



uahillel.org

SUMMER 2009

University of Arizona Hillel Foundation

Friends Newsletter



HILLEL IS: VIBRANT | DIVERSE | MEANINGFUL | EMPOWERED



New Hillel Programs Focus on Engaging Students

How Did You Get Engaged?

Is there a “best way” to become engaged? What approach would you use to engage students? At the UA Hillel, two Peer Network Engagement Interns (PNEI) utilize all sorts of methods to engage Wildcats. PNEIs are on-campus students with broad and diverse social networks who serve as paid interns who engage uninvolved Jewish students in some Jewish experience. Each engagement experience is unique.

Beth Stern’s PNEI encounter with Andrea Feuerman came two years after they first met. Beth and Andrea became roommates when they first arrived on campus as freshmen. It wasn’t until Beth became a PNEI in her junior year that she explored a “Jewish” relationship with her good friend. Beth’s internship opened the door to conversations about G-d, Israeli culture, and Judaism. This year, Beth and Andrea hosted a Passover seder for 22 of their friends for the first time, extending their Jewish journey to another level.

Kelsey Rendelman didn’t know Lea Wohlfarth when Lea came in to Hillel to register for Taglit-Birthright Israel. Kelsey invited Leah to join her for Shabbat at Hillel the following week. Thus began their PNEI relationship and what has developed into a good friendship as well (see photo above). The two coeds spent 10 days together in Israel during winter break and since then have enjoyed Jewish and non-Jewish related experiences together.

It is clear that the PNEIs gained a lot this year - new friends, a stronger Jewish identity, greater knowledge and a vision for Jewish life on campus.

New FACE for Hillel’s Future

It’s time for a change! For 16 years, student leaders have utilized more than 14 interest groups to help students discover more about their Judaism. Due to the economic impact on the UA Hillel Foundation and a need to refocus student energy, Hillel will introduce a new FACE (Fellowship for Advancing Campus Engagement) in the Fall of 2009. This program will focus on engaging hundreds of Jewish students each semester. Trained in conjunction with the Engagement Institute of the Schusterman International Hillel, a team of FACE Fellows will craft and carry forward the vision for Jewish life on campus. These student leaders, working in tandem with local Jewish organizations, will build a vibrant Jewish community on campus using their existing social networks. The goal is to help more Jewish students make an enduring commitment to Jewish life upon graduation. The UA Hillel is very excited to develop this program which we hope will be used as a model by Hillels across the nation.

Grants, Scholarships & Awards

New and creative programming would not be possible without this year's grants:

Diamond Family Foundation Grant

Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life

Peer Network Engagement Internship
Core Allocation

Grinspoon Foundation Grant:

Grinspoon Israel Advocacy Intern

Israel Fellow Grant:

Jewish Agency for Israel,

Taglit: Birthright Israel & Hillel

Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona

Compelling Needs Grant:

Meaningful Jewish Experiences

Bryna Zehngut Community Fund

Student Leadership Retreat

Scholarships (for national conferences and study in Israel)

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Jerome and Frances Amster

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Friday Night Shabbat

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a note from the Chair & Executive Director

Alternative Spring Break in New Orleans, Taglit-Birthright Israel, Shabbat, the 18th Annual Holocaust Vigil -- an incredible array of Israel programs and more filled Hillel's calendar this year. The University of Arizona Hillel's participation in the Peer Network Engagement Internship (PNEI) facilitated more than 250 one-on-one connections with students throughout the year. It also led to the creation of an exciting new combined leadership-engagement structure at Hillel next year -- FACE (Fellowship for Advancing Campus Engagement (see page 1)).

Hillel responded to the war in Gaza by meeting the needs of Jewish students on campus in a variety of ways. Programs designed to educate, stimulate, and share feelings opened the door for dialogue and discussion. Israel Fellow Liraz Arkin led the charge, working with a large cadre of students to bring Israel to the UA despite the challenges of a new group on campus that appear to be pro-Palestinian.

These are challenging economic times. Members of Hillel's board and staff worked diligently to raise the funds necessary to support programs and outreach work upon which we pride ourselves at the UA. Student leaders worked hard to reach out to Jewish students, even though they had fewer resources to do so. Next year, Hillel faces a 25% budget reduction. Due to financial constraints locally and nationally, there will not be an Israel Fellow on campus next year. However, we will continue to work with the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies to educate Wildcats about Israel and provide them with the facts they need to make up their own minds about the situation in the Mideast.

