

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE NAMES HILLEL  
'OUTSTANDING LARGE STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR'  
Award Cites Hillel's Service and Leadership to the University**

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ – Rutgers University Student Life presented its prestigious “Outstanding Large Student Organization Award” to Rutgers Hillel at the recent Annual Student Life “Scarlets” Award Ceremony.

Every year, Rutgers Student Life hosts an awards program to recognize student organizations and individuals who have shown “an immense amount of dedication of service and leadership to the university and community.” Outstanding students, student organizations and faculty/staff members are nominated for awards in campus programming, individual excellence and organizational achievement. The awards reception and ceremony was attended by nominees, faculty and staff.



“Receiving this coveted award from the Student Life Organization is one of the crowning achievements of Rutgers Hillel,” said Hillel Executive Director Andrew Getraer. “It rewards the success of our commitment to mission and recognizes that the dedicated work of both our students and professional staff benefits not only Jewish students, but the campus community as a whole. We are deeply honored and thank outgoing Hillel Student Board President Seth Deneroff for nominating Hillel in this year’s competition.”

The text of Deneroff’s nomination letter follows (he is a resident of Oakhurst):

“Rutgers Hillel is the perfect organization to win the Outstanding Student Organization of the Year Award. Rutgers Hillel’s mission is to provide opportunities for every Jewish student at Rutgers University’s New Brunswick campus to deep their connection to Jewish identity and Jewish community.

“We at Hillel reach out to the university community in many different ways. We have on-going community service programs like delivering soup to hospice patients and visiting sick children in the hospital. We reach out to the community throughout New Jersey by bringing together those who share our feelings about Israel. In addition, we provide a wide variety of religious and cultural programming that is respectful of the diversity of the Rutgers Jewish student community.

“Describing the wide range of programming offered by Hillel in a few short sentences is virtually impossible. We run prayer services, holiday programming, educational programming and programs every week on the Sabbath, to name a few. This semester we partnered with various non-Jewish religious organizations for a *Triologue* to create a sense of religious community and understanding between various faiths.

“What makes Hillel most unique is our pluralistic nature. Most Jewish organizations tend to focus on their own belief set. There are plenty of Jewish organizations that focus this specific way and are very important to the greater Jewish community. Hillel, however, focuses on bringing people together. We don’t say Hillel is a place only for Orthodox,

Conservative, Reform or Jewish students. Hillel is open to all students – including those who aren't Jewish.

“We are committed to be a place for anyone and everyone to celebrate their Jewish heritage, culture, religion and participate in building our Jewish identity. No other organization on a college campus can accommodate and celebrate such a wide diversity of views as does Hillel.

“Rutgers Hillel has served our University for many years. Throughout this period we have been the de facto center of Jewish life here. Our longevity; the consistent excellence of the programs we run; the diversity of beliefs we accommodate; and the presence that our name holds on campus, despite not having a permanent home, places Hillel on a pedestal to be recognized as ‘the epitome of organizational accomplishment’ at Rutgers University.”  
Rutgers Hillel is currently conducting a capital fundraising campaign to build a permanent home on College Avenue to be called the Eva and Arie Halpern Hillel House. The 34,000 square foot building will provide expansive space for religious services, educational programming, social and cultural activities, a kosher kitchen and dining room and an outdoor café.

Rutgers Hillel is a proud beneficiary of the Jewish Federations of Atlantic/Cape May; Clifton-Passaic; Cumberland County; Greater MetroWest; the Heart of New Jersey Northern New Jersey; Ocean County; Princeton Mercer Bucks; Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren; Southern New Jersey; and the support of The State Association of Jewish Federations.