

Stillel

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



*2018-
2019
Annual Report*

Friends

Dear Friends,

Our 2018-19 Annual Report provides you with insight into the events and programs that, with your generous support, we launched this past year in Seattle, in Israel, and beyond. Additionally, as part of this report, we are pleased to share with you our new mission, vision, values statements and our 2019-2022 Strategic Plan.

These statements and plans are a result of many months of dedicated efforts. We started by hosting several input sessions with students and Jconnectors (both involved and uninvolved), community partners, current and past Hillel UW staff members, parents, friends, UW faculty/staff, and donors. Over twelve different stakeholder groups provided feedback and recommendations.

The four pillars of our 2019-2022 Strategic Plan will provide the structural foundation to our work. Our staff and board will ensure that we are engaging young adults in new and innovative ways while maintaining our core essential programming such as Shabbat Dinners, holiday celebrations, Bagel Clubs, and FREE immersive trips to Israel. We will also continue to cultivate relationships with key community partners including the University of Washington and Jewish organizations throughout the greater Seattle area, while maintaining our community outreach through High Holiday services and Passover seders and lunches.

Finally, we will ensure that we have the resources, capacity, and infrastructure to support our work and preserve our beautiful building. This will include the need for additional funds to maintain and upgrade our facility as it ages, update our technology, and improve our branding and online presence to more effectively reach today's young Jewish adults.

Hillel UW's board and staff are committed to the implementation of this plan. We look forward to strengthening our partnership with you so that, together, we can inspire students and young adults to explore, embrace, and celebrate Jewish life and identity.

B'Shalom,



Jon Newman
Board President
2017-2019



Alan Waldbaum
Board President
2019-2021



Amee Sherer
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Executive Director

P.S. Turn to page 11 for a calendar of important dates for you, or for a young adult you know, to get involved with Hillel UW and Jconnect in the coming year!



Mission

Hillel UW **inspires** students and young adults to **explore**, **embrace**, and **celebrate** Jewish life and identity.

Vision

We envision Jewish college students and young adults **enriching** and **strengthening** the **Jewish community** and **the world** in meaningful ways throughout their lives.

Values

דרך ארץ

Derech Eretz – Respect

We welcome and respect everyone; we strive to do what is right and just at all times.

קהילה

Kehillah – Community

We build relationships – with other Jews, with Israel, and with the broader community.

שמחה

Simcha – Joy

We share joy and friendship as we encounter all that life brings.

לימוד

Limmud – Learning

We embody curiosity, inquiry, dialogue, and learning.

מנהיגות

Manhigut – Leadership

We nurture personal growth and leadership.

2019-2022 Strategic Plan Pillars

Engage Jewish Young Adults:

We steward relationships with Jewish young adults, building a vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming Jewish community.

Champion Jewish and Israel Experiences:

Constituents craft and own their Jewish experiences; staff offers high-quality core programming.

Cultivate Community and Campus Collaborations:

We build key stakeholder relationships in order to actively develop community for Jewish young adults.

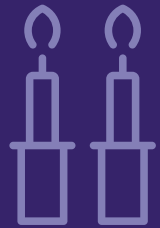
Build Capacity and Operational Infrastructure:

We are a financially sustainable organization with the proper infrastructure and culture to execute our mission.

Impacts

Last year, Hillel UW's undergraduate and Jconnect* programs hosted over **250 events** for Jewish young adults ages 18-35. **Over 180** of these participants attended 6 or more activities or **joined our "high-impact"** programs such as Birthright Israel, our Warrior Women Wellness program, or an educational series.

Served over
1,500 FREE
Shabbat
dinner
to students



Provided over **323 bagels**
at weekly Bagel Club

Over 663 lunches
were served at our three
Kosher for Passover lunches

20 undergraduate
students traveled
to Israel through
Birthright and iEngage
at the Shalom Hartman
Institute



238 students,
Jconnectors, and
community members
participated in Passover Seders



Baked 255 challot
as part of our Challah for
Justice program



77 coffee
dates with
Jconnectors

440 Hamentaschen
consumed at the Jconnect
Purim Party



6 lost cork
screws
at Jconnect
events

Undergrads

Physical and Emotional Wellness



Keeping our students well is a top Hillel UW priority. We work hard to provide our students with multiple ways to stay physically and emotionally healthy.

