



FALL UPDATE 2023

& 2022-2023 Donor Honor Roll





A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

During this uniquely challenging semester, we have been inspired time and again by the extraordinary young people who we at AU Hillel have the privilege to serve. Amidst their grief and fear, our students have stood up for themselves and one another and have raised their voices on behalf of their people and their values. Our student leaders have gone to incredible lengths to sustain and grow our vibrant Jewish community, and they've shown passion and poise as they express their support for Israel and their commitment to fighting antisemitism.

Our Hillel team has supported students this fall in unprecedented numbers, and at all hours. We have expanded our programming considerably, innovating to meet students' rapidly changing needs. We are proud of the many ways that Hillel has been there for our students during this difficult time – some of which you'll read about in this update – and we're grateful for your support, without which we could not do this sacred work. Thank you.

Jason Benkendorf

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eli Engelbourg

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MEETING THE MOMENT

This fall, AU Hillel engaged and supported a record number of students. With a war in Israel and increasing expressions of antisemitism on campus, students looked to Hillel for a safe place where they could be their full, authentic selves and proudly express their Jewish identities.



Hillel met the moment this semester through:

- Educational programs on Israel and antisemitism, in addition to our semester-long Jewish Learning Fellowships
- Wellness activities including a workshop on coping with grief
- A bridge-building Jewish-Christian dialogue series
- Mobilizing AU students to attend the March for Israel and the ADL Concert Against Hate
- Extensive advocacy with the university administration, lifting up the voices and concerns of Jewish students
- Events connecting students with sources of support, including a Jewish faculty-student lunch
- “Shabbat moments” at Friday night theater rehearsals, a new Jewish Dungeons & Dragons group, and other initiatives to foster Jewish community in unexpected places
- An enduring commitment to building strong relationships, as embodied by our signature First Year Students of Hillel (FYSH) program
- Shabbat and holiday celebrations, social events, music and arts programming, and countless other opportunities for students to experience Jewish joy



1450
shabbat &
holiday
meals
served



210
students at
memorials
the week
following
October 7th

900+
students
engaged



550
staff
one-on-ones
with
students



AU HILLEL HONOR ROLL

Thank you for making Jewish life at AU possible

Recognizes gifts made between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023

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