

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Our Impact on Campus

Hillel

University of Delaware

Kristol Center for Jewish Life



Dear Friends,

When we embarked on our 2021 fiscal year on July 1, 2020, UD Hillel faced many uncertainties. Would UD hold a fall semester? Would students attend classes in-person or virtually? Would we be able to open the Kristol Center for Jewish Life for students to congregate?

Although UD went forward with the fall semester, most dorms remained dormant, and most classes took place online. As a result, many students never came to campus. UD Hillel responded with an unprecedented breadth and depth of remote programming that kept Jewish students engaged regardless of location and served as a lifeline for many, especially freshmen.

With COVID spiking over the winter, we opted to keep the Kristol Center closed for the spring semester. More in-person classes and students in the dorms meant we needed to shift our programming approach to a hybrid model, with some events on Zoom and others outdoors at the Kristol Center and around campus – with social distancing and other safety precautions.

Despite these and other challenges, UD Hillel thrived. Our dedicated staff continued to create compelling, innovative programming that built community. Parents, faculty, the local community, and alumni supported our mission in record-breaking numbers to help ensure we could meet the more frequent and urgent needs of our students without interruption. And, we realized our nearly two-decade-long dream of acquiring the property next door to the Kristol Center, which allowed us to begin the exciting process of planning for and securing UD Hillel's future for generations to come.

As we look to the 2022 fiscal year, we still do not know what the “new normal” will be, nor how it will impact UD Hillel. We anticipate our most challenging year ever, as our staff must support robust in-person and virtual programming simultaneously, while we navigate COVID's unknown path on a daily basis. Meantime, we will eagerly press forward with initiatives that will bring our new home that much closer to reality.

Our Board of Directors, a diverse collection of students, alumni, faculty, parents, and community members, supports our staff and Jewish students at UD with unwavering passion, commitment, and fortitude.

Thank you for helping lift UD Hillel to new heights. Together, we are making UD a destination school for Jewish students, helping them define and grow their Jewish identities, and giving them a platform for the experiences and relationships they very much deserve.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Gilbert".

Alan Gilbert
President
Board of Directors



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Schwartz".

Donna Schwartz
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

We envision a world where every UD Jewish student is inspired to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel.

OUR VISION

We as Hillel professionals believe that every student has a story and a journey. We are here to support them throughout their college journey in whatever ways we can to help them become who they want to be.

2020-2021, by the numbers

1,555

One on One
Engagements

2,466

Shabbat Dinners

3,340

High Impact Activities

9,888

Total Student
Engagements



Year At a Glance

UD Hillel remained an engaging, innovative Jewish home for our students - virtually or socially distanced. Staff led virtual cohorts and check-ins for students at home, and UD Hillel provided meals for students on campus to have Shabbat in their dorms or apartments. Our team's innovation allowed students to have a vibrant Jewish community even through the challenges of the pandemic.

AUGUST: COHORT PROGRAMS

Over 250 students participated in a total of 24 small cohort learning programs, including Mind Body & Soul, Israel-The Next Level, and the Torah portion of the week.

DECEMBER: HILLEL WINTERFEST

To keep students connected during the winter break, we launched Winterfest, welcoming 150 students into 12 groups topics including "Hillel Fresh: Jewish Desserts," "Hillel Leadership Lab," and "Finding Your True North."

MARCH: SHABBAT YOUR WAY

Our students hosted their own Shabbat dinners with the help of UD Hillel. Shabbat Your Way meal pick-ups provided students with the chance to take ownership of their Jewish identity and for many, this was their first time hosting a Shabbat of their own.

MAY: HILLEL HANGOUTS

With warmer spring weather, students congregated in our backyard weekly for fun gatherings like "Herb and Learn" herb planting, a sustainability event hosted by our Repair the World intern, and social events where they could meet new friends.



Rosh Hashanah



Sukkot



Passover





Our Next Chapter

At the turn of the century, the Board and staff at the Kristol Center for Jewish Life at the University of Delaware looked into the future and saw enormous possibilities. At that time, UD Hillel secured a "right of first refusal" for the property next door, with the idea of extending the footprint of the Kristol Center to accommodate the next generation of UD students as Jewish life continues to grow in Newark. Twenty years later, our wonderful next door neighbor turned 100 and decided it was time to sell her house to Hillel.

This development comes just in time, with UD Hillel having outgrown our current building due to the sheer number of students who want to be involved with Jewish life on campus. UD Hillel has widely been recognized as one of the most innovative Hillels in the country, however our facilities, now almost 30 years old, haven't kept pace.

