

STONY BROOK



SHELANU

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State University of New York at Stony Brook

JEWISH IDENTITY FOCUS OF OCTOBER SERIES

October will feature a Hillel-sponsored series of programs that address various aspects of Jewish identity. Three different events are scheduled, and all look to be very stimulating.

The first of these will be a mini-Shabbaton on Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26. The Friday evening program will feature a panel discussion on "Being Jewish in a Secular University" and will address many of the issues that Jews face in universities like Stony Brook, including anti-



Dohany Street Synagogue, Hungary

Friday, October 25:

"BEING JEWISH IN A SECULAR UNIVERSITY"
Panel Discussion at Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, October 26:

"THE JEWISH REVIVAL IN CENTRAL EUROPE"
Prof. Ivan Sanders, Columbia University
Shabbat Shmooz, 1:00 pm

Tuesday, October 29:

"DOES FEELING MORE JEWISH MEAN FEELING BETTER?"
"The Psychology of Jewish Identity"

Prof. William Ressler, Ben-Gurion University

8:00 pm, Union 226

Semitism and challenges to Jewish ideology and tradition. Panelists will be Dr. Stephen Spector, Professor of English; Paul W. Chase, Dean of Students; and Keith Babich, Hillel Student President. Services that evening

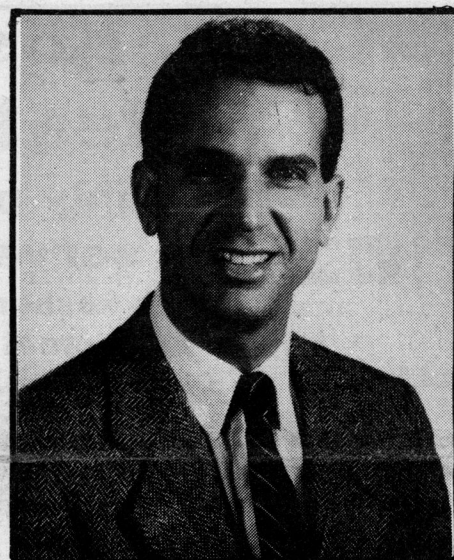
are at 5:30 pm, and are followed by Shabbat dinner and the program.

The Saturday afternoon program will be held at the October 26 Shabbat Shmooz, and will deal with Jewish identity in Central and Eastern Europe after the fall of the Communist governments. The speaker will be Professor Ivan Sanders who will discuss "The Jewish Revival in Central Europe: A survey of Hungarian Judaica."

Professor Sanders holds the Soros Lectureship in Hungarian Literature at Columbia University, teaches English at Suffolk County Community College, and returned this month from a trip to Hungary. The Shmooz is held at 1:00 pm at the Hillel Directors Residence, 75 Sheep Pasture Road (directly across Nicolls Road from the North Entrance to campus), and Shabbat lunch is served.

The third program in the series will concern Jewish identity from a psychological

perspective. Dr. William Ressler, Adjunct Professor of Psychology at Ben-Gurion



Dr. William Ressler

University of the Negev in Beersheva, Israel will speak on "Does Feeling More Jewish Mean Feeling Better?: The Psychology of Jewish Identity" on Tuesday, October 29 at 8:00 pm in the Union room 226. Dr. Ressler holds a Ph.D. from Yale University and also serves as Associate Director of the Overseas Student Program at Ben-Gurion.

INSIDE...

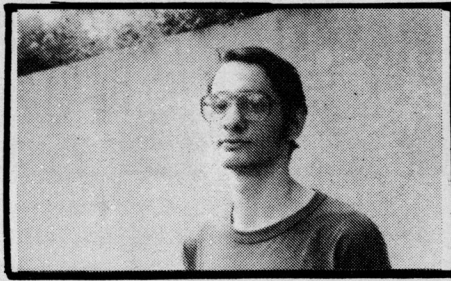
POINT-COUNTERPOINT	5
FREE JUDAICA COURSES	4
JEWISH GRAD GROUP	2
CHEVRE NEWS	2
COMMUNITY SERVICE	3
UJA POOL TOURNAMENT	8



B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATION
Interfaith Center
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY 11794-5335

From the Editor... Shelanu Welcomes Diverse Views

by Jerry Katz



Stony Brook Shelanu is obviously very supportive of Israel. However, I would like to clarify a misconception that some students might have about this newsletter. While there have been several articles critical of Arab governments, including some written by me, no ill will is intended toward anyone of the Muslim faith. The political and social problems in the Middle East are very controversial and emotional, and when one

defends his own point of view, a sense of disrespect towards those who appear on the opposing view may appear. When I write an article that is, let's say, critical of the PLO, I try to distinguish it from the Palestinian people as a whole. I do not judge all Palestinians, or

Muslims for that matter, on the actions of the PLO of which I disapprove. Also, when I read an article critical of Israel, I try to not automatically assume it is anti-Semitic, for I too, disagree with some Israeli policies.

