



Volume XIX

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No. 2

Hillel Cooperates at Institute

An awareness of the problem of racial and religious discrimination was the motivating force in organization of the Institute of Human Relations, held from June 3 to 8, under the joint sponsorship of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Graduate Students Association, the Associated Students of the University of California and the Student Veterans' Association. The institute brought together leading lecturers on the subject of better intergroup relations.

Hillel Foundation and the IZFA were among the many cooperating groups which participated in the planning of the institute.

First program of the series Monday evening featured Dalton Trumbo, MGM script writer, and a prominent member in the Screen Writers' Guild. He quoted the Fortune magazine poll on anti-Semitism conducted by Elmo Roper, which found that over eight per cent of the American people, more than twelve million people, have been victimized by the seeds of hate germinated by anti-Semitism. Paul Eisler, formerly with the Psychological Warfare Division, USA, recounted some of his experiences in interviewing German victims of the myth of racial superiority.

This superiority was dismissed as nonsense Tuesday evening by Dr. Melville Jacobs, professor of anthropology of the University of Washington, speaking on scientific attitudes toward race, or, as he put it, "geographical populations."

Jacobs cited intermarriage as the dominant argument in undermining the notion that pure races exist.

Carey McWilliams, noted Los Angeles writer, lecturer and lawyer, spoke in the Greek Theater Wednesday evening on the understanding and solution of inter-group problems. A panel discussion by student veterans of various denominations Wednesday noon took up personal experiences in service with this problem.

Other features of the institute included a concert by the University
(cont. on page 3)



Miriam Landes intones a commemorative musical selection as Dov Abramis presides at the Memorial Service marking the third anniversary of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto April 19.

The program, sponsored by the Intercollegiate Zionist Federation of American University of California chapter, substituted for the Friday evening lecture. The setting depicting the ruins of the ghetto that remained after the Germans had completed their slaughter, was designed by Avrum Brezner.

Other participants in the program included Nissim Gratz, Betty Jacobs and Gerald Turnoy. A capacity crowd witnessed the program.

U. J. A. ON WAY TO HIT QUOTA

The United Jewish Appeal campaign, conducted by Hillel, is slowly drawing to a successful close. About \$750, or 75% of the quota which is \$1,000, has been raised. Chairman Al Brezner stated that several organized groups have still to return their subscriptions and some of the student workers have not, as yet, reported the results of their solicitations, but all indications are that Hillel will reach its quota.

Highlights of the campaign were the enthusiasm of the leaders and workers who devoted their efforts to this worthy extra-curricular activity, and the successful and enjoyable Carnival which netted more than \$100.

"To expedite the campaign," pleads Brezner, "with the students who have not sent in their subscriptions, kindly do so as soon as possible? Exams are upon us, and it is difficult for the workers to continue their solicitations. The cause is very worthy, the needs of our people in the benighted lands of Europe are great and the time is short. Give that they may live!"

B'NAI B'RITH HEARS STUDENT TALKS

Two Bay Area B'nai B'rith lodges and Temple Sinai of Oakland were host this semester to the Hillel panel discussion group. After their first appearance in Burlingame before the Peninsula Women's Chapter of B'nai B'rith, they were invited to speak to the congregation at Temple Sinai, as well as the Berkeley B'nai B'rith.

Pearl Marchik spoke on "The Anatomy of Anti-Semitism;" Gloria Haydis on "The Jewish Sick Soul" and Al Brezner spoke of "Palestine and What It Means to World Jewry." Rabbi Gitin acted as moderator at all three functions.

Basing the discussion in part on Milton Steinberg's "Partisan Guide to the Jewish Problem," the speakers attempted to analyze the major issues which have faced Jewry since the dispersion.

They laid special emphasis on the seeming disintegration of Jewish life due to the tendency to think of Judaism only in terms of "the fight against" rather than "the desire for;" the need for Jewish active participation in all liberal causes, inasmuch as all minority problems are of concern to the Jewish people.

Dave Robins Elected President

Dave Robins received the gavel of authority from Stanley Felix, retiring president of the Hillel Foundation student council following the election of officers for the fall semester May 27.

Vice-president for the coming term will be Pearl Marchik. Dolores Rosenberg succeeds Rosalie Wallis as secretary. Treasurer will be Bun-ay Shapiro.

Representatives at large elected were Jack Marchik, Suzette Goldstein and George Karonsky.

