

BOSTON UNIVERSITY Hillel

Annual Report
2025 | 2026



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

Dear Friends,

Jewish students need us more than ever before. While the world continues to be a challenging and uncertain place, the future of Jewish life at Boston University remains bright.

BU continues to be a vibrant hub for Jewish life. There has been much news recently about Jewish student numbers dropping at elite universities, especially here in the Northeast. Yet, as BU continues to get more and more selective and more prominent on the global stage, it has continued to attract and enroll more Jews than any private university. We love BU, we are honored to be an integral part of this university, and we believe wholeheartedly that BU is a great place for Jewish students.

However, BU isn't immune to what is going on in the wider world. Our students need us now more than ever given intense macro events and global antisemitism, a difficult and uncertain job market, and widespread challenges with loneliness and mental health.

Our Jewish students are more diverse than ever. While we are blessed to still have many students arriving from strong Jewish backgrounds—having attended day schools, synagogues, and summer camps—we are seeing increasing numbers of students who come from less affiliated or engaged backgrounds. The majority have not spent significant time engaged in Jewish life before arriving on campus. Yet, these college years are a crucial window for them to make Jewish friends, learn about Judaism, and get involved in Jewish life.

To meet this moment, we are deeply committed to the pillars of our past while constantly innovating for the future. It was another powerful year of engagement focused on the 6,000 Jewish students at BU, as well as the broader campus community of 50,000 students, faculty, and staff. BU Hillel welcomed students nearly 30,000 times, with nearly 1,000 students highly active in Jewish life.

As we look toward the next stage of our growth, we are continuously testing new pathways to build vibrant Jewish futures:

- Enrolled more students in our Introduction to Judaism seminar than any other class over the past 10 years.
- In its fourth year, our Grad Hillel continued to be on fire, achieving a 20% growth rate year-over-year.
- We gathered thousands of applications for students to engage with BU Hillel across the City of Boston, whether at a Celtics game, a yoga studio, or a pickleball tournament.
- We launched our "coffee bar" by serving 300 students each week with free coffee, with more than 24 different varieties of coffee
- We hired our first-ever Director of Music and became only the second Hillel to have two Israel Fellows.

More than anything, we want to infuse all of what we do in Torah. Our ultimate source of strength is Jewish learning, which we define broadly. This year, we had more students enroll in our Introduction to Judaism seminar than any other class of the past 10 years. Each week, hundreds of students met with our staff to seek counsel and care, engage in meaningful dialogue, and think about Torah.

It was Rabbi Akiva who gave us the guiding light for this work on campus: "Just as fish cannot live without water, so too, the Jewish people cannot live without Torah." (Talmud, Berakhot 61b). Through your generosity, we are ensuring our students have access to that life-sustaining water every day.

Thank you for helping us bring Jewish communities, Judaism, and love of Torah to thousands of students.

With gratitude,



Rabbi Jevin Eagle Chief Executive Officer and University Chaplain



Ethan Sobel, COM '13
Executive Director

Our Amazing Students



"BU Hillel has been a wonderful part of my college experience. I appreciate the learning opportunities and supportive fellows, and my Birthright trip was inspiring and super fun! BU Hillel is one of my favorite places on campus."

- Rachel Rose '28



"Hillel is a unique space where Jewish and non-Jewish life intersect. The staff is so friendly, and whether doing homework or celebrating Shabbat, it's impossible to leave without your spirit lifted."

- Nate Kablik '28



"As president of BU Students for Israel, I'm fortunate to have traveled with Hillel on Birthright and Israel Uncovered. Being a vocal pro-Israel student would be much more difficult without the daily support of the Hillel team."

- Eduardo Kornworcel '28



"After October 7, 2023, Hillel became more than a building. It became a community where I found friendship, support, and belonging during one of the most difficult times of my college experience."

- Gabby Finkelstein '26

This report was compiled and designed by two of our amazing students:
Doran Steinfeld (COM '27) and Sara Maltempi (SAR '28).

Mission, Vision, Values

Mission

To inspire Boston University students to be proudly Jewish, engage in Jewish community, and be lovers of Israel.

Vision

Every Jewish student feels proud, connected, and engaged in Jewish life.

Values

“RUACH”: Spirit

Relationships

‘Love your fellow as yourself - the rest is commentary.’ This is the core of who we are and the foundation of what we do. We make friends, build community, and strengthen our people through the power of the relationships we form.

Uplift

We want every event, every service, and every interaction to uplift and energize you. We are building a space where just walking in restores and returns you to your highest and best self.

