

The Official Student Newspaper
of the
Abraham Joshua Heschel
High School



"We stand for what we utter..."

- Rabbi Heschel

Special Shabbaton Issue: Recapping One for Heschel History

By Hannah Wurzbarger '26, Editor-in-Chief

This year's Shabbaton included many firsts: first time in Parsippany, New Jersey; first time separating meals by grade; and first time cancelling Panoply.

Upon arriving at the Sheraton Parsippany Hotel, the Shabbaton officially began with circle games in the Grand Ballroom, including an annual Rock-Paper-Scissors tournament, run by seniors Rose Harnoy, Amelie Prevor, Haym Suissa, and Jordan Nili.

Harnoy said, "Leading the circle games was such a fun experience. Seeing all our work of making new games and revising old ones come together felt so fulfilling."

After circle games, students separated into theme session groups run by members of Student Government to explore the "Me" vs. "We" theme. Immediately after theme sessions, students went to lunch; meals were separated by grade, so freshmen and sophomores were in one room, while juniors and seniors were in another, a result of Heschel's rapidly increasing student body.

Junior Mika Afrait said, "I enjoyed having meal times and circle games separated by grade. It encouraged me to speak to more people since the smaller groups were less intimidating. It would have been nice to be with the larger Heschel community a couple of more times, however."

After lunch, students had free time, consisting of activities such as challah braiding, center-piece-making, nature walks, and the annual football tournament. At 2:30 p.m. on Friday, students checked into their rooms to get ready for Shabbat.

At 4 p.m., students returned to communal areas to take pictures with circulating digital cameras. When candle-lighting time arrived, students returned their cameras to their rooms, lit candles, and went to either the Orthodox *Minyan*, the Egalitarian *Minyan*, or, for the first time in Shabbaton history, the Sephardic *Minyan* for full Shabbat services.

Sephardic *Minyan* member and senior Ella Nadel said, "I 100% loved having Sephardic *Minyan* on the Shabbaton... they should have had it in prior years. I made a *d'var Torah* and everyone was so supportive." Nadel continued, "It was different from regular *davening* at school because we added new shabbat prayers and tunes, but it was so interesting, warm, and welcoming."

After services, students sat at their assigned Shabbat dinner tables to make kiddush and eat, followed by circle games and Friday Night Learning (FNL) sessions. Finally, students changed into comfier clothes for grade meetings. At this time, seniors went to the annual Senior Moments session during which they intimately gathered to share funny, important memories.

On Saturday, students enjoyed an optional early breakfast from 9:15 a.m. to 10 a.m., followed by *Shacharit* services. After *Shacharit*, students made kiddush and ate lunch, followed by circle game activities and free time. This free time included classics such as Rabbi Natan Kapustin's "The Best Story Ever Told" and gave students a chance to change out of their formal Shabbat attire.

Later in the day were senior masterclasses, during which seniors led small groups of students in any topic of their choosing, such as games of Wavelength, proofs on why G-d is real, and coffee-themed snack taste testing. After masterclasses, all students and faculty congregated for *Havdalah*.

Senior Caleb Creizman said, "I thought the singing was beautiful, and I felt very emotional as a senior knowing that this would be my last *Havdalah* in this community."

Finally, students packed their bags and enjoyed Heschel's first Bar Mitzvah themed dance party.

The Shabbaton ended with a gratitude circle during which all attendees had the opportunity to thank each other and everyone who helped create the weekend: security, caterers, and faculty (as well as faculties' families). The activity-packed retreat ended with a somber bus ride back to school.

Surprise: No More Panoply!

By Hannah Wurzbarger '26, Editor-in-Chief

Panoply is a Heschel Shabbaton tradition dating back to 2018. During the annual competition, students are divided into small cohorts within their grade to answer questions about obscure topics and niche details of the school.

This year, students entered the ballroom dressed in their grade's color in preparation, per usual (freshmen wore white, sophomores red, juniors blue, and seniors black). Little did they know, the Spirit Council had been planning a surprise since the beginning of the year.

