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R E F L E C T I O N S

A Newsletter from Temple Rodef Shalom

Dear Friend:

The first sentence in the Bible says: "In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth". Much was accomplished in six days! One thinks of this while reflecting that our Congregation is in its beginning stages right now; we are two months old. Much has been accomplished by many, working together in this short space of time. Since the date of our "creation", we have established what we all feel is a Congregation that will prosper and embrace the spiritual beauty and ethical truths of Judaism.

My heart leaps up when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky:  
So was it when my life began;  
So is it now I am a man;  
So be it when I shall grow old,  
Or let me die!  
The Child is father of the Man;  
And I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural piety.

We are in our Childhood in Rodef Shalom. The aspirations and goals that we set for ourselves now form our rainbow in the sky. As William Wordsworth said, "The Child is father of the Man". What we are now is what we will become. We are growing, reaching out; dependent on all to stand erect and to move toward our rainbow in the sky.....

\* \* \* DEDICATION OF OUR TORAH \* \* \*

One of the first milestones along our path will be the formal dedication of Temple Rodef Shalom to our new Torah on Friday evening, September 7th, at 8:15 P.M. Mr. Ira Funston, our President, has said so well that it is not only that we will dedicate the Torah to our Temple, but also--and more essential--that we consecrate ourselves to it. The Torah is the gift to Rodef Shalom by Dr. and Mrs. David Druger. The beautiful ark that houses the Torah was built by Dr. Philip Rudin. It was lined in velvet by Mrs. Rose Thorman and finished and decorated by Mrs. Nan Rudin. Dr. and Mrs. Donald Lubin contributed financially to the finishing of the ark, and the result of this combined effort has been deeply rewarding. At our Dedication Service, members and guests are pleased to welcome Rabbi Richard Hirsch, who will officiate at our service. His sermon will be "New Frontiers for Judaism". College students of our Congregation are especially asked to attend this service and receive Rabbi Hirsch's blessing.

## \* \* \* OUR FIRST BAR MITZVAH \* \* \*

Another vital "first step" for Temple Rodef Shalom will be its first Bar Mitzvah on Friday evening, September 21st. This will be the Bar Mitzvah of Stephen Abramson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Abramson. All the members of the Congregation are invited by Mr. and Mrs. Abramson to attend the service in the Community Room of the Fink Professional Building, and the reception immediately following services in the Cypress Room of the Village House Motor Hotel, 245 North Washington Street, Falls Church. The Cypress Room is at the back of the motel, and within walking distance of the Fink Building. The parking lot is the second one from where you park for services. Children attending services are especially welcome at the reception.

## \* \* \* RELIGIOUS SCHOOL \* \* \*

Religious School will begin on Sunday, September 16th from 9:30 A.M. until 12:00 noon at the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Falls Church. Refreshments for children in grades one through three will be the compliments of the Religious School Committee on that day. Starting on Sunday, September 23, parents of children in grades one through three are asked to send a snack with each child every Sunday. In our Sunday School Brochure is other information regarding the fine curriculum and organization of our school as coordinated by our Religious School Administrators, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Auerbach. If you have not received a brochure and would like one, please call the Auerbachs after 6:00 P.M. and they will be happy to discuss our Religious School with you. Their number is JE3-3758. We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Auerbach for their untiring efforts, and to all our teachers, who have volunteered their time, knowledge and enthusiasm. The Religious School Parents' Committee will welcome any help that is forthcoming to aid in the effectiveness of the program. Mr. Jules Cohen is responsible for the printing of the brochure and we are very grateful to him and his staff.

## \* \* \* ADULT CULTURAL PROGRAM \* \* \*

An important step for Rodef Shalom is the initiation of our Adult Cultural Program. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ruth Checknoff and Mrs. Ida Silverstein, the following programs will take place: First, a Discussion Group during one Oneg Shabbat a month, on subjects pertaining to the study of religion. On September 14th, our guest Rabbi will be Rabbi Alan Fuchs, who is a student at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. The subject he has selected for the Oneg Shabbat discussion is "How Does One Get Religious Inspiration". On October 5th, Rabbi Zielonka will select a subject for discussion. The second program that is planned is a course on Jewish personalities and the times they lived in; from Moses and David, through the centuries to Jews of modern life. There will be about ten sessions, with guest speakers, and a prepared list of subjects and source material will be

available. This course will begin this fall. The third program we have planned is an Adult Study Group. This is open to all members of Rodef Shalom and will meet on the fourth Sunday of every month at the homes of the participants. The host will select the subject for discussion. It can cover any area of life, from book reviews to politics to social problems. The subject will be announced a week ahead of each get-together so that reading and thought may be given by all who are attending. The first meeting will be at the home of Nan and Bert Rudin on October 28th. The subject is: "How Judaism is Practiced in Israel Today". We encourage everyone who is interested in food for thought to become part of our Study Group. The fourth program we have planned is a Congregational Outing on Sunday, October 21, at the grounds of the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church on Fort Hunt Road south of Alexandria. This will be a Sukkoth celebration for our member families, and for friends and guests who wish to share in this beautiful holiday. Every family will bring a picnic lunch at 1:00 P.M., so "outdoor clothes" may be worn to Sunday School by the children on that day. Dr. Phil Rudin has offered to build a Sukka for us at the site. People who would like to help decorate the Sukka please call Mrs. Ida Auerbach.

\* \* \* WOMEN'S GET TOGETHER \* \* \*

The women of the Congregation are invited to a coffee at Mrs. Millie Adelson's home on Thursday, September 13th at 1:00 P.M. There are several items to discuss regarding the role each woman plays in the Congregational life. We have no sisterhood as such in Rodef Shalom, but we do have the desire for the "woman's touch" and this effort requires the interest and participation of all who are able to share these responsibilities. So we know you will try to attend the coffee.

\* \* \* YOUTH GROUP \* \* \*

The Youth Group will meet on Sunday, September 16th at 3:00 at Peggy Funston's home; 4869 S. 28th St., Arlington. This is for young people in tenth grade and up. Peggy is our Youth Director and is anxious to have all who are interested come and help plan a fine Youth Group.

\* \* \* CONGREGATIONAL MEETING \* \* \*

We will hold a Congregational Meeting in October. One of the basic tenets we uphold is that we wish to make a sincere effort to establish and maintain rapport and communication and democratic processes at Rodef Shalom. That is why our Constitution calls for congregational meetings every three months. That is why this Newsletter tries to be as inclusive as possible. (We welcome contributions to the Newsletter from

anyone who has thoughts to express in this manner). Along these lines, our Board, at its meeting on August 27th, established a Member-to-Member Committee. Ten couples have been appointed, in the various geographical areas in Northern Virginia, to help foster close relationships between each member family and the Temple at large. Mrs. Hilda Brandt (JA8-7289) is the chairman of this committee and calls regarding these plans are welcome.

\* \* \* HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES \* \* \*

We'd like to remind everyone that Rosh Hashana Services begin at 8:15 Friday night, September 28th, and 10:00 A.M. Saturday morning, September 29th at the Arlington Unitarian Church, 4444 Arlington Blvd. Rabbi David M. Zielonka will officiate during the ten day period of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Children's services will be held on Saturday afternoon, September 29th. For the evening services, each member family has two seats, and additional seats for children are five dollars a child. Related guests are welcome and donations for seats will be appreciated. Mr. Ernest Bloch is in charge of our seating plans. Please contact him by mail or phone between September 8th and September 15th stating how many seats you will require. The address and phone number are: 2908 Argyle Drive, Alexandria, KI9-6862. Indeed, the first Holiday Services of Temple Rodef Shalom are a milestone on our path.

\* \* \* CONDOLENCES \* \* \*

Our heartfelt condolences go to Mrs. Esther Davis who lost her Mother last week.

\* \* \* WORDS OF WELCOME \* \* \*

The Congregation is ever grateful to those who have contributed so generously of their time and effort and financial support to give this "creation" of ours, this Child, the firm foundation and the direction in which it is heading. We had twenty-two members sign as charter members in late June. Now we have almost fifty-five member families. We welcome our newest members who joined us in August: Marion and Walter Grimes, Miss Peggy Funston, Sidney and Leona Merkle, Alvin and Molly Rosen, Edward and Francis Zieses, Henry and Martha Lowenstern, Werner and Lotte Goldman, Sidney and Clarine Schmuckler, and Harriet and David Beckler.

\* \* \* IN CLOSING \* \* \*

"I never thought of religion as being exciting, but your service tonight made me change my mind". This was said to one of our members by a man who attended services last

Friday night. He and his wife joined our Congregation. We seek friends partly because no one can have too many friends, and in part because what we stand for needs friends. We are happy to have visitors and hope that many will become friends. Our membership book is open to all who feel at home with us. By all of us practicing what we believe in, our Child, Temple Rodef Shalom, will grow strong and beautiful and go forward --with its eye on the rainbow.