Action

We are committed to realizing our mission, not just having one. BU Hillel is about making an impact - in our relationships, in our communities, and in our world.

Care

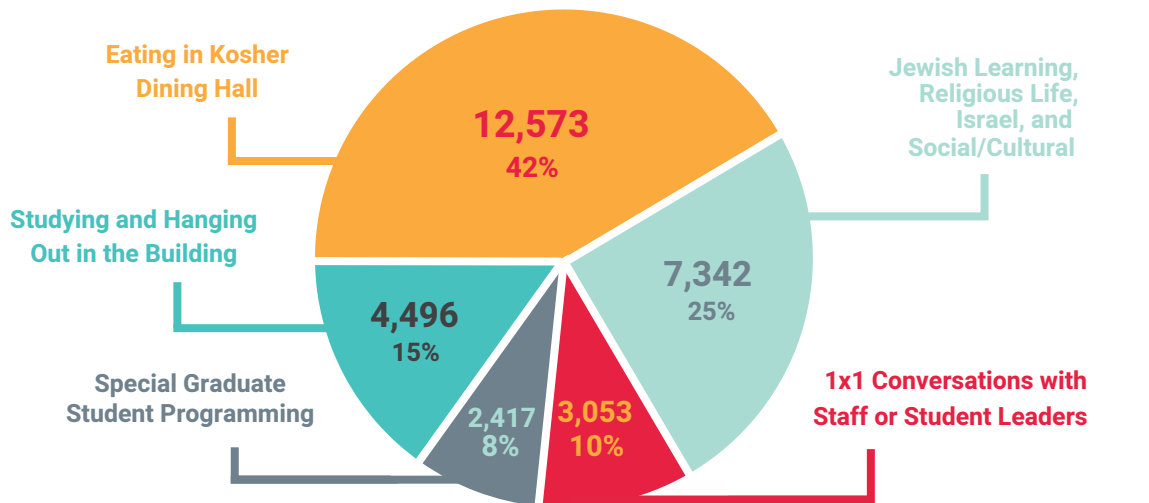
In a world that can feel callous and cold, we care. We take notice when someone looks upset or feels sick. We don't avoid awkwardness or discomfort. We check in with each other, we stay present to the moment, and we lean in when it matters.

Heart

‘Love...with all your heart,’ We lead with heart. Not just feeling, but a deeper knowing. We put our whole selves into everything we do. In this wholeness is the source of our passion, purpose and creativity.



Total Attendance = 29,881



High Holidays 689 attendances



Petting Dogs x2 402 attendances



Tu B'Shvat Plant Pop Up 208 attendances



Hillel's Impact: By the Numbers

3,471
Religious Life Attendance

1,481
Shabbat Attendance

1,990
Holiday Attendance

1,097
Students from Other Faiths Participating in Hillel

Jewish Learning Programs:

250
Total Attendance

1,220
Total Jewish Learning Attendance

211
Events

Jewish Undergraduates

2,500 Breadth
547 Depth
384 Double Depth

1,369
Total Events

206
Student Leaders

Jewish Graduates

498 Breadth
113 Depth
46 Double Depth

A Look At Some Of Our Events This Year

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

We Pick You!

Join us for at Yachad for our apple picking volunteer trip. Take part in community service and learn in an exciting outdoor day of togetherness!



Sunday, Oct 26 at 11:45 am
Meet at BU Hillel



Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

We Got You Flowers!

Put together a lovely flower bouquet before Shabbat!



Friday, April 17 at 10am
BU Hillel



Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

We Know You're Hungry

For some prayer! And Shabbat dinner, of course.

Every Friday night at BU Hillel

5:45pm - Pre-Shabbat Hang
6pm - Services
7pm - Dinner




Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

Wine & Wonder

Jewish Learning Fellowship Class

Drink Wine and Drink Wonder in this Jewish tasting experience class!



4 sessions - \$150 Stipend
No prior knowledge needed.
All backgrounds welcome!



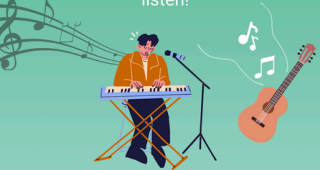
Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

Everything Music All the Time

Jewish Learning Fellowship Class

Music to your ears. Play, learn, and listen!



10 sessions - \$300 Stipend
No prior knowledge needed.
All backgrounds welcome!



Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

Bark! Bark! Ruff! Woof!

And for those of you who don't speak dog: relax, recharge, and hang out with happy, friendly dogs at our Petting Dogs event!

