Hillel

The University of Chicago
Johanna and Herman H.
Newberger Hillel Center

# A new year of Jewish life on campus!

## From the Director's Desk



Dear UChicago Hillel Parents, Alumni, and Friends,

Shanah Tovah! Happy New Year! It is my honor and pleasure to serve as the new Executive Director of UChicago Hillel. I began my service to the organization on June 15th, and I could not be more invigorated by the privilege of dedicating my life in service of Jewish students here at the University of Chicago.

I cannot wait for the school year to begin!

UChicago Hillel is a connection point for 800 Jewish undergraduates and over 1,000 Jewish graduate students. Our mission is to create the conditions for Jewish joy, Jewish confidence, and Jewish safety for all who seek it.

This year Jewish students will find Hillel on campus in proud and confident public spaces: libraries, student centers, dining halls, and residence hall living rooms.

Hillel is proud to be a pluralistic umbrella organization serving ALL Jewish students: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform; Right and Left; Secular and Cultural. This year students will have an opportunity to lead through an inaugural internship cohort and an overarching student board with a shared vision of responsibility for EVERY Jewish student on this campus.

Thank you for your support and friendship.

I pray that the New Year of 5787 will be one of strength, courage, joy, and health for you, your loved ones, and for UChicago Hillel.

Rabbi CG

**Click here to read more from D'ror's Desk!**

## Alumni Dvar Torah:

**The Dialectic of the Dwellings: Finding Sukkot on Campus**
By Dr. Scott Goldberg (Class of 1995)

When we look back at our college years, most of us remember a dual experience: the intense, invigorating vulnerability of being pushed intellectually, and the essential need for a community that kept us grounded.

That exact tension sits at the heart of Sukkot. In Tractate Sukkah 11b, the Talmud records a classic debate over what the Israelites actually lived in during their wilderness journey. Rabbi Akiva posits that they dwelt in sukkot mamash—

literal, physical huts built from fragile branches. Rabbi Eliezer, however, argues that the booths were transcendent: the Ananei HaKavod, the miraculous Clouds of Glory that enveloped and protected the camp.



For UChicago alumni, this rabbinic debate feels surprisingly familiar.

Rabbi Akiva's physical hut represents the concrete, exposed reality of the undergraduate experience. It is the vulnerability of wrestling with foundational texts, the long hours in library carrels, the gauntlet of the Common Core, and the quiet beauty of the Gothic quads. Like a physical sukkah open to the elements, those years were a temporary scaffolding—our first unmediated encounter with rigorous independent thought and independent adulthood.

Rabbi Eliezer's Cloud of Glory, by contrast, is the protective canopy that sustained us through the pressure. Amidst intense analytical demands, Hillel served as a sanctuary—a sheltering environment of intellectual inquiry, Shabbat warmth, and enduring solidarity that anchored our identities.

Sukkot reminds us that human growth requires both the hut and the cloud. The exposure of the academic hut compels us to cultivate intellectual resilience, while the sheltering cloud of community provides the safety and warmth needed to truly thrive.

Decades after leaving campus, alumni carry the synthesis of both into the world. We deploy the critical frameworks forged in the classroom alongside the spiritual and communal values nurtured at Hillel. This Sukkot, let us honor the lessons of the physical hut, express gratitude for the protective clouds that sustained us, and reaffirm our connection to the global community of minds and hearts that unites us still.

Dr. Goldberg is renowned expert in reading and literacy, he is the author of MaDYK, the only second-language Hebrew dynamic assessment used globally to monitor Hebrew literacy development. He also authored Even Kriah, the first evidence-based Hebrew reading program grounded in the Science of Reading, Dr. Scott Goldberg is the Golda Koschitzky Chair in Jewish Education at Yeshiva University's Azrieli Graduate School. Dr. Goldberg holds a Ph.D. in Applied Psychology from NYU, an M.S.Ed. in Special Education from Bank Street College, and a B.A. in Jewish Studies from the University of Chicago.

