

Hi! I'm Yael, a sophomore at WashU. I want to share a few highlights about the WashJew community. During orientation week last year, Hillel, Chabad, and the Jewish Student Association all hosted events that helped me meet other Jewish first-years and get to know the Jewish community on campus. With the nerves of starting college, having those events really helped me to feel at home even before classes officially began. During the year, there were weekly Shabbat dinners, holiday meals, and lots of social activities. Through these events, I was able to meet new people, form new friendships, and celebrate my Jewish identity. Lastly, this year was very difficult for Jewish college students across the country, but the Jewish community at WashU helped me feel safe and supported. After October 7th, Jewish leaders on campus organized a vigil that more than 800 people attended. Even though we were mourning, we were able to come together and feel the strength and love of the community. Despite some anti-semitic and anti-Israel incidents that occurred last year, thanks to the Jewish community, I knew that I would always have a place on campus where I would feel safe and supported, during both the happy moments and the difficult ones.

Yael, WashU Sophomore