

TO: PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

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# Memo

## RE: CHABAD'S INITIATIVES FOR OBSERVANT STUDENTS

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

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

### KOSHER FOOD

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

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

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

These meals are certified Kosher by the Vaad Hoer of St. Louis. Visit their site at [www.ovkosher.org](http://www.ovkosher.org).

*For info on Shabbat and holidays meals, read on.*

### SHABBAT INFO

**Shabbat Dinner** - Over 150 students attend the family-style Shabbat dinner held at Chabad every Friday evening. This is the largest gathering of Jewish students at WashU each week.

A wonderful and diverse group of students choose to participate, together building the campus community. Prospective students, parents, professors and other guests often join as well. Shabbat dinner also continues during some school breaks.

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

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

**Post-Shabbat Dinner** - Onegs, Farbrengens, and social activities—including board games, coffee, and tea—take place most Friday nights, either at the Chabad House or at nearby student apartments.

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

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

About an hour before the conclusion of Shabbos, students gather for a light meal, soulful singing, which are followed by Maariv and Havadala.

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

*Please note: The Eruv **does not include** the Kemper Art Museum, the Loop Lofts, the Moonrise Hotel, Cheshire Inn, or any of Forest Park. More at [www.stleruv.org](http://www.stleruv.org).*

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

## TEFILA

Chabad House hosts a Shacharis Minyan on weekdays. During fall, 2019, we were successful in getting a morning Minyan every single morning. Weekday Mincha and Maariv have proven to be trickier to organize on a consistent basis. During fall, 2019, we averaged about 20-40% success.

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

## JEWISH HOLIDAYS

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

Chabad also helps students find hospitality with observant families proximate to campus. Students may also sign up for home hospitality using our Google Doc matching system.

**Holiday exams** - Under recent guidelines that were sought by enterprising undergraduates, WashU faculty members ought to be "understanding" and accommodating of students who face religious conflicts with exam scheduling.

*If there are any difficulties, please contact Rabbi Novack.*

## TORAH LEARNING

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

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

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

## OTHER SERVICES

**Early Move-in** - Orientation for First-Year students begins on Shabbat; Students who are Shomer Shabbat may request a Friday move-in.

**Mezuzahs** - For a small deposit, Chabad will provide a handwritten scroll with a case and double-stick tape approved by ResLife for use in the dorm buildings.

**Kehila** - Fosters student leadership to advance these and other issues of concern or importance to the observant community.

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

*We are here for students and families 24/7. Please contact us with any questions or concerns no matter how big or small.*