

LOUIS SHULMAN HILLEL FOUNDATION

ALIBER CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



THE FOUNDATION OF JEWISH LIFE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR, DEB CARNEOL

"THERE'S AN OLD JEWISH PROVERB, "I ASK NOT FOR A LIGHTER BURDEN, BUT FOR BROADER SHOULDERS." WHILE LAST YEAR WAS CERTAINLY FILLED WITH CHALLENGES, HILLEL GREW IMMENSELY.

With our new Executive Director at the helm - Ashley's leadership and thoughtfulness allowed our students to continue their exploration of their Jewish Identity amidst the uncertainties. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we congratulate Ashley on completing her first year. We know the hard work she put in last year will pave the way for years to come.

We were excited to welcome our students back to campus and provide programming like never before. Unfortunately, with the state of the pandemic, our programming looked different than it did in years past, but different did not take away from the quality. Students were still able to meet each other, learn about Israel, challenge each other to be better, and take up leadership positions in the organization.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generous support of our alumni, parents, and community members. Your donations helped us support students when they returned home last spring as well as provide programming throughout the summer. We were able to make health and safety enhancements to our building, as well as work with our student board to ensure that virtual programming continued to be effective.

My challenge to you is to continue engaging with us. Your support enables our programming to thrive, and in turn, students engage with us. After spending time with students at Hillel during a variety of events and programs, I am confident the future of the Jewish people is in good hands.

As soon as it is safe to do so, we look forward to hosting you and your family for a Shabbat dinner at Hillel. Until then, I hope you enjoy the updates throughout the report and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Stay safe and healthy,
Deb



BOARD OF TRUSTEES*

Debra Carneol
Laurie B. Davis
Alec Deer
Andi Lipman
Gary Milavetz
Felicia Ross
Jayne Sandler
Greg Shill
Nancy Sprince
Lila Weiland

*List as of 12/1/20

PICTURED ABOVE: DEB CARNEOL '92
(SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY) & HER
DAUGHTER, AVERY CARNEOL '23

FROM SHABBAT DINNERS TO AEPI
VERSUS HILLEL BOWLING TO
HANGING OUT AND STUDYING AT
HILLEL, WE HAD A WONDERFUL
2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR.



GREETINGS FROM IOWA HILLEL

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN JANUARY 1926, THERE WAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT ELECTIONS FOR THE HILLEL STUDENT BOARD IN THE DAILY IOWAN - THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS THE FIRST RECORD OF HILLEL ON THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA'S CAMPUS.

I learned that fun fact during services at Agudas Achim my first Shabbat as a Hawkeye, having just moved to Iowa City in June 2019. The knowledge that nearly 100 years ago we had Jewish students at Iowa forming friendships through Iowa Hillel has stuck with me.

Since then, I have learned so much more about Iowa Hillel from our students, alumni, parents, and the community. I have learned about the friendships (and future marriages) made during Shabbat dinner, the students who came to Iowa never seeing themselves as "Jewish enough" leading prayers at services, and the quiet freshmen who became leaders on the student board. Iowa Hillel has given generations upon generations of students a place to be unapologetically Jewish and a place to make Jewish friends; a place where you belonged and a community with which to surround yourself.

Our students today are yearning for that same sense of community and belonging. I moved to Iowa City to become the executive director because I want Jewish life for young adults to do more than survive. I want it to thrive. And that is why I have upped the ante. Iowa Hillel now has three full-time employees, and we plan to hire a program director this spring. With the increased staff we had at the beginning of this past semester, we were able to engage almost as many Jewish students this past semester than in the entire last school year, and that was during a global pandemic. And we are just getting started.

