

BOSTON UNIVERSITY Hillel

Annual Report
2023 | 2024



Prepared by:
Rabbi Jevin Eagle, Chief Executive Officer and University Chaplain
Ethan Sobel, COM '13, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This was a year unlike anything we could have imagined. We are living through the most challenging time for Jewish college students.

Since Oct. 7, many of our students have been scared, confused, ostracized, and pushed to question their values and Jewish identity. In response to all of this, many students have deepened their passion and need for Jewish friendships, involvement, and community. While our team has worked around the clock to support Jewish students and respond to antisemitism on campus, our most important goal has remained infusing Jewish students with a love for Judaism, the Jewish peoplehood, and Israel.

Our mission is to help 6,000 Jewish students lead meaningful and joyous Jewish lives. We are educators, pastors, and advocates for all those who want to engage in Jewish community. This year, we had thousands of one-on-one conversations with students, attendances in Jewish learning classes, and participation in Jewish groups and projects. Even with concerns about the safety of travel, we had dozens of students come on Jewish immersive trips with us locally and to Israel.

This was a year of records. Yes, record amounts of antisemitism and attacks against Israel; however, it was also a record year of Jewish engagement at BU in the number of students studying, eating, and hanging out with friends inside of the Hillel building; the number of Jewish undergraduate and graduate students reached; and the number of university partners seeking our guidance on how to best support and take care of Jewish students. Our attendance logged a best-ever 33,000+ at Jewish life programs and events.

We are on the frontlines of fighting hate against Jews and building Jewish pride and the Jewish future. Despite what lies in the months ahead, we are inspired by God's words to Joshua who is given the seemingly impossible task of leading the Israelites after the death of Moses: "Be strong and resolute; do not be terrified or dismayed, for the eternal your God is with you wherever you go." When we stick together and when we care about each other, we fulfill the words of the prophets, and we join in the call coming from our beloved Israel today. "Together, we will prevail."

So many of you have been there for us this year, with your words of support and encouragement, your record numbers of contributions, and your presence. More than ever, we need you and we appreciate you. We can't thank you enough for everything you do.

Am Yisrael Chai,



Rabbi Jevin Eagle
Chief Executive Officer and University Chaplain



Ethan Sobel, COM '13
Executive Director

P.S. Check out videos and photos of Jewish students proudly standing up for Israel and building Jewish life this year at <https://youtu.be/OodqOXJDqB4>

Our Amazing Students



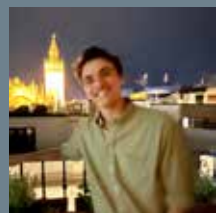
"This was an exceedingly difficult year for myself and my Jewish friends. Every day, we faced tension and stress, and on some days, blatant antisemitism. However, I always knew that I could go to Hillel not only to be safe, but to receive support and empowerment to try to improve Jewish life at BU."

- David Kotton '25



"October was most certainly the hardest month of my life. Everything I had previously taken for granted; my home, my people and my faith were suddenly not so certain anymore. So far away from home and surrounded with friends I feared might never understand me, the Hillel staff became the support system I was desperate for. The Israel Fellow, Lior Tibi, and Micha Aviad became big sisters to me and guided me through an incredibly difficult time. They helped me rediscover the Hillel to be a safe haven that the BU Campus lacked. Without them, I wouldn't have returned for the second semester."

- Dana Mansori '26



"As a transfer student, BU Hillel has not only given me spaces to learn more about Judaism and explore my Jewish identity, but it has also helped me acclimate to BU by inviting me into BU's welcoming Jewish community. "

- Leo Solomon '26



"In a time when antisemitism is so prevalent, BU Hillel has been my safe space to enjoy meals, spend time with friends, study, and chat with Hillel staff in the morning. Each day since October 7 has been filled with emptiness, both from the loss of life and from the unfulfilled wishes and hopes for the safety of Jewish students. I am deeply grateful for BU Hillel's unwavering support of its Jewish students and faculty throughout the year."

- Amanda Kopelman '25

This report was compiled and designed by two of our amazing students:
Doran Steinfeld (COM '27) and Katelyn Murphy (CFA '25).

