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R E F L E C T I O N S

Monthly Newsletter of Temple Rodef Shalom

\* \* \* CALENDAR FOR JANUARY \* \* \*

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Wednesday, Jan. 8 11:30 a.m. Fink Building	MEETING OF THE TEMPLE WOMEN. Film showing of "Wilderness of Zin". Discussion led by Rabbi Berkowits. <u>All</u> temple women are members and are urged to attend.
Friday, Jan. 10 8:15 p.m. Fink Building	WORSHIP SERVICE. Lecture following Oneg Shabat by Rabbi Berkowits on Reform Judaism. Candles will be lit by Mrs. Maria Grimes. Hostesses will be Mrs. Tillie Baker, Mrs. Erna Frankel, Mrs. Belle Zeff, and Mrs. Mary Feldstein.
Friday, Jan. 17 8:15 p.m. Fink Building	WORSHIP SERVICE. Candles will be lit by Mrs. Janet Smith. Hostesses will be Miss Joanna Kreiner, Miss Jan Thorman, and Mrs. Miriam Twynam.
Sunday, Jan. 19 8:00 p.m.	PLAY READING GROUP at the home of Dr. & Mrs. Carl Checknoff will read Wilder's "Our Town".
Wednesday, Jan. 22 8:15 p.m. Fink Building	CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. Election of nominating committee, business meeting, and evaluation workshop. Be sure to attend.
Thursday, Jan. 23 8:00 p.m. Theater Lobby Washington, D. C.	THEATER PARTY. Planned by the Projects Committee, will see Ibsen's "Rosmarsholm".
Friday, Jan. 24 8:15 p.m. Fink Building	WORSHIP SERVICE. Lecture following service by Rabbi Berkowits. Candles will be lit by Mrs. Amy Zlotnik. Hostesses will be Mrs. Bea Rudin, Mrs. Regina Dembo, Mrs. Wanda Boguslaw, and Mrs. Dolores Straus.
Friday, Jan. 31 8:15 p.m. Fink Building	WORSHIP SERVICE. Candles will be lit by Mrs. Lotte Goldman. Hostesses will be Mrs. Ruth Checknoff, Mrs. Vera Kahn, and Mrs. Lucile Zinman.

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\* \* \* FROM THE RABBI'S DESK \* \* \*

THE PLACE OF PRAYER  
A Message from Rabbi Berkowitz

Most people, when they think about prayer, associate it with a designated time and place. Be it in a synagogue on Saturday or in a church Sunday morning.

There is a time and a place for prayer--a time and a place for religion. People tend to put religion in a special compartment of the calendar and it becomes a part of a planned, scheduled event in one's life.

Of course there are exceptions, but they remain just that, exceptions. Once we are inside a sanctuary, and experience the transcendent beauty of worship, and express the substance of things hoped for, we transcend if only for the moment our self-centeredness. We become aware of things greater than ourselves.

But what happens after we cross the threshold of the sanctuary? What do we take with us as we depart from the sanctuary?

There is a story about a beloved rabbi who when visiting a nearby town was invited by the pious people of that community to inspect their beautiful synagogue. They unlocked the door and stood back to let him in. But he complained that he could not enter the place--it was too crowded. The people were dumfounded.

"You are astonished," said the rabbi, "because you do not see all the words of Torah and prayer that fill this place, from wall to wall and from the roof to the floor: words that have been uttered and left here. You should have let them out! You should have carried them out with you in your heads and hearts and hands, to transfigure your homes, your town, your world."

That is certainly an unusual attitude toward prayer, but I think it is very much to the point.

Let us take our prayers with us in our hearts and in our hands, that each of us according to his capacity, create beauty and goodness in our community in which we live, here and now.

\* \* \* LOOKING BACK AT DECEMBER \* \* \*

Latke Party. The Latke Party on December 8th at the Roumanian Inn was a wonderful event. Sixty-one people attended and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Our thanks to Mrs. Debbie Somers for arranging this social gathering.

