

# Hillel

TOWSON UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT  
2018-2019



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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

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This year, Towson University Hillel turned 21 and we celebrated our growing success in serving our Jewish community. For 21 years, Towson Hillel has been a home for students on their religious, spiritual and personal journeys. This year was no exception. We thank those who made Hillel at Towson, from its inception, a safe haven 21 years ago and look forward to continuing to grow Jewish life on campus by widening our established base and making more and more lasting impressions on a greater number of students and our supporters on and off campus. From more frequent Shabbat dinners to the launch of an inaugural leadership circle of donors to engaging over 750 students through 155 programs throughout the year, we are proud to say our students can, and do, engage in unique and customized touch points during the week that nourish and enrich their experiences as Jewish students, participants and leaders. We are so proud to serve nearly half of the Jewish population on campus and look forward to increasing our talent, staff, programming, engagement and story with you. We hope you enjoy this year's annual report. Please don't hesitate to be in touch.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bodziner  
Towson Hillel Executive Director  
[lisa@towsonhillel.org](mailto:lisa@towsonhillel.org)  
912-659-3746

# OUR LEADERSHIP



## LISA BODZINER | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lisa Bodziner grew up in Savannah, GA and then graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Madison for her undergraduate degree. She lived in Israel for four years where she attended the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies and received her Master's Degree in Jewish Education. After leaving Israel, Lisa taught 6th-12th grade for three years in California and then moved to Reisterstown, MD to work at the Pearlstone Center as an experiential educator and signature program coordinator where she also met her, now, husband (he talked about Towson a lot on their first date). Lisa became the Director of Educational Engagement at the Macks Center for Jewish Education and received a certificate in experiential Jewish education from the Yeshiva University. Lisa is humbled and thrilled to be the Executive Director of Towson University-Hillel. When she has spare time does volunteers community service work, loves hosting Shabbat meals, and adores being with the TU alum husband, son and daughter.



## JAKE CAMPBELL | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Jake comes from "across the pond" in sunny Sydney. An Australian trying to live the American dream, he was previously the Executive Director of the Australasian Union of Jewish Students, the Jewish Student Life Coordinator of Hillel at Florida State University, and before that, a Mentor team leader and high school English and History teacher. Currently studying for his MBA with a specialization in social impact and passionate about learning and continuous growth, Jake has a Graduate Certificate in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies, Masters in Gifted Education, Bachelor of Liberal Arts with a double major in English and History, as well as a Bachelor of Education majoring in Secondary Education. Jake loves to cook and makes the best darn curry you've ever had—guaranteed! In addition, he's a taekwondo instructor and a right proper fan of getting lost in the bush on hikes. Jake's also a pretty tragic supporter of his beloved Cronulla Sharks rugby league team and cried like a baby fresh out the womb when they won a Grand Final. His number one hobby, however, is Jewish communal organizing and for that, he is so lucky to have made his passion his career.



## MARK DEL GALLO | MARKETING ASSOCIATE

After Mark graduated from Towson University in 2002 he spent five years assisting Graphic Novelist and Director, Frank Miller, followed by a plethora of work in film and television production. He went back to school in 2014 to continue his education in Graphic Design at CUNY, Baruch College in NYC. Since then, Mark has been working as a self-employed graphic artist and web designer and is currently redesigning the Towson Hillel website. Mark just completed Towson Hillel's new business cards, digital and print advertisements for the Towson University Visitor's Guide (2019-2020), various promotional materials for Towson Hillel's 21st birthday event, as well as the 2019-2020 Board Manual and 2019 Annual Impact Report. He is also helping to redecorate the Hillel lounge and designing new give-away items for the 2019-2020 school year.



## ARIANA KATZ | RABBINIC EDUCATOR

Rabbi Ariana Katz is the founding rabbi of Hinenu: The Baltimore Justice Shtiebl, a warm and joyful new congregation in Baltimore, MD. Rabbi Ariana graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in the spring of 2018. She is a queer, white, Ashkenazi femme, 4th generation Philadelphian who sees rooted ritual and radical organizing as her Jewish legacy. Rabbi Ariana was the creator and host of "Kaddish", a podcast about death and identity ([kaddishpodcast.com](http://kaddishpodcast.com)). She is a ritual maker and ruckus organizer, and has taught learners ages 3-93 for over a decade.