Thursday, April 30 at 4pm
BU Hillel




Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

Gratitude Shabbat

Join us for a Shabbat filled with gratitude and stationary giveaways!

Friday, March 20 at BU Hillel

5:30pm - BU Gratitude Art Event (includes drawing/writing on a chalkboard)
6pm - Services
7pm - Dinner




Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

Find Your Family

Come to BU Queer Jews' Interest Meeting and make a collage and zine while enjoying free snacks!



Monday, Sept 15 at 6pm
LGBTQIA+ Student Resource Center (808 Commonwealth Ave Floor 2M)



Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

We're Giving Friends and Games - You In?

Come to Jewsky's Friendsgiving for free food and fun games and get to know the Russian Jewish community at BU!



Thursday, Nov 13 at 8pm
RSVP for location



Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

BLT Fall Internships and Fellowships 2025

Build Your Resume, Find Friends, and Make Money



Apply Now!



Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

Give a Ghost a Toast!

Join us for a fun-thrilled evening before Shabbat with a drink on Hillel! (21+)



Friday, October 31 at 5pm
BU Fuller's Pub



Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

Eastern Breathwork and Music

Learn about eastern wellness techniques and connect with different cultures! Run by BU professor Dr. Igor Iwanek.



Wednesday, Feb 25 at 5:15pm



Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

PURIM EXTRAVAGANZA @ BU HILLEL

Live Music & DJ
Free Drinks (21+ or non-alcoholic!)
Costume Contest with \$\$ Prize
Celtics Tickets + More Epic Giveaways!



Monday, March 2 at 7pm



Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

Grads, It's Time to SoulCycle!

Join GradHillel for an evening of SoulCycle, we'll cover \$15 of your ticket!

Wednesday, April 15 at 5:30pm
Back Bay SoulCycle (500 Boylston St)




Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

Celebrate the High Holidays at BU Hillel

Join us for services, holiday meals, and community.

Rosh Hashana: Sept 22-24
Services + Festive meals

Yom Kippur: Oct 1-2
Pre-fast meal + Services + Break-fast

Multiple service options. Great food. Warm community. All are welcome.




Sign up here!

BU Hillel Find your people. Be part of something special.

Feed Your Ear and Heart!

Join us in a lovely musical Shabbat service with friends!

Friday, Nov 14 at BU Hillel

6pm - services
7pm - dinner




Sign up here!

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 \$7,200. 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 Jewish life with BU students.



Board of Directors

Board Member	Committee	Affiliation
Deborah Ball	Security	Parent of CAS '22
Jarret Berg	Development	CAS '07
Scott Berger	Development, Finance	Vice President; CAS '95
Emily Blatt	Governance	CAS '09
Mark Blotner	Development	Questrom '90
Aileen Borok	Programming	Parent of '28
Lisa Breslau	Co-Chair of Programming	Parent of CAS '24
Tony Daniels	Finance	Community Member
Sol Eisenberg	Governance	SR Assoc. Dean, ENG; Parent of CAS '13, '06
Karen Engelbourg	Chair of Development	Former SR VP Development & Alumni Relations
Dan Fishbein	Vice President; Finance, Security, Governance	CAMED '85, CAS '85
Eli Florence	Security	Board President, Florence & Chafetz Hillel House
Andrew Forsyth		Vice President, Secretary of BU Board of Trustees
Jeff Furman	Finance	Associate Professor at BU
Hal Garnick	Programming, Governance	Questrom '77
Rev. Robert Hill		Dean, Marsh Chapel, Parent of Wheelock '07
David Kaplan	Programming, Security	Community Member
Kim Kaplan-Gross	Governance	COM '89
Sarah Kornfeld	Programming	CAS '26
Debbie Kurzweil	Chair of Governance, Finance	Vice President; Parent of Questrom '19
Sidney Pertnoy	Governance	Past Board President
Dan Pliskin	Development, Finance	Parent of Wheelock '21
Charles Ribakoff	Development, Governance	Immed. Past Board Pres., Questrom '72
Jonathan Risch	Finance	Treasurer, Parent of CAS '25
Melissa Rones	Governance, Security	LAW '06
Rachel Rose	Programming	CFA '28
Jim Shane	Governance	Past Board President, Parent of Questrom '97
Linda Sloane Kay	Governance	COM '83
Guy Starr	Programming	Questrom '27
Jennifer Steber	Co-Chair of Programming, Development	Community Member
Mona Strick	Programming	Parent of COM '21
Bruce Weinstock	Programming	CAMED '86, CAS '83, SPH '97
Jeffrey Woolf	Governance, Security	Sec; LAW '74, GRS '69, Parent of CAS '19; LAW '18
Wayne Zuckerman		CAS '79; Parent of COM '17, Questrom '15

