



JEANNETTE MIRIAM GOLDBERG YOUTH FUND

A SPECIAL PART OF DISTRICT #5 HISTORY

At the 5th Biennial Assembly in York (Mrs. Edgar W. Warner, nee Clarice Lavine, President) in 1929, Rabbi Nathan of Philadelphia, a visually handicapped Rabbi, addressed the Assembly concerning the situation prevalent among the Jewish youth at Penn State College. Jewish boys did not want to have to fulfill the college's mandatory requirement of attendance at religious services by attending Christian services. Rabbi Nathan requested that, PFTS assume the responsibility of correcting the situation and arranging for Reform Rabbis in Pennsylvania to travel to Penn State College to conduct Jewish religious services and deliver religious lectures. The 5th Biennial Assembly voted sufficient funds to pay the traveling expenses of Rabbis living within reasonable proximity of the college and authorized additional funds for equipment and maintenance of a meeting place.

At the 7th Biennial Assembly in Scranton (Mrs. Max Grumbacher, President), Dr. Abram Sacher, National Executive Director of Hillel, was the keynote speaker. Mrs. Grumbacher convinced him of the urgent need for a Hillel Chapter at Penn State College and Dr. Sacher agreed to initiate such a chapter. Hillel at Penn State was established in 1935.

In the interim, Jeannette Miriam Goldberg z"l, an active PFTS member, from Temple Rodeph Shalom Sisterhood, Philadelphia, had passed away. During her lifetime, Miss Goldberg had been greatly concerned with the welfare of Jewish youth. Shortly after her death, while PFTS was looking for a fitting memorial to this dedicated woman, the director of Hillel at Penn State College, related the need for a rotating loan fund for Jewish students, and in 1936 the "Jeannette Miriam Goldberg Fund (JMG)" was established. The fund was to be administered by the Hillel Director in cooperation with the PFTS Chairman of the Jeannette Miriam Goldberg Fund. The use of this fund by Penn State College students continued until the early 1950's when, according to the Director of Hillel, the need for such a student loan fund was no longer necessary.

At that time, PFTS, voted to channel the fund into the recently established Camp Joseph and Betty Harlam at Kresgeville, Pennsylvania, for the purchase of needed permanent camp equipment. Since then it has been the fund for permanent camp equipment and Pennsylvania Federation of Temple Youth (PAFTY) scholarships. JMG was a special fund and consequently, contributions were not a part of the operating budget of NFTS District #5.

In 1999, the use of the Jeannette Miriam Goldberg Youth Fund was extended to include the youth of NFTY and NFTY-PAR Region.

In 2006, when District 5 merged with District 4 to become the WRJ Atlantic District, the use of the Jeannette Miriam Goldberg Youth Fund was extended to Reform Judaism youth organizations within the entire district.