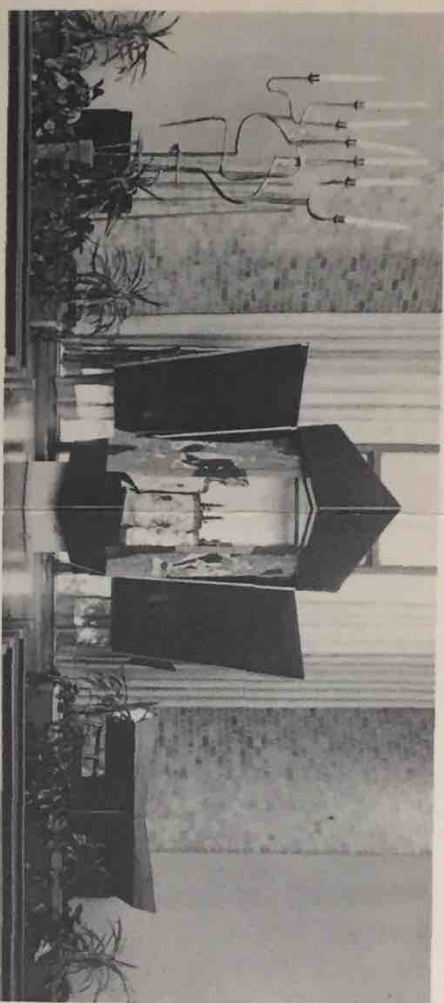


THE BERLIN CHAPEL AT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY



The Mendel and Leah Berlin Chapel, the Jewish component of the Three Chapels complex at Brandeis University, was dedicated on October 30, 1975 during the incumbency of Brandeis' first president and present chancellor, Abram L. Sachar. The Three Chapels--built simultaneously around a heart-shaped reflecting pool, none casting its shadow on another--represented a radical departure from the tradition of a single, often multi or nondenominational chapel at American universities. Chancellor Sachar wrote of this choice: "It seemed more appropriate for the first Jewish-sponsored, nonsectarian university to be understanding and sensitive hosts avoiding the connotation that every worshiper was somehow beholden for access to religious facilities."

The Berlin Chapel is a tribute to the late Dr. David Berlin, a well-known and beloved New England surgeon. To celebrate Dr. Berlin's fiftieth birthday, scores of his grateful patients financed its construction to honor the memory of his parents, Mendel and Leah Berlin.



The architects, Harrison and Abramovitz, designed each of the Three Chapels in the form of an open Bible, and they took their inspiration for the synagogue's functional features from Biblical sources. The aron kodesh (Ark of Holiness in which the Torah scrolls are kept) is intended as a replica of the ark carried by the Israelites in the desert. Like its ancient prototype, one ark is "overlaid with gold, within and without" (Exodus 25:11). The parokhet (the curtain covering the front of the open ark) was designed by the late Professor Mitchell Siporin, distinguished artist and founding chairperson of Brandeis' Department of Fine Arts, who studied the description of the parokhet in II Chronicles 3:14. The parokhet bears the words "Keter Torah" (the crown of Torah). The right panel features a crown and the left panel, a menorah.

The large standing menorah includes the letters MDK ("Truth"), from the University's emblem. The net lamid (eternal light) over the center of the biimah and the menorah are modeled on those excavated from a 1st-century synagogue in Israel.

Among the decorative features of the chapel are the etching of the Decalogue in the rear window and the most recent addition, the beautiful tapestry above the doorway designed and executed by Shirley Fink, a local artist, professor of textile art and participant in one of the worship communities. She conceived the piece as a gift to the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at Brandeis in 1978 and designed it for the space it now occupies. Comprised only of undyed natural fibers and incorporating in its fringe the motif of tzitzit (ritual fringes--cf. Numbers 15:37-41), it lends height, grandeur and warmth to the entranceway by adding a fabric arch into which is woven the Biblical verse, "Come into His gates with thanksgiving, His courtyards with praise," (Psalm 100:4).

The natural light that illuminates the sanctuary from dawn to dusk produces remarkable and varying effects, and the intimate acoustics of the sanctuary can be experienced by speaking or singing aloud from any point.