In the middle of the competition, an AI video of Rabbi Dahlia began playing on the screens announcing that Panoply was cancelled.

Spirit Council Vice President, senior Zack Levy, said, "I was very nervous. The Spirit Council and I worked so hard to change Panoply, and if we messed up, it would be very frustrating. But, the execution was perfect and

it seemed like almost everyone loved the surprise." Levy continued, "In the past, it seemed like during Panoply most people were walking around, dancing and talking, not caring at all.



So when the Bar Mitzvah broke out, it sparked excitement throughout the whole room, and it was very rewarding to see."

A Nov. 20 survey showed that 19% of students preferred Panoply, whereas 81% pre-

ferred the surprise Bar Mitzvah theme.

Senior Simon Arenson was among the 19% of students who voted that Panoply was better. Arenson said, "I enjoyed the trivia aspect, and I'm not a fan of the flashing lights and loud noises, so I didn't enjoy when they kept the parts I didn't like and got rid of the trivia."

Senior Hannah Goldman was in the majority, voting that she preferred the Bar Mitzvah theme. Goldman said, "I think the Spirit Council did a really great job organizing an event that got people involved, excited, and genuinely spirited. I do feel a little bad because it's not really an event next year's Spirit Council will be able to repeat, but I am confident they'll be able to think of something equally amazing and new next year."

VP Levy concluded, "Panoply had a great run, but I think it was time to make a change. Hopefully Spirit [continues] to change it up again next year."

Photography by Amelie Prevor '26, Contributing Photographer

Senior Boys Bring Broadway to New Jersey as They Serenade Teachers at Shabbaton

By Leo Sohn '26, News Editor

Havdalah and Tisch are typically the most musical moments of the Shabbaton. This year, however, senior boys banded together to perform for teachers in the hallway.

The performance, which one spectator described as “the highlight of the Shabbaton,” began on Friday night during free time after Rabbi Natan Kapustin prevented a water fight. Seniors yearned for an alternate activity.

One boy began singing, “And I didn’t wanna write a song, ‘cause I didn’t want anyone thinking I still care…” Nine other boys joined in, singing, “I don’t, but you still hit my phone

up. And baby, I’ll be movin’ on…” One minute after this rendition of Justin Bieber’s “Love Yourself,” the boys approached Ruth Fagen and sang Adele’s “Someone Like You.”

By the end of the song, students in the hallway were silent as they watched and listened to the performance. The initial group of nine nearly doubled in size as more seniors joined their friends in song.

JSL member Emily Schwartz, who was privileged to witness two performances, said, “I cannot really put into words how I felt at that moment. I don’t know if it was their unity or the perfect blend of their voices, but I felt truly connected to the spirit of Shabbos in that moment.

It was as if their voices transcended the mortal plane allowing me to bask in her light.”

By the end of the night, the choir displayed an admirable repertoire, featuring classics like Ed Sheeran’s “Castle on the Hill” and Neil Diamond’s “Sweet Caroline.” They sang love ballads, pop-songs, and even 80s hits during their one-night-only concert.

While these singers will be missed at next year’s Shabbaton, one thing is certain: neither teachers nor student spectators will forget that one night in Parsippany, New Jersey.

Students Examine Humanity Through Art FNL Session

Olivia Verbitsky '26, Online Editor

During the Shabbaton, students had the opportunity to attend a variety of Friday Night Learning sessions led by different faculty members. Art teacher Lisa Waldstein led one of them, titled “Art and our Humanity, a Conversation.” The session was centered around an art performance piece by Marina Abramovic, which encouraged students to consider how individuals act within a group and how those actions shape the people around them.

The art performance, “Rhythm 0,” follows Abramovic as she stands still in front of an audience, inviting participants to interact with

her in any way they choose. A table of objects sits beside her, offering everything from flowers and perfume to a loaded gun and other potentially dangerous objects.

The experiment began with light and harmless gestures, but as time passed and participants became more comfortable, they started to test boundaries and act more aggressively. As the violence escalated, some participants stepped forward to protect her, revealing how differently people responded to a defenseless person: some caused harm, and others helped.

