



HILLEL MILWAUKEE 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

AS THE SCHOOL year draws to a close, 2019/20 will be one for the record books. It's been a year filled with great excitement and profound disappointment. One minute the building is filled with the rich aroma of warm bread as we baked challah for Shabbat and the next day Hillel Milwaukee is closed.

Yet despite the necessary cancellation of programs and immersive travel experiences like Birthright and our Side x Side Leadership mission to Israel, our students and staff have shown great resiliency during this crisis.

This newsletter reflects our students commitment to their Hillel family, as they showed up for our many virtual programs. Our Zoom Seder attracted dozens of students and their families, providing their parents a glimpse of just what their 'home away from home' means to them.

And as we transition to the summer months, our students and supporters can rest assured that Hillel Milwaukee will continue to be the welcoming community they crave and deserve.

For while a lot remains uncertain about the next school year, one thing IS certain. Hillel Milwaukee is here to stay.

L'Shalom,

Julie Schack - Executive Director

Michael Schaalman - Board President



"Growing up, being in and participating in Jewish spaces was a pillar of my identity. When my college decision process appeared to be drawing me towards the specialized program offered at Marquette, a Catholic Jesuit institution, I was highly aware that I would be entering into a small Jewish minority on campus, and I found it challenging that I might not be surrounded by a Jewish community. But my concerns were wiped away when I found Hillel Milwaukee. Hillel has given me a space where I can not only meet and learn from others about how they live Jewishly, but where I feel comfortable expressing my Judaism in a way that is meaningful to me."
-- Michaela Brooke, Marquette University - Class of 2023

"Growing up in Neenah, WI there has never been a moment in my life when I wasn't proud to be Jewish; but up until I arrived in Milwaukee, observing my faith was also an inherently solitary experience. My parents told me that we had an obligation to 'hold the line' for Judaism. My mother walked her talk: In 2013, she was incapacitated with pancreatic cancer when I took the bimah for my Bar Mitzvah. We Skyped the entire ceremony to her hospice bedside so she could see my service, so she could see that I was keeping the faith. My mother would pass a month later, but she did so knowing that I continued to hold the line. I transferred to UW-Milwaukee halfway through my freshman year; and on the first Friday after I arrived, I visited Hillel. I was welcomed warmly, with laughter and open arms. So when someone asks me 'what does Hillel mean to me?' I can say that for the first time in my life, I don't hold the line alone."
-- Ben Stern, UW-Milwaukee - Class of 2022





BY THE NUMBERS

70

VIRTUAL
PROGRAMS
OFFERED

225

TOTAL
PROGRAMS,
MEETINGS AND
EVENTS WERE
OFFERED THIS
YEAR

28

JEWISH
LEARNING
FELLOWSHIP
ALUMNI

377

STUDENTS
ENGAGED WITH
HILLEL AT LEAST
ONCE THIS
SCHOOL YEAR

107

STUDENTS
ENGAGED WITH
HILLEL SIX OR
MORE TIMES THIS
SCHOOL YEAR

205

ONE ON ONE
CONVERSATIONS
HELD WITH
HILLEL STAFF

1224

MEALS SERVED
FOR STUDENT
PROGRAMMING
(INCLUDING
SHABBAT, HIGH
HOLIDAYS. . .)



WE'RE GRATEFUL TO OUR PARTNERS & STAFF

Executive Committee

Michael Schaalman, President · Rona Kader Wolfe, VP Communications · Dr. Joshua Burns, VP Governance · Sharon Shapiro, VP Fundraising/Development · Cindy Levy, Secretary · Sarah Barth, Treasurer · Kathy Wheatley, President Elect · Laurence Yudkovitch, Immediate Past President

Board Members

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Student Board Members

Matty Powell, President · Allie Barry, Vice President of FYSH Engagement · Michaela Brooke, Vice President of Jewish Life · Mikayla Eliyha, Vice President of Israel Affairs · Anastasia Esther, Co-Vice President of Social Action · Alyssa Kaufman, Vice President of Engagement · Robert Larson, Vice President of Programming · Jordan Pajeau, Vice President of Communications · Sadie Wolfe, Co-Vice President of Social Action

Staff

Julie Schack, Executive Director · Deb Fendrich, Assistant Director · Eric Leiderman, Springboard Fellow/Jewish Educator · Shaked Ram, Israel Campus Fellow · Robert Larson, Student Intern · Sarai Tenorio, Student Intern