

Alumni Spotlight – David Glickman '15

David Glickman '15 was recently interviewed by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. In the article, he discusses how he was active in the Jewish community as a high school student and his plans to join the Jewish community as a freshman at Cornell University. You can read the complete article in this link:

<https://journeys.uscj.org/hillel-hebrew-classes-and-strong-jewish-communities-make-these-two-students-college-decision-easy/>

We would like to share some additional thoughts from David in this brief Q&A:

How did SSSQ impact your life personally i.e. making friendships and doing community service?

“Schechter Queens was vital in defining my early identity. It gave me a foothold in the world and Jewish community. My SSSQ friends are some of my closest friends who continue to impact me today. I came to SSSQ as a timid boy who was not very excited by things. However, I left as a young Jewish leader who is passionate about both the mundane and the challenges.

Throughout my years at SSSQ, we always learned the value of helping out one another through various stories in English and examples in Jewish law and Bible studies. However, my education did not end with the mere knowledge of what is right; we went out to the world and did right. I vividly remember our various trips to do *chessed* (acts of kindness). Specifically, in 7th grade, we had a *chessed* fair with Schechter Long Island in which we ran a carnival for those with developmental needs. That day was empowering and showed me the power of everything I learned.”

How active were you in the Jewish community at SSSQ and during high school?

“SSSQ gave me the tools to be a leader. From the foundation in Hebrew to the knowledge and love of Israel to the core lessons of how to be an ethical Jew, I was able to be active in my Jewish communities. My primary connections were with Hillcrest Jewish Center and USY. In USY, I served as Divisional and Regional

Religion/Education Vice President. In addition, I served as Vice President at Schechter Long Island, creating fun and innovative religious programming. Finally, I had tremendous fun being captain of the SSLI Men's Varsity Volleyball team."

How have you enjoyed your summers at Jewish camps as a camper and staffer?

"I love spending my summers at Jewish camps. For the past couple of years I have been a counselor at Camp Ramah at Nyack where I have had the opportunity to inspire others as I myself am growing and being inspired."

What do you plan to focus your studies on at Cornell's ILR School?

"I plan to focus on various social sciences such as economics, psychology, and law. With a broad exposure to different fields, I focus on human interaction and synergy."

What are your plans to join any groups and the Jewish community as a freshman at Cornell?

"At Cornell, I plan to survey the different Jewish groups and see where I can have the most impact. I definitely see myself joining *Hillel* or *Chabad* and an Israel advocacy club, attending services, and having *Shabbat* dinner with the community. In addition, Cornell offers classes about *Kashrut*, Hebrew, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

How do you see yourself staying connected to your synagogue life?

"It is hard to stay well connected when I will be a couple hundred miles away. However, I plan on staying updated with current events and seeing what I can do for my synagogue at college. Hillcrest Jewish Center has endowed me with gifts I can never truly give back. I can start by positively representing them at Cornell, and assisting any way I can. When I come home from breaks, I hope to lead services or read Torah!"

How would you say your family contributed to your sense of community and Jewish values?

“My family first leads by example. I am always amazed when I see how much my parents do to support me and my surrounding community. They have never had to teach me charity or patience because I see them handle tough situations with grace and patience. My siblings emulate similar behavior. As the youngest, I am lucky to have so many leaders to look up to; they each embody different values I strive to attain.”

What would you say to younger SSSQ alumni about being involved in Jewish community service groups?

“I would say that you should take everything SSSQ has given you and bring it to the world however you can. SSSQ fosters different interests, and it is up to us to channel our skills to help those around us.”

If you had one take away thought/feeling about your SSSQ years what would you like to say?

“I remember listening to Mr. Naparstek during a talk he gave to the lower school and he said ‘a person’s true show of character is when no one is watching.’

I have had so much fun at SSSQ, I have learned so much about being a good Jew and a positive force. With all of that, I will never forget those wise words. As much as I have learned, the true measure is what I do with it. It is not about how well I can act in front of others, but when I am alone and face my true test of character, I am reassured that I have a great education and community continuously supporting me. I would like to thank all of my teachers who sprang me forward (despite my endless questions), my friends who have helped me become who I am today and continue to be there for me, and finally all of you for allowing this amazing institution to continue inspiring and fostering the future Jewish leaders.”