

FALL 2017



A TINY SPARK, BURST A LARGE FLAME

With a current roster of 100 students, 46 of those students have already attended 6 or more events and will continue to experience meaningful programs offered this next semester. **How does Chico Hillel do so much with just a little?** Our team focused on creating fun and exciting programs for students, run by students and offered more than 33 programs this fall. These numbers do not even include all the coffee and Froffee conversations at Starbucks and in our office with the new Israeli Coffee Froffee Machine! We focused on spending money where it counts like purchasing a new spinning wheel to offer prizes during tabling events on campus, we sent personalized welcome baskets to freshman in the dorms and offered a Shabbaton trip to Lassen National Park. **Chico Hillel strives to engage even more students, please read on the back page of how you can contribute to our success!**



Shabbaton Cabin Retreat



Sukkot Camp Trip

“I am thankful that I am part of Hillel because it gives me a chance to be more connected with my Jewish identity and meet more Jewish people from college. My favorite event has been the cabin trip because it let me become closer to the other members of Hillel.” - **Arlis Elster**

“Being a part of Hillel was one of the first places that I felt welcomed within my first few days on campus. My favorite event that we have had so far was when we did a Nacho Shabbat with AEII, hearing about people’s Jewish experiences, and just hanging out.” - **Noah Levinson**

“My favorite event was the Lassen Cabin Retreat. It was such a beautiful location up in the forest yet fairly close to Chico. I got to know not only the interns but other members. Being involved makes me feel like I have a Jewish family that I can celebrate holidays with and share Jewish knowledge with as well.” - **Chelsea Wells**



Hillel AEII Kickball Winners



Hillel AEII Shabbat

Executive Director
Kristy Collins

Israel Engagement Associate
Yael Ronen

Engagement Team
Hannah Elbaz – President
Jake Hocker
Sara Rosenstein
Carly Silverstein
Sophia Schmerling
Dellyssa Weingarten

Academic Finance Interns
Sarah Berry
Gino Pazzaglia

Board of Directors
Hillel Board President
David Halimi

Faculty Advisor
David Zeichick, Lecturer

Treasurer
Alan Tochterman

Secretary
Stacie Shatkin

Executive Committee
Professor Emeritus Irving Schiffman, Ph.D.
Donna Greenberg, Librarian
Gayle Kipnis, Ph.D.
Susan S. Mintzes, Ed.D.

Rabbinic Advisor
Rabbi Sara Abrams

Hillel Advisor
Josh Kaplan

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

BY SOPHIA SCHMERLING

On September 21st, during Rosh Hashanah Chico Hillel hosted our annual welcome reception tabling event on campus. This year we had more than 30 faculty and students attend to eat and socialize with us.

We had different activities set up on the lawn including pin the tail on the camel, global mapping of our Jewish roots, and our GIVE-AWAY prize wheel. We advertised our new and upcoming events and made a student roster. These activities attracted new members and they keep coming back!

One new student we met during the welcome reception was Zachary AKA "Z". Z is a senior who has not been involved with Hillel until this year. He is very active in the theater program at Chico State and had an important part in Chico's production of American Idiot earlier this year.



American Idiot, Z Hansen



Jake Hocker and Z Hansen

Since Z had expressed interest in going on Birthright and becoming more involved with Hillel, we thought it would be fun to show that Hillel and its members are also interested in him and what he does outside of Hillel.

With an Engagement Grant funded by Hillel International, Hillel was able to subsidize the price of tickets so that 15 members could attend closing night of the play. We brought flowers to give to Z to congratulate him on a great performance.

"I had never gotten flowers from a show in my life! To see all the people from Hillel there at the end of the show made me really, really happy! That night I was feeling pretty emotional about my performance and seeing everyone after made me feel so much better! Plus I got flowers!"

INVESTING IN FUTURE LEADERSHIP



Hillel Summer Institute

This past August, Chico Hillel sent three of our newest Engagement Interns to the Hillel Engagement Institute conference at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Jake, Sophia, and Dellyssa spent the four days at the conference: meeting new interns from across the nation; learning more techniques on how to engage their peers; and focusing on how to build vibrant and relevant Jewish relationships across the Chico State campus.