After the group learned about the performance, Lisa asked questions about human nature, and invited the students to offer their

own interpretations. Students discussed why people may behave differently in group settings, why some choose to intervene, and why others remain silent or walk away. Many students reflected on whether they would intervene if they saw someone vulnerable, and how their decisions might change depending on the people around them.

The session aimed to encourage students to think about the tension between individual choices and collective influence, which connected directly to this year’s Shabbaton theme: “Me” vs. “We.”

Theme Sessions Explore the Shabbaton’s Theme: “Me” vs. “We”

By Bella Kalimian '27, Editor-in-Chief

In the weeks preceding the Shabbaton, the Programming Council developed the theme “Me vs. We,” exploring the tension between prioritizing oneself vs. the collective.

A group of council members collaborated with Rabbi Jonathan to create a script for the theme sessions and incorporate relevant pop-culture topics to better engage students’ attention: Meghan Markle and Prince Harry’s departure from the British royal family, LeBron James’s decision to leave the Cleveland Cavaliers, and the Supreme Court case of *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* Groups also discussed the pros and cons of compulsory voting and mandatory

national service.

On Friday morning, after a round of circle games and an opening song performed by the JSL team, students divided into their theme session groups. Group leaders posed questions to generate lively discussion covering the intricacies of these situations. For example, should Meghan Markle have publicly criticized the British royal family? Or should she have stayed quiet and upheld her in-laws’ reputation?

Junior Margot Hess said, “Learning about Megan Markle’s story made our theme of “Me” vs. “We” feel real instead of abstract. It was so interesting to see how participants interpreted the same story and choices differently based on their values.”

Liza Gerstein, a junior involved in planning the theme session, said, “Creating a theme session relevant to pop culture events as well as the theme of ‘Me vs. We’ was so interesting to be a part of. It’s so cool all the hard work goes into planning the Shabbaton and creating a memorable experience for the school.”

“I got a lot of different perspectives on what it means to be a part of a community. I found that there was a wide range of views among students,” said junior Yael Potter.

Many students enjoyed this year’s theme session, finding themselves caught in vibrant discussions with students they typically do not interact with.

Shabbaton Football Showdown

By Jake Rothenberg '27, Assistant Sports Editor

One of Heschel’s long-standing Shabbaton traditions is the annual football tournament held during free time on the Shabbaton. This year’s tournament drew strong participation from students.

The night before the Shabbaton, eight senior captains drafted their teams with students in grades 9-12. After eight rounds of drafting, the teams were evenly matched, and the players were energized entering the tournament.

After circle games on Friday afternoon, students headed to the “backyard” of the hotel, ready to play on the cold fall day.

In the semifinals of the tournament, senior captain Ari Vogel’s team faced off against

senior captain Jack Steinberg’s team. The game was intense, going into overtime, with students cheering from the sidelines. Senior Ezra



Brodesser Akner caught the game-winning touchdown, sending Steinberg’s team to the

finals.

Steinberg’s team went on to play senior Zack Levy’s team in the finals. Levy’s team won convincingly, bringing a long day of football to a close.

When asked about this year’s tournament, junior Aaron Seltzer said it was “electric” and that “a lot more students played this year, and even those who didn’t play watched from the sidelines.”

Many Heschel students are already looking forward to next year’s football tournament, which they describe as one of the most anticipated parts of the Shabbaton.

Photography by Liam Barlev '26, Photography Editor

The Spirit Council Shocks Student Body with Panoply Twist

By Margot Hess '27, Assistant News Editor

For seven consecutive years, on Saturday night before departure from the Shabbaton, the Spirit Council has run a trivia game called Panoply. In this game, students receive sheets of questions, some about school, others about random facts, to complete. Members of the Spirit Council score their answers, and the winning group receives a reward. Leading up to this year's Shabbaton, many students expressed disinterest in the game, claiming it to be repetitive and even boring.

As the Spirit Council began to plan for this year's Shabbaton, they brainstormed ways to enhance Panoply. But, after much back-and-forth discussion, they ultimately decided that Panoply should be replaced, and this change should be a surprise.

