



“WHO IS WISE?
ONE WHO LEARNS
FROM ALL PEOPLE.”

Pirkei Avot, 4:1

The roses that grace the front of our Ziff Center for Jewish Life are a living metaphor for our community. Some of the bushes are almost as old as the university, with deep roots, and others are new and need help establishing themselves. To thrive, they require constant attention and nurturing, for which they reward us with gorgeous blooms of every size, color, and fragrance. **Every flower and every face is a treasure of infinite value, and it is a privilege to nurture them both at Hillel.**

There is a season in the rose cycle where the plants are pruned so severely, down to stubby branches and thorns, that it becomes hard to imagine them making it back to bloom again. There were moments in the last few Covid-impacted years when our Hillel community felt this way too. But the sacred energy kept flowing, even in our truncated state, and our ability to continue to be present for students through the year of remote learning meant that we were a trusted partner when they returned to campus.

With students back, all of the life and joy blossomed again.

I am so grateful for the students who come to our building ready to explore their Jewish identities, create lasting connections to each other, and give back to the Jewish people; as well as for the ones we spread across campus to find, because engaging Jewishly was not at the top of their Stanford priority list. **Our community is truly a big tent — deeply pluralistic and gloriously diverse in so many ways.** I wish that you could be at every learning session, at every dinner table, in every conversation between staff and student leaders to see your impact yourself. **In these pages, I hope that you can feel the overwhelming sense of communal joy, growing excitement, and amazing energy that we have been lucky enough to experience all year.**

I also want to take a moment to thank Hillel's staff. Our team worked incredibly hard to ensure that every student had a place to express their Judaism, the opportunity to tell their story, and the resources to pursue their passion. **This year, Jeremy Ragent, our Assistant Director and leader of all things related to program and student engagement, celebrated his 10th year with Hillel at Stanford.** I'm so grateful to him for making everything we do with and for students possible. Over the last decade, he has helped guide our community through remarkable challenges and successes, and inspired and mentored thousands of Jewish students.

On behalf of the staff, students, Board of Directors, and myself, thank you for your very generous support. **The beauty and strength of this thriving Jewish community in one of the world's most significant universities would not be possible without you.**

Rabbi Jessica Q. Kirschner

Rabbi Jessica Kirschner
Executive Director





“

The Hillel community is always there, no matter how fast-moving quarters are or how fluctuating our circumstances can feel. That dependability makes Hillel home.

Ben Fischer '23

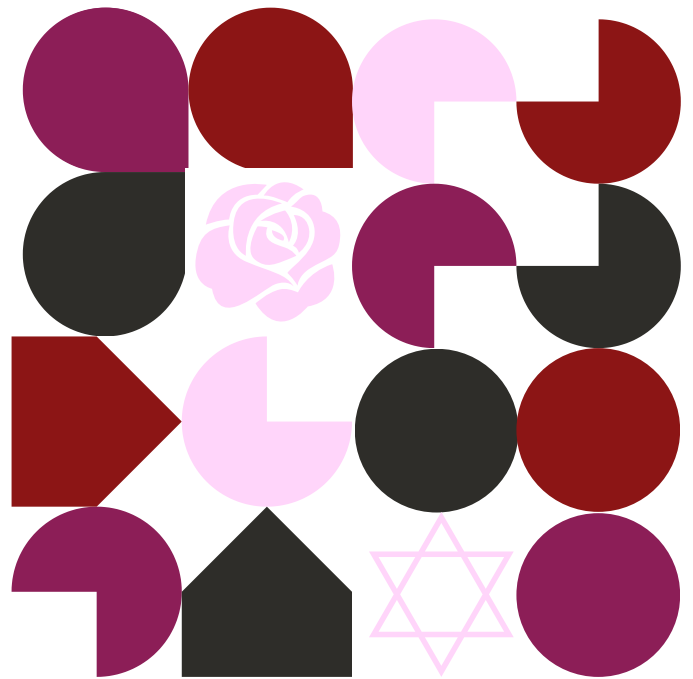
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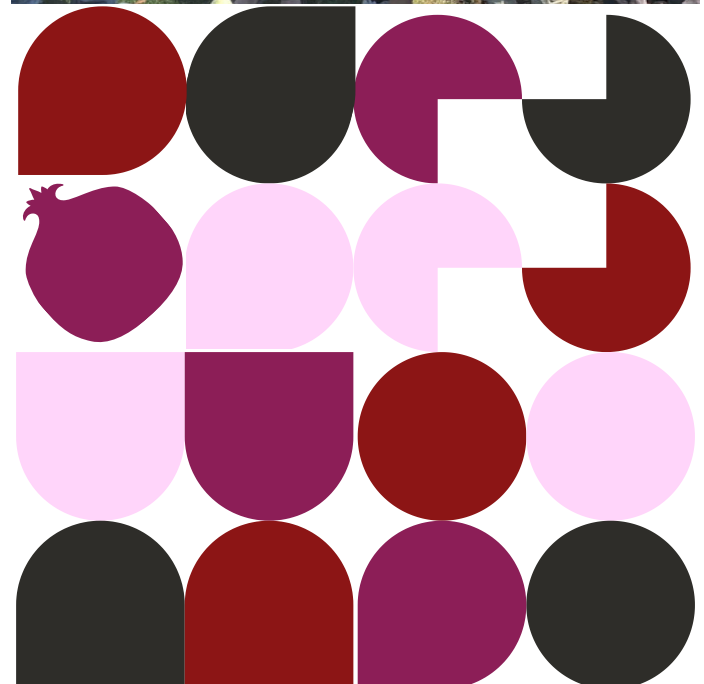
210