Mission, Vision, Values

Mission

Inspire, educate, and empower Boston University students to lead meaningful, joyous Jewish lives.

Vision

Every student makes an enduring commitment to ignite their Jewish identity, activate community, and engage in the world around them.

Values

“KAVOD”: Destiny

Kind

Treating every student with the utmost care and personalized attention, offering sensitivity, support, and compassion.

Aspirational

Continuously striving for excellent standards for inspiring, educating, and empowering student lives.

Vivacious

Maintain a vibrancy and energy in our macro-level strategy and grassroots approach with every stakeholder.

Open

Building a welcoming, hospitable, and warm community that aims to serve every single student.

Diverse

Promote a vibe of inclusivity, pluralism, and acceptance among all of our activities and actions.



2023 | 2024 Key Undergraduate Initiatives

1) Leading meaningful and joyous Jewish lives

Highlights:

- **236** students enrolled in 5 or 10 session Jewish learning Fellowship classes
- **199** student leaders, largest BU Jewish Leadership Team ever
- **30+** BU Jewish Leadership Team initiatives including new programs: Venture Capital club, Asian Jewish community, Shabbat bouquet Making, and Jewish Women's Gatherings
- **6** Jewish life retreats/shabbatons with groups including Israel student leaders, Mishelanu Israeli-American students, Asian Jewish students, Care Fellowship, and Coffee Crew Internship
- **5** featured Shabbat guests: BU President, BU Provost, BU Chief of Police, BU CAS Dean, BU Athletics Director
- **4** major public events on Marsh Plaza related to fighting antisemitism and loving Israel: Oct. 7 Vigil, Display for the Hostages, Israel Solidarity Vigil, Yom HaShoah Reading of the Names
- **3x** growth at on-campus Jewish Pop-Up events reaching 1,500+ students
- BU Birthright trip was one of the few Birthright trips in the country to go on 10-day trip in May

