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Save the date! Celebration in honor of Rabbi Emeritus Barton Lee Sunday, November 16 | 11am | Arizona Jewish Historical Society



# Year in Review 2013-14 Lead. Learn. Innovate. Engage.

## A Message from Executive Director Debbie Yunker Kail

Every day at Hillel is filled with joy. excitement, and positive energy. Students are building a vibrant Jewish life on campus and fostering long-lasting connections to Judaism through meaningful education sessions, spirited social events, and inspiring student-led Shabbat services. Additionally, Sun Devils for Israel, ASU's pro-Israel group on campus, actively educates the campus community about Israel's place and meaning in the world.

As Hillel is reaching more students, we are also strengthening partnerships across the university. Part of the mission for Arizona State University reads "To establish ASU as the model for a New American University, measured not by who we exclude, but rather by who we include and how they succeed..."

Hillel's goals align with ASU's goals. Just like ASU, Hillel's success will be measured by our ability to include more and more of the

3.600+ Jewish students on campus in Jewish opportunities that help them find their place in the Jewish people. There is so much potential for Hillel to grow in terms of how we connect with students and inspire them to lead active, Jewish lives.

Hillel operates on the belief that students' lives will be enriched when they are engaged in Jewish life in ways that are meaningful to them. Hillel helps students find Jewish life relevant through professional mentoring, guest speakers, engaging holiday celebrations, and Nashim, the women's group. Our internship program trains students to use cutting edge engagement strategies, ensuring that Hillel is known as a student-run organization with top notch leadership experiences.

Hillel leaders strengthen Jewish campus community, and upon graduation, they leave ASU with the skills and drive to

make a difference in the Greater Phoenix community. With many more well-trained Jewish young adults staying in town following graduation, the future of the Greater Phoenix Jewish community will be in great hands. Plainly stated, supporting Hillel is not only an investment in a strong Jewish campus experience, it is also an investment in our Jewish future.

Thank you for making the future possible. As we enter the new school year with new staff, ambitious student interns, and deeper campus relationships, I am already eager to chart our progress and report back in the coming months.

Delle Yshe Real

### **Israel Education**

Student leaders from Hillel and Sun Devils for Israel. ASU's pro-Israel group, worked tirelessly to educate the campus community about Israel's place and meaning in the world. A campus-wide celebration of Israel culture, Israel Sababa Week, as well as guest speakers ranging from Israeli soldiers to a counterterrorism expert, gave students unique experiences and resources to become informed global citizens. When two bills recommending that the university divest from companies doing business in Israel came up this past semester, student leaders defeated both by engaging their peers and student senators to realize that the complexity of the conflict in the Middle East cannot be addressed by a bill that singles out one party.

Finally, nothing helps students understand Israel like seeing it in person. In the 2013-14 year, Hillel nearly doubled the number of students traveling to Israel on the Taglit-Birthright Israel trip from the past year, from 21 students to 35.



Students hear from Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema

"Birthright was the best experience I have ever had. I made new ASU friends and left Israel with an adult understanding of Israeli culture and history." Dillon Rosenblatt, Class of

2015 Taglit-Birthright Israel participant, summer 2014



Dillon Rosenblatt and Shayna Baqshaw lunching in Tsfat during Taglit-Birthright Israel

## **Welcoming the Class of 2018**

Many students connect with the Jewish community in their first few weeks on campus, and Hillel is ready to meet more new students than ever before. A new Hillel Freshmen Engagement Team is thoughtfully developing ways to welcome new students and holistically ease their transition to ASU. This includes personal outreach and events just for freshmen.

## Help Hillel reach more students!

Do you know an incoming or current ASU student? Call or email to share their contact information and we will reach out directly to them!

> 480 967 7563 hillel@hillelasu.org

## **Jewish Life Across Campus**

Hillel interns hosted 10 different events in the residence halls and in public spaces, bringing Jewish culture out onto campus, educating the broader campus community and helping to identify new-tous Jewish students who may want to connect with their Jewish heritage, culture, or religion. These gatherings included a Chanukah study-break in the Hassayampa Academic Village, tabling on campus, and a study break in Barrett, the Honors College Residential Complex.

"I know that the skills I'm learning now with Hillel, to communicate and give back, are going to be essential in my endeavors." Nicole Blumenstein, Class of 2017 Shabbat Committee and Shabbat vocalist



Above: Israel Sababa Week tabling on Palm Court Below left: Students lead Shabbat services at Hillel

### Students Take the Lead From Shabbat celebrations to welcoming

new students to campus, Hillel interns lead the way in strengthening Jewish community at ASU. Hillel's first-class internship program gives students real-life leadership experience that enriches the campus Jewish community and will make a difference beyond ASU as students graduate and take on leadership roles in our Greater Phoenix Jewish community. Enhanced leadership and engagement training equip students with the tools to engage their peers, own their Jewish experience, and further integrate into the broader culture of ASU student life.



## **Meet the Hillel Staff**



**Executive Director** debbie@hillelasu.org



Jordan Rothenberg Director of Engagement jordan@hillelasu.org



**Jennifer Jalowiec Operations Manager** jennifer@hillelasu.org



Barton G. Lee Rabbi Emeritus bentzion@hillelasu.org



**Mark Vanek** Chef



Silvia Hernández Custodian

## **By the Numbers**

30 student leaders reaching out to

300 students

1,200 Shabbat and holiday meals served

35 Taglit-Birthright Israel participants