President Robins, in his keynote address, looked forward hopefully to the coming school year with its greatly expanded enrollment. He hoped that Hillel would realize its full potentialities by catering to the interests of all.

I. M. GOLDEN BLDG. FUND

The I. M. Golden Memorial Building campaign to secure funds for a new B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at Berkeley is continuing and already close to \$90,000 has been raised. It is estimated that because of increased building costs an additional \$50,000 will be needed. Members of the B'nai B'rith lodges in District No. 4, and friends of Hillel everywhere are seeking to speed the campaign so construction could begin in the very near future.

Hillel facilities are taxed to capacity, and the crowded, confined quarters prevent active participation by a number of students. To maintain their interest and to afford them adequate facilities to activate the Hillel program, a larger building is necessary and imperative.

Many students have little incentive to attend our functions as they do not desire to be "mangled" by the large crowds. "More than 400 students crowded the last Open House and in the fall, we expect at least 600 to attend such an event," Rabbi Joseph Gitin said.

It is hoped that in view of this situation, the B'nai B'rith members of District No. 4, friends of Hillel, and parents of students will help to swell the fund so the new building can be constructed and a cherished dream can be realized.

In Retrospect . . .

As the school year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting upon the past looking back upon the many experiences that have occurred at Hillel. Hundreds of students have sought individual interests and have enjoyed in their participation. Some of you have been beset with personal problems that concerned love, friendship, home, class, religion, and have found practical guidance and happy solution in the Hillel program and through the counsel of the Rabbi.

Many of you have sought positive affirmations as Jews. You did not desire to regard anti-Semitism as the pattern for Jewish thinking and living but you based your loyalty and love for Judaism on your appreciation of its colorful ceremonies, pensive beauty of tradition, and significant moral values. You were reaching for roots in your Jewish past so that you could acquire a profound sense of belonging which is a prerequisite for inner happiness and equanimity. You found those roots in the Hillel activities, which now have become transmuted cherished memories. Like a cavalcade, those events pass before me—the High Holiday services at the beautiful Twentieth Century Club, which ushered in the new year, the Succos festival and the lovely Succah constructed with imagination and artistry, Open House with more than 400 students milling through the Foundation meeting new friends, seeking old ones, and making plans and hoping for their fulfillment, Thanksgiving, a gala occasion with Dr. Abram L. Sachar speaking at a sumptuous dinner on Jewish Humor. We not only laughed heartily, but we also reflected seriously on the meaning of stories that were supposed to be humorous. We felt the underlying pathos of the sordid life of the Polish Jew, now virtually extinct, of his aspirations aborted by death, and of his ineffable faith that is the secret of Jewish survival—the IZFA and the HABANIM, organized to give their need of support to strengthen Zionism, the movement to redeem the souls of our homeless people by facilitating their early return to Eretz Yisroel where they could dwell each under his vine and fig tree and none shall make them afraid. Serious-minded students, discussing not academically, but realistically, as though they themselves were "slaves in Egypt," feeling the agony and anxiety of their displaced brethren, and hoping with them for the realization of their dream of redemption—a special Friday evening service when we offered prayer of gratefulness to God for the victory over our enemies. World War II had finally ended in triumph. But our joy was mingled with sorrow as we recited the Kaddish in memory of those who died that we might live; we prayed for peace as they sleep their Eternal sleep. And for the returned servicemen who were patients at Oak Knoll and Shoemaker Navy hospitals, Hillel gave a party that was outstanding for its sociability.—The Passover Seder in an atmosphere of peace and 250 voices lifted in prayers of joy.—The musical recital by Cantor Barkin found the students so enthused and inspired that the poor tired Cantor had to continue for more than two hours.—The panel discussions given by Hillel teams before many groups throughout the Bay Area.—Lectures on Judaism and marriage which evoked much interesting and challenging opinions.—Student council meetings, sometimes turbulent, but always alive with exciting planning for an eventful, happy and successful Hillel.

These and many more memorable experiences happened at Hillel. They are now pleasant memories which are cherished. It is good to reminisce, even though they say it is a sign of age. Reflecting upon the past gives one an incentive to plan for the future.

I hope that you who have been graduated will find a successful and happy future, and it will be a pleasure to welcome you at Hillel whenever you chance to return, even for a brief visit. And to you, students, who plan to come back in the Fall, I wish a joyous vacation. I look forward to being with you again when school opens for a new year.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH GITIN.