Two sculptures grace the grounds of Berlin Chapel. The depiction of the Biblical story (Genesis 32:25ff), "Jacob Wrestling With the Angel," the work of Eibert Weinberg, adorns the main entrance at the campus road. Outside the rear doors of the chapel, on the patio bordering Chapel's Field, a statue of Job--identical to one on the grounds of Yad Vashem (the Holocaust memorial authority and research center in Jerusalem)--memorializes the destroyed Jewish communities of Europe. Ashes from the extermination camp of Treblinka are interred at the foot of the statue which bears an inscription of concentration camp names. The statue, sculpted by Nathan Rapoport, is the gift of the New Americans Association, an organization of Holocaust survivors, and the Jewish Community Council of Greater Boston. Each year, several moving Holocaust remembrance services take place at this site.

In 1979, the University planted an impressively inscribed "Freedom Tree" at the patio of Berlin Chapel. This Cedar of Lebanon honors the courageous struggle for freedom on the part of Anatoly Scharansky and the Jewish activists and "retuseniks" of the U.S.S.R. It was planted by Avital Scharansky, Anatoly's wife, during her campus visit of March 1979.

Beautifying the biima (pulpit) area of the chapel is Israeli artist David Sharir's magnificent, biblical tapestry, "The Garden of Love." One of ten such tapestries executed by Sharir in 1972, this unique work was donated to the University in 1980 by Joanne D. Bovey, Carol D. Burgess and Priscilla M. Dwinneil, in memory of their mother, Priscilla S. Dwinneil.

With the growth of the University, Berlin Chapel has become the focal point of a multiplicity of Jewish religious services on campus. As many as four different services are convened on Friday evening by the Hillel Foundation: the Traditional Service at Berlin Chapel, while the others (Orthodox, Reform and Conservative) are held elsewhere. On Sabbath morning, Berlin Chapel is the site of Hillel's Conservative-Egalitarian Prayer Community. On weekdays, the daily Orthodox Minyan takes place at the chapel. All of Hillel's services are spirited and informal, participatory in nature, and student-led. The current seating pattern, akin to the Sephardic-style synagogue-in-the-round, was adopted in 1973 to underscore and facilitate

Rabbi Albert S. Axelrad



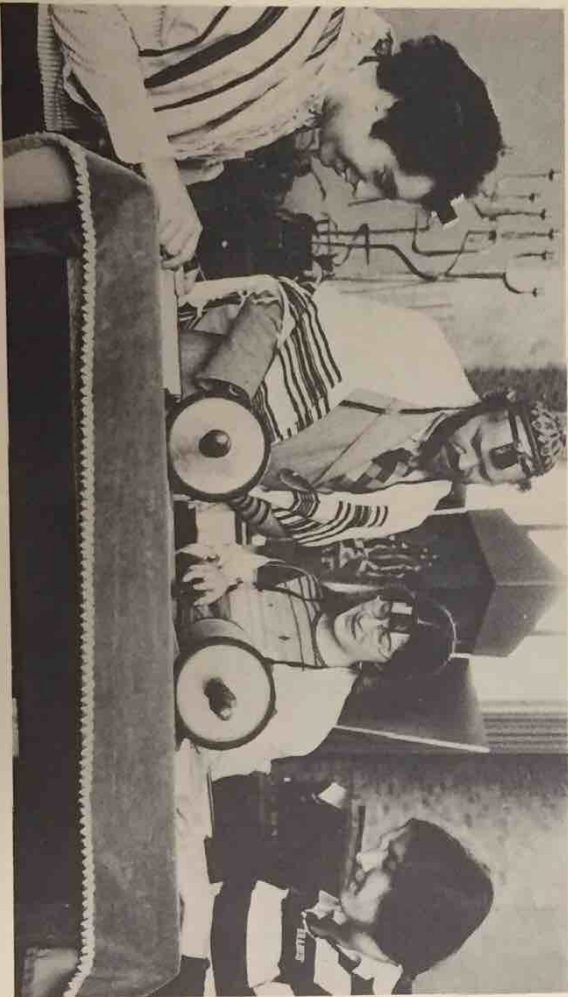
the desired informality. Attention is focused on a central point near worshippers, from which a leader conducts the service, rather than on the raised pulpit at the front. Guests are welcome and, indeed, play an important role in enriching the campus' religious life by widening the span of ages which creates a multi-generational community, and by sharing their voices, melodies and ideas with the student body. The Chapel is frequently host to life-cycle celebrations of its members--marriages, baby-namings, normative and "belated" Bar/t Mitzvah, and funerals and memorials.