I would like to invite all students, not necessarily Jewish, to write to Shelanu and

express their opinions, even if they disagree with Shelanu's pro-Israel stance. We should be able to agree to disagree. Shelanu is for all students, and all students should take part. If you would like to join the Shelanu staff, you may contact me through the Hillel office. Shalom-Salaam Aleichem.

CHEVRE Israeli Student Association

The next meeting of Chevre, the Israeli Student Association, will be held on Tuesday, October 15 at 8:30 pm in the Union room 226. Chevre's annual Sukkot Shishkabob Barbecue, which was held on September 25, attracted many new Israeli students and provided a wonderful beginning social atmosphere to the year. At

the October 15 meeting, Chevre members hope to plan future programs for the Stony Brook Israeli community as well as provide further social opportunities for Hebrew speakers on campus. The meeting is open to all who wish to attend. For more information call Lauren at the Hillel office or Naveh (2-2769) or Fred (2-2768).

**Kosher
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served daily.

Glatt kosher, under strict
rabbinical supervision.
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2-6517

Stony Brook
SHELANU

The monthly newsletter of the Stony Brook
Jewish Community

Published by
The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation
State University of New York at Stony Brook

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The views reflected in this paper do not necessarily reflect the views of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, the State University of New York, B'nai B'rith International, B'nai B'rith Hillel/Jewish Association for College Youth, or the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at SUNY at Stony Brook is an affiliate of B'nai B'rith Hillel/Jewish Association for College Youth; an agency of UJA-Federation and a constituent of the International B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations.



Mazal Tov to Professor Robert Hoberman and Judith May on the birth of their daughter early on Tuesday, October 8, 1991.

Hillel Graduate & Professional Group Meets Lox, Bagels, & Jewish Music!

The Hillel Graduate and Professional Group held a very successful opening reception for all Jewish graduate and professional students on September 5. Many new graduate students attended the reception and expressed interest in future programs.

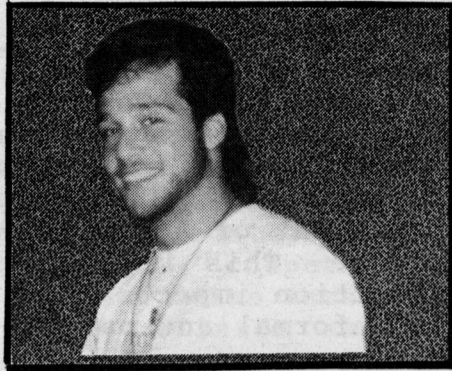
The next program will be a Lox and Bagel

Brunch on Sunday, October 20 at 12:00 noon in the kosher dining room in Roth Quad Cafeteria. The brunch will feature Steven Cahn, a doctoral candidate in the Music Department, discussing "A Glimpse of Jewish Music Through History," and will be informal and sociable. The program is free to all graduate students.

Words from the President

by Keith Babich

Finally, we have a moment to catch our breath. Barely. Just as the holiday season is behind us, students find themselves in the second week of October. Classes are in full swing, midterms are being endured, and papers are due.



Autumn is in full swing as well. The trees are shedding and the air is as fresh and crisp as autumn can be.

Hillel as well is in full swing. To start off this month, October 8, was the date of our annual "Open House." As anticipated, it was hugely successful. Students from every corner of campus showed up to relax and meet people "Hillel style." The Open House was only the beginning to a spectacular month.

After a very well attended and appreciated community service visit with the North Shore Lodge Nursing Home, our Community Service Committee has arranged another opportunity for students to visit with people that would truly enjoy and appreciate it. This time students will be going to see patients in University Hospital.