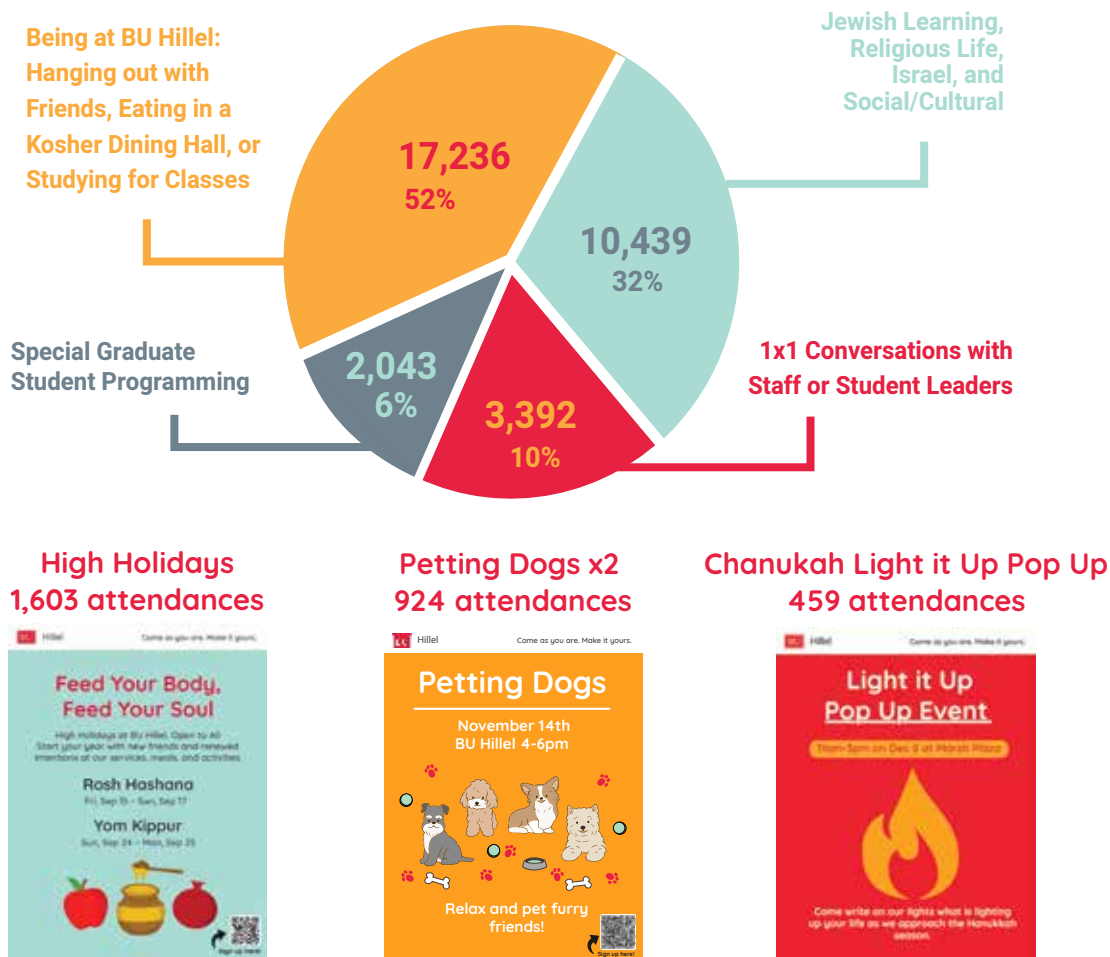
2) Fighting hate and antisemitism

Highlights:

- Featured speakers included Dara Horn, Rabbi David Wolpe, Lucy Arish, Charlotte Korchak, Amanda Berman, Nova Music Festival survivors, Sharaka Interfaith Panel, Hostages families
- **35+** BU students (half Jewish, half not Jewish) enrolled in BU Hillel's Fighting Hate and Antisemitism course
- **25+** BU Deans and Directors take Fighting Hate and Antisemitism class w/ BU Hillel
- Surveyed Jewish student population with **80** responses on climate of antisemitism on campus
- Tracked dozens of incidences of antisemitism to report to BU and other stakeholders
- Israel Uncovered group goes on 10-day trip to Israel, visiting Gaza border and many key sites (half Jewish, half not Jewish)



Total Attendance = 33,110



Hillel's Impact: By the Numbers



Lay Leadership

Board of Directors

The BU Hillel Board of Directors provides oversight of the 501(c)(3) organization and focuses on mission, strategy, finance, and fundraising. The Board meets four times per year with a minimum gift required of \$5,000. The Board is comprised of alumni, parents, and community members, as well as BU faculty, administrators, and current students. Board members also serve on one of four different committees.

Director's Council

The Director's Council is an advisory committee comprised of alumni, parents, and community members who engage with the CEO and Executive Director on the most pressing issues on campus. The Director's Council meets three times per year with a minimum gift of \$1,000.

Parent Council

The BU Hillel Parent Council advises Hillel staff on student and family concerns as issues arise throughout the academic year. The group meets three times per year. Members are parents of current BU undergraduate or graduate students and contribute a minimum annual gift of \$1,000.

Alumni Council

The Alumni Council serves as the primary networking and connecting body for BU Jewish alumni. Council members cultivate personal relationships with alumni through regional and campus events and connect with current students for mentorship and networking opportunities. The minimum gift is a sliding scale based on years since graduation, with a minimum gift of \$360 expected 10+ years post-graduation.

Faculty Council

The BU Hillel Faculty Council advises Hillel staff on concerns related to BU faculty and administration. The Faculty on the Council serve as ambassadors for BU Hillel and discuss a broad range of issues across the University with senior administration three times a year.



