

## President



### **Hannah Solon**

Hello Columbia/Barnard Hillel! My name is Hannah Solon, I'm a junior in the Joint Program between JTS and GS (go Heifers!) studying History and Talmud, and I'm honored to be running for Hillel President!

Hillel has been #HereForMe since the first awkward Welcome Weekend brunch. Since then, Hillel has been my source of comfort, support, genuine relationships, fun and engaging programming, and great chills. Hillel already has a phenomenal infrastructure, and I'm committed to building upon it and ensuring that all students feel welcome within our incredibly diverse and vibrant community.

I've had the pleasure of serving this community in multiple official capacities:

- Welcome Weekend Leader
- Co-Coordinator for Women's Simchat Torah and Megillat Esther readings
- Board Member/Co-President of Wednesday Night Learning Program for 3 semesters
- VP of Education on Yavneh Board

From these positions, participating in countless Judaism and You Fellowships, and by just hanging out at the Kraft Center for an unreasonable amount of time, I've been blessed to be able to participate in and create spaces that are low-barrier, accessible, and encourage meaningful interactions. I'm dedicated to fostering and maintaining a Hillel environment in which every member of this community feels welcome, valued, and seen in every space and program. I promise to be a smiling face who not only knows your name, but also has a genuine relationship with you. To this end, I will:

#### **Actively Promote Intergroup Interactions**

As Co-President of WNLP, I spearheaded partnerships with over 10 different Hillel groups. I will work with the Treasurer to expand the Intergroup Fund and work closely with VP Groups and Group Leaders to support intentional intergroup programming and relationships. I will also better promote the Kraft Starter Fund to encourage anyone to create new groups and initiatives.

#### **Actively Pursue Pluralism**

Pluralism isn't just a buzzword; it's a commitment. Actively working to create spaces where a wide range of people hold various religious and political beliefs is undoubtedly hard work. AND this work is essential to ensure that Hillel is a place for every member of this community. This isn't just related to Kraft Shabbat Dinner, Mega Shabbat, or E-Board programming. It's an ideology, attitude, and culture.

#### **Make Myself Accessible**

We are here to serve you! I want to hear what you have to say, and just get to know each other better. Help feed my caffeine addiction by getting coffee with me, or come to E-Board office hours which will be scheduled and advertised once a month! If you can't make it, just find me hanging out on Kraft 3 any day.

#### **Cultivate Positive E-Board Culture and Strengthen Collaboration**

All successful programming requires aspects for which all members of E-Board are responsible. Programs must be planned, communicated, budgeted for, thought of through an engagement lens, and so much more. I will maintain great group cohesion and teamwork, and ensure that all E-Board programming runs smoothly and efficiently while also balancing the individuality of every member of E-Board's specific responsibilities, goals, and ideas.

I would love to hear from you! Email me at [hfs2136@columbia.edu](mailto:hfs2136@columbia.edu) or text (404)-825-5055 :)

## VP Programming



### **Abner Gordan**

Hi Hillel! You look so good today!

My name is Abner Gordan, I am a sophomore in the GS/JTS program studying Nonfiction Creative Writing and Hebrew Bible and I am ELATED to be running for Vice President of Programming

Before coming to Columbia I attended the University of Pittsburgh my freshman year. At Pitt one element I acutely felt was lacking was a strong Jewish life on campus. Coming to Columbia I was blown away by both the quality and quantity of Jewish student life. Hillel made my transition to a new campus nearly effortless and I have seen firsthand the amazing opportunities it provides. As VP Programming I hope to use my experience, qualifications, and ideas to continue to grow the amazing experiences and programs Hillel has to offer.

### **Past and Current Experiences:**

- At Pitt's Hillel, I served on the board of Challah For Hunger and worked to plan weekly events with a team of 6.
- Currently, I serve as the social chair for the 130th Columbia Varsity Show. Through this, I have learned the importance of follow-through and attention to detail guaranteeing the success of every event from start to finish.
- I was a division head at Camp Stone this past summer where I created educational and fun programming for an entire age group daily. I learned to respond to what both my staff and campers needed, altering plans and creating new ones as the summer went on.
- I work for The Marriage Pact, a matchmaking event that garnered the participation of over half of Columbia's student body. Across campuses, we have had 117,603 participants this year alone. Through this, I have learned to multi-task by working with many different schools and school representatives at any given time to ensure the success of over 80 Marriage Pact events this year.

