israel Fest by moving into the center of the festivities.

Different tactics were employed by the Muslim Political Alliance (MPA) in 2017 but with similar disruptive consequences. As reported by *Mitzpeh* in a May 3, 2017, account:

One by one, members of these organizations lined up in front of a large makeshift gray wall they constructed, which was painted with various phrases including "Israeli Apartheid" and "Free Gaza." The groups leading the boycott then read speeches and encouraged the crowd to join in on chants, such as "Free, Free, Palestine" and "From Mexico to Palestine, Border Walls are a crime."

Maryland has not only experienced challenges from pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel activists on campus. In March 2016, the University of Maryland was one of a number of colleges whose printers were hacked. The result was a printout which bore the following anti-Semitic message: "The white man if he is sick and tired of the Jews destroying your country through mass immigration and degeneracy, and calls on the white man to join in the struggle for global white supremacy."

The September 24, 2017 *Forward* contained a disturbing story about Assistant Visiting Clinical Professor Melissa Landa. According to the story, "Days after joining a pro-Israel group, Melissa Landa knew something had gone wrong: She said her mentor stopped working with her, pulling out of a conference presentation just days in advance." Then in late spring 2017, Landa received a boilerplate letter advising that her contract would not be renewed as it had been in the past. Landa believed her dismissal was attributable to having joined the pro-Israel group. In consequence, she filed a Title IX complaint against the university alleging wrongful termination on the basis of religion, and political views.

In October 2017, a swastika was found in the men's bathroom of the North Campus Dining Hall. On November 8, 2017, a BDS resolution demanding that the university divest from companies "profiting from Israel's occupation of Palestine" was brought before the Maryland student government for its first reading, but was defeated on its subsequent reading.

During October 2017, the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation, announced a record-shattering gift to the University of Maryland of \$219 million. The gift not only broke the previous record of \$31 million for a single gift to the College Park campus but was also one of the largest single gifts ever donated to a public university in the United States. Clark, a towering figure in the world of construction, had earned an engineering degree from Maryland in 1950. The engineering school had been named for Clark following a gift of \$15 million in 1994, but, as the kids say, the 2017 gift was epic.

According to the February 26, 2022, edition of the *Washington Free Beacon*, "the diversity officer at the helm of the University of Maryland's anti-Semitism task force claimed in a Facebook post that Israel was engaged in an 'ongoing genocide and ethnic cleansing of Palestine.' " The *Washington Beacon* story also stated:

Jazmin Pichardo, the assistant director for diversity training and education for the university's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, shared a series of anti-Israel posts in May 2021. Two Jewish alumni who are part of the school's Jewish Identity Programming Advisory Committee confronted Pichardo over the posts after she was put at the helm of the committee, which is tasked with fighting anti-Jewish bias on campus.

Pichardo is the latest example of a university diversity program that ignores the tribulations of Jewish students. A 2021 Heritage Foundation study found that diversity officers, hired to foster a safe and fair environment for all students, often hold hostile attitudes toward Zionist Jews. The Department of Education this month launched an investigation into the City University of New York, where professors slammed American Jews as "oppressors."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Maryland Hillel offers a full kosher meal plan.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Orthodox, reform and conservative services, as well as a daily orthodox minyan.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Bais Menachim Chabad Jewish Student Center at the University of Delaware (7403 Hopkins Avenue).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies)*: 2.

## University of Miami

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,000 (18%<)***

***SJP Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 46***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 26***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 21***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 205/248***

***Comparable Schools: Florida State, Penn State, Syracuse, University of Florida, University of Maryland and University of Pittsburgh***

***Jewish President: Julio Frenk***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2016 gift of \$100 Million by Phillip and Patricia Frost, in part, for the construction of the Phillip and Patricia Frost Science and Engineering Building, announced at the inauguration of Julio Frenk as president of the university***

The University of Miami's campus is situated in the safe and beautiful Miami suburb of Coral Gables. Walking through the campus, one has the tendency to question whether the palm-tree-clad campus with its picturesque urban lake is a large resort rather than a large campus. But, a large campus (as well as an athletic-crazy one) it is. Football has always been king at Miami and so has a healthy social life on campus.

More importantly, during the administration of former Miami president Donna Shilaleh (President Clinton's one-time Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare), the university skyrocketed academically. Now, with President Julio Frenk, the former dean of Harvard's T. H. Chan School of Public Health and the son of German-Jews who fled to Mexico to escape Nazi Germany, there is little question that Miami will continue its upward academic trajectory.

Today, Miami is a vibrant place of learning with students from all over the East and the South in attendance as well as an international body of students from Latin America. Though the school has plenty of Jewish students, it falls way short of

the more than 6,500 Jewish students at the University of Florida and the 6,000 Jewish students at the University of Central Florida.

In late October 2016, the Steinhardt Social Research Institute housed in the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University released a study derived from interviews with Birthright college students from 50 selected campuses. The study identified the University of Miami as one of several large private universities where the students interviewed perceive “very little hostility toward Israel, and virtually all of these respondents disagree that there is a hostile environment toward Jews.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and Holidays. Also, café style meals available at Hillel’s new UKrave Café.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Reform and conservative.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at University of Miami (1251 Hardee Road, Coral Gables).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; and Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Delta Tau.

## University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,000 (>5%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: F***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 87***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 82***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 174/248***

***Comparable Schools: Davidson, Emory, University of Virginia, Vanderbilt, Wake Forest and William & Mary***

Steeped in tradition since its founding in 1795 as the first publicly-supported university in America, the University of North Carolina is a southern university with a very sophisticated, cosmopolitan drawl. Located in the charming Research Triangle Park community of Chapel Hill, UNC has always connoted class and excellence.

UNC's 700-plus-acre, tree-shaded campus features an arboretum, two quads (Polk and McCorkle), and a bell tower (Morehead-Patterson), and has overtones of both Princeton and Vanderbilt. Old West, UNC's iconic, neoclassical rotunda graces the campus and is UNC's most recognizable landmark.

UNC's academics are excellent, bested in the public college world by only a handful of schools such as UVA, UC Berkeley and Michigan, a fact not lost on the many residents of North Carolina who throng to UNC's hallowed halls. In the last century, UNC produced more Rhodes Scholars than any other public university, save for the University of Virginia. Recipients of the Moorhead-Cain Scholarship—one of the most prestigious in the public college world—have, by themselves, produced more than two-dozen Rhodes scholars.

UNC is down the road from Duke, its principal in-state rival. But, while Duke enjoys greater national prominence, Carolina is the traditional school for Carolinians, even, in many cases, those who would qualify for Duke. Indeed, the large contingent of Carolinians who attend UNC makes it difficult for out-of-staters to get in, with only about 15% of out of state applicants being admitted.

Duke-Carolina basketball games are legendary, with students often camping out tag-team style to ensure tickets. Each team has produced a basketful of national

champions, most recently, in UNC's case, its defeat of Michigan State in the 2009 basketball finals and its defeat of Gonzaga for the 2017 championship. However, UNC's athletic prominence has come at a heavy price, the aftershock of which may not yet be fully felt. In 2013, it was revealed that a generation of athletes, primarily athletes in basketball and football, had been steered to classes, some of them practically nonexistent, in the university's African and Afro-American Studies program where plagiarism was rife and little was required for high grades. An investigation of the scandal resulted in no serious penalties, but, according to an op-ed in the November 30, 2017, *News Observer*, the investigation cost the university over \$10 million dollars on law firm and public relations fees.

Greek life at UNC is huge. There are about 3,000 Greeks on campus, with Greek students having a higher average GPA than their non-Greek counterparts. There are almost 50 fraternities and sororities on campus. Of these, there are 23 fraternity houses and 9 sorority houses, with about 900 students living in these facilities.

There have been several instances at UNC in which Israel was demonized or a boycott against Israel was proposed. Most notably, according to the February 11, 2015, edition of the school newspaper, the *Daily Tarheel*, the UNC Students for Justice in Palestine led a group of more than seventy students in walking out on a speech that focused on Christian-Israel solidarity. As reported by the *Daily Tarheel*:

The Union's Great Hall was silent except for the sound of footsteps exiting the room. "Good riddance," cried out a member of the audience as more than 70 students left the event hosted by UNC Christians United for Israel on Tuesday night. Guest speaker, Dumisani Washington, stood speechless at the podium. The room was quiet, but he heard the message loud and clear. "You could cut this tension with a knife," Washington said. Christians United for Israel, an organization that aims to combat anti-Semitism at UNC, invited Washington to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, specifically the controversial topic of Martin Luther King Jr.'s opinion of Israel. The event was associated with a message of black solidarity with Israel--a campaign supported by Washington. But with this stance came opposition from students who do not share the same views.

On August 1, 2017, North Carolina's legislature enacted the Campus Free Speech Act, a law aimed at imposing penalties for those who "substantially interfere with the protected free expression of others." The UNC Board of Governors adopted a free speech policy based on the law on December 15, 2017. Under the policy, students who have violated the free speech precepts more than once, by "substantially disrupting" the functioning of the university or by "substantially interfering" with the

free expression rights of others, may be suspended in the case of a second offense and expelled in the case of a third offense.

On the heels of the Free Speech Act, much of the oxygen at the Chapel Hill campus was consumed by September 2017 protests against “Silent Sam,” a statue of a Confederate soldier then prominently situated in McCorkle Place on the UNC campus. Following the protests, the October 3, 2017, *Daily Tarheel*, reported that an attorney for the protesters sent a letter to the UNC administration stating that Silent Sam violated federal anti-discrimination laws, created a racially hostile environment and violated the university’s anti-discrimination policy.”

For a more extensive account of the “Chicago Principles,” see the University of Chicago profile set forth earlier in this guide.

In late August 2018, the night before classes were scheduled to begin, a large group of protestors took matters in their own hands and toppled Silent Sam. On December 4, 2018, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that the University of North Carolina had announced a proposal for the future of Silent Sam. According to the *Chronicle* account:

The monument would be housed in a yet-to-be-built center for history and education. If the university system's Board of Governors approves, the \$5.3-million facility would be finished by 2020 and cost \$800,000 annually to operate.

However, according to the December 17, 2018, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, after a series of protests including a strike by teaching assistants, the university’s Board of Governors rejected that plan. During the early morning hours of January 15, 2019, the base on which Silent Sam stood was removed. That news, welcomed by many, was eclipsed by the announcement of Carol Folt, the university’s chancellor, that she was resigning her post.

As reported in the April 12, 2019, *Jewish Journal*, North Carolina’s Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz said in a statement he was “heartbroken” over an anti-Semitic song that was performed at a joint UNC-Duke University conference on the Gaza Strip that occurred in March 2019. The *Journal* account emphasizes the culture of anti-Semitism that pervaded the event:

The event occurred from March 22-24 on UNC’s campus; filmmaker Ami Horowitz attended the conference on March 22 and caught audio of various attendees promulgating the anti-Semitic trope that Jewish money wields enormous power in politics as well as one attendee spreading the falsehood that Israel forcibly sterilized Ethiopian refugees. Horowitz also asked an unidentified professor on camera about the recent uptick in blacks committing hate crimes against Jews in New



York City, prompting the professor to respond, “Blacks have a lot of... reason to be angry at Jews now.”

But what has received the most attention from Horowitz’s video was a performance during the conference by the rapper Tamer Nafer, who tells the audience before the song, “I need your help. I cannot be anti-Semitic alone.” Nafer then tells the crowd to think of Mel Gibson during the song, not Beyonce or Rihanna. Gibson infamously ranted during his DUI arrest in 2006 that “Jews are responsible for all the wars in the world” and shouted “f\*\*\* Jews!”

Nafer can be seen singing to the audience, “I fell in love with a Jew... her skin is white and my skin is brown, she was going up up and I was going down.”

On September 27, 2019, UNC Hillel announced that it had formed a partnership with the university to address anti-Semitism on campus. The following is from the Hillel announcement of the partnership:

University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz said in a statement on April 12 that he was “heartbroken” over an anti-Semitic song that was performed at a joint UNC-Duke University conference in March about the Gaza Strip.

The event occurred from March 22-24 on UNC’s campus; filmmaker Ami Horowitz attended the conference on March 22 and caught audio of various attendees promulgating the anti-Semitic trope that Jewish money wields enormous power in politics as well as one attendee spreading the falsehood that Israel forcibly sterilized Ethiopian refugees. Horowitz also asked an unidentified professor on camera about the recent uptick in blacks committing hate crimes against Jews in New York City, prompting the professor to respond, “Blacks have a lot of... reason to be angry at Jews now.”

But what has received the most attention from Horowitz’s video was a performance during the conference by the rapper Tamer Nafer, who tells the audience before the song, “I need your help. I cannot be anti-Semitic alone.” Nafer then tells the crowd to think of Mel Gibson during the song, not Beyonce or Rihanna. Gibson infamously ranted during his DUI arrest in 2006 that “Jews are responsible for all the wars in the world” and shouted “f\*\*\* Jews!”

Nafer can be seen singing to the audience, “I fell in love with a Jew... her skin is white and my skin is brown, she was going up up and I was going down.”

Horowitz also notes at the end of the video that the conference received a federal grant that totaled almost \$250,000.

Guskiewicz said in an April 12 statement, “A performance during a recent conference held on our campus contained disturbing and hateful language. Like many members of our community, I am heartbroken and deeply offended that this performance happened.”

“I stand steadfast against anti-Semitism and hate in all its forms,” Guskiewicz said. “The Carolina spirit is not about hateful language that divides us, but about civil discourse that advances ideas and knowledge. We must continue to aspire together to that ideal.”

Duke University President Vincent E. Price and Provost Sally Kornbluth said in a joint statement on April 11, “Anti-Semitism is one of the great scourges of modern life. Its resurgence, as demonstrated by the worldwide increase in hate crimes and incidents, is deeply troubling and should be of great concern to any civil society.”

“Whether it occurs on our campus, in our community, through graffiti, rallies or concerts, in conference rooms or courtrooms, we must all speak out forcefully against actions and statements that target and threaten members of our Jewish community,” they said.

Prior to Hillel’s announcement, the *Associated Press* reported on July 15, 2019, that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said her department was investigating the conference.

As reported by the April 13, 2018, *The News and Observer*, UNC’s Faculty Council adopted by a vote of 22-4 what it called the “Chicago principles.” As set forth in the *News and Observer* account:

The so-called Chicago principles were first put forth by the University of Chicago three years ago and have since been embraced by dozens of other universities, including Princeton and Purdue. In 2016, a University of Chicago dean wrote to incoming freshmen, touting the principles and informing students that the university did not support

speech limitations in the form of safe spaces or trigger warnings about difficult topics.

Even so, a February 5, 2020, UNC study entitled, “Free Expression and Constructive Dialogue at the University Of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,” contained the following concerning finding in paragraph 2 of its Executive Summary:

Specifically, although most students perceive that instructors generally adopt an inclusive posture in the classroom, many students also worry that if they express their sincere political views openly, instructors and/or peers will think less of them, or do something to embarrass them. Some students even worry their course grades might be affected, and a substantial proportion of students—24.1% to 67.9%, depending on student ideology—report engaging in self-censorship (Finding 5). Overall, though, students report worrying more about censure from fellow students than faculty (Finding 7).

On January 26, 2021, the *Algemeiner* reported that police at the Chapel Hill campus had issued two arrest warrants in connection with racist and antisemitic graffiti discovered in a building on campus.

Also as reported by the *Algemeiner* on August 9, 2021, the university will offer a recurring course during the fall 2021 semester, entitled “The Conflict over Israel/Palestine.” The course will be taught by PhD student Kylie Broderick. According to the *Algemeiner*:

Broderick promotes the view that Israel should not exist, has publicly demanded that “everyone at UNC ... boycott Israeli products,” and believes students should be taught to reject Zionism.

Broderick urges graduate students to “speak the f\*\*\* up” against what she calls the “ethnic cleansing” of “Palestine,” and declared that a student who failed to do so is a “coward.”

Broderick has publicly stated that boycotting Israel is “the only choice” and expects “university Middle East academic programs and centers” to issue “solidarity statements” with Palestinians.

But despite Broderick’s clear anti-Israel bias, the university is defending its decision to have her teach a class on the topic this Fall.

Also as noted in the foregoing *Algemeiner* story:

Marion Robboy, a member of the UNC Board of Advisors to the University's Center for Jewish Studies, wrote to 15 university leaders: "Broderick's very public anti-Israel positions — including her demand that all of UNC engage in a boycott of Israel — will make it exceedingly difficult if not impossible to have open and fair classroom discussions ... UNC cannot have students, when expressing their opinions, worry that the teacher's hostility directed at them may well affect their grades."

On August 6, North Carolina Hillel issued a statement on Broderick's class, stating, "We fear that students who support and have a connection with Israel will be unwelcome or unsafe in this class, impinging on their academic freedom."

The accusations of anti-Semitism regarding Broderick's social media posts were picked up in an August 27, 2021, article by Jonah Kaplan of *ABC 11 Eyewitness News*. The article quotes UNC sophomore Abigail Adams as follows:

There are accusations of antisemitism on the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's campus, specifically in an academic discourse surrounding Israel and the Middle East, and an alleged blindspot for it -- spurring a new complaint filed to the U.S. Department of Education.

"I think it's so offensive because it invalidates a lot of Jewish history and my personal identity," sophomore Abigail Adams told ABC11. "Just replace Zionist with Jew and it's pretty obvious it's anti-Semitic."

Adams, a political science major, hoped to enroll in a course entitled "The Conflict Over Israel and Palestine" this fall. Like many students before signing up for a class, Adams looked up the course's instructor - Kylie Broderick - and uncovered a series of posts on social media that immediately caught her attention. Among them, references to "Zionist dirtbags" and the U.S. as an "imperialist death cult."

"It feels very unprofessional to me, and not that all graduate students and professors have to be professional, but it felt very violent and in your face," Adams explained. "I want to learn about different perspectives. That's why I wanted to take the class in the first place, but I don't think it's fair for any student to worry about getting a lower grade because of their opinion in anything, even if it wasn't such a complex geopolitical issue."

The *ABC 11 Eye Witness News* article continues by noting that:

Broderick has since deleted her Twitter account, but several screenshots of her past posts obtained by the ABC11 I-Team also show

unabashed support of the "BDS" movement, which advocates for a boycott of Israeli products, divesting from companies that do business in Israel, and sanctioning the Jewish State (The North Carolina General Assembly passed a law outlawing state agencies from endorsing or promoting BDS). She has also expressed support for the notion that Israel should not exist.

Following weeks of controversy surrounding Broderick's course on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the September 27, 2021 *Algemeiner* reported that UNC Chancellor Kevin M. Guskiewicz described a new program with Hillel International's Campus Climate Initiative, pledging to "learn best practices for cultivating a positive campus climate where all students are comfortable expressing their identity and values."

The following excerpts are from a September 2, 2022, *The Daily Tar Heel* op-ed written by a UNC student in response to a previous op-ed that had mischaracterized the Taglit Birthright program at UNC:

We unequivocally condemn threats made to anyone or a journalist for their opinion but reserve the right to respond to some of the disinformation that was conveyed in a recent op-ed about our community. As Jewish student leaders at UNC Hillel who went on a Taglit Birthright trip to Israel this summer, it is important for us to share our perspective on what we see as a problematic op-ed published in and subsequently removed from the DTH last week titled "When Studying Abroad Becomes Political."

\*\*\*\*\*

The op-ed failed to mention the religious significance of the land of Israel to the Jewish people. It gave a false narrative of our Birthright experience that was not based on the actual content of the trip, but rather it focused solely on the political landscape of Israel and not the other significant aspects that a trip like Birthright has for Jewish students. And even more damaging, it targeted the Jewish students on this campus as deserving of special scrutiny and condemnation.

On October 16, 2023, the *Algemeiner* reported that five days after Hamas' bloody invasion of Israel, UNC's SJP held a "Day of Resistance Protest for Palestine." According to the *Algemeiner* account, "the event flier celebrated terrorism by featuring a Hamas paraglider en route to kill, rape, and kidnap Israeli. SJP encouraged protesters to wear "face coverings."

According to the November 14, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, the following are some of the things that professor E. Chebrolu said during a class titled, "Rhetoric and

Public Issues” (COMM 170) on October 17, 2023, ten days after Hamas’ deadly attack against defenseless Israeli civilians:

“The majority of Palestinians are children. They are seen as legitimate targets of violence.”

“Israel and the United States do not give a shit about international law or war crimes.”

“White nationalists like Richard Spencer see Israel as a model to be emulated.”

“The attack by Hamas was not senseless, there is context.”

The following is excerpted from a December 1, 2023, account by an *Algemeiner* reporter who attended a pro-Hamas event hosted by numerous UNC departments, entitled “No Peace Without Justice: A Round-Table Talk about Social Justice in Palestine”:

One of the speakers, Dr. Rania Masri, said: “Oct. 7 for many of us from the region was a beautiful day. It was the day in which we saw that, we saw our brothers, we saw our fathers, we saw men break out of a concentration camp.”

Then speaking with pride and admiration for Hamas and their paragliders, she continued: “So for many of us, the question is, how did they learn that? How did they develop those paratroopers? Where did they get those skills? How, how, after a hundred years of having a military boot on your neck, could you still develop the technique and the resilience to literally fly? That is what Oct. 7 means to many of us. And I just want to be very frank about it and not be in the least bit apologetic of the violence of the oppressed or the occupied.”

Panelist and UNC doctoral student Kylie Broderick was the only speaker who participated via Zoom. She was projected on a huge screen above the in-person panelists. While Masri spoke her hateful words, Broderick nodded along in approval. The Reverend Mark Davidson spoke about five minutes after Masri, pronouncing, “I agree with everything my colleagues have said.”

Masri went on to call Zionism a “cancer,” and President Biden a “racist Zionist.” Masri said: “Let us demand the eradication of Zionism. Let us have that be our goal.”

There were seven panelists, two moderators, and UNC professors present. No one appeared concerned by what Masri said, or challenged

her. Further, the absence of a question-and-answer period meant that nothing could be challenged by audience members.

After introductions, the audience was shown a short film titled “Gaza Concentration Camp,” chosen by panelist Dr. Frances Hasso from Duke’s Department of Sociology. The film narrator stated that on Oct. 7, “Palestinians didn’t break through a border to enter Israel.” She added, “They destroyed a fence separating them from the homes they were forced out of.” The film portrayed Hamas’ massacre of Israelis as people simply going home. The film did not mention Hamas’ killing of 1,200 Israelis, taking more than 240 hostages, and raping and torturing many others.

As reported by the December 27, 2023, *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, the Department of Education opened a Title VI investigation against the UNC stemming from the foregoing episode as well as the following episode reported by the *Telegraph*:

A Communications professor, E. Chebrolu, allegedly stated during two different classes that “Israel and the United States do not give a shit about international law or war crimes” and that Israel is “a clearly fascist state committing a genocide under the guise of it supposedly being the only democracy in the Middle East.”

The following account from the May 2, 2024, *Forward Antisemitism Notebook* illustrates what could possibly be an emerging trend on campuses in conservative-leaning states where anti-Zionist protesters on state campuses are perceived as having gone too far:

[O]n college campuses themselves, most of the students who have been actively opposing the Gaza solidarity encampments and demonstrating in defense of Israel [are young Jews](#), a generally liberal group.

That’s why I was struck by what happened at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, early Tuesday morning. Before dawn, riot police raided a tent encampment at the center of campus, detaining dozens of students and barricading the lawn.

A few hours later, hundreds of students pulled down the barricades and took down the enormous American flag flying at the center of the area, replacing it with a Palestinian one.

That act seemed to shake something loose at the school, where I’d been just a few days before, reporting on how the war had changed the campus climate.

Police charged the crowd using pepper spray and regained control of the flagpole, escorting Lee Roberts, a Republican banker who is serving as the school's interim chancellor, to march in and restore the U.S. flag.

Jacob Ginn, a Jewish graduate student from Chicago who had helped organize the tent encampment with Students for Justice in Palestine, described the scene to me: "In the first row, you have police trying to clear and attack — punching people and throwing them to the ground — and behind them is the chancellor with this group of Zionists carrying the Israeli flag, these right-wing people carrying the American flag and then some fraternity brothers."

After Roberts had hoisted the Stars and Stripes, he stopped to pose for photos and shake hands with a supportive crowd who had been chanting "USA, USA" and singing the national anthem.

"That flag will stand here as long as I am chancellor," Roberts said. He then pledged to keep Jews safe and, according to the student newspaper, [walked away](#) when asked about his message for Palestinian students.

The following is from the August 27, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, which, if signed by the governor, should assist in efforts to combat antisemitism at the Chapel Hill campus:

North Carolina lawmakers on Wednesday passed legislation which would adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, taking a step toward joining dozens of other US states that have done so already to fight a surge of anti-Jewish hatred across the country.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (North Carolina Hillel, based in Chapel Hill, and serving campuses throughout North Carolina).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes (attracting weekly between 70-100 students).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.



Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Rohr Chabad of UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University (as suggested by its name, this Chabad also serves Duke)(6514 Glen Forest Drive, Chapel Hill).
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Carolina Center for Jewish Studies):* 8.

## University of Texas Austin

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 2,750 (7%)(down from high of 3,500 (9%))

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No, but the anti-Zionist Palestine Solidarity Committee is active on campus

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Moderate

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade:*** B

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 79

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 120

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 36

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 239/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Texas A&M, UCLA, University of Southern California and University of Wisconsin

***Major Jewish Donors:*** 2020 gift of \$20 Million by Arthur M. Blank; 2006 gift of \$50 Million by the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation; 2013 gift of \$50 Million by the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation

Deep in the heart of Texas, there is a knockout school, with the largest endowment of any public university in America (\$26.535 billion in 2017 for the UT system). The school attracts a lot of Jewish students and has a very fine Hillel.

The University of Texas is, of course, in Texas. But Austin is an easy, liberal-leaning place with a nicer climate than most places in Texas. It has a feel very much like that of Madison, Wisconsin, or Ann Arbor, Michigan. But, the University of Texas is decidedly southern. Kids from the North should give it a pretty solid vetting before deciding to take the plunge.

UT is located a stone's throw away from the beautiful, domed state capital. Most of UT's buildings are uniformly built in an attractive stucco and tiled roof style. At the center of the campus is the university bell tower, beautiful in appearance, but scarred by the memory of a deranged student, Charles Whitman, who, on August 1, 1966, took over the tower and shot and killed 14 unsuspecting students. The memory of that day had long since dimmed until, fifty years later almost to the day, the issue of guns on campus was again brought to the fore with the enactment of Texas' 2016 "campus carry" law, permitting students to carry concealed weapons on campus.

Solid in just about all fields of academia, the university is especially known for its law school, and with oil money galore, the sky is the limit. Speaking of the stratosphere, Texas' football teams have hovered in that rarified environment for many decades. The team is a member of the Big Twelve athletic conference.

As reported by the April 22, 2015, *Daily Texan*: "After weeks of contentious debate, the Student Government Assembly voted against a divestment resolution which would have asked the Investment Management Company of the UT System (UTIMCO) to pull investments from five corporations the resolution claimed "facilitate[d] the oppression of the Palestinian people by the State of Israel."

Each year Texas Hillel and Texans for Israel throw an annual block party, which often attracts more than 1,000 Jewish students. However, for years, as Jewish students have enjoyed Israeli food and talked about Israeli culture at the block party, students from the UT Palestine Solidarity Committee, which describes itself as "a student organization at UT-Austin dedicated to telling the story of Palestinian struggle for justice and self-determination," has held a protest across the street. In March 2016, the protest was held in conjunction with the so-called "Israel Apartheid Week." The Palestine Solidarity Committee's Facebook page announced the protest as follows: "The protest will occur outside the Israel Block Party, a Pro-Israel branding campaign masquerading as a cultural festival. We argue that year after year the organizers of IBP have contributed or participated in whitewashing the crimes of Israeli apartheid and expropriating elements of Palestinian culture and cuisine in order to promote a false sense of indigeneity."

On August 21, 2017, in the wake of the white nationalist engendered violence at the University of Virginia, officials at the University of Texas quietly removed four Confederate statues on campus.

On March 9, 2021, the university adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism. The following, from the March 16, 2021 *Jewish Journal* account of the action, provides background to the school's decision to adopt the IHRA definition:

The resolution, which was obtained by the Journal, states that adopting IHRA became necessary following a spate of recent anti-Semitic incidents on campus, including a Jewish fraternity house being spray-painted with the words "Samys R Jews LOL, Samys' Js Rape" and a then-professor comparing Jews to bacteria in an April 2020 Twitter thread.

"In light of recent anti-Jewish hatred, vandalism, and endangerment, the University of Texas Student Government wholeheartedly issues its

support for its Jewish students; and, be it resolved, that the University of Texas Student Government pledges to combat future anti-Jewish hatred by adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's 'Working Definition of Antisemitism' and its included examples, which have worldwide bipartisan support, including that now from the newly elected Biden administration," the resolution states.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Topfer Center for Jewish Life at the beautiful Abe & Annie Seibel Building).
- *Kosher meals*: limited meal plan during the week; meals available Shabat and during the High Holidays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes, four different options.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center at UT (2101 Nueces Street).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies)*: 2.

## University of Washington

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,500 (5%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No, but a chapter of Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights is active on campus***

***Level of BDS Activity: High***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 148***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 109***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 32***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 178/248***

***Comparable Schools: University of Colorado, University of California Davis, UCLA, University of California San Diego and USC***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2023 gift of \$20 Million by Steve and Connie Ballmer to the University of Washington Medicine; 2020 gift of \$10 Million by Steve and Connie Ballmer***

The University of Washington is one of the really fine state universities on the West Coast or anyplace else for that matter. During the 2017-18 academic year, Washington was tied for the second largest number of Fulbright scholars in America.

Overlooking Portage Bay, with views of both the Cascade and Olympic ranges, the location of the university is stellar and is rivaled only by its beautiful campus. The cathedral-like Suzzallo Library, with its view of Mt. Rainier, is among the most impressive of Washington's many attractive buildings, a number of which now bear the names of Microsoft founders, Bill Gates and Paul Allen.

Washington offers a variety of outstanding academic pursuits, including highly ranked programs in business, computer science, education, engineering and nursing. At the graduate level, Washington's medical school is nationally recognized. Among the university's graduates are Nobel Prize winners George J. Stigler (economics 1982), George H. Hitchings (medicine 1988), Martin Rodbell (physiology/medicine 1994) and Linda B. Buck (biology 2004).

Washington is a member of the Pac-12 athletic conference and has fielded outstanding athletic teams in recent years, particularly football. In August 2013, Washington completed the renovation of its football stadium at a cost of \$280 Million.

Anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment on the Washington campus is a reality. Perhaps, the most disheartening, recent episode occurred in May 2016 and involved a book by renowned 19th Century German-Jewish author and poet, Heinrich Heine. According to an opinion piece in the June 24, 2016, *Seattle Times*, burned pages from one of Heine's books were scattered outside the University of Washington Hillel building in an unmistakable message of contempt and anti-Semitism. Ironically, it was Heine who famously wrote "Where they burn books, they will also ultimately burn people." The following June, chalked anti-Semitic slogans were found on campus, including "Stop the (((Bankers)))" (the triple parentheses being a symbol used by hate groups to troll Jews).

During January and February 2017, fliers with swastikas were found on campus on two separate occasions and a swastika was found painted on the Wesley Club, an LGBTQ campus ministry organization. One of the fliers said, "Look out! The Nazis have come to town!" Also, in February 2017, the pro-Palestinian campus group Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights (SUPER-UW) tried to shut down an Israel education display that had been set up by students affiliated with the Coalition of Husky Allies for Israel (CHAI-UW). The display featured posters, brochures, Israeli chocolates and pro-Israel literature. The CHAI-UW students were anticipating a week of open discussion. Instead, according to the February 19, 2017, online publication *Israellycool*, "anti-Israel students, believed to be affiliated with anti-Israel organization SUPER-UW, tried to shut them down."

Earlier in the month, a February 7, 2017, article in the student newspaper, *The Daily*, about SUPER-UW's forthcoming "Israel Apartheid Week," described SUPER UW's objectives as follows:

One of the major concerns of SUPER UW is to ask the university to divest from several companies that profit from Israel's occupation of Palestinian land. A prominent company on their list is Caterpillar, which SUPER UW says produces militarized bulldozers specifically for Israel to destroy Palestinian homes. Another company on their list is Sabra Dipping Company, whose hummus is sold in the District Market.

According to the May 5, 2019, *Mike Report*, SUPER UW failed in its attempt to prevent University of Washington Hillel from participating in the school's Middle Eastern Student Commission Culture Festival, an annual festival that celebrates the cultures of the Middle East.

As reported in the March 2, 2022, *Jerusalem Post*, Rebecca Benaroya, a prominent Seattle philanthropist, who had given \$5 million to the University of Washington in 2016 to create the University of Washington's Israel Studies program, took back her donation. The withdrawal followed numerous meetings with the professor who held the Jack and Rebecca Benaroya Endowed Chair in Israel Studies

following the latter's participation in a widely circulated statement by Israel and Jewish studies teachers criticizing Israel.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Karen Mayers Gamoran Family Center for Jewish Life):
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and Holidays. Otherwise, kosher meals available at Café Levine (located at the Gamoran Family Center for Jewish Life) Monday through Thursday.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Weekly conservative, reform and pluralistic services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center at the University of Washington (17th Avenue NE and NE 52nd Street, Seattle)
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Jewish Studies Program)*: 3.



## **University of Wisconsin Madison**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 4,200 (13%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest (but, see ADL grade below)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 108***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 160***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 6***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 60/248***

***Comparable Schools: Boston University, Case Western, NYU, Tulane, UCLA, University of Michigan, USC***

***Jewish Chancellor: Rebecca Blank***

Wisconsin's location on the southern shore of Lake Mendota, size (more than 43,000 undergraduate and graduate students), big time athletics, school spirit, liberal history and array of highly-rated courses and teachers makes it a winner among Jewish students from all over the country. This Big Ten institution is located in the perfect college town (and state capital) of Madison. Wisconsin has a super-sized, but manageable, campus, a diverse and very selective student body, and, not surprisingly, its own dairy farm.

If, for Jewish students, the University of Michigan has been the universal backup to the Ivy League schools, then, until recently, the University of Wisconsin has been the universal backup to the University of Michigan. However, times have changed at Wisconsin and, today, countless Wisconsin kids (many of them Jewish) will tell you that Wisconsin was their first choice, even, in many cases, when they could have gone to Michigan.

Why the popularity? Perhaps it's the huge variety of courses (the Madison campus has it all (there is no instate equivalent of, say, a Michigan State University), or, perhaps, it's Wisconsin's insistence on maintaining manageable class sizes, despite having a very large student body, or, perhaps, it's Wisconsin's attractive peninsula setting astride a beautiful, sailboat-clad lake.

Whatever the case, Wisconsin has always been popular with Jewish students and likely will stay that way. However, of late, that popularity has had to contend with a decidedly anti-Israel current on campus, typified by the pro-BDS vote of the university's Teaching Assistants' Association in May 2016. The vote occurred following the appearance of a rash of swastikas and swastika-like Wolfsangel symbols on campus. As reported by the April 22, 2016, *Badger Herald*, the university's student newspaper, nine instances of the symbols occurred just prior to the BDS vote:

With more anti-Semitic graffiti found on and around the University of Wisconsin campus, community leaders are emphasizing the need for a campus culture change. According to police and witness reports, at least nine instances of graffiti featuring the Wolfsangel, a symbol of the Nazi party, have been found in various locations on and off UW campus.

In late October 2016, the Steinhardt Social Research Institute housed in the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University released a study derived from interviews with Birthright college students from 50 selected campuses. The study identified Wisconsin as one of the schools where students sense a hostile attitude toward Israel as well as a high rate of anti-Semitism. Alarmingly, the study found that the high incidence of anti-Semitism was not driven solely by anti-Israel animus.

On March 29, 2017, after hours of heated debate, a BDS resolution sponsored by the Associated Students of Madison ("ASM") was indefinitely postponed largely due to the opposition of more than 200 Jewish students.

Not satisfied with the postponement, students opposed to Israel again presented anti-Israel resolutions at an ASM meeting held on April 12, 2017, this despite a prior request by Jewish students not to raise any Israel-related issues at that time due to the fact that many such students would be away for Passover.

Then, on April 26, 2017, without notice to the student body and less than a month after the March 29, 2017, tabling of the original BDS resolution, a similar resolution in the form of an amendment was hastily attached at the last minute to an otherwise non-specific resolution that focused on corporations who profited from human rights violations. After the amended resolution passed, ASM's only Jewish member decried the deceptive process employed by the ASM in allowing amendments that reintroduced the BDS resolution, without alerting the student body to the intended procedural tactics in advance of the debate. Her concerns were greeted with ridicule and expletives. Hillel called the vote a sham.

When the university's chancellor, Rebecca Blank, issued a statement disavowing the ASM vote and noting that the administration had "heard clearly from the Jewish community how targeted they feel by the actions of the last month," the

ASM responded by calling for Chancellor Blank's resignation. According to the April 27, 2017 *Daily Cardinal*, the ASM's response also claimed that the "quick, passionate statement from administration ultimately serves to maintain white supremacy as the university hasn't made similar statements during the numerous acts of discrimination against black communities."

In early May 2017, the Associated Students of Madison Student Judiciary voided the intervening April 12, 2017, vote that took place during Passover on the ground that the process discriminated against Jewish students. As reported by the May 10, 2017 *Wisconsin Badger Herald*, the Judiciary's determination was based on the following grounds:

"Holding the April 12 meeting on Passover did not automatically violate the ASM Constitution," Olson [the student judiciary's chief judge] wrote. "Introducing legislation that members of the Jewish community had expressed interest in, when it was known that these members would not be able to attend due to religious observance, does violate the Constitution."

In addition, Olson wrote it was "wholly unacceptable" to discriminate against Jewish students by denying them the ability to speak during a student council [meeting] about an issue they were interested in.

On June 21, 2017, the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law wrote a letter to Chancellor Blank decrying the April 27, 2017 ASM vote, applauding the university for its condemnation of the vote and urging further action. The letter is noteworthy because of the harrowing scene it describes both during and in the wake of the ASM meeting based on an audio transcript of the meeting. The following are excerpts from the letter:

The comments made during and in the wake of the ASM meetings demonstrate a lack of understanding and respect for Jewish students and the Jewish religion. Some statements demonstrated gross insensitivity, at best, as well as negative ethnic and racial stereotypes. They include, for example, sweeping offensive generalizations. Jewish students present at the various ASM meetings, and students who attempted to speak up on behalf of Jewish students, felt targeted and harassed. Some of the discriminatory statements and actions that occurred include the following:

Several speakers likened Jewish students to white supremacists. For example, a student member of the organization Students for Justice in Palestine said, "Judaism is not Israel, Israel is not Judaism. This is not about the Jewish community on campus, it is about the Zionist community, and these two are mutually exclusive . . . We stand for black,

brown and indigenous lives and are sick of being silenced by your white supremacist voice” (see Audio of April 26 ASM Meeting, beginning at 1:26:12). In this problematic statement, the speaker denied the fact that Israel is central to Jewish identity and likened all statements that come from non-black, brown, or indigenous people as statements coming from white supremacists. She essentially lumped together all individuals against this legislation, a great majority of whom were Jewish, into one group and labeled them White Supremacists.

\*\*\*\*\*

Several students sought to intimidate the Jewish students in the room by changing the direction of the podium to face the small group of Jewish students who were sitting together, and directing their comments at the Jewish students. One student said, “clearly I’d like to address the elephant in the room . . . clearly I’m talking to you” looking directly at [name redacted] (see Audio at 1:19).

\*\*\*\*\*

Students acted disrespectfully when Jewish students, or their allies, attempted to speak. For example, after ASM members introduced their carefully orchestrated BDS amendments, there was debate on the amendments. Chair [name redacted] spoke for the first time, expressing concern with the amendments, asking to what extent the ASM could add amendments that were similar, if not the same, to legislation that was tabled indefinitely at the March 29th meeting. When she finished speaking, lots of Pepsi cans were opened in what appeared to be a coordinated effort. Some ASM members opened the cans directly into their microphones. (Someone brought several cases of Pepsi to the meeting and Representative [name redacted] handed the cans out to ASM members. Pepsi has come to symbolize “white supremacy” and trivializing the struggle of Black Lives Matter movement following a heavily criticized Pepsi commercial.) Opening the Pepsi cans in unison was likening [name redacted] to a white supremacist, and signaling that anything she said was erasing the struggle of brown, black, and people of color bodies (see Audio at 2:54:32).

After [name redacted] spoke, Representative [name redacted] spoke in a mocking tone – seemingly against [name redacted] – in favor of the amendment. Then Vice Chair [name redacted] (acting as Chair, because Chair [name redacted] passed over her Chairship to the Vice Chair so that she could participate fully in debate, even though a Chair is meant to preside and not debate) asked for any other points of debate on the amendment. Chair [name redacted] said, “Sorry this Pepsi is kickin’

[took a sip] . . . Fuck White Supremacy.” The response in the room was cheering and clapping (see Audio at 2:55:00).

\*\*\*\*\*

ASM Chair [name redacted] announced that “All White People are racist” in a public letter to the Campus Community (See Letter from former ASM Chair [name redacted], “My Last Words as Chair of ASM,” Appendix 1).

\*\*\*\*\*

A Jewish student member of the group “Badgers United Against Hate,” a pro-Israel group, received the following Facebook message: “yo fuck israel and fuck their war crimes and fuck zionism in palestine it’s racist and so are you” (see screenshot, Appendix 3).

When the names of ASM Representatives for next year were announced, a Jewish student who will be an ASM Member next year received the following Facebook message: “hey israel is a shit racist country and asm is shit racist org and i swear i will boycott every asm meeting just becaus you are their you racist zionist shit.” (See screenshot, Appendix 4.)

In early September 2017, the ASM chair who had been responsible for scheduling the earlier April meeting during Passover apologized for doing so and vowed to create an “ASM code of conduct to ensure all will be able to participate” in future votes. According to the September 6, 2017 *Badger Herald*, ASM also passed a unanimous resolution against anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred and noted, in the resolution, that anti-Semitic incidents “tend to occur when anti-Israel legislation is introduced in student government or in a student body.”

On October 5, 2017, the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin system adopted a strict code for students who disrupt speeches and presentations. According to the October 6, 2017, *Chicago Tribune*, the policy states that “students found to have twice engaged in violence or other disorderly conduct that disrupts others' free speech would be suspended. Students found to have disrupted others' free expression three times would be expelled.” Also, according to the Tribune article, the University of Wisconsin System’s President Ray Cross stated the following in support of the objectives of the code:

"Perhaps the most important thing we can do as a university is to teach students how to engage and listen to those with whom they differ. If we don't show students how to do this, who will? Without civil discourse and a willingness to listen and engage with different voices, all we are doing is reinforcing our existing values."

According to the October 12, 2017 *Forward*, the university removed a PhD candidate from his role as a teaching assistant when a fellow student revealed that the PhD candidate had disseminated swastikas and racist and homophobic messages while an undergraduate at Oberlin College in 2013.

According to the March 8, 2018, *Maccabi Task Force News*, in February 2018, following a trip to Israel sponsored by the Maccabee Task Force, one non-Jewish trip participant who had helped lead the BDS effort during 2017, had this to say about her anti-Israel efforts during that year:

“I would want to tell one-year-ago Katrina that she does not know everything and that she isn’t listening to the perspective of everyone,” a repentant Morrison said in a February interview. “I would want one-year-ago Katrina to really do her own independent research on the affairs of the state of Israel as well as the conflict and not just listen to the voices of people closest to her.”

In October 22, 2018, a Jewish student named Hillary Miller wrote an opinion piece for the *Daily Cardinal*, entitled “A letter to my neighbor and fellow Badger on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.” Her letter was patterned after a recently published book by Yossi Klein Halevi, titled “Letters to my Palestinian Neighbor.” In her respectfully worded letter, Miller focused on a six-panel, anti-Israel display that could be seen from her library carrel and that characterized David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir and Menachem Begin as “founders of genocide.” The following excerpts from her letter expose the hypocrisy of the display and its polarizing effect on any discussion involving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict:

My writing is inspired by Halevi and has a similar motive. But, instead of writing from the West Bank I am writing from the west corridor of Memorial Library, where my view of the lawn is obstructed by a six-panel display that conveys a salient anti-Israel message.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am particularly vexed by the “Founders of Israel” board that casts seminal Israeli figures such as David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir and Menachem Begin as “founders of genocide.” This indelicate and loose application of the term “genocide” to the Palestinian situation is a negation of historical fact.

\*\*\*\*\*

With conviction do you believe that Ben-Gurion, Meir and Begin successfully sought a genocide against the Palestinian people? According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the number

of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has risen from 2,895,683 in 1997 to 4,780,978 in 2017. As the “founders of genocide,” did these Israeli leaders succeed in the cause you have imputed to them? Is there evidence to corroborate that the State of Israel is intentionally seeking the total elimination of the Palestinian people? Do you realize the veracity of the word? Do you realize the clout of your claim?

I ask not with the intention of patronizing you. I ask because I care. I care about maintaining the integrity of the definition of “genocide” as Lemkin [the Duke University law professor and refugee who first coined the term] would have. I care because your demonization of Ben-Gurion, Meir and Begin is not a legitimate criticism of Israel like you claim it to be. When you demonize Israel, as your display does by conflating their perceived transgressions with those of Adolf Hitler, you not only espouse anti-Semitism but also obfuscate historical truth. To consider Israel at any point in its past or present genocidal is nothing more than a hyperbolic, ill-founded moral outcry that fails to inform the general public about the current state of affairs. The misuse of “genocide” may cohere with your cause but has serious implications. I hope, to any extent, that I have explained why.

Not only is the “founders of genocide” panel empirically wrong but it is also extremely isolating and unproductive. Knowing the veracity of the word and having connections to the Holocaust and to Israel, when I saw the display, my inborn reaction was to discredit your cause entirely. I can imagine students who have a similar experience to mine would feel the same. This is the cause of our rift: our inability to meet in the middle because of our impulse to defame and to discredit the other.

According to the December 2, 2021, student newspaper, *The Daily Cardinal*, messages regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were marked in chalk outside of the campus Hillel House during the first night of Chanukah. The *Daily Cardinal* quoted from Hillel’s reaction to the incident as follows:

In an email sent by UW Hillel to its members, they stated that “No religious celebration should be used as an opportunity to promote divisiveness, and to attempt to hold our diverse Jewish community responsible for the actions of the Israeli government is a modern manifestation of antisemitism.”

As reported in the March 9, 2022 *Wisconsin News*, the university on the previous day issued a statement on recent anti-Semitic incidents that had taken place on campus. In pertinent part, the statement read as follows:

The following statement comes from Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Lori Reesor and Chief Diversity Officer LaVar Charleston:

UW-Madison values a diverse community where people of all religions, races, ethnicities, identities, and cultures feel safe, welcome and supported. The university's diversity is its strength.

A report from the Anti-Defamation League finds antisemitism has been on the rise, including on college campuses. We are dismayed to share that several concerning incidents have also been reported recently by members of our campus community:

- A swastika etched into a residence hall community bathroom stall.
- Antisemitic slurs yelled at a student on Langdon Street.
- An individual who said they had been harassed for "looking Jewish."

According to the April 17, 2022 student newspaper, *The Cardinal*, the university student government unanimously passed a resolution condemning antisemitism on April 13, 2022. As further reported, the resolution was titled "Resolution Addressing Anti-Semitism on Campus," and, the resolution "denounced the recent rise in antisemitic incidents at UW-Madison, acknowledged antisemitism's recurring issues on campus for over a century and urged administrators to take disciplinary actions toward perpetrators of antisemitic incidents."

On September 8, 2022, following the first day of classes, Vice Chancellor Lori Reesor published an extraordinary statement with regard to vitriolic chalkings attacking several Jewish groups on campus that had marred the start of the semester. The following are excerpts from the statement:

[W]e were disappointed that [the first day of classes] was marred by multiple sidewalk chalkings appearing around campus, targeting several Jewish student groups labeling them as "racist," "genocidal," and "having blood on their hands." These labels are antisemitic: they attribute broad actions or beliefs to Jewish student groups.

To those Jewish students and others affected, we are sorry for the impact this had on your first day of class at UW. We truly strive to create a campus where every student feels they belong, and this kind of messaging harms that goal and aspiration.

As reported in the May 14, 2024, the *Algemeiner*: More than a dozen Northwestern students put up 1,200 Israeli and American flags on Sunday to show solidarity with the two allied countries and remember the 1,200 people murdered by



Hamas terrorists in southern Israel on Oct 7. When the students returned hours later, the flags were torn and stained with red paint, left in ruins.sAA

The following is from the May 28, 2024, *ADL Daily Campus Crisis Alert*:

The University of Wisconsin, Madison has temporarily [suspended](#) the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA), one of two student groups that organized anti-Israel encampments at the University. Students for Justice in Palestine, the other leading group behind the encampments, is under investigation by the Committee on Student Organizations but had not been suspended as of Thursday afternoon. The groups are accused of violating University policy and Wisconsin law, including “damage to or theft of property,” “disruptive conduct,” and “discriminatory harassment.” In a letter to YDSA, Dean of Students Christina Olstad wrote “I have determined that an interim suspension is necessary to protect the health and safety of members of the University.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (including a gym and rooftop basketball court).
- *Kosher meals*: Available through Hillel (at additional cost).
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at the University of Wisconsin (223 West Gilman Street, Madison).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday, Sukkot and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Moss-Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies)*: 6.

**Schools with New SAT Scores of 1270-1350  
(corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1200-1290)**

**American University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,600 (19%<)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest (especially, following October 7, 2023)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 10***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 42***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 35***

***Comparable Schools: George Washington University, Hofstra, Ithaca College, University of Delaware, University of Hartford and University of Pittsburgh***

Located in an attractive residential part of the nation's capital, American University offers a pleasant and ever-expanding urban campus. In recent years, the university has built a new law school, a fabulous new museum (The American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center) and a new East Campus that sits across the street from its primary campus and houses three new residence halls as well as two connected academic buildings. AU boasts a highly respected Jewish Studies program, the well regarded Kogod School of Business and a School of International Service that has few peers. In August 2009, AU announced that it would waive SATs and ACTs for early decision applicants. In 2017, AU installed its first female president, Sylvia M. Burwell.

AU's safe and appealing location is only about four blocks away from the closest metro. What AU lacks by not sitting in or at the edge of the Georgetown entertainment area (as do Georgetown and GWU, respectively), AU makes up for by being close to the less expensive, but ethnically interesting, array of restaurants in its Tenleytown community.

AU has seen its share of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic events. However, the campus has experienced little upheaval arising from these episodes. During the first half of 2017, SJP held a January teach in that focused on the BDS movement, and then, in late March 2017, as part of "Israeli Apartheid Week," JPS held another BDS event called "The BDS Movement: Contexts, Developments, and Future Visions." In early May 2017, the issue of BDS arose again as part of a campus-wide protest in

response to racial incidents that had taken place. According to contemporaneous accounts, the protest not only involved a mass walkout, but also included demands that the university expel offending students, hire more faculty of color and, in a nod to the intersectionality of the day, divest from fossil fuel companies and companies doing business with Israel.

According to the September 10, 2021, edition of the student newspaper, *The Eagle*, a swastika and anti-Semitic graffiti were found in the bathroom of an AU residence hall. As reported by the September 27, 2021, *Jewish on Campus* Twitter account, a second swastika was later found at one of the school's freshman dormitories.

On February 12, 2022, Ynetnews.com carried an account of the unsettling anti-Zionist experience of Michal Cohen, a then new Israeli student at American University. In pertinent part, the student's account included the following:

My first confrontation with this anti-Israel hate took place during one of my days at the American University, in Washington D.C. I sat in the floor's common room of my dorm building, conversed with other students, and each of us said where he/she came from. This was the first time in my life when most of my friends weren't Jews.

I introduced myself, and someone asked me where I was from, because my name sounds weird. When I said I was Israeli, he looked into my eyes and called me an "apartheid supporter" and "white occupier". I was in shock. I didn't understand how he could use such blunt and offensive words towards someone he had just met.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hate of "others" directed at Israelis is no longer hidden - it is bluntly expressed in social media, campuses, universities, and day-to-day interactions. I've been told my face is "too Israeli", I've been nicknamed "foreign invader" on social media, and one of my professors that heard my name on the first day of school made fun of me.

This hatred did not originate out of nowhere, it's derived from a broader phenomenon, in which antisemitism is disguised as criticism of Israel. Criticism towards its government and policies isn't new to Israel, but university campuses in the U.S. turn this criticism into a call to eliminate the Jewish state, as well as hold Israel responsible for the Jews in America, and even confront American Jews (including those with no connection to Israel) with the question of how many Palestinians they've killed.

On February 16, 2021, another article by Michal Cohen appeared in the *Algemeiner*, entitled “Does American University Accept Anti-Israel and Anti-Jewish Hate?” The author of the article began by saying:

As a vocal Israeli on social media, I am used to the constant harassment—from being held accountable for the actions of the Israeli government, to outright being called a Nazi. But I never thought this xenophobic sentiment would seep into the comment section of an American University (AU) Instagram post.

On Tuesday, February 3, American University’s School of Public Affairs made an Instagrampost promoting an event with former Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipi Livni, who was scheduled to speak over Zoom for American University’s 2022 Amos Perlmutter MemorialLecture on February 7. As a recent alumnus of American University, I was excited to see a high-level Israeli political figure be recognized by the university, but many Instagram users apparently disagreed.

However, the author’s optimism as expressed in the preceding paragraph soon gave way to the reality of social media as follows:

:  
I soon found myself reading comments ranging from students claiming that Israel should not exist and calling it an “illegitimate state,” to blaming all Israelis for the suffering of Palestinians, while equating Zionism with racism. Among these statements were countless students commenting that Zionists were not welcome on campus.

As I spent the afternoon trying to engage students in conversation, all I could think about was the university’s silence in the face of this blatant anti-Israeli hatred and xenophobia.

As an administration that prides itself on inclusion and equality, where was the university when students accused Jewish and Israeli members of the community of war crimes, telling Zionists (around 82% of American Jews) they were no longer welcome on campus in the comment section of an official university account?

As an Israeli, I am used to anti-Israeli xenophobia being pushed under the rug and justified as simply criticism of the Israeli government; but seeing a comment section of my alma matter flooded with xenophobia, lies, and hatred espoused by current students was disheartening.

On October 6, 2022, the editorial staff of the student newspaper, *The Eagle*, addressed the issue of anti-Semitism on campus in a staff editorial entitled,

“Recognizing hate alone isn’t enough for students”. The following are excerpts from the staff editorial:

The latest act of antisemitic vandalism on American University’s campus has magnified the disconnect between AU administration and the broader AU community in what’s determined to be an appropriate response to threats against marginalized communities. How the University plans to move forward leaves us to hope that they aren’t led astray by maintaining public image through impartiality.

The Eagle strongly condemns all forms of antisemitism and bigotry and recognizes the distress that this incident has placed onto many Jewish students during Rosh Hashanah, one of the holiest days of the year in the Jewish religion. This is the second occurrence of antisemitic vandalism in the span of a year, with the [first](#) also taking place in Anderson Hall during Rosh Hashanah.

\*\*\*\*\*

Both incidents of vandalism occurring within the freshman residence halls calls into question the efficiency of the AUx programming that’s required for first-year students. In the AUx2 course, students are expected to examine race and racism in the context of European settler-colonialism and cultural efforts led by historically marginalized communities, according to the [course overview](#).

What’s lacking in these anti-racist principles, however, is the exclusion of certain forms of white supremacy that aren’t in relation to the enslavement of Black Americans. If AU is placing students into a mandatory course that explores systems of oppression, why not address the issue that they seem to be facing yearly? The absence of speaking about antisemitism and Jewish cultural traditions leaves open gaps in students’ understanding on what’s considered discriminatory, thus heightening the chance of marginalized students facing the consequences of someone else’s ignorance.

\*\*\*\*\*

To combat possible ignorance surrounding antisemitism, it’s time for the University to incorporate teachings on antisemitism into AUx course programming and foster community-wide discussions on formulating a campus free of antisemitism and bigotry.

Lastly, it’s imperative that the University establishes a long-time partnership with Jewish affinity organizations to ensure that these

conversations are ongoing, rather than a clever PR move. Now that the University has met the low bar of legitimizing the pain of Jewish students, we still await for University communications that are based in empathy, not neutralism.

According to the January 17, 2024, the *Jewish Insider*, “the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law and Jewish on Campus on Wednesday [January 17, 2024] filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) against the university, alleging violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.” The *Jewish Insider* account described some of the incidences of antisemitic behavior cited in the complaint as follows:

One Jewish student at American University was screamed at in class by a fellow student, “You are responsible for genocide.” Another was hauled in to the administration and is being investigated for filming students ripping down posters of Israelis held hostage by Hamas in Gaza. And in one AU class, a professor allegedly drove a Jewish student to leave in tears with her emotional praise of pro-Palestinian protests, turning a hard stare to her that other students parroted.

In response to these and other other incidents targeting Jewish students at AU, the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law and Jewish on Campus on Wednesday filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) against the university, alleging violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

“AU is a hostile environment in every aspect of the campus for Jewish students,” Deena Margolies, the Brandeis Center lawyer who is overseeing the complaint, told *Jewish Insider*.

According to the April 10, 2024, *Inside Higher Ed*, the SJP Chapter at AU was suspended for violating the university’s rules regarding protests. The following is from the *Inside Higher Ed* article: Matthew Bennett, American University’s vice president and chief communications officer, confirmed in an email to *Inside Higher Ed* that the chapter was on probation for violating recent directives shared by university officials on Jan. 25 [prohibiting indoor protests](#), among other measures, and as “part of our overall commitment to campus safety and supporting a sense of belonging for our students.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Hillel's facilities are located at the Kay Spiritual Life Center.
- *Kosher meals*: Yes. Pre-prepared meals available at AU's Terrace Dining Room.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Friday night reform and conservative.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Served by George Washington University Chabad (3040 Idaho Avenue Northwest Suite 717, Washington, DC)
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Historically Jewish Fraternities: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.

## **Binghamton University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 3,700 (26%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 25***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 68***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 8***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 228/248***

***Comparable Schools: Stony Brook University, University at Albany, University at Buffalo, University of Connecticut, University of Delaware and University of Vermont***

Originally known as Harper College, this cornerstone of the SUNY system received much of its early endowment from Thomas Watson, founder of IBM. In 1965, the college officially became one of the four university centers of the SUNY system and, since that time, it has maintained its status as the strongest, albeit smallest, of the four. Moreover, Binghamton offers a welcoming environment to its many Jewish students, so much so that it closes on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the Seders. However, SJP is active on campus as evidenced by the numerous anti-Israel articles that have appeared in the school newspaper, *The Pipe Dream*, over the past few years and by the presence of SJP-invited, anti-Israel speakers on campus.

Medium in size for a state university with about 13,500 full-time undergraduates, the school offers a strong Hillel that serves the many Jewish students who attend the university. Located in the outskirts of Binghamton, the university is removed from the hustle and bustle of city life. However, the campus is sufficiently small and the buildings sufficiently close together that the campus, itself, creates its own high energy level. The eclectic array of classroom and administrative buildings is surrounded by discrete residential buildings some of which abut the forested area that sits on the upper part of the campus.

Binghamton University is a favorite for students from the Metropolitan New York area, as well as other parts of the state. Although the School of Management is likely the most selective school at the university, the liberal arts college, known as the Harper College of Arts and Sciences, offers a variety of challenging courses for the 7,000 students who call it home.



As noted, Binghamton's SJP chapter is an engaged one. When it chooses, it can make things uncomfortable as when its members shouted out anti-Israel smears during a visit by the Haifa Symphony Orchestra. SJP's influence on campus is illustrated by the account of a Binghamton graduate who, along with 75 other recent Jewish college graduates, was on layover in Germany while on route to Israel where they planned to join the IDF. The student was quoted in the August 17, 2016 *Algemeiner* as follows:

"Binghamton is a very apathetic school. On the one hand, I was able to walk around for two semesters with an Israeli flag draped around me," he said — for which he earned the nickname "Jewbuerman." On the other hand, "The school has an active Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter, which regularly targets Jewish and pro-Israel students."

"Witnessing SJP put up mock eviction notices on the doors of Jewish students, or try and host a fundraiser to donate money to a Hamas-related university really opened my eyes," he said, explaining that such events led him to become active on the school's student council and take part in the largest pro-Israel group on campus.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Office in University Union West, Room 208B.
- *Kosher meals*: Yes. In addition, there is a *Kosher Korner* that serves sandwiches and salads covered by the regular university meal plan.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes (drawing about 200 students each week).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life at Binghamton University (420 Murray Hill Road, Vestal, New York).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night and Saturday).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday, Sukkot and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Tau Epsilon Phi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

## **Florida State University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 3,200 (10%<)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate-High***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 93***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 136***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 5/248***

***Comparable Schools: Texas A&M, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of South Florida and Virginia Tech***

Florida State is not just about athletics, although FSU's superior football record under former coach Bobby Bowden's 33-year reign as head football coach and the school's run of wins under Bowen's successor, former coach Jimbo Fisher, including a national championship in 2013 and a 13-1 record in 2014, are a big part of the FSU story. Indeed, FSU excels in all sports, with its men's track team having won back-to-back national championships in 2006 and 2007. Further, if one takes into account the major FSU programs of football, basketball, baseball and golfing, the university can boast over 75 of its former players who are playing in or have played in the pro ranks.

Of course, students attend college for more than athletics and Florida State does not disappoint. From FSU's National High Magnetic Field Laboratory—the largest and most powerful of its kind, to its state of the art facilities in engineering, to its facilities in materials science, FSU excels in just about all areas of the sciences. But, the university is not just for techies. FSU has strengths in a host of other areas of academic endeavor, including such diverse fields as creative writing, dance, nursing, social work and theater.

