



Hillel Call



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NO. I

Hillel Passover Seder April 15 At "Y" Cottage

The Festival of Passover will begin Monday, April 15th, and will continue for eight days. Hillel will celebrate it with the traditional Seder which will be held at the "Y" Cottage, Campus Drive and Union, at 6:00 P. M. The Passover Service will be held Friday, April 19th in the Foundation. Rabbi Joseph Gitin will speak on "The Responsibility of Freedom."

Passover is one of the most significant Jewish festivals. It commemorates Israel's liberation from the withering blight of Egyptian slavery. Tradition tells us that Moses, at the behest of God, demanded of Pharaoh to free Israel—"let my people go, that they may serve me." At first Pharaoh adamantly refused, but circumstances beyond his control finally influenced him to change his mind. The miracle of freedom was wrought. Israel marched out of Egypt a motley group, Bnai Churin, a free people.

Moses led them through the wilderness and desert and molded them into a cohesive people. He gave them a moral purpose, which they realized when they reached the foot of

Mt. Sinai and beheld the episode of the giving of the Ten Commandments.

Passover emphasizes the ideal of freedom which is appreciated only when it is enjoyed by all men. It is not a provincial privilege that can be hugged to one's breast and denied to others. It must be universal; otherwise it will prove ephemeral and short-lived.

We earnestly hope that World War II has taught us this poignant lesson: that the world cannot survive half-slave and half-free; that oppression of one minority does not constitute an internal and domestic problem, but actually involves all mankind and thus becomes a world problem.

Especially as we contemplate the continued contraction of the world by virtue of the scientific achievement in the fields of transportation and communication, and also as we contemplate the terrible consequences of the atomic bomb, must we realize the imperative need of transmitting the ideal of Passover into the reality of freedom and peace.

SABBATH SERVICES

Sabbath evening services are held each Friday at 8:15 at the Hillel Foundation under the direction of Rabbi Joseph Gitin.

The Sabbath eve services are presented with the belief that the religious aspects of Judaism are an integral part of the life of the Jewish student. Every attempt is made to present the services in a manner acceptable to the Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform students.

During the course of the serv-

ices, many students participate in various capacities, including those of cantor and lecturer. The Rabbi welcomes the contribution of any student.

Currently, Rabbi Gitten is presenting a series of lectures on the Hebrew prophets and the relation of their philosophy to present day Jewish life.

Those of you who wish to attend, please arrive on time as late arrivals cause disturbance to the services.

President's Welcome



STANLEY M. FELIX

On behalf of the Hillel Foundation, I want to welcome all Jewish students of the University of California to our group. As the congregation represents the Jewish community in later life, Hillel represents the Jewish community on campus.

Hillel attempts to integrate Jewish life at the University through its social, cultural and religious activities to instill in each person a pride in his heritage and an understanding of the survival values of Judaism.

We cordially invite all interested in the activities of Hillel to attend our weekly Monday meeting as well as our other functions.

Stanley M. Felix

Council Elects New Officers

In a closely contested election held at the last meeting of the student council in February, Stanley Felix defeated Bunny Shapiro for the Hillel presidency.

Other officers elected included G. "Frankie" Rubin, vice-president; Bob Fisher, treasurer; and Pearl Marchik, Dolores Rosenberg, and Saul Levine as representatives-at-large. In a special election a few weeks later, Rosalie Wallis was elected secretary to replace Eleanor Lesner who did not return to school this semester.

Roslyn Leff was appointed to head the cultural committee. Other new committee chairmen are Bunny Shapiro, who will supervise social activities and Peter Hart who will act as chairman for religious functions.

Hal Bronstein was appointed editor of the Hillel Call, Foundation newspaper which had suspended publication in November, 1944.

Hillel members interested in joining the student council which directs Hillel's varied activities, may become council members by attending three consecutive council meetings. These meetings are scheduled every Monday afternoon at Hillel at 4:10 P.S.T. (Probable Starting Time.)

