

# Shifting Perspectives: Virginia Tech Student Adam Zelenka and the importance of Hillel

[Home](#) » [Blogs](#) » [admin's blog](#)

## Shifting Perspectives: Virginia Tech Student Adam Zelenka and the importance of Hillel

Tue, 08/25/2015 - 7:59am  
Posted in: [Tidewater Jewish Foundation](#), [Shifting Perspectives](#)

The Tidewater Jewish Foundation recently partnered with Hillel at Virginia Tech for an event at the home of Brenda and Abbey Horwitz. This was an opportunity for local alumni, donors, parents, students and future students to learn more about what's going on at Tech, the programs that are available through Hillel, and the importance of these programs to the students—and to ensure they are available for the next generation of Jewish students. One of our local Virginia Tech students, Adam Zelenka (sophomore), shared his feelings about Hillel:



Virginia Tech students Austin Sheffer, Adam Zelenka and Whitley Miller with Tech's Hillel Executive Director, Sue Kurtz

*"We are living in a world, where according to Jewish scholars, the widespread acceptance of Judaism, Jewish culture and Jewish people is becoming a threat to the Jewish way of life. Because Jews have become secularized, they feel freely mixed in and accepted by others. And while that's a great thing, it makes people forget their identity and who they are and what that means. In general, today's Jews are less attached to Judaism and to other Jewish people.*

*Typically, college is a watershed moment for a student's identity. Hillel is right there, in college, at a time when students may not know many people, when statistically they are supposed to know more people than they will ever know again in their whole life. They are supposed to build communities and networks, and by the end have some sort of established identity or life path. But where does Judaism fit into that? You come in as a Jewish kid, with any level of Jewish upbringing. College can build upon those experiences, or it can be a complete turnaround. Whether they'll want to be someone who proudly identifies as Jewish is of course a matter of personal choice, but having a strong community of Jewish people and a center for continued Jewish learning and discovery... it can be an influential factor in that decision. Hence the clear importance of Hillel."*

Hillel at Virginia Tech is an affiliate partner of the Tidewater Jewish Foundation. To learn how you can create a Jewish legacy of your own and protect vital programs at Hillel, contact Scott Kaplan at (757) 965-6109 or [skaplan@ujft.org](mailto:skaplan@ujft.org).

### BLOG CATEGORIES

[Shalom Tidewater](#)

[Tidewater Jewish Foundation](#)

[Planned Giving](#)

[Shifting Perspectives](#)

[Special Events](#)

[Community Relations Council](#)

[Holocaust Commission](#)

[Stop the Sirens](#)

### Tidewater Jewish Foundation, Inc.

(TJF) is a GuideStar Exchange Gold Participant



Want to learn more about the GuideStar Exchange?

[Click here](#)

### FIDUCIARY PRACTICES REVIEW

#### TIDEWATER JEWISH FOUNDATION



for conformance to the Best Practices under the  
GLOBAL FIDUCIARY STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

### ENEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

**Create a Jewish Legacy eNewsletter Sign-Up**

Get the latest news from Washington, articles on Savvy Living and Personal Planning, gift stories,

0

Share

## Facebook Comments Box

0 Comments

Sort by **Top**



Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin

finance news, and more. [Sign-Up](#)

### GiftLaw Advisor eNewsletter

Our advisor eNewsletter features the latest news from Washington, Tax Law updates, PLRs, Case Studies and timely articles. [Sign-Up](#)

## CONTACT TIDEWATER JEWISH FOUNDATION

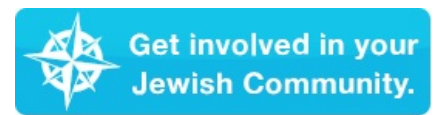
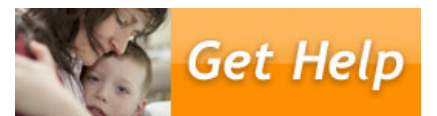
Phone: 757-965-6111

Fax: 757-965-6102

5000 Corporate Woods Dr., Suite 200  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

[Scott Kaplan](#), President and CEO

[Shelby Tudor](#), Donor Services Manager



## Corporate Partners Circle

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**August 26, 2015**

Torah and Tea

[View Details](#)

**August 27, 2015**

Yiddish Club

[View Details](#)

**August 28, 2015**

YAD-JCC Summer Family Shabbat

[View Details](#)

[View All Events](#)

### THE TZEDAKAH BOX

Subscribe to Our E-Newsletter

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

## Follow Us

Become a fan of our Facebook Page for the latest news and happenings.

UJFT  
TJF

Copyright © 2010. All Rights Reserved.

[Website Design by StrategyTrails](#)

## Contact us

5000 Corporate Woods Drive, Suite 200  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

**UJFT - 757.965.6100**

**Tidewater Jewish Foundation - 757.965.6111**

**Sandler Family Campus - 757.965.6123**