In recent years, FSU, as with the University of Florida, has been the beneficiary of Florida's burgeoning demographics. As a result, FSU sees waves of applications and can afford to be much stingier in its admissions policies than was the case just a decade or two ago. However, for those interested in fraternity or sorority life, a pause may be in order. On November 6, 2017, following the death of a 20-year-old pledge at Pi Kappa Phi, Florida State's president, John E. Thrasher, indefinitely suspended all activities by fraternities and sororities. On January 17, 2018, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that charges had been brought

against nine students involved in the pledge's death. The same article quoted President Thrasher as saying that the charges were a "first step in seeking justice" and that "[t]hese arrest warrants strengthen our resolve to address the issue of responsible student behavior at Florida State University for the benefit, safety, and well-being of our students and the community."

The foregoing did not appear to dampen enthusiasm for the school. For the class of 2023, FSU received a record 57,000 applications, representing an almost 12 percent increase in applications over the previous year. Adding to FSU's prestige is the fact that, for the 2018-19 academic year, it had nine Fulbright scholars--the second largest number in the country.

SJP is active on campus as typified by the disruption of a February 2017 Hillel event featuring two IDF soldiers, during which SJP members unfurled the Palestine flag and verbally shouted anti-Israel slogans.

According to the June 16, 2020 *Algemeiner*, Ahmad Daraldik, a Palestinian-American, who became president of the Florida State Student Senate following the expulsion of his predecessor (Jack Denton), was later discovered to have "made numerous statements online such as "stupid Jew" and "f\*\*k Israel." "Also, as reported in the June 16, 2020 account, a Change.org petition calling for Daraldik's removal stated that Daraldik had "made antisemitic remarks in multiple social media posts." However, as reported by the *Algemeiner* two days later on June 18, 2020, a no-confidence vote to remove Daraldik as the Student Senate president "due to past antisemitic statements" failed to garner a required two-thirds super majority, though a simple majority voted in favor of removal. Subsequently, as reported by the October 28, 2020 *Algemeiner*, Daraldik was removed as Senate president after the Student Supreme Court voted to reinstate Denton in a ruling unrelated to Daraldik's remarks.

Despite the Student Senate's refusal to allow two Florida state senators to testify, the Florida State Student Government Association (SGA) passed a resolution on July 15, 2020, adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism. As discussed in Chapter One and, as reported in the July 16, 2020, *Jewish News Syndicate (JNS)*, the IHRA definition states as follows:

Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

According to the JNS account, the resolution (Resolution 59) "also focuses on supporting the Jewish community and fighting anti-Semitism. It calls for increasing Jewish representation in the Student Senate, holding Senators accountable for

educating themselves about anti-Semitism, and supporting action by the administration to address antisemitism on campus.” As reported in the July 14, 2020, *Algemeiner*, an earlier attempt to pass the resolution had ended in a filibuster.

As reported by the August 13, 2020 *Jewish Journal*, in an article entitled, “Florida State Announces Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism, Including Adopting IHRA Definition,” on August 12, 2020, Florida State (FSU’s) President Steven Thrasher announced that the university had adopted the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and was going to take other measures to combat anti-Semitism on campus. According to the *Jewish Journal* account, Thrasher stated in pertinent part:

In July, the FSU Student Body Executive Cabinet adopted the IHRA definition of Antisemitism, and the Student Senate passed Resolution 59, which adopts the IHRA definition of Antisemitism

\*\*\*\*\*

Therefore, FSU administrators, led by Vice President for Student Affairs Amy Hecht, have been working closely throughout the summer with Jewish student leaders, Hillel at FSU leadership, Jewish alumni and local Jewish organizations.

\*\*\*\*\*

Together, we have created a task force to review Jewish student life on campus and develop recommendations for Vice President Hecht to consider by Sept. 7, 2020. We will conduct a student campus survey on Jewish student life at FSU and Antisemitism. The task force will use a questionnaire developed by Hillel at FSU as a basis for initial discussions.”

According to the February 9, 2021, *Jewish News Syndicate*, the Florida State student rejected a series of resolutions that supported the BDS movement and rejected the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s working definition on anti-Semitism. As reported in the *JNS* account:

The resolutions, which were authored by former student senate president Ahmad Daraldik, who came under fire for past anti-Semitic statements last summer, included one BDS resolution and another that calls on FSU to “rescind” its adoption of the widely accepted IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism.

According to the June 2, 2021, edition of Station WCTV, Tallahassee, anti-Semitic graffiti was scrawled on an FSU student’s apartment door. As set forth in the WCTV story: “Rising Florida State seniors Madison Schatz and Julia Clemens tell

WCTV three swastikas and the word “Nazi” were written on the door of their off-campus apartment.’ “

As reported in the October 4, 2021, *Algemeiner*, the Florida State University Police Department apprehended several teenagers who were behind a rash of handwritten, racist and sexually derogatory flyers that were found near the school’s Colleetown area. According to the *Algemeiner* account, one of the flyers, which read “KKK MEETING NEXT FRIDAY CALL...,” was taped to a lamppost on the lawn of FSU’s Hillel House.

According to the January 16, 2022, edition of *Legal Insurrection*, FSU’s Middle East Center did not renew its annual membership in the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) for the 2022 calendar year. The Middle East Center’s decision not to renew its membership in MESA followed MESA’s December 2, 2021 annual meeting at which a resolution was passed endorsing the BDS boycott against Israel.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and Holidays.
- Friday night services and Oneg Shabat: Reform.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Lubavitch of the Panhandle-Tallahassee (102 Chapel Drive).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Delta Tau.

## Indiana University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 4,500 (13%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low-Moderate***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 105***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 63***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 15***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 225/248***

***Comparable Schools: Ohio State University, Syracuse, University of Colorado and University of Maryland***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2006 gift of \$50 Million by Melvin and Bren Simon for the Indiana University Medical Center***

This Big Ten School, renowned for its basketball craziness, is also a big time academic destination, with superior undergraduate programs in disciplines ranging from business administration to theater and music. Mark Spitz, who swam for Indiana, is probably the most famous Jewish collegiate athlete of all time. His seven gold medals in swimming, won during the 1972 Olympics, stood as a record until eclipsed by Michael Phelps' eight gold medals in the 2008 Olympics.

Indiana is not so much a college campus as a park, studded with beautiful lawns and stately trees, and surrounded by classic academic buildings, many of them hewn out of Indiana grey limestone. To enter Indiana's campus is to feel both a strong sense of academia and an escape into a private world of thick tree copses and meandering paths. As in some distant past, students can be seen engaging in their labors as they sit under venerable trees, of course with the modern interruption of the ubiquitous laptop.

Indiana has always opened its doors to out-of-state students and Jewish students from the East have taken the plunge in droves. The Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program at Indiana is one of the largest of its kind. The Greek system, which is strong at Indiana, encompasses several Jewish houses and Jewish social life on campus is otherwise easy to find and easily sustained. While SJP does have a presence on campus, its activities have been modest.

From a Jewish perspective, one of Indiana's most noteworthy centers of learning is its Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism. On its website, the Institute describes its purpose as follows:

Through an active program of courses, lectures, conferences, and publications, the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism aims to clarify what is new and what has been inherited from the antisemitic lexicons of the past. The repertoire of emotionally charged accusations against Judaism and the Jews is made up of a familiar series of destructive myths that have been perpetuated over the ages.

Given their longevity and tenacity, it is unlikely that these myths can be eradicated, but by analyzing and exposing them as myths, it may be possible to help people recognize this pathology for what it is and thereby mitigate some of its harmful effects.

As reported in the October 11, 2020 *Indiana Daily Student*, during a September 27, 2020 outdoor Yom Kippur service at Indiana Hillel, someone passing by in a car yelled an anti-Semitic slur. According to the *Indiana Daily* account:

IU freshman Hannah Pelletiere, who was at the service, said it was late when this happened and made her feel paranoid the rest of the night, she said.

Pelletiere said she feels there has been a rise of anti-Semitism, and she gets nervous to go to her temple at home.

"Here it's just different because we're all outside like sitting in the front lawn, so all of us kind of figured something like this might happen eventually," she said. "But it's scary."

An Indiana University, Bloomington (IU) Jewish life group has formed an antisemitism task force following the repeated theft and desecration of Jewish religious symbols in university residence halls.

As reported in the November 17, 2021, *Algemeiner*, since the 2021 Jewish High Holidays, at least a dozen mezuzahs have been stolen from Jewish students, shocking the community. In consequence, Indiana Hillel has formed an antisemitism task force to address the problem. As set forth in the *Algemeiner* account, the impetus behind Hillel's action was described as follows:

"It became obvious very quickly that it wasn't just vandalism, that it was much more than that, that it was targeted and directed specifically at the Jewish students," IU Hillel Director Rabbi Sue Laikin Silberberg

told the outlet. “It’s like somebody just taking what’s so much a part of who you are and ripping it out. It is so important that we say we will not stand up for this.

Indiana is a true find—the quintessential A school for B-plus students. Not nearly as difficult to get into as Wisconsin or Michigan, Indiana offers much of the same quality education as is provided by these other two academic powerhouses, but without quite the same level of competitiveness. For the good student with a desire to experience college in all of its levels, Indiana is a particularly wise choice.

According to the May 18, 2022, WRTV Indianapolis, the university has created a Jewish Culture Center to address a rash of anti-Semitic incidents on campus.

As reported in the December 28, 2022, the *Algemeiner*, “Amir Pasic, dean of the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University admitted that the School of Philanthropy “failed in our due diligence” when it invited deported Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) board member Sami Al-Arian to participate in a program about the war on terrorism and its impact on Muslim charities.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Helene G. Simon Hillel Center).
- *Kosher meals*: University meal plan includes meals at Helene G. Simon Hillel Center; kosher meals available at kosher café in Hillel House.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Orthodox (minyan permitting), conservative and reform services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes (Reform and Conservative services).

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad House—Jewish Student Center (518 East 7th Street, Bloomington)
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program): 6.



## **Ithaca College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,000 (17%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 99***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 142***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 25***

***Comparable Schools: American University, Northeastern University, University of Hartford and University of Massachusetts***

Located atop South Hill, one of the two peaks overlooking the south end of Lake Cayuga, Ithaca College is often the Ithaca school that people think about only after focusing on Cornell. But, this association is not warranted in areas where Ithaca excels, such as its School of Health Sciences and Human Performance, the Roy H. Park School of Communications, and, in keeping with its origins as the Ithaca Conservatory of Music, the school of music. In addition, Ithaca boasts a very favorable student-faculty ratio of 10-1 and a solid liberal arts program that continues to improve.

Ithaca's campus is quite expansive for a school its size. Lake Cayuga is visible from the lower part of the campus, where the school's business complex is located. The upper part of the campus is where most of the class buildings and residential halls are situated. Here one finds two large grassy areas, the lower of which is abutted by buildings to form an inviting quad. There are few buildings of architectural interest on the campus. However, the overall feel is very collegiate and quite pleasant.

According to the February 25, 2021 *Ithaca Voice*, the school's administration had moved forward on its controversial cost cutting plan that would eliminate 116 full-time-equivalent faculty members. As set forth in the *Ithaca Voice* account:

The plan calls for a reduction in full-time-equivalent faculty members from a range of schools (shown below), going from 542 to 426. Going into the 2019-2020 school year, the school had 612 full-time-equivalent faculty members. It also signaled the discontinuation of three departments and 17 undergraduate degree programs, which the school's report claims produce about 38 graduates per year.

\*\*\*\*\*

Opponents have argued that the cuts are unnecessarily cut-throat and motivated by increasing profit margins for a school that could do so in other ways less harmful to the academic offerings, while the school's administration has repeatedly stated that reduction in faculty is a necessary evil of sorts to keep the school sustainably healthy long-term.

SJP has been relatively quiet at Ithaca College. On March 21, 2017, SJP did hold a discussion on “pinkwashing,” representing its view that Israel insidiously holds itself out as a safe haven for LGBTQT people in order to deflect attention from Israel’s alleged “crimes” against the Palestinian people.

On February 8, 2022, the college’s Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management announced that it was investigating a report of a swastika scratched on a poster inside a practice room in the Whalen Center for Music.

According to the October 8, 2022, *The Ithacan*, the college community was notified on October 7, 2022, that a swastika had been scratched on the door of the Kosher Kitchen storage room in the Terrace Dining Hall. The notification stated that the swastika had been on the door since August 2021 and, surprisingly, had not been reported until October 6, 2022.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: Full 14-21 kosher meal plan.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown, but presumed.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad of Ithaca College (149 Grandview Court, Ithaca).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## **James Madison University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,200 (6%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: None***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 111***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 126***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 38***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 26/248***

***Comparable Schools: University of Delaware, University of Maryland and Virginia Tech***

There may not be another public university with an undergraduate student population approaching 20,000 that has the private school feel of James Madison University. The original, and main, part of the campus boasts a large rectangular green the size of several football fields. Gracing the green on both sides is a long expanse of white-columned and porch-fronted, two and three-story structures. The overall feeling is one of gentility as well as stability, all of which is a pleasant surprise considering the school's humble origins as a women's college for teaching.

The best part of James Madison is that it's beautiful campus environment is accessible to students who are accomplished but not necessarily exceptional. Ordinarily, campus charm and difficulty of admission go hand in hand. Not so with JMU. It is a veritable A school for B-plus students.

With 24 fraternities, including Alpha Epsilon Pi, and 12 sororities, JMU offers a flourishing social life both in and out of the Greek scene. The university is a football championship subdivision school, meaning it does not qualify for major post-season football bowls. Nevertheless, JMU's 25,000-seat capacity Bridgeforth Stadium is the scene of many a happy fall football contest against the likes of arch rival University of Richmond. In the 2017-18 season, JMU reached the NCAA Division I Football Championship game for the second straight season, with a 14-0 regular season record, only to lose to North Dakota State on January 5, 2018, by the narrow margin of 17-13.

As with many fine universities and colleges in the South, JMU has been discovered by Jewish students—a discovery that should not be surprising considering JMU's fine academic offerings. In addition to a highly competitive honors program

that attracts 200 students a year, the school boasts a number of attractive professional tracks. Among the best are those offered by JMU's school of business, particularly in computer information systems.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No. Hillel at JMU is entirely student run, with a high student participation rate.
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at James Madison University (1866c East Market Street #343, Harrisonburg).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Miami University Ohio

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,000 (6%<)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: However, recent anti-Semitic activity***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 121***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 129***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 22***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 102/248***

***Schools: Indiana University, Ohio State, Penn State, Rutgers, University of Delaware and University of Vermont***

If you are looking for a Midwest analog to the University of Vermont or the University of Delaware, Miami of Ohio is your kind of place. As with UVM and Delaware, Miami has a decidedly private school feel and a medium-size student body. With its beautiful campus, styled in neoclassic Georgian red brick, Miami is a showplace among state universities. Elliot and Stoddard Halls are among the most venerable dormitories in the country and Alumni Hall is a Georgian showpiece. The William Holmes McGuffey Museum, located on the campus of Miami University, is a National Historic Landmark.

Academically, Miami is among the very best of the public universities, with outstanding programs in business, fine arts and education. In addition, with a 200-year history dating back to a time when Miami was one of the largest liberal arts colleges in a then young United States, Miami has plenty of tradition to offer. Its fraternity system—having spawned the likes of Sigma Chi—is so well established that the university is known as the Mother of Fraternities.

Miami plays in the Mid-America football conference, which is often overshadowed by the Big Ten Conference. However, unlike many other sports-minded universities, Miami can be proud of its student-athlete graduation rate. In addition, Miami's sports legacy goes way beyond its conference affiliation. Often called the cradle of football coaches, Miami can boast of having produced an extraordinary cadre of coaches such as Bill Arnsparger, Weeb Ewbank, Sid Gilman, Bo Schembechler, Ara Parseghian and Dick Tomey. Nor, is Miami a slouch on the field. Ben Roethlisberger, quarterback of the Pittsburgh Steelers is a Miami alum. In 2009, Miami came within one minute of winning the national collegiate hockey championship, only to lose to a

Boston University team that scored two goals in the last minute of regulation play and then went on to win in overtime.

Following similar suspensions in 2018, in March 2019, the university suspended the Delta Tau Delta fraternity as a result of a hazing incident.

On October 24, 2022, the *Jewish News Syndicate* reported that three college age men had entered the Hillel compound and toppled the sukkah that had been erected in honor of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. The *JNS* account quoted the following from the executive director of the school's Hillel:

“The desecration and vandalization of this ritual item and the damage done to our *sukkah* is distressing enough. While (thankfully) we have an extra *sukkah*, what has shaken our students and staff to the core and left me with a pit at the bottom of my stomach is the complete violation of our property, and of our sacred space,” Whitney Fisch, the executive director of Hillel at Miami University, wrote in a letter posted on social media.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes .
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and the Holidays. Also, Hillel maintains a kosher kitchen.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Jewish Student Center, 650 South Campus Avenue, Oxford.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

## Michigan State University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 3,500 (9%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No (but, there is a comparable chapter of Students United for Palestine)***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate (but, see ADL grade below)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: F***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 83***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 112***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 159/248***

***Comparable Schools: Indiana University, Ohio State University, Penn State, Purdue and University of Minnesota***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2021 gift of \$32 Million by Mat Ishbia (the largest in the school's history); 2000 gift of \$28 Million by Ely and Edythe Broad for the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum***

With its classic brick and stone architecture, typified by Snider-Phillips Hall and the iconic Beaumont Tower, Michigan State is one beautiful, grassy campus. More than 300 different varieties of shade trees adorn the school's stunning arboretum. Add to the beauty of its setting an array of winning athletic teams, highlighted by national championships in basketball in 1979 (think Ervin "Magic" Johnson) and 2000, and an enthusiastic and supportive student body of over 39,000 undergraduates, and you have one heck of a rah-rah environment for spending four years of college.

In addition, Michigan State is nobody's patsy when it comes to academics. As with other large Midwest Land Grant universities such as Purdue, Ohio State and Penn State, MSU has acquired stature over the years as students have discovered the benefits and economy of a large home-grown university. Indeed, MSU, which was founded in 1855, was the first Land Grant University and served as the reference point for the Morrill Act which, in 1862, created the system of 76 Land Grant institutions that exist today. Strong in many fields, MSU has particular strength in areas as diverse as education, nuclear physics and veterinary medicine.

Of the school's 39,000 undergraduates, more than 3,500 are Jewish. The Lester and Jewell Morris Hillel Jewish Student Center provides a desirable religious and social outlet for these students. With a strong Greek system and an attractive array

of more than 65 fraternities and sororities (including several historically Jewish houses), the social picture for Jewish students is quite complete.

Though inactive, SJP has had a presence on the MSU campus and has protested Jewish events, in particular, the annual Israel Fest. According to the November 17, 2016 issue of the student newspaper, *The State News*, during a November 2016 protest of Israel Fest, “protesters chanted phrases like: “from Palestine to Mexico, bordered walls have got to go,” “we want justice, you say how, end the siege on Gaza now,” “free, free Palestine” and “Netanyahu what do you say, how many kids have you killed today.” However, as also reported by *The State News*, the Israel Fest attendees seemed undaunted by the chants and by other SJP tactics such as flyers “claiming the Israeli Defense Force killed many Palestinian children and used poison gas.”

Despite MSU’s many academic accomplishments, the big news at MSU for much of the fall of 2017 and the beginning of 2018 was the sexual misconduct trial of Dr. Larry Nassar (an associate professor at MSU’s School of Osteopathic Medicine and a team physician for two of the school’s women’s sports squads), who was accused by almost 200 women of sexual abuse. Among these women, a stunning 156 appeared as witnesses in his trial. The episode was reaching the boiling point even before Nassar’s trial and the fallout was predictable.

In the wake of several guilty verdicts against Dr. Nassar and the court’s imposition of a lengthy prison sentence on January 24, 2018, MSU’s president, Lou Anna K. Simon, submitted her resignation on the same date. The fact that President Simon had been able to last as long as she had was likely attributable to the high regard in which she was otherwise held since assuming the MSU presidency in 2005. On January 23, 2018, one day before her resignation the *Chronicle of Higher Education* ran a story, entitled “Many Want Michigan State’s President to Resign. Here’s Why She Still Has Campus Support.” In the story, a former mayor of East Lansing was quoted as follows:

Michigan State was "kind of a sleepy, mid-level Big Ten college," overshadowed by its more prestigious in-state cousin, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Ms. Simon is widely credited on campus with transforming the institution into an academic powerhouse — and an economic driver across the state.

Sadly, as described in a November 20, 2018, *Chronicle of Higher Education* account, Simon’s resignation was not the last episode in her personal downfall. In November 2018, she was charged with four counts of lying to investigators

As reported by the *Washington Post* on May 17, 2018, ultimately Michigan State settled with Nassar’s 332 sexual abuse claimants for the astonishing sum of



\$500 Million. The university also experienced a serious setback on another front. According to a December 4, 2018, ESPN report, during the fall of 2018, applications to Michigan State dropped by about 3,000 representing a decline of more than eight percent, at a time when applications to the university's peer institutions in the Big Ten Conference were increasing.

On January 17, 2019, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that Michigan State's Board of Trustees dismissed Simon's interim successor, John M. Engler, "denouncing his recent suggestion that Larry Nassar sexual-abuse survivors were 'enjoying the spotlight'".

On December 5, 2022, Station WILX 10 reported that a mezuzah had been vandalized from a student's dormitory door.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Lester and Jewell Morris Hillel Jewish Student Center.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meal available on Fridays and Holidays. Kosher dinners are also available Sunday through Thursday evenings at Wilson Dining Hall and Brody Square Dining Hall.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Student led Reform and Conservative services often attracting 150 or more students.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes. Hillel sponsors Seders on both first and second nights.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad of Lansing/MSU (540 Elizabeth Street, East Lansing).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.

## **Northeastern University s**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,350 (7%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: High***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 117***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 49***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 33***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 198/248***

***Comparable Schools: Ithaca College, University of Connecticut, University of Massachusetts and University of New Hampshire***

Northeastern is no longer the blue-collar, co-op commuter school it was a mere generation and a half ago. Benefiting from its Huntington Avenue location near the Boston Commons, Northeastern has capitalized on the fascination with Boston as a student destination. With new dormitories, a campus beautification program and a host of new non-co-op programs, Northeastern has put itself on the Boston academic landscape. Today, relatively few of the school's students are commuters, with many coming from geographic areas outside of the New England and Mid-Atlantic area.

In a town of Harvard and MIT wannabes, Northeastern appears comfortable in its niche as the school in which mere-mortal, good students can find admission. However, beware: Northeastern's SAT scores have increased dramatically in recent years as has the average GPA of its students. Athletically, Northeastern fields teams at the NCAA Division I level, although it eliminated football in 2009.

Students for Justice in Palestine has been very active on the Northeastern campus. In September 2016, SJP sponsored a lecture by a Palestinian professor from Swarthmore on "Sa'ed Atshan: Pinkwashing," i.e., the claim that Israel welcomes LGBTQ's to distract from its claimed repression of the Palestinians. In December 2016, SJP constructed a mock "apartheid" wall on campus, with BDS slogans and an intersectionality nod to "Black Lives Matter." During "Israeli Apartheid Week" in March 2017, SJP held an event entitled "Palestine 101: A History of Colonialism and Apartheid."

At the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, on September 21, 2017, SJP held what it called its “2nd General Meeting” for the purpose of discussing how to boycott Sabra and Tribe. On November 2, 2017, SJP protested a Hillel-sponsored event at which two Israeli soldiers were scheduled to appear. The SJP advertisement for the protest was entitled, “No War Criminals in Boston: Protest “Israeli Soldiers Tour,” and contained the following announcement:

Israeli soldiers are coming to Northeastern University on Nov. 2 as part of a speaking tour meant to distract from and whitewash Israel’s brutal treatment of Palestinians. November 2nd is the centenary of the Balfour Declaration, a declaration which helped set the stage for the colonization of Palestine. Inviting the forces of an occupying army into our community is unacceptable. Come out on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 5pm to show solidarity with Palestinians struggling against Israeli aggression.

On February 12, 2018, the student government at Northeastern overwhelmingly voted against holding a BDS referendum originated by SJP. According to the February 15, 2018, *Algemeiner*, the rejected proposal urged Northeastern to boycott Hewlett-Packard over the “central role” its technologies play “in the Israeli occupation of Palestine,” as well as “the mass deportation of immigrants from the US by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.”

According to the January 31, 2021, website *Legal Insurrection*, Northeastern SJP “held an event glorifying the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).” As noted by *Legal Insurrection*, the PFLP is “a Marxist-Leninist organization designated by the U.S. government as a foreign terrorist group.” The *Legal Insurrection* account quoted from a November 19, 2020, *Jewish News Syndicate* story as follows:

The Students for Justice in Palestine chapter at Northeastern University in Boston has promoted via social media the U.S.-designated terrorist group Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

In a since-deleted Instagram post featuring a graphic titled “Reading is for radicals” is the text: “SJP will be reading through different strategies and theory of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. This is a welcoming and accountable space where we can learn and grow with one another.”

According to the October 20, 2021 website of WCBV5 TV, “Students arriving for morning prayers at Northeastern’s Hillel House on Monday, October 18th, discovered that the building’s mezuzah had been torn off its alley entrance.

In a December 12, 2021, *Jewish News Syndicate* (JNS) opinion piece, entitled “Northeastern’s student government should strike anti-Israel rhetoric from

resolution,” Northeastern student Jake Egelberg stated the following with regard to Student Senate resolution FA-21-103’s unwarranted foray into a joint training program between Northeastern and Israeli police:

“All students, particularly those from marginalized and vulnerable communities, have a right to feel safe and welcome on the Northeastern University campus.”

Northeastern’s Student Government Association (SGA) couldn’t have said it better: All Northeastern students—no matter their racial, ethnic, religious or socioeconomic backgrounds—deserve a warm, open and comfortable campus.

Yet just 300 words deeper into Senate Resolution FA-21-103, which calls for increased transparency from Northeastern University’s Police Department (NUPD) among other stipulations, the SGA makes a specific note of NUPD’s participation “... in a military training program (dubbed “The Deadly Exchange”) with the Israeli Defense Forces.”

Why Northeastern’s SGA felt the compelling need to include this mention of Israel, separate from their discussion of NUPD’s issues more broadly, is not just unclear but blatantly singles out Israel as a cause of alleged NUPD misconduct.

SGA wrote Senate Resolution FA-21-103 with “marginalized and vulnerable communities” in mind. And they were right to do so: Too many students allege that NUPD detains students of color without justification, denies students of color access to buildings and questions students’ status as members of the Northeastern community. Racism has no place on Northeastern’s campus or anywhere else.

But the implication that these allegations are related to Israel is absurd on its face.

What the SGA refers to as the “Deadly Exchange” (an anti-Semitic campaign started by the highly problematic organization Jewish Voice for Peace) is a collection of joint training programs between U.S. and Israeli police in which officers learn de-escalation and intelligence-gathering techniques. These include ways of disrupting phone-transmitted bomb-detonation signals, how to identify signature chemical mixtures in explosive residues and how to recognize commonalities among terrorist ideologies. The training doesn’t involve any fieldwork, which means that neither U.S. nor Israeli police ever practices manhandling suspects. Instead, they consist of conferences, demonstrations and discussions.

On June 30, 2022, *News@Northeastern* announced that Mills College, located in Oakland, California, had merged with Northeastern, providing the university with comprehensive campuses on both coasts. On December 14, 2022, *Inside Higher Ed* reported that Northeastern would be opening its fourteenth campus in 2023, this one located in Miami. According to the report, the new campus will offer “more than 20 graduate programs with a focus on technology, health care and finance.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Albert S. Frager Building, 70 Saint Stephens Street).
- *Kosher meals*: Yes, at the International Village Dining Hall.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at Northeastern University (173 St Botolph St #1, Boston).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1 (Ruderman Professorship).

## Ohio State University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,800< (6%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: High (Highest since Hamas' October 7, 2023, murderous attack against southern Israel)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 152***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 101***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 7***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 52/248***

***Comparable Schools: Indiana University, Miami of Ohio, Michigan State, Penn State, Rutgers and University of Maryland***

***Major Jewish Donor: 2023 gift of \$15 Million by Sarah Ross Soter to establish a women's health research center; 2015 gift of \$100 Million from Leslie Wexner***

With roughly 45,000 undergraduates, Ohio State University is one of the nation's largest universities. Only Texas A&M and the University of Central Florida are larger. On the subject of large, OSU has the largest sports budget in the collegiate realm and fields the largest number of athletic teams (with Stanford, by the way, being a close second). Yes, OSU is football crazy (mothers, hold on to your daughters during the Michigan-Ohio State football game). But, today, OSU is among the ranks of schools who are knocking hard at the door of the most select circle of universities.

Being in the Big Ten is not only a competitive effort athletically, but an academic one as well. In this regard, OSU holds its own, following Northwestern, Michigan, Wisconsin and Penn State. The Fisher College of Business is especially strong.

With three buildings, including the iconic Orton Hall, being listed on the National Register of Historic places, OSU's campus is an eclectic, collegiate mix of new and old, with the most pleasant part of the campus located near Mirror Lake. In addition, the Oval, a grassy area surrounded by early 20th century buildings, is also a particularly appealing part of the university and is well suited to hanging out, throwing a Frisbee or just taking in the campus atmosphere.

During 2016 and 2017, OSU Divest held at least eight events calling for the university to divest from what OSU Divest characterized as companies “complicit in human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.” The activities ranged from forums to an unsuccessful student government vote on the issue (preceded the day before by a student tweeting: “Yo if USG messes this up tomorrow I’m coming for everyone’s life tomorrow. Every single, blessed life. Everyone.”)

The divestment effort culminated in a February 2017 ballot drive in which OSU Divest collected almost 2,400 signatures in support of placing a divestment initiative on the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) ballot. The ballot drive highlighted the role of intersectionality by conflating claimed violations of Palestinian rights with human rights violations associated with people of color, the latter reflecting the views of the OSU Coalition for Black Liberation. In March 2017, a referendum to divest from companies doing business with Israel was brought to a vote with 8,000 students voting. The referendum was narrowly beaten back by a margin of 51.5% to 48.5%.

Unfortunately, in late January 2018, USG held what turned out to be a six-hour marathon session on a “Resolution to Establish a Committee to Investigate OSU’s Investments in Companies in Human Rights Violations.” As midnight approached on the evening of the vote and USG was being ushered out of the meeting room, two chaotic secret ballots were held on amendments to the resolution. According to the January 28, 2018, *Washington Free Beacon*, the first secret vote generated more ballots than people voting. Undaunted, the voting continued. Ultimately, all express references to Israel were removed (although references remained to anti-Israel BDS resolutions enacted at other schools). According to the *Washington Free Beacon* account, “Jacob Baime, executive director of the advocacy organization, Israel on Campus Coalition, said in a statement that the meeting had been ‘plagued by hateful anti-Semitic rhetoric,’ and slammed the ‘highly irregular, opaque, and undemocratic process’ that ruled the night.”

Following the investigation of eleven fraternities, including the three traditionally Jewish houses, for violations of the student code of conduct, the university announced on November 16, 2017, that it had suspended most of the school’s fraternities. Fraternity members were allowed to remain in their houses.

According to the December 6, 2018, *Jewish Journal*, Ohio State’s student government again rejected a BDS resolution by the substantial margin of 30 votes against, 7 votes in favor and 3 abstentions.

As noted in Chapter One, Israel Apartheid Week has now become a mainstay of SJP’s arsenal on thirty-seven campuses. The following excerpts from the April 19, 2019, *Lantern*, the OSU student newspaper, are from one student’s description of the divisive character of the event:

Israeli Apartheid Week was brought to our campus at the same time as a large delegation of pro-Israel Ohio State students attended the AIPAC Policy Conference (American Israel Public Affairs Committee), the largest pro-Israel conference all year.

By planning this week during a time in which so many pro-Israel students are not on campus, it effectively divides the narrative even further and ceases any further conversations. Not only does this week spread inaccurate information across the greater Ohio State and Columbus communities, it destroys the possibility for future dialogue.

One of the main inaccuracies of Israeli Apartheid Week lays in the name: Israel is not and never has been an apartheid state and calling it such is disrespectful both to Israel and to victims of apartheid around the world.

\*\*\*\*\*

Israeli Apartheid Week also refers to the supposed genocide of the Palestinian people in Israel, ignoring the fact that the Palestinian population grows by about 2.4 percent per year, 33 percent higher than the growth rate of the Israeli population.

Another issue with Israeli Apartheid Week is that it destroys any chance at dialogue, driving a wedge between those looking to have a conversation about Israel. By having events like an apartheid wall and inaccurate displays in the Union, apartheid week takes a hardline stance on Israel, leaving no room for nuance or discussion. These events are loud, flashy and divisive, and to bystanders, there is no evidence of another side to the discussion.

This not only alienates both sides of the conversation, creating animosity and barriers to cooperation, but also puts those who have not yet formed an opinion in a tough situation. Especially for students who have friends on both sides of the issue, they must immediately make a decision, and take a hardline stance on a very nuanced issue.

As reported by the December 20, 2021, *Jewish Journal*, Ohio State University Professor Jackie Buell issued an apology for using the words “Jewing down” during a lecture. The following is from the *Jewish Journal* article:

Dan Abrams, who hosts “The Dan Abrams Show” on SiriusXM, did a segment on December 15 about the matter. In an October lecture, Buell can be heard saying that “Jewing people down is the way of the world” in various Mexico shops. “You want to be buy a blanket that has \$5 on it, and you say, ‘I’ll give you \$2 for it’ and they say no, and you just start



walking away, and they say, ‘Three dolla!’ They just want to get what they can out of it. But now they come to this country, we get people that come in the market all the time that want to Jew us down on the vegetables.”

According to the April 7, 2022, *Columbus Jewish News*, the Ohio State undergraduate student government passed a BDS-inspired resolution after unsuccessful prior attempts. As set forth in the *Jewish News* account, the student government had debated BDS resolutions several times in the past, but the one in question was the first one to pass. The resolution calls on the university to divest its interests in Caterpillar and Hewlett Packard because of their business interests in Israel.

As reported in the August 12, 2022 *Jewish News Syndicate (JNS)*, Ohio State’s SJP planned to hold a vigil on August 13, 2022, to honor Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades terrorist Ibrahim Nabulsi, who was killed by Israel. In a follow-up article, the November 8, 2022, *Algemeiner* reported the following with regard to the vigil which occurred on August 12, 2022:

On June 30, Palestinian terrorists opened fire at Jewish worshipers at the Tomb of Joseph, a holy place honoring one of the patriarchs of the Jewish faith. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a Palestinian extremist organization, claimed responsibility for the horrific attack, which injured three Israelis. The US and Israeli governments recognize the group as a terrorist organization, due to its long record of suicide bombings and rocket strikes against Israeli civilians.

The June 30 attack was just one of several acts of terror planned by the group’s commander, Ibrahim Al-Nabulsi, that made him a long-wanted terrorist by the Israel Defense Forces.

On August 12, SJP at OSU held a candlelight vigil and rally at Goodale Park in Columbus, Ohio. The group honored recently deceased Palestinian “martyrs” who were killed in a series of strikes against Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) commanders and other terrorists. In SJP’s advertisement for the event, they promised to honor Al-Nabulsi, who had been killed by Israeli forces (the IDF also found arms and explosives in his home).

According to the November 16, 2022, edition of ABC 6, anti-Semitic graffiti was found in a stairwell in Hitchcock Hall. Ohio State administrators were quoted as saying, “there is no room for hate in our home”.

As reported in the February 27, 2023 *Algemeiner*, SJP students on January 31, 2023, gave a presentation at the Ohio Union on what was called “apartheid architecture” in Israel.

On January 1, 2024, the *Algemeiner* reported that Ohio State had suspended a group that called itself the “Central Ohio Revolutionary Socialists” (CORS) “for repeatedly violating school rules and using the logo of a Palestinian terrorist organization.” In pertinent part, the *Algemeiner* account included the following:

“There is reasonable cause to believe your organization’s activities pose a significant risk of substantial harm to the safety or security of your organization’s members, other members of the university community, or to university property,” a school official told CORS, according to excerpts of the university notice shared by the group. The official also noted that CORS has posted unauthorized flyers, reserved campus space without permission, and ignored their adviser’s several entreaties for a meeting to discuss their conduct.

The story was first reported by *The Lantern*, an Ohio State campus newspaper.

Ohio State spokesperson Dave Isaacs said among CORS’s several violations, the group disseminated materials that included a logo associated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which is designated as a terrorist organization by the US and several other countries.

As reported in the January 25, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, “the US Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announcing earlier this month that it is investigating Ohio State University for allegedly ignoring complaints of antisemitism in contravention of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.” According to the *Algemeiner* account:

The school has been plagued with antisemitic incidents since Hamas’ massacre across Israel on Oct. 7, which triggered a global wave of antisemitism. Just over ten days after the terror onslaught, a male OSU student spit on another student buying a bracelet that said, “I stand with Israel.” The next month, two female students were let into the campus Hillel, where they screamed “f\*\*\* you” and “free Palestine,” and two men assaulted students, suspecting that they were Jewish. One of the students, *The Lantern* added, was hospitalized. In Dec., fraternity members of Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi), a predominantly Jewish Greek Life organization, reported that a small group of people screaming “Jewish bastards” pelted bottles at their house.

In a March 21, 2024, *Jerusalem Post* opinion piece, entitled “How to fight BDS on US campuses and win – opinion,” Ohio State student, Jeremy Davis, outlined how pro-Israel students on campus were able to defeat a BDS resolution sponsored by SJP and grounded on numerous procedural irregularities. Among his recommendations for mobilizing against BDS resolutions were the following:

First, the pro-Israel community must establish positive working relationships with state and federal government officials. Constant updates on campus life concerning the pro-Israel community, including antisemitism, should be provided. Staffers, state senators, Congressional representatives, and those in the Governor’s office possess relationships with university administration and can exert external pressure on university policy.

Second, the pro-Israel community, similar to its relationship with government officials, must invoke ongoing communication, education, and relationship-building with key decision-makers in university administration, including the Office of the President, Board of Trustees, and Student Life.

Third, grassroots fighters can rally the pro-Israel community to mobilize around defeating BDS. Two types of student leaders can rally the community: students within Jewish organizations and those involved in other parts of campus life. Chabad and Hillel student board leaders can help inspire the Jewish community internally because they are a significant segment of the pro-Israel movement on campus.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes: Wexner Jewish Student Center.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meals available in kosher dining hall (12–21 meals a week) as well as at Hillel’s Bagel Café.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Student led Reform and Conservative services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: OSU Schottenstein Chabad House (207 East 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Zeta Beta Tau. Alpha Epsilon Pi and Sigma Alpha Mu both suspended until 2023.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* Alpha Epsilon Phi.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Melton Center for Jewish Studies):* 1.

## **Rutgers New Brunswick**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 6,400 (18%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 23***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 43***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 35***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 120/248***

***Schools: Miami of Ohio, Ohio State University, Penn State, Syracuse, University of Delaware and University of Maryland***

Once a highly-regarded men's college (along with its then coordinate women's institution, Douglas College), Rutgers, over the last five decades, has evolved into an excellent state university with the second largest Jewish undergraduate student body in America (6,400 students) and a new Hillel that draws as many as 350 students for Friday night Shabat services. With its proximity to Metropolitan New York and its status as the foremost state university in a state with a large Jewish population and a glaringly small university system, Rutgers' attraction as a Jewish student destination is no surprise. Similarly, in consequence of the density of its Jewish student population, Rutgers can offer anything and everything to Jewish students, no matter their level of practice.

Established in 1766, Rutgers is the eighth oldest university in America. From the moment one enters the main academic quad, with its ivy-clad buildings, one has the sense of Rutgers' pedigree. In addition, the former Douglas quad, set off by itself, is a real gem. For many years, Rutgers was a member of the also-ran Big East athletic conference and then the relatively weak American Athletic Conference. For the past few years, however, Rutgers has been a member of the Big Ten Conference. High Point Solutions Stadium, located at Rutgers' Busch Campus, seats over 52,000 spectators and is now the scene of titanic fall battles with football powers such as Penn State and Ohio State.

In late October 2016, the Steinhardt Social Research Institute housed in the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University released a study derived from interviews with Birthright college students

from 50 selected campuses. The study identified Rutgers as one of the schools where students sense a hostile attitude toward Israel as well as a high rate of anti-Semitism. Alarmingly, the study found that the high incidence of anti-Semitism was not driven solely by anti-Israel animus.

The study's conclusions were not a complete surprise as it followed on the heels of a number of incidents on the Rutgers campus in which Israel was either vilified or Jewish students were intimidated. In one September 2015 incident reported by the ADL, "on Rosh Hashanah, a Jewish Rutgers University student wearing a yarmulke was approached by two other students on campus, one of whom stated, "Yeah, I'd wear a yarmulke too...If I wanted to burn in Auschwitz!" In another incident that occurred in February 2016, a swastika was found taped in a student's dormitory room.

According to the May 9, 2016 *Algemeiner*, Jasbir Puar (the Rutgers professor discussed in the next paragraph) has not only "infamously accused Israel of harvesting the organs of Palestinians," but, in addition, at a Vassar College lecture, "accused Israel of a host of crimes against Palestinians, including field executions and medical experiments involving the deliberate "stunting" of bodies."

The following December 5, 2016 student account in the online journal, *The Tab*, gives voice to the anti-Israel environment on the Rutgers campus.

Aviv Khavich, a Sophomore at Rutgers university in New Jersey, has seen his fair share of incidents. As an Israeli, he's especially sensitive to both anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism and he feels that the latter is embedded in campus culture. In his experience, anti-Semitic sentiment is much more likely to come from left-leaning social justice protesters than right-wing neo-Nazis. He told me: "Students for Justice for Palestine is pretty big on campus. And at virtually every left-wing protest Israel manages to get mentioned somehow.

"I think they see Jews as both benefiting from white privilege and as complicit in so-called Palestinian 'suffering.' Most of this is based on misinformation and lies, though, and they have no issue supporting groups like Hamas that expressly call for extermination of Jews.

"People like to pretend they're just 'anti-Zionist' and not 'anti-Semitic,' but Israel is a Jewish state and Zionism is the effort to have a Jewish state in their ancestral homeland. So, you end up with professors like Jasbir Puar, a Rutgers Women and Gender Studies professor, giving lectures about how Israel harvests Palestinian organs.

Sadly, Jasbir Puar is not the only Rutgers professor who uses her academic platform to demonize the world's only Jewish state. As reported in the October 27,

2017 *Daily Targum*, the Rutgers student newspaper, over 3,200 Rutgers students (later exceeding 4,000) petitioned university administrators to immediately suspend food science professor, Michael Chikindas, whose despicable anti-Semitic posts on Facebook were already being investigated by the university.

In November 2017, Mazan Adi, an instructor in international criminal law, political science and United Nations and global policy studies, became the subject of a petition asking the United States government to deport him. Prior to coming to Rutgers, Mr. Adi had been a Syrian diplomat in the UN for sixteen years. According to the *UN Watch*, when the UN debated Syria's culpability for bombing its own people, Mr. Adi "said that the Syrian authorities 'upheld all their legal and judicial responsibilities'." *Un Watch* also quoted a 2012 statement by Mr. Adi, which it said was reflected in the UN's official record and in which Mr. Adi stated that "international gangs led by some Israeli religious figures are now trafficking children's organs."

Soon after, on November 27, 2017, the American Jewish Committee expressed its outrage at the failure of Rutgers president, Robert Barchi, to confront anti-Semitism on campus and for his defense of three faculty members (including the aforementioned Jasbir Puar and Mazan Adi) who had made preposterous remarks about Israel and Jews. AJC's statement included the following:

AJC is outraged that Robert Barchi, president of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, refuses to openly confront the blatant anti-Semitism and hate espoused by three faculty members.

President Barchi's unyielding defense of the professors on free speech grounds is inexplicable," said Rabbi David Levy, director of the AJC New Jersey Regional Office. "Respect for academic freedom does not compel silence in the face of faculty bigotry.

AJC has engaged in direct talks with senior officials at the highest levels of the Rutgers administration. Following an earlier meeting to discuss community concerns with President Barchi, Levy, together with AJC Director of Campus Affairs Seffi Kogen, wrote a letter to Barchi calling on the university administration to be outspoken in condemning:

Professor Jasbir Puar, who has sought to lend academic credence to the wild speculation that the bodies of "young Palestinian men...were mined for organs for scientific research" by Israel, spreading a modern-day blood libel.

Professor Michael Chikindas, whose social media accounts have been a cesspool of anti-Semitic, homophobic, and misogynistic hateful speech.

Professor Mazen Adi, who served the murderous Assad regime for years as an apologist for the Syrian dictator's campaign against his own people.

President Barchi's written response to our letter is deeply disappointing, as he continues to avert openly confronting anti-Semitism on campus," said Levy, who added that Barchi's recent remarks that painting swastikas on university building would be protected by the First Amendment were quite troubling. Though Barchi acknowledged it would be an act of illegal vandalism, he ignored the fact that New Jersey hate crime statutes might be implicated as well.

With respect to Professor Chikindas, the message did get through. On December 11, 2017, the *Forward* and the *Jewish Telegraph Agency* reported that, after an extensive investigation, Professor Chikindas would no longer be allowed to teach required courses, thereby enabling students to avoid him, and would be removed from his chairmanship of the Center for Digestive Health, so that Rutgers employees could avoid working with him. According to the *Forward* story, following the investigation, Barchi and chancellor Deba Dutta reported to the faculty that Chikindas had "posted extensive bigoted, discriminatory, and anti-Semitic material on social media." The *Forward* story went on to say that Chikindas "had blamed Jews for the Armenian genocide, posted anti-Semitic memes depicting Jews as hook-nosed merchants, and called Judaism "the most racist religion in the world."

As reported by *JNS* on December 7, 2020, during a webinar on "The Future of Palestinian Politics under a Biden Administration" held on November 17, 2020, Rutgers assistant professor of Africana Studies, Noura Erakat, was quoted as saying "[for Palestinians], the 'major shift' has been a politics of resistance; it has to be about alienating Israel." Also, according to the article, Erakat advocated:

a veritable "war of return" to Israel by millions of descendants of Arab refugees from Israel's 1948 War of Independence, an influx that would demographically destroy the Jewish state. Yet she would only "think about the return of Palestinian refugees, not as the culmination of our freedom struggle, but as the beginning of it."

According to the April 14, 2021 *Algemeiner*, eggs were thrown at the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity house while fraternity brothers were engaged in a 24-hour reading of the names of Holocaust victims for the house's annual Yom Hashoah ceremony.

As reported by the May 28, 2021 *Algemeiner*, Rutgers' chancellor and provost "apologized for a previous message that condemned recent incidents of antisemitic violence in the US after it was denounced by a pro-Palestinian campus group." According to the *Algemeiner* account, the two administrators regretted that their



original statement “failed to communicate support for our Palestinian community members.”

According to a follow-up *Algemeiner* account on May 31, 2021, Rutgers Hillel criticized the apology by the two administrators as giving the impression that “condemnation of antisemitism is some form of anti-Palestinian sentiment.” The May 31 account quoted Rutgers Hillel as follows:

“What SJP and the Chancellor have said, in effect, is that NO condemnation of hatred against Jews, of attacks on Jews, of threats against Jews, is legitimate in and of itself. Such bizarre moral logic is twisted, wrong, and must be condemned,” Hillel said. “One only has to compare the University’s statement in March, condemning anti-Asian prejudice without qualification or reference to any other minority group, to realize just how grossly prejudiced the University’s attitude toward its Jewish community has been.”

As also reported in the May 31, 2021 *Algemeiner* story, the university’s web links to both the initial statement by the chancellor and provost and their retraction had been redirected to the following new statement from Rutgers President Jonathan Holloway:

“Rutgers deplores hatred and bigotry in all forms. We have not, nor would we ever, apologize for standing against antisemitism,” the statement said. “Neither hatred nor bigotry has a place at Rutgers, nor should they have a place anywhere in the world. At Rutgers we believe that antisemitism, anti-Hinduism, Islamophobia and all forms of racism, intolerance and xenophobia are unacceptable wherever and whenever they occur.

On June 28, 2021, Congressman Josh Gottheimer wrote Rutgers President Jonathan Holloway with regard to a statement published by the executive board of the Rutgers part time lecturers chapter. As described by Congressman Gottheimer, the statement:

declared that “as teachers and union members, we can no longer allow ourselves to be complicit in the illegal acts of the Israeli government,” accused Israel of “military actions that have targeted, killed and maimed civilian populations” and of upholding “a regime of legalized racial discrimination perpetrated against the Palestinian people.”

Citing the recent surge of anti-Semitic episodes in the country, Congressman Gottheimer expressed the following concern:

I am deeply concerned for the wellbeing of Rutgers students who identify as Jewish or pro-Israel and who worry that they might face a hostile environment in the classroom or on campus because of such sentiments. Considering recent events, it is important to send a clear message that all Rutgers students and community members, including those who identify as being Jewish or pro-Israel, will not be singled out, penalized, or made to feel unwelcome at our state's flagship university.

On July 26, 2021, Rutgers SJP and Rutgers Mutual Aid, (RMA) a community organization unaffiliated with the university — lambasted Congressman Gottheimer's message as "hate-filled misinformation" and criticized the university's support of Rutgers Hillel. As reported by the July 30, 2021, *Algemeiner*, the SJP statement included the following:

"We, the undersigned, categorically reject Rep. Gottheimer's slanderous mischaracterization of the statement," said the letter, which was also signed by over a dozen other groups, including CUNY4Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace-Northern NJ.

"Considering Rutgers' own endowment investments in apartheid Israel, and prominent campus Zionist organizations such as Hillel, with its history of falsely conflating Palestine advocacy with antisemitism, it is pro-Palestine union members, instructors, students, and organizers who are most at risk of harassment and least likely to receive support against it," it said.

Also, as noted in the *Algemeiner* article, Rutgers Hillel posted the following response: "Campuses have become increasingly hostile to Jewish life amid the national surge in antisemitic hatred, and it is more critical than ever to ensure universities foster an inclusive environment where Jewish and pro-Israel students can live and learn without fear of harassment or abuse."

On the positive side, the November 18, 2021, edition of the Rutgers student newspaper, *The Daily Targum*, reported that Rutgers and Tel Aviv University (TAU) signed an agreement to bring TAU to the New Jersey Innovation and Technology Hub. According to the article:

The Hub is a 550,000-square-foot, \$665 million complex developed by the New Brunswick Development Corporation (DEVCO) for research and corporate, retail and residential use, The Daily Targum previously reported. It is set to open in 2024 and has been seeking tenants since at least 2015.

TAU makes the newest addition to The Hub and joins Rutgers, Princeton University, Hackensack Meridian Health and RWJBarnabas Health as tenants.

According to the April 14, 2022, *Algemeiner*, eggs were thrown at Rutgers Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity during a 24-hour reading of the names of Holocaust victims for the house's annual Yom Hashoah ceremony. The reaction to the egging reflected universal appall to what had taken place, as indicated by the following excerpt from the *Algemeiner* account:

In a statement released Sunday, Rutgers University Student Assembly President Nicholas LaBelle and Vice President Arielle Dublin said that they would “do all in our power to ensure that those responsible will see justice,” and cited the Assembly's recent adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.

As reported by the September 27, 2022, edition of *NJ.com*, authorities were investigating an apparent act of vandalism at the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity house during Rosh Hashanah.

As shown on the December 12, 2023, *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, Rutgers suspended its campus chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine on December 11, 2023: According to the *JTS* account:

The [SJP] chapter ha[d] two business days to appeal the “interim” suspension. The university did not say how long the suspension would last if upheld.

A dean's letter to the group stated that it had violated several university policies, including those forbidding “disruptive or disorderly conduct,” failure to comply with university directives, improper behavior by campus guests, and “inappropriate use of space.” It referenced student complaints that members of SJP had disrupted “classes, a program, meals, and students studying.”

As reported in the December 15, 2023, *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, the Department of Education opened 12 new investigations into “the handling of discrimination at colleges and school districts since Thanksgiving 2023”, in the [then] latest expansion of the department's scrutiny of civil rights issues since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.” Among these was Rutgers.

As described in the January 4, 2023, *New York Post*, “a Jewish law student is facing expulsion at Rutgers University for allegedly “doxxing” a pair of student “ Hamas

supporters” after they either shared or endorsed a video denying atrocities that happened on Oct. 7, a new lawsuit claims. The story continues as follows:

Yoel Ackerman, 36, accused the law school this week of retaliating against him instead of punishing other students that he said spread Hamas propaganda in a Student Bar Association group chat and bullied him in the wake of the shocking terror attack on Israel nearly three months ago.

The first-year Orthodox Jewish law student is facing discipline after he shared messages, including their names and photographs, with the Jewish Law School Association.

The posts included a video that claims the carnage against Israelis was exaggerated, according to the lawsuit filed.

According to the March 27, 2024, *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, the House Education and Workforce Committee, chaired by North Carolina GOP Rep. Virginia Foxx, on the same date, issued “a long list of document requests to the school’s leadership pertaining to anti-Semitism on the Rutgers campus.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes:
- *Kosher meals*: The new Eva and Arie Halpern Hillel House includes a cafe where students can purchase kosher meals or use Knight Express points through Rutgers Dining Services to acquire meals.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Orthodox, conservative and reform.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: The Les Turchin Chabad House at Rutgers University, 170 College Avenue (describing itself as the largest Jewish campus center in America).
- *Kosher meals*: Chabad runs a full-service kosher meal plan that is separate from the university. Kosher meals are also provided at Chabad’s 500 student, Friday night Shabat dinner.
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life)*: 1.

## **Texas A&M College Station**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 300 (.5%)(down from high of 1,000 (2%<))

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Palestine Solidarity Committee

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Moderate

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 164

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 198

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 7/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Arizona State University, Florida State University, Texas Tech University, University of Arizona, University of Texas and Virginia Tech

Occupying more than 5,000 acres--more acreage than all of the ski slopes of Vail, Colorado--Texas A&M is College Station, Texas, a picturesque central Texas community near the banks of the Brazos River. In addition, A&M's more than 68,000 students make it the second largest university in the country, and an increasingly popular college destination for Texas high school students and the competitive 15% who are admitted from out of state.

A&M's student body is both conservative and religious--not the type of destination one usually associates with Jewish students. However, quality is easily detected and, despite A&M's conservative personality, the Jewish population at the institution has been growing steadily with the undergraduate Jewish student body now exceeding 1,000 students. In addition, in 2012, an \$8,000,000 campaign culminated in the construction of a beautiful, free standing Hillel facility which serves as the focal point for Jewish life at A&M. The building contains a beautiful sanctuary, a library, a 100-seat lecture hall and theater, separate meat and dairy kitchens, and a second-floor patio with a beautiful view of the campus and Kyle Field. But, don't get the impression that the building personifies a new Hillel presence on campus. To the contrary, A&M is the site of one of the oldest Hillel organizations in the United States, dating back to 1931.

Of course, there is a reason why so many Jewish and non-Jewish students flock to A&M. The answer resides in the huge array of programs offered by the university, its tradition of big time athletics, the almost 50 fraternities and sororities that attract about 10% of the student body, its vast and satisfying campus, its corps of cadets and its school spirit, all of which are undergirded by the second largest public university endowment in the country--\$11.5 billion dollars at the end of 2017—an advantage

that has enabled Texas A&M to lure some extraordinary faculty members, such as the two Noble Prize winners who staff its physics department.

While the Dwight Look College of Engineering (with 20% of the student body), the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (with 15% of the student body), the College of Education and Human Development (with 15% of the student body) and the Mays Business School (with 11% of the student body) are the big draws at A&M, there are Aggies of all stripes, more than 6,000 of whom are registered as undergraduates at the College of Liberal Arts. Tending toward the modern, A&M's pleasant campus is anchored by the distinctively columned Administration Building, the domed main Academic Building and other traditional edifices such as the Psychology Building.

More important than its architecture, the University's campus spirit is personified by the friendly greeting "Howdy" that one hears time and again when on campus. Not only that, the university is known for giving back to the community. In *Washington Monthly's* 2017 ranking of universities based on their contribution to the public good, Texas A&M ranked fourth nationally behind Stanford, Harvard and MIT. According to *Washington Monthly's* news release accompanying the rankings, the journal defines the "public good" as comprised of "three broad categories: social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and PhDs), and service (encouraging students to give something back to their country)."

Aggie football is legendary as is its Midnight Yell—a Game Day event that has taken place since 1913 during which upwards of 25,000 Aggie fans gather at midnight at Kyle Field to cheer on their team for that day's home game. A&M's last and only national football championship occurred in 1939. However, during the interim, A&M has won numerous league championships, produced several dozen All Americans and two Heisman Trophy winners: John David Crowe (1957) and Johnny Manziel (2012). A&M's football stadium—one of the largest in the SEC—seats over 100,000 spectators.

A&M's archrival is, of course, the University of Texas. Prior to 1999, a huge six-story bonfire would also usher in the big game with Texas. However, in that year, the six-story structure collapsed and with it one of the most exciting traditions in collegiate America. In 2012, Texas A&M left the Big Twelve and became a member of the SEC, thereby enabling A&M to go its own way without having to worry about the long shadow of its in-state rival.

There is a Palestinian student organization on campus, Aggies for Palestine. However, it has so far not employed the disruptive tactics seen at other campuses. There have been two documented incidents of vandalism against Jewish entities, one

the theft of a sign in front of the Chabad house and the other the theft of a “Shalom Y’all” banner from in front of the Hillel House.

Otherwise, Texas A&M has avoided the anti-Israel sentiment seen at other campuses.

On March 7, 2018, the Texas A&M Student Senate passed a resolution supporting the State of Israel. According to a post of the same date on the *Aggie Students Supporting Israel* website, the resolution’s principal clauses state: “Israel has been and continues to be one of America’s strongest allies.” “Student Senate stands with Jewish and Israeli students as a valued member of the Aggie family.” “While the Student Senate will respect the right of all students to freedom of speech, it recommends that no Texas A&M University student organization support, contribute to, or receive contributions from BDS.”

As reported by the February 9, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, on February 8, 2024, Texas A&M’s Board of Regents voted 7-1 “to end its contract with the Qatar Foundation, which will result in the college’s Qatar campus shutting down over the next four years.” The *Algemeiner* article continued as follows:

Texas A&M said it decided to reassess its relationship with Qatar after Hamas’s October 7 attack on Israel, in which the terrorist group murdered 1,200 Israelis and took more than 240 more hostage. It cites regional instability as one of the reasons for its decision. The Qatari government also has extensive ties with Hamas’ political and military leadership.

On the other hand, a February 26, 2024, *Tablet Magazine* article, entitled “The Takeover: A massive increase in foreign money and students on American campuses is driving radicalization and subsidizing institutional failure,” focused on Texas A&M in reporting that a new dimension of aggressive behavior on today’s post October 7, 2023, campuses is, in part, attributable to the presence of foreign students, many of whom come from country’s hostile to Israel. The following are excerpts from the article:

To shed light on the flood of foreign tuition money into U.S. universities, I obtained data on international student tuition payments at several state universities through public records requests. Texas A&M University was of particular interest—it is one of the top recipients of foreign funds nationwide and a major public research university. Pre-pandemic, international students comprised between 8-9% of Texas A&M’s student body. It dropped slightly to 7% of students post-pandemic.

The top countries of origin for foreign students are typically China and India, and Texas A&M is no exception. These countries are therefore the top sources of international student revenue to American universities. But Texas A&M's data allows for an investigation of international students who are sponsored by foreign governments and organizations, rather than simply paying their own way. And the top countries of origin for sponsored students tell a more troublesome story.

From 2010 to 2022, Saudi Arabia was the top country of origin for sponsored international students at Texas A&M. The university received a whopping \$293 million in tuition revenue from Saudi Arabian organizations during this period. Second to Saudi Arabia was Turkey, from which the university received \$108 million in tuition revenue. Rounding out the top five were Mexico at \$56 million, Kuwait at \$43 million, and Thailand at \$36 million.

In other words, three out of the top five countries which sponsor foreign students at Texas A&M were Middle Eastern states.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and holidays. Also, kosher sandwiches and salads available at campus dining rooms.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center at Texas A&M University (201 Live Oak Street, College Station).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Sigma Alpha Mu.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.



## Virginia Tech

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,000 (7%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No (But, there is a student organization styled as Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine)***

***Level of BDS Activity: High***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 133***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 141***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 24***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 160/248***

***Comparable Schools: Clemson, Florida State, James Madison, Purdue, Texas A&M and University of Maryland***

Originally known as Virginia Polytechnic Institute and, then, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia Tech, as it is now known in its abbreviated form, is recognized as one of the outstanding tech schools in the South and, indeed, in the nation.

Some may remember the massacre of April 2007 when more than 27 students and 5 faculty and administrative personnel were killed by a disaffected and deranged student, who later killed himself. Fortunately, the many favorable attributes of the school have more than displaced this sad chapter in the school's recent past.

Located in the New River Valley town of Blacksburg in southwestern Virginia, Virginia Tech is home to more than 27,000 undergraduate students, with a steady number being Jewish. Physically, the Virginia Tech campus boasts a stately array of monumental buildings, built in the collegiate Gothic style and highlighted by Burrell Hall and the Torgesen Hall Bridge.

Virginia Tech is strong in engineering, with many of its engineering specialties, such as environmental engineering, ranked among the best in the country. In addition, Virginia Tech boasts an outstanding school of veterinary science, a strong agricultural program and a highly regarded business curriculum in the Pamplin College of Business. Students interested in a fast track legal curriculum can apply for the six-year BA/JD law degree offered by Virginia Tech in combination with the T.C. Williams College of Law at the University of Richmond. An interesting

sidebar is that Virginia Tech maintains an active corps of cadets and its campus contains a full drill field.