We want to thank you for your support of Hillel this year. Efforts to engage students and facilitate a vibrant Jewish community for the approximately 3,500 Jewish students at the UA will continue. It is only through your kind and generous support that we are able to fund and grow these programs and reach more and more students each year. Please contact us if you are interested in information about legacy planning or annual giving opportunities. We hope you will plan to stop by to experience Hillel for yourself with the future leaders of our Jewish community, the students.



Michelle Blumenberg
& Gary Kippur

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The Board is pleased to welcome the following new members for 2009 - 2010:

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The Best Things Come in Small Packages: "Bobbi" Agron Kurn

"Bobbi was the original for whom the idiom 'the best things come in small packages' was coined. Though tiny, Bobbi was writ large." said high school classmate Liba Breger Feuerstein (class of 1957). Barbara "Bobbi" Agron Kurn, 74, died Nov. 26, 2008. Born in St. Joseph, Missouri, she graduated from the University of Arizona, receiving a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a graduate degree in speech and hearing pathology. While at the UA, Bobbi was active in numerous clubs and organizations. Her work at Hillel led to her being crowned Queen Esther at the Purim Carnival in

1955. Upon graduation, Bobbi married college sweetheart Neal Kurn and eventually settled in Phoenix where she became involved in the Jewish community, Make-A-Wish Foundation and the National Shoah Foundation. She also co-founded Communications Skill Builders, Inc. The Hillel Foundation at the University of Arizona is honored to be the recipient of a generous donation from the Agron and Kurn Families in memory of Bobbi. Their support will enable Hillel to continue to be a profound influence on the University of Arizona campus and in the Tucson Jewish community.



An Evening with Dennis Miller

Local radio celebrity Marty Bishop set the stage for five time Emmy award winner Dennis Miller, who entertained the crowd with his quick wit, politics and personal anecdotes. This annual event drew over 1,400 people to the UA Centennial Hall and raised more than \$170,000 to support student programming and leadership development at Hillel. We'd like to extend a special "thank you" to Benefit Co-Chairs **Ellen Goldstein and Laurie Kaye Glaser**, Title Sponsor **The Lightman Family**, Pre-Party Sponsor **PICOR** and Post-Party Hosts **Alice and Paul Baker** as well as media sponsors **Arizona Jewish Post, Clear Channel, Comcast, Tucson Lifestyle, Tucson Weekly** and **94.9 MIX-FM**.

The Winner is...

A 2009 Mustang convertible or \$15,000 cash? **Helene Rothstein** had to decide after her ticket was drawn for the Grand Prize at the UA Hillel's annual benefit. The raffle raised almost \$17,000 for the Hillel Foundation at The University of Arizona. The winning ticket was sold by 2008 Concert Co-Chair, **Terry Neuman**. Congratulations Helene!



AN EVENING WITH
dennis miller



Gary Kippur, Laurie Kaye Glaser, Dennis Miller, Ellen Goldstein



Dennis Miller, Alice and Paul Baker



Shari Gootter, Joe and Paulette Gootter, Andrew and Claudine Messing, Julia and Brian Kanter and Gemma Gootter (center)



Daniel Ference, Drew Rosenthal, Dennis Miller, Aaron Jacobs, Ross Green

Thank You to Our Friends

The following people contributed to The University of Arizona Hillel Foundation during the 2008-2009 year. Our programs and outreach activities are possible as a result of this generosity. This list is current as of May 1, 2009. Please accept our sincere apology if your name was inadvertently omitted or listed incorrectly. Corrections will appear in future mailings.

Hillel is proud to be a beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona

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Israel Programs and Trips Inspire Students

Taglit-Birthright Israel: Hillel Trip

Three days after fighting broke out in Gaza, 35 students left Arizona for a once-in-a-lifetime experience, a free 10-day trip to Israel as part of Taglit-Birthright Israel: Hillel. The students showed no hesitation as they traveled throughout the land learning about Israel's history, political situation and culture. Perhaps the most significant part of their journey was time spent with Israeli soldiers. These 20 and 21 year old men and women listen to the same music, watch the same movies and TV shows, think about their career goals, talk about dating, and enjoy traveling, just like our Wildcats. In short, the students and soldiers learned that, though they may be separated by thousands of miles, they have much in common.