The Cohen Study in the chapel's lower level has served at various times as a library, lounge and seminar room, as the editorial office of *RESPONSE* and *FOCUS* magazines, and as the home of Yeda'im, a Jewish craft design workshop. Most of these have been sponsored

by the Hillel Foundation at Brandeis, which offers a colorful spectrum of cultural, intellectual and social activities, as well as a variety of social service projects in which student participation and leadership are essential. A brochure describing Hillel's program is available in the Chaplaincy Suite (Room 133) and Chapel's Lounge (Room 148) in Usdan Student Center.

A succession of distinguished rabbis and scholars drawn from the full range of Jewish religious life has served Brandeis, its Hillel Foundation and the Berlin Chapel community. Among them have been Irving Greenberg, current chairperson of the Department of Judaic Studies at the City University of New York and founding director of the National Jewish Conference Center; Manfred Vogel, professor of religion, Northwestern University; Leonard Zion, education consultant; Judah Stampfer, professor of English literature, State University of New York at Stony Brook; Eric Meyers, professor of Jewish

studies, Duke University; and Norman Mirsky, professor of Human Relations, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles. Since 1965, the incumbent rabbi has been Albert S. Axelrad, whose relatively long tenure has been marked by considerable creativity and expansion in Jewish life at Brandeis. During those years, the University's Hillel Foundation has earned abundant kudos in national and even international publications, including the *Jerusalem Post*, *Present Tense*, *Jewish Spectator*, and others, as well as frequent recognition in local media. In 1977-78 and again in 1979-80, Hillel at Brandeis was awarded the national "William Haber Award" for creative Jewish programming on campus. The rabbi maintains a part-time office located to the left of the entry foyer in the Berlin Chapel. His permanent campus study is in the Usdan Student Center, Suite 133, where he and his staff are readily available to members of the University community and to visitors by appointment.



