OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, The Oregon Hillel Foundation has seen exceptional growth in student engagement and an explosion of Jewish life on both the University of Oregon and Oregon State University Campuses. We attribute that growth to the commitment of our student leaders, staff, board of directors, as well as to the investments made from our parents, alumni, friends, and the Portland and Lane County Jewish Federations. Simply put, we cannot achieve our mission to ensure that EVERY Jewish student makes a life-long and enduring commitment to Judaism and Israel without YOU!

This past year we lost two important members our family, Arnold Ismach (z”l) and Min Zidell (z”l). Both Arnold and Min had a unique and profound impact on Jewish campus life at the UO and OSU. Their support and leadership have helped to shape and ensure the long-term success of The Oregon Hillel Foundation. Arnold, a former board member in our early years, was a dedicated advocate and strategic partner who helped Hillel deepen our relationship with the UO. Min was committed to students feeling a sense of comfort and home while they are on campus through her annual sponsorship of the Matzo Ball Soup Hotline. Both Arnold and Min made legacy commitments to our endowment that will help fund Hillel programs and services, and the Min Zidell Matzo Ball Soup Hotline, in perpetuity. We are eternally grateful for their support — may their memories be for a blessing.

This past academic year was a truly meaningful one for several reasons. As it drew to a close, we said goodbye not only to the class of 2016, but to two exceptional staff members as well. I cannot begin to put into words the impact that Amanda Weiss and Becca Marx had during their time here. Their hard work and dedication helped Hillel quadruple the number of students we engage with annually, double the number of students attending Shabbat dinners regularly, and almost triple the number of students traveling to Israel each year on our birthright trips. Additionally, thanks to Amanda, we were able to create brand new programs and initiatives at Oregon State University. We are now helping the Jewish students in Corvallis create an organized Jewish community, as well as opportunities for leadership and navigating their Jewish journeys. We will all truly miss them both and wish them only the best in their new journey. Todah Rabbah, Amanda and Becca! We also extend a warm welcome to our new staff, Brittany Lenhart and Nathan Blocker.

Thank you again for your investment in Jewish campus life through your support of Hillel. We can’t wait for the coming year and hope you will join us again in achieving our mission of helping to create a Jewish home away from home for the next class of Jewish Ducks and Beavers!
A Legacy of Love: The Min Zidell Matzo Ball Soup Hotline

Andrew Goldberg — UO Class of 2018
Oregon Hillel Journalism Intern

Oregon Hillel offers all the things one would expect: engaging programs, meaningful services, delicious (not to mention free) Shabbat meals, and a welcoming community. But it offers something else too — the Min Zidell Matzo Ball Soup Hotline. The hotline is just what it sounds like: calling the number results in free homemade matzo ball soup, delivered right to a student’s door. Students can call, or parents can order on behalf of their kids. It is a perfect way for students to get a little Jewish penicillin when they feel sick or cold, or if they just want some Jewish comfort food.

The hotline began about four years ago, an idea director Andy Gitelson brought from his previous job at the Indiana University Hillel. Going beyond the inherent mitzvah of bringing food to the sick, the hotline enhances the Jewish community on campus.

The program would not exist without the woman for whom the hotline is named, Min Zidell. When the program first started, Min’s daughter, Charlene, was on the allocations committee for Hillel and was impressed by the work Gitelson was doing. “I think in one of my conversations with Andy, he was telling me about when they first started [the hotline]. So when I discussed that with my mother, she thought it was a great program and had some interest helping fund that,” Charlene said. Min Zidell provided a $100,000 endowment for the hotline. Hillel will take about 4% of that balance annually, which is invested so that it will continue to grow, essentially funding the hotline in perpetuity.

Min Zidell passed away in May at the age of 92. The hotline is just one of many meaningful legacies she established through Jewish philanthropy. She also donated extensively to B’nai B’rith Camp, a Jewish summer camp in Beaverton, and provided the first endowment to Chessed Shel Emet, an organization that helps provide Jewish burials for those who don’t have the means to bury their loved ones. “I didn’t really know what was driving that in her. And she told me that when she was young, her brother passed away and they did not have enough money to bury him,” Charlene Zidell said. “It was just like I had been punched in the stomach sort of. But to realize the pleasure she got knowing that forever, at least in Portland, no Jewish family would have to live with that...struggle,” Charlene Zidell said.

