



ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

2022/23

Year ending August 31, 2023

*Your Jewish Home
Away from home
since 1947*

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Who We are @ Hillel

Hillel BC promotes Jewish life on campus and beyond, providing a warm, welcoming environment where students in BC are able to grow religiously, culturally, socially and ethically. We enable Jewish young adults to explore their Jewish identity and relationship with Israel in a safe, pluralistic and inclusive community. Our programs and events on multiple campuses across BC reflect the diverse interests and needs of our members, build valuable leadership skills, and help to create a long-term impact in the Jewish community and beyond.

Our Mission

Enriching the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world.

Our Vision

We envision a world where every student is inspired to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Frank Cohn, Harvey Field,
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OUR TEAM



STAFF 2022-23

Rob Philipp - *Executive Director*

Ohad Gavrieli - *Assistant Executive Director*

Lindsay Kerr - *Director of Student Life*

Rabbi Kylynn Cohen - *Senior Jewish Educator*

Einat Livni - *Springboard Innovation Fellow (UBC)*

Tal Katz - *Lead Campus Professional (UVic)*

Ofer Josphe - *Lead Campus Professional
(Emerging Campuses)*

Adam Dobrer - *Lead Advocacy Professional*

STAFF 2023-24

Rob Philipp - *Executive Director*

Ohad Gavrieli - *Assistant Executive Director*

Einat Livni - *Programming & Operations Manager*

Rabbi Kylynn Cohen - *Senior Jewish Educator*

Tal Katz - *University of Victoria Hillel Director*

Tyler Samuels - *Advocacy & Emerging Campuses
Lead - Springboard Entrepreneurship Fellow*

Dylan Nowogrodski - *UBC Campus Lead*

A LETTER FROM SAM HYMAN & ROB PHILIPP

Dear Community Members,

We are thrilled to present our Annual Program Report for the year ending August 31st, 2023. With a blend of energy, creativity, and commitment, this year has been remarkable in every way.

From dynamic programming to a vibrant 75-year anniversary celebration, a transformational renovation at UVIC Hillel House, and an insightful "Perspectives 2023" trip to Israel with both Jewish and non-Jewish student leaders, we've embraced growth and connection on all fronts.

Our thanks go to our board, staff, students, volunteers, donors, and community partners. Your support continues to shape a nurturing environment where Jewish students can thrive on our campuses.

Todah Rabbah,



Samuel A. Hyman
President of the Board



Rob Philipp, CPA, CA
Executive Director

2023: YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

UBC

169

PROGRAMS ANNUALLY

UVIC

52

PROGRAMS ANNUALLY

**EMERGING
CAMPUSES**

72

PROGRAMS ANNUALLY

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERS**

25

PARTNERSHIP OFFERINGS

5050

STUDENTS SERVED
ANNUALLY

780

STUDENTS SERVED
ANNUALLY

575

STUDENTS SERVED
ANNUALLY

20

DIFFERENT COMMUNITY
PARTNERS



JEWISH IDENTITY

For many of our students, the nurturing of a strong Jewish identity during their time on campus is more than a temporary experience—it's a life-shaping journey that can influence their involvement in Jewish life for years to come. As we continue to emerge from the challenges of COVID, we at Hillel BC have kept the flame of connection burning brightly. Our community has offered a rich array of opportunities for students to explore their Jewish roots, be it through communal gatherings, shared celebrations, or enlightening educational experiences.

With the welcomed return to in-person activities, Hillel BC's role in shaping the future of the Jewish community has never been more vital. In the pages that follow, you will find selected examples of the programs we've conducted this year. Each one stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to nurturing Jewish identity within our vibrant and resilient community. Here's to the many connections made, and the countless more to come.



JLF: JEWISH LEARNING FELLOWSHIP

This year, we continued our ten-week seminar series, led by Rabbi Kylynn in collaboration with Hillel International. It offered a deep dive into Jewish life, including the wisdom of the Torah, Jewish calendar rhythms, and cultural insights. The series culminated in a joyous siyyum, a celebration at the end of study during a third Shabbat meal. These weekly gatherings nurtured not only knowledge but also friendships and shared understanding, reflecting our ongoing commitment to a vibrant Jewish community.