STAFF

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Did You Know that? . .

... The B'nai B'rith, which is the oldest and largest service organization in the world, is the parent of Hillel and its main support.

... The Berkeley Community Chest helps to support financially the Hillel Foundation and that in every campaign for funds, Hillel students take an active part.

... Rabbi Gitin has addressed more than one hundred colleges and universities on the religious and cultural aspects of Judaism.

... More than 125 Hillel Foundations and counselors have been established on campuses in the United States, Cuba and Canada, serving more than 100,000 students.

... The first Hillel unit, established at the University of Illinois, came into being through the initial efforts of a Christian professor of Biblical literature, Dr. Edward C. Baldwin, who was concerned with the ignorance of his Jewish students about the Bible which their own people had created.

... Al Brezner is a member of the national executive board of the Intercollegiate Zionist Federation of America.

LIFE ON A K'VUTZ

By SOL HARVARD

It is still night, but in its last stages before blending into the breaking morning. Little houses, vine-covered huts, and tents slumber peacefully on the hill of Kfar-Usha.

The sounds of the gong . . . a big iron ring fastened on the wall of the community dining hall . . . bring life into this peaceful scene. Half-sleepy young men and women emerge from the houses and the tents and they enter the big dining hall. After a while there are again moving people, some depart, armed with tools and lunch boxes for their work places.

Moshe, assigned to the tractor, is already working in the field. The heat-waves, now almost visible as they flicker in the air the perspiration; the dust of the plowed ridges mingle and cover the hands and face with a heavy layer of mud. But Moshe does not notice it; his attention is devoted to plowing. Driving the tractor is hard labor, but it is considered very important in the village.

Thoughts and memories run through Moshe's mind. Memories of childhood dreams about life in Palestine. Now he is a member of a recently established village and is very happy. Yes, life is very hard . . . climatic conditions, exhaustive work, and often the lack

(cont. on page 3)

Ecclesiastes

By BETTY JACOBS

Reading Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament gave me a very uplifting feeling. Here were ideas I had recognized in my own everyday existence, and with the vivid description of Koheleth, I found myself reliving certain experiences and realizing the philosophy behind them. I want to tell you of a few of the ideas mentioned in Ecclesiastes and the various connections that occurred to me . . .

"For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow."

The more I learn, the higher I set my standards. I realize how little, after all, I already know—how unimportant I am in the vast scheme of things. How wonderful it would be to be indispensable to the function of some universal plan! I try to climb the highest rungs on the ladder of achievement and with each step I see more people above me—people who have a head start. With added height on the ladder I can get a better view of the world and the more I see, the more I realize the mystery of it all and how hopeless it is for me to try to understand life and death. I become unhappy, knowing the little time allotted to me on earth and the infinite knowledge to be acquired.

Yet, the person who has not begun to climb the ladder is perhaps happier, because he is relatively unconscious of what he does not know.

"There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labor."

Here I am, just starting out in life. What does it hold for me? I want to model it as I would flexible, pliant clay—into an ideal existence. If I could only do the right things, make the most advantageous decisions, have an infallible philosophy of life so that there would not be that constant yearning for an unknown something which one day eludes, the next day is captured. It is the fear that one day I will wake up to the fact that most of my life is gone and I have not accomplished the thing I wanted.

The only solution seems to be: love your work. Do one thing at a time, don't worry, be patient, get a real thrill out of doing a thing well, and you will have gained a great deal—from life as well as from the University.

* * *

Reading Ecclesiastes brings all these things to my mind. The beauty of phrasing and vividness of description make the passages unforgettable.

SOME O.P.A. PROBLEMS REVIEWED

Complexities of the current economic situation in the United States were discussed at Hillel recently by Frank L. Kidner, professor of economics at the university.

Kidner, who served as an assistant executive officer in the economic council at the U. N. O. conference in San Francisco last spring, was also principal economist for region 8 of the O.P.A., said that although most individuals are thinking solely of the fears of inflation there are those in high government circles who also fear deflation.

Curtailling the powers of the W. L. B. weakened the wartime economy that still exists, he believes.

What has happened since the first week after V-J Day, he continued, is that labor fears that a shorter working week will lower the standard of living. Manufacturers, he pointed out, want a quick return to the sale of durable-consumer goods.