At any time, students can stop by our gym for a workout, visit the café for a healthy snack, or just come into our warm and welcoming building. We also offer one-on-one and group wellness programs.

In partnership with Jewish Family Service, our in-house Licensed Mental Health Counselor provides private confidential counseling. The Counselor also helps coordinate our Matzah Ball Soup for the Soul program in order to talk about mental health issues and to share stress-relieving techniques with students.

Additionally, with the help of a Certified Trainer, our Warrior Women Workouts program combines fitness with Judaic texts. This innovative program, created by and for women, uses female biblical role models to build strength and confidence. Based on this program's success, we will continue it again for the 2019-2020 school year and we will add a parallel program called "Mensch on a Bench."

For more information about our wellness programs please contact our counselor at counselor@hilleluw.org.

Shabbat – Core Programming

"More than the Jews have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jews." ~ *Ahad Ha'am*

Every Friday, undergraduates find Hillel UW to be an accepting and vibrant place to celebrate Shabbat. Our Shabbat services and dinners are the gateway program for students to find community and begin their Jewish journey as a young adult.

Students at the University of Washington and those from other area colleges know that they can "keep Shabbat" with us and find a warm and engaging home away from home. Last year, we provided over 1,500 FREE Shabbat dinners to students.



"Shabbat connects me to community, good food, and a memorable, meaningful time with quality people. It is the highlight of my week."

~ *Moar Caspi, class of 2022*

"We love coming to Shabbat because it connects us to our Jewish sorority and identity. It feels like family here and we can contribute not only to UW, but humanity as well."

- *Sophie O'Neill, class of 2020 and Ana Alvarez, class of 2019*



Debating Jewish Values



This past March, Hillel UW was invited to send representatives to the 2019 College Moot Beit Din* at Princeton University. Four University of Washington undergraduate students - Sam Eden; Nicole Jevons; Doria Nelson,

and Talya Gilboa - travelled across the country for this competitive program that fosters meaningful connections among collegiate students of all denominations. It provides students with a unique and challenging platform to debate contemporary ethical dilemmas through the prism of Jewish law. We are proud to report that our students took home first place in their division!

**Moot Beit Din* - "Moot" means subject to debate and a "Beit Din" is a rabbinical Jewish court of law.



photo: @stormypetersonphotography

Georgia on my mind...

The Georgia on the mind of fifteen Jconnectors was the Jewish population in the country of Georgia. Located east of the Black Sea, this fascinating region is characterized by cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity. Our Jconnectors traveled there under the auspices of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) Entwine and with support from the Rita and Herbert Rosen Foundation and Stan and Michele Rosen to learn about Jewish renewal in a post-communist society. Their experience and appreciation of the trip is best summarized by Aaron Spiro, a Jconnector, UW 2017 graduate and former Hillel Intern:

"... I had the chance to travel to the country of Georgia with the JDC and Jconnect. During my time there, I got to know the dozen incredible Seattle Jews who also joined the trip, along with Jews living in Georgia. In the city of Gori, we visited the homes of local Jews. It was eye opening to see the struggle they must overcome each and every day. As we wrapped up our time in Gori, we all sang the Hatikvah together, Georgian Jews and American Jews alike. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to feel the connection to our peoplehood."

Join us next year: Jconnect heads to Chile and Argentina from May 11-18, 2020. The trip is highly subsidized and scholarships are available. For more information, contact Stephanie at Jconnect@hilleluw.org.

Jconnect B'nai Mitzvah

On Saturday morning, June 1st, after several months of preparation and practice, James O'Connell and Sarah Wallis, two Jconnectors, became B'nai Mitzvot.

It was a full celebration with a Kiddush luncheon, afternoon dancing, and parents' kvelling. Sarah's mom flew in from California and James' parents from North Carolina. Over 30 Jconnectors attended the event.

"This was an amazing and important life milestone for me, and I couldn't have done it without the support of Jconnect. I'm so grateful for the Hillel UW community for providing the space and resources for such impactful experiences." ~ James O'Connell



**JCONNECT
SEATTLE**
A PROGRAM OF HILLEL UW

Jconnect Celebration



On Thursday night February 7, 2019, Hillel UW hosted a biennial fundraising event focused on recognizing and supporting our Jconnect program while giving community members an opportunity to reconnect as alumni, parents, and community members.

