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R E F L E C T I O N S

Monthly Newsletter of Temple Rodef Shalom

* * * A LETTER FROM OUR NEW RABBI * * *

Dear Friends:

The news of my election to the pulpit of Rodef Shalom fills me and the members of my family with a feeling of joy.

The Rabbis taught that all beginnings are difficult. However, having spent a few days with you it is my impression that with the dedication of our devoted members, our problems are surmountable.

We are at the beginning of the road; both, the congregation and the rabbi. The path we shall take together, is as yet unmarked.

We are ready to begin our service to build a new landmark in the Jewish life of northern Virginia.

I extend my hand to each and every member of our congregation, in the hope that it receives a firm response.

Faithfully yours,

Rabbi Laszlo Berkowits

* * * COMING IN JUNE * * *

Worship services will continue each Friday evening in the Fink Building at 8:15 PM.

On Friday evening, June 7th, the congregation is invited to attend the Bas Mitzvah of Jan Thorman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Burton Thorman. Members and friends are urged to remain after the service for the Oneg Shabat by Mr. and Mrs. Thorman.

On Friday evening, June 14th, the Program Committee continuing the series of the study of great Jews, will present a discussion by Mr. Edward Proctor on Rabbi Akiba.

Coming in June (continued)

The women who offered to serve as hostesses will be contacted by Mrs. Mollie Rosen to confirm their dates of serving. If you volunteered but are unable to serve, you are requested to select a substitute and to contact Mrs. Rosen at JE3-9610 to notify her of the change.

* * * LOOKING BACK AT MAY * * *

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

At our first annual congregational meeting on May 15th, the members present voted unanimously to ask Laszlo Berkowits to serve as our rabbi. Rabbi Berkowits has accepted the position and will join us as of July 1, 1963.

At the meeting, the first Constitution was adopted and the budget was approved. Also, as a result of a discussion regarding the purchase of a site for building, the congregation agreed to defer the purchase of such a site. The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Gil Davis, was thanked for its endeavors and recommendations.

The slate of officers was unanimously accepted by the congregation, and the officers for July, 1963 to July, 1964, are:

President: Mr. C. Ira Funston
First Vice President: Dr. Berton M. Rudin
Second Vice President: Mr. Jules Cohen
Treasurer: Mr. Harvey Levin
Financial Secretary: Mrs. Edith Abramson
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Hilda Brandt
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Charlotte Behrend
Trustees: Mr. Edward Proctor (one year term)
 Mr. Gilbert Davis (two year term)
 Mr. Emmanuel Kintisch (three year term)

MEETING OF THE TEMPLE WOMEN

At their meeting on May 23rd at the Fink Building, the women present adopted the name "The Temple Women". Every woman in Temple Rodef Shalom is automatically a member. Mrs. Edith Abramson is chairman, and Mrs. Lois Proctor and Mrs. Harriet Beckler are co-chairmen. The committee chairmen are:

Sunshine Committee	Mrs. Louise Slonim	534-0031
Flowers	Mrs. Vera Kahn	325-8997
Candle Lighting	Mrs. Erna Frankel	TE6-8183
	Mrs. Bea Rudin	KI8-9689
Oneg Shabat Hospitality	Mrs. Mollie Rosen	JE3-9610
Telephone Member-to-Member	Mrs. Esther Davis	JE4-5674
Information	Mrs. Dena Leep	JE4-4472
Social Affairs	Mrs. Debbie Somers	JA2-7967
Religious School Liaison	Mrs. Ida Silverstein	JE2-4407

Through these committees the Temple Women can offer a helping hand to the congregation. It is hoped that you will call one of the women listed above to offer your services on a committee of your choice.

SHOVUOS CONFIRMATION SERVICE

We wish to congratulate the parents of the confirmands and the confirmands on the Confirmation which was held on the evening of May 29th. We are so proud of this group of six young people--our first class of confirmands and we are all grateful to Mr. Ira Funston, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Auerbach, and Mr. Larry Seiff, who taught and guided them. Congratulations to Andrea Pfeiffer, Jan Hurwitch, Michelle Behrend, Laura Kahn, Gary Boch and David Koffman and their parents. The congregation extends its thanks to Mrs. Debby Somers, Mrs. Harriet Beckler, and Mrs. Edith Abramson for their efforts in arranging the reception after the Confirmation.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

(By: Mr. Joe Auerbach)

The last class of our Religious School was held on May 26th. From a handful of youngsters in August of 1962, the school grew, almost overnight, to well over one hundred. Naturally, "growing pains" and problems arose. An effort was made to solve these problems. All-in-all it is felt that our school was a fine "first-year" effort. The Religious School children under the guidance of the room mothers, presented their teachers with gifts of thanks. The congregation is indeed indebted to all the individuals who came forward and offered their help. We especially thank Mr. Jules Cohen and his office staff who met the printing needs of the School, Mrs. Ida Silverstein and the group of room mothers, the Religious School Committee, and especially the volunteer teachers, whom we want to mention here by name:

