



Jewish Learning is at the core of our work here at Hillel. Our cohort learning experiences give everyone an equal opportunity to expand their knowledge and build a Jewish community on campus.

We offered three cohort learning experiences this past year, **The Jewish Learning Fellowship, Kol Yisrael, and Four The Moment**. Each experience delves deep into Jewish thought from a modern and conversational lens, encouraging student-led discussion and ensuring every participant leaves class with new information engraved in their minds. Beyond the experiences we offer, some of our students decided to go from student to teacher this past year. Two new experiences, created entirely by students, entered our weekly lineup. Our student educators, Brynn and Ori, created their own source sheets, conversations, and recruitment strategies to acquire new and curious Jewish students.



Every Friday evening, Hillel of Buffalo hosts **student-led Shabbat services** and dinner in our Hillel space. Students are given the opportunity to make Shabbat their own. Services include songs, *dvrei torah*, and silent prayer with opportunities for student participation throughout the evening. Weekly themes, such as camp or pajama parties are incorporated to keep a fun and positive atmosphere to our shabbat experience.



We created a new **student leadership** team, consisting of three leaders, Hannah, Toast, and Ori. These students focused on spearheading programming at Hillel based on their assigned roles (Social, Jewish Life, and Belonging) to provide enjoyable and meaningful experiences on each of our campuses. They also met with the staff and Hillel board to discuss the state of our campuses, how to improve our space and weekly events, and brainstorm new ways to meet Jewish students. Their hard work, outreach, and management truly bettered our organization.



"Hillel has impacted my life as a student by providing me with a safe, comfortable place on campus where I can have fun, connect with people like me, and continue to deepen my relationship to my Jewish identity!"

- Jonathan Hirsch,
Class of 2028

We brought **The Campus Climate Initiative (CCI)** to the University at Buffalo. CCI collaborates with higher education administrators to ensure a positive campus climate in which Jewish students feel comfortable expressing their identity and values, free of antisemitism, harassment, or marginalization.

We at Hillel of Buffalo take pride in ensuring all of our students feel safe and protected on campus and we look forward to bringing this program to other colleges and universities in Buffalo in the coming years.



ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

500+ students participated in Hillel Programs
200 total events this year
30 students served in leadership roles
32 students participated in ongoing learning opportunities

Our **Service Engagement Internship** gives students the opportunity to take part in philanthropy around the city of Buffalo. This year, our students held over 30 events, including city cleanups, working with shelter animals and more. These events engaged 100+ students across the University at Buffalo, as well as tens of community members.



"Hillel has been a safe and welcoming community for me throughout my entire time at UB. I have gained so much leadership experience, countless learning opportunities, and have a place to just relax and feel at home. A Jewish community has always been important to me, but Hillel puts it in reach."

—Edie Kreifels, Class of 2027

Hillel of Buffalo works hard to ensure students have a safe space to show their support for **Israel**. On October 7, 2024, we held our first annual "every day since" memorial to mark the lives lost in the tragic attacks of 10/7 and every day since. Students came together to sing, pray, and hear stories of those impacted by the attacks.

To establish a positive viewpoint on Israel, Hillel created fun and educational Israel themed events, including a Karav Maga class and Israeli coffee house night. Students were able to immerse themselves in Israeli culture from the comfort of their own Hillel, deepening their connection to the land.

Hillel of Buffalo offers services and meals for **jewish holidays** that take place during the school year. This year, we held successful and engaging services for all of the High Holidays, Passover, and more, giving student leaders a chance to help plan these holy days. Similarly to Shabbat, we take pride in making sure our students are given the chance to make the holidays feel like they are celebrating in a way that is meaningful to them.



Members from each Panhellenic sorority on campus came together weekly for the Jewish Greek Council (JGC), a cohort focused on creating programming to bring Jewish students in **Greek Life** together through community and philanthropy. Our Greek council held many events, including yoga, craft nights, and our Narcan/First Aid training night. Members of the JGC are responsible for promoting events to their chapters, as well as being a friendly face to assist in leading programming. Founded three years ago, our council continues to grow annually, bringing Jewish members of all sororities and fraternities closer together. Hillel also directly partners with AEPI, a Jewish fraternity on campus, to run pizza dinners, community service events, and Jewish learning courses.



Support Hillel

Each year, Hillel of Buffalo must raise close to \$220,000 to support Jewish students. This amount is in addition to the generous funding we receive from the Buffalo Jewish Federation and Hillel International. It is only through your partnership that we can offer students such a rich menu of programs. With your generous support, we can add new opportunities to reach even more students.

To make a gift to Hillel of Buffalo, please visit hillelofbuffalo.org/donate.

If you care about students now, and want to sustain your impact in the future, we would love to discuss our **Life and Legacy program** with you. Please be in touch with **Dr. Mike Steklaf** at mike@hillelofbuffalo.org or **716-463-5061** for more information.