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# B'NAI B'RITH Hillel Call

Vol. XIII

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1940

No. 5

## EUGENE MELTZER NEW CHORAL BASS

Undergoing a complete reorganization, the Hillel Chorus has as its new choral director, Eugene Meltzer, who has had a very wide musical background and is unusually well qualified to fill this position. Mr. Meltzer, with many new and constructive ideas in regard to the chorus, plans to emphasize the singing of music by Jewish composers, both old and modern, and Hebrew folk songs.

Students who are interested in the Chorus have a rare opportunity in being under the guidance of a man of such ripe experience and theoretical knowledge as Mr. Meltzer. Now a graduate student at the University, he has studied with the eminent Los Angeles composer Arnold Schoenberg, formerly of Germany, who is one of the foremost composers of the art.

Mr. Meltzer, also a composer and ample pianist, has sung with choral groups in the past, having also directed amateur groups.

All students interested in doing choral work are invited to contact the Hillel Chorus. The initial gathering of the Chorus, was scheduled for Wednesday, February 27. Plans will be made for presenting performances at Hillel and various East Bay Lodges.

## Purim Semi-Formal

Date for the forthcoming Leap-Year Semi-Formal Purim Dance at Hillel Foundation has been set at Saturday, March 30. Symbolizing the theme of Spring, decorations consisting of blossoms will grace the walls.

This is to be another event through which privilege cardholders will benefit. Although admission for non-members will be forty cents, card holders will be admitted free.

The Social committee plans to obtain a good local orchestra for the event. Last semester's Semi-Formal drew a large attendance, and with the lower price and good orchestra, a large crowd is expected.



## HILLEL PLAYERS AT WORK

Scene from  
last semester's  
dramatic opus,  
"The Red  
Menace"

## EFFICIENCY PLUS THE NAME IS ETHEL

Ethel Zimmerman is: the Hillel secretary, poster specialist, unofficial prompter and chore-checker-upper, and bookkeeper — all between two and five on week-day afternoons.

She is the Efficiency Woman of the Berkeley Foundation.

"You can also tell 'em I always do two things at once," declared Mrs. Zimmerman as she answered the questions of two other nuisances (your reporter being the third) while simultaneously typing a letter at the unabated rate of 80 words a minute.

Ethel has been in evidence about the campus since enrolling at the University in 1934. By 1938 she received her degree in art. For a year she has served as secretary. She was discovered as a poster-maker way back in 1935 and has rendered continuous art service to Hillel ever since.

During the rest of her spare time Ethel is president of the Oakland Junior Hadassah. An Oakland girl, Ethel now makes her home in Berkeley with husband Arnold, an engineer employed in San Francisco.

While granting this interview the efficiency woman typed two letters and two notices, with carbon copies.

## FEED AND CAVORT SUNDAY, MARCH 10

### New Type Cost Supper to Be Introduced

Introducing a new feature for cost suppers, Hillel House will be the scene of a dinner dance on Sunday, March 10. Regular cost supper rates will prevail, so that admission for non-cardholders will be the usual forty-five cents, while card holders will be admitted for thirty-five cents.

Although the event is classed under the head of dinner-dance, attendance is not restricted to couples. This novel feature will replace the customary speaker.

Dinner will be served at the usual time of 6:00 P.M. A large section of the hall will be reserved for dancing, so that besides the remarkably reasonable price, guests will have the further advantage of having plenty of room to dance.

Mrs. Martin, house-mother, announces that reservations must be entered by Thursday, March 7. Reservations may be placed in the secretary's office, at the Foundation.

This innovation is in keeping with the new policy of varying the program for Cost Suppers, in order to attract people of all interests to attend.

## "PETTICOAT FEVER" TO BE PLAYED BY HILLEL PLAYERS

Some twenty-five aspirants to dramatic glory are pitting their Thespian skills against each other in feverish efforts to play parts in "Petticoat Fever," the three-act comedy to be presented at Hillel some time in April, according to intelligence emanating from the Hillel drama department.

In other words, a cast is about to be chosen and Drama Director Louis Gonick will soon be immersed in the process of production.