Of course, what would a big-time university be without a big-time athletic program? Not an issue in Blacksburg where Virginia Tech competes fiercely in the Atlantic Coast Conference, which it joined in 2004. In addition to outstanding football teams which, during the Michael Vick years, rose to a national ranking of number two in the country, the school also fields excellent baseball and basketball teams.

Virginia Tech's Students for Justice and Peace in Palestine is now inactive on the Virginia Tech campus, but, even when it was active, its activities have been low key. According to the March 20, 2017, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, during the weekend of March 17-19, 2017, about 100 leaflets with hand-drawn swastikas were found strewn across the lawn of the Virginia Tech Chabad Librescu Jewish Student Center.

However, as reported by WDBJ (Blacksburg) on May 17, a police report had been filed after the Israeli flag and Virginia Tech flag were stolen from the Malcolm Rosenberg Hillel Center. According to the WDBJ account, a statement from Hillel read: "This antisemitic act has made many Jewish and pro-Israel students feel unwelcome and unsafe on campus. We hope the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg communities will investigate this matter and hold those responsible to account.

According to the October 22, 2021, *Jewish Journal*, The Virginia Tech Graduate and Professional Student Senate passed a resolution endorsing a boycott of Israel during their October 21 meeting. As noted in the *Journal* account, the resolution:

[C]alled for a "boycott of all Israeli academic institutions complicit in maintaining the Israeli occupation and the denial of basic Palestinian rights" and to divest from "all institutional investments from companies that profit from the Israeli occupation and apartheid." It also accused Israel of "ethnic cleansing" against the Palestinians when the Jewish State was founded in 1948 and continually perpetuating "colonial violence" against the Palestinians today.

On November 9, 2021, AMCHA reported in its press release of that date that 79 civil rights, religious and education organizations had urged Virginia Tech's President Tim Sands to unequivocally reject its graduate students' demands for an academic boycott of Israel. According to the AMCHA press release:

[T]he groups called on Sands to make it abundantly clear that his graduate students are prohibited from using their classrooms to promote an academic boycott of Israel, and that the university commits to ensuring no student will be impeded from studying about or in Israel, or subject to unfair discrimination or harassment, because of a boycott."

AMCHA further noted that the groups' document also contained the following:

"In the statement you issued last week, you noted the free speech rights of those who support the resolution," wrote the groups in the letter organized by AMCHA Initiative. "What your statement failed to address is that you and the Virginia Tech administration have the same free speech rights, which include the right to reject and condemn the resolution. More importantly, your statement failed to recognize the possibility that GPSS members, many of whom serve as Graduate Teaching Assistants, may implement elements of the academic boycott on campus and in their own classrooms, in ways that would directly and substantively harm undergraduates on your campus, particularly those who are Jewish and pro-Israel. We urge you to take immediate steps to ensure that this does not happen at Virginia Tech."

According to the March 21, 2022, *Algemeiner*, Jewish student leaders at Virginia Tech called on the university to condemn a then forthcoming campus event featuring Steven Salaita, an anti-Zionist former academic at the university. As regards Salaita's previous anti-Zionist statements, the *Algemeiner* account noted the following:

A former Virginia Tech faculty member, Salaita ignited controversy in 2014 with a series of comments tweeted during Israel's Operation Protective Edge in Gaza — including a refusal to condemn the Hamas terror group, and the claim that there is "something profoundly sexual to the Zionist pleasure w/#Israel's aggression."

Later, responding to Hamas' kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers, Salaita tweeted, "You may be too refined to say it, but I'm not. I wish all the f\*\*\*ing West Bank settlers would go missing." The series of tweets prompted University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign (UIUC) to rescind a tenured position it offered Salaita.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Malcolm Rosenberg Hillel Center
- for Jewish Life.
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Student-Led Reform, Conservative and alternative services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Passover Seder.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Chabad at Virginia Tech—Librescu Jewish Student Center (301 Wall Street, Blacksburg).
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night) usually draws between 50 and 100 students.
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau (colony).

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.

## **Yeshiva University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 3,000 (100%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of BDS Activity: None***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 20***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 32***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 3***

***Comparable Schools: Brandeis and NYU***

***Jewish President: Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman***

Yeshiva University is a place where orthodox Jewish students can feel at home and receive a top-drawer education. Since the 1970s, the school has provided a strong secular program of study leavened with a healthy program of Torah study. As with NYU, Yeshiva grew and flourished in the late part of the 20th century, along with its host city of New York. Yeshiva is full of academic muscle and sinew, while at the same time serving as an institution that is respectful of Torah, and, by extension, the practices and observances of its orthodox students. The renowned Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik taught at Yeshiva, and, for many years, was one of its principal guiding lights.

Yeshiva's undergraduate program is made up of three separate colleges: Yeshiva College, the men's division, located in the Washington Heights section of Upper Manhattan, which offers a full array of undergraduate liberal arts majors; the Sy Syms School of Business, also located in Washington Heights (with the women's division of Syms located at the University's smaller Israel Henry Beren Campus in Murray Hill (Lexington Avenue and 24th Street); and Stern College, the women's division, also located at the Beren campus in Murray Hill. Students at Yeshiva are overwhelmingly orthodox, with modern orthodox students being the more prominent.

For those Yeshiva students who wish to continue their education after undergraduate school, the university offers a glowing array of fine graduate programs, including the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, the Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, and the Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

*Hillel:* No.

*Chabad:* No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.

## University at Albany

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 1,500 (11%); down from high of 3,500 (26%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No, but the anti-Israel Palestinian Rights Committee is active on campus

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Moderate

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade:*** C

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 62

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 77

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 190/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Binghamton University, Ithaca College, Northeastern University, Stony Brook University, University at Buffalo and University of Massachusetts

Located only 150 miles from the Metropolitan New York area and boasting an undergraduate Jewish population of about 3,500, this cornerstone of the State University of New York system has to be regarded as one of the most prominent state universities for Jewish students.

The University at Albany was created in the late 1960s at the time of the creation of the SUNY system. Along with Binghamton, Buffalo and Stony Brook, the University at Albany, with strong programs in public policy, public health, criminal justice, computer science and social work, provides a major university venue for New York's many graduating seniors.

If your child ranges toward the traditional, than UAlbany's futuristic campus may not be the right fit. However, if exciting architecture coupled with state of the art facilities is an attraction than UAlbany may be just right. Designed by heralded architect, Edward Durell Stone, the main campus is most identifiable by four 24-story residential towers that define a major part of the campus. The towers anchor separate residential communities and serve as cornerstones for a large open plaza that is surrounded by architecturally consistent classroom and library buildings. The visually compelling plaza boasts a central pool, a stunning multi-spiraling fountain and a carillon.

Albany is not the first city that comes to mind when one thinks of college towns, but it is a pleasant student town with an active downtown area and, of course, it is

the seat of New York's executive and legislative branches of government. In addition to the University at Albany, Albany also is the host city to the College of St. Rose and to Union College's professional schools: Albany Medical School, Albany Law School (which offers a number of joint courses with the University at Albany) and Albany College of Pharmacy. Albany's basketball team is on a solid Division I track.

Albany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering was one of the finest in the world and had attracted over 300 global corporate partners. In combination with the nearby Malta campus of Global Foundries (representing the most advanced semiconductor manufacturing facility in the world), the University at Albany was fast becoming the academic anchor of an East-Coast Nanotechnology Valley. However, in July 2013, the SUNY system announced that the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering would be broken off from the rest of the university and would operate as a stand-alone institution.

The Palestinian Rights Committee at Albany, an affiliate of the Upper Hudson Peace Action, meets regularly on campus and has held a variety of "educational" events promoting BDS. However, what emerges as the most noteworthy act of discrimination against a Jewish student during the last few years occurred under the auspices of another campus organization. On April 29, 2015, the Student Revolutionary Coalition held an anti-Israel protest in conjunction with African American students who were protesting police brutality. The demonstration was entitled "From Ferguson to Palestine – Resistance is Not a Crime! End Racism Now."

As reported by the May 4, 2015 *Times of Israel*, the protest started off relatively quietly. However, when a Jewish student of Israeli-Moroccan descent tried to join the crowd, things got ugly. As recounted by the *Times* report, the student:

wore an Israeli flag and a sign that said, "Black Lives Matter." The protesters forbade him from joining their circle and began accusing Israel of hating Africans and not valuing Black lives. Later that day one of the protester's posted a meme with a picture of [the student] holding his sign, followed by the caption: "Zionists be like: We like Black people" – insinuating that it's incongruous for Zionist Jews to support African American rights. The Meme attracted over 1000 comments over the next few days – many of which were outright racist or anti-Semitic.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Yes. The university offers kosher meals at the Dutch Quad cafeteria.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Orthodox, conservative and reform services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.



Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Shabbos House Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center (320 Fuller Road).
- *Kosher meals:* Yes (On those alternating Friday nights when cooperative services are not being held at Hillel and on Shabat).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

## University of Arizona

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 3,000 (>8%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 86***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 69***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 84/248***

***Comparable Schools: Arizona State University, University of Colorado, University of Utah and University of Washington***

***Major Jewish Donors: 201 gift of \$14 Million by Alan and Daveen Fox***

This flagship university of the Arizona state system has been a favorite, particularly in the East, for Jewish students in search of a top quality, but accessible, university that offers virtually everything, plus year-round Arizona sun.

The University of Arizona is a member of the prestigious and powerful PAC-12 athletic conference, which consists of such academic and sports powerhouses as Stanford, UC Berkeley, UCLA and USC. Closely following on their heels, along with the University of Colorado and the University of Washington, is the University of Arizona. Further, with its stunning 380-acre campus, highlighted by the school's historic district, Arizona is also one of the more beautiful universities in the PAC-12.

The University of Arizona is one of those campuses where a student can find academic fulfillment, social fulfillment or both. For the student who is capable of balancing both approaches to collegiate life, Arizona will be a great experience. Further, with competitive athletic teams in virtually all sports, Arizona can also be a sports fan's paradise.

The SJP chapter at Arizona and other student organizations, such as the School of Middle Eastern & North African Studies, have sponsored a variety of programs in which Israel has been demonized. Most notable among these was a March 2015 talk by Rutgers Professor Jasbar Puir (see Rutgers profile in this guide), who had achieved anti-Israel notoriety in an essay published in Volume 14 of the *Borderlands e-journal* in which she had asserted that "Israel manifests an implicit claim to the 'right to maim' and debilitate Palestinian bodies and environments as a

form of biopolitical control.” In her talk at Arizona, entitled “The ‘Right’ to Mame: Disablement, Gaza and Disaster Capitalism,” Puir reprised this despicable theme.

On February 21, 2024, the *New York Times* reported that the University of Arizona had experienced a \$177 million budgetary shortfall, and that university administrators were “trying to fix the budget without hurting the university’s academics or research.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Available through the university meal plan. In addition, The Fusion’Z Café, which offers vegetarian and dairy dishes, is open at Hillel for breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Weekly student-led, Reform, Conservative and alternative services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at University of Arizona (1436 E Drachman Street, Tucson).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

## University at Buffalo

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 1,500 (7%); down from high of 2,000 (9%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Low

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 55

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 60

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 37

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 24/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Binghamton University, Stony Brook University, University at Albany, University of Connecticut and University of Massachusetts

***Major Jewish Donors:*** 2015 gift of \$30 Million by Jeremy M. and Margaret Jacobs

For New York State residents who want a university setting suggestive of the Big Ten, the University at Buffalo may be just the ticket. Located primarily on two campuses in the suburban Buffalo community of Amherst, this university of more than 30,000 students has the same array of academic offerings that one might expect to find at a larger university such as the University of Wisconsin. Nor, does Buffalo want to stop there. Buffalo aspires to become a university of almost 40,000 students spread over three campuses, including its new downtown campus anchored by the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Not only does the University at Buffalo offer programs ranging from nursing to pharmacy to business in uniformly high quality academic settings, but, in addition, the university has also embarked upon the world of big time sports. Buffalo became a member of the Mid-American Conference (MAC) in 1998. Under the early leadership of former University of Nebraska football star, Turner Gill, Buffalo emerged as a contender. It has since had its problems. Even so, in June 2017, the university received state approval for the construction of an \$18 Million indoor athletic training facility.

During the 2018 NCAA basketball tournament, a plucky University at Buffalo team knocked off a much more highly regarded University of Arizona team to advance in the tournament.

Of the two older suburban campuses, most of the university's undergraduate offerings, related graduate programs and dormitories have been located in the more modern and functional North Campus. The South Campus, which features beautiful Greek-Revival buildings that go back in time to the period before 1962 when Buffalo was a private university, had, until recently, consisted primarily of schools which focused on the health sciences. However, supported by \$362 Million in construction funds, the face of the campus has already changed. In particular, as noted above, the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is now in a brand-new facility at the university's new third campus in downtown Buffalo. In turn, the South Campus health sciences campus is now home to a diverse array of graduate schools, including architecture, education and social work. As the various moves are completed, Buffalo will be able to boast modern facilities in just about every discipline.

For New York Jewish kids who want to stay in state but also want to go to school in a big-time setting that feels more like the Midwest than the Metropolitan New York area, the University at Buffalo is a best buy.

There is an SJP chapter on the Buffalo campus. However, during the last few years, most of the chapter's activities has focused on speaking engagements by anti-Israel speakers. On March 23, 2016, anti-Semitic slurs calling for the "killing of all kikes" were found in a Capon Hall bathroom. According to the March 29, 2016 edition of the school newspaper, *The Spectrum*, the slurs understandably shocked Jewish students as well as members of the UB administration. In the *Spectrum* article, Andrew Meyer, president of the Jewish Student Union, was quoted as saying "I've never seen any form of anti-Semitism like that before. I've seen swastikas in the past, but that is nothing compared to this."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No, but the Hillel of Buffalo Center for Jewish Life is located in the second floor, suite 210, of the University Commons.
- *Kosher meals*: According to Hillel, the NY Deli and Diner, located at Talbert Hall on the university's North Campus, offers Kosher food.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Conservative, reform and pluralistic services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: unknown

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Ohr Menachim Jewish Student Center at UB (2450 North Campus Road, Getzville).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Delta Tau.

## University of California Santa Cruz

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 1,200 (7%); down from high of 1,800 (>11%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Highest

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 161

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 162

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 25

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 133/248

***Comparable Schools:*** University of California San Diego, University of California Santa Barbara and University of Colorado

Born with a 1960s pedigree, this newish member of the University of California system has done its best to maintain an open and relaxed, though academically stimulating, environment. And, how could it not? The campus is so closely integrated with its wooded environment that one can drive through the 2,000 acres that comprise the University and be hard pressed to find its well concealed buildings.

Overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Monterey Bay, UCSC is a Mecca for surfing students who can hit the waves in just a matter of minutes from their dormitory rooms. But, UCSC is also very accommodating academically. Featuring a residential college system, UCSC provides the feel of a small college while educating more than 15,000 undergraduate students. The school is also one of the more multi-cultural campuses in the UC system, with about 60% of its student body being African American, Asian or Hispanic.

UCSC has been attractive to Jewish students from its inception. However, in recent years, the campus has become a hotbed for aggressive anti-Zionist demonstrations. In May 2017, disruptive demonstrations by the African/Black Student Alliance (“A/BSA”) directed at a Hillel sponsored Israel Independence Day celebration led to expressions of outrage from the Jewish community. According to a letter signed by 130 Santa Cruz faculty, students, alumni, parents and donors, excerpts of which were published in the May 24, 2017 *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, the school’s student newspaper, the disruption took the following form:

Shortly after the Hillel students had set up their event, protestors streamed into the Quarry Plaza and, for more than an hour,

purposefully blocked Hillel's tables from being accessed and used a public-address system at full blast, making it impossible for attendees to hear and enjoy the program planned for the Hillel event.

In addition, according to the letter, the demonstrators hurled anti-Semitic expletives at the Jewish students involved in the Israel Independence Day event:

After A/BSA leaders called for standing in solidarity with their Palestinian brothers and sisters, some protesters yelled "Free Palestine," F\*ck Jewish Slugs," F\*ck Zionist Slugs," and tore down an Israeli flag at the Hillel event.

The letter demanded that the UCSC chancellor implement the Statement Against Intolerance adopted by the University of California Regents in March 2016 (see discussion in Chapter One) to ensure that all members of the UC system be protected against the type of intolerant behavior described above.

According to the December 14, 2017 *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, a white swastika was spray painted on the UCSB campus days before Chanukah, marking the eleventh report of an anti-Semitic event on campus during the first session of the 2017-18 school year. Episodes such as the foregoing may explain why, over the past few years, the Jewish undergraduate population of UCSB has declined from a high of 18% to its current 11%.

According to the March 10, 2022, *Jewish News of Northern California*, Graffiti described as "anti-Black, antisemitic and white supremacist" was found on the UC Santa Cruz campus on March 5. The article quoted Hillel director, Sarah Cohen Domont, as saying that "while the graffiti was removed quickly, students told her how stressful it made them feel, especially considering finals begin next week." According to the article, Ms. Domont also "described the feeling of antisemitism on campus as 'persistent' and said "Jewish students are regularly put in the crosshairs about Zionism. She's been harassed, too."

The May 3, 2023, *Jewish News of Northern California* reported on the following appalling event that took place on the Santa Cruz campus:

UC Santa Cruz Hillel is working with the university to address reports of students holding a birthday celebration for Hitler last month.

According to a statement from the university released Sunday, the students sang "happy birthday" and made cakes decorated with "hateful and horrific symbols" on April 20.

An AMCHA study, described in the January 12, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, reported that "[a]ctivist scholars employed by the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES)

department of the University of California, Santa Cruz are using their classrooms to promote extremist anti-Zionist propaganda.” The *Algemeiner* account continued with the following excerpts from the AMCHA study:

The university’s “CRES department has engaged in anti-Zionist advocacy and activism since at least May 2021, when CRES pledged departmental allegiance to ‘the struggle for Palestinian liberation’ and committed its faculty to bringing the academic boycott of Israel onto campus and into the classrooms,” AMCHA said in a press release on Thursday.

“However, according to the study, incidents involving CRES’s anti-Zionist political advocacy and activism have drastically increased in frequency and intensity since Hamas’ massacre of Israeli civilians on Oct. 7, 2023.”

AMCHA’s new report cites a litany of what it describes as politically motivated decisions CRES leaders have made both before and after the Oct. 7 onslaught, including the creation of the Institute for the Critical Study of Zionism (ICSZ), which declares on its website that Zionism is a “colonial racial project” and that Israel is a “settler colonial state.”

The following are excerpts of an alarming account that appeared in the April 12, 2024, the *Algemeiner*:

“Let’s make it clear – zionism is not welcome on our campus” read a recent Instagram message, which was followed by raised fist and Palestinian flag emojis.

At first blush, this posting appeared to be one more bullet in the barrage of vitriolic hatred and harassment aimed by anti-Zionist students groups like Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) at Israel’s supporters on campus, especially Jewish students, in the aftermath of Hamas’ genocidal attack on Israel last fall.

But that’s not the case. The above message shunning the campus presence of Zionism — and by obvious extension, Zionists, which the vast majority of Jews identify as — wasn’t authored by students at all.

Rather, it came from *their professors* — more than 100 of them — founders of a Faculty for Justice in Palestine chapter at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC).



The following, from the May 23, 2024, *Jewish News of Northern California*, illustrates the transparently effortless transition by the campus encampment movement from anti-Zionism to overt anti-Semitism:

Pro-Palestinian encampment protesters at dozens of universities have called for their administrations to divest from Israel.

But on two campuses, activists are asking their schools to split from organizations closer to home that they say are complicit in Israeli crimes.

At Drexel University in Philadelphia and the University of California, Santa Cruz, pro-Palestinian protesters have demanded their universities cut ties with, or “terminate” the presence of, the schools’ Hillel chapters. The Drexel protesters also demand that the university “Immediately terminate Drexel Chabad,” an outpost of the Hasidic outreach movement.

The protesters, including some Jewish students, argue that Hillel’s Zionist stance and the fact that its umbrella organization has received funding from the Israeli government make it complicit in what they deem Israel’s “genocide” in the Gaza Strip.

The following is from the May 30, 2024, *ADL Daily Campus Crisis Alert*:

Several hundred” protesters [blocked](#) entrances to the University of California, Santa Cruz campus on Tuesday, prompting the University to move classes for the Banana Slugs online through Thursday. In a statement, Chancellor Cynthia Larive described the protests as an “extremely dangerous effort to cause intentional harm to our campus community.” Larive added: “Members of our community were unable to leave campus to pick up their children, to access medical care off campus, to show up to off-campus jobs, to leave campus after an early morning shift or to come onto campus for an afternoon or evening shift.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center at UCSC (1142 King Street).
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies:* 1.

## University of Central Florida

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 6,000 (10%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 88***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 78***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 12***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 235/248***

***Comparable Schools: Florida International University, Florida State University, University of Florida and University of South Florida***

Major universities look out. The University of Central Florida has arrived. With an undergraduate student body of almost 59,000 (the largest in the country), an ideal location about 13 miles east of Daytona, an ascendant Division I athletic program, a quality undergraduate academic program with a 1,700-student honors college and a bustling Greek community comprised of 45 fraternities and sororities, UCF is well on its way to making a mark for itself. Ninety-two percent of UCF undergraduates hail from the Sunshine State and forty-four percent graduate free of debt.

UCF plays in the new American Athletic Conference. In 2013, the school's football team went 12-1 and beat Baylor in the Fiesta Bowl. In 2017, the team finished the regular season 12-0. Spectrum Stadium, UCF's football stadium, opened its doors in 2007 and seats over 48,000 spectators. UCF's campus is designed in an interesting concentric circle pattern, with the circles named after space shuttle flights, and with the inner circle housing the core student union and library buildings.

Jewish student life abounds at UCF. UCF's Jewish student body is exceeded in size only by that of the University of Florida and Rutgers. An engaged Hillel House operates on campus to serve UCF's bustling Jewish population. SJP is currently inactive, but, in the past, has sponsored forums in which Israel was demonized. However, in most other respects, the UCF campus has been free of the kind of aggressive anti-Zionist activity that has tormented other large campuses.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (The Vault – Jewish Life Center).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and at the Balagan Kosher Mediterranean Café (lunch and dinner)
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Reform and pluralistic.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at University of Central Florida (600 Oak Circle, Oviedo, Florida).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

## University of Colorado Boulder

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,500 (8%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low (but, see ADL grade below)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 130***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 125***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 34***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 10/248***

***Comparable Schools: Indiana University, Kansas University, University of Arizona and University of Washington***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2017 gift of \$38 Million by Bernard and Billi Marcus for the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus***

CU offers many things to many enthusiastic students who come from all areas of the country and who love their Buffs (short for Buffalos, the nickname of Colorado's sports teams). Its campus is made of native Colorado stone and, from the football field, which is home to Colorado's PAC-12 (after many years in the Big 12) football team, one can see 70-80 miles on a clear day. Almost 50% of CU's students are from out of state, with California accounting for almost 13% of the student body.

Consistently voted one of America's top collegiate towns, Boulder Colorado's setting in the foothills of the Flatiron Mountains is equaled by few collegiate venues. Perhaps, the closest match in attractiveness of location is Indiana University, which boasts a Jewish student body comparable in size and quality. Those who are lucky enough to attend CU can look forward to a top-notch education and countless outlets (both indoors and outdoors) when classes are not in session.

Boulder is both a bedroom community to Denver and a small high-tech oriented city in its own right. It is a pleasant town in which to spend one's college years. But, don't get the impression that "pleasant" also means "retiring." Anything, but. Students do study at Colorado, with its schools of Engineering and Applied Science (especially the programs in biotechnology, energy and aerospace engineering) and Environmental Design being particularly strong. But, they also hit the slopes, with world class skiing being no more than two hours away. Not much more is required to

reinforce Colorado's image as a place to lead a great collegiate social life. To some, maybe too great a social life: in 2012, *Playboy Magazine* named Colorado the number-one party school in America. For the 2017 academic year, Princeton Review ranked it as the seventh best party school in the country.

In 2010, Colorado produced more Peace Corps volunteers (117) than any other college or university in the country. In 2016, it ranked fifth nationally in Peace Corps volunteers.

Aside from the occasional anti-Israel speaker, CU's substantial Jewish student body has had to endure little in the way of anti-Zionism or anti-Semitism.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Served by Hillel of Colorado.
- *Kosher meals*: university-provided kosher meal plan.
- Friday night services and Oneg Shabat: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad Student Center (909 14th Street, Boulder).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## University of Connecticut

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,000 (11%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 94***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 104***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 220/248***

***Comparable Schools: Rutgers, University of Delaware, University of Massachusetts and University of Vermont***

***Jewish President: President Susan Herbst*** (brother, Jeffrey Herbst, is a former president of Colgate and current president of the American Jewish University in Los Angeles)

Generally regarded as the best of the six flagship New England state universities, the University of Connecticut shows what can happen when a state is willing to pour money into building an institution that is user friendly, attractive, interesting and athletically accomplished. With over 100 majors and almost as many minors, UConn is able to offer just about any program of study that may be of interest to its 19,000 undergraduate students. Many of them belong to one of UConn's more than fifty fraternities and sororities.

UConn is not so much a campus as it is a small city of unusually well laid out academic buildings, generously interspersed by lawns and pedestrian walkways. Buses circulate throughout the campus to aid those who are not inclined to walk from one far-reaching area to another.

A UConn advertisement in the September 2012 pages of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* stated that the State of Connecticut had invested over \$2 billion in its flagship Storrs campus. If appearances are any indication, the money has been well spent. From the school's beautifully maintained core campus area, with its array of classic brick and stone-trimmed Gothic-style buildings, to its modern business school, UConn suggests class.

In addition, a UConn college experience can be a lot of fun. Its large entertainment center lists a nonstop series of visiting entertainers. Its basketball teams have been second to few. Not long ago a sleepy member of the old Yankee conference, Connecticut has won national men's and women's basketball

championships and is the only school to have won men's and women's national basketball titles in the same year (in 2004 and in 2014). With the Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field completed at a cost of over \$90 Million, UConn has also embarked on the path toward big time football, although it has failed to find traction with any of the "big five" power conferences. It currently plays in the American Athletic Conference.

In 2017, two unnerving incidents did cause distress to the UConn Jewish community. In April 2017, a flyer was tacked to a university bulletin board vilifying Israel in a contemptible manner. In part, the flyer claimed that "Israeli 'defense' forces regularly, systematically and brutally kidnaps....and tortures Palestinian children." Then, in August 2017, a student wearing a kippah was subjected to an expletive-laced, anti-Semitic taunt. According to an account of the incident that appeared in September 8, 2017 *Daily Campus*, the university's student newspaper:

[The student,] Schachter, was wearing his kippah on the evening of August 31st when he was walking with a friend to the Towers dining hall on the way back from a Hillel meeting. As the two walked, a car passed by. The back windows opened," Schachter said. "The girl sitting in the back seat yelled out, 'Go to the fucking ovens!' and just... [drove] on. It was being said because I was there, wearing my kippah."

Some years later, on December 5, 2022, an editorial appeared in the school newspaper, *The Daily Campus*, decrying an Israel Discovery Trip sponsored by UConn Hillel. The following are the first two paragraphs from the editorial:

This winter, the University of Connecticut students will be able to participate in a 10-day "Israel Discovery Trip" hosted by UConn Hillel, according to *The Daily Campus*. The trip comes with an out-of-pocket cost of just \$200.

The flyer publicizing the trip claims that participants in the trip will get to "explore the country and hear from a variety of speakers on various topics in Palestinian and Israeli society," with notable subjects including history, human rights and politics. The trip is billed as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students in leadership positions," joined by welcoming Canva clipart of hearts and a smiling community on its advertising materials. The publicity around the program makes no mention of whether students will have the opportunity to "discover" the human rights violations committed against Palestinians, whether they will "hear from" refugees displaced by the systematic and illegal settlement of Palestinian lands nor if they will get to "explore" the Israeli military's blockade and imprisonment of Gaza. This discovery trip is poised to be little more than a whitewashed tour of a state actively



involved in settler-colonialism and apartheid — and UConn is complicit.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Friday night. Kosher dining is available through the regular UConn meal plan and is available in the Towers dining hall.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Reform and conservative services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at UConn (15 Moulton Road, Storrs).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life)*: 1

## University of Delaware

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,250 (12%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of BDS Activity: Moderate***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 90***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 118***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 153/248***

***Comparable Schools: Miami of Ohio, Penn State, Rutgers, University of Maryland and University of Vermont***

Delaware's attractive and well-maintained campus was modeled after Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia. Though a state university, Delaware doesn't show as a public school. Instead, buoyed by a handsome Dupont-origin endowment, Delaware is much more suggestive of a medium-size private university with quads and greens galore. With the addition in 2017 of the architecturally-conforming, 517-bed first year residence hall located at South Academy Street, the campus has become even more inviting without sacrificing the attractiveness of the overall design scheme. Delaware enjoys a very respectable freshman retention rate of over 92% and graduates a very solid 81% of its starting students. More than fifty fraternities and sororities abound at the university.

Once upon a time, the Blue Hens, as they are called, were a fairly sleepy lot. However, in more recent years, Delaware's proximity to the Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC population areas has made it a very popular destination. Further, its high caliber NCAA Division IA athletic program provides plenty of athletic excitement, albeit not at the level of Big Ten neighbors Maryland, Penn State and Rutgers.

For in-state applicants, the University of Delaware is a "Delaware First" campus. Thus, as set out on the school's website: "Historically, around 90% of Delawareans who apply are admitted to UD, with approximately 65% gaining a place on our main campus and approximately 25% admitted to the University's Associate in Arts Program." The website also states, "Delawareans who apply for admission by the deadline of January 15, can be confident they will never compete with non-Delawareans for spaces at the University." Translated, if you're from out of state, the University of Delaware will not be easy to get into.

Demonization of Israel is not exactly a time-honored pursuit at Delaware, but it has occurred from time to time, such as inviting anti-Zionist speakers during “Israel Apartheid Week.” A September 25, 2015 Delaware Online opinion piece by SJP’s then faculty advisor compared Israel to apartheid-era South Africa and accused Israel of ethnic cleansing during the 1948 War of Independence.

As reported by the *Jerusalem Post* on August 28, 2020, the Delaware state fire marshal ruled that a fire at the Chabad center at the University of Delaware was caused by arson.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Kristol Center for Jewish Life).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and High Holidays. Also, in 2015, the university opened a new dining hall with Kosher meat and dairy options.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Student led reform and conservative services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at the University of Delaware (262 South College Avenue, Newark).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

## University of Denver

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 450 (8%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low-Medium prior to October 7, 2024; Highest since Hamas' deadly rampage through southern Israel)***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 101***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 167***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 82/248***

***Comparable Schools: University of Colorado, University of Indiana and University of Vermont***

Often mentioned in the same breath as the University of Colorado—Denver's larger, public university cousin, the University of Denver is a city college and one that has increasingly become a very popular Jewish student destination. Tucked away in a pleasant part of Denver, the University of Denver's attractive, but compact, neo-Gothic architecture could easily be at home on the East Coast. Competitive, but not as competitive as the University of Colorado, the University of Denver offers Jewish students with good records a very neat destination in an increasingly interesting and adventurous city. The Jewish student body at Denver has been growing over the years and is benefited by programs such as Denver's Institute for the Study of Israel in the Middle East.

Known for big-time collegiate hockey, Denver won the NCAA Division I hockey championship in 2017. With a location a mere one and a half to two hours from the best skiing and snowboarding in America and strengths in a multiplicity of disciplines, particularly those offered by the Daniels College of Business, the University of Denver provides much of what one finds at the University of Colorado's Boulder campus, but in much smaller numbers and in a more intimate campus setting. Of course, there is a price since the University of Denver is private and expensive and the University of Colorado is public.

In May 2017, swastikas were scratched on to six cars parked across the street from Denver's Hillel.

On August 30, 2022, *ADL Mountain States* published a statement titled, "Jewish Community Statement About Scapegoating by University of Denver Professor". The statement condemned remarks by University of Denver Professor Nader Hashemi, the Director of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies'

Center for Middle East Studies, who, according to ADL, had “recently made the fanciful, speculative and dangerous statement that an operative from Mossad, the national intelligence agency from Israel, may have lured the perpetrator in the stabbing of Salman Rushdie to harm him.” ADL continued by stating, “[a]t a time when Jewish students at campuses across the country are facing high levels of harassment and antisemitism, we felt it necessary to call out this scapegoating by Professor Hashemi.”

According to the February 15, 2023 *Jewish News Service (JNS)*, during the four day period beginning February 9, 2023, “three Jewish University of Denver students were targets of antisemitic attacks, including pork left at one student’s doorstep and smeared on the door, and *mezuzot* ripped off two students’ door frames. (Some news reports referred to the pork as “glued” to the door.)”

The following is from the May 29, 2024, *ADL Daily Campus Crisis Alert*:

It’s been two weeks and despite calls from [University of Denver](#) Chancellor Jeremy Haefner, the anti-Israel encampment still remains — and is becoming more hostile. “It was just a huge mob ... I had them come up into my face and try to hit me,” said one student. Another student described how he was assaulted by protesters as he walked around campus with an Israeli flag: “I wasn’t saying anything hateful toward the camp at all ... And then I just got shoved really hard.” Another added: “They told me that they wished Hamas killed my family, that was terrible.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Served by Hillel of Colorado.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and High Holidays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Pluralistic.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad of South Denver (2319 South Josephine Street).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.

## University of Georgia

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 900 (3%) down from high of 1,200 (>5%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** High (but school acted quickly to close down encampments)

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 129

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 151

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 111/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Florida State, Virginia Tech, University of Florida and University of Maryland

Along with the University of Maryland and the University of Florida, the University of Georgia is one the three breakout state universities in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern United States. Once a sleepy Southern university serving primarily Georgians and out-of-staters looking for easy pickings, UGA is nothing of the kind today. If you want to apply, you'd better have solid credentials, more so if you are applying from out of state. UGA is strong in business, ecology, forestry, law, and psychology; and, also offers a highly-competitive honors program. UGA boasts a very desirable freshman retention rate of over 95% and graduates a very high 85% of its starting students. Over the past two decades The University of Georgia has been one of the top three public-school producers of Rhodes Scholars.

With its historic campus dating back to 1795, an attractive core area consisting of classically-columned buildings, a convenient location in the pleasant college town of Athens (just 90 miles from Atlanta) and top-drawer academics and powerhouse sports, UGA attracts well-qualified students from up and down the Eastern Seaboard as well as from the South. In 2017, UGA was leading in overtime in the NCAA national football championship, only to lose to Alabama on a spectacular, fourth-down-and-four, touchdown pass.

UGA's popularity has not been lost on Jewish students. Not only does UGA offer a Hillel House, but, in addition, its Greek community of 58 fraternities and sororities offers abundant outlets for fraternity and sorority-bound students who are both Jewishly and secularly inclined. However, being pro-Israel at UGA may occasionally require a thick skin, perhaps, accounting for the recent decline in the number of Jewish students. For example, in April 2017, SJP protested an IsraelFest celebration sponsored by Dawgs for Israel. According to the April 9, 2017 edition of

the student newspaper, the *Red & Black*, the protestors invoked the language of intersectionality and white supremacy, as they attempted to disrupt the celebration:

The group held signs and chanted together, speaking against political and social conflicts in Israel. Mor, as well as other leaders, chanted various statements such as “stop the killing, stop the hate, Israel is a racist state.” Another chant consisted of the group responding, “shut it down” to statement such as “the whole damn system,” “white supremacy” and “the apartheid laws.

In addition to SJP, Jewish students at UGA have had to deal with the UGA Progressive Action Coalition, a student coalition that has uncritically supported anti-Zionist elements on campus. In January 2017, the Progressive Action Coalition published what it called its “Points of Unity,” a manifesto against discrimination in which it grouped “settler-colonial ideologies such as Zionism” along with “racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, nativism, colonialism.”

The next month, the Progressive Action Coalition issued a “commendation” applauding an SJP walk-out of an event co-hosted by the Jewish organizations, Dawgs for Israel and StandWithUs. In one sided and disparaging terms, the “commendation” excoriated the event as follows:

This event featured Israeli soldiers who were invited for the purpose of “speaking about their experiences defending the State of Israel” which translates to an organized attempt at whitewashing and sugarcoating the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine. The Israeli occupation continuously violates the human and national rights of the Palestinian people through the use of colonial violence and a system of apartheid.

On September 20, 2017, SJP displayed a large poster advocating BDS and purporting to demonstrate the “ethnic cleansing of Palestine.”

On November 22, 2019, the American Jewish Committee’s office in Atlanta, Georgia, reported on one Jewish UGA student who woke up to find hate language written on the memo board outside of her room. The message read “all hail” and was accompanied by a swastika. Not surprisingly, the student reported to her mother that she no longer felt safe. Subsequently, UGA’s Student Government Association passed a resolution to support the creation of hate crime education on campus.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Rohr Chabad House at the University of Georgia (1491 South Lumpkin Street).
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* Sigma Delta Tau.



## University of Kansas

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,300 (7%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 132***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 114***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 9***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 83/248***

***Comparable Schools: Indiana University, Kansas State University, University of Colorado and University of Oklahoma***

I know! It's hard to believe that a school located in Kansas—known in recent times as a hotbed of literary and evolutionary intolerance—would be included in a book about colleges favored by Jewish students. But, just as Austin, Texas—home of the University of Texas—is not representative of statewide social values in Texas, Lawrence, Kansas—home of the University of Kansas—is not representative of social values within the state of Kansas. Indeed, Lawrence is an intellectually stimulating and attractive college town in northeastern Kansas and is conveniently located only 41 miles from Kansas City, Missouri, a wonderful find of a city in its own right. KU is also a place that a large number of Jewish students call home. On February 19, 2018, KU opened its first kosher kitchen, located at Oliver Dining Hall.

There are any number of good reasons why Jews might be attracted to this Midwestern university located in the middle of the Plains farm belt. For openers, KU's campus is beautiful and projects an academic feel that would be the envy of many better-known eastern institutions. KU is not a campus characterized by a central quad. Rather, KU's linear campus extends along Jayhawk Boulevard—a thoroughfare of about a half mile, bordered on both sides by venerable academic structures, each conveying an architectural statement in accordance with its period of construction.

In addition to its stately architecture, KU is one of the strongest academic school in the Big Twelve, led by the University of Texas. Also, for a relatively small state university, KU offers instruction in a number of varied fields, including business, architecture and engineering.

KU offers an excellent social life, with a thriving Greek scene, characterized by an abundance of fraternity and sorority houses. However, according to the March 12, 2018, *Kansas City Star*, the Interfraternity Council at KU announced on March 10, 2018, that it had enacted a self-imposed, temporary freeze on all fraternity activities due to “bad behavior” at some houses.

Pro-BDS activities on campus do not appear to have dampened the fun, although during 2015, the now-inactive KU Students for Justice in the Middle East sponsored two lecture programs featuring BDS activists.

KU’s athletic program is all about basketball. KU has celebrated five NCAA basketball championships. KU’s basketball teams play the best in the country and every game is an event. Apparently, however, not all aspects of KU’s sports programs are worthy of celebration. On December 11, 2017, *LJ World.com* reported that the university had paid two former women students in settlement of suits filed by them claiming that a KU football player had sexually assaulted them.

At the beginning of the 2017-18 academic year, Kevin Wilmott, a professor in the Department of Film and Media Studies wore a bullet proof vest over his shirt to class as a way of protesting the state’s concealed weapon law that allows anyone 21 or older to carry a concealed weapon on a university campus. “Try to forget that I’m wearing a vest, and I’ll try to forget that you could be carrying a .44 magnum,” Wilmott announced to his students.

As reported by the April 12, 2023, *The University Daily Kansan*, the Kansas student assembly passed a resolution, “unanimously, standing with the Jewish community at the university, condemning antisemitism on campus and within the local community.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes. Once a month, held at the Burge Student Union. There is also a weekly Shabat morning brunch between 11-1 except for football weekends.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes, in conjunction with the Jewish Community Center of Lawrence.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Center for Jewish Life serving KU and the Northeast Kansas Communities (1203 W 19th St, Lawrence).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities:* Sigma Delta Tau.

## **University of Massachusetts Amherst**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,000 (>8%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: F***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 151***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 85***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 132/248***

***Comparable Schools: Northeastern, University of Connecticut, University of New Hampshire and University of Vermont***

UMass, with its vast publicly-supported resources and its spacious 1,700-acre campus in the central Massachusetts community of Amherst, is the anchor of the five college Pioneer Valley Consortium consisting of UMass, Amherst, Mt. Holyoke, Smith and Hampshire (see profile on Hampshire regarding its perilous financial status). The campus occupies a good part of the town of Amherst and is pleasant, despite being vast. As with many state universities, there are a number of buildings designed for utility rather than charm. However, the central campus area is both spacious and classically collegiate with pleasant buildings surrounding two quads, one of which overlooks a lovely small lake.

Boasting more than 23,000 undergraduate students (about 3,000 of whom attend the university's Commonwealth Honors College), UMass offers a number of strong programs, particularly those given through the Isenberg School of Business.

Prior to 2012, UMass competed at the Division I level in hockey and basketball, but not in football. However, UMass is now a Division I Independent (albeit, a struggling one).

UMass is a Greek campus with a number of fraternities and sororities. In addition to the traditional programs offered at its thriving Hillel, UMass also offers the Dr. Max Goldberg Jewish Living and Learning Community, a residence facility that houses up to 26 Jewish students in the upper floor of the Hillel House.

SJP has been very active on the UMass campus. Among its activities (and those of other UMass organizations sympathetic to the SJP cause) have been the following:

- A campaign in November 2015 to remove Sabra products from campus stores. According to SJP, “Sabra is a company that invests in and supports the Golani Brigade of the Israel Defense Forces, whose human rights abuses have been extensively documented and include arbitrary murders, evictions and arrests of children”.
- A March 2016 screening of the film, “Pinkwashing Exposed: Seattle Fights Back!” Again, according to SJP, “Pinkwashing is a term activists have coined for when countries engaged in terrible human rights violations promote themselves as “gay friendly” to improve their public image. Israel is the country most famous for this strategy, having initiated it as part of a rebranding campaign it has been engaged in for the last decade”.
- An April 2016 screening of another anti-Israel film, “The Occupation of the American Mind: Israel’s Public Relations War in the United States” (see the UCLA profile earlier in this guide for a discussion of this film).
- An April 14, 2016, BDS resolution adopted by the UMass Graduate Employee Organization and a letter signed by more than 25 UMass faculty members supporting the resolution.
- A November 2016 public forum entitled “Israel, Palestine, and the Global War Against the People” sponsored, among others, by the UMass Departments of Anthropology, History, Social Thought and Political Economy Program and the UMass American Studies Program. According to web commentator, Susan Orbach, the program’s speaker, Jeff Halper, filled his presentation with anti-Semitic slogans:

Jeff Halper, together with his audience of self-congratulatory intellectuals and “human rights” advocates, seems to have no qualms about blatant anti-Semitic references and stereotypes. Examples include Mr. Halper’s reference to “playing on the whole Jewish Victim thing...” and evils funded by “Jewish money” in the US. It appears anti-Semitism is not questioned amongst progressives who otherwise care deeply about human rights violations. Mr. Halper notes that he has no desire to demonize Israel, however, he paints a picture of a completely evil regime using the Palestinian people as part of a lab experiment in an effort to dominate the global war against the peoples of the world. This, in Mr. Halper’s view does not qualify as demonization nor is this questioned by his audience. According to Mr. Halper - the Palestinian people have no responsibility whatsoever for their terrible suffering and are simply victims of evil Israeli capitalists.

- A March 2017 “Apartheid Week” program, entitled “Deconstructing the David Project”. As then stated by SJP, “UMass Students for Justice In Palestine is excited to kick off our Israeli Apartheid Week by hosting an event with current UMass students who recently received a discounted trip to Israel via the David Project, an international organization that works to expand and diversify the pro-Israel community. UMass SJP opposes such trips, as they normalize and whitewash the apartheid reality of life for Palestinians.”
- The April 2017 construction of an “Apartheid Wall” displaying anti-Semitic, intersectionality trope such as “From Ferguson to Palestine.”

On November 8, 2017, Erin Schrode, the youngest woman ever to run for Congress described to a UMass audience the anti-Semitism that followed her during her campaign. Several Jewish students were interviewed after the speech by the UMass *Daily Collegian*, including a young woman who was a graduating senior. According to the November 9, 2017 *Daily Collegian* account of the event, the young woman described her time at UMass as follows:

I’ve been called a “baby-killing Zionist . . . I’ve heard a whole bunch of things similar to what [Schrode] said but obviously not to [the degree described by her] . . .

I’ve definitely not spoken up enough in my UMass career about my love and affection for Israel out of fear of being silenced and shut out of my social circles, because I know that supporting Israel is not the cool thing . . . because the preconceived notion is that to be pro-Israel is to be anti-Palestinians, and I don’t hate Muslims . . .

In December 2018, a UMass student, using admittedly brazen language, posted a sign in her dormitory window which read “Fuck Nazis.” The sign was in reaction to a swastika that had been scrawled over a “Happy Chanukah” sign on campus. In response, according to the December 24, 2018, *Forward*, a residence director sent the student an email asking her to remove the sign in her window not on the ground that it used profanity, but rather because it did not foster a sense of inclusion. According to the *Forward* account, the email read as follows:

There are some in the community who have expressed that the sign should be taken down as it has created mixed emotions in the community on how to proceed, issues of inclusion, and the ability to be active members of their community,” the RA, Eddie Papazoni, wrote. “While Residence Education cannot force you or your roommate to take the sign down, I am asking that you or your roommate take the sign down so that all students can be a part of an inclusive residential

experience, as well as having a respectful environment to be a part of here on our campus.

Once the episode was brought to light, the university disassociated itself from the resident director's "poorly worded email" and condemned Nazism.

On October 21, 2019, University of Massachusetts Amherst Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy took the unusual step of issuing a public statement to the university community regarding a then forthcoming November 12, 2019, panel discussion on BDS at which anti-Israel activists Cornel West, Shaun King, Tim Wise, Dima Khalidi, and BDS co-founder Omar Barghouti were scheduled to speak (with Barghouti speaking via Skype due to not being allowed into the country because of his links to terrorist organizations). The following are excerpts from Chancellor Subbaswamy's statement:

An event scheduled for Nov. 12 on the UMass Amherst campus focusing on the anti-Israel "Boycott, Divest, Sanction" movement (BDS) is being presented by a private foundation – not by the university. This private foundation has, as many non-UMass organizations regularly do, rented space on campus to host the upcoming event, which is being billed as a panel discussion on "The Attack on BDS and American Democracy." Despite our concerns regarding this particular gathering, based on its title and past statements by its panelists, as a public institution UMass is bound by the First Amendment to the Constitution to apply a content-neutral standard when making facilities available to outside organizations. For this reason, and in adherence to the principles of academic freedom, the university will take no steps to inhibit this event.

However, while UMass Amherst is firmly committed to the principles of free speech and academic freedom, the University remains firmly opposed to BDS and to academic boycotts of any kind. Academic boycotts are antithetical to academic freedom and it is ironic that individuals, who rely upon that very freedom to make their case, should advocate for a movement, in BDS, that seeks to suppress it.

It is troubling that such a one-dimensional, polarizing event should take place on our campus. A panel discussion where only one perspective is shared does little to increase the understanding of such a complex topic like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Furthermore, because the BDS position in general fails to acknowledge the humanity on the Israeli side of the conflict and is considered by many as anti-Semitic, the upcoming event could very well alienate many of our Jewish students and other members of our campus community.

In response, 84 education, faculty, student, religious, and civil rights organizations led by the AMCHA Initiative wrote to President Subbaswamy requesting that the UMass Faculty Senate directly address the question whether “UMass faculty and departments should be permitted to use the name and resources of the university to promote an activist political agenda.” In the absence of such direct involvement by the Faculty Senate, the letter stated:

[E]ven with your excellent statement and the Faculty Senate’s commitment to grappling with the parameters of departmentally-sponsored events, the underlying problem – faculty who feel entitled to use their academic positions and the university’s name or resources to promote their own personal political agenda, thereby undermining the academic mission of the university and fostering political, ethnic, or religious hatred on your campus – will not be adequately addressed.

Shortly after the foregoing events, a UMass student published an open letter in the *Times of Israel*, entitled “An open letter on anti-Semitism from an Arab-Israeli Jewish student.” In her letter, student Tahlee Yichye stated the following:

Four years ago, I came to this campus excited to learn, eager to make new friends and ready to open my mind to different perspectives. I am an Arab-Israeli Jew,\* and I have a unique understanding of both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But I was disheartened to learn that my opinions were not welcome at UMass. I was excluded from many spaces and discussions because of my identity.

My heritage gives me a compassionate and balanced understanding about both sides of the complex Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is why I’m disturbed by the one-sided view that dominates campus. I sat in a UMass class where we used a map of the Middle East that completely erased Israel. Every other country was labeled, and even non-state entities including Gaza and the West Bank were defined with clear borders. Only my country, my culture and my identity were wiped clean.

I attended a UMass lecture where I heard from the professor that American Jews didn’t assimilate enough. This professor blamed anti-Semitism on Jews: his racist and discriminatory theory was that Jews are targets of hate crimes because we don’t try hard enough to become part of American culture. To sit in a room of two hundred silent students while our teacher defended attacks against Jews was shocking and painful.

These incidents left me feeling silenced. I couldn’t build up my courage in time to speak up. I was afraid of risking my grade. I was overwhelmed



by the sheer number of students who seemed to accept the hateful narratives being presented.

As reported in the November 6, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, a UMass student was arrested for allegedly punching a Jewish student who was carrying an Israeli flag during a gathering demanding the release of the 240 prisoners taken by Hamas during its October 7, 2023, murderous rampage into Israel. Also as reported the *Algemeiner* article, “[a]fter the alleged punch, the assailant snatched the Israeli flag held by the Jewish student and spat on it, according to details of the incident reported by the *Massachusetts Daily Collegian*, the campus newspaper for UMass-Amherst.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Grinspoon Hillel House located close to the UMass campus).
- *Kosher meals*: UMass offers a full, 6-days a week kosher meal plan at Franklin Dining Commons.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Student led Reform, Conservative and Orthodox services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at UMass Amherst, 30 N Hadley Road.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

## University of Pittsburgh

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 1,600 (8%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low-Moderate (Highest following Hamas' deadly rampage through southern Israel on October 7, 2024)***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 37***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 58***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 130/248***

***Comparable Schools: Penn State, Rutgers, University of Delaware and University of Maryland***

Catapulted into the public eye by Jewish physician and faculty member Jonas Salk, whose polio vaccine was developed at the University of Pittsburgh, this venerable state university founded in 1787 has served generations of students, many of them Jewish. Pittsburgh is a state-supported city campus whose landmark structure is the 42 story Cathedral of Learning. The Common Room of the Cathedral of Learning is a soaring tribute to collegiate Gothic architecture and serves as a university study hall. Predictably, as a state school, Pitt's students are largely from Pennsylvania. However, about thirty percent are from out of state.

The City of Pittsburgh has a lot to offer both Jewish and non-Jewish students alike. In addition to a national-class symphony orchestra, the city offers major league sports teams in baseball, football and hockey. Also, the University of Pittsburgh offers its own high caliber of athletics through its past participation in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Pittsburgh has a thriving Hillel, Jewish Studies program and social life for its Jewish students. For the student who wants a big-time school in the East, but with a Midwest feel, Pittsburgh could be the right fit.

As reported by the September 22, 2016 *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*, "Compared with other campuses across the country, where Jewish students frequently are targeted by anti-Israel groups through affronts ranging from painting swastikas on historically Jewish fraternity houses to placing fake eviction notices under their dormitory doors, things are relatively calm for Jewish students at the University of Pittsburgh."

Nonetheless, as the *Chronicle* article also points out, there have been times when Jewish students at Pitt have felt uncomfortable by voices opposed to Israel. The article notes two instances in which students have been subjected to one-sided, negative views of Israel in the classroom.

In the first instance, a student named Arielle took an introductory anthropology course taught by a visiting lecturer. According to the *Chronicle* article, Arielle described the course as follows and noted her frustration at the instructor's unwillingness to consider differing viewpoints:

The visiting teacher taught a unit on the culture of suicide bombers and required his students to read 'The Making of a Human Bomb' by Nasser Abufarha, a Palestinian anthropologist. In the book, Abufarha seeks to explain the 'cultural logic' that underlies Palestinian martyrdom operations [as in suicide attacks] launched against Israel during the Al-Aqsa Intifada from 2000 to 2006, according to the publisher's website."

In another incident reported by the *Chronicle*, a Jewish student took a class in Middle East Studies and reported that:

In our first or second class, we did a map-labeling activity and what was labeled on the map as 'Israel,' the professor labeled as 'Palestine.' She kept referring to it as Palestine. It made me uncomfortable. I felt like she was asserting the fact that Israel had no right to exist. I'm half Israeli, and I felt extremely disempowered. And I felt like I had no leverage to do anything.

Fortunately, the *Chronicle* article quotes a Chabad official as saying that the Pitt administration has been very responsive in rooting out inappropriate courses.

On January 25, 2018, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported that the university's dean of students placed all of Pitt's fraternities and sororities on "modified interim social probation" until further notice as a result of a "serious alcohol incident."

The following is from the June 4, 2024, *ADL Daily Campus Crisis Alert*:

A group calling itself Pitt Divest from Apartheid has set up a new encampment at the University of Pittsburgh. The University's leadership says this [new protest](#) has damaged property and that "a group of self-proclaimed leaders has emerged asking for meetings, but none of these leaders are students, and their affiliations are with organizations that also have no connection to the University." One demonstrator, not affiliated with the University, has been taken into police custody for aggravated assault, resisting

arrest and obstruction. Among the demands of the protest group is the end of the Pitt chapter of [Hillel](#) as well as assorted BDS complaints.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (The Edward and Rose Berman Hillel Jewish University Center of Pittsburgh, which also serves Carnegie Mellon and Duquesne).
- *Kosher meals*: According to the Hillel website: “Hot daily kosher food is served in Market to Go in Litchfield Towers. In addition, a wide selection is also available in the same location at the ‘grab & go.’ “
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes: Reform, Conservative and Orthodox.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad House at Pitt (4710 Wallingford Street).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.

## University of South Florida

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 1,200 (4%<); down from high of 1,500 (5%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Moderate

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 154

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 95

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 27

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 12/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Florida International University, Florida State University, University of Central Florida and University of Florida

***Major Jewish Donor:*** 2019 gift of \$20 Million by Judy L. Genshaft and her husband Steven I. Greenbaum (to be used for a new honors college)

Not as big as its counterpart, the University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida is still one of the largest universities in the United States. Perhaps a little more research oriented than UCF, USF's predominantly Floridian student body is stocked with high achievers from high schools all over Florida. Fewer than 50% of those who apply to USF are admitted.

Attracted by the university's Tampa Bay location, the breadth of its academic programs (which offers 180 different majors) and an athletic program that has literally burst from the starting blocks (its football team went 11-2 in 2016 and 10-2 in 2017), USF's student body benefits from great sun and a great collegiate environment. USF's Bulls, as its athletic teams are known, play in the American Athletic Conference.

In February 2017, BDS elements on campus introduced a petition urging the USF Foundation to divest from "companies complicit in human rights violations," including those contributing to "human rights violations in Palestine."

According to the February 7, 2017, edition of *The Oracle*, the University's student newspaper, the petition was not the first time the concept of divestment from the USF Foundation had come up in recent times. Thus, in the spring of 2016, the USF Student Government Supreme Court had ruled that a resolution specifically discussing divesting from companies investing in Israel was deemed unconstitutional

and not within the Student Government's jurisdiction. Similarly, in 2013, a divestment referendum had been introduced that focused on companies purportedly complicit in human rights violations. Again, according to *The Oracle* article, legal counsel had declared the referendum to be inconsistent with Florida law and USF policies.

In February 2017, at the invitation of USF Divest, lead organizers of the Women's March, including the relentless, anti-Israel campaigner, Linda Sarsour, came to speak for an event labeled "United We Divest." For more on Linda Sarsour, see the Rutgers profile earlier in this guide.

According to the February 28, 2022, *Algemeiner*, USF indefinitely suspended Pi Kappa Phi fraternity after a Jewish pledge revealed that a member drew a swastika on his body at an initiation event. Also, as reported in the *Algemeiner* account, "a student's post 'endorsing Hitler and the death of more than 6 million Jews' also surfaced on an online platform for discussing Greek life, according to a description of the incident by USF Hillel."

For the 2018-19 academic year, USF had twelve Fulbright scholars--the largest number of any public school in the country.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Hillel Jewish Student Center).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Conservative.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at the University of South Florida (4506 Sweetwater Lake Drive, Tampa).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Delta Tau.

## University of Vermont

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 2,500 (22%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest (but, see ADL grade below)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 115***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 81***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 11***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 182/248***

***Comparable Schools: Miami of Ohio, University of Delaware, University of Denver and University of New Hampshire***

The University of Vermont is a flagship state university with a private university feel. UVM's eclectic collection of period piece collegiate buildings are well maintained and provide a venerable feel, not unlike that of Brown. As compared to neighboring University of New Hampshire, UVM's students are also on the preppy side. Overlooking Lake Champlain in the pleasant Vermont city of Burlington, UVM has been a favorite of Jewish students for generations.

UVM has long had a reputation as a party school, albeit one with solid academics. However, according to a February 4, 2018, article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the party school aspect of life at UVM may be changing. According to the article:

[T]he University of Vermont has a long, well-deserved reputation as a party school. "Groovy U," its nickname since the '60s, is a place where students ride bikes naked and light up on the campus green.

Yet it's also a place where, increasingly, students now are choosing meditation over marijuana, and brain science over booze.

This year almost 900 UVM freshmen — nearly a third of the incoming class — signed up for Wellness Environment, an innovative program that is using neuroscience against a culture of drug use and binge drinking. They've pledged not to drink or do drugs in their dormitory, risking eviction if they do so.

In addition to a thriving social and academic scene, the university is within a half hour drive of some of Vermont's finest skiing, snowboarding and hiking. For the focused student, such proximity can, of course, be pure joy. UVM's hockey team can also bring a lot of joy as well as relief from the cold winter months. And, make no mistake, cold it will get in the northern reaches of Vermont.

On September 13, 2022, the *Jewish Insider* reported that the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights had opened an investigation into antisemitic incidents at the university. As noted by the *Jewish Insider* account, the DOE investigation came nearly a year after Jewish students at UVM filed a complaint alleging that university faculty had done little to address antisemitism on campus. The following is one particularly disturbing anecdote from the *Jewish Insider* story:

Incidents like [those described in the complaint], as well as other actions against members of UVM's Jewish community, have made many students feel unsafe on its campus. Avi Zatz, a former UVM student who transferred to the University of Florida after his second year, said that antisemitism on campus was a significant factor in his decision to leave.

"It would be hard to find a Jewish person at UVM, who is identifiably Jewish, who hasn't experienced something [of antisemitic nature]," Zatz said. "Things like if you run into the wrong person, they'll call you a baby killer or something for being Jewish, if you're wearing a Jewish star or something. It's just like an everyday culture [where] you have to hide that you're Jewish or hide the extent to which you're Jewish in order to be a normal successful student."

As reported in the October 28, 2022, *Algemeiner*, and earlier on October 4, 2022, in the Vermont news report, *Seven Days*, UVM's president, Suresh Garimella, initially denied the allegations. According to the *Algemeiner* account:

[T]he denial prompted a group of Jewish groups to issue a joint statement criticizing what they said was Garimella's disregard for the concerns of the Jewish community about declining inclusiveness and safety on campus.

Garimella's initial response to the allegations "blames the victims," Brandeis Center president Alyza D. Lewin told *The Algemeiner* in September.

However, as reported in the above *Algemeiner* account, six weeks following the filing of the complaint with DOE's Office of Civil Rights, Garimella appeared to do an about face, stating: "I want my message to be clear to the entire campus community:



antisemitism, in any form, will not be tolerated at UVM,” he said. “Conduct that targets and threatens Jewish individuals or groups, or that unreasonably interferes with their ability to participate in UVM programs and activities, is unacceptable and completely contradictory to our common ground values.

On April 3, 2023, DOE’s Office of Civil Rights ruled that UVM had, in fact, failed to respond to the numerous complaints of antisemitism and anti-Zionist harassment set forth in the complaint. As set forth in the *Algemeiner* of that same date:

The announcement marks the first time the Biden administration has resolved a complaint of campus antisemitism and the first time ever that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act has been applied to anti-Zionist discrimination.

\*\*\*\*\*

OCR said on Monday that the university did not investigate “serious allegations of harassment” and that “responsive steps” were “delayed,” effectively “discouraging” students and staff from coming forward in the future. Among the complaints the university left unaddressed was an allegation that an anti-Zionist teaching assistant bragged about giving Jewish students zero credit for class participation. In another complaint, the same professor allegedly celebrated when someone stole an Israeli flag from a Jewish student’s residence and captioned “Kristallnacht” on a post showing damage to a Jewish-owned business.

As reported by the May 25, 2023, *Inside Higher Ed*, on April 28, 2023, one hundred faculty members at the university signed an open letter which:

called on University of Vermont president Suresh Garimella to apologize to students who “suffered from the administration’s handling of the OCR investigation,” provide a “full and accurate account” of the handling of past antisemitism complaints, and adopt a “more transparent governance model” that involves conflict resolution strategies. The letter also notes that Garimella's denial, in a September letter to students and employees, that the university inadequately responded to complaints, which was contradicted by the findings of the OCR investigation.

