

HILLEL BULLETIN

Vol. I.

University of California, Berkeley, Monday, October 3, 1927.

No. 1.

FOUNDATION COUNCIL ORGANIZED

Hillel Makes Its Initial Appearance

A new organization has made its appearance on the University of California campus. Appropriately named after one of Israel's greatest scholars and rabbis, a leader in learning in the period immediately preceding the beginnings of the Christian era, the Hillel foundation is cultural and scholarly, as well as social.

Although sponsored by the B'nai B'rith, whose finances have made the Foundation possible, it is wholly a student controlled institution. The officers are chosen by the student council, a group of twenty.

The council is composed of the chairmen and sub-chairmen of the various committees, together with the four officers. As was necessary at its inception, the selection of this group was rather irregular, but in the future the council will be self-perpetuating in part. The sub-chairmen of the various committees will succeed to the chairmanships at the end of the year, and the most worthy of the committee's members will become sub-chairmen for the ensuing year. The names of the various committees are the best index of the varied and important tasks the group will undertake: Menorah, Open Forum, Religious Education, Publications, Publicity, Dramatics, Social, Social Service, and Zionism.

The guiding hand of the entire organization, in an entirely informal and unofficial way, is the resident Rabbi, Mr. Benjamin Goldstein, a graduate of this University in the class of '22, assisted by Miss Frances Lewinthal. Official control, however, rests with the above-mentioned council and student officers.

SOCIAL WELFARE PLANS OUTLINED

The enthusiasm evinced by members of the Social Welfare Committee and their inspired chairman, Elma Kahn, comes like a breath of fresh air to animate a worthy campus mission. Plans for the semester were outlined at the initial meeting held September 22 and is to include a well-designed program ministering to essential campus welfare needs.

The committee will first concentrate its combined efforts to the significant task of creating a student loan fund. This undertaking should receive the complete coopera-

CAL. DEBATER IS SPEAKER AT MENORAH

Louis Hillelson, prominent Varsity debater, was the speaker at the recent meeting held by the Menorah group on Sunday evening, September 25. His talk was in the nature of an exposition of the recent book of Maurice Samuel, "I, the Jew."

As pointed out, the content of the book is essentially this: an account of the experience of the author in his efforts to reach a spiritual equilibrium. There are three divisions or phases to these experiences; in the first phase, he identifies himself with a national group, England. During this time he has very little consciousness of being a Jew. It contented him to consider himself a unit of a race. Later he falls under the spell of science and that becomes his religion, that is, he comes to believe that the mechanism of science can minister to every need of the individual. Even here, he finds inconsistencies and comes to this irrational but satisfying conclusion: it is necessary for one to identify himself with some group, in spite of the claims of science that race is an illusion. Warmly embracing Judaism, Maurice Samuel becomes spiritually oriented at last.

Mr. Samuel's solution, however, cannot be accepted by all Jewish youth, for his solution is to have us change our residence to Palestine. This again raises another conflict. "I, the Jew," however, is the statement of one individual—how HE conquered bewilderment and despair.

This was the first meeting to be held by the Menorah group this semester. No specific date has been set for their next meeting, but it is expected that it will take place within three weeks.

tion and commendation of the entire Jewish campus. The loan fund will be conducted by a student drive. The money obtained will constitute the fund from which students may obtain non-interest bearing loans. Captains for the drive will soon be selected. The merits of this proposed fund are so palpable that the establishment of such a provision is self-extending.

Discussion warmly entertained significant questions regarding visits to bedridden students in the Infirmary, securing of student employment and the promotion of student housing facilities.

OPEN FORUM HELD; DR. FOSTER SPEAKER

The committee on open forum discussion, headed by Barbara Hirschler, was fortunate in securing as the speaker for its initial effort, Dr. O. D. Foster, who is the director of the American Association on Religion in State Universities and Colleges. Dr. Foster was the first of several interesting and well-informed men who, under the auspices of the Hillel Foundation, will lead the students of the University on matters of vital importance to them.

