

Friends Newsletter

Hillel Honors Student Leaders

The **“Hit the Ground Running”** award honors a first year student who has jumped into Hillel with enthusiasm, devoting their time and energy to improving Hillel immediately. This year’s award went to Phoenix freshman **Zach Schawelson**.

There are few higher Jewish compliments to pay someone than to call them a mensch. A mensch is a person who can be relied on to act with honor and integrity. But the Yiddish term means more than that: it also suggests someone who is kind and considerate.

The **“Mensch”** award honors someone who has proven themselves to be a mensch through their words and actions which this year went to freshman **Elijah Greenfield**.

Hineni means “Here I Am.” This award is given to someone who shows up for Hillel and who, whenever we ask for student volunteers, steps up. We recognize a student who is always looking to take on new roles within Hillel, and this year’s **Hineni award** went to junior and Hillel board member **Lisa Friedman**.

The **Ben Gurion Award** is to recognize those who support, advocate and educate about Israel. We are recognizing a student who during their time at the UA combined leadership, motivation and professionalism within the pro-Israel community. This is even more impressive considering that they have not yet traveled to Israel. This year’s awardee is **Addie Lavis**, the chair of Catpac and a member of the Israel team.



Board of Directors

Thomas Saylor-Brown, Chair
 Amy Brannock, Vice Chair
 Suzanne Baron Helming, Treasurer
 Dina Rosengarten, Secretary
 John Judin, Immediate Past Chair

Morgan Abraham
 Lindsey Baker
 Michaela Davenport
 Arielle Devorah
 Lisa Friedman
 Leslie Glaze
 Sara Harelson
 Bryan Kaplan
 Andra Karnofsky
 Nancy Koff
 Dana Narter
 Allan Pressel
 Jim Shiner
 Josh Silverman
 Alex Stuchen
 Heather Wolfson

Staff

Michelle Blumenberg,
 Executive Director

Abbi Cook,
 Assistant Director

Charae Stewart,
 Operations Manager

Nirit Gelfer,
 Jewish Agency Israel Fellow

Nancy Finkelstein,
 Bookkeeper

Thank you to the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona and the Hillel International Talent Grant Program for assisting our Hillel in hiring our new Assistant Director through the help of their grants.

**Dear Friends, Students, and Partners:**

Looking back on the 2019-20 year, we remember fondly the traditions we enjoyed in person – Israelpalooza, Challah Bake and Takes, Shabbat services and dinners, High Holidays, Tu B’shvat plantings, and other social events. We recognize new forms of engagement that grew out of the coronavirus crisis that closed the UA and shut down our world. Utilizing Zoom and Facebook Live, we broadcast: the 29th Annual Holocaust Vigil, Shabbat services, hangouts, Israel Learning Fellowship, Hillel@Home programs, and more.

We strive to maintain the unique chutzpah that makes Hillel special while adapting to new student needs and leadership. With your support, hundreds of Jewish students at the University of Arizona joined us for High Holidays and Passover, baked challah, learned about Jewish traditions, advocated for Israel, and made lifelong friends.

Please join us in celebrating this year’s College Youth Award recipient, Maya Griswold. Maya became involved with Shabbat programming almost as soon as she arrived at the UA, including leading services for two years. Her welcoming way of being warmed hearts and brought joy to our activities. The most meaningful program which Maya has chaired for three years is the multi-cultural Shabbat. Even this year, when we had to be online, she presented a lovely and welcoming Facebook experience. We wish her well in graduate school and we are excited that she will soon be engaging with her new community at the Kansas Hillel.

We want to ensure that every Jewish student at the UA who wants to explore his or her Jewish journey feels supported, welcomed, and challenged to grow into the involved and informed Jewish young adults we know they can become. Whether we are in person, on the phone, on Zoom, or on Facebook, we are here for our students. Your support and involvement make all this possible. We are grateful for and thank you for your generous support throughout the year.

L’shalom,
Thomas Saylor-Brown
 Board Chair

Michelle Blumenberg
 Executive Director

Whether we are in person, on the phone, on Zoom, or on Facebook, we are here for our students. Your support and involvement make all this possible.



