

HillelUW
University of Washington

2024-2025

Impact Report





Letter from

HILLEL UW LEADERSHIP

The summer of 2023 was filled with promise. The promise of a full return to regular, in-person programming following Covid. The promise of a strong and dedicated program team all returning for year number three, together. The promise of new students, new Jconnectors, new board members, and new community members, all excited to join those already deeply committed to deepening and strengthening Jewish life on campus and their own Jewish journeys.

As part of Hillel International's 100th Birthday celebration, we were excited to launch *The Promise of a New Generation* endowment campaign - with the goal of doubling our, then, \$3 million endowment.

While we were joyfully concluding an amazing Sukkot celebration, our collective story was being rewritten in ways some of us feared, but too many of us assumed would never happen again. No one could have predicted how profoundly October 7th would change our world, and how the intensity of our work at Hillel UW would shift: rallies, protests, an encampment, and the rise of antisemitism, both on- and off-campus, never before experienced by this generation.

We will be forever grateful for the swift and generous support our Hillel received, enabling us to enhance our security, add hours to our counselor's schedule, and literally double our food budget for programs and Shabbat dinners - all to accommodate the dramatic increase in the number of students flocking to Hillel UW for safety, comfort and community.

Thank you for allowing us to do the holy work of caring for our students, our young adults, our staff and our faculty - for meeting this unforgettable moment with the resources we so deeply needed to uplift Seattle's Jewish young adults.

Since the fall of 2023, Hillel UW has shown up for our community in many ways:

- We established a Jconnect House Band, added Song Circles before Shabbat dinners and embraced the beautiful melodies of Havdalah, **singing** together.
- We offered Sephardic cooking classes, baked hamantaschen for Purim, and prepared waffles during finals week, **eating** together.
- We offered various educational cohorts, shared a moving B'Mitzvah ceremony with 7 newly-minted Jewish adults, played Mah Jongg across generations, and held knitting circles, **learning** together.
- We took undergrads and Jconnectors on trips to Poland, Israel, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Greece, **traveling** together.
- And we hosted Hanukkah parties, winter formals, and "Shabboat" cruises, **dancing** together, again. And so much more.

Through both the good times (JOY!) and through moments of grief and chaos (OY!), **Hillel UW continued to build Jewish life and connections - together.** Because that's what we do: we lean into the JOY our Hillel UW mission inspires us to do. And we will continue to do so, as a result of of your partnership. **From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.**

We are honored to be passing the torch of this great organization on to our new Greenstein Family Executive Director, Hannah Sherman, and our new board chair, Julie Ellenhorn (*pictured below*). May the coming years bring peace, calm and joy. And in those harder moments, may they also know the strength and support of this incredible community.

Please enjoy our Hillel UW 2024-2025 Impact Report.

In partnership,

Leslie

Leslie Rosen

Outgoing President, Hillel UW Board of Directors

Amee

Amee Huppin Sherer

Greenstein Family Executive Director, 2015-2025



Meet Our New Leadership!

**HANNAH
SHERMAN**

*Incoming
Greenstein Family
Executive Director*



**JULIE
ELLENHORN**

*Incoming President
Hillel UW Board of Directors*



Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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

Impact by the Numbers

2024-2025



250

Jewish Young Adults Set Sail on 2 Shabbat Cruises



383

Undergraduate & Jconnect Programs



374

Counseling Sessions with our Licensed Therapist



550

Kosher-for-Passover Lunches Served



1,400+

Undergrad & Jconnect Participants



180

Multi-Generational Mah Jongg Participants



864

Bagels Consumed by Undergrads



38

Jconnectors traveled to Georgia, Azerbaijan and Greece with JDC Entwine



41

Jewish Learning Fellowship Class Sessions



“During college, I wanted to deepen my connection with my Jewish identity and turned to Hillel when I couldn't celebrate holidays with my family. I kept returning because the welcoming atmosphere and friendly faces made me feel at home. As a student leader at Hillel UW, I came to see how my Jewish values intertwine with who I am today.”