Among the hopeful Thespians in the tentative cast are: Jerry Frisch, Ray Smullyan, Al Schocken, Ruth Flaum, Toni Talny, Thelma Genser, Bill Berg, Mel Dvorson, Carol Helman, and Miriam Weiss.

## Musicale Set for Sunday Evening

A Cost Supper Musicale, under the supervision of the Music Committee, is going to be held Sunday evening, Feb. 25, instead of the usual cost supper forum. Tickets will be the usual 35 cents for Hillel Membership cardholders, and 45 cents for non-cardholders, and the supper will begin at 6:15.

The committee is preparing an evening of very fine musical entertainment with the talented musicians at Hillel Foundation.

The program, consisting of three parts, will include the following: Raymond Smullyan, piano solo; works for violin and piano will be played by Leonard Ratner and Leon Kirschner.

## Big Response Greets Recorded Classics

The fortnightly evenings of music, presenting classical recorded music under the direction of Leon Kirschner, are arousing unusual enthusiasm, and bringing out increasing numbers of followers.

Friday, February 23, marks the next evening of recorded classical music. All music lovers are urged to attend.

## CONFESSIONS OF A BOOK WORM

### "THE NAZARENE" by Sholom Asch

"The Nazarene" is a fascinating story of the life, times and death of Jesus of Nazareth. It is not merely another biography of that complex personality—a superficial and subjective portrayal such as we have from the pens of Papini and Emil Ludwig.

In Sholom Asch we have a biographer who has an intimate knowledge of that perplexing historic period. He commands the background that makes it possible to picture Jesus in relation to his age. Asch is at home in the social problems, the political currents, the religious conceptions and the economic forces that played so significant a role in the making of the stage on which Jesus appears as a leading character.

### MANY SOURCES FOR BOOK

Asch is familiar with the origin and growth of the Messianic hope and passionate yearning with which the Jewish people clung to that hope in this particular period. Asch uses as his source material not only the accounts set down in the gospel but he has at his disposal too the rich resources of the Jewish literature of that period that makes it possible to set forth the policies and programmes of the great parties of Jesus' day—the Sadducees, Pharisees and Zealots. Without this knowledge it is quite impossible to understand the forces with which Jesus had to contend.

In addition to this intimate and comprehensive knowledge, Asch demonstrates in this historical-biographical novel a descriptive power, a psychological grasp in the portrayal of character and an opulence of style that rates this volume among his best.

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## AT OTHER HILLELS

By FRANCINE HERSH

"The time has come," the warlus said — "to speak of many things," but my editor said "the time has come to do a little cross country jaunting!" So with a wanton disregard for those ever-present midterms, I gave the propeller a twist and my little plane and I were off.

Our first stop was in Bloomington at the University of Indiana. The topic of conversation was the forthcoming appearance of Dr. Sachar. The eminent speaker must have made his visit by now, and I am sure that those at Indiana must have enjoyed him as much as we Californians did last term when honored by a similar visit.

With nothing of special interest to detain us, my plane and I once more braved the heights and hopped over to the University of Illinois. Here excitement reigned high over the scheduled ORATORICAL CONTEST in March. This foundation, along with foundations all over the country are planning to send representatives to Chicago.

Since loitering isn't our custom, and with a strong wind blowing in the direction of the University of Alabama, my little one-seater and I set our noses for the south. Here, too, we were met with Oratorical Contest talk. Aha! but Alabamans are social minded—a formal dance for the evening of March second is in the offing. Although ye columnist received many invitations, she refused because she had a Big C Sirkus to attend.

Off again into the air, my plane and I headed for our last stop at the University of Texas at Austin. Here eager men are awaiting invitations from the fairer sex (leap year, you know) to a Hillel Leap-year Formal, also to be held on March second. I was all set to extend my visit, and give the boys a break when I learned that bids were one dollar.

Reminding myself that the personal exchequer was low, of the Sirkus and midterm, I bade farewell to Texas and set the compass of my ship for the coast, the land where liquid sunshine glows.