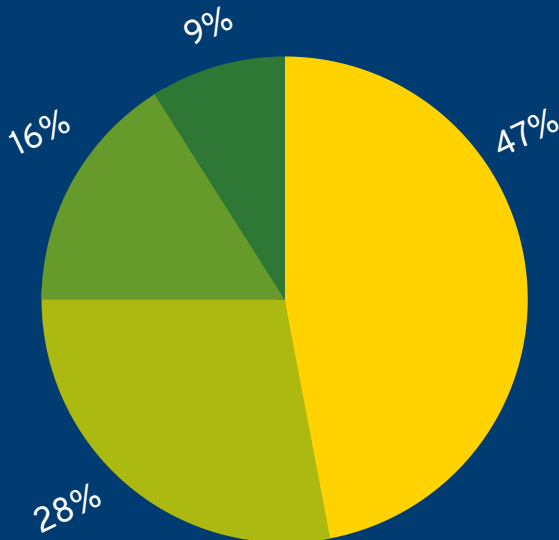
We are now taking our first steps towards the future. We are working closely with our students to understand what they want in a Hillel building, and how that compares to recently developed buildings at Hillels on other campuses. Our new facility has the potential to not only serve our students, but the broader Delaware Jewish community as well.

All of us at UD Hillel—the Board, the staff, and the students, are engaged and excited to move forward. This is an exciting time for UD Hillel, and we know our Delaware community will continue to see and value our role as the center of Jewish life on campus and support us as we look to tomorrow, just as you did back in 1992 when today's Kristol Center was conceived.

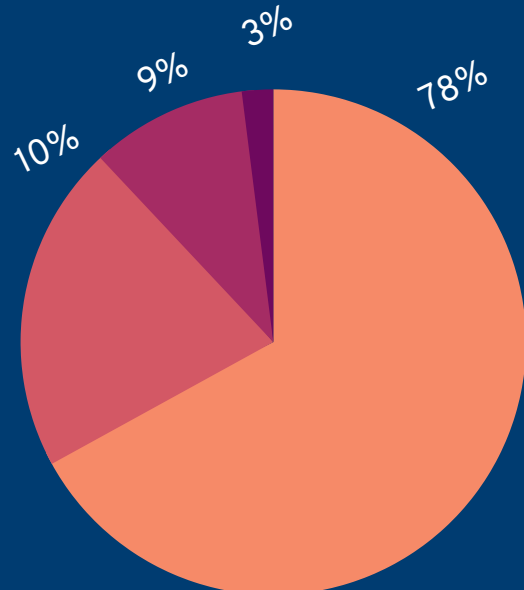
Financial Report

Our community truly stepped up to the plate during the pandemic, allowing us to continue our work during a time of fear about the future of Jewish communal organizations. Our donor base, number of gifts, and overall revenue grew in FY21, and we are continuing to see that growth in FY22.

2020-2021 Income



2020-2021 Expenses





OFFICERS

Alan Gilbert- President
Wendy Goldberg- Vice President
Seth Cohen- Treasurer
Paige Alderson- Secretary

WHO WE ARE

Hillel at the University at Delaware's staff works to connect to every Jewish student on campus. With diverse backgrounds, every staff member has something different to offer to our student body.

Our Board of Directors volunteers their time and expertise to assist in the development of UD Hillel.

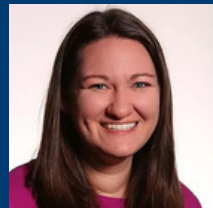
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Denise Marvel



Lesley Pearl



Stuart & Suzanne Grant Comprehensive Excellence Society

In 2015 a group of visionary donors came together to make a significant investment in the success of the University of Delaware Hillel.

Their generosity jump-started the capacity of the organization to grow dramatically, leading to the founding of the Stuart and Suzanne Grant Comprehensive Excellence Society.



Platinum Members

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*of Blessed Memory



Creating a Jewish Legacy

Each of us has been left a legacy of Jewish values from those who have come before us.

Our Jewish Legacy donors guarantee funding for our most valued programs indefinitely. Their unrestricted legacy gifts ensure a strong and vibrant Jewish community in Delaware for generations to come.



Thank You to our Creating a Jewish Legacy donors for ensuring UD Hillel will be a home away from home for many years.

Annette Aerenson • Brian and Pam Appelbaum • Sarah Baker Andrus
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