



## Hillel Objectives

The Hillel Foundations are sponsored by B'nai B'rith, America's oldest and largest service organization, to bring a more adequate knowledge of their heritage to the Jewish students on the University campus. The units are supervised by trained professional directors who cooperate with representative student leaders in the task of making Jewish religious and cultural values vital and relevant for the college generation. The task is pressing and crucial, for most students go through a fundamental transformation during their college days. Often transplanted to a new environment, their minds and bodies exposed to complex intellectual and moral challenges, they require expert guidance to steer them safely through their Sturm und Drang period.

HILLEL FOUNDATIONS

University of Alabama

Boston University

Brooklyn College

University of

California University of

California (L. A.)
University of Chicago

College of City of New York (Downtown)

College of City of New York (Uptown)

University of Connecticut

Cornell University

University of Florida

Florida State College for Women

University of Georgia

Hunter College

University of Illinois

Indiana University

State University of Iowa

Los Angeles City College

University of Maine

University of Manitoba

University of Maryland

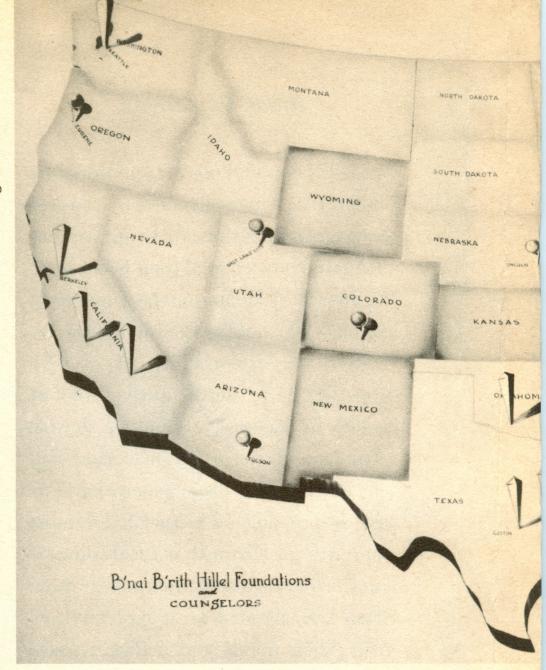
Massachusetts State College

McGill University

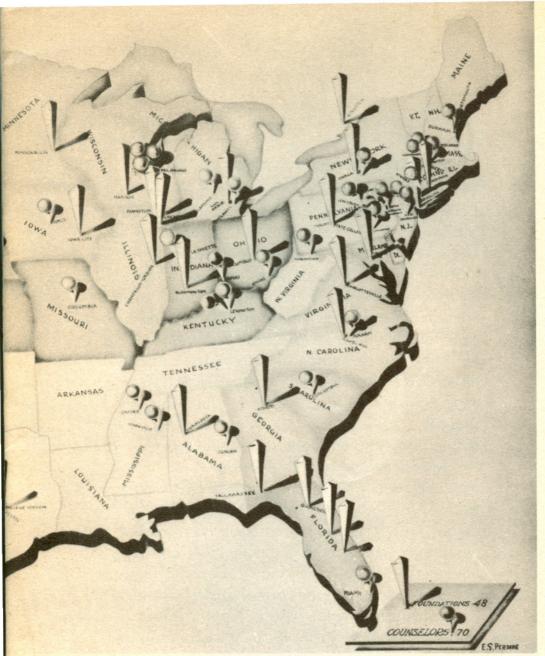
University of Miami (Florida)

University of Michigan

University of Minnesota



HIS fall inaugurates the twenty-second year of service by the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations. A whole generation has been spanned in the years since that historic summer of 1923 when the first steps were taken to bring a Hillel unit to the University of Illinois. In this generation, during which student life has changed basically in temperament, in objectives, and in techniques, Hillel has steadily expanded until today 118 colleges and universities have been brought within its



B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations now reach into every part of the United States and Canada.

orbit. We are about to inaugurate our first Latin-America unit at the University of Havana. In addition, with thousands of trainees on the American campus, Hillel has added a vast military program to its normal activities. Today the Hillel Foundation is nationally recognized as the best equipped, by experiences and resources, to carry the responsibility for Jewish student service, and most of the other groups who have been experimenting in the field have withdrawn.

HILLEL FOUNDATIONS

University of North Carolina

Northwestern University

Ohio State University

University of Oklahoma

University of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania State College

Purdue University

Queen's University (Canada)

Queens College (New York)

Rutgers University

Smith College

University of Southern California

Temple University

University of Texas

Texas A & M College

Tufts College

University of Vermont

University of Virginia

University of Washington

West Virginia University

University of Wisconsin

Yale University

B'nai B'rith maintains Counselorships at 76 Colleges and Universities.



