



Welcome to WashU

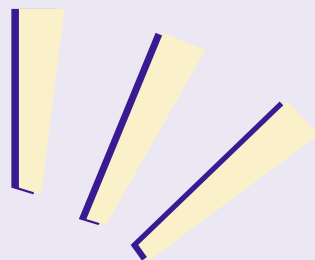
Everything you need to know!

**JLIC @ Washington
University in St. Louis
2026-2027**

WELCOME!

We are thrilled to have you in our vibrant community at Washington University in St. Louis. This welcome packet is designed to help you with all the essential information you need to become acquainted with JLIC on campus.

We wish you good luck and hope this packet will help you feel right at home!



WHAT IS JLIC?

JLIC's mission is to create a movement of vibrant Jewish life among emerging adults aged 18 to 30 through transformative leadership development, innovative educational programming, and meaningful engagement opportunities. We empower the next generation of leaders who will inspire and strengthen the Jewish community worldwide.

JLIC AT WASHU

JLIC WashU is a vibrant and rapidly growing community of Modern Orthodox students at Washington University in St. Louis, where students have the opportunity to take part in making connections, learning Torah, attending many kinds of events, and making memories that will last a lifetime.



BUILT BY FAMILIES

In the spring of 2022, more than 40 Modern Orthodox families at WashU wanted something for their students that didn't exist yet: a JLIC presence on campus. So they reached out and made it happen.

Parent leaders, Stacey Kent and Shani Cohen Orbach, led the parent fundraising push, and together with Michael Steinberg's generosity sealed the deal. Together, they brought in our founding rabbinic couple in the Fall of 2023 Rav Shlomo and Kyra Ashkanazy, who launched the community that would grow into what it is today.

Now, in year four, that same community includes more than 140 day school students, plus the many others who show up every week.

POWERED BY FAMILIES

WashU parents didn't wait for someone else to build this. They built it. They keep it funded.

The Orthodox Union supplies the national infrastructure that makes JLIC possible everywhere. Here at WashU, parents and families cover the entire \$300,000 annual cost of the local program, and they have from day one.

Stacey and Shani still lead that effort, alongside a growing group of parents who show up year after year to keep JLIC strong at WashU.

BACKED BY FAMILIES

We ask every JLIC family to invest, generously and according to their ability. This is our community, and its strength comes from all of us pulling together.

Together, we can give every Jewish student at WashU the vibrant Torah community, relationships, and support they need to thrive.

For more information, reach out to Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal, National Director of Development: rosenthalp@ou.org

140+ DAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

This community grows every year, and so does what it takes to fuel the Torah learning, Shabbat and holiday programming, personal support, and home away from home that JLIC delivers.

WHAT WE OFFER

Community

Above all, what JLIC provides is a vibrant and active community; friends and peers with whom to share celebrations and challenges, milestones, holidays and Jewish life, especially for those far away from home.

Under the leadership of Rav Shlomo and Kyra Ashkanazy, JLIC runs a wide variety of events, from small Shabbat meals to weekly Seudat Shlishit. Community wide Kumzitzes, to women's arts and crafts nights, to learning programs and so much more. Over a hundred students feel that JLIC is a family, a home away from home while they are on campus, and a place to grow.



Did You Know?

WashU's Orthodox community has grown exponentially in the past ten years!



One-on-One Support

Rav Shlomo and Kyra are always available to talk and enjoy scheduling coffee chats with students in order to get to know them and their goals. The couple also learn b'chavruta with numerous students, whether in groups or one-on-one. They are incredibly supportive of the students and attuned to the community's needs. They are always there to turn to, whatever a student needs.



Torah Learning Opportunities

JLIC @WashU offers a variety of learning opportunities. Rav Shlomo's Monday night personal and professional development shiurim are a staple of WashU JLIC programming. Amongst many others, Rav Shlomo has given a post-davening Sunday morning Halakha shiur and a weekly Gemara shiur, and works with students to curate shiurim according to the needs of the community. Kyra has given community lunch n' learns, and Shiurim for women about Jewish family life, which have been a big hit as well. A highlight of the year is Chavrutafest, where the community comes together to learn b'chavruta, eat good food, and have an incredible and fun time together.

