

THE ENLIGHTENMENT



April 2017

As the academic year comes to a close, be sure to check out the last, but certainly not least, history/heritage month celebrated in the CMA! Please refer to our diversity calendar at Fredonia.edu/cma/events for some additional Hillel events, as well as events from the other student groups. Thank you for all your support this year!

Hillel's Jewish History Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31 Shabbat Dinner Alumni House, 6-8pm Tickets: \$8 students \$5 general admission	1
2	3	4	5 Multicultural Trivia S204ABC, 7-8pm Free Event	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Chocolate Seder Horizon Room Tickets: \$8 students \$5 general admission	13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday	14	15
16 Easter Sunday	17	18	19 Gender & Sexuality in Judaism G108C, 7-8pm Free Event	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

JEWISH COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION TO #NODAPL

BY KAROLYN KARSTEN

When many think of important environmental issues the U.S. presently faces, the Dakota Access Pipeline is typically at the forefront of everyone's mind. Over the past few years, and especially after the election of Donald Trump in office, news about protests and orders revolving around DAPL was foregrounded for a time. There have been countless protests across the U.S., even internationally, about the damage the pipeline will cause to both the environment and the Indigenous people's rights to safe drinking water. Many communities are coming together to show strength and support, including the Jewish community.

The Jewish community finds this a ripe chance to let their voices be heard to stand with the native communities who have asked for support and prayers from all groups of people.

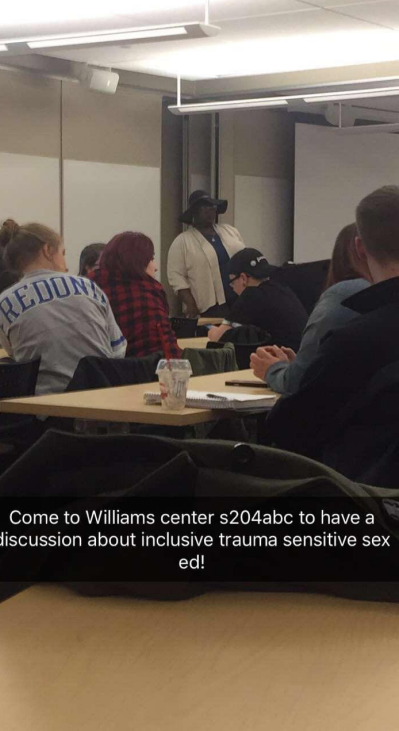
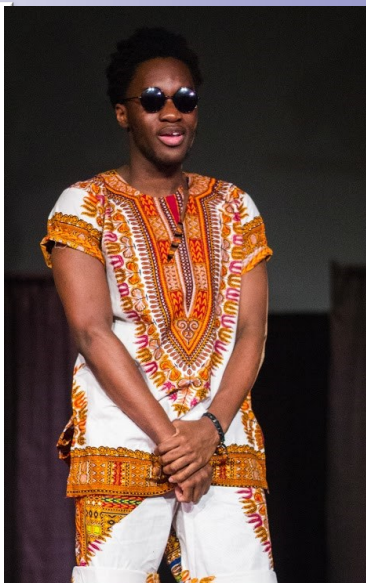
In Philadelphia, over 60 members of the Jewish faith gathered in solidarity to show support for what is currently going on in the situation in North Dakota. Nine of these protestors were arrested, including multiple Rabbis. Rabbi Ariella Rosen stated, "This is an issue that the Jewish community is a no-brainer for getting behind... There's just so many overlapping values here."

When looking towards the future of our time here on Earth, we must stand together as one so we can sustain our life that has been granted to us by the environment we live in. Water is Life. To do this we must take care of ourselves and our mother earth, but that cannot happen if we do not stand up together as one. Regardless of race, religion, monetary wealth, or anything else; our time here is pre-



In Case You Missed It!

Fashion Show, MCW, Women's Herstory Month



Come to Williams center s204abc to have a discussion about inclusive trauma sensitive sex ed!