Mansfeld Middle School Clean-Up



Coke Shabbat

Pre-Covid Life at Hillel

Fall at Hillel began with lots of energy and excitement, as well as two new staff members, Assistant Director Abbi Cook and Israel Fellow Nirit Gelfer. Our student leaders have a passion for *tikkun olam*, healing and repairing of the world. This led to the creation of Hillel Helps, which is the umbrella for all the community service opportunities we offer students. This year's events included cleaning the grounds of Mansfeld Middle School with the UA softball team, packing meals at the community-wide interfaith Pack-a-Thon (where we helped pack 50,000 meals), volunteering at the Z Mansion Soup Kitchen, and participating in the Midbar project (local Jewish community farm).

This past October, Hillel held our annual Israelpalooza with over 200 students, faculty, and staff in attendance. Our pro-Israel groups, including Catpac, Wildcats for Israel, ZOA, JNF, Christians United for Israel, and Mishelanu, planned and implemented the Mall event with Nirit. In addition, Nirit hosted the Israel Learning Fellowship for about 20 students over the course of the year, all of whom not only learned more about Israel but they also implemented a program for other students about a topic of interest to them.

Coke Shabbat was a partnership between our Hillel and Coca Cola. The UA Coke Brand Ambassador, Brennen Feder, worked closely with our student leaders to prepare this outside the box Shabbat experience. The night began with a Coke Happy Hour where students could sample new Coke flavors while enjoying a spirited song session. Following services, we raffled off awesome Coke branded prizes during dinner.



Post-Covid Life at Hillel

As with the world, we were faced with the question of how to engage students once the UA campus closed due to the coronavirus. Immediately we began to evaluate every program on our calendar and determined which ones we could offer virtually. Hillel has presented almost 30 online programs since mid-March, with twelve of them led by student leaders. They have led cooking sessions, a painting party, a Health Relationship Workshop, weekly Hillel Hang Outs, community service opportunities, and community Shabbat experiences.

The first pivot we had to make was for our 29th Annual Holocaust Vigil. Traditionally this is an event that takes place on the UA Mall for 24 hours when hundreds of students take part in the reading of names of Holocaust victims and experience the museum pods. The Vigil took place on March 25, slightly over a week after the campus was shut down. Co-chairs Sam Felderman and Zach Schawelson immediately began planning for the virtual event. The vigil moved from a 24 hour event to six hours, with readers logging into Zoom and broadcasting on Facebook Live. The video is still available on Facebook and has had 944 views.



[Click for Video](#)

The Capitol Steps

PC (pre-covid), Hillel hosted Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin, Donald Trump, Nancy Pelosi and RBG, all of whom graced the Fox Tucson stage for the annual benefit. The Capitol Steps performed to an almost sold-out audience and entertained with a hilarious and irreverent satirical program which was much needed in this polarizing days. Thanks to all who participated and supported Hillel!



L-R: Thomas Saylor Brown, Capitol Steps cast members, Amy Brannock, Alex Stuchen

Student Reflections

"Through my involvement in Hillel, I have had endless opportunities to further develop my leadership skills and make a difference on campus. I am so thankful to be able to call Hillel my home away from home."

- **Berkley Selvin '21**

"This would have been my third year going to Passover Seder at Hillel. Unfortunately, we are going through really tough times right now, with the COVID-19 global pandemic, and a seder was not feasible this year. When Hillel found out that my brother and I were going to be staying in Tucson for the rest of the semester, the staff immediately offered to help us in any way they could. Thanks to the generous support of Hillel staff, donors, and alumni, my brother and I were able to receive a Passover meal and have our own seder. It is in trying times that I am most proud to be Jewish and a Wildcat."

- **Kaylah Scharf '21**

"Hillel has helped me grow professionally by providing me opportunities to be a leader. This has come in many different forms, from preparing and leading a Passover seder to working directly with Michelle to plan and implement Shabbat services, including the service itself and all the other moving parts such as welcoming everyone and dinner. Most of all, Hillel has taught me how to work in a professional environment."

