



HILLEL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016

FRIENDS

DEAR FRIENDS,

Our work at Hillel UW has never been more vital. Our vision is clear – we empower Jewish students and young adults to create vibrant communities that cultivate ownership of their identity, a sense of Jewish relevance and an appreciation of the diverse and complex Jewish experience.

This critical work is delivered by an ever-evolving group of talented professionals who come together to realize our vision. After serving as Hillel's Interim Director for a year, **Amee Huppin Sherer** was selected as the new Greenstein Family Executive Director. **Terri W. Green** was hired as our Director of Development and brings substantial experience and professionalism to her role. Terri truly understands the “big picture” piece of the work we do every day and works side by side with the program staff to ensure that we are using your generous donations efficiently and effectively. We are also delighted that our nation-wide search for a new Rabbi/Assistant Director found us **Rabbi Dana Benson** whose positive energy and insights enhance our Leadership Team.

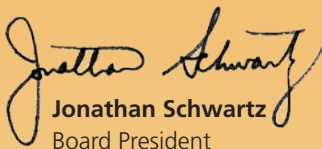
LIFE-CYCLES

We celebrated engagements and weddings of many of our Jconnectors, and we welcomed a few new babies to our Hillel UW community. We also mourned the passing of Past Presidents Ed Stern and Pauline Reiter, and Board Member, Abby Michels Calvo. These great losses remind us of the fragility of life and we know that their memories will be for a blessing. May we all learn from and be inspired by their dedication, love and leadership.

In addition to all of our regular and specialty programming, we continued our traditions of community engagement through our High Holiday services and Passover Seders, Lunches and traveling Food Truck. We celebrated ten years in our beautiful building with a very successful HillelFest 2016, that recognized Karen Mayers Gamoran and her children, Shauna, Joel, Alex and Erin for their steadfast and unparalleled support. And, most recently, we launched a **LIFE & LEGACY** program under the auspices of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. This program will grow our endowment fund and ensure that Hillel UW is here to provide a home for Jewish students and young adults for years to come.

We are all stakeholders in the future of our Seattle Jewish community. We hope that as you read this update, you will see how much your support of Hillel UW directly impacts the overall health of our Seattle Jewish community. We are proud to partner with you.

b'shalom,



Jonathan Schwartz
Board President

PROGRAM IMPACT



Hillel UW's undergraduate programs hosted **184** undergraduate events for **697** participants with **289** students attending more than one activity. Just over **50** of these students participated in high-impact programs such as Birthright, alternative winter breaks, or served as Student Interns.

Hillel's Jconnect program hosted **133** events for **1,591** participants with **599** young adults attending more than one activity.



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: Educational & Engagement Activities



EXPLORING JEWISH VALUES

Ayala Feder-Haugabook

"If you're active in the conversation, it's an engaging and entertaining way to explore Judaism. Plus, the food is really good!"

After attending Jewish day school her whole life, Ayala, a psychology major, found limited options to maintain her Jewish learning. So she attended Hillel's **Rabbis and Restaurants** series in hopes of continuing her exploration of Jewish values.

During these lunches, Ayala and other students studied with local Rabbis about topics such as gender and Judaism, the environment, and food justice. Ayala noted that the Rabbis made the discussions very accessible to students of all types of Jewish backgrounds. She particularly enjoyed the lunch with Rabbi Jason Levine from Temple Beth Am where they discussed interfaith relationships. This led to an interfaith dinner with the Wesley Club, a Methodist group on campus. It is partnerships like this that give us hope for the next generation.

Annually, Hillel UW sends 30-40 undergraduate students on a **Taglit-Birthright Israel trip**. During their journey, they hike Masada, pray at the Western Wall, swim in the Dead Sea, camp overnight in Bedouin tents, and tour the entire country. The program provides a wide array of cultural, historical and spiritual experiences. Students gain a new perspective on Israel and Jewish identity that can serve them for a lifetime. This high-impact experience bonds students and staff for post-trip engagement at Hillel UW.



CELEBRATING ISRAEL

"There are no words to express how fulfilling the Birthright experience was for our son. He still talks about it frequently. The sites, the food and the fact that he was traveling abroad alone for the first time were all part of what made this unforgettable.

Thank you, Hillel UW, and Birthright for this gift."

Parent of a participant

CONNECTING THROUGH CHALLAH



Tess Seltzer

"Challah for Justice has allowed me to meet some of the coolest people I know at UW and has provided me with friends who love bread and being Jewish just as much as I do."

Garlic with rosemary! Cinnamon sugar with chocolate chips! Sounds good, right? Those are Tess Seltzer's favorite challah flavors and it is something that she has perfected during Hillel's **Challah for Justice** events. Her friends think she has a weird obsession with braiding bread, but she doesn't mind because she loves to bake. "One of the things I like most about Challah for Justice is the creativity involved. Since I've been in college I've been severely deprived of baking. So being able to bake, and do so creatively, has been so much fun!"