The association which Dr. Foster represents is a national organization composed of an equal number of representatives from all the leading religious groups in the country. Its purpose is to fulfill a two-fold need which is felt in the state colleges today, namely, a lack of religious inspiration and instruction and a religious center which will nurture good will and promote a mutual respect between all denominations. The association does not propose to find a common denominator for the expression of worship, but only to secure a broader type of religious cooperation and to assist universities in developing a program of character building.

A comparatively young organization, the American Association on Religion in State Universities and Colleges has already done much to inspire this cooperation and instruction and will do much more along this line through the agency of local and national conferences and through the organization of the students of the various university communities. To further this work, Dr. Foster travels throughout the country, speaking to, organizing, and gaining the ideas of the men and women students and working with the foundations already established. He has now arrived at the University of California, and it is with interest and enthusiasm that all of us heard the views of an experienced observer of one of the foremost questions in college life.

LET'S CONTRIBUTE

All contributions will be greatly appreciated and carefully read. Those of particular note and student interest will be published in the bi-monthly publications of the Hillel Bulletin. The contribution box is located in the Reception Hall. Please sign your articles.

The Hillel Bulletin

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AN INSPIRING MESSAGE

An inspired speaker with an inspiring message; a group of students representing all denominations enthralled by his eloquence; a real start made in the direction of mutual sympathy and understanding between the members of all creeds! Fifty those who were so unfortunate as to miss the extraordinary lecture of Dr. O. D. Foster, director of the American Association on Religion at State Universities and Colleges, at Hillel Foundation Thursday evening. Dr. Foster's address was delivered with a simple sincerity, a breadth of tolerance, a universal sympathy that is almost unknown in this day and age. No one denomination, said the doctor, can claim that the Bible is its unique heritage; it is the common property of all mankind. No one creed, reiterated the doctor, can claim that the saints of old are theirs alone; their spirit has exercised its uplifting influence on all.

Readers having a wonderful heritage in common, Dr. Foster emphasized the fact that we all, in our best moments, have a common purpose—the betterment of humanity. This being true, why should we not overlook the petty differences that have arisen through mutual misunderstanding and put our common shoulders to the wheel in the interests of humanity?

Sanford Goldner, '28, was chairman for the evening.

HIGH HOLIDAYS

Yom Kippur, Thursday, October 6, is an important day on the Jewish calendar. This day of all days should be observed by Jewish students. Here is the chance for one to pause and partake of that long-sought-for opportunity of introspection and contemplation.

An error was made on the religious circulars announcing the date of Yom Kippur, October 6 (Thursday) is the correct date.

BOOK REVIEWS

POWER

BY LION FEUCHTWANGER

A teeming, mad, and passionate world, seething with lust, depravity, and bestiality; motivated by one supreme driving force, power: power over man and woman, gold and jewels, land and Church. Oh, not a nice world, but one gloriously alive—a spectacular pageant, scene after scene following each other in terrific succession—that is the life into which the reader of "Jew Suss" is plunged by the brilliant genius of Lion Feuchtwanger. It is the life of Europe in the eighteenth century, told in a tale of the Duchy of Wurttemberg, which "under one duke was ruled by a harlot and under the next by a Jew."

This narrative, which has recently been translated from the German by Willa and Edwin Muir under the title, "Power," was greeted by a furor of praise when it first appeared. "Feuchtwanger is a second Dumas," cried critics, "a greater and better Scott."

In some respects the story of "Jew Suss" is greater than a mere historical novel, for it has depth and significance. A current of philosophy runs through the vast, ever-moving panorama of events. It is the philosophy of life from three angles: that of Judaism, whose keynote is renunciation and a belief that death is better than life; that of the Orient, which is a cleaving to being, a passionate desire for shape and body through infinity; and there is that of the whole Occident, which is the mad thirst for action, a desire to live and do if only for one moment of eternity.

All of these are searching after power in some form, either material or spiritual, and they all flow throughout the being of Reb Josef Suss, the Jew, who was, after all, not a Jew, conflicting always for control over this man.

Josef Suss is Power; the two are synonymous terms. There is a peculiar instinct in the man which ever leads him on to control all that which comes into his mind. He rules his Duke with the power of strength over weakness—a very subtle strength carefully hidden under the mask of servility, and tyrannizes the entire nation, for he alone must be all powerful; and that in spite of the fact that he is a Jew and all Jews are despised and persecuted.

