



Fall 2023 Return to Campus

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Updated August 15th, 2023

Dear Muhlenberg Hillel Family,

We hope you have enjoyed a safe, restful, and restorative summer. It's been a long time coming, but we're thrilled to be welcoming students to campus, including the incoming class of 2027. We cannot wait to meet you!!

While there's a lot of excitement as students prepare for the upcoming semester, there are also many questions about what Muhlenberg and student life will look like. At Hillel, we are committed to Muhlenberg's vibrant Jewish community and to developing a robust, diverse, and expansive Jewish life- both on and off-campus. Student leaders and staff are hard at work on the quality experiences that make Muhlenberg Hillel such a home for students, including a range of learning cohorts, Kosher dining, community service, wellness, Shabbat services and Holiday gatherings, learning and travel to Israel, social and cultural events, leadership development and so much more.

Here is an FAQ that can serve as a resource about the coming semester. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions. We're here for you and want to be as supportive as we can for students and families.

Wishing everyone a שנה טובה, *shana tova*, a safe, healthy and sweet new year,

Ira Blum

Director

Muhlenberg College Hillel at the Leffell Center for Jewish Student Life

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General

How can I get involved in Hillel events and programming?

There's so much going on at Muhlenberg College Hillel! The best way to keep in the know is to subscribe to our weekly email newsletter [here](#) and to follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Additionally, you can [click here](#) to sign up for text updates from Hillel.

If you're looking to speak with someone directly, you can reach out to any of the staff, the Hillel President Eitan Gitlin, at egitlin@muhlenberg.edu, along with the rest of the Hillel Executive Student Board:

Social Involvement Co-Chairs	Rachel Scheer + Giliyah Adler
Social Action Co-Chairs	Sophia Jacobson + Samuel Bitterman
Religious Life Co-Chairs	Gabriel Kanter-Goodell + Harry Glicklin
Israel Co-Chairs	Yoav Susskind + Pearl (Esther Shapira-Stern)
Ex-Officio (immediate past president)	Hadas D Seltzer

As well as our Senior Engagement Interns Hannah Katz and Alyssa Kaplan !

Are you looking to grow your Berg social circles? Are you passionate about engaging in high-quality learning about the questions and issues that you care about?

Whether it's Jewish identity, learning, or Israel, there are tons to explore this year together, with questions and content that will enrich your understanding and give you the tools to make your own decisions about what matters (and earn some money on the side).

Check out our menu of learning cohort opportunities for this semester (link coming soon!)



**Hillel | The Leffell Center
for Jewish Student Life**

When is the Leffell Center for Jewish Student Life open this semester?

All students with a Muhlenberg ID can access The Leffell Center daily (7 days a week) between the hours of 7:00 am - 10:00 pm. Students can enjoy meals in our kitchen or Shabbat Dining Room, study late in our Beit Midrash/Library, Netflix and chill in our basement or enjoy a nap in our sunroom. There are plenty of options! Additionally, students can reserve spaces for group meetings and events via the college's 25live platform.

Where can I get Kosher food on campus?

Beginning at Orientation, The Noshery at The Wood Dining Commons will be providing Kosher food for students throughout the academic year. Hours of operation for the Noshery are below:

Sunday 10am-7:30pm

Monday Thursday 11am-7:30pm

Friday 11am-2pm, 4:30pm-7pm

Saturday 10am-7pm

More information is available [here](#) (scroll to the bottom for details about Kosher dining).

If you have dining-related questions, please contact diningcomments@muhlenberg.edu.

This is a lot! Where can I find support?

We understand that it's not easy to be at college in these tough times. Hillel staff are here to provide support and comfort. Please don't hesitate to reach out. Additionally, Muhlenberg College Counseling Services is available [here](#), and Mental Health Peer Advocates (MHPA) are available [here](#).

What if I have other questions?

We're here to help! Reach out to Hillel [staff](#) or student leaders with any questions.

Shabbat and Holidays

What will Shabbat and holidays look like?

We know the calming and restorative features of rest and Shabbat bring so much comfort to our souls. Here are some helpful details:

Shabbat dinner!

At the Leffell Center, We have weekly Shabbat Services and Dinner beginning on Friday, September 1st. Student-run Reform and Conservative/Traditional Egalitarian services will take place at 5:30pm, followed by Shabbat Dinner at 6:30pm. All students are welcome! Along with Hillel, local synagogues and temples host services, and all are welcome. Chabad also hosts services, and you can find out more via their social media.

Our Shabbat Dinners are free and welcome to all, but we do ask students to RSVP in advance so that we can be mindful of food waste.

Throughout Shabbat and holidays, students who prefer to pre-pay for meals can obtain a "Shabbat card". Before Shabbat or holidays, please visit the Wood Dining Commons manager's desk (where you would typically swipe your card). Students can use meal swipes, dining dollars or BergBucks for payment. Once payment is made, students will be given a "Shabbat card".

How can I light candles on Shabbat and holidays?

The college has a strict fire safety policy, and lighting is unfortunately not allowed in residential spaces. However, for Friday night, Havdala and holidays, candle lighting is available at Hillel. Candles must always be supervised.

Additionally, observant students can request a Shabbat key for special access to the Leffell Center by contacting Hillel staff or clicking [here](#). If you need a physical key to your residence hall for Shabbat and holidays, please contact [Housing and Residence Life](#).

Holiday Meals

Kosher food will always be available throughout Shabbat and holidays, either at the Leffell Center or at the Noshery.



Hillel | The Leffell Center
for Jewish Student Life

How can I get a lulav and etrog for Sukkot?

Yes, you can contact Sons of Israel to order a Lulav and Etrog by reaching out to April (not our assistant director April, but a different April) [here](#).

Is there a Sukkah where I can eat over Sukkot?

Not one but... there will be TWO Sukkot available on campus! One will be at the Leffell Center and the other will be outside of Wood Dining Commons. Hillel will also have a Lulav and Etrog available for individual use throughout the holiday.

What else should I know about holidays?

The college has a [religious holidays and class attendance policy](#) for students observing the holidays. Please communicate in advance with your professors, and contact Hillel staff if you need any assistance.