Israel Week

"The Walls of Jerusalem and the Spirit of Tel Aviv," an exhibit in the Student Union, marked the opening of Israel Week at the University of Arizona. For an entire week, the UA Mall showcased Israel in a tent set up as a mini-museum and Israeli films were featured at Gallagher Theater. The highlight of the week was Israelpalooza, an extravaganza that incorporated the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of rich Israeli culture. More than 400 people from the local community participated in this event that was planned by a committee of 20 Hillel students.



Israel Fellow Liraz Arkin

Hillel's Israel Fellow, Liraz Arkin, chose to become a shlichah (emissary) after earning a degree in communications at Yizreel Valley College and fulfilling her two year obligation in the Israeli Defense Forces. Liraz brought her passion for Israel to campus in a variety of ways; hosting Israeli movie nights, teaching Café Ivrit (Hebrew Café), arranging for Israel-related speakers on campus, helping students plan Israel Week, and staffing Alternative Break excursions. When not meeting with students one-on-one, Liraz could be found tabling on the UA Mall.

Café Ivrit

Café Ivrit (Hebrew Café) extended learning beyond the classroom for over 45 Wildcats enrolled in Hebrew classes at the UA. Israel Fellow, Liraz Arkin made learning fun and relevant incorporating current events and Hebrew word games into her weekly sessions with students. This photo depicts students exploring the joy and meaning surrounding the holiday of Purim.



Israel Photo Exhibit at the Student Union

For 44 days, 55 photographs taken by 13 Hillel Birthright participants hung in the Kachina Lounge and Gallery on the third floor of the Student Union. *All Eyes on Israel* was a reflection of the students' discovery of the rich history and beauty of the Holy Land.

Grinspoon Interns Enhance Israel's Image on Campus

An intensive three day training session prepared 46 Grinspoon Israel Advocacy Interns from 40 college campuses around the country to engage Jewish students. The UA Hillel was proud to have had two Grinspoon Interns on campus during the 2008/09 school year, **Chelsey Saperstein** and **Yael Schusterman**. Throughout the year they strived to enhance Israel's image on campus by connecting members of the campus community to the culture, history and politics of Israel.



Each intern approaches the needs of students at their school in distinctive and thoughtful ways. As a journalism major, Yael used her positions as a radio host on KAMP and an Arizona Daily Wildcat staff reporter to fulfill her mission. While Yael's approach to engagement was more global, Chelsey engaged students one-on-one or in small groups. Her personal interest in multi-cultural dialogue allowed her to reach students who were not previously focused on Israel and broaden their understanding of the region.



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UA Basketball

Enter your name in

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basketball team. Drawing will be held June 15.

Winner need not be present to win and will be notified by email. Log on to uahillel.org.



uahillel.org



Arizona in Hebrew Gear!

uahillel.org/eStore

Hammers and Sweat Provide Insight

Thirteen Wildcats worked long and hard during their Alternative Spring Break experience in New Orleans to improve the impoverished conditions that still remain three years after Hurricane Katrina ripped through the Gulf Coast. What they didn't necessarily anticipate from the trip was the insight they gained and a new-found perspective about their own lives and their roles within society.



One participant, sophomore Katherine Krieger said, "I expected a lot of hammering, sawing, sweating, etc. What I didn't expect was the gratification I felt once we completed a whole sub-floor and staircase of what would soon be someone's home. Knowing that I have put physical effort into making someone's life better is such a wonderful feeling."

As a direct result of this experience, senior Alex Eisen is pursuing a post-graduate degree in public administration to work for an organization that deals with crisis management. He has also become active in local community service.



Hillel Hits the Road!

A November reunion brought together members of Wildcat JAG LA to recount their days when red and blue were their favorite colors and "Bear Down" was commonly heard.

New for Alumni

- **Reconnect** with Jewish Alumni.
- **Stay informed** about alumni events in your area.
- **Network** with fellow alumni.



Join JAG (Wildcat JAG on Facebook) and start reconnecting today!