According to her, her mother’s endowment to Hillel stems from that same principal: “I think in terms of the matzo ball soup hotline, again it was...just coming from deep inside of her...for her to be able to endow something that would give students forever just that little touch that they might need at any given moment, that would make a huge difference, that was incredibly important to her.”

Her mother recognized that college is, “the critical time in young peoples’ lives, when having a Jewish influence while they’re away at school can be very important,” Charlene Zidell said. She attended Oregon State University, which at the time lacked a Hillel. “I think every Jewish student on campus should have a Hillel available to them. Particularly a Hillel that’s progressive in their approach...doing some innovative, nontraditional kinds of things, meeting students where they are... I think that’s what Oregon Hillel is really good at, reaching out to that student and finding a comfortable way to bring them in so that they have the opportunity to have the experience and then decide what they want to do.” The endowment will allow for the hotline to exist at the new OSU Hillel as well, as soon as there is a place for it to be stored.

Whether it is connecting young people to the Jewish community, giving parents some piece of mind, or just giving a sick kid a hot meal to make him or her feel better, there is no doubt that Min Zidell’s gift has touched many lives. Whether her gift makes a big or little difference in a student’s life, there is no doubt that it is a meaningful difference. The hotline will be Min’s legacy for generations to come, a legacy that she made for no other reasons than kindness and passion. She left the world better than she found it. If you ever want to take part in that legacy, just pick up a phone and call.
A PERFECT FIT

Nathan Blocker | Israel Engagement Fellow | nathan@oregonhillel.org

I am Oregon Hillel’s Assistant Director as of August 1st. I am excited to be here in Eugene serving a nonprofit organization that has both an international and local focus. A Hoosier at heart, I grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana in the reform movement. For fifteen summers, I was lucky enough to attend the URJ’s (Union for Reform Judaism) Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) as a camper, counselor, and unit head. These early life experiences shaped me into who I am today - a believer in experiential education and community programming. In college at Indiana University, I continued exploring Judaism and young adult programming. I expanded my skill sets by helping to raise $40,000 to support Jewish programming on campus and I studied in seminary at Neve Yerushalayim College for Women, in Jerusalem. After completing a B.A. in International Studies, I began my career working for educational nonprofits in Chicago, Illinois, and Asheville, North Carolina. I am also a Birthright Israel Fellow and have lead five trips through Israel Free Spirit and Israel Outdoors. Most recently, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. My research interests are globalization and education, identity formation, culture and change, and social movements. Today, I am excited to call Oregon Hillel my home and contribute to the Jewish community of the west coast. Specifically, helping students create and execute engaging programs is what I look forward to contributing to Hillel.

From URJ summer camp to Jewish social justice fellowships and graduate school, I have learned many lessons which help shape my main goals for this year on campus.

- Engage U of O and OSU students in Jewish experiences, conversations, and culture
- Enrich Hillel programming with diverse and pluralistic viewpoints that welcome all and allow space for students to think critically and thoughtfully
- Provide excellent supervision to student leaders as they initiate programming and learn new skills
- Help build a network of inspired Jewish students who have a commitment to Jewish life, learning, and a relationship with Israel

Hello Oregonians and fellow Hillel supporters!

Brittany Lenhart | Assistant Director | brittany@oregonhillel.org

I cannot begin to express how excited I am to be the Israel Engagement Fellow at Oregon Hillel! This position not only allows me to share my love of Israel and my Jewish identity with students at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University, but also allows me to help those students with their own connection to Israel and their Jewish identity.

I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a double major in Political Science and International Studies with a Globalization Concentration. I also earned a minor in Middle Eastern Islamic Studies. My minor intensified my love and connection to Israel. While I was a student at UNCW I was a member of the Hillel on campus and was a board member my senior year. When I saw this position was available I knew it would be a perfect fit!