JLF provided a space where I could re-connect with my Judaic learning, which was comforting as it reminded me of the time I used to spend in a similar program when I was younger. The best takeaway from JLF was the friends and community I was able to make within Hillel!

— Sara Sontz, 2nd year, UBC, Sociology



HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK



In commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we transformed the occasion into a week-long series of enlightening activities at our UBC building, focused on understanding, connection, and remembrance.

The week began with the installation of the “Shoah: How was it Humanly Possible?” exhibit from Yad Vashem, setting a reflective tone. An insightful panel discussion followed, featuring author-survivor David Schaffer, artist Miriam Libicki, and Andrea Webb, moderated by Professor Richard Menkis.

Globe and Mail columnist Marsha Lederman provided a profound session on intergenerational trauma and her new book, “Kiss the Red Stairs: The Holocaust, Once Removed”.

In partnership with AEPi (the Jewish fraternity), we conducted a touching “Reading of the Names” ceremony at the UBC fountain.

A unique roundtable discussion with students from Hillel and the German Students Association facilitated a dialogue on varied perspectives, three generations removed from the Holocaust.

The week culminated in a shared Shabbat dinner, warmed by the presence of over 100 guests, including 10 Holocaust survivors. The rich and varied programming created a space for reflection, education, and community bonding, reflecting our shared commitment to preserving memory and fostering empathy.



HIGH HOLIDAYS

This year, our Rosh HaShanah celebrations included an Erev dinner, day one services both in person and streamed, and Tashlich. During Shabbat Shuvah, the week between the holidays, we focused on the theme of "returning to our best selves". For Yom Kippur, we hosted an Erev dinner, Kol Nidre, in-person and streamed services, Neila, and a break fast meal. We also continued our support for the Jewish Family Services Project Isaiah campaign by collecting nonperishable items.



HANUKKAH

Hanukkah fell late in the 2022-23 school year, coinciding with the end of the exam period. To celebrate, we hosted a unique Hanukkah and Archaeology program, led by Dr. Gregg Gardner of UBC's Department of Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies. Participants explored different ancient lamps found in the temple. Additionally, we hosted our yearly Hanukkah Shabbat to conclude the semester and prepared Hanukkah kits for students. While we planned to co-host the annual Nes at the Nest with Chabad UBC, a campus closure due to snow prevented the event. Despite the snow-out, we're excited to return to this partnership in 5784/2023!

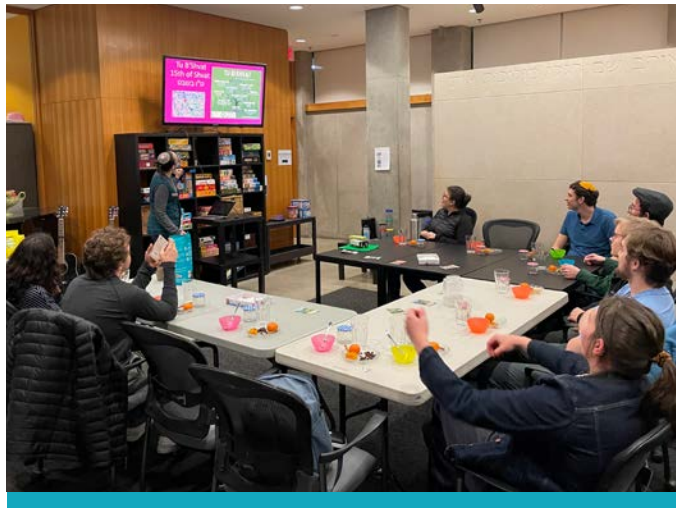
SUKKOT

Our Sukkot celebration at UBC featured an on-campus sukkah where students enjoyed lunch and partook in the mitzvot of shaking the lulav and etrog. We led a “What is Sukkot” lunch-and-learn session and assisted students with the mitzvot throughout the week. For Simchat Torah, we hosted a themed lunch and created a Hakafot video in which students and staff discussed Jewish time and Torah books. Find the video on our [Facebook Page](#)!

Our Shabbat dinner during Sukkot highlighted a fall harvest menu and included further teachings about the holiday.