Ella, UW Class of 2025

Undergrad FEATURED PROGRAMS

Hillel UW offers dozens of engaging opportunities to Jewish Huskies and other Seattle-area undergraduate students annually, including weekly Shabbat dinners, social events, Jewish Learning Fellowships, immersive trips, Israel education, counseling support, and other identity-enriching programs.

Dawg Daze

During Dawg Daze (a.k.a. Welcome Week), new and returning undergrads were invited into our community for almost two full weeks of Jewish joy: Tie-Dye Extravaganza, Shabbat Picnic on campus, Mariners game, Welcome Back BBQ with special guests UW Head Football Coach Jedd Fisch, Harry the Husky, and UW President Ana Mari Cauce, and more! Hundreds of students were engaged and the foundation was laid for ongoing Hillel UW involvement. Memories and friendships were certainly made!



Shabbat

Over 115 undergrads set sail for Hillel UW's final Shabbat of the academic year- Shabbat! All dressed in their finest attire, students marveled at the spectacular views during a sunset cruise, accompanied by games, music, food and dancing! This annual Hillel UW event is a programming highlight and beloved tradition. All aboard, bon voyage and see you soon!

Jewish Learning Fellowships

Offered multiple times each year, Jewish Learning Fellowships connect students with Jewish culture and texts - where they develop close friendships, and apply Jewish wisdom to life as a college student. This year, Hillel UW's Senior Jewish Educator, Rabbi Lauren Kurland, worked with the program team and education intern to facilitate a B'mitzvah cohort. This was a space for students who had not yet become a B'Mitzvah to learn Hebrew reading, recite blessings, read Torah, and chant musical trope (notes). This May, seven students officially become B'Mitzvahs during a community ceremony. Families and friends attended services and a disco-themed evening B'Mitzvah party to mark the occasion.

Jconnect

FEATURED PROGRAMS

Jconnect is Hillel UW's premier program for Seattle's Jewish young adults in their 20s and 30s seeking community, connection, and joy through dynamic social opportunities and exciting holiday gatherings.

Re:connect

Jconnect's vibrant monthly Shabbat gathering offers a diverse range of opportunities to meet and connect with peers, including: happy hours, musical experiences featuring local artist Josh Niehaus, Jewish learning sessions facilitated by community educators and rabbis, and a not-to-be-missed Kosher dining experience.



JDC Entwine Trips – The Joint Distribution Committee

The Joint Distribution Committee, the world's leading global humanitarian organization, through JDC Entwine, invites Jewish young adults to explore and engage with global Jewish communities through education, hands-on experiences and tikkun olam (healing the world). Last school year, JDC Entwine partnered with Hillel UW to offer Jconnectors two unique trips abroad: Azerbaijan and Georgia, and Greece.

Jconnect House Band

Led by Jconnector Sam Landsman, musicians meet twice a month to jam, socialize, and prepare for event performances for Jconnect and Hillel UW. As one of Jconnect's beloved affinity groups, musicians play from a curated songbook comprised of Jewish songs and prayers. Jconnect House Band is open to all.



"Jconnect has helped ease the transition [after college], offering a community where I can continue to live out and celebrate my Jewish identity alongside friends who share those values. Attending Jconnect Shabbats has been the highlight of my post-grad year, grounding me in a sense of belonging and tradition, and I'm looking forward to what Jconnect has in store for the future!"

Rachel, Jconnector

Combating ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS



Thanks to Hillel International and local donor support, Hillel UW hired Sigal Bujman, Director of Campus Affairs and External Relations. This two-year position enables us to address post-October 7th student and administrative needs and escalating antisemitism on campus, maintaining our position as the central address for Jewish student advocacy, safety and resilience.

Intentionally-crafted programs continue to be offered to students to meet their complex needs as they explore and celebrate their Jewish identity and learn self-advocacy.