## Original Aim Stands

Despite the tremendous organic growth of the Foundations, there has been no deviation from the original purpose. At the very beginning, it was recognized that the college group is a superb quarry for leadership. These young people, prosecuting their studies away from home and from home influences, their ideas and ideals in the process of jelling, must have some contact, on a dignified plane, with the survival values of Jewish life. The Hillel Foundation attempts to serve as the liaison between the Jewish student body and this historic Jewish tradition. Hence it establishes on each campus a trained professional director who cooperates with representative student leaders in the task of making Jewish religious and cultural values vital and relevant for the college generation. The attempt is made to bring to the students Jewish knowledge, to teach them Jewish institutional responsibility, to make them function better as the dignified heirs of a great tradition in the midst of their non-Jewish neighbors, and to provide them with the enthusiasm and the consecration which will make them, despite misfortune or misunderstanding, loyal to the Jewish community.

The late Rabbi Benjamin Frankel, founder of the Hillel program.

Professor Edward
Chauncey Baldwin
and Isaac Kuhn,
pioneers in founding
Hillel, confer with
Dr. A. L. Sachar,
National Hillel
Director.

## Techniques Vary

The various Hillel units are of course not uniform in the techniques that they utilize to accomplish these purposes. They fit into the tradition of the college and adapt themselves fully to the patterns of campus life. Hillel is therefore one thing at endowed Cornell University and Smith College, quite another thing at tax supported Illinois, Michigan, and California, still another thing at quiet, well-nigh marooned Pennsylvania State College, and a totally different thing at huge, bustling, metropolitan Brooklyn College. Yet everywhere the task is similar—to guide the mind and the spirit of the Jewish student through the complex contemporary intellectual and moral challenges.

### Frankel, Baldwin and Kuhn

The names of two men, one a noble Christian, the other a consecrated young rabbi, are bound up with the early history of Hillel. Dr. Edward Chauncey Baldwin was professor of Biblical Literature at the University of Illinois from 1905 until his death in 1940. Though a loyal member of the Pilgrim Foundation, he was deeply concerned because his Jewish students seemed to know so little about the Bible which their own people had created. For years he pleaded with rabbinical and lay leaders in Illinois to be less concerned with the problems of anti-Semitism and discrimination, and to turn to the ultimately more serious problem of the weakening in the loyalty of a whole generation of young people who were moving out of Jewish life in a terrifying hemorrhage.



In 1921, Benjamin Frankel, a young student from the Hebrew Union College, began to visit the Champaign-Urbana community, his bi-weekly congregational assignment. Here he saw at first hand the aimlessness and the lack of leadership of the growing student body. He heard the pleas of Dr. Baldwin and a number of far-sighted Jewish townspeople who were groping for some technique to bring the students closer to Jewish life. Upon his ordination as Rabbi, in 1923, young Frankel determined to accept the little student community as his rabbinical charge even though there was no assurance of financial support. He was encouraged by Isaac Kuhn, Champaign's leading citizen, whose concern for the Jewish students antedated even the arrival of Dr. Baldwin on the campus faculty. Indeed, it was Isaac Kuhn who first awakened Dr. Baldwin's interest in the Jewish students.

## B'nai B'rith Steps In

The first year of the new Hillel Foundation was a harried one; the funds for salary, administration, rent, and maintenance had to be won by convincing individuals that here was a practical and useful service. Dr. Louis Mann, of Sinai Temple in Chicago, was of greatest help here in persuading some of his friends, notably Julius Rosenwald, that the Foundation was an experiment which might well solve a growing Jewish problem. After a year of pioneering at Illinois with a totally new student technique, Rabbi Frankel succeeded in convincing B'nai B'rith that, in its widening program of service to the Jewish community, the sponsorship of the Foundations had a natural place. From then on, with finances on a comparatively secure and responsible basis, the expansion of Hillel was assured.

Those who launched the Foundation program at Illinois realized the enormous importance of linking it with a name that would symbolize the best traditions in Jewish life. They at once concluded that no name would carry greater significance than that of Hillel, the gentle sage of the first century B.C.E., who was one of the outstanding scholars and teachers in Jewish history. His patience and modesty, his devotion to Jewish tradition, above all his passionate love of Jewish learning, marked him indisputably as the ideal symbol of the Jewish spirit. The name of Hillel is now part of the American university tradition, and on nearly 120 campuses, in association with the names of Wesley and Newman, it helps to integrate the spiritual values of the historic religions with the life of the university.