My role at Oregon Hillel is Taglit-Birthright recruitment and retention along with all things Israel at both campuses. I want to create Birthright trips that fill buses and that students are excited to go on but even if the students don’t go with us on our trip I want to help them find a trip that works best for them. I believe that every person not just student should have a connection to Israel and should experience Israel as well. I am more than happy to help any student with any application and paperwork to complete any Birthright trip.

I have already started to plan Birthright recruitment plans as well as ideas on how to make our trips unique and fun. I recently went to Boston to attend IACT training and will hopefully be a Birthright Israel Fellow in the Spring of 2017. One of my ideas is that I want to try and incorporate GoPro cameras and live streaming through Facebook and/or Periscope while on our trips. If I’m not at Hillel, you can usually find me on a mountain snowboarding or hiking, at the coast, on a basketball court, or trying to take the perfect sunset photo. Most of the time my yellow lab, Maverick, is along for the journey too. If you would like to get involved with anything Hillel or Israel, want to join one of our Birthright trips, have an idea, or just want to meet in person over a cup of coffee just let me know! My door is always open or feel free to email me.
Dr. Yvette Alex-Asensoh  
*Vice President for Equity and Inclusion at the University of Oregon*

Niccolo Machiavelli once said, “It is better to be feared than loved.” Whether it is the news or social media, the sentiment seems to be the same. Fear and divisiveness are the things grabbing eyeballs and driving ad dollars. Near the top of this list of fears is xenophobia.

In light of the San Bernardino shooting and calls to ban all Muslims, the climate of xenophobia has only heightened, including here in Oregon. This fear-mongering has spilled over into instances of anti-Muslim violence. So what can we do to counter this growing xenophobia before it gets any worse?

At the University of Oregon, we believe that our power to touch people in our everyday lives is more powerful than any divisive news story, hateful social media post or coward posting bigoted fliers in the night. We embrace our role in creating a warm and inclusive campus for all, including Muslim and Arab communities. This starts with fostering love, respect and community.

For example, Oregon Hillel has developed a seven-part series entitled Manzil Midrash (house/study) and a four part series entitled Conflict Conversations in partnership with the Muslim Student Association and the Arab Student Union. Now in its second year, the project uses two components to foster interfaith understanding and cross-cultural encounters and promote open and respectful discourse. Manzil Midrash sessions include learning alongside experiential education; Conflict Conversations, led by Manzil Midrash leadership team students, primarily discuss different aspects of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Following this interfaith series last year, class of 2016 student Fahma Mohammed had this to say: “This was the first time ever that the Muslim Student Association took part in working with the Jewish Student Union to learn more about the similarities and differences between our two religions. This event opened my eyes to some of the similar experiences that we have shared while living in the United States. I know that this is just the start to a beautiful relationship. Our organizations will continue to grow while we teach one another new things about our shared life experiences.”

According to Drew Williams, the religious director of the Muslim Student Association, “This experience has been profoundly impactful to myself and both the Jewish and Muslim communities here on campus. I believe that our work on educating and informing both the wider University of Oregon community and ourselves has truly bettered the environment on campus and created a more open and understanding situation for all.”

In addition to this series, which will be expanded this year, Oregon Hillel has worked with the Office of Equity and Inclusion to establish an interfaith program to help foster dialogue and education about different religions and provide support for Muslim students in particular.

The example Oregon Hillel is setting is a powerful one. As members of the UO community, it is our responsibility to be proactive in creating a more diverse, equitable and inclusive campus.

Hate and division can only flourish in a climate of ignorance. We cannot change every mind or open every heart overnight, but we can spread humanity and understanding in our spheres of influence. That is how we do our part. That is how love overcomes fear.
GROWING COMMUNITY