## LEORA MATCH | PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Leora was raised in Harrisburg, PA before moving to Maryland to attend Towson University. As an undergraduate she played women's Ultimate frisbee, co-founded and served as music director of an a cappella group, staged an original musical in the Smith Hall Planetarium as an Honors College independent study, and regularly led Friday night services for Hillel. She has been a song and prayer leader for the Harrisburg JCC Day Camp, Bolton Street Synagogue, and Beth Am Congregation. After graduating with her Bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology, Leora served for two years as a full-time AmeriCorps literacy tutor in a Baltimore City school through The Literacy Lab while playing keyboard and singing in a nationally touring indie-pop band. Leora has enjoyed being a Moishe House Without Walls host leading song circles and Shabbat/holiday events in the apartment she shares with three other Towson Hillel alumnae. Leora cherishes the friendships that enrich her life, many of which have arisen through shared hobbies such as running, contra and swing dancing, African drumming, hula hooping, camping, kayaking, road-tripping, and urban farming. Leora hopes to connect Jewish students at Towson to other students, events, organizations, and service opportunities that will add fun and meaning to their college experiences and beyond.



## SHACHAR PINSKY | ISRAEL FELLOW

Shachar is Towson University's Jewish Agency Israel Fellow. Interested in philosophy and international relations. He is a graduate of the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) at Herzliya with a B.A. in Government, Diplomacy, and Strategy majoring in Conflict Resolution and Middle-Eastern Studies. While earning his degree Shachar spent a semester at Syracuse University in the Maxwell Student Exchange Program to study American Politics, Policy and International Security. He also volunteered at the IDC Writing Center teaching English and assisting students with their assignments. Previously, Shachar was a security guard and medic for tourists and hikers in Israel and escorted many Birthright trips and other tours. He was honorably discharged from the IDF after three years where he served as a soldier and medic at the Combat Intelligence Collection Corps.

# STUDENT LEADERS

Hillel as a global organization would not be what it is without our student participants and student leaders. Our student leaders involved in THIC (Towson Hillel Incubator Cohort) create cutting edge programs, engage students in coffee dates, and learn Jewish texts in bi-monthly meetings.



## JONATHAN AHARON

Jonathan is a Junior majoring in Accounting. He has been involved in Jewish life running activities at his local synagogue, Beth Shalom Talmud Torah and B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. Yoni is looking forward to bringing the same energy and happiness that defined his previous leadership activities for religious organizations to the Towson Hillel.



## NATASHA BAUM

**Jerry Cohen Student Leadership Award, 2018**

Natasha is a Junior majoring in Marketing with a minor in Graphic Design. She loves the religious and cultural aspects of Hillel and hopes to make it a more widely recognized group on campus. In high school Natasha participated in DECA, a co-curricular organization where she first began to hone her marketing skills. She hopes to apply those skills to her role at Hillel and looks forward to a great career within the Hillel leadership and an amazing year!



## MAX CANTOR

A Junior from Frederick, MD. Max is studying History with a concentration in Secondary Education and plans to become a teacher. He is the mascot for a minor league affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles, The Frederick Keys, with the best mascot in baseball! Last year he ran a toy drive for Hillel and hosted Cholent 'n Chill, an event where students participated in meaningful discussions about Judaism while enjoying delicious cholent.



## ALEX GOLDSTEIN

Alex is a Junior majoring in Environmental Science with a concentration in Environmental Biology. When he is not conducting research in Eco-Toxicology, Alex can be found in the Hillel Lounge talking with students and helping to plan conservation and sustainability programs. He loves Hillel and is determined to make Hillel an even more amazing place.