SHABBAT



This year marked the return of our twice-monthly Shabbat dinners, with special themes including Sukkot, Spooky, Multifaith, and Greek Shabbat — the latter co-hosted with AEPi, drawing members of the campus's Greek Life community to Hillel. Our March Shabbat dinner was enriched by the presence of student leaders from Victoria at the beginning of their leadership retreat. Each dinner was graced with tradition, starting with Shabbat blessings led by students and featuring a D'var Torah, or weekly portion lesson.

We were also fortunate to reintroduce Unity Shabbat to campus, a collaborative effort with Hillel, Chabad, UBC JSA (Jewish Students Association), and UBC IOC (Israel On Campus), to host a shared Shabbat experience at The Nest. This special dinner united Jewish students from various backgrounds and connections to Jewish life on campus, along with some community members, in a common space. Together, we embraced and celebrated Shabbat, reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and community.

TU B'SHEVAT

For Tu B'shevat, we collaborated with JNF Pacific for an Ice Cream and Seeds Seder. Rabbi Kylynn guided us through a unique Tu B'shevat seder, enriching the experience with elements of kabbalah, intriguing plant facts, ecological insights, and a hands-on opportunity for students to plant their own seeds.



PURIM EXTRAVAGANZA

We embraced nostalgia for Purim with a Back to the '80s themed celebration. Students sported an array of Purim and '80s costumes, some creatively blending the two themes. The event featured a Purim-themed bingo scavenger hunt, a photobooth, and delicious hamantaschen. For those who dropped by during the day, we showcased our Mega Megillah video from 2021, adding a unique touch to our joyous gathering!



Hillel is a place where anyone can come and feel accepted, wanted, and appreciated while enjoying the company of like minded individuals.

— Aidan Wessels, 3rd year, UBC, Management Program

PESACH SEDER

Building on the success of last year's first in-person Seder since 2019, we were thrilled to host another this year! Led by students and supported by staff, it was a heartwarming and a perfect way to round off the year. Our delicious Seder meal was masterfully catered by Chef Menajem, adding to the joy and festivity of the occasion.



GENERAL PROGRAMMING

We commenced the school year with a lively "Welcome Back BBQ" event at our UBC building, setting a positive tone for the year. Expanding on last year's initiatives, we visited King David High School, offering connections and information to various Hillels across Canada. Building on previous success, our weekly Hebrew classes continued throughout the year, drawing a dedicated group of students. First-year students were warmly welcomed with special events like an ice cream social and a "paint your own mug" program, ensuring that the sense of community and connection to Hillel is carried with them daily. By blending tradition, learning, and creativity, we've fostered a vibrant environment that resonates with students at different stages of their academic journey.



GENIZA TEKES CEREMONY

In the Spring of 5783/2023, Hillel BC took part in a significant ceremony to bury sacred Jewish texts. UBC librarian Eugene Barsky discovered a considerable number of these sacred books and connected with Beth Israel's Rabbi Infeld to arrange the ceremony. The final event became a unifying moment for the Vancouver Jewish community, involving participants from UBC Jewish studies, King David High School, Peretz Centre, and the Waldman Library. The ceremony was enriched by remarks from various local Rabbis, Professors Gregg Gardner and Richard Menkis, and a Hillel student leader, Ellie Sherman, reflecting the diverse voices and perspectives of the community.

"The need for the genizah recognizes that the significance of words is beyond two-dimensional figures on a page, that the lessons we learn and the knowledge we gain from our books can be infinite, just as the meaning behind the words."

Ellie Sherman, 5th year, UBC, Religious Studies

JPROM

Our first semester party this year was a Jewish Prom, aimed at celebrating those whose prom was affected by Covid or who didn't have one at their school. The evening was filled with joy, featuring Havdallah, Hillel BC trivia, a photobooth, music, and dancing. We even offered some early Hanukkah treats to add to the festive atmosphere.



BASICS OF JUDAISM



In response to a growing interest from students, Rabbi Kylynn initiated monthly classes called "Basics of Judaism" during hot lunch sessions. Each class focused on a different theme, such as text, time, theology, or tradition. The classes attracted a diverse mix of Jewish and non-Jewish students, making the series a success that we'll certainly continue in the next school year!



