



Campuses Receiving Avi Shabbat Micro Grants in 2014

Arizona State University: “We wanted to create a warm, inviting atmosphere to commemorate Avi as well as encourage the attendees to discuss and show their love.”

Brown/RISD Hillel: “There were text-based discussions, speakers, and song sharing sessions to go along with services and Shabbat dinner.”

Calgary Hillel: “The best part is that no matter how much programming and discussion points we plan in advance, the interaction becomes so organic that we don't need to follow through on anything in particular. “

Cornell University Hillel: “Ideas for conversation included both religious and secular themes, including what students love most about Cornell, different religious holidays, or politics.”

Emory Hillel: “I was able to share my experience of being friends with Avi.”

Franklin and Marshall College: “A mixture of information giving and guided small group discussion worked very well.”

George Mason University: “It showed many people that we can mix these student groups on campus and make new friends, and get along well.”

George Washington University Hillel: “Our Avi Shabbat brought members of both the Jewish community and the Interfaith council (including the Muslim Student Association) together for a discussion on this concept of Social Solidarity.”

Grand Valley State University Hillel: “We had some talking points set up last year, but the conversations were flowing so naturally they were not necessary.”

Halifax Hillel: “Much of the conversation focuses on our cultures (dietary laws, fasting days, marriage, etc), but there was also much discussion simply about life and school!”

Harvard Hillel: “The focus of this event will be forwarding constructive dialogue between different groups.”

Hillel at Binghamton: “I loved getting to know Muslim students via the planning process, we have a lot of similarities and it was so cool to see students making new friends during the event.”

Hillel at Brandeis University: “Both the Muslim Students Association and the Brandeis Interfaith Group helped develop the program which included a D'var Torah at Dinner and a peer facilitated dialogue after dinner as our Oneg Shabbat.”

Hillel at Colorado State University: “It is our hope to spread Avi's message of peace through engaging in a dialogue about our various faiths, backgrounds, goals, and hope for the future.”

Hillel at Davis and Sacramento: “The shared meal provided an opportunity for cross-cultural introductions & multi-faith interactions.”

Hillel at Drexel University: “Students engaged with each other at dinner tables with table leaders, they Talked about ‘big questions’”

Hillel at Denver University: “There was be candle lighting, a service, and dinner. There was also be an educational bit.”

Hillel at Kent State: “It was an authentic exchange.”

Hillel at Temple University: “Discussion was encouraged to ask the questions that people have that they don't fully understand.”

Hillel at Texas A&M: “The conversation at each table was amazing and covered all areas of life, religious practice, foodways, and more.”

Hillel at University of California Los Angeles: “Conversations were great, students really opened up and took the initiative to share.”

Hillel at Virginia Tech: “Knowing there was interest from other cultural groups, we followed that momentum this year and reached out to multiple groups from the start.”

Hillel at Western Michigan University: “We're doing this to help foster a better community here at Western Michigan University”

Hillel of Greater Toronto: “We had a jigsaw puzzle with discussion topics related to Israel on each table to spark discussion and discourse, moderated by student leaders.”

Houston Hillel: “Interfaith Shabbat gave me the chance to show others exactly what my religion means to me. “

Indiana University Hillel: “We can extend the dialogue throughout the night and really have everyone get to know each other.”

Queens College Hillel: “After dinner, ISA leadership and Migdalim interns led multiple formal discussion groups that students can choose from, on topics such as West Bank settlement, and the Iranian missile crisis.”

University of California Santa Barbara Hillel: “It was especially impactful for me was hearing (and participating in speaking) the words that Avi's father spoke”

San Diego State University Hillel: “The program definitely helped to create in person connection in the context of interfaith, coexistence and mutual respect and gave students the opportunity and the ability to talk about it in a safe space and to START the conversation and relationships going.”

Shulman Hillel, University of Iowa: “During this dinner we held formatted discussions, with different leaders from each organization acting as discussion leaders, about current events occurring in the world as well as any questions that they may want to ask about each others religions.”

Simmons College Hillel: “We seek to connect students from different religious and ethnic backgrounds with each other through engaging conversation around the shared experience of faith and community.”

Stony Brook Hillel: “Students seem more connected to and engaged with Israel. They are asking more questions.”

Texas Hillel: “After dinner, people from all faiths stayed around the tables and talked for long time.”

The Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at New York University: “Jewish and Muslim students will attend Jumma prayer on Friday afternoon.”

Towson University Hillel: “After the professionals left the students stayed for two more hours and talked.”

Trinity College Hillel: “I think students have been more thoughtful about the challenges that others adhering to different religions face since the event.”

Tulane Hillel: “We focused our discussions on how we can best work together and cooperate to further peace in Israel.”

University of Connecticut Hillel: “This Shabbat is not like any other Shabbat that we have done thus far this semester.”

University of California Berkeley: “Interfaith Shabbat was one of my most meaningful experiences I have had religiously at Cal.”

University of Maryland Baltimore County Hillel: “Students had open conversation about some of their fears and hopes without feeling censored.”

University of North Carolina Hillel: “We would be honored to help Avi Schaefer’s memory live on through our interfaith work.”

University of Vermont Hillel: “Conversation went from funny, to personal, to talking about Israel. “

University of Arizona Hillel Foundation: “ We had an alternative service and the place for the MSA students to be a part of the programming.”

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign: “It provided a different angle on approaching the conversation of Israel.”

University of Minnesota Hillel: “My favorite part was that it exposed Jewish students to students and communities of other faiths”

University of North Carolina Greensboro Hillel: “ I think that our discussion was great, but it was also nice to hear about people’s thoughts and opinions one-on-one”

University of Pennsylvania: “The goal is to give religious context to an intense political issue and to have an understanding of what informs the other side’s opinion, even if the end political product will still be disagreement.”

University of Rhode Island: “I honestly would do it every year.”

University of Southern California: “We really enjoyed the cross cultural aspect and getting to work with a new group of students.”

University of Wisconsin Hillel: “Ultimately, students had an opportunity to meet and interact with students from another faith and culture building bridges and developing positive relationships in Avi Schaefer’s memory.”

Vassar Jewish Union: “All those in attendance were engaged and respectful, even when expressing differences in opinion.”

Wellesley College Hillel: “Students of both faiths cooked dinner together before Shabbat, allowing for a discussion of dietary regulations in both cultures/religions, as well as a recipe exchange.”