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THE HILLEL HANDBOOK

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Foreword

A year ago the first little Hillel Handbook was issued to serve the practical needs of the Jewish students on every campus where there is a Hillel Foundation unit. The hope was expressed that the H-Book would become an annual tradition. That hope has already been realized, for the first volume was heartily welcomed by the thousands of Jewish students who found the Handbook a very useful summary of general information which is related to the Hillel program.

A number of changes have necessarily been introduced. The Foundation program has expanded considerably so that today it reaches into more than fifty University centers, serving thirty thousand Jewish students. Many more pages have therefore been added to bring in the story of these newly added units. It has been found desirable also to insert the Jewish calendar in the diary material. For there have been frequent requests for this information, especially from students who wished to observe the Kaddish service for their parents.

There has been a great deal of new work for the student committee. It was able to carry through the new demands because of the hearty cooperation of the leaders on every Hillel campus.
Dedication

to

Alfred M. Cohen

It is entirely appropriate to dedicate this edition of the Hillel Handbook to the distinguished Honorary President of B’nai B’rith, Alfred M. Cohen. For the initiation of the Foundation movement was largely the product of his vision, and the remarkable expansion of the Hillel program from an experimental unit at Illinois to the most important Jewish youth movement in the country, came during his thirteen year administration as President of B’nai B’rith.

Hillel began at the University of Illinois in 1923 as a locally sponsored venture under the direction of the late Rabbi Benjamin Frankel. The young rabbi took his program to the Executive Committee of B’nai B’rith, asking for its sponsorship. Alfred M. Cohen was then one of the key members of the Executive Committee and it was at his insistence that the sponsorship of the Hillel Foundation program was undertaken. Thereafter, as the program developed from campus to campus, President Cohen’s balanced statesmanship, a synthesis of courage to undertake a vast cultural program and mature prudence to prevent it from losing itself in fly-by-night experimentation, guided the Hillel movement through the crucial period of trial and error.

President Cohen looks back with justifiable pride upon the growth of Hillel during his administration. He has written "That I have been identified with the Hillel movement, and I hope in some measure have helped it from infancy on its onward march, is one of the sweet compensations of my long life."

President Cohen is today affectionately saluted in this dedication in the name of 30,000 Jewish students who are being trained for Jewish leadership because of his vision.
President's Message

The second issue of the H-Book discloses unprecedented growth and progress in the B’nai B’rith Hillel program. It lists many additional Foundations and Counselorships which have been established in every section of the country. It describes a new unit at Brooklyn College, a pioneering effort in the metropolitan area of New York. B’nai B’rith’s college program has indeed become national in scope and its product—an informed, self-respecting and courageous Jewish leadership—will undoubtedly leaven Jewish institutional life.

For the Foundations train the college generation to serve as leaders. They stimulate a sincere concern in the problems that confront our people. They develop a wholesome respect for the best in Jewish tradition. They provide the basic background of Jewish life so that the privileged college generation may have an intelligent approach and a balanced perspective in meeting the challenges of these critical days.

It is fitting that the Hillel H-Book this year is dedicated to our distinguished Honorary President, Alfred M. Cohen, who was for so many years Chairman of the B’nai B’rith Hillel Commission and contributed so much to the foundation upon which the present magnificent superstructure of Hillel is being built.
Greetings from the National Secretary

The second edition of the H-Book appears at a moment when young people everywhere in America find themselves faced with challenges new to our generation. The ideals they have cherished and the hopes they have nurtured are threatened by the cataclysmic world events. The future is foreboding for all, but more so for youth.

It is just at such a time, however, that an agency like the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations more than ever justifies itself. Instead of bemoaning the lack of moral fibre and responsibility in youth and attributing our political, economic and social ailments to a so-called misguided younger generation, the B'nai B'rith, through the Hillel Foundations, has been training and molding thousands of young people for healthy and useful lives by a coordinated program of character-building. Recognizing that youth is the repository of American civilization and that they are also most susceptible to influences that would imperil or destroy that rich endowment, B'nai B'rith built for the future when it undertook to sponsor the Hillel Foundations.

The future is upon us. Already graduates of the Hillel Foundations have taken their places in their own communities as responsible and trained leaders whose interests were directed into constructive and positive channels by Hillel. Others will follow in ever increasing numbers as the Hillel Extension program broadens its scope and moves into additional colleges and universities.