Leah Chasin  
*Student President | Oregon State University*

The 2015-2016 academic year was the first full year Oregon State University had assistance from Oregon Hillel. This included the creation of a student board, weekly programs, and a leadership advisor to help us grow our community. The difference was noticeable as new faces became regulars and regulars brought their friends along with them. The moment our group really started to feel like a community was during the annual Hillel Ski Retreat (Shabbat in the Mountains). Many students saw the thriving community in Eugene and looked at it as something to aspire to, all while being grateful for our smaller, close-knit community. During that trip, we all became better friends with each other and with the students at the University of Oregon, which created an even stronger sense of togetherness and community. This year, I also had the privilege to serve as a student representative on the OSU Holocaust Memorial Week planning committee. The biggest event during that week was a talk from Holocaust survivor Eva Mozes Kor. When I arrived at the event, the venue was packed. Members from the OSU and Corvallis community had filled the 1,200 seats in the auditorium, which resorted to many people standing or sitting in aisles and on balconies. In my time at OSU, I had never seen that auditorium reach capacity. In that moment, I felt a great sense of support for the Jewish community at Oregon State and couldn’t wait to continue being a part of it. Last year we saw immense growth, not only in quantity but also in quality. I am lucky enough to be a part of a community where you can both see and feel how far we’ve come and how much more we can grow. Thank you to everyone who supports Oregon Hillel, thanks to you we are able to build a vibrant Jewish community in both Corvallis and Eugene.

Cameron Parker — UO Class of 2015  
*Development Fellow | AIPAC*

Oregon Hillel was a home away from home. Though growing up in the Eugene community my entire life, Hillel offered me a place to feel comfortable and interact and forge bonding relationships with a wide variety of fellow students and mentors from across our ever-growing Jewish community. Not being Jewish myself, Oregon Hillel welcomed me with open arms and allowed me to be an active participant and leader within the campus Jewish community. I owe it to them, for my passion to always represent and stand along side the Jewish community and Israel.

Thanks to a startup grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Oregon Hillel is now able to develop opportunities for students at Oregon State University to explore their Jewish identity, celebrate holidays, and enrich their Jewish experience on campus.

One of Hillel’s core values is Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). Our student leadership board at OSU is committed to providing opportunities for their peers to engage in community service projects in Corvallis and abroad.
Looking back on my college years, I realize that my involvement with Oregon Hillel is what prepared me most for my full-time job today. Hillel gave me a support system and a community that I could learn and grow with. I stepped out of my comfort zone when I joined the Hillel board—first as the Communications VP and then the next year as Student Board President. These positions helped me to master vital skills such as planning programs, communicating effectively, and leading groups, that have helped me transition smoothly into my next journey. Oregon Hillel has provided me with the opportunity to discover my own Jewish values and identity that has led me to an incredible job in the Jewish world. I am so grateful to have been part of such a supportive Kehilah Kedoshah (holy community), and I know that I can always come home to Oregon Hillel.

Adam Foster — UO Class of 2015
Fundraising Fellow | AIPAC

As someone who began my professional career working predominately within the Jewish community in Los Angeles, my prior involvement with Oregon Hillel helped influence my decision to work for AIPAC. While serving as one of Hillel’s Student Engagement Interns, I became accustomed to working with Jewish students on campus by finding creative ways for them to explore their connection to Judaism and Israel in a meaningful way for each individual. This helped prepare me for my role with AIPAC, where I meet with people in the pro-Israel community in an effort to expand the organization’s membership base locally. Without question, I would not be here today without the incredible Jewish community at the University of Oregon.

I believe that Oregon Hillel’s mission for being “The Center for Jewish Life on Campus” is a perfect description for my relationship with Hillel in at the University of Oregon. It was a place for me to congregate with my Jewish friends on Shabbat, a place to study for exams when overloaded with essays and projects, and a place to cool off when my fraternity got a little too intense. Oregon Hillel was really my home away from home while at University and I’m a staunch believer that with the dedication of alumni, parents, and faculty—It will serve the same purpose for generations of students to come.

Jeremy Fox – UO Class of 2016
Intern | Brandeis Hillel Day School & DeLeT Jewish Educational Degree Student | Hebrew Union College

Hillel definitely helped create a desire for me to stay involved in the Jewish community after college. The experiences I had at Hillel furthered my love of Judaism, and helped me get to this point in my career.
Thank You

To our alumni and friends who have invested in Jewish life on campus through your support of The Oregon Hillel Foundation. All of the wonderful accomplishments we achieve are due to your support – on behalf of the students, we serve we cannot thank you enough! Your support enables The Oregon Hillel Foundation to serve as an advocate for the needs of the Jewish student communities in Eugene and Corvallis, as well as a center for diversity on both campuses.