## Mensch of the Month



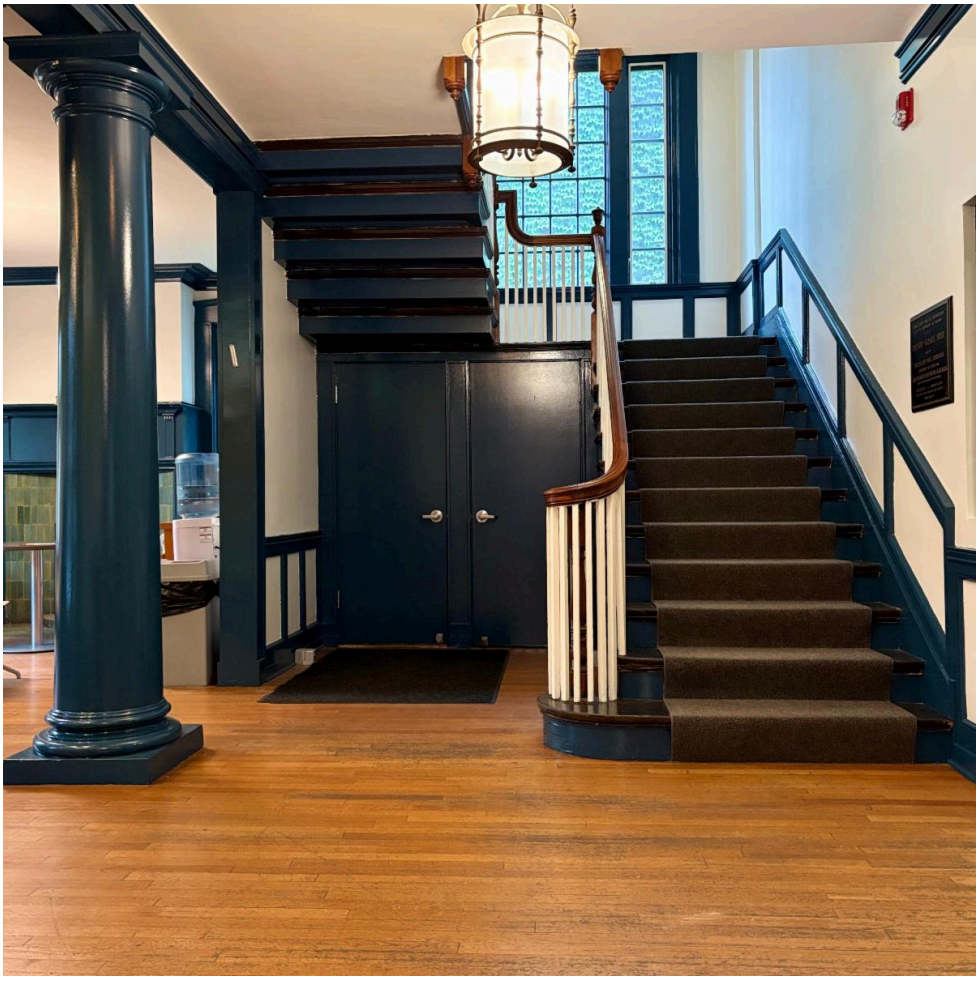
This summer, Hillel undergrad **Eli Saliman** served as a classroom instructor and mentor for Summer Coding @ UChicago: Builders Academy, or SCU:BA. Now in its sixth year, SCU:BA is a program in which the Hymen Milgrom Supporting Organization has generously partnered with UChicago Hillel, under the auspices of Dr. Adam Shaw, Professor of Computer Science, to teach coding skills to high school students on Chicago's South Side. The program gives students real technology and programming experience that strengthens their academics and opens doors to future careers, and graduates have described it as a "life changing opportunity." This year's students described Eli as "smart, kind, and deeply organized," and he was absolutely beloved. Yasher Koach, Eli, for your beautiful leadership!

# Since we last spoke...

A lot has changed at UChicago Hillel since we last spoke. Some of it you can see on our walls, and some of it you'll meet in our halls: we have new paint and new people!

This summer, we invested in the future of our Hillel by refreshing the building from the inside out. Our rooms now feature bold new shades of maroon, blue, and green. The maroon connects us to our home at the University of Chicago, the blue reflects our commitment to the homeland of the Jewish people, and the green, which you'll find in Dror's office, speaks to growth and the new chapter ahead. More than a fresh coat of paint, these colors represent our commitment to this building and to the community that lives within it: a place where students come to learn, celebrate, question, and belong.







Of course, a building is only as strong as the people inside it. Alongside our new look, we're thrilled to introduce the newest members of our staff team...

## Meet our new Hillel family members!



### Myles Greenbaum
### Manager of Development and Communication

Myles joins the University of Chicago Hillel team as Manager of Development and Communications. A Pittsburgh native raised by two rabbis, Myles grew up immersed in Jewish communal life and has carried that foundation into a career dedicated to strengthening Jewish community. He earned his degree from American University with a double major in Political Science and Legal Studies, where he built a strong foundation in advocacy, policy, and organizational strategy. He is passionate about seeing communities grow and thrive and ensuring Jewish students feel supported and empowered at the University of Chicago.



**Inbar Kedmi**
**Israel Fellow**

Inbar Kedmi comes to Chicago from Modi'in, Israel, bringing a background in youth leadership, education, and Jewish community engagement. She first experienced the power of connecting Israeli and American Jewish communities as a Jewish Agency Shlicha at Crane Lake Camp, where she spent three summers working with campers and the Israeli delegation. Inbar holds a B.A. in Film and Television from Tel Aviv University. At Hillel, Inbar is excited to build meaningful personal connections with students, help them feel closer to Israel, foster pride in their Jewish identity, and create a welcoming space for conversations, learning, and community.

## UChicago Hillel is...

**"Where you find your people"**
Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould
Executive Director

**"A welcoming Jewish community"**
Jenn George
Associate Director

**"More than a building"**
Inbar Kedmi
Israel Fellow

**"Somewhere you can be yourself"**
Eva Rosenthal
Director of Engagement

**"The opportunity to grow"**
Myles Greenbaum
Manager of Development and Communication

## Upcoming Events

**9/22:** O Week Move-In Day Bagel Brunch &
Pre-Movie snacks on the Quad
**9/23:** Hillel Family Open House
**9/24:** Sukkah Decorating
**9/25:** Sukkot O Week Shabbat Dinner
**9/26:** Games in the Sukkah &
JLIC Dinner in the Sukkah

**9/27:** Hillel Lunch in the Sukkah
**9/28:** Welcome Back Falafel Fest
**9/29:** JLIC Welcome Back Event
**9/30:** Sushi in the Sukkah &
Shakshuka in the Sukkah
**10/1:** JLIC/Yavneh Hoshana Rabba Learning
**10/2:** Reform Kabbalat Shabbat Service + Dinner
**10/3:** Simchat Torah at UChicago Hillel

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**Join us 10/15 at 2:30pm CT for a Zoom conversation about Jewish life on UChicago campus with our new Executive Director, Dean of Students, and Dean of Students for the College**

REGISTRATION LINK

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## Family Weekend:

**Friday 10/16:** Egal and Yavneh Kabbalat Shabbat Services
&
UChicago Hillel Mega Shabbat Dinner
RSVP HERE for Dinner
**Saturday 10/17:** Egal and Yavneh Saturday Morning Services
&
Family Weekend Reception

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Sign up ***HERE*** to stay in contact with UChicago Hillel

**Click here to fuel Jewish life on campus!**

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