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JEWISH HOOPSTER

Marisa Gobuty Plays for SU's Best Women's Basketball Team Ever

🍊 The 2007-2008 women's basketball season has been remarkable for the Syracuse Orange. Marisa Gobuty, a freshman arts and sciences major, and Israeli Jewish student-athlete, has contributed to the team's season of success and growth. She proudly balances being Jewish and being a student-athlete.

Before the start of the 2007-2008 year, a member of the coaching staff visited the Winnick Hillel Center for Jewish Life at Syracuse University with Gobuty and her mother to show her the facility and introduce her to the staff. The recruiting visit, and stop at Hillel, went well for Gobuty and she signed on with the Orange a short time later. "When I came on my official visit for basketball I made sure to go and visit the Hillel because the Jewish community on campus was a large factor in my decision for which college I wanted to attend," Gobuty said about her choice. "Not only was Hillel welcoming, but I could tell there was a really strong sense of community."

"I have really enjoyed participating at Hillel events," Gobuty answered when asked about her experiences thus far. "I made great friends at FreshFest and through other Hillel events. It's great to have a place like Hillel because it makes an overwhelming campus a lot warmer, even in a place as cold as Syracuse!"

"Being a Jewish student athlete has not always been easy, but I take pride in being Jewish," Gobuty continued. "I take candles, challah and grape juice with me on trips so that Shabbat is always a part of my week. Luckily for me my coach and teammates are very understanding."

Gobuty has an impressive basketball resume with international



Marisa Gobuty appears in a 72-53 Syracuse Orange win over the Penn. State Nittany Lions on Sat., Dec. 6.

experience. Gobuty led her Israeli Team, Elizur Holon, to the state championships in 2006 and 2007 and played for Israel's Junior National Team (finishing fifth at the European Championships in Romania). She also attended the *adidas* All-America Camp in Atlanta, where she averaged 14 points, six assists, three rebounds and two steals per contest, and was chosen *adidas* All-American.

Seeing limited time in her freshman campaign, Gobuty hopes that her role will increase with time. In the mean time, Gobuty is happy where she and her team are currently at. "It feels great to be a part of a team making history. The team has great chemistry and I think that has played a large role in our success on the court." The women's basketball team ended its season by making an appearance in the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament for just the fourth time in school history.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As religious chair of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, Harrison Abramowitz thought his grandfather William Bernheim had a special message to share with our students. It was especially urgent that Mr. Bernheim join us during the fall semester because Harrison would be studying abroad during the spring semester. Through word of mouth, Facebook entries, and appealing to a wide network of friends, Harrison provided the leadership which is at the core of Hillel's commitment to engaging students – friends bring friends to programs! We were prepared to welcome 150 students according to Harrison's lead estimate of attendance. The night of the event, students were coming to Hillel from all directions and somehow - sitting on chairs and on the floor, leaning on walls and hanging out of doorways we managed

to fit over 275 students into our auditorium which comfortably holds 190!

If it wasn't for Miriam Loewy Friend, Class of 1947, Hillel at Syracuse University might not be where it is today. She has been an extraordinary friend and benefactor. She was an early supporter of the idea of a Hillel building to serve students, and her ongoing support of our program has been there because she believes that Hillel makes a difference in the lives of young men and women such as Harrison Abramowitz, and Marisa Gobuty. These are great stories about very special individuals!



Lowell H. Lustig

- Lowell H. Lustig

HILLEL REMEMBERS KRISTALLNACHT

Survivor William Bernheim and Arnold Gatoff Educate with Art

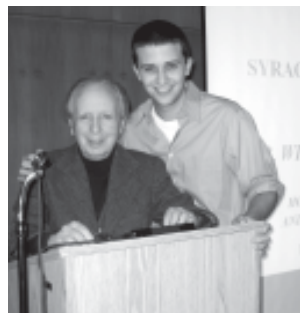
Remembering Kristallnacht, the pogrom against Jews throughout Germany on Nov. 9 and Nov. 10, 1938, Hillel at Syracuse University brought in two remarkable artists last November, William Bernheim and Arnold Gatoff, to use their art as a tool for teaching about the Holocaust.

Bernheim, a Holocaust survivor and artist, spoke to the largest crowd ever to attend an event in the Hillel's Lender Auditorium. Bernheim's presentation and slide show of his extraordinary art drew over 275 students to the Winnick Hillel Center for Jewish Life.

Born in Lodz, Poland on Dec. 13, 1922, Bernheim survived the atrocities of the World War II concentration camps and emigrated to the United States. Since 1996, Bernheim has completed numerous works of art with Holocaust themes.

