



2022-2023 Annual Report

BRAMAN MILLER CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE

Hillel
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

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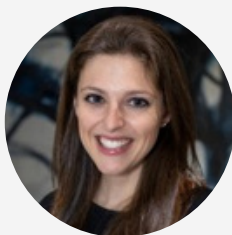
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BRIANA SCHWARZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MYCKI RATZAN
BOARD CHAIR

As the University of Miami continues to be a top destination for Jewish college students, UM Hillel is committed to providing meaningful Jewish experiences both on campus and within the greater Miami community.

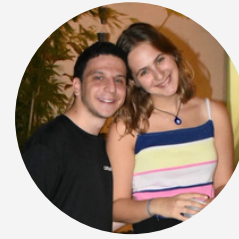
With dynamic students, staff, and programming, UM Hillel is the social, cultural, entrepreneurial, and religious hub for Jewish students at the University of Miami.

Our accomplishments this year are extraordinary, with significant milestones such as:

- **1,500+ students engaging with Hillel during the 2022-2023 school year**
- **175 students traveling to Israel on transformative programs such as Birthright Israel, Onward Israel, and 'Canes Perspectives**
- **Formative leadership opportunities for students, including Hillel's Student Board, First-Year Leadership Council, and outstanding internships both locally and abroad**

Success is not merely determined by numbers and achievements; it is also measured by the positive impact we create. This annual report is filled with stories of students whose lives have been enhanced by Hillel's work.

Thanks to our dedicated supporters, UM Hillel continues to gain momentum, connecting with more students, increasing its visibility on campus, and amplifying its status as an important asset to the university and the greater Miami Jewish community.



ELI WEISS AND ABI SCHCOLNIK

STUDENT CO-PRESIDENTS

*We are thrilled to be a part of
The UM Hillel family!*

Over the past year, we have worked to create a warm and welcoming environment, turning Hillel into a true home away from home for every student who walks through our doors.

Our dedication and passion drive us to serve our community, enriching our campus with vibrant Jewish life and culture. We come together to celebrate, reflect, and enjoy each other's company with programs such as a lively Purim carnival, engaging High Holiday experiences, and awareness initiatives like Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate.

None of this would be possible without the incredible teamwork and support of the amazing students and staff. Working together, we find joy and fulfillment in our mission. **We want to extend our gratitude to all who have contributed to UM Hillel in any way; because of you, we are who we are today. Thank you!**

We anticipate the continued growth and expansion of our Hillel. Together, we'll make an even more profound impact on our community and campus, fostering a stronger connection to our shared values and traditions.



ALL KINDS OF NUMBERS

Our campus presence allows us to serve over 2,000 Jewish 'Canes each year, fostering a thriving and inclusive community that enhances the college experience, provides support, and promotes Jewish identity and values.

UM Hillel's program highlights include:

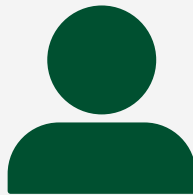
1,380+

**SHABBAT
MEALS SERVED**



36

**JEWISH 'CANES IN
HILLEL LEADERSHIP
ROLES**



115

**BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL
PARTICIPANTS**



35

**ONWARD ISRAEL
PARTICIPANTS**



1,500+

**'CANES CHATTED
WITH OUR STAFF**



180

**JEWISH LEARNING
FELLOWSHIP
PARTICIPANTS**



25

**UM STUDENT LEADERS
TRAVELED TO ISRAEL ON
OUR PERSPECTIVES TRIP**

250

**SIGNED OUR SPREAD CREAM
CHEESE, NOT HATE PLEDGE
AGAINST ANTISEMITISM**

ALL KINDS OF HIGHLIGHTS



On Campus with Noa Tishby

UM Hillel organized an intimate event featuring Israeli activist and advocate Noa Tishby, who emphasized antisemitism education, media misinformation, and fostering safe spaces among Jewish students. Noa Tishby's insights empowered students to recognize and address various forms of antisemitism both on campus and in the community.

Spread Cream Cheese, Not Hate®

Amid rising antisemitism nationwide, UM Hillel takes the lead in campus education. Partnering with the Spread Cream Cheese, Not Hate movement, Hillel students stationed themselves at the campus center and invited peers, faculty, and staff to denounce hate by signing a pledge and receiving a bagel with schmear. This event garnered 250+ signatures and sparked vital conversations.



Interfaith Shabbat

Students planned and executed a meaningful Interfaith Shabbat, encouraging dialogue among campus faith-based organizations. This significant event allowed our students to share our treasured Jewish traditions with their peers and reflect on the many similarities and differences throughout the UM student population.

First-Year Leadership Council

Hillel's First-Year Leadership Council (FLC) consists of motivated new students who organize engaging events for peers, offering leadership experience, and serving as a pipeline for future UM Jewish community roles. This year's FLC events drew 200+ participants, some of whom have already joined Hillel's Student Leadership Board.



ALL KINDS OF IMPACT



"Serving as a Hillel leader has been a transformative journey. As the Multi-Faith Engagement team member on Hillel's Student Board, I strive to create inclusive events celebrating diversity within our campus community. One impactful moment was planning an Interfaith Shabbat dinner connecting student leaders from other faith-based organizations. Hillel enabled me to share my personal experience, create inviting spaces for everyone, and foster a sense of belonging for all students on campus."

-Katie Prather ('25)



"I am grateful to have traveled to Israel with UM Hillel's 'Canes Perspectives trip for student leaders. Hillel encouraged me and my friends to learn more about Israel and have open discussions on challenging topics. Hillel educates and supports the entire student body in ways that resonate with them, building a welcoming community for all."

-Kofi Bame ('24)



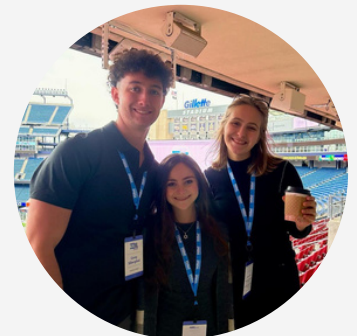
"We are proud to bring Challah for Hunger to the U! This empowering initiative builds community on campus through the shared experience of making challah. We are all about baking and *Tzedek* (social justice), so why not make a movement out of it?!"

-Allie Rodman ('25) & Sam Weissman ('26)

ALL KINDS OF COLLABORATIONS

YOUR GIFT PROVIDES...

- A **safe and inclusive** place for Jewish students on campus
- **Powerful, creative, and diverse programming** on topics including Jewish traditions, social justice, and ways to combat antisemitism
- **Unique Shabbat experiences** with educational themes, meaningful conversations, and leadership opportunities
- Holiday programming enabling a **welcoming place for students to observe and celebrate** when they are away from home
- Immersive experiences for **hands-on learning** about Jewish identity and the history of Israel
- Participation in regional, national, and global conferences providing **valuable learning opportunities and leadership skills** from organizations around the world



Thank you for your support!

At the University of Miami Hillel, we recognize the significance of partnering with other organizations to strengthen our mission. These collaborations enrich our community with unique initiatives and perspectives. **Our work is made possible by:**



2023-2024 PROFESSIONAL STAFF

BRIANA SCHWARZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RABBI JASON COOK, CAMPUS RABBI

GABI COHEN, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

JORDAN FEINBERG, ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

JONAH SNYDER, IACT ISRAEL COORDINATOR

SHAYNA KLING, SPRINGBOARD FELLOW

RACHEL GORDON, MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

CARLOS GONZALEZ, BUILDING MANAGER



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