Hillel & Scribe



Henry Monsky, President of B'nai B'rith and chairman of the National Hillel Commission.

LNEWS

HILLEL VOICE

Hillel House Becomes a Reality

Hillel Highlights CHANUKAH SERVICE CONCLUDES TERM

> Alfred M. Cohen, President of B'nai B'rith during pioneering years of Hillel.

Hillel News

MILLEL POST

Building Fund Nears Goal

Hillel Burns New Foundation Mortgage



## Does Not Segregate

When a Hillel unit is projected there is sometimes criticism, from students who do not fully understand the Hillel program, that it may segregate the Jewish student by drawing him away from general university activity. If a Foundation were a separatist agency, all of the good that it accomplished in other directions would be vitiated. But, of course, a Foundation neither separates nor segregates. It is not meant as a *substitute* for university life or for extra-curricular activity. It is planned as a *supplement*. It operates on the principle that the patterns of Jewish life are important in the composite of western civilization, and that the university is enriched when it supplements the resources of the campus with the best in the Jewish tradition. Far from separating the Jew from the rest of the student body, the Foundation adds to his dignity on the campus. For it becomes the authorized spokesman for the Jewish tradition and is better able to interpret it than individual students who have neither the background nor the maturity.

The proof of the soundness of the Hillel technique comes from the fact that wherever Foundations have been established there has been added respect for Jewish life and more adequate understanding of Jewish traditions. On many campuses, before the advent of Hillel, Jewish fraternities and sororities were not part of the inter-fraternity council or of the Pan-Hellenic leagues. Hillel has usually arranged for the admission of the Jewish groups into the general university organizations. It has helped to clear the problems of observant students who have wished to maintain their religious traditions while away from home. It has placed in proper perspective the statements of unrepresentative Jewish students who, if there were no authoritative spokesman on the campus, might well be regarded as an authentic Jewish voice.

## Tributes from Presidents

But perhaps the clearest proof of the compatibility of the Hillel technique with the American university tradition comes in the tributes from the outstanding university presidents and administrative officers. For a Hillel unit is never established on a campus until the university administration has been informed of the Hillel program and has been given an opportunity to offer its reaction. In every instance there has been hearty endorsement, and very warm commendations have come in from every campus where Hillel functions. The statements from scores of university presidents, provosts and deans comprise a significant symposium, representing the voice of higher education on the effectiveness and the value of the Foundations.

HERBERT O'CONOR Covernor

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Annapolis, Maryland

October 16, 1941

To my sincere regret, I find that a previous speaking engagement makes it impossible for me to be present at the dedication of the new headquarters of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at the University of Maryland on Sunday afternoon, October 26, 1941.

I have followed with keen interest the work of the Various denominational agencies on American campuses. Tax supported institutions cannot, of course, make the stimulation of religious loyalty an integral part of the curriculum. Yet education cannot be divorced from the motivations of religion without producing a generation devoid of faith in spiritual values.

This is why I welcome the Poundation program. It is not an official part of the University, and yet it is not apart from the University. It has been created for students to deepen their religious loyalty in a time when cynicism and materialism are the twin enemies of all spirituality. We need concentration not only upon the courses which are offered by the Universities; we must also emphasize humane values.

I am especially glad to have the opportunity to greet the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at the University of Maryland. I can well see how the Foundation, in collaboration with the fine Christian agencies on the campus, can emphasize the common denominators in our religious heritage. If we would all think more often of the things that we have in common instead of exercising so much concern for the things that divide us, a large part of the travail which now harries our world could be eliminated.

With best wishes for the success of the Foundation and with kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours.

Miami University Oxford, Ohio

January 31, 1941

Rabbi Earry Kaplan B'nai B'rith Hillel Youndation A6 Sixteenth Avenue Columbus, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Kaplan:

I am greatly interested in your letter of January 29 the indicating the strong probability that a commealor under the lilled remarks to Mismi University in the milling the strong probability to Mismi University in the result of the strong probability and the strong probability of the strong probability very near future.

wery near future.

Without hesitation I can assure you that such a service will be vermly velocomed by the saministration and entirely in the faculty of the vermly velocomed by the saministration and entirely in the state of the university. If is entirely in as well as the students of the university, lightcut as command in the value of the spiritual life of in the value of the point of the provide personal care and guidance to the opinional life of the provide personal care have been fail of the informal visits of provide personal care have been send of the nich and to the computer their provides of the same additional opportunities for and we have been eager to may be favored with a more system. If we must be favored with a more system them to visit us. If we must be favored with a more system of attention through the Hillel Foundation, we shall count ourselves particularly fortunate.