During this year's Shabbaton, the Spirit Council surprised the student body with a Bnei Mitzvah celebration. As students entered the ballroom after Havdalah, they took their seats expecting another year of Panoply. They began

answering the question sheets on their tables, but were quickly surprised as an announcement video appeared on the screens and Spirit Council VP Zack Levy burst into the room com-



mencing the celebration. Immediately, the entire student body congregated in the center of the ballroom, breaking out in a festive *Hora*.

The spirit and excitement in the room was palpable; students sang, danced, and inte-

grated as one unit. After lots of dancing, students gathered on the dance floor for a traditional motzi. Ruth Fagen was invited on stage to lead the blessing.

Following this beautiful moment, the Spirit Council organized a candle lighting ceremony where council members called up groups from the Heschel community, such as basketball teams and new teachers, to light a candle. Then, a select group of student pairs played "Coke and Pepsi."

To end the night, students and faculty watched a montage recap of the year. Sophomore Maya Fine said, "This video brought the community together through reflection, togetherness, and excitement for more adventures and memories to come."

It was incredible to see how the Spirit Council was able to pull off such a new event, and how unified and celebratory the student body became. The night was certainly one to remember. Students are already looking forward to next year's Saturday night activity!

Photography by Liam Barlev '26, Photography Editor

Are Birds Real? Students Candidly Discuss Conspiracies at the Shabbaton.

By Lily Cohen '29, Staff Writer

The Shabbaton provided opportunities for school-wide bonding, including the highly anticipated senior masterclasses. During these sessions, students from different grades gathered to discuss a variety of topics from juggling to beatboxing.

One of the most memorable sessions was the "Thinking Out Loud" masterclass led by seniors Eden Litt and Millie Harris. In this session, students pondered an essential question:

Are birds real?

Some students passionately defended birds, even citing the Torah as evidence for the creature's legitimacy. Nevertheless, the majority remained skeptical. Students raised thought provoking points, such as: "When birds migrate, where are they really going?!"

The discussion quickly veered into conspiracy territory, as students explored the possibility of birds being government controlled. According to this theory, birds' frequent perches on power lines might not be coinciden-

tal, but rather a way to recharge their systems. Some even suggested that birds were a part of a failed experiment and were manipulated for data collection. In this theory, parrots function as translators, and pigeons serve as tiny surveillance cameras.

Whether birds are in fact real or elaborate spies, students gained at least one piece of wisdom from this masterclass: discussions like these make school a far more interesting (and suspicious) place.

The Noodle Showdown: Junior Shabbaton Activity

By Uri Dayan '27, Staff Writer

The Shabbaton was great, and the Friday night grade activities played a huge role in its success. For the juniors' grade activity, amazing grade representatives Reuben Katz, Sophie Klarfeld, and Mika Afriat organized a creative and surprisingly intense bonding game: real-life foosball.

Normally, a foosball game has two lines of figurines attached to metal rods that twist so the figurines can hit a ball, and the goal is to

score as many goals as possible (like mini-soccer). To replicate that, the grade reps aligned students into two lines, each holding a pool noodle like a handle, swinging it side to side as a single ball flew between them.

It was chaotic, competitive, and hilarious. Laughter echoed as people swung their noodles, missed the ball completely, collided with friends, or accidentally scored. This game brought out everybody's spirit in not just the competitive players, but the people who wanted to have fun.

Top goalscorer Aiden Barnea summed it up perfectly. Barnea said, "I'd rate the experience a 6/7, the competitive mix with a pinch of contagious laughs is truly what this grade is all about."

It was more than just a game – it was one of those Shabbaton moments that remind us why we can't wait to get on a bus again to Parsippany, New Jersey; we know we'll get to relive it next year.

Zev Traum Teaches an FNL on Donation: Moral or Not?

