



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

OUR MISSION

To create meaningful Jewish experiences that encourage Jewish students on campus to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning, and Israel

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 2015 Annual Report, which shares highlights of the 2014-15 academic year and thanks those who made it possible.

This year was our second year participating in a Hillel International pilot program aimed at defining the qualities of an excellent Hillel. We collected lots of data and compared them with data from the other 17 Hillels in the pilot. We learned a lot about how Queens College Hillel is doing. Among other things, we learned that:

- 2,097 Jewish students received information about QC Hillel activities.
- 1,722 students attended at least one QC Hillel initiative.
- 324 students attended at least six QC Hillel initiatives.
- We ranked 3rd in percentage of budget spent on student programs, but last in investment per student we serve.

Also this year, we launched the **Queens College Jewish Legacy Society** to recognize the people who have made Legacy commitments to QC Hillel to date. These gifts are investments in tomorrow's leaders, who are on campus today. Further, if we reach 18 Legacy commitments by February 2016 and another 18 by February 2017, we'll receive \$10,000 from the Grinspoon Foundation, thanks to the Life & Legacy Program. We're on our way—you could put us over the top!

If you've already made your gift to us this year, THANK YOU! Want to learn more about what we do, how you can give, or our success rates? Contact me today at uri@qchillel.org, 718-793-2222, or visit us online at www.qchillel.org.

Thank you for your partnership! I hope you're as proud as I am of what we've done!

Sincerely,

Uri Cohen

Uri Cohen

Executive Director

Queens College Jewish Legacy Society as of November 2015

Sandra Cahn
Ilene Eder
Muriel Goldberg
Ellen I. Kaplan

Allan Loren
Joan Loren
Risa Match
Adele and Al Robbins

Steve Schwager
Hillel Wallick
Erika Witover
Anonymous (Five)

Queens College Hillel Donor Roll for the year ending June 30, 2015

President's Circle \$25,000 and above

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Murray Koppelman
The Taub Family
UJA-Federation of New York
Erika and Kenneth Witover

Queens Club \$5,000 and above

Sandy and Stewart Cahn
Muriel Goldberg
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Hillel Wallick

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^P Past President ^{*} Executive Committee Member [♦] UJA-Federation of NY Observer
[♦] New members as of July 1, 2015 ^O Term ended June 30, 2015 ^S Student President

Queens College Hillel Staff

Uri Cohen
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Director of Jewish Student Life

Jacquelyn Shapiro
Associate Director of Development

Ruben Shimonov
Cross-Community Engagement Coordinator

Shoshana and Rabbi Robby Charnoff
OU-JLIC Educators



COVER PHOTO: Bukharian students and musicians headline the kickoff of the Queens College Year of Silk Roads global study program.



Photograph by Brett Deutsch

What will your Jewish legacy be?

Start your legacy today!

Learn how your planned gift can provide future generations of Jewish Queens College students with the resources to explore and expand their Jewish identity and their involvement in Jewish life.

There are several ways to start your legacy. You can:

- Include Queens College Hillel in your will
- Designate Hillel as a beneficiary of your retirement plan
- Create a Charitable Gift Annuity
- Make an endowment gift of appreciated stock or cash

To find out more and to start your QC Jewish Legacy, contact Uri Cohen at 718-793-2222 or by email at legacy@qchillel.org.



Donor Roll, continued

Maccabi Club \$1,000 and above

Lanie and Tom Blumberg
Helaine and Jerry Cohen
Ilene and Gary Eder
Doree Greenberg
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The Jesse and Joan Kupferberg Family Foundation
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LIFT HERE!

◆ Community

One of Hillel's core functions is to give students the opportunity to participate in a community of their peers, especially for commuters who might not have a peer community otherwise. Having a strong Jewish social network is highly correlated with making an enduring commitment to Jewish life. Inhabited by students from every corner of the globe, QC Hillel fosters communities for each "tribe" we have inside the "big tent" community of Jewish Peoplehood. We foster micro-communities around ethnic tradition, culture, Jewish learning, and values while uniting them under the broader Jewish banner. By focusing on the whole and the sum of its parts, we welcome all Jews under one roof.



Bukharian students dance in traditional *joma* and other garb on the Quad during Israel Independence Day celebration.

- 4,000** Jewish students at Queens College
- 1,271** students served by Hillel in 2014–15
- 1,393** "commuter" students served
- 319** "residential" students served
- 52** community-specific programs
- 60** community-wide programs

◆ Student Leadership

Hillel serves as the leadership bridge from "next generation" to the "real world." We mentor students in leadership skills such as managing volunteers, preparing budgets, time management, planning and evaluation. Through the Council of Jewish Leaders, QC Hillel gathers the presidents of all Jewish clubs on campus to plan the future of the QC Jewish community together. Participating clubs include Hillel Club, Israel Student Association, Bukharian Cultural Club, Persian Club, Chabad Club, Jewish Mindfulness Club, AEPi, Tizmoret, Seminary and Yeshiva Students, and the Israel Business Club (now part of TAMID).



Hillel Club student leaders gather for "Training Day" as they start planning for the new academic year.

- 12** staff–student leader mentoring pairs
- 14** staff-supervised interns in 4 internships
- 911** Jewish interactions initiated by interns
- 42** volunteer leadership posts in Hillel-affiliated clubs
- 274** staff hours of individual mentoring with student leaders

◆ Student Life

This year, Hillel hosted social events (like an Ice-Cream Social and "Who's Line Is It Anyway" improv comedy), fundraisers for social justice causes, mixers for first-year students, and more. We had weekly Shabbat services, monthly Shabbatonim (with catered meals), and our Free Friday Night Dinners. We celebrated Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, Chanukkah, Purim, Passover, and Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day). There were also interfaith events, including a trip with Jewish and Muslim students to help maintain a synagogue housed in a Bronx mosque. We strive to accommodate every Jewish background, every student schedule—commuter or residential—and as many Jewish needs as possible, large or small.



Jewish clubs show their wares at the College's "Club Day," highlighting QC's vibrant Student Life.

- 1,546** Shabbat and holiday meals served
- 49** Jewish programs during Club Hours
- 134** students traveled on Birthright or to conferences
- 10** Jewish clubs affiliated with Hillel
- 371** students engaged by interns about Judaism and Israel
- 5** interfaith events with the Muslim Students Association
- 1** camel brought to the Quad for Yom Ha'atzma'ut

◆ Jewish Learning

To have long-term impact, Jewish learning must be meaningful, so QC Hillel offers a wide range of options. The Orthodox Union's Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (OU–JLIC) in partnership with Hillel provides dozens of learning resources and teaching each week. Together with student leaders, we launched HaMidrasha @ QC, a daily Jewish learning program for women. We welcomed Mechon Hadar, the Shalom Hartman Institute, and other Jewish education partners to campus, and interested students wrote *divrei torah* (thoughts on Jewish topics) for our weekly newsletter called *Shevet* (Tribe). We also offered monthly Bukharian *Choikhonas* (Tea Houses) and Persian Luncheon discussions about topics such as Jewish history, culture, and traditions from Sephardic and Mizrahi communities.



Students gather to hear a *shi'ur* (lecture) by a prominent teacher from Israel.

- 32** women learning at HaMidrasha @ QC
- 14** weekly *chaburot* (small classes) offered by OU–JLIC
- 5** Jewish educational partnerships
- 24** single-sex Jewish courses and lectures
- 37** coed Jewish courses and lectures