### **A Few New Ideas:**

- **Student Master Classes:** At Columbia, we have the privilege of having an incredibly diverse, inspiring, and knowledgeable student body and I would love to create a space for students to share their experiences, skills, and expertise on a wide array of subjects.
- **Day Excursions:** From sports games to hikes I believe creating opportunities for students outside of Morningside Heights has the potential to provide unique and fun experiences accessible to all students at Hillel.
- **Cross-Hillel Programming:** I would love to collaborate with other Hillel's across NYC to be able to further Hillel's mission of connecting Jewish Students.
- **Hillel x Clubs:** To make Hillel more accessible for all students I would love to create programming with already established student organizations on campus. By partnering with orgs from cultural groups to dance troupes I would love to provide every student across different parts of campus with an opportunity to benefit from Hillel's programming.

If you want to chat, hit me up! My phone number is 610-716-7629 and my Instagram is @abner.gordan (feel free to like and comment while you're at it)

## VP Programming



### **Parker De Dekér**

Hello CB Hillel Community!

I'm so excited to be running as VP of Programming for the upcoming academic year, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to serve our campus' vibrant Jewish community. As your VPP, I'll use my energy, passion, and love for talking to facilitate programming which not only engage you, but support every student, regardless of background realize how to embrace their Jewish identity with meaningful discussions, community laughter, and purpose.

I'm a first year in CC studying Latin American & Caribbean Studies and Cognitive Science. I current serve on the Challah for Hunger Board and worked on this year's Chabad Purim Committee. Off-campus, I formerly interned for the World Jewish Congress as an advocacy researcher, I serve on the board of Yeshiva League Model Congress, and work as the Curriculum & Outreach Director at Citron—a speech & debate league which teaches students how to speak out against antisemitism and offers competitive opportunities that don't interfere with Shabbat & holidays.

Since Welcome Weekend, Hillel has provided countless opportunities, pushing me to explore my Judaism. Coming from a Sephardic & Mizrahi background, I struggled with how to grapple with differences between my Jewish identity and those around me; however, connecting with students with shared backgrounds through El Shabbat, CFH's Collaboration with Sephardi-Mizrahi/Jews of Color, or attending services across the spectrum in Yavneh, Koach, Keshet, and my Congregation Shearith Israel with fellow students has pushed me to embrace my diverse Jewish story and share my culture with others. As your VPP, I'll offer more opportunities for Jewish students to explore the question—what does your Jewish identity look like? I plan to achieve this through:

- Having a Jewish Ethnographic of the Month to offer opportunities to learn about this culture in the diaspora by:
  - Working in partnership with Shabbat Lab and the Religious Groups Shabbat Chairs to Pair the month's Group with a Shabbat Dinner in that month in which cuisine inspired by that culture
  - Having dedicated learning evenings where students can hear from students, staff, and public panelists about their experiences with that culture.
  - Coordinating with the VPE to provide opportunities for students to partake in the planning and execution each month's group.
- Going Beyond the Gates of campus to participate in Tikkun Olam, Jewish Community, and Leadership by:
  - Coordinating with the First-Year Leadership Fellowship to go into Jewish Day Schools in the city to give seminars on Jewish leadership and service to the next generation.
  - Building upon CFH's Partnership with Masbia to expand regular service opportunities for Students to volunteer throughout the city.
  - Working with the President and VPG to build existing relationships and expand new partnerships with Synagogues in New York to create a working list of service needs and Congregations for students to explore outside of those on Columbia/Barnard's Campuses.

To truly build a strong community, it requires every voice to be heard. Vote Parker for VPP, and I'll speak just as proudly for you as I do for me.

pad2173@columbia.edu or 920.268.3134

## Treasurer



### **Micah Feit Mann**

Hello everyone! My name is **Micah Feit Mann** and I'm a rising sophomore at Columbia College from Atlanta, GA. I'm thrilled to be running for **Treasurer** on your Hillel E-Board.

#### **Why E-Board?**

Growing up, I've moved around quite a bit. This gave me the opportunity to see what Jewish community can look like in all sizes and colors. The factor that directly determined the warmth of a community was the energy that its members fed into it. When I walked into the Kraft Center for the first time, I remember feeling the energy that E-Board breathed into this community, and I knew that I wanted to feed into it just the same.

Particularly at times like this, it is important to cling a little tighter to all those who want to engage with Judaism, whether that means studying in the Beit Midrash (house of study), joining a Hillel Fellowship, or even just chatting with those on floor two.