Kidner said the labor-management conference was doomed to failure by divergent elements on both sides. He added that inconsistent statements on the fiscal policy by the treasury department and the administration have made business interests uneasy. He said that Bernard Baruch's plea to return taxes to the 1941 levels should be heeded and that scrapping many of the W.L.B.'s powers was regrettable.

Perhaps, a clearer picture of the economic situation will be evolved in the next few months as the nation looks toward successful reconversion and a sounder economy, he concluded.

Hillel Cooperates

(cont. from page 1)

Chorus Thursday evening, and a recital by Earl Robinson, composer of the Ballad for Americans and other popular works, who supplemented his singing with observations on the general topic of discrimination. Folk dances of various national groups were also presented. A meeting of the planning committee Saturday morning to formulate conclusions on the basis of the speeches presented and student reaction to them closed the proceedings of the conference.

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The Rabbi in the Community

Aside from his manifold activities, Hillel's amiable, spiritual leader, Rabbi Joseph Gitin, has "wandered" through the campus, community, the Coast and the Northwest, speaking before many varied groups. Recently he addressed students at the YMCA and various religious Foundations; at the Universities of Colorado and Denver, on "The Prophets of Israel," and "Common Grounds for Christians and Jews."

At the famed Mormon Brigham Young University at Provo, Utah, he discussed essential aspects of Judaism. Rabbi Gitin has addressed Hadassah at Sacramento, Richmond, San Jose, Oakland, San Francisco, and he has delivered messages to parent organizations, the B'nai B'rith and the Women's Chapters throughout the Bay area and all along the Coast, bringing to them the message of Hillel. In his "spare time," Rabbi Gitin serves on many civic committees and attends varied community functions. Yasher Koach!

MEET THE EDITORS

Editor-in-chief of the Hillel Call is Hal Bronstein who first joined Hillel at the University of California in the fall of 1942. He has worked as sports editor of the Vallejo Times-Herald and the Richmond Independent, as a straight news reporter on the Napa Register, and also has done rewrite work for the San Francisco News and the Oakland Tribune. Previously, he has done public relations at Fresno State College and for the Army's Special Service branch.

Dolores "Bayshic" Rosenberg, who is an associate editor, conducted a column about city college life for the Long Beach Independent. A journalism major, she expects to graduate in June, 1947.

She is one of the representatives-at-large of the Hillel student council and is head of the Host committee.

The third member of the editorial board is Gerald Turnoy, campus reporter for the Berkeley Gazette.

Turnoy began his journalistic career in high school and went to work as a copy boy on the Chicago Sun. After that he worked with top reporters covering both political conventions in 1944, the Illinois state legislature, and was attached also to the Sun's Washington bureau. Before coming to California last fall, he had been doing reportorial work for the Chicago Herald American. A political science major, he someday hopes to write interpretive articles about politics.

LIFE ON A K'VUTZ

(cont. from page 2)

of the simplest necessities of life, but he has things he is thankful for. Nava, the mother of Eitan, their son, is a loving wife and co-worker.

In the evening there are the interesting books waiting for him. The concert music heard over the radio in the recreation hall, and last but not least the lively discussions with other members of the community. All of these factors, happy family life, interesting work, stimulating social gatherings, would not make possible the endurance of these hardships if there was no goal . . . the goal of national liberation based on social justice and equality, which makes life spiritually rich.

The distant sound of the gong interrupts Moshe's thoughts. He stops the tractor and by its shady side prepares himself for the lunch period.

Note: Kfar-Usha is a cooperative farm settlement in Palestine. Property and revenue belong to its members. Every member shares equally in the income which is distributed in products and services. Everything is voluntarily curtailed in order to save and to acquire tools and livestock. Kfar-Usha has to expand to be able to accept their brethren from Nazi Europe.

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Eitan—Hebrew name for strength.

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Irving Fineman

Hillel students who attended the lecture given by Mr. Irving Fineman, eminent author, at a recent Friday service, were not only informed but inspired by the content of his message. He spoke on his famed book, "Hear, Ye Sons." His thesis was that the Jew must rediscover his Jewish heritage in order that he may prevent the warping of his soul and the impoverishment of his personality. A knowledge of the pensive beauty and profound significance of Judaism and Jewish life will not only provide a shield against anti-semitism but primarily it will furnish a proper perspective and wholesome and happy outlook on life.

Mr. Fineman, in the course of the discussion that followed his lecture, stressed the point that by understanding our traditional values and the ethical nobility of our fathers, can we properly participate in the struggle for justice and freedom not only for our own people but for all mankind.