Hillel

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Available through the university.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes

Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Chabad at UVM (57 S. William Street, Burlington).
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.

**Schools with New SAT Scores of 1170-1260  
(corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1100-1190)**

**Arizona State University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 3,500 (8%<)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate-High***

***ADL 2024 Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 139***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 143***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 19***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 77/248***

***Comparable Schools: Colorado State University, Northern Arizona University, University of Arizona and University of Colorado***

Located primarily in Tempe, a pleasant suburb of Phoenix, this Southwestern university has been a favorite of Jewish students from both coasts because it offers a ton of everything, is academically sound and, yet, not prohibitively difficult for an out of state student to gain admission. ASU's architecture ranges from its classic, red stone Old Main to the beautiful School of Music to the ultramodern Gammage Auditorium. The campus is punctuated by palm-tree-lined walkways, such as the well-traveled Palm Walk, as well as other varieties of desert vegetation. ASU is the nation's sixth largest university and, at 52,000 students, is almost twice the size of its sister university, the University of Arizona.

With so many students and year-round sunshine, ASU's main campus in Tempe pulsates with activity. ASU attracts its share of dedicated students, particularly, those who are drawn to ASU's excellent honors program. But, on football weekends, watch out, particularly on the weekend when ASU plays arch rival University of Arizona at Sun Devil Stadium.

Arizona State's athletic prowess has not been without controversy. In May 2011, the NCAA penalized Arizona State for recruiting violations relating to its highly ranked baseball team. The NCAA's action amounted to the ninth penalty

imposed on Arizona State, at the time, making it the all-time leader in penalties for infractions relating to its athletic programs.

ASU is able to provide academic concentrations for just about any student. It's stunning Biodesign Institute, built in 2003 and 2004, is one of the nation's finest. The W.P. Carey School of Business is especially strong.

ASU's Jewish students have experienced anti-Semitism and anti-Israel attacks, but not at widespread level. In 2017, there were two reported incidents of anti-Semitism, one involving the theft of a mezuzah from a student's door and one involving the defacement of the school's library with a swastika.

From an anti-Israel perspective, there have been some—but not an overwhelming number of events—aimed at demonizing Israel, typified by a February 2015 SJP-sponsored program in which the guest speaker, Gaza-based, Jewish journalist Dan Cohen, spoke deprecatingly of Israel. According to the February 11, 2015, *Phoenix and Northern Arizona Jewish News*:

Cohen made many controversial – and even some false – claims during his talk to about 35 people in a lecture hall on ASU's Tempe campus. For instance, he claimed that Gazans were “forcibly expelled” from “historic Palestine,” and that this was the cause of their suffering. He also claimed that Israel used Gaza as a “laboratory” for its weapons technology, much of which is provided by companies like Raytheon, which Cohen pointed out is the second-largest employer in Tucson.

According to the December 5, 2019, *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, on December 3, 2019, the Arizona State student government passed a resolution supporting the school's Jewish students. According to the *JTA* account, as reproduced in *The Times of Israel*, the resolution came “amid public discussion among campus student organizations about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and in the wake of fliers bearing swastikas and Stars of David circulated on campus.”

As reported in the September 1, 2020 *Forward*, posters printed with slogans like “Hitler was right” and swastikas were found on campus on August 30, 2020.

According to the February 23, 2021 *Jewish News*, on February 16, 2021, Koral Zaarur, president of ASU's Students Supporting Israel, spoke about her experience during a university webinar about anti-Semitism on campus. The *Jewish News* story quoted Zaarur as saying: “I'm hated by some because of my religion,” she said. She finds herself wondering whether “someone will act on this hatred.”

On November 3, 2021, the *Algemeiner* reported that the school's campus police were investigating the posting of antisemitic flyers at the Tempe campus. According to the *Algemeiner* account:

The flyers — which asked, “Who Controls The World?,” and answered “Jews Do” in dripping-blood font against a Star of David — were posted near a kosher restaurant and in a newspaper dispenser.

As reported in the April 13, 2022, *Algemeiner*, Mohammed El-Kurd, a columnist for *The Nation*, conducted a college tour in support of his new book, “Rifqa,” during which he made a stop at Arizona State. According to the *Algemeiner* account, “El-Kurd has trafficked in antisemitic tropes, demonized Zionism, and falsely accused Israelis of eating the organs of Palestinians.” Also, according to the *Algemeiner* story, the El-Kurd event was at the invitation of the ASU Palestine Cultural Club at a cost of \$9,995 in student government funding. The following excerpts from the story reflect the views of a coalition of ASU Jewish student groups:

“We strongly condemn the use of undergraduate student government funding to host a blatantly antisemitic speaker,” ASU Hillel and other groups posted on March 30.

“While we understand the laws of free speech protect even the most horrific hate speech, we are disappointed that funding from [Undergraduate Student Government-Tempe] will be supporting the visit of El-Kurd, and we are further frustrated that other student clubs would deem him an appropriate speaker for our campus community,” the groups said, calling on Jewish students to write to ASU officials to “express their concerns.”

According to the January 25, 2023 *Jewish News of Greater Phoenix and Northern Arizona*, Douglas Emhoff, the Second Gentleman of the United States, visited ASU Hillel on January 18, 2023, to meet with Jewish students to discuss antisemitism on campus. The *Jewish News* story contained the following account of the meeting.

Emhoff joined 10 students, Hillel at ASU Executive Director Debbie Yunker Kail and Hillel at ASU Assistant Director Taylor Silverman, for a 50-minute round table discussion, during which Emhoff invited students to share their personal experiences and how the current climate around antisemitism is impacting them as leaders.

ASU senior and Hillel at ASU Student President Zachary Bell was impressed by Emhoff’s ability to listen to each student’s experience and refer back to what they related when he offered his own comments.

“He made it clear that he heard and respected the experiences of everyone in the room,” Bell told Jewish News.

Bell said several students told Emhoff about how they sometimes feel unwelcome in certain student-led multicultural coalitions and initiatives. Emhoff told them it wasn’t the first time he’d heard similar stories and didn’t think it would be the last.

“It was clear that this is an issue he’s passionate about and that he will take concrete steps to make the global climate better,” Bell said.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Hillel’s website suggests “Chick-In, the new kosher restaurant right near Hayden Mall – Chick-In is an entirely new concept serving Mediterranean-inspired, fresh, fast food.”
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Student-led Reform as well as traditional egalitarian Shabat service and dinner.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Chabad Center at ASU (971 South Ash Avenue, Tempe).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi (inactive).

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 3

## College of Charleston

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 500 (5%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: None***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: Unranked***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 134***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 34/248***

***Comparable Schools: James Madison University, University of Delaware and University of Maryland***

Looking for an up and coming, accessible college, located in a warm-weather city, and dripping with charm? Then, the College of Charleston may be just right for your child. Once a lovely collegiate oasis for the men and women of the South, this medium-size state university has grown by leaps and bounds over the past two or so decades—both in size and in its attitude toward attracting Jewish applicants. In a September 2, 2017, *Forward* article, entitled “Why Jewish Students are Finding a Home in the Deep South,” Charleston’s Jewish Studies director, Helen Slucki, was one of the featured college officials interviewed. As described in the following excerpt from the *Forward* article, Slucki’s formulation for why Charleston had become attractive to Jewish students is also likely being played out in a number of southern universities not previously sought after by Jewish students:

Partnering with the Office of Admissions, Helen Slucki leads the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program in the recruitment of Jewish students to the College of Charleston. Stated Slucki: “I’ve learned that there are a few key symbols: kosher food on campus, a vibrant Hillel, Jewish Greek life and often Jewish studies courses. If you have a quick yes to all of these, you can move on and really talk about what your school has to offer a family.”

Walk through Charleston’s campus, typified by the neoclassic Main Building, and you will be taken with its lovely surroundings. Anderson Cooper of CNN was taken in exactly this way. During the 2012 Republican South Carolina primary, Cooper was reporting from the College of Charleston and called it “the most beautiful college in America.” The well-known Magnolia Plantation and Gardens is only a stone’s throw away.

With a little over 10,000 undergraduate students, the College of Charleston, founded in 1770, offers what the University of Delaware and the University of Vermont also offer—a public university setting that feels like a private college—but with warm weather, southern charm and magnolias thrown in for the bargain. Moreover, C of C is not a sleepy institution. This school keeps on rising and is equipped with excellent programs from botany to business to communications. Further, the school offers ample social outlets, southern style of course, including a significant Greek population and a very competitive basketball program which, during the 1990s, made it to the NCAA tournament on four different occasions.

The College of Charleston's Jewish student population is already substantial and has climbed with each incoming class of Jewish students for the past five years. According to Hillel's website:

The Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center is the center of Jewish activity at the College of Charleston. The Center is the home to both the Jewish Studies department and the Jewish Student Union/Hillel. The facilities include a lounge, a library, an all-purpose meeting room used for both classes and meals, and the administrative offices for the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program.

About a third of the College of Charleston's students hail from out of state, making C of C one of the more accessible Southern public universities. But success begets competitiveness: soon this find of an institution will likely compete with the finest Southern public institutions. With such competition, admissions requirements can only get more demanding.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Hillel offices housed at the Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat. According to Hillel's website, "the College has opened a vegan/vegetarian/kosher dining hall called Marty's Place, located next to the Yaschik Jewish Studies Center on 96 Wentworth St. This dining hall is on the meal plan, and also accepts cash and credit."
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes. Student-led pluralistic service.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad: No. However, Chabad of Charleston and the low country is located at 477 Mathis Ferry Road, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 USA

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Delta Tau.



*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies: 1.*

## **Florida International University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 3,500 (7%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low prior to Hamas' deadly October 7, 2023 rampage through southern Israel, but high-highest since then.***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 132***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 100***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 46/248***

***Comparable Schools: Florida Atlantic University, Florida State University, University of Central Florida and University of South Florida***

***Jewish President: Mark B. Rosenberg***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2020 gift of \$10 Million by Herbert and Nicole Wertheim for the university's School of Music***

The University of Miami may be piling up the kudos now that Donna Shalala and her equally esteemed successor, Julio Frenk, have been there for going on two decades, but watch out for Florida International University. FIU may be the other university in Miami, but its student body is more than three times the size of the University of Miami (and the fourth largest in the country), the quality of its students as well as its admissions requirements keep climbing, and, during the 2019 football season, it knocked off the University of Miami. In addition, its tuition is only a fraction of that charged by the University of Miami, it has an almost unbelievable array of 23 schools and colleges, it has its own 20,000-seat football field with plans for expansion, and it has a huge campus which, though not quite as spiffy as the University of Miami, is pretty nice in its own right. Its only downside may be its inability to provide much dormitory space for its burgeoning student body.

Conceived as a third and fourth-year college for community college transfers from the post-Castro Hispanic population of Miami, FIU has grown into the second largest university in the state (after the University of Central Florida and just ahead of the University of Florida). Its 23 schools and colleges offer more than 200 areas of concentration, with business and hotel management being among its strongest offerings, to thousands of students, a large number of whom are the first in their family to attend college. In this respect, FIU mirrors the grand era of City College

and Brooklyn College, where so many first-generation Jewish students found their academic grounding. FIU's athletic teams compete on a big-time level and its acceptance rate has dropped to a stingy 33%, with most of its accepted students sporting high GPAs, although standardized test scores have yet to catch up.

Consistent with its origins, FIU graduates more Hispanic students than any other university in America. In addition, about 7% of FIU's students are international, with most coming from the Caribbean and Latin America.

But, a very large number of its undergraduate students are also Jewish, with its more than 3,500 Jewish undergraduates making it one of the most populous schools for Jewish students in the country. Of these students, a significant number of FIU's Jewish students are from North Miami Beach's vibrant and upscale orthodox Jewish community, which touches upon FIU's Aventura campus (the smaller of its two campuses). In addition, FIU attracts Jewish students from all over the state, even more so now that Hillel has moved into a new facility completed in 2016. FIU's Jewish Studies program continues to grow, and has been typified by academic luminaries such as Distinguished Professor, Emeritus, Nathan Katz, an expert in the Far East and spirituality, as well as the world's leading authority on the Jewish experience in the Far East.

SJP has been relatively quiet on the FIU campus, although, in March 2016, it did stage a walkout of a speech given by Dani Danon, then permanent representative of Israel to the United Nations and, in November 2016, held an event captioned "Deconstructing Birthright," in which it accused Israel of "pink-washing" (the claim that Israel's acceptance of gay rights is a cynical subterfuge for hiding its offenses against Palestinians).

In November 2017, an event commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, scheduled to take place at the Jewish Museum of Florida—FIU, was canceled in response to a bomb threat. A 21-year-old FIU student who was later apprehended. According to a November 3, 2017, *Jewish Telegraph Agency* account of the incident, while the student was being interviewed by police, "an FIU police dog identified possible explosives in his car, leading to the evacuation of a university parking garage."

According to the April 19, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, SJP, on Thursday [April 18, 2024], was "prevented by local police from marching to the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential House at Florida International University (FIU), which is the home of school president Kenneth A. Jessell." As set forth in the *Algemeiner* account: "According to the campus newspaper *Panther Now*, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) planned the action as part of 'Palestinian Prisoner Day,' an event held by the group to honor terrorists who are detained in Israel. As the demonstrators approached Jessell's home, a blockade of police formed to obstruct their path."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Hillel Second Generation in Aventura).
- *Kosher meals*: One to twelve a week available at Hillel
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at Florida International University (10031 SW 15th Terrace, Miami).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Sigma Alpha Mu and Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Hofstra University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 850 (13%)***

***Active SJP Chapter on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 96***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 144***

***Comparable Schools: Ithaca College, Northeastern, University of Hartford and University of New Hampshire***

***Jewish President: Suzan Poser, who succeeded former Jewish president Stuart Rabinowitz***

It should be no surprise that a university located in Hempstead, Long Island, would have a large Jewish population. Hofstra does have a significant Jewish component, although not overwhelmingly so. What is notable is that Hofstra is rapidly working its way up the academic ladder.

Blessed with an attractive campus and strategically situated near New York City, Hofstra has reached out to other regions of the country and students have responded enthusiastically. Almost half of Hofstra's students are from out of state. But, note well, Hofstra is still a Long Island school in personality. In addition to being very congested, life on Long Island is fast paced. If your kid grimaces at the thought of such a fast-moving Long Island scene, then you may have to pass up this otherwise desirable school.

SJP at Hofstra has been relatively quiet. However, in the summer of 2017, Hofstra was the site of a "teach-in," entitled "Indivisibility of Justice and Global Solidarities: From Palestine to Standing Rock, Puerto Rico to Missouri," given in conjunction with that year's Berkshire Conference. During the teach-in, organized by Professor Rabab Abdulhadi of San Francisco State University, a campus notorious for its anti-Israel atmosphere, the participants were at pains to outdo one another in their vilification of Israel.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No. Hillel's facilities are located in the Mack Student Center.
- *Kosher meals*: Yes. Available through the university meal plan at Eli's Kosher Kitchen is located in the Mack Student Center.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Reform and conservative services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Jewish Student Center (also serving Adelphi College and Nassau Community College) (100 Courteny Road, Hempstead).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: The university is closed during the high holidays and the first two days of Passover. During Passover, out of the area students are made welcome at the homes of several community members and Hillel staff.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

## San Diego State University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 850 (3%<)(down from high of 2,500 (10%))

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Highest

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 113

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 131

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 206/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Arizona State, Colorado State, University of California San Diego and University of California Santa Cruz

SDSU is the fifth largest university in California and the third oldest. About one in seven of every college-credentialed adult in the San Diego area earned his or her degree from SDSU, suggesting its commuter school origins. To a large degree, SDSU remains a commuter school, but it also attracts students from across California. Among these are a fair-sized contingent of Jewish students.

Owing in part to the graceful architectural era in which it was built, SDSU is a beautiful campus, full of lawns, vintage trees, rich shrubbery and lots of outside places to hang out. The main section of the campus features a long walkway, abutted on either side by attractive buildings and ending in a courtyard bordered by Hepner Hall, a classic Spanish Mission style building with a unique rotunda-like design. Nearby is the Student Services Building with its equally unique clock tower. Particularly striking are the more modern buildings that capture the Mediterranean theme, among them, the captivating, glass-domed Malcolm A. Love Library.

SDSU offers a huge variety of majors and areas of concentration which is not surprising for a school its size. Among the best of its offerings are marine studies, earth science, business and peace studies. SDSU's athletic program is big time, with its sports teams playing in the very competitive Mountain West Conference. Its baseball team has been particularly successful. From 2003 until his death in 2014, the baseball team was coached by former SDSU and San Diego Padres star Tony Gwynn. Among Gwynn's many accomplished players is renowned pitcher, Stephen Strasburg, of the Washington Nationals.

On December 20, 2015, the *Jerusalem Post* published a troubling article by the SDSU president of Students Supporting Israel (SSI), excerpts from which are reproduced below:

“Sometimes I'm scared to admit that I'm Jewish.”

This is the message I received after the National SJP conference from a member of Hillel and Students Supporting Israel at SDSU. This conference was to take place October 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> on the San Diego State University campus.

\*\*\*\*\*

The first day of the conference was quiet. [But], on Saturday night, one of my SSI members had reported to me that SJP was marching in the street with Palestinian flags chanting anti-Israel slurs. It made her so uncomfortable that she no longer felt safe on her university campus. On Sunday, [a] beach cleanup brought together many different groups on campus to share a positive experience together and create light in the darkness of a war against anti-Semitism. A handful of beach cleanup attendees had worn t-shirts that showed their support with Israel and walked home after the event was over. On their way back, three members were harassed on separate accounts by SJP members yelling, “F\*\*\* Israel!” and following them for at least 20 feet while chanting anti-Israel slurs.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the aftermath of the conference, I reached out to my members, lending them a hand as they coped with the hate they experienced only to receive the message written above: “Sometimes I'm scared to admit that I'm Jewish.” Why is SDSU allowing these events that target and victimize students on campus to take place? In an educational setting, students should feel free to be who they are. Instead of providing students with the safe space they want and deserve on college campuses, they are met with synchronized chants calling for their demise.

During the months following the SJP conference, SJP sponsored several more anti-Israel events, such as its September 2016 program, entitled “SDSU SJP Presents: Children Behind Bars with Beth Miller,” which was advertised as a discussion of how Palestinian children are “targeted for arrest and violence within the Israeli military detention system.” At the risk of understating the matter, one may presume that these events caused further unease within the Jewish community.



However, in December 2016, the *Forward* published an upbeat article by a Japanese-American SDSU journalism student, Anthony Berteaux, taking the position that the school, was providing Jewish students with a thriving community, SJP's anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish activities notwithstanding. Entitled "Jewish Life at SDSU is Not Defined by The Haters," the article, in pertinent part, stated as follows:

For the second year in a row, San Diego State University, my campus, has been called an unsafe place to be Jewish. In 2015, David Horowitz listed SDSU as the "sixth most anti-Semitic campus" in the United States. This year, The Algemeiner's first annual list of the "40 Worst Campuses for Jewish Students" in Canada and the United States listed SDSU as the 19th worst college campus for Jews. As a student on campus who is not Jewish, yet reports on issues of college campus anti-Semitism and is immersed in the community, let me tell you this: I am done, so damn done with lists and articles that try to paint San Diego State University as an unsafe, anti-Semitic hotbed of Jew-hatred when the reality on campus shows a thriving and proud Jewish community unafraid and unapologetic about their Judaism. It's insulting to see SDSU listed: not only does it disrespect the Jewish professionals on campus working every day to ensure that the community on campus is supported and represented, but it's also far from the truth.

I walk into Hillel every day, I spend every week with my Jewish friends and I can confidently say that SDSU is an awesome place to be Jewish. Attend Hillel's biannual barbeque or drop in on Chabad's packed, rowdy Shabbat dinners filled with Jewish and non-Jewish students, and you'll absorb a resounding message lost on those who claim SDSU is "the worst": despite BDS, despite all odds, the Jewish community on campus is stronger and prouder than ever.

Three months after Mr. Berteaux's article, on March 8, 2017, an unidentified person yelled out "bomb them" in response to a student government presidential candidate's stand against BDS. In the same month, as part of "Apartheid Week," a mock "apartheid wall," was constructed with an inscription that read "Zionism is a racist political ideology formed in 1897." The wall also included a map of California universities that had voted to support BDS. Then, in April 2017, on the eve of a student government vote on a resolution defining anti-Semitism, Mr. Berteaux wrote another article bemoaning the way in which the resolution had been watered down. In pertinent part, the article stated the following:

When you read the resolution, statements calling to condemn the "justifying or harming of Jews" or acknowledge that the "Jewish people like all peoples, have a collective right to self-determination," should be

unremarkable — as unremarkable as someone who says Black Lives Matter or women’s rights are human rights. When Jewish students on campus assert their humanity, stating that they won’t accept contemporary anti-Semitism as a reality on campus, these assertions should be unremarkable.

But, at a time when white nationalist groups are openly recruiting on American college campuses, when world leaders peddle conspiracy theories and engage in latent anti-Semitism, when Jewish students are being harassed and intimidated for their connections to the Jewish state and when old anti-Semitic myths are regurgitated by those on the far-left and right ends of the political spectrum, these declarations of humanity become necessary, remarkable and radical.

However, in the weeks since it was introduced to student government, the resolution has been heavily edited, toned down and essentially neutered of all its potential power. Sections calling for student government to “respect the right of the organized Jewish community at SDSU to define, within the guidelines of national definition, what is or is not anti-Semitic” or to condemn “[accusations of] Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nation,” were effectively erased.

According to the February 20, 2020, issue of *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, San Diego State University condemned anti-Semitic and racial remarks purportedly made by political activists outside the student center, although it upheld their right to do so on grounds. According to the account in the *Union-Tribune*:

President Adela de la Torre directed her criticism at members of Uhuru, a black nationalist movement that publicly accused SDSU Wednesday of excluding the group’s founder, Omali Yeshitela, from speaking at a proposed slavery reparations summit on campus.

Jewish groups have accused Yeshitela of making anti-Semitic remarks.

Yeshitela was not present during Uhuru’s demonstration on Wednesday. But roughly eight representatives of the group protested outside the student union. One of the group’s members accused SDSU of being “controlled by Zionist masters,” according to Luke Wood, the university’s chief diversity officer. He attended the event as a campus observer.

As reported in a related article in the February 20, 2020, *San Diego Jewish World*, members of the Jewish community had objected to Yeshitela’s participation in the conference on grounds of anti-Semitism. As described in the *Jewish World*

account, one of those persons objecting, SDSU Professor Peter C. Herman, had described Yeshitela as a “Holocaust denier who contends that Jews utilize the Holocaust ‘to hide the crimes that imperialism has committed against the rest of the world.’”

According to the March 11, 2021 *Daily Aztec*, drawings, including swastikas, were found on the university’s South Campus Plaza North. According to the *Aztec* account, the university issued a statement of support for the school’s Jewish community.

As set forth in the June 30, 2021, *Jerusalem Post*, “two vandals were recorded on CCTV breaking off a branch of the large menorah outside the Chabad house and ripping a banner with the faces of students on it.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and High Holidays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Bi-weekly.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at SDSU (6115 Montezuma Road).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

## University of Hartford

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 650 (14%<); down from high of 1,500 (30%<)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Low (but, see ADL grade below)

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade:*** C

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 48

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 99

***Comparable Schools:*** Hofstra, Ithaca College, and Rochester Institute of Technology

Unlike the gritty surroundings of its better-known neighbor, Trinity College, the University of Hartford's 350-acre campus is situated in a beautiful suburb of West Hartford, adorned by large homes and pleasant parks. About half a mile from the campus sits the Mandell Jewish Community Center of Greater Hartford.

Long an attractive destination for above average students seeking a medium size campus, this university boasts a Jewish student body of almost 30%. While the Hartford area is not the cat's meow as a collegiate destination, it is convenient to New York City, Northern New Jersey and Boston, three areas that serve as substantial feeders to the university.

The university's buildings tend to be more functional than attractive and are spread out in a somewhat unconnected pattern. However, the campus provides a country-like setting and its green areas are plentiful and attractive. With such a pleasant environment, the University of Hartford offers a relaxed feel while maintaining its suburban status as a close-in university. Strong in such diverse fields as business, communications, dance, theater and art, the school can be a real opportunity for the student with good potential and an interest in solid academics.

As a result of the arrival of Hartford's musician-president Gregory Woodward in 2016, the university's well-established offerings in the performing arts arena can only get better.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Hartford Hillel based at the University of Hartford).
- *Kosher meals*: university meal plan at no extra charge.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Reform, conservative and pluralistic services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Chevra at University of Hartford (100 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi; Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies (Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies)*: 2.

## CHAPTER 8

---

### PROFILES OF SMALL SCHOOLS WITH SIGNIFICANT UNDERGRADUATE JEWISH POPULATIONS

The profiles in this chapter focus on small schools--those having approximately 1,800 to 3,000 undergraduates, with relatively few graduate students. In other words, classic small colleges. My kids and I had a ten percent rule for such schools: if fewer than ten percent of the students were Jewish, we crossed it off the list. It was arbitrary of course and such a cutoff eliminated a lot of super, smaller schools. Nevertheless, with an occasional exception, this Chapter 8 uses such a cutoff for the schools profiled. For those of you who may wish to consider some additional terrific schools that don't make the ten percent cut, I urge you to look at the schools profiled in Chapter 9.

As in chapters 7 and 9, in this chapter I have separated schools into four brackets, using the new SATs, with the highest bracket encompassing combined new SAT test scores 1450 and above—the equivalent of 1400 in the old SAT's and, again, a pretty fair standard of excellence. The three lower brackets respectively reflect schools with combined new SAT test scores of 1360-1440, schools with combined new SAT test scores of 1270-1350 and schools with combined new SAT test scores of 1170-1260. Please check the introduction to Chapter 7 for the rationale behind these groupings.

## **Schools with New SAT Scores of 1450 or Higher (corresponds to old SAT of 1400 or Higher)**

### **Amherst College**

***Number and Percentage of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 200 (11%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of BDS Activity: High***

***ADL 2024 Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: B***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 59***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 56***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 195/248***

***Comparable Schools: Bowdoin, Brown, Dartmouth, Haverford, Swarthmore, Wesleyan and Williams***

Amherst is tucked away in the lovely central Massachusetts community of Amherst, which is also home to the much larger University of Massachusetts.

The tidy Amherst campus sits on a knoll, with brick buildings adorning two picture perfect central quads. However, the really striking feature of the campus is its commanding views of the mountains of central Massachusetts. The panorama of the surrounding mountains, when viewed from the school's memorial to Amherst men who served in the two great wars, is truly breathtaking. Eighty percent of Amherst alumni report they have attended graduate or professional school. Amherst has not had fraternities since the 1980's. In October 2011, Amherst inaugurated its first woman president: Carolyn "Biddy" Martin. On June 7, 2021, *Inside Higher Ed* reported that a majority of Amherst's incoming class was nonwhite.

Amherst College is a member of a five-college consortium that also includes the University of Massachusetts, Mt. Holyoke, Smith and Hampshire College (see profile of Hampshire College for a discussion of its precarious economic circumstances). As a result, students have the opportunity to venture beyond their storied and much admired academic halls in the off chance they require additional academic offerings.

Before it started accepting women in the mid-1970's, Amherst was a bastion of East Coast, male WASP elitism, with much of its ranks filled by privileged graduates of prep schools that were not known for their openness to Jews. As late as the 1960's,

upwards of half of the students attending the storied halls of elite colleges such as Amherst would have come from equally elite boarding and private schools such as Choate, Hotchkiss, Phillips Exeter and St. Paul's. If you've seen the movie, *Dead Poet's Society* (starring Robin Williams), you've seen what pre-Vietnam-era feeder schools to Amherst were like.

But, today, Amherst is open to all comers. In addition, Amherst's decision to convert all loans to scholarships has made it easier for a more broadly diversified body of students to find a home in this prestigious small college. Also contributing to a more diverse student body is the fact that about two-thirds of Amherst's transfer slots are allocated to community college transfers.

In December 2016, Amherst cancelled the remaining season of its men's cross-country team after disclosures that team members had engaged in a pattern of racist, misogynistic and homophobic behavior going back to 2013. On March 23, 2020, *Inside Higher Ed*, citing the *Boston Globe*, reported that:

Amherst College has placed its men's lacrosse team on probation through the 2021 season and terminated coach Jon Thompson after a racist incident involving the team.

Members of the college community received a letter Friday signed by President Biddy Martin and others, explaining that the incident took place about two weeks prior and involved members of the team using "racist, harassing speech."

According to the letter, there [had] been other issues in the past with the team. Those cases include sharing photos of a teammate with a swastika drawn on his face who had passed out at a party.

All that may change rapidly with the initiation of Amherst's first majority nonwhite class in the fall of 2021.

On June 24, 2024, the *Algemeiner* reported the following (which reflects the colleges rejection of BDS, but not necessarily the sentiment of its students and faculty):

The board of trustees of Amherst College, a liberal arts institution in western Massachusetts, has rejected an anti-Zionist faction's proposal for divestment from companies which sell arms to Israel, the school announced on Monday.

"Guided by the fundamental principle of respecting the diversity of opinion in our community — and noting the practical challenges — the board has decided unanimously not to pursue the divestment actions



requested in the faculty and [Amherst Associated Students] resolutions,” Amherst College president Michael Elliott, as well as the board of trustees chair and chair-elect Andrew Nussbaum and Chantal Kordula, respectively, said in a statement.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: No.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Student-led Shabat services, student-cooked Shabat dinner in the Cadigan Center.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Held in conjunction with Smith College ((Rosh Hashanah at Smith and Yom Kippur at Amherst). Seders are held first night with optional second night at Smith.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Served by Chabad of the Four Colleges (located at 194 Amity Street, Amherst; serving Smith, Mt. Holyoke, Hampshire and Amherst).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## **Barnard College (Columbia University)**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 850 (32%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: See Columbia University: highest***

***ADL 2024 Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: See Columbia University: 9***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 29***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 164/248***

***Comparable Schools: Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Smith, Wellesley***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2016 gift of \$25 Million by Philip and Cheryl Milstein***

If Columbia itself is not your daughter's cup of tea, but a Morningside Heights address plays well, then maybe your daughter would prefer Barnard College. Barnard offers women a chance to live in one another's company in Barnard dormitories, take core courses at Barnard or Columbia but with a concentration specified by Barnard, and, ultimately, receive a Columbia diploma. Barnard's tidy, but compact, campus, comprises only four acres. Its students, however, enjoy a charming gated lawn where relaxation and sunbathing are often the order of the day. For security, only one gate is open in the evening. With Columbia across the street, Barnard is a great opportunity for young women to study at a large co-ed university during school hours and to live in a women's college setting during non-school hours.

According to the April 18, 2018, *Forward*, Barnard students voted in support of a BDS resolution by a margin of almost 2-1. Following the resolution vote, Barnard's president, Sian Leah Beilock announced that the college would not take any action to divest from the eight companies who the resolution claimed, "profit from or engage in the State of Israel's treatment of Palestinians." According to the April 23, 2018, *Columbia Spectator*, the following considerations entered into President Beilock's rejection:

Of the nearly 50 percent of Barnard students who voted in the elections, just 741 students voted on the referendum, which passed with 64.3 percent of the vote. This means that less than 30 percent of Barnard's student body voted in support of the referendum. Additionally, neither

SGA nor the college is beholden to act on referendum results, which are not binding.

As reported by the November 9, 2021, the *Algemeiner*, the anti-Zionist Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) chapter at Barnard circulated a petition demanding the cancellation of two then upcoming events featuring Kenneth Stern, the author of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. (For a discussion of the IHRA definition of antisemitism, see Section I of Chapter 1 above.) According to the *Algemeiner* account, “the petition said Kenneth Stern, who is scheduled to speak at events sponsored by the Barnard College Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Board on Wednesday and Friday — Antisemitism Through a Hate Studies Lens and Difficult Conversations and Academic Freedom — has been “instrumental in cementing the erroneous conflation of Judaism and Zionism.”

Two months after Hamas’ deadly rampage through Israel on October 7, 2023, the *Times of Israel* interviewed Noa Fay, a Black-Native American Jewish student at Barnard. The interview appeared in the December 12, 2023, edition of the *Times of Israel* under the heading “Barnard senior, a Black-Native American Jew, has some words for pro-Palestinian peers” and is reproduced below:

*The Times of Israel: Jewish students held a candlelight vigil on the night of October 7. How soon after that were there counter-protests?*

*Noa Fay:* The first one was on October 12. That rally was one of the most disturbing things I have ever witnessed. I had to cross campus that day. [Jewish students] stood in silent protest. It was so upsetting. The pro-Palestinian students were doing a call and response. There is something particularly chilling about that when you have such large numbers. They were chanting, “Jews will not defeat us,” “Globalize the Intifada,” and “From the River to the Sea.” I had a generational flashback. It was the closest thing to Nazi Germany I could imagine. They were chanting for our death. It was harrowing. My words can’t do it justice.

*You’re a Black, Native American woman. How do the pro-Palestinian students on campus, who link racism in the US with what is happening in Israel, react to you?*

I think I represent a level of cognitive dissonance for them. People generally don’t know that Jews of Color exist. They don’t understand that you can’t identify Jews based on our looks.

When I speak about Black and Native American issues you have people’s attention, no one questions what you’re saying. If you say it’s racist, then

it's racist. Your word is law. But now it seems my Jewishness cancels it out for them. If I say something is antisemitic they don't listen.

*What goes through your head when you see signs around campus, posts on social media, and students and faculty describing Israel as an example of settler colonialism?*

I was in line for class when I overheard two students saying something like, "If you haven't been on your land in centuries, then it's not your land anymore." First of all, I had no idea there was a statute of limitations regarding that. And when you say I'm a white supremacist colonial settler? Tell me that to my Native American face.

*You said you don't feel physically unsafe, but how is your emotional well-being?*

I've been doing terribly in every regard. I've never experienced such immediate depression and have been depressed ever since October 7. I couldn't understand why all of a sudden I felt so depressed. I've had a loss of appetite and in the beginning, I was sleeping more. The only thing that makes me feel better is when I'm speaking about what's going on. Talking publicly has made me feel empowered.

*What about the argument that the protests, teach-ins, and so on, are expressions of free speech and academic freedom?*

The whole argument that this is a First Amendment issue is ridiculous. If you take that idea then can students openly celebrate the KKK? Can they wave the Confederate flag? I go to Barnard, where if you say anything that is even slightly homophobic you will get called out.

If it's about academic freedom and you want Joseph Massad teaching, then I want to see the university hire David Duke to teach a course that looks at civil rights from a different perspective.

*In your opinion what needs to change?*

We need to be talking about the dismissal of presidents, and faculty and curriculum changes.

*Any final thoughts?*

[The pro-Palestinian movement] has made Zionism a dirty word and I want to make sure that that does not catch on. If we make it out of this, then we should all be Zionists the way people are feminists. It's about equal rights. Zionism should be inseparable from Jewish self-determination and equal rights.

As reported by the February 29, 2024, the *Forward*:

Some students at Barnard and Columbia University, of which it is a part, placed signs on their dormitory doors charging Israel with genocide in Gaza and of being an illegitimate state. Jewish students last week filed a lawsuit, accusing both schools of failing to protect students from “pervasive” antisemitism and anti-Zionism. “Anti-Zionism is not merely a political movement — although many try to disguise it as such — but is a direct attack against Israel as a Jewish collectivity,” the suit read.

Also as reported in the *Forward* account, in an effort to create a less hostile environment for its Jewish students, “Barnard students may no longer display messages on their dorm doors, a response to the tense climate at the New York City college since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.”

For a more general idea of the intense anti-Israel activities on the Columbia campus, see the profile for Columbia earlier in this Guide.

*Hillel*: Yes. See profile for Columbia.

*Chabad*: Yes. See profile for Columbia.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.

## **Bowdoin College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 165 (9%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of BDS Activity: Low***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 59***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 105***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 122/248***

***Comparable Schools: Amherst, Carleton, Haverford, Middlebury and Williams***

Founded in 1794 by brewer and Massachusetts governor Samuel Adams, Bowdoin has produced such legendary alumnae as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Nathaniel Hawthorne. Throughout its history, Bowdoin has always enjoyed the reputation of being one of the preeminent small liberal arts colleges in New England. During the 2017-18 academic year, Bowdoin produced the second highest number of Fulbright scholars of any small college in America.

Once a Greek campus, Bowdoin no longer has fraternities and, is, of course, fully co-ed. Long ago, Bowdoin made standardized tests optional. About 30% of Bowdoin's applicants choose not to submit test scores. But, given Bowdoin's otherwise high SAT scores, foregoing tests scores is an option that should not be taken lightly. Since the 2008-09 academic year, all student assistance has been in the form of grants.

Capped by the stately brick and stone neo-Gothic architecture of Hubbard Hall, the school's main quad features a long expanse of green surrounded by an array of historically interesting, academic buildings. Academically, Bowdoin is quintessentially excellent. Students here must like what they are doing because there is not much else. However, with many superior academic offerings, the rewards can be great. Bowdoin annually ranks high among collegiate producers of students matriculating to the best graduate schools.

During April 2015, a school-wide BDS referendum was soundly defeated, with fewer than 20% voting in favor of the referendum.

For the curious, a fall trip through Maine, with Bowdoin and its close cousins Bates and Colby on the itinerary, could be very rewarding. And, who knows, maybe a *shitach* will be found in the process.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Rabbi-led reform High Holiday services.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## **Claremont McKenna College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Students: 130 (10%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 41***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 17***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 40 for the Claremont Colleges as a whole***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 73/248***

***Comparable Schools: Macalester, Pomona, Reed and Vassar***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2012 gift of \$50 Million by George R. Roberts; 2008 gift of \$75 Million by the Marie-José and Henry R. Kravis Foundation***

Claremont McKenna College is one of five schools comprising the Claremont Colleges Consortium. As is true of the four other Consortium schools, Claremont McKenna offers students a beautiful setting in a community of colleges (although, Pomona College, one of the other Consortium colleges, is physically separate). At one point, the town of Claremont, set in the shadow of the San Gabriel Mountains, was named as one of the five most livable communities in the United States.

With heady Pomona and Harvey Mudd as co-Consortium institutions, one might think it difficult for a school—even one as selective as Claremont McKenna—to distinguish itself. But, distinguish itself it has. Claremont McKenna specializes in government, public policy, international relations and economics, and students flock to these specialties, with over 40% of the student body majoring in government or international relations. In keeping with this theme, Claremont McKenna also offers a five-year combination BA/MBA with qualifying students obtaining their bachelor's degrees from Claremont McKenna and their MBA from the Drucker School of Management at Claremont Graduate University.

Claremont McKenna does not have the largest percentage of Jewish students of the Claremont Colleges Consortium, but with the college's emphasis on public policy and economics, the likelihood is that interest among Jewish students will increase, particularly since there are very few small schools of Claremont McKenna's caliber on the West Coast.



Claremont's campus is modern, with the school having been founded in 1946. The huge Kravis Center at Claremont McKenna offers indoor and outdoor meeting areas, flexible classrooms and extensive research areas, and was endowed by alumnus and Jewish financier, Henry Kravis.

On March 9, 2016, Claremont University Department of Campus Safety sent out a "Campus Safety Alert" regarding mock eviction notices received by Jewish students. Expressing concern, the Safety Alert stated as follows:

Statement RE: Claremont Students for Justice in Palestine Mock Eviction Notices

On Monday, March 7, 2016 at approximately 11:02 pm, the Campus Safety Department received a report of a flier that had been placed on the exterior of a Claremont McKenna College student's dormitory room door. Campus Safety responded immediately and upon arrival found several other fliers.

The flier was composed as a mock eviction notice. The Claremont Police Department was also informed of the incident. Residential Life staff at Scripps College reported that the mock eviction notices were also discovered at some Scripps residence halls.

Pitzer College also reported the flier being posted in hallways of Mead Hall. Posting regulations on all three campuses were violated. Because students have reported that they felt they were being targeted specifically because they are Jewish, Campus Safety is working with the Claremont Police Department to investigate this matter as a possible bias incident.

In April 2017, controversy struck the Claremont McKenna campus when students protesters prevented conservative commentator, Heather MacDonald, author of *The War on Cops: How the New Attack on Law and Order Makes Everyone Less Safe*, from completing her scheduled speech. MacDonald was quoted as describing the encounter as an "exercise of brute totalitarian force." She later echoed this theme in a television interview when she stated: "These students are exercising brute force against their fellow students to prevent them from hearing me live."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House: Yes:* Hillel at the Claremont Colleges (located at the McAlister Center for Religious Activities)
- *Kosher meals:* No.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat:* Unknown.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Chabad Student Center of Claremont (415 W Foothill Blvd #118, Claremont).
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday, Sukkot and Passover services:* Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.

## Colgate University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 300 (>10%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** None (but see below)

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 75

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 48

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 209/248

***Major Jewish Donors:*** 2021 gift of \$25 million by Dan Benton for the Bernstein Center for Arts, Creativity and Innovation

***Comparable Schools:*** Emory, Hamilton, Haverford, Kenyon and Tufts

For many years Colgate was a *goyish* redoubt rivaling that of its big cousin, Dartmouth. However, those years are long since passed. Colgate today has a thriving Jewish population and an equally thriving Jewish life. In addition, Colgate offers on a small scale (NCAA Division IA) a lot of the rah-rah that only much larger campuses are usually able to provide. A charter member of the Patriot League, Colgate plays such schools as Bucknell, Lehigh and Lafayette. Annually, Colgate also plays at least three Ivy League teams in football.

In addition to sports and a thriving social scene, Colgate also offers a top grade, near-Ivy League academic experience on a beautiful campus about 45 minutes from Syracuse, New York. Clinging to the side of its famous hill, the Colgate campus boasts classic Gothic buildings, all of which overlook a lovely lake. However, this attractiveness notwithstanding, Colgate is, literally, the only game in town. So, if your child craves excitement beyond the boundaries of his or her school, Colgate may be a tight fit. But, if exposure to other Jewish kids in an exciting and vibrant small college environment is what your kid is looking for, Colgate may be just his or her ticket.

Jewish life at Colgate centers around the Saperstein Center for Jewish Life (which, in addition, to serving as the focal point for Jewish life on campus, is also the repository of over 1,000 volumes of Judaic texts as well as Jewish music and film). Effective July 2021, Rabbi Col. (retired) Barry R. Baron, associate university chaplain and campus rabbi, was appointed to serve a three year term as university chaplain.

On December 14, 2022, *Chabad.org* reported that the Colgate Jewish community had come together in a heartwarming manner to restore the Chanukah

menorah that had been vandalized at the Chabad center. The following are excerpts from the report:

Thanks to grassroots efforts by students at Colgate University in Upstate New York to combat antisemitism on their campus, a new giant menorah was dedicated on Dec. 13, just five days after the original Chanukah menorah at the local Chabad-Lubavitch center was vandalized.

“When I received a picture of our menorah being destroyed, it really hit close to home,” says Jackson Fox, a sophomore at Colgate who says he considers Chabad to be like a second home. Fox says that before the attack he had been feeling numb to antisemitism, after seeing so much of it going on around the world. “It was the first time I ever really felt personally affected. But instead of feeling down and helpless, it was really quite the opposite. We had an amazing community response—everyone was so quick to help and to give, and it just really showed the strength of our Colgate community and how much we really care about each other.”

The following uplifting story of Jewish continuity appeared in a May 2, 2024, publication by Colgate University:

Colgate University’s Center for Arts, Creativity, and Innovation, which is nearing completion and expected to open in the fall, will be named Bernstein Hall in honor of the lead donor’s genealogical roots.

When Dan Benton ’80, H’10, P’10, decided to support the creation of a new center designed to bring together the arts and technology through a \$25 million principal gift, the new anchor building on Colgate’s Middle Campus was announced in 2021 as the Benton Center.

For Benton — who made his first gift of \$15 to Colgate as an undergraduate in his senior year and has donated to the University every year since — the name of the building became something he spent considerable time contemplating as construction continued.

It was during construction that Benton read a history of Jews at Colgate, written by six Colgate students and titled, *Repression, Re-Invention, and Rugelach: A History of Jews at Colgate*. That book, edited by Professor of Jewish Studies and Russian and Eurasian Studies Alice Nakhimovsky, was created as a culmination of a Jewish Studies seminar course and paints an unvarnished picture of a time when the Jewish experience on campus was marred by admission quotas and bias.

Reading about the history of Jews at Colgate caused Benton to reflect on his own family history, and he started to consider changing the name of the new building to honor his family's Jewish identity. Benton's grandfather had changed his family's last name from Bernstein to Benton in the 1940s to defend against rampant anti-semitism of the era.

In late October, Benton made the decision to explicitly connect his identity and his family's legacy to his support of his alma mater, officially giving the new building the name Bernstein Hall.

"In choosing to dedicate this building as Bernstein Hall, I honor my family's history. I underscore our resilience and the resilience of the Jewish people," Benton said. "And just as the blending of the arts, entrepreneurship, and computer science has magical potential, so does the blending of diverse thought, talent, and ethnicity in a student body. It enriches everything. And with both at work, we deliver on our mission to prepare our students to navigate the challenges of the world they will graduate into. Isn't this what the liberal arts must do?"

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No, but the Saperstein Jewish Center serves a comparable function.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and High Holidays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes (student-led by the Colgate Jewish Union).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad of Madison County (58 Broad Street, Hamilton).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday, Sukkot and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.

## Hamilton College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 170 (9%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: None***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 56***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 33***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 131/248***

***Comparable Schools: Bates, Colby, Colgate, Connecticut College, Skidmore and Vassar***

Just a few miles down the road from its larger cousin, Colgate University, Hamilton College is a rural gem of a liberal arts college. Reflecting its origins as the Hamilton-Oneida Academy, a military preparatory school dating back to the late 1700s, Hamilton's 1,300-acre campus looks one part parade ground and one part college campus. But, whatever its look, Hamilton is the essence of a small, charming liberal arts college.

In the late 1960s, Hamilton experimented with a coordinate female institution named Kirkland College. Separated by a two-lane country road, Kirkland College, with its pastel, almost beach house architecture, is now part of Hamilton College. But, Kirkland's art and theater courses—then, often, the domain of women's colleges—live on in the form of a flourishing fine arts curriculum at Hamilton.

Hamilton plays athletics at the Division III level and offers many activities on campus, but, at bottom, Hamilton is a rural school, with only the small cities of Syracuse and Utica nearby, and students should be prepared for a campus-centric existence. For many college-bound, Jewish students, this type of environment may be a little constricting, as reflected in the fact that, historically, 10%, or fewer, of Hamilton's 1,850 students have been Jewish. However, numbers can be deceiving in Hamilton's case. I have known many Jewish students who have been totally content at Hamilton and would not have changed their college experience for any other school.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House:* No.
- *Kosher meals:* Unknown
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat:* At the Azel Backus House, one of the oldest buildings on the Hamilton campus.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Yes.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.

## Haverford College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 150 (11%); down from high of 250 (20%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Moderate (High-Highest since Hamas' October 7, 2023, deadly rampage through southern Israel)

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 54

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 51

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 208/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Bowdoin, Carleton, Middlebury, Swarthmore and Wesleyan

Recognition has never been an issue for Haverford, which long ago established itself as an elite small college capable of holding its own with anyone. In addition, now that Haverford is part of a tri-college consortium with Swarthmore and Bryn Mawr, the college can offer its students the best of the best. In addition to being able to take courses at the other two schools, Haverford students can even spend a year of study at either of the other two institutions.

Located two tony towns down the road from Bryn Mawr, Haverford College is an exceptionally delightful place with a nature trail, an arboretum that boasts more than 300 varieties of conifers, a pond and fountain, and a lovely campus made up primarily of field stone buildings reflecting the school's Quaker origins. Among the most outstanding examples of the school's architectural offerings are Magill Library, Marshall Auditorium, Hilles Hall and Founders Hall (constructed in 1833 and the oldest building at Haverford). Due to its closeness to Bryn Mawr, Haverford students can often be found at Bryn Mawr and vice versa, creating a virtual, two-campus setting for learning

Haverford is strong in the natural sciences, but it offers excellent instruction in all fields, and, if there is anything lacking, Bryn Mawr and Swarthmore are available to fill the gap. Haverford is not big in sports, but its sports history is distinguished by the fact that it had the first varsity soccer team in collegiate America and now sports the premier varsity cricket team. Haverford's indoor track is very impressive. Social life at Haverford consists of activities on and off campus, with Philadelphia beckoning less than a half hour train ride away.

Haverford's fine program of study is reflected in the equally fine alumni it has produced. Four alumni have won Nobel prizes, including Henry J. Cadbury, the first



winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and the founder of the American Friends Service, and one alum has won a Pulitzer Prize. In addition, Haverford graduates may be found extensively among the ranks of university faculties.

Haverford has become very popular with Jewish students. Hillel's website indicates that about 15% of Haverford's students are Jewish. However, two friends, whose children recently graduated from Haverford, advise that more than 25% of the students in their kids' classes identified themselves as being Jewish.

Jewish density on campus notwithstanding, Haverford does have an active SJP chapter. On May 1, 2016, the SJP posted the following on its Facebook page in response to the then upcoming Israel Independence Day:

Tomorrow Bi-Co Friends of Israel celebrates Israeli Independence Day, which purports to celebrate independence without recognizing the ethnic cleansing behind it. Haverford Students for Justice in Palestine and Bryn Mawr Voices for Palestine condemn the celebration of the ethnic cleansing of Palestine. Our groups stand in solidarity with Palestinians around the world and with students in the Bi-Co who have been affected by al-Nakba. We support the Right of Return for Palestinians to their homes in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

During its March 2017 "Israel Apartheid Week," SJP invited two speakers to campus. Professor Sa'ed Atshan, a teacher in the Peace and Conflict Studies Department at Swarthmore College, gave a talk, entitled "Human Rights in Occupied Palestine: Reflections from a Queer Palestinian Quaker. Remi Kanazi, a Brooklyn-based poet and activist, gave a talk, entitled "Poetic Injustice: From Brooklyn to Palestine." According to the March 28, 2017, edition of the student newspaper, *The Clerk*, each talk drew a small audience of only about 15 to 20 people.

The Deborah Project, an advocacy group that litigates on behalf of Jewish students, released the following statement in May 2024 regarding a lawsuit it filed on behalf of Haverford's Jewish students:

Jewish students at Haverford College have sued in federal court in Philadelphia charging the school with maintaining — and even supporting — a hostile environment for Jews. The lawsuit also charges that Haverford breached its contract with the plaintiffs by failing to follow its own written policies, thereby preventing Jewish students from being able to fully engage in the educational opportunities for which they pay tuition. The students are represented by The Deborah Project, a public interest law firm that defends the civil rights of Jews in education.

The lawsuit reveals that Haverford has two separate sets of discrimination policies, one for ugliness against Jews in which every statement, poster, protest and chant is deemed protected by Free Speech, and the other for any perceived nastiness towards other minorities, in which case protecting the feelings of the hurt parties become paramount.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No: Kosher meals: Shabat and holidays.
- *Kosher meals*:
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes: pluralistic service.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Center for Jewish Life-Chabad House (also serves Swarthmore and Bryn Mawr) (780 College Avenue).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Middlebury College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 300 (11%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of BDS Activity: Highest, since Hamas' deadly rampage through southern Israel and the Israeli response***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 47***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 40***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 233/248***

***Comparable Schools: Amherst, Bowdoin, Dartmouth, Wesleyan and Williams***

There is little other than superlatives that come to mind when describing this 200-year-old New England college with its gray stone buildings, view of the Green Mountains, charming Vermont setting and storied language studies program. During the 2017-18 academic year, Middlebury was tied for the most Fulbright scholars among small colleges in America.

The town of Middlebury is quite small with the college being the centerpiece of the community. In December 2011, a Middlebury alumnus contributed over 370 acres of adjacent land to the college, thereby more than doubling the size of the campus and opening up the school's offerings to wetland and other environmental studies.

Long a competitor of New Hampshire's Dartmouth College, as well as the three elite Maine colleges (Bowdoin, Colby and Bates), Middlebury remains high atop the rankings year in and year out. Significantly, Middlebury has been attracting a Jewish student body for a number of years and has an active Hillel led by .

Middlebury's grassy campus provides ample opportunity for charming fall walks and snowy winter treks. The campus offers many architectural delights and a lovely quad. Though most of the buildings date back to the interregnum twentieth century, some go as far back as the early 19th century. Buildings of note include Old Chapel, which dates to 1836, and the almost whimsical but beautiful 1925 Chateau Building, home to Middlebury's French Department. Not quite as venerable, but important in its own right, is the building that houses the Rohatyn Center for International Affairs. The Center was founded by and named after one of Middlebury's more illustrious Jewish alumni, Felix Rohatyn, whose family fled pre-Holocaust France and could never have imagined that their son, Felix, would one day become U.S. Ambassador to France.

As noted, Middlebury excels in foreign languages, with concentrations offered in Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. But, Middlebury is no slouch in the other liberal arts disciplines, particularly environmental and international studies. Its Bread Loaf School of English, located on Middlebury's Bread Loaf Campus, is not only a campus force (as well as an architecturally fascinating structure in its own right), but, in addition, is the home of a renowned summer school of English.

In early March 2017, Middlebury's quiet campus was shaken when violent protests broke out in response to a scheduled appearance by conservative social scientist, Charles Murray, author of "The Bell Curve," a 1994 book that associated lower socio-economic status with race and intelligence. Murray, who had been labeled a "white supremacist" by the Southern Poverty Law Center, gave his talk on social and income inequality in a locked room on campus, with the speech being live streamed. When he and Allison Stranger, the sponsoring faculty member, attempted to leave the building, they were harassed and pushed around by a group consisting of both students and non-students. Stranger wound up being treated for a concussion. Ultimately, 67 students were disciplined for their roles in the disturbance, although none were suspended, expelled or criminally prosecuted.

The episode sparked a concerned self-assessment throughout the Middlebury campus beginning with its president, Laurie L. Patton, quoted by the Boston Globe as stating, "the incident demonstrates that elite schools are subject to the same dynamic that challenges the rest of the country — an inability to debate differences constructively."

On April 17, 2019, the planned talk of another controversial figure, the Polish academic, Ryszard Legutko, was again called off. According to the April 18, 2019, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, protests against the speaker had again been planned, "although it is unclear if those protests would have disrupted the speech -- a violation of Middlebury rules and the norms of campus discourse. This time Middlebury called off the event, citing safety concerns." As set out in the *Inside Higher Ed* account, the email that went out hours before the scheduled speech stated the following as grounds for its cancellation:

In the interest of ensuring the safety of students, faculty, staff and community members, the lecture by Ryszard Legutko scheduled for later today will not take place. The decision was not taken lightly. It was based on an assessment of our ability to respond effectively to potential security and safety risks for both the lecture and the event students had planned in response.

The Legutko cancellation followed a considerably more bizarre episode at Middlebury involving a March 2019 chemistry exam question. According to the above-referenced *Inside Higher Ed* article:

A question on the exam asked students to calculate a lethal dose of hydrogen cyanide gas. As the question noted, that gas was used by Nazis in concentration camp gas chambers. As word of the test question spread, many on campus were appalled and could see no possible reason for a chemistry exam to focus on this issue.

Middlebury's president, Laurie L. Patton, issued a statement that said, "This inexplicable failure of judgment trivializes one of the most horrific events in world history, violates core institutional values and simply has no place on our campus. We expect our faculty to teach and lead with thoughtfulness, good judgment and maturity. To say we have fallen short in this instance is an understatement."

According to the November 21, 2019, *The Middlebury Campus*, about 25 students participated in a peaceful protest during a November 14, 2019, lecture by Ishmael Khaldi, Israel's first Bedouin diplomat and a former soldier in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). Following the protest, about 25 other students remained for the lecture. According to the *The Middlebury Campus* account, one of the attendees, a student from the United Kingdom offered the following observation:

"I have seen walkouts happen before in this context," he said. "They're completely antithetical to progress. People are less informed because they haven't listened to the other side, which is the fundamental element to finding a solution. This speaker was someone who represents a significant Arab minority in Israel, and so has valuable insight to share on the potential for cooperation."

On February 19, 2024, the *Algemeiner* reported that the pro-Zionist watchdog organization, Stand With Us (SWU) had filed a civil rights complaint against Middlebury with the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR). The magnitude of the complaint warrants an extended extract from the *Algemeiner* account:

The complaint, filed with the US Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) argues that high level Middlebury College officials, by refusing to enforce anti-discrimination policies equally, have fostered a "pervasively hostile climate," which prevents Jewish students from enjoying the full benefits of being a college student at a higher education receiving federal funds, according to the complaint.

A timeline of events laid out in documents provided by SWU begins after Hamas' massacre across southern Israel on Oct. 7, when the school issued a statement that did not acknowledge the deaths of Israelis, but instead only alluded to "violence happening now in Israel in Palestine." The following week, the administration allegedly obstructed Jewish

students' efforts to publicly mourn Jews murdered on Oct. 7., denying them police protection for a vigil, forcing them to hold it outside, and demanding that the event avoid specifically mentioning Jewish suffering. In an email to one Jewish group that planned a vigil, Vice President and Dean of Students Derek Doucet said, "I wonder if such a public gather in such a charged moment might be more inclusive."

A month later, the administration uncomplainingly accommodated Students for Justice in Palestine's "Vigil for Palestine," providing campus police, space on campus, and a speech from a high ranking official, a request which organizers of the Jewish vigil had been denied.

StandWithUs also noted that Middlebury allegedly ignored numerous complaints of antisemitic harassment committed by anti-Zionist groups. After a local Chabad rabbi wrote to school officials reporting acts of "intimidation," including preventing Jews from entering the cafeteria, during a "Day of Resistance" event organized by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), the school's associate vice president of safety warned him not to report the incidents to outside law enforcement, saying that doing so would be a "risk to individuals and to our community." The official also denied being aware of any antisemitic incidents.

"The hostile environment at Middlebury College and the administration's failure to act to correct it are unacceptable," Carly Gammill, Director of Legal Strategy at SWU Center for Legal Justice, in a press release issued on Friday. "Too often, when Jewish students raise concerns about antisemitism, they are subjected to administrators who deflect the bigotry at play".

#### Hillel:

- *Hillel House:* The Middlebury College Jewish Center is located on the dining level of the Freeman International Center and consists of a kitchen and a small meeting room used for the Jewish Center Speaker Series and other Hillel events.
- *Kosher meals:* Provided on Shabat. Middlebury's Hillel web site does note, however, that the Middlebury College Jewish Center houses a kosher kitchen that is open to students.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat:* Friday night Shabat services and Shabat dinner are offered at the Jewish Center.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* The Middlebury Hillel web site advises that High Holiday services are offered and that about 110 students and faculty attend Passover Seders.
- *Hillel Sponsored Programs:* In addition to a variety of other social and interfaith programs, Hillel offers a unique Alternative Spring Break project in Honduras.

Chabad: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies:* 1.

## **Pomona College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** >130 (>7%) at Pomona; but almost 12% at the Claremont Colleges overall

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** High (Highest since Hamas' October 7, 2023, murderous rampage through southern Israel)

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade:*** D

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 27

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 38

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 40 for the Claremont Colleges as a whole

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 177/248

***Schools:*** Bowdoin, Claremont McKenna, Middlebury and Swarthmore

Easily, the most competitive small college on the West Coast, Pomona goes toe to toe with Stanford for California's (and the nation's) best. This small college, situated within view of the snow-capped San Gabriel Mountains in the San Fernando Valley outside of Los Angeles, is the best of the five-college Claremont consortium of colleges, that also consists of Claremont, Harvey Mudd, Pitzer and Scripps. With buildings such as the 2,500-seat Bridges Auditorium, Pomona is the most attractive of the five as well.

West of the Mississippi, Reed College in Oregon and Grinnell College in Iowa are the only small colleges capable of giving Pomona a run for the money (unless your child happens to be an engineering student applying to the hyper-competitive, fellow Claremont consortium member, Harvey Mudd College). From an East Coast perspective, Bowdoin, Swarthmore and Middlebury come to mind as contenders, although none has to deal with the smog that often chokes the San Fernando Valley, including Pomona.

Pomona's campus is gushingly Southern California with Smith Hall being the evocation of the Spanish Mission style of architecture that may be found on the campus. But, Pomona does also boast an eclectic spirit with solar panels on its buildings and the magnificent Carnegie Building that looks like a palm-tree adorned, Doric-columned, west-coast version of the Treasury Building in Washington, D.C.



The normally quiet Pomona campus found itself in the middle of a full-blown controversy in April 2017 when an email campaign challenged the hiring of Alice Goffman, a visiting sociology professor from the University of Wisconsin. Ms. Goffman was the author of *On the Run—Fugitive Life in an American City*, a 2014 ethnography based on the six years she spent living in a poor inner-city neighborhood in Philadelphia. Among the reasons why her hiring was characterized by some as an “instance of anti-blackness” was the concern that the stories contained in her book might reinforce negative stereotypes.

According to the December 14, 2018, *Cleveland Jewish News*, a mural at Pomona put up in reaction to the Tree of Life murders in Pittsburgh was vandalized on two occasions. The mural which read “Antisemitism exists. Acknowledge it” was defaced with the words “Palestine exists. Acknowledge it,” and a Palestinian flag was painted on the mural. The reaction of one Pomona Jewish student to the vandalism is noteworthy for the frustration and concern it conveys. As quoted in the *Cleveland Jewish News* account, the student stated the following:

“I find it frustrating that all Jewish issues have become so politicized on our campus,” Pomona junior and Alpha Epsilon Pi member Sam Lushtak told JNS. “Students feel like they can’t be active as Jews, even with something as simple as having Shabbat, without being forced into getting involved in politics, especially with this controversial issue that often gets very personal if you don’t hold a certain narrow set of beliefs.”

