

HillelUW
University of Washington

2022-2023

IMPACT REPORT



FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

I want to share two stories of deep, personal connection with you.

Elizabeth Siegel and I met over two decades ago, teaching at the Seattle Jewish Community School together. One of the core tenants of SJCS is *derech erez* - treating everyone with respect and striving to do what is right and just. We emphasized this in our classrooms, on the playground, and in every relationship we built. Imagine my delight when I came back to Hillel in 2015 and discovered that she was on the Hillel UW Board of Directors. Throughout the past two years of her presidency, Elizabeth worked tirelessly to create an Equity Committee for our Board of Directors and to bring essential Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion trainings to our board and staff.

Leslie Rosen was a student in my second-grade classroom at the Jewish Day School in the late 1980s. Over the years, Leslie has grown into a passionate lay leader with a profound commitment to engaging Jewish young adults, fostering community, and strengthening our operational infrastructure. Drawing on her experiences as a board member in several Jewish, university, and non-profit organizations, including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), Leslie brings a wealth of knowledge to our work at Hillel UW.

Derech erez, which Elizabeth and I upheld at SJCS, is one of our **five core Hillel UW values**. Perhaps it all starts with **education (*limmud*)** in the classroom. But these two women know that it is so much more: it is the way both Elizabeth and Leslie nurture personal growth and **leadership (*manhigut*)** for our board, along with the way they support our staff and care about our students and young adults. They offer **joy (*simcha*)** to this holy work. With their distinct but complementary leadership styles they bring our **community (*kehillah*)** together, building relationships and making meaningful connections with you, our trusted donors and partners, without whom our work would not be possible.

As we celebrate Hillel International's 100th anniversary in this momentous Centennial Year, we find ourselves embarking on a new journey - the "Promise of a New Generation" campaign. Through this campaign, we aim to build our endowment, ensuring that Hillel UW remains a cherished home for Jewish students and young adults for generations to come. In this pursuit, Leslie emerges as the perfect leader to follow in her mother Michele's footsteps and assume the role of the next Hillel UW Board President. With Leslie at the helm, we are confident in building upon the success of the past two decades and rising to meet the challenges of the future.

b'Shalom,



Elizabeth Siegel
Board President
2021-2023



Leslie Rosen
Board President
2023-2025



Amee Hupp Sherer
Greenstein Family
Executive Director

IMPACT



2

Shabbat cruises with over 100 Jewish young adults each



52

Weekly Wellness Walks



80

Jconnect one-on-one coffee chats



100

Challahs braided with the Challah Prince



220

Jconnect Purim photo booth photos



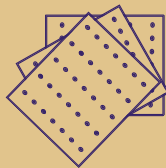
250

Counseling sessions held with Hillel's social worker



415

Bagels eaten during Bagel Club



450

In-person Kosher for Passover lunches served



1,300

Student and Jconnect participants in Hillel UW programs

UNDERGRADUATES

SHABBOAT

To say *bon voyage* to a fantastic school year, over 110 students set sail for the final Shabbat of the quarter - *Shabboat!* Dressed in their finest formal attire, everyone marveled at the spectacular views throughout the sunset cruise, accompanied by games, music, and dancing. Before Shabbat started, hundreds of photos were taken that captured the friendships and fun of the entire year. This annual event has quickly become a highlight and a new tradition, demonstrating that more than 80 years after its founding, Hillel UW is still growing and innovating.



#BIRTHRIGHT & PERSPECTIVES

Every year, UW students explore Israel through one of our immersive experiences. On our **Birthright Israel** trip, students witnessed stunning Mediterranean sunsets, snorkeled in the Red Sea, and sampled delicious Israeli cuisine – all while learning about the history of Israel and exploring their own Jewish identities. **Perspectives** is a 10-day trip to Israel and the Palestinian Territories for 15 non-Jewish and five Jewish student campus leaders. On this trip, the students experienced the complexities and nuances of Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through site visits, meetings with key figures, and engaging with voices from a variety of perspectives.

Hillel UW is committed to providing year-round Israel learning opportunities. We are excited to announce that we will have a full-time Israel Fellow this year, thanks to our partnership with Hillel International. This fellow will support the growing demand for impactful Israel programming on campus.

“This is a great, challenging trip, where I was able to hear diverse opinions and ask lots of questions.” -Perspectives trip participant (‘25)

JEWISH LEARNING FELLOWSHIP

Over the past two years, Rabbi Lauren has worked with Hillel UW staff to facilitate and lead students through Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF) cohort learning opportunities. The JLF model, which dives deeply into topics through the lens of Jewish and contemporary texts, also provides a space for community building to evolve naturally. During the 2022-23 school year, Hillel UW successfully facilitated five cohorts, with over 40 distinct students: Asking Big Questions; Wellness; Sex, Love, and Relationships; Pursuing Justice; and Understanding Antisemitism. Additionally, Rabbi Lauren supported our Israel Shlichah in facilitating a special Israel-focused Fellowship called Kol Yisrael.

jconnect seattle

For Jewish 20-30 Somethings

RE:CONNECT

Designed for individuals in their 20s-30s, our re:connect Shabbats have become a vibrant monthly gathering for young adults in Seattle. On the second Friday of each month, re:connect Shabbat offers a variety of engaging activities, fostering a sense of community and providing an opportunity for connection. Jconnectors can join a Torah study session (called Para-shots), enjoy musical programming featuring local musician Chava Mirel, and meet old and new friends at the oneg happy hour. With an average attendance of 60 participants, this flagship program serves as a central hub for young adults seeking a meaningful Shabbat experience.