Suddenly his life falls flat and becomes empty. He had been completely armored in the strength of his own power, and that failed him in the only spot where his armor was vulnerable—in his love for his only daughter, untouched by the world he lives in and controls. Karl Alexander, the Duke, saw Naemi one day and desired her. But she had been raised and taught by the great

(Continued on page 4)

.. DRAMATICS ..

Plans are being formulated by the Hillel Dramatics group for the presentation of two one-act plays this semester, according to Alice Kagan, chairman of the organization. If possible, one play will be chosen as representative of modern Jewish drama, while the other will be of non-sectarian interest.

"Although no definite time has been set for the production of the plays, it is expected that they will be given at the Temple Emanuel-El, in San Francisco, as that building has the finest facilities available for both stage production and for the accommodation of a large audience," stated the chairman. Dancing will follow the dramatic entertainment.

The purpose of the dramatics organization, according to Miss Kagan, is to stimulate interest in amateur production among the Jewish University students, many of whom have talent which they are not exercising. At the third meeting of the semester, Monday, September 26, she urged that all those interested in both acting and stage production join the group, as it is the aim of the members to secure as large and as capable an organization as possible.

GET ACQUAINTED, URGES STUDENT

Editor, HILLEL BULLETIN:

I should like to make an observation—not a criticism—about a certain attitude (probably unconscious) that I have noticed among the students who have been present at various activities of the Foundation.

I have been present at the first open house, a tea, a supper and Menorah meeting, and an Open Forum meeting, and I have observed that members of fraternities, sororities and other groups usually hide away in a corner and make no effort to mingle either with members of other groups or with unorganized students.

This is probably unconscious, as I said before, on their part, and I believe could be remedied if the Social Committee made it a particular point to introduce people around.

I am interested in having Jewish students understand and know each other.

Sincerely,

'29.

PRaise He to Our Own

Much favorable comment has reached us on the manner in which Rabbi Goldstein officiated at Temple Beth Israel. His courage, force and tact were three traits very much in evidence in the delivery of his sermon.

We predict a glorious future for Rabbi Goldstein.

UNIQUE LIBRARY RECEIVES GIFTS

A library to be run under the honor system, with no librarians, no checking, and no fines for overdue books, is the unique project planned by Rabbi Ben Goldstein for the new Hillel Foundation library. According to Rabbi Goldstein, students are at liberty to select their own books from the shelves, and to keep them out a reasonable length of time. So long as the privileges accorded are not abused, all students will be freely entitled to the use of the library.

The B'nai B'rith has provided funds for the purchase of two hundred and fifty volumes will be cared for by budget allotment and by private donation. Although the library will consist chiefly of books and periodicals pertaining to Jewish life and affairs, many dealing with subjects of general interest will be included as well. Both recent literature and the classics will be fairly represented.

The B'nai B'rith Committee of Fifty has generously presented the library with a complete set of the "Jewish Encyclopedia." The encyclopedia is recognized as a standard work and is of real value to any collection. A gift of twenty dollars has also been received from the Eastbay Council of Jewish Women and will be added to the general fund.

The library will be housed in North Hall, on the second floor of the Hillel Foundation, 2000 Bancroft Way.

SMOKER ATTRACTS LARGE AUDIENCE

Jewish men of the University were guests of the Hillel Foundation at a smoker held Thursday evening, September 22. A sizable crowd was on hand, owing to the fact that the broadcast of the Tunney-Dempsey encounter over the Foundation's radio set was plainly audible all over the neighborhood. The consensus of opinion before the fight seemed to favor Dempsey, but no bets were made.

Refreshments, consisting of beer and pretzels, were served after Dean Deutch's excellent talk on conditions in Europe, with special reference to Italy. The tenor of the Dean's comments was decidedly pessimistic. Mussolini was described as a man with the brow of a Caesar but the lower jaw of a Boston ball. Mussolini, according to the Dean, is not quite as dangerous as his bombastic style of oratory would seem to indicate, but he will probably be the spark that will set off another war to save the world for democracy. Fascism is maintained in Italy by the same means that the Czar kept the Russian peasants with their noses to the grindstone, and that Robespierre maintained the Reign of Terror. In other words,

FRATERNITY NEWS

For the benefit of those who may not be aware of the fact, there are about four Jewish fraternities on this campus. In the future, this column will be devoted to the news of these organizations. We would like to call the attention of the various house presidents to the fact that here is a good chance to get some free publicity. Tell your secretaries to write up all the bunk they think will get past the editor, and then hand it in.