“It has a chilling effect on the Jewish community, on a campus which prides itself on helping.”

On June 21, 2020, the *Claremont Independent* published the following troubling account of the incoming senior class president at Pomona College.

In a post made on her social media account, the 2020-2021 senior class president at Pomona College shared comments that accuse Zionist Jews of “hating” brown people and criticized them for purportedly “worshipping” the Second World War and comparing the Holocaust to racism. She also shared derogatory comments towards Israeli Jews and Jews who go on Birthright trips to Israel.

The post was overlaid on top of a tweet comparing Yemen’s current humanitarian crisis to the Holocaust. The initial tweet said “6 million people died in the Holocaust, we still commemorate it to this day. 18.4 MILLION people are dying in Yemen RIGHT NOW. That’s 3 holocausts at once...SILENCE IS COMPLIANCE!!!”

In a response to the tweet, the post added, “once again, zionist-Israeli-birthright-vacation-stuck-on-comparing-holocaust-to-racism-WW2-

worshipping bitches, this should be right up ur alley. Oh wait u hate brown ppl.”

In response to the incoming college president’s nearly incomprehensible and deeply offensive posts quoted above in the *Claremont Independent*, one commentator tweeted the following regarding the uniformed and highly inflammatory views of the incoming college president:

These posts of hers show a dramatic failure of Pomona College to educate. She is getting a degree in Middle Eastern Studies and blames the Jews and Israel for not stopping the actions of Saudi Arabia in Yemen. Jews are not even allowed to VISIT Saudi Arabia, Israel has no formal diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia. The Jews of Yemen were ethnically cleansed and no longer exist, after living there for two millennia, but two of the four sides of the Yemen civil war, the Houthis and al-Qaeda, still explicitly call for death to the Jews, and another bans us from their country. But clearly the Jews are to blame and are in control in Yemen, right? We do not care because they are "brown people?" How are they "brown people?" Being a Muslim does not make you a minority or a brown person. The Palestinians are genetic cousins of the Jews, the only reason that Jews are a minority is because of 1700 years of persecution around the world, something that never happened to Muslims. If one side can claim to be "brown," it is ONLY the Jews.

On July 17, 2020, Pomona’s president, G. Gabrielle Starr, attempted to defuse the controversy in general terms without specifically addressing the calumnies contained in the incoming class president’s posts. In her statement, President Starr expressed the following:

Not all of the issues we face are new, but they can resurface in new ways. I’m concerned about a resurgence in anti-Semitism in our nation and across the globe, and I condemn anti-Semitism in all its forms. Recently at Pomona, we had an incident involving the sharing of a deeply offensive and anti-Semitic social media post, followed by a sincere and thoughtful apology, and a commitment by ASPC to work respectfully and productively with all students.

As set forth in the May 3, 2021, *San Diego Jewish World*, the student government of Pomona College adopted a resolution that would compel student clubs to participate in a boycott of targeted companies doing business with Israel. However, as pointed out in the *Jewish World* article, the resolution was different from BDS resolutions adopted on most campuses.

The resolution, revealingly named “Banning the Use of ASPC Funding to Support the Occupation of Palestine,” was not unique in targeting the

Jewish state for divestment and boycott; other campuses have pushed through resolutions that call on their respective university administrations to divest from holdings in companies that do business with Israel or which somehow are “complicit in the occupation of Palestine.” When those student efforts to push for divestment are passed, university administrators have regularly rejected the demands, claiming, rightly, that such boycotts and targeted divestment are inconsistent with university policies and moral behavior by focusing solely on Israel.

The Pomona divestment bill, however, took the novel and troubling step of focusing the divestment on student funds for the college’s various student organizations, thereby sidestepping the inconvenient step of convincing administrators that seeking to punish Israel, and Israel alone, is a sound or reasonable policy in the first place.

As reported in the May 6, 2021, edition of *The Claremont Independent*, the resolution was quickly modified in part due to the failure to address opposition voices in the passage of the original resolution. As revised, the new resolution governs only internal ASPC spending, not club-related expenses.

According to the April 8, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, Twenty anti-Israel activists were arrested at Pomona on April 5, 2024, “for taking over the president’s office and refusing to present identification to the authorities, the school’s newspaper reported over the weekend.” The takeover was further described in the *Algemeiner* account as follows:

Dozens of students, many of whom were members of the anti-Zionist campus group Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), began occupying Alexander Hall in the late afternoon, according to *The Claremont Independent*, with at least 18 commandeering the office of Pomona College president Gabrielle Starr. Once inside, they allegedly spurned numerous requests to identify themselves and uttered a racist remark about African Americans. It is believed that the demonstration was prompted by the administration’s dismantling of an “apartheid wall” that demonstrators mounted earlier last week.

“A group of individual refused to identify themselves to Campus Safety and Student Affairs staff, and proceeded to verbally harass staff, even using a sickening, anti-Black racial slur in addressing an administrator,” Starr said in a statement issued after the demonstration began. “This is unacceptable. These actions are actively destructive of the values that underpin our community.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No: Hillel at the Claremont Colleges meets at McAlister Center.
- Kosher meals: No.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Pomona has a Jewish Theological Seminary ordained Jewish chaplain who may lead High Holiday and Passover services.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Reed College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 120 (8%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of BDS Activity: Moderate***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: Not ranked***

***Comparable Schools: Carleton, Claremont-McKenna, Grinnell, Oberlin, Pomona***

This small college is a serious institution of higher learning for serious students, particularly those with very liberal leanings. Located in the (southeast) Eastmoreland section of Portland, this powerhouse of a college is home to about 1,400 students, many of them from the West.

As with schools like the University of Chicago, Reed is a place where students self-select to study hard. Reed's Gothic buildings are set on a beautiful green that could just as easily be the 18th green of a country club as an academic cluster. Reed's unique core curriculum, studded with classic liberal arts courses in the humanities, sociology and history, has some, but definitely not all, of the overtones of the Great Books curriculum of St. Johns College in Annapolis, Maryland. Such classic courses, coupled with a favorable student-teacher ratio, a penchant for feedback rather than grading and a seminar-style approach to education, make Reed very attractive for the right student.

As a result of a tradition of strong state universities in the West, small colleges are hard to come by, and, when they can be found, are very competitive. Reed is certainly an example of this phenomenon. Outside of the best of the Claremont colleges (Pomona, Claremont-McKenna and Harvey Mudd), Reed is probably the most competitive small liberal arts college on the West Coast. However, from the standpoint of academic workload, Reed bows to no other institution. For a quirky depiction of life at Reed, check out the 2012 movie, "Blue Like Jazz".

Reed is not for everyone, particularly those who may not subscribe to a political environment that year after year ranks Reed as one of the most liberal campuses. The sometimes hyper-liberal political atmosphere at Reed was the subject of a September 7, 2017, *Economist* article, entitled "Arguments over Free Speech on Campus are not Left vs Right." The article began with a description of the charged atmosphere at HU 110, "Introduction to Humanities: Greece and the Ancient Mediterranean," the required Reed freshman humanities class:

Freshman crowded the lecture hall at 9am for Humanities 110, the first class of their college careers. Elizabeth Drumm, the head of the programme, made some introductory remarks, her voice quavering. As some faculty members moved to take their places at a panel discussion, three demonstrators emerged from the wings of the auditorium. “We’re protesting Hum 110 because it’s Eurocentric,” one began. “I’m sorry, this is a classroom space and this is not appropriate,” Ms Drumm said, immediately cancelling the lecture. Thus, began another academic year at Reed College, a liberal arts college in Portland, Oregon.

The article goes on to describe two far-left protests launched at persons who would be unassailably liberal figures in just about any other college setting.

The first involved an Assistant Professor named Lucia Martinez Valdivia, who described herself as mixed-race and queer. She had asked protesters not to demonstrate during her lectures. At first demonstrators agreed to sit quietly. But, after Valdivia gave a lecture on Sappho, an ancient female Greek who wrote poems about love between women, she was so severely berated by her students that she was reduced to tears. According to the *Economist* account, her transgressions in the eyes of her student accusers were almost too innumerable to recount:

Demonstrators said Ms Valdivia was guilty of a variety of offences: she was a “race traitor” who upheld white supremacist principles by failing to oppose the Humanities syllabus. She was “anti-black” because she appropriated black slang by wearing a T-shirt that said, “Poetry is Lit”. She was an “ableist” because she believes trigger warnings sometimes diminish sexual trauma. She was also called a “gaslighter” for making disadvantaged students doubt their own feelings of oppression.

According to the *Economist*, Valdivia reported, “I am intimidated by these students.” Again, according to the *Economist*, she later wrote in a blog post. “I am scared to teach courses on race, gender or sexuality or even texts that bring these issues up in any way. . . I’m at a loss as to how to begin to address it, especially since many of these students don’t believe in historicity or objective facts (they denounce the latter as being a tool of the white CIS heteropatriarchy).”

There is ample anecdotal evidence to justify Ms. Valdivia’s anxiety. HU 110 was very much a battle ground in which student members of the RAR (Reedies Against Racism), who opposed what they saw as discriminatory, Eurocentric course material, constantly subjected faculty and students to interminable protests. According to a November 2, 2017 *Atlantic* article, at one point an RAR leader, fed up with poor participation among his fellow protestors, posted the following venomous message that dripped with identity politics:

To all the white & able(mentally/physically) who don't come to sit-ins (ever, anymore, rarely): all i got is shade for you. [... If] you ain't with me, then I will accept that you are against me. There's 6 hums left, I best be seein all u phony ass white allies show-up. [...] How you gonna be makin all ur white supremacy messes & not help clean-up your own community by coming and sitting for a frickin hour & still claim that you ain't a laughin at a lynchin kinda white.

The second episode described by the *Economist* occurred a few weeks after the episode with Ms. Valdivia and, again, involved a normally unassailable liberal figure in the person of guest speaker, Kimberly Pierce. The *Economist* described Pierce as “the gender-fluid director of [the 1999 biographical film] “Boys Don’t Cry”, which was widely praised as the first sympathetic portrayal of trans people in cinema.” In this second episode, the *Economist* reported the student protests as follows:

[P]rotesters ripped down posters promoting the event and put up their own posters containing content that said: “Fuck this cis white bitch” (“cis” being shorthand for CIS gendered, or people who identify with their birth sex) and ‘Fuck your transphobia.” When Ms Peirce tried to speak, they shouted her down because they felt she had profited from violence against trans people and because she had cast Hillary Swank, a non-trans actor [as Brandon Teena, a trans man in Boys Don’t Cry]. The dean of faculty, Nigel Nicholson, later wrote that students came to the session “asking questions designed to indict the speaker...It felt like a courtroom, not a college.”

On September 21, 2016, Reed’s student body president who was then a senior sent a campus-wide email under the subject line, “SB Info: Hasidic Jews are like the Jewish version of ISIS.” According to an article in the October 3, 2016, edition of *Reed Magazine*, the subject line of the email was unrelated to the content of the email, one of two-a-week student body newsletters sent by email. Also, according to the article, it was “not unusual for SB Info to carry surreal or nonsensical subject lines.” However, in this case, the subject line was not taken lightly. By midnight of the mailing, emails expressing student dismay began to pour in. Showing belated good sense, the student body leader issued an apology expressing remorse for her “thoughtless” action and issued a formal apology a few days later.

On November 12, 2016, a swastika was found in a Reed bathroom.

During November 2017, RAR occupied a college administrative building for ten days protesting Reed’s use of wells Fargo which, according to RAR, is “infamous for being one of the primary investors in private prisons, immigration detention, the Dakota Access Pipeline, police foundations and the Israeli Apartheid (among other oppressive institutions).”

On April 11, 2018, the acerbic debate over HUM 110 may have come to an end, as Reed announced plans to overhaul the course. According to the *Chronicle of Higher Education* article of the same date, “Athens and the ancient Mediterranean will remain on the syllabus, but they will share it with two new modules, on Mexico City from the 15th and 20th centuries and on Harlem from 1919 to 1952.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No, but access to Greater Portland Hillel.
- *Kosher meals*: No.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: unknown.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Served by Chabad of SE Portland, 3355 SE Steele Street, Portland.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.



## **Swarthmore College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 250 (16%)(when last affiliated with Hillel)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** High (Highest since Hamas' October 7, 2023, deadly rampage through southern Israel)

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade:*** D

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 60

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 55

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 118/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Amherst, Brown, Dartmouth, Haverford, Princeton, Wesleyan and Williams

***Major Jewish Donor:*** 2012 gift of \$50 Million (the largest gift in Swarthmore's history) by Eugene Lang

Pleasantly situated on the Main Line outside of Philadelphia, and part of the tri-college consortium that also includes Bryn Mawr and Haverford, Swarthmore is a smaller cousin to the University of Chicago and just as difficult to get in. Swarthmore—the college—is lovely, and so is the upscale community where Swarthmore is located. Swarthmore's 400-acre campus is anchored by the imposing Clothier Bell Tower (now used as the campus book store and snack bar) and by Parish Hall, the 1889 Victorian, gray stone edifice that houses the school's admissions and finance offices and that overlooks an almost endless green.

For those who are lucky enough to get in, be prepared to work. Swarthmore is not a school that sits on its laurels. The workload is hard, but, of course, rewarding for Swarthmore's highly motivated student body. Indeed, check out the high percentage of Swarthmore students who go on to the nation's best graduate schools—at one point ranked among the top ten—and you'll get a real sense of the substantial reward that comes with hitting the books in a rarified academic environment. The student-teacher ratio at Swarthmore is notably low at 8:1.

In December 2013, the student board of the Swarthmore Hillel chapter broke ranks with Hillel International and declared itself an "Open Hillel" in response to the Hillel International's opposition to local chapters inviting anti-Israel speakers who

support BDS. Then, on March 15, 2015, the student board of Swarthmore Hillel voted to disaffiliate with Hillel International.

Though Jewish students at Swarthmore have experienced relatively few uncomfortable episodes, in May 2015, an Egyptian Arab speaker sponsored by the Swarthmore Students for Israel was shouted down as he described the torture and imprisonment he experienced at the hands of Egyptian authorities. The reason for his rude treatment: he had studied Hebrew literature at the Faculty of Arts and Oriental Studies Department at Cairo University.

Between September 2016 and October 2017, there were five instances in which swastikas were found on the Swarthmore campus. During April 2018, SJP petitioned Swarthmore president, Valerie Smith, to terminate on-campus sales of Sabra hummus. On April 30, 2018, Smith rejected the boycott petition, but offered as a compromise the sale of a second brand of hummus in addition to the Sabra brand.

Early in 2019, the Swarthmore Student Government Organization (SGO) voted on an SJP-inspired student resolution. According to a February 14, 2019, *Jewish Journal* account, the SGO had been in contact with SJP two weeks prior to the vote but the pro-Israel Swarthmore Students for Israel (SSWI) had only heard about the resolution at the last moment. Despite the resolution being defeated by a vote of 20-7, the following words of SSWI student, Matthew Stein, taken from the above *Jewish Journal* account, describes a Swarthmore campus that is chillingly anti-Israel:

During the SGO meeting, Swarthmore Students for Israel (SSFI) member Matthew Stein spoke out against the resolution, arguing that “the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is highly complex and all parties to the conflict have played, and currently play, the roles of both oppressor and victim.”

“Passing a BDS resolution in SGO would be extremely harmful for students who hold Israel as part of their identities, most of whom are Jews, but certainly not all,” Stein added.

Stein told the *Journal* in an email that he had found out at the “last minute” about the BDS vote so he decided to go and speak out against it.

“I made it a point to stress that the anti-Israel, often antisemitic, environment at Swarthmore already makes it a difficult place to be proudly Jewish and that I personally know several admitted students who declined to attend Swarthmore due to that environment,” Stein said. “I challenged the SGO members to avoid reinforcing an atmosphere that chills the free exchange of ideas that is meant to occur on a campus and

discourages students who care about Israel from attending the college by supporting a hateful and intellectually destitute resolution such as BDS.

According to Carly Pildis, the author of an April 2019 *Tablet* article about anti-Semitism on campus, entitled “Enough is Enough,” one Swarthmore student told her:

“The biggest impact has not been feeling comfortable in cultural and social spaces that released pro-BDS statements,” said a first-year student at Swarthmore. “For example, I might have been otherwise interested in becoming more involved with the interfaith center, but given their interns’ support of BDS, I don’t feel welcome there. Also, I feel isolated away from organizations such as the Women’s Resource Center and the Intercultural Center. I think this was deliberate on the part of these organizations. Residence halls have “Diversity Peer Advisers” in addition to RAs, and my DPA is super involved in BDS—and very vocal about “Israel is an apartheid state”—and also campus-Twitter famous. It’s frustrating and ironic because it ends up feeling so especially isolating given his role to supposedly support inclusivity.”

The following is from the May 23, 2024, *ADL Campus Crisis Daily*:

Due to the ongoing anti-Israel protests at Swarthmore College, the Pennsylvania liberal arts college will be moving its May 26th commencement off-campus for the first time in the school’s 150-year history because of an anti-Israel encampment on Parrish Lawn. In [an update](#) to the community, acting co-presidents Tomoko Sakomura and Rob Goldberg shared that in their more recent discussions with anti-Israel protesters, “the group became confrontational before walking out of the room,” and that students surrounded the exits, “creating a threatening, intimidating environment.” The update stated that these actions “went beyond a reasonable definition of peaceful protest,” and noted that with the academic year ending, it is also time for the encampments to end.

Hillel: No.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Center for Jewish Life Chabad House (also serves Haverford and Bryn Mawr) (780 College Avenue Haverford).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Vassar College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 400 (16%); down from high of 500 (21%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Highest

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 91

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 39

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 15

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 196/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Barnard, Brown, Haverford, Oberlin, Swarthmore and Wesleyan

Vassar was once among the most elite (and, some would say, among the most snobbish) of the Ivy-League-equivalent, Seven Sister schools (Vassar, Radcliff, Smith, Barnard, Wellesley, Mt. Holyoke and Bryn Mawr). Indeed, at one point, in the early Seventies, Yale and Vassar were exploring the possibility of establishing Vassar as the women's division of Yale. Those days have long since passed. Vassar has shed its elitist heritage with a vengeance, although it has retained, undiluted, its high academic standards. Indeed, Vassar, along with Brown, Oberlin and Reed, is one of the most liberal and politically correct of campuses.

However, on the Vassar campus, political correctness often comes with a strong dose of anti-Israel sentiment. When it comes to SJP and the BDS movement, Vassar is right at the center of the anti-Zionist maelstrom. According to the May 16, 2014, *Times of Israel*, in one early instance of SJP-instigated anti-Semitism (for which the SJP chapter later apologized):

SJP's Tumblr account recently published a Nazi propaganda poster by Norwegian artist Harald Damsleth captioned "Liberators" in which a many limbed monster decorated with the US flag, holding a money bag grasped by a long-nosed banker, and wearing a Star of David as a loin cloth, stomps on houses of the innocent.

During the 2015 and 2016, there were at least twenty incidents in which BDS resolutions were proposed (and, in one instance, passed), lecturers demonized Israel and called for the right of all Palestinians to return to Israel, a swastika was carved on a student's residence hall door and the local SJP chapter posted a picture on its

Facebook page of a student wearing a sweatshirt, with the words “Resistance is not Terrorism” printed under the picture of a “resistor” wielding an automatic weapon.

On February 3, 2016, Rutgers Professor Jasbir K. Puar gave a lecture at Vassar College, entitled "Inhumanist Politics: How Palestine Matters." According to the American Jewish Committee's pamphlet, "Know Your Rights – A Student's Guide to Pro-Israel Activism" (pages 13-14):

During her lecture, Professor Puar stated that Israel: is "harvesting Palestinian organs for scientific research"; seeks "perfection of drone technology as a rationalization for the slaughter-of Gazans"; and employs "maiming as a deliberate biopolitical tactic in the occupation of Palestine." Her speech clearly met many of the State Departments criteria for anti-Semitism.

Predictably, Professor Puar's incendiary remarks created a substantial outcry. On February 17, 2016, *The Wall Street Journal* expressed its outrage in an article entitled, "Majoring in Anti-Semitism at Vassar." The opening sentence of the article read as follows: "Anti-Israel sentiment mixed with age-old anti-Semitism has reached a fever pitch at Vassar College. It is time that faculty and administrators take a stand against this toxic brew on behalf of academic values."

In his October 16, 2018, *Tablet* article, October 16, 2018, *Tablet* article, entitled "Ivory Tower Bigots," and cited earlier in Chapter One, David Mikics noted the following incident in expressing a similar view of the anti-Israel atmosphere on the Vassar campus:

The toxic atmosphere at Vassar, where a BDS supporter heads the Jewish studies program, even freaked out anti-Israel writer Philip Weiss, who attended a Vassar campus forum devoted largely to vicious attacks on a proposed ecological study trip to Israel and Jordan. It "was truly unsettling," Weiss wrote. "Torrents of anger ripped through the gathering. ... The spirit of that young progressive space was that Israel is a blot on civilization ... the clash felt too raw, and there was a racial element to the division."

The foregoing set aside, Vassar's campus is a knockout. From its classic arched collegiate Gothic entry to the Second Empire classic styling of Old Main, to the stunning collegiate Gothic Thompson Memorial Library, to its beautiful lawns, to the placidity of Sunset Lake, Vassar is just plain beautiful.

Poughkeepsie, itself, is not an attractive city and offers relatively little diversion for Vassar's students. One does not have to stray too far from the Vassar campus to find neighborhoods with boarded windows and doors. Fortunately,

Vassar's Poughkeepsie location places it just one and one-half hours from New York City, which provides an ever-present escape path for weekend activity.

Vassar, of course, possesses many fine attributes that are uninfluenced by anti-Semitism. Its superior academics, active Jewish Union and proximity to New York City continue to make it a popular destination among Jewish students. Many, if not most Jewish kids, who are Vassar caliber, will likely be able to deal with the negative attitudes toward Israel that exist on campus. However, for those students who may be averse to such contentiousness, Vassar will require some thought.

In the aftermath of the May 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict, during which Hamas launched more than 4,000 missiles into Israel, a group of Vassar professors, students and alumni wrote a one-sided open letter to the May 25, 2021, edition of Vassar's *Miscellany News* in which they castigated Israel in the most ferocious and one-sided manner. The following are excerpts from what amounted to an anti-Zionist fulmination rather than a balanced assessment of a conflict between Israel and a radical Islamist movement that is bent on its destruction:

As members of the Vassar community and people of conscience, we denounce the ongoing attacks on Palestinians by the Israeli armed forces. We especially condemn the recent extensive bombardment and killing of over 200 people and injuring of thousands more in Gaza, an open air prison of two million inhabitants, mostly descended from refugees expelled from other parts of Palestine. This intensification of violence follows the displacement of the residents of Sheikh Jarrah and the attack on worshippers in Al-Aqsa mosque during Ramadan. We situate these flashpoints in the broader context of the Nakba, Israel's ethnic cleansing, dispossession, containment, and expulsion of Palestinians since 1948. Tragically, all we can hope for in the current ceasefire is a return to the unacceptable status quo ante, or a slowdown in home demolitions and killings.

We affirm that the Palestinian struggle is an indigenous resistance movement confronting settler colonialism, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing, and stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people. This is not a symmetrical battle. Israel is one of the most heavily militarized states in the world and receives \$3.8 billion in military aid annually from the United States. As we write, the US Congress is considering a \$735 million arms sale to the Israeli regime. In the past decade alone, US aid has not only underwritten the dispossession, jailing, torture, maiming, and killing of thousands of Palestinian men, women, and children throughout the region, but also the creation of an acute humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

According to the May 4, 2024, *New York Times*, “[p]ro-Palestinian protesters dismantled their encampment at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on Saturday after reaching an agreement with the institution that requires administrators to review a divestment proposal.” The *Times* story went on to state: “In the agreement reached on Saturday, Vassar officials agreed to review a proposal to divest funds from “defense-related investments, such as militarized surveillance and arms production,” and to support student fund-raising efforts in support of refugees, according to a statement by the president, Elizabeth H. Bradley.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No (but, the Bayit is a student-run Jewish facility located just outside of the campus at 51 Collegeview Avenue.
- *Kosher meals*: The Bayit brings in kosher meat meals for the holidays. Otherwise, the Bayit has a dairy kitchen that prepares Friday night kosher meals.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad on Fulton (also serves Marist College) (94 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Wellesley College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 235 (9%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest (but, see ADL grade below)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 35***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 19***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 167/248***

***Comparable Schools: Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mt. Holyoke, Smith and Vassar***

Wellesley College's 500-acre campus is located in the charming and tony Boston suburb of Wellesley, near the start of the Boston Marathon. Wellesley's attractive buildings are classically brick, but what stands out about Wellesley is its magnificent grounds, replete with a beautiful lake.

Portrayed in the movie, "Mona Lisa Smile," at a time when even Wellesley women had a long row to hoe professionally, Wellesley College has always stood at the top of the pantheon of women's colleges. Its graduates, including Madame Chiang Kai-shek, Madeleine Albright, Barbara Bush and Hillary Rodham Clinton, are second to none among the nation's elite women's schools.

Wellesley has no plans of abandoning its cherished position high atop the world of women's colleges. However, since August 2009, Wellesley has been part of the *BOW* consortium with nearby Babson College, a co-ed specialty college that emphasizes a business curriculum, as well as with the Olin College of Engineering, also a co-ed institution that emphasizes an engineering curriculum. Students at each of these fine schools benefit from being able to take courses at the other consortium institutions, in much the same way that students at Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Swarthmore have benefitted from being able to take courses at one another's schools.

There has been an identifiable Jewish presence at Wellesley since World War II, but it has taken a while for Wellesley to arrive at the ten percent Jewish density mark that exists today. However, Wellesley is definitely a school that has become popular among highly accomplished Jewish students. Hillel at Wellesley sponsors an annual Chai Week. Among the indicators of a committed Jewish presence at Wellesley is the Susan and Donald Newhouse Center for the Humanities, endowed by Jewish publishing great, Donald Newhouse.



In late November 2014, Wellesley abruptly dismissed its Jewish chaplain, David Bernat and its Hillel Director, Patti Sheinman, as part of a claimed restructuring modeled on Jewish programs at other Boston area schools. No Hillel students were consulted as part of the dismissal.

About two months after the foregoing dismissals, the college hired Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz to serve as both an interim rabbi and Hillel director. Unfortunately, the college's efforts to move forward with the appointment of Rabbi Ehrenkrantz (since replaced by permanent Campus Rabbi and Hillel Director, Rabbi Audrey Marcus Berkman) took place at a time when tensions were running high on campus as a result of an SJP poster campaign. According to an article in the February 4, 2015, *Wellesley News*, "[t]he large poster located in the student center, which posed the question 'What does Zionism mean to you?' garnered responses from passersby ranging from academic definitions of Zionism to 'murder,' 'apartheid,' and 'genocide.' The article quoted the president of Wellesley Hillel as stating, 'it was a very difficult time for many Jewish students on campus.'

Since that time, the Wellesley SJP chapter has continued to be active. In March 2015, the SJP chapter sponsored a screening of a film that characterized Israel as an apartheid state. SJP's Facebook invitation stated: "Join us for a screening of 'Roadmap to Apartheid' this coming Monday as we kick our first annual Israeli Apartheid Week! In this award-winning documentary, the first-time directors take a detailed look at the apartheid analogy commonly used to describe the Israeli-Palestinian conflict." Four months later, during July 2015, the SJP chapter, along with eight other Boston area SJP chapters, sponsored a You Tube video designed to demonize Israel. The introduction to the You Tube presentation stated: "We refuse to allow our national leaders to continue propagating Israel's right to self-defense as a viable excuse to avoid addressing the state's brutal military campaigns and well-documented human rights abuses. We will not allow those with power to stifle our efforts to attain freedom, justice and equality for Palestinian refugees, Palestinians living under occupation and Palestinians facing discrimination in Israel."

On May 6, 2016, Hillel Director, Rabbi Audrey Marcus Berkman (who has since left the Wellesley campus and, in December 2018, was replaced by Rabbi Dena Bodian), wrote a letter to the editor of the *Wellesley News* in which she responded to an April 27, 2016, student opinion piece, entitled "Anti-Zionism Should Not be Conflated with Anti-Semitism." In part, Rabbi Berkman wrote:

Criticism of Israel's government and policies is prevalent among Jews living within and outside of Israel, and such criticism in no way makes one an anti-Zionist. However, when one nation, the only Jewish nation on earth, is singled out for censure and condemnation, it seems to many Jews that there is anti-Semitic sentiment at work. This is why the term

“anti-Zionism” evokes anti-Semitism for so many Jews. It is important to distinguish anti-Zionism from criticism of Israel as a nation.

As Daniel Gordis wrote in the New York Times on April 4th, 2016: “...[Much ] of the criticism of Israel . . .today goes far beyond the pale of legitimate critique. The United Nations is ground zero in this phenomenon. Last month, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women condemned only one country for violating women’s rights. It was Israel, which it accused of violating the rights of Palestinian women. Coincidentally, on the very same day, as the U.N. Human Rights Council closed its session in Geneva, it condemned Israel five times more than any of the U.N.’s member states. Is Israel a greater violator of human rights than Syria? Than North Korea? Than Yemen?

As with many progressive colleges, Wellesley prides itself in encouraging free speech while suppressing hate speech. The distinction can be a difficult one to make given the array of sensibilities that exist at any college campus. Stating that “many members of our community, including students, alumnae and faculty, have criticized Wellesley as creating an environment where free speech is not allowed,” the full editorial board of the *Wellesley News*, in its April 12, 2017 staff editorial, felt compelled to make the case that non-discriminatory free speech is alive and well on the campus. How that view translates into protecting pro-Israel speech on campus will be an interesting question over time.

However, on September 28, 2022, the editorial board of the *Wellesley News* demonstrated the devastating effect that a free press can have when it takes an editorial position on a complex subject without considering either the viewpoint of the other side of the issue or the consequences of its words. As reported by the *Jewish News Syndicate* on October 7, 2022, the editorial board of the Wellesley News “endorsed the controversial Boston “Mapping Project” last week in an article penned by the editorial board, claiming the project provides a “vital service.” As noted in *JNS* article:

The project, published this past summer by BDS supporters, links a range of Massachusetts-based Jewish groups, synagogues, schools, police departments, media and other institutions that the anti-Israel activists claim participate in harmful activities and should be dismantled. The project’s website hosts a map with the locations of their targets and information about them, including the names of some of their staff.

“We believe that the Mapping Project is providing a vital service,” the *Wellesley News* editorial board wrote. “Collecting data about these institutions, tracing their financial and political activity and publicizing

this information is incredibly important. Simply revealing that these ties exist is not justification for violence or bigotry of any kind. Rather, it forces us to reconsider our individual role in a systemic harm.”

On October 7, 2022, the *Cleveland Jewish News* reported that Wellesley College had condemned the project for promoting antisemitism (without, however, addressing the unpardonable and demoralizing effect of the editorial on Wellesley’s Jewish student body). The report quoted Wellesley’s president, Paula A. Johnson, as follows:

“While it is not my practice to comment on the newspaper’s editorials, I do feel the need to make it clear that Wellesley College rejects the Mapping Project for promoting anti-Semitism,” Wellesley College President Paula A. Johnson wrote in a letter to the community.

Johnson said she is concerned that the project “poses a significant threat to the physical security of the Jewish community of Greater Boston, including neighbors and partners of the College.

An open letter published by the *Jewish Journal* on October 9, 2022, responded to the Wellesley editorial in what it characterized as journalistic ineptitude. In pertinent part, the open letter stated the following:

Obviously, if you relied on SJP for background information for your one-sided, biased editorial, the image of Israel you paint as the world’s worst human rights offender was bound to reflect that inaccurate, ahistorical, and inflammatory view. But as journalists, you might have considered what the thunderous reaction was when in April your peers on the editorial board at the *Harvard Crimson* published a strikingly similar editorial to yours in which they called on the Harvard community to support the BDS campaign and similarly cataloged the many alleged predations of Israel. Had you read some of the written responses—written by Harvard alums and others in media around the world—you would have seen that while you certainly have the right to reveal your journalistic ineptitude and caustic bias against the Jewish state, if you base your column on propaganda and a misreading of history and fact, you will have to answer to the many readers of your work who will challenge your narrative with truth, reality, and actual facts on the ground.

Your calling for a BDS campaign to be unleashed against Israel demands that, among the many and various calamitous examples of human strife and suffering occurring around the world, Wellesley

should focus on and commit to denouncing only *one*: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. And more than that—just as the Third Reich and Arab League before them—you wish to target Jewish businesses, organizations, and educational institutions, and expel them from the world community. You want to single out *only* Zionism and Jewish self-determination as being singular evils in the world. If you apply a double standard to Israel, holding it up to a standard of behavior not expected or required of any other nation, denying only Jewish self-determination while advancing and being a cheerleader for Palestinian self-determination, that behavior conforms to the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism of what, in the contemporary context, can be indicative of anti-Semitism.

It also would have behooved you to similarly notice the enormous negative response to the publication of the Boston “Mapping Project” in June. The BDS Boston Facebook page, which promoted the map, enthusiastically cheered on this fantasy of oppression, as you did in your editorial, wildly claiming that the map “aims to show how institutions in the Greater Boston area implicitly and explicitly support the occupation of Palestine. Institutions such as colleges and universities, prisons, military contractors and financial entities are linked through monetary support or partnerships to support Israeli apartheid.

On October 12, 2022, the editorial board announced on Twitter that it was renouncing its endorsement of the Boston Mapping Project, but holding fast to its support of the BDS movement.

Years ago, when Harvard men tended to frown on Radcliffe women, Wellesley was a favorite dating destination for Harvard’s male student body. However, with the integration of Radcliffe and Harvard and the increased number of women students who have been added to Harvard’s student body, the need for Harvard men to travel to Wellesley has all but disappeared. This is an important social consideration because Wellesley is not immediately in the City of Boston. But, fear not, bus service is provided to Harvard Square (convenient to Harvard and MIT, the latter of which has a cross-registration program with Wellesley). In consequence, social outlets certainly exist at Wellesley, but students do have to invest a bit of time and energy to make it happen.

As reported by the November 14, 2023, *The Forward*, in an article entitled, Why we’re taking legal action against Wellesley College over antisemitism, “students at a Wellesley College dormitory received an email from their residential staff and assistants stating that they “firmly believe that there should be no space, no consideration, and no support for Zionism within the Wellesley College community.” The article went on to report the following:

This statement, sent by members of the campus community whose job it is to ensure that all students feel supported in their living space, left Jewish students feeling explicitly excluded.

That exclusion was not quelled when college officials sent a campus-wide email, promising that the RA staff would apologize for their remarks and referring students to attend a panel on the ensuing conflict — a panel during which speakers denied Israel’s right to exist and spread misinformation about Hamas and the Oct. 7 massacre.

After administrative pressure, the residence hall staff did apologize. But not before posting on social media that this apology only came because there was a “gun to [their] head.” They then posted that the students who complained were “weak b\*tches fr.

As reported in the October 17, 2023, *CNN.Com*, the Department of Education launched investigations after receiving complaints about alleged incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia. The investigations include five antisemitism cases and two Islamophobia cases. The schools include one K-12 school, the Maize Unified School District in Kansas, and six colleges: Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, Cornell University in New York, Columbia University in New York, Wellesley College in Massachusetts, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York, and the University of Pennsylvania.

According to the December 18, 2023, the *Algemeiner*, Wellesley President Paula Johnson “pushed back on faculty pressuring her to condone certain anti-Israel rhetoric on campus, stating in an open letter that the Massachusetts school interprets ‘some’ anti-Zionist speech as harmful to Jewish students. The *Algemeiner* article went on to state:

Johnson, who has served as college president since July 2016, made the declaration on Saturday in response to a faculty letter demanding that she go on record saying that no criticism of Israel or Zionism should be described as antisemitic.

“I want to be clear that Wellesley will not make such a statement,” Johnson said. “Some anti-Israel and anti-Zionist speech can, in fact, create a hostile environment for many of our students.”

Johnson added that the faculty members’ own statements in their letter, which accused Israel of committing a “genocidal assault on Gaza,” are part of the problem.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No, but there is a Hillel facility located in the third floor of Billings Hall.
- *Kosher Meals*: Available at Pomeroy Dining Hall. Also, kosher meals can be prepared in the kitchen next to the Hillel lounge.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Student-led services.
- *High Holiday and Passover Services*: Holidays are celebrated with the entire Wellesley community.
- 

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Wellesley Weston Chabad (also serving Babson College)(793 Worcester Street, Wellesley Hills).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.

## **Wesleyan University Connecticut**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 680 (>23%)(when last affiliated with Hillel)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** High

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 102

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 28

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 11

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 115/248

***Schools:*** Amherst, Brown, Grinnell, Oberlin, Reed, Vassar and Williams

***Jewish President:*** Michael S. Roth

This collegiate member of what was once known in athletic circles as “The Little Three” (consisting of Amherst, Williams and Wesleyan) has become a large draw for Jewish students seeking prestige, knowledge and a politically correct environment where any idea or lifestyle has currency until proven otherwise. Strong in math and science, Wesleyan ranks high among colleges receiving National Science Foundation grants. With an undergraduate Jewish student body of about 23%, Wesleyan offers something for Jewish kids of all backgrounds, including a kosher meal plan, Chabad and Havurah (but, since its disaffiliation with Hillel International, no longer a Hillel chapter).

Wesleyan’s campus is anything but architecturally uniform. But, like Brown, its politically correct big cousin (but, on this score, see Wesleyan President Michael S. Roth’s September 19, 2020, *New York Times* opinion piece, entitled “Colleges, Conservatives and the Kakistocracy”, quoted in Section 1J above and advocating open-mindedness on campus), Wesleyan’s buildings are interesting and evoke a real sense of academia. The eclectic campus consists of such diverse structures as the modern Olin Memorial Library, the Greek Revival Samuel Wardsworth Russell House and the 19th century brownstone Patricelli ’92 Theater.

Whatever the nature of its architecture, Wesleyan is one of those places that attracts students because of its name and because of the liberal tradition that resonates throughout its campus and history. Further, Wesleyan has nothing to apologize for when it comes to the beauty of its setting. Indeed, it is the large green

about which many of Wesleyan's buildings abut that makes the campus the pleasant place that it is. Occupying what seems like an endless array of acreage, the green provides a beautiful focal point for the rest of the campus and a wonderful place for students to play sports and relax. A lovely café with outdoor tables adorns the green.

In June 2012, Wesleyan announced that financial considerations had forced it to convert from "need blind" admissions to "need sensitive" admissions, i.e., a "need blind" admissions policy, except that the admissions department reserved the right to accept the last 10% of the class based on ability to pay. On August 27, 2013, President Michael S. Roth stated the following with regard to the class of 2017: "This was the first class admitted under our new need-sensitive admissions policy, and we proceeded exactly as we said we would: We read all files in a need-blind fashion and, as predicted, ended by being need-blind in roughly 90% of the decisions.

Following Swarthmore's earlier lead, on April 2, 2014, the Hillel-affiliated Wesleyan Jewish Community disassociated itself from Hillel International as a result of the latter's prohibition against anti-Israel, pro-BDS speech, and announced its "solidarity with, and support of, the Open Hillel movement."

In late 2014, Wesleyan, in response to BDS student activists, took Sabra hummus off of its grocery shelves. Though Sabra is produced in North America, it is co-owned by the Strauss Group, an Israeli company. A compromise was reached when Wesleyan agreed to restock Sabra along with a local alternative brand of hummus. However, Sabra hummus soon reappeared on the campus food shelves. According to the December 9, 2014 online publication, *Wesleying.com*, the WSA Dining Committee based its decision to restock Sabra on the following rationale:

As many people on and off campus are aware, Wesleyan recently switched from stocking Sabra hummus to a local brand, Cedar's. Though we made this change in the interest of sustainability and reducing our carbon footprint, it unfortunately has been misinterpreted in the media and elsewhere as a political statement in support of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. In order to clarify our continued political neutrality, and to give students a choice, we will be stocking both Sabra and Cedar's hummus, starting in January.

On April 13, 2015, the *Wesleyan Argus* ran a story, entitled "Student Groups Clash Over Politics of Israel and Palestine." The story began with the following cautionary tale:

Last year, when Rebecca Sussman '18 visited campus during WesFest, she struck up a conversation with a student about the conflict in the



Middle East. When Sussman used the word “Zionist,” the atmosphere became tense.

“You can’t say that here,” Sussman remembers the student telling her. “It’s a dirty word.”

Three days later, on April 16, 2015, the *Wesleyan Argus*, the university’s student newspaper, reported that forty students from the Coalition for Divestment and Transparency held a sit-in in President Michael S. Roth’s office to protest Wesleyan’s investment in fossil fuels, the Israeli occupation of Palestine, and the prison-industrial complex. As reported in the *Argus* account, after meeting with the students on Friday morning, President Roth agreed to endorse prison divestment, and the sit-in ended.

According to a well-written student piece in the October 5, 2017, *Wesleyan Argus*, the attacks against Sabra continued. The attacks prompted Wesleyan student, Shani Erdman, to write the following anti-BDS piece:

A special interest of BDS is Sabra products. This is because Sabra is partially owned by the Strauss Group, a company linked to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Boycotting Sabra because of its connection to the IDF demonizes the Israel Defense Forces without acknowledging that the IDF is responsible for the survival of the Jewish State. All Israeli citizens are required to go to the army after high school due to Israel’s perpetual and existential security threats.

Displayed in Wesleyan’s dining center at the end of last year was a pro-BDS poster with pictures of companies it claims, “uphold apartheid, imprisonment, and torture in Palestine.” On the poster were companies such as Airbnb, Starbucks, Coca-Cola, and HP. While all these companies do have ties to Israel, the poster left out a multitude of other companies that also have close ties with Israel. This begs the question: where does boycott stop? Should students also boycott Apple, Google, Microsoft, L’oreal, Ralph Lauren, Victoria’s Secret, Volvo, Intel, Motorola, McDonald’s, etc.? Does boycott exist only so long as it is convenient? Boycotting Israel would also mean discontinuing the use of life-saving medical advances such as the First Care Emergency Bandage as well as groundbreaking technologies such as drip irrigation. It’s no coincidence that political leaders in this country such as Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and Bernie Sanders have all condemned BDS.

After the 2015 sit-in (discussed above) and President Roth’s promise to divest from companies involved with prisons but not from companies engaged with Israel or with fossil fuels, the divestment movement at Wesleyan waned. However, movement

leaders reconvened in November 2018 with a view to narrowing the campaign's focus. According to one student quoted in the December 6, 2019 *Wesleyan Argus*:

"We were left trying to figure out why WesDivest had failed in the past and what we could do differently to ensure that didn't happen again," Bella Whiting '21, a key organizer of last year's WesDivest revival, explained in a message to *The Argus*. "Very quickly, we decided to narrow the lease to focus solely on divestment from fossil fuels."

With the divestment campaign's newly limited focus on fossil fuels, the following episode described in the same edition of the *Wesleyan Argus* came as a surprise to many and demonstrated the staying power of both intersectionality and the BDS movement at Wesleyan:

When WesDivest member Leah Levin Pensler '20 spoke at the Climate Strike on Sept. 20, she called on the University to divest its endowment from the fossil fuel industry. Then, she made another, more controversial demand.

"Not only must this discussion address how the University contributes to driving society towards climate catastrophe, but we must openly condemn the University's financial role in atrocities occurring around the globe, namely the University's holdings in Israeli apartheid, and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians," she said. "It is time for Wesleyan to divest from both the fossil fuel industry and companies entangled in the Israeli occupation of Palestine."

With this charge, an unofficial platform shift began to take hold in WesDivest. Instead of just advocating for the University to divest from the fossil fuel industry, WesDivest would now stand for divestment from Israel as well, assuming a more intersectional approach to their divestment campaign. The shift would prove divisive, balkanizing the group's members into factions, with different visions for what the goals and tactics of the club should be. Many students at the rally were surprised at the mention of Israel in Pensler's speech, as it seemed inconsistent with WesDivest's recent efforts to rebrand as a climate advocacy group whose divestment goals focused solely on fossil fuels.

On May 22, 2024, the *ADL Campus Crisis Daily* published the following with regard to Wesleyan's submission to the demands of its encampment protesters:

Protestors at Wesleyan University in Connecticut cleared their encampment on Monday evening after the University [gave in](#) to many of their demands. Among Wesleyan's capitulations are: offering SJP protesters a meeting with the trustee members of the Investment committee, re-examining study-

abroad programs, career services, and other academic ties to Israel, and offering “amnesty” to these anti-Israel protesters. Adding insult to injury, Wesleyan’s [statement](#) failed to acknowledge or offer any support of Jewish students there.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No, but the Bayit, a Jewish facility run by the Jewish Community of Wesleyan/Havurah, serves as a focal point for Jewish life at Wesleyan as well as a residence for about 20 of Wesleyan’s Jewish students.
- *Kosher meals*: Yes: Full 14-21 kosher meal plan, with kosher meals served twice a day (afternoon and evening) at the Shalom Salaam Kosher Eatery at the Usdan Campus Center, or at the Bayit.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes (pluralistic).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at Wesleyan (132 Church Street, Middletown).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Williams College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 200 (10%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest (but, see ADL grade below and the report of the Williams' Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility rejecting divestment, at the end of this profile)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 39***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 54***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 145/248***

***Comparable Schools: Amherst, Bowdoin, Brown, Dartmouth, Princeton, Swarthmore and Wesleyan***

***Jewish President: Maud S. Mandel***

About as popular with Jewish students as Amherst, Williams is the third paragon of East Coast small college life, along with Amherst and Swarthmore. Though only about 10% of Williams students are Jewish, the college nevertheless enjoys a healthy Jewish environment centered on its beautiful and modern Jewish Religious Center. During the 2017-18 academic year, Williams produced the third highest number of Fulbright students of any small college in America.

Located in the western Massachusetts community of Williamstown, Williams, founded in 1793, was long a destination, although a geographically remote one, for the rich and privileged. Not so any more. In recent years, Williams has gone out of its way to attract a diversified student body. The college's highly multicultural student body is a testament to its success.

However, with multiculturalism comes the need to respect different points of view—something that would seem easy to accomplish on a college campus such as Williams, but has proven to be a challenge.

In late 2015, the Williams SJP sponsored a presentation by stridently anti-Israel poet, Remi Kanazi. The SJP's October 15, 2015, announcement of Kanazi's appearance was couched in heavily-freighted language calculated to demonize the Jewish state: "Palestinian-American poet Remi Kanazi will be performing several pieces from his new collection *Before the Next Bomb Drops*. Kanazi's work focuses on

the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestine and the constant silencing of Palestinian voices.” Williams, correctly, allowed the presentation to go forward, Jewish sensitivities notwithstanding.

The following February, by contrast, then Williams president, Adam Falk, took the extraordinary step of disinviting white supremacist speaker John Derbyshire. Stated Falk: “We have said we wouldn’t cancel speakers or prevent the expression of views except in the most extreme circumstances. In other words: There’s a line somewhere, but in our history of hosting events and speeches of all kinds, we hadn’t yet found it. We’ve found the line. Derbyshire, in my opinion, is on the other side of it. Many of his expressions clearly constitute hate speech, and we will not promote such speech on this campus or in our community.”

Then, on April 23, 2019, an article by Jeremy Bauer-Wolf about free speech at Williams appeared in *Inside Higher Ed*. Entitled “Free Speech ‘Meltdown’”, the article noted that Williams president, Maud S. Mandel, had announced the creation of a committee of students, professors and administrators “to recommend changes that would strike a balance between free expression and inclusion.” As described in the following excerpts from the article, the formation of the committee was an outgrowth of a September 2018 panel discussion on free expression:

The scholar was Reza Aslan, a best-selling author and professor of creative writing at the University of California, Riverside. [Professor Luana S.] Maroja, who attended the event, said Aslan dominated the conversation and made statements that baffled her, including that administrators should dictate what can and cannot be said on college campuses, and that only “factual talks” had a place in higher education. She said students cheered these remarks.

“This nonsense was met with intense student applause,” Maroja wrote in a blog post about the roundtable. “It was appalling.”

After the talk, she and a couple of other professors decided to start the petition for Williams to adopt the Chicago principles [see discussion of the Chicago Principles in the profile of the University of Chicago earlier in this Guide], which say in part:

The ideas of different members of the university community will often and quite naturally conflict. But it is not the proper role of the university to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable or even deeply offensive. Although the university greatly values civility, and although all members of the university community share in the responsibility for maintaining a climate of mutual respect, concerns about civility and mutual respect can never be used as a justification for closing off discussion of ideas,

however offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some members of our community.

After the professors drafted the faculty petition, which Maroja said about half of the college's roughly 400 professors signed, they scheduled a meeting in November to discuss the proposal. Maroja said a formal vote on the petition was not scheduled to take place at this meeting.

She said a group of about 20 students showed up, some carrying signs proclaiming “free speech harms” and other similar sentiments. Maroja said the students were disruptive and eventually started yelling at white, male professors to sit down and “acknowledge their privilege.” Maroja said she attempted to engage the students -- as a Hispanic woman, she said she understood prejudice -- and told them that shutting down speech they find offensive would only invigorate bigoted speakers.

The students were unpersuaded.

“Students were just screaming that we were trying to ‘kill them,’” Maroja said.

The students had put together and brought with them a lengthy statement, which has since morphed into a counterpetition, that argued the Chicago principles -- and more broadly, unfettered free speech -- harms minority students.

A recent copy of the student petition wasn't available, but a version from December had more than 360 signatures. Williams has an undergraduate population of about 2,000 students.

\*\*\*\*\*

The committee [on balancing expression and inclusion] is close to drafting recommendations. The goal is to not restrict who can speak on campus but to prompt the students who invite those guests to consider whether they have academic value and whether individual speakers' views would offend minority students or make them feel harmed, she said, adding that speakers brought on campus by student groups are generally the most controversial.

On May 2, 2019, the *Jewish Journal* reported that the Williams College Council, at an April 23, 2019, meeting, voted 13-8 with one abstention to deprive the pro-Israel student group, Williams Initiative for Israel (WIFI), of the required Registered Student Organization status needed for it to be recognized as a campus organization entitled to meet under the Williams name and receive college funding

or resources. As recounted in a May 2019 *Tablet* article by Liel Leibovitz, entitled “Get Out,” the action of the Council not only violated basic norm of transparency but also violated the college’s Code of Conduct applicable to free speech:

The council provided no reason for its refusal, and, breaking with protocol, allowed anonymous voting, scrubbed names of participants from the protocol, and disabled the livestream of the council’s meeting, deeply compromising the transparency of the voting process. The decision violates Williams’ own Code of Conduct, which states that the school shall be “committed to being a community in which all ranges of opinion and belief can be expressed and debated.

Apparently, Williams president Maud S. Mandel agreed with the foregoing assessment. On May 3, 2019, she issued a statement criticizing the action of the Council. In pertinent part, her statement included the following:

During meetings of Williams’ College Council (CC) on April 16 and 23, 2019, CC members debated and ultimately rejected, by a 13-8 vote, a proposal to create a registered student group (RSO) called the Williams Initiative for Israel, or “WIFI.” WIFI’s constitution described its purpose as being “to support Israel and the pro-Israel campus community, as well as to educate the College on issues concerning Israel and the Middle East.” The club also planned to celebrate Jewish cultural events and Jewish and Israeli holidays.

The transcript of the debate and vote indicate that the decision was made on political grounds.

In doing so, Council departed from its own process for reviewing student groups, which at no point identifies a proposed group’s politics as a criterion for review. The decision also seems to be in tension with CC bylaws, especially Article V, Section 3: “Prohibition Against Discrimination in Student Organizations.”

According to the May 18, 2019, *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, the Williams administration ultimately gave WIFI official status, “bypassing the refusal by a student council.”

As reported in the November 6, 2019, issue of *Inside Higher Ed*, students representing a group calling itself “Boycott Williams College” called for a boycott of the school’s English department, claiming its offerings were insensitive to students of color. In pertinent part, the boycott declaration read as follows:

We, the undersigned students of Williams College, pledge to an indefinite boycott of all English classes that do not take seriously the

matter of race – that is, those classes which do not include more than a token discussion of race and more than a token number of writers of color. If I am registered for any such English classes, I will unregister as soon as possible. The following are my demands.

We are receiving an inadequate education from the English Department that not only hinders our learning but also enables the Department's racist culture. We are undergoing this boycott to create the pressure necessary to force the Department, and the Administration, to take these issues seriously and to redress past and current harm with urgency. We will not end the boycott until each of [various enumerated] demands are met.

In an October 25, 2022, Williams student Oscar Nobel wrote the following in the op-ed in the Williams Record:

Last winter, an antisemitic and racist flyer was found in the section of Saywer dedicated to the history of Nazi Germany. Though this incident was reported on in the *Record* and addressed by the College, it didn't take long for the student body to move on.

I want to make one thing very clear: This was not an isolated incident. Antisemitic behavior at the College is more common than you might expect.

I have heard from Jewish students about faculty at the College not respecting Jewish holidays. I have heard about classes that displayed antisemitic imagery without addressing the meaning behind it. I have heard about microaggressions that Jewish students have faced, including accusations that they don't "look Jewish." Speaking from personal experience, as a first-year people in the Mission lobby laughed at me while I was wearing a kippah on my way to Shabbat services. This is by no means an exhaustive list, and I know for a fact that there are other Jewish students at the College who could add to it.

Setting aside the not inconsequential free speech, wokeness and anti-Israel issues noted above, Williams is just plain outstanding. With its Oxford-style tutorial system, it just keeps getting better. With 60 to 70 tutorials offered each year, more than half of all Williams students experience the rigors of a two on one tutorial experience with a professor during their college years.

A byproduct of its charming campus, is that it's hard to leave. But, students do leave for social stimulation with the other western New England colleges providing



social outlets, along with Saratoga Springs (Skidmore) to the west and Boston's many schools to the East.

According to the May 24, 2024, *Algemeiner*, Williams' Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility (ACSR) rejected a proposal to divest from weapons manufacturers that sell their products to Israel. The *Algemeiner* account described the action and reasoning of ACSR as follows:

"The ACSR recommends to the Investment Committee that the college not divest from companies that sell weapons, reconnaissance tools, or vehicles used by the Israel Defense Forces, and that the college not divest from weapons manufactures," the report says. "Having recommended that ... in the absence of other specific requests for divestment, the ACSR recommends to the Investment Committee that the college not adopt a blanket, exclusionary approach to ESG investing."

ACSR cited a number of reasons why the move would be disadvantageous to the college, including that some of its funds are potentially "commingled." Divesting from them, it explained, "could have a negative impact on investment performance out of proportion to the negligible impact on the targeted company." It also said that JfJ's demands are "broad" and target companies such as Boeing, which "not only builds missiles, but also satellite systems and commercial aircraft."

ACSR also explained that there is no "shared understanding" among scholars and experts, nor among its own community, about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that would make divestment from Israel as morally cogent as divesting from South Africa in the 1980s or, more recently, fossil fuels.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No, but the Jewish Religious Center ("JRC"), located on Stetson Court across from the Admissions Office, serves as the focal point for religious life at the college.
- *Kosher meals*: The JRC has a kosher kitchen. The college also offers a kosher meal plan.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes, at the JRC (with attendance sometimes approaching 100 students).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

**Schools with New SAT Scores of 1360-1440 (corresponds  
to old SAT Scores of 1300-1390)**

**Bard College**

***Number and Percentage of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 300 (16%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Moderate

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** Unranked

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 200/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Bennington, Oberlin and Pitzer

***Jewish President:*** Leon Botstein

***Major Jewish Donor:*** 2021 gift of \$25 Million by George Soros to establish an endowment for the school's Center for Curatorial Studies; 2011 gift of \$60 Million by George Soros's Open Society Foundation for the purpose of supporting the college's Center for Civic Engagement, enabling Bard to expand its service projects (such as assisting New York State prisoners in obtaining college degrees) in the United States and around the world

Bard College's successes (and there are many) are inextricably linked with Leon Botstein, its Jewish president of more than three decades who formerly served as principal conductor of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and who, at age 23, had already become a college president. Botstein's progressive approach to education and his high profile within the Metropolitan New York area have catapulted Bard to the most select pool of progressive schools in the country.

In October 2017, Botstein was criticized for allowing Marc Jorgen, Bundestag member and co-speaker of the rightwing German AfD (Alternative for Deutschland) Baden-Württemberg party, to speak at the Annual Conference of the Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities. Never one to be shy, Botstein responded forcefully to a well-publicized open letter from fellow academics that criticized his decision. His response bears repeating for the values of open expression it espouses:

The issues here are the survival of open debate and of academic censorship. I do not need to be reminded by this open letter of the horrors of fascism and right-wing xenophobia, any more than would Hannah Arendt. I was a child immigrant to the United States in a Polish-

Russian, stateless family. My father was the only survivor on his side, and two uncles perished in the Warsaw Ghetto. The lesson I learned growing up, which was reinforced by Arendt in her role as a teacher, is that freedom is a political category and that it is incumbent on colleges to protect it. Allowing the expression, in a public discussion forum, of views and positions that we find reprehensible is a necessary part of the exercise of freedom in the public realm. This is particularly true in the academy.

As one might expect with President Botstein on the scene, Bard is strong in music and the performing arts. Bard's 600-acre campus is eclectic (with a traditional-feeling Campus Walk that boasts several venerable buildings) to the undulating Center for Science and Computation that gleams in grey and bronze metal. Annandale-on-Hudson, where Bard is located, is barely a hamlet, and Bard is much more a rural campus than anything else. However, New York City, which beckons about an hour and a half away, is obviously not.

Bard has an active Jewish Students Organization that promotes the Jewish experience on campus through educational, cultural and awareness programming. At the same time, there are a number of student organizations, in particular, Bard Divest, Bard College Students without Borders, SJP, Students for Justice in the Middle East, and the Muslim Student Organization, that engage in Anti-Israel advocacy.

In March 2015, Bard Divest introduced a BDS petition. However, to date, no vote has taken place. In early November 2017, SJP disrupted a speech by Shany Mor, the former director of foreign policy for the Israeli National Security Council. The following are the first three paragraphs from SJP's November 6, 2017, website posting in which it sought to justify the disruption:

Today we successfully disrupted a talk by Shany Mor, the former director of foreign policy for the Israeli National Security Council. Here is our statement on why we did so:

We are opposed to the normalization of apartheid, settler colonialism, and ethnic cleansing on our campus.

Shany Mor is the former director for foreign policy on the Israeli National Security Council, which has increasingly taken on a central role in Israeli military strategy and foreign policy. To treat someone who served in a high-ranking position within an apartheid state, tasked with writing policy for and internationally justifying the actions of that state, as not only a regular academic but one worthy of fellowships and platforms, obscures his direct contributions to the oppression and

subjugation of the Palestinian people, including our fellow students at Al Quds.

In an article that appeared in the October 12, 2019, edition of *The Forward*, Opinion Editor Batya Ungar-Sargon described her experience at a Bard panel on anti-Semitism. Her article, in pertinent part, contains the following disturbing account of her experience. [For an article that points to what the author

When the conference began Thursday morning, I was warned that protesters from the Bard chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine planned to interrupt my panel with Wisse and Mor. I was surprised they were not targeting the one on Zionism, but the one on anti-Semitism, the only panel of about 20 over the course of the two-day program where three Jews would be discussing the topic.

“But we’re not even talking about Israel,” I said to the conference organizers. “How does that make sense?”

\*\*\*\*\*

As the protesters started to gather in the lobby, I approached them. I told them that I respected their passion and commitment to what they thought was right, but asked why they had picked this panel.

“Come to my panel tomorrow,” I said. “Come protest my comments on Zionism. I’ll be talking about the occupation. Bring your signs.”

I told them I’d reserve the first and second audience-questions for members of their group, but that protesting the all-Jewish anti-Semitism panel was undercutting their work.

“Don’t you see that?” I asked. Didn’t they see that protesting Jews over Israel when they are not even talking about Israel is racist? Didn’t they understand that saying we were responsible for the behavior of the Israeli Jews just because we shared their ethnicity was racist? That making every conversation with Jews about Israel is racist?”

“The conversation about anti-Semitism is already inherently about Israel,” one of the students archly explained, repeating a deeply anti-Semitic trope that has been voiced across the spectrum from David Duke to Louis Farrakhan to Jeremy Corbyn’s supporters. Right-wing anti-Semites see any accusation of anti-Semitism as a Jewish conspiracy to take away the rights of whites, while left-wing anti-Semites sees the same accusation as an attempt to silence Palestinians.

Apparently, so do some Bard students.

I started to respond, but was beat to it by member of my panel on Zionism and racism, Shahanna McKinney-Baldon, who was, astoundingly, encouraging them.

“I disagree with what she is saying,” she told them. “I support what you’re doing. I think you should protest.”

I was shocked that someone the Hannah Arendt Center had invited to discuss racism and anti-Semitism was actually egging on what was a blatantly anti-Semitic protest. But she would not be the only one.

When the protesters proceeded to interrupt Wisse, they were applauded by several of our fellow conference speakers in the audience. These vaunted intellectuals, flown in from across the country to discuss racism, were commending a display of racism against Jews.

For an account that seeks to mitigate Ungar-Sargon’s experience at Bard, see the October 14, 2019, *Jewish Currents* article by Mairav Zonszein, where the author notes the following among other considerations: “There were only 19 student protesters in the large auditorium of over 100 people, according to both SJP and [another attendee who was interviewed]. Several people who were in the audience tell me the protest was largely silent and respectful; the protesters mostly stood near the stage and held signs . . . .”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: Fridays and Jewish Holidays.
- Friday night services and Oneg Shabat: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## **Bates College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 180 (10%)%(when last compiled by Hillel)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No, but the anti-Zionist Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine is active on campus***

***Level of BDS Activity: High***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 92***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 110***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 213/248***

***Comparable Schools: Bucknell, Colby, Hamilton, Lafayette and Trinity***

Along with Bowdoin and Colby, Bates is one of Maine's three renowned small liberal arts colleges. More competitive with Colby than with the more-selective Bowdoin, Bates has been a destination school for liberal arts fanciers for almost two centuries. In the 2017-18 academic year, Bates had more Fulbright students than any other small college in America.

Lewiston, where Bates is located, is definitely not the cat's meow. However, Bates' lovely campus--complete with a scenic pond--helps make up for its modest surroundings. The campus features many beautiful and charming buildings, but none more beautiful than Bates' Gothic chapel. All in all, Bates evokes the sense of what a New England college campus is supposed to be.

For a small Jewish community, Bates' students have many Jewish outlets available to them including a number of Jewish studies classes, an extensive library collection of Jewish books, and a variety of activities such as visiting lecturers, Sukkah building and a klezmer band. The rabbi of Temple Shalom, a local Jewish synagogue, also serves as a resource to the Bates Jewish community.

Bates has a long tradition of open-mindedness and social responsibility, dating back to its founding in 1855 by Maine abolitionists. Today, that tradition is exemplified by Bates' commitment to maintaining a green campus and by its SAT-optional approach to admissions. For Jewish students, such social responsibility is one of Bates' major attractions, but also requires putting up with occasional disturbances from the Bates Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine (SPJP) chapter.

Most notably, on May 12, 2015, SPJP posted mock eviction notices on 500 dorm room doors, so as to “compel students to think empathetically about the violence that we are complicit in as Americans and as students at an academic institution invested in the state of Israel”. In response, one Bates student wrote:

These eviction notices started no dialogue . . . . This organization's mission and practices clash with Bates' values.

After bringing speakers to campus under the guise that they were bipartisan, when they were in fact vehemently anti-Israel, it's clear SPJP has no moral conscious. Being critical of Israel is fair, but this is thinly veiled anti-Semitism and Bates should not allow SPJP to exist as a college-funded organization.

As reported in the May 17, 2021 *Inside Higher Ed*, during the Israel Gaza conflict of May 2021, administrators at Bates reported the employment of anti-Semitic graffiti such as “stop ethnic cleansing,” “Israel is killing innocent people,” to the local police, who initiated an investigation and treated the matter as a hate crime. In response, fourteen student organizations, including the student government, condemned the administration and the police. According to the *Inside Higher Ed* account:

A statement posted on Instagram and signed by the student organizations called the police investigation “retaliation against human rights activism” and said it threatens the safety of Muslim and Middle Eastern students and students of color, “all of whom are valid in feeling angry and hurt” about the escalating violence and killing of Palestinian civilians.

“It is hypocritical that Bates College has chosen to neglect the humanity of the Palestinian people while claiming to be an anti-colonialist, anti-racist and abolitionist institution,” the statement said. “If the Bates administration finds this language to be concerning and offensive, then they reveal their alliance to settler-colonialism and genocide.”

Bates has established a three-year graduation program for highly motivated and industrious students who are eager to save on tuition and start the next phase of their lives a year early.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: No.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Student-led services at the Fry Street Union.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: High holiday services led by visiting rabbi or rabbinical student.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.



## **Bryn Mawr College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 150< (11%<); down from high of 175 (>13%)

***SJP Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Low to Moderate

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 53

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 67

***Comparable Schools:*** Barnard, Haverford, Mt. Holyoke, Smith and Wellesley

Maybe one of the best-kept secrets about Bryn Mawr is that it really does have a Jewish student body. Indeed, more than 13% of its almost 1,300 undergraduates are Jewish. Located on the Philadelphia main line in the Lower Merion township of Bryn Mawr, the college is one of the original Seven Sister schools consisting of Radcliff, Wellesley, Smith, Mount Holyoke, Vassar, Barnard and Bryn Mawr. And, like its sisters, Smith, Mount Holyoke and Wellesley, Bryn Mawr has remained a women's college, but with an asterisk. Bryn Mawr is part of the tri-college consortium consisting of Haverford, Swarthmore and Bryn Mawr. As part of the consortium's program, students at any of the three schools can spend a year on the campus of another member school. In addition, Bryn Mawr is within a short, student bus ride from Haverford, and, as a result, a goodly number of Haverford's students, male and female, take courses at Bryn Mawr.

At bottom, Bryn Mawr is a women's college and still maintains much of the charm and many of the traditions that have made it one of the leading lights of women's education. Located close to the Main Line railroad system, Bryn Mawr does offer easy accessibility to Philadelphia, but it is decidedly not in the city. So, students really do have to find contentment on the Bryn Mawr campus. But, what a campus it is: green, leafy and adorned with exceptionally attractive and ornate collegiate Gothic buildings. Tour the Great Hall and you will think that you have been transported to Oxford.

If one had to be marooned on a college campus, there would be few more beautiful and tranquil than Bryn Mawr. Of course, Bryn Mawr's demanding academics may make staying on campus a necessity. So, it's nice to know that the digs provide a pleasant environment.

Occasionally, for Jewish students, this tranquility can be upset. On May 1, 2016, the Bryn Mawr Voices for Palestine Facebook page read,

Israeli Independence Day' celebrates Al-Nakba: the expulsion of 700,000 Palestinians from their homeland and the destruction of 531 Palestinian villages by the Zionist Israeli Occupation in 1948. GENOCIDE is nothing to celebrate.

During March 2017, Bi-Co (representing the SJP chapters at Bryn Mawr and Haverford) hosted its annual "Apartheid Week." The Bi-Co website announcing the event in part described it as follows: "The aim of IAW [Israel Apartheid Week] is to educate people about the nature of Israel as an apartheid system and to build Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaigns as part of a growing global BDS movement."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and Holidays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Held in conjunction with Haverford College at Haverford.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad House:

- *Chabad House*: Rohr Center for Jewish Life Chabad House (also serves Swarthmore and Haverford) (780 College Avenue Haverford).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## **Bucknell University**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 285 (8%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of anti-Semitic Activity: Low-Moderate***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: Unranked***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 116***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 104/248***

***Schools: Franklin & Marshall, Colgate, Kenyon, Lafayette, Olin College of Engineering, Colby, Bates and Union***

This central Pennsylvania college of a little over 3,500 students has a Jewish student body that barely approaches the nine percent mark. However, the college does have an active Hillel with its own building. Bucknell is a school that is becoming more popular with Jewish students and, equally important, is happy to have them.

A little bit bigger than many of its peer schools, Bucknell's campus sits at the edge of the small central Pennsylvania community of Lewisburg. And, what a beautiful campus it is, with the feel of Lafayette College and an architectural scheme somewhat reminiscent of Colby College. The lawn leading up to the admissions office is particularly attractive with low lying brick buildings adorned by mansard roofs, bedecked in Pennsylvania slate. But, what really distinguishes the campus is its beautiful views of the surrounding central Pennsylvania hill country.

Bucknell's nearly 20 fraternities and sororities provide much of the focus for campus activities and social life. The Weis Center for the Performing Arts, which seats 1,200 persons, was endowed by Jane Weis, wife of Jewish grocery store giant Sigmund Weis.

A member of the Division IA Patriot League, Bucknell's athletic schedule reflects its lofty history as a near cousin to many of the Ivy League schools, with as many as three or four Ivy League colleges being on Bucknell's football schedule virtually every year. Only Colgate and Lafayette, both also of the Patriot League, enjoy a similar athletic association with the Ivy League.

As with Lafayette and Union College, Bucknell is particularly strong in engineering, not to speak of a number of other areas including environmental science.

During December 2016, a swastika was found in a bathroom on campus. Similarly, in the wake of Hamas' October 7, 2023, murderous invasion of Israel, the president's office reported, on November 1, 2023, that a swastika had been found in one of the school's dormitories.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Berelson Center for Jewish Life).
- *Kosher meals*: Available through Hillel kitchen.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes (pluralistic)
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Sigma Alpha Mu.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Colby College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 200 (10%)***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: None***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: Unranked***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 75***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 139/248***

***Comparable Schools: Bates, Bucknell, Colgate, Hamilton and Kenyon***

Think of a quintessential Northeast campus, with New England styled redbrick buildings situated on a rise overlooking the surrounding countryside. If your child is thinking along these lines and is a gifted student, but not of sufficiently superstar caliber to qualify for Amherst, Williams or even Bowdoin, then Colby College, located in Waterville, Maine, may be the place for him or her. But, without pain, there is no gain. And Colby can be very painful when winter does arrive. Cold nights may offer opportunities for bundling up in front of a good book. But, college students, particularly Jewish college students, often demand more. Admittedly, Bowdoin and Bates are not too far away, but each of the three tends to operate as an independent, self-serving institution.

Colby's physical facilities are both beautiful and well maintained. Capped by a stunning white-columned and spired main building, its central quad is picture perfect. Colby's academic offerings are equally excellent, with its fewer than 2,000 students having access to first-rate programs in pre-med, political science and economics. With a student-faculty ratio of only 10-1, Colby's intimate student body is matched by the intimacy of its classroom teaching. Colby offers access to Maine's majestic outdoor life as well as leading academic programs in environmental awareness. Most of Colby's students are from outside of Maine, with about 10% of its student body being Jewish. Colby plays in the high end of NCAA Division III athletics, with hockey being its main sport and a focal point for student activity in the winter.

For another campus evoking a feel very similar to Colby's attractive campus (but without the backdrop of the Colby's Johnson Pond), check out Bucknell.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No. Hillel offers programs in conjunction with Beth Israel Congregation of Waterville, and also has its own space in the Pugh Center section of the Pulver Pavillion endowed by the Pulver Family Foundation, a New York City based private foundation focusing on education, healthcare, and Jewish causes.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat, High Holidays and Passover.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 2 (Pulver Family Chair in Jewish Studies and The Dorothy “Bibby” Levine Alfond Professorship of Jewish Studies).

## **Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 50 (6%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: High***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: Unranked***

***Comparable Schools:*** Due to Cooper Union's historic tuition-free policy, the school has been in a league of its own. That may have changed now that Cooper Union is charging tuition, although, following a law suit and the resignation of its president, Cooper Union is now on track to re-establish itself as a tuition-free school by 2029. In any event, for comparable small engineering programs, consider Bucknell, Harvey Mudd, Lafayette, Olin College of Engineering and Union

Cooper Union, located in the now trendy East Village of New York City, is hard to categorize from the standpoint of Jewish life and attendance because it is so small and because statistics are not readily available. However, this much is clear: Cooper Union is located in the heart of the most populous Jewish city in America, its small campus is an easy walk from the NYU Hillel and its list of Jewish alumni is illustrious. Among its alumni ranks can be found Milton Glaser, founder of *New York Magazine*, Bruce Pasternack, president of the Special Olympics, Daniel Libeskind, architect for the new World Trade Center building, and Felix Frankfurter, one of the great Supreme Court Justices of all time (who attended but never actually obtained his degree from Cooper Union).

Cooper Union is one of most distinguished and sought after undergraduate schools of engineering, architecture and fine arts. From a small school perspective, perhaps, only Harvey Mudd of the Claremont Consortium of Colleges enjoys a better reputation for undergraduate engineering. Cooper Union specializes in all areas of engineering, all under the umbrella of the Albert Norker School of Engineering, Architecture and Fine Arts.

Cooper Union's classic, 19th century Italian-style, brick building, with its distinctive palladium doors and windows, is a renowned New York City landmark. Since 2008, Cooper Union has also boasted an adjacent building that is an architectural knockout.

The Great Hall of Cooper Union has been the scene of countless speeches and assemblies on some of the most pressing issues and exciting political campaigns in the history of the nation. Among those who have spoken at the Great Hall were then

presidential candidates Lincoln, Grant, Cleveland, Taft, Roosevelt (Theodore) and Obama, as well as sitting presidents Wilson, Clinton and Obama (in April 2010).

Prior to Hamas' murderous October 7, 2023, rampage through southern Israel, I had written in this profile: "New York City life and a technology college of fewer than 1,000 undergraduates may not be for everyone, but, if your kid is qualified, it could be just right." On October 26, 2023, the *Jerusalem Post* published a widely circulated article, reporting that several orthodox Jewish students had been locked inside the school library for their own safety as a mob of anti-Israeli protesters positioned themselves at the library's doors. Now, I'm not so sure of my previous post.

As reported in the October 17, 2023, *CNN.Com*, the Department of Education launched investigations after receiving complaints about alleged incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia. The investigations include five antisemitism cases and two Islamophobia cases. The schools include one K-12 school, the Maize Unified School District in Kansas, and six colleges: Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, Cornell University in New York, Columbia University in New York, Wellesley College in Massachusetts, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: full 14-21 meal plan available
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Available at NYU Hillel.
- *Holiday and Passover services*: Available at NYU Hillel.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.



## Dickinson College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:***> 275 (13%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No

***Level of BDS Activity:*** Moderate

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** Unranked

***Comparable Schools:*** Clark, Drew, Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg, and Muhlenberg

Since the arrival of the Asbell Center for Jewish Life (featuring a small sanctuary, lounge, and meat and dairy kosher kitchens), Jewish life at Dickinson has blossomed. In 2011, Dickinson's Hillel received the coveted Phillip and Suzy Rudd Cohen Campus of Excellence Award for its Jewish activities on campus. Dickinson's Jewish student body is relatively small. However, owing to its beautiful campus, its program in Israel, its excellent pre-med curriculum and its location only two hours from the Washington DC area, a strong guess is that it's Jewish numbers will increase in the years to come.

With the exception of the stunning new Rector Science Complex, Dickinson's 200-year-old campus is architecturally homogeneous. Translated, Dickinson looks just the way a college campus should look and reflects the classic design of its original architect who also designed the United States Capitol. Unfortunately, a four-lane highway bifurcates Dickinson's compact campus; but, no matter, its traditional limestone-clad buildings make up for this little inconvenience.

If Dickinson's excellent mix of liberal arts courses, its solid student body and its comfortable and attractive campus weren't enough, Dickinson's test optional admissions policy makes it a winner for really bright students but lousy test takers.

As reported in the December 5, 2019, issue of the *Dickinsonian*, the school newspaper, the Dickinson Student Senate on December 3, 2019, voted to ban Sabra Hummus on campus. The article also quoted Provost & Dean of the College Neil Weissman as stating that the college's policy against boycotts would prevent the ban from occurring—a policy which, as reported by the February 27, 2020, *Dickinsonian*, Weissman reiterated on that date.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Milton B. Asbell Center for Jewish Life).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Weekly Friday services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: High Holiday services and Passover Seder.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.

## **Franklin & Marshall College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 300 (13%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate-High***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 36***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 36***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 39***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 219/248***

***Comparable Schools: Bucknell, Dickinson, Gettysburg, Lafayette, Skidmore and Union***

Once described to me as a “little gem,” Franklin & Marshall College, named after Benjamin Franklin and Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall, and located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is just that. Not historically a Jewish destination, Franklin & Marshall has become a go-to school for Jewish students. There are five reasons for this change: First, the Klehr Center for Jewish Life, which first opened in 2009, has made Hillel a force on campus, with a reported 90 to 110 students regularly attending Shabat services. Second, Chabad of Lancaster and York is now closer to campus. Third, F&M’s meal plan now offers a 14-21-meal, kosher meal option. Fourth, F&M’s freshman students are often grouped according to interest, with the result that some of its freshman houses produce a very nurturing Jewish environment. Fifth, F&M, like Muhlenberg College, has made a concerted effort to make its campus inviting to Jewish students.

Set in Amish country, Franklin & Marshall’s self-contained campus looks just the way a small college should look, with a number of charming buildings such as the twin-spired Old Main, and a number of buildings that are more utilitarian, but which fit in very nicely. If action is on your mind, F&M’s location is an issue. Nearby Lancaster, Pennsylvania is a pleasant enough city, but not much more than that. So, kids at F&M must learn to be self-sufficient, utilizing the campus as their main source of activity. However, for many, finding adequate time for social outlet may not be much of an issue as F&M is known as a very hard-working school with demanding workloads required of its students.

The rewards of a well-earned F&M diploma can be very substantial. F&M has a nationally recognized pre-med program and the school is one of the most prolific

small college producers of future medical school students. Also, law school and graduate school is a popular destination for many of its students.

According to the November 11, 2016, *Lancaster Online*, a swastika was drawn inside a Star of David in a classroom within the school's life sciences and philosophy building.

On June 21, 2021, twenty-four F&M faculty members signed a one-sided document, entitled, "Franklin & Marshall Faculty Statement in Solidarity with Palestine." Among the representations contained in the Faculty Statement were the following:

We, members of the Franklin and Marshall College community, condemn the ongoing attacks on the Palestinian people in Gaza by the Israeli armed forces, which represent the latest chapter of a nearly-fifteen-year blockade that has transformed the territory into a prison for its two million inhabitants, most of whom descend from refugees expelled and driven from their homes during the Nakba (1947– 49) that accompanied the creation of the state of Israel.

\*\*\*\*\*

We stand by Human Rights Watch and the Israeli human rights organization B'tselem in calling Israel's systemic discrimination and violence by its proper name: Apartheid. The brutal system that controls Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is ideologically founded upon Jewish supremacy, rules over the lives of Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel alike, and is practically committed to territorial theft from Palestinians who continue to resist physical removal and existential erasure.

The Faculty Statement was met with concern by F&M President Barbara K. Altmann. On June 25, 2021, she wrote:

The statement from a small group of faculty titled "Franklin & Marshall Faculty Statement in Solidarity with Palestine," which was published in the independent student-run newspaper, *The College Reporter*, does not reflect the views of the College or our faculty as a whole. Right now, there are people in our community near and far, and particularly in our Jewish community, who are angry, hurt, and confused by the original statement.

On June 27, 2021, eleven faculty members, also writing in the school's *College Reporter*, called out their colleague's inflammatory statement in their own statement, entitled "A Faculty Response to the "Franklin and Marshall Faculty Statement in

Solidarity with Palestine.” The second statement emphasized, as follows, the corrosive effect of the original statement on the school’s Jewish campus climate:

We call on faculty to consider how recent communications that demonize, mischaracterize, and delegitimize Israel negatively impact the campus climate for Jewish students, faculty, staff, alums, and other members of the community. We, too, regret the loss of life, freedoms, and human rights abuses taking place in the Middle East and around the world, including the United States. We encourage all who are concerned about oppression and violence to express those concerns while being mindful of their own power and identities.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Klehr Center for Jewish Life).
- *Kosher meals*: full kosher meal plan available through college food plan at no additional cost. According to Hillel’s website: “Star K supervised Kosher dining is available to all students on the meal plan. Meat and Dairy. Kosher destination is one area in a large dining operation serving the campus.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes, with Shabat dinners (often attended by 90-110 students).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Served by Chabad Jewish Enrichment Center of Lancaster and York (1024 Harrisburg Avenue, Lancaster).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night and Saturday).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday, Sukkot and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.

## **Kenyon College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 275 (16%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of BDS Activity: None***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: Unranked***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 70/248***

***Comparable Schools: Colgate, Hamilton, Bates, Colby and Bucknell***

About fifteen years ago, friends brought their daughter to see Kenyon College. My friends were impressed with the college but underwhelmed at the prospect of their daughter attending a small college in rural Ohio where fewer than five percent of the students were Jewish. However, they left feeling encouraged after having heard from the interviewing admissions officer that Kenyon was on a mission to attract more Jewish students. It appears that Kenyon has succeeded. Today, Kenyon's Jewish population stands at more than fifteen percent and, much to its credit, Kenyon has a well-functioning Hillel with its own white clapboard Hillel House directed by an experienced Hillel advisor.

Founded by Episcopalian Bishop Philander Moss in 1824, Kenyon's motto "Magnanimiter Crucem Sustine ("Valiantly Bear the Cross") is a reminder to all of its religious roots. But Kenyon is much more than a school with a religious heritage. Located in the small town of Gambier, Ohio, Kenyon is situated in Knox County in the very middle of the state about 45 minutes from Columbus. Its 1,000 acres includes a 380-acre nature preserve and its campus showcases a number of neo-Gothic and white-stoned Greek Revival structures, with "Old Kenyon" being a picture perfect Collegiate Gothic dormitory. Greek life is prominent within Kenyon's small student body of 1,600-plus students; however, there are no historically Jewish houses on campus.

Kenyon has occupied a fairly rarified position in Midwest collegiate circles since its founding 180 years ago as the first private college in Ohio. Among its alumni, it boasts a U.S. president (Rutherford B. Hayes), a Chief Justice (William Rehnquist), an acclaimed Jewish novelist (E. L. Doctorow), an Academy Award winning Jewish actor (Paul Newman) and a Director of the U.S. Peace Corps (Kevin O'Donnell). Kenyon is strong in the liberal arts and natural sciences and is an excellent breeding ground for students interested in furthering their studies after college.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: No.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## **Lafayette College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 250 (9%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate to High***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: Unranked***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 107***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 218/248***

**Comparable Schools:** Bucknell, Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg, Lehigh, Trinity and Union

Easton, Pennsylvania, home to Lafayette College, is not very far from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, home to Lehigh University, Lafayette's archrival. Like Bethlehem, Easton is an old steel town. Fortunately, for Lafayette, little needs to be said about Easton because Lafayette is socially, culturally and geographically self-sustaining. Perched on the top of a hill that rises in isolation above the city, Lafayette features a classic, collegiate green surrounded by buildings from various periods of its history. In total, the effect is very satisfying.

Lafayette's football field represents an exception to its otherwise self-contained campus, with the field being located below the rest of the campus in what amounts to a separate, but easily accessible playing field area. Lafayette's athletic tradition goes back almost 150 years. Its rivalry with Lehigh, which started in 1897, is the oldest nonstop rivalry in the college football world. Lafayette participates in the Patriot League with other prestigious schools such as Colgate and Bucknell. In addition, Lafayette traditionally plays at least three Ivy League opponents each season, giving the school a decided Ivy League athletic feel.

In addition to a fine liberal arts curriculum, Lafayette is also well known for its outstanding undergraduate engineering curriculum. A little less than ten percent of Lafayette's student body is Jewish, but count on this number growing, largely because Lafayette offers the attraction of being about one and a half hours from New York City.

In the fall of 2015, the college launched what it called Connected Communities. According to the website of Alison Byerly, Lafayette's current and first woman president, the program "provides an immersive student experience that connects residence life to academic programs and student advising with the goal of supporting the diverse academic and developmental needs of students. New students are



assigned to one of five Commons, which serve as the foundation for their first-year experience. The program supports the academic and developmental needs of Lafayette's diverse student body."

In February 2016, the Lafayette Board of Trustees adopted another Byerly initiative by approving the goal of need blind admissions to be financed by annually increasing the incoming class size by fifty students over a period of eight years and by devoting one percent of any future tuition increases to financial assistance.

According to the October 17, 2023, *CNN.Com*, the Department of Education has launched investigations after receiving complaints about alleged incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia. The investigations include five antisemitism cases and two Islamophobia cases. The schools include one K-12 school, the Maize Unified School District in Kansas, and six colleges: Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, Cornell University in New York, Columbia University in New York, Wellesley College in Massachusetts, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York, and the University of Pennsylvania.

The following is from the June 20, 2024, *The Morning Call*:

Lafayette College has settled a Department of Education investigation into an alleged antisemitic incident on its campus.

In an email sent to students, staff and faculty Thursday, President Nicole Hurd wrote that the college has entered a "voluntary process" to resolve the complaint. The resolution will not require the college to admit any liability or wrongdoing, but the school will take several steps to address the complaint, including reviewing its discrimination related-policies and procedures, training employees who investigate internal discrimination complaints, and reviewing complaints from the most recent academic year.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meal available on Fridays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Student-led pluralistic service. The Shabat dinners that follow attract between 40 and 60 students.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes. An interfaith Seder held during the first night of Passover averages upwards of 150 participants.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Macalester College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 200 (10%<)(when numbers last compiled by Hillel)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No, but the anti-Israel group Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights is active

***Level of BDS Activity:*** Moderate

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** Unranked

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 211/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Carleton, Grinnell, Oberlin, Reed and Vassar

It's hard to estimate the size of Macalester's Jewish student body since most students are averse to any type of self-characterization. However, according to anecdotal descriptions, there is a significant Jewish presence (see quote in the next paragraph) which is probably substantially more than the above-referenced ten percent. Located in St. Paul, Minnesota, close enough to the University of Minnesota for Macalester students to take advantage of Minnesota Hillel, this small and prestigious liberal arts college lends itself to many characterizations, most falling into the wealthy, liberal, iconoclastic, gender-friendly, hard-working end of the spectrum.

For example, in an unattributed testimonial on the UNIGO online college matching website, one Macalester student described his classmates as:

Liberal, pot-smoking hippies. Average Mac student is either a mid-westerner, a wealthy West/East coaster, or a wealthy international student. We are also considered the most queer-friendly campus in the US, which I have generally found to be true. There is also a HUGE Jewish population on campus who organize tons of events and even have a residential area called the "Hebrew House" or "HeHo." Oh, and we are AWFUL at sports.

On the same website, another unattributed student account stated:

Macalester's stereotypes depend on who you talk to. Probably all the social conservatives would say Macalester's students are all a bunch of pot-smoking, Earth-worshipping, tree-hugging, peace-loving hippies. A lot of notable alumni or even high school teachers who have actually heard of the school would probably tell you Macalester students are

hard-working, book-reading, no-social-life-having nerds. I think, also, Macalester has a reputation for being the "quirky," prestigious college.

There are a number of small colleges in Minnesota, such as the neighboring St. Paul campus of the College of St. Thomas, but, aside from Carleton College—one hour from Minneapolis and Macalester's slightly more prestigious and better known liberal arts cousin—no Minnesota school and no western Midwest school other than Grinnell offers Macalester's reputation, small student teacher ratio, New England quad-style setting, and outspoken liberalism.

Macalester is first and foremost a fine liberal arts institution. Its compact 55-acre campus features several period piece structures such as the iconic Old Main found on the main quad and several New England style brick and white buildings. Unlike some city schools, Macalester is located in a comfortable residential neighborhood that has escaped urban blight. But, residential neighborhood it is and excitement must be found elsewhere. That's where Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota come in.

The St. Paul/ Minneapolis area is an attractive (although a very cold) place to go to school. Further making Macalester attractive to every stripe of student is the school's solid reputation, its large international student body and, for Jewish students who are so inclined, its location near a substantial Jewish community.

As reported by the October 20, 2016 edition of *The Mac Weekly*, the independent student newspaper, there were at least two swastika incidents at the school during 2016. Further, according to *CBS Minnesota*, on October 4, 2017, two swastikas were found on different floors of Neill Hall. In total, the December 14, 2017 *Algemeiner* reported that the number of swastika incidents occurring during the first semester of the 2017-18 school year had jumped to eleven.

Aside from these episodes, which have not been attributed to any student or organization, there is also an anti-Israel presence on campus in the form of the Macalester Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights. In May 2017, the organization participated in a 24-hour hunger strike aimed at obtaining greater visibility for Palestinian grievances.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Unknown.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* No.  
*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.

## **Oberlin College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 650 (>22%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No, but the anti-Israel group Students for a Free Palestine is active and aggressive***

***Level of BDS/SJP Activity: Highest (among the most acute prior to October 7, 2023, but relatively modest in the aftermath of Hamas' deadly attack on Israel)***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 134***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 115***

***2017 Algemeiner Rank of Worst Colleges for Jewish Students: 12***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 75/248***

***Comparable Schools: Grinnell, Macalester, Reed, Vassar and Wesleyan***

Included among Oberlin's many illustrious alumni are Robert Maynard Hutchins, legendary president of the University of Chicago for almost two decades; Jerry Greenfield of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream; Carl Rowan, one of the first African American journalists for the *Washington Post*; Lena Dunham; Maude S. Mandel, president of Williams College; and Warren Wilson, after whom Warren Wilson College in North Carolina is named.

The Oberlin name has always connoted openness and liberal education. Oberlin is, indeed, one of the most open and socially aggressive campuses in American and a Mecca for liberal-minded students for almost two centuries.

Occasionally, social aggressiveness can border on the extreme as when, in December 2015, Oberlin students, according to the *New York Times*, "took their demands for diversity and racial inclusion to the dining hall, asking for more traditional meals and criticizing what they considered to be poor efforts at multicultural cooking." The *Times* continued: "The culinary culprits included a soggy, pulled-pork-and-coleslaw sandwich that tried to pass itself off as a traditional Vietnamese banh mi sandwich; a Chinese General Tso's chicken dish made with steamed instead of fried poultry; and some poorly prepared Japanese sushi." Stated one student: "When you're cooking a country's dish for other people, including ones who have never tried the original dish before, you're also representing the meaning of the dish as well as its culture."

In November 2016, this all-out approach to social progressivism turned from amusing (as in the case of the bahn mi sandwich incident) to ugly. The distressing circumstances of the incident in question was captured by Abraham Socher, a former, nineteen-year Oberlin faculty member and chair of its Jewish Studies Department in an August 2019 *Commentary* article, wistfully entitled “O Oberlin, My Oberlin,” and by George F. Will—admittedly, a conservative columnist—in a June 19, 2019 op-ed (published in the *Washington Post* among other newspapers), both of which followed an award by an Ohio jury against Oberlin and in favor of a local bakery in the amount of eleven million dollars plus thirty-three million dollars in punitive damages. The following excerpts from Will’s column describes the incident and illustrates (with some obvious coloring) what can happen when a facially laudable goal—fighting racism—gets derailed:

In November 2016, a clerk in Gibson’s Bakery, having seen a black Oberlin student shoplifting bottles of wine, pursued the thief. The thief and two female friends were, according to the police report, kicking and punching the clerk on the ground when the police arrived. Some social justice warriors — they evidently cut class the day critical thinking was taught, if it is taught at Oberlin — instantly accused the bakery of racially profiling the shoplifter, an accusation complicated by the fact that the shoplifter and his partners in the assault pleaded guilty.

The warriors mounted a protracted campaign against the bakery's reputation and solvency. But with the cowardice characteristic of bullies, Oberlin claimed in court that it had nothing to do with what its students did when they acted on the progressive righteousness that they imbibe at the school. However, at an anti-bakery protest, according to a complaint filed by the bakery, the dean of students helped distribute fliers, produced on college machines, urging a boycott because "this is a RACIST establishment with a LONG ACCOUNT of RACIAL PROFILING and DISCRIMINATION." (There is no record of any such complaints against the bakery, from which Oberlin bought goods until the hysteria began.) According to court documents, the administration purchased pizza for the protesters and authorized the uses of student funds to buy gloves for protesters. The college also signaled support for the protests by suspending college purchases from the bakery for two months.

A jury in the defamation trial awarded the bakery \$11 million from Oberlin, and \$33 million more in punitive damages. The \$44 million probably will be reduced because, under Ohio law, punitive damages cannot exceed double the amount of compensatory damages. The combination of malice and mendacity precluded a free-speech defense, and the jury accepted the obvious: The college's supposed adults were

complicit in this protracted smear. Such complicity is a familiar phenomenon.

Oberlin has been liberal from the time its abolitionist founders created it in 1833 and has continued on its liberal path through the Underground Railroad days to the present. It is most likely this tradition of openness and inclusiveness that has made the school so popular with Jewish students, albeit Jewish students who are open to all forms of expression in all of its manifestations.

However, of late, Oberlin has been a poster campus for anti-Israel sentiment, warranting as much as, if not more than, any other school profiled in this Guide a giant “buyer beware.” Perhaps, the most highly-publicized aspect of this anti-Israel sentiment occurred when the college initially declined to take action against Assistant Professor Joy Karega, whose unapologetic anti-Semitic tropes were chronicled in the following excerpt from a May 24, 2016, *Tablet Magazine* article, entitled “How Oberlin Has Repeatedly Failed To Confront Anti-Semitism on Campus”:

Last February [2015], Oberlin College became the flashpoint of a national controversy when it was discovered that the liberal arts school was employing an openly anti-Semitic professor. On Facebook, social justice writing instructor Joy Karega had dubbed ISIS a “CIA and Mossad operation,” suggested Israel downed Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, claimed the Mossad perpetrated the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks, posted a video arguing that Jews did 9/11, and shared an anti-Semitic meme of Jewish banker Jacob Rothschild that declared, “We own your news, the media, your oil, and your government.” Karega’s story was covered in the *New York Times* and numerous other media outlets, and her conduct was condemned by Oberlin’s board of trustees.

At the time, some publications—including *Tablet*—suggested that Karega’s hiring, despite her prejudiced views, represented a broader institutional failure at Oberlin. Two of Oberlin’s associate deans had served on the small search committee that hired Karega to guide undergraduates in ethical activism, and yet they completely failed to recognize her bigotry. *Tablet* has learned that the institution’s seeming inability to face up to Karega’s conduct went even higher than previously reported, and that a broader climate of anti-Semitism has gone unaddressed on campus.

On Jan. 26, 2015, a full month before Karega’s posts went public, an email obtained by *Tablet* was sent by a concerned alumni group to Oberlin president Marvin Krislov. Attached to it was a 28-page document containing testimonies of anti-Semitic incidents at Oberlin.

Some of the allegations related to actions that rested on the blurry line between criticism of Israel and anti-Jewish bigotry. They were certainly debatable. But some were not—most notably, a screenshot of Karega’s anti-Semitic Facebook post about the Rothschilds and Jewish global domination. Karega’s name was redacted from the images of her posts, and she was presented only as “a ... faculty member who has been identified by students as someone who makes hostile remarks about Israel in a class whose syllabus does not include topics related to Israel.”

The Oberlin administration did not follow up on the incendiary Facebook posts or ask who had authored them. On Feb. 20, five days before Karega’s posts would be first reported, the head of the alumni group, University of Maryland professor Melissa Landa, reached out to Krislov again, this time with a 17-page document containing all of Karega’s Facebook posts, with her name included. No public action was taken regarding Karega.

On April 12, 2015, a majority of the Oberlin faculty signed a letter condemning Karega’s Facebook postings. However, it was not until August 3, 2016, and only after concerted action by local and national Jewish organizations that Oberlin placed Karega on (paid) administrative leave. More than three months later on November 15, 2016, Karega was dismissed from her faculty position, only to file suit against Oberlin two years later on November 9, 2018. As set forth in a November 14, 2018, *Cleveland Jewish News* account of Ms. Karega-Mason’s (as her name has since become) \$885,000 lawsuit:

According to previous CJNI reports in since-deleted Facebook posts on her personal page, Karega-Mason shared comments, videos, images and memes many considered anti-Semitic. One week after the Charlie Hebdo shooting in France that killed 12 people on Jan. 7, 2015, Karega-Mason shared an image of an Islamic State terrorist pulling off a mask resembling Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The terrorist had a tattoo on his forearm of the Star of David with the words “JSIL Israel.” The text on the photo read, “France wants to free Palestine? Time for a false flag ...” Karega-Mason’s post that accompanied the image read in part, “Folks who turn off the indoctrinated media and do their homework know where Charlie Hebdo receives its support and backing. And for a prime example of these workings? Try generating a similar kind of satire attacking Zionism. I dare you.

In January 2016, more than 200 Oberlin alumni and 20 students wrote an open letter to the school in which they outlined their concern for the pressures that the school’s anti-Israel environment was placing on its Jewish students. In pertinent part, the letter stated as follows:



Throughout the past few years, the movement to Boycott, Divest from, and Sanction Israel (BDS) has become increasingly active on American college campuses, and Oberlin has become the site of highly visible BDS activism. Several student organizations at Oberlin have assumed the role as the mouthpiece of the BDS movement, which claims to be a defender of Palestinian rights, but whose inflammatory language falsely portraying Israel as an illegitimate, colonialist and murderous regime demonstrates that its primary goal is to demonize the Jewish state. Because participation in these groups requires denouncing Israel, the message to Jewish students can be summed up as follows: Either forfeit your allegiance to Israel and join us, or we will brand you as an enemy of justice and complicit in the oppression of the Palestinian people.

\*\*\*\*\*

According to *The Jewish Exponent*, an award-winning newspaper that serves the Jewish community of Philadelphia, one Oberlin student reported, "My fellow Obies and I were expected by our peers to join them in denouncing a plethora of social evils including...Israel." That same student described an incident on campus when, "One speaker drew laughs when she said that Zionists should be burned at the stake." In addition, the AMCHA campus monitor, which is published by a nonprofit organization that addresses anti-Semitism on college campuses, has documented numerous messages posted on line by the student group, Students for a Free Palestine, including, "Ohio is infested with Zionism," and describing Israel as a "white supremacist," "violent apartheid state." As reported to *The Oberlin Review*, other incidents include the expulsion of the Kosher Halal co-op from the Oberlin Student Cooperative Association (OSCA) and an exhibition of black flags symbolizing the Palestinians killed in Gaza during Operation Protective Edge displayed on Rosh Hashanah, one of Judaism's holiest days.

Jewish students have articulated the impact of these incidents on their lives. *The Oberlin Review* quoted one student who said, "I quickly learned that at Oberlin, love for my own nation (Israel) was not something I could freely express." The student who was quoted in *The Jewish Exponent*, also explained that she transferred out of Oberlin due to its "toxic climate...around Israel."

Meanwhile, following Karega's dismissal and despite Oberlin's large Jewish student body, a chilling climate of anti-Zionism remained present on the Oberlin campus. As reported by Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin of Hollywood, Florida, in the March 8, 2016 edition of his blog *Martini Judaism*, this atmosphere prompted one Jewish student to state, "as a supporter of Israel, I no longer feel safe on this campus."

In an April 5, 2016, *Daily Beast* article (entitled “Why are Oberlin’s Students so Silent About Anti-Semitism?”) another student emphasized the double standard that applies to anti-Semitic speech on this aggressively self-conscious campus where, as pointed out above, the mildest cultural slight can bring on the wrath of the student body:

The Daily Beast spoke to the small group of Oberlin Jewish students who do not identify as anti-Zionists and feel increasingly threatened, censored, and silenced by their peers and the Oberlin community who are impatient and dismissive of complaints of anti-Semitism. They also stressed they loved Oberlin.

These students would speak to The Daily Beast only on the condition of anonymity, a reflection of their fears about expressing pro-Jewish or pro-Israel views publicly. All identifiers are pseudonyms.

Jenny, a first-year student at Oberlin, said she only found out about Karega’s comments when her parents emailed her articles about it, well before her classmates were aware of it.

“Nobody was talking about it,” she said. “I texted a friend from Hillel [an international Jewish student organization] and said, ‘Why is no one talking about it? This is crazy.’”

\*\*\*\*\*

According to some Oberlin students, like Jenny, who don’t subscribe to all of more pervasive political views on campus, that commendable embrace of diversity and acceptance of all may have a big exception: Jews, and especially those who voice (even mildly) favorable views of Israel.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jenny noted her friends “didn’t agree with a lot of the demands,” but added, “We were debating the anti-Semitism on campus and racism on campus, and they were essentially like, ‘There’s no anti-Semitism on campus. The Jews are fine.’”

“There’s this attitude that, ‘The Jews are always fine. What are you complaining about?’ That’s not the same reaction when black students bring up oppressive things on campus.”

Other Oberlin students interviewed by The Daily Beast brought up this double standard of label anti-LGBT or racist remarks as “hate speech” but defending anti-Semitic and/or anti-Israel remarks as free speech.

In June 2017, Oberlin’s embattled Jewish president, Marvin Krislov, resigned from the post he had occupied for more than ten years and was later replaced by Carmen Ambar, Oberlin’s first African American president.

According to the October 27, 2017, *Oberlin Review*, the school’s student newspaper, anti-Semitic posters advocating the end of “Jewish privilege” were discovered on October 20, 2017, at four locations on the Oberlin campus: Warner Center, the Science Center, Carnegie Building, and East Hall.

On March 28, 2018, the *Algemeiner* reported that a group of more than 90 Oberlin alumni, calling themselves Oberlin Alums for Campus Fairness (“OACF”), published on that date another open letter directed at president Ambar, calling upon Ambar to end “the concerted hostility toward Israel on campus, and saying that such hostility “fosters a hostile environment for Jewish students.” According to the *Algemeiner* account, the letter also claimed that “there were eight times as many events portraying Israel negatively as there were portraying Israel positively” during the school’s fall 2017 semester, and went on to state:

“The stream of negative messages about Israel creates the distorted impression that Israel is a unique evil in the world,” warned the alumni, who were joined by six former and current Oberlin faculty members.

While upholding the right of speakers such as BDS activist Ali Abunimah to appear at the private liberal arts college, “we do object to professors endorsing his position by offering extra credit to students who attend,” they continued. “We also believe that without offering students the opportunity to hear counter-narratives and robust debate and dialogue, Oberlin College is engaging in political indoctrination rather than offering rigorous education.”

As reported by the April 4, 2018, *Algemeiner*, on that date, President Ambar responded to the OACF letter. According to the *Algemeiner* account, Ambar, citing a March 29, 2018, Hillel statement that had welcomed the concerns of the OACF, but had also asserted that “the Jewish community at Oberlin is vibrant and strong,” characterized the OACF letter as “not accurately represent[ing] Oberlin College and contemporary Jewish life on our campus.”

Predictably, OACF was unimpressed with Ambar’s response, as set forth in the following excerpt from the April 4, 2018, *Algemeiner* account:

[T]he college “has chosen to substitute ideology for a marketplace of ideas” by failing to expose students to a variety of perspectives on Israel.

The group shared the testimonies of four current and former Oberlin faculty and staff members who have expressed concern about the college, with one describing an “insane anti-Israel and even anti-Semitic rhetoric and atmosphere on campus.”

Another attested that during their years at Oberlin, they “became all too familiar with the dynamics of bullying used to silence and intimidate Jewishly-identified students, that is, even people taking Jewish Studies courses, let alone Hebrew, and efforts to present something other than anti-Israel/ anti-Zionist positions on campus.”

Oberlin ACF pointed to flyers posted on campus last week by the school’s chapter of the anti-Zionist group Jewish Voice for Peace [“JVP”], detailing the ten “plagues” placed upon Palestinians — a reference to the calamities that devastated ancient Egypt before the Exodus, according to the Passover story.

“It is unacceptable for Jewish students to wake up on Passover and see a wall of posters representing the ten plagues as Israeli acts of aggression, and it is unacceptable for Jewish students to hear shouts of ‘Free Palestine’ as they enter Rosh Hashanah services,” the alumni group wrote. “Jewish students should not be subjected to physical and psychological intimidation as they attempt to enter the library through a picket line of anti-Israel protestors, or find shattered glass on their bed from a rock thrown at their Israeli flag displayed in their window.”

“It is these sorts of anti-Semitic acts that intimidate Jewish students who want to engage positively with Israel and that warn them that engaging with Israel will ostracize them as social outcasts,” Oberlin ACF cautioned.

In a counterpoint to the OACF claims raised above, the April 4, 2018, *Algemeiner* account also noted that “other students, including Liz Cooper — co-chair of Oberlin’s Jewish Student Union, which works closely with Hillel — indicated [as follows] that they have not felt particularly targeted on campus based on their Jewish identity.”

“I’ve had fascinating conversations and powerful Jewish experiences with friends and classmates from across the political spectrum,” Cooper, who was involved with JVP’s [above-referenced] Passover “Day of Action” campaign, told *The Algemeiner*.

She said that while the ratio of Oberlin students who support the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel “is certainly higher than that of the general American population, and

likely most college campuses as well,” there is still “a great degree of intellectual and ideological diversity on this campus regarding Israel and Palestine overall.”

While “there are certainly students and student groups on this campus who are hostile toward Israel,” similar attitudes are also expressed toward the United States and other countries, Cooper indicated.

“Far from indoctrinated, I feel like my own sense of the diversity of political positions on Israel and Palestine has expanded greatly since I’ve gotten here,” she shared.

However, the aggressive social posture of the Oberlin student body may be taking its toll. On September 14, 2017, the *Washington Times* reported that Oberlin was having “trouble attracting and retaining students, missing this year’s enrollment mark by 80 and racking up a \$5 million budget deficit in the process.”

This theme was later echoed by a Jewish Oberlin student who was quoted in the January 8, 2019, *Algemeiner* as saying:

I suspect that Oberlin’s reputation for not taking a stand against antisemitism may be affecting its ability to attract quality students. Last year, I recommended the school to a friend of mine, whose daughter was applying to conservatories. Although a talented [musician], Oberlin was not on her list because of the perception that antisemitism is a problem on campus, which is not something she heard from me.

In early November 2019, Israeli forces assassinated Baha Abu al-Atta, a notorious commander of the Islamic Jihad, a an Iranian-backed Gazans terrorist organization that is dedicated to Israel’s destruction, and blacklisted by the United States and the European Union. Following the strike, the Islamic Jihad launched more than 450 rockets at civilian communities in southern Israel. Israel retaliated with airstrikes aimed at Islamic Jihad targets, killing thirty-four Gazans. According to Israel’s IDF, about 25 of those killed were members of the Islamic Jihad, some of whose pictures were posted wearing Islamic Jihad fatigues. Israel initiated an investigation into the civilian casualties. According to the November 24, 2019, *Algemeiner*, Oberlin Students for a Free Palestine installed a display in a central part of the campus commemorating the 34 Palestinians killed by Israeli airstrikes, including Baha Abu al-Atta, without any mention of the 450 rockets indiscriminately launched by the Islamic Jihad or of the fact that 25 of those killed were terrorist members of the Islamic Jihad.

According to a February 26, 2021 *Scholars for Peace in the Middle East* (“SPME”) account, which cited a breaking story in the *Jerusalem Post* of the same date, Oberlin was confronting claims that Mohammad Jafar Mahallati, a professor of

Islamic Studies, had urged the elimination of Israel while he was Iran's ambassador to the United Nations in 1988. According to the account published by SPME:

The *Post* analyzed the entire UN archived material of Mahallati's speeches and letters while he was at the UN during the 1980s, particularly while he served as the Islamic Republic's top envoy to the United Nations from 1987 to 1989. Mahallati labelled Israel the "Zionist entity" and frequently dismissed Israel's legitimacy as a state, according to academic and policy experts, who reviewed Mahallati's language

Mahallati defended the first Palestinian Intifada—a series of violent protests against Israel—as "the heroic uprising of Palestinians," at the UN in 1989. He appeared to advocate for a global jihad against Israel. Palestinians are setting an example for Arabs and Muslims across the world in connection with the "holy struggle against oppression and Zionism," Mahallati said at the UN, also in 1989. Mahallati frequently designated the entire state of Israel as Palestinian territory.

"Palestine is an Islamic territory, an Islamic heritage, and it remains an Islamic point of identity. The land of Palestine is the platform of the ascension of the Prophet Mohammad; its significance is that it contains the first kiblah direction—towards which Muslims prayed. Its occupation by Zionist usurpers is a transgression against all Muslims of the world and its liberation is therefore a great religious obligation and commitment," Mahallati said at the UN that same year.

In a follow-up October 19, 2021, Jerusalem Post story, entitled "Iran's 'Butcher of Oberlin': Outrage at college for whitewashing prof.," the Post reported that Iranian-Americans slammed Oberlin for whitewashing the alleged "crimes against humanity" carried out by Mahallati during a 1988 massacre of innocent Iranian political prisoners. In this regard, the *Post* story also noted that:

Amnesty International declared in its 2018 report – which examined Mahallati's role as the former Iranian regime ambassador to the UN at the time of the 1988 mass murder – that he was "actively involved in denying the mass killings in... media interviews and exchanges with the UN" to shield those responsible from accountability.

The *Post* account quoted Melissa Landa, a graduate of Oberlin and founding director of Alliance for Israel, as follows:

"[E]ither Oberlin College did not do its homework on Mahallati when it hired him, or it didn't care about his criminal history. Finding against

him in their internal investigation would have meant admitting to one of the two. That wasn't going to happen.

“On a campus that specializes in anti-Israel forms of antisemitism, from the silence of its Hillel director and the abdication of its administration to the relentless attacks of JVP [Jewish Voice for Peace] and SFP [Students for a Free Palestine], Oberlin College was never going to object to Mahallati's praise for violence against innocent Israelis.”

The issue of Mahallati's alleged involvement in the coverup of the 1988 murder of Iranian dissidents was revived by a report issued by Amnesty International on February 6, 2023. As reported in the February 19, 2023, *Jerusalem Post*:

The US-based organization the Alliance Against Islamic Regime of Iran Apologists provided damning new evidence to Amnesty International for its new report on Oberlin College Professor of Religion Mohammad Jafar Mahallati's alleged role in the cover-up of the massacre of at least 5,000 Iranian dissidents in 1988.

Amnesty's report titled “Involvement of Iran's former diplomats in covering up the 1988 prisons massacres” was released on February 6.

\*\*\*\*\*

“In light of this new evidence, we conclude with certainty that Mr. Mahallati was aware of the executions and was in a position to stop them from happening,” AAIRIA said in statement . . . .

On September 8, 2022, the *New York Times* reported that Oberlin had agreed to acquiesce in a decision of the Ohio Supreme Court affirming \$36.59 million out of an original \$44 million lower court jury award against Oberlin for having defamed a local bakery. According to the *Times* account, the incident that started the dispute

unfolded in November 2016, when a student tried to buy a bottle of wine with a fake ID while shoplifting two more bottles by hiding them under his coat, according to court papers.

Allyn Gibson, a son and grandson of the owners, who is white, chased the student out onto the street, where two of his friends, also Black students at Oberlin, joined in the scuffle. The students later pleaded guilty to various charges.

That altercation led to two days of protests; several hundred students gathered in front of the bakery, accusing it of having racially profiled its customers, according to court papers.

The lawsuit filed by Gibson's contended that Oberlin had defamed the bakery when the dean of students, Meredith Raimondo, and other members of the administration took sides in the dispute by attending the protests, where fliers, peppered with capital letters, urged a boycott of the bakery and said that it was a "RACIST establishment with a LONG ACCOUNT OF RACIAL PROFILING and DISCRIMINATION."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: located in Wilder Hall, 216 (135 W. Loraine Street).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat.
- *Friday night services*: Reform and pluralistic services (attracting about 200 students each week).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at Oberlin College (111 North Pleasant Street).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.



## **Pitzer College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Students: 130 (12%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of BDS Activity: Highest***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 85***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 92***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 108/248***

***Comparable Schools: Bard, Claremont-McKenna, Hampshire, Macalester, New College of Florida and Sarah Lawrence***

At about 1,060 students, Pitzer is the third largest of the five Claremont Colleges (Pomona, Claremont-McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Pitzer and Scripps), and, at one time, was much easier to get into than the other four. With an admit rate of a little over 15% and an average GPA of almost 4.0 for the class of 2021, that distinction has largely changed.

For the 2016-2017 academic year and for the ninth year in a row, Pitzer College (with 15 winners) was one of the top producers of Fulbright students among United States bachelor's degree institutions, bested only by Smith College with 17 winners.

As with the other Claremont Colleges, Pitzer is located almost at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains. Its modern campus occupies 35 acres within the Claremont Colleges community, with its interesting buildings sharing space with lush shrubbery and tree plantings. Pitzer's students enjoy the facilities of the Claremont Colleges consortium, which means they get to hobnob with students and professors from the other consortium institutions.

Pitzer was founded in the late 1960s and, as with its less fortunate East Coast counterpart, Hampshire College (which was also founded about that time but has drastically curtailed its academic activity), Pitzer offers an alternative curriculum with students, working in consultation with faculty advisors, to design their own majors. Standardized test scores are optional at this liberal leaning institution, with a large majority of applicants choosing not to submit test scores.

On April 16, 2017, a week after the Claremont Students Against Jewish Persecution had hosted its annual "Israeli Apartheid Week" and at a time when many Jewish and Christian students were away for Passover and Easter, the Pitzer Student Senate passed a previously unannounced amendment to the Budget

Committee Bylaws prohibiting student activity fees from being used to purchase Israeli products such as Sabra hummus. The Claremont Progressive Israel Alliance and Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity circulated a petition decrying the vote for having been taken without prior announcement and at a time when many of the petitioning students were away for religious reasons.

The petition, addressed to Pitzer's president, denounced the unannounced vote as timed to stifle dissent and as extending the anti-intellectual view championed by the Claremont SJP that any discussion with pro-Zionist interlocutors was unacceptable because it risked "normalizing" such beliefs:

BDS is a well-organized, thinly veiled smear campaign against the existence of the state of Israel. The official BDS platform includes false narratives (such as claiming Israel started both the 1948 and 1967 wars) which paint Israel as the primary aggressor in the Middle East. It ignores the facts on the ground and only accounts for a singular perspective in a region home to countless intersectional religious and ethnic identities. BDS demonizes pro-Israel students and Israeli students on campus and creates an unsafe environment . . . on the Pitzer campus.

To hold such a divisive, controversial vote on a day of religious observance for many students is outrageous. The Senate also neglected to add this resolution to the agenda. This was a deliberate attempt to silence opposing voices in this debate, evidenced by the fact that only 25 of 39 student senators were present for the vote. This speaks to the same "anti-normalization" policy promoted by Claremont Students for Justice in Palestine which states that its members should not converse with anyone who aligns with Zionist ideologies, for fear of "normalizing" such beliefs. By not allowing for a pro-Israel perspective to be heard prior to voting on this resolution, the Senate directly endorsed SJP's value of anti-normalization as being synonymous to Pitzer's [values].

As reported in the June 16, 2017, edition of *Algemeiner*, during June 2017, Pitzer's board of trustees, in a rare reversal, rescinded the student senate vote and declared it to be of no effect. As reported by the *Algemeiner* article, The Pitzer trustees explained their decision as follows:

We note that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is among the most complex, emotional and divisive issues of our time, and is one on which the College has not taken a position. Students and other members of the Pitzer community, from all faiths and backgrounds, represent the full spectrum of viewpoints on this challenging issue . . . .

Student Activities Funds are derived from mandatory fees the College levies upon all students. Consequently, the Board expects the Student Senate to remain neutral in determining the organizations it recognizes and funds, the amount of funding allocated to each organization, and any restrictions imposed on such funds.

[The BDS amendment] however, applies a particular point of view on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in restricting the use of Student Activities Funds by all Student Senate-approved student groups. In so doing, [it] inappropriately curtails the funds usage rights of all such groups, including those that may have a different perspective.

The above action of the Pitzer trustees notwithstanding, it appears that the anti-Israel attitude on campus is not going to go away soon. A student account in the April 9, 2017, edition of *Medium* put it as follows:

Starting on April 3rd, 2017, the 5C Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) organization held their annual “Israeli Apartheid Week,” spurring widespread hatred and intolerance. While SJP claims to “promote justice, human rights, liberation and self-determination for the Palestinian people,” this narrative is false; their hateful actions prove otherwise and are emblematic of the group’s true goals. SJP is not pro-Palestinian; they are anti-Israel and anti-Jew. Student members of Zionist and Jewish groups on this campus have been systematically harassed, shamed, and silenced by SJP. SJP’s “anti-normalization policy” has made it impossible for students to hold dialogue. Further, voices on this campus have been . . . one-sided, not because another side does not exist, but because those who disagree with SJP are afraid of their peers. They are terrified to speak out in fear that their community will not accept them and in fear of being isolated from the entire student body. On many of the college campuses at the 5Cs, to declare oneself a Zionist is to commit social suicide. SJP promotes a toxic environment that silences an entire population of students.

As noted in Chapter One, according to the November 26, 2018, *Claremont Independent*, the Pitzer College faculty, on November 8, 2018, voted to suspend its study abroad program with the University of Haifa in Israel. After widespread condemnation within the Jewish community, Pitzer’s president, Melvin Oliver, also condemned the vote of his faculty in a speech given on November 27, 2018. According to the November 29, 2018, *Jewish Journal*, Oliver’s speech included the following criticisms of the action taken by his faculty:

In a transcript of the speech obtained by the Journal, Oliver said that the arguments favoring the motion “show little or no consideration for our educational objectives and mission.”

“To deny Pitzer students who want to study at Haifa University the opportunity to study abroad and to enter into dialogue and promote intercultural understanding at the altar of political considerations is anathema to Pitzer’s core values,” Oliver said. “If the suspension of the Haifa University program becomes a reality, this will be paltry support for the cause of Palestinian rights and a major blow to the reputation and reality of Pitzer College as a scholarly institution committed to its stated values of intercultural understanding and the ability of students to pursue their vision of educational engagement.”

One irony of the Pitzer faculty’s short-sighted action is that the University of Haifa is, perhaps, the most inclusive of all Israeli universities. This focus on inclusivity is brought out by a January 23, 2019 *Algemeiner* article by Karen L. Berman, CEO of American Society of the University of Haifa:

The University of Haifa’s thriving population of non-Jewish students — more than 35 percent of the total student body — debunks the claim that Israeli society marginalizes Arabs or any other minority. Our campus combines an academically-challenging, broad-based curriculum with a student body that reflects the mosaic of Israeli society, including Jews, Arabs, Christians, Druze, and natives of small villages and large cities.

We serve a greater number of recent immigrants than any other Israeli university, and offer more than 20 international degree programs taught in English. Our students are the future leaders who will thrive in diverse environments, not insular communities.

Our institution-wide embrace of diversity and multiculturalism is precisely what makes the Pitzer College faculty’s recent vote to suspend the Southern California-based school’s study abroad program with the University of Haifa so counterproductive and counter-intuitive.

Even so, in March 2019, Pitzer’s College Counsel ratified the boycott position of its faculty, only to have the measure rejected by President Oliver. Oliver’s action was criticized as suppressing academic freedom (although none of his detractors explained how depriving students wishing to study in Israel protected their academic freedom). In addition, the Pitzer College Student Senate introduced a resolution calling on school President Melvin L. Oliver to resign. The resolution was defeated by a vote of 20-12. Amazingly, as reported by the April 8, 2019, *Jewish Journal* “had the resolution passed, it could have resulted in Pitzer’s faculty issuing a vote of no confidence in Oliver, according to the [April 7, 2019] Claremont Independent.”

On May 28, 2019, Oliver may have gotten the last word when he gave an address in Israel at the University of Haifa's 47th annual Board of Governors meeting. As reported in the May 28, 2019 *Jewish Journal*, Oliver concluded his speech, saying:

I am here today to say thank you to the University of Haifa and President [Ron] Robin for standing with us in the defense of the educational mission of both our institutions. It is a credit to your institution that in this debate, no one can point to any policies or actions by the University of Haifa that would even be remotely linked to a rationale of suspending our program. With your diverse student body, you are really a model institution for us to partner with and I hope we can continue for years to come.

According to the April 4, 2024, *Inside Higher Ed*, "Pitzer College has suspended its study abroad program at the University of Haifa in Israel. Officials at the California college say the program was one of almost a dozen study abroad programs shuttered and the move had nothing to do with boycotting Israel, as student activists had called for. Pro-Palestinian students are touting the program's demise as a win; many of them had pressed college officials to close the program. "

On April 9, 2024, *AMCHA Initiative* issued the a statement condemning Pitzer's the suspension of the University of Haifa study abroad program. The following are extracted from the statement:

"We are deeply troubled by Pitzer College's tolerance for - if not total capitulation to - the virulently antisemitic academic boycott of Israel campaign (academic BDS), whose explicit goal is to purge campuses of Zionism and Zionists, a campaign redolent of Nazi Germany and its successful purge of Jewish students and faculty from its universities. The enormous threat of academic BDS is not that it will lead to shutting down a study abroad program, but that its implementation creates an intolerably hostile and unsafe campus for anyone who supports Israel or Jewish self-determination.

Long before Pitzer's recent decision to close down its Haifa program, anti-Zionist students and faculty launched aggressive efforts to implement academic BDS at Pitzer, using the campus square and classroom to demonize, delegitimize and call for the destruction of the Jewish state, and to vilify, bully, exclude and suppress its on-campus supporters, especially Jewish students. Against the backdrop of such behavior, how could any Pitzer student feel safe attending an Israel-

abroad program, taking classes or doing research about Israel, or even simply expressing support for Israel?

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No, but Hillel at the Claremont Colleges has facilities located in the McAlister Center for Religious Activities.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night) and during the holidays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes. Reform and Conservative Services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Student Center of Claremont (415 W. Foothill Blvd. #118, Claremont).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## **Scripps College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 140 (13%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low (but other very close schools in the Claremont Colleges consortium are among the highest)***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 103***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 64***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 127/248***

***Comparable Schools: Bryn Mawr, Claremont-McKenna, Mt. Holyoke, Pitzer and Smith***

As with Pitzer College (another member of the Claremont Colleges, consisting of Claremont-McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Pitzer, Pomona and Scripps), Scripps College, founded in 1926 by newspaper publisher and philanthropist Ellen Browning Scripps, is compact in both campus, class size (16 students per class on average) and student body size. However, unlike the other Claremont Colleges, Scripps' student body of 1,050-plus students is comprised almost exclusively of women.

Thus, young women who desire to attend an all-female campus may do so at Scripps, knowing that they are just a stone's throw away (literally) from four of the finest co-ed, small colleges on the West Coast. In fact, Scripps women may take as many as two thirds of their courses at any one of the other four Claremont Colleges and may even major in programs of study offered by any one of the other four schools, provided the major is not also offered by Scripps. Former Congresswoman, Gabby Giffords, is a Jewish alumna of Scripps.

Scripps is particularly known for its attractive Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. The beautiful, olive-tree-lined courtyard outside the administration offices located in Balch Hall is one of the hallmark features of the Scripps campus. The campus is on the National Register of Historic Places.

With the beautiful backdrop of the San Gabriel Mountains and a location not far from some of the most-prized Pacific Coast beaches, Scripps is a compelling West Coast alternative to the best all-women colleges offered by the East Coast.