Exceeding expectations, the event raised over \$185,000 to support Jconnect and Hillel UW. Attendees were treated to an amazing New York style deli themed party while learning the unique and personal stories of four current Jconnectors whose distinct backgrounds ranged from a young adult who recently converted to Judaism to one who was primarily raised in Israel.

One of the featured Jconnectors, Ami Koreh, noted, "Everyone is so busy. It is hard to find places to connect in Seattle." He has since found his place to connect through Jconnect. Ami, who works for the University of Washington, found out about Jconnect events through Facebook and has participated in everything from challah baking to rock climbing. Over the past two years, he has become so involved that he has been selected to serve a one year appointment as a Jconnect representative to Hillel UW's Board of Directors.

Our next Jconnect fundraising event will be in the winter of 2021 and we promise to keep the New York style deli theme!



Israel was fully integrated into the 2018-2019 program year, in numerous ways.

Trips to Israel:

Last December, Hillel UW student leaders and Amee Huppiner Sherer, Hillel's Executive Director, traveled to Israel to participate in the Shalom Hartman iEngage Student Seminar with 100 pluralistic student leaders from across the United States. The Shalom Hartman Institute is a leading center of Jewish thought and education serving both Israel and North America. Attendees engage in a week of rigorous text study and discourse around Israel's greatest challenges and opportunities. The experience includes learning with Hartman faculty and guest speakers on the Hartman campus as well as through cultural events and field trips.

Over the summer, we sent a cohort of UW Jewish students on a Birthright Israel trip. This free experience provided students an opportunity to get to know Israel and its people. Activities ranged from sleeping in Bedouin tents and riding camels, swimming in the Dead Sea, climbing Masada, to hanging out with members of the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) – their peers in Israel. Over 80 percent of these students had never been to Israel before and nine (9) celebrated their B'nai Mitzvah while on the trip.

Israel on Campus:

Here at home, Barak Derin, our Israeli Shaliach, was on campus two half days a week. Born and raised in Rishon LeZion, Israel, Barak helped bring Israel to life at Hillel UW. He created Israeli music playlists, shared his experiences in the Israeli army, and bonded with Israeli and Jewish students.

With Barak's support, UW's Mishelanu group, the Israeli-American student organization, successfully organized several incredible programs for all students including:

- bringing five prominent Israeli technology professionals to speak at Fashla Night,
- setting-up an Israel table alongside other student organizations at the University of Washington's Middle Eastern Student Commission's Cultural Fair, and
- planning Israel Week celebrations for Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Yom Ha'Zikaron, and Shabbat.

The highlight of Israel Week was a live performance of Israel Story at the HUB (Husky Union Building). Israel Story provided a magical evening of Radio Theater.

We look forward to expanding our Israel programming during 2019-2020, as Barak's time at Hillel increases, Israel Story returns to campus, and we coordinate four trips to Israel --iEngage, two Birthright Israel trips (Undergraduate & Jconnect), and a UW Perspectives Trip. Perspectives is a trip for Jewish and non-Jewish student leaders currently attending the University of Washington.

Thank You!

Hillel at the University of Washington gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following donors for their support during Hillel's 2019 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019).

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Mikaela Louie
Eliot Low
Monica Lundberg
Max Lustig
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Stacy Margolin and
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Connor McDermott
Suzanne Meller
Maya Menon
Shaye Metrick-Chen
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Nick Montoni
Debra and William Mowat
Neal and Michele Mulnick
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Saran
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Daniel Schneider
Norman and Tandra Schwamberg
Lauren Schwartz
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Jordan Shkolnick
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Ruth Singer
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Diana Steeble
Robert Stern
Harry & Carolyn Stern
Doris Stiefel
Kathrine Stoner
Arthur and Marcie Storch
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Kelly Sweet and David Gross
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Jessica Taback Michels and
Lucas Michels
Daniel Tabas
Emil Talerman
David and Karen Tarica
Frieda Taub
Greta Tjeltveit
Deborah Vincent
Ruth Voss
Alex Voss
Zachary Wachtel
Rodney and Nina Waldbaum
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Weingarten
David Weinrod
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Elana Winsberg
Ruth Winston
David and Gillian Witus
Zachary Yaeger
Albert Yerman
Noah Zwiren
David Zwiren and Mindy Terr

Save the Dates!

