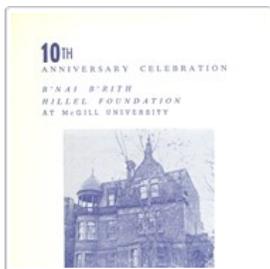




Réseau canadien du patrimoine juif



B'NAI BRITH HILLEL FOUNDATION = HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT CENTRES.

<https://www.cjhn.ca/fr/permalink/cjhn83>

Collection: B'NAI BRITH HILLEL FOUNDATION = HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT CENTRES.

Niveau de description: Fonds

Collation: 1 architectural drawing. - 3 metres of textual records. - 1850 photographs. - 14 sound elements. - 1 film. - 1 video. - 2 other fixed images.

Portée et contenu:

11 scrapbooks of activities, clippings and correspondence 1944-1962. 0.1 metre of subject files, including financial statements 1985, and a sign-in-book 1944-1991. 6 photo albums, several hundred loose photos (approx. 1850 photos in total) 1940s-1997. 1 laminated poster: "Hillel in the 1940's" [sic]. 1 framed b&w photo of Fannie Cott. 12 offsets for printing of Contents and other publications 1993. 1 architectural plan: A Chapel for Hillel House 1963. 2 albums of artistic reproductions: Commandments by A. Raymond Katz, and Prof. L. Pasternak Portrait Album 1923. 12 audiocassettes [1982]-[1984] 2 audiotapes on reels 1974. 1 video. Documents begin with the founding of McGill Hillel in 1944.

Dates ultimes: 1944-1997.

No du fonds: I0081

Notice biographique
/ histoire
administrative:

B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation is a North American organization that uses professional direction to provide an infrastructure for Jewish student activities at universities and colleges. It was originally founded at the University of Illinois in 1923. The Mount Royal Lodge of B'nai Brith in Montreal established the Hillel Foundation at McGill University in 1944. Previous to this, there had been Jewish organizations at McGill University campus since 1906, such as the Maccabean Student Society. The first meetings were held at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue. In 1945 B'nai Brith purchased a house at 3460 Stanley that has been used as the Hillel House ever since. Activities have been diverse. Cultural activities have included lecture series on religious, literary and historical aspects of Judaism by both local Jewish leaders and by speakers of international repute, such as Emile Fackenheim, and performances by Jewish musicians and the like. Student-run newspapers, drama groups, radio stations, choirs have also been part of Hillel's repertoire. McGill Hillel took initiative on behalf of distressed Jewry: The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) was founded in 1969, and the Hillel Task Force for Ethiopian Jewry began in 1978. Students have also shown support of Israel through groups such as the Student Zionist Organization (SZO), ITZVA, the participation of students in arranging exhibits and information tables on Israel, and the invitation of guest speakers on Israel and the Middle East. In 1961, Hillel hosted the internationally reported debate between historian Arnold Toynbee and Israel's ambassador to Ottawa, Yaacov D. Herzog on Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. There have also been awards given to students to study in Israel. Hillel students have participated in community events such as AJCS fundraising. Hillel has also addressed the needs of religious students either through organizations under its auspices like Yavneh and through direct involvement. For example, in the 1950s and 1960s, kosher-for-Passover meals were made available for out-of-town students and the rescheduling and proctoring of exams on the Sabbath were carried out by the director on behalf of its students. Hillel has also been involved in other issues affecting Jews, be it the creation of the cult project in response to the threat of Jews joining cults in the late 1970s, the awarding of student loans and the ongoing efforts to fight antisemitism, and Arab propaganda on campus. Social events have included coffee houses, dances, conventions, retreats and shabbatonim (Friday-Saturday seminars). McGill Hillel has often worked in cooperation with other Hillel groups such as those at Concordia University, various CEGEPs and Centre Hillel. The first appointments of directors of Hillel were short lived: Rabbi Benjamin Kahn was succeeded by Rabbi Avram Saltes within the first few years. From 1947-1967, Rabbi Samuel Cass was a director who left a strong imprint. In 1968, Herb Weinstein was appointed as the first non-rabbinical director, working until his death in 1987. From 1988-1996, Mark Zarecki assumed office. He was followed by Steve Spodek. The incorporated name for the organization is B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation. Over time, slight variations in the name occurred: Hillel Student Society, Hillel Jewish Student Centres, etc. The information in this collection constitutes a valuable resource for studies on Jewish social history and in particular the history of Jewish students on the Canadian campus

Histoire de la conservation: The fonds was donated on October 12, 2000 by Simon Bensimon, Hillel Director.

Notes:

P00/10. The majority of the records are in English. Some material is in French and Hebrew. Some part of this collection (the financial records) is restricted. The inventory done by Leah Cohen in 2001 is located in the document box 1. See also CJC collection series ZF, ZC. This fonds was arranged and described by Leah Cohen, Feb.-March 2001.

Archives / G n alogie: Archival Descriptions

D p t d'archives: Canadian Jewish Archives