- **Maya Griswold '20**

"Whether it was giving a drash after Shabbat services, making announcements, or leading a Passover seder, I learned to speak up about the things I care about most. Through my involvement with Hillel, peer leadership has become an invaluable skill I use almost daily. I am so thankful to have spent 4 years being involved in Hillel, and I know the lessons it has taught me will remain with me throughout my professional career."

- **Michaela Davenport '20**

"Hillel is the strongest community I have found at the UA. It is also the most open and welcoming community."

- **Jordy Brooks, ' 22**

"Hillel is like my home at college. It's given me a place to study, relax, talk, and even nap! Hillel and all of its programs have helped the transition from home to college be much smoother. I've made so many new friends at Hillel, and I love that I can reach out to anyone at Hillel for help with my life."

- **Zachary "Schwally" Schawelson '23**



We are grateful for the support of all our donors: (list as of May 8, 2020)

Leadership Circle:

Alice and Paul Baker
Diamond Family Foundation
Lynda and Mark Hanna
Tandy and Gary Kippur
Kathy and Ron Margolis
Bettina and Kenneth Plevan
Shelley Pozez
Thomas Saylor-Brown and John Linder
Marsha and Gary Tankenoff

Parents' Club Donors:

Jonna and Scott Berman
Cindy and Adam Brooks
Michael Greenfield
Hilary and Joel Katz
Ella Weiss

Community Partners:

Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona

All other donors:

Aaron Rothschild Family
Marcia and Todd Abelson
Morgan Abraham
Barbara and Donald Abrams
Austin Agron
Vicki and Phillip Alberts
David Alster
Judith and Harvey Amster
Nancy and Michael Apsell
Benjamin Ariff
Jane and Bruce Ash
Gabriel Avraham
Hadar Avraham
Nathan Bacal
Lesia and Gordon Baier
Barry Baker
Deborah Baker
Lindsey and Joshua Baker
Roma Barayev
Martha Baron
Ronald Barris
Iris and Adam Bashein
Harriet and Jerry Belenker
Robyn Beresh
Barbara and Robert Bereskin
Judy Berman
Donna and Bruce Beyer
Dorothy and Michael Blaie
Kathryn and Casey Blitt
Ellen and Alan Bloom
Suzanne and Nathaniel Bloomfield
Liliane Blumenberg
Michelle Blumenberg
Abbi and Thomas Booe

Ilana Boss-Markowitz and Neil Markowitz
Kayla Boyer
Amy and Tom Brannock
Judy and Bernard* Briskin
Andrea and Jim Brown
Bennett Brown
Jim Brown
Patrice and Ron Brown
Kathy Burgheimer
Jerome Cabakoff
Heather and Steve Caine
Margaret Caine
Susan Chaikin and Stan Lehman
Amy Charles and Steven McMillan
David Coffman
Helene and Tim Cohen
Lee Cohen
Marla Cohen and Matt Unger
Ronald Cohen
Sandy and Robert Cohen
Sandy and Theo Cohen
Susan Cohen
Randie and Shelby Collier
Ben Cook
Vickey and Allan* Cook
Bette and Leonard Cooper
Eric Cordova
Richard Covell
Sheldon Cowin
Hannah Crawford
Rebecca and John Crow
Marjorie and George Cunningham
Corey Cutler
Michaela Davenport
Edden Dembsky
Larry Deutsch and Bill Parker
Ruth and Steve Dickstein
Karen Domnitch
Pam Drell and Alan Kalmikoff
Sally and Ralph Duchin
Patty Durant
Rosie Eilat-Kahn and Paul Kahn
Melissa Einfrank
Roberta Elliott
Stephanie Elovitz
Beth Englezos
Esther N. Capin Fund
Deanna Evenchik-Brav and Garry Brav
Eileen Fagan and Bob Kaplan
Mindy Fain and Richard Mandel
Karen and Lionel Faitelson
Anita and Brad Feder
Nicole Fedoravicius
Megan and Ilan Fehler
Julie Feldman and Keith Dveirin
Miles Felton

