

BRAMAN MILLER CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE

# Hillel

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

**IMPACT REPORT**  
**2023 - 2024**

**5784**



[miamihillel.org](http://miamihillel.org) | [@umhillel](https://www.instagram.com/umhillel)

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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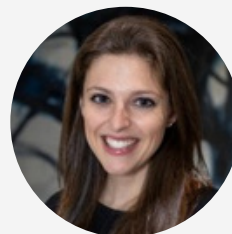
**Debi Braman Wechsler\***

*\*Past Board Chairs*



**MYCKI RATZAN**

BOARD CHAIR



**BRIANA SCHWARZ**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**We are proud to share that the University of Miami IS a safe and welcoming space for Jewish students.** Thanks to the strong partnership between UM Hillel and university administrators, our campus has continued to foster an inclusive environment for Jewish students academically, socially, and spiritually.

UM Hillel continues to thrive, providing robust holiday programming, enriching Shabbat dinners, engaging Jewish Learning Fellowships, and valuable opportunities for students to explore their heritage, including travel to Israel and Poland.

**This year's defining moment was when our students, faculty, campus partners, and the greater Miami Jewish community confidently gathered in solidarity with Israel after October 7.** Their united presence affirmed the importance of Jewish spaces and served as a powerful reminder of our community's strength and resilience.

Despite the challenges we've seen on other campuses, UM Hillel has experienced significant growth as more students seek a supportive community to embrace their Jewish identity and deepen their connection to Israel.

As we look forward, we remain dedicated to cultivating an atmosphere where all students, particularly those in our Jewish community, can thrive and contribute to our vibrant campus life.

Your incredible support enabled us to create this inclusive and nurturing environment. The Jewish future is stronger because of you and your continued commitment to UM Hillel. Thank you!

B'Shalom,

*Mycki and Briana*

# A YEAR OF RECORD NUMBERS

Our presence on campus enables us to serve over 2,000 Jewish 'Canes annually, cultivating a vibrant and inclusive community that enriches the college experience, offers support, and celebrates Jewish identity and values.

**UM Hillel's program highlights from the year include:**

2,250

SHABBAT AND  
HOLIDAY MEALS  
SERVED



50

STUDENTS HELD  
JEWISH LEADERSHIP  
ROLES



95

PARTICIPANTS IN  
HILLEL'S JEWISH  
LEARNING COHORTS



2

NEW STUDENT LED  
ORGANIZATIONS:  
JEWISH COOKING CLUB  
+ RUNNING CLUB



35

FIRST YEAR  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL  
GRADUATES



1,400

STUDENTS  
CONNECTED WITH  
HILLEL AT LEAST  
ONCE THIS YEAR



45

'CANES TRAVELED  
WITH HILLEL ON  
IMMERSIVE  
EXPERIENCES



600

ATTENDEES AT  
PRO-ISRAEL  
COMMUNITY  
GATHERING  
IMMEDIATELY  
AFTER OCTOBER 7





# A YEAR OF FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM



Following the horrific attacks on October 7, Jewish communities worldwide faced the dual challenges of grappling with the tragedy and supporting our friends and family in Israel, all while confronting antisemitism on college campuses.

## University of Miami Hillel immediately responded by:

- Bringing together over 600 Jewish 'Canes and community members for a vigil at the Braman Miller Center for Jewish Life
- Providing resources and transportation so students could attend the Greater Miami Jewish Federation's rallies, the March for Israel in D.C., and lobby at the Florida State Capitol's Israel Day
- Working with UM's Police Department to ensure Hillel's building, events, and students were safe
- Empowering our students to speak with campus administration about combatting antisemitism



**"Right after the attacks in Israel took place, UM Hillel was the catalyst that united Jewish students to feel like one large community on campus."**

– Jonny A. ('26)



# A YEAR OF IMPACT



**"Hillel has been the epicenter of my college experience.** It gives me the tools to educate, mentor, and take initiative in building the Jewish community on campus. I am forever grateful to Hillel for giving me a home away from home and a family to lean on."