Board of Directors

Board Member	Committee	Affiliation
Deborah Ball	Programming	Parent of Pardee '22
Jarret Berg	Development	CAS '07
Scott Berger	Development, Finance	CAS '95
Emily Blatt	Governance	CAS '09
Mark Blotner	Development	Questrom '90
Lisa Breslau	Co-Chair, Programming	Parent of CAS '24
Connor Dedrick	Programming	Questrom '21
Sol Eisenberg	Governance	SR Assoc. Dean, ENG; P'13, '06
Eli Florence	Vice President; Security, Governance	Florence & Chafetz Hillel House
Bob Frisch	Security	Parent of GRS '21, CAS '21
James Gould	Development	Spouse of Wheelock '69
Rev. Robert Hill		Dean, Marsh Chapel; Parent of Wheelock '07
David Hoffman	Finance, Security	Questrom '76, '80
Kim Kaplan-Gross	Governance	COM '89
David Kaplan		Community Member
Linda Sloane Kay	Governance	CGS '81, COM '83
Sarah Kornfeld	Programming	CAS '26
Jordan Kramer	Programming	Questrom '25
Debbie Kurzweil	Vice President; Chair of Governance, Finance	Parent of Questrom '19
Sidney Pertnoy	Past President; Governance	Past Board Chair
Dan Pliskin	Chair of Development; Finance	Parent of Wheelock '21
Nicole Putzel	Director's Council Chair; Development	CGS '91, COM '93
Charles Ribakoff	President; Development, Governance	Questrom '72
Jonathan Risch	Treasurer; Chair of Finance	Parent of CAS '25
Jay Schulman	Finance	Questrom '83; Parent of Questrom '23
Doug Sears	Liason to President's Office	Chief of Staff to President Brown
Jim Shane	Immediate Past Board Chair; Governance	Parent of Questrom '97
Mitchell Silber	Security	Parent of COM '24
Jennifer Steber	Co-Chair of Programming; Development	Community Member
Rabbi Mona Strick	Programming	Parent of COM '22
Sara Weinberg	Programming	COM '24
Jeffrey Woolf	Governance, Security	LAW '79, GRS '69, Parent of CAS '19, LAW '18
Wayne Zuckerman		CAS '79; Parent of COM '24, Questrom '24, COM '17, CGS '15, Questrom '15, CGS '13

Lay Leadership Councils

Faculty Council

Debbie Danielpour-Chapel *Faculty Council Co-Chair || COM
Pearl Steinbuch *Faculty Council Co-Chair || QST
Binyomin Abrams || CAS/GRS
Mira Angrist || CAS
Irving Bigio || EN
Sol Eisenberg || ENG
Abigail Gillman || CAS
Dorothy Hutchinson || SAR
Karen Jacobs || SAR
Jonathan Katz || SHA
Irit Kleiman || CAS
Deanna Klepper || CAS, GRS
Leora Lanz || SHA
Jodi Luber || COM
Francine Montemurro || Office (non-member participant)
Glenn Markenson || School of Medicine
Susan Mizrachi || CAS
Ruth Paris || School of Social Work
Davida Pines || CGS
Avi Seidman || QST
Amy Shanler || COM
David Starobinski || ENG
Ari Trachtenberg || ENG
David Waxman || CAS
Nancy Harrowitz || CAS, Elie Wiesel Center Director
Raviv Murciano-Goroff || QST
Nancy Moore || LAW
David Webber || LAW
Jed Shugerman || LAW

Parent Council

Camille Kotton *Parent Council Chair || David Kotton '25
Yael Antebi || Itai Merlin '26
Mindy Berger || Lila Berger '25
Vicki and Matt Feinstein || Rachel Feinstein '27
Ernest & Paula Fraenkel || Mark Fraenkel '25
Joshua Friedman || Orli Friedman '24
Anne Garner || Kieran Garner '27
Andre & Jacqui Kaplan || Jess Kaplan '25
Michael Kanovitz || Anya Kanovitz '27
Steven & Rachel Klein || Michael Klein '24
Robin Lenkin || Noah Lenkin '25
Carol Lean || Avishai Lean '25
Mark Levine || Rachel Levine '24
Elizabeth & Phil Mann || Lauren Mann '26
Susan & Larry Shiff || Sandy Shiff '26
Melanie Susswein || Mitchell Susswein '25
Judy Usow || Josie Usow '24