## ERIC GOLDSTEIN

**Jerry Cohen Student Leadership Award, 2019**

Eric is a Junior majoring in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics (MB3) with a concentration in Molecular Biology. Other than being a Student Leader for Towson University Hillel, he is on the Executive Board of the Towson Chapter of ASBMB, or American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He can't wait for an amazing year!

Our students learn how to cultivate relationships, create meaningful and deep-rooted programming and grow themselves as the next generation of leaders in the local and global community. We thank our THIC leadership and look forward to a larger group next year.



## BEN KRON

Ben is a Senior majoring in Religious Studies. He is working towards his Masters in Leadership in Jewish Education and Communal Service through the Baltimore Hebrew Institute. He is a Student Member of the Governing Board and the Bass Drum Section Leader for the Towson Marching Band. His interest and passion for Judaism has grown exponentially since arriving on campus. He's attended several trips to Israel through Hillel that he learned a lot from.



## RACHEL SHVALB

Rachel is a Junior studying Mass Communication and Communication Studies. She loves Hillel because it allows her the opportunity to get involved in the campus Jewish community. She also enjoys bringing her traditions and connecting with other Jewish students.



## ALIYA SMELKINSON

Aliya is a Sophomore from Columbia, MD majoring in Family Studies with a minor in Jewish Studies. She holds many leadership positions in Hillel programs including Challah for Hunger, Tigers for Israel, First Year Students of Hillel, and THIC. Aliya loves being involved in the Jewish community and can't wait for all of the exciting things happening this year!



## JESSICA TEICH

Jessica is a Senior majoring in Psychology and minoring in English. In addition to being a Student Leader and active member of Towson Hillel, Jessica works at Beth El in Pikesville as a Hebrew Tutor. She is so excited to help Towson Hillel thrive this year and even more excited to meet all of you!



## JODI TEITELMAN

**Jerry Cohen Student Leadership Award, 2019**

Jodi is a Junior from West Hartford, CT majoring in Family & Human Services. She is Chair of the Shabbat Committee, President of Challah for Hunger, and Events Coordinator for Tigers for Israel. She is also a member of the Homecoming and TU Holiday committees, a student employee within the Office of Student Activities, and the Events Chair for Project Serve. Her Freshman year she served as a Senator within the SGA and was awarded 'Senator of the Year' for her work combating antisemitism on campus.

# STUDENT PROGRAMS

## BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL

Birthright is the most powerful engagement tool we have on campus. Students explore a free trip to Israel first-hand as a group of proud Towson Tigers with our enthusiastic and dynamic staff. Birthright sets the tone for students to return to campus excited to explore more of what Hillel and Jewish life has to offer on campus. Our staff are always excited to build Jewish community on campus once the group returns.



## HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The Hillel Lounge is constantly being updated. The Lounge is where staff and students work and collaborate. The space is a hospitable place to grab a coffee or snack, in a cozy and inviting environment. Whether students are on a lunch break or need a place to call home, the Hillel Lounge is the “warmest” place on Towson’s campus!



## FIRST YEAR STUDENTS OF HILLEL

First Year Students of Hillel (FYSH) is an initiative to foster relationships with students when they first arrive at Towson University. The programs within First Year Students of Hillel focus on targeted events to encourage a feeling of belonging and a bond between students and staff.

## JEWISH TIGERS ALUMNI ALLIANCE

The Jewish Tigers Alumni Alliance (JTAA) focuses on keeping young alumni engaged. Events that have taken place include happy hours, hosted Shabbats, and Orioles games.



## SHABBAT SHALOM

“Big Shabbats On Campus” are one of the most exciting monthly programs we offer to students on campus. Our dynamic staff and students decorate, plan, lead and experience Shabbat services and dinner together, as a community. Hillel is an inclusive organization and our staff create an open environment and warmly welcome anyone and everyone interested in exploring how Shabbat looks, feels, and tastes!



## TOWSON STUDENT LEADERSHIP

THIC (Towson Hillel Incubator Cohort) is the core leadership group of Jewish students on campus. THIC students learn best practices in design thinking and engagement strategies, master the art and science of a coffee date, and become skilled interns engaging more Jewish students in campus life and learning what makes them “tick.”