That's great, but **why treasurer?**

Treasurer helps facilitate some of the behind-the-scenes functioning of this community by distributing finances to Hillel groups, managing the Kraft starter/intergroup funds, and accounting for the E-Board budget. Treasurer is here to help support the initiatives that define this community. Contributing to a social event can be the stepping stone to a new friendship and a holiday related party can engage people to Kraft in ways they may not have connected before. Treasurer means to me fostering the warm community that I felt my first day entering the Kraft center.

Okay, but **why me?**

**Effective budget and communication experience:** I've been in a number of different positions where my skills of budget balancing and communication were put to the test. At my Jewish summer camp, for example, I worked as Director of Sports. The position required me, among other tasks, to purchase thousands of dollars of equipment, to directly manage a team of 17 staff members, and communicate with over 40 other directors around camp to make the daily schedule and meet their equipment needs.

**Approachability:** I pride myself on discussing with others what matters to them — what ways that we can support one another. A core part of that is my passion for helping others and making sure others feel heard and appreciated.

**Dedicated homey experience budget:** For Hillel to be a true home for Jewish life, there needs to be a specific budget for the simple things. A greater frequency and variety of snacks throughout the week (warm cookies, fruit, etc.) or a budget set aside for collective community designed art projects to become permanent fixtures of Kraft.

I love this community and I want to contribute to this home through my past experience, approachability, and new ideas.

Reach out to me on Facebook, Instagram ([micahfm27](#)), or email ([mom2124@columbia.edu](mailto:mom2124@columbia.edu))!

## **Communications**



### **Sarah Bearden**

Hi Columbia/Barnard Hillel! My name is Sarah Bearden, I am a junior in SEAS studying Computer Science and Political Science and am running to be your VP Communications on Hillel's Student Executive Board.

Communications is the center to all programming and engagement work that the Executive Board does at CBHillel. After all, if someone does not know about a program, how are they supposed to come? Because of this, I see Communications as a natural fit to continue the work I started as Vice President of Engagement this past year.

From casual conversations with anyone and everyone on Kraft 2 to coffee chats, I have loved getting to know and engage with the CBHillel community. This position has allowed me to help make Welcome Weekend, Community Action Week, and MEGA Shabbat the successes they were. I have also had the privilege of working in several other official capacities to make this community the welcoming place I know it to be as:

- Inaugural Student Team Kraft Shabbat member
- Board member of Keshet, the Reform minyan and community
- First-Year Leadership Fellowship coordinator

As I previously mentioned, I believe that communications is central to programming and engagement work. To that end, I will make the following commitments to you as VP Communications on E-Board to ensure a successful 2024-2025 academic year.

### **Expanding E-Board's Online Presence**

I believe that your Executive Board should be accessible to you. To that end, I will work with CBHillel professionals to expand E-Board's website ([linked here](#)) to include regular updates from each member so that you can see everything we are doing to help you!

### **Instagram (and Other Social Media) Presence**

Working alongside Isaac Ostrow (CBHillel's professional Instagram monitor), I will ensure that E-Board's social media presence mirrors the desires of the students! I also want to create E-Board specific social media to connect students with each other, as I see that as the ultimate goal of CBHillel.

I love this community and would be so honored to be your next VP Communications on Hillel's Executive Board. If you have any questions or want to get in touch about anything at all, please feel free to contact me at (518) 391-1745 or at [sarah.bearden@columbia.edu](mailto:sarah.bearden@columbia.edu).



## VP Groups



### **Rebecca Massel**

Hi! I am a rising junior in Columbia College, and your current Communications Chair. It would be an honor to serve as your **VP Groups!**

Hillel is my home on campus, and my best memories at Columbia have been while running events, “studying” on Kraft 2, or meeting new friends. **Jewish pride, joy, and love** has made the Hillel community so special to me.

#### ***Why Groups?***

This past year, our community grew to over 1,300 members. Our job this year was to make Hillel a comfortable home for everyone. Now more than ever, Hillel must be a home for every Jewish student. Next year, we need to strengthen **communities within and between groups** to encourage meaningful connections to Hillel - not because students feel they *have* to, but because they *want* to. There is a space for every Jewish student at Hillel - and if there's not, I will work with students to build one!