But fun is only half the equation of Challah for Justice. After the challah is made, it is sold on campus and all the proceeds go to tzedakah. Each year, the students discuss what nonprofit they would like to support. This year, they voted to donate the \$500 they raised to the Israeli Organization, Save a Child's Heart.

JCONNECT: Young Adult Leadership & Innovation GROWING LEADERS, BEN BURKE

"I've had so many meaningful experiences by connecting to the people here and through them, the city. It's really been a defining facet of my Jewish life in Seattle so far."

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Ben found himself traveling across the country to Seattle for an exciting job opportunity with Amazon. New to the city, he was eager to join the Jewish community in Seattle and decided to go on a Jconnect young adult Taglit-Birthright Israel trip. Through this experience Ben built new relationships with other young, active Jewish professionals who welcomed him into his new Seattle Jewish community. Two years later, Ben has become an integral part of the Jconnect family. He is an enthusiastic member of the Jconnect Leadership Board, helping organize our ongoing volunteer opportunity with Teen Feed.

JCONNECTING SISTERS, AMANDA AND MEGAN DRASNIN

"Shabbat at Jconnect is a fun way for us to connect with Judaism while making new friends."

Amanda and Megan Drasnin grew up in Seattle, and are recent graduates of UW and Seattle University, respectively, both excelling with engineering degrees. Though these bubbly sisters seem to be very in sync with one another, their interests have taken them down different paths. Post-college, Amanda found work at Facebook while Megan works for Navigating Cancer. During their young adult lives, both Amanda and Megan have shared the desire to engage with their Jewish

identity that had not been previously available to them.

Wanting to learn more about their Jewish heritage, they joined Jconnect to visit Israel on a Taglit-Birthright trip. After returning from Israel, the sisters now grow their new friendships and nurture their love for Judaism through Jconnect events, especially Jconnect's monthly Shabbat dinners at Hillel UW.

Know someone between the ages of 21-35?

Let them know about
Jconnect's monthly catered
Shabbat dinners at Hillel UW.

For details go to
www.jconnectseattle.org



**JCONNECT
SEATTLE**
A PROGRAM OF HILLEL UW

EXPERIENCING JEWISH POLAND

Last summer, 15 Seattle-based Jconnectors traveled to Poland to explore their Jewish roots in Eastern Europe and learn directly about the history, culture, and current rebuilding of Jewish communities in Poland. This very unique Jconnect event was made possible thanks to generous support from The Herbert I and Rita Rosen Family Foundation and Stan and Michele Rosen, in partnership with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) Entwine.

The following thoughts are excerpts from the group's travel journal:

June 16, 2016 (2 days into the trip) Lodz, Poland: ... The burden of the past weighs on the community but I would imagine that further into the 21st century the community will do better. Bringing young Jews from the United States to eastern Europe allows us to see how the community has survived. It is a lesson in resilience.

Joshua Levenson

June 19, 2016 at the Isadak Shul in Poland: ...

I walked up to the Aron Kodesh and I noticed the Ner Tamid. Unlike in the US, where many are electric, it has a single candle placed in a depression in the marble wall. I was struck by the light, brightly burning, decades after Jewish life in this City, this Country was all but extinguished. The Jewish spark continues in Poland, evolving and taking on new forms, yet rooted in the earth that has been the makom (place) for almost a thousand years. I leave this place touched, challenged and renewed.

Zan Frackelton

"I leave this place touched, challenged and renewed."

-Zan Frackelton

Jconnect apple picking for Rosh Hashanah



LIFE & LEGACY

"As my parents planted for me, so do I plant for my children." –Talmud

Hillel UW is one of thirteen organizations selected by the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle to participate in the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's LIFE & LEGACY program. The program encourages members of our Jewish community to dedicate part of their estate to ensuring that Jewish organizations in our community thrive for generations. LIFE & LEGACY donors are individuals, like you, who share our values and want to guarantee that Hillel UW is here to provide a home for Jewish students and young adults for years to come.

Over the next two years, Hillel UW will be working to secure at least 36 LIFE & LEGACY donors. If you are interested in learning more about participating in the program, contact Terri Green at terri@hilleluw.org.