## HARRY SAPPER OPENS SERIES OF LECTURES

Harry Sapper, Executive Secretary of the Oakland Jewish Federation, opened the lecture series on "Jewish Social Institutions" with an introductory talk on "What makes Jewish Social Service Jewish?" "Jewish social service," said Mr. Sapper, "is based on the fundamental principle that the wealthy are trustees of their wealth and that the care of the underprivileged is not a matter of kindness but a bounded duty and obligation."

Tracing the Jewish care of the underprivileged to its beginnings in Jewish life, Mr. Sapper stressed the ordinances commanding such care in the biblical and prophetic literature. "In the Middle Ages," he continued, "the Jewish house of prayer was also the philanthropic center of the community. There are distinct differences," he said, "between the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish conceptions of charity. While the Protestant and Catholic conceptions are intimately related to the Christian faith and the salvation of the individual soul, Jewish social service has always been communally centered."

Morton Gaba, Director of the Jewish Vocational Guidance Bureau, speaking on "Jewish Youth Faces the Future," insisted that the vocational problems of the Jewish youth were part and parcel of the vocational problems of youth in general. However, the elements of discrimination added to the problems of the Jewish youth. The predilection of Jewish youth for professions already overcrowded, makes painstaking education a vital factor.

## INGRAM'S

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## FIRST TRIALS FOR CONTEST DUE MARCH 11

Entrants in the Hillel oratorical elimination contest held their first meeting today, for the purpose of selecting their topics, and dates for eliminations. The number of students entered in the contest has already reached eight.

Orations are limited to an eight-minute discussion of a topic pertinent to some phase of Jewish life. Eliminations, and selection of the local winner, will be conducted under the auspices of regional B'nai B'rith lodges.

Main award for the local winner is to be a free trip to Chicago, with expenses paid. In addition, a local prize of fifteen dollars or a silver cup will be awarded. The grand winner at Chicago will be the recipient of a beautiful loving cup, and title of outstanding Hillel orator of the nation.

Contestants entered so far include Mel Goldstein, Ralph Kramer, Pauline Kael, Ray Altman, Al Silverman, Wilbur Fauntin, and Francis Brunstein.

First eliminations will be run off on March 11, at the San Francisco lodge of B'nai B'rith. Judges will be prominent lawyers and professional men of the lodge. Plans are in progress to make the final selections at a Hillel Cost Supper.

This year marks the first entrance of the University of California branch into the competition. The national competition is expected to take place late in March.

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## JULE'S

By Sather Gate

# WHAT'S COOKIN'

(Because all our reporters were busy wrting their own articles, and because we simply had to fill up the space below, as a last resort we called upon that eminent sage and scholar, Abraham Confucius Lepidus, to give us a few words of wisdom).

## CONFUCIUS SAY:

Boy who do two things at once very clever. Bill Berg is keeping very busy filling dance engagements for one orchestra which he is managing, and another orchestra which he himself directs.

## CONFUCIUS SAY:

Girl who no longer go steady (with reference to Adele Meyer) make plenty good date for lucky boy quick to seize opportunity.

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## CONFUCIUS SAY:

Ho, ho, hum! Chicks who stray from home always find way back. Cecil Steinberg and Frances Speyer return to Cal after long absence.

## CONFUCIUS SAY:

Wedding bells call for congratulations. Wishes for much happiness extended to Sol Wachter and Billie Coleman, and to Joe Biskind and his bride.

## CONFUCIUS SAY:

Hillel very nice place for meeting very nice people, as Pearl Gershowitz will agree in regard to one Mr. X.

As parting word of advice, Confusion,—er—uh—Confucius, like to say to Lorraine Haines, AEPH, that when coming home late at night and trying to be oh so quiet, always turn on light, please, or else will again find out bed has been turned around and you are trying to sleep with head at foot of bed, and feet on pillow.

So, remember what Confucius say!!

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# HILLEL CALENDAR

Feb. 23—Friday, 8:30 P.M. Evening of Music. Prokofiev and Tchaikowsky.

Feb. 25—Sunday, 6:15 P.M. Cost-Supper—Musical Recital. Participants in the programme: Raymond Smullyan, Leon Kirschner, Leonard Ratner, David Rosen.

Feb. 27—Tuesday, 4 P.M. Book Review and Discussion—"Freedom and Culture by John Dewey. Sanford Goldner.