This past year, I have worked with group leaders and advisors to raise groups' visibility and name recognition by overhauling group logos and ensuring they are kept on flyers. I prioritized boosting groups' outreach by updating the website's [Student Groups page](#). Orli Cohen, our current VPG, worked to create a new Leadership Council program to support group leaders and provide them with the resources to build up their respective communities. I have had many discussions with Orli and want to building up and expand this amazing program!

#### ***Initiatives:***

- **Within-Group Communities**

- **Increased funding for coffee chats** for group leaders to meet with less-involved group members and encourage partnership with the **Engagement Team**.
- An **Activities Fair in January** allows students to connect to groups they may want to join.

- **Between-Group Communities:**

- When our diverse groups come together, it strengthens our Hillel. Let's foster that!
- **Inter-group programming** with Intergroup Funding, guidance for maintaining in good-standing as a group, and leadership programming for leaders to learn from one another and work together. ●

- **Supporting Group Leaders:**

- I am excited to work with our incredible leaders and group advisors, some of whom I have built connections with while serving as Communications Chair.
- A newly-expanded **Leadership Training Retreat** (a full-day off-campus program) through which leaders can gain the training and tools to help build up their groups, specifically focusing on making students feel welcomed and included.
- Regular **Jewish Leadership Dinners** for our group leaders to learn from and be part of topical discussions to inspire leaders' with their work.

#### ***Why me?***

- **Logistics & Connections:** VP Groups involves a lot of communication with groups and planning. I love organizing and spreadsheets and am excited to continue working with so many Hillel members. ● **I want to listen and learn:** I want to hear from Hillel leaders and members how best to work with them and their groups. I have already started meeting with some and hope to continue during my term.

***Please reach out with questions, suggestions, or to get coffee!***

**rsm2209@columbia.edu, Instagram: @reb.mass**

## VP Groups



### **Simone Miller**

Hi, Columbia/ Barnard Hillel! My name is Simone Miller, I'm a sophomore in CC studying Biology and English, and I'm so excited to be running for Vice President of Groups!

Hillel serves such an essential role on campus, and it has been a central part of the last two years of my college experience. I served this past year as **Vice President of Communications on Yavneh Board**; through this role, I got to see how Hillel groups plan programming, facilitate student outreach, and meet the needs of their members. This experience allowed me to understand the goals and expectations of Hillel groups, how they can effectively function, and how they fit under the broader Hillel umbrella. I would like to bring this understanding to E-board, helping all groups be as supported as possible, so that they can then each be effective in serving their members, specific goals, and the Columbia Jewish community!

My main goals as VPG would emphasize **connectivity** and **accessibility**, expanding collaboration between groups and making them more accessible to all Jewish students.

#### 1. Create a cross-groups network:

I would like to create a **slack for all Hillel groups' leaders** to join. Each Hillel group's board has such valuable leadership and experience, and we can only benefit from pooling our knowledge. Throughout this year, several Hillel groups asked me what platform Yavneh uses to send out our emails. I realized that we all have so much to gain from each other, and **expanding inter-group avenues of communication could help inspire ideas and collaboration.**

There could be specific channels for leaders of similar roles on their respective boards, such as communications, community service planning, social planning, etc. This way, leaders can share what strategies have worked for them, and we can **foster a more cohesive and collaborative Hillel leadership network.**

#### 2. Increase Hillel Groups' Publicity:

Navigating the many Hillel groups can be daunting and confusing, especially for incoming first years. It's hard to know what opportunities are out there, and it can be difficult to know where to ask. I would like to create a Hillel groups guide, with descriptions of each group. I would also like to **highlight a different Hillel group on the bulletin board on Kraft 2 as well as the Kraft screens each week**, allowing each group a chance to publicize themselves.

The beginning of first semester can get overwhelming, and I would like to implement a **second Hillel groups fair at the start of second semester.** This would give students another chance to explore Hillel groups after they have already somewhat adjusted to college.

#### 3. Expand Lessons in Leadership:

Lessons in Leadership is a great resource, and I would like to expand this tool and continue to utilize Hillel's resources and connections to provide valuable opportunities for student leaders. One idea involves bringing figures who have served in Hillel leadership roles to speak, offering advice from what they learned in their Hillel experience and to talk about where they are now!

## VP Engagement



### **Rebecca Chiet**

Hi Columbia/Barnard Hillel!

My name is Rebecca Chiet, I'm a junior in the Joint Program between JTS & GS studying Psychology and Bible. I'm so excited to be running for VP Engagement and work to make the Kraft Center an accessible, welcoming place for everyone in our diverse Jewish community.

