

WHAT IS HILLEL ?

By Louise Dine

Hillel signifies the Jewish home on campus. Just as all facets of Jewish living are combined in the home, so are they in Hillel. Hillel's three fold program, religious, cultural, and social is designed to fulfill the needs of every Jewish student. Religious services are held once a month at the Hebrew Union College. There will be socials throughout the year, an excellent example of which was, of course, the recently held dance of November first. And on the cultural side Hillel is organizing study groups on subnects chosen by the students.

Besides the more definite plans, Hillel has long range ones too. It wants to put out a year-book. Hillel wants to bring a student from Europe to study at U.C. A seder and a Purim carnival are also in the offing.

How did Hillel come to be? Who invented this organization that seems to have so much to do? Well, it seems that a enterprising HUC student, Benjamin Frankel, had a bi-weekly congregation at Champagne, Illinois. There he met a Doctor Baldwin of the University of Illinois who wondered why there was no Jewish organization on the campuses. This question inspired Rabbi Frankel to organize Hillel.

Back in Cincinnati Rabbi Frankel took his idea for Hillel to Senator Alfred M. Cohen who was so impressed with it he convinced the B'nai B'rith Men to take over guardianship of the new plan.

Since the first Hillel at the University of Illinois, there have been 133 Hillels organized on campuses of the United States.

It was not until 1947 that three outstanding U.C. citizens felt the need for a Hillel on campus. These three, Roz Chudnoff, Joan Levy, and Jack Stern came to Mr. Maury Davis to work on the idea. At the same time the Jewish

Center came to Mr. Davis with the same proposal. The J.C. then went to the B'nai B'rith Men and B'nai B'rith Women. The three organizations hired Mr. Davis and established the Association of Jewish Students.

But the Association wanted to be part of National Hillel. Soon Dr. Arthur Lelyweld, national director of Hillel, met at Mr. Cohen's and heard Mr. Davis present Cincinnati's cause. Dr. Lelyweld said they were doing a good job, but that the National had no money with which to establish a new chapter. However if they would raise their own money, which they did, Hillel would be glad to welcome a new group.

The inauguration ceremonies for the new UC Hillel took place March 31, 1948 in Annie Laws Auditorium. Rabbi Kaplan and Dean Bishop spoke.

Hillel has an advisory council consisting of three members each from the Jewish Center, B'nai B'rith Men, B'nai B'rith Women, UC students, and Mr. Davis. The chairman is Mr. Emanuel Marks who completely sponsored the recent Hillel dance.

The officers of this years Hillel are Sam Shapiro, president; Gloria Baker, vice-president; Norma Seigel, recording secretary; Helen Hauser, corresponding secretary; and Joan Kraft, treasurer. These officers and the chairmen of the various committees comprise the executive council.

The third Wednesday of every month is the open meeting at the Union. The executive council meets every Wednesday evening.

In order to acquaint members with Hillel, its history, activities, future on the Cincinnati campus we will continue to publish articles about Hillel in future editions.