







2022-2023 Annual Report



A MESSAGE FROM ANDY

HEAR FROM OUR DUCKS AND BEAVS

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Adam Foster Sam Groetsch Jonah Kaplan Noah Kirshbaum Erin Horwitz Connor Lasken Gordon Lafer Houston Newmark Steven Nemer **Darian Rosengard** Sharon Rudnick Jason Shender Ben Weinstein Rabbi Amanda K. Weiss It has been a real blessing to be the Executive Director of Oregon Hillel for the past eleven and a half years. I am so proud of the incredible growth we have accomplished since I walked in the door at 1059 Hilyard in August 2012. We grew the number of engaged students from 200 to 1200 annually, developed a presence on the Oregon State University campus to provide a professional team dedicated to Jewish student life, we established a first of its kind partnership with Jewish Studies at the University of Oregon that helped quadruple enrollment in Jewish Studies courses, and established Oregon Hillel as a key partner and advocate for Jewish life with the administrations on both our campuses. Hillel's mission is to secure the Jewish future and one of my proudest accomplishments is the 100+ alumni that are serving in professional or volunteer leadership roles with Jewish organizations around the world. I am grateful for their leadership and appreciate the impact they are having on the communities they are serving now.

Beginning in January 2024, I will be assuming a new role with Hillel International as a Campus Support Director (CSD). In my new role, I will be partnering with about 15 campus Hillels to serve as a strategic partner in their work to build and grow strong Jewish communities and confront antisemitism, which we know is impacting the day to day realities of Jewish college students today. I'll be working remotely here from Eugene, so I will continue to be involved in the Eugene and Corvallis Jewish communities. And Oregon Hillel will be in my CSD portfolio, allowing me to continue to be directly involved with this amazing campus community.

On January 1, I will transition into the role of Oregon Hillel's Interim Executive Director and will stay in that role in a limited capacity until a new Executive Director is hired and onboarded. The Board of Directors, with significant help from Hillel International, is already planning the search for a new Executive Director.

I want to thank all of you - the students, staff members, board members, volunteers, campus partners, donors, alumni, and our greater Jewish communities, who have contributed to making Oregon Hillel a vibrant, passionate, and caring community. You make all that we do possible, and you have made the last eleven years a real joy for me. And for that, I am forever grateful.

I hope you are inspired by the students and stories that fill these pages, the way I am every day working for Hillel.



ANDY GITELSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Charlie Mackey OSU '27

I first went to Hillel seeking to grow in my Jewish identity and community. What keeps me going back is the familial nature, as well as the staff always making all of us feel welcome and included in all settings. One thing I would use to describe Hillel to someone new on campus is a place to find yourself in a safe environment, a place to grow into a Jewish leader in the community, and a place to create lifelong friendships. Hillel has been the best source of community for me and I look forward to continuing to deepen my involvement!

Hillel is different than any other organization I'm a part of because we are a big family. Friends and staff check in on each other during hard times and celebrate every Shabbat together with good food and even better company. Over the last two and a half years I've met some of my closest friends through Hille!!



Yael Raich OSU '26

feel comfortable in my skin.

My Jewish journey is incomplete without the community of Oregon Hillel. In a world increasingly full of hate, I always know there's a place where I can express my Judaism loudly and proudly in a community full of love. Without Hillel, I believe an important part of my personal identity, my Jewish identity, would have vanished into the background once I began college. This community has provided me with some of the most important people in my life and friends that I know will last a lifetime.

Romie Avivi Stuhl UO '25



really struggled with my Jewish identity before college. I had never felt fully accepted as a Jew in Jewish and non-Jewish settings before. I was always either too orthodox or not orthodox enough. Oregon Hillel is the first place I have felt 100% accepted. Having Hillel in my life has helped me connect more with my Judaism and

Bradley Buchbinder UO '25



A LOOK AT EUGENE

A LOOK AT CORVALLIS



Shabbat meals served





(0)(8)

Birthright Israel participants





Shabbat meals served





Beavs participated in our Jewish Learning Fellowship



A LOOK AT OREGON HILLEL

1200





900 to the Min Zidell Matzo Ball Soup hotline



220

Ducks and Beavs traveled to Israel through programs like:











Birthright Israel participants





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who have invested in Jewish life on campus through your support of The Oregon Hillel Foundation. All of the wonderful accomplishments we achieve are due to your support – on behalf of the students we serve we cannot thank you enough! Your support enables the Jewish student communities in Eugene and Corvallis, as well as a center for diversity on both campuses.



"I would not be the person I am today without my involvement in Oregon Hillel. Aside from the personal groth opportunities that I have had, Hillel has gave me once in a lifetime opportunities and I am Shabbat my freshman year."







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