We don't care particularly what you write, but please try and make it sound truthful. Owing to the fact that we received such short notice, we were unable to gather much in the line of fraternity news for this issue. However, here are one or two short items that didn't take much news hunting ability to ferret out. These items may not have any particular value, but they are certainly interesting, if true.

Kappa Nu is rapidly striding past Zeta Beta Tau for house ranking. While the Zetas have one or two members on the Varsity debating team, Kappa Nu has a real star on the football team. Everybody on this campus knows that debating doesn't rank with football.

Phi Beta Delta, an organization with a house on Bowditch Street, is also making rapid strides. The Deltas have advanced to the stage where they can high-tail most any non-org without blushing.

We couldn't gather any more news in the short space of time allotted us, but we hope to do better next time, and we will be eagerly hanging around the phone up in the Hillel waiting for the secretaries to call up and give us the dope. Maybe we made some mistakes this time, and if we did, please don't be backward about telling us about it, because this column is going to try to give everybody the same kind of a deal.

An open house will be held at the Foundation Tuesday afternoon, October 4, from 3:30 to 5:30 o'clock. There will be dancing and refreshments. All students are invited to drop in. These open houses are planned to be given weekly, depending upon the success and spirit shown at the initial trials.

SUPPORT HILLEL ACTIVITIES

anyone suspected of harboring any evil intentions toward the Fascist regime is soon made aware that his presence is not particularly desirable.

Announcement of the dinner to be held in the Hillel House Sunday evening was made as the group adjourned.

HILLEL RECEIVES VALUABLE GIFTS

Usefulness and variety are bosom companions of gifts that have already been donated to Hillel on the Berkeley campus. Jewish organizations on both the east and west sides of the bay have begun to pave the way for donations.

The San Francisco B'nai B'rith Committee of Fifty has presented the Foundation with a chest of office files and a set of the Jewish Encyclopedia. A donation for the library fund has been made by the Eastbay Council of Jewish Women, which a set of dishes and kitchen equipment have been given by the California Alliance of Jewish Women, which group has also furnished the Ladies' Lounge. In anticipation of hours to be leisurely spent by students at Hillel, the B'nai B'rith Auxiliary of San Francisco has presented the Foundation with a victrola.

In addition to these group donations, gifts have also been received from individuals. Mrs. Schlesinger of Berkeley, who presented the House with a gorgeous hand-painted vase, heads the list of private donors. All of these gifts have been presented as part of the program to provide students and members with equipment with which to work in the realm of recreation in Jewish thought and living.

With the precedent set by outsiders for the comfort of those who frequent the home of Hillel, it is probable that students and their families will soon join the generous group of donors to the Foundation.

Zionist Committee Invites Students

Students interested in Zionism now have an opportunity to become active in discussions and work along this line. A committee has been organized under the chairmanship of Lawrence Horenstein. Five student members of the group are busy compiling questionnaires which they plan to distribute among the members on the campus, in an attempt to ascertain student opinion on the policy and work which the committee has outlined for the semester. Upon return of the questionnaires the committee will be able to decide the particular type of work in which students of Zionism are interested.

Dave Ruby is sub-chairman of the committee and the other four "good workers" are David Appleman, Frank Braun, Helen Dorsman, and Juliette Gould. Anyone desirous of participating in discussions and student group work should "fall in step" and communicate with any member of the Zionist committee.

COUNCIL DINNER

A dinner will be held at the Foundation on October 12 for the chairman, sub-chairman, committee members, and numerous guests of honor. The approximate number of guests is estimated to be eighty-five. Drake will cater the affair.