CRAFTS AND CUSTOMS

This enriching three-week cohort experience was divided into two interconnected parts. Students were provided with ritual Jewish items, such as candles, candlestick holders, a wine glass, and a mezuzah, to build or decorate, infusing personal creativity into age-old traditions. Alongside this hands-on exploration, Rabbi Kylynn offered insights into the Halacha (Jewish Law) associated with the items, highlighting the concept of Hiddur Mitzvah, or Beautifying the Mitzvah. Through Zoom, we connected the Vancouver and Victoria groups, fostering a broader sense of community while engaging in this unique educational and spiritual journey.



ISRAEL PROGRAMMING

Hillel BC serves as a safe environment on campus where students can explore, learn about, and celebrate their Jewish Homeland. As we witness a rise in anti-Israel sentiments on our campuses, we are committed to countering this trend by offering events that explore both the beauty and complexities of Israel. Through various programs and activities that we'll detail in the following pages, we continually highlight Israel's significance, ensuring that it occupies a prominent place in the thoughts and sentiments of our students.



ISRAEL MONTH

Israel Week, a cornerstone of our winter semester offerings, extended throughout the entire month of March this year. The celebration encompassed a diverse array of events, including an Israel 101 program to educate and inform, an Israel-themed movie night for cultural exploration, a Word Swap in collaboration with StandWithUs Canada, and a thought-provoking learning session called "Democracy Under Attack," led by Camp Miriam Shlichah, Gal Icek. The month culminated in the ever-popular Israel Shabbat, where students gathered to honor and enjoy traditional Israeli customs and cuisine.



ISRAEL SHABBAT

Led by the UBC Israel on Campus Club and held mid-month, Israel Shabbat offered an Israeli menu and an informative learning session about Israel. Focusing on the theme of Israel "beyond the conflict," the session highlighted many of the nation's achievements and successes. The room was decorated in blue and white, with table centerpieces featuring Israeli sand and flags, each accompanied by fun facts about the country. This engaging event provided students an opportunity to learn about and celebrate Israeli culture.



ILF: ISRAEL LEARNING FELLOWSHIP

This year, Hillel once again conducted the Israel Learning Fellowship (ILF) at UBC. Gathering 11 students for 7 weeks of small and whole group learning sessions, the program offered an in-depth exploration of Israel as a land, a people, and a state. The course culminated in a chance for students to pose challenging questions and learn how to respond to these inquiries on campus, continuing a valuable and engaging educational experience.



PERSPECTIVES 2023

Building on the success of last year's transformative journey, we once again conducted our Perspectives trip to Israel with 16 student leaders from UBC, primarily non-Jewish. The trip continued to highlight the complexity and diversity of the region, featuring speakers from across the political and cultural spectrum and a significant visits to Ramallah and Bet-Lehem in the West Bank. These 10 days were designed to further enrich the students' understanding and provide them with the tools to engage in nuanced conversations about this intricate subject on campus, where public opinions are often polarized.

The Perspectives trip to Israel and the Palestinian Territories was an incredible opportunity full of diverse opinions and passionate speakers. My thoughts on the conflict have been deeply impacted by my experience.

— Joe Latam, 4th year, UBC, Political Science



INTERFAITH & INTERCULTURAL

At Hillel BC, we firmly uphold the belief in fostering interreligious connections and providing our students with a platform for intercultural exchanges. Through our diverse range of programs, we guarantee that our students are establishing inclusive communities. These occasions aid them in comprehending other cultures and beliefs from various corners of the world, while cultivating respect and appreciation for differing perspectives. Take a look at a selection of the events held in the previous year that embody these principles.



MULTI FAITH SHABBAT

This year's Multifaith Shabbat dinner focused on the theme of "sacred time." Students from diverse religious backgrounds, including Jewish, Catholic, Presbyterian, Muslim, Sikh, and Bahai, gathered to discuss the meaning of sacred time and their personal connections to specific time-related holidays. The intermingling of various faith traditions enriched the conversation and deepened understanding.



GREEK SHABBAT

This year, the return of Greek Shabbat was warmly welcomed by students. With participation from over 100 students, including members from eight different fraternities and sororities on campus, both Jewish and non-Jewish, it was a delightful occasion. The event showcased the power of shared experiences to foster connections, as students who attended Greek Shabbat often returned to Hillel for other unrelated events, reinforcing the bonds of community and inclusion.



