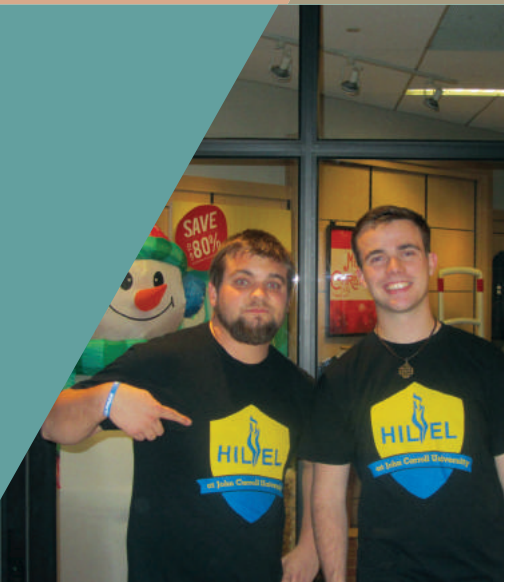




## SHOWCASING HILLEL STUDENTS



## ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016



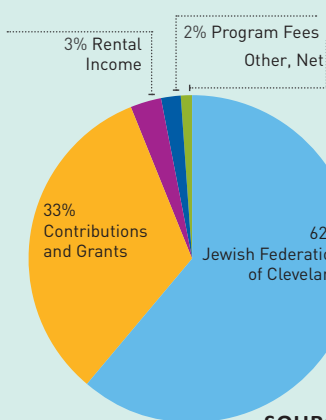


BRADLEY A. SHERMAN

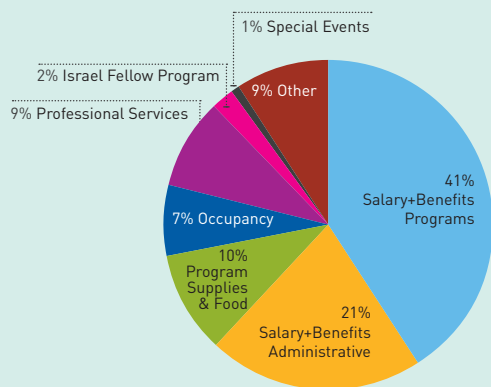
M. JARED ISAACSON

## 2015/2016 OPERATING FINANCIALS

OPERATING REVENUE - \$1,018,461



SOURCES OF REVENUE



USES OF REVENUE

The Audit report for the year ended June 30, 2016 is available on our website. The audit was performed by BDO USA, LLP. Please see the Audited Financial Statements for complete financial information.

## Dear Cleveland Hillel Friends, Supporters, Fans and Family,

It is hard to believe that a year has passed already. Yet, here we are, pleased to share with all of you the 2016 Fiscal Year Annual Report for the Cleveland Hillel Foundation. They say that "time flies when you are having fun", and all of us here in the CLE are having a blast – and especially all of us at Cleveland Hillel.

The Nation (and the world) has taken notice of our community's renaissance. Whether it is the rebuilding of our City center or the rebirth of Public Square. The way Cleveland came together last summer to throw an amazing (and in significant part incident free) National Presidential Convention for the Republican Party, or just the fact that we "witnessed" the Cavs break Cleveland's 54 year championship drought followed up with the Indians winning the American League Pennant, it continues to be a fantastic and wonderful ride indeed.

Much like our city, the Cleveland Hillel Foundation also has begun a renaissance of its own. Over this past year, we developed and executed a number of exciting initiatives to move our organization into our newest phase. With a re-focused purpose to cultivate strategies to foster Jewish experiences that are truly student-initiated and student-driven, together, we are creating a community and organization that can best be described as "Hillel 2.0".