Today B'nai B'rith's investment in youth is beginning to pay dividends. That is our great comfort. In these trying times when values that once appeared so important have become meaningless, it is encouraging to find that in the Hillel Foundations our expectations have been realized. From them we can look for continued moral dividends.
Message from the National Director

Last year, when the first Hillel Handbook went to press, a new program of extension service was announced and the hope was expressed that this new technique would enable the Hillel program to influence many more thousands of Jewish students. The hope has justified itself beyond its most optimistic limits. To the nineteen units which were installed in the last academic year, more than twenty new units have been added. The Hillel program now reaches into more than fifty colleges and universities and attempts to serve 30,000 Jewish students.

Yet the original objectives remain intact. When the first Foundation was established seventeen years ago at the University of Illinois it was intended to stimulate among students on the college campus a wholesome interest in the survival values of the Jewish heritage. It was planned to develop Hillel activities so that they would teach the Jewish student to regard his heritage as precious, as worth preserving, and as an important pattern in the fabric of western civilization. These objectives have been steadily adhered to through all the changes in technique that have become necessary as the movement has expanded from a small unit at Illinois to the many university centers in every part of the country.

It has just been suggested that the Hillel technique has constantly changed. But one principle has remained constant, namely, the principle of self-government, of placing the responsibility for the student program in the hands of the students themselves. After seventeen years there is an impressive record of leadership in Jewish institutional life, leadership which is drawn from Hillel trained students. This is the ultimate vindication of the original principle which has kept the administration of the Hillel Foundations basically democratic.
Illinois

This year the Hillel Foundation of Illinois celebrates its eighteenth birthday, and moves into new and expanded quarters. The scene on the Illinois campus has changed considerably since 1923, when the late Rabbi Benjamin Frankel came to Champaign-Urbana to organize the three hundred Jewish students there. Thanks to Rabbi Frankel's untiring devotion, and the generous sponsorship of B'nai B'rith, Jewish students today possess the facilities and opportunity for intensive and intelligent Jewish life during their academic career.

Rabbi Frankel served as leader of Hillel until his untimely death in 1927. It was then that B'nai B'rith turned to Dr. A. L. Sachar, at that time on the history faculty of the University, to assume the Directorship of the Illinois Foundation. Dr. Sachar directed the Foundation until 1934, when he was called to assume the National Directorship as well. Thereafter, in collaboration with Dr. Sachar, the local work has been carried on by a succession of young associates. In the fall of 1939 Rabbi Judah Goldin was invited to serve as Associate Director at Illinois.

The outstanding feature of the Illinois Foundation is its courses, which are fully accredited by the University. The courses draw between 300 to 400 Jewish and non-Jewish students each semester, and comprise the largest program of religious education in the United States. The Hillel credit course in Hebrew is the first of its kind in a state university. Outstanding too is the Hillel Forum, which brings to the campus and to the community at large distinguished national personalities. Recently the Foundation inaugurated a series of Sunday night Town Meetings, at which faculty members, students, and guest speakers discuss vital contemporary questions.

Today the Jewish student body numbers approximately 1300 young men and women with a governing body of their own and a rich program.


Dr. Max Kadushin  
Director, University of Wisconsin

Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Foundation was organized in 1924 as the second unit in the Hillel program. Its first Director, Rabbi Solomon Landman, who served until 1931, developed the technique that has since been followed. Rabbi Max Kadushin, author of a number of scholarly works in the field of rabbinics, and a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, has been Director since then.

The program at Wisconsin includes Religious services and Holiday celebrations; classes in Hebrew, Bible, and Talmud; lecture courses in Jewish history, literature, and sociology; a seminar in Jewish philosophy; Sunday evening supper-forums; phonograph concerts; debates and oratory. Special interest groups take up dramatics, Jewish music, and Jewish interpretive dancing, preparing programs to be produced later on in the Foundation. Sponsored by the Foundation also are the Avukah, and a Graduate Club.

Included in the calendar of social functions are matinee dances, once each month, an annual ball, a winter dance, a stunt night, a carnival, and an annual Spring banquet. The social welfare committee undertakes hospital visiting and employment service. A German refugee project has also been eminently successful. Hillel takes an active part in the All-University Religious Council. A vocational guidance program, that will satisfy a need for able and efficient counselling has been planned for this year by the Director.