Lay Leadership Councils

Faculty Council

Debbie Danielpour-Chapel *Faculty Council Co-Chair || COM
Pearl Steinbuch *Faculty Council Co-Chair || QST
Mira Angrist || CAS
Irving Bigio || ENG
Matthew Creighton || CAS
Abigail Gillman || CAS
Nancy Harrowitz || CAS, Elie Wiesel Center Director
Dorothy Hutchinson || SAR
Karen Jacobs || SAR
Jonathan Katz || SHA
Leora Lanz || SHA
Jodi Luber || COM
Nancy Moore || LAW
Raviv Murciano-Goroff || QST
Roi Orzach || CAS
Avi Seidmann || QST
Amy Shanler || COM
Jed Shugerman || LAW
David Starobinski || ENG
Aaron Stevens || CAS
Ari Trachtenberg || ENG
David Webber || LAW

Parent Council

Ann Garner *Parent Council Chair || Kiernan Garner '27
Jason & Meri Atlas || Amanda Atlas '26
David & Manisha Eigner || Rebecca Eigner '29
Shelly Emanuel || Emily Emanuel '29
Matt & Vicki Feinstein || Rachel Feinstein '27
Brian & Laura Kablik || Nate Kablik '28
Jennifer Klein || Lexi Klein '29
Heather & Mark Kramer || Jordan Kramer '28
John Kurtz || Lily Kurtz '29
Roy Maydan || Michelle Maydan '29
Jeff Miller || Molly Miller '29

Alumni Council

Emily Singer '15 *Alumni Council Chair
Brad Chavin '25
Deni Budman '20
Carmelle Dagmi '19
Blake Dickler '18
Aidan Ferguson '24
Felicia Gans Sobey '17
Natalie Goldberg '17
Jacob Gurvis '20
Matthew Hinshaw '19
Ben Keil '10
Hana Kraus '20
Noah Lenkin '25
Ben Levy '20
Erin Miller '17
Molly Papermaster '18
Miky Rahmani '24
Bena Reiter '12
Steven Rubin '22
Daniel Schulman '23
Ethan Sorcher '21
Myles Ullman '19
Lauren Weinberger '17

Director's Council

Names here are a mix of those who serve officially on the Council and those who participated in Council conversations this year

Howard Altarescu || LAW '74, QST '70
Pete Bernard || ENG '88, PAR CFA '26
Marcelo Blay || PAR SAR '24
Jerry Davidson || CAS '76
Jim Gould || Community Member
Mike Gould || PAR CAS '20
Adrienne Lenhoff || COM '91, PAR CAS '25, COM '25, CGS '25
Jeremy Lowenstein || QST '04
Eric Roiter || Faculty
Jay Schulman || QST '83, PAR QST '23
Mitchell Silber || PAR COM '24
Marcy Stempler || PAR COM '19
Dan Waldman || Community Member
David Weinstein || CAS '72, DGE '70
Bruce Yudewitz || CAS '73

Financial Performance

Full Year Results (in thousands)

	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
Total Revenue:	\$887	\$1,141	\$1,246	\$1,327	\$1,347	\$1,768	\$1,803	\$1,917	\$2,133	\$1,949
Development Income/Donations	\$249	\$398	\$407	\$490	\$552	\$826	\$870	\$1,115	\$1,279	\$1,300
Grant Income	\$599	\$607	\$668	\$675	\$611	\$703	\$665	\$603	\$686	\$546
Other Income	\$64	\$1,352	\$171	\$162	\$184	\$210	\$268	\$179	\$168	\$103
Total Expenses:	\$1,000	\$966	\$1,182	\$1,243	\$1,186	\$1,457	\$1,651	\$1,615	\$1,831	\$1,848
Program Costs:										
Salaries & Benefits	\$585	\$588	\$765	\$843	\$861	\$949	\$1,137	\$1,226	\$1,404	\$1,449
Program Costs:										
Student Programming	\$320	\$320	\$345	\$261	\$246	\$356	\$395	\$271	\$350	\$314
Admin, Occupancy & Development, COVID-19 Reserve	\$94	\$80	\$73	\$139	\$79	\$152	\$119	\$118	\$77	\$85
Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations	(\$113)	\$175	\$63	\$84	\$161	\$311	\$152	\$302	\$301	\$101