We opened the doors to the new Albert & Norma Geller Hillel Student Center, which has proven to be a transformative asset for our outreach and engagement efforts. The new building has become an important epicenter for Jewish life on Case Western Reserve University's campus and a key connector with the Cleveland Jewish Community. Many students (including lots of new faces) have passed through our doors to join in our programs, take part in our student leadership meetings, attend Shabbat services and dinner, or simply just to find a place to study and hang out.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our incredible donors who include among their number philanthropic families and individuals from the Cleveland Jewish Community as well as many alumni from the eleven campuses we service. A list of those donors who contributed to this huge project is included in this annual report and will be formally recognized on our newly designed recognition wall that will be installed this year. Thank you all for making Hillel's dream of community a bright and lasting reality.

Over this past year, we added several new talented individuals to our team. We have welcomed two new Jewish Student Life Coordinators: Madison Dore, a recent alumnus of CWRU and Daveed Buzaglo, a recent alumnus of Oberlin. Both were active Hillel student leaders while attending to their undergraduate studies. This past fall, we brought onboard a new Director of Development, Ari Milgrom, who, in addition to his many accomplishments was also a participant in Cleveland Hillel's summer internship program! Last but certainly not least, we welcomed Rabbi Megan Doherty as our new Director of Hillel and Jewish Campus Life at Oberlin College. She has quickly become a part of the Hillel family as well as the Oberlin community.

With both our new home and team in place, we have turned to focus on the future. Cleveland Hillel has just completed an eight-month process to develop a strategic plan that will serve as an important roadmap in our development of Hillel 2.0. With the help of a robust committee of students, Board members, Hillel staff and community members, we have created a plan that emphasizes student-lead engagement, leadership and financial stewardship.

It is our hope to build upon the foundation laid last year. For the coming year, we will be looking at ways to improve continually the experiences of our student stakeholders – experiences that will be even more meaningful and personal. Additionally, we will seek to improve and enhance the proficiencies and Jewish educational opportunities of the Hillel Board of Directors and professional staff members so that we can meet the challenges facing our students and the needs of our community.

Much has happened this past year, and yet there is still so much more to come. Thank you all for your support of Cleveland Hillel, and we cannot wait for you all to see what happens next!

Sincerely,

BRADLEY A. SHERMAN  
PRESIDENT

M. JARED ISAACSON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





## Hillel Campus Life Undergraduate Programming



*"Oberlin Hillel has been great for fostering Jewish life on campus, providing lots of resources for students to do Jewish programming and have spaces to congregare and discuss issues. It has provided a wonderful community for me throughout my time at Oberlin, and has allowed me to explore my Jewish identity in ways I had never thought about, from a Hillel-organized Birthright trip to weekly Shabbat dinners." **Simon R. - Oberlin College Class of 2017***

*"My favorite Hillel memory is when we teamed up with La Alianza, the Latin student group and cooked both Jewish and Latino food together, and had dinner and great conversations." **Talia Adler, CWRU, 2018***

### THE CLEVELAND HILLEL FOUNDATION HAS ACTIVE STUDENT GROUPS AT:

- Case Western Reserve University (CWRU)
- Cleveland State University (CSU)
- John Carroll University (JCU)
- Oberlin College

Shabbat and High Holiday services and meals. Sukkah construction, decoration, meals and activities at CWRU, CSU, JCU and Oberlin. Passover Seders, lunches, dinners and activities. Leadership opportunities with the Hillel Undergraduate Leadership Council (HULC) and Cleveland Hillel Board. Multiple events during the year focused on social engagement, Jewish and interfaith education, community service, and culture. Students are encouraged to participate in Taglit-Birthright Israel and Onward Israel.

*"Hillel has given me a wonderful and supportive Jewish community on campus and I am so grateful for it." **Hannah Pomerantz CWRU, 2019***

## JCLE Graduate Student & Young Professionals



*"Hillel's willingness and enthusiasm for supporting and working with Jewish medical students made the transition into the young professional community in*

*Cleveland seamless. The events hosted by Hillel have helped me to maintain my connection to my Jewish identity. **Jesse Drapekin, CWRU School of Medicine, 2019.***

JCLE, a project of the Cleveland Hillel Foundation, is a no-strings attached way to connect with other Jewish young professionals (ages 21-29). With many free or deeply subsidized events a year, we have set the standard for some of the biggest and best parties and events in Cleveland. From large social events that typically attract hundreds to more intimate programs. We focus on all types of personalities and interests, whether you are looking to meet someone special, network, learn, or socialize. We want you to live your very best Jewish life in Cleveland!