UMCA MIXER

The University Multifaith Chaplaincy Association (UMCA) at UBC, of which Rabbi Kylynn is an active member, convened student leaders from various groups for an enriching evening of socializing and dialogue at Hillel. The event encouraged students to explore and discuss the importance of intercultural relationships, especially within the diverse campus landscape. Through shared insights and open conversation, the gathering underscored the essential role that mutual understanding and respect play in creating an inclusive community.

SNACK SWAP

Co-hosted by IOC and various student associations at Hillel, including the UBC Bhangra Club, German Students Association, Russian Speaking Student Community, Central Asian Students Association, and the Mexican Student Associations, the multicultural snack swap was a flavorful success. Students were provided with a "passport" to navigate the different booths, sampling snacks and engaging in lively dialogue. This year's event expanded in both host clubs and attendees, creating a lively and delicious cultural experience.



The snack swap was a significant multicultural event that united diverse cultures and cuisines. The IOC offered an excellent platform for dialogue and exchange.

— Josh Hart, 2nd year, UBC, International Relations



AUS CULTURAL FOOD FAIR

Both the Jewish Student Association and Israel on Campus clubs were proud participants in the inaugural Arts Undergraduate Society Cultural Food Fair, an event designed to highlight UBC's rich cultural diversity. Each participating club had a table filled with scrumptious treats and informative materials, offering students a taste of different cultures and a chance to learn more about the diverse community that shapes the UBC experience.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & STUDENT WELL-BEING

At Hillel BC, nurturing connections to Jewish heritage goes hand in hand with preparing students for future leadership roles. We focus on providing training sessions and events specifically designed for leadership development, furnishing students with essential resources and opportunities to grow. But our commitment extends beyond academics and skills; we also prioritize the well-being of our students. Constant communication and additional support during critical periods ensure that we are responsive to our students' needs, promoting an environment where they feel valued and supported.



COFFEE, BAGELS AND SCHMEAR

Our Free Coffee, Bagels, and Schmear (CBAS) initiative launched this year at our UBC building, quickly becoming a hit as a weekly bagel lunch. The high demand led us to add a second day, offering these popular bagel lunches twice weekly for the remainder of the school year. In light of rising grocery prices and the prevalence of food insecurity on campus, we were delighted to provide this no-barrier option for students, further strengthening our commitment to supporting their well-being.



MENTAL HEALTH

With the generous backing of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, we were privileged to have Alisa Farina, their Child, Youth, and Young Adult Mental Health Worker, work with our students at Hillel on a weekly basis throughout the year. Through individualized sessions, Alisa assisted students in devising coping strategies for anxiety, smoothing the transition from high school to university, and addressing any other areas where support was desired.

MISHLOACH MANOT

In partnership with AEPi, students gathered to create sandwich bags on the evening of Purim for individuals experiencing homelessness on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The bags were filled with a sandwich, juice, and granola bar, and were then delivered by staff and students. This initiative allowed students to engage with the broader community and contribute in a simple yet significant way.



HILLEL HEART WARMING

During the stressful December exam period, Hillel aimed to create a cozy and relaxing environment for students taking a break from their studies. The lounge was rearranged to resemble lodge seating, enhancing the theme of comfort. With hot chocolate, apple cider, and snacks readily available, students found a welcoming haven to unwind and recharge before tackling their final exams.



DINNER & DIALOGUE

In collaboration with BRCA in BC, we facilitated a Dinner and Dialogue event for students, focusing on the essential discussion surrounding the BRCA gene and its associated cancers in both men and women. Topics covered include: accessibility to testing and genetic screening, as well as the particular importance of this information within the Ashkenazi Jewish community. Key insights were shared with BRCA in BC, supporting their ongoing efforts to emphasize the significance of genetic screening among young individuals.



GREEN TEAM (STUFF SWAP)

This school year, Rabbi Kylynn spearheaded Hillel BC's Green Team, aligning our initiatives with a community-wide sustainability drive led by the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver and Hazon. After conducting a comprehensive sustainability audit of our organization, we implemented several key projects to earn our Sustainability Seal. These initiatives included modifying our nametag system to use reusable lanyards instead of stickers; improving our bin station with new signage from the UBC Sustainability office; and adding a Hefker (give and take) table in our lounge for students. This table eventually evolved into a "stuff swap," timed with dorm move-out day, reflecting our commitment to responsible consumption and community sharing.