Yael Ben Daniel '28, Staff Writer

Each year, Friday Night Learnings (FNLs) are a highlight of the Shabbaton. This year, new math teacher Zev Traum ran one for the 9th and 10th grades on the morals of organ donation. He was inspired by his own family story: his great uncle, whom he is named after, made headlines after donating his heart to a Palestinian man in a time of conflict in Israel. Zev's

grandfather was killed by a different Palestinian man, but his wife still made the brave decision to donate his heart.

Even though organ donation is not a math-related subject, Traum enjoyed branching out to share a personal story and lesson on the Shabbaton. "It's really fun for me to do stuff that's not teaching math. The group was really engaged and into the material," he said.

Freshman Leah Jones in particular

thought it was an interesting topic. "It really made me think. I like how it connected the [Shabbaton] theme of "Me" vs. "We" and the current conflict in Israel."

When asked about the content of the lesson, she said that "Nobody ever thinks about that kind of stuff. Organ donation is pretty serious and respecting the deceased is hard to do, so someone has to face it."

The Spirit Council That Lifted The Shabbaton Up Up Up in Parsippany

By Sadie Graff '29, Staff Writer

Long before the Shabbaton had even begun, the Spirit Council worked behind the scenes to make the Shabbaton everything that it was.

From the circle games to Panoply, the council made the Shabbaton a time of laughter, joy, and excitement for all.

Senior Amelie Prevor said, "It took us a long time to decide what to do instead of Panoply, and even after deciding, it took a while to get the wheels rolling."

After meetings with the spirit council, with the executive board, and with the administration, they decided on the idea of a *Bar Mitzvah*.

When asked about the biggest challenge the council was met with, Senior Zack Levy, vice-president of the spirit council, said, "The biggest thing was to keep our work secret to make the surprise and change even more special than it already was. A lot went into making the night perfect, and in the end, everyone's hard work paid off."

The fact that the council was able to

keep the surprise hidden from all of the student body was truly extraordinary. It not only made the reveal more special, but ultimately made the surprise unforgettable for everyone.

"I think Spirit council is very focused on uplifting students... and wants to highlight and recognize students, and it feels really good when we succeed in that," Prevor said. "[The Shabbaton] gave us all a moment to reflect on what each one of us gives to our community to make it what it is."

Opinion

Town Hall Elevates Student Interaction

By Serena Yunis '27, Assistant Opinion Editor

Among other changes to classic activities, this year's Shabbaton included a Town Hall planned by the Programming Council in place of the "HQ" trivia game.

In past years, "HQ" consisted of a faculty member asking students various questions – students responded by holding up an answer. Once a student got eliminated for answering incorrectly, they were forced to sit down and watch their peers play.

Although trivia could be considered engaging, students had no interaction with one another, and it did not feel exciting or accomplishing. Alternatively, the new Shabbaton Town Hall offered students an opportunity to interact with one another and discuss relevant topics.

The topics, such as Snapchat and government control in social media, directly correlate