THE BERLIN CHAPEL AT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY



The Three Chapels

AT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

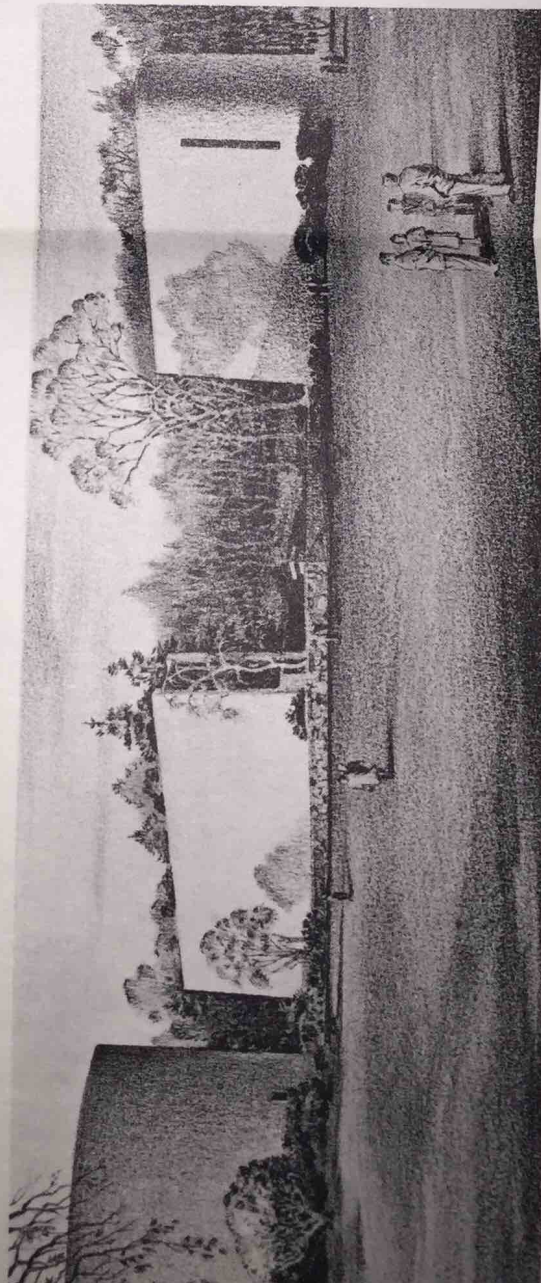


BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY was born from a dream — from the quintessence of the dream of American Jewry which had long hoped to contribute an institution of the highest quality to American education — as a thank offering to the nation where religious pluralism has so flourished and where men and women of every faith may contribute freely and productively to the enterprise of their country.

Thus, the provision of appropriate and beautiful places for worship for students belonging to the three major faiths of the United States was an early concern of this young University. A people who had so often been denuded of all save their ancient faith could not ignore the importance of associating religion and religious activities with secular and non-sectarian higher education. As President Abram L. Sachar remarked at the dedication of the Three Chapels on October 30, 1955:

Young people on a college campus, especially where they are away from home, must have some opportunity to express their faith, to link themselves with the enduring lessons of their historic past . . . The Chapels have been erected with rare architectural imagination to provide each of the great Western faiths with facilities that are adequate and aesthetic so that those who wish to worship, to meditate, to receive religious counselling, may have here the opportunity they seek.

The Chapels were designed to symbolize the heritages of Judaism, Catholicism and Protestantism. Berlin Chapel, named for the parents of Dr. David D. Berlin of Boston, is in the form of a sacred scroll, the most revered object of the Jewish faith. Bethlehem Chapel, named by His Eminence, Richard Cardinal Cushing for the City of David and the birthplace of Jesus, is shaped like an open Bible, as is John Marshall Harlan Chapel.



Harlan Chapel is named for the Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court who brought the integrity of his Protestant tradition to bear in dissenting from the "separate but equal" provisions for Negro and white education in the crucial Plessy vs. Ferguson decision of the last century.

In the first decade of their existence, the Chapels were proven fully redemptive of the trust placed in their conception and their relevance to campus life. Indeed, "the Chapels" have grown into the very fabric of the University. Many weddings — of students, alumni, staff, children of faculty and staff — are solemnized in Berlin Chapel and frequently in the Harlan Chapel. The first Brandeis alumnus to be ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood celebrated his first Mass in Bethlehem Chapel. Similarly, Rabbis who are Brandeis alumni have conducted services in Berlin Chapel. Memorial Masses for deceased friends and relatives are held in Bethlehem as are traditional memorial services in Berlin. Here, one sorrowful summer day, the funeral services for the University's beloved composer-professor, Irving Fine, were conducted, deepening, even in grief, the bonds between the Chapels and the University family.

Christenings are celebrated in Harlan Chapel as Bar Mitzvahs are in Berlin Chapel. Nor is it uncommon to find the Menorah candelabra from Berlin Chapel placed beside the Advent Wreath in Bethlehem, or for the Protestant Chaplain to beg the "loan" of the organist from Bethlehem. Of unique memory is the tragic November evening in 1963 when each Chapel was crowded beyond capacity with those who came to mourn their assassinated young President and to pray for their country. Every June this area of the campus serves as a gracious and graceful reminder of the integral role of religious faith in human experience as the University's Baccalaureate Exercises are held on the lovely meadow behind the Chapels.

Though the Chapels are often the very first "sight" asked for by thousands of visitors to Brandeis each year, they have assumed a dimension far beyond that of an architectural attraction. In an era when both religious and lay communities are being challenged by the "God is dead" theologians, and when compulsory chapel attendance has been abolished in all but the most firmly sectarian schools and colleges, a colorful and kaleido-

scopic variety of programs emanates from the Three Chapels. As this is being written, the University is preparing to act as host to college Chaplains and religious leaders of major faiths from all over the country in a three-day Institute which will examine the state of the campus ministry in non-sectarian colleges and universities.

