

FROM THE RABBI

# Jewish life at UMass has grown and transformed over the decades!

Hi Everyone!

I am so happy to see this first newsletter come to fruition. Jewish alumni are at the heart of the extended UMass Hillel community, and we are excited to launch this newsletter as a way for alumni of all generations to stay connected to one another, and to Hillel.

Jewish life at UMass has grown and transformed over the decades, as UMass itself has. We have a rich history at UMass – from the “Menorah Club” in the 1930s which became associated with Hillel in 1942, to the days of Rabbi Perlmutter’s office in the campus center, to the transformation of a notorious frat house into the Harold Grinspoon Hillel House in 1990, to our multi-faceted vibrant Jewish community of today that engages over 1,200 students annually.



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For nearly 80 years, Jewish community at UMass has empowered students to explore and express their roots, supported them with caring community, and contributed value to the campus at large. We have built on this foundation in recent years, setting course on a 5-year strategic plan to creatively expand our impact in the years ahead. And in 2020, we have adapted our focus to meet the unique student needs in this year of pandemic.

It has been a pleasure to get to know so many of you and hear about your own time at UMass. If we haven’t had a chance to connect, I’d welcome the opportunity. Please reach out anytime at [aaronfine@umass.edu](mailto:aaronfine@umass.edu).

L’shalom,  
Rabbi Aaron Fine

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