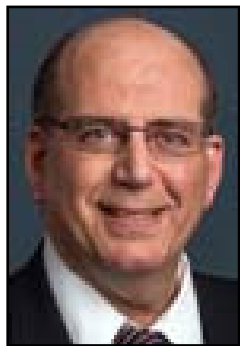


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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## **UConn Hillel Names Development Director**



STORRS – UConn Hillel, the center for Jewish life on the Storrs campus of Connecticut’s flagship university, the University of Connecticut, announced recently it was filling the Development Director post with long-time Jewish communal professional, Mark Block, of Trumbull, CT. UConn Hillel is committed to providing unique and meaningful opportunities for almost 2,000 Jewish college students, as well as for the greater community.

“I am excited to take on the role of development director at UConn Hillel where I’ve begun working with an extremely dedicated group of volunteers, professionals and students to advance the Hillel mission. Though our students are now at home and we are working remotely, as a team we’ll work to creatively grow Hillel financially in ways that will ensure when our students return to campus that for years to come they will have a safe space to gather and socialize, explore their Judaism and create lasting memories and friendships,” said Block.

In his new role, Block will be responsible for individual contributions, foundation and corporate grants, including those from the University Foundation and outside sources.

“Mark has the background, expertise and most importantly passion for the UConn Hillel. As a parent of a UConn graduate, he has seen first-hand how Hillel can be that home away from home for Jewish students at UConn and ultimately influence their career decisions. We are always looking to expand our offerings to UConn students and young alumni and with Mark’s arrival, we are certain to achieve that goal,” said Henry Mondschein, Board Chair.

Block has accumulated more than thirty years of professional and volunteer experience in Jewish communal affairs; in executive leadership positions, marketing communications and development.

Before joining UConn Hillel, he served over a decade with distinction and professional skill as the executive director of Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Bridgeport, where he was honored with the congregation’s highest accolade, the Shem Tov (Good Name) Award and most recently the

Distinguished Alumnus Award. Additionally, Block serves on the Board of Governors of the North American Association of Synagogue Executives (NAASE), is a Fellow in Synagogue Administration and a certified fundraising professional through the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP).

Prior to his synagogue career, Block worked for nearly twenty years in Marketing Communications for Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) and was honored with numerous Community Service Awards, Corporate Chairman's Awards and Marketing Communications recognitions. He is most proud of his work spearheading the company's National Environmental Achievement Award entry where (UCC) was recognized for presenting the first eco-friendly, recyclable binder for corporate, campus and personal use.

Block lives in Trumbull, CT with his wife, Ann. His daughter, Emily is the Associate Director of Jewish Student Life of Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. She is a former assistant director of UConn Hillel and UConn graduate.

Hillel is one of the most well-known student organizations on the UConn campus and is not just confined to its building, the Trachten-Zachs Hillel House. It is an organization of and for students who create community wherever they go on campus. The Hillel experience can be found actively on campus with events in the Student Union and on Fairfield Way, with friends in the dining halls, dorms and on Birthright, on coffee dates with staff, and globally with a widespread network of alumni. Any student may participate in Hillel – no membership is required.

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