Holidays:

High Holiday Services:

Rosh Hashanah: Sunday, September 29, and Monday, September 30, 2019

Yom Kippur: Tuesday, October 8, and Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Passover:

First Night Seders: Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Passover Lunches: Monday, April 13, and Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Special Events

Speaker Eva Schloss: Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Eva Schloss, Holocaust survivor, memoirist, and stepdaughter of Otto Frank, the father of diarist Anne Frank, will be interviewed by UW President Ana Mari Cauce on campus.

Shesh Besh Concert: Sunday, January 19, 2020

Shesh Besh, an Arab-Jewish Ensemble, under the auspices of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, will perform at Hillel UW.

HillelFest 2020: Thursday, February 6, 2020

Join us to fund the vision through HillelFEST 2020, Hillel's UW biennial fundraising dinner.

Israel Story: Thursday, April 30, 2020

Connect to Israel through Israel Story's live radio theater performance.

For more information go to www.hilleluw.org.



After I graduated from the University of Washington, Hillel provided Jewish continuity as I transitioned from student life to professional life. When I met Adam Mihlstin, we enjoyed observing holidays together at Hillel, and when we got



engaged, we sought pre-marriage counseling with Rabbi Dan Bridge. We later named our daughter with Dan's help and took to heart his advice that "location, location, location" was key for active membership in a synagogue. Now as a Hillel board member, I'm glad to give back to an organization that has enriched our lives for over 30 years. Naturally, we want Hillel to remain an inspiring and nurturing center of Jewish life for students and young adults long into the future. That's why Adam & I included a **LIFE & LEGACY™** gift to Hillel UW in our estate plans and encourage fellow Huskies to do the same.

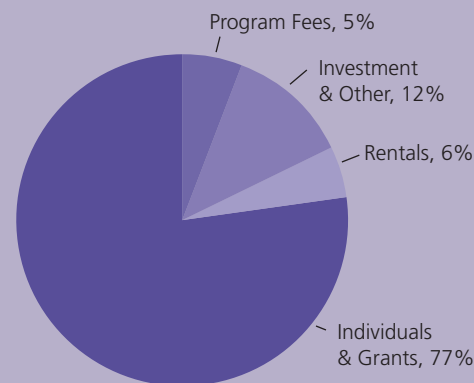
– Marilyn Corets

To learn more about the Hillel UW Life & Legacy program or to join our 45 Legacy circle members, please contact Terri Green at Terri@hilleluw.org.

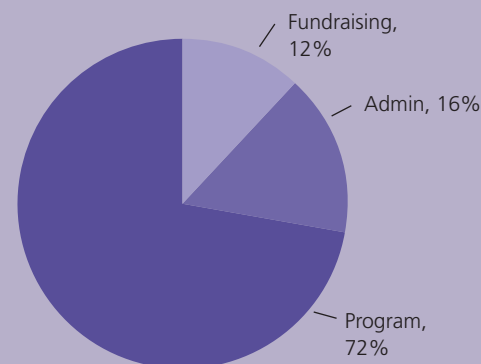
Financials

To support our programs and achieve our mission, Hillel at the University of Washington partners with major donors – alumni, parents and friends. Our audited Fiscal Year 2017-2018 operating budget was \$1,103,485.

INCOME



EXPENSES



Hillel UW 2018-2019 audited operating budget will be sent out via email and posted on our webpage as soon as it is complete. 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 number is 91-6067231. For a complete copy of our audited financial report, please contact Jonathan Greene at Jonathan@hilleluw.org.

2018-2019 Hillel UW Student Leadership Board

Know a young Jewish adult (21-35) looking for community? Let them know about **Jconnect's monthly Shabbat dinners and happy hours.** For details go to www.jconnectseattle.org

Know a Jewish University of Washington student? Let them know **weekly Shabbat dinners are FREE!** Tell them to RSVP at www.hilleluw.org

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*Jconnect Representative to the Hillel Board

** Undergraduate Representative to the Hillel Board