Alumni Council

Felicia Gans Sobey '17 *Alumni Council Chair
Sydney Berman '19
Callie Brandeis '21
Deni Budman '20
Carmelle Dagmi '19
Blake Dickler '18
Sonya Dreyer '22
Sam Eilbaum '18
Allison Feld '16
Natalie Goldberg '17
Hannah Goodman '22
Jacob Gurvis '20
Matthew Hinshaw '19
Ben Keil '10
Teddy Manning '21
Breezie Miller '20
Erin Miller '17
Molly Papermaster '18
Mikey Pliskin '21
Bena Reiter '12
Steven Rubin '22
Daniel Schulman '23
Emily Singer '15
Ethan Scorcher '20
Maks Tensak '18
Myles Ullman '19
Lauren Weinberger '17
Helene Weiner '11

Director's Council

Nicole Putzel || CGS '91, COM '93 *Director's Council Chair
Peter Bernard || ENG '88
Marcelo Blay || Par CAS '21
Jerry Davidson || CAS '76
Ronnie Goldman || Par SAR '24
Christen Hazel || PAR CAS '22, BUA '20
Jeremy Lowenstein || Questrom '04
Eric Roiter || Faculty
Dan Waldman || Community Member
David Weinstein || CAS '70, DGE '72
Bruce Yudewitz || CAS '73

Financial Performance

Full Year Results (in thousands)

	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	This Year FY2024 Budget	This Year FY2024 Actuals
Total Revenue:	\$887	\$1,141	\$1,246	\$1,327	\$1,347	\$1,768	\$1,803	\$1,766	\$1,917
Grant Income	\$599	\$607	\$668	\$675	\$611	\$703	\$665	\$625	\$603
Development Income/Donations	\$249	\$398	\$407	\$490	\$552	\$826	\$870	\$941	\$1,115
Event/Program Income	\$39	\$1,311	\$152	\$151	\$26	\$71	\$165	\$178	\$146
Other Income	\$25	\$41	\$19	\$11	\$158	\$139	\$103	\$22	\$53
Total Expenses:	\$1,000	\$966	\$1,182	\$1,243	\$1,186	\$1,457	\$1,651	\$1,766	\$1,615
Program Costs: Salaries & Benefits	\$585	\$588	\$765	\$843	\$861	\$949	\$1,137	\$1,328	\$1,226
Program Costs: Student Programming	\$320	\$298	\$345	\$261	\$246	\$356	\$395	\$360	\$271
Admin, Occupancy & Development, COVID-19 Reserve	\$94	\$80	\$73	\$139	\$79	\$152	\$119	\$78	\$118
Surplus/Deficit	(\$113)	\$175	\$63	\$84	\$161	\$311	\$152	\$0	\$302

Leadership Gifts

Given July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

BU Hillel thanks
all leadership
donors giving
gifts of \$1,000 or
more to support
Jewish life at BU

\$50,000 +

Eli* & Donna Florence
Michael & Andrea Leven
Charles* & Patricia Ribakoff
Paul Rothman
Larry & Susan Shiff
Wayne* & Deborah Zuckerman

\$25,000-\$49,999

Scott Berger*
Jeffrey & Jessica Zucker

\$10,000-\$24,999

Jarret Berg*
Marcelo & Adriana Blay
Mark Blotner* & Cindy Goldman-Blotner
Alissa Brodie & Greg Karsh
Aliza & Eric Carniol
Irwin & Roberta Chafetz
Jevin & Janine Eagle
Lisa Lainer-Fagan & Brian Fagan
Michael & Linda Frieze
Robert & Meg Glimcher
Yonatan & Bellene Gontownik
James* & Paula Gould
David* & Beryl Hoffman
Suzanne Isenberg & Alessandro Mina
Stewart Lane
Jay* & Nancy Schulman
James* & Rosalie Shane
Susan & Joseph Stone
David & Clare Weinstein