The Stony Brook United Jewish Appeal-Federation campaign is in the midst of planning fundraising events

for this semester. The Campaign, headed by Hillel Vice President Kevin Leopold, and Hillel member Mark Matiash, promises to more than match last year's highly successful efforts. Stay tuned for their kickoff event, the annual "U.J.A. Benefit Pool Tournament."

Also in the month of October, is Hillel's long awaited "Series on Jewish Identity" (See the schedule of events for more information). During this series, we'll have the opportunity to explore individual "Jewish Identity," as well as some of the issues and concerns of being Jewish in a secular university, one that places such a stress on multiculturalism.

Hillel is offering Jewish study courses, the cost being nothing but a desire to learn. Don't hesitate to take advantage of them.

Stepping outside of the immediate Stony
Continued bottom of next column...

Community Service Committee Visits the Sick and Elderly

by Jessica Blumenfeld

On September 12, a group of several Hillel members went to the North Shore Lodge (home for the elderly) to do what seemed to be a small good deed. This good deed was anything but small according to the residents who expressed their over-

munity around us and do what we can to bring joy, comfort and help to whomever we can. I personally feel that we accomplished a great deal by visiting these residents. Sometimes we can make a true difference in people's lives with just a little bit of effort. Unfortunately the el-



whelming appreciation for our visit. Our main objective was to wish the residents a Happy New Year, sing songs with them and hand out apples and honey. Along with this, many of the residents seemed to appreciate just having someone to talk to. They were eager to talk about their children, their past schooling and how they spent their Rosh Hashanah. Rabbi Topek gave an enjoyable sermon about the upcoming Holidays. Many of the residents recognized last year's participants and were glad to see that they had returned.

One of the many functions of Hillel is to be aware of the com-

derly are a group that are all too often forgotten. But, we showed them that they will not be forgotten or ignored by us. Hopefully the apples and honey we brought them will bring them a happy, healthy and sweet year. We are hoping to visit the residents a few more times this year. If you are interested in bringing a lot of joy to a few elderly people, please contact the Hillel office to join us.

The next program of the Hillel Community Service Committee will be a visit with patients at Stony Brook's University Hospital on Tuesday, October 22 at 3:30 pm. Join us!

Jewish Identity Series

Friday, October 25:

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Keith Babich, cont.

Brook community, Hillel students are involved in the "nation-wide" scene of Jewish events. In the past two months we've had students attend leadership conferences and training seminars. In the upcoming month, we will also have student representation at the Spitzer Forum, held in Washington, D. C.,

which is a political conference for students focusing on public policy. We will also have student representatives at the annual U.J.A. training conference, held this year in St. Louis.

Stony Brook Hillel students will also be attending a briefing with Israeli Consul General Uriel Savir concerning Israel activism on campus.

Study Judaism! Free Judaica Courses Offered

As is our tradition, Hillel offers wonderful opportunities for members of the campus Jewish community to increase their knowledge and awareness of our Jewish heritage. Four non-credit courses will be offered absolutely **FREE** of charge. The courses are open to all students, faculty, staff, and members of the community. All we ask is that you call or stop by our office and register for the course or courses that you wish to take. The offerings this semester are:

HEBREW READING CRASH COURSE

Four Mondays at 7:00 pm (Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18)
Instructor: Sarah Grossman

Learn to read Hebrew in just four weeks! This course is designed for those who would like to be able to read the Hebrew alphabet so that they can follow along in a synagogue service or begin to build a foundation for learning the Hebrew language. Class size limited.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN JEWISH ETHICS

Six Wednesdays at 7:00 pm beginning October 23
Instructor: J. Topek

We will discuss contemporary ethical issues and how they are viewed by Judaism. Topics include Truth, Deception, Ecology & Environment, Treatment of Animals, Abortion, Human Relationships. This is an opportunity to see how our tradition impacts upon current problems. Class is informal and participatory.

INTRO. TO PHILOSOPHY OF MITZVOT

Mondays at 8:00 pm beginning October 14
Instructor: J. Sacks

A course designed to enhance one's understanding of the underlying philosophy of Jewish observance. For all levels.


TALMUD

Mondays at 9:00 pm beginning October 14
Instructor: J. Sacks


Ongoing Talmud study group for students of all levels.

Join us for

Shabbat




on campus



Roth Quad Cafe.

