

SANTA BARBARA HILLEL



IMPACT REPORT

2020 - 2021



Rabbi Evan Goodman

Executive Director



What a blessing to be back with students. While we are proud of last year's pivot to mostly virtual programming, we've hit our stride this fall with students back on campus. Our renovated outdoor space enables us to bring students together safely, and having everyone vaccinated gives piece of mind. Whether virtual, like last year, or in-person, like this year, we create a vibrant Jewish community.

Hillel is here for students during the good times as well as the tough moments. Mental health issues and stress are real. Your support means we can hire expert staff to nurture, guide, and support students through intergroup and interpersonal challenges. We help them navigate the pressure of college, discuss Israel or current events, or find a shoulder to lean on. Thank you for enabling us to inspire the Jewish future.

Mark Silverberg

President, Board of Trustees

I think of Hillel as a coiled spring that is now exploding with energy. After a grueling year of Zoom meetings, it's thrilling to see live events at Hillel. Our gorgeous outdoor space is perfect to host social events, Shabbat dinners, and bagel brunches. The students are eager for face-to-face contact and the personal touch that Hillel provides. Our board is fully dedicated to meeting the moment. We pledge our time, energy, and resources to insure our students have the optimal Jewish home in Santa Barbara. Onward and upward.



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HIGHLIGHTS

2020-21

Celebrating Jewish holidays together

When we host Sukkot, Shabbat, Chanukah, and beyond, students discover their own "Jewish home away from home" at Hillel.



Fostering a positive campus climate

At Hillel, we reach out to bring people of diverse backgrounds together. The talented and dedicated Hillel staff ensures that we stand up for Jewish students, while also building bridges across the campus.

Cultivating a living connection with Israel

When travel to Israel is limited, we go the extra mile to bring Israeli culture here to Hillel. Classes like Israel Learning Fellowship and guest speakers enhance students' understanding of and appreciation for Israel.



Deepening Jewish learning

At Santa Barbara Hillel we encourage our students to embrace their Judaism by offering opportunities to learn about Jewish thought, ethics, tradition and more through guest speakers, discussions, and text exploration.

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Y



Leron Reznikov - Student

“Hillel has truly been my home away from home ever since the first week of my freshman year. As a senior now, I look back so fondly to all the memories I have at Hillel. From Shabbat Dinners, to board retreats, to events for every holiday, Hillel always was a place to be comfortable being Jewish. I've made lifelong friends and have had amazing experiences -- it's an understatement to say that college would not have been the same without Santa Barbara Hillel!”

Lea Toubian - Alum

“Of course, Hillel is a place for students to find community, build lifelong relationships, and explore their faith. But I never expected how empowering that community would be. The people I met and the support I felt through Santa Barbara Hillel completely shaped my trajectory at UCSB, giving me the confidence to pursue any of my goals. Hillel makes a school full of thousands of strangers feel like home, and I feel so lucky to have experienced that.”



Aaron Ettenberg - Board of Trustees

“Jewish parents often worry about the effects on their children's Jewish identity of a college environment that is often at odds with Jewish values. That's where Hillel comes in. Together, Board and community members gladly share in the responsibility of supporting and maintaining an enriched, educational, safe and welcoming Jewish home away from home for our college students.”



Romi Benasuly - Student

“Hillel has made a very positive impact on my undergraduate years and helped shape my college self. My friends always jokingly complain that I am always at Hillel and they're not wrong. After classes, I always visit Hillel to de-stress and hang out with people that I love and care about. Hillel has welcomed me with open arms and given me the opportunity to take on leadership roles in our Jewish community.”



SNEAK PEEK FALL 2021

What a joy to return to in-person programming this fall at Santa Barbara Hillel. There is a deep need for human connection and interaction, and we're proud to be here for student-led initiatives.



Preparing
bagged **lunches**
for the **Food Bank**

Jewish learning,
robust **discussion**, and
fascinating **speakers**

Creative tie-dye
fun with **Hillel**



Thank you to our 2020 supporters!

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"Santa Barbara Hillel provides so many opportunities and supports for our children as they embark upon adulthood at UCSB. From community shabbat dinners, to leadership opportunities, to the weekly bagel socials, Hillel keeps Aurora and Zach busy, happy, and growing in their Jewish identities. We are grateful for the Hillel community that is such an integral part of the college experience for our family.

Tracy and Peter de Tagyos (Aurora '23 and Zach '25)

We are thankful to our strategic partners

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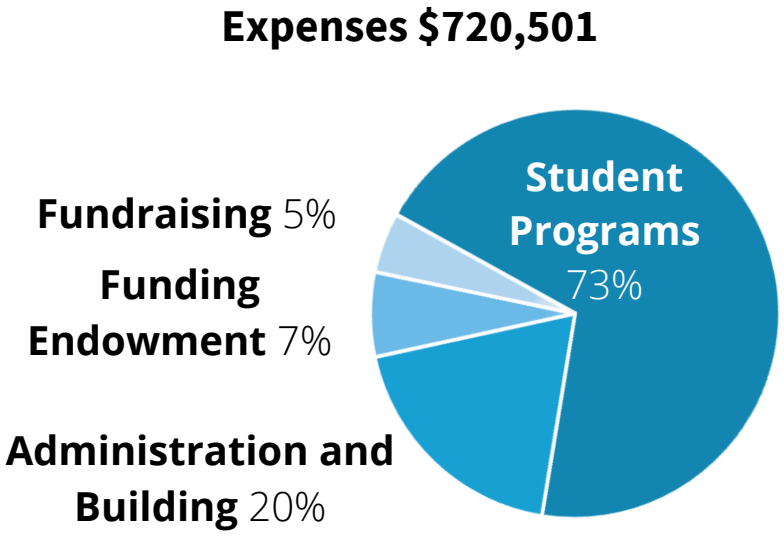
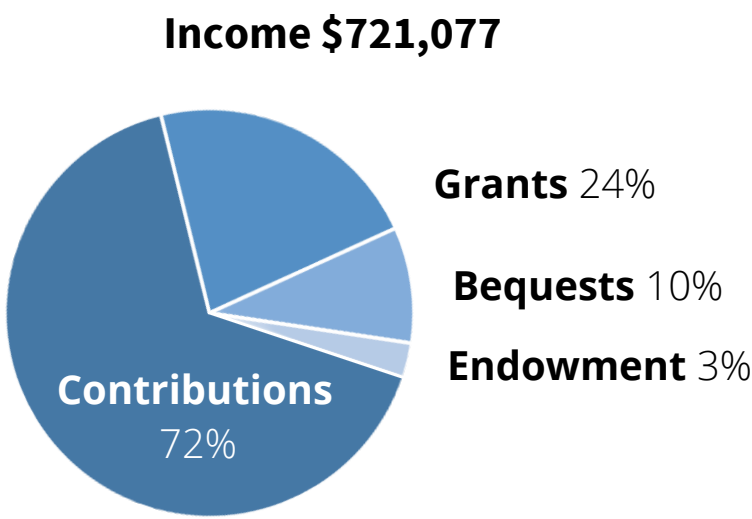
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