

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

As I reflect on the past year as Chair of Metro Chicago Hillel, I am so proud of all that we have accomplished together:

- Metro Chicago Hillel established Silverstein Base Hillel through the vision and generosity of the Silverstein family, local foundations, JUF and individual donors, and the strength of the Chicago Jewish community. A beautiful home, blocks from DePaul's campus, serves as the center of Jewish life for many of our Hillel students led by an inspiring rabbinic couple.
- Our professional team met individually with over 400 students this past year to cultivate new relationships and connect students with Jewish life in downtown Chicago.
- We expanded programming in both depth and breadth to reach more students and provide more opportunities for Jewish learning and social action.
- Student leaders have taken on even more responsibility as they grow not only as young adults but as community members.

As we look forward to the new school year, we say goodbye to our Executive Director for the past three years, Rabbi Seth Winberg, who has left an indelible mark on Metro Chicago Hillel. We are excited to continue our growth and transformation as we welcome Charles Cohen as our new Executive Director. Charles comes to us most recently from Palm Beach, Florida as Executive Director of the Arthur I. Meyer Jewish Academy. We will also welcome three new Jewish life associates and a new Israel Fellow. The changes to the MCH team will bring new ideas and energy to keep the positive momentum going.

I joined the MCH board to support Chicago's college students. MCH represents a diverse student community with unique needs and challenges. I give to enable the MCH team to connect with students in new and creative ways. The majority of MCH students will remain in Chicago and develop into our future Jewish leaders. I have the pleasure of working with an amazing team at JUF, a dedicated board and a fully supportive Hillel International organization. Each day, I see the dedication of the MCH team as they foster deep connections with students.

We need your support to fulfill our mission to inspire every student to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life. Together, we can provide students the best opportunities to create strong relationships and a place in the community. Thank you for investing in our future leaders and strengthening the Jewish community of tomorrow.

  
Lisa Jericho



## HILLEL BY THE NUMBERS

 HILLEL HOSTED **381** PROGRAMS UP FROM 290 LAST YEAR

 **1604** SHABBAT & HOLIDAY MEALS SERVED

**249** STUDENTS WERE ENGAGED IN HIGH-IMPACT PROGRAMS UP FROM 229 LAST YEAR

 **95** STUDENTS VOLUNTEERED THIS YEAR

 **1170** UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS IN HILLEL UP FROM 750 LAST YEAR

CHICAGO ISRAEL WEEK ENGAGED **231** STUDENTS ON 8 CAMPUSES 

“ Metro Chicago Hillel and Silverstein Base Hillel provided me with opportunities to grow in my Judaism in a fun, welcoming, and structured environment. I was able to learn what I connected to most through the events and always left with at least one new friend. ”  
-Jordan Reich, University of Illinois Chicago

## SERVICE & LEARNING

### L'DOR V'DOR

“ L'dor V'Dor ("From Generation to Generation") is a new initiative connecting college students to the Jewish elderly through conversation, games, art, music, and more. L'dor V'Dor was a unique opportunity this year that I, as a senior, was very appreciative to have participated in before I graduated.

I have personally worked in nursing homes and with the geriatric population prior to attending Loyola, so I was enthused to have this opportunity. It gives students the chance to learn how to communicate in a different way, the opportunity to learn people's personal stories, and the chance to engage a population of individuals who don't always get attention.

Listening to Holocaust survivors happily share lessons learned as a child puts a smile on my face. Watching my peers interact with complete strangers and have meaningful conversations puts a smile on my face.

Regardless, it is the connections that we make from generation to generation that keep us rooted and connected to those around us. It is these connections that make me appreciative of programs that support them. ”  
Tracy Korn, Loyola University

### JLF FELLOWSHIP

“ My time participating in the JLF fellowship became a time of the week where I was able to let go of my academic load for a couple of hours and focus my energy on topics that were thought provoking and sparked valuable conversations. It was a reminder of my Judaism as its weekly accessibility urged my attendance and interest. I believe sessions like the JLF fellowship are always an interesting social experience. Whether you begin with close relationships or come in as a stranger, there is a guarantee that at the conclusion of the fellowship, you have formed relationships with others that you didn't have prior. I owe my deep interest of social justice to this fellowship through Hillel as it has allowed me the opportunity to have valuable dialogues with other students in the Chicago area.