\$5,000-\$9,999

Deborah Ball* & Andrew Witlin
Emily Blatt*
Lisa* & Jonathan Breslau
Joseph & Ahn Chomski
Scott & Kathy Cohen
Gerard & Sherryl Cohen
Nathaniel & Amy Dalton
Solomon* & Terri Eisenberg
Sidney & Lisa Feltenstein
Robert Frisch*
Andre & Jacqui Kaplan
Kimberley Kaplan-Gross* & Michael Gross
Linda Sloane Kay* & Jonathan Kay
Marcy Kramer
Adam Kramer
Deborah* & David Kurzweil
Barry Lovell & Ellen Reinheimer
Sidney* & Nadine Pertnoy
Joyce Picard
Daniel Pliskin
Nicole* & Steven Putzel
Jonathan* & Alisha Risch
Mitchell* & Beth Silber
Jennifer* & Martin Steber
Marcy Stempler
Mona Strick* & Mark Housman
Joseph & Christine Swanson
Jeffrey Woolf*

\$1,000-\$4,999

Lisa Applebaum
Nancy & Mark Belsky
Sandra Berbeco & David Coen
Karen Berko-Gibson
Mardelle Berman
Peter & Anita Bernard
Joyce Branfman
Rita & David Brickman
Ike & Candy Brown
Richard & Bonnie Cavell
Vicki & Jeffrey Chavin
Daniel & Tiffany Cohen
Cynthia Cohen
Robyn & Asaf Cohen
J. Martin Comey & Mary Fitzgerald
Emeritus Ronald & Joan Curhan
Ari Dach
Gerald Davidson & Debra Kocar
Denis Eagle
Todd Eagle
Alan Einhorn & Suzanne Salamon
Michael Engelman
Zev Feigenbaum
Marvin & Kate Feinstein
Matthew Feinstein & Vicki Axelrod Feinstein
Harriet Finebaum
Leslie Fishman
Ernest & Paula Fraenkel
Michael Fricklas & Donna Astion
Ann Garner
Ilana Gauss
Joseph & Marilyn Geisberg
Lawrence & Marla Gilbert
Catharyn & Myron Gligesgame
Lisa Gill
Deborah & David Glickman
Goodtree Gordon Charitable Foundation
Kenneth Gordon & Dina Clarimboli
Michael Gould & Sara Moss
Jeremy Gross
Jonathan & Stefanie Hazghiyan
Peter & Norma Herrick
Andrew & Laurie Hochberg
Larry Hochberg
Daniel & Jamie Hochberg
Howard & Cindy Hochhauser
Ari & Sandra Hoffman
Molly Hoffman
Morton Hoffman
Micah & Beth Jacobs
Herbert Jacobs
Karen Jacobs & Elliot Saltzman
Simon & Eliana Jacobs
Richard & Jeanne Jaffe
Michael Kanovitz & Dana Major-Kanovitz
David* & Clare Kaplan
Lawrence & Elizabeth Susman Karp
David & Judy Katz
Stephen Klar & Janice Gross
Rachel & Steven Klein
Michael & Arlene Kleinberg

Colleen & Steven Laduzinski
Mark & Eleanor Lainer
Robin & Craig Lenkin
Lawrence & Susan Levine
Mark & Allison Levine
Rachel Levine & Andrew Ceresney
Victor & Suzanne Levy
Jeremy Lowenstein
Elizabeth & Phillip Mann
Jason Massman & Toby Horwitz
Steven & Diane Miller
Eric & Lydia Muller
Andrew & Suzanne Offit
Rose Proler
Arthur Rauch & Lynn Saidenberg
Michael & Amy Ravitz
Joel & Nancy Roffman
Eric Roiter
Melissa Rones
Henry & Vanessa Rosen
Beryl Rosenstein & Frona Brown
Alison Ross
Alexander & Erin Roth
Steven & Ellen Segal
Maxine Selig
Daniel Shapiro
Ralph Sheridan & Anne Steer
Joanne & Anthony Soslow
Larry & Tracey Spiegelman
Paul & Susan Sugarman
Gary & Melanie Susswein
Daniel Waldman & Barbara Bilder
Marc Walfish & Sandy Worley
Jacqueline & David Waller
Lynn & David Wax
Bruce Weinstock & Lisa Kempler
Peter & Deborah Wexler
Ronald & Suzanne White
Arnee & Walter Winshall
Bruce & Sharon Yudewitz
David & Donna Zimble
Seymour & Cathy Zises