**“Ask for Jane”:
Abortion Access before Roe v. Wade
By Jacob Santos**



Legal access to abortion services in the United States have only been available for 43 years. Over that time the ease with which people can actually use those services has never increased, even after the introduction of federal law. Severe legislative restrictions on the state level have led to rampant closings of standalone clinics which provide abortion services, with 162 closing nationally just since 2011 (Deprez). As the right to abortion is increasingly suppressed in the wake of an international rise of right-wing conservative politics, pregnant people must construct means of resistance to the mainstream ideologies and forge coalitions to ensure more successful endeavors. Modern advocates for the right to safe and affordable abortion might look to their feminist ancestors, drawing from organizational practices devised in the days before Roe v. Wade (1973).

One notable activist who first became involved in those early days was Jewish feminist and civil rights activist Heather Booth. She dated her activist roots to a visit to Israel in 1963. During the trip she underwent a transformative experience at Yad Vashem, The World Holocaust Remembrance Center, and “promised [her]self that in the face of injustice [she] would struggle for justice” (Heather).

By 1964 Booth had begun college at the University of Chicago and participated in both anti-war efforts and civil rights efforts, joining the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) as a staunch ally. Just a year later in 1965 Booth unintentionally founded JANE, an underground abortion counseling service. She recounted the establishment of the group:

In 1965, a friend of mine was pregnant and needed an abortion. Upon being told there was someone with a problem, my reaction was to try to do something to resolve it. I called doctors in the civil rights movement and found someone who could help my friend. A few months later, someone else had heard about it and asked for help. I made another contact. And someone else called, then another, then another. I told people when they called they should ask for Jane. I would counsel the [people], preparing them for the abortion and doing follow-up with them and with the doctor afterward. (Heather)

Eventually JANE expanded beyond the young Heather Booth and morphed into a collective of people, helping those in need get in contact with safe physicians and counseling them through the entirety of the procedure. The efforts of Booth and the rest of the JANE collective served around 11,000 pregnant people gain access to safe abortions before the Roe v. Wade decision came down from the Supreme Court in 1973.

Booth attributed her proclivity for ensuring sociopolitical fairness to her Jewish upbringing, particularly the philosophy of tikkun olam or ‘world repair’ (Heather). Tikkun olam is a “Jewish concept defined by acts of kindness performed to perfect or repair the world” and “is often used when discussing issues of social policy, insuring a safeguard to those who may be at a disadvantage” (Noparstak). Her identity as a Jew, a feminist, an anti-war protester, and a civil rights ally provides a vibrant reminder of the way that our intersecting identities shape us all.

Need a break from school work before finals? See if you can find all the words associated with Passover in the activity below.

Passover WORDSearch

Pesach	K	e	c	h	a	z	t	i	e	h	f	h
Matzah	m	z	f	y	r	s	e	s	o	m	a	w
Chametz	d	f	o	t	u	i	p	a	w	g	f	m
Seder	z	e	u	o	a	h	r	i	a	r	i	t
Wine	i	w	r	p	h	a	u	d	f	c	k	z
Egypt	s	p	q	t	h	s	d	t	a	u	o	u
Vegetable	h	e	u	p	f	a	r	i	b	n	m	b
Hagaddah	a	s	e	y	h	e	a	c	z	l	a	i
Afikoman	n	i	s	g	d	b	w	i	n	e	n	t
Egg	k	z	t	e	m	a	h	c	w	a	s	t
Shankbone	b	a	i	f	r	p	a	h	p	v	d	e
Charosef	o	e	o	s	h	f	z	a	g	e	b	r
Bitter Herbs	n	t	n	c	g	c	t	r	g	n	k	h
Unleavened	e	k	s	n	m	f	a	o	g	e	w	e
Plagues	d	b	e	p	y	k	m	s	e	d	e	r
Moses	s	e	u	g	a	l	p	e	e	p	i	b
Four Questions	h	k	t	d	z	g	w	t	c	p	e	s
Pharaoh	e	l	b	a	t	e	g	e	v	y	z	t



Black Jews: There Are More Of Us Than You Think

By Nalani Love

Shalom! This April we celebrate Jewish History Month with our CMA siblings in Hillel! Some of you may not know about the history of black Jewish people in the United States, but have no fear - we will set the record straight!