Shabbat

Every week, Rav Shlomo and Kyra host a different group of six to eight students in their home for Shabbat dinner. This allows students to not only have a break from the large and sometimes overwhelming community Shabbat dinner, but also allows them to bond with the couple and their fellow students in smaller groups.

Rav Shlomo and Kyra also host Seudat Shlishit every week at their home. It is such a meaningful way to close Shabbat, with the addition of singing and a Dvar Torah given by Rav Shlomo and/or one of the students. Everyone looks forward to it every week!

Women's Events

Kyra hosts women's events on Rosh Chodesh and at other times throughout the year. These events are an amazing opportunity for the women of the community to get to know each other better and bond. In the past, events have included spa nights, cheese board making, wine glass painting, shrinky dinks, and resin crafts.



Chaggim

Many of the chaggim are celebrated together as a community. Rav Shlomo and Kyra host smaller meals for Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot, as well as two sederim for Pesach. The highlight is their 8th day of Pesach BBQ for the whole community. They also have an open house on Purim, where students are welcome to enjoy sweet treats and make misloach manot for chessed. On Tu B'Shvat, there is a fruit themed activity for all in the JLIC home. On Yom HaZikaron, we all joined together for a meaningful Tekes Maavar to commemorate Yom HaZikaron and transition into Yom Haatzmaut. On Yom Hashoah, we watched a meaningful Holocaust film and had a discussion.

Social Events

Rav Shlomo and Kyra love hosting the whole community in their home for food nights and activities, offering a warm and comforting meal, or for pop-ins throughout the year, where all are welcome.



Did You Know?

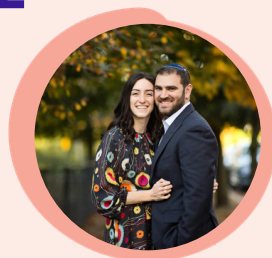
Rav Shlomo and Kyra are WashU's first JLIC couple!

MEET THE JLIC COUPLE

Rav Shlomo & Kyra Ashkanazy

Co-Directors, JLIC WashU; Rabbinic Couple

Rav Shlomo: ashkanazys@ou.org | **Kyra:** ashkanazyk@ou.org



Rav Shlomo and Kyra Ashkanazy are the founding Co-Directors of JLIC at Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri and will be starting their fourth year on campus this coming fall (along with their children, Adi and Immanuel).

Before their roles at JLIC, Kyra and Shlomo lived in Jerusalem. Shlomo worked as an Investor Relations Associate at Our Crowd, after completing his semicha at World Mizrahi and spending six years working and learning at Yeshiva Hakotel in Jerusalem's Old City. Kyra worked as a fundraising Missions Manager at the Jewish Agency after finishing a Masters in Nonprofit management at Hebrew University. Community, Torah learning and teaching, cultivating an open home, and creating meaningful connections are values that are central to Kyra and Shlomo and which pushed them to step into this role.

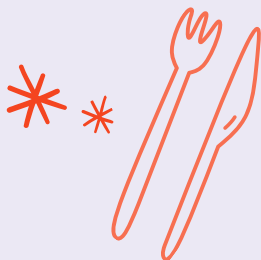
As Rabbi and Rebbetzin of JLIC at WashU, the Ashkanazys have been able to create enriching and meaningful Jewish experiences for the 120+ students that they work with at WashU. As WashU has one of the top growing Jewish college communities in North America, the Ashkanazys have been lucky to help shape and guide this dynamic community, and support the students throughout their four years on campus. Through coffee chats with students, providing pastoral counseling, leading shiurim, learning b'chavrutah with students, hosting shabbat meals and weekday programs in their home, collaborating with the students, and building deep and meaningful relationships, the job has been exciting, rewarding and impactful for them as individuals and for their family.