BERLIN CHAPEL

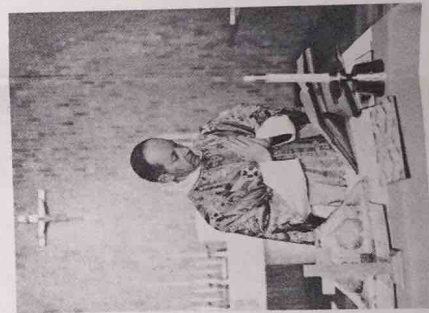
Sabbath is observed every Friday evening and Saturday morning of the academic year, with separate services for the Reform and Traditional groups. Joint Sabbath suppers and brunches are held after services. In the autumn the students build and decorate a Succoth booth, inviting all the campus community to share in this ancestral observance. Faculty, staff and their families are welcomed to Hanukkah celebrations and to the more solemn ceremonies of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur when the holy days fall within the academic year. (Passover always coincides with the Spring Recess).

Since the University's earliest years, the national organization of B'nai B'rith Hillel has provided professional leadership and support to stimulate student Hillel leadership and activities on the campus — as it does through Foundations and Counselorships on hundreds of other American college and university campuses. The Brandeis Hillel Foundation offers a lively program of study groups, seminars and lecture series on such topics as the plight of Soviet Jewry and aspects of Judaism in American life. There are Israeli dance sessions, art exhibits, Jewish music programs, informal social gatherings and valuable social service work programs.

BETHLEHEM CHAPEL

Mass has been celebrated here almost every Sunday morning since September 9, 1955, when the then Archbishop Cushing officiated and blessed the Chapel. Brandeis Catholic students have taken a particularly enthusiastic interest in the liturgical reforms instituted by Vatican Council II, and participate in many weekday Masses throughout the school year. Even in summer, daily Mass is often offered for members of the University's Physics Institute and Peace Corps training programs. The Newman Student Association sponsors a well-integrated

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program of religious and social functions for undergraduates and graduates: discussion groups, lectures, supper meetings, outings, Christmas parties for underprivileged children, and an annual retreat at the beginning or during the Lenten season. The Brandeis Newman Student Association has been host for the Boston Province Annual Congress of Newman Student Associations and sends delegates regularly to the annual national convention.

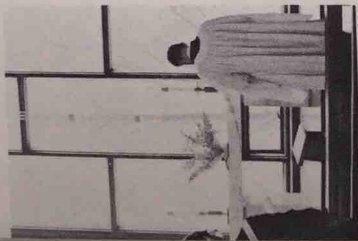
HARLAN CHAPEL

Weekly Protestant services are held every Sunday of the academic year and the Student Christian Association sponsors an evening Communion service each month. Also presented are programs similar to those of the other Chapels (and often jointly with Hillel and Newman), and opportunities to participate in off-campus activities including work with the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. Films, lectures and music of religious and secular interest are regularly scheduled.