For Iowa Hillel to provide a welcoming space for each and every one of our students to explore their connection to Judaism in a meaningful way, we need your help. We need your support to accomplish more than we have in the past. When I sent out one of my first emails, I explained that I saw the huge potential that Iowa Hillel had, how I wanted Iowa Hillel to be the tipping point for Jewish students when they are deciding where they want to spend their next four years and how to best engage those who are currently here that were not as concerned about Jewish life when choosing Iowa. We are just starting to scratch the surface on that potential. I hope you are inspired when you review our Annual Report for what the Jewish future at Iowa could hold, and I ask you to join us in this journey.

With gratitude and optimism,
Ashley



ASHLEY TEACHING JAMIE ZUSSMAN '22 HOW TO SHAKE THE LULAV AND ETROG FOR SUKKOT

WAYS TO SUPPORT IOWA HILLEL

AND ANNOUNCING OUR PARENTS' SOCIETY



There are so many ways for alumni, parents, grandparents, and community members to support Iowa Hillel's students and build a strong Jewish community at the University of Iowa including:

- Support our daily operations for providing a home away from home for our students by making a gift to our general fund!
- Support our building renovations: from furniture to flooring to kitchen equipment to building a new outdoor space, help make Hillel look spiffy!
- Sponsor a Shabbat dinner!
- Sponsor a Bagel Brunch!

Iowa Hillel is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. You can donate at iowahillel.org/support-us or send a check to Iowa Hillel at 122 E. Market St. Iowa City, IA 52245. To donate a gift of stock, contact the office at (319)338-0778.

The Parents' Society: Welcome to the Hawkeye Hillel Family!

We are excited to invite parents and families to participate in a fundraising campaign developed specifically to engage current families! To be part of the Parents' Society, we ask for an annual gift at the levels listed that can be made as a one-time donation annually or through a monthly gift. Thank you for supporting Jewish life at the University of Iowa!

L'CHAIM

\$360 (\$30/MONTH)

- Parent Online Newsletter
- Iowa Hillel T-shirt
- Take-home challah on the first Shabbat for your student!

HONOR ROLL

\$540 (\$45/MONTH)

- Everything in the L'Chaim Tier **PLUS**
- A Finals Care Package for the fall semester for your student!

DEAN'S LIST

\$1,000 (\$84/MONTH)

- Everything in the Honor Roll Tier **PLUS**
- A Finals Care Package for the spring semester for your student!
- A personalized birthday (or half-birthday) cake for your student!

CHAI SOCIETY

\$1,800 (\$150/MONTH)

- Everything in the Dean's List Tier **PLUS**
- A reserved parking spot at Hillel for one weekend
- A mezuzah and scroll for your student's room!

VOLUNTEERING IN THE COMMUNITY

IOWA HILLEL PARTICIPATES IN MLK DAY OF SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HILLEL STUDENTS MAKE MEALS FOR SHELTER HOUSE, VALENTINES DAY CARDS FOR SENIOR CENTER



Students at the University of Iowa Hillel fill up boxes with meals to bring to the Shelter House on Monday, Jan. 20, 2020 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. (Aaron Scheinblum/KCRG) (KCRG)

By Aaron Scheinblum

Published: Jan. 20, 2020 at 8:02 PM CST

Many people across eastern Iowa participated in service projects to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday - including students at the University of Iowa Hillel.

Students made lunch for people staying at the Shelter House, and planned ahead making valentines for others at the Iowa City Senior Center.

"We thought because today is MLK Day, we want as a Jewish community, to contribute something back," said Caleb Marx, a student at the University of Iowa and the President of the student board of the Iowa Hillel.

Students did not set a goal for how many meals or letters they wanted to make - they just kept going until they ran out of food, or ran out of time.

"We're trying to do as much as we possibly can because at the end of the day, every person that we contribute to in a positive way just makes us happier," Marx said.

For leaders like Ashley Carol-Fingerhut, the executive director of the Iowa Hillel, she said seeing students with this kind of initiative is special. "It's a really good feeling to know that this is something that they care about and that they're starting to live those values that we want to instill," Carol-Fingerhut said.