EMERGING CAMPUSES

This year, we witnessed the return of regular programming on our emerging campuses (Simon Fraser, Langara, Emily Carr), with the addition of weekly discussion lunches that attracted new members and allies. We were thrilled to introduce weekly Hebrew lessons, offering students a friendly and safe environment to connect with their Jewish heritage. Jewish students from all three campuses came together for Shabbat dinners throughout the year, fostering a sense of community and connection. Despite facing challenges at SFU with BDS, we successfully hosted an information seminar with senior administration, discussing contemporary antisemitism and the IHRA definition. Our continuous efforts on these campuses symbolize our dedication to growing and fostering Jewish life on Emerging Campuses.



WEEKLY LUNCHES

A mainstay of our Emerging Campuses programming, weekly lunches were held at SFU, Langara, and Emily Carr throughout both semesters. Often accompanied by engaging discussions on topics such as Israel, Jewish Identity, and antisemitism, these regular gatherings added substance and consistency to our efforts, contributing significantly to the growth of the clubs on all campuses.



WEEKLY HEBREW LESSONS

Every week, Hebrew classes were held for students at Langara, Emily Carr, and SFU. These sessions provided a wonderful opportunity for students to learn conversational Hebrew and practice their skills in a friendly environment.



"Hillel has been a great asset for expanding my social horizons as a Jewish student. I've been able to attend many fun events and meet incredible new friends. Hillel has been a safe space for me and others to explore our Jewish identity through, and has let me take on a leadership role in my community."

**Miranda Collard, 3rd year, SFU,
Theatre Production**



BDS AT SFU

Following last year's Issues Policy 10 regarding BDS on campus, the SFU club engaged in continuous efforts to educate the SFSS Executive on the policy's detrimental effects on Jewish students. Through numerous meetings and an informational seminar about the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, we sought to convey why this policy is problematic. Unfortunately, our work on this topic at SFU is far from over, but we are determined to continue our efforts in the upcoming school year.



SFU MULTI FAITH NON-VIOLENCE DAY

In the annual Non-Violence Day focusing on environmental justice, we proudly included Jewish student representation in both planning and execution. By exploring each faith group's connection to the environment, the event resonated with this year's theme and aligned seamlessly with the Vancouver Jewish Community's Hazon Seal of Sustainability Initiative.



SOCIAL EVENTS

The Emerging Campuses students enjoyed a richer social calendar with the addition of bowling nights, karaoke evenings, a potluck picnic at Strathcona Park, and a lively beach barbecue to cap off the semester. These well-attended events fostered camaraderie and engagement among students, creating memorable experiences throughout the year.



SHABBAT DINNERS

Students from SFU, Langara, and Emily Carr came together for Shabbat dinners during both semesters, usually at Emily Carr University's Student Union room. They enjoyed home-cooked Shabbat meals and time spent together at the end of the week, fostering a sense of community and connection.



HILLEL IN VICTORIA

Hillel BC is thrilled with the expansion of our community at our Victoria Campus. Besides hosting packed monthly Shabbat dinners, our UVic House presented an extensive lineup of holiday programs, numerous student field trips, and a wealth of social gatherings! The growth of the Hillel on Campus Club was marked by initiating partner events with organizations such as CJPAC, StandWithUs, and the Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island. With an eye to the future, we are thrilled with the completed renovation over summer 2023, ensuring the space continues to align with the dynamic needs of Jewish life on the island!



SHABBAT & HOLIDAYS

Hillel in Victoria emphasized community building through monthly Shabbat dinners, featuring staff and student-prepared meals and themed icebreakers. A wide array of holiday programming included Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur dinners, a Sukkot celebration with a backyard sukkah, and a special apple orchard field trip. Unique events such as a painting night for Tu B'shevat, a Purim costume party, and a record-attended Passover Seder at the Hillel House enriched the experience, blending tradition with creativity and engagement.



