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## Fearless Friday: Hannah Lebovitz

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*Gettysburg College*

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## Fearless Friday: Hannah Lebovitz

### **Abstract**

This week, we recognize the work of Hannah Labovitz '21. Hannah is currently pursuing a history major, a Spanish and Public History double minor, and a teaching certification. She is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has been very involved in the Jewish community here at Gettysburg. She is the secretary and communications chair of Hillel, works as an assistant to Stephen Stern in the Judaic Studies Department, serves on the Judaic Studies committee, acts as co-President of Democracy Matters. She also participates in Alpha Phi Omega, College Democrats, and Dance Ensemble. [*excerpt*]

### **Keywords**

Democracy Matters, Fearless, Fearless Friday, Gettysburg, Gettysburg College, Hillel, Jewish, Jewish community, Judaic Studies, Judaism, Pittsburgh, Vigil

### **Disciplines**

Civic and Community Engagement

### **Comments**

Surge is a student blog at Gettysburg College where systemic issues of justice matter. Posts are originally published at [surgegettysburg.wordpress.com](https://surgegettysburg.wordpress.com) Through stories and reflection, these blog entries relate personal experiences to larger issues of equity, demonstrating that –isms are structural problems, not actions defined by individual prejudice. We intend to popularize justice, helping each other to recognize our biases and unlearn the untruths.

# SURGE

[ VERB ] : to move suddenly or powerfully forward or upward

## FEARLESS FRIDAY- HANNAH LABOVITZ

November 9, 2018

This week, we recognize the work of Hannah Labovitz '21. Hannah is currently pursuing a history major, a Spanish and Public History double minor, and a teaching certification. She is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has been very involved in the Jewish community here at Gettysburg. She is the secretary and communications chair of Hillel, works as an assistant to Stephen Stern in the Judaic Studies Department, serves on the Judaic Studies committee, acts as co-President of Democracy Matters. She also participates in Alpha Phi Omega, College Democrats, and Dance Ensemble.

When she began college, Hannah was not extremely religious. However, soon after arriving, she noticed the number of Jewish students on campus was few. She felt compelled to step in to enhance the presence of Jewish students while creating more awareness of Jewish history, culture and current issues. She hoped this would also create a more welcoming environment for incoming first-years.

When she describes herself, the first three things Hannah says is that she's a twin, Jewish, and from Pittsburgh. After the tragedy that occurred in Pittsburgh on October 27, she felt much sadness. The anti-Semitic attack on her community was such a personal loss. Hannah knew she had to take action to honor those that lost their lives. She reached out to the advisor of Hillel, David Bass, and suggested they join together as a community to acknowledge the tragedy and honor the victims.

A vigil transpired on campus on November 2. Hannah feels that aside from being in Pittsburgh, this was the best thing she could have done. She was so grateful for the incredible turnout of almost 200 people, and for the touching words spoken. She said it was amazing to see everyone attend to honor the victims, support the small Jewish community on campus and fight against hate in our country.

Moving forward, Hannah said Hillel and the Judaic studies committee are planning many new projects. Hillel wants to invite back David Tuck, a Holocaust survivor who Hannah brought to campus last year, in order to build a lasting connection with him. They have also been having

Shabbat every month and are trying to connect with other groups to host combined events such as the Queer Shabbat happening on November 9th.

Hannah believes one of the most important aspects of Judaism is leaving the world in a better place than you found it and being a good person. She wants to encourage and teach others to be good people and make a difference.

After graduation, Hannah wants to be a teacher because she hopes to directly impact students. Hannah believes that teaching is the best way to make the world a better place.

**Thanks for all your work Hannah, we wish you luck in the future!**