$100,000+
Mrs. Minnie Zidell (z’l)*

$60,000+
The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

$35,000+
Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation
Sharon M. Ungerleider

$15,000+
Arnold H. Ismach (z’l)*

$5,000+
Mark & Christi Goodman
Renee & Irwin Holzman ’58
The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation
Jay & Diane Zidell

$1,000+
Alpha Epsilon Pi - University of Oregon
Max Birnbaum Charity Fund of the OJCF
Sarah Brown ’98
Chipotle
Andy Gitelson
Nancy & Paul Gitelson
Stephanie A. Harris
Joel Jaffe ’80
The Jewish Federation of Lane County
Max Liebreich ’69
Howard & Wendy Liebreich ’64
Men of Reform Judaism
Dean & Sharon Morel ’79
The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation
Nathan & Robin Philips
Leonard & Lois Schnitzer Charitable Supporting Foundation - OJCF
Charles & Lynn Schusterma
International Center
Jay & Sherri Seidman
Dr. Kenneth & Kendra Singer
Linda Michels Memorial Fund
Shoshana Ungerleider ’03
Charlene Zidell

$500+
Thomas & Patti Barkin
Consulate General of Israel
Lucy & Scott Kivel
Josh Kroot
Reut & Izar Livne-Tarandach
Susan Lowenberg ’92
Kelly & Steve Baxter-Menachemson
Rabbi Ruki Sophia Motzkin & Rabbi Jacob Siegel
Barry & Carolyn Rubenstein ’82
Dr. Matthew & Maylian Shapiro
Robert & Mara Shlachter
Jack Spiegelman
University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication

$100+
Alan Bacharach
Avi Schaefer Fund
Sagiv Barmor
Dr. Judith R. Baskin & Warren Ginsberg
Brice & Gretta Bassett ’74
Randall Bernstein & Amy Steckel
Paul & Yedida Bessemer
Stanley & Judy Blauer
Carol Danish
Howard S. David
Leigh & Leslie Dolin
Michael & Chris Feves
David Forman
Morris J. Galen ’50
Sally Goodman
Linda & David Gourlay-Nelkin ’05
Howard & Rasheeda Grobstein
Esther & Gary Jacobson-Tepfer
Hungry Ducks, Inc.
Israel on Campus Coalition
Rae & Tony LaMarche
Connor Lasken ’15
Legacy Heritage Programming, LLC
Ron Leibsohn
Millard & Wendy Lesch ’59
Joshua B. Losner ’14
$100+

Aaron C. Malki ’13
Rebecca & Jonathan Marx ’12
James & Lora Meyer
Leelad & Marsha Miller ’80
Leslie & Doug Moitiza
National Jewish Outreach Program, Inc.
Jeffrey & Anne Nudelman ’83
Raymond & Dorothy Packouz ’43
James & Jean Phelps
Harold & Jane Pollin
Michael & Sharon Posner
Nick & Riki Rieser
Ronda & Fred Rose
Dr. Sally Rosenfeld & Andy Frank ’80
Norman & Gloria Ross ’58
Faye Samuels
Rhonda Seaton
Martin & Annie Seelig
Edith Solonsky
Bobbie & Michel Stern
Nathaniel Teich
Helen Towle
John Van Meter
Linda & Larry Veltman
Anthony & Courtney Vengarick
Marion L. Walter
Craig & Leslie Weinerman
Amanda K. Weiss
Barry & Laura Weiss
Manfred & Sylvia Wildmann
Myra & Rick Williams ’71
Rebecca S. Winard ’12
Jewish Student Union
at The University of Oregon

<$99

Lisa C. Arkin & Harold Codman
Evan Arnold-Gordon ’15
Ruth & Herb Aschkenasy
Ava & Dan Gruber ’05
Nadine Astrakhahn ’15
Christina & Jackson Bagi
Jenna L. Barasch ’15
Jerome Barde ’51