Like all the other Foundations, the Wisconsin unit is democratically governed with the Student Council, cabinet and committees formulating and successfully carrying out the extensive student program.

All of the Foundation activities are centered in a suite of rooms located in the University business district. Quarters consist of an auditorium, lounge, library, ping-pong room, kitchen, a reading and recreation room, and offices.
Ohio

Organized in 1925, under the leadership of Dr. Lee J. Levinger, the Ohio State Foundation has rapidly grown into one of the largest Hillel units in the country. Rabbi Harry Kaplan, the present director, has served since 1935, and on two separate occasions has been honored with the presidency of the University Religious Council.

To its Jewish student body of 1100, the Ohio State Hillel brings a well-rounded program of religious, cultural, and social activities. Among its outstanding departments are the Friday Fireside, with both orthodox and liberal services, the Hillel Players, the Hillel Scroll, the Debating team, the Forum and educational features, the Hillel library and the Inter-faith committee. A branch of Avukah is an integral part of the Foundation’s life. In its social welfare program, the Foundation sponsors the Hillel Refugee Student Fund, which provides tuition and maintenance for a selected number of foreign students each year. For the past three years fellowships and prizes have been offered to outstanding students, chosen on the basis of character, scholarship, and distinguished service to Hillel and the campus.

The Hillel Affiliate membership of $2 entitles students to all the privileges of membership as well as to a season ticket to all plays, dances, the Hillel Prom and Stunt Night. Other highlights of the school year are the High Holyday services, the Passover Seder and the annual Awards Banquet.

Democratically governed, the Foundation’s activities are conducted by the Hillel Student Council, which acts in close co-operation with the Hillel Cabinet, composed of presidents of Jewish Fraternities and Sororities and elected representatives of Jewish rooming houses and dormitories. Housed in an attractive three-story, red brick building, the Foundation is in the heart of the campus area, and is readily accessible to all sections of the University.

RABBI HARRY KAPLAN
Director, Ohio State University
Michigan

In the spring of 1940, the Michigan Hillel Foundation celebrated its Bar Mitzvoh as the established Jewish organization on the University of Michigan campus. Started 13 years ago with a group of 600 Jewish students, the Foundation now provides facilities for 1300. Last year the Hillel affiliate-membership reached an all-time high of 860.

Located three blocks from the campus, the Foundation contains a library of 2000 volumes, a lounge, a reading room, a chapel, a recreation room, three offices, and a kitchen. The extensive collection of symphonic and classical recordings is well known and much used by all Michigan students.

A number of innovations in program have been introduced during the past two years. Honor courses in Judaism have been established; a personal service clinic is in operation; several new classes have been organized, and a Hillel Fraternity cabinet has been launched.

The Michigan Hillel forums are among the outstanding on the campus, and the annual Hillel play receives campus-wide attention. The Foundation sponsors a program of religious, cultural, educational, social, athletic, and dramatic activities which have all been important agencies in fostering amicable inter-faith relations.

For the past two years the Foundation has been conducting the Ann Arbor United Jewish appeal drives and has raised more than $4000 each year. It is also responsible for bringing 10 refugee students to the Michigan campus.

Plans for this year include a forum series open to the entire campus with the nation’s outstanding men as guests, presentation of the Hillel play in Detroit, services for the major holy days, firesides on the pertinent problems of the day, and many other attractive activities.
California

After eleven years of service as Director of the B’nai B’rith Hillel Foundation at the University of California, Rabbi M. J. Merritt is retiring, to be succeeded by Rabbi Theodore Gordon of the Penn State College Hillel Foundation.

In 1929 when Rabbi Merritt assumed the direction of the Berkeley Foundation, the Jewish student body numbered approximately 425. In 1940 the Jewish enrollment was doubled. The Foundation has grown and expanded its program in proportion. Outstanding is its social service program covering a Student Loan fund that in eleven years has loaned $26,000; an Employment Bureau that has placed scores of students in part-time jobs; a Wardrobe that outfits men and women with every variety of wearing apparel, and a free tea and coffee service at noon. The Foundation has developed a successful refugee fund and has brought a number of refugee students to the California campus.