Temple Women Met. On December 4th the Women's Group voted to adopt the by-laws which formally established the "Women's Group of Temple Rodef Shalom." The purpose of the group is "to provide social, cultural, and philanthropic opportunities for the temple women, and to implement these goals as an instrument of the temple." Program, social projects, community service, Sabbath worship and hospitality programs will be expanded.

All women who are temple members are automatically members of the Temple Women's Group. The elected officers are:

Chairman	Mrs. Ida Silverstein
Vice Chairman	Mrs. Naomi Beckenstein
Secretary	Mrs. Laurel Gould, and
Treasurer	Mrs. Erna Frankel.

Committee Chairmen are:

Hospitality	Mrs. Sybil Lubin
Projects	Mrs. Esther Davis
Program	Mrs. Naomi Beckenstein, and
Social	Mrs. Debbie Somers.

We hope that this group will be supported eagerly by all, so that by joining hearts and hands the Temple and the individual and the community will benefit. Suggestions are always very welcome. Contact Mrs. Ida Silverstein (JE 2-4407).

Social Action in December. Three Rodef Shalom couples (the Odoroffs, Goulds and Lowensterns) recently participated in an exciting experiment. We were guests in the home of a Negro family as part of the Educational Home Visit Program of the Interreligious Committee on Race Relations.

The committee, headed by Catholic Archbishop O'Boyle, has among its co-chairmen the Episcopal and Methodist bishops serving the Washington area and the president of the Washington Board of Rabbis. Among the committee's activities was the recent candlelight ceremony ending the official mourning for John F. Kennedy.

The purpose of the Educational Home Visit Program is to promote frank and open discussion of race relations problems among whites and Negroes of similar educational and economic backgrounds. The discussion takes place in the home of a Negro host couple. But, the visit is not a social one in the usual sense. The emphasis is on learning about each others' experiences and attitudes in the area of race relations.

The visits are arranged through a central Educational Home Visit Office which matches up hosts and guests in response to a simple phone call.

Our particular visit, to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Woods, was tremendously rewarding. The Woods, both school teachers, also had invited several other Negroes, including a social worker, an engineer and an Internal Revenue agent. All spoke frankly and without embarrassment.

We began the evening's discussion by identifying ourselves as to birthplace, education, occupation, etc. There was never a lull in the conversation after that.

For most of the white guests, the evening at the Woods was the first opportunity we have ever had to visit Negroes of similar educational and economic backgrounds in their own homes. We found the experience so stimulating and enlightening that we have been urging it on others ever since.

The Educational Home Visit Program has a limited objective. It seeks to open new lines of communication between Negroes and whites by exposing whites to one evening of frank and friendly conversation in a Negro home. No reciprocity is expected. No obligations are entered into. On January 18th another visit is planned. The Goulds, the Bert Rudins, the Berkowitses, and Mrs. Erna Frankel plan to attend.

Anyone interested in participating in an Educational Home Visit is invited to contact Dena Leep (560-2272) or Laurel Gould (533-2282) or the undersigned.

--Henry Lowenstern

Religious School Parties. The Chanukah program at religious school was a huge success, thanks to all the children, room mothers, teachers, the rabbi, and Mrs. Charlotte Behrend. During the vacation, Mrs. Regina Dembo had a party for the 5th grade girls, and Mrs. Pauline Proschan had a party for the boys.

\* \* \* THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS \* \* \*

ORGAN FUND: We are pleased to report that the organ, which is dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Fink, is paid for in full by our members' and friends' contributions. Thank you to all those who have made this gift possible, and to Mrs. Herbert Zacharias, who plays it so beautifully each Friday night.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND: Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Goldberg  
. . .in honor of the baby-naming.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND: Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Schmukler.

GENERAL FUND: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Proctor.

BUILDING FUND: Dr. and Mrs. Donald Lubin  
. . .in honor of Elizabeth Anne Rudin

The Temple pulpit is now adorned with an American flag. This is the gift of Dr. and Mrs. Bert Rudin, in honor of their baby daughter, Elizabeth.

We thank Dