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R E F L E C T I O N S

Monthly Newsletter of Temple Rodef Shalom

* * * CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER * * *

Friday, Dec. 6th 8:15 p.m. Fink Building	WORSHIP SERVICE. Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Services. The Cpl. Israel Kleinman Post, 676 J. W. V., will attend services. Speaker will deliver a timely message. Candles will be lit by Mrs. Bea Raskin.
Sunday, Dec. 8th 7:30 p.m. Romany Room at Roumanian Inn, 815 - 13th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.	CHANUKAH LATKE PARTY \$5.00 a couple - B. Y. O. L. For information call Mrs. Debbie Somers (JA 2-797)
Sunday, Dec. 8th 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	BOOK SALE AT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Thomas Jefferson School, Falls Church
Monday, Dec. 9th 7:30 p.m. Temple Office	TEMPLE BOARD MEETING. All members may attend any board meeting, or call officers to offer suggestions. Agenda for the January congregational meeting will be discussed.
Tuesday, Dec. 10th	CHANUKAH EVE - First Candle Lighting
Friday, Dec. 13th 8:15 p.m. Fink Building	WORSHIP SERVICE. Rabbi Berkowits will lecture on "Reform Judaism - First Steps". Candles will be lit by Miss Eleanor Aueroach.
Sunday, Dec. 15th 10:30 a.m. - 12:00	RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CHANUKAH PROGRAM. All parents and friends are invited. Thomas Jefferson School
Sunday, Dec. 15th 8:00 p.m.	MONTHLY PLAY-READING GROUP at the home of Dr. & Mrs. Carl Checknoff. "OUR TOWN" will be read and discussed.
Friday, Dec. 20th 8:15 p.m.	WORSHIP SERVICE. Candles will be lit by Mrs. Irene Friedman.
Sunday, Dec. 22nd	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
Monday, Dec. 23rd 7:00 p.m. Charcoal Hearth in Holiday Inn Motel Glebe Rd. & Shirley Highway	COLLEGE STUDENTS DINNER for college-age young people and their parents, and college-age friends. Rabbi and Mrs. Berkowits will be guests. Call Mrs. Pearl Kamber (931-3896)
Friday, Dec. 27th 8:15 p.m.	WORSHIP SERVICE. Participation by college students. Candles lit by Miss Carole Bock
Sunday, Dec. 29th	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
Tuesday, Dec. 31st	THE LAST OF 1963. A PEACEFUL AND REWARDING 1964 to ALL!!!

* * * REFLECTIONS ON THANKSGIVING DAY, 1963 * * *

As I sit at my desk this day, compiling our Newsletter, I find myself taking advantage of an opportunity to express some thoughts that are very dominant in my mind this Thanksgiving, 1963.

In the past few weeks I have witnessed both the birth of my baby and the death of our president. The former was the miracle and ecstatic joy of creation--a fulfillment of love. The latter was a horror--a violent crime, born of hate, which took the life of a great man. The contrast of these two events haunts me--the beauty and wonder of birth; and the ugliness and shock of assassination. The God, the good, the creativity in man on the one hand; the devil, the evil, the assassin in man on the other. Here is the height of man's potential and the depth of man's depravity.

On this Thanksgiving Day I give thanks for the miracle of birth and for all our aspirations of creativity, understanding, and high purpose. It is only by feeling that the great majority of men are striving toward these goals that I can overcome the inability to find answers to the "whys" of our recent tragedy.

I'm thankful that love of country and esteem for our fellow-men dominate the hearts of nearly everyone. About Ben Adhem asked the angel in his room:

"What writest thou?" The vision rais'd his head,
And with a look made all of sweet accord,
Answer'd, "The names of those who love the Lord."
"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"
Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,
But cheerly still; and said: "I pray thee then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow men."

The angel wrote, and vanish'd. The next night
It came again with a great wakening light
And show'd the names whom love of God had bless'd,
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest!

I'm thankful that we do have this Thanksgiving Day--to renew a trust in Goodness, a gratitude for our many blessings, and a hope that like the miracle of birth, our fullest potential for good can be our real tribute to the memory of a great human being.

* * * LOOKING BACK AT NOVEMBER * * *

On November 15th Temple Rodef Shalom formally dedicated its organ in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Fink. It was a wonderful occasion for our members--we were able to give "official" recognition to the Finks for their kindness and generosity.

Following is a letter from Mr. Fink to Mr. Funston, expressing his appreciation:

"Dear Ira:

"It was indeed a memorable occasion in the lives of Ruth and myself when you and the congregation of Temple Rodef Shalom dedicated the organ of the Temple in our honor.

"I am sorry that I could not adequately express our appreciation that night as I was so choked-up with emotion, but I will appreciate your conveying to the congregation our sincere and deepest appreciation for honoring us that evening. The scroll presented to us will remain always a living evidence of a memorable occasion.

"Mrs. Fink was equally thrilled by the thoughtfulness of the ladies in sending her the lovely corsage and asks that her thanks be conveyed to them.

"With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Herman"

* * * NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING * * *

Members of the Temple Board are constantly evaluating our progress in terms of our original goals. One of these goals is our Fifth Objective: "Judaism has always exalted the dignity of the individual. We affirm the right of each person to think for himself and to express his opinions; we also affirm his right to have these opinions listened to and considered on their merits. We will champion these rights in our congregational life."

"We pray that the God of our Fathers will grant us the wisdom and the zeal to make these aims a reality."

In accordance with implementing this goal, the Board has established a "Congregational Problems Committee", consisting of the three trustees:

- Mr. Ed Proctor 356-8138
- Mr. Manny Kintisch 931-0641
- Mr. Gilbert Davis JE 4-5674

It is hoped that any member with problems involving the workings of the Temple Board, individuals on the Board, the Rabbi, the conducting of services, will call one of the committee members. Any problem that a member has regarding the Temple can thus be aired by contacting a committee member, who will help to solve it in the best way possible. It is felt that in this manner members can most freely express their opinions.