Hebrew Classes	-	Mr. Larry Seiff
Kindergarten & First Grade	-	Amy Auerbach & Linda Silverstein
Second Grade	-	Kathy Cohen
Third Grade	-	Peggy Funston & Susan Abrams
Fourth & Fifth Grades	-	Joanne Silverstein
Sixth & Seventh Grades	-	Mr. Hyman Cohen & David Harvis
Eighth & Ninth Grades	-	Frank Meltzer & Stephen Newberg
Tenth Grade	-	Mr. C. Ira Funston
Substitute Teachers	-	Mrs. Dorothy Labson, Mr. Manny Kintisch, and Eleanor Auerbach
Special Teachers	-	Mrs. Charlotte Behrend (music) and Mr. Maurice Odoroff (puppet show)

Religious School (continued)

Motion Picture
Operator - Mr. Joe Abramson
Puppet Stage Con-
struction - Dr. Philip Rudin
Puppet Designer - Mrs. Nan Rudin

We look forward to a fine year ahead, under the leadership of our new Rabbi. You may register for Religious School any time between June and September 15th by forms available at Friday night services. School fees will be collected at the opening of school. Please return all Religious School books to Mr. or Mrs. Joseph Auerbach as soon as possible.

FAMILIES OF CONFIRMANDS DINNER

On Sunday evening, May 26, the families of the six confirmands spent a pleasant evening at dinner at the Park Arlington Motel. Rabbi and Mrs. Berkowits, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Funston, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Seiff, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Auerbach joined them on this festive occasion. It is hoped that this will be a regular yearly custom of Temple Rodef Shalom.

* * * HAPPENINGS OF OUR MEMBERS * * *

Congratulations to Mr. Eugene Davidson for being elected President of the Federation of Citizens Associations of Fairfax County.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Epstein on the birth of their daughter, Linda Randall.

Congratulations to Mr. Henry Epstein for being elected Junior Vice Commander of the Department of the District of Columbia Jewish War Veterans.

Congratulations to Dr. Irving Imburg who is president-elect of the Fairfax Dental Society; and also president of the Commonwealth Dental Study Club.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. C. Ira Funston, whose son, Stanley, is being ordained as rabbi at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati: We wish Stanley and his wife, Gita, good luck as assistant rabbi in Jacksonville, Florida.

Congratulations to our new rabbi, Laszlo Berkowits, upon his ordination at the Hebrew Union College on June 8th. We welcome him to our pulpit and feel grateful that he has selected us, as well as that we have selected him!

* * * DONATIONS TO THE ORGAN FUND * * *

- Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Epstein - in honor of the birth
of daughter Linda Randall
Epstein and yahrzeit of
father, Samuel Epstein
- Dr. and Mrs. Donald Lubin - in honor of the Bar Mitzvahs
of David Cohen and Gary Behrend
and Bas Mitzvah of Jan Thorman.
- Dr. and Mrs. Donald Lubin - in memory of Gertrude Cowan.
- Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Wiener - in honor of the first birth-
day of Temple Rodef Shalom
- Mr. and Mrs. Norman Brandt - in appreciation of Rose Thor-
man and Irv Kleinfeld
- Mr. and Mrs. Jules Cohen - in honor of the ordination of
Stanley Funston

* * * DONATION OF PRAYER BOOKS * * *

- Mr. and Mrs. Morton Roney - in memory of the father and
brother of Mr. Paul Pfeiffer

* * * JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA NEEDED * * *

Rabbi Berkowits discussed with the Board our need for a Jewish Encyclopedia. Perhaps a member has one on his library shelf, and can donate its use to the Temple. Please call Mr. Funston (WE1-0415) if you know of one, or if you care to discuss the purchase of one for the Temple.

* * * IN CLOSING * * *

"After all, the kind of world one carries about in one's self is the important thing, and the world outside takes all its grace, color, and value from it."

This thought by James Russell Lowell helps to explain why Temple Rodef Shalom has prospered in one year's time, having taken its grace, color, and value from the individuals who have joined together to contribute to its strength. We now say "Welcome" to our Rabbi. Our feeling is that his grace, color and value will immeasurably enrich our widening horizons.

The editor and publisher of the Newsletter would like to include here some thoughts by one of our members, Mr. Louis T. Olom, on the importance of the individual. This was a sermon that Mr. Olom shared with us in April, that we felt expresses beautifully the meaningfulness of our faith. We feel you would all like to read and reread it.

ON BEING AN INDIVIDUAL

BY: Louis T. Olom

During the past century, especially during the past fifty years, new discoveries and new theories about the universe and about the human species have combined to reduce the size and importance of the individual. Man looks about him. He looks at the biological and physical sciences, at engineering and technology, at archaeology, and discovers that (1) the cosmos is vast and infinite in scope and in magnitude, and (2) the human cell and its constituent elements, as well as particles of matter, appear incomprehensibly small if not minute in size. In comparison with matter and in relation to 3 billion other human beings, soon to be 6 and possible 25 billion in 50 years, the individual human being wonders about his own significance, his own place, his own role in the total scheme of things. He wonders and becomes skeptical and discouraged and deflated, and frequently pessimistic.

It is in this context that the purpose of religion is to provide man with a sense of his own importance as reflected by and through the divine spirit which is the quintessence of size, space, and time. Such a religion, steeped in scholarship, in psychology and philosophy, helps provide meaning and richer insight into the self, and it helps to develop a sense of purpose.

It provides reason for striving, for inquiring further, for daring to be different when the spirit and conviction move you, for building, for hoping, for planning, for dreaming great dreams in the abstract or as in the concrete, practical dreams that are being formulated and designed to etch the character and future structure of this congregation.

It is more important than ever, as man discovers the vastness of the universe, for religion to provide him with a sense of his own personal dignity and stature, and to repeat to provide meaning and purpose to his life.

This is especially important to our youth who are at once caught up in the excitement as well as confusion of these rapidly changing times. And what is this purpose and meaning? It lies in the importance of being free and vigorously asserting this freedom. It lies in the importance of a concept of justice (to one's fellow man) and ensuring energetically that the instruments of justice are always available. It lies in the importance of tolerance and compassion and mercy and "to walk humbly with thy God." It is the importance of striving for self understanding --who we are, from whence we came, and whither we are going--as well as striving to understand others in our community, our country, the world, and--if they exist--beings on other cosmic bodies.

To strive, however, frequently means to compete, and to compete means to struggle, and to struggle with one's fellow man means to engage in controversy and in the resolution of differences. There should be no stigma in struggle or controversy. But in victory or defeat there must be compassion and magnanimity, and sometimes even defiance. For to strive is to be an individual. And to be an individual is to strive.

When can one be an individual? When does one become an individual? When dependent upon parents--as babies are? When dependent upon teachers--as youngsters are? When dependent upon employers or clients--as mature adults are? When dependent upon children--as the aged are?

What then, and when, is the proper time to assert oneself? Whenever the proper degree of preparation has taken place. And this, of course, varies with the individual, for it relates to his state of readiness.

At what point can and should one break out of the bonds of culture, the precedents of science, the historic past, and permit one's own mind, individuality, talent or personality to influence the present and emerging future?

Each person, each individual, will apply different answers as he strives for his own degree of perfection and as he strives to extricate himself sufficiently from his historical matrix in order to affect that matrix in a positive manner. This may take the form of a new recipe in the household, a new idea for one's school, a new notion in one's business, a new insight in one's profession, a new idea for a congregation, even a new grip in golf or tennis, a new painting or musical composition, or perhaps a new insight into the appreciation of old art or music.

It is one purpose, then of religion, and especially of Judaism, to provide the individual with courage, unchauvanistic pride, meaning, purpose, and dignity. In doing so it conditions the human being to seek an understanding of God, of the cosmos and the universe, of oneself, and of one's fellow man. And we know from our history and tradition--much longer do we know this than almost every other people, with the possible exception of the Chinese and the Indians--that seeking and striving involve study, observation, scrutiny, examination. This is the love of books and of learning which we know and respect and give high priority to in our scheme of values. For with the Jews throughout the ages it has eternally been the study of Torah, the love of Torah.

In becoming an individual, which includes due respect for and regard for other individuals, in realizing how profoundly important it is to be an individual during a time when horizons appear limitless and discovery in every field of human endeavor and understanding seem unending--and how exciting

this challenge should and must be to our youth as well as to ourselves--we make a contribution, as we come closer to the divine spirit which is in each of us. For in discovering our own significance, the significance of the individual in the vastness as well as the minuteness of the universe, we then discover the divinity, the majesty, and the glory of God.

And if in this process of discovery we as individuals some day discover other beings or individuals who have reached a higher stage of individuality and development, it will be testimony to our own significance to be able to say that in striving we demonstrated our ability to assert the power and the strength and the full potential of our individuality.

Temple Rodef Shalom
Office Phone 532-2217
Rabbi's Phone 532-2868

June 17, 1963

An office has been rented for Temple Rodef Shalom and Rabbi Berkowitz in the Ravenwood Towers Apartment Building, 221 Leesburg Pike, between the Seven Corners Shopping Center and Baileys Crossroads. This is the same building in which Rabbi and Mrs. Berkowitz have taken an apartment, and should, therefore, be extremely convenient both for the Rabbi and the congregation.

The office is apartment C15, and is located on the ground floor, down one floor by elevator from the street level. It is a one bedroom apartment in which the bedroom will be converted into a private office for the rabbi and the living room area will be established as a reception meeting room and in which our secretary will have her desk. We will take over the office effective July 1st.

Mr. Burt Thorman will be in charge of the basic furnishing of the office. He would like to furnish it with taste but, if possible, with used furnishings. Anyone having any appropriate items as listed below please call Mr. Thorman at Ja 8-7209:

Executive Desk	Couch, Floor & Table Lamps
Secretarial Desk	Occasional Chairs (living room type)
Desk Chairs	Book Cases
File Cabinets	Typewriter table, end tables

The office will be available for meetings, such as committee or board meetings, and for this the kitchen of the office will be a helpful addition. Items such as a large coffee pot, tea kettle, cups and saucers, flatware, dishes would be helpful, as well as folding chairs for use at meetings.

Take stock of your "extras" and call Burt Thorman or Edith Abramson at 532-2217 if you have any of the items listed above.