The Hillel Players and the Hillel Chorus have won a reputation far beyond the borders of the campus. The extensive Hillel Library of 3000 volumes, by arrangement with the University Administration, has been placed at the disposal of all registered students. The popular Sunday Cost-Suppers, when outstanding speakers are presented, have become eagerly awaited events. Classes in Jewish history, Jewish Social Institutions, reviews of outstanding books, and discussions of socio-economic problems, keep the cultural phase of Hillel on a high level. Services on the high holy days, Succoth, Chanukah, Purim, and Passover, bring the students together for religious services.

The Foundation is located in a beautiful, handsomely furnished, excellently equipped building at 2620 Bancroft Way. Its location, opposite the University grounds, and the beauty and dignity of the building, stirs the pride of the Jewish student group and of all Jewish visitors to the campus.
Organized in 1929, Cornell Foundation entered the Hillel orbit pioneering a technique new to the older and already proven successful Foundations. Housed in Barnes Hall, a building set apart by the University for the denominational activities of all the religious groups, the Foundation developed a unique and successful inter-faith program.

Last year in collaboration with Cornell's United Religious Workers, Hillel's inter-faith activity included the launching of a campus-wide Institute of Human Relations and the development of plans for a Religious Emphasis Week in 1941.

Before the arrival of its present director, Rabbi David Polish, the Foundation and its distinctive technique was formulated and developed by the invaluable contributions of Rabbi Maurice Pekarsky and Rabbi Ephraim Fischoff.

The Cornell Hillel has also experimented with the plan to create a permanent parents' group and to launch special student-parent events to be held in New York City. Through Rabbi Polish, who serves Temple Beth-El as its spiritual head, a close relationship with the Jewish community in Ithaca has been developed.

Because the emphasis at Cornell has necessarily been on cultural and religious activity as well as on personnel service, classes conducted in Hebrew, Jewish history, and current Jewish problems, a Hebrew speaking club, officially recognized by the university, a forum of prominent Jewish speakers, and regular student panel discussions, have all been well received by Cornell's 850 Jewish students.

In cooperation with Ayukah, Hillel has sponsored cultural seminars, a Balfour Day program, a White Paper protest meeting, Palestine night at the Cosmopolitan Club, and a Jewish National Fund campaign. A series of publications which include a newspaper, special religious services, a Haggadah supplement, a songster, cultural periodicals, and a syllabus in Jewish sociology, have been published by the students.
Texas

The Hillel Foundation at the University of Texas is perhaps the most distinctly Southern institution that is included in the Hillel program. In so many other Southern universities a large element of the Jewish student body comes from Eastern centers. Not so at Texas. Here some 85 per cent of the Jewish students come from Texas or adjacent states.

The Foundation was opened in January, 1930, under the leadership of Rabbi Jacob Weinstein who is at present serving a large congregation in Chicago. He was succeeded by Rabbi Samuel Halevi Baron. In 1935 Rabbi Abram Vossen Goodman became Director.

The Foundation has its quarters across the street from the University campus. It occupies an entire floor of a building, and its rooms include a large office which is combined with the library, a journalism room, a spacious lounge, a ping-pong room with a stage for amateur productions, and a kitchen.

Last year the Jewish student body numbered 450; every Jewish student is considered a Hillel member without payment of a fee. However, contributions were received from the fraternity and sorority groups on a per capita basis as a partial substitute for student dues. Hillel sponsors an assortment of lectures, clubs, study groups, dramatic productions, debates, oratory competitions, and religious services.

While anti-Semitism is exceptional on the Texas campus or elsewhere in the Lone Star state, the students have become keenly aware of Jewish needs outside. The seven fraternity and sorority groups are taking care of five refugee students during the year 1940-41 in addition to at least two others who will be maintained through the joint efforts of the students and the Jewish community.
Alabama

The University of Alabama, in keeping with its aim to stimulate the religious loyalties of its students, was instrumental in the establishment of the Alabama Hillel in 1934. Rabbi Samuel Cook was the first director and served for two years. He was succeeded by Rabbi Morris Kertzer. The student body has been steadily increasing and today numbers approximately 500, about one-half of whom came from the eastern part of the United States.

The Foundation is housed in an attractive building on University Avenue, not far from the heart of the campus. These quarters contain a lounge room, committee rooms, offices, play and work rooms and a guest room which is occupied the school year round by two deserving students. Features are a lovely chapel and the Sam Wiesel Memorial Library.

