

## BOSTON UNIVERSITY HILLEL PARENTS' WEEKEND TOAST

OCTOBER 2018

It's such a thrill to be here, to meet the BU Hillel staff in person after two years of solely electronic contact. And I have to say that everyone is even more attractive in person. I especially want to thank Ethan, whom I work with most closely, for his guidance and his never-wavering energy and optimism.

Whenever I think of the mission of Hillel, the phrase "L'dor V'dor" comes to mind. We all know that it means "from generation to generation." It's part of our culture and our liturgy.

But as parents of young adults, l'dor v'dor takes on a personal, urgent meaning. We send our 18-year-olds off to college, fearing that we've run out of time to influence them, because they will no longer be under our roof and part of our daily lives.

So we pray that that we've done our best to impart the right values, and that while our children pursue their educational and career goals, they won't forget how to be "mensches." We pray that our precious Jewish values will be their guiding stars and that Judaism will remain the core of their identity.

And then, lo and behold, our children miraculously are drawn to Hillel, and we collectively breathe a sigh of relief, because now we're not alone; we have a partner in these most deeply held dreams for our children. As so many students have expressed again and again: Hillel gives them a "home."

And Hillel shows them that embracing their Judaism enhances their ability to explore the world and create new and exciting adventures.

We all have our own path toward finding our Jewish identity. For some, it's through education, others through worship, or travel to Israel, or performing *tikkun olam*. For some, it's simply through socializing with fellow Jews. No matter which path is most meaningful, Hillel provides our students diverse opportunities to find that particular connection that will make their heart sing.

## BOSTON UNIVERSITY HILLEL PARENTS' WEEKEND TOAST

OCTOBER 2018-Page 2

Hillel reaches our students at such a crucial point in their lives, and can shape their attitude toward their faith for years to come. As parents we're both grateful and passionate about the work of this organization and what it has and continues to accomplish.

As we celebrate the joy of Shabbat together, I hope everyone will join me in making a toast to the leadership of BU Hillel, both professional and student, who through their dedication and relentless efforts, safeguard Jewish continuity, and make l'dor v'dor not only a concept, but a living reality each day.