Howard Fidel
Lawrence Finder
Wendy and Dennis Fingold
Karin Finkelstein
Nancy and Michael Finkelstein
Wendy and William Fishkind
Edie and David Flyer
Lisa and Brian Fortman
Sorale Fortman
Heidi and Scott Friedman
Lisa Friedman
Madeline and Barry Friedman
Belina Fruitman
Lynne and Eric Gaines
Terry and Mark Gallegos
Gregg Garfin
Janis and Danny Gasch
Nirit Gelfer
Kristen and Larry Gellman
Sabin Gershwier
Steven Giordano
Edythe and David Gissing
Jean and Marvin Glassberg
Leslie and Richard Glaze
Louise and Stuart Glogoff
Alan Goldberg
Donna and Jeff Goldberg
Elsa and Jay Goldberg
Lawrence Goldberg
Adam and Dana Goldstein
Arleen and Gerald Goldstein
Carolyn Goldstein
Ellen and David Goldstein
Howard Goldstein
Yetta and Ken Goodman
Paulette and Joe Gootter
Joyce Gordon
Lucy Graham
Joan and Richard Green
Rachel and Jonathan Green
Alayne and Bruce Greenberg
Louise Greenfield and Simon Rosenblatt
Michael Greenfield
Susan and Sid Greenwald
Dianne and Jeff Grobstein
Daniel Gross
Jody Gross
Jessica Grossman
Scott Grossman
Denise Grusin and Jim Wezelman
Rolfe Gudelsky
Abigail and David Gurian
Diana and Larry Haas
Jacob Hall
Anne and David Hameroff
Howard Hantman
Julie and Matt Harelson
Sara Harelson
Nancy Harris
Jacob Heller
Suzanne Baron Helming and Bruce Helming
Carlos Hernandez
Stephen Hertzfeld
Joel Herz



Jewish
Community
Foundation
of Southern Arizona



Passover funding generously provided by the Elinor and Yale Palchick Family Foundation Fund held at the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona.

Hirshberg Family Donor Advised Fund
Rachel Hochberg
Sharon and Mark Hochberg
Sharon and Andrew Horodner
Linda Horowitz
Robyn and James Howes
Charles Hoyack
Ashley and Josh Hurand
Deborah and Jim Jacobs
Louis Jacobson
Ruth and Henry Jacobson
Sandra and Stuart Jacobson
Deborah Jassem
Marcelle and Leonard Joffe
Koreen Johannessen
Deb and John Judin
Lisa and Dan Jurkowitz
Sarah Kadar
Michael Kahn
Susan and Harry Kahn
Wendy and Steven Kahn
Harriet and Marvin Kamiel
Bryan Kaplan and Brian Sowl
Mary Lynn and Ken Kargow
Andra Karnofsky and Chuck Gannon
Beth and Mike Kasser
Cheryl and Howard Katz
Meredithe and Mitchel Katz
Jason, Allison, Eliana, Sarina and Adena Kaufman
Risa and Jonathan Kipnis
Kitay Family Foundation
Rachel and Tim Kitt
Jane Kivel
Anita Klawans
Sharon and Fred Klein
Neil Kleinman
Cristine and Lawrence Kline
Nancy Koff
Ruth and Ron Kolker
Kay and Phil Korn
Vickey and Howard Korn
Billie and Boris Kozolchik
Paula and Kenneth Krane
Tamar Rala Kreiswirth
Kroger's
Linda and Andy Kunsberg
Beverly and Neale Kuperman
Lynn and Jeff Kurn
Brenna Lacey and Steve Rodgveller
Cindy and Charles Lachin
Janie Landow-Esser and Jeffrey Esser
Hana and Franklin Lange
Belinda Lasky
Karen Lazarow and Gilbert Sokal
Janice and Robert Leff
Libby Lemoine
Mark Lessner
Jacqueline and David Lester
Alan Levenson and Rachel Goldwyn
Bertie Levkowitz and Thomas Herz
Elizabeth Goodman Levy
Helaine Levy
Tracy and Michael Levy
Roberta Lewis
Chuck Lichter
Hope and Rick Lorimer
Doug Mandler
Alison and Jeff Markowitz

Maurice and Gail Mordka Endowment Fund
Sandy Maxfield
Sally and Michael Mayersohn
Stuart Melcer
Nancy and Stu Mellan
Meyer Agron Family Endowment Fund
Aliza and Jonathan Michel
Michelle and Joseph Millstone
Michelle and Bruce Minkus
Helene and Michael Miron
Marsha Mondschein and Jeff Selvin
Judith Monetathchi
Josie and Steve Morris
Elizabeth Munsey
Bailey London Nakelsky
Judith Napp
Dana Narter and Ed Baruch
Terry and Jerry Neuman
Caren and Thomas Newman
Christian Nielsen
Lori Noah
Norman and Elaine Polsky Family Foundation
Deborah Oseran and Bobby Present
Rachel and Hal Ossman
Bridget Ott
Art and Eileen Pearlman
Eric Penner
Stuart Pinkert
Susan and Donald Pitt
Lea Plosker
Terri and David Polan
Susan Pollack and Michael Campbell
Liz and Greg Pomish
Robin and Mitch Pozez
Mary Beth, Michael, Aaron and Lisa Pratt
Katharine Coles and Allan Pressel
Michael Rabkin
Nicolas Ramos
Paige Ramos
Jeanine Rappaport
Martha Rast
Danny Recht
Sally and Robert Reingold
Eileen and Michael Riley
Beverly Ripple
Jenni and Todd Rockoff
Lynda and Ed Rogoff
Fay Roos
Jill and Steven Rosenfeld
Dina Rosengarten
Carole and Michael Rosenzweig
Marlene Crocker Rosin
Helen and Jack Ross
Karen and Jonathan Rothschild
Anna and Myron Rottenstein
Neil Sampson
Michelle Sandler and Robert Altman
Beverly and Kenneth Sandock
Esther and Jacques Sardas
Brad Sarnoff
Betty Anne Sarver
Nadine and Bert Schneider
Derek Schop
Sarah and Leonard Schultz
Robyn and Ed Schwager
Leanne Schwartz and Murray Brilliant
Marcy Schwartz and Daniel Simon
Trudy and Howard Schwartz

Stanley Scott
Miriam and Peter Seagle
Erin Searle-Proud
Carol and Lex Sears
Molly Senor and Mel Cohen
Orly Shafrir
Shaol and Evie Pozez Endowment Fund
Eve Shapiro and Paul Gordon
Andy and Stu Shatken
Ellen Shenkarow and Mark Raven
Amee and Michael Sherer
Darren Shevchuk
Jim Shiner and Jordan Taylor
Shirley D. Curson Hillel Dinner Fund
Ian Shore
Alyssa Silva
Renee Polsky Silver
Josh Silverman
Shelly and Steven Silverman
Paula and Daniel Singer
Steven Slaff
Tanya Slovin
Rick Small
Jennifer Sosnow
Belle Soyfer
Ronald Staub
Rachel and Harvey Sternheim
Charae and Steve Stewart
Paula and Alan Strosberg
Alex Stuchen
Seth Swift
Marianne and Stuart Taussig
Abbie and Gary Tenen
Lois and Leon Thikoll
Denise and Gary Ticker
Staci Tiras-Jones
Cheryl and Howard Toff
Linda and Gerry Tumarkin
Merle Turchik
Lisa Ungar
Kathy and David Unger
Brenda and Bill Viner
Meryl Press Vissel
Bella Vivante
Martin Waldbaum
Thomas Warne
Barbara Wayne
Frank Weinberg
Liz Weinger-Schulman
Randy Weisman
Gary Weiss
Allison and Michael Wexler
James Wezelman
Leah and Ethan Widdes
Marcia Winick
Sylvia Winner
Rickie and Jerry Wolf
Ilona Wolfman and Matt Rothman
Heather and Matt Wolfson
Faye and David Wolsky
Ruth and Joel Wyse
Linda and Sam Yalkowsky
Linda and Herman Zayon
Janet and Anton Zeger
Rebecca and Al Zehngut
Mindy and Mark Zeitzer
Enid and Mel Zuckerman

Hillel

The Meyer Agron Center for Jewish Life on
The Harvey & Deanna Evenchik Campus

UAHILLEL.ORG

© f @HILLELARIZONA

Our Values

Foster
relationships

Cultivate
Jewish
learning

Promote
religious
pluralism

with one's self, Judaism, and Israel, among
other Jews and within the broader community.