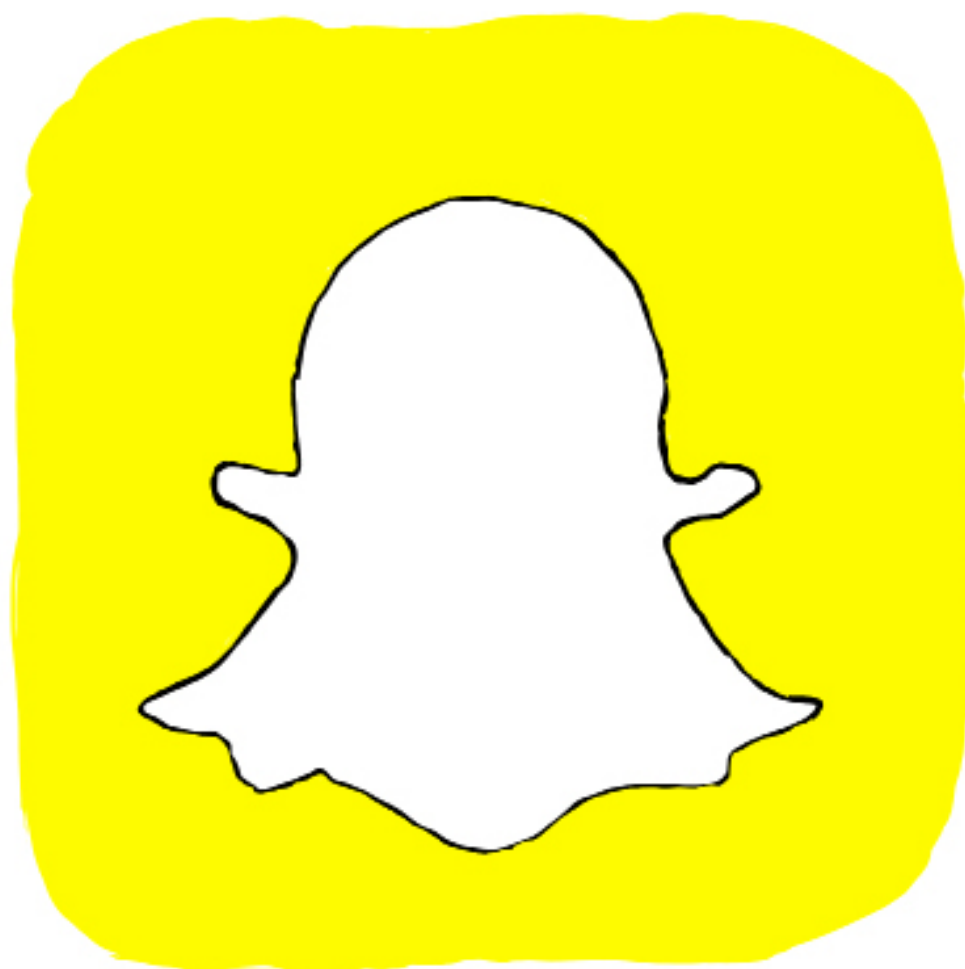
with our daily lives as teenagers. In smaller groups, students felt empowered to participate

and minor debates emerged, and students gained meaningful perspectives.

Our past Town Halls felt limited, solely focusing on academics, so it was truly refreshing to discuss a topic that did not relate to school or AI. Conversations regarding Snapchat were especially apt given that nearly every student uses it daily.

Junior Sophie Klarfeld said, "The Town Hall was very organized in comparison to trivia. It was much more interactive and interesting. I especially enjoyed the topics that were discussed as they related to our lives as teenagers."

Students formulated opinions and created connections with classmates across all grades in this interactive, comfortable space. Introducing Town Halls to the Shabbaton was the right call.



and share their thoughts without the anxiety of speaking in front of the entire school. Conversa-

Art by Leo Sohn '26, Contributing Artist

Teaching Teachers Slang

By Livia Malter '28, Staff Writer

At the Shabbaton 10th grade meeting, the sophomore grade reps introduced an exciting new activity: teaching our teachers slang. Each group was assigned a teacher and had ten minutes to teach fifteen slang terms. After time was up, the teachers had to define the terms and correctly use them in sentences.

When teaching slang to our teachers, we came up with examples of how to use each phrase and tried to compare them to other phrases our teachers might have known before.

By doing this, we were able to help our teachers understand the context to use each phrase.

The majority of Heschel teachers did not know much slang heading into the Shabbaton. However, by the end, most teachers utilized the new vocabulary—dare I say, too much. The game ended in a tie between two teachers: Rabbi Mike and Efrat.

The activity was not only entertaining, but it gave students an opportunity to collaborate with their peers as well as their teachers. This game should be a part of the Color War schedule in the future, as it encourages team

work, creativity, and lots of laughter. By joining the Color War rotation, it would require students to collaborate in different ways and end up with a more humorous and less competitive activity.

Overall this activity created a fun environment for students and gave them the opportunity to act creatively.

Bar Mitzvahs Aren't Just for Middle Schoolers

By Gila Lehon '26, Opinion Editor

This year's Shabbaton featured a brand-new twist—a surprise *Bar Mitzvah* that replaced Panoply! Although it was not anyone's actual *Bar Mitzvah*, the Spirit council planned classic *Bar Mitzvah* activities, such as “Coke and Pepsi” and a candle lighting ceremony.