The Tuscaloosa Jewish community has taken a keen interest in the Foundation and its welfare and in turn has received the services of the Director as its rabbi. The local B'nai B'rith lodge has created an annual working scholarship to be awarded to a worthy Hillel member. The Jewish student body itself has undertaken the project of supporting a refugee student on the campus.

The Foundation publishes a weekly paper and a monthly bulletin. It has sponsored weekly religious services, debating and oratorical contests, an annual stunt show, a Woman's League, a Photography club, a Seminar class, a Vocational Guidance clinic, and a speakers' forum. Social and athletic activities are also part of its program.

Credit courses in Jewish History, Hebrew and philosophies of living are given at the University by the Foundation's present director, Rabbi Bertram Klausner. These classes are open to all students.

Rabbi Klausner has also established contact with Mississippi State College and is serving its Jewish student body. On several occasions the two Foundations have sponsored joint activities.
Penn State

Hillel came to Penn State in 1935 with Rabbi Ephraim Fischoff as its first director. In 1937 Rabbi Theodore Gordon took up the reins and further developed a successful technique that resulted last year in the dedication of a building to house Hillel activities. A District-wide pilgrimage brought more than one hundred outstanding B'nai B'rith leaders to State College for the dedication ceremonies.

The new Foundation, having already served to crystallize student sentiment, is now rapidly becoming the focus of Jewish student activity. Its spacious quarters include a lounge, an office for the director, the Joseph Herbach Library, recently enlarged by more than 150 volumes, a large playroom located in the basement, a combination Synagogue-Auditorium, and a general work room.

The Penn State Refugee Program functions well, each of the four Jewish fraternities housing a refugee student. The Hillel Forum set a new standard during the last year, bringing six outstanding Jewish speakers to the campus. Rabbi Gordon again lectured on the campus on "Judaism," and was also invited to lecture on "The Prophets" at the community-wide Bible School.

Student government at the Foundation was completely re-organized during the last school year, aiming at increased student participation in Hillel and a greater degree of democracy in the management of the Foundation. Recent innovations in the religious program include a joint Thanksgiving Service with the Penn State Christian Association, an affair which promises to be an annual event; and a Brotherhood Service which was held as part of National Brotherhood Week observance.

Hillel awarded for the first time a scholarship cup to the Jewish fraternity which had the highest scholastic average for the semester. This cup is to be awarded to the top ranking fraternity at the end of each semester.

Rabbi Benjamin Kahn of Chicago will assume the directorship of the Penn State Foundation on September 1, 1940.
Northwestern

Realizing this year a long existing desire to have a private building to house its activities, Northwestern Hillel is destined to round out a technique successfully started in 1934 by Rabbi Martin Weitz and further developed by its present Director, Rabbi Maurice Pekarsky.

The new house, located in the heart of the campus, will provide space for a music room, library, kitchen, little theatre, living room, and offices for administrative purposes.

The Northwestern unit was the first experiment with a university situated in a metropolitan center, a so-called "trolley-car" university, where the majority of the students commute between classes and their homes. When in 1934 it became apparent that there was a need for Hillel by the growing Jewish student body, plans were completed for the establishment of a Foundation.

The strongest activities at the Foundation have been the campus forum, the development of musical appreciation, and membership and cooperation in interfaith activities. The Foundation is a constituent member of the University Board of Religion.

Unusually fortunate in winning the cooperation of the Temples of the North Shore in Chicago, as well as that of the B'nai B'rith Auxiliary groups, Hillel's financial support for all student activity has been supplied almost entirely by these groups.

Introducing a new type of democratic student administration, a council of ten students, elected from the entire Jewish student body, will formulate and carry out the Foundation's variety of activities during the coming year. Through this system, which vests greater responsibility in the council members, who represent every phase of campus life, it is hoped that there will be even wider participation in Hillel activities by the students.

RABBI MAURICE PEKARSKY
Director, Northwestern University and University of Chicago
North Carolina

The Foundation at North Carolina was organized in 1936 under the direction of Rabbi Bernard Zeiger. It came into being as the result of the whole-hearted cooperation of the North Carolina Associations of Jewish Men and Women to serve a student constituency of more than four hundred. There are no separate headquarters for the Foundation. The hospitality of the Y.M.C.A. has made it possible for the Director to do his counselling and to collaborate with the Student Cabinet in the "Y" building. The University has also been splendidly cooperative in placing at the disposal of the Foundation its Graham Memorial Building. Here discussion groups and religious services have been conducted.