Having open conversations with a group of people allows an individual to feel comfortable with communicating thoughts and ideas that they may have never verbally expressed. This is something I noticed during the semester as people started to speak once they became more comfortable. Having the opportunity to learn from guest speakers was fascinating as students were able to relate the topics of the sessions to tangible jobs or opportunities around us. Whether it is a Jewish Learning Fellowship focusing on social justice or any other topic, there is no doubt that the outcome of the session will leave students inspired and ready to facilitate change in their communities. ”

-Haley Dennis, Columbia College Chicago



## ISRAEL ON CAMPUS

A Little Bit of Israel is a series of 5 events about Israeli life and culture. The program is an initiative of the students at UIC who wanted to learn more about Israel and not necessarily about the conflict. The first event was about the taste of Israel- a foodventure trying regional specialties and favorites while discussing food in the Israeli culture. The second program in the series was "Hummus and Humor", we discussed and experienced humor and comedy in Israel. The third experience was a Krav Maga lesson. We had 40 participants in total.

“ Hillel's "Little Bit of Israel" series has been such a great way to connect to my homeland right here on campus. I love that we explored so many different cultural aspects of Israel every week. I feel that everyone who had attended an event has learned something new about Israeli culture. ”  
-Lily Kleinman, president, University of Illinois Chicago



This year's Chicago Israel Week was filled with fun events, hosted by all the Metro Chicago Hillel schools around the city. The week started at Silverstein Base Hillel, where we hosted Mega Israel Shabbat. Students ate delicious food, learned about Israeli culture and participated in reading Israeli poetry and literature. A highlight of the week was a fashion show at DePaul, which featured Israeli fashion designer Tali Kogan, who incorporated students in the showcasing of her clothing and other designs.

Loyola University hosted environmentalist Erin Shrode to speak about her life as an activist and her candidacy for a congressional seat in her home town in California. UIC hosted a Lunch-and-Learn in which speaker Laurie Grauer talked about LGBTQ rights in Israel. Columbia College invited dance choreographer Anna Long to teach the Israeli Gaga dance technique. Later that week, DePaul, Loyola, UIC and other Chicagoland universities participated in a world-wide social action event called Good Deeds Day, in which groups of students and staff from different universities around the Chicago area came together to perform community service for people in need.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Judy Friedman (NEIU, 1978)  
Max Green (DePaul, 2011 and 2012)  
Lisa Jericho, Chair  
Daniel Kaufman (Loyola Law, 2010)  
Joshua Liss

John Lowenstein, Hillels of Illinois  
Andy Lucas (Loyola Quinlan, 2012)  
Jeremy Oberfeld (Loyola, 1988)  
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Joshua D. Rinkov  
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Michael I. Tarkoff (IIT, 1966; DePaul 1996)  
Ruth Wenger  
Alon Yonatan (UIC, 1998)

## STAFF

Charles Cohen  
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Base Hillel Rabbi

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Emily Levy  
Jewish Life Associate

Evan Richter  
Jewish Life Associate



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR COMMUTER STUDENTS

“ Hillel brings people together. I find this important on college campuses, especially community colleges, because there is no on-campus living, or much communication between students outside of classes. Hillel gives Jewish students and those who wish to learn about the culture and religion a safe environment to do so. ” -Eileen Ehrlich, Oakton Community College

“ Last August I moved 2000 miles from home for college. I was leaving behind the Jewish community that I grew up with and love so much. Metro Chicago Hillel welcomed me with open arms and provided me with a Jewish home. ” -Sydney Kaplan, Illinois Institute of Technology

“ The weekly program JLF with Base Hillel was a great way for me to meet students from other schools and engage with them on topics related to social justice. I really enjoyed getting to know all the staff and students at MCH and Base and I look forward to continue to be involved with both during my last year. ” -Max Kalef, Columbia College Chicago



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# Hillel

## Metro Chicago