

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT FAST FACTS

BY THE NUMBERS:

- 300+** students participated in Hillel programming
- 33** students served in leadership roles (26.92% growth from year before)
- 24** students learning (14% growth from year before)



WAYS WE REACHED STUDENTS:

STUDENT WELLNESS

- **Cooking Classes:** Throughout the year, students learned how to cook a variety of meals. Each meal brought cultures together: Asian, Eastern European, Russian, Middle Eastern and Jewish cooking classes.
- **Wellness Tabling:** Hillel partnered with Jewish Family Services to create programming to teach and enhance students' wellness practices on campus.



GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

- **Service Engagement internship:** Our interns created 11 volunteering events and formed 10 partnerships. Students volunteered at events around health, hygiene, first aid, cemetery upkeep, and more. From the first semester to the second, the interns displayed incredible leadership growth, passion, and time management skills.



KEEPING STUDENTS CONNECTED

- **Jewish Greek Council:** This past spring semester, 5 Jewish sorority women came together to form a Jewish Greek Council, and their goal is to create a Jewish community for people in Greek life.
- **Bagel brunches:** are a time when any student can pop into Hillel and instantly find good food and great friends.
- **Spring Break trip:** Students spent a weekend in Cortland, NY, enjoying skiing, snowtubing, a spa, and good times!



I LOVE HILLEL BECAUSE...

...of the community and opportunities for student engagement

-Aaron D., Shabbat songleader

...helps me feel closer to my Jewish identity and help me meet other Jews my age

-Abby S., Organizational Design Intern

STUDENT LEADERSHIP:

- **Pop up thrift store: Clothing Drive**
Student Miriam Lipson partnered with the UB Sustainability club to organize a pop-up thrift shop. Students donated old clothing created a free thrift store!
- **Organizational Design Internship:**
Students Charlotte, Arina, Abby, Jill, and Aaron interviewed students on their experiences at UB and at Hillel, evaluating ways to improve the student experience.
- **Jewish Greek Council:** Jewish sorority women unite to create a Jewish community, hosting sisterhood-style events, community service events, and first aid events.
- **Service Engagement internship**
- **Interfaith Internship:** students interviewed other students to learn about different cultures and religions.
- **Israeli events:** student leaders planned social events related to Israel: paintball, Krav Maga, cooking classes, and more.
- **Shabbat:** every Friday, students gathered for a student-led prayer service, discussion, and Shabbat dinner.
- **Open Mic Night:** Students sang, danced, played instruments, and performed for their peers.



I LOVE HILLEL BECAUSE...

It's been a great, safe space for me to meet Jewish students on campus and meet new friends and I've been given so many opportunities because of Hillel

-Hannah Mink, development intern

I'm so grateful that Hillel has been there for me, to support me throughout college.

-Anonymous



PROVIDING A JEWISH SPACE:

- **Birthright:** is a 10-day free trip to Israel for Jewish people between age 18-26. One student, Daniel Dreizin, reflected, *"It felt really good to actually talk to my people. That's something I have always longed for. And I was able to get this on a trip in Israel."*
- **High Holidays:** Students joined for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for services or dinner.
- **Jewish learning:**
 - **JLF:** In JLF, students meet weekly to discuss big life questions through the lens of Jewish text. JLF participants build a community of learning as they discuss how Jewish wisdom can guide them through the challenges of college life.
 - **Kol Yisrael:** In this weekly learning program, students are exposed to the diverse cultural and religious tapestry of Israeli society.
 - **Buffalo Day of Jewish Learning:** In partnership with UB's College of Arts and Sciences, February's Buffalo Day of Jewish Learning brought together students, faculty, and community members to enjoy learning sessions on topics such as Jewish song, Meditation and Mindfulness, Israeli politics, the Future of Jewish Buffalo, and much more.
- **Israel Ambassador Dennis Ross:** presented on current state and politics of Israel.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

- **Pride Shabbat:** students brought in Shabbat by celebrating their identities through Biblical and modern Jewish texts.
- **LGBTQ Passover Seder :** Students told the Passover Seder through a queer lens, providing students with a diverse perspective of the Passover story.
- **Cooking Classes:** made food from Asian, Middle Eastern, Russian, and Jewish cultures.
- **Asian & Jewish Shabbat:** We brought together Asian and Jewish communities, where we discussed similarities and misconceptions about each culture.

...because of the sense of community. It's nice, warm, inviting, and just makes campus feel a bit more like home - Ori, interfaith intern



I LOVE HILLEL BECAUSE...

...it helped me feel connected to a Jewish community for the first time since COVID

-Morgan, active student in Hillel

... because it gives me an opportunity to create and lead events with my Greek organization, along with meeting other Jewish students on campus

-Liza, active student in Hillel (& recent grad)

...it offers the opportunity to build community

-Abby Feldman, service engagement intern