Host Committee

Visitors at the Friday and Sunday night affairs at Hillel will be greeted by charming Dolores Rosenberg, the new chairman of the Hostess Committee, and her aides.

Hillel has become increasingly aware of the large number of students who come to functions knowing no one, and ac-

"THE ETERNAL MASK"

In one of its first west coast showings, the highly regarded Viennese film, "The Eternal Mask" (Die Ewige Maske), pleased a capacity audience at Hillel March 24.

cordingly, the Committee has been created to broaden the social contacts of these individuals.

TRAGEDY . . .

Comedy usually does better at the theater boxoffice than tragedy although there are exceptions like Othello, Macbeth, etc. Time magazine recently reviewed a "tragedy" that has all the usual elements—pathos, the sad and terrible phases of life and character which often end in catastrophe, and subjection to extreme and lengthy suffering.

The plot of this drama concerns the plight of a particular group of people in Europe. Details are:

In Rumania half of them had to depend on charity.

In Hungary, only 11% were able to earn their living.

In Vienna, where 180,000 had lived before the war, only 500 now had regular jobs.

In Paris, Landlords' Association had been formed to fight those who wanted their old apartments back.

Everywhere, they were strangers, and everywhere they were haunted by the past. Europe was a burial ground that held six million of their corpses; the survivors found life among the dead unbearable. They knew that the massacre had not been the work of a handful of Nazis alone, and they had acquired a bitter, all-inclusive suspicion.

Some tried to escape by changing their identity altogether—daily, France's Journal Officiel carried columns of announcements that Levys and Cohens had changed their names to Dumont and Beauteemps. But the bulk of the group's younger people sought a more complete escape. After centuries of striving toward a secure place in European society, they were ready to get out.

Thousands who had been perhaps mildly Zionist in the past, but had never dreamed of going to Palestine themselves, suddenly looked on it as the only community of which they could be full-fledged members. The Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry on their problems, which arrived in Cairo several weeks ago, had found that 600,000 of 750,000 of them in European D.P. camps were, in Judge Simon H. Rifkind's phrase, "unrepentant Zionists," despite the struggle and hardship awaiting them in Palestine.

European nationalism in the mid-20th century had reached a pitch which forced these people to react with a nationalism of their own. But between them and a Palestine refuge stood another offshoot of European chauvinism, the awakened nationalism of the Arab states and their new instrument, the Arab league. Only superficially was the current Zionist issue the same as before the war. On both sides the pressures had become many times as intense and explosive.

So ended an article in the international news section of Time. These people are human beings; incidentally, they are Jews. We call special attention of their plight to the self-styled "humanitarians," "radicals," "liberals," dilettantes in the arts, letters, and the humanities, and those with strong Marxian ties among American Jews who by some little oversight have practically ignored the problems of their own group as they feverishly worry about the political, economic, and social problems of all other minorities whether the problem be real or fancied. We merely ask these people not to blind themselves to the seriousness of what has happened and is happening to European Jews. We ask them to give the matter more than a curt dismissal.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Lois Rothenberg, former member of Hillel council, has been elected vice president of the Associated Students of the

University of California. She is a member of the Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority. Her parents are active in Jewish community affairs.

Debaters Visit Burlingame

Anti-semitism is not of the Jew's doing and the Jew must realize this in order that he be psychologically equipped to combat it. The self-rejection and self-hatred manifested by many modern Jews is in part a result of the Jew's lack of knowledge about himself and consequently his readiness to believe what anti-semitic propagandists say about him.

Such were the major issues discussed when Pearl Marchik and Gloria Haydis spoke at the March 17 meeting of the Peninsula Chapter No. 231 B'nai B'rith Lodge, Burlingame.

Rabbi Joseph Gitin introduced the speakers and acted as moderator during the discussion period.

Rabbi In The Community

Besides his constant labors on behalf of Hillel, Rabbi Gitin also concerns himself with important civic and campus and Jewish functions. Recently he was elected to the Boards of the Berkeley Mental Hygiene Organization, the Berkeley Traffic Safety Commission, Fair Employment Practice Commission, and the Inter-racial Committee of Berkeley.