As Marx drove to the Shelter House with a trunk full of meals, Carol-Fingerhut and other students stayed to make a few more valentines- but they said it was not for the recognition or a specific goal they were looking to reach. Marx said they just want people to know they are loved.

"I don't know if they're going to know that this came from Iowa Hillel, and that's not important," Carol-Fingerhut said. "But that they know that there are people out there who understand that they're a part of our community and we care about them."

Making sandwiches and cards, while making memories for themselves and others.

"I can just only imagine that someone at the Shelter House eating the great sandwiches and the great foods that we're making for them," Marx said.

To view the news story, visit <https://bit.ly/3aWbtg4>.

REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST

SERVICE AT IOWA HILLEL

IOWA HILLEL HOSTS SERVICE IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Students in the Iowa Hillel campus organization at the University of Iowa will host their own service in remembrance of the Holocaust on Monday night.

Monday night's service comes on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazis' Auschwitz concentration camp.

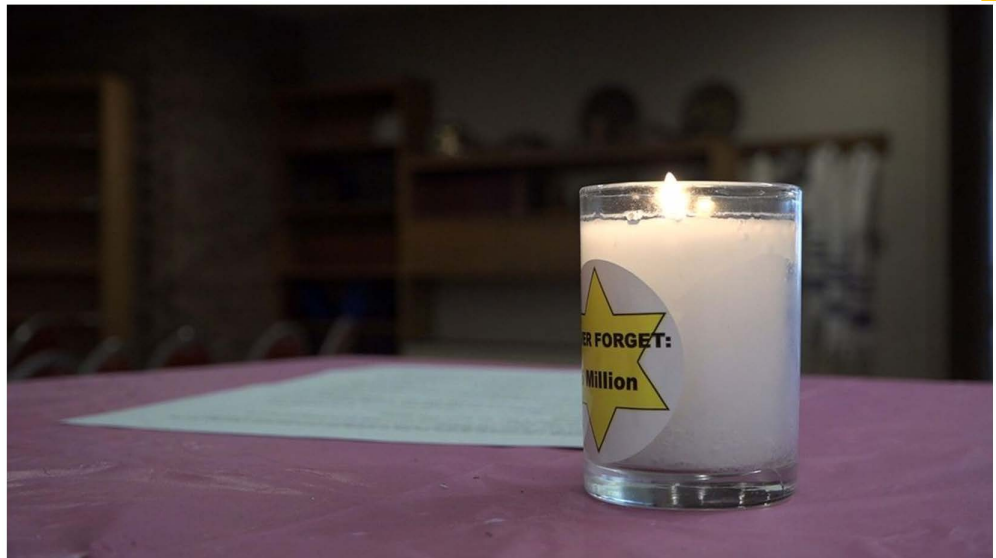
Leaders with the Hillel said this day is so important because it is an opportunity to teach students a lesson in remembering the millions who were killed.

"You say, 'May their memory be a blessing,'" Ashley Carol-Fingerhut, the Executive Director for the Iowa Hillel, said. "And we obviously can't change the fact that all these people died. There were six million Jews and many other millions of people who perished for being different. But what we can do is make sure that their death wasn't in vain."

Carol-Fingerhut explained how a day like Monday's service also serves to inspire students to stand up for what they believe in.

"The big thing that you learn growing up is the word 'זכור' which means remember," Carol-Fingerhut said. "And it's important to remember what's happened in our past. Because if we don't remember, we're doomed to repeat the same mistakes."

Carol-Fingerhut explained the remembrance is different from the Jewish holiday Yom HaShoah, a Holocaust remembrance day in the Jewish religion that typically falls in April but can vary based on the Hebrew calendar.



A candle is lit at the Iowa Hillel in Iowa City on Monday, Jan. 27, 2020 in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. (Aaron Scheinblum/KCRG) (KCRG)

By Aaron Scheinblum

Published: Jan. 27, 2020 at 4:55 PM CST



To view the news story, visit
<https://bit.ly/3n8iTj2>.

FROM ISRAELI THEMED
SHABBATS TO COOKING
CLASSES TO GUEST SPEAKERS,
IOWA HILLEL IS CONNECTING
STUDENTS TO ISRAEL.



TRAVELING TO ISRAEL

NO PASSPORT NEEDED

Back in March 2020, thank you to the support of our generous donors, Iowa Hillel was able to support eight students attending the AIPAC Conference in 2020. According to Freshmen Robbie Weiland, "Having the opportunity to attend AIPAC this past year with Iowa Hillel allowed me to further my connection with Israel politically by realizing the importance of a bipartisan Israel-U.S. relationship."

Students also explored Israel through cuisine this summer when we adapted our operations to virtual and offered an Israeli Cooking Club. A cohort of students joined a weekly cooking lesson led by Iowa Hillel Operations and Kitchen Manager, Jaime Holt. They made dishes from the Jerusalem cookbook, enabling them to make more delicious dishes for years to come. Lilly Sherman '22 said of the experience, "I really enjoyed the Israeli cooking club, not only because it gave me a platform to meet new people in the Hillel community and become more comfortable in the kitchen! The people that I met have become good friends of mine and we still cook together for fun!"

We're looking forward to offering Jewish Learning Fellowship 2.0: Big Israel Questions in Spring 2021 to help our students explore their connection to Israel through a weekly class with their peers.

Honoring Sheldon and Roselind Rabinowitz's Legacy

Sheldon Rabinowitz '54 and his wife, Roselind, both passed away in 2020. The couple met on a streetcar on the way to Hebrew school, attended the University of Iowa together, and were married for 69 years. Sheldon was an ardent Zionist who cared deeply about students connecting with Israel. Sheldon and Roselind were strong members of the Iowa community whose legacy will truly live on.

When I first started in my role, Sheldon reached out and invited me for lunch in Des Moines. We spoke for a few hours about his time at the University of Iowa and the lasting friendships he made there. Sheldon was a great friend to Iowa Hillel, and I hope that we can continue to honor him with our work. - Ashley



ENGAGING WITH AGUDAS ACHIM

AND CELEBRATING THE JEWISH HOLIDAYS



The last event we were able to enjoy in person last was Purim, which we celebrated with Agudas Achim Congregation. Students and members of the local Jewish community first made hamantaschen and then alternated reading portions of the megillah at our Iowa themed megillah reading.

The relationship with our local synagogue in Coralville is so meaningful to our students. "Agudas Achim is a wonderful, welcoming community. Thanks to them, we Hillel students are able to be a part of the wider Iowa City Jewish community," said Danie Oberman '21, VP of Jewish Holidays on the Iowa Hillel Student Board. "They've joined us in our space for events, such as Purim and Sukkot, and welcomed us into their space for High Holy Days. They support us at every turn from providing rides to services, hiring students to teach at Sunday and Hebrew school, and donating their time and energy to help us feel at home in our Jewish community, even when we are far away from our hometown congregations."

THANK YOU TO OUR STUDENT LEADERS

FY20 STUDENT LEADERS



Fall '19 Student Board

Ben Yusen, *President*
Anna Mazure, *VP Marketing*
Mollie Chez, Jr. *VP Marketing*
Margot Sylvan, *VP Programming*
Caleb Marx, Jr. *VP Programming*
Brendan Sigale, *Engagement Chair*
Zach Savitz, *Social Media Chair*
Simone Levin, *Campus Outreach Chair*
Danie Oberman, *Jewish Holiday Chair*
Madison Seefeldt, *Tikkun Olam Chair*
Chloe Gitlin, *Special Events Chair*
Scott Clay, *Treasurer*



Spring '20 Student Board

Caleb Marx, *President*
Robbie Weiland, *Vice President*
Ryan Stoakes, *VP Community Relations & Treasurer*
Danie Oberman, *VP Jewish Holidays*
Anna Luria, *VP Social Events*
Cally Tucker, *VP Tikkun Olam*
Hannah Rabinowitz, *VP Social Media*
Evan Saltz, *VP Engagement*