CAMPING TRIP

In April 2023, 15 Seattle-based young adults organized a weekend camping trip to Deception Pass. Jconnectors embarked on invigorating hikes, relaxed on the beach, and connected meaningfully around a cozy campfire, fostering new friendships. With the success of this trip, there were quickly requests for “s’more” camping in the future, and plans are underway for next year!

NOT YOUR TEMPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jconnect hosted Not Your Temple’s Sunday School in November 2022, attracting 45 attendees in their 20s-30s. The gathering featured ten educators (community professionals and Jconnectors) with a genuine interest and knowledge in a topic they wanted to share. They each led fun, engaging learning sessions covering a diverse range of topics including Jewish political perspectives and activism, Jewish mysticism and vampires, and Jews and sex.



"This was one of my favorite Jconnect events ever (in 8 years)! Brilliant!" -NYTSS participant

JDC PARTNERSHIP

Experiencing global Jewish communities through immersive travel.

Since 2015, over 70 Jewish young adults have had the unique opportunity to participate in a Hillel UW Immersive Insider Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) Entwine trip. These trips, catered to Hillel UW undergraduate students or Jconnect members (Jewish 20-30 somethings), aim to ignite a sense of global Jewish awareness, connection, and responsibility within the participants' Jewish identities. JDC Entwine trips align with our mission to nurture Jewish values and cultivate future leaders for the Seattle Jewish community.

Recent JDC Entwine trips have already become Hillel UW favorites. In Summer 2022, 14 Jconnecters explored the Jewish past and present of Bosnia and Croatia. Highlights from the trip included learning about historic Jewish artifacts and performing acts of service in support of Holocaust survivors and homebound elderly. During Spring Break 2023, 16 undergraduate Hillel UW students witnessed the modern Jewish renaissance on a trip to Germany and Poland. They reflected on how, 70 years after the darkest period of modern Jewish history, young Jews across Europe are raising their communities out of the ashes into a new era of revitalization and strength. Due to the success and popularity of these trips, additional travels are already underway. Twenty Jconnectors are just returning from a trip to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and a Poland trip for 18 undergraduate students is in the works for Spring Break 2024.

“I had such an amazing time! Exercising the religious component of my Jewish identity somewhere else in the world really touched my heart and made me feel connected to the global Jewish community.” -JDC Trip Participant



Hillel UW's unique partnership with JDC, initiated by and funded in large part by Michele and Stan Rosen, gives students and Jconnectors a one-of-a-kind, deeply impactful travel experience. These journeys inspire participants to share their knowledge and joy with the community. They come home with newfound values of giving, leadership, and a sense of belonging to the global Jewish community – fulfilling our vision that Jewish college students and young adults enrich and strengthen the Jewish community and the world in meaningful ways throughout their lives.

THANK YOU!

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Please accept our apologies for any errors or discrepancies in this list. We strive for completeness and accuracy. Contact Terri Green at terri@hilleluw.org to notify us of any oversights so we can correct them in future publications.

HILLEL UW STAFF

2022-2023



Pictured left to right: Shiri, Ellie, Ameer, Terri, Jonathan, Audrey, Lauren, and Ashley.
Not pictured: Orliyah.

Ameer Huppin Sherer

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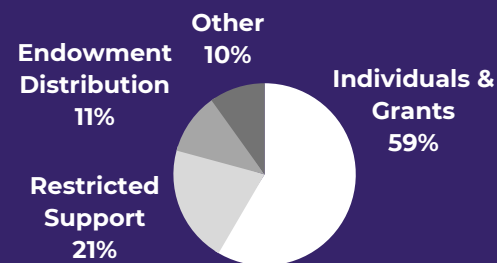
What started as a pilot program in Summer 2022 has turned into a popular intergenerational gathering of Mah Jongg players of all levels. One or two Sundays each month you can find up to 20 players at Hillel engaged in the game, schmoozing, noshing, and making new friends. Participants range from ages 18-80 and include UW students, Jconnectors, Hillel board members, community members, and residents from the Mary Schwartz Summit. We never know when someone will come with a set of tiles passed down in their family or experience the joy of exclaiming "Mah Jongg!" for the first time. New players are always welcome regardless of experience. Join us!



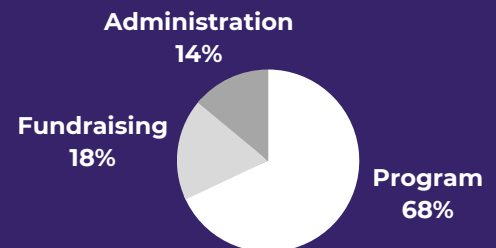
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To support our programs and to achieve our mission, Hillel UW depends on generous donations from community members like you, as well as support through Hillel International, local family foundations, donor-advised funds, and qualified charitable distributions from IRAs. Our Fiscal Year 2021-2022 operating budget was \$1,407,541.

SUPPORT AND REVENUE



EXPENSES



Gifts to Hillel UW are tax deductible as provided by law. Our Federal Tax ID number is 91-6067231. For a complete copy of our IRS Form 990, please contact Jonathan Greene at jonathan@hilleluw.org.

HILLEL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Karen Mayers Gamoran Family Center
4745 17th Ave. NE
Seattle, WA 98105

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HiLLeLfeST24

**THURSDAY EVENING,
FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

Join us for HilleLFEST '24 -
celebrating 20 years in the
“new” building.

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2023-2024

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**Jconnect Representative