As of February 15, 2017, the following people have joined our LIFE & LEGACY Circle:

Anonymous (3)
Julia Bacharach
David Cohen
Marilyn Corets & Adam Mhlstin
Laura Crystal
David and Julie Ellenhorn
Nancy B. Greer & David J. Ross
Michele Hasson
Sascha Dublin & Mikael Kvart
Jon and Naomi Newman
Pauline (z"l) and Jack Reiter
Jonathan Schwartz
Amea Huppin Sherer
Ernest (z"l) and Doris Stiefel
Alan and Kim Waldbaum

Financials

Hillel UW 2015-2016 Financials

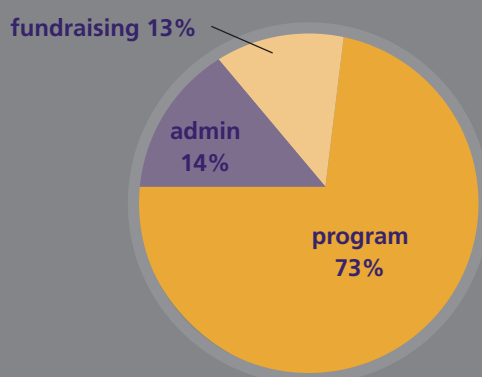
Hillel at the University of Washington depends upon the annual support of generous alumni, friends, stakeholders, parents and foundations. This support enables Hillel to achieve its mission of helping 18-35 year olds live meaningful Jewish lives.

The income and expenses reported are from Hillel UW's Audited Financial Statement and represent Hillel's financial position as of June 30, 2016. For a complete copy of our report, please contact Jill McAdams at jill@hilleluw.org.

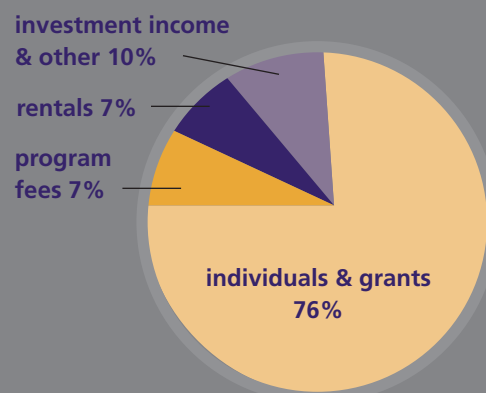
Total Fiscal Year 2016

Operating Budget: \$1,101,750

Expenses



Income



Hillel UW is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Gifts to Hillel at the University of Washington are tax-deductible as provided by law. Our federal tax ID is 91-6067231.

THANK YOU!

Hillel at the University of Washington gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following donors for their support during Hillel's 2016 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016).

\$25,000 and Up

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Hillel UW's 2015-16
 Student Interns

OUR NEW HILLEL UW LEADERS



Amee and Rabbi Dana

"Students see that they are part of something larger than just themselves as they get involved in Hillel and Jconnect. Then they go out into the larger Seattle Jewish community and give back, work, and contribute in so many significant ways."

— Amee Hupp Sherer

Amee Hupp Sherer, Greenstein Family Executive Director

Amee Sherer has returned home to Hillel UW. A UW graduate and Hillel program director over 20 years ago, Amee is Hillel's new Greenstein Family Executive Director. She is thrilled to learn of the many new initiatives being offered by Hillel International, and resonates with a recent quote from Hillel International Chief Talent Officer, Mimi Kravetz, who asserts, "To me it is so simple and straightforward to recognize that the most important asset you have isn't a particular program that you're running or a particular curriculum you're teaching. Certainly you need a good product, but it matters so much, the people who are delivering that product and the way that they deliver it." To that end, Amee is committed to hiring the best staff and doing whatever she can to provide them with the resources they need to do their job well.

Amee enjoys spending time with students and Jconnectors and hearing what is going on in their lives, be it during a Shabbat dinner or over a spontaneous conversation in her office. She appreciates that our Hillel offers so many different spaces for students to avail themselves of, as well as providing avenues to Jewish education and learning, and opportunities to give back to the community through social justice initiatives. She sees Hillel as a place to grow Jewish leaders, saying "students see that they are part of something larger than just themselves as they get involved in Hillel and Jconnect. Then they go out into the larger Seattle Jewish community and give back, work, and contribute in so many significant ways."

Rabbi Dana Benson, Assistant Director

We are excited to welcome the confident and passionate Rabbi Dana Benson to our team and family as Hillel UW's new Rabbi and Assistant Director. While in college herself, she discovered a passion for social justice. She begrudgingly started attending local Hillel events, as they were the largest resource for giving back to her community. She later decided to take advantage of a Taglit-Birthright Israel trip. It was on that trip, under a bed of stars in the Negev Desert, she heard a small voice call her to become a Jewish leader. Not knowing where that voice would take her, she never looked back and now, she has brought her passionate spirit to Hillel UW.

When the position for a new rabbi opened up at Hillel UW, Rabbi Dana jumped at the chance. "I'd visited Seattle before and fell in love with the city." She loves the team she works with here, saying they are a "fun and engaging network of nurturing individuals." Her goal is to make Hillel a home for every student where they feel comfortable to share their story. She wants to help students gain authority over who they are. College can only teach kids so much, but the relationships Rabbi Dana aspires to build, and the Jewish values she wishes to instill will help students discover how to make their lives meaningful now and for years to come.

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