Throughout my freshman year, I had many difficulties finding my footing in Columbia's Jewish life. Unlike many of my peers, I found that I didn't neatly fit in with the greater CB Hillel community and often felt alienated. I remember sharing my feelings of liminality with past Hillel staff member, Michaela Williams who continuously met with me, connected me with other Hillel students and staff, and helped me integrate into the larger Hillel community. Without her support, I wouldn't be here today and I'm eager to pay-forward the kindness I received and be a welcoming face for our community.

For the past three years, I have been involved in Hillel in a number of capacities, but have primarily focused on engaging Jews of Color. Whether it be through formal engagement in Hillel Engagement Fellow coffee chats or informally meeting with JoC's for study sessions and home-cooked meals, I have worked to engage others who similarly don't feel that they fit into the larger Hillel tapestry.

I'm eager to apply my past engagement experience on a macro-level through:

- Engagement Beyond Labels: I will work with current Engagement Fellows to add depth to our engagement strategy. Instead of engaging through simple labels, we should strive to engage through an individual's interests.
- Accessible Connections: Many of the events Hillel currently executes can easily be personalized to reach many specific audiences at Columbia. For example, we can engage members through small Shabbat meals to connect both under and upperclassmen with similar major, extracurricular interests, or even life experiences.
- Strong Spring Engagement: Why should those who missed out on far-reaching Fall semester engagement events such as Welcome Weekend and Hillel Groups Fair wait until the next academic year? Providing a large, creative engagement event in the Spring can welcome new members on a grand scale and help them form strong connections to CB Hillel.

As VPE, I hope to provide engagement opportunities that accommodate students' needs and interests. Ultimately, my goal is to make the Kraft Center an accessible, welcoming space no matter one's background. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns: [rc3435@columbia.edu](mailto:rc3435@columbia.edu).



## VP Engagement



### **Nora Samadi**

Hey everyone! I'm Nora Samadi, a junior at Barnard studying Neuroscience and Behavior, and I'm excited to be running for your next VP Engagement!

Growing up in a suburb without a strong Jewish community, I always searched for that connection. My journey to CB Hillel began before my freshman year at a pop-up in LA, where I met a student who immediately took me under her wing. During Welcome Weekend, she created space for me to explore what Hillel has to offer. I found a Shabbat dinner group, who became the people I looked forward to seeing every week in fellowships and made me feel at home.

Through Hillel's engagement efforts, I was inspired to take on leadership to explore my own Jewish identity while contributing to our community. From First Year Leadership Fellowship, to being a Welcome Weekend Leader and participating in fellowships such as Shabbat Lab, I have introduced others to parts of why I was drawn to Hillel in the first place. Furthermore, I have been lucky enough to explore facets of my own identity through engagement opportunities, such as promoting a Sephardi and Mizrahi community through events such as Sephardi Shabbat, participating in the Judaism and Medicine fellowship, and being a Greek Fellow for Sigma Delta Tau.

As VP Engagement, my vision is to celebrate our community's diverse connections to our shared Jewish identity and ensure that every Jewish student on campus has a place and voice at CB Hillel. It is my priority to embody the connection and support for others that Hillel has given me and will continue to foster an approachable, inclusive, and uplifting environment. I hope to utilize our greatest resources - each other - to build connections among ourselves and develop strong relationships. I plan to engage students with more personal outreach opportunities between peers by utilizing our Engagement fellows more, planning a Bring-a-Buddy-Shabbat, and reinforcing the Big-Little program to make larger groups and events, such as Mega Shabbat, Superbowl Party, Career Fairs, and fellowships, more accessible.

Through my three years of experience on SDT's executive board, I have developed skills in outreach, collaboration, planning events, and fostering relationships. Moving forward, I plan to collaborate with the VP Programming and VP Groups to strengthen community, with fun programming and access to group resources, to ensure that all students can find their place here at Hillel. I hope to highlight the true diversity of thought and background that exists within our student body, by engaging with students to support them in bringing forth their initiatives.

Now, more than ever, engagement is crucial to our community to ensure students feel heard and supported. It is my goal for students to know there is no specific way to be involved in CB Hillel - from cultural identities to Jewish interests, or being another friendly face on Kraft 2 - just be yourself. If you have any questions about me or my platform, please feel free to reach out!

[ns3585@barnard.edu](mailto:ns3585@barnard.edu)