The usual routine of activities is part of the North Carolina program. But in addition special emphasis has been placed upon inter-group relations and Hillel has been largely responsible for arranging the good-will program which has meant so much to the campus in a very sensitive period.

During the past year growing emphasis has been placed on the religious and cultural program. Both orthodox and reform services have been held every Friday evening. Following the service a lecture has been given either by the visiting speaker or by the Hillel Director. Three non-credit courses dealing with contemporary Jewish life have also been offered by the Foundation.

The Director also serves as Counselor for and guides the program of the Jewish student bodies at Duke University and the Greensborough College for Women.
Indiana

The Indiana Foundation, the twelfth in the chain of Hillels, was established in 1938 with Rabbi Martin Perley as Director. It is housed in a large, attractive residence facing the campus. In its two years of existence it has become an integral part of campus life and is held in the highest regard by Jew and non-Jew alike. Its advent was hailed by the President and leading administrative officials as filling a great need on the campus.

The Foundation carries on a widespread program of activities, and includes dramatic, forensic, and music groups which have attained statewide distinction and which have presented successful programs throughout the district.

Many inter-faith projects are carried out and the Foundation takes a leading part in the activities of the Student Religious Cabinet which is composed of representatives of all religious denominations on the campus. The president of the cabinet for the academic year 1940-41 is a Jewish student, the vice president of the Hillel Student Council.

Classes in Hebrew and Jewish History are offered each semester. Last year Rabbi Perley directed a co-operative course in the Religions of Mankind at the University under the sponsorship of the University Committee on Religion. So successful was this venture that it will be repeated again this year.

Following the initiative of the Foundation, three refugee students were brought to the campus last year by the Student Refugee Committee. The Foundation also made it possible for an Austrian couple to be resettled and established in Bloomington by affording them its facilities to serve good, home-cooked meals to the students each day throughout the school year. This service has greatly enhanced the "home away from home" atmosphere at the Foundation.

The social events in the Hillel calendar include an annual stunt show, carnival, gridiron dinner, lawn party, as well as regular dances and mixers.
Chicago

For seven years prior to 1939, Jewish student activities at the University of Chicago were conducted through the voluntary efforts of Dr. George Fox, Rabbi of the South Shore Temple, Chicago. The organization which Rabbi Fox directed was known as the Jewish Student Foundation and had a membership, during the school year 1938-39, of 70 Jewish students.

The J.S.F. worked in close harmony with the other religious groups on campus and enjoyed the cooperation of the University Chapel authorities. Space for offices and meeting rooms was provided by the Chapel.

In September 1939, Hillel came to the Chicago campus with Rabbi Maurice Pekarsky of Northwestern as Director. During the school year 1939-40, the membership kited from a previous 70 under J.S.F. to 370.

Particularly successful among Hillel’s activities during the first year were the weekly discussion groups. Carrying on a tradition adopted by J.S.F., Friday Fireside programs were held at Ida Noyes Hall. Many prominent speakers were invited to the Chicago campus to participate in these programs. The Hillel Forum included such prominent leaders as Ludwig Lewisohn, Dr. Abram Sachar, and Maurice Hindus.

The direction of the Chicago unit has been in the hands of Rabbi Maurice Pekarsky who combined this task with the supervision of the Jewish student program at Northwestern. The activities have grown too rapidly for one man to manage them successfully. An Associate, Rabbi Essrig, has therefore been added to the staff and he will cooperate with Rabbi Pekarsky in the Hillel program at both Chicago and Northwestern.
In its first year of existence, the University of Iowa extension unit has already developed a well-rounded program of activities to serve the needs of the 300 Jewish students at the State University.

The Hillel program is part of a larger University set-up organized within the School of Religion of the Liberal Arts College. The Director, Rabbi Morris N. Kertzer, formerly of Illinois and Alabama Hillel Foundations, is an associate professor in the Liberal Arts College, and the Hillel courses in Jewish history, literature and philosophy are presented as part of the University curriculum.

An active religious program, which consistently attracts good attendance on Friday evenings and holidays; a cultural program which includes a Forum with nationally prominent speakers; debates with sister Foundations and other groups; participation in the national Hillel Oratorical Contest, in which Iowa, last year, carried off highest honors through its able representative, William Rivkin; a dramatics group which shows promise for the future; athletic teams who win honors in and out of Iowa; these and other activities elicit the interest of the large majority of Jewish students.