*"Hillel has had such a positive impact on my life this year. Hosting and attending graduate student Shabbat twice a month has given me the opportunity to meet other Jewish graduate students from all avenues of study. It has been a great way to expand my circle beyond the law school, and being a part of the Jewish community makes Cleveland feel more like home." **Alex Lily, 1 L CWRU School of Law, Expected graduation 2019.***



## Summer Internship Program

44 college students from 27 different colleges and universities participated in the 2016 SIP CLE. Interns were successfully placed with 35 employers in 18 different industries all over Northeast Ohio.

Interns also participated in a professional networking evening, connected with community leaders, and were guided on tours of University Circle, Midtown, Hingetown, Gordon Square Arts District, Ohio City and the newly revitalized Downtown.

- 85% indicated that their interest in living and working in Cleveland after college increased as a result of participating in this program
- 95% indicated that their comfort level networking Improved over the course of the summer 97% gained valuable work experience and professional skills this summer

*"The beauty of this program is not just matching college juniors and seniors with wonderful companies and organizations, but also introducing us to parts of a city that we all grew up in but never knew existed."*

**Joshua Payne**, College of Wooster, Class of 2018

*"Interning at the Case Western Reserve University's Center for International Affairs was a really great experience. I got to work on my professional development skills, and meet a lot of interesting leaders from Cleveland and around the world."* **Hannah Feldman**, Tufts University, Class of 2018

## Israel Campus Life Israel Advocacy



Israel programs and activities are an essential part of our Hillel. We are committed to fostering balanced and informed dialogue about Israel on campus. We seek to provide every Jewish student with an opportunity to explore and build an enduring relationship with Israel. Using educational and social tools, our Israel Fellow and program staff support our students to articulate why Israel is an important role in their personal Jewish identities.



*"Our Israel programs at CWRU is an important part of my Jewish Identity. I am grateful for the opportunity to share with my community something I am so passionate about, while also learning and growing. Being a member of the pro-Israel group connected me with other friends who share this passion and helped us raise awareness of the importance of the state of Israel and having an open discussion with others."*

**Samantha Jacobs**, Member of Israel's CWRU, 2016



## THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS\* JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016

Without generous donors, Cleveland Hillel Foundation could not possibly provide the variety of programs it does. We are grateful to all of our alumni, the faculty and staff on the campuses where we provide Hillel programs, community members, Renaissance Society members, foundations and philanthropic funds, businesses, the donors for our new home, The Albert & Norma Geller Hillel Student Center at Case Western Reserve University and of course, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland for their constant support of Hillel. Thank you all for being our partners.

We appreciate the generosity of all our donors. Space limitations prohibit us from publishing the names of all our donors. Please see our website for a complete list.

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\*\* Student Board Members

\*\*\* Of Blessed Memory

### MISSION STATEMENT

To engage and empower Jewish young adults through exceptional programming and experiences that foster active Jewish life on and off college campuses and in the Cleveland Jewish community.

### VISION STATEMENT

To help insure that every Jewish young adult will have a lifelong Jewish identity and a commitment to Jewish life and community.





## Thank you to our New Building Donors

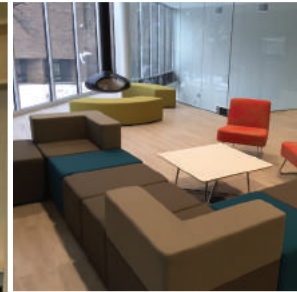
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Five years ago we set out together to create a new home for Jewish life on campus in Cleveland. Today, the Cleveland Hillel Foundation is proud to be completing its first full year in the Albert & Norma Geller Hillel Student Center. We are extremely grateful to all of those who helped make this building possible, and thank them for their generosity and vision.



Facebook.com/ClevelandHillel



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