Past programs have included:

- Student-led vigils and October 7th commemorative events
- Dynamic speakers, including stories of survival and Israeli poetry
- Educational materials and trainings for students combatting antisemitism
- Campus incident reporting and tracking
- Israel Week, Yom Ha'Atzmaut & Yom HaZikaron events and memorial
- Art exhibit of 70 drawings by Israeli children expressing their heartfelt response to October 7th
- Israel perspectives programming for Jewish and non-Jewish undergrads



Wellness A NEW ERA

Hillel UW prioritizes the mental health of our community through wellness activities, subsidized 1:1 counseling with a licensed mental health professional, and more.

“The support I’ve received at Hillel UW has been life-changing. They have given me the resilience needed to navigate these difficult times.”

-Undergraduate Counseling Client

Thank you to the **Schultz Family Foundation** for their incredible pledge of \$500K to seed our Counseling & Wellness Endowment. To join this critical effort, please contact Anna F. Brown, Director of Advancement.



Impactful programs from last year include:

- Community Mah Jongg
- Matzah Ball Soup for the Soul
- Wellness Walks
- Canine Companionship
- Creative Art Therapy
- Nimble Fingers (Knitting/Crafting)
- Moonlight Breakfast

Thank You

Hillel at the University of Washington gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following donors for their support during Hillel UW's 2024 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024).

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We apologize for any errors or discrepancies in this list, as we strive for completeness and accuracy.

Please contact anna@hilleluw.org regarding any oversights requiring correction. Thank you.



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**Gifts to Hillel UW's Endowment support Jewish undergraduate students and young adults in perpetuity.*

For more information about making a gift to our Endowment, please contact anna@hilleluw.org.



Celebrating The Amee Era

THANK YOU to ALL of our HillelFEST 2025 supporters!

For 10 years (2015–2025), Amee Huppin Sherer led Jewish life at the University of Washington with intention, enthusiasm, compassion, knowledge, and unwavering commitment. Co-chaired by Marilyn Corets and Jennifer Fisch, HillelFEST 2025 drew over 250 guests and exceeded fundraising expectations.

The Amee Huppin Sherer *All Kinds of Learning Fund* (AKL) within Hillel’s Endowment honors Amee’s tenure and retirement, inspiring a historic \$373,528 in pledges at FEST.



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Hello from the HILLEL UW STAFF



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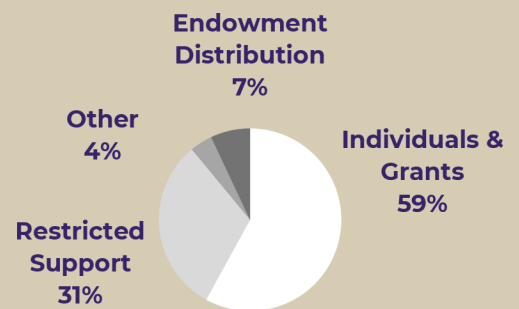


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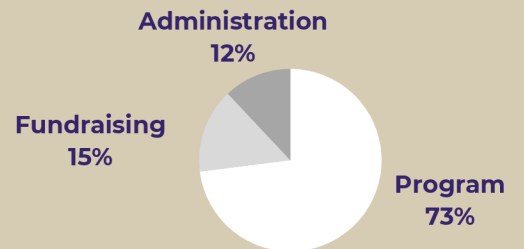
Hillel UW depends on generous donations from community members as well as support through Hillel International, local family foundations, corporate matching gifts, donor-advised funds, gifts of stock and qualified charitable distributions from IRAs.

Hillel UW's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 operating budget was \$1,900,172.

SUPPORT AND REVENUE



EXPENSES



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

Our Federal Tax ID number is 91-6067231.

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HiLLeLfeST26

THURSDAY EVENING,
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Hillel UW: Amplifying Jewish
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MONDAY, APRIL 6

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