Friday evenings:
Services followed by Shabbat Dinner
5:30 pm

Saturday Mornings:
9:30 am

SB Havurah (Conservative) - 2nd floor
SB Hebrew Cong. (Orthodox) - 1st floor

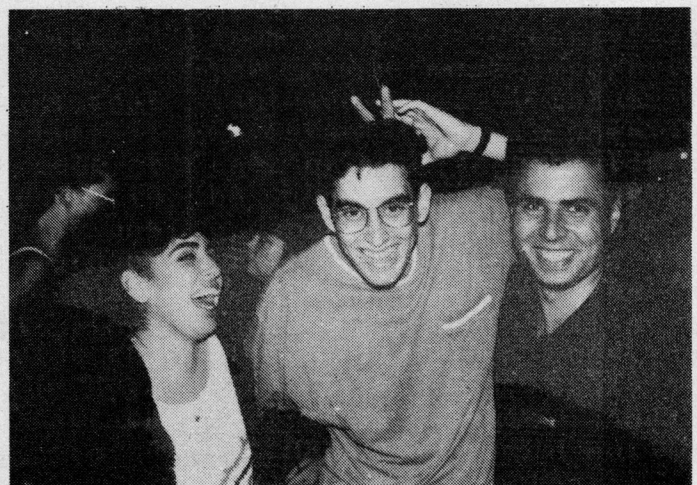
Attend the service of your choice!

B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation * 632-6565



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Humanities Bldg. 165
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Some happy campers at the annual Hillel Bonfire

Point - Counterpoint

ISRAEL'S TOUGH CHOICES

by Adam Kaminsky

For over fifty years, the world was concerned about the mounting instability in a certain area destined to be one of the most strategic regions this world has ever seen. However, it wasn't until the last twenty years or so that this watchful eye has caused an outright panic amongst the nations involved in the unrest and the observant world as a whole. This region is the Middle East, home of at least three major religions; Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, and of two major peoples; the Arabs and the Jews.

Now, with Opera-

ings, the West Bank and the Golan Heights among them, back to their respective nations. After all, these experts reason, peace will come faster if all nations "cooperate", and that means Israel's losing a large amount of land.

Ah, but where in this equation of peace lies the clause that Israel shall be recognized by the Arab nations as a legitimate state; that Israelis shall live without the threat of unjust aggression, as portrayed by Saddam Hussein's ruthless attacks on the city of Tel Aviv with several Scud missile attacks; that the Palestinian people (of

by Isaac Rubinstein

In the midst of this, surely one of the most critical moments in Israel's history, we must take a step back and critically examine the steps that the present Israeli leadership is taking in securing a workable and realistic future for the Jewish state. It is my impression that many Jewish Americans, particularly the younger generation, are in support of Israel and take strong stands on issues confronting her, but do not themselves have a firm historical or political grasp as to what the original objectives of the state were, and are, today.

part of the Israeli state, but rather in defending herself against a tri-frontal attack which included the armies of Egypt, Jordan and Syria, as well as direct military and economic support from eleven of the other Arab states. This is a fact. It is also a fact that since the signing of the October 1973 cease-fire between Egypt and Israel (and the adoption of U.N. resolution 338) which marked the end of the Yom Kippur war there has been an unbroken chain of border infiltrations and terrorist attacks against Israel which if nothing else have perpetuated a state of



Photo by Isaac Rubinstein

tion Desert Storm essentially over, the world is shifting its eye towards resolving this age-old dispute between the Arab People and the Jews so that lasting peace can be a reality in a historically unstable area. Many experts feel that it is the State of Israel's fault that peace cannot become a reality there since it holds lands conquered from the Arabs in many a bloody battle. For the sake of peace, these experts say, Israel should cede these strategic hold-

Arab orientation) will peacefully coexist with the Israelis in the Israeli homeland; or that the Arab nations will not provoke Israel into battle? Where?