## SCHWIPE

Schwipe is an event check-in and engagement tracking system created by Scott Black. Using Schwipe has streamlined our data analysis and enabled us to strategically engage students based on their interests.

## CHALLAH 4 HUNGER

Towson Hillel is proud to be a part of this national initiative. Our chapter takes pride in collaborating with other student groups on campus to share the joy of making fresh challah and teaching the significance of “tikkun olam” in the Jewish world. All proceeds from the challah go directly towards food insecurity through MAZON, as well as any other philanthropy to which the partnering organization would like to donate.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

After three years of chairing the governing board, Craig Lestner, has left a legacy of leadership.

It is with tremendous gratitude we acknowledge Craig for the leadership he continued to exude through hiring a new Executive Director, increasing goals for fundraising and continuing as development chair moving into next year. We also want to express tremendous gratitude to Jackie Cohen, Irvin Naiman, Barbara Fink and Kelly Blavatt who helped build, lead, and established what Towson University Hillel is today through chairing the board, building a development plan, and organizing high quality events as you step down from your board leadership. We welcome with immense enthusiasm Adam Baumwald, incoming chair of the board and Matt Lipsky, vice chair. We know you both are destined for greatness as our leaders!

## BOARD CHAIR

Adam Baumwald '00

## VICE CHAIR

Matthew Lipsky '96

## TREASURER

Joshua Greenwald

## SECRETARY

Dr. Sheryl Cooper

## IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Craig Lestner '99

## BOARD MEMBERS

Zachary Ament '12

Dr. Larry Amsterdam

Joel Bolling

Amy Burke Friedman

Jessica Gertz '12

Dr. Barry Gittlen

Jonathan Havens Esq.

Dov Hoffman '10

Emily Levin

Gary Levy

Judy Macks

Darren Margolis Esq. '92

Austin Nusbaum '08

Jeremy Sanders

Neal Shaivitz '96

Michael Schwartzberg '94

Jacob Simone '11

Harel Turkel '03

Jacob Wolf

Ellen Kahan Zager

Shelley Zimmerman

## STUDENT REPS

Ben Kron

Jodi Teitelman

# MEET & GREET SUMMER BBQ

Board members, JTAA (Jewish Tiger Alumni Alliance), family and friends came together to welcome Jake, our new Assistant Director!

The summer BBQ was a great kick-off event for our leadership and young alumni to bond, connect and eat! Lisa was excited to host everyone in her home and Kenny (her husband) was excited to cookout and smoke a brisket on their smoker! Families played in the back, board members and alumni connected and Adam made his signature summer cocktail. Adam is looking forward to bringing his enthusiasm for food and curated experiences to the Towson Hillel brand. A great time was had by all and the perfect weather was much appreciated.