While I was not aware of the preliminary conferences here on our compute which have led up to this step, you may be sure that the entire administration stands ready to cooperate in every vey in what you are undertaking to do.

I have also received a letter from Dr. Abrem L. Sachar and am writing him to express our willingness and spirit of cooperation.

(signed) A. H. Upham

President

President O'Conor finds Hillel a university asset

October 12th, 1944.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

Dear Mr. Sacher,

the Students' Executive Council of the resolution to approve the establishment of the Hills Boundation on the McGill University of the Hills Boundation on the McGill University of the Hills Boundation to inform the theorem of the Hills Boundation maeting yesterday, when the Foar of orsumors at like expressed itself as highly enthusiastic about this decision, best wishes for the success of the enterprise.

always, I remain, With renewed good wishes to you as

Cordially yours,

er, A. L. Sacher,
B. nad B'rith Hille! Foundations,
605 East Green Street,
Champaign, Illinois.

Principal James of McGill University, Canada, greets Hillel.

President A. H. Upham offers his cooperation.

## Directors Usually Rabbis

The Hillel directors and counselors are in almost all instances rabbis and they are chosen from among all Jewish denominational groups. The great majority come from the Hebrew Union College, the Jewish Institute of Religion, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Yeshivah, and the Chicago Hebrew Theological Seminary. The others are either well-qualified laymen whose specialization has been in the field of Semitics or else they are products of European seminaries.



Trainees like to drop in for informal chats with Hillel heads.

Those who undertake Hillel service understand that they are not to be missionaries for their particular religious point of view. In their private lives they may be orthodox, conservative, or liberal. But, as Hillel representatives, they are stationed on the campus to stimulate an interest in every wholesome expression of Jewish life and they are expected to cooperate with every student group. The Hillel men are a splendidly equipped young group, yet eager in their desire to grow. Since they are stationed on a university campus, many of them continue as research students to contribute to Jewish scholarship.

## Religious Observances

The main justification for the large investment in Hillel units comes from its diverse and well-integrated cultural and religious program. There are regular services on every Hillel campus. Most directors have worked out patterns which preserve the basic traditions but which are adapted so as to serve all groups. Student participation, group singing, aesthetic symbolism, and a host of other supplementary features, are added to enrich the service.



Students and servicemen at a Friday night Hillel service in the Illinois chapel.

Every Foundation sponsors a Seder, with artistic exposition of the symbolism for those students who are unable to return to their homes. Special meals are usually served all through the week in the Foundation premises for students who wish to maintain the strict Passover diet. In several instances refugee couples have been employed to take charge of the meals. Purim usually brings carnivals with the Purim motivation worked into the entertainment. Student committees have been thrilled with the opportunity to express artistic originality in the erection of Hillel Succahs.





Passover observance at Smith College.

Kindling of Sabbath lights.

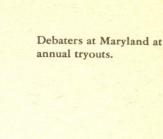


A typical Hillel Seder at Downtown City College in New York.



Girls at Florida State College for Women build their own Succoh.





Every Hillel sponsors classes and discussion groups on Jewish history and literature, ethics, contemporary Jewish problems, book reviews of Jewish interest, social institutions, the Bible, Jewish philosophy, and a host of related subjects. On nearly every Hillel campus there are classes in Hebrew, both elementary and advanced. Often there are little nuclei of students who have been reared in Palestine or who have received a superb background in their home communities. They continue their interest in the Hebrew language and literature by organizing Hebrew speaking groups. At Illinois, Brooklyn, Wisconsin, and many

Discussion Groups

Registration in classes and discussion groups depends largely upon the size of the student body, the attractiveness of the courses, and upon the ability of the director to win over students who are busy with university assignments and a variety of extra-curricular activities. To supplement the Foundation cultural program the director often visits the organized houses for "bull sessions" there.



other campuses, there are special classes in Talmud.

## Leadership Courses

Several Hillel units have introduced highly specialized honors courses for unusually gifted young people who are apparently destined for leadership. The Director chooses a small group of students for intimate personal association. He guides their reading in the Jewish field and they report back to him at regular intervals in personal conferences. This is an adaptation of the famous Cambridge and Oxford tutorial system. It cannot be employed on any mass scale. But as the training is applied to specially chosen young people of superior intelligence and personality it is likely to have an enduring effect upon them and upon their communities. The honors course corrals for Jewish interest the best brains among the Jewish students. It salvages a good part of their energy for Jewish life. Too many, unguided, give themselves to every cause, except that of their own people. The personal association enables the director to open his own intellectual and spiritual resources to the student and usually evokes from the student the best of his own talents. Most of the students ultimately go into careers in the law, or engineering, or commerce or chemistry, but the precious hours of personal association with the director make them very valuable Jewish laymen. Social service activities have, in the past years, included cooperation in welfare drives, loans to needy students, programs conducted by the students for institutionalized unfortunates, Braille, the Hillel wardrobe, etc. The training such projects offer to students who come mainly from fairly secure homes is invaluable in deepening and broadening their social vision.

