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R E F L E C T I O N S

The Newsletter of Temple Rodef Shalom
A Sounding Board for Ideas and Ideals

AN EDITORIAL ON RESPONSIBILITY

Many of our members share an intensity of conviction about why we organized the congregation and what our goals are. Disraeli said that the secret of success is faithfulness to purpose. It is essential to define the purpose, or goals, in order to be faithful to it, and to strive toward reaching it.

The values (or purposes) of each individual are held sacred in our Temple as they are in our society at large. The Temple is responsive to the needs and worth of the individual member. By the same token, every member should be motivated to recognize the needs and to meet the challenge of our congregation as it grows and matures. One ingredient is essential in any organization, and that ingredient is: the responsibility of the individual to the whole. Where does this responsibility begin and end? The whole equals the sum of its parts. This fact cannot be disputed or preached. In the same way, a congregation is as strong as the combination of its members--not the number of its members, but the sense of dedication of its members to the congregation as a whole.

There is the necessity of recognizing that the strength and purpose of a congregation is not measured by what kind of a Rabbi we have (or don't have), the location of our Temple, the beauty of the site, or physical structure, but primarily in the kind of dedication and purposiveness that our members share. Our sense of obligation to the Temple and how we carry it out effectively fulfills our responsibility.

Some may disagree. Some feel that joining the Temple by paying dues and sending their children to Religious School is the extent of their responsibility. While not preaching, I ask you, as I ask myself: where does responsibility begin and end? Shouldn't we accept obligations as well as benefits from

our membership. For instance--in a country club, one pays dues and this entitles him to the enjoyment of all the facilities. Not much more is asked of him. On the other hand, being a citizen of our nation entitles one to all the freedoms he enjoys. It also obligates him to serve his country in peace and war, and to die in fighting for his country, if need be. The sacrifice is great--the responsibility tremendous in making our freedoms possible. In the family unit, each "member" reaps the benefits of love and togetherness. Yet the obligations and sacrifices of the mature members of the family are what make this vital part of our lives possible. We could cite other examples of responsibility which are basic truths in our society. A demonstration of dedication and devotion--of faithfulness to purpose by so many--is the significant reason why Temple Rodef Shalom has matured and maintained its value to the individual.

We look at our congregation and its members and ask if each one shouldn't intuitively sense his responsibility--desire it--or whether, like the country club, membership is bought with a bank check. What do you think?

*** CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HELD ***

Our Board held its meeting Monday night, October 15, and our Congregational Meeting was held on October 17th. Several important discussions evolved. The Congregation voted to form a committee to look into our needs for a Rabbi. Some of the procedures for obtaining a spiritual leader will be outlined by the committee. It was generally felt that our congregation has been so ably served by its lay leaders. Mr. Larry Seiff has made our worship service a beautiful, sincere experience for us each Friday night through his fine capacities for organizing member participation. Mr. and Mrs. Auerbach have developed a fine Religious School, with the help of dedicated teachers and parents. But the need for a Rabbi who can serve us, full time, in these and many other ways, is felt by our congregants, as a need that deserves to be explored.

The Program Committee under Mrs. Ruth Checknoff has been authorized to formulate an interesting series of lectures and discussions; involving an expenditure from our treasury, subject to Board approval. Mrs. Checknoff is most anxious to have the ideas and help of all interested members. Anyone knowing of programs or speakers which we might avail ourselves of are urged to contact Mrs. Checknoff.

The Congregation voted to enlist the services of Mrs. Edith Abramson as our secretary, with financial remuneration for her time and effort in coordinating the growing amount of business and mail that the Temple handles. Therefore, "business" matters should be referred to Mrs. Abramson at the Temple number 532-2217.

Our Oneg Shabats will be served by women who volunteered their help at the Congregational Meeting. The Board voted that our treasury purchase beverages and other needs for serving after Friday night services, and the women who volunteer bring cake and cookies and help serve on the Friday night of their choice. Mrs. Charlotte Behrend (JE 4-1293), Mrs. Mildred Adelson, and Mrs. Lee Hurwitch are our coordinators of this function of participation, and anyone who is interested should call them.

The Congregation voted to establish an "Organ Fund" which welcomes donations toward the purchase of an organ (between \$250.00 and \$300.00) to be given to the Temple in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Fink, in appreciation for their generous offer of the use of the Community Room, in which we have held services and meetings since June, and which we will use until further needs are established. Donations to the Organ Fund, and information about it, may be made by contacting Mrs. Rose Thorman (JA 8-7209), 2445 N. Utah Street, Arlington, Virginia.