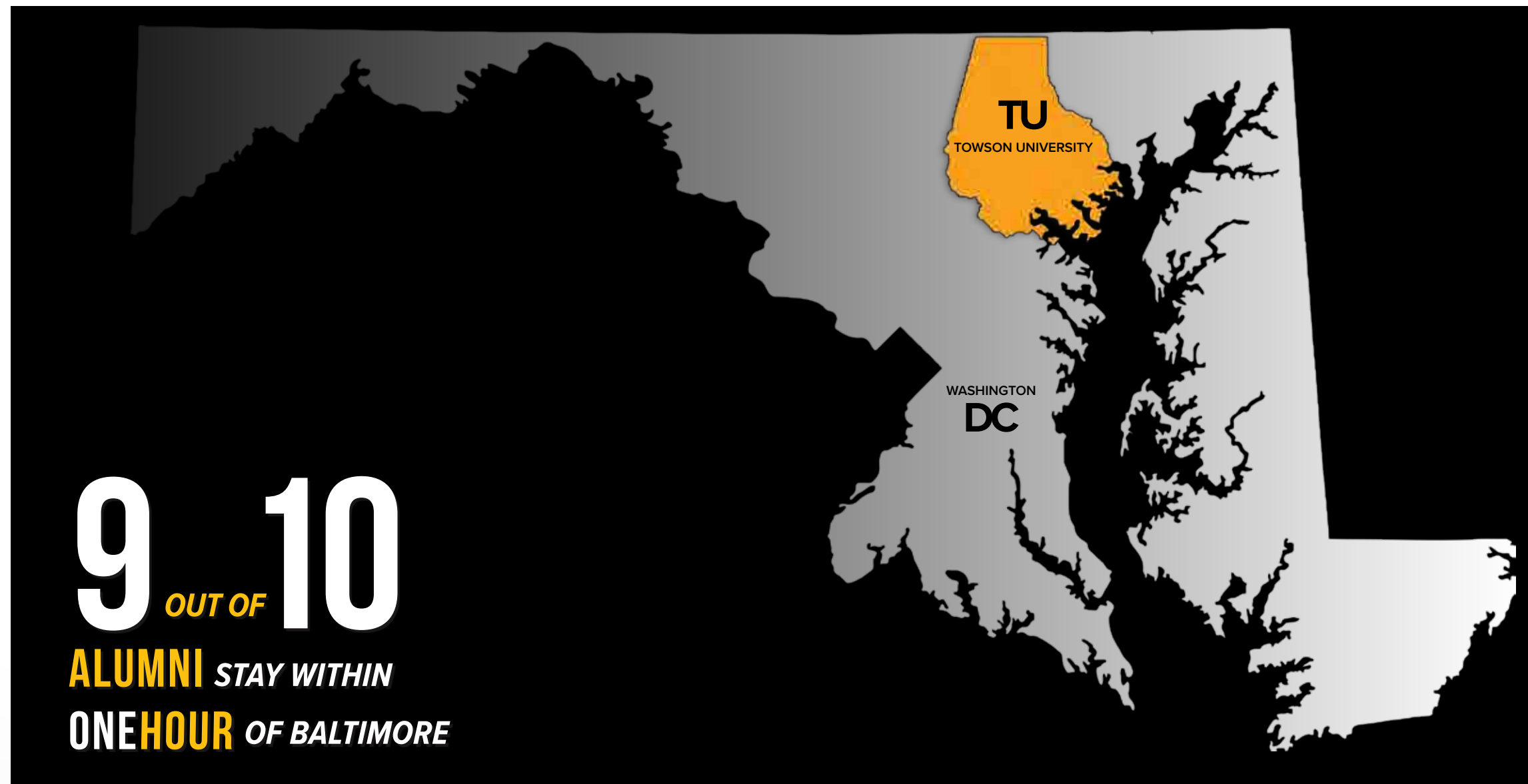


# OUR IMPACT

Towson Hillel inspires Jewish students to connect to their own unique Jewish identity, by creating user-centric opportunities.

We are impacting the next generation of community lay leaders, the Baltimore City workforce and future employees of The Associated, the Jewish Community and beyond.

The investment in our students personal Jewish growth, professional development, connections to JTAA, alumni and Young Adult Jewish programming, connection to BHI and local graduate programs, all enhance the impact in which our students stay local and become the Jewish leaders of the present community.



*"Being the leader of 'Challah for Hunger' really taught me leadership and organizational skills."*  
 - Arielle Messafi '18



*"Team work, collaboration, and being able to listen to other points of view and perspectives were just some of the many values I gained while here at TU."*  
 - Janna Hindman '11