The truth is that Israel very seldom, if ever, plays the role of aggressor. Often it is the neighboring nations such as Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and, until recently, Egypt, that attempt to surprise the Israelis with the hope that a sneak attack will prove more fruit-

Continued on Page 7

Like any other issue one needs not be an 'expert' to offer his or her opinion, but we must be very clear in distinguishing opinion from fact. Clearly, the single most important and divisive issue in Israel today is whether or not land should be negotiated in any prospective peace negotiations with the Palestinian people. True indeed, the acquisition of the lands in question (the West Bank, the Golan Heights, and the Gaza strip) did not come by way of colonial expansionism on the

belligerence, and indeed a state of war between Israel and her neighbors. However, from the time Israel gained control of these lands (June 10, 1967) at the end of the Six-Day War she found herself not only reunited with the once-Jewish quarter of Jerusalem, but also in control of large areas of land, and with them large populations of Palestinian people, particularly in areas that had been up to that point under Jor-

Continued on Page 7

The Greater Port Jefferson Arts Council

Presents

The Gilbert & Sullivan
Light Opera Company of Long Island
Yiddish Division's

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A New Yiddish-English Musical Comedy



"The Pirates of Penzance"

Saturday, October 19th ~ 8:00 PM

Port Jefferson High School

Tickets are \$14 general admission ~ \$12 for members, students & seniors

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The Good Times Book Shop (928-2664)

Sponsors:

This event is sponsored, in part, by public funds provided by the New York State Council On The Arts. In Suffolk County the Decentralization program is administered by the Huntington Arts Council. The Suffolk County Office of Cultural Affairs. Private and corporate sources.

Point - Counterpoint, Continued

Adam Kaminsky, cont.

ful than a premeditated battle. Sure enough, Israel won every single war initiated by the very same Arabs that the experts now seem to be patting on the back. In order to prevent such ambushes in the future, Israel deemed it necessary to confiscate the Golan Heights, a natural "observatory" heretofore the property of Syria, the West Bank, bordering on the Dead Sea, a more logical boundary, from the Jordanians, and, at a time before the Peace Treaty, the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt.

For the sake of "peace", many liberal, peace loving citizens feel that it was wrong that Israel confiscated these lands in the first place. Peace, they say, will not be present until Israel cedes these lands. It is the Arabs who have been slighted by the Israeli aggression, in their opinion.

Think for a minute. If you were being mugged, and somehow commandeered the knife of your assailant, would you give it back to him, so that "peace" may befall the both of you? Do you think that if he were successful, he would later turn himself in and return

your money, so that "peace" may befall the both of you? Think again.

It is for these reasons that we must side with Israel in this resolve. These liberal experts do not realize the gravity of their decision to back the Arabs, the "muggers" instead of the Israeli "victims." While it would be nice to see immediate peace emanating from a hasty decision of the world to order Israel to cede its territories, this peace will be short-lived and very shallow instead of sincere. The Middle East will only live in eternal peace if Israel lives in eternal peace, and the Arabs are scolded for setting into motion the set of events that led to the recent Middle East debacle.

The Israelis have endured a great deal of hardship due to the misinformation being put forth as truth by those with no emotional or ancestral roots in the area, and control of Israel's destiny shall be decided by Israel with no undue pressure from the Americans or Europeans, who, with all due respect, are retarding Israel from dealing with her problems the way she knows how.

Isaac Rubinstein, cont.

danian jurisdiction. Although there was a mass national sentimentality towards the reunification of Jerusalem, and a general excitement over the scale and speed of the victory, these lands were ultimately seen as offering Israel increased leverage, a bargaining chip of sorts, if and when the time eventually came for peace negotiations with the Arabs.

A sharp turn in Israeli policy came however in May of 1977, when for the first time in Israeli history, the Likud Party formed a government. A little less than a year later, in March of 1978, a large scale invasion of southern Lebanon, which was in response to a P.L.O. attack on an Israeli bus killing 44, and wounding 76, was executed and became the predecessor to the 1982 Invasion of Lebanon, and the subsequent three month war there. It is at this point that Israel departs from a policy of defending her borders, and in my eyes can no longer claim for herself the status of 'victim'.

