

Hillel

Winter 2022

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Did you hear the news? **The University of Vermont is now in the top 25 public schools Jews choose!** Also big news, my family welcomed a new child this year (our third and second Vermonter)! :)

I mention these two things to share my gratitude and support for a Hillel that generously cares for our employees and shares pride in what supporters, staff, and students have accomplished here at UVM.

In the tumult of the past two years, I've focused on bringing my 'full' self into my work. It started with "Hen Yomi" where I'd share my chicken chores and some thoughts on the Talmud page of the day on social media. I leaned into it fully after reading "Wellbeing at Work" this past year. The theory is quite simple; if our Hillel can help our staff live their best lives, they will do their best work, the holy work, of helping Jewish students find community and home while here at UVM. Hillel helps our students see that a life with Judaism is a well-lived one. You'll see the quantifiable impact of that shift in this issue of the Hillel Quarterly.

We've come so far in the past decade where we weren't even "on the map" for Jewish students, parents, and families. We know that we connect annually with over 2,000 Jewish students, although we've heard from UVM that there may even be 4,000 Jewish students on campus. With a new chair at the helm of our engaged board of directors and talented, dedicated staff, we are developing plans to have a meaningful impact on every single one of them. **I'm proud to share that UVM is a destination campus for Jewish families from across the country.**

Even with the ebb and flow of our evolving campus climate and antisemitism that exists on every college campus in the country, I can unequivocally say that Jewish life at UVM is thriving, growing, and Hillel is always there for students in whatever way they need support. **I believe that UVM and our Hillel is the single best campus in the country to be Jewish.**

Where else can you 'ski the east' with a Hanukkah menorah lit up surrounded by 100 of your Jewish friends? Where else can you meet hundreds of new Jewish students lined up to try falafel dipped in maple-tahini dressing? Where else will you find a world-class Hillel facility at the center of campus, steps from the historic green positioned between Waterman and the President's house, a sure sign of Jewish visibility and pride for all to see? What other Hillel has a farm generating local food for Shabbat? **It's all here, at the University of Vermont.**

Thank you for supporting Hillel and helping us be there for Jewish students. It's an honor and a joy to do this work for our UVM community.

Matt Vogel

Matt Vogel, Executive Director

THANKS TO YOU, UVM HILLEL HAS GROWN TO BE THE PLACE ON CAMPUS JEWISH STUDENTS FIND A HOME

We offered 5 learning fellowships in 2021 where over 80 students enrolled to participate in weekly Jewish learning.

100 students gathered to #ShineALight on Antisemitism while skiing on the 8th night of Hanukkah!

Over 1,500 students directly engaged with Hillel events over the last year. We know that students who engage with Jewish life in college are more likely to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life.

Nearly 600 Jewish students turned to us to celebrate Jewish holidays in 2021. We offered educational, spiritual, and physical opportunities to connect each holiday in a way that felt meaningful to them.