Rabbi Gitin has addressed the students at the Y. W. C. A. on "The Essence of Judaism," Y. M. C. A. leadership group on "The Jew in the Modern World," Episcopal Divinity School of Berkeley on "Prophecies of Israel," etc.

HEBREW CLUB

A new activity has been initiated this semester at Hillel in the formation of a Hebrew Speaking Club. Hebrew speaking students and adults of this area may utilize the Hebrew language in discussions, debates and social functions.

Future meetings of the club will be held bi-weekly. The next one has been scheduled at Hillel on April 11th at 8:30 p.m.

Library Open

Generally considered one of the finest Jewish and Hebrew libraries in the area, the Hillel Foundation Library offers a convenient source of information and inspiration in all fields of Jewish life and thought. The library, which is on the second floor of Hillel, has a wide selection of general fiction and non-fiction. A place for study or discussion, the library offers authoritative works on such topics as anti-semitism, Jewish philosophy, teachings of the prophets, current day treatises on all phases of the Jewish problem, customs, traditions, and language texts.

The books are classified under the Library of Congress system and are available for home loan.

Komm Leaves For L.A. Exam

For meritorious service to the Hillel Foundation, through his outstanding work as vice-president of the student council last term, his attendance at council meetings and in various activities, Paul Komm was awarded the Hillel Key by Rabbi Joseph Gitin, director of Hillel. The award, presented at the semi-annual Open House, March 17th, also noted Komm's activity in Zionist groups and his studies in the Jewish History Class.

Komm graduated from the School of Optometry at the University of California in February. He leaves soon for the state examinations in optometry scheduled for April 8th in Los Angeles.

(Ed. note) Best wishes for his success in the examination and in subsequent endeavors are extended Paul by the staff and his many friends.

THE HILLEL CALL

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RABBI JOSEPH GITIN

Zionists Organize Discussion Program

The University of California chapter of the I. Z. F. A. opened its current semester's activities with an organizational meeting Sunday, March 24th. The following officers and committee heads were elected:

Al Brezner, president; Denise Kaplan, secretary-treasurer; Saul Levine, action and publicity committee; Dov Abramis, educational committee; Meidel Richland, social committee; Fred Gologorsky, coordinating committee.

A temporary constitution

committee headed by Martin Heinstein has drafted the constitution for the U. C. chapter.

The I. Z. F. A. extends an invitation to all Jewish students, Zionist and non-Zionist alike, to attend its regular 7:30 p.m. Tuesday meetings. A discussion titled "Why Zionism?" was led by D. Abramis on March 31st. Another on the "Zionist Congress" was held April 7th.

Although the I. Z. F. A. is an independent organization, it follows the pattern established on most university campuses in working in close cooperation with the Hillel Foundation.

The aims of the organization are to integrate the U. C. student Zionists of all party trends and to advance and interpret the facts about Zionism and modern Palestine to the general student body and faculty. In addition to these, the I. Z. F. A. is vitally interested in supporting the activities of the local Jewish communities.

Reflections

By RABBI JOSEPH GITIN

May I take this opportunity to welcome the new students, the returning veterans, and the old students to the Hillel Foundation. May this year and those to follow bring success in your studies and happiness in your sojourn upon our beautiful campus. The University of California is one of the finest in the country. I know that you will, by virtue of your affiliation and contribution, help immeasurably to enhance its prestige.

I look back upon my college days and reflect: if only we students in the "hoary" past could have enjoyed the benefits of Hillel. There were days that brought only a sense of loneliness, there were problems that afflicted our hearts and we did not know where to go for comfort and encouragement. We had left our communities with little knowledge of Judaism. As youths, we were peripheral entities, innocuous adjuncts to Jewish community life. Thus on the campus we found ourselves drifting aimlessly away from our Jewish moorings. And that sense of loneliness was still in our hearts.

Through the vision and courage of the B'nai B'rith, the Hillel foundation was established. Today there are more than 125 units on campuses in America, Canada, Cuba. In Berkeley, our own Hillel foundation is very active. For almost two decades, it has served the Jewish student, affording him religious inspiration, cultural stimulation, social recreation. It emphasizes inter-faith activities for it realizes that only through understanding and contact with students of other faiths there will evolve greater appreciation and cooperation which are so necessary in the preservation of democracy and peace.

At Hillel, the students are not only searching for answers to anti-semitism but are also constantly reaching out for a positive, happy philosophy of Jewish life that will enable them to assume roles of effective leadership in the community when school days are over. Hillel is a laboratory of Jewish life. Here students are encouraged to think clearly, to acquire broad perspectives, and to live in consonance with the high ideals of religion. Here at Hillel our students acquire a sense of integrity as a Jew and as an American.

Dear friends, I feel confident that once you visit Hillel—and I speak specifically to the new students—you will stay to enjoy its many benefits. Our program is designed to suit every individual taste and need. For religious inspiration there are the weekly services, the observances of the Holy Days and the Festivals, the Passover Seder which will be held in April at the Y cottage. For cultural stimulation there are the classes in Hebrew, philosophy of Jewish life, history, the Seminars and bull-sessions, the supper forums, musicales, recitals, panel discussions which are presented before various Jewish communities, and for social relaxation there is the Foundation welcoming you and serving you as a literal home away from home, where friendships are cultivated in a congenial atmosphere, and yes, where even romance blossoms. . . .

A final word. Hillel is here for you to enjoy. Make it an integral and meaningful part of your lives. Make it a significant supplement to your University life. Make it a creative force, a source of joy and strength, that will enhance the dignity and integrity of your personality.

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Open House Attracts Over 400 Students

New and old Jewish students of the University of California were welcomed to the Hillel Foundation on Sunday evening, March 17, at a buffet supper and open house. More than 400 Californians received official welcomes by Rabbi Joseph Gitin, President Stanley Felix and Hillel Chairmen Bunny Shapiro, Roslyn Leff and Peter Hart.

In harmony with the Purim mood Hamentaschin were served. Hillel extends heartiest thanks to the Berkeley Women's Chapter B'nai B'rith, and in particular to Mesdames Anita Pavliger, Sally Berk and Julia Krugman for their contribution of the Hamentaschin and for their assistance in helping to serve at the buffet supper.

Noted Speakers

Irving Fineman, distinguished American author, was guest speaker at Friday evening services, April 5, at Hillel. (Editor's note: Mr. Fineman's talk will be reviewed in the next issue of the Call.)

Complexities of the current economic situation in the United States were discussed at Hillel March 31 by Frank L. Kidner, professor of economics at the university.

PART OF 400 AT OPEN HOUSE

For details, see story at right

Hillel Calendar

Tuesday, April 9th, Hebrew class, 4:10 P.M.

Tuesday, April 9th, Inter-collegiate Zionist Federation of America meeting, 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, April 11th, Jewish History class, 4:10 P.M.

Friday, April 12th, Religious services, talk 8:00 P.M. by Rabbi Gitin—"The Responsibility of Freedom—Passover Message." Discussion and social hour.

Sunday, April 14th, Social hour and dance, 8:00 P.M.

Monday, April 15th, Student Council Meeting, 4:15 P.M.

Tuesday, April 16th, Hebrew class, 4:10 P.M. I.Z.F.A. 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, April 18th, Jewish History, 4:10 P.M.

Friday, April 19th, religious services, 8:00 P.M. (Tentative) Commemoration of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Sunday, April 21st (tentative). A musicale or lecture. Open House and Dance.

Monday, April 22nd, Student Council Meeting, 4:15 P.M.

Tuesday, April 23rd, Hebrew Class, 4:10 P.M. I.Z.F.A. Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, April 25th, Jewish History, 4:10 P.M.

Friday, April 26th, 8:00 P.M. Hillel night at Temple Sinai. Students will talk on "What Ails American Jewry?"

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