Bernheim is the grandfather of Syracuse University's Harrison Abramowitz, who organized the event in partnership with Hillel. Abramowitz, a junior in the public communications program, brought his grandfather to campus to share his unique story and art as part of his role as the religious chair of Syracuse's predominately Jewish fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi.

Hillel also hosted an art opening and wine and cheese reception featuring the work of Gatoff, the artist-in-residence of the Holocaust Resource Center of Temple Judea, in Manhasset, N.Y. Gatoff, a self-trained artist from Port



Top: A collection of the art of Arnold Gatoff on display in the Lender Auditorium. The collection was titled: A Tribute to the Human Spirit, The Works of Arnold Gatoff. Left: William Bernheim and his grandson, Harrison Abramowitz, the event's organizer.

Washington, N.Y., has been painting, in oil, for the past ten years. Gatoff's work features spiritual themes, presented abstractly, using large brightly-colored geometric shapes.

Adding to the special nature of the evening, Gatoff donated a Holocaust-themed triptych to create a permanent collection of Jewish art at the Winnick Hillel Center for Jewish Life. "Arnold Gatoff's work, offering biblical and spiritual themes, will be a perfect fit for the Winnick Hillel Center," said Lowell H. Lustig, the executive director of Hillel. "We are honored to host the works of such an esteemed artist."

"The importance of Holocaust education can not be understated," continued Lustig. "We were honored to have had these two men come to Hillel and share their unique art."

BUILDING HILLEL FROM THE GROUND UP

Miriam Loewy Friend, Benefactor and Visionary, Pursued a Hillel Center at SU

🍊 Miriam Loewy Friend has given a lifetime of service to her community in Yonkers, NY, and to many causes that resonate with her passion for Jewish life. Her desire to create meaningful Jewish experiences for students on the Syracuse University campus guided her actions, and she was instrumental in making a new Hillel building a reality.

During her undergraduate experience, Jewish life on campus was sometimes disappointing for Miriam, who came from a family that attended services on a regular basis and celebrated Shabbat together. A 1947 alumna of Syracuse University, Miriam transferred to the main university campus in the fall of 1944 after attending an extension branch campus in Endicott, N.Y. for one year. She remained at home to be with her mom while her father, Captain Benjamin Loewy, was on assignment with U.S. Army Military Intelligence. The timing of her transfer preempted her ability to join one of the predominately Jewish sororities that hosted a variety of Jewish programs. Miriam's options for worship were also limited on campus. "I attended Shabbat services regularly in the basement of the campus chapel," Miriam said. "It was a dreary environment." The attendance, according to Miriam, reflected the conditions, and often times they did not have enough participants for a Minyan.

In the late 1990's, while Miriam was attending a Shabbat service at Temple Beth El, in Boca Raton, Fla., several college students were invited to speak to the congregation about Jewish campus life at their respective schools. Much to her surprise, a student from Syracuse University began to speak about Jewish life on his campus. Amazingly, the student's comments echoed her own concerns from her undergraduate experience at Syracuse fifty years earlier. According to the student who spoke, the University needed a Hillel facility to serve as the focal point for Jewish student life on campus, and provide an appropriate place for worship. Two weeks later, Miriam attended a Passover Seder. By coincidence, she sat across from two Hillel staff members, and struck up a conversation about how to make a campus building a reality in Syracuse. Getting the information she needed, Miriam took action. "I called the top man at the Hillel Foundation in Washington, D.C., to find out what I could do to get the ball rolling," Miriam said. This call was followed by a meeting with key staff at Hillel in Washington D.C.

The leadership of Syracuse University had been wrestling with this challenge as well, and critical steps were taken to ensure that a center for Jewish life became a reality. Chancellor Kenneth Shaw, and the Syracuse University Board of Trustees made a commitment to make the Hillel Center a reality, and



Miriam Loewy Friend is photographed next to students on her 2003 trip to see the new Hillel building.

designated resources and staff to the campaign effort. True to the cause, Miriam Loewy Friend made a significant gift in the early stages of the campaign in honor of her late husband Sidney, her sister Regina Loewy Rudnick, and her parents Etta Weiss and Benjamin Jacob Loewy. Poetically, Miriam, who played such an integral role in the initial stages to establish the need for a building, also made the final financial commitment that closed the fund-raising campaign in 2002.

When closing the campaign to build the Hillel center, Miriam Loewy Friend met with Dr. John Sellars, former senior vice president for Institutional Advancement for Syracuse University, and Lowell H. Lustig, current executive director, and then the campaign director for this effort. Miriam readily agreed to make the gift which would close the campaign. Following this extraordinary commitment, according to Lustig, "there was a stunning moment of smiles, multiple thank yous and quiet." It was then noted that although Miriam and her late husband Sidney never had their own children, their legacy would be the generations of "children" whose lives would be touched by her gift.

Miriam visited the building for the first time in 2003, and she admits to being very impressed by the facility. But her favorite feature might come as a surprise to most. "I was very pleased with what I saw," Miriam said. "I loved the pink hue of the bricks. Campus buildings can be so grey. It really made the building stand out."

When asked about her giving, and her commitment to Jewish philanthropy, Miriam quickly offers, "If we don't support this, who will?" a comment reminiscent of Rabbi Hillel's famous Mishnaic teaching in Pirke Avot. In addition, Miriam wants our students to, "Have a warm feeling about Syracuse University and Hillel. It is a wonderful opportunity for learning and understanding their Jewish heritage."

Portions of this article were contributed by Syracuse University Magazine. The picture was provided by Steve Sartori of the SU Photo Center.

DISABILITY RIGHTS ON A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Burton Blatt Institute Partners with Hillel to Bring Israeli Disability Experts to SU

🍊 Hillel at Syracuse University has been proud to host a series of lectures with Syracuse's Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) over the 2007-2008 academic year. The lectures, brought to Hillel by BBI chairman and university professor Peter Blanck, have focused on disability policy in Israel, and have been well attended by local Syracuse-area disability-rights professionals.

The latest lecture, held on Tues. Feb. 5, featured David Marcu, the executive director of Israel Elwyn. Israel Elwyn is a social services organization in Israel that serves more than 1,700 children and adults with special needs. Other featured speakers have included Dr. Arie Rimmerman, a distinguished member of



David Marcu addresses disability professionals at the Burton Blatt lecture held in Hillel's Lender Auditorium.

the faculty of the Social Welfare and Health Studies Department at the University of Haifa, and Dr. Shlomo Eliashar, the director of the Rehabilitation Services Administration of Israel's Ministry of Social Affairs & Social Services, among others.

HILLEL ELECTS NEW STUDENT BOARD

New Election System Yields a Diverse and Impressive Student Leadership Group

🍊 *Article Contributed By SU Freshman Kara Landsman*

In November, a hand-picked student election committee at Hillel at Syracuse University selected the 2008 student board. The seven students come with both experience and great ideas and are sure to help Syracuse continue to rank among the best Hillels in the country.

Last year's programming vice president, Jillian Zarem, will serve as Hillel's new president. Zarem, a sophomore, is originally from Chicago, Ill., and is an honors public relations major with plans to dual major in entrepreneurship and emerging enterprises. Zarem succeeds Emily St. Lifer, who is studying in Israel this semester.

Junior Rachel Dudley, is serving her second term as Hillel's religion vice president. Dudley is a studying music and religion and hopes to be ordained as a rabbi following her education at Syracuse.

Sophomore Cory Weiss will serve as Hillel's engagement vice president. Weiss is from Chicago, Ill., and majors in elementary education and history. Her largest project is planning Hillel's annual FreshFest program for the fall.

Jennifer Williams will serve as Hillel's communications vice president. Williams, a junior, who is a dual magazine and psychology major, hopes to introduce more efficient and creative advertising campaigns for Hillel events. Her primary



Hillel's 2008 student board (from left to right): Tamara Cohen, Helene Kahn, Jillian Zarem, Robel Yemiru, Jennifer Williams, Cory Weiss, and Rachel Dudley.

goal is to assist Hillel in efforts to increase turnout and interest.

Robel Yemiru, a sophomore, will serve as the special programming vice president. Yemiru is a dual policy studies and economics major with a minor in entrepreneurship and emerging enterprises.

Sophomore Helene Kahn will serve her second term as the tzedek and social action vice president. She is majoring in policy studies and entrepreneurship and emerging enterprises. Kahn was the primary organizer of last year's Gift of Life campaign.

Tamara Cohen, a second-year student with junior standing, will serve as the Israel and cultural vice president. Cohen is studying at the school of management and plans to make aliyah after college. She aims to bring her love and interest in Israel to campus in interesting ways. "I'm really excited to be working with the new board," Cohen said recently about her new position. "I want [Hillel] programs to be fun and engaging while still informative and thought-provoking."

STUDENTS DISCOVER THEIR BIRTHRIGHT

20 Syracuse Students Share Amazing Experiences on a Free Trip to Israel

🍊 *Article Contributed By SU Sophomore Shayna Meliker*

For many Jews, visiting Israel is a once in a lifetime experience. For students participating on the most recent Taglit-Birthright Israel: Hillel trip, their ten-day Israel experience may have been the first of many visits over the course of their lives.