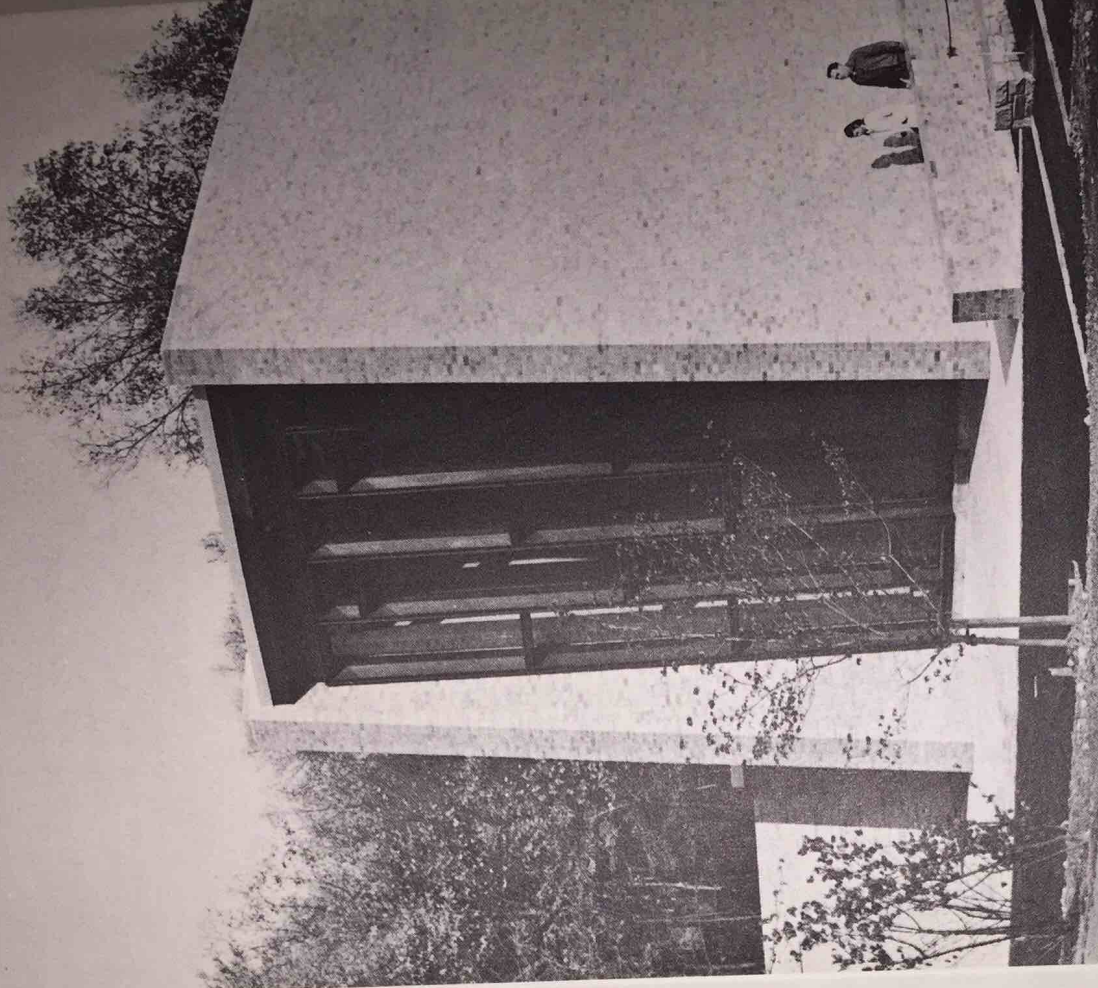
Through the generosity of Mr. Harry B. Helmsley of New York City, a Quaker friend of the University, the Three Chapels have, since 1959, sponsored a distinguished Lecture Series bearing Mr. Helmsley's name which brings stimulating speakers to the campus each year. These lectures are open to the public and draw their audience not only from the Brandeis community but from other colleges and universities in the area.