A "bull session" led by the Hillel Director.



An exam in one of Illinois' Hillel credit courses.



#### Lecture Forums

Most of the Foundations also sponsor lecture courses and forums. These bring to the campus outstanding personalities who discuss both Jewish and general themes. Often a nationally known speaker of unusual eloquence makes an enduring impression upon students who are brought to see values in their heritage which they had never appreciated. On many campuses the Hillel Open Forum is an important civic contribution since large numbers of non-Jews subscribe to the course. Through this vehicle Hillel cooperates in stimulating the cultural life of the campus.

The most gratifying feature of the Hillel cultural program is the opportunity, on several campuses, to offer courses in religious education for university credit. At Illinois, for example, three courses are offered each semester which are accepted for undergraduate credit by the university. Since hundreds of students register in these courses each year, the Illinois Hillel sponsors the largest program of religious education in the United States!



Entertaining a Hillel Forum attraction.



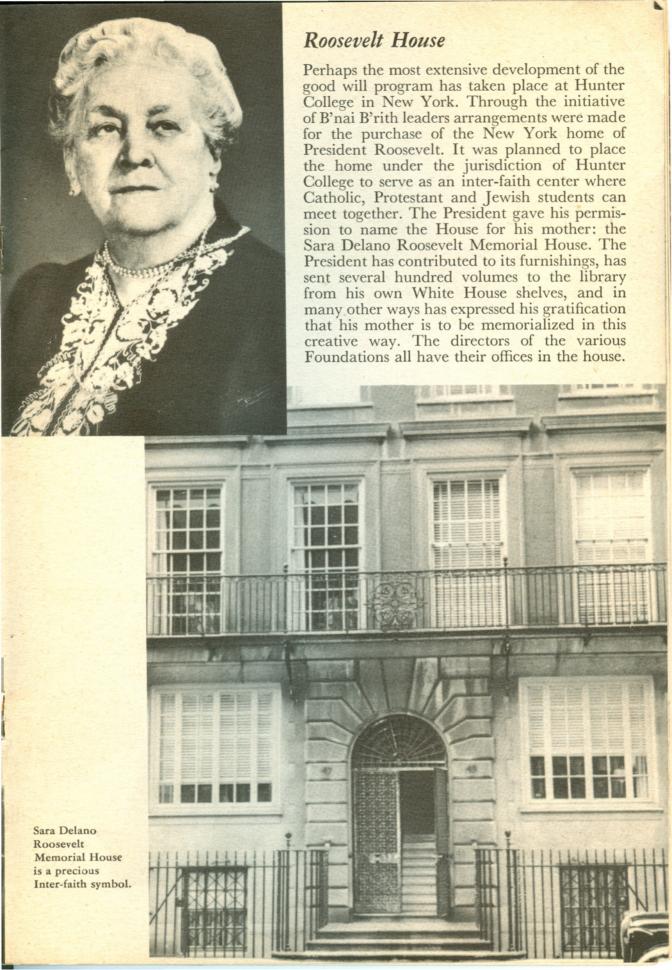
Mrs. Roosevelt speaks under Hillel auspices at Uptown City College.

At the University of Iowa there is a School of Religion which is an integral part of the University. The Hillel director is the Jewish representative in this college and carries the rank of Associate Professor of Religion. All of his courses are part of the University curriculum and are listed in the catalogue. At the University of Alabama there is yet another arrangement. The Hillel director offers his courses in the Foundation, but they are part of the University curriculum and they, too, are listed in the catalogue. At Connecticut the Hillel courses are part of the University-sponsored religious program and the catalogue underscores their importance. At Northwestern University the Hillel director offers a course in Hebrew literature in the Department of Modern Languages. This is an official university course; here the director is actually a guest professor.



Iowa School of Religion faculty.