*"I moved to New Jersey."*  
 - anonymous



# ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

1727

CONTACT

753<sup>1+</sup>

INTERACTIONS

86<sup>6+</sup>

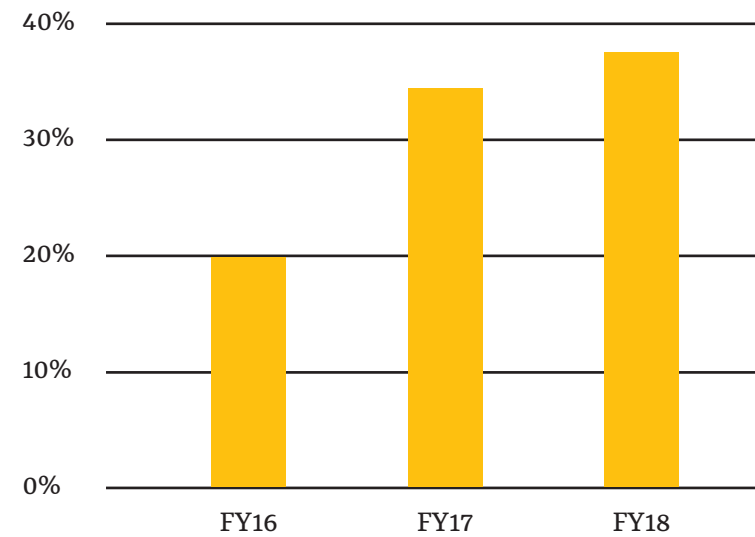
INTERACTIONS

37.7%

BREADTH

## OVERALL BREADTH

Our depth and breadth increased in this calendar year. Our impact and touch-points continue to grow as we cultivate deeper and more consistent relationships with students of diverse and dynamic backgrounds.



2000  
JEWISH STUDENTS

157  
EVENTS

2647  
ATTENDANCE

165  
INTERACTIONS

### OUR MISSION

Our goal is to provide a vibrant Jewish Community and an infrastructure that shapes the next generation of Jewish leaders. Through a variety of campus and community based programs, Hillel engages students in ways they feel most comfortable expressing their Judaism, while embarking on their college journey at Towson University. Our mission is to enrich the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world.



# TU HILLEL TURNS 21

Towson Hillel turned 21 this year and we celebrated with live music, family-friendly activities and our community partners.

We honored past and incoming Board members and of course, recognized our graduating seniors. Even in the rain, we had over 150 people attend.

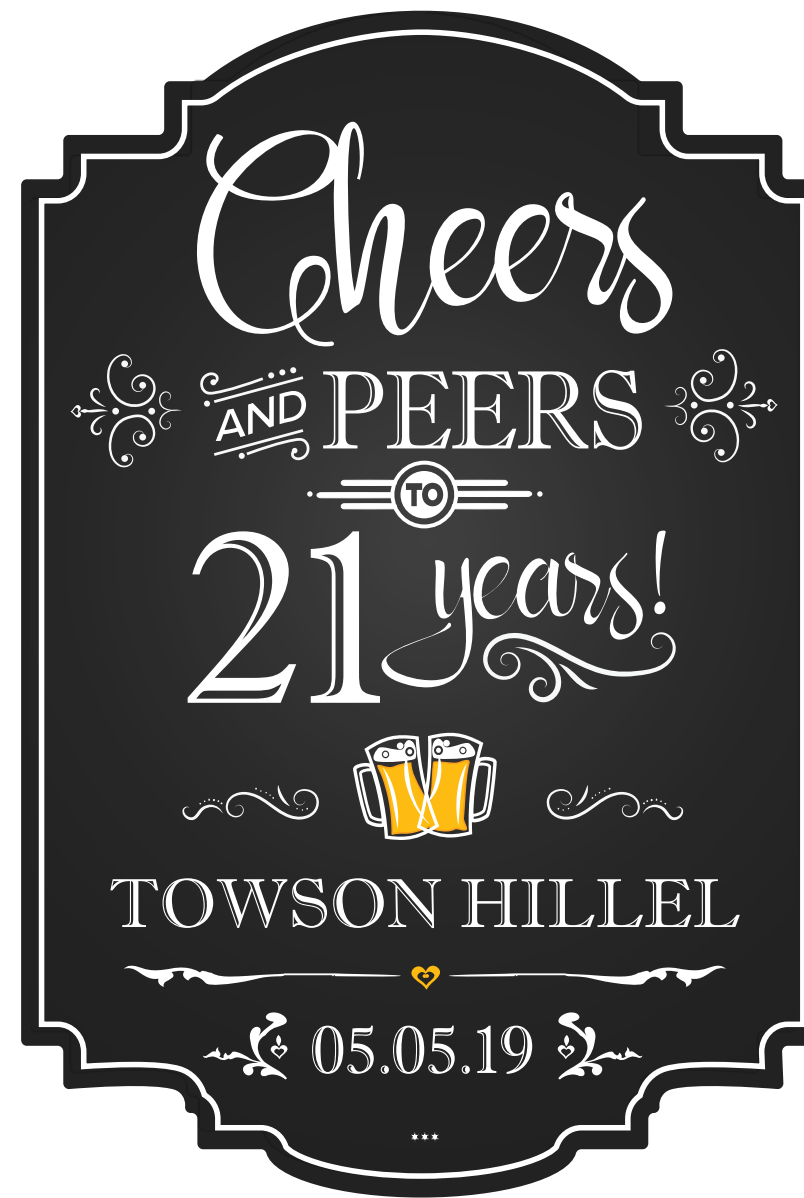
We are so proud of our seniors and grateful for our previous Board members that helped Hillel become what it is today. We couldn't have made this event possible without the generous support of our donors, sponsors and community partners. We look forward to celebrating another 21 years and beyond!