Leadership Gifts

Given July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

\$100,000+

Paul Rothman
Ken Slater

50,000-\$99,999

Eli Florence*
Michael Leven

\$25,000-\$49,999

Scott Berger*
Richard Fentin
Dan Fishbein*
Richard Grayson
Laura & Brian Kablik
Charles Ribakoff*
Jim Shane*
Wayne Zuckerman*

\$10,000-\$24,999

Jarret Berg*
Aliza & Eric Carniol
Irwin Chafetz
Jevin & Janine Eagle
David & Manisha Eigner
Kayla Florence
Mike Frieze
Robert & Meg Glimcher
Jim Gould
Elana Grayson
Beryl Loeb Hoffman & David Hoffman (z"l)
Stewart Lane & Bonnie Comley
Alan Leventhal
Jonathan Risch*
Melissa Rones*
Jay & Nancy Schulman
Allan Sherman, Joseph & Susan (z"l) Stone
Linda Sloane Kay*
David Weinstein

\$5,000-\$9,999

Emily Blatt*
Marcelo Blay
Mark Blotner*
Aileen Borok*
Lisa Breslau*
Ali Brodie
Cynthia Cohen
Gerry Cohen
Sol Eisenberg*
Karen Engelbourg*
Sidney Feltenstein
Ann Garner
Hal* & Laure Garnick

Yoni Gontownik
David Kaplan*
Kim Kaplan-Gross*
Steve Karbank
Debbie Kurzweil*
Sidney Pertnoy*
Dan Pliskin*
Avi Savar
Steven Segal
Jennifer Steber*
Marcy Stempler
Mona Strick* & Mark Housman
Michael Wasserman
Bruce Weinstock*
Peter Wexler
Jeffrey Woolf*
Mary Zinn
Jeffrey Zucker

\$1,000-\$4,999

Jason & Meri Atlas
Alison Avram
Beverly Bavy
Bruce Beiser
Nancy & Samuel Beran
Sandy Berbeco
Pete Bernard
Richard Cavell
Vicki Chavin
Daniel & Tiffany Cohen
Tod Cooperman
Suzanne Cornell
Ronald Curhan
Marilyn Danesh
Gerald Davidson
Henny Eagle
Shelly Emanuel
Marvin H. Feinstein
Vicki Feinstein
Harriet Finebaum
Stephen & Elizabeth Frank
Michael Fricklas
Jeffrey Ganeles
Herbert & Rita Gann-Gann Trust
Nicole & Joshua Gann
Larry & Marla Gilbert
Lisa Gill
Deborah & David Glickman
Robert & Francine Goldfarb
David Goodtree
Michael Gould
Jeremy Gross
Howard Hochhauser



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

Ari Hoffman
Neal Hoffman
Herbert Jacobs
Karen Jacobs
Micah & Beth Jacobs
Richard & Jeanne Jaffe
Stephen Klar & Janice
Gross
Jennifer Klein
Michael & Arlene Kleinberg
Mark & Heather Kramer
Robert Kruger
John Kurtz
Lisa Lainer-Fagan & Brian
Fagan
Amy Leerink
Robin Lenkin
Victor Levy
Jeremy Lowenstein
Elizabeth & Phillip Mann
Barry & Patricia Manuel
Roy Maydan
Suzanne & Andy Offit
Dean Palin
Nicole Putzel
Arthur Rauch
Michael Ravitz
Joel Roffman
Eric Roiter
Henry Rosen
Suzanne Salamon
David Salz
Maxine Selig
Suzanne Shaw White
Susan & Larry Shiff
Dean Shulman
Mitchell Silber
Joanne Soslow
Susan Sugarman
Jay Theise
Daniel & Adina Tor
Danny Waldman
David & Lynn Wax
Bruce Yudewitz
Seymour Zises

* Board of Directors

Grants of \$5,000+



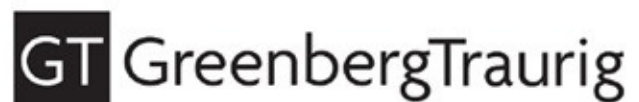
Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation

Frank Family Foundation

Jewish Cultural Endowment

Jim Joseph Foundation

Roffman Mitzvah Endowment





Fresh Fest



Bagel Brunch



Welcome BBQ



Israel Trips



Internships



Activities Fair



Shabbat



Guest Speakers



High Holidays



Jewish Learning



Volunteering



Challah Baking



Hanukkah



Music Lab



Celtics Game

YOU make these moments possible!