In order to emphasize Hillel's commitment to celebrating the multiplicity of identities each student carries, the theme

of the Engagement Institute was "Jewish &...". Alongside group workshops, the interns attended different lectures, based on the topic of intersectionality, from keynote speakers Matan Koch, Yavilah McCoy, and Scott Fried. Thank you to the Alevy Family for supporting student leadership conferences like these.

On November 18th, Sonya Gaysinskiy attended the Limmud FSU Conference, in San Francisco. **"I really enjoyed the conference because I was surrounded by people with similar Jewish histories to mine. I also attended talks that addressed our relationships with Judaism as adults in America. The conference expanded my personal view on how Jewish I am, and it has inspired me to encourage others to investigate the same question."**

I love talking about Judaism, especially the way I express my Judaism, and it's been great talking to friends about the conference and asking them to tell me about their story. I will be attending another related conference in New York this January to further my experiences!"

Chico Hillel will also be sending freshman students Noah Levinson and Tom Sciara to the StandWithUs Conference this January to learn more about being advocates for Israel.



Arlis Elster

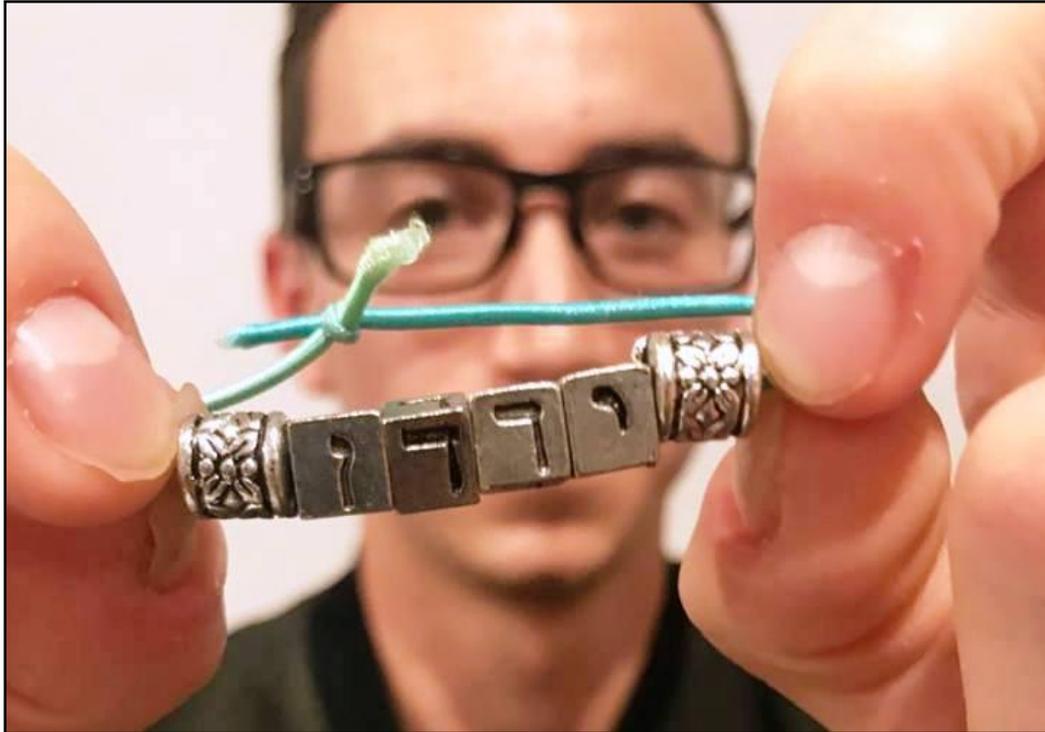
Freshman, Exercise Physiology

"I would like to one day help design prosthetics and I plan on auditioning for the Sacramento Mandarins Drum and bugle Corps this winter!"