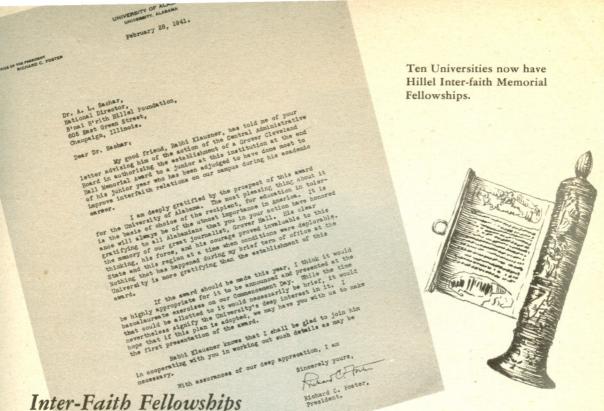






First Lady helps dedicate Roosevelt Inter-faith House at Hunter College.
A quiet corner in a Roosevelt House social room.





Inter-Faith Fellowships

Several years ago the system was inaugurated of establishing inter-faith fellowship awards in memory of outstanding personalities whose lives have been an inspiration to men of all races and creeds. At the University of Illinois such a fellowship honors the memory of Edward Chauncey Baldwin, one of the founders of the Hillel Foundation. At the University of Alabama, there is a Grover Cleveland Hall award in memory of the editor of the Montgomery Advertiser, whose crusading zeal helped to smash the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama. At the University of Kansas, the award is in memory of William Allen White, editor of the Emporia Gazette, and one of the most forthright liberals in contemporary American life. At the University of Maryland, the fellowship is in memory of Rabbi Edward Israel, one of the most esteemed members of the National Hillel Commission, and a leader through his lifetime in movements for ameliorating group friction. Awards have been established at the University of Wisconsin in honor of King Christian of Denmark and at the University of Minnesota in honor of King Gustav of Sweden. The fellowships were intended as a tribute to the courage and humaneness of the two Scandinavian sovereigns who had provided havens for the refugees from Germany in the teeth of Nazi opposition over their humanitarian action. The awards were gratefully acknowledged by the ministers to the United States of both of these countries. At the most recent Hillel Commission meeting a Fellowship was established at Indiana University in memory of Wendell Willkie and another at the University of Cincinnati in honor of Alfred M. Cohen, former President of B'nai B'rith and one of the most distinguished Jewish citizens of the country.

Assignment of Inter-faith Award to student winner.



Besides these Fellowships, several awards were established in memory of outstanding young people who had been active in Hillel Foundations and whose untimely passing brought grief to their University classmates. At the University of Michigan and at Ohio State there are Fellowships in memory of Arnold Schiff, a brilliant student leader who met his death in a tragic accident in 1940. At Brooklyn College there has been an award established in memory of Lieutenant Burton I. Furman, who went down on the aircraft carrier Lexington.

In addition to paying tribute to noble individuals whose lives have been prophetic, the awards send forth each year into their communities gifted young people who become islands of beneficent influence in inter-faith relations. As the years pass the winners of the Hillel Fellowships will be serving scores of communities as influential ambassadors.

#### Personal Service

The efficacy of a Hillel unit is usually measured publicly by its organized activities. Yet the quiet personal influence of the director or



Personal counseling is a primary Hillel function.

counselor may be fully as substantial. The Hillel representative is the friend of the Jewish students. Many of them come to him with the problems that are usual during the transition period of college days. His personal case file is filled with human interest material, for the problems that he handles run the gamut from adolescent love affairs to the deep religious perplexities of young people in a world of turmoil. The director must be rabbi, social worker, parent, and vocational counselor. Hillel, in this respect, is truly "the home away from home."

## Sentinel of Democracy

Every Hillel director, in addition to his other tasks, must also be a kind of sentinel, stationed in a strategic center, commissioned to guard the integrity of Jewish life. In these sensitive times, even universities have been infected by the unscrupulous propagandist. The source of infection may be a member of the faculty who has Nazi sympathies. It may be a bigoted lecturer brought, often through the unwitting naivete of a program chairman, to address a service club or a university forum. The Hillel representative watches carefully to prevent propagandists from breaking through. Where misrepresentation or misinformation has been spread, he makes sure that there is a reply, either through his own effort or through an invitation to some personality of unimpeachable integrity who is well respected and who can present the facts.

It is important to remember that in European lands, anti-Semites never failed to utilize the universities. These became hotbeds of fanatical race hatred and nationalist terrorism, often stimulated by the professors themselves. Hungary, Roumania, Germany, Austria, Poland, and other central and eastern European countries lost their universities to the crackpot extremists and when the sanctuaries were polluted the penetration of anti-Semitism and Fascism into the fabric of national life was infinitely easier. The lesson must not be lost here. There is no more important service rendered to Jewish life and, in the larger sense, to American democracy, than through the vigilance of Hillel representatives on the American campus.