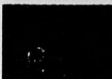
DEAN STEBBINS TALKS AT WOMEN'S TEA

"The Value of the Hillel Foundation on This Campus," was the subject of the talk which was given by Dean Lucy W. Stebbins at the Women's Tea, on Wednesday, September 21, at the Foundation. "The Hillel Foundation," said Miss Stebbins, "is an important organization of the University. It is a medium whereby the Jewish Student makes congenial social contacts, finds spiritual expression, has the advantage of a home environment, and learns the traditions of his race."

The purpose of this tea was to welcome the freshman women and to bring together the Jewish women. Mrs. Benjamin B. Goldstein presided at the tea table. Ronald Blek played the piano for dancing. Lealie Baer was chairman of the arrangements committee.

SPORTS

ACTION PHOTO



Two Negroes Battle to Draw on
Dark Night

HERMAN'S
Smoking Shop
FOR MEN
1307 Telegraph Avenue

Book Review

(Continued from page 2)

Rabbi Gabriel, and death was better than the carnality of life.

After that, Suss pursued power more madly than ever. Insatiable revenge, yes, that alone would bring back his dead Naemi. And so he wove his plot. Diabolically and subtly the court Jew goaded the Duke on in his dream of Caesarian power, burned all of his own fanatical fire into the blood of Karl Alexander, only to dash the cup out of his hand at the moment of triumph.

But this did not satisfy—Naemi was silent, though all the Duchy was sacrificed at her altar. Then it came to Suss that this power he possessed was not omnipotent. Power of a different nature must be acquired to bring back Naemi—the power of the spirit, pure and selfless, over that of the world and himself. And so with the last strength that is in him, he achieves this power. Inevitably his world must crash with that of the Duke, but it is in defeat and death that he is most triumphant. It is there that Naemi comes to him.

Suss is a villain, unscrupulous and cruel, but the author's sympathy is constantly with him. One woman he made a harlot, another a pedantic prude; one man he crushed and another he killed, but he fascinated them all, in spite of their hate. With a mighty gesture of triumph, he took life and death in his hands and bent them to his will—and might is always right.

Thus the gallant, charming, mighty Finance Director, the Jew Suss, lives and dies. The story leaves one breathless, so great is the genius of Feuchtwanger. He drags the reader down into a world of reeking depraved humanity, and one comes out stupefied and numb as from a drunken debauch.

Particularly good is Feuchtwanger's characterization of his Jews. There are Jews of every description; the filthy pedlar, the great Rabbi, the powerful financier, and the gallant, subtle, court Jew. Their spheres are far apart, yet all are bound by one common chain—the bond of Jewry and the Word—a bond which compels Suss to risk his life and power for the pedlar, Jecheskel Seligmann, which forces Jewry the world over to give its gold—enough to buy an entire duchy, for the saving of Suss, himself.

In spite of the intensity of his pictures and his brilliant style, Feuchtwanger is not quite the perfect dramatic narrator. There are tiny, sharp faults in the illimitable vastness of his pageantry, faults of too minute detail. He has not the faculty for presenting only general effects which Dumas and Scott possessed. At times his photography becomes tedious. He is not a technician.

Yet this does not prevent the book from being a great one of its kind.

—Courtney Sather, *Gate Book Shop*,
R.D.

Discussion Club Plans Interesting Program

BY J. S. D. C.

The Jewish Students' Discussion Club, which has existed on the University of California campus for the past three years, has planned a very interesting program for this semester.

On Sunday, October 2, Charles Malamuth will speak on Jewish writers in contemporary Russia. The meeting will be held in the Memorial room, Stephens Union, at 8 o'clock sharp.

The next meeting will be held October 16, the speaker of the evening being David Appleman. He will speak on Jewish poetry in the Middle Ages.

The public is invited to attend.

NOTES

MEMORAH SUPPERS

Suppers consisting of a light repast are to proceed Menorah meetings on Sunday nights. A nominal charge of 25 cents will be required to defray the expenses. The last supper, September 25, proved to be a huge success, but the large crowd that attended was not expected and therefore not fully provided for by the social committee.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are held twice a month, on Wednesday evenings. The chairmen and sub-chairmen of the committees constitute the executive body, with Wendel Phillips as presiding president. Committee reports are made and problems of the Foundation's activities are brought up for discussion.

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