Lyne & Dan Bartenstein
Peter H. Blau ’59
Andrew J. Blume ’12
Dr. George H. Bodner ’40
Rebecca Brandel ’16
Barbara Branner
Jack Brehm
Andrew E. Breslauer ’14
Nancy Buie
Andrea & Joseph Ches
Robert J. Chestler ’81
Leona & Stanley Clean
Hunter Clement ’15
Bonnie G. Cohn
Rebecca F. Constantine ’14
Lousie Dandurand
Dr. Richard B. Dobrow
Alex Duffant ’15
Mona & Charles Elkan
Susan C. Finkelman
Stephen & Kristi Fisher
Adam Foster ’15
David & Cathy Freedman
Hilde Geisen
Carolyn Gilchriesen ’15
Max & Edith Goodman
Adam Gould ’16
The Hon. Frank R. Gruber ’68
Grant Gurewitz ’13
Sam Gutin ’15
David Gutfman ’14
Ann Mia Haning
Don & Carolyn Haselkorn
Daniel B. Homer ’15
Shoshanah M. Horne ’14
Mark & Oriana Hurwit
Jeffrey Johnson & Deborah Strohlick
Bryan Kalbrosky ’15
Judith & Marshall Kandell
Daniel Kantor ’15
Cody Karlin ’15
Richard & Janet Katz
Will Keller ’09
Richard & Linda Kent

Dr. Mark & Janice Kettler
Jeffrey L. Kleinman ’74
Erin Essak Kopp
Sarah Kussin ’15
Ken Kwarter & Michelle Lentzner
Charles K. Landskroner ’58
Melinda & Dan Langmeyer ’67
Stephen & Lesley Lavesson
Matthew E. Lerman ’12
Dr. Lionel & Sally Lerner
Freeman L. Levinrad ’08
Martin & Lilly Levinson
Helayne Levitt
Deborah & Shlomo Rose Libeskind ’90
Jeffrey Librett & Dawn Marlan
Marilyn Limond
Dr. Burton J. Litman &
Jeanne Freeman
Linda & William Loft ’69
Matt London ’16
Staci N. Lorch ’14
Eugene & Sandra Luks
Bernice Maengen
Richard & Harriet Maizels
Dr. Jerome S. Maliner
Matthew Meisler ’14
Candace & Tom Moffett
David & Sandra Monash
Steven & Yelena Neuman ’07
Mark & Ellen Niedelman ’83
Barry & Bess Nobel
Gilbert M. Olman ’62
Andrew R. Ostrow ’13
Robert & Monica Ozwoel
Dale & Roz Pazzina ’69
Garrett R. Pemstein ’13
Randall & Elizabeth Phelps
Henry & Evelyn Ponedel
Alyssa S. Rasmus ’14
Stephen M. Rayak
Francine Reingold
Morgan & Joy Reiter
Jonathan A. Rosenberg ’08
Eve & Alan Rosenfeld ’51
Daniel Rosove ’07
William C. Rubin ’15
Joel & Susan Rubin
Mark & Leah Rubin
Eleanore Rubinstein
Mitchell & Peggy Sacks
Jeffrey & Janice Sanches
Andrew J. Saxton ’09
Miriam A. Schaffer
Diane Schechter ’81
Lauren C. Schwartz ’14
Lynne Schwartz
Ellen K. Scott
Lawrence & Eileen Shaine ’60
Ann & Barry Shapiro ’81
Jason A. Shender ’13
Shirley Shiffman
Sigma Mu Omega
Burton & Marilyn Silverman
S. Paul & Roz Slovic
Sandra & Victor Solomon
David J. Sopkin ’14
Stand With Us
Robert B. Stein
Joy Sugawara & Stuart Greenberger
Samuel R. Swire ’12
George & Judith Tanner
George & Elaine Toper
Michael & Kathy Davis-Weiner
Robert J. Weiner
Dana M. Weinstein
Ben Weinstein ’10
William & Stacy Weiss
Daniel Wilkin ’16
Ben & Ariel Winkleblack ’05
Bruce & Susan Winthrop
Marvin & Barbara Wolf ’53
Jack Wolinsky
Herbert & Barbara Wolpow
Shayna P. Yellon ’10
Terra Zicklin ’16
Amirai S. Zuckerman ’11
Yogurt Extreme

