

[The Insider: Celebrate at IsraelFest](#)

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From April 19 to 29, Tulane Hillel is hosting a student-run celebration of Israel, with speakers, workshops, discussion panels, a basketball tournament for the Israeli charity Save a Child's Heart, and other events.



On Monday (April 23), look for the large, white tents and blue-and-white Star of David flags on campus for the “Talk Israel” initiative that's been on many campuses across the country. Engage in conversation about the complexities of the changing Middle East landscape. Hebrew Jazz, from Rosh Ha'ayin, New Orleans' sister city in Israel, will rock the event.

Make plans for Thursday's (April 19) lecture at 7 p.m. at the Hillel house on Broadway by Gil Hofman, chief political correspondent and analyst for *The Jerusalem Post*. Well-connected to Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Hoffman has interviewed every major figure across the Israeli political spectrum and is a regular analyst for CNN, Al-Jazeera and other news outlets.

If you want to know more about what goes on behind the scenes in the Israeli military's battle to ensure the country's security and prevent Palestinian terrorism, attend next Monday's (April 23) lecture by Col. Bentzi Gruber of the Israel Defense

Forces. He will speak on “Ethics in the Field: What Sets Israel Apart.” The discussion will be at 7 p.m. in the Richardson Building, room 117, on the uptown campus.

Hen Caspi, a native Israeli who serves as Israel programs director at [Hillel](#), says the festival gives the university community an in-depth look at a country that applauds the spread of democratic values, just as the United States does.

“Israel and the United States have shared a mutually beneficial relationship for years now, and we hope to celebrate a country that strives to fulfill basic human rights,” says Caspi.

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