The *Bar Mitzvah* was largely deemed a success, generating excitement and a refreshing end to the Shabbaton. This led me to ponder: What about a *Bar Mitzvah* gets us so excited? Why were a bunch of high schoolers so thrilled to get to relive their middle school days of *Bar Mitzvahs*?

The answer is the newfound independence that *Bar Mitzvah* introduce into any pre-teen's life. At a *Bar Mitzvah*, kids experience their first party experience, mostly without their parents or any overbearing adult presence. Kids are able to adjust to a new setting on their own, dress up, and defy norms by letting loose. The anticipation of these moments as a *Bar Mitzvah* is almost addictive. As teens, we seek the comfort of the known, while still seeking the excitement of what once was the unexpected. We know what happens at the *Bar Mitzvah*; it feels stable. However, at the same time, we are able to reflect back to a time when the thought of going to a *Bar Mitzvah* party made our hearts

race a little and pushed us out of our comfort zones. This surprise *Bar Mitzvah* perfectly balanced these two feelings—we were surprised at the new activity, yet we still knew what would follow, as we have all been to *Bar Mitzvahs*.

Thinking about *Bar Mitzvahs* brings us back to a transformative time of life, leaving your parents' grasp, while still being greatly supported. This *Bar Mitzvah* took place at a different, yet still transformative point in our lives. Whether a freshman or a senior, high school is a time of constant transitions, which is why we still identify with the feelings we once had at *Bar Mitzvah*, when different shifts in our lives occurred.

Sheraton Parsippany's Charm Elevates Shabbaton Experience

By Liza Gerstein '27, Staff Writer

The Heschel High School traveled to the Sheraton in Parsippany, New Jersey, for the 2025 Shabbaton. This was the first year that the Shabbaton took place at this four-star hotel.

The hotel's castle-like exterior created a more memorable experience compared to past standard-looking hotels. The architecture led to much anticipation among Heschel students, as even the Shabbaton song written by the Spirit Council advertised the hotel's castle style.

Last year at the Hilton in Stamford, Connecticut, many rooms were not ready on time, causing discomfort for the affected students. However, the new hotel was fully prepared for our large, growing high school, and all rooms were ready promptly. Faculty mem-

bers were pleased that students did not need to get ready for Shabbat in their rooms like last year.

However, the size of our community



compared to the size of the hotel presented one downside: it lacked a ballroom large enough to fit the entire high school for meals, resulting

in the four grades split between two separate ballrooms. While functional, this setup made inter-grade bonding more difficult and limited the feeling of “we,” which is a core part of the Shabbaton experience and theme of “Me” vs. “We.” The school successfully navigated this issue in having each grade sit together for one meal. Regardless, our growing community was still able to maintain togetherness during circle games and Havdalah.

Overall, the hotel's layout was easy to navigate, which allowed the weekend to run smoothly. Additionally, the large grassy field overlooking a pond was the perfect spot for the Shabbaton football tournament. Although it had spatial limitations, between the comfortable accommodations and scenic outdoor space, the Sheraton Parsippany offered an enjoyable setting for the 2025 Shabbaton.

Photography by Hannah Solon

“Assigned” Seating for Meals Just Isn't Working

By Lev Dubler-Furman '26, Editor-in-Chief

This year, every meal on the Shabbaton had assigned seating. However, if you were to check the tables, you would notice that few students actually sat where they were placed. Because so many students ignore their assignments, the effect cascades. So many people sit

elsewhere that either you follow your friends and break the rules, or sit alone. Clearly, having set tables is not working.

While in the past assigned tables may have been important for inter-grade bonding, this year, the high school was separated into two rooms: two grades in one, two in the other. With only two grades present, assigned seating

can not form communal bonds! With half of each table being from one grade, the tables will naturally self-segregate.

Without the communal benefit, and because so many already ignore their placements, seating at next year's meals should be left up to students.