#### Resource Material

During the year there has been considerable development in the plan to create resource material for the college level, through the establishment of a Hillel Library Series. The first volume in this Series was Maurice Samuel's "The World of Sholem Aleichem." The special Hillel edition of 3,000 copies was quickly disposed of and proved especially valuable as a gift for Hillel actives who went into the armed forces. It is a satisfaction to note that the volume received the Anisfield award as the best book of 1943 in the field of race relations. The second volume in the Hillel series, also by Maurice Samuel, "Harvest in the Desert," was published in the spring of 1944. It is a felicitously written and fast moving story of the epic of modern Palestine, geared to interest a generation of American young people. Special arrangements were made with the Jewish Publication Society for joint publication, where all financial responsibilities were assumed by the Society and where Hillel received its edition at cost. The first run of 21,000 copies made the largest first edition in the history of the IPS. The third volume in the Series is a new edition of "The Making" of the Modern Jew" by Milton Steinberg, which was published in cooperation with the Behrman Book Shop.

The large number of Hillel units offers a natural outlet, without any financial risk, for any edition which Hillel undertakes to sponsor, and the project therefore opens out considerable potentialities in building resource material for intelligent adults as well as for the college level. When the war is over and paper restrictions are removed, it will be practical to consider the possibilities of shifting to the 25-cent pocket book field. Editions then can be issued in hundreds of thousands, with all the rich possibilities of mass distribution.





## Building Program

One of the most gratifying features of recent years is the steady progress made in acquiring Hillel Foundation buildings. The expansion of the Hillel program has required more adequate facilities. The growing understanding by community leaders of Hillel needs, the strong friendships which Hillel has won, and the very favorable tax situation, have all combined to give impetus to such a development.

Hillel at McGill in Montreal acquires a home in its first year of operation.





During the past few years, campaigns were launched and completed for Hillel homes for Michigan, Indiana, Miami, Minnesota, Hunter, North Carolina, McGill, Chicago and the colleges of Los Angeles. Building drives are under way in a good number of other universities, including Illinois, Ohio State, California, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Texas, Alabama, and Manitoba. Just recently a gift of \$150,000 was assigned for a new home at Northwestern, by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Baumgarten, who had become deeply interested in the Hillel program. The Hillel house at Chicago was made possible by the generosity of the family of Max Karasik, whose son, Raymond, was killed in the line of duty as part of the Air Force.

One of the encouraging features of these campaigns is the cooperation that has come from friends among the Welfare Fund Leaders. In virtually every campaign the Welfare Funds have cooperated, and have helped to lay the plans. Minnesota, Miami, Connecticut, Wisconsin and North Carolina are symbols of these cordial relationships. The Welfare Fund Directors themselves often undertook important campaign responsibilities. Properly so, for in a real sense, the Hillel campaigns were Welfare Fund projects. Leadership for the institutional life of tomorrow must be prepared today. In creating proper facilities for an adequate Hillel program, the Federation leaders are training the manpower which is later to move into the interstices of their own institutions, to supplant those who must ultimately retire.



#### Hillel's Products

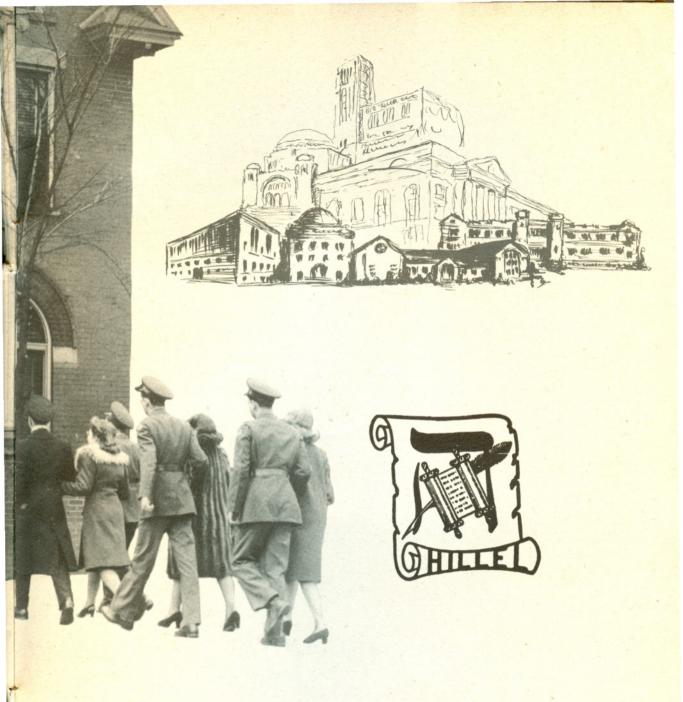
It is too early to judge the effectiveness of the newer Hillel units in relation to the graduates who have returned to their communities. For, inevitably, several years must pass before the young people win economic security and can participate actively in Jewish community life. But the older Hillel units have been able to make their appraisals. In the middle-west the main Jewish institutions—temples, synagogues, B'nai B'rith lodges, women's auxiliaries, Hadassah groups, brotherhoods, sisterhoods, Jewish philanthropic institutions and community centers—have now been thoroughly permeated by the Hillel spirit. For they have among their active members and, in many instances, among their leadership, the products of the Hillel Foundations. Illinois has the oldest Hillel unit, and a whole generation has grown up in the Illinois area which has been vitally influenced by the Foundation. There is scarcely a Jewish institution within the radius that is served by the Foundation which has not been able to draw upon Hillel products. As the years pass, and thousands of graduates go from their Hillel experience into their home communities, this influence will broaden and deepen. In this way a generation of intelligent Jewish laymen is prepared to meet the heavy responsibilities which fall upon the new world center of Jewish life.