*Denotes a legacy gift to our endowment

2015/2016 IMPACT

1,829 Shabbat dinners served

589 Students attended a program, event, or interacted with a Hillel staff member

487 Bowls of matzo ball soup delivered

35 Students in formal leadership positions on campus

28 Students traveled to Israel for FREE on Hillel’s winter and summer Birthright Israel trips
When I started college, I had no intention of working in the Jewish community. Although I had always been involved in the Jewish community, I never imagined making it my career. Throughout my involvement as a Vice President on Oregon Hillel’s Student Leadership Board and working with Hillel’s staff during my time as Co-Chair of the Jewish Student Union at UO, I learned that I can combine all my passions into my career in order to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship at AIPAC.

Erin Horwitz
University of Oregon Class of 2016 | AIPAC
ENSURING STUDENTS MAKE A LIFE-LONG COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL

SUPPORTING ISRAEL ADVOCACY
We are committed to helping students engage in Israel advocacy in ways that are personally meaningful to each student. For some, that means connecting with national partners like AIPAC, JStreet U, Stand With Us, and Students Supporting Israel Oregon. This year Hillel played a vital role serving as an advisor to each of these groups, helping as a co-sponsor for individual events and assisting students with travel and registration to AIPAC Policy Conference (18), JStreet’s National Conference (3), and the JNF Conference (1). Hillel also serves as a leader in fighting BDS on our campuses and has forged strong relationships with key university administration and student organizations to ensure that our campuses remain homes of civil discourse and centers for open communication that help to inspire our students to strive for a peaceful solution for both the Israeli and Palestinian people.

OPENING DOORS TO ISRAEL EDUCATION ON CAMPUS
Oregon Hillel was honored to bring internationally renowned Haaretz journalist and author of My Promised Land, Ari Shavit to the University of Oregon in November. During his visit, Mr. Shavit connected with over 550 students, faculty and community members during class presentations and community speaking engagements. We were so grateful to have the partnership of The University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communications, The University of Oregon Conflict and Dispute Resolution Program, The Israeli Consulate to the Pacific Northwest, AEpi Oregon, and Hillel International to make his visit possible, and to create new opportunities for dialog and education about Israel.

BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL
We offer two FREE opportunities for students to experience 10 days in Israel as part of the Taglit: Birthright Israel program. Taglit-Birthright Israel is an innovative partnership between the people of Israel through the Government of Israel, private philanthropists through the Birthright Israel Foundation, and Jewish communities around the world. This year we were able to help 28 students from the University of Oregon and Oregon State University experience Israel for the first time thanks to this amazing gift from Birthright Israel.

Jacob Kranitz – UO Class of 2016
Israel Engagement Associate
Cornell University Hillel
I can safely say that I would not be in the place that I am today without my involvement in Oregon Hillel. My life changed following my Taglit Birthright trip. I was inspired, not only by Israel itself, but by the Hillel staff. When I returned from my trip, I changed my major to political science with a focus on the Middle East and became heavily involved in Oregon Hillel’s daily activities. When it came time to decide what it was that I was going to do following graduation, it was an easy decision to become a Hillel professional. I just started my first job with Cornell Hillel, serving as the Israel Engagement Associate. I hope to have an incredible, profound and positive impact on students at Cornell, similar to the impact that Oregon Hillel had on me.
Dear friends and supporters of Oregon Hillel,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you as the incoming president of Oregon Hillel. This is my second stint as president, and it is an honor to continue to serve the Jewish students at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University. I take great pride in being part of an organization committed to supporting a diverse and meaningful Jewish community on our campuses, cultivating the next generation of Jewish leaders, and helping Jewish students find and develop their own “Jewishness” by making a commitment to Judaism and Israel in ways that are personally meaningful to them. Our outreach is both wide and deep — from weekly Shabbat services and dinner, community service projects, and educational, spiritual and social programming, to the Matzo Ball Soup Hotline and individual support to students. The joy for me is watching our students search and grow into thoughtful, ethical and caring Jewish adults. And, of course, we couldn’t do it without tremendous support we receive from each of you. From our students and those of us at Oregon Hillel, thank you.

Sharon Rudnick
Oregon Hillel Board President