Grants of \$5,000+



Edwin S. Soforenko
Foundation

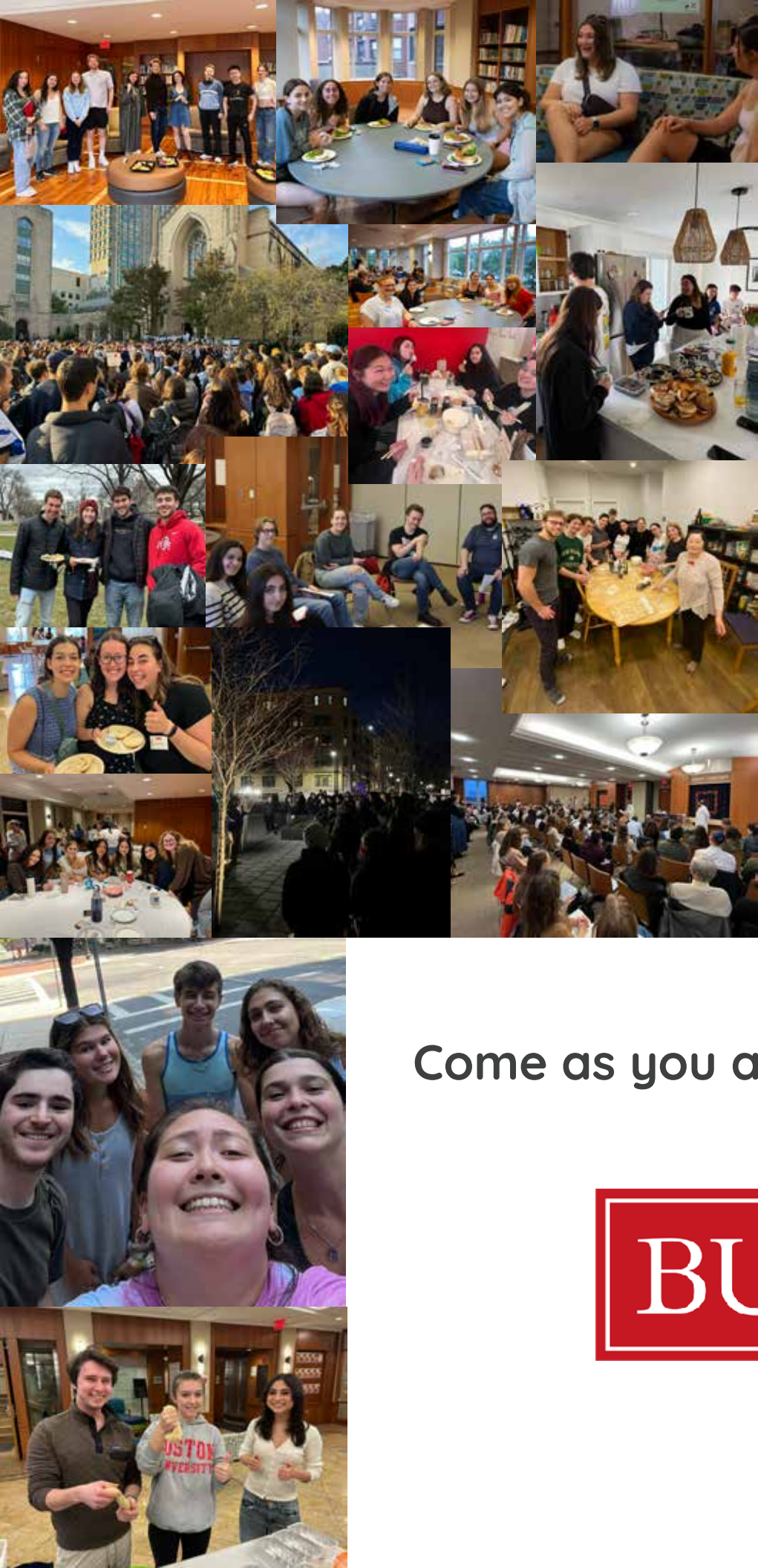
Frank Family Foundation



Jewish Cultural Endowment

Roffman Mitzvah Endowment





Come as you are. Make it yours.



Hillel