A Student Council, consisting of the various committee chairmen, managed all of the activities and was particularly gratified at the excellent response to the cultural activities, as well as to the religious program.

Plans for the coming year include the publication of a printed paper to take the place of the mimeographed "Hillel Forum," the presentation of several plays before Jewish groups throughout the state, and an intensive vocational guidance program.
Maryland

Maryland Hillel was first projected at the beginning of the summer of 1939 to serve about 350 Jewish students at College Park, Maryland. Half of these students commuted between their homes and the University and the other half lived on the campus.

Previous to the coming of Hillel there was no Jewish organization of consequence on the Maryland campus. In October, 1939, Rabbi Ely Pilchik opened Hillel House—a six room structure devoted to housing the religious, cultural, and social activities that made up the well-rounded Hillel program. Under the dynamic direction of Rabbi Pilchik, the cooperation of the committee which had been appointed to sponsor the Hillel unit, and the generous tangible financial support supplied by B’nai B’rith agencies in Washington and Baltimore, Maryland was successfully launched.

The Women’s Auxiliary of Argo Lodge in Washington supplied the nucleus of the Hillel budget. The first check, for $500, was presented to Henry Monsky, National B’nai B’rith president, in the presence of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt at the first anniversary meeting of the Auxiliary. Furnishings, magazine subscriptions, and additional financial support were supplied by many good friends and well-wishers in the area.

In addition to the weekly Friday evening services conducted at the Foundation, a beautiful Seder climaxed the first year’s religious program. Classes in Hebrew and Jewish History have already evoked a great deal of interest and personal pride among the Jewish students at College Park.

The inter-faith program on the campus, now permanently established and ready to begin its second year, was given impetus by the active and conscientious support of Hillel.

Rabbi Sam Silver was recently appointed to succeed Rabbi Pilchik and he will assume his new duties as Director at the beginning of the new school year.
Minnesota

Hillel came to Minnesota in the middle of last year—the result of five years of work by the Menorah Society to convince the B’nai B’rith that the 1100 Jewish students at Minnesota desired and needed a Foundation. Ben Chernov, president of Menorah and first president of the Minnesota unit, was the driving force behind this movement.

Hillel had no director during the first year; the task of planning and carrying out the program was successfully done by its Council, a group of fifty students representing both the Jewish campus organizations and the non-affiliated students.

In the short period of five months that remained in the school year, the Council sponsored Hebrew classes, supper forums, a debate tournament, an all-University lecture, and a sports program. The Council also presented five evening program meetings, each attracting upwards of two hundred students; maintained a series of popular Sunday evening fireside discussions; sent a contestant to the National Oratorical Contest in Chicago; and published a semi-monthly newspaper. A Passover Seder climaxed the religious program that was begun with Hillel’s cooperation in interdenominational services and discussions.

In the first five months that Hillel was at Minnesota, it secured nearly five hundred paid-up members. It is expected that the membership will be at least eight hundred by the summer of 1941.

A full time Director, Rabbi Abraham Millgram, has now been appointed. Under his direction the Hillel program will be both broadened and intensified.

During the past year all activities were carried out in the Minnesota Union and in the fraternity and sorority houses. It is hoped that soon there will be special Hillel headquarters to house the many activities that are planned.
Brooklyn College

As this Handbook goes to press there is not yet in being a Hillel Foundation at Brooklyn College. But all plans for its inauguration in the fall of 1940 have been made. It comes to a great American campus as a result of the appeal from Brooklyn Jewish community leaders and from the executive committee of the Brooklyn College Student Council.

There is evidently crying need for the Foundation program on the Brooklyn Campus. Nearly 8000 Jewish students are registered in the day and night courses of the college. This is easily the largest Jewish student body which is to be served by the Hillel program. The size of this student body, the tradition of the college, the fact that the students commute between home and classes, the highly developed political consciousness of the student group, all furnish unique challenges to the Hillel program. It is already evident that its major activities will be cultural to serve a student body which is anxious to wrestle with major political and social questions.