Kyra and Rav Shlomo are so excited for the upcoming year, to meet so many new faces, build meaningful relationships, open up their home, and grow together with the community.

FOOD & RESTAURANTS

On Campus

WashU has a few Kosher food options on campus. On the South 40, the L'Chaim station in the Bear's Den Is open for lunch (11:00am-2:00pm) and dinner (5:00pm-9:00pm) Sunday through Friday. There are hot pre-packaged Kosher meals available at the Simple Servings station in the Danforth University Center (DUC). There are also Kosher sandwiches and pre-packs in various locations on campus, including in Paws n' Go in Bear's Den, in Cafe Bergson in the DUC, in Corner 17 in Olin Library, and in Parkside Cafe.



→ Restaurants

Gokul

- 6101 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis
- an Indian and vegetarian restaurant
- 30 minute walk from South 40, 20 minute walk from main campus

Greentrails Corner Cafe

- 14276 Ladue Road, Chesterfield
- a dairy cafe with pizza, sushi, and ice cream
- 20 minute drive from campus

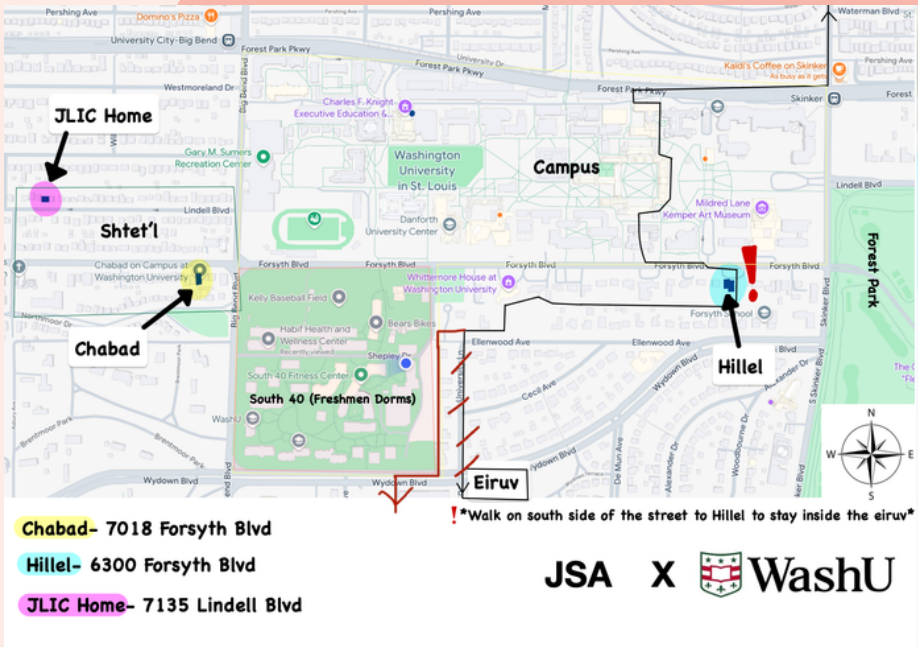
Nate's

- 7923 Forsyth Blvd, Clayton
- meat and deli take-out
- 10 minute drive or 35 minute walk from campus

Bagels and Bliss

- 8151 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis
- bagels and sandwiches
- 10 minute drive from campus

Eruv Map



St. Louis's eruv encompasses the whole South 40, as well as the Village. However, it does NOT encompass the whole main campus, so it's best not to walk on campus on Shabbat. The eruv cuts off right next to Hillel as well, which is important to be aware of as you walk there on Shabbat.

Stay in touch with OU JLIC @WashU!



WhatsApp Groups to Join:

OU JLIC Community @WashU

JLIC's admins-post-only chat for all Jewish life and JLIC-related announcements, events, and updates!



OU JLIC @ WashU Ask the Rabbi

A place to ask Rav Shlomo any halakhic questions.



OU JLIC @ WashU Class of 2030

A group chat just for the freshmen!



Follow us! @jlicatwashu