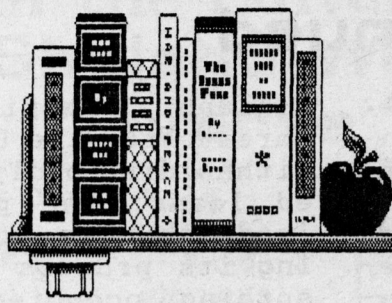
In the past decade we have seen a rapid shift to the right in Israeli politics. This has been a direct consequence of several factors including the Intifada (Palestinian uprising) which is now in its fifth year, as well as the fractious and weak nature of the Israel Knesset (parliament). In the wake of the Gulf war the Israeli left and the peace movement in general have been all but silenced. The Iraqi missile attacks have been used by the Shamir government as justification for its present policies of settlement development inside the occupied territories. Here, we must separate issues concerning national security (our relationship with the surrounding Arab states) from the internal politics centering around the issue of land and our relationship with the Pales-

tinians. Despite the threat from the U.S. of withholding badly needed loans, the present leadership is continuing its process of absorbing occupied territories into Israel (by way of settlements) and ultimately foreclosing the possibility of any future Arab-Israeli peace. At present there are 233,000 Jews living on land captured during the Six-Day War, and housing minister Ariel Sharon is planning to build 12,000 new homes on the West Bank over the next three years at an estimated cost of over a billion dollars. The issue here is about what kind of Israel we want for our future. Do we want the 'greater' Israel that Shamir speaks of, and if so at what cost? Whether we like it or not at present there are a million and a half Palestinians living under a state declared military occupation. In my eyes the objectives of the early Zionist thinkers were first and foremost survival, sovereignty, and democracy. Their vision did not incorporate the unwanted governance of hundreds of thousands of refugees who in some places (Gaza in particular) live in some of the most miserable conditions on this planet.

Are peace talks and concessions risky? Yes. But is war not the greater risk? In 1975 Israelis laughed at the possibility of a peace accord with Sadat (who conceived and initiated the Yom Kippur War) and Egypt. But since 1978 there has been peace with the government of Egypt, albeit a cold and imperfect one, but it is peace nevertheless and anyway preferable to a state of war. The Israel I want for the future is one that I can raise my children in and be proud of. As Jews it is our responsibility to be constructively critical of Israel. We must be honest with ourselves about our intentions for the future and be active in helping them take shape.

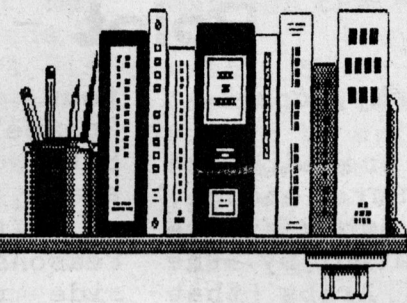


Enjoying the annual Labor Day Barbecue



Stony Brook Hillel

October 1991



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 Hillel 632-6565	7 Hillel Board Meeting 8:00 pm Humanities 157	8 Hillel Open House 7:30 pm Roth	9	10	11 Shabbat Services & Dinner 5:30 pm Roth Cafe.	12 Shabbat Services 9:30 am Roth Cafe. Orth & Cons.
13 Sign up for the UJA Pool Tournament on Oct. 24 Call 2-6565	14 Join the Community Service Comm visit to University Hospital on Oct. 22	15 Chevre Meeting 8:30 pm Union 226	16 Each One Teach One	17 Mini-Shabbaton next weekend Oct. 25 - 26!	18 Shabbat Services & Dinner 5:30 pm Roth Cafe.	19 Shabbat Services 9:30 am Roth Cafe. Orth & Cons.
20 Graduate & Professional Brunch 12:00 pm Roth Cafe.	21 Hillel Board Meeting 8:00 pm Humanities 157	22 Community Service Committee Visit to Univ. Hospital	23 Jewish Ethics Class 7:00 pm	24 UJA Pool Tournament 9:00 pm Union \$5 regist.	25 Shabbat Services & Dinner-5:30 Roth Cafe. Panel discuss. "Being Jewish in a Secular University"	26 Shabbat Services 9:30 am Roth Shmooz 1 pm Jewish Revival in Europe Dir. Resid.
27	28 Hebrew Crash Course 7:00 pm	29 "Psychology of Jewish Identity" Prof. Ressler 8:00 pm Union 226	30 Jewish Ethics Class 7:00 pm	31		

Attend the Hillel programs of your choice!
B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation
 Interfaith Center * Humanities Bldg. 165
 632-6565

Pool Tournament

Thur. Oct. 24
9:00 pm

FSA Amusements Center
SB Union Lower Level

PRIZES!

Entrance fee: \$5 donation to
 UJA Campus Campaign
 For info. call 632-6565
 Sponsored by UJA Campus Campaign
 & Hillel

More Opening Week photos



Signing up new members