students participated in our
SHEFA Wellbeing and
Spreading Plenty Initiative



80

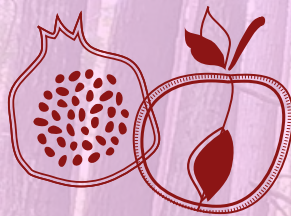
students fell in love with
Torah as a part of a Jewish
learning cohort





1,130

**FREE kosher
Shabbat
dinners served**



1,020

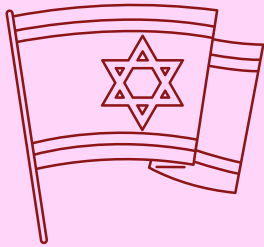
**students
celebrated Jewish
holidays**



430

**grad students
built community
together**

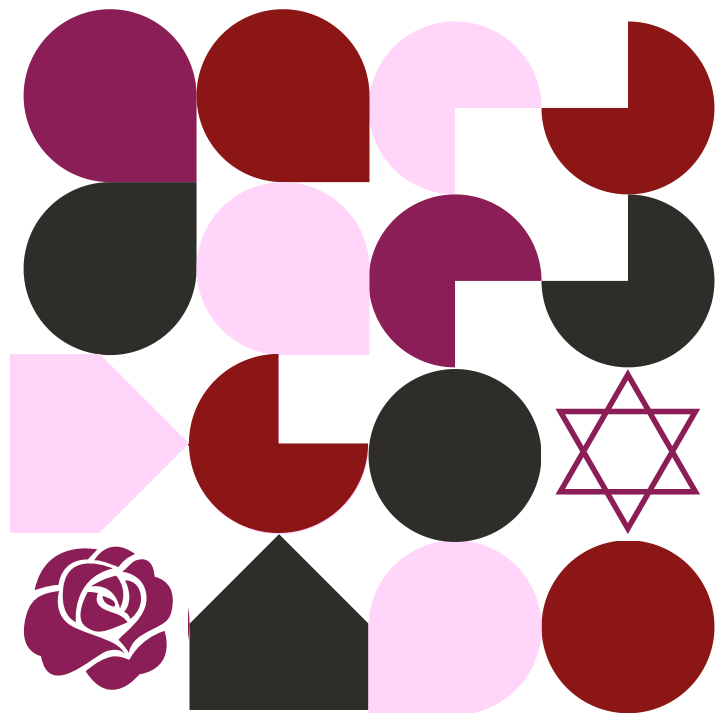




100

**students joined Hillel for
on campus Israel focused
conversations and events**

**We went on
Hillel's first
trip to Israel
in two years!**



“Going to Israel with Hillel brought me closer to existing friends and introduced me to so many incredible people. This trip connected me even more with my Judaism. The memories I made will follow me long after I leave Hillel.

Paloma Aisenberg '22



TZEDEK AND GIVING BACK

15

students spent spring break learning about the legacy of slavery in America, ongoing racism, and how we can take action as a community.



“

Hillel has always encouraged me to pursue social justice through a Jewish lens. Hillel is always there to guide me and help me become a better version of myself.

Alexa Kupor '25

”



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