Left to right: Adam Baumwald '99 (Executive Board Chair), Dov Hoffman (JTAA Committee Chair), Craig Lestner '00 (Immediate Past Chair), and Lisa Bodziner (Executive Director).



Students gather together to show their support in the rain for Towson Hillel's 21st Birthday celebration on May 5, 2019.



Kari de Laviez '18 blossoms into a butterfly thanks to our face painting table!



Recipients of the Jerry Cohen Student Leadership Award. Left to right: Eric Goldstein '19, Daniel Elice '18, Natasha Baum '18, and Jodi Teitelman '19.



Towson University President, Dr. Kim Schatzel, and her husband pause for a picture while listening to False Peak.



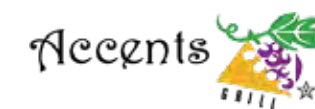
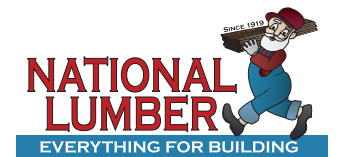
False Peak setting the stage & starting the program with a beautiful and soulful rendition of Hatikva ... Israel's national anthem.

# DONORS

Gifts and generous donations from our family, friends, supporters and sponsors allow us to thrive. Thank you to everyone that donates to Towson Hillel. Special thanks to our donors that contributed \$1,000 or more and are a part of our Leadership Circle.

## Leadership Circle

- Mr. Jared and Mrs. Nicole Bates
- Mr. Adam and Mrs. Allison Baumwald
- Mrs. Barbara Bloom
- Dr. Richard and Mrs. Merry Bodziner
- Mr. Irv and Mrs. Jackie Cohen
- Dr. Sheryl B. Cooper
- Mr. Jon and Mrs. Barbara Fink
- Mr. Kenny Goldberg and Mrs. Lisa Bodziner
- Mr. Craig and Mrs. Allyson Lestner
- Mr. Scott and Mrs. Emily Levin
- Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Elysa Lipsky
- Mr. Darren Margolis Esq.
- Mr. Irvin Naiman
- Ronnie H. and Alli Russel Charitable Foundation
- Mr. Paul Rubin and Mrs. Martie Ross
- Mr. Jacob Simone



## CONTACT US

### Hillel Lounge

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Executive Director:  
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## SPECIAL THANKS

Ellen Kahan Zager  
Emily Levin

## CONNECT WITH US

### Facebook

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### Instagram

[/towsonhillel](https://www.instagram.com/towsonhillel)

### Twitter

[/towsonhillel](https://twitter.com/towsonhillel)

### Website

[www.towsonhillel.org](http://www.towsonhillel.org)

## CONTRIBUTORS

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### Lisa Shifrin

Additional Photography

**PLEASE SUPPORT TOWSON HILLEL**  
[www.towsonhillel.org/support-us/](http://www.towsonhillel.org/support-us/)