

*Building the Jewish Future*

ANNUAL REPORT  
2018-19

## Debbie Yunker Kail EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THANK YOU! Generous support from parents, alumni and friends allows us to help students activate and actualize their Jewish identities. We could not do this meaningful work on campus without your dedication.

About half of the students we engage come to Hillel with minimal Jewish involvement before college, and they all leave with Jewish friends, Jewish knowledge and a clear Jewish community around them. They graduate ASU equipped with leadership skills to contribute to our greater Jewish world, and the tools to host Shabbat dinners, holiday celebrations and other meaningful Jewish experiences. As our student engagement has doubled over the last three years, we have gleaned three key lessons that now inform our work and inspire us daily:

**Students are excited about Israel travel.** A few years ago, student interest in travel to Israel was minimal. Now, we have wait lists for our Israel trips; there is an excitement to learn more about the country, its culture and politics; and we even took over 100 students to Israel this past year on three different trips! This is a stark contrast from years past.

**Students are seeking an adult Jewish education.** A few years ago, Hillel was

perceived mostly as a social spot with a Jewish twist. Now, in addition to being known for our Open Mic Night, Casino Night and other fun community events, we teach over 60 students in 3-6 classes/year. These students receive a well rounded Jewish education in addition to social experiences and leadership opportunities.

**Students want to be at the forefront of change within Hillel.** Applications to our student board increase every year, and students continue to build new and relevant programs, such as interfaith dialogue, sustainability initiatives, and freshmen outreach.

Being on campus daily leaves no doubt: **the future is bright.** Particularly given today's climate, we are deeply grateful for your partnership in building the Jewish future and enabling students to find what being Jewish means to them.

Sincerely,

Executive Director, ASU Hillel

## Steve Goldstein PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD



As I enter my last year as President of the Board of Hillel at ASU, I am proud of the many accomplishments of our excellent staff and talented students. This year, Hillel was recognized as ASU's Outstanding Undergraduate Student Organization. We saw a 36% increase in students' participation in deep Hillel experiences, such as our many classes, trips and leadership opportunities. We also are fortunate to have a wonderful environment at ASU, which is now one of the top 20 schools with the largest Jewish student populations. The university has become increasingly friendly to Jewish life, fostering partnerships with Israeli universities, facilitating new kosher dining options,

growing the Jewish studies program, and supporting the addition of a Jewish fraternity and sorority in the last few years. There has never been a better time to be a Jewish student at ASU. Thank you to our students for continuing to help us raise the bar and to our board of directors for their thoughtfulness and work for the organization. A special thanks to our staff, led by our great director, Debbie Yunker Kail, for their dedicated efforts. Thanks finally to our generous supporters who continue to invest in building the Jewish future.

# Highlights of 2018-19



## Outstanding Student Organization of the Year

ASU Hillel was named Outstanding Undergraduate Student Organization at ASU's 8th Annual Pitchfork Awards! This award recognizes Hillel for being an example of Spirit, Pride and Tradition for the larger campus community and exemplifying the Sun Devil Way of Achievement, Engagement and Responsibility.

## Shabbat 200

In partnership with JAC and Chabad and with funding from the Benjamin Goldberg Memorial Trust, we organized a community-wide Shabbat dinner held in the Memorial Union. A student committee orchestrated the entire evening, from student speeches to student table captains.



## Vigil for Pittsburgh

We came together with many other campus organizations to show solidarity against hate and to mourn the lives lost at the Tree of Life Synagogue in October. Our vigil was one of over 100 planned by Hillels across the country.

## Advancing Jewish Education

Students at ASU love learning outside of the classroom! Our variety of classes helps students build their Jewish knowledge through discussion-based classes that focus on Jewish text and tradition. This year, our classes included a Hebrew speaking class, Engage Israel (dialogue group), Mindfulness Fellowship, Social Action Fellowship, Jewish "Adulting", and JLF: Life's Big Questions.