*** THE COMING DEDICATION OF ***
THE RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER

The weekend of November 29th through December 1st will be devoted to the theme, "Justice, Justice, Shall Thou Pursue", sponsored by the Religious Action Center of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Services on Friday, November 30th for congregations in our area will be held at the Washington Hebrew Congregation. Plans are being made for our participation in the program, and support by our Congregation will be valuable to us individually, and as a responsible congregation joining with others in a common goal. Call Mrs. Abramson after 6:00 P.M., for information. Workshops, a luncheon, and banquet are being planned.

*** WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS ***

During the month of October we were delighted to welcome Dr. and Mrs. Irving Siegel, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Block, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Goldman and Mrs. Fred Peel, Jr., to our congregation.

*** HAPPENINGS OF OUR MEMBERS ***

We of Temple Rodef Shalom extend to Mrs. Ida Auerbach our heartfelt condolences upon the loss of her mother.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Odoroff upon the birth of their grandchild.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Sol Swerdlof upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son.

We extend our best wishes to Mrs. Libert Ehrman convalescing from a recent operation.

*** BOARD MEMBERS ***

Not everyone is aware of who our Board Members are, what service they perform, and how you can add your interests and talents to theirs in building a firm foundation for the Temple. For instance, we are in great need of additional voices for our choir. Our two singers have given us beautiful renderings of the music in the service almost every Friday night. Yet we must have more than two who participate in our choir. We thank Mrs. Rose Thorman and Mr. Irving Kleinfeld for their dedication, and we ask any of you who like to sing to consider joining our choir. Please call Mrs. Thorman about this. Following is a list of Board members and their phone numbers. This will be a help to those who can be on committees or offer suggestions.

President	C. Ira Funston	WE 1-0415
First Vice Pres.	Burton Thorman	JA 8-7209
Second Vice Pres.	Berton Rudin	SO 8-7840
Treasurer	Ernest Bloch	KI 9-6862
Corresponding Sec'y	Sybil Lubin	356-8591
Recording Sec'y	Hilda Brandt	JA 8-7289
Financial Sec'y	Edith Abramson	532-2217

Trustees	Leonard Emmerglick	EL 6-4428
	Edward Procter	KE 6-8138
	Emmanuel Kintisch	931-0641
Membership	Esther Davis	JE 4-5674
Ways and Means	James Linde	OV 3-4374
Religious School Director, Mr. and Mrs.	Joe Auerbach	JE 3-3758
Religious Practices		
Chairman,	Larry Seiff	KI 9-8174
Committee:	Maurice Odoroff	
	Rose Thorman	
	Irving Kleinfeld	
	Jack Behrend	
Public Relations		
Chairman	Nan Rudin	SO 8-7840
Committee:	Jules Cohen	
	Harriet Epstein	
Program Chairman,	Ruth Checknoff	JE 2-4995
Committee:	Ida Silverstein	
	Barbara Levin	
	Joan Schweitz	
	Miriam Twynam	
	Shirley Kleinfeld	

*** A Letter from the Program Committee ***
To the Congregation

Dear Members:

In order to plan a program that will be completely integrated and related to all the functions of our Temple, we would very much welcome suggestions from all of you. To open avenues for such suggestions, we would like to describe some of the facets of our community life as we see them and as we would like to enrich them:

Religious life: Of course, this is the heart of it all. In an effort to make this aspect of our lives, both at the Temple and at home, more meaningful, and to become more knowledgeable about our Tradition, we have instituted a series of discussions to be held after Friday night Services at least once a month. One of the discussions will be the story of Abraham and the concept of the chosen people. The discussion will be "What is the Mission of the Jews in Our Modern World?"

On future evenings, we hope to have other discussions on specific religious beliefs and traditions. We are also looking forward to having guest speakers who will lecture on various aspects of Jewish life.

Cultural life: We will be observing through the year such events as Jewish Music Month and Jewish Book Month. We will be looking for ways to learn about Jewish art and our ancient and modern folkways. We hope to have exhibits, lectures, programs and discussions to explore and enjoy this part of our tradition. As a beginning we will be having, in November, a book exhibit and sale along with a group of archeological and inspirational films on Biblical subjects. These will be held at the Thomas Jefferson School on Sunday morning.

Education: The systematic pursuit of knowledge is as much a part of Jewish life as prayer. In recognition of this, we are starting a course on "Great Personalities in Jewish History from Biblical Times to the Present". One lecture a month will be held on Sunday Morning while Religious School is in session. We are planning to obtain outside speakers for these lectures and urge those of you who are interested to plan to attend regularly. The syllabus and reading lists will be published soon.