Tuesday, 4 to 6 P.M. Open House.

Tuesday, 7:45 P.M. Hebrew Class.

Feb. 28—Wednesday, 3:15 P.M.—"Highlights of Jewish History." Special theme: "Islam and Judaism." M. J. Merritt.

Feb. 29—Thursday, 8 P.M. "Jewish Social Institutions" series. Special theme—"Building Jewish Federations into a United Front." Samuel Holcenberg, Field Sec. of Western Division of Jewish Federation and Welfare Funds.

Mar. 1—Friday, 8:30 P.M. Fireside Discussion.

Mar. 3—Sunday, 6:15 P.M. Cost Supper—Open Forum.—Guest Speaker: Dr. Milton Chernin, Bureau of Public Administration, U. of C.

Mar. 4—Monday, 4:15 P.M.—Student Council Meeting.

Mar. 5—Tuesday, 4 P.M. Book Review and Discussion—"Sufferance is the Badge," by A. L. Sacher. Sanford Goldner.

Tuesday, 4 to 6 P.M. Open House.  
Tuesday 7:45 P.M. Hebrew Class.

Mar. 6—Wednesday, 3:15 P.M.—"Highlights of Jewish History" Special theme—"The Jew as a Torchbearer." M. J. Merritt.

Mar. 7—Thursday, 8 P.M. "Jewish Social Institutions" series. "Jewish Personal Service—Restoring Men to Social Usefulness." Rabbi Rudolph Coffee, President Jewish Com. for Personal Service.

Mar. 8—Friday 8:30 P.M. Evening of Music.

Mar. 10—Sunday, 6:15 P.M. Dinner Dance. Sponsored by the organized houses. No forums, no speeches, no discussion. DANCING TO GOOD MUSIC.

Mar. 12—Tuesday, 4 P.M. Book Review and Discussion. "People" by H. P. Fairchild — Sanford Goldner.

Tuesday 4 to 6 P.M. Open House.

Tuesday 7:45 P.M. Hebrew Class.

Mar. 13—Wednesday 3:15 P.M.—"Highlights of Jewish History." Special theme: "The Jew in the Medieval Community." — M. J. Merritt.

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# B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL CALL

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## YOUTH TAKES A STAND

There are significant conclusions to be drawn from the doings of the National Assembly of the American Youth Congress held in Washington last week.

Of primary interest to Jewish youth, the Congress indicated there is no room for narrow nationalism in its program. "Vigorously and emphatically for civil rights and against anti-Semitism and Jim Crowism," reads a statement made by Joseph Cadden, National secretary of the body. "For humanity, not race," is the attitude of the Congress.

The 3,500 delegates in attendance at the opening session indicated rather volubly that they did not like Republicrats. Resolutions were passed to collaborate actively with Labor's Non-partisan League, the American Federation of Labor, and the Congress of Industrial Organizations. In other words, it is more than slightly possible that the nation's youth are becoming socially conscious.

The Congress indicated that, while its attitude toward the Roosevelt administration may have changed, its fervor for the New Deal remains unabated. A unanimous "Yanks are NOT coming" sentiment was in evidence. Demands for expansion of NYA to a half-billion dollar program were made. The assembly asked for an enlarged CCC and rebuked Congress for "cutting relief . . . at the same time voting funds for armaments." One of the official slogans of the gathering read: "Balance the Human Budget First."

Of interest to political observers was the contrast in receptions accorded to national figures at the Congress. John L. Lewis and Rajn Patel, young Indian nationalist, enjoyed thunderous ovations; there was comparatively little demonstration for one Franklin Delano Roosevelt, although in other years his most zealous following was to be found in the Congress. Not once did the phrase "third term" resound from the speakers' platform, and several speakers accused the president of "war-mongering." This is a definite straw in the political wind, as over a million of the youth represented by these delegates will be virgin voters this autumn.

Further evidence of the delegates' temper on the civil liberties question is provided by their refusal to heed John D. M. Hamilton, Republican national strategy chief, in his demand that radicals be expelled from the assembly. "The Congress invites all youth groups to attend," Hamilton was informed.