MAZEL TOV TO OUR STAR STUDENTS

ISAREL ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

BY YAEL RONEN



Hebrew Craft Night

Hello and welcome from Yael Ronen, our new Israel Engagement Associate. This is a new and exciting endeavor for me, as I am tasked with bringing our students more education, experience and engagement with Israeli life.

In the core of the planned activities, stood for me the questions:

Why Israel?

Why is it so important for us, living here?

What is our connection to Israel based on?

And what is it that we love and appreciate about Israel?

The evening turned out to be an interesting, moving and surprising discovery about each other, our roots and how closely connected we all are.

This position is funded by a three-year grant from the Bay Area Federations in partnership with Hillel International.



Movie Lunch Discussion

The first semester has been for me an ongoing process of learning and discovery of this amazing and vibrant community we have here – Hillel of Chico and what it is that I can offer to it in my new capacity as the Israel Engagement Associate.

In September, we focused on understanding our connection to Israel through understanding the history of the Jewish diaspora. We pursued it mainly through the history of the student's personal families. In a program called Global Mapping – Tracing our Roots, students were asked to research their own family's' history and share it with the group while placing a little flag on a global map and tracing the route that their ancestors took, escaping whatever it was that drove them away from their respective countries.



Global Mapping – Tracing our roots

“It was awesome to hear our members tell stories about the origins of their ancestors. Our families have all come from different places and it was fascinating to see how we have all made our way to the United States and to Chico State.”
- Jake Hocker

“I’m a graphic design major because since high school I’ve wanted to use my art talents and apply it to something practical like advertising. I hope that with that I can create beautiful images that will influence the masses!”

Sonya Gaysinskiy
Freshman, Graphic Design



FOR FALL SEMESTER 2017!

CELEBRATING THE CHICO WAY

BY CARLY SILVERSTEIN

The idea of Sukkot in the Jewish faith is to celebrate the gathering of the harvest and the miraculous protection G-d granted upon the children of Israel when they left Egypt.

Chico Hillel wanted to give the opportunity to its members to fully immerse themselves in nature and be able to reflect on what Sukkot means to them so we planned a Shabbat camping trip under the stars! The beauty of Collins Lake was a humbling experience alone, but the warmth of the fire and the good company surrounding us was the real treat.

With discussions of home and places we belong, we gave thanks for the harvest foods and wished each other a “Chag Sameach!” under the stars.

“Sukkot is important to me in a traditional sense. When we remember how our ancestors fled Egypt and spent 40 years wandering in the desert. I love the tradition we have of sleeping underneath the stars and celebrating the harvest. Some of my favorite things are spending time outside and eating fruits and veggies. I remember being little and looking forward to decorating the Sukkah every year.” - Sara Rosenstein



Sukkot Campers

INVEST IN A STRONG FUTURE FOR OUR JEWISH STUDENTS

Help us fund programs that you read about in this newsletter like our outdoor adventures, student conferences and monthly Shabbats!

One of the factors that correlates with student engagement is how much the Hillel invests, per student, in salaries, benefits, student interns and in programs. We refer to this metric as **Program Investment per Student**. The data has shown repeatedly that the more Hillels spend on Program Investment per Student, the higher the rates of student engagement. On average, Hillels spend about \$400 per student, although Hillels that have achieved excellence in student engagement spend, on average, over \$1,000 per student. Chico Hillel spends \$146 on Program Investment per Student which tells us that we are doing a lot for a little. Chico Hillel continues to be successful providing high impact experiences on a small budget!



Engagement Team

We believe that with more investment in salaries, benefits, student interns and in programming, Chico Hillel can reach even more Jewish students at CSU Chico!

DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.CHICOHILLEL.ORG

\$1000 – Support a student leadership position on our staff

\$500 – Support a student conference registration

\$360 – Support a monthly Shabbat dinner

\$100 – Sponsor a weekly dinner

OTHER – Donations of any amount are appreciated



MRJ Men of Reform Judaism