Mr. Fineman also spoke at the University before a group of students majoring in writing and English literature. Many of the Hillel students were present.

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Zionist Issues

Aired by I.Z.F.A.

Action has been the keynote of Zionist activity in the East Bay during the past months.

The Intercollegiate Zionist Federation of America, organized last December at a conference in Chicago attended by Avrum Brezner representing U.C. at Berkeley, has taken the lead in an educational program designed to bring the issues of Zionism before the campus.

In a series of weekly meetings developed to answer the queries of all unacquainted with the goals of world Zionism, an opportunity for clarification is offered.

The basic goal of world Zionism, as promulgated by the Basle conference of 1893, is the establishment of a legally secure, publicly recognized Jewish national home in Palestine. Under the direction of Dov Abramis, cultural chairman, weekly seminars take up problems pertinent to attainment of this goal.

Meeting notices mailed to 125 persons are supplemented by announcements in the campus newspaper.

One of the major projects recently undertaken by the IZFA, in cooperation with Habonim, a Labor Zionist group headed by Nissim Gratz, has taken the distribution of over one thousand post cards addressed to President Truman urging him to take immediate action on the admission to Palestine of at least the 100,000 European Jews suggested by the Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry following its recent investigation.

Palestinian students have been present at most discussions to lend authenticity to the available reports. Among them are Akiba Schmilovitz of Tel Aviv, Gerson Fradkin and Irving Adelman. All three have arrived within the past six months. Irving is a native of Oakland who spent some time in Palestine while in the U.S. Army. His family now resides in Tel Aviv.

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HILLEL SERVICES

An inspirational message of comfort, advice or information is the weekly offering of Rabbi Joseph Gitin at Friday evening services attended by ever increasing numbers of students and servicemen. Student participation is introduced through guest services.

Newly initiated is the practice of holding orthodox services at 7:15 p.m. each Friday, a *minyan* of ten men by religious custom constituting a quorum. Dr. Walter J. Fischel of the University semitics department has taken an active interest in these traditional services.

During Rabbi Gitin's Chautauqua lecture tour Gerald Turnoy conducted services. Peter Hart, religious chairman, designates speakers. Recent guest lecturers have included Myrsum Wixman, Bunny Schapiro, Teri Oesterreicher and Irving Fineman, noted author and Mrs. Betty McCandless.

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ABRAMIS SPEAKS AT CAMPUS DEBATE

A recent campus Town Hall forum on the topic of the building of a Jewish national homeland in Palestine has created great local interest. Speaking on behalf of the IZFA was Dov Abramis, while Bakir Alghita represented the Arab Students Association of Berkeley.

Limited in time, the discussion did not result in formulation of concrete conclusions. Consequently, the IZFA invited the Arab students to attend their meetings and join in a further debate. However, in the heated discussion that appeared in the editorial columns of the Daily Californian, campus newspaper, the Arabs declined. The matter now rests there.

An outbreak of violence attributed to groups inspired by the Ku Klux Klan resulted in placing of a fiery cross on the lawn of the USC chapter of Zeta Beta Tau and emblazoning of the KKK on the university administration building.

Temple Beth Sholom, San Francisco, was desecrated by vandals who broke into the ark and damaged the Torah, holy scroll of Hebrew law. Rabbi Saul White, who has recently spoken to both the IZFA and Habonim in Berkeley is the spiritual leader of the congregation.

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BERLINER'S

LADIES' APPAREL

2288 Telegraph

J. G. McDonald on Some Jewish Leaders

Some friendly and well-meaning criticism by the former League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who is now a member of the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee on Palestine, at a meeting of the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America:

"Many leaders of the Jewish community . . . live in what I consider a world of illusion scarcely related to reality. This type of Jewish leader has, it seems to me, a cold, unrealistic, and much too narrow conception of Judaism . . . To stand up and argue seriously that Judaism is merely a religion, is to ignore or misconstrue its meaning out of all proportion to realities . . . Jewish fund raising in this country has been almost completely de-Judaized. I have spoken at meetings where the money might have been raised for the Hottentots or any other heathen in any part of the world. There was nothing Jewish about the meetings at all. Many of the leaders in the Jewish community would be embarrassed if the proceedings were made Jewish. But it would be good for them to be embarrassed. And so my plea would be what American Jewry needs more than its Christian-Jewish relations, more than powerful organization, is a rebirth and rededication to Jewishness."

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