Meantime, there has been an interesting and significant effect of the Hillel program upon non-Jewish students. Several hundred Christians are registered each year in the courses which are offered by Hillel Foundations. As these young people go back to their communities after having been under the influence of a Hillel director, they are really ambassadors of good will and understanding. Many of them invariably join the faculty of the Christian Sunday Schools in their home community. There need be little concern as to how they will present to their young charges the story of the Crucifixion, or the appraisal of the Pharisees, or any point of view about Jews and Judaism.



## The Wartime Campus

Since Pearl Harbor a considerable part of the Hillel program has been devoted to the service of trainees who are stationed on many American campuses. The Army and Navy officials were glad to turn over to the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish Foundations the responsibility for the religious and social needs of the young people in the armed forces. In cooperation with the Jewish Welfare Board, the universities of the country were drawn very fully into a carefully developed program. At its peak, in the fall and winter of 1943–44 Hillel reached 11,900



trainees on 144 campuses. The military authorities usually cooperated heartily and made every concession consistent with good discipline and military needs. On many campuses the Foundation quarters were declared within bounds and the Directors were given free range in the barracks. The trainees took fullest advantage of Foundation facilities. They were given continuous contact with Jewish life—religious, cultural and social. Hillel service was never interpreted as merely feeding the men at social functions. It was not "corned beef Judaism."

It was not a commando raid, conducted on a hit-and-run basis. Every effort was made to integrate the trainees into the life of the Hillel community. Hundreds of letters that have come to the Directors from the men and from their parents indicate how useful the service has been and how deeply it was appreciated.

The third year of the war has been a critical period for the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations. For there has been the need for almost continuous revision of program. During the first months of the academic year, the colleges still carried a far-reaching military training program. By the middle of the year, the military program had tapered off considerably because of radically changed military needs. Most of the trainees were therefore siphoned out for more immediate combat service. Hillel was still left with approximately 3,000 trainees, but these could more easily be absorbed into the general civilian fabric and they no longer required special military programs. As the new school year of 1944-45 began, ever larger contingents of returning servicemen were assigned to the colleges, subsidized by the Federal Government in its vast reorientation plan which calls for the expenditure of over a billion dollars annually. Colleges are adapting their schedules and their curricula to cope with these new problems, and all agencies that function within the college framework must follow suit. The year, therefore, was one of continuous re-thinking of objectives and techniques. The resiliency and the resourcefulness of Hillel Directors and Counselors were constantly challenged to meet changing needs.





#### The Future

Now, as Hillel enters its twenty-second year, it is appropriate to look to the future. The university campus is changing rapidly. The large numbers of returned soldiers, subsidized by the Federal Government, will become a substantial portion of the student body. Their maturity, their experience, their seriousness, will transform academic standards and the social pattern of college life. Hillel Directors will be challenged to provide vocational counsel, personal guidance, and friendship for these new groups.

The enormous importances of the Hillel program must never be forgotten by those who think of social service exclusively in terms of charitable institutions, orphanages, hospitals, and old folks homes. Such institutions must be supported. But unless proper leadership is developed today to understand the need for Jewish philanthropies, there will be no leadership tomorrow to give continuity and sustained support to all Jewish institutions. We are now in the decisive hour. If we do not approach the problem of youth education with statesmanship, American Jewish life will become pariah. But if we are farvisioned, if we have the sensitiveness to appraise properly the basic value of such programs as Hillel sponsors, American Jewry will not lack the disciplined and informed leadership which it must produce to inherit a confident future.



# B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATIONS AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

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