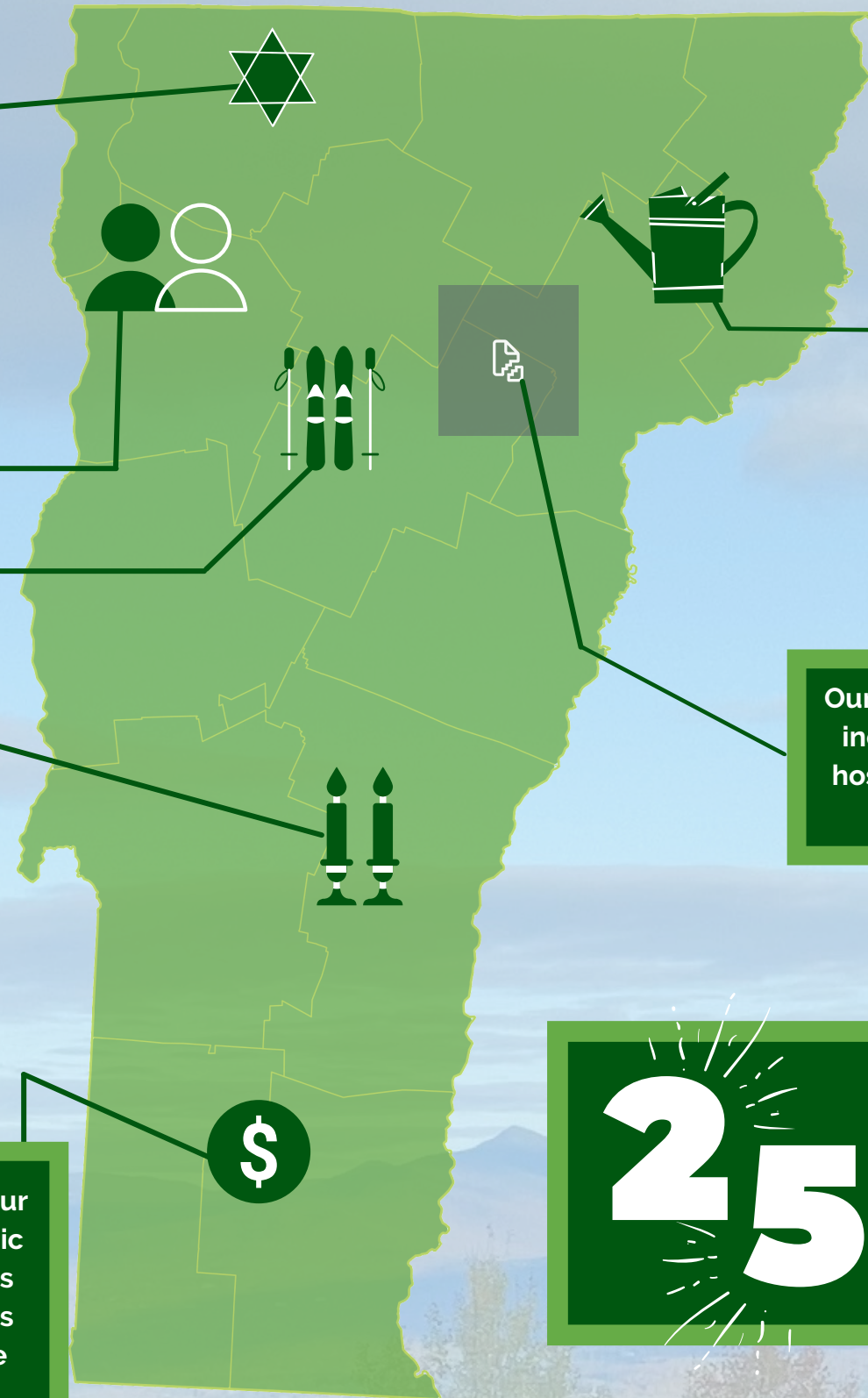
Hillel nearly doubled our number of philanthropic supporters in 2021. It is thanks to these donors that we are able to be there for so many different students!

Over the summer we had 9 students participate in our Seeds to Students program managing the Hillel Farm. Throughout the fall semester, nearly 2,000 students received fresh ingredients that they harvested.

Our students formed multiple new Hillel communities, including the Bamidbar Wilderness Explorers. They hosted multiple events in the fall that created Jewish experiences in nature for nearly 200 students.

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Hillel International named UVM in the top 25 public universities by Jewish population in 2021!



Class Notes

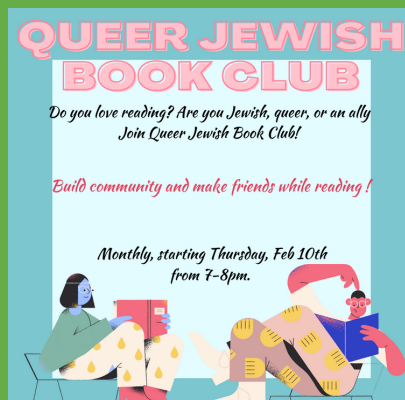
Life Beyond Graduation

'17 - **Ariel Walovitch** knew UVM was the school for her the moment she stepped on campus for accepted students' day. It had everything she was looking for, beautiful mountains, smiling people, a hands-on education program, and a cheerleading team she was eager to join. UVM helped her explore all her passions and create new ones.

After participating in a life changing trip to Israel on Birthright with UVM Hillel she decided to re-route her career path. She took a turn from formal elementary education to Jewish education for college students. After graduation she became the Springboard Innovation Fellow at Pitt Hillel where she learned that we all have our own unique "Jewish And." Every Jewish student is special in their own way and to build community, we must celebrate that!

She worked at Pitt Hillel for three years before accepting a position at Northeastern Hillel, bringing her a little closer to home. Today she is the Assistant Director of Northeastern Hillel! Her students have taught her that being Jewish isn't just one thing, it's many things!

*Want to be featured in our next Quarterly?
Email ali@uvmhillel.org*



**These are some examples of awesome programs that took place this winter.*

Hillel

The University of Vermont



Open the camera on your phone and point it here to support UVM Hillel

Invest in the Future of Jewish Life

Thanks to a unique partnership with the UVM Foundation; alumni, parents, family, and friends can make a gift to UVM and have 100% of your donation be directed to Hillel. Every one of us holds a special connection to Burlington, Vermont and our UVM community. We invite you to share in the joy of giving to the university. Help make a difference for today's UVM Jewish students so they can make a difference in our world.

Visit go.uvm.edu/hillel21 to make your tax-deductible gift.