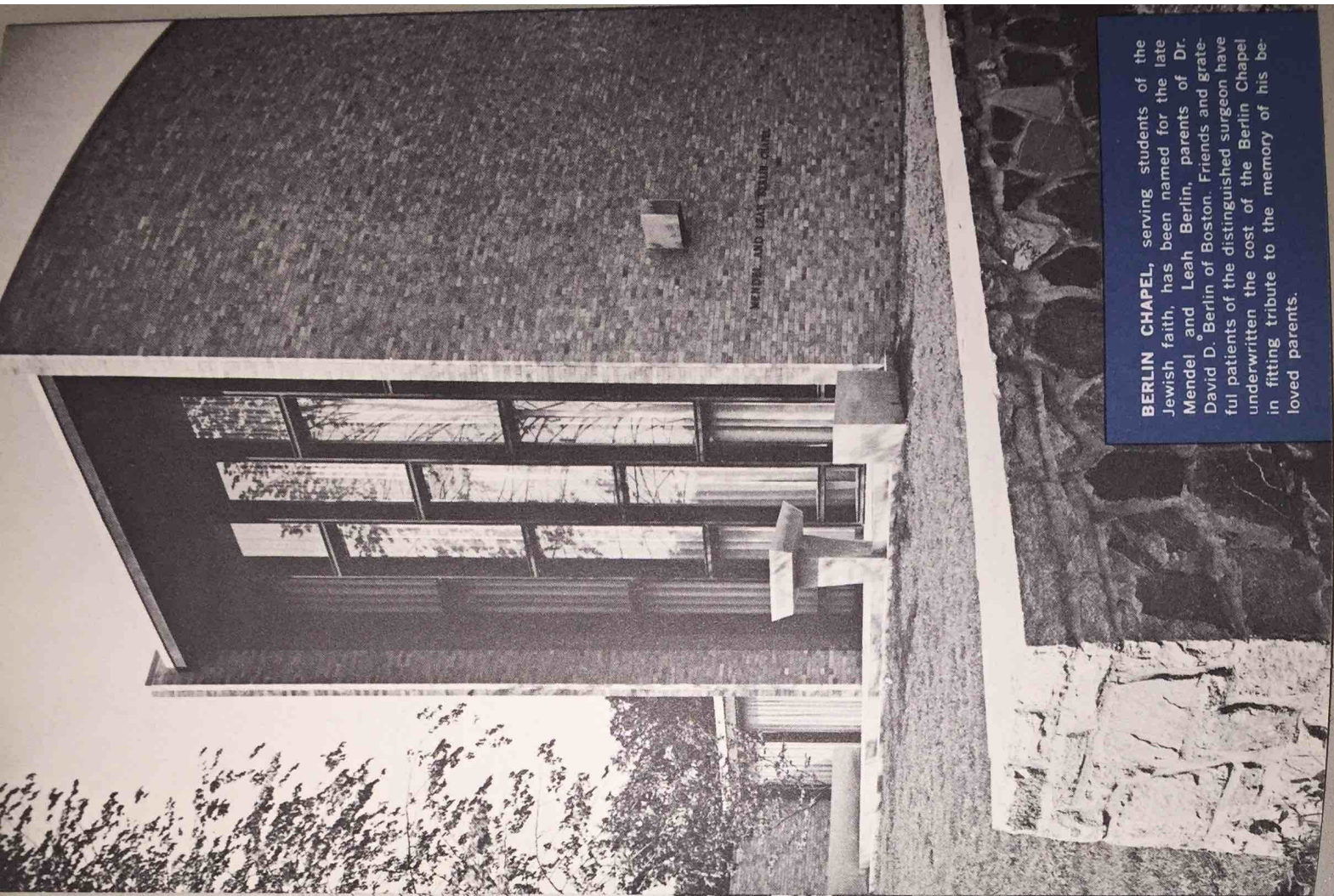
The Three Chapels also sponsor a lively campus publication, *Concern*, which appears from time to time with provocative student articles and editorials.

Through the national organizations of Hillel, Newman, and the Student Christian Association, Brandeis has been especially fortunate in the Chaplains who have been assigned to the University. Young, vigorous and dedicated men, they have involved themselves and the students in thoughtful dialogue and in the important human and religious movements of our time, from ecumenicism to civil rights, from the war on poverty to liturgical renewal, from remedial reading programs to volunteer work in local hospitals for the mentally ill. In the finest spirit of our time, they seek closer communication and understanding among students of the three faiths while preserving the integrity of the individual religious community.

