



# HILLEL AT STANFORD ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

  
**hillel**  
@stanford





# BY HONORING NEW FACES, WE HONOR THE DIVINE IN EACH PERSON.

-RABBI JUDAH LOEW BEN BEZALEL,  
THE MAHARAL OF PRAGUE, 16TH CENTURY

Dear friends:

To reflect on this past year means to grieve for the loss our community, and communities around the world, have experienced; it means to begin to process the immense challenges of the pandemic, the loneliness and fear and disruption our students faced.

**But to reflect on this past year also means to be in awe.** To be in awe of our incredible students, who despite physical isolation around the world, came together as an authentic and proud Jewish community; in awe of our staff who worked tirelessly to bring book clubs, Jewish learning, Israel experiences, and holiday celebrations to our students in innovative ways.

It's impossible to quantify the work our staff does, and the joyful, true connections our students gain. But these pages provide a glimpse, and we hope you enjoy it.

**Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting us during this uniquely difficult time.** Your investment this year has made our Jewish community stronger for decades to come.

*Rabbi Jessica Q. Kirschner*

**RABBI JESSICA KIRSCHNER**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

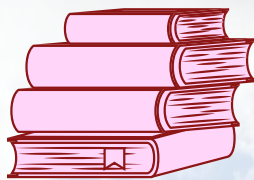






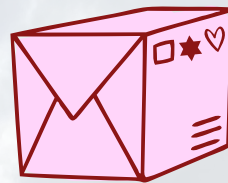
# 102

*Hillel programs ran this past year including virtual meet-ups, volunteer work, and Shabbat services.*



# 75

*students learned in virtual quarter-long cohorts, deepening their knowledge in Jewish topics.*



# 1500

*care packages and Jewish holiday themed boxes sent to our students around the world.*





# COMMUNITY ACROSS CONTINENTS



*The Hillel staff have been like a family to me and to so many students. Their kindness, generosity, and welcoming attitude truly make Hillel a home. Getting involved with Hillel is one of the best decisions I made at Stanford.*

*-Emily Kaperst '21*

This year, our innovative programming included:

- **Hillel on the Road**, which brought Hillel staff to students for safe in-person meetings around the region
- **Hundreds of Hug Bags** for students isolating on campus
- Weekly **free Shabbat dinner** pick-up and **online services** for students around the world
- Our **new SHEFA Program** (Spiritual Resilience, Holistic Health, Emotional Wellbeing, Food Security, and Abundance), which helps students thrive as whole, holy people



*The Jewish Learning Fellowship helped me get my first true exposure to what being Jewish really means to me. Even though I grew up pretty religious, before JLF I never really thought about how Judaism and Jewish values impact real-world circumstances and my everyday life. Now I have that with me.*  
-Ari Glenn '24

Students met for cohort-based learning, civic engagement opportunities and Israel programs. Highlights include:

- Two **book clubs focused on Israeli entrepreneurship** and Israeli history
- The **Israel Learning Fellowship** which digs into Israeli history and politics, providing context for today's toughest questions about the Middle East (three cohorts met this year!)
- The **Jewish Learning Fellowship** which gave students the opportunity to discuss the Jewish perspective on life's ultimate questions and to investigate how Jewish values inform their daily lives



PERSONAL  
GROWTH &  
AUTHENTIC  
CONNECTION





*This is by far the longest we've gone without seeing our family and there have been a lot of difficult times, but throughout everything Hillel has been there for us. Hillel has been absolutely incredible and has made us feel less alone during the pandemic.*

*-Cheli Ruth PhD '21*

## **HILLEL AT STANFORD GOES AROUND THE WORLD**



*Thank you so much for the Kiddush cup for Passover! I really appreciate being included in the community at Stanford (it is the most inclusive Hillel community that I have been a part of), and the workshop helped me feel confident enough to help lead a Seder with my friend!*

*-Sarah Wilker, PhD Candidate*







## OUR NEW SHEFA INITIATIVE

Spiritual Resilience  
Holistic Health  
Emotional Wellbeing  
Food Security  
Abundance

# 204

boxes of pantry items  
distributed to  
Stanford students in  
need through our  
SHEFA Spreading  
Plenty initiative



## SAFE IN-PERSON CELEBRATIONS AND SHABBAT SERVICES



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# ON BEHALF OF THOUSANDS OF JEWISH STUDENTS— PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE—THANK YOU!



Before I joined Hillel programs, I was a little nervous about making friends, feeling isolated, and being alone, but since I joined the Jewish Learning Fellowship and the Civic Engagement Fellowship, I've found a great community of smart, kind Jewish friends that I can speak to about, really anything.

**MAYA GREEN '25**

Today, Hillel at Stanford is thriving under Rabbi Jessica Kirschner, providing a warm and welcoming Jewish home on campus to today's students. Ben and I are both honored and humbled to be able to give back to Hillel at Stanford, in gratitude for all that it has given us and for profoundly shaping our Jewish journey.

**JULIE KAUFMANN LLOYD '83**



When I first arrived on campus, I really only knew a handful of people—Hillel helped change that for me. Upon walking into Hillel, I immediately felt the warmth of a positive, supportive Jewish community. Through Hillel's Shabbat services I was able to meet passionate and thoughtful students who I would become extremely close friends with. I am incredibly grateful!

**DANIEL SCOTT FISHMAN '23**







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