



**Hillel**  
for Utah

## Spring 2020 Newsletter

Click on the [SHOFAR](#) above to see our 2019-2020 slideshow produced by Student Jacob Olson, last year's historian and current Communication Co-Chair for 2020!

### Hillel Heroes

*Hillel for Utah honors our alumni and student heroes, who are making a difference for us all on the front lines of the pandemic.*

As the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic kept all of us in our places, staying as safe as possible, Hillel for Utah went virtual, growing to weekly Zoom Shabbats, Everything But the Bagel hangouts online, and even student leader interviews and meetings from the screen. But not all of us sheltered at home. Here are four of our Hillel for Utah heroes, who continue to provide health care services in the midst of this unprecedented pandemic:



**Amanda Berg '18**, moved back to her home state of New York just as the COVID-19 crisis was mounting in January. As the reciprocity process bogged down with getting her EMT license current in NY, she took a job as a clinical research coordinator for the medical company, Phosphorous. Amanda gathers samples to validate in-home COVID-19 testing kits that the company is developing. She goes to clinics on the Upper East Side in the morning and in the South Bronx in the afternoon and offers free testing for those entering the clinics. Amanda draws a tube of blood from the arm of 30 to 80 patients a day. She said that while most of the patients have been positive for the virus, she's glad to see the rates going down. Amanda finds the Jewish value of caring for those who have less has become more meaningful as a result of experiencing a disparity in access to health care resources. She's decided to help confront those health disparities at their source by pursuing a dual master of public health/physician's assistant degree in the future.

**Joel Berg '16**, works as a health inspector in food protection for the Salt Lake County Health Department. When the County's emergency response team was activated, Joel helped notify local restaurants of the move to curbside service only. With many small family owned and diverse restaurants in his area, he encountered language barriers on top of the chaotic nature of adapting procedures to the pandemic. Currently, he transports people who cannot self-quarantine to appropriate shelters. Joel feels he is strengthening his leadership skills as he and other younger colleagues step up to help develop protection protocols for now and for the future.



**Athena Schwartz**, a current senior at the University of Utah, majors in health promotion and education. They said their class in epidemiology this past semester used COVID-19 as a classic example of how disease spreads and even wrote their final paper using the pandemic as a living example. Athena has volunteered as a contact tracer for COVID-19 patients. Fortunately, because Utah's rates are lower than in many other places in the US, they have been trained to make those calls, but have not been called up for service unless the number of cases flare up. Their Jewish background has taught them to do good deeds when you can, look out for the underdog, and to remember that your health comes first. "Look out for each other. We are a team and we can be better. Check in with others and stay healthy and safe."

**Leah Weisgal '16** is a radiology coordinator at a hospital in Denver, CO. She said, "Times are uncertain right now, but if I've learned anything from Hillel, it's that your community will pick you up in the moments when you think you're completely out of energy. The people who are dropping off meals and expressing support make it easier to show up at work knowing this is all temporary and we WILL come out the other side."

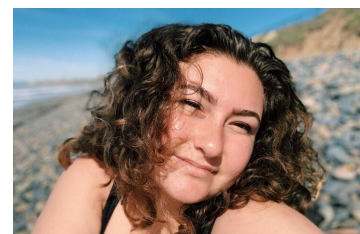


## Ask for Help

*"To admit we need help, to show the world that we don't have the answer to everything is a deeply Jewish display of courage. We exist on this earth to build each other up and to create a better world than the one we entered."*

-Elana Fauth

Hillel for Utah's Elana Fauth, Springboard Jewish Education Fellow, also serves as an associate editor for the online magazine, **At the Well**. At The Well connects women around the world with transformative practices inspired by ancient Jewish Wisdom. Read her insightful blog post published on the site here: [Ask for Help: Taking a Cue from Moshe](#)



Elana also wrote a beautiful [piece on finding the joy in little things](#) for At the Well.



# Global Giving Week Thank You!

Thanks to many of you--parents, alumni, and friends--we raised an astounding \$12,500 for the students and programs of Hillel for Utah during Hillel International's Global Giving Week!

