

## Artful Charity

Recent visitors to Maryland Hillel may have noticed a beautiful large *tzedakah* box installed in the Hillel building. This piece was graciously donated by Jody Rosenberg and her family "in honor of the Students and Staff whose Jewish values and beliefs sustain Hillel's teachings of *Tzedakah* and *Tikkun Olam*." The ornate work is also inscribed with the words of the late Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."



A *tzedakah* box by acclaimed artist Gary Rosenthal, generously donated to Maryland Hillel by the Rosenberg family.

This fantastic gift to Maryland Hillel is the work of acclaimed Washington artist Gary Rosenthal and forms part of an initiative that he created to promote *tzedakah* on campuses around the country. In particular, the initiative encourages our staff, students, parents, and community members to think philanthropically about Hillel.

In addition to the large *tzedakah* box, Gary has designed a series of replicas that are available for sale (please see the order form in this mailing). While he was certainly the artistic talent behind the work, he had significant help. Gary held a glass-making workshop for our freshman class. Together, they produced the glass that adorns the front of each *tzedakah* box.

It is hoped that members of the Maryland Hillel community will purchase these *tzedakah* boxes, proceeds of which benefit Jewish life at the University of Maryland, and that they will use them to collect money for Maryland Hillel.



Artist Gary Rosenthal working with the freshman class during a glass-making workshop.

Elan Burman, Maryland Hillel's Development Director, said that he was truly excited by the initiative because of the beauty of the pieces and, more importantly, as it has the potential to stimulate charitable support for Maryland Hillel, an organization reliant on donations for a large portion of its annual budget.

Burman said, "We at Maryland Hillel are fortunate to be part of an incredibly generous community. Our students work tirelessly to raise funds for charities in the U.S.A., Israel, and beyond. They volunteer their time on alternative breaks and weekly service projects. This is all incredibly important and is reflective of our values as Jews and as global citizens. But, it is also imperative to support the organization that sustains so much of this broader charitable work- Maryland Hillel. Charity begins at home and Maryland Hillel is a home to many students."

Money raised via the *tzedakah* box project will be used to fund Maryland Hillel's expanding social justice program, a series of initiatives into which Maryland Hillel's staff and students are putting immense energy. Commenting on Maryland Hillel's focus on *tzedek*, Ari Israel said, "Hillel is an organization dedicated to serving Jews from all backgrounds and identities. There are a host of needs and interests specific to these various populations. However, in social justice we have a cause and a value that transcends difference and to which we all can and should commit. I am delighted that this project with Gary Rosenthal will benefit our program in this way."

Maryland Hillel is truly thankful to the Rosenberg family and to Gary Rosenthal for making this project possible. We hope that you will choose to proudly display a Gary Rosenthal & Maryland Hillel *tzedakah* box in your home and collect money to support Hillel's efforts to address social injustices, while simultaneously strengthening each student's Jewish identity.

For online *tzedakah* box orders visit  
[www.marylandhillel.org/tzedakahbox](http://www.marylandhillel.org/tzedakahbox)