While there have been a number of SJP-sponsored anti-Israel events at the Claremont Colleges, only one such event, an October 2015 presentation by BDS activist, Nada Elia, has specifically taken place at Scripps. However, on March 9,

2016, Scripps students along with students from Pitzer and Claremont McKenna Colleges received the following “Alert” from the Department of Campus Safety:

On Monday, March 7, 2016 at approximately 11:02 pm, the Campus Safety Department received a report of a flier that had been placed on the exterior of a Claremont McKenna College student’s dormitory room door. Campus Safety responded immediately and upon arrival found several other fliers. The flier was composed as a mock eviction notice. The Claremont Police Department was also informed of the incident.

Residential Life staff at Scripps College reported that the mock eviction notices were also discovered at some Scripps residence halls. Pitzer College also reported the flier being posted in hallways of Mead Hall. Posting regulations on all three campuses were violated.

Because students have reported that they felt they were being targeted specifically because they are Jewish, Campus Safety is working with the Claremont Police Department to investigate this matter as a possible bias incident.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House: Yes:* Hillel at the Claremont Colleges (located at the McAlister Center for Religious Activities).
- *Kosher meals:* No.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat:* Unknown.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House:* Chabad Student Center of Claremont (415 West Foothill Blvd. #118 Claremont).
- *Kosher meals:* Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services:* Yes.
- *High Holiday, Sukkot and Passover services:* Yes.

Historically Jewish Sororities: No.



## Skidmore College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 500 (19%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: None***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 63***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 91***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 243/248***

***Comparable Schools: Colorado College, Connecticut College, Franklin and Marshall, Hamilton, Union and University of Vermont***

Located in the charming Upstate New York small city of Saratoga Springs, Skidmore offers an exceptionally low faculty-student ratio of 9-1 and an unusually diverse array of strong majors, with business, psychology and studio art being among the best. Historically a mecca for nearby men's colleges, such as Williams, Union and Colgate, Skidmore has been co-ed since the 1970s, with a current student ratio of about 60% women/40% men. Many of the schools that used to gravitate to Saratoga Springs when Skidmore was all women still do so for the city's charm and nightlife.

Skidmore does not have a Hillel House, but the school does have a Hillel chapter as well as a campus rabbi. A little less than 20% of Skidmore's students are Jewish. In the 1960s, Skidmore moved from its downtown campus consisting largely of turn-of-the-century Victorian mansions to a beautiful 850-acre wooded campus at the edge of town and at the end of a boulevard of Victorian mansions. Walk through the campus on a nice day and be transported by the bucolic feel of its beautiful gardens, lush lawns and lily pad covered pond.

With excellent Division III athletic facilities, its own barns and bridal paths, covered walkways, an extensive network of on-campus, garden-style residential apartments and fine majors, Skidmore has a lot to offer accomplished students who don't mind going to school where it's cold.

According to the March 15, 2021 *Algemeiner*, two Skidmore students accused the school of political bias, after their student club, "Progressive Zionists for Peace," was denied a trial period on campus. As set forth in the article:

Nessa Goldhirsch Brown and another student asked the New York university's Club Affairs Committee for a trial period after other clubs,

including the Social Justice for Palestine club, were granted a trial period.

“Their reasoning was very hypocritical, confusing, and clear of a political bias against Israel. Zionism is an issue close to our hearts and we are enraged and disappointed that our school is clearly lenient towards some social/political issues but not others,” the club’s co-founder Goldhirsch Brown told *The Algemeiner* by email.

As reported by the March 22, 2021, *Jewish Journal*, the college soon reversed course on March 19, presumably after it received a torrent of adverse publicity, and granted a trial period to the progressive Zionist club. As reported in the *Jewish Journal* account:

A spokesperson for the college said in a statement to the Journal that on March 19, the college’s Club Affairs Committee had a follow-up discussion with the Progressive Zionists for Peace (PZP) club “to clarify technical matters of definition and scope, and the Club Affairs Committee voted to move the club into a trial period. This was never an issue of religion or ideology. Skidmore does not and will not tolerate anti-Semitism or religious discrimination of any kind. Skidmore seeks to create a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment for all, and there is no place for discrimination at Skidmore.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No. Served by Hillel of the Capital District (which also serves Union College, RPI and SUNY Albany).
- *Kosher meals*: Friday night kosher style.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Served by Chabad Lubavitch of Saratoga Springs (130 Circular Street).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Smith College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 250 (10%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Highest***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 124***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 135***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 168/248***

***Comparable Schools: Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mt. Holyoke and Wellesley***

Smith College was founded as a college for women in 1871 through the generosity of a gift by its namesake, Sophia Smith, and has remained a women's college to this day. Smith's website proudly proclaims: "Of course, the world is coeducational. But Smith women enter it more confidently than women graduates of coed schools. After Smith, the future is wide open." Instead of traditional dormitories, Smith students live in over 30 Houses that provide the opportunity for bonding and an increased sense of community. Smith can boast two first ladies among its alumna: Nancy Reagan and Barbara Bush.

Smith's campus was designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, the architect of Central Park in New York City, and boasts gorgeous period pieces such as the Greek-Revival John H. Green Hall that is juxtaposed next to the ultramodern Campus Center. The campus is quintessentially New England with tree-shaded walkways that lead to charming buildings and various campus destinations. Smith is clearly one of the most attractive among the many small college campuses that dot the Northeast.

The Lyman Conservatory on the main campus boasts over 2,500 species of plants and the Olmstead-designed pond directly across the road offers the opportunity for lovely boat rides and year-round contemplation, as well as just plain beauty. An equestrian center is located off campus.

Once a member of the academically-esteemed Seven Sisters, Smith has retained its academic excellence over the years and, today, boasts a top-flight liberal arts curriculum, with interesting twists such as the Picker Engineering Program, started in 2004, which boasts the highest percentage of female engineering faculty in the country.

Smith's student-faculty ratio is an impressive 9-1 and Smith is now one of the top-tier schools that is SAT/ACT optional. For the 2015-16 academic year, Smith's 43 Fulbright applicants received 19 Fulbright Fellowship offers—a 44% success rate (as compared to the national average of 17%). Smith is a member of the five-school Pioneer Valley Consortium that also consists of Amherst, Hampshire (see profile on Hampshire for a discussion of its financial difficulties), Mount Holyoke and the University of Massachusetts.

Smith is located in the charming Pioneer Valley community of Northampton, Massachusetts. Long ago, Northampton opened its arms to persons of all life styles, especially the lesbian community, and is regularly listed as the best, or one of the best, lesbian-friendly communities in America.

The Smith College Jewish Community ("SCJC") is located at 1 Chapin Way, Northampton, and describes itself as "[a] place for the Jewish Community (& friends) of Smith College to congregate, eat, build community, have meaningful conversations, and celebrate." SCJC's Facebook page lists many events of interest to Jewish students. One workshop that occurred during October 2017 was entitled "Treyf @Smith: A Workshop on Anti-Semitism." A description of the event is informative and included the following:

David Zinman and Sam Bick of Treyf Podcast will be leading us in a workshop surrounding Antisemitism. What actually is Antisemitism and how do common myths about it disserve Jews and all people fighting for liberation? How is Antisemitism related to White Supremacy, Capitalism, and all systems of power? How can a better understanding of Antisemitism help us fight for collective liberation?

SJP is active on the Smith campus and holds events such as its annual "Israel Apartheid Week" and a March 2017 rally demonizing Israel's alleged treatment of Palestinian women, held in conjunction with International Women's Day. Earlier, on April 18, 2016, SJP posted the following notice on its website in response to an event hosted by the Smith Israel Alliance that featured a female veteran of the Israel Defense Forces:

This Wednesday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m. the Smith Israel Alliance will be hosting an Israeli Defense Force (IDF) veteran to talk about her first-hand experience as a soldier. This talk, however, will variously ignore and distort the crimes against humanity committed by the IDF against Palestinian civilians. The event is part of a national propaganda campaign called "Stand With Us: Israeli Soldiers Tour," whose openly stated purpose is to A) promote a positive image of the Israeli army and B) counter BDS movements in the United States.

\*\*\*\*

Please join Smith Students for Justice in Palestine @ 6:30 p.m. on April 13th in front of the CC to protest this event and to spread awareness surrounding the human rights abuses committed by the IDF.

\*\*\*\*

Smith SJP hopes to bring these crimes to the attention of the Smith campus so that we can participate in bringing them to justice.

In November 2017, the college invited Valerie Plame, the unmasked former CIA agent, to speak on foreign policy. As a result of Plame's anti-Israel bias, the invitation to her generated consternation within the Jewish community at large, as typified by a November 27, 2017, article in *Tablet*, entitled "Valerie Plame's Invitation to Speak at Smith College is the Latest Example of a Cult of BDS." The *Tablet* article noted that, earlier in the year, Plame had notoriously retweeted a September 19, 2017, article by Philip Giraldi, which was preceded by the headline, "America's Jew's are Driving America's Wars." The Giraldi article, which Plame originally characterized as "thoughtful," contained the following statement invoking the need for rat-poison-like labeling in the case of certain Jewish supporters of Israel who appeared in the media:

For those American Jews who lack any shred of integrity, the media should be required to label them at the bottom of the television screen whenever they pop up, e.g. Bill Kristol is "Jewish and an outspoken supporter of the state of Israel." That would-be kind-of-like a warning label on a bottle of rat poison—translating roughly as "ingest even the tiniest little dosage of the nonsense spewed by Bill Kristol at your own peril."

In a September 22, 2017, article in *Fox News*, noted Harvard Law School professor emeritus, Alan Dershowitz, raised the following questions with regard to Plame's original support for the Giraldi article, which she later retracted, but only after a widespread backlash:

Plame's true feelings were revealed in what she said before she realized that she would be widely condemned for her original retweet. She must now do more than apologize.

The former CIA operative must explain how she came upon the article. Who sent it to her? Does she regularly read bigoted website? Why is she reading and retweeting a known anti-Semite? What are her own personal views regarding the content of the Giraldi article?

The Plame incident reflects a broader problem, which I wrote about in June for the Gatestone Institute International Policy Council, in a piece headlined “A New Tolerance for Anti-Semitism.”

As reported by the October 25, 2019, *Jerusalem Post*, eight swastikas were found on the Smith campus spread out among three buildings.

As reported by the March 6, 2024, the *Algemeiner*, late in February 2024, “someone graffitied a swastika on campus and stole several mezuzahs, small parchment scrolls containing Hebrew verses from the Torah that members of the Jewish community fix to their doorposts. *The Daily Wire* first reported the story on X/Twitter.” In a reaction reminiscent of Alice in Wonderland, Smith College, according to the *Algemeiner* account, responded by “condemning ‘Islamophobia’ and pledging to review an anti-Zionist group’s demand that the school adopt the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.” Also, according to the *Algemeiner* story:

The school’s president, Sarah Willie-LeBreton, addressed the incidents in a letter to the campus community last week. She proclaimed that there is “no place for antisemitism, Islamophobia, or any form of hate at Smith College,” demonstrating what higher education experts have described as a reluctance on the part of university presidents to address antisemitism as a standalone problem.

Willie-LeBreton continued, listing actions the college is taking in response to the incidents, including “considering a divestment request” which was proposed by the anti-Zionist campus club Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). According to SJP, the school has already acceded to their demand that products sold by Sabra Dipping Company, LLC, owned by PepsiCo and the Israeli food manufacturer Strauss Group Ltd., be banned from campus.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Tuesday [March 5, 2024], nonprofit leaders and academics castigated Willie-LeBreton’s statement, arguing that it betrayed her indifference to anti-Jewish hatred.

“I think it’s time to say that when you respond to a specifically antisemitic incident by condemning antisemitism and islamophobia, you have exacerbated the original antisemitism by not taking seriously what happened, and instead placating antisemites who think that addressing antisemitism as such is problematic,” George Mason University law professor David Bernstein said on X. “But this one is even worse than usual, by noting that Smith is considering a request to

divest from Israel, as if that's somehow a proper response to an antisemitic incident as opposed to encouraging antisemitism."

Hussain Abdul-Hussain of, Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a think tank based in Washington DC, challenged the college to cite one example of anti-Muslim conduct, and the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA) on Campus denounced Willie-LeBreton's response as "irresponsible and dangerous." Other users weighed in, calling Smith College "beyond parody" and an "utter failure."

According to the April 2, 2024, *Inside Higher Ed*, "[i]n the latest face-off between students and administrators over the war in Gaza, students at Smith College have been occupying the main administrative building on campus for almost a week, demanding the institution divest from weapons manufacturers that supply military machinery to Israel. The protesters say they will not leave College Hall until the institution commits to divestment, according to statements on the social media pages of the college's Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter, which is spearheading the demonstration. "

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: According to the college's website, "The Cutter-Ziskind dining hall serves kosher selections and offers specials during Jewish Holidays. While the Kosher Kitchen is closed on weekends, meals may be reserved for dinner on Friday; lunch and dinner on Saturday; and lunch and dinner on Sunday.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Held in conjunction with Amherst College (Rosh Hashanah at Smith and Yom Kippur at Amherst). Seders are held both nights.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Served by Chabad at the Four Colleges which also serves Amherst College, Hampshire College and Mt. Holyoke College (194 Amity Street, Amherst).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday, Sukkot and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.

## Trinity College Connecticut

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 220 (10%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of BDS Activity: None (but a recent incident of anti-Semitic vandalism)***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 65***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 127***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 166/248***

***Comparable Schools: Bates, Bucknell (especially, engineering), Lafayette (especially, engineering) and Union (especially, engineering)***

A friend went directly from Yeshiva to Trinity College and never looked back. This historically Episcopalian institution does give one the impression of drinking from the cup of knowledge from a dispensary in a cathedral, but it is, for sure, very welcoming to Jewish students.

Trinity sits atop a hill, totally set off from the hardscrabble community that surrounds it. Trinity's venerable and lovely 100-acre campus is self-contained and traffic-free. The campus is so beautiful and so true to its original architecture that it deserves to be on the Register of Historic Places. The most impressive examples of Trinity's classic, brownstone collegiate Gothic architecture are Seabury and Jarvis Halls. The later-constructed Trinity College Cathedral is both eye catching and imposing, and, in the summer, offers bell concerts for the entire Hartford community.

Trinity's students not only learn well, but they also have a good time. If anything, this is one of the finer institutions where students can spend four years hitting both the books and the party scene, despite the college's location in a fairly beaten up part of Hartford.

Starting with the leadership of Evan Dobelle, Trinity's Jewish president during the late 1990s and early 2000s, Trinity has done wonders in shoring up the college's at-risk neighboring areas and in promoting favorable town/gown relations. Today, Trinity is a member of Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance, a civic partnership that includes Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Hartford Hospital, all of whom are striving to promote home ownership, jobs for neighborhood residents, and community commercial development in the surrounding neighborhoods.



Among other academic disciplines, Trinity is particularly strong in engineering, a feat that is shared by only a handful of other small schools with student bodies of fewer than 3,000.

About 20% of Trinity's undergraduates are Greek, with many belonging to co-ed Greek organizations. Jewish alumni have strong ties to the college. An example is reflected in the Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life, established in 1996 by Trinity alum, Leonard E. Greenberg (who passed away in July 2017), to advance, on a non-sectarian basis, the understanding of how religious movements, institutions, and ideas influence secular values, gender roles, politics and other aspects of contemporary life.

SJP arrived on the Trinity campus in 2015. In April 2016, SJP's first event was a showing of "Occupation of the American Mind," a one-sided criticism of Israel and its Jewish supporters (see a critique of the film in the profile for UCLA). According to *The Trinity Tripod*, the college's student newspaper, the film invoked the worn-out trope of Jewish control of the media:

The film, "Occupation of the American Mind" made the argument that American public opinion is biased strongly towards Israel because the American media is influenced strongly by a public relations arm of the Israeli government that is tantamount to a propaganda mill.

Trinity found itself in an uproar in June 2017 following the shooting of Congressman Steve Scalise at a Congressional baseball practice in Arlington Virginia. According to the June 21, 2017, edition of the conservative *Fox Insider News*, which, in turn, quoted the equally conservative campus watchdog news service, *Campus Reform*, Professor Johnny Eric Williams, a black teacher at the college, was said to have posted two Facebook comments that could be construed as supporting the idea that EMT's arriving at the scene of the Scalise shooting should have refused medical care to him and the other victims.

According to the June 22, 2017, *Hartford Courant*, the pair of Facebook postings did include the profane hashtag, "Let Them [expletive] Die." However, as suggested by the following account of the incident in *Time*, Williams Facebook postings, though odious and distasteful, were intended as a call for the death of white supremacy, as he saw it, and not a call for violence:

A professor at Trinity College in Connecticut has fled the state after receiving death threats over inflammatory social media statements that he says were taken out of context.

Johnny Williams, who has been a sociology professor at Trinity since 1996, recently shared a Medium article by an author known as "Son of

Baldwin” that ended in a “call to show indifference to the lives of bigots,” Trinity President Joanne Berger-Sweeney said.

The article included an accusation that House Majority Whip Steve Scalise — who was shot last week during a congressional baseball practice and saved by Capitol Police officers who are black — holds racist views. “What does it mean, in general, when victims of bigotry save the lives of bigots?” the article said.

“Saving the life of those that would kill you is the opposite of virtuous,” it added. “Let. Them. F—ing. Die.”

Williams shared the article on his personal Facebook and Twitter accounts and used the hashtag #LetThemF—Die, including the expletive, prompting an outcry as the posts spread on social media. Trinity closed its campus on Wednesday in response to threats, but reopened Thursday morning because it appeared there was no “immediate threat.”

Williams told the *Hartford Courant* that his posts were made in reference to a fatal police shooting in Seattle, not in reference to the Virginia shooting that injured Scalise.

“They are thinking I’m talking about a Congressman,” Williams told the *Courant*. “That’s not at all the case.”

“I’m calling for the death of a system, white supremacy, not the death of white people,” he added.

A review by the college concluded that Williams’s postings were protected by academic freedom. Nevertheless, Trinity’s president, Joanne Berger-Sweeney, stated that she did not condone the postings. More importantly, the damage had been done.

The story unleashed so fierce a backlash that, as noted in the June 22, 2019, *Courant* story, Trinity’s board closed the campus for a day and Williams fled to another community for safety and chose to sit out the Fall semester. In addition, as reported in the August 1, 2017 *Courant*, the incident caught the attention of both donors and prospective students, with the result that past donors chose to pull back about \$200,000 in donations and 16 prospective freshman withdrew from the college.

Williams returned to Trinity and, as reported by the May 1, 2019, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, once again faced criticism for his social media posts. According to the *Higher Education* account:

In recent days Williams has again caught flak for new Facebook posts about race. In one, he wrote, “White kneegrows really need a lot of therapy and a good ol' ass kicking.” He later clarified that he was talking about black Republican commentator Candace Owens, but also “other and less brazen but more insidious dangerous ‘white’ kneegrows like Barry and Michelle Obama.”

On Easter, Williams tweeted that “Whiteness is terrorism.”

“All self-identified white people (no exceptions) are invested in and collude with systemic white racism/white supremacy,” he also said.

According to the September 27, 2022, *The Trinity Tripod*, on September 16, 2022, three swastikas were carved into the door of a Jewish student living in Trinity’s Ogilby Hall.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes (Zachs Hillel House).
- *Kosher meals*: According to Hillel’s website: “The Kassow Hillel Kosher Eatery, a meat/parve station integrated into the main dining hall in Mather offers daily glatt kosher lunches and dinners . . . . In addition, kosher products and prepared foods are available at the Bistro and the Cave on campus, as well as at Hillel.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes (drawing between 40 and 50 students weekly).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes. Holiday celebrations also include Chanukah and Purim.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Union College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 300 (13%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:***

***Level of BDS Activity:*** Low (however, see below for a Department of Education investigation into Union College's response to antisemitic activities on campus following Hamas' deadly October 7, 2023 rampage into southern Israel)).

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 116***

***Comparable Schools:*** Bucknell, Colgate, Hamilton, Lafayette, Skidmore, St. Lawrence and Trinity

***Major Jewish Donor:*** 2015 gift of \$11 Million from the Feigenbaum Foundation

Founded in 1795, Union is a wonderful school with a beautiful 100-acre campus that includes eight acres of formal gardens. Union has invested much in its neighboring communities and the results show. But, Schenectady is not a center of college social life. For night life, many Union students follow the well-worn path to nearby Saratoga Springs and Skidmore College.

Union is shaped like an oval, with dormitories at one end and classrooms and athletic fields at the other. In the middle is a stunning rotunda commemorating the country's 1876 centennial. A beautiful green surrounds the rotunda in all directions. While preserving the historic integrity of its campus, Union has been on a construction binge in recent years. According to the school's website, "recent projects have included the renovation of historic buildings such as Karp Hall (home to humanities), Lippman Hall (home to social sciences), the Taylor Music Center (home to the music program) and the Breazzano Fitness Center (a state-of-the-art fitness facility)." New construction has included the Peter Irving Wold Center (home to the school's interdisciplinary science and engineering program) and the Henle Dance Pavilion (home to the school's dance program).

Although Union predates General Electric by many years, much of its endowment and growth is attributable to GE, which once proudly made Schenectady its headquarters. Indeed, bordering on one side of Union is a neighborhood tract, referred to as the GE Plot, where one can find charming early 20th century residences at a fraction of the price they would draw in a more affluent community.

When students aren't socializing on campus or elsewhere, they are busy studying in an upbeat and challenging academic environment, with a low faculty-student ratio of 10-1. Incoming students are assigned to one of seven residential

houses, referred to as Minerva Houses, with each having its own student-run governing council. Though solidly a liberal arts school, Union's GE pedigree also enables it to be one of the best small college engineering schools in the country.

In 2014, Union's hockey team won the national championship after less than a decade of Division I competition.

As reported in the December 15, 2023, *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, the Department of Education opened 12 new investigations into "the handling of discrimination at colleges and school districts since Thanksgiving 2023", in the [then] latest expansion of the department's scrutiny of civil rights issues since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war." Among these was Union College.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Hillel Lounge and Kosher Kitchen located at Reamer Campus Center Room 203
- *Kosher meals*: The website for West College indicates the availability of kosher meals: "West is home to one of Union's main dining halls, which is open to all students but primarily used by first-year students. Next to the dining hall is the Hillel Kosher Kitchen, where Jewish services are held and traditional Jewish meals are prepared and open to the campus community."
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes. Kosher meals served throughout Passover.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at Union College Rohr Jewish Student Center (225 Seward Place).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Delta Tau.

**Schools with New SAT Scores of 1270-1350  
(corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1200-1290)**

**Clark University**

*Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 580< (25%<)*

*SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No*

*Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate*

*2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 67*

*Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 93*

*FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 188/248*

*Comparable Schools: Bard, Drew, Muhlenberg and Ithaca College*

Clark was founded as a then all-graduate school in 1887 by G. Stanley Hall, founder of the American Psychological Association. The school's focus on psychology attracted Sigmund Freud who visited Clark in 1909—the only United States university so honored. Today, Clark remains at the forefront of psychology education. Interestingly, Clark's other area of high acclaim is geography. Clark's School of Geography was founded in 1921 and was the first school of its kind to offer a graduate program in geography. However, Clark is by no means a two-dimensional institution. Rather, it offers a wide variety of strong programs. Its fine curriculum in Holocaust Studies is operated under the aegis of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Clark has created a pleasant stir by offering a free master's degree to graduating Clark students who maintain a B+ average. This is a wonderful feature in that Clark offers a variety of graduate programs, with about 800 of its 3,000 students studying at the graduate level.

Clark's self-contained campus is modest in size and separated from its neighboring Worcester, Massachusetts, surroundings (less than an hour from Boston). The university is personified by the imposing, late-19th century Jonas Clark Hall—Clark's oldest academic building.

Worcester is definitely a college town. In addition to Clark, Worcester boasts the presence of the College of the Holy Cross (less than two miles away), WPI, Worcester State College, Anna Maria College and Assumption College. Popular and reasonably-priced gathering places for college students are available throughout the

community, but don't expect Boston's energy, tony neighborhoods or trendy shopping areas.

Clark—like Trinity College in Hartford and Union College in Schenectady—has done its share to revitalize the downcast part of town where it is located. Starting more than two decades ago, Clark set out to rejuvenate its neighboring community and to bring life to a faltering public education system. The results have been impressive. In particular, the University Park Campus School started by Clark in 1997 has both assisted the neighboring community and provided valuable experience for Clark's teacher training program. Qualifying students from the University Park Campus School are able to attend Clark free of charge.

Clark has not experienced as many anti-Zionist or anti-Semitic incidents as other campuses and now that SJP has gone inactive on campus, it may experience even fewer. Nevertheless, the following account of an interview with a biracial Jewish student at Clark, taken from the February 2016 issue of *Tower Magazine*, indicates that it does exist:

When I [San Diego State student reporter, Anthony Berteaux] asked Hannah Smith, an African-American Jewish student at Clark University, about her experiences with racial micro aggressions, she challenged the notion that SJP members truly cared about or understood the issue. She said that their alliances with the Black Student Union have led to both anti-Semitic and anti-black micro aggressions against her.

\*\*\*\*\*

[W]hat troubled Smith more was the effect that SJP has had on her black peers at Clark, and how it has prompted them to propagate anti-Semitic micro aggressions towards her.

“Many black students have told me that they see me as less black, not because my mom is white, but because she and I are Jewish. I do not think that my peers think that anti-Semitism exists at a PWI [predominantly white institution] that is 33 percent Jewish, but it's actually really bad. Most people think that anti-Semitism doesn't exist and is only a religion issue, not anything having to do with appearance. But, I can attest personally that this isn't true.”

According to the September 26, 2016, *Telegram & Gazette*, racist and anti-Semitic stickers were posted on the Clark campus. In the article, Clark's president, David Angel (who has since announced his retirement at the end of the 2019-20 academic year), stated that the sticker postings were the work of Vanguard America, a white nationalist group.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat. According to Hillel, a kosher meal station is available at Higgins Cafeteria.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Liberal and Traditional egalitarian.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad of Clark University (53 Midland Street).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night and Saturday afternoon).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.



## Drew University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 150 (9%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Low

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** Unranked

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 123

***Comparable Schools:*** Dickinson, Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg, Muhlenberg and Dennison

From the great hall of S. W. Bowne Hall, with its prominent neoclassic church-like presence, to Brothers College, to the United Methodist Church affiliated Theological School, to the imposing statue of the itinerant minister, Drew University's attractive, wooded, campus still projects images of its former status as the Drew Theological Seminary. However, Drew recently had a Jew, Robert Weisbuch, serve as president (2012), boasts a Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study and offers a minor in Jewish studies.

Certainly, the desirability of its campus and its northern New Jersey location warrants a look by Jewish students who are eager to experience the feel of a New England college conveniently located a little over an hour from New York City.

Known as the University of the Woods, Drew's 170-acre campus includes a large, almost dark, wooded area that features the Florence and Robert Zuck Arboretum. Drew is one of New Jersey's most prominent, private liberal arts colleges and is probably second in the state to Princeton. Located in Madison, New Jersey, Drew's eclectic, but venerable campus, attracts a primarily mid-Atlantic and metropolitan New York City student body.

With only 1,600 undergraduates, Drew still offers a varied liberal arts curriculum with strengths ranging from business to theater. Drew is an SAT-optional institution. Barely 10% of Drew's students are Jewish, but with Drew's northern New Jersey location, the number of Jewish students should increase in the future.

In January 2015, the no-longer-active SJP chapter at Drew endorsed a pledge supporting BDS. Subsequently, the Drew SJP sponsored anti-Israel speakers such as a 2016 speech by Miko Peled, whose anti-Semitic tweet ("Then they surprised Jews have reputation 4being sleazy thieves") prompted the Princeton Committee on Palestine to rescind an invitation to Peled about three hours before he was scheduled

to speak. Currently, the Drew SJP chapter is inactive which should bode well for Jewish life on campus.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: None

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: None

## Goucher College

**Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:** 300 (20%); down from a high of 400 (27%)

**SJP Chapter Active on Campus:** No

**Level of SJP/BDS Activity:** Low

**2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:** 71

**2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:** 112

**2017 Algemeiner Rank of Best Colleges for Jewish Students:** 36

**Comparable Schools:** Clark, Drew, Gettysburg, Muhlenberg, and Sarah Lawrence

**Former Jewish President:** Jose Antonio Bowen, a musicologist of Cuban and Jewish ancestry, completed his presidency at the end of the 2018-19 academic year

**Major Jewish Donor:** 2023 gift of \$10 Million from Mark Shapiro and Judy Lewent for the construction of the Science Innovation Center

Located in Towson, Maryland, Goucher is just a few miles from downtown Baltimore and offers just about everything that one might ask of a college of fewer than 1,500 undergraduate students. The school's well maintained, 287-acre wooded campus is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and boasts a dressage course, bridle trails and hiking paths. Even so, Goucher is one of those colleges that is attractive in every way, but somehow does not get as much recognition as it deserves.

More than 60% of Goucher's students are women, perhaps owing to its origin as a women's college. Many of Goucher's fine arts and performing arts programs presumably also derive from that era. The school boasts a faculty-student ratio of 10-1 and an average class size of 17. For those courses that Goucher does not offer on its own campus, Goucher students may look to nearby Towson University or Johns Hopkins for supplemental course work. Goucher is also a user-friendly campus for students with learning disabilities. One unique aspect of academic life at Goucher is that every student is required to study abroad at some point during his or her Goucher career.

Though Goucher's anti-Israel community has been relatively quiet, there has been at least one notable instance in which a pro-Israeli speaker had a presentation terminated due to the heckling tactics of protestors. In early November 2015, Israeli television personality and LGBTQ activist, Assi Azar, arrived at the Goucher campus

to screen “Mom and Dad, I have Something to Tell You,” a film about children coming out of the closet.

As reported by the November 11, 2015, *Times of Israel*, Azar “had been looking forward to an engaging and productive dialogue with the 70 students who had shown up at the Hillel-sponsored event. But when he noticed that 15 of them had pink duct tape over their mouths, he had a feeling that things might get ugly.” According to Azar’s November 6, 2015, Facebook posting, the event did devolve into ugliness:

The film screening was peaceful, but it was quickly succeeded by students removing the tape, standing, and chanting against Israel with posters in their hands. These chants were combative filled with distortions of facts; mostly anti-Semitic.

I found myself under attack, accused of ridiculous accusations. I was arguing with 20-year-old students who were brain washed against Israel, had never visited Israel, and who were targeting pure hatred against us.

It was very threatening. I could see the fear on the faces of the Jewish students that were sitting in the hall. Most of them did not take part in the imminent debate that transpired. Students reflected afterward that they were simply afraid to speak as they would likely be targeted and possibly assaulted the next day.

What shocked me the most however, was the fact that some of the students who came out against Israel calling our State an apartheid state were Jews themselves!!!

I want to speak directly to those Jewish students now: Jews from around the globe are suffering from and victims of so many anti-Semitic attacks around the world. Students on campus are violently attacked only because they are Jews in the same way that Jews are murdered around the world and in Israel only because they are Jewish. Is this what you think you should be doing?

\*\*\*\*\*

After this incident, I saw Jewish students sitting and crying, fearing they would be attacked aggressively in the future and feeling hopeless and powerless against those organizations who attack Israel through spreading lies. These Jewish students are now afraid to attend community events, afraid of taking a stand, afraid of defending Israel. This phenomenon is happening across the United States.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No, but Hillel had a dedicated lounge in Stimson Hall, across from the main campus dining hall.
- *Kosher meals*: Yes. According to Hillel's website, a kosher dining hall is adjacent to the Hillel lounge and serves lunch and dinner every day of the week, including Shabbat and Holidays. There is a small surcharge for students to participate in the kosher dining plan. However, every student is entitled to one Kosher meal per week free of charge (usually Shabbat dinner).
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Reform and Conservative Friday night Shabat services are offered, with about half of the Jewish student body attending services at least once a month.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Jewish Center of Towson (14 Aigburth Road, Towson).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Hampshire College

***(Historic) Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 325 (42%)***

***(Historic) SJP Chapter of Campus: Yes***

***(Historic) Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Low***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 85***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 130***

***Comparable Schools: Bard, Bennington, New College of Florida, Pitzer and Sarah Lawrence***

On January 15, 2019, Hampshire President Miriam E. Nelson posted an astonishing and sobering letter online. In pertinent part, the letter stated as follows:

I'm announcing today our intent to find a long-term partner that can help us achieve a thriving and sustainable future for Hampshire. With the guidance and passion of Hampshire's trustees we've begun a process to seek a strategic partnership to address the challenges we've faced as an under-endowed institution, really from our very first days. As we approach our 50th anniversary, and as Hampshire continues to have an impact on students and society, the trustees and I are absolutely determined to find the best way forward.

As we embark on this process we're also carefully considering whether to enroll an incoming class this fall, and will work with the trustees to make that decision before the February 1 admissions notification date. This decision has significant ethical implications, and must take into account the welfare of our prospective students and community as a whole.

On June 30, 2019, the *Boston Globe* reported that only fifteen students would be entering their freshman year at Hampshire for the 2019-2020 academic year. As of August 2019, the college's admissions website read as follows: Thank you for your interest in joining our community! While Hampshire works to renew our academic program and secure a financially sustainable future, we are actively recruiting students to apply for the Fall 2020 class. The Common Application will re-open in early fall of 2019.

As an encouraging follow-up to foregoing bleak assessment, the August 30, 2019, edition of *Inside Higher Ed* quoted Hampshire officials as saying that as many as 750 students would enroll for the 2019-20 academic year. In November 2019,

Hampshire received more good news when, according to the November 25, 2019, issue of *Inside Higher Ed*, the New England Commission of Higher Education confirmed that the college will maintain its accreditation.

Then, on June 10, 2020, under the heading “Cooperation in a Crisis,” Hampshire posted the following upbeat message:

In the face of financial challenges presented by COVID-19, many colleges and universities have unilaterally announced layoffs and furloughs. Hampshire College is charting a different path. On May 23, 2020, Hampshire College faculty ratified a negotiated agreement, ensuring the continuation of the College’s vibrant academic program, protecting working conditions, and avoiding faculty layoffs while meeting sustainable budget goals for the next academic year. The agreement was crafted between Hampshire’s administration and representatives from Hampshire College’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

According to the March 119, 2023, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, on March 16, 2023, Hampshire College offered admission to “all New College of Florida students in good standing.” The offer included a match of New College tuition and costs. Most interesting was the rationale behind the offer, as quoted by *Inside Higher Ed* below:

“This opportunity is in response to the continuing attacks on New College of Florida intended to limit intellectual exploration, turn back progress toward inclusion, and curtail open discussion of race, injustice, and histories of oppression,” Hampshire said. “By committing to impose a narrowly politicized curriculum on New College, the newly appointed trustees broke promises made to its current students to support a self-directed, rigorous education grounded in a commitment to free inquiry.”

Hampshire appears to be back on track toward financial health. As such, the profile that follows describes Hampshire College as it existed during the 2018-19 academic year.

This small college occupies over 700 acres of beautiful central Massachusetts’s countryside. The buildings on Hampshire’s campus are utilitarian. However, the beauty of the campus’s natural setting is what sets it apart, with lush lawns and copses of trees everywhere, and lovely views of the nearby mountains. The setting is truly bucolic.

Since its inception in 1965, Hampshire has been a trendsetter in liberal education and, for that same period of time, Hampshire has been attracting Jewish students who enjoy the small class size at Hampshire (averaging about 15 students

a class) and who account for a significant part of the student body. Even more interesting, this small college is the repository for the National Yiddish Book Center. It is a marvel to be traveling on a small road in rural, central Massachusetts, and, all of a sudden, come across a sign directing the traveler to the National Yiddish Book Center on Hampshire's campus.

In February 2009, at the behest of the Hampshire SJP, the school's Board of Trustees voted in favor of disinvestment from State Street SSgA Fund, a fund that included six companies doing business in Israel. As reported by the March 15, 2009, *Huffington Post*:

The board of trustees of the Massachusetts college approved a proposal on Feb. 7 that would divest school assets from an investment fund found to include 200 companies that violated the college's standards for social responsibility. Violations included unfair labor practices, environmental abuse, military weapons manufacturing and unsafe workplace settings.

The proposal resulted from a review of the college's investments conducted at the urging of a student group, Students for Justice in Palestine.

According to the student group, six companies deemed to be complicit in the Israeli occupation were included in the divestment. They are Caterpillar, United Technologies, General Electric, ITT Corp., Motorola and Terex.

But the Jerusalem Post reports that the college, which was the first American college to divest from South Africa over apartheid, has denied divesting because of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

[A] "statement of clarification" sent by [Hampshire's Director of Communications Elaine Thomas] to The Jerusalem Post on Thursday evening . . . acknowledged that the Board of Trustees' initial review of the college's State Street holdings had been based on a complaint by Students for Justice in Palestine about six companies doing business in Israel.

But the college's top leadership insisted the "decision expressly did not pertain to a political movement or single out businesses active in a specific region or country. No other report or interpretation of the actions of February 7, 2009 by the Hampshire College board of trustees is accurate."

However, a rising tide of criticism continued to hound the school's divestment decision. Ultimately, Hampshire's president and chair of its board of trustees



addressed an open letter to Alan Dershowitz, then of Harvard Law School, in which the two Hampshire officials sought to lay to rest the notion that the original divestment decision had been based on anti-Israel animus. Stated then president, Ralph Hexter, and then board chair, Sigmund Roos, in pertinent part:

Hampshire College has made a strenuous, good-faith effort to explain its decision to exit a problematic mutual fund. We make this effort again, without equivocation: Israel was not the cause for divestment from the State Street fund. As you know, last spring, the student group SJP, which is sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, petitioned, as is its right, the community-based subcommittee (CHOIR) on responsible investing, which is a subcommittee of the investment committee, in turn itself a subcommittee of the finance committee of the board, asking that the college exit from one particular fund, State Street SSgA. The group claimed that six companies in the fund were supporting or profiting from Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories. The companies were said to be Caterpillar, General Electric, ITT, Motorola, Terex and United Technologies. CHOIR passed a recommendation concerning these companies to the investment committee, in accordance with the board's procedures.

The investment committee, however, expressly rejected this narrow focus, and instead sought to apply our own socially responsible investment policies. This cursory review suggested multiple problems — none of them having to do with Israel — in the fund, and also revealed the implementation inadequacies of the policy. The committee then turned to an outside, independent reviewer, KLD Research & Analytics, the gold standard for socially responsible investment screening, to look closely into the fund's components.

\*\*\*\*\*

In sum, what KLD found was that of the fund's 455 holdings, well over 200 raised significant concerns relative to Hampshire College's socially responsible investment policy and were in violation of values of socially responsible investing. It was on this basis that the investment committee voted as it did to exit from the fund when an alternative fund has been identified. The decision was entirely unrelated to Israel or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In fact, two of the six companies originally cited by students as problematic were given a clean bill of health on Hampshire's policy by the KLD screeners (and a third, it turned out, was not even listed as a constituent of the fund). As a consequence, stocks in these two companies (Motorola and Terex) — we speak unequivocally —

remain among our holdings and will remain on our potential buy-list in accordance with KLD standards.

Hampshire currently holds investments in funds that include many hundreds of companies that do business in Israel and in at least three actual Israeli companies: Amdocs, Teva Pharmaceuticals and Check Point Software. No other college or university should use Hampshire as a precedent for divesting from Israel since Hampshire has refused to divest from Israel. Anyone who claims otherwise is deliberately misrepresenting Hampshire's decision and has no right to speak for the college.

Since the foregoing episode, anti-Israel activity on the Hampshire campus has been low, though punctuated by an occasional SJP activity such as SJP's November 2016 showing of the polemical, anti-Israel film, "Roadmap to Apartheid." However, on March 29, 2018, the *Forward* reported the following incident of anti-Semitism that had taken place on the Hampshire campus:

Campus police at a Massachusetts college are investigating an incident of harassment against a Jewish student. The incident took place last week at Hampshire College, a small liberal arts school in Amherst, about 90 miles west of Boston. The college's president, Jonathan Lash, condemned the incident, but no further details have been released to the public. In a memo to the Hampshire community, Lash wrote that the campus police responded to a report of "an act of blatant and deplorable anti-Semitism" that took place in the middle of the night in an area with student housing."

Hampshire is part of the five-college consortium, consisting of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Smith, Mt. Holyoke and Hampshire. But, of the five, Hampshire is, by far, the most innovative and liberal. Hampshire is known for its evaluation approach to learning (with students receiving evaluations on their progress rather than conventional grades), its alternative curriculum that emphasizes projects and portfolios rather than specific courses, and its 2014 decision to eliminate standardized test scores in admissions.

According to the March 19, 2023, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, on March 17, 2023, Hampshire expressed solidarity with the New College of Florida which had been buffeted by conservative political currents under the DeSantis Administration, by offering admission to any New College of Florida student in good standing who wished to transfer to Hampshire. As noted in the *Inside Higher Ed* account, the offer included a match of costs on tuition, which is much greater for Hampshire students than the New College of Florida students.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No (but the Hampshire College Jewish Student Union is the focal point for Jewish life on campus).
- *Kosher meals*: Hillel's website states: "There is a Kosher kitchen on campus that is organized and maintained by observant students.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes (vegetarian meal).
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Served by Chabad of the Four Colleges (located at 194 Amity Street, Amherst, and serving Smith, Mt. Holyoke, Hampshire and Amherst).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Muhlenberg College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 550 (22%<). *Hillel reports that about two-thirds of Muhlenberg's Jewish students are active in Hillel*

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No

***Level of BDS Activity:*** None

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 52

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 83

***Comparable Schools:*** Dickinson, Gettysburg, Goucher, and Sarah Lawrence

Jewishly speaking, Muhlenberg is a bit of a mystery, but a pleasant mystery. Muhlenberg was founded by protestant missionaries who came to the new world to convert the heathen Indians. From its traditional red doors to the Gothic chapel that dominates its compact campus in northeast Pennsylvania, Muhlenberg is Lutheran from its proud church-like Academic Walk to the gentile-looking athletes depicted in its athletic alumni hall of fame. Yet, this fine small college is bursting with Jewish life. Indeed, the college is closed on Yom Kippur and students are excused from tests on any Jewish holiday when work is prohibited. Clearly, somebody made the decision to attract more Jewish students and carried out the decision with great success. The *Noshery*, a college-sponsored, kosher eating facility, is situated at the Wood Dining Commons.

This fine liberal arts school of about 2,360 undergraduates boasts a low student teacher ratio of 11-1, with about 70% of its classes not exceeding 20 students. The college is located in a pleasant residential section of Allentown, Pennsylvania. However, despite Muhlenberg's pleasant setting, it is a bit isolated. Help is, nevertheless, on the way since Muhlenberg is easily reached from New York City or Philadelphia and many students take advantage of such proximity to get away on weekends. For those who are interested, the college is within easy reach of neighboring synagogues.

Muhlenberg is very strong in the performing arts and holds its own with other well-recognized small college fine arts programs such as Skidmore and Sarah Lawrence. Additionally, in pre-med studies, Muhlenberg goes toe to toe with such fine programs as Dickinson and Franklin and Marshall.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes, across the street from a local synagogue.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meals available at the *Noshery* through college meal plan, at no extra cost.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *Rosh Hashanah and Passover services*: Yes: Hillel also provides Rosh Hashanah dinner and Passover Seder.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Student (415 North Ott Street, Allentown).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## New College of Florida

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 20 (3%); down from high of 100 (12%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No

***Level of BDS Activity:*** None

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** Unranked

***Comparable Schools:*** College of Charleston, Eckerd College (Florida), Elon University (North Carolina), Rollins College (Florida) and St. Mary's College (Maryland)

Founded in the 1960s, New College of Florida is the state's legislatively-designated "honors college for the liberal arts." In this capacity, NCF is the only public college or university in the state whose sole mission is to provide a national undergraduate education to leading students from around the country. NCF fulfills this mission very ably (though, as of 2018, about 80% of its students were in-state). While boasting an undergraduate student body of a little over 800 students in 2018, in that year, NCF attracted students from 38 states and 19 countries.

NCF's campus is situated on the stunning former Charles Ringling estate. The Gulf Coast campus now comprises 115 acres and overlooks beautiful Sarasota Bay. Almost 100% of NCF's faculty have doctorates or other terminal degrees. The 10-1 student-teacher ratio is typical of high quality private schools. The school's Pritzker Marine Research Center comprises seven research labs and over 100 aquaria.

NCF's students do not amass credit hours. Instead, they commit to "contracts" (written agreements students enter into each semester with specific goals and measurements for success). Each contract usually includes three to five student undertakings that relate to courses, tutorials, internships, or independent reading projects. Instead of grades, professors provide evaluations for each completed contract.

NCF is one of the leading small-college producers of graduate students in the country. From 2004 to 2008, 87% of NCF students who applied to graduate school were accepted, and 85% of those who applied to law school were accepted. Indeed, of all NCF science graduates since 1967, roughly one-third have earned an M.D. or Ph.D. Unfortunately, of late, the school has found itself in the cross hairs of the cultural wars.

According to the January 11, 2023, *Inside Higher Ed*, Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida appointed Six new trustees to the New College of Florida, including a cadre of social conservatives. As noted in the *Inside Higher Ed* account, the “board aims to reshape the college in the image of a private Christian institution.”

The foregoing snapshot account was succeeded by a number of longer articles, including one by Benjamin Wallace-Wells entitled, “What Is Ron DeSantis Doing to Florida’s Public Liberal-Arts College?” that appeared in the February 22, 2023 edition of the *New Yorker*. The following are the introductory paragraphs from that article:

In the context of other universities—the sort of assessment the Princeton Review’s guidebooks might do—New College of Florida, situated on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, a few miles north of downtown Sarasota, has a number of standout features. Its curriculum is unusually self-directed: it gives out no letter grades, and has an academic research project built around independent study in partnership with professors. Two-thirds of its seven hundred students are women, and there is a prominent queer community; in the past, New College ranked among the most “gay-friendly” campuses in the country. Those attributes make it seem like a progressive northern liberal-arts college, to which alumni often compare it, but New College is a public school, which means that in-state tuition costs under seven thousand dollars annually—a bargain—and also that it is subject to the influence of Florida’s state politics.

Early in January, the governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis, announced that he would be making six new appointments to New College’s Board of Trustees, and, weeks later, the Florida Board of Governors appointed a seventh, which gave DeSantis’s incoming choices an immediate majority on the board. DeSantis’s chief of staff, James Uthmeier, told *National Review* that he hoped New College would become a “Hillsdale of the South”—a reference to the private, Christian conservative college in Michigan. Shortly afterward, Christopher Rufo, a conservative activist and one of DeSantis’s new appointments to New College’s board, gave an interview to the *Times*’ Michelle Goldberg that was even more pointed: he spoke of a “top-down restructuring” of the school’s curriculum and culture, and suggested that if professors and students weren’t in line with the changes, they could leave. The project, Rufo went on, could serve as a model for similar takeovers around the country. “If we can take this high-risk, high-reward gambit and turn it into a victory, we’re going to see conservative state legislators starting to reconquer public institutions all over the United States,” he said.

Hillel: No.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.



## **Sarah Lawrence College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 450 (>31%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of anti-Semitic Activity: High***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 96***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 94***

***Comparable Schools: Bard, Bennington, Goucher, Hampshire and Skidmore***

***Major Jewish Donor: 2015 gift of \$15 Million by journalist alumna Barbara Walters***

Located about 30-40 minutes from downtown Manhattan, Sarah Lawrence's lovely, Tudor-styled campus occupies about 40 acres in the upscale Westchester County village of Bronxville. Sarah Lawrence is a tiny powerhouse with a little under 1,400 undergraduate students. As a co-ed institution, the college has prospered from its original roots as an all-women's cousin to the Seven Sister Schools.

Known as a place where students can express themselves through a variety of creative outlets and can benefit from an exceptionally favorable faculty-student ratio, Sarah Lawrence attracts talented students who crave the liberal environment of a college styled after the Oxford tutorial system and the close proximity to New York City. In addition to a solid core liberal arts program, Sarah Lawrence is equally strong in theater and dance—influences from its days as a women's college—and, as a result, attracts students with creative bents ranging from writing to theater.

There have been few anti-Jewish incidents on the Sarah Lawrence. However, in an article in the May 9, 2017 edition of the student newspaper, *The Phoenix*, one student reported that she had experienced a fair amount of anti-Semitism on campus:

As the head of Hillel, the Jewish organization, I have experienced my fair share of anti-Semitic incidents on campus, from a student doing a heil Hitler salute during the national anthem at homecoming to Facebook pages calling for a destruction of Hillel by destroying it from the inside out.

As reported in the November 2, 2023, *Forward*, Hillels of Westchester, on October 30, 2023, sent a letter to Sarah Lawrence's president describing a "campus culture" where "Jewish students are harassed, intimidated, bullied, and 'canceled' for simply expressing themselves as Jews, or discussing or identifying with Israel." The *Forward* account went on to state:

Among the examples of bias cited by HOW was a message sent Oct. 9, two days after Hamas' attacks on Israel, by Briana Martin, Sarah Lawrence's director of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. That message, according to HOW, referred to the Oct. 7 attacks as "disheartening and tragic," noted that many students "are deeply impacted by this," but made no mention of Israel. Instead, the letter promoted a Students for Justice in Palestine "Hour of Solidarity with Palestine," inviting students to "join us to unpack the ongoing events in Palestine, understand the mainstream narrative, and take action!"

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Served by Hillels of Westchester, which also serves Manhattanville College, Pace University and Purchase College:
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad Jewish Center (1 Stone Place, Bronxville).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

**Schools with New SAT Scores of 1170-1260  
(corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1100-1190)**

**Emerson College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 400 (>10%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: None (though other incidents of anti-Semitism)***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 123***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 128***

***Comparable Schools: Hofstra, Ithaca College and University of Hartford***

Emerson is located in the heart of Boston, adjacent to the Boston Commons, in what is now known as the Boston Theater District, about midway between Boston University and Northeastern University. Its urban campus now includes the Paramount Center, famous for its iconic theater that operated during the heyday of large movie theaters. According to Emerson's website, "the Paramount Center is a first-of-its-kind mixed-use residential, academic, and performance venue with a renovated art deco 590-seat main theatre, a 150-seat black box theatre, a soundstage, the 170-seat Bright Family Screening Room, a scene/prop production shop, and more." It is an excellent urban location, especially for aspiring theater types.

Emerson College is a real success story. Once a niche school, Emerson has in recent years established itself as a mainstream liberal arts college with a leading curriculum in theater and communications. But, it hasn't always been so. In the 1960s, then experiencing severe financial problems, Emerson was located in several disjointed buildings in the Back Bay of Boston. The circumstances led Emerson to a variety of efforts to relocate, with the former Pine Manor College—the current site of Boston College's Law School—being one such coveted relocation site. These efforts failed. But with the assistance of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, Emerson relocated to what was then the remnants of an unsavory area known as the Combat Zone. This area achieved notoriety in the 1970s after the razing of Boston's red-light district in Scollay Square as well as the urban renewal of Boston's Old West End, a melting pot area once occupied by a diverse community including a vibrant Jewish presence.

With assistance from the Boston Redevelopment Authority as well as Emerson's own farsighted construction activity, the Combat Zone gradually yielded to what has become the upscale theater district which Emerson calls home. In 2003,

Emerson inaugurated the Tufte Performance Production Center on Boylston Street, a modern classroom and theater setting for the performing arts.

In addition to being a vibrant college destination for future actors, entertainers, Emerson, as noted, also excels in the area of communications. For those prospective communications majors who are not intrigued by being in a location such as Ithaca, New York, home to Ithaca College, which has a fine communications program, or who find it difficult to get into BU or Syracuse's fine schools of communications, Emerson may be just the ticket. Emerson's small college theater environment compares favorably with somewhat more-competitive small-college programs such as Muhlenberg, Sarah Lawrence and Skidmore.

For those who are more inclined toward the allure of *La La Land*, there is Emerson Los Angeles ("ELA"). According to ELA's website, the Los Angeles facility, constructed at a cost of \$87 million, is a "sustainable LEED-certified facility located in the heart of Hollywood, encompassing over 100,000 square feet of space. According to ELA's website:

Qualified Emerson juniors and seniors may enroll for one semester of study at Emerson Los Angeles, a residential program with a full semester of internship opportunities and coursework, as well as personal and professional development workshops and panel discussions. Up to 200 students can enroll in the fall and spring semesters.

Emerson fields a number of athletic teams and is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (Division III) and the Eastern College Athletic Conference. The school also has a small, but active, Greek scene.

According to WHDH Boston, on January 23, 2020, Emerson College students held a vigil after four swastikas were found inside a dormitory on campus the preceding night.

As reported in the October 21, 2021 *Berkeley* Beacon, "Emerson's Jewish community reacted with grief, anger, and mourning after antisemitic graffiti was found scrawled on an event poster for Hillel, the college's Jewish student organization, on Friday in an elevator lobby in 2 Boylston Place." The article quoted Hillel president, Jordana Meltzer as follows:

"It made me really sad," said Jordana Meltzer, a junior theatre education and performance major who serves as president of Hillel. "It sucks because we don't feel safe as Jews at Emerson and that's pretty sad. Emerson is definitely like, 'We're a very accepting community,' and we're not."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Served by Hillel Council of New England.
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Unknown.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Served by Chabad House of Greater Boston (also serves Berklee College of Music, Boston Conservatory, Boston University, MIT, Northeastern, New England Conservatory and Simmons College), 491 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Served by Chabad House of Greater Boston (also serves Berklee College of Music, Boston Conservatory, Boston University, MIT, Northeastern, New England Conservatory and Simmons College), 491 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Alpha Epsilon Phi.

## CHAPTER 9

---

### **PROFILES OF INTERESTING SCHOOLS WITH SMALL JEWISH UNDERGRADUATE JEWISH POPULATIONS**

This chapter contains profiles for a variety of schools, both large and small. It's a sampling at best, but it does cover schools that have impressed me despite having a low Jewish density. A neat thing about most of these schools is that there is relatively little, if any, anti-Israel activity on campus. It seems that Palestinian students like to attend the same types of institutions that are favored by Jewish students, with the reverse also apparently holding true.

As in Chapters 7 and 8, in this chapter, I have separated schools into brackets (three brackets in this chapter 9, rather than the four brackets employed in Chapters 7 and 8), using the new SATs, with the highest bracket encompassing combined new SAT test scores of 1450 and above—the equivalent of 1400 and above in the old SAT's. The two lower brackets used in this Chapter 9 reflect schools with combined new SAT test scores of 1360-1440 and schools with combined new SAT test scores of 1270-1350. Unlike Chapters 7 and 8, there are no schools profiled in this Chapter 9 with combined new SAT test scores of 1170-1260. Please check the introduction to Chapter 7 for the rationale behind these groupings. Also, given the relatively few schools profiled in this chapter, I have not separated the schools into the large and small categories as I have in Chapters 7 and 8, respectively.

## **Schools with New SAT Scores of 1450 or Higher (corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1400 or Higher)**

### **Boston College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 350 (4%<); up from prior high of 200 (2%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** Yes

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** Low

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 126

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 96

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 229/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Georgetown, Holy Cross, Notre Dame and Villanova

About 70% of Boston College's almost 10,000 undergraduates identify themselves as Catholic, whereas only 2% of BC's students identify themselves as Jewish. There is a good reason for this imbalance: Boston College is proudly a Jesuit institution dedicated to providing a superior learning environment in the Catholic tradition. Yet, Boston College welcomes all faiths and is open minded enough to have established both a Jewish Studies department (with 12 faculty members from 9 different departments) and a minor in Jewish Studies. This is not to say that every aspiring Jewish student should include BC high on his or her wish list, but it is to say that BC is worth considering for those who crave a very fine education in a beautiful, safe suburban location.

As anyone who has ever confused BC with BU knows, BC is neither a college, nor is it in Boston. BC is a large university with a large undergraduate student body located at the end of the Commonwealth Avenue T line—scene of six stops along the Boston University corridor—in the Boston suburb of Chestnut Hill, sandwiched between the vibrant and highly Jewish communities of Brookline and Newton.

Walk through its classic, collegiate Gothic campus, festooned with gorgeous stained glass windows and soaring architecture, and you will be both wowed and overwhelmed at the Catholic influence that pervades the campus. BC is definitely Catholic and there are no two ways about it. But, with the possible exceptions of USC, Washington University in St. Louis and NYU, there are very few universities that have climbed as high and as fast as BC in recent years.

In the early 1970s, BC was a financially troubled regional institution, with a large commuting population. But, then came a massive dormitory construction program, a move to improve its troubled finances and an explosion in its endowment that in 1973 was a mere \$5 million. Today, BC has left that part of its history in the dust and has risen to the uppermost ranks of college America, drawing its students from all over the country.

BC's Carroll School of Business is highly regarded, as are many of its other undergraduate programs. Its graduate programs excel, particularly its law school which annually arm wrestles with BU's law school for local bragging rights after Harvard. Its athletic teams have struggled with success, but its hockey team is a wow. BC is now a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, probably the strongest Division I basketball conference in the country, and, decidedly, one of the strongest Division I academic conferences in the country.

In April 2016, the BC SJP chapter erected an eight-foot "apartheid" wall on the Stokes Lawn. On the wall, there appeared slogans such as "free Palestine" and "peace, not apartheid."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No
- *Kosher meals*: No.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Hillel advises that about 45 persons students attend High Holiday services, with a slightly smaller number attending Passover Seders.
- *Jewish Campus Life*. A Hillel representative summed it up this way: "The BC community as a whole warmly welcomes Jewish (and other non-Catholic) students, but there is little institutional support from the very top and from Campus Ministry. Many Jewish students find their sense of Jewish identity heightened by being a small minority and many appreciate the family feel of BC's (relatively) small Jewish population. Hillel takes on different programs and activities depending on student interest, so students can really tailor their college Jewish experience. BC is also sandwiched between Newton and Brookline, two vibrant Jewish communities full of resources. Overall, BC is a wonderful institution full of happy students. It is not right for every Jewish student, such as those needing kosher meals or a large Jewish dating scene, but some find a perfect home here."

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.



## Caltech

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 50 (5%)(when Hillel last compiled numbers for the school)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: D***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 84***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 73***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 144/248***

***Schools: Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, MIT, Rice, Stanford and University of California Berkeley***

***Jewish President: Thomas F. Rosenbaum***

***Major Jewish Donors: 2019 gift of \$750 Million by Stewart and Lynda Resnick for climate change research (the second largest donation ever to an American university); 2015 gift of \$15 Million by James F. and Anne Rothenberg***

Home to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Caltech's faculty has engaged in more than 200 funded research projects with NASA personnel. Today, the university is in the forefront of research on the origins of our solar system as well as the environments of distant planetary systems. Its fewer than 1,000 undergraduates with near-perfect standardized test scores may represent the most competitive student body in America. For the 235 members of the class of 2020, Caltech received 6,855 applications, with 99% of those admitted having placed in the top ten percent of their high school classes. If you have to ask how tough it is to get in, you probably don't belong there. But, if you do get it in, you and your fellow undergraduates will experience an extraordinary student-faculty ratio of about 3-1.

Caltech's campus is located in the one-time, traditionally gentile community of Pasadena. While compact, the Caltech campus is beautiful. From the Beckman Mall, flanked by the Beckman Center with its handsome portico entry ways and reflecting pool and the multi- columned, cylindrical Beckman Auditorium, to the ornate Mediterranean-styled Parsons-Gates Hall, to the sleek Milliken high rise library, to the stunning, stucco-clad Athenaeum, to Dabney Hall with its beautiful wood-beamed ceiling, Caltech's campus is a master class in 20th Century architecture.

However, beware or rejoice, depending on your persuasion, this is a place for serious—very serious—study. But, for those who are lucky enough to be equipped for the task, Caltech is heady. One third of the faculty members at Caltech are members of either the American Academy of Science or the American Academy of Engineering. Among them is Professor Judith Cohen, the university's Kate Van Nuys Page Professor of Astronomy.

Caltech can boast of 34 Nobel Prize winners among its faculty, former faculty and alumni. In January 2012, a team of astronomers led by scientists at Caltech discovered the three smallest planets outside our solar system. On a lighter note, in February 2011, after a 26-year drought, Caltech's men's basketball team won a conference basketball game, beating Occidental College.

Only about 50 of Cal Tech's fewer than 1,000 undergraduates are Jewish. However, the college is such a powerhouse in the world of science and technology, it is impossible not to include it in this or any other college guide. Not too long ago, Caltech's president was David Baltimore, a Nobel-Prize-winning Jewish scientist and scholar. Since October 2014, Thomas F. Rosenbaum, formerly provost of the University of Chicago and son of Holocaust survivors, has been Caltech's president. In his October 2014 inaugural address, President Rosenbaum recounted how his father's family fled Nazi Germany in 1938, first by train to Marseilles, then by passage to Palestine and then, despite strict quotas, to the United States a year later.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: available.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Every other week.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- 
- *Chabad House*: Chabad of Pasadena (1790 Rose Villa Street, Pasadena).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## **Carleton College**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 150 (7%)(when Hillel last compiled numbers for the school)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate***

***2024 ADL Campus Antisemitism Report Card Grade: C***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 80***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 71***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 156/248***

***Comparable Schools: Grinnell, Oberlin, Macalester***

Look at the stunning red sandstone Carleton Memorial Chapel located on Carleton's idyllic campus and you will forget, at least for a moment, that you are in the small Minnesota town of Northfield. But, for better or worse, that is where you will be—a fact that has undoubtedly deterred countless Jewish students from looking to this Midwestern academic paragon as their prospective alma mater. Another fact: were Carleton located any place other than rural Minnesota, the college would easily compete for one of the top few places in all of small college academia. As it is, generations of talented Carleton graduates are secure with the knowledge that they have attended one of the country's very best academic institutions.

Surrounded by the Cowling Arboretum, Carleton sits on almost 1,000 acres of scenic forests and fields, with many areas offering foot paths for walking, meditation and rejuvenation. Carleton is known for political science, with many of its graduates going on to government, academia and politics. About one in seven of Carleton's students for the last few years has been a merit scholar, with the college boasting more merit scholars than any other school its size.