*-Betty S. ('26), Student President*



**"Hillel has given me the encouragement to do what I love in such a challenging year.** Through Hillel, I have been able to create new programs like the Jewish Cooking Club and the Running Club, as well as find a safe space where I can easily connect with a larger network of students."

*- Ethan G. ('27)*

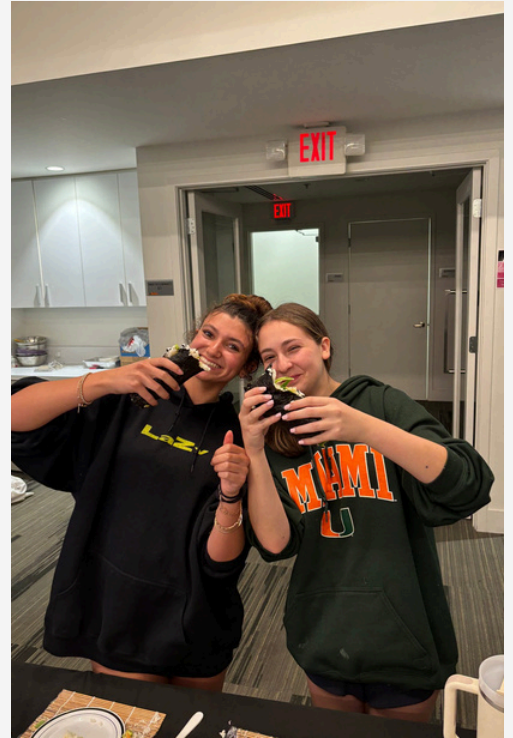


**"The Florida Hillels Poland Trip was the most impactful experience of my life. Going on this once-in-a-lifetime Jewish identity and Holocaust education journey with 40 peers profoundly changed my perspective on many things.** I started knowing only four people, but by the end, I left with a close-knit, meaningful family of friends that I will keep forever."

*- Eli W. ('25)*



# A YEAR OF CELEBRATING JEWISH IDENTITIES





# A YEAR OF INCREDIBLE PARTNERSHIPS



**THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI IS  
THE BEST PLACE TO BE A JEWISH  
STUDENT, THANKS TO YOU!**

**YOU'VE HELPED US PROVIDE:**

**Immersive experiences for more  
than 45 'Canes – from national  
conferences to Poland, Israel, and  
beyond!**

**A sense of belonging for Jewish  
students through learning  
fellowships, holiday programming,  
and Shabbat meals and services.**

**Security for all students at Jewish  
gatherings and Hillel events,  
ensuring a safe campus  
community.**

**Opportunities for students to  
engage in high-level conversations  
such as those with University  
administrators, Florida State  
legislators, and international  
Jewish leaders.**



*To continue providing support for the thousands of Jewish  
students at the University of Miami, please visit [miamihillel.org](http://miamihillel.org).  
If you are interested in legacy giving or how to make gifts  
through stock or donor advised funds, please reach out to  
Briana Schwarz at [briana@miamihillel.org](mailto:briana@miamihillel.org).*

## 2024-2025 PROFESSIONAL STAFF

BRIANA SCHWARZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RABBI JASON COOK, CAMPUS RABBI

TERRI GREEN, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

GABI COHEN, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

JORDAN FEINBERG, ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

ZANDER RAPPAPORT, IACT ISRAEL COORDINATOR

SHAYNA KLING, SPRINGBOARD FELLOW

REMY GORDON, THERAPIST AND WELLNESS COORDINATOR

RACHEL GORDON, MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

CARLOS GONZALEZ, BUILDING MANAGER



At University of Miami Hillel, we recognize the significance of partnering with other organizations to strengthen our mission.

These collaborations enrich our community with unique initiatives and perspectives.

### OUR WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:



1100 STANFORD DRIVE, CORAL GABLES, FL 33146