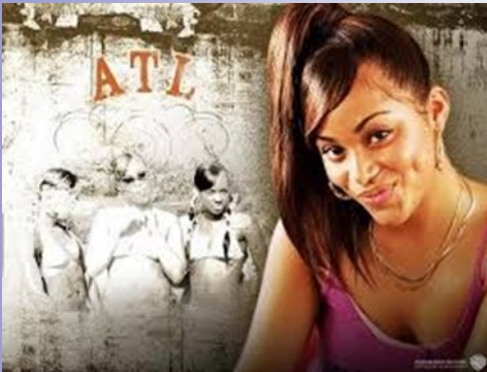
Black culture is filled with famous black Jewish celebrities but you probably wouldn't know unless you asked them. Today's most prominent black Jewish celebrity is famous rapper Drake.

Aubrey Drake Graham, better known by his mononym 'Drake' was born to an African American father and a Jewish Canadian mother. This three time Grammy award winning artist was immersed in Jewish culture and faith at a young age attending a Jewish day school and even had a Bar Mitzvah. He was raised by his mother in Toronto and lived a hard life, being bullied as a teen because of his race and religion. Fortunately the bullying did not dissuade him from embracing his blackness or his Jewish heritage and faith.



Next in the celebrity lineup is Lauren London. London is famed for her role in the film *ATL* as Erin "New New" Garnett and as Kiera Whitaker in

BET's *The Game*. London was born to an African American mother and a Jewish father. London discussed her childhood and the trials she faced as a biracial child. She had her blackness questioned for being half Jewish and her Jewishness questioned for being half black. She found validation within herself and is proud of her African American and Jewish heritage.



Last on our list is the legendary Sammy Davis, Jr. Davis was a multi-talented entertainer who could sing, act, dance, and do comedy. He is famously known for being a member of the Rat Pack with Frank Sinatra where he was in the original *Oceans 11* film.

Davis had been interested in Judaism for some time, but a car accident which led to the loss of one of his eyes convinced him that he was ready to convert to the religion that he associated with the resilience of a people who faced many trials throughout history. Many Jewish homes have a mezuzah affixed to the doorframe; this is a piece of parchment, usually contained in an ornamental case that has been inscribed with Hebrew verses from the Torah. Davis put his own twist on the tradition, often wearing a mezuzah around his neck.

These black Jewish celebrities are just the tip of the iceberg of black Jewish history and we encourage you to learn more about this intersection as the month progresses!



The Center for Multicultural Affairs Presents....



Center for Multicultural Affairs
MEN OF COLOR SUMMIT

KEYNOTE: KEVIN POWELL

Speakers, Workshops,
Networking
& More

Saturday
April 22, 2017

Fredonia Science Center
Registration & Breakfast @ 8:30am
9am-3pm

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Hillel presents

Jewish History Month
Opening Ceremony

Shabbat Dinner

Friday, March 31st
6-8 pm

Alumni House
(at the main campus entrance)

Tickets 3\$ for students
5\$ general public

Approved for Campus Posting
But Not for Material Content
Designated Bulletin Boards Only
Campus Life Office

Please enjoy a kosher buffet
with us to celebrate
Jewish History Month!



Fredonia Hillel



@fredoniahillel

Multicultural Trivia

Sponsored by Hillel, a part of the Center for Multicultural Affairs

Wednesday, April 5
Williams Center
s204ABC
7-8 pm

Test your knowledge and win a prize!!!



Fredonia Hillel



@fredoniahillel

Latinos Unidos
Presents

El Carnaval

★ APRIL 30TH ★
1pm-4pm

Williams Center Lawn
\$2 Admission

COME OUT FOR FOOD, GAMES, & DANCING
RAIN LOCATION: STEELE HALL



Dreamcatcher Event

Join us and make your own dream catcher!

McEwen Room G24

April 6th
6:30-8:30



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Sponsored by: Native American Student Union, the Center for Multicultural Affairs, Native American Western Consortium, and Student Association

LGBT+ Voices Carry Judaism Forward

By Shaun Feerick

For Jewish Americans, the movement for LGBT+ inclusion began at the bottom, with the founding of gay and lesbian synagogues in the early 1970s. These synagogues provided a space for Jewish LGBT+ people to worship away from the stigma of the larger religious community; they also provided a space for the increasing number of rabbis coming out. 1984 saw the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College take a formal vote to accept gay rabbis, and to admit Jane Rachel Litman, an open bisexual, who was ordained five years later. In 1990, the Union for Reform Judaism declared gay and lesbian Jews to be full and equal members of the religious community, though this was two years after Stacy Offner became the first out lesbian rabbi to head a mainstream congregation, which was a Reform congregation.

