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Media Contact:

Lauren Bandari, SLO Hillel

lauren.bandari@slohillel.org

805-295-0890

Experience the 12th Annual Israel Week at Cal Poly Sunday, May 12 - May 19, 2024

A week long opportunity to connect to, understand, and learn about Israeli culture, Jewish peoplehood and the holidays celebrated in Jewish Heritage Month

San Luis Obispo – [San Luis Obispo Hillel](#) is hosting the 12th annual Israel Week at California State Polytechnic University from May 12th to 19th, in conjunction with Jewish Heritage Month and holidays celebrated at this time. For the last 12 years, SLO Hillel has partnered with fellow Jewish organizations to host a series of events to observe Israel's Memorial Day and Independence Day and to promote education, awareness and understanding of connection to the state of Israel.

Certainly this year's Israel week comes at a heightened moment for campuses across the United States and for Jews throughout the world. We encourage the public and campus community to experience the events we have planned for Israel Week, ask questions about Israel and its history, and help us create spaces for dialogue and understanding.

The Israeli national holidays of *Yom HaShoah*, *Yom HaZikaron*, and *Yom HaAtzmaut* all fall in May, the United States' Jewish American Heritage Month. *Yom HaShoah*, Holocaust Remembrance Day, commemorates those murdered in the Holocaust and those killed resisting it during World War II. The modern state of Israel was created just years after the war as Jews fled the tyranny of Nazi Europe during the 1930s and '40s. It is important to understand how the Jewish people have survived beyond such atrocity. It is in that spirit that *Yom HaZikaron*, Israel's Memorial Day, and *Yom HaAtzmaut*, Israel's Independence Day, are commemorated. This year in addition to remembering fallen servicepeople, we will honor the victims of October 7th, the hostages who remain in Gaza, and demonstrate our yearning and prayers for peace and shalom.

Israel Week Happenings:

Starting on Sunday, May 12, students and community are invited to join us in Painting the "P" above Cal Poly. We will paint the "P" in the Jewish blue and white colors of our prayer shawls and Israeli flag, and we will paint a yellow ribbon in honor of the 133 hostages still being held in captivity.

Later that evening on May 12th at 7pm in the Chumash Auditorium, students and the community are invited to join us in our annual Yom HaZikaron Service. We will be lighting memorial candles for fallen service members and the over 1200 civilian victims of October 7th.

On Monday, May 13th, we will hear from visiting Israeli professor, Sagit Yemini on, "Being a Student in Israel: Insights & Facts" at 7pm in Building 192, Room 221. Professor Yemini will share the experience of higher education in Israel.

Then for the 12th consecutive year, join us on Dexter Lawn on Tuesday, May 14th for our Israeli Shuk (Marketplace). The shuk includes Judaica jewelry, food, stickers, Hebrew condoms, Gumi, Israeli snacks, Limonana, chocolat, cotton candy, and fun swag. We will also have up a mock Kotel (Western Wall) in which to insert your private prayer, a Henna table, tables from Stand With Us, Camera, Zionist Organization of America, and Mustangs United for Israel, a table in honor of the hostages being held in captivity, a trivia wheel with facts about Israel and a chance to ask your questions about Israel, and an interactive art experience to marble a piece of fabric with the Hebrew words of peace and love that will be sewn into a community prayer shawl.

On Wednesday, May 15, we continue with an evening of Israeli Dancing at the University Union, room 220, followed by an Israeli Beach Day on May 16 at 11am at the Rec's beach volleyball courts. On Friday, May 17, SLO Hillel and Chabad of SLO/Cal Poly co-host our annual Israeli Shabbat in the University Union, Room 220.

Israel Week culminates in Jew-Prom at the Wayfarer Hotel on Saturday, May 18 at 7:30pm. The theme is in honor of the Nova Festival victims and survivors, as we proclaim "We Will Dance Again." Then, on Sunday, May 19, students are invited together for a facilitated lunch discussion to process the week's events and connection to the state of Israel and Zionism. This last session requires an RSVP that can be found on the SLO Hillel linktree (linktr.ee/slohillel)

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More about SLO Hillel

San Luis Obispo Hillel is a centerpoint of Jewish life at Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo Community. We provide a welcoming and supportive environment, so students can be proud of and engaged with their Judaism. We raise awareness on campus of the significance of our Jewish heritage, values, and the state of Israel. Through Shabbat dinners, career-based and community-service programs, social and cultural events, and religious gatherings, SLO Hillel brings Jewish students and the community together to enrich lives.

SLO Hillel staff includes its Executive Director, Lauren Bandari, and its Jewish Agency Israel Fellow, Lidar Eini. SLO Hillel is also an official faith-based and cultural Registered Student Organization at Cal Poly, run by its 26-person student board. SLO Hillel programs are open to the university community, area community colleges, and to the public at large.