The winter trip, hosted by Hillel at Syracuse University, provided 20 Syracuse students with the opportunity to explore their homeland in a way that promotes the development of their Jewish identities. Birthright trips are free and open to Jewish students between the ages of 18 and 26 who have never participated in an organized trip to Israel.

The trip itinerary included a visit to Mt. Herzl, spiritual time at the Western Wall, a unique mud bath in the Dead Sea, and the opportunity to have a B'nai Mitzvah (or naming ceremony).

Through Hillel, students receive unique learning experiences that other trips to Israel can not or do not offer. Throughout the trip, Hillel staff work closely with the Israeli tour educator to build reflective conversations into the itinerary and assist students with processing their experiences and connecting more closely with their Jewish identities.

According to Syracuse's Jewish student life coordinator, Rebecca Sage, who chaperoned the trip, the program builds an important community on campus. "When students get



Syracuse freshman Jason Marx (left) and Nate Levy (right) from the University of Texas at Austin, ride donkeys outside a Bedouin encampment site in the Judean Desert, at K'far Hanokdim, on day seven of the ten-day trip.

back to campus, they bring new relationships that began on their Birthright trips," Sage said. "We encourage these students to share their experiences with others upon their return."

Lyuba Polinkovsky, an international relations and biology major from the Republic of Moldova, echoed Sage's thoughts on community and valued meeting Jewish people on the trip from countries such as Brazil, Argentina, and France. "It's important for every Jewish college student to have this experience now, no matter what level of religious practice they participate in. This is the land of the Jewish people, and it's our responsibility to support it," Polinkovsky said. "It's essential for Jewish students to realize that no matter where around the world they live, they always have a second home in Israel."

TRY A LATKE WAFFLE

Hillel Hosts Unique Funk N' Latke Hanukkah Party

🍊 On Tues., Dec. 4, at its annual Hanukkah party, Hillel brought in a local student-favorite, Syracuse's own Funk 'n Waffles, to introduce one of the most unusual Hanukkah treats the world has ever known - the latke waffle.

The party also included Hanukkah trivia, board games, a dreidle spin-off, and door prizes for everyone who came. Just under 200 students attended the event and lit the first night's Hanukkah candles together.



Students wait for their latke waffles. Over 150 latke waffles were served at the party.

"Working with Funk 'n Latkes was a lot of fun," said Rebecca Sage, Hillel's Jewish student life coordinator. "Students really enjoyed the uniqueness of the waffle and how great it was. It was also good to support Funk 'n Waffles, which is a local business with a Jewish owner who is an alumnus of SU."

UPCOMING STORIES

Coming Up in our Summer Issue...

🍊 Hillel rebuilds New Orleans on Alternative Spring Break trip.

🍊 Syracuse celebrates Passover at Hillel.

🍊 Hillel profiles board member and children's book author / illustrator Karen B. Winnick.

STUDENTS PREPARE FOR FINALS AT EXAM JAM!

Hillel Opens its Doors for Late-Night Studying at the Winnick Center

🍊 Finding a quiet peaceful place to study on the Syracuse campus during exam time is not always the easiest of tasks. The library can be overcrowded, roommates may be noisy and wireless internet can be hard to find. In response, Hillel extended its hours until 2:00 a.m., on Sun., Dec. 9 and Mon., Dec. 10, and converted its facilities into the ultimate student-study area for the first ever *Hillel Exam Jam!*.

Hillel staff helped support students who needed a quiet study area and supplied free donuts, coffee, hot chocolate, tea and snacks for the students. Hillel also brought in a professional masseuse to give free massages to relieve some of the stress of late-night exam cramming.

Exam Jam! was organized and orchestrated by a first-year communications major with sophomore standing, Shayna Meliker. Meliker found the idea on the Hillel national web site, where it had been posted after being implemented successfully at George Washington University. Meliker knew it was a service that would be very well received at Syracuse. “The program addressed the university’s necessity for a place to study other than the packed libraries,” said Meliker. “The food, environment, and free massages appealed to students and transformed *Exam Jam!* into a very desirable campus event for students.”

“*Exam Jam!* was a great program that we will look to expand,”



Top: Freshman Kara Landsman takes advantage of the free massages offered at Exam Jam!. Other students watched TV to unwind. Left: Renee Orenstein studies in the Hillel library. The dining hall, and conference rooms were also converted into quiet study areas.

Lowell H. Lustig, the executive director of Hillel, said. “We have free wireless Internet, large areas for quiet study, conference rooms for team work and a TV, recreation center and pool table for when the students want to take a little break. Over 150 students used our facilities over the two days we held *Exam Jam!*. We look forward to offering the program next semester and continuing to be an educational resource on the Syracuse campus.”

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