SOCIAL EVENTS

Hillel in Victoria ran a collection of engaging social events, including a Welcome Back BBQ and Ice Cream Socials to kick off the year. We introduced Saturday Night Socials filled with games and activities, hosted Boardgame Nights at a local cafe, and organized Jews and Brews pub nights. Students found creative outlets at Paint and Craft nights, and enjoyed a formal dress-up Jerusalem Tea Party, featuring Israeli tea, snacks, and a special visit from UBC staff.



FIELD TRIPS

Uvic students also bonded through off-campus adventures, beginning with Rosh HaShanah apple picking. They experienced the thrill of rock climbing, an event sponsored by local supporter Kimanda Jarzebiak and the drink company Guyaki, which included a lesson and free bouldering. The connections extended beyond the island as well, as Hillel at Victoria's leaders and active members embarked on a 2-day retreat at the mainland Hillel House. This memorable getaway featured a Shabbat dinner with mainland students and a full day of enriching learning.



ON CAMPUS CLUB

The Hillel on Campus club in Victoria saw remarkable growth this year. What began with a few leaders soon expanded into a dynamic team, including co-presidents, a VP of Logistics, VP of Outreach, and many active members involved in event planning. The enthusiasm is clear, and the club intends to grow further in the coming year.

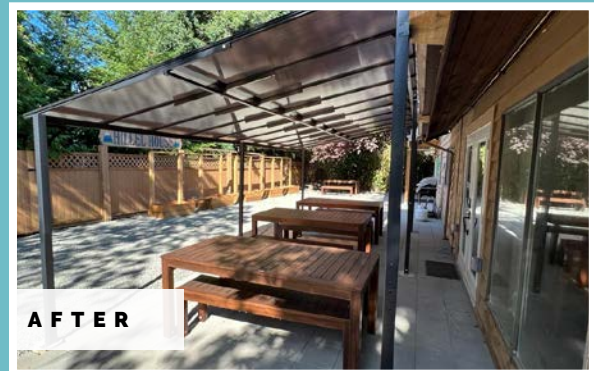
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

This year also marked an intentional effort to foster partnerships with external organizations at Victoria. Collaborations included challah and rugelach baking nights, as well as campus tabling with StandWithUs; an Israeli Trivia Night in cooperation with United Jewish Appeal Toronto; a Bagel Lunch featuring Israeli journalist Yaron Deckel, organized by Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island; and the Saanich Social with Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee, a special evening where local Jewish and political community leaders mingled with students for networking and engaging discussions.

“*Hillel to me is everything from where my friends are, where good food is, and where I feel I belong the most.*

— Noa Amar, 3rd year, UVic, Math and Computer Science

HILLEL HOUSE UVIC RENOVATION



Over this past summer of 2023, our great Hillel House at UVic has undergone a much-needed major renovation that is ready in time for the fall 2023 school term. We have owned the building since 2006, but with lots of student traffic, 6 tenants in the house, and ever increasing programming, we found the need to update the facility.

The inside of Hillel House has become much more accessible by removing some walls, installing a new and larger kitchen, including new appliances, removing old shag carpets, and creating new French doors that lead to our spacious back yard. And speaking of the back yard, that has also received a large makeover, as students use this space for the programs as well. This includes a living wall, seating areas, a new canopy, and much better ground cover among other things.

All of this is only possible due to the wonderful major donations from The Ronald S Roadburg Foundation and Issac and Judy Thau, along with generous support from the Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island.





HILLEL AT 75!

In 1947, at a location once considered the outskirts of the UBC campus, the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation laid its roots. Over the span of 75 years, this organization has been a beacon for Jewish students not only at UBC but also at UVic, SFU, Langara, Emily Carr, and other post-secondary institutions across the province.

Today, Hillel BC continues to thrive from that very same spot, now at the heart of the campus. Though slightly belated, this year we joyously celebrated the 75th anniversary of our organization, honoring recent Executive Directors Rabbi Philip Bregman and Sam Heller.



On March 30, 2023, our UBC building came to life with over 150 community members and special guests. Attendees included local University Presidents, senior administrators, the mayor of the City of Vancouver, the Provincial Minister for Advanced Education, and the Hillel International Chair of the Board of Directors.

It was an evening filled with gratitude, pride, and celebration, reflecting on our rich history and looking forward to our future. We are immensely thankful to our community, which continues to support the meaningful work we do for Jewish students on campus.

Here's to the next 75 years!



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