Thank you to all of our supporters, who make all that we do at MIT Hillel possible!

It is an honor and privilege to work with and for the excited, motivated, brilliant students who come to MIT. Inside the classrooms, their minds are filled with ideas, and outside those classrooms and labs, they learn to put ideas to work. Our goal at Hillel is to help provide the atmosphere and the context for exploring the additional questions of personal and communal growth: living a life of purpose and meaning, exploring questions of ethics, relating to others as fellow human beings. We create big question thinkers, caring leaders, and innovators able to see complexity, beyond the black and white solutions suggested by many of life’s hard questions. You as donors, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends, are the foundation of our success.

We initiated a strategic planning process this past year at MIT Hillel. We began by asking what do MIT students need. Certain resonant themes emerged: Time to unwind. Support through transitions. Life role models. Mentorship. Modeling civil discourse. Knowing who one is and who one can become outside the classroom or job. Staying healthy and happy.

Hillel taps into and supports many of these needs through our current offerings: Free weekly Shabbat dinners with an average attendance of 80 students. Jewish text classes that include struggling with dilemmas, and utilizing the Jewish tradition of debate to create an exchange of ideas. A caring, professional staff that had over 300 one-on-one student coffee date conversations – mentoring, counseling, listening – this past year. Training students in leadership development: running teams, creating successful programs, deepening social intelligence and relationship-based engagement practices, always with an eye on Jewish values.

MIT creates the next generation of doers and leaders, particularly in science and engineering fields, and it is a joy each day to take on some of the responsibility of helping these young adults thrive as well-rounded individuals. We are doing well, and I aspire to do even better, reaching more students, more deeply. Especially in light of recent campus tragedies, this coming year’s Hillel initiatives include increased partnership with MIT’s Student Life, Student Affairs, and various academic offices to positively impact our students’ growth and well-being. MIT is about collaboration, and none of us succeeds alone.

Whenever we look ahead, we should acknowledge that we stand on the shoulders of giants, who blessed us with vision and achievements we build upon. This past year, MIT and MIT Hillel lost two giants, two founders of Hillel at MIT: Norman Leventhal ’38 and Claude Brenner ’47. They were each able to see – over 70 years ago – what Jewish life could be at the Institute, and regularly shared with me their excitement for our recent successes. Thank you to all who have helped us reach this year.

I am grateful to you for helping us dream, grow, and thrive, by supporting all we do. Your gift to MIT Hillel is a gift to our Jewish present and future, and ensures that the smart and focused Jewish students here become wise and ethical menschen in their future work and lives.

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“Donors don’t give. A donor gives.”
Barb Maduell, Development Consultant

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Hillel’s Thread in the MIT Fabric 2015
Rabbi Fisher gave benediction at the Sean Collier memorial
Two interfaith panel discussions organized by Rabbi Goldfeder
Dreidel Hero Engineering Competition
Arab-Israeli Relations Speaker event
Religious Life of Great Scientists Lecture Series
Israeli Independence Day Carnival
Rabbi Fisher delivered the invocation at Commencement

* denotes that the donor also gave in 1990, as far back as our records go

We thank our supporters for their generous contributions.

We thank you for your gift.
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“Hillel helped me develop my Jewish identity at MIT. I never thought I would be involved at all in Jewish life on campus, but after meeting and spending time with some of the staff members through Birthright, ConnecTech, etc., I realized that Hillel can provide a way to weave Judaism into my existing life on campus.”

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in memory of Claude W Brenner
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in memory of Claude W Brenner;
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount raised</td>
<td>$649,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of contributors that built our success</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of this year’s donors who also gave in 1990, as far back as our records go</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of living 1990 donors who also gave in 2015</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>First-time donors to MIT Hillel</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What MIT students pay for Shabbat dinner</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage increase in Shabbat dinner attendance. Our average weekly participation went from 40 to 80 in one year.</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillel International Award for Excellence to Rabbi Michelle Fisher</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillel Staff’s coffee dates, one-on-one conversations, and meetings to support students and Jewish life on campus</td>
<td>300+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Leading Jewish Minds attendees. We average 60 per session, many “regulars”.</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Legacy Donors we have been challenged to identify</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different Birthright trip reunions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student-led seders across campus sponsored by MIT Hillel</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Laurent Cohen**  
**Susan Cohen**  
**Robert Melvin Colton**  
**Matthew Cons**  
**in memory of Mr Charles Cons**  
**Claudia Coplein**

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in memory of Claude W Brenner

Rav Kletzkine

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Hillel helped me renew my Jewish identity by engaging me in challenging academic and spiritual questions through programs such as Kindle Your Judaism. Hillel has always been a place I could go to for help when the pressures of MIT become overwhelming. The staff is always willing to listen to my problems and give me spiritual guidance and life advice. Hillel has helped me keep close to my Jewish identity and strengthen it as I move into the next phase of my life.