Why The Shabbaton Needs an Exploration Minyan

By Emily Borden '26, Features Editor

This year's Shabbaton successfully brought the high school together and offered many ways for students to connect, but the Friday night tefilah options felt limited. Students could only choose between Sephardic, Orthodox, and Egalitarian minyan, while the option to join an exploration minyan only appeared on

Saturday morning.

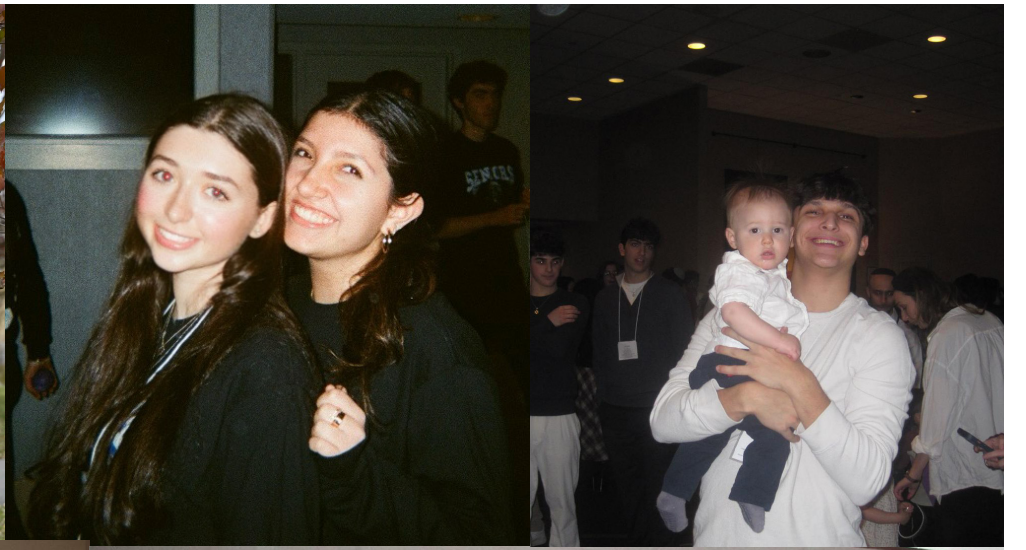
The Exploration minyanim have been a meaningful space for many students to pray in an untraditional way. Many students join exploration minyanim because they were not able to find as strong a connection to prayer in more traditional minyanim, like Egalitarian or Orthodox minyanim.

Friday night prayer sets the tone for the

entire Shabbaton. It's the time when the school transitions out of a busy week into Shabbat. Having an Exploration option on Friday night, like there is on Shabbat morning, would help more people feel comfortable and included, especially those who don't feel fully connected to the traditional minyan choices offered.

HESCHEL SHABBATON 2025





Helios 2025-2026 Editorial Board and Policies

Hannah Wurzbarger '26,
Lev Dubler-Furman '26, and
Bella Kalimian '27
Editors-in-Chief

Leo Sohn '26
News Editor

Margot Hess '27
Assistant News Editor

Ezra Brodessa-Akner '26 and
Emily Borden '26
Features Editors

Charlie Shiff '26
Assistant Features Editor

Ariel Zeltzer '27
Sports Editor

Jake Rothenberg '27
Assistant Sports Editor

Gila Lehon '26
Opinion Editor

Serena Yunis '27
Assistant Opinion Editor

Liam Barlev '26 and Eliya Yehudai '27
Media and Art Editors

Yalei Ravin '26
Layout Editor

Olivia Verbitsky '26
Online Editor

Avi Spanier '26
Assistant Online Editor

Jodi Posner, Penny Ratcliffe
and Ari Karpel, Faculty Advisors

To submit a letter to the editor or an opinion piece, please email us at helios@heschel.org. We welcome all views.

Interested students should attend an assignment meeting during select clubs blocks in the library. Opinion pieces reflect the views of the author and not of *Helios* and its editorial board or its advisors.

Email us: helios@heschel.org

Call us: (212) 246-7717 || Find us:
heschelhelios.org

*To submit a correction, email
helios@heschel.org*