Additional Student Leadership

Abigail Martin, *President, Challah for Hunger*
Maya Simon, *Sustainability Coordinator*
Rachel Stoakes, *Health & Wellness Club Lead*
Sari Linder, *Shabbat Squad Lead*

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

FY20 ANNUAL FUND SUPPORT



We are honored to recognize the following individuals and organizations whose contributions supported our work with cumulative gifts of \$500 and above between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

\$10,000+

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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

FY20 ANNUAL FUND SUPPORT

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Stand With Us

**Thank you to all of our
generous donors for choosing
to support our mission of
enhancing the lives of Jewish
students at the University of
Iowa, so they may enrich the
Jewish people and the world.**

Note: Every effort has been made to list donors and their contributions accurately. Please contact Iowa Hillel if you have any questions or concerns. We regret any errors or omissions.



FALL 2020

ADAPTING OUR PRACTICES FOR COVID-19



FROM IN-PERSON TO VIRTUAL

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

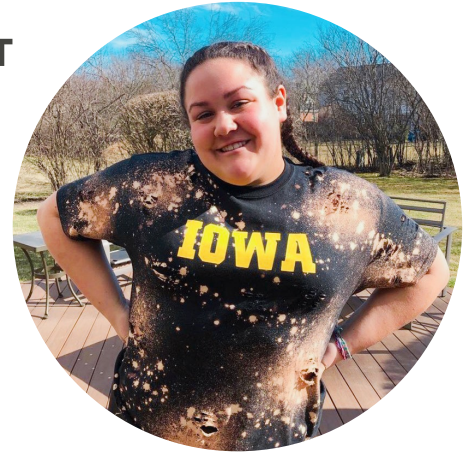


ANNA MAZURE '20, MITZVOTE INTERN HOMETOWN: HINSDALE, IL

MitzVote is Hillel International's non-partisan get-out-the-vote campaign to provide Jewish students with the education and resources they need to mobilize and vote in the 2020 election. Anna led our efforts at Iowa Hillel as our Mitzvote Intern and even organized a Ballots and Bagels event on Election Day designed to celebrate so many students' first-time voting. "It was such an honor to serve as Iowa Hillel's MitzVote Intern for the 2020 election. It was really rewarding to help students register and get excited about voting in their first presidential election. I'm so glad I could help Hillel Hawkeyes exercise their civic duties and make their voices heard!"

BROOKE NICKELSON '24, CRAFTY COHORT HOMETOWN: NORTHBROOK, IL

"My experience after joining the crafty cohort has been great! We get together in a small zoom call each week and chat while making lovely, useful crafts. I have been able to connect with a bunch of Jewish girls who I may have never met if it wasn't for this cohort. Every week after our big zoom meeting, we zoom one on one with someone in our group to make it more personal. This allows everyone to make deeper connections with each member of the little community we have going. I would recommend that everyone joins a cohort because it is a great experience to be part of one."



HANNAH CLINE '21, JLF HOMETOWN: WAUKEE, IA

The Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF) is a 10-week experiential, conversational seminar for students looking to deepen their understanding of Judaism on their own terms. Iowa Hillel started offering JLF in the Spring of 2020 and Hannah joined the most recent JLF class. "I have been in sort of this limbo with my relationship to Judaism. This class has such an amazing curriculum. There were a lot of really hard and powerful conversations, and I feel like I learned a lot more about myself as a Jew and also just as a person and a friend. I am truly very grateful for the experience because I feel like I now have a group of friends that I can ask to do Jewish things with."



MEET THE STAFF



Ashley Carol-Fingerhut
Executive Director



Tess Cohan
Springboard Fellow



Jaime Holt
Operations & Kitchen
Manager



Suzanne Sinift
Office Manager



Sukkot 2019



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