

Sample Program Itinerary: Hillel's Gulf Coast Alternative Break Initiative (Used in March 2008)

Sunday, March 9

5:00 pm Icebreakers & Community Building

6:00 pm Dinner & Welcome from Hillel and Host Lodging Site

7:00 pm Presentation by James Netto**, Harris Country Sheriff's Department and Fire Department:
"The days and weeks following the storm"

9:00 pm Meetings by Campus:

"Setting the Stage: The Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina"

- (5 students from Sarah's team clean up dinner)
- (5 students from Michael's team make lunch)

Monday, March 10 – Friday, March 14

6:15 am Wake-up

**3 people from Jake's team set out breakfast and lunch*

6:30 am Breakfast

7:00 am Load buses

8:00 am Orientation from Rebuilding Together New Orleans and St. Bernard Project

9:00-12:30 pm Work Sites

12:30 pm Lunch

1:00-4:00 pm Work Sites

4:00 pm Load Buses to Toulouse Wharf

5:00 pm Post-disaster tour of New Orleans

7:00 pm Dinner at Host Lodging Site

8:30 pm Campus Meetings:

"Frames of Human Solidarity" ***

- 5 people from Corey's team to clean up dinner
- 5 people from Jenna's team to prepare lunch

**Other speakers during the week (bios below):

- Dan Shea, Managing Editor, Times Picayune; Warrenetta Banks, member of the Ninth Ward; Rabbi Uri Topolosky, Rabbi of flooded Orthodox synagogue

***Other campus meeting sessions during the week:

- "Understanding Need: What is need and who gets to define it?"
- "The Dynamics of Helping: The story of *Mar Ukba*"
- "Bearing Witness"
- "Shabbat and Tzedek (Jewish for righteousness and justice): Complementary values or values in conflict"

Friday, March 14 (Sabbath)

- 5:00 pm** Whole group gathering:
Reflect on the day, welcome the Sabbath
- 5:30 pm** Sabbath celebration options:
- Traditional service
 - Egalitarian service
 - Drumming
 - Meditation
 - Discussion
- 6:30 pm** Communal dinner followed by singing, guitar, games, etc.

Saturday, March 15 (Sabbath)

- 9:00 am** Breakfast
Optional prayer choices
- 11:00 am** Discussion options (led by various staff)
- 12:00 pm** Communal lunch
- 1:30 pm** Campus Meetings:
"Bringing Back: What happens next?"
- 3:00 pm** Free time, sports, games
- 6:00 pm** Communal ending of the Sabbath
- 6:30 pm** Dinner
- 7:30 pm** Clean host site lodging, pack
- 8:30 pm** Live New Orleans Music (on site):
Thelonius Munk Institute Band

Sunday, March 16

Departures

**Sample Program Speakers for Hillel's Gulf Coast Alternative Break Initiative
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James Netto: Affiliated with both the Harris County Sheriff's Department and Fire Department, Mr. Netto addressed the students on their first night in the Gulf Coast and shared his story. Mr. Netto worked tirelessly in the days after the storm to make sure that residents had the necessary medical care, food, ice, and shelter.

Dan Shea: Mr. Shea is the Managing Editor of the Times-Picayune, the daily newspaper in New Orleans. He spoke about how the newspaper responded in the days after the storm as well as the ethical decisions they faced as part of the media.

Rabbi Uri Topolosky: Rabbi Topolosky has taken over at Beth Israel Synagogue, New Orleans' modern Orthodox synagogue. He spoke to the students about the destruction of the synagogue and the community's passion to rebuild.

Warrenetta Banks: Ms. Banks heads the Holy Cross Neighborhood Rebuilding Association. She met with each week of students to talk about the situation in the lower 9th ward and in Greater New Orleans. She shared her personal struggles and successes and spoke to the power of community organizing in achieving her goals.