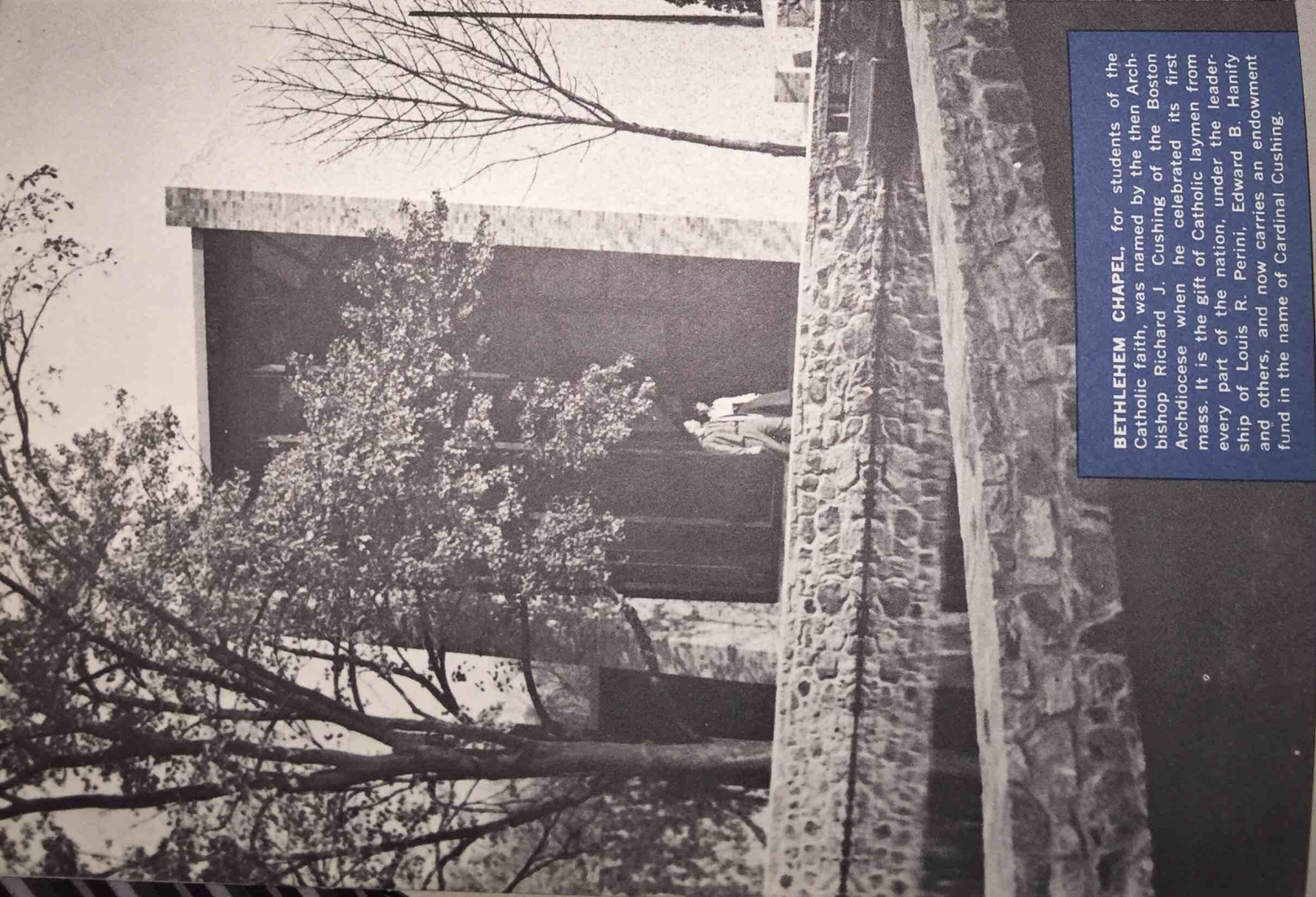


JOHN MARSHALL HARLAN CHAPEL, for students of the Protestant faith, has been named for the late Supreme Court Justice and underwritten by Protestant friends throughout the country under the leadership of C. Allen Harlan of Detroit. An Endowment Fund for Protestant Activity has also been created by Dr. Albert V. Danielsen of Wellesley Hills, Mass.





BERLIN CHAPEL, serving students of the Jewish faith, has been named for the late Mendel and Leah Berlin, parents of Dr. David D. Berlin of Boston. Friends and grateful patients of the distinguished surgeon have underwritten the cost of the Berlin Chapel in fitting tribute to the memory of his beloved parents.



BETHLEHEM CHAPEL, for students of the Catholic faith, was named by the then Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of the Boston Archdiocese when he celebrated its first mass. It is the gift of Catholic laymen from every part of the nation, under the leadership of Louis R. Perini, Edward B. Hanify and others, and now carries an endowment fund in the name of Cardinal Cushing.