Different branches of Judaism take different approaches to the rights of LGBT+ people in general because they take different approaches to the validity of religious law, which is generally read as anti-LGBT+. Of the popular movements in American Judaism, Reform and Reconstructionist Judaism tend to treat religious law as capable of change and evolution, urging followers to disregard the literal teachings of the religion if it is morally right to do so. Orthodox Judaism, on the other hand, favors a literal interpretation of religious teachings. Conservative Judaism often falls in between, considering Jewish law binding but acknowledging that it can evolve with time. This distinction shakes out pretty much as you would expect when it comes to treatment of LGBT+ people in different Jewish communities.

However, Orthodox Judaism has seen changes in a relatively short period of time. Openly LGBT+ people are not ordained, but several Orthodox rabbis have come out after ordination. Rabbi Steven Greenberg became the first openly gay rabbi to be ordained by an Orthodox Jewish seminary when he came out in 1999. In a 2010 interview, he expressed his belief that the Orthodox community was becoming more accepting as they learned more about LGBT+ people, saying that "rabbis can't help identifying with the underdog." At the same time, he admitted that it would be impossible for him to find an Orthodox congregation to lead "at this point."

In Israel, an organization called Hod was established in 2008. Hod's purpose was twofold: To provide support for Jewish LGBT people who wanted to remain committed to religious law, and to advocate for better treatment of LGBT people by the Orthodox community. Hod began drafting a document of principles for Israeli Orthodox rabbis to this end shortly after its founding, urging the religious community to acknowledge that violence and hatred towards gay people is also forbidden under religious law, and that while sexual relations between two men is forbidden, gay people themselves do not transgress religious law simply by existing. The Document of Principles was signed by over 100 Orthodox rabbis, and Hod has used the Document to carry out further advocacy work.

Another important step taken by Hod was its fierce opposition to conversion therapy. After an Israeli news program exposed the unethical, unscientific methods of the conversion therapy organization Aztat Nefesh, Hod pushed for an investigation into the effects of conversion therapy, and eventually convinced the Israeli Ministry of Health to adopt an official position opposing the practice in 2014. Hod has also provided resources and training so that Orthodox gay men can have access to counseling without the harmful effects of conversion therapy.

Other Israeli organizations pushing for Orthodox acceptance include Havruta (which began in the same online forum as Hod) and Bat Kol, which focuses on Orthodox lesbians and their families.

Transgender people have also begun to advocate for their rights within the Jewish community. Like in many other areas of society, the movement for trans acceptance in Jewish communities has not progressed quite as quickly or received quite as much attention as the movement for gay and lesbian acceptance. However, transgender rabbis, including Reuben Zellman, Elliot Kukla, and Emily Aviva Kapor, have come into the public eye in North America. Zellman and Kukla, along with religious and gender scholars, established the website TransTorah to provide resources, rituals and sermons for trans inclusivity in Judaism. Their work has a basis in Jewish sacred texts, which often acknowledge intersex people and those who don't conform to the gender binary.

GENERAL BODY MEETINGS

Native American Student Union

Fredonia Feminists

Pride Alliance

Latinos Unidos

Hillel

Black Student Union

Williams S204D/Thursdays 8:00pm

Williams S204ABC/Mondays 8:30pm

Fenton 153/Tuesdays 9pm

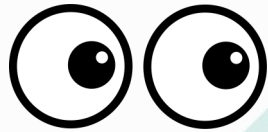
Williams S204D/ Wednesdays 7 pm

**Check out their history month
calendar!**

Williams G103C/Mondays 7:00pm

Next meetings are 4/3 & 4/17

Keep your



peeled for our wrap-up edition!



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Contact us for more information or stop by any
day between 8:30 AM – 5 PM!