With so many talented students, one might expect a fairly sizzling academic environment and sizzling it is. Carleton students do work very hard, but they are aided by a superb faculty student ratio of 9-1 and an average class size of 16. More importantly, when the dust settles following graduation day, Carleton's graduates can be proud of a four-year education second to none.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes: Page House East (designated as a Jewish Interest House), home of the Jewish Students of Carleton, which acts as the on-campus Hillel.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and High Holidays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Rabbi-led services.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities or Sororities*: No.

## College of William & Mary

***Due to the growth of its Jewish student body, the College of William and Mary should be listed in Chapter 7 alphabetically following Case Western University. However, as a result of technical problems preventing relocation, it remains in this Chapter 9.***

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 650 (10%); up from previous high of 500 (8%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: Yes***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: Moderate***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 72***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 87***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 59/248***

***Comparable Schools: Davidson, Wake Forest, University of North Carolina, University of Richmond and University of Virginia***

As with its sister school, the University of Virginia, William & Mary takes in about 30% of its student body from out of state. Otherwise, it would hurt to recommend so extraordinary a school, only to see out-of-staters turned away. Steeped in history and absolutely dripping in charm, this quintessential Southern liberal arts school turned state university is an idyllic academic institution, provided, of course, that four years in Williamsburg, Virginia doesn't become too cloying.

Founded in 1693, W&M is the second oldest university in America (with Harvard being the oldest) and boasts the longest continuously operating academic building in collegiate America--the Christopher Wren building. Walk along W&M's sunken Green surrounded by traditional, pointed-brick buildings, and you will think you are in an outdoor museum. Walk into the 300-year old Christopher Wren building and marvel at the plaques honoring W&M's fallen sons going all the way back to the Revolutionary War. But W&M is not an antique: a mere few blocks from its ancient green, one finds the giant Mason School of Business, endowed by one of the founders of Legg Mason. Look further and one finds a modern field house and athletic facility.

With 6,000 undergraduates, W&M is more than twice the size it was a mere three decades ago. With size, W&M has also increased its course offerings and provides just about everything one might expect at a medium size university. A large percentage of W&M's students achieve success in applying to graduate and professional schools. In addition, for eleven years in a row, W&M has been one of the

top producers of Peace Corp volunteers for a school its size. Increasingly popular with Jewish students, W&M's Jewish student body is likely to grow in the future. The beautiful Shenkman Jewish Center that opened on November 14th, 2018, and which boasts a ballroom style event space and a kosher kitchen, will certainly contribute to that future.

On October 15, 2016, a swastika was found in a bathroom on campus. In an April 3, 2017, *Sacramento Bee* article, entitled "From Swastikas to Microaggressions: The New Anti-Semitism on Campus," Jewish class president, Jonah Yesowitz, provided disturbing context to the appearance of the swastika at W&M:

Jonah Yesowitz has never felt unsafe or targeted at the College of William and Mary, a Virginia state school with a small Jewish population. The class president and a member of Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi describes the anti-Semitism he encounters as subtle.

"There's a lot of little stuff that occurs on campus. For every swastika, there's a million little conversations that go on that are much more harmful than that. Everyone can get behind, 'Alright, there's a swastika. That's ridiculous, that's not OK,'" said Yesowitz, a sophomore. "But for the little conversations that are more political in nature people just assume that it's OK to say, 'Well, you're a Zionist, so I don't like you,' and that's part of our culture."

On September 27, 2017, the issue of free speech on campus arrived at the College of William & Mary with a bang. On that day, Black Lives Matter protestors shouted down Claire Guthrie Gastañaga, Executive Director of the ACLU of Virginia. Gastañaga had come to the William & Mary campus to give a talk on "Students and the First Amendment." The Black Lives Matter action appeared to have occurred because of the ACLU's stance in support of the right of white nationalists to free speech. According to the October 2, 2017, edition of the William & Mary student newspaper, *The Flat Hat*:

The ACLU discussion never occurred because protestors took over the stage within five minutes of Executive Director of the ACLU of Virginia Claire Guthrie Gastañaga's entrance. Signs in hand, the protestors shouted chants such as "liberalism is white supremacy" and "the revolution will not uphold the constitution. . . . After the cancellation was announced, remaining students clustered around Gastañaga, hoping to ask questions and voice concerns. These students dispersed, however, when the protestors began circling around them, drowning out Gastañaga and chanting with increased volume.

According to the October 8, 2017, issue of the *Williamsburg Yorktown Daily*, William & Mary President, Taylor Reveley, issued an October 6, 2017, statement condemning the actions that had prevented Gastañaga from speaking. In pertinent part, Reveley stated:

Silencing certain voices in order to advance the cause of others is not acceptable in our community. This stifles debate and prevents those who've come to hear a speaker, our students in particular, from asking questions, often hard questions, and from engaging in debate where the strength of ideas, not the power of shouting, is the currency. William & Mary must be a campus that welcomes difficult conversations, honest debate and civil dialogue."

In a May 17, 2023, article, entitled "Exposing William & Mary Professor's Toxic Anti-Israel Bias," the *Algemeiner's* "Campus Watch" wrote the following with regard to Professor Stephen Sheehi:

Professor [Stephen Sheehi](#), who serves as the Sultan Qaboos bin Said Chair of Middle East Studies at the College of William & Mary, has made several misleading assertions regarding the history of the State of Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is necessary to highlight and respond to these inaccurate claims.

On February 6, 2022, Sheehi appeared as a guest on a video podcast by Trapart Films, "[Rendering Unconscious](#)," where he claimed that the Zionist relationship to the land of Israel "is a psychotic relationship to the land" that is "built on fantasy." By characterizing the Jewish relationship to the land as one built on "psychosis," Sheehi dismissed thousands of years of Jewish history and the continual [presence](#) of Jewish communities in Israel. Additionally, Jews around the world have prayed in the [Hebrew](#) language for centuries, facing the [holy city of Jerusalem](#), and [yearned](#) to return to Israel.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No, but meets on campus and at nearby synagogues.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and the Holidays. Hillel is working with the university to provide a kosher meal plan.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Colorado College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 100 (5%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: None***

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: Unranked***

***Comparable Schools: Bates, Colby, Cornell College (less competitive than Colorado College, but the only other college in the country that offers a one-course block system) and Skidmore***

Located at the foot of Pikes Peak, in the beautiful south-central city of Colorado Springs, Colorado College shares local bragging rights with the much larger Air Force Academy. Colorado College is nonsectarian and even offers concentrations in Jewish studies. But, Colorado Springs, home to the evangelical media and ministry empire, *Focus on the Family*, is religiously conservative.

With a Southwestern flair to its buildings and two East-Coast-style greens, Colorado College is one of the few private colleges between St. Louis and the West Coast. More importantly, CC is one of the best, with a highly competitive student body that hails from all over the country. In the fall of 2017, the college dedicated a newly renovated and expanded Tutt Library as well as a new student residential complex. At the same time, the school began work on the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College.

The most significant feature of CC's curriculum is its block system. The block system allows students to study a single course for three and half intensive weeks, take off a four-day weekend and then begin another intensive three and half week period focusing on another single course. The block system is not for everyone, but for those who thrive on intensity without the additional baggage of having to juggle a big-time college schedule, CC can be the cat's meow. Only one other college in the country—the less-competitive Cornell College (located in Iowa)—offers a similar curriculum.

Recreationally, CC offers fabulous hiking just a few short miles from campus. The great Colorado ski resorts are about a two-hour drive, making CC a particularly attractive destination for very good students who aim to be very good skiers or snow boarders. Greek life at CC is very important, though there are only a few local chapters. Importantly, Greek and non-Greek types do well together. CC boasts a big-time, Division I hockey team that plays against the best hockey schools in America.



Interestingly, the outdoor recreation, academics and proximity to skiing and snowboarding have not been enough to attract a significant group of Jewish students to Colorado College.

Hillel: No.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Served by Chabad Lubavitch of Southern Colorado (6616A Delmonico Drive, Colorado Springs).
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown.
- *Friday night services*: Unknown.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Passover Services.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Davidson College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 60 (3%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of BDS Activity: None***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 119***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 66***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 64/248***

***Comparable Schools: Emory, Vanderbilt, Wake Forest, William & Mary and University of Virginia***

Imagine a bucolic campus nestled against a charming, small North Carolina town, with a tradition of outstanding academics and you have Davidson College. Evoking a feel reminiscent of Harvard Yard, Davidson's venerable Georgian buildings grace a beautiful expanse of greenery punctuated by ambling brick walkways. The pervasive impression one gets from Davidson is a sense of seriousness, befitting the college's outstanding academic reputation.

It was not too long ago that this southern bastion of the Presbyterian Church could hardly claim any Jewish students. However, times have changed at Davidson. Jewish students are beginning to discover the academic superlatives of this lovely liberal arts school that can go toe to toe with almost any one of its northern counterparts.

As with most high quality liberal arts schools, Davidson's administration has welcomed this newfound expression of interest from the Jewish community. Its website declares, "Jewish life at Davidson is vibrant and growing," and concludes by stating, "We seek to create a diverse Jewish community where all can find spiritual sustenance while at Davidson."

Despite its demanding academics, the college offers a lot of diversions for its national student body. For starters, the area around Davidson is beautiful and offers numerous recreational possibilities on nearby Lake Norman. More immediate to the interests of its students, Davidson is now on the basketball map. During the 2016-17 season, it played the likes of North Carolina, Pittsburgh, California and Florida State. During the 2017-18 season, it again played North Carolina and added Virginia to its schedule. Not bad for a college of little over 1,800, particularly now that Stephen Curry has not been on the scene for a number of years.

As reported in the June 17, 2018 *Forward*, the Davidson College men's basketball team flew to Poland to visit Auschwitz, "in hopes of keeping alive the tragic memory of the Holocaust and its victims." According to the *Forward* article, the four-day trip grew out of an invitation from Davidson alumna Amanda Caleb, who is involved with the Maimonides Institute for Medicine, Ethics and the Holocaust, a non-profit organization focused on Holocaust education and remembrance.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No
- *Kosher meals*:
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Unknown.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Georgia Tech

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 500 (3%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of BDS Activity: None***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 110***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 133***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 27/248***

***Comparable Schools: Wake Forest, University of Georgia, University of North Carolina and University of Virginia***

I remember the first time I saw a sweatshirt with the slogan “MIT, the Georgia Tech of the North.” I wanted to find out more about the *chutzpa* behind such a slogan. What I discovered is that Georgia Tech, while perhaps not MIT, is the best school of technology in the South (with the possible exception of Rice) and can boast groundbreaking research in any number of fields. It also doesn't hurt that the school is located in Atlanta, one of the most tech-friendly cities in the country.

With four colleges geared toward the sciences (the College of Computing, the College of Design, the College of Engineering and the College of Sciences), Georgia Tech offers just about any program of study desired by tech savvy young students. In addition, the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts and the Scheller College of Business offer first class academic outlets for non-techies.

Steeped in tradition, Bobby Dodd Stadium at Historic Grant Field is the oldest football stadium in the South and the Ramblin' Wreck of Georgia Tech, a 1930 Ford Model A coupe, is one of the most recognizable symbols in college football. In 1990, the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets won the national football championship. These days, Georgia Tech knocks heads with the best of the ACC and the nation.

Georgia Tech was the subject of unwanted notoriety when one of its students, Scott Schultz, was shot dead by campus police officers who had responded to Schultz's 911 call. The unfortunate student, who was apparently suicidal and having a breakdown, was shot while advancing toward police officers with a multi-purpose tool with the blade exposed. The shooting sparked protests on the Georgia Tech campus, with a police vehicle overturned and minor injuries incurred by two officers.

For a school its size, Georgia Tech has relatively few undergraduate Jewish students. However, it does have two Jewish fraternities and two Jewish sororities

and is within easy reach of a number of synagogues. Despite its current low Jewish representation, Georgia Tech's quality offerings and reputation should reverse this circumstance in the years to come.

There has been little, if any, anti-Zionist activity on the Georgia Tech campus. On the other end of the anti-Semitic spectrum, in February 2017, a Georgia Tech student found a pro-Israel bumper sticker covered with an image of Hitler.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No; but weekly Hillel activities are held on campus.
- *Kosher meals*: No.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Monthly.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Grinnell College

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** *estimated at about 100 (6%)*

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** *No*

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** *None*

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** *Unranked*

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** *226/248*

***Comparable Schools:*** *Macalester, Oberlin, Reed, Vassar and Wesleyan*

As with Reed and the University of Chicago, students who attend this small college of 1,600 in Grinnell, Iowa, are very self-selecting. Students come to Grinnell's handsome 120-acre because they want to learn and work hard. And, learn they will, but according to their own drummer. This is because, outside of a student's major, Grinnell has no core course requirements other than its First Year Tutorial.

Grinnell's students benefit from a 9-1 student-teacher ratio. The college is seventh in the nation in the percentage of its students who go on to earn doctorates.

Grinnell is named after an abolitionist minister who was one of the early benefactors of the school. Grinnell has the feel of an Eastern college with all of the necessary campus trappings including several brick and stone buildings, such as the stately Alumni Recitation Hall, designed in the collegiate Gothic style. Plans are now underway for a new \$100 million humanities and social sciences complex.

Although there are only about 100 Jewish students at Grinnell, the school does have a thriving Jewish scene (as described below) and is liberal enough to be attractive to any open-minded student, Jewish or otherwise. But, it is in small-town Iowa, and, for many Jewish students, that may be the end of the discussion.

According to the November 23, 2020 *Inside Higher Ed*, Grinnell announced the previous day that was replacing student loans with grants for all need-based financial aid packages going forward. The school said it acted "in response to the financial hardship that many families are experiencing because of the pandemic," but that it would keep the policy in place after the pandemic ended.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No, but Hillel facilities and a kosher kitchen are located in the Joe Rosenfield '25 Campus Center. The following description of Jewish life at Grinnell is from the Hillel website:

Chalutzim, the Jewish Student Organization, is a diverse community in which students celebrate and learn about Judaism. We hold weekly Shabbat services (which vary from creative to tradition, musical to meditative, and with special emphases like "Queer Shabbat," "Learners Shabbat" or "Faculty Shabbat") as well as High Holy Day observances and all holiday celebrations that fall within the academic calendar (including an Eco-Feminist Tu B'Shevat event, a campus-wide Purim party, and a widely attended Passover Seder). Shabbat Table (dinner) is a weekly highlight. Imaginative and delicious food is cooked by rotating student teams in our beautiful Kosher Kitchen in the Joe Rosenfield '25 Campus Center which is also the location of the Chalutzim Student Lounge where we hold meetings, movie nights and other study breaks, and have a lot of fun creating a sense of connection and community.

- *Kosher meals*: Shabat and Holidays.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## University of Richmond

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 200 (6%)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of BDS Activity: None***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: Unranked***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 103***

***Comparable Schools: Davidson, University of North Carolina, Wake Forest, Washington & Lee, and William & Mary***

Located in an upscale part of Richmond, the University of Richmond sits serenely abreast a beautiful lake and amidst 350 acres of lush lawns and paths. Not so much a university as a college, Richmond does boast a law school and a graduate school of business. During the 2017-18 academic year, the University of Richmond was tied for the most Fulbright scholars among small colleges in America.

Prior to seeing the University of Richmond, I had thought that few, if any, southern schools could exude the charm of William & Mary and the University of Virginia. However, Richmond's astonishing beauty compares favorably to both of these Southern icons. Walking through Richmond's self-contained campus, one gets the sense that the college has changed little since its founding in 1801. The academic buildings maintain a strong architectural theme with even the new buildings boasting Colonial-style pointed brick exteriors and Gothic-style stone window casings. However, one of the more modern buildings on campus is the Weinstein Center for Recreation and Wellness (endowed by Jewish Richmond residents Carole and Marcus Weinstein). Otherwise, plaques throughout the campus attest to the venerable character of the school's many period piece buildings.

Aside from the beauty of its campus, Richmond offers a two-century history of academic excellence, reinforced by such strengths as a very low student-teacher ratio of 8-1. However, the once-waspy character of the institution has likely prevented word of its renown from reaching many Jewish academic provinces. With the arrival in 2015 of Ronald Crutcher, Richmond's first African-American president and a classical musician, the school is fast shedding its one-time image.

As word gets out, one can count on Richmond being discovered by the Jewish world with unalloyed enthusiasm. The question is whether prospective Jewish applicants should wait until that time comes or take the plunge now while the college is both academically excellent but still competitively accessible.



Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: At the International Center.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Wake Forest University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 350 (7%<); up from a previous high of 300 (6%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** None

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 135

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 161

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 88/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Davidson, Emory, University of North Carolina, University of Richmond, University of Virginia and Vanderbilt

One of the two smallest universities in America where both Division 1 football and Division 1 basketball are played—Rice University being the other—Wake Forest offers the unique combination of small college academics and big-time sports. Rebuilt at its current location in the 1950's, Wake's perfectly manicured campus projects a feel reminiscent of Emory. Like Emory and Coca Cola, Wake's march to prominence can be attributed to a local industry, tobacco.

Wake's students, like those of the University of North Carolina, are totally devoted to their academic home, as are Wake's committed alumni. Why wouldn't they be? The campus is quintessentially collegiate with beautiful matched buildings and a movie set quad. Equally importantly, the academics are tops, competing with the best the south has to offer.

As its reputation has grown, Wake's student body has increased as has its population of Jewish students. Wake's Divinity School has always enjoyed an outstanding reputation, underscoring its sectarian beginnings and, in the past, perhaps discouraging Jewish participation.

When a friend's daughter attended Wake about a decade or so ago, fewer than 100 Wake students identified as Jewish. However, the trifecta of a changing South, Wake's beautiful campus and its outstanding academics (not to speak of its big-time sports) has made it difficult for Jewish students not to take notice. Today, the number of Jewish students is over 300 and growing. As a result, Wake has hired an Associate Chaplain for Jewish Life, who acts as the campus Rabbi and Hillel liaison. In addition, according to Hillel's website, Wake has a faculty exchange program with

Hebrew University and its documentary film program has an active partnership with *Yad Vashem*.

According to the December 18, 2018, *JNS* news service, the Wake Forest student government passed a pro-Israel resolution. According to the *JNS* account:

The main clauses [of the resolution] state “denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, and denying Israel the right to exist,” and “the Student Government recognizes that some, but not all, criticisms of and attacks on the State of Israel can be anti-Semitic dog-whistles and condemns such criticisms and attacks.”

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher dairy kitchen.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## Washington & Lee University

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 80 (4%); down from a previous high of 100 (6%<)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** None

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** Unranked

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 46

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 20/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Davidson, Wake Forest, University of Richmond and William & Mary

If academics and heritage, albeit with a heavy dollop of southern tradition, is what your kid is after, then Washington & Lee cries out for your consideration. But, in light of the prevailing sentiment against all things Confederate, one aspect of the college's historic heritage that may be at risk is the name of the school, itself.

Robert E. Lee served as president of what was then known as Washington College from 1865 until his death in 1870. His leadership in bringing back the school to life after the Civil War was so admired that the school's trustees changed the name of the college to Washington & Lee. Laudable though their intent may have been, it is one thing to recognize the contribution of so influential figure in the college's past. It is another to venerate a man who was a confederate general and who, in the August 22, 2017 words of Pasquale S. Toscano, a then recent and proud graduate of Washington & Lee, "led the Confederate army against the Union to preserve the status quo of slavery in our nation's bloodiest war."

Changing the name of the school was never going to be an easy matter whatever one's point of view. As Toscano pointed out in his August 22, 2017 *New York Times* article, Lee's imprint may be found everywhere on campus:

Portraits of the man are prominently displayed, and three university buildings bear his name. One is the president's house, in which Lee died. The second, Lee-Jackson House, is home to the office of the dean of the college and is also named for Stonewall Jackson, Lee's military colleague in the Confederacy. The third building is Lee Chapel, which was

commissioned by the retired general but not named for him until after his death.

Inside this campus landmark, where an altar might have been built, rests a gigantic, recumbent, marble statue of Lee, wearing Confederate battle gear and resting on a camp bed. (Lee is buried with his family in a mausoleum beneath the chapel.)

And, indeed, after years of deliberation, as reported by NBC news, on June 4, 2021, the school's board of trustees announced that the school's storied name would be retained.

However, as suggested by Toscana, what is likely to change is a recognition of the role played by Lee in the country's darkest era and a tempering of the outsized (and, for many, the historically insensitive) way in which Lee is portrayed on campus. Again, as noted by Toscano:

History should be better contextualized on campus, and we should eschew any hagiographic imagery. That the chapel itself is named for Lee, who oversaw its construction, makes sense. But the life-size statue of the general, as well as portraits of him featuring Confederate iconography, should be moved to the Lee Chapel Museum.

Back to the college: Situated in the pleasant town of Lexington and nestled next to Virginia Military Institute, Washington & Lee has been educating the South's finest since before the involvement of George Washington, who gained naming rights by donating \$20,000 worth of James River Canal stock to the college, then known as Liberty Hall Academy, in 1796.

Walk along the school's paths and gaze at its brick and white columned buildings and you will be transported back to a day when Virginia gentlemen strode through the tidy and compact campus as they walked to class sheltered by the school's historic colonnades. Of course, Washington & Lee has been coed for many years. However, the aura of its past is never far away.

Perennially a favorite among top students, especially from nearby states, Washington & Lee goes toe to toe with any liberal arts school in the south. The Williams School of Commerce offers a big-time business curriculum in a delightful small college environment.

There are only about 80 Jewish students at W&L. However, they are served by an active Hillel where kosher meals can be obtained and Friday night services are available.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes.
- *Kosher meals*: Cafe-style breakfast and lunch available at the kosher Caf  located inside the Hillel House.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

**Schools with New SAT Scores of 1360-1440  
(corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1300-1390)**

**Mount Holyoke College**

*Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 100 (5%<)*

*SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No*

*Level of BDS Activity: None*

*2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: Unranked*

*2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 148*

*FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 155/248*

*Comparable Schools: Bryn Mawr, Scripps and Smith*

Located in the charming western Massachusetts community of South Hadley, Mt. Holyoke educates women of achievement, as it always has. Along with Radcliffe, Barnard, Wellesley, Bryn Mawr, Vassar, and Smith, the school is one of the original Seven Sister schools (referring to the Pleiades, the seven daughters of Atlas). Mount Holyoke is clearly one of the most beautiful of the Seven Sister schools, and, like its sister, Bryn Mawr, regales in its original architecture, barely interrupted by a few completely congruent modern touches. As one enters the venerable arch that leads into the main campus, time is almost swept away. The series of quads that unfolds are surrounded by crenulated, brown Gothic structures, each interesting and captivating.

In the fall of 2015, the school adopted the Plan for Mount Holyoke 2021. As set forth on the school's website, the plan focuses on "sustaining a commitment to a robust liberal arts core, embracing a new infrastructure that extends the college's value, reputation, and reach, and developing a comprehensive approach to shaping and sustaining a twenty-first-century global community."

It is somewhat curious as to why Mt. Holyoke has not caught on with more Jewish students. Certainly, on the basis of academics, charm, SAT-optional admissions policy, and pedigree, it should have. In addition, of all of the small schools depicted in this Guide, Mount Holyoke has one of the largest contingents of international students.

Perhaps, the problem lies with Mt. Holyoke's adherence to its all-female tradition, coupled with the school's location in a small community. Whatever the case,

Mt. Holyoke is a gem of a school waiting to be embraced by Jewish women interested in academic quality and sumptuous surroundings, albeit in an all-female setting.

On December 10, 2021, the *Algemeiner* reported that a swastika and an anti-Jewish slur had been found scrawled in a Mount Holyoke bathroom. The *Algemeiner* account noted that Mount Holyoke's president, Sonya Stephens, had confirmed that the incident was the third of its kind during the semester.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No, but there is a Jewish Student Union located at Eliot House, the school's center for religious life.
- *Kosher meals*: Kosher meals are available at the Wilder Kosher Kitchen.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Unknown.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Served by Chabad at the Four Colleges, 194 Amity Street, Amherst (also serves Amherst, Smith and Hampshire Colleges).
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.



## **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students: 300 (5%<)***

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus: No***

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity: None***

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 160***

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students: 108***

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking: 223/248***

***Comparable Schools: Case Western, Georgia Tech, Lehigh and University of Illinois***

RPI is a study in contrasts. Founded in 1824 as the first college in America dedicated to the study of science and technology, this university that excels in so many technological areas should have a leg up on just about every similar school in the country. Yet, although it attracts a high caliber of student, its draw is more regional than national. Similarly, despite being located in the northeast, just three hours from both the Boston and New York metropolitan areas, it tends to attract relatively few Jewish students.

The answer to both of the foregoing quandaries may have to do with RPI's location in Troy, New York. Once a flourishing mill town on the Hudson, today Troy is prototypical of "rust bucket" America. As one approaches the RPI campus high atop the city, the signs of decline are hard to avoid. Yet, as the school's 275 acre campus comes into view, another world unfolds. Walk through the archway of the school's handsome Georgian façade and be greeted by a self-contained world of lush lawns, flowering gardens, handsome buildings and a sense of academic sanctuary. By any standard, the school's grounds are beautiful and welcoming. Add to these attributes the numerous quality offerings that are available to RPI's tech savvy students and it's easy to forget about the school's more modest surroundings.

No university is immune from infighting. But, RPI seems to have had more than its share. Imagine the effect on morale of a story line such as the following taken from a July 16, 2017, *Chronicle of Higher Education* article, entitled, "How One Leader Set a Toxic Tone, Spurning Allies She Needed Most":

Could it really be happening again? A group of fund-raising officers from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute gathered for an emergency meeting. It was June 2012, and their boss of just two years, Brenda Wilson-Hale, told them exactly what they had feared she might: She was being forced out as vice president for institute advancement — just like her two

predecessors. Get your financial house in order, Ms. Wilson-Hale advised. This could happen to any one of you at any time. It was a visceral moment. Advancement officers wept, knowing that in the next few minutes their boss would pack her belongings into a brown box and never be seen at RPI again.

This was a more graceful exit than is typical for high-level officials at the institute. Shirley Ann Jackson, then Rensselaer's president of more than a dozen years, had allowed Ms. Wilson-Hale a few minutes to address her colleagues. Normally, when someone fell out of favor with Ms. Jackson they simply disappeared. Was this brief speech a small courtesy? Or was it a calculated public humiliation? In that room, no one could say for sure.

In her quest to establish Rensselaer Polytechnic as a national player, Ms. Jackson has leaned heavily on fund raisers to find money to pay for big-ticket building projects and cover the spiraling debts accumulated on her watch. But the president's bold aspirations are continually undercut by the very culture Ms. Jackson has created at Rensselaer, many former officials say, where the corrosive effects of unchecked executive power permeate from the president's office across the entire institute, and now even infect the one place where universities usually find their most immutable cheerleaders: the advancement office.

However, in fairness to President Jackson, the story goes on to point out her towering ambition for the school (in keeping, one might note, with the scope of her own monumental achievement):

Rensselaer enjoys a solid reputation, albeit more regional than national. But Ms. Jackson, a theoretical physicist, envisions a day when the institute will be in a league with the likes of Georgia Tech, Stanford, or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"Be proud of who we are. ... That's the angle she's coming from. I'm not saying she's an angel. But she inspired me."

It is the sort of grand vision that might elicit eye rolls if posited by just about any other college leader, but Ms. Jackson's vaulting ambition proves the anything-is-possible theorem. She was the first African-American woman to ever earn a doctorate from MIT, headed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and, in 2016, received the National Medal of Science. It is ironic and tragic, therefore, that many of those

who have served Ms. Jackson say she has squandered her enormous political capital.

In January 2018, RPI Professor Christopher Bystroff wrote the following email suggesting that the maelstrom surrounding Jackson's leadership was brought on by racism and sexism. The school chose to send the email to its alumni, a move that angered many because of the suggestion that criticism of Jackson's autocratic style at RPI was unjustified on substantive grounds:

I can't help thinking that if she were white, male (and maybe a bit taller!) she would not be so quickly dismissed as an autocrat," Bystroff wrote. "Are we to believe that 200 years of institutional racism and sexism were suddenly erased when Shirley Jackson was installed?"

Three days after the circulation of the email, the February 1, 2018, *Times Union* contained an article entitled, "At RPI, Shirley Ann Jackson is Hardly a Victim." In pertinent part, the article noted that alumni contributions had halved during the years from 2001 to 2016 and, in blistering terms, postulated the possible grounds for alumni discontent:

Some alumni may be turned off by outlandish capital spending on projects like EMPAC, the \$200 million performance hall, or the 20,000-square-foot presidential mansion built for \$3.5 million.

Or maybe they're bothered by Jackson's salary. She is routinely among the most highly paid university presidents in the country.

Or perhaps they are concerned by the school's apparently weakened financial situation. Alumni research published online paints a picture of rising debt and limited financial transparency amid declining donations and graduate enrollment.

Or maybe graduates are disgusted by the school's intolerance toward free speech and dissent. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education cites "a disconcerting pattern" of silencing protest at RPI.

Meanwhile, the article noted that Professor Bystroff, while acknowledging that Jackson is an autocrat, stands by his original assessment that a lot of the hostility levied at Jackson is grounded on racism and sexism. As stated in the article, "the emotional and angry tone of the many responses he [Bystroff] has received suggests he hit on an uncomfortable truth."

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No: Hillel meets at the RPI Union and holds services in the Union Chaplain's office.
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Unknown.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Troy Chabad Center, 27 South Lake Avenue.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: None.

## **Schools with New SAT Scores of 1270-1350 (corresponds to old SAT Scores of 1200-1290)**

### **College of New Jersey**

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 350 (>5%)(when numbers last compiled by Hillel)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No

***Level of BDS Activity:*** None

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** Unranked

***Comparable Schools:*** Drew, New College of Florida, University of Mary Washington and St. Mary's College

For decades, New Jersey has been known as the largest exporter of college students of any state in the country. Think about it: after the big-ticket states of New York, Florida, Texas, California, Ohio and Pennsylvania, the state of New Jersey is one of the most populous mid-level states. Yet, with the possible exception of small Drew University, Monmouth College and Rider College, about the only colleges that come to mind are Princeton, which admits relatively few New Jersey residents, Farleigh Dickinson, Seton Hall (Catholic) and the two Rutgers campuses. This relatively sparse academic landscape not only affects the academic psyche of New Jersey families, but, in addition, it also creates a real problem of scarcity when it comes to high quality, accessible and affordable education.

Now comes to the rescue the College of New Jersey (which once held the lowly moniker of Trenton State College), located in Ewing Township, New Jersey. Trenton State was, prior to 1996, little more than a backwater state college, when the state legislature renamed it The College of New Jersey—a name once used by Princeton University. The goal of the legislature was nothing short of putting the newly renamed college on the state academic map, if not the national map, in much the same way that New York has promoted SUNY College at Geneseo, Maryland has built up St. Mary's College as a state honors college and Missouri has caused Truman State to become a regional liberal arts powerhouse.

Led by Jewish President R. Barbara Gitenstein, who resigned in 2017 after an almost twenty year run at the helm, success has come to TCNJ and its 6,500 undergraduates. Set in a pleasant 289-acre Georgian Colonial campus, highlighted by the cupola-clad and handsomely columned Green Hall, CNJ offers a small campus

environment with a big-time academic feel. About 93% of CNJ's freshman continue on to their sophomore year.

CNJ is now only being discovered by Jewish students within the state. In addition to good academics, CNJ also offers a respectable social life, with about 15% of the student body being Greek, and a growing Jewish Student Union. As word of CNJ's competitiveness spreads, it will surely attract more Jewish students, especially those who view going out of state either unappealing or too expensive.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: No:
- *Kosher meals*: Unknown.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Unknown.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Unknown.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad-TCNJ, 44 Chauncey Avenue, Ewing Township.
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Alpha Epsilon Pi.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: No.

## University of Alabama

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 600 (2%<); down from a prior high of 1,000 (3%)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No

***Level of BDS Activity:*** None

***2017 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 142

***2018 Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** 189

***FIRE 2024 Free Speech Ranking:*** 154/248

***Comparable Schools:*** Florida State, Texas A&M, University of Georgia

At one end of Alabama's perfectly maintained Georgian-style campus sits Bryant–Denny Stadium with its seating capacity of 101,821. On the right side of the entrance to the stadium, there are five bronzed statues of the football coaches whose teams have won a national championship for the University of Alabama. Most notable among these is Paul T. (“Bear”) Bryant, who coached the legendary Joe Naimith in the early 1960's and whose name adorns the stadium and a prominent road that cuts through the campus.

Football is inescapable at Alabama and is a source of great pride to the school, its alumni, the city and the state. The stadium is handsome and occupies a large part of the campus. Nick Saban, the football team's current coach and architect of five ‘Bama’ football championships, earns a salary that Alabama's academics could only dream of. In addition to the Saban championship trophies, the school boasts six wire-service and five additional national championship banners from the past. Together, these sixteen national championships proclaim the school's dominance in collegiate football. However, while it might have been valid during Bear Bryant's time to conclude that Alabama was only about football, it would be a mistake to draw that conclusion today.

Today, Alabama is a very competitive institution that draws students comparable to those who are attracted to the state universities of the northeast and the better state universities in the south. From its well-regarded honors program to its nationally ranked law school and everything in between, ‘Bama plays second fiddle to few flagship institutions outside of California, the ACC and the Big Ten. Add to the school's academic ascendancy, its beautiful self-contained campus, its countless examples of classic, white-columned academic buildings and its robust Greek community housed in show-stopping, Georgian-style fraternity and sorority houses,

and you have a formula that causes 'Bama's applicant pool to rise appreciably year after year.

With all of this going for it, the question arises whether Alabama has caught on with the Jewish world. The answer is yes and no. Yes, in that the university has had a Jewish fraternity presence since the 1930's and now numbers over 1,000 Jewish students. The why there aren't even more Jewish students, relative to other large universities profiled in this guide, may have to do with the university's location in a rural part of a Jewishly unpopulous state, as well as the rub of its prior reputation. However, at the 1,000-student level, Alabama has more Jewish students than a number of other schools and Hillel reports that the number of Jewish students keeps rising each year. If one adds to these considerations the fact that Alabama's Jewish students have not yet had to deal with any vocal anti-Israel or anti-Semitic groups on campus, the university should prosper as an attractive destination for Jewish students.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House*: Yes:
- *Kosher meals*: Available through Hillel (at additional cost).
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

Chabad:

- *Chabad House*: Chabad at the University of Alabama (17 Sherwood Drive, Tuscaloosa)
- *Kosher meals*: Shabat (Friday night).
- *Friday night services*: Yes.
- *High Holiday and Passover services*: Yes.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities*: Sigma Alpha Mu; Zeta Beta Tau.

*Historically Jewish Sororities*: Sigma Delta Tau.

*Endowed Chairs in Jewish Studies*: 1.



## University of Mary Washington

***Number and Percent of Jewish Undergraduate Students:*** 150 (4%<); down from a previous high of 200 (5%<)

***SJP Chapter Active on Campus:*** No

***Level of SJP/BDS Activity:*** None

***Rank from the Forward's Best Colleges for Jewish Students:*** Unranked

***Comparable Schools:*** Christopher Newport College, College of William & Mary, James Madison University and Virginia Tech

Once the all-women coordinate institution of the all-men University of Virginia, the University of Mary Washington (named after the mother of George Washington) has been a co-ed institution for several decades. The campus is located in Fredericksburg, Virginia, about a one and a half hour drive from the University of Virginia. More significantly, on a good driving day, Mary Washington can be a mere one hour drive from the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., making Mary Washington a not commonly thought of Washington, D.C. area college. And, what a lovely college it is, with its core campus designed in columned Jeffersonian architecture. A little over 4,300 undergraduates, mostly (but not all) from the state of Virginia, attend Mary Washington.

Mary Washington has not been a favorite of Jewish students from Virginia or elsewhere, with Jewish students preferring UVA and, to a lesser extent, the College of William & Mary (slightly larger in size, but more competitive, than, UMW). However, a Jewish Student Association (JSA/Hillel) does exist on campus and conducts programming for the purpose of promoting Jewish culture. For the Jewish student who is interested in a wonderful state liberal arts college, the University of Mary Washington could be a real find.

On three separate occasions in 2017, swastikas were found on the Mary Washington campus.

Hillel:

- *Hillel House:* No:
- *Kosher meals:* Unknown.
- *Friday night services and Oneg Shabat:* Yes. Services at 5:00.
- *High Holiday and Passover services:* Unknown.

Chabad: No.

*Historically Jewish Fraternities:* No.

*Historically Jewish Sororities:* No.

## APPENDIX A

---

### YIDDISH GLOSSARY

***Bucher***: What Barbara Streisand wanted to be in the movie, “Yentl”.

***Chaver* or *Chaverim***: friend or friends.

***Gelt***: Money (and not just for Chanukah).

***Hamish***: a welcoming place, person or environment.

***Kinahora***: Slapping one’s self on the back as a result of a success.

***Kinder(lach)***: Your lovely little angels, especially those who are college bound.

***Kvell***: How you feel when your kid gets straight A’s.

***Oy Vey***: Woe is me.

***Rachmunis***: Sympathy (Jewish style).

***Rebbe***: Your rabbi and mine (with or without a beaver hat).

***Shabbos***: The almost completely overlooked seventh day of the week, celebrated in deed or act by about 10% of American Jewry.

***Shanda***: What used to be the case when a nice Jewish boy or girl married a gentile. Now: the inconsolable tragedy of your kid not getting into Colby, when your neighbor’s kid gets into Bates.

***Shlepper***: One who carries a load – an ordinary Joe.

***Sechel***: Wisdom or smarts.

***Schitach***: What used to be arranged by a matchmaker, but, more commonly, what now occurs courtesy of your friendly on line dating site.

***Shpilkes***: Think ADD.

***Shtetl***: A small village in 19th century Poland.

***Shtiebel***: A storefront synagogue, typical of the early part of the 20th century.

***Shul***: Synagogue.

## APPENDIX B

---

### SCHOOLS I HAVE VISITED

#### **Alabama**

University of Alabama

#### **Arizona**

University of Arizona

#### **California**

Claremont McKenna College

Harvey Mudd College

Pitzer College

Pomona College

Scripps College

University of California Berkeley

University of California Los Angeles

University of California Santa Cruz

San Diego State University

San Francisco State University

University of San Francisco

University of Southern California

Stanford University

#### **Colorado**

Colorado College

United States Air Force Academy

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Colorado Denver

University of Denver

#### **Connecticut**

Connecticut College

Quinnipiac University

Trinity College

University of Hartford

University of Connecticut Storrs

Wesleyan University

Yale University

#### **Delaware**

University of Delaware

**District of Columbia**

American University  
Catholic University of America  
Georgetown University  
George Washington University

**Georgia**

Emory University

**Florida**

Barry University  
Florida Atlantic University  
Florida International University  
University of Miami

**Idaho**

Boise State University

**Indiana**

Indiana University

**Illinois**

Northwestern University  
University of Chicago  
Wheaton College

**Kansas**

University of Kansas

**Maine**

Bates College  
Bowdoin College  
Colby College  
College of the Atlantic

**Maryland**

Goucher College  
Hood College  
Johns Hopkins University  
McDaniel College  
Mount St. Mary's University  
St. Johns College  
Towson University  
United States Naval Academy

University of Maryland College Park

**Massachusetts**

Amherst College  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Clark University  
College of the Holy Cross  
Hampshire College  
Harvard University  
MIT  
Mount Holyoke College  
Northeastern University  
Simmons College  
Smith College  
Tufts University  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Western New England College  
Wellesley College  
Wheaton College

**Michigan**

Michigan State University  
University of Michigan

**Mississippi**

University of Mississippi

**Missouri**

Washington University in St. Louis

**Montana**

Montana State University

**New Hampshire**

Dartmouth College

**New Jersey**

Farleigh Dickinson University Florham  
Monmouth College  
Rutgers New Brunswick  
Princeton University

**New Mexico**

St. Johns College

**New York**

Barnard College  
Binghamton University  
Brooklyn College  
Buffalo State College  
Colgate University  
Cornell University  
Cooper Union  
Columbia University  
Hamilton College  
Hobart College  
Hunter College  
Ithaca College  
Manhattan College  
Manhattanville College  
New Paltz State College  
New School  
NYU  
Purchase College, SUNY  
RPI  
Russell Sage College  
Sienna College  
Skidmore College  
Syracuse University  
University of Albany  
University at Buffalo  
University of Rochester  
Vassar College

**North Carolina**

Davidson College  
Duke University  
North Carolina State University  
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill  
Wake Forest University

**Oklahoma**

Oklahoma State University  
University of Tulsa

**Oregon**

Southern Oregon University

**Pennsylvania**

Bryn Mawr College  
Bucknell University  
Dickinson College  
Drexel University  
Franklin & Marshall College  
Gettysburg College  
Haverford College  
Lafayette College  
Lehigh University  
Muhlenberg College  
Pennsylvania State University  
St. Joseph's College  
Susquehanna University  
Swarthmore College  
University of Pennsylvania

**Utah**

Brigham Young University  
University of Utah

**Tennessee**

Sewanee: The University of the South  
University of Tennessee  
Vanderbilt University

**Texas**

University of Texas

**Vermont**

Middlebury College  
University of Vermont

**Virginia**

College of William & Mary  
George Mason University  
James Madison University  
University of Mary Washington  
University of Richmond  
University of Virginia  
VMI  
Washington & Lee University

**Washington**

University of Washington



**Wisconsin**  
University of Wisconsin Madison

## APPENDIX C

---

### GUIDE TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINE FOR THE NEW JEWISH COLLEGE STUDENT

Anyone with the slightest knowledge of Torah is aware of the centrality of Israel and Jerusalem to the Jewish people of biblical times. Jews have been intimately connected to Israel since the time of Abraham. The following discussion does not attempt to chronicle this millennia-long association between Israel and its Jews, but merely treats this connection as factually indisputable. Instead, the discussion focuses on the twentieth century and pre October 7, 2023, twenty-first century events that have helped mold the national narratives of the Israelis and the Palestinians, as applied to Israel.

#### A. The Rise of the Modern State of Israel

##### **Q1. Who controlled the land of Israel before World War I and what was the Balfour Declaration?**

A1. Turkey had ruled the Middle East for almost five hundred years prior to World War I; however, the empire began to decline in the early 20th century, and, by 1916, was in disarray. Though the United States was an emerging power, the primary military parties of the day were England and France. In the war, the Turkish Empire fought on the side of Central Powers Austria-Hungary and Germany. Sensing the defeat of the Central Powers and the imminent decline of the Turkish Empire, Allies Britain and France entered into an agreement in 1916, known as the Sykes Picot Agreement. The agreement envisioned the dismemberment of the post-War Turkish Empire and accorded to each of England and France a sphere of influence in the post-war Middle East. England would take Palestine and Jordan, and France would take Syria and Lebanon.

In 1917, England took control of Palestine from Turkey. On November 2, 1917, at the behest of a Zionist organization led by the great chemist and statesman, Theodore Herzl, England formalized its position supportive of a Jewish homeland in Palestine in the form of a declaratory letter by British Foreign Secretary, Lord Arthur James Balfour, to Baron Lionel Walter Rothschild, known to history as the Balfour Declaration.

When World War I concluded with an Allied victory, the 1919 Treaty of Paris created the League of Nations, a precursor to today's United Nations. Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations created a system of mandated territories, i.e., territories subject to internationally agreed rules of administration and administered

by specified Allied powers on behalf of the League of Nations. Under the “mandatory” system, England and France were the principal overseers of the lands formally controlled by Turkey. Consistent with the Sikes Picot Agreement, England received a mandate for the areas now known as Israel and Jordan and France received a mandate for the areas now known as Syria and Lebanon. The area which now encompasses Israel was given the name “Palestine,” and was to serve as a “national home for the Jewish people.”

The League of Nations Mandate on Palestine was issued in 1920 and made formal in 1922 and was designed to enable Britain to carry out the Balfour Declaration. The mandate called for the creation of a Jewish agency—the Jewish Agency for Palestine. The Preamble to the Mandate states as follows:

Whereas the Principal Allied Powers have also agreed that the Mandatory should be responsible for putting into effect the declaration originally made on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1917, by the Government of His Britannic Majesty, and adopted by the said Powers, in favor of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing should be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

Also, in 1922, in response to Abdullah of Jordan, the British defined the mandated area of Palestine as the area west of the Jordan. The area east of the Jordan became a separate mandated area known as Transjordan (today’s West Bank and Jordan).

In 1939, in response to Arab riots and threats to rebel against the British and support the Axis nations, the British issued the infamous White Paper, which limited Jewish immigration to Palestine to 15,000 persons a year. This condition continued for several years following the end of World War II, when the efforts by the worldwide Jewish community to transport the displaced Jews of Europe and North Africa to Palestine altered the status quo irrevocably.

**Q2. Did Jews immigrate to Israel prior to the War of Independence and how many Jews were in Israel when the War began?**

A2. Prior to the White Paper of 1939, many Jews lived in Palestine. Despite the White Paper, Jews continued to emigrate to Palestine. At the outbreak of the War of Independence in 1948, there were around 500,000 Jews in Palestine, with about 100,000 of them located in Jerusalem.

### **Q3. Why did the Holocaust come about and what was the Wahnsee Declaration?**

A3. Reams of books have been written about the Holocaust with varying insights. Yet, few if any provide really satisfactory answers as to how the Holocaust came about. There are, however, many theories that attempt to explain this most heinous of crimes against humanity.

Anti-Semitism, in one form or another, had existed in Germany for centuries. Even Martin Luther, the great visionary of the Protestant Movement, had excoriated and vilified Jews mercilessly when it became clear that he would not be able to convert the Jews of his time to Christianity. His “On the Jews and Their Lies,” in which he stated that Jews were a “base, whoring people, that is, no people of God, and their boast of lineage, circumcision, and law must be accounted as filth,” is no less an anti-Semitic screed than any modern-day libel against the Jewish community. However, at the turn of the 20th century, Jews had emerged as a successful, although not entirely accepted class, within Germany. Jews were represented way beyond their numbers in medicine, law, education, government and commerce. One can imagine that this emergence sat uneasily with a wary German public.

As a result of the Treaty of Paris of 1919, Germany, following World War I, was treated harshly by the Allies and was deprived of many of its lands and subjected to onerous reparations. The German public was bitter—a bitterness which only grew in intensity with the Great Depression. Meanwhile, the Weimar Republic that had the support of the Allies proved ineffectual in returning Germany to a successful economic path. In this environment, the country was ripe for a demagogue savior, particularly, one who was consumed with hatred for the Jews and was skillful in blaming many of Germany’s problems on the Jews.

Following the National Socialist Party (the Nazis) takeover of the country in 1933, Hitler systematically deprived Jews of their rights, backing off from time to time to test public opinion or to appease advisors who cautioned a go-slow approach to dealing with the Jews. Ultimately, in January 1942, at the infamous Wahnsee Conference, all decency and caution was thrown to the wind and Hitler and his chiefs not only planned for the eradication of all Jews from lands occupied by the Nazis, but also issued express orders to the various state agencies for carrying out this “final solution.”

### **Q4. Did the Holocaust lead to the creation of the State of Israel and how was the State created?**

A4. There is no formal connection between the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel. However, it is undeniable that sympathy emanating from the murder of European Jewry contributed to support for a state for the displaced Jews of Europe and the oppressed Jews of North Africa. This sympathetic connection between the

Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel is important because, without it, Israel might never have come into existence. Thus, it is the hidden, if not the overt, agenda of Holocaust deniers to undermine the moral basis for the State of Israel by minimizing or denying the enormity of the Holocaust, thereby hoping to weaken one of the predicates for Israel's creation.

**Q5. How did the Arab World react after the United Nations voted for the creation of the State of Israel?**

A5. The United Nations voted for partition on November 29, 1947, with 33 nations voting for partition, 13 voting against partition and 10 abstaining. The partition was intended to eliminate hostilities between Arabs and Jews in Palestine.

Under the Partition Plan, the Jews of Israel—the *Yishuv*—would receive about 56% of the territory (then occupied by about 500,000 Jews and over 400,000 Arabs) and the Arabs would get the remainder (then occupied by over 800,000 Arabs and about 10,000 Jews). On the day after the partition vote, Arab mobs attacked Jews in Jerusalem and thus began the most perilous five months of Israel's existence.

On May 15, 1948, the day after the end of the British Mandate and the declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel, the armies of Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt combined forces and unleashed a fearsome holy war, or Jihad, against the fledgling Jewish state. When the fighting ended in 1949, an armistice commission was established by the United Nations. At the time of the armistice, Israel held 78% of the land west of the Jordan River—more than it would have been accorded under the partition plan. However, the Arab world refused to enter into any kind of peace treaty with Israel. As a result, the boundaries of the State of Israel were nominally based on land held at the time of the armistice

**B. The Palestinian Diaspora and Palestinian claims to Israel**

**Q1. What happened to the Israeli Arabs as a result of the War of Independence, and how were they treated by the Arab World?**

A1. Many Arabs remained in Israel during and after the War of Independence. Indeed, today, there are almost 1.7 million Arabs who live, vote in and are citizens of Israel. However, many Arabs left during the War, with many prodded by Haj Amin al-Husseini, the mufti of Jerusalem and a Nazi collaborator during World War II, who issued instructions for the Arab evacuation of the country so that the armies of the Muslim world could slaughter the Jewish population without killing Muslims in the process. In all, about 725,000 Arabs left or were driven out of the country during the War.

Conditions in Israel after the War of Independence were bleak, with food, medicine, shelter and all manner of infrastructure being in short supply. An extra layer of

clothing often substituted for a substantial heating system and Israeli cooks boasted that they could prepare eggplant in 100 different ways. However, with the shadow of the Holocaust in their near past and the prospect of a revived Jewish state in their immediate future, the Jews of Israel began the daunting job of creating a new nation.

Not so for the displaced Arabs. Many found themselves in refugee camps in a number of different Arab countries. But, in the Arab world, the mood was not one of building, but rather one of vindication and bitterness. Rather than exposing their own shortcomings which might have contributed to popular unrest in the wake of Arab losses in the War of Independence, the host Arab nations sought to use the Palestinian refugees as public relations fodder in an effort to gain world sympathy for the Arab cause.

Instead of rallying to the plight of the Palestinians or suing for peace with Israel, no Arab nation other than Jordan made any effort to resettle the Palestinians or integrate them, let alone grant them citizenship. Instead, the refugee camps persisted and so did the refusal of the Arab world to make peace with Israel.

The United Nations has also been complicit in the failure to resettle the Palestinian refugees. As pointed out by David Harris, Chief Executive Officer of the American Jewish Committee, in his January 4, 2018, HuffPost blog, the United Nations has two refugee agencies, one, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which focuses on all the world's refugee populations, save one. The other, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA), handles only the Palestinian refugee issues. As noted by Harris:

[T]he difference goes beyond the anomaly of two structures and two bureaucracies. In fact, they have two strikingly different mandates. UNHCR seeks to resettle refugees; UNRWA does not. When, in 1951, John Blanford, UNRWA's then-director, proposed resettling up to 250,000 refugees in nearby Arab countries, those countries reacted with rage and refused, leading to his departure. The message got through. No UN official since has pushed for resettlement.

With the passing of time, many of the descendants of the originally displaced Palestinians have grown up in UNRWA's 59 refugee camps. Unlike the UNHCR which only regards the original generation of refugees as coming within its responsibility, UNRWA counts every descendant of those who left Israel in 1948 as a refugee, even if they have moved and obtained citizenship elsewhere in a non-Arab country. According to UNRWA's unique and distorted tabulation, the number of Palestinian refugees now exceeds five million. Today, the path forward for these descendants is one of the major obstacles to fashioning a peace agreement acceptable to all sides. Shunned by their fellow Arabs and fed a steady message that they will one day reclaim all of Israel, these descendants continue as pawns in the Israel-

Palestine dispute.

## **Q2. How did the Six Day War of 1967 Happen?**

A2. In 1967, the combined armies of the Arab world began to mobilize in an effort to push the Jewish state into the sea. Egypt expelled the U.N. peacekeeping force at Suez, closed the Strait of Tiran (at the southern part of the Red Sea) to all Israeli flag vessels, thereby depriving Israeli shipping of a sea route to the far east, and massed 100,000 troops and 1,000 tanks on the Sinai border (the desert area to the south of Israel) in preparation for invading Israel. Israel entreated King Hussein of Jordan not to enter the war, but, it was too late. Jordan had signed a defense pact with Egypt and was readying itself for invasion, as was Syria.

After an unsuccessful, period of diplomacy, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin—later to be martyred while a prime minister of Israel—decided to preempt the Arab attack by going after the Egyptian air squadrons on the ground. The Israeli assault came on June 5, 1967, and, in the aftermath, virtually every one of Egypt's 300 fighting aircraft was demolished and 100 of its best pilots were killed.

## **Q3. How did the Old City of Jerusalem fall into Israeli hands?**

A3. Following the War of Independence in 1948, the United Nations established a UN Truce Supervision Office in a compound called Government House in the Old City of Jerusalem. As Egyptian soldiers were massing in the Sinai late in May 1967, Israeli officials contacted General Odd Bull, a career officer in the Norwegian Royal Air Force and the commander of the UN Truce Supervision Office, and asked him to deliver a written message to King Hussein of Jordan. The message assured the King that no harm would fall on Jordan (and, therefore, that there would be no retaking of the Old City of Jerusalem, which was in Jordanian hands) if the King would refrain from entering the impending war. However, urged on by his people and by the terms of the military pact with Egypt, the Jordanian King entered the fray knowing full well that his army was not a match for the Israeli army.

Despite this development, the Israeli high command was reluctant to enter into and take the Old City of Jerusalem out of fear of international condemnation. Then, two things happened: First, the Jordanians broadcast their belligerent intentions by overrunning the Government House compound occupied by the UN Truce Supervision Office. Second, the Israelis received word that Egypt was claiming it had captured Mount Scopus, home to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Hadassah Medical Center.

Practically isolated behind Jordanian lines since 1948, Mount Scopus was protected by an Israeli garrison and carried tremendous symbolic value. Though, the Israeli

high command was aware that Mount Scopus was still in Israeli hands, its generals had heard enough. Fearful of Egyptian and Jordanian intentions with regard to Mt. Scopus, the Israeli command issued instructions to extend the war to the Jordanian front, with the result that the Old City—the City of David—was reclaimed after 2,000 years.

**Q4. What was the overall effect of the Six Day War of 1967?**

A4. The Six Day War was a crushing blow to Arab might. By war's end, Israel had taken the entire West Bank and the Old City of Jerusalem (both of which had previously been held by Jordan), the Sinai, including Gaza (both of which had been in Egyptian hands) and the commanding Golan Heights in the north of Israel (which had been under Syrian rule). Rather than face the Israelis, some Arabs fled, adding to the already existing Arab refugee problem.

**Q5. Prior to 1967, was there ever a State of Palestine on the West Bank of the Jordan or in Gaza?**

A5. No, but clarification is required. Arabs lived in the West Bank and Gaza prior to the War of Independence in 1948, but there was no Palestinian nation, only the Palestine of British mandatory rule. After the War of Independence, a political void existed. The void was filled by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan which annexed the West Bank and offered Jordanian citizenship to its Palestinian occupants, and by Egypt which assumed administration of Gaza. During the period between 1948 and the Six Day War in 1967, there was virtually no effort to establish a Palestinian state in what had become Jordanian and Egyptian territory. Moreover, the Arab world treated the West Bank as no more than an area under Jordanian rule. There is no record of any Arab leader visiting the West Bank as an expression of homage to its perceived status as a Palestinian state. Indeed, Jordan did not relinquish its claim to the West Bank until 1988.

**Q6. Why have attitudes on the part of both the Palestinians and the Israelis hardened and what are the major issues that have obstructed peace?**

A6. Dreams are always difficult to mold into reality. In the case of Israel, a flourishing democracy has emerged while Palestinian aspirations have been mired in cynicism on the part of an Arab World that has been much more willing to come to the aid of war than to peace. In addition, both the Palestinians and the Israelis have experienced death and destruction at the hands of the other. It is hard to shake hands when the hand that is offered may have on it the blood of someone near and dear. Compounding the problem is the fact that the Palestinians are fractured between the West Bank's Fatah and Gaza's Hamas (which remains officially committed to Israel's destruction). Add to this mix, a Palestinian narrative that will not accept the presence of a Jewish state next to it, right wing elements in Israel, an aging and unelected Palestinian leadership and the destructive meddling of Iran in both Gaza and



Lebanon, and one has a toxic stew unmatched in the world of geopolitics.

What is clear is that so unstable a political environment cannot last. The four major issues that separate the two sides are the governance and division of Jerusalem (the overarching issue of Jerusalem's status having, effectively, been taken off the table by President's Trump recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the move of the US embassy to Israel in May 2018), the boundaries of a new Palestinian state, securing the Jordan Valley in the north of Israel from penetration by terrorists and whether and how many Palestinians will be able to return to Israel.

Many people believe there are realistic and fair solutions to these issues, but that any resolution must take into account—as George W. Bush acknowledged in 2004—that a return to the Armistice lines of 1948 is no longer practical due to both security concerns and the reality that many Israelis now live in and around Jerusalem in the former West Bank. In the end, an agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians will have to recognize these “facts on the ground,” with Palestinians receiving some form of compensation, probably in the form of Israel ceding comparable parcels of land that it occupied prior to 1967. Unfortunately, the governance and possible division of Jerusalem, Israeli security in the Jordan Valley and the return of displaced Palestinians are even more contentious problems. As to the latter, most recognize that a Palestinian right of return to Israel (employing the distorted UNRWA definition that would produce over 5 Million refugees) would devastatingly undermine the Jewish character of Israel, and that, as an alternative, some form of reparations will likely be necessary.

#### **Q7. Why does the United States stand by Israel?**

A7. Israel is a democracy and a vibrant one at that. Americans love democratic values. Democracy is a core principal of our way of life and nothing is more important. Israel's total and unalterable embrace of democracy, its educated population most of whom speak English, and its status as the cradle of Christianity as well as Judaism make it a natural ally for America. Further, the scientific and military acumen of Israel's people, as well as their inventiveness and entrepreneurial skill, make Israel an attractive friend, despite its size. That is a comforting thought, especially when one considers that no two democracies have ever waged war on one another.

As with any relationship, tensions do exist from time to time. In the case of the American-Israeli relationship, such tensions burst onto the scene when Israel refused admission into the country to Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, two Muslim pro-BDS congresswomen.

#### **Q8. Have there been bona fide peace efforts by Israel to accommodate the Palestinians?**

A8. Yes. The most famous Israeli peace overture was made in 2000 by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak at Camp David and supported by President Bill Clinton. The proposal contained provisions for the restoration of 91% of the West Bank to the Palestinians (as well as 1% of pre-1967 Israeli land). Not only was the proposal rejected by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat out of hand without any counter-proposal, but, in addition, he also reportedly told President Clinton that there was no Jewish connection to Jerusalem. Clinton was later quoted as saying, "I regret that in 2000 Arafat missed the opportunity to bring that nation into being and pray for the day when the dreams of the Palestinian people for a state and a better life will be realized in a just and lasting peace."

In 2005, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon unilaterally withdrew all Israeli soldiers and settlers from Gaza. But, instead of peace, Gaza became a launching pad for Hamas terrorism.

In 2008, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert made a peace proposal to Palestinian president Mahmood Abbas that was even more generous than the 2000 Barak proposal. According to American Jewish Committee's David Harris, "a Palestinian negotiator subsequently acknowledged in the media that the Israeli plan would have given his side the equivalent of 100 percent of the disputed lands under discussion." The proposal did not even receive an official response.

Then, most recently in 2010, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed to a ten-month settlement freeze as a good will gesture to induce the Palestinians to negotiate. Again, the overture was to no avail.

### **Q9. Does the Koran inform the Israel-Palestine Conflict?**

A9. Suffice it to say that there is nothing in the Koran that precludes Israel from being a Jewish state. Indeed, the Koran makes no specific reference to Jerusalem by name, although the following reference to the "farthest mosque" from the *al Isra* section of the Koran is construed by Muslims to mean Jerusalem: "Praise be to Him who made His servant journey in the night from the sacred sanctuary [in what is thought to be Mecca] to the remotest sanctuary [in what is thought to be Jerusalem]. Also, by tradition, Jerusalem is the place where Muhammad is said to have ascended to heaven on his horse of fire, and, also according to the same tradition, the Western Wall is where Muhammad is said to have tethered his horse before making the journey.

By contrast, Jerusalem or Zion is mentioned specifically 823 times in the Torah. Also, there are about a dozen references in the Koran that appear to recognize God's grant of Israel to the Jews. Notably, in Sura 5:20-21, the Koran cites Moses as saying to the Israelites, "Oh, my people, enter the Holy Land which God has assigned to you, and turn not back ignominiously, for then will ye be overthrown, to your own ruin."

Further, Sura 3:26, which states “Thou givest the kingdom to whomever thou pleasest,” is viewed by a number of commentators as an acknowledgment of God’s grant of Israel to the Jews.

In a remarkable acknowledgment of the centrality of Jerusalem to the Jewish faith, the website, NewArab, reported on December 17, 2017, following then President Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, that Saudi academic, Abdulhameed Hakeem, the head of the Middle East Center for Strategic and Legal Studies in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, made the following remarks on the US-based *al-Hurra* Arabic-language TV channel:

We have to admit and realize that Jerusalem is a religious symbol for the Jews that is just as holy for them as Mecca and Medina are for Muslims.

Arab mentality must free itself from the heritage of Gamal Abdel Nasser and political Islam of both the Sunni and Shia sects, which has instilled for purely political interests the culture of hating Jews and denying their historic right in the region.