Dr. A. L. Sachar, National Director, has taken a leave of absence from the Illinois Foundation to help inaugurate the new unit. His Associate will be Dr. Isaac Rabinowitz who was transferred from the Michigan Foundation to meet this new and much larger challenge. The Hillel headquarters are close to the campus and its staff is in the process of being organized as the school year opens.
Hillel Counselor Program

The distinctive feature of a Hillel Foundation is its full-time professional direction. There are more than twenty such Foundations now established in the leading universities of the country. There are scores of other college centers however, where the Jewish student body is too small to warrant the employment of a full-time Director and the establishment of a substantial budget for student service. Last year, therefore, an extension service was introduced which set up Counselors to serve in such college centers.

There are three categories in Hillel's new extension program. A. Colleges very close to Hillel Foundations which can be served personally by the Hillel Directors; B. Colleges that can be served by rabbis or by qualified leaders who either live in the community or close by and who can function under the general supervision of the Hillel Director in the District; C. Larger colleges that are not close to Hillel Foundations or neighboring rabbis, but will require part-time men especially appointed for the purpose.

Financial support for these ventures has come mainly from B'nai B'rith Districts or individual lodges and auxiliaries. The enthusiastic cooperation in every part of the country has made it possible to sponsor Counselors in an ever expanding number of colleges and universities.

Of course, the extension service cannot bring the effectiveness of a full-fledged Foundation, but thousands of Jewish students, at present marooned in isolated communities, are being lost to Jewish influence. The extension program will bring these young people into the orbit of Jewish life. In addition, as the program extends itself in this way, new reservoirs of influence are being tapped, new sources of strength are being created, for the general Hillel program.

Hillel Counselors

Alabama Polytechnic—Auburn, Alabama
  Rabbi Eugene Blachschleger, Montgomery, Alabama

Bucknell College—Scranton, Pennsylvania
  Rabbi Benjamin Kahn, State College, Pennsylvania

Duke University—Durham, North Carolina
  Rabbi Samuel Sandmel, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

University of Florida—Gainesville, Florida
  Rabbi Max Eichorn, Tallahassee, Florida

Florida College for Women—Tallahassee, Florida
  Rabbi Max Eichorn, Tallahassee, Florida

Franklin & Marshall College—Lancaster, Pennsylvania
  Rabbi Benjamin Kahn, State College, Pennsylvania

University of Georgia—Athens, Georgia
  Rabbi Lawrence Block, Athens, Georgia

Iowa State College—Ames, Iowa
  Rabbi Morris Kertzer, Iowa City, Iowa

Ithaca College—Ithaca, New York
  Rabbi David Polish, Ithaca, New York

Michigan State College—Lansing, Michigan
  Rabbi Arthur Zuckerman—Lansing, Michigan

Michigan State Normal, Ypsilanti, Michigan
  Rabbi Jehudah Cohen, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Mississippi State College—Starkeville, Mississippi
  Rabbi Bertram Klausner, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

University of Missouri—Columbia, Missouri
  Dr. Isadore Keyfitz—Columbia, Missouri

University of Nebraska—Lincoln, Nebraska
  Rabbi Harry Jolt, Lincoln, Nebraska

New Jersey College for Women—New Brunswick, New Jersey
  Rabbi Nathaniel Keller, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Ohio University—Athens, Ohio
  Rabbi Harry Kaplan, Columbus, Ohio

Purdue University—Lafayette, Indiana
  Rabbi Meyer Simon—Lafayette, Indiana
Rashi Essay Contest

The year 1940 marks the nine hundredth anniversary of the birth of Rabbi Solomon Ben Isaac, familiarly known, from the Hebrew initials of his name, as Rashi. He was the outstanding Jewish scholar in medieval Europe and he did more to popularize Biblical and Talmudic learning than any other commentator in Jewish history.

In order to stimulate interest in Rashi's life and in the significance of his work the national Hillel Commission has authorized an essay contest which is open to all students in American and Canadian Universities. The essays are to be submitted to the national Hillel office, 605 E. Green Street, Champaign, Illinois, not later than December 15, 1940. It is recommended that the essays be approximately three thousand words in length. They may deal with any phase of Rashi's career. Only those who were undergraduates in February, 1940, when the contest was announced, are eligible to submit essays.

Two prizes, the first for $100 and the second for $50, will be awarded for the essays which are judged best from the point of view of originality, maturity, and literary felicity. The judges are three distinguished American Jewish scholars, Rabbi Louis Finkelstein, President of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Dr. Shalom Spiegel, Professor of Hebrew Literature at the Jewish Institute of Religion, and Dr. Julian Morganstern, President of the Hebrew Union College.