ALEXANDER FELDSTEIN ’15
One of my favorite communities at MIT has been MIT Hillel... I first met the MIT Jewish community when I came for Shabbat dinner during my Campus Preview Weekend. Little did I know that the people joking around with me at the dinner table would become such integral parts of my MIT experience... Contemplating the next stage of my life, I hope I can find a Jewish community similar to the incredible one I have at MIT. I would like to thank MIT Hillel for its contributions to my MIT experience.

MIRIAM PROSNITZ ’15
Sample of MIT Hillel Learning Opportunities

Jewish Enough?
Mental Health in the Army and Israeli Society
Philosophy of Science Discussion Group
Professors Talk About God Series
How to Lead a Passover Seder
Contemporary Israel and the Music She Makes
MLK Panel – Are Minorities Responsible for One Another?

Margery Resnick
Lori Resnick*
Steven Rife
Steven Rogers
Stanley and Louise Rose*
Joseph and Rachel Rosen
Miriam Rosenblum
in memory of Claude W Brenner
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Rosenfield
Morton and Barbara Rosenstein
Ilana Rotmensch
Steven and Susan Rubin
Lawrence Rubin*
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Matya Gilbert-Schachter and Anna Boonin-Schachter
Yael Schein
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- Hillel: Foundation for Jewish Campus Life
- Jewish Community Foundation San Diego
- Jewish Communal Fund of NY
- Jewish Federation of Metro Chicago
- Jewish Foundation of Memphis
- National Philanthropic Trust DAF
- Renaissance Charitable Foundation Inc.
- Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving
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L’Dor v’Dor - MIT Hillel Across the Generations

This report reflects one year at MIT Hillel: a snapshot of our activity and an expression of gratitude to our supporters who made the year possible. We hope that you get a sense of the community both on campus and across our worldwide base of alumni and friends. Here at Hillel, we never lose sight of all that makes our work possible.

Our community also spans the dimension of time, with support from many generations of alumni. Our small, Boston-based Board comprises alumni from the 1950’s, 60’s, 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s, as well as current faculty and staff and undergraduate and graduate students. Before the recent passings of two of our earliest builders, we also had the 1930’s and 40’s covered in our leadership structure. How inspiring!

Hillel’s donor base covers the spectrum as well, up through our newest alumni. The Jewish experience at MIT has varied in different eras, but despite those fluctuations, alumni from all times share the belief in the importance of a thriving Jewish community and meaningful individual experience during formative years on campus. It is all possible because of you (singular) individually, and you (plural) in the aggregate.

Many years, including 2015, we realize a legacy gift, when we learn that someone has named MIT Hillel in their estate plan. Depending on the size of the gift, we may consider it a one-time and/or final gift to our annual campaign, or we might add it to our endowment to perpetuate the donor’s commitment over time. Sometimes people let us know in advance that they plan to do this, which gives us the opportunity to thank them, always our preference. Currently, we know of roughly 20 intentioned planned gifts.

In 2015, MIT Hillel was accepted into Hillel International’s Life & Legacy initiative, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. This is a follow-up to a similar program we did three years ago (when those first 20 were identified). MIT Hillel is one of only four schools across the country to be selected for both iterations. With training from Hillel International provided by support from Grinspoon, we are working to strengthen our foundation, by identifying and/or cultivating 18 bequest gift intentions in each of the next two years. In the coming year, we will be reaching out to our most loyal donors, and we invite you to let us know directly if MIT Hillel is named among your legacy priorities.

One thing we know – as donors ourselves, as Jews, as citizens, as MIT people – is that any form of our work today is also building for the future, both the part we will live to see and the “infinite corridor” of time beyond our own. Scientific discoveries, engineering breakthroughs, economic plans, literary or technical publications are all catalysts of change. So, too, for philanthropy.

Whether you are one of the 77 first-time donors to Hillel in 2015, or one of our 207 donors who go back at least as far as our records (1990), or everyone in between, we hope you sense our gratitude on every page of this publication, not just for your (singular) gift this year, but also for your (plural) giving over time.

Paul F. Levy ’72, MCP ’74
Chair, Board Development Committee

A special thank you to our photographers
Hillel Staff
Christopher McIntosh
Ariel Schwartzman ’15
Steve Tavan ’72

All errors are the responsibility of MIT Hillel. Please contact us directly if your name or gift is in error in this report.

We appreciate when you take the time to help us do better.
Science takes things apart to see how they work. Religion puts things together to see what they mean.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks