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A new Hillel building opened off campus

Leah Komada, News Staff Writer Apr 23, 2013

Hillel, the Jewish community at Virginia Tech, opened a new \$2.5 million building this month, with the hopes it would be a visible representation of support and opportunities for the Jewish community at Tech.

“Our building provides an additional programming space for students to gather for learning, socializing and religious activities,” said Hillel Executive Director Sue Kurtz.

“We are not replacing the programming spaces we currently have at the university, we are simply adding another.”

The building was created in memory of Malcolm Rosenberg, an entrepreneur and Jewish philanthropist, who endowed the Jewish student program at Virginia Tech.

“Malcolm always envisioned a modern center for Jewish life here at the university,” said Kurtz.

“After he passed away, his wife Diane sought to bring his vision to life.”

The building contains several spaces available for students to hold meetings as small groups or larger organizations.

“It is often times difficult to have a meeting space consistent every week,” said Kurtz. “We invite all organizations to use the space available, not just Jewish students.”

Inside the building is a synagogue where students can go for any holidays or traditions they celebrate.

“The mother of a student in the Corp of Cadets donated a Torah for the new synagogue,” said Kurtz. “The establishment of this building is truly a community effort.”

Weekly community meals will also be held every Friday night and the dinners will be prepared in a kosher kitchen.



“Now we can really meet the needs of students who care about having traditional Jewish meals,” said Kurtz.

The hope is that this building will create a stronger community on campus, as well as create a greater appeal for those prospective students wishing to have access to a Jewish community.

“It is important that freshmen or students looking at (Tech) who are part of a vibrant Jewish life in their current community see the same existence here at Tech,” said Kurtz.

It takes the effort of many to create an ideal learning and living environment for students in college.

“Our main goal is to provide students with an accessible place for learning and socializing and to bring some of the Jewish traditions onto campus, for everyone to participate in and learn about,” said Kurtz.

