

# Jewish Life

**AT  
RICE**



RICE

**Program in Jewish Studies**

<http://jewishstudies.rice.edu>



## JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Jewish community at Rice is like family: welcoming, close and supportive. Rice offers many opportunities for Jewish religious practice, exploring Jewish culture and social activities within the Jewish community. From Hillel and Chabad to travel and research, the Rice Jewish community has a place for every student.

## JEWISH PRACTICE

Rice boasts both an active Hillel and a local Chabad House. Both Hillel and Chabad sponsor a variety of ongoing and special events for students, including weekly kosher lunches with Hillel's Rabbi Kenny Weiss, Pizza/Pasta and Parsha lessons with Chabad Rabbi Shmuli Slonim, a community sukkah on the quad, an annual mitzvah day and Shabbat services.

The university administration also recognizes the important role of a vibrant Jewish community at Rice. Every year, Rice President David Leebron hosts a Shabbat service and oneg in his residence for Rice students and faculty.







**“The Jewish community at Rice is small but close-knit. The strong connections between Jews at Rice is in no small part due to the small and accessible Jewish community, which is warm and inviting, and easily accessible at various levels of engagement. Rice is a very welcoming place for Jews, and the relationships I have formed with Jews of different backgrounds, beliefs and graduating classes have been excellent.”**

**— Daniel Cohen,  
2017–18 vice  
president, Jewish  
Studies Student  
Association**

## JEWISH STUDIES

At Rice, you can also engage with Jewish life through the Program in Jewish Studies, which offers a variety of courses each semester. You can make Jewish studies a regular part of your curriculum with our minor in Jewish studies. Or take part in a travel course to Jerusalem, Berlin or New York to study Jewish history and culture. The program also offers summer fellowships for study, travel and research projects all over the world.

## JSSA

The Jewish Studies Student Association is the student-led arm of the Program in Jewish Studies. The JSSA plans and implements events of interest to students, including film screenings, trips to kosher restaurants, and outings to local museums and exhibits.

## JEWISH LIFE IN HOUSTON

Houston's vibrant and diverse Jewish community includes Ashkenazi and Sephardi synagogues; numerous Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist and Reform congregations, as well as independent minyans; kosher markets and restaurants; and a wide array of community organizations. Throughout the year, the Jewish community sponsors a variety of events, like the Jewish book fair, Israeli film festival, kosher chili cookoff and Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrations.





**“For such a small community, the Jews at Rice are remarkably diverse. A Shabbat dinner will have students from different regions of the world, Sephardic and Ashkenazi, studying different subjects and holding different aspirations, carrying different political beliefs and living with a wide range of religiosity. There are organized events to highlight this diversity (Sephardic Shabbat or Queer Pesach, for example), but culturally and intellectually vibrant conversation usually bubbles organically. It always astonishes me how people with such disparate sets up experience can still share some fundamental bond based on a shared Jewish identity (whether that be religious or cultural, spiritual or familial). As a result, the Rice Jewish community feels incredibly inclusive.”**

**— Abby Shulman,  
2017–18 Hillel  
President**