Affiliated with the AYC are student organizations, CCC-ers, YMCA, YWCA, various racial orders, and religious and church groups of practically all denominations. More than any other body is this assembly representative of American Youth. Today it stands as a bastion against fascism. It deserves solid support.

DAVID COOPER, '41.

## THE INSIDE STORY

After the conclusion of the Russo-Nazi pact, Mr. Hitler realized his newest obsession, the repatriation of German nationals from the Baltic states and the Italian Tyrol.

Foremost in everybody's mind was the question of how he was going to take care of these new immigrants in an already heavily overpopulated country; but this problem didn't bother Mr. Hitler for too long; he soon found a "brilliant, all around solution." Take the Jews out of Czechoslovakia, Austria, Western Poland, and parts of Germany, concentrate them all into a small area, thereby making room for the "returning" nationals.

It was finally decided to create a so-called "Jewish State" in South-Western Poland around the city of Lublin, in an area of 50 by 60 miles, in order to dump there two million Jews. The execution of this plan is well under way; thousands of Jews from Vienna and Moravia having already left for their new "home." These people were given the very shortest possible period, usually 48 hours, within which to prepare for their departure; in many cases they were awoken in the middle of the night in order to be herded immediately into trains leaving for the "Jewish State." Forced to leave all their belongings and property, allowed to take along only 300 marks (\$120), they are dumped into the Reservation without any means, tools, and implements—completely left to themselves, to starve or to be saved by foreign charity.

## MANY ADVANTAGES FOR GERMANY

This scheme has several advantages from the Nazi viewpoint. It makes possible a complete and final expropriation of all Jewish property, but even more, it is a very effective way of obtaining foreign exchange, particularly American dollars, so badly needed by the Nazi regime for the prosecution of the war. The only way these miserable masses are going to be able to subsist is by relief coming from foreign sources, particularly from American Jewry; this help will be coming in form of dollars, to be used by the Nazi war machine for the purchase of so badly needed raw materials.

Apparently Mr. Hitler is determined to solve the Jewish problem in the simplest and most effective way, that is by extermination. Not alone are the Jews in this terrible plight. Many more millions of Poles face practically this same fate. Do we hear the eminent Herbert Hoover (of Belgian relief) somewhere in the background reiterating "The poor Finns? (three million). Or perhaps we hear another voice saying "Unite with Germany (of the Ghetto) and avenge the dastardly deed of SOVIET RUSSIA."

Like popcorn? You bet! Then come and pop all you want in the cozy atmosphere of a cheerful fire that blazes merrily in the open fireplace at Hillel. This delectable innovation is a daily feature and everybody is welcome to drop in at any hour in the afternoon to take part in the cheery doings.

Don't be selfish! Invite your friends to join the congenial group and share the fun.

## OLD FAITHFUL'S ORATION

A THREE-MINUTE SATIRE

by  
SYLVIA DANZIG

What would our elders say to this measure? How does it agree with their experience? Are we to put our immature judgments in competition with the wisdom of men whose education is far greater than our own? Is beardless youth to show no respect for the decision of mature age? (Hear, hear!) If this measure be right would they not have discovered it long ago?

Besides, if the measure itself is good, is this the time to carry it into execution? In these troubled times, is it wise to disregard the fact that all the authorities are against this measure? The proposition is new. I am not prepared—the house is not prepared to receive it.

I beg the members of the house give not your sanction to this measure; for if you do, the same man by whom it is proposed, will propose to you others to which it will be impossible to give your consent. I care very little about this particular measure, but what is there behind it? What are the future schemes? If we pass this bill, what fresh concessions may he not require?

I not only quarrel with the member's present sentiments, but I declare very frankly, I do not like the party with which he acts. If his own motives were as pure as possible, they cannot but suffer contamination from those with whom he is politically associated. This measure may be a boon to us, but I will accept no favour from such hands.

(Loud cries of "hear! hear!")

I have been called reactionary. I deny the charge. I hate innovation; but I love improvement. This scheme is too good to be practicable. It looks well in theory; but it won't do in practice.

In conclusion, I wish to advise the members that instead of reforming others, let each man reform himself! He will find enough to do, without looking abroad, and aiming at what is out of his power." (Loud cheers).