## Building a Connection to Israel through Travel

During our Israel trips, students learn about Jewish and Israeli history, and they build their own personal connection to the Jewish state. Over 80 students traveled to Israel with ASU Hillel this year through two Birthright trips. Twenty more went on our new Fact Finders trip, which invites Jewish and non-Jewish students to travel together to explore the complexities of the conflict through a tour of Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

Make sure to follow us on social media!



# Why Hillel?

**Students, Alumni, Parents and Supporters Answer**



*Claire Naiman*

I absolutely love being a part of Hillel at Arizona State University. Hillel has consistently been a place of learning for me. I have grown in my Jewish identity by participating in so many wonderful and diverse learning opportunities, including the Jewish Learning Fellowship, an Interfaith Fellowship, a Social Action fellowship, Birthright, and much more. The people that work at and attend ASU Hillel are so kind and welcoming that I felt a sense of belonging there from day one! I have made such amazing connections thanks to Hillel and cannot wait to continue my participation in this organization.



*Barbara and Barry Zemel*

As students leave the safety and protection of their homes and enter a place of independent and creative thinking, differing ideologies and pressures emerge from all sides. This new life can be daunting, and it can be so easy to lose your Jewish identity. We are pleased to be 40+-year donors for Hillel, ensuring that students have a refuge: a place of family, continuing Jewish education, holidays, events and camaraderie.



*Ben Kenyon*

Choosing Hillel was a choice that didn't need much thought. When I first connected through a table on campus, I did not know what Hillel was. After my first visit, I never wanted to leave. From the very beginning, students seemed excited to welcome me as someone new, asking me about my journey getting to Hillel and trying to get to know me. Now I'm an intern and I love making sure Hillel is as open and inviting for others as it was for me.



*A discussion group on the Fact Finders trip to Israel*

## Linda Pressman



It's no exaggeration that ASU Hillel changed my life when I joined in college, a child of Holocaust survivors who had abandoned their religion. Through programming, Shabbat celebrations, close relationships with devoted staff, and sheer fun, I found a home, I found Judaism, and I found myself. Now I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a member of the ASU Hillel Parents' Club and to serve on the Board of Directors.



## Loren Murphy

It all started for me with ASU Hillel's Birthright trip. That trip brought me to understand how we develop and foster communities, and led to my comfort around Hillel. I was inspired to work for Hillel, where I now mentor college students as the University of Oregon Hillel's Director of Innovation. I have found a meaningful career with opportunities to grow as a professional, all from that initial meeting of ASU Hillel staff on campus that led me to my Israel trip.

## By the Numbers

ASU Hillel continues to reach more Jewish students every year, and with our wider circulation comes more students engaging on a deeper level with our programming. Here's a look at how students went above and beyond in 2018-19.

48

student leaders

61

took a class

115

went to Israel

1,100

Shabbat meals



# Thank you to our supporters!

Hillel is dependent on the generosity of parents, alumni and friends. We sincerely appreciate every individual who supports Jewish life on campus. We apologize for any errors or omissions; please contact Syvan Diamond at [sdiamond@hillelasu.org](mailto:sdiamond@hillelasu.org) with any corrections.

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## Parents' Club

*"We are very fortunate that ASU Hillel provides a strong sense of belonging and community for our son and has enabled him to gain leadership experiences, grow as a person, and develop a deeper connection to Judaism."*

**Lauren & Jeffrey Rips (Josh '22)**

Join today

[hillelasu.org/parents-club](http://hillelasu.org/parents-club)

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 2018-19

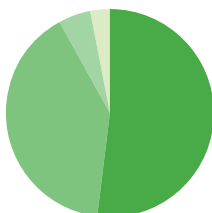
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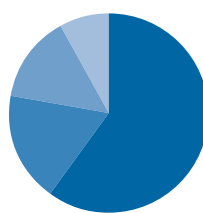
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**Total Income: \$763,276**  
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**Total Expenses: \$732,115**  
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