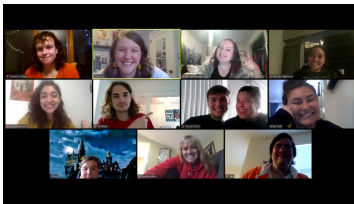
While Hillel Global Giving Week and our matching gift campaign have ended, you can still make a gift to provide critical support to Hillel and Jewish students at <https://hillelutah.org/give/>

*Some of our students say thank you by sharing how meaningful Hillel for Utah is to them:*



## The Big Stuff

*A pandemic didn't stop the Jewish learning!*



This spring, ten Hillel for Utah students participated in The Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF)--a 10-week experiential, conversational seminar for students looking to deepen their understanding of Judaism on their own terms.

Facilitated by Springboard Ezra Fellow Elana, with Lauren Fredman, local Jewish educator, the groups explored some of life's BIG questions: Who am I? What communities am I a part of? What is worth committing myself to, and why? Elana and Lauren helped Utah students explore Jewish tradition in a safe space and find their own place, on their terms, in the Judaism conversation. Participants spoke of gaining a deeper understanding of their Jewish identity. They found relevance and meaning in study of Jewish text. And they are clamoring for a JLF 2.0 while encouraging others to apply for the experience.

***"I built a connection [to Jewish life] through JLF that will last a lifetime."***  
*Ted Camper '20*

JLF was founded in 2007 at the Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at NYU. Since then, JLF has graduated more than 3,000 fellows.

# Hillel for Utah Appoints Student Leadership for 2020

**Listen. Learn. Love.** These are the “three Ls of Torah-inspired leadership,” as explained by Lianne Heller in [ejewishphilanthropy.com](https://ejewishphilanthropy.com).

<https://ejewishphilanthropy.com/the-three-ls-of-torah-inspired-leadership/>

Studies show the best way to prepare students for post-college careers is through student leadership experience--a compilation of marketable skills learned and practiced through communication, teamwork, emotional intelligence, and strategic decision-making. Hillel for Utah is proud to present our student leadership team for 2020!

[Click here to meet our Fall 2020 Student Board Members!](#)

## Kvelling

*Hillel for Utah students and alumni doing things worth kvelling about!*



**Becca Goldstein '14**, former vice president of Hillel for Utah, is engaged to Jared Zitnay. Both Becca and Jared are in the Biomedical Engineering PhD program at the University of Utah. Jared is specifically studying tendon biomechanics. Becca studies lung cancer at the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

Current Hillel for Utah President **Chloé Laverson '21** was selected to serve on the Hillel International Student Cabinet. Hillel International's Student Cabinet represents over 550 local Hillels and nearly 150,000 students globally as the student voice and voluntary leadership body for the greater Hillel movement. Each year, the Cabinet is comprised of a diverse group of students representing diverse Jewish backgrounds, including students of color, students from interfaith backgrounds, students with disabilities, students who identify as LGBTQ, and students from an array of schools and areas of study.



**Rebekah Freed** is a doctoral student in the Learning Sciences and Psychological Studies PhD program in the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has an M.A. in Educational Psychology and a B.A. in Psychology. Rebekah previously taught Human Development and Psychology courses at Westminster College and Utah Valley University. She also supervised research in the Social Development Lab at the University of Utah. Her current research interests include ways to foster self-regulation and deep strategy use during learning.



Hillel International featured **Kayla Dworsky '22** [Reigniting my Jewish connection](#)

**Michael Palmer**, Community Services Chair, was quoted in this Hillel International article on volunteerism in the time of Covid-19. Read the article here on [Giving Back](#).



Israel Programming Chair **Adam Weinstein** was selected as one of the gold winners for his in-depth analysis of the narrative of the video game *Papers, Please* for a Narrative Review Competition for the annual international Game Developers Conference for 2020.

Hillel for Utah Past President **Eli Wolk** and Westminster Liaison **Aimee Klein** have been named youth program co-directors at Congregation Kol Ami in Salt Lake City. **Eli** participated in an interfaith panel discussion about youth and religion in early March. Read the [story published in the local Deseret News here](#). Hillel for Utah and **Eli** were mentioned in the Hillel International blog article, [The Great Outdoors](#).



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**Special thanks to our Board of Directors**

*for their incredible support of Hillel for Utah students*

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