Social Action: As we continue with our program we feel it will become clear that our importance, as Jews and as individuals in our community, will depend on our awareness and understanding of the issues of our times. We hope to bring these issues before the Congregation in accordance with the methods suggested by the Religious Action Center of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

As we implement the broad outlines of the program we have outlined here, we want to be sure that where possible we can go to the best sources available for information and guest lecturers and experts. We hope that everyone will feel responsible for letting the Committee know of any of these sources with which you have any contact. We have been given permission to pay for whatever services we feel will really add to and enhance the program, and we are certain that if everyone participates fully in whatever way gives him the greatest satisfaction, be it as a "singer" or "listener", we will be able to boast that our Temple really serves our Congregation.

Sincerely,
The Program Committee
Ruth Checknoff, Chairman

P. S. We urge all of our members with special talents and knowledge in any of the aforementioned fields to come forward and volunteer their services to this Committee. Thank you,
Ruth Checknoff

*** THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS ***

As always, we are grateful to all who have contributed to our needs. We are establishing certain funds, in addition to our Organ Fund. In this way, those of us who wish to donate to the Temple in memory of, or in honor of someone, will become familiar with our specific needs.

Mr. and Mrs. Hy Cohen, and Dr. and Mrs. Bert Rudin have contributed to the Library Fund.

Prayer books have been contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Somers, Mr. Wilfred Weisberger, Dr. and Mrs. Irving Imburg, Mrs. Miriam Twynham, Mrs. Erna Frankel, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Funston, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bloch and the Lynbrook School and Faculty and Staff.

For contributions to the general fund we thank Mr. and Mrs. Hy Cohen, Mrs. Anne Tobias and Mrs. Debbie Somers; and

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Bowman for the religious school portable screen--an important visual training aid.

*** THE TEMPLE STUDY GROUP ***

The first study group met at Dr. and Mrs. Bert Rudin's home on October 28th. The paper presented was "How Judaism is Practiced in Israel Today". It was a very informative and congenial session. The study group meets on the third Sunday night of each month and everyone is welcome to attend each time. In November the meeting will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pfeiffer on November 18th at 8:00 P.M. The subject for discussion will be the book "A Tale of Ten Cities" by Rabbi Eugene Lipman of Temple Sinai in Washington.

*** CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER ***

Friday, November 9th	Our guest at services: Dr. George Buchanan (Methodist minister; graduate of the Hebrew Union College) DISCUSSION LED BY DR. BUCHANAN FOLLOWING SERVICE
Sunday, November 11th	Book Exhibit and Sale observing forthcoming Jewish Book Month. THE BIBLE is the theme of Jewish Book month. 10:00 A.M.: Thos. Jefferson School. Three films to be shown: Creation, The Book and The Idol, and Reverence.
Monday night, November 12th	7:30 P.M. Evaluation Workshop. Home of Mr. & Mrs. N. Brandt.
Tuesday, November 13th	1:00 P.M. WOMEN'S MEETING. Fink Professional Bldg. Community Room.
Sunday, November 18th	BOOK EXHIBIT AND SALE Lecture and discussion on Moses. This is the first in our series of great Jewish personalities in history; at Thomas Jefferson School - 10:00 A.M. TEMPLE STUDY GROUP: 8:00 P.M. at Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pfeiffer's home, 412 Basset Street, Alexandria.
Monday, November 26th	8:00 P.M. BOARD MEETING at Mr. and Mrs. Burton Thorman's home. Membership is welcome at all board meetings.
Friday, November 30th	SERVICES AT WASHINGTON HEBREW CONGREGATION. Week-end devoted to dedication of the Religious Action Center.

*** A CHILD'S PRAYER ***

by Jan Thorman

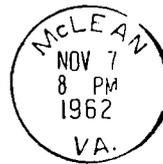
Dear God, when I come before Thee to worship, cleanse me of my sins. And when, during the week, evils and temptations are put before me, help me to overcome them. When I feel angry at my friends and parents, or when they become angry with me, give me understanding, and help me soothe my temper. When my friends need help, or become confused, give me compassion to help them. And if I start to forget Thee, bring me closer to Thee. Help me to bring joy to all around me. Amen.



Picture Taken after Consecration Services

Temple Rodef Shalom

October 19, 1962



Mr. & Mrs. Norman Brandt
2515 North Randolph Street
Arlington 7, Va.