The Board reports that a Young Adult group has been formed. This group rounds out our Youth Program and will become an important part of Temple activities. The group is open to all non-members, as well as members, who wish to join.

The Board reports that on Wednesday, November 13th, we became a member of the Greater Washington Jewish Community Council.

Profit from the sale of books of Jewish content and interest, and Chanukah candles, sold at Religious School on December 1st and 8th will be placed in the Library Fund. The Library in the Temple Office is available to members. Contact the Temple Office for a convenient time to browse and borrow books.

The Board reports that the Temple will provide a suitable place for Bar Mitzvahs, to accommodate the larger attendance.

* * * THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS * * *

We are a new congregation, with many needs. We have a wonderful membership, composed of dedicated individuals whose effort and interest have caused us to become a vital, energetic congregation. This growing "child", as it has so often been called as an analogy, has material needs that must be met. While all of us are its devoted and guiding "parents" in meeting its spiritual needs, we also need to provide the "layette", the "nursery" and all the equipment necessary for growth and development. Therefore, contributions of a substantial nature for the material needs of our new Temple are necessary and greatly appreciated. It is always hoped that everyone who can donate to our various funds will do so, and as often as possible.

GENERAL FUND

Mr. and Mrs. Mock Wood . . . in memory of Mrs. Louise Keyser.

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Hoptman

TORAH FUND

Mrs. Grace Gladstone . . . in honor of Hyman Goldberg.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Somers . . . in memory of Mrs.
Louise Keyser.

Dr. and Mrs. Bert Rudin . . . in honor of the birth of
their daughter, Elizabeth Anne.

ORGAN FUND

Mrs. Erna Frankel . . . in memory of Eric D. Frankel.

Dr. and Mrs. Phil Rudin . . . in honor of the birth of
their granddaughter, Elizabeth Anne Rudin.

Thank you to Dr. Phil Rudin for building bookcases for the Temple Office, and to Mr. Burton Thorman and son, Mike, for painting the bookcases.

Thank you to Mr. Ed Proctor for his donation to the Youth Group in honor of Richard Brandt.

Stamp Books are again requested to help furnish the Temple Office. The Response to this need has not been as favorable as we had hoped. Won't you please find a TV or Green Stamp Book, or even loose stamps you may have accumulated, and bring them to services, or mail them to Mr. Burt Thorman (Ways and Means Chairman), or to the Temple Office. Chairs have been purchased with stamps that were donated, and drapes and other furnishings are still needed.

Please call the Temple Office for information about our various funds. Checks may be mailed to the Temple Office.

* * * HAPPENINGS OF OUR MEMBERS * * *

Congratulations to Mr. Harold Silverstein, who was commended for outstanding performance of duty as Special Assistant to the Chief Signal Officer for Operations Research and Automatic Data Processing Systems.

Congratulations to Mr. Sol Swerdloff, who was elected president of the Rock Spring Civic Association.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Joe Auerbach upon the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Eleanor, to Mr. Richard Linde. Congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Linde, parents of the groom. Good luck and very best wishes to Eleanor and Richard.

Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Bert Rudin upon the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Anne, on November 5.

Congratulations to her grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Philip Rudin.

* * * WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS * * *

We welcome with pleasure the following members:

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Zilczer (Rose), 6431 Lee Highway,
Arlington, Virginia 538-5898

Mrs. Myreal Dion, 4905 Wrightson Drive, McLean, Virginia
EL 6-4547

Mr. Louis Toffler, 3214 19th Road, North, Arlington, Va.
522-7483

We now have 116 members in Temple Rodef Shalom. Our membership chairman, Mr. Irving Kleinfeld, reports that contacts are being made with all families whose names have been given to him and his committee as being interested in learning about our Temple. It is up to the combined efforts of all of us to keep the membership committee informed about unaffiliated Jewish families in our area.

* * * LOOKING AHEAD IN DECEMBER * * *

Religious School News

Chanukah will be celebrated at the Religious School on Sunday morning, December 15th. After individual classroom parties and an exchange of gifts, the assembly program will commence at 10:30 in the Cafetorium. All the grades, including the confirmation class, will participate. The entire congregation, including pre-schoolers, is cordially invited to attend. The assembly all will sing the traditional songs--grownups and children alike. Mrs. Charlotte Behrend, the School's music teacher, is responsible for the music, and we are grateful to her.

Social Action News

A letter was sent to Governor Albertis Harrison from Temple Rodef Shalom, asking his support in repealing poll-tax legislation in the State of Virginia. Letters were also sent to all State Senators, and Delegates, asking their continued support against the poll-tax. (As you probably know, this effort, and others like it, was in vain, because the State Legislature voted to retain the poll tax for State and local elections.)

* * * NOTICE OF MARIONETTE SHOW SPONSORED BY * * *
ALEXANDRIA B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN

On December 7th the Nicolo Marionettes will perform "The Emperor's Nightingale" at the Lee School on Jefferson Street in Alexandria. Performances at 1:00 and 4:00 --admission 75¢. Tickets may be purchased at the door, or ordered from Mrs. Abraham Levine - KI 9-2363.

The program chairman for the B'nai B'rith women is no longer Mrs. Melvin Kizner, who is moving. She is replaced by Mrs. Milton (Helen) Kramer, phone: 931-2085.

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That's all of nineteen sixty-three.
How much there is in store
Of love and joy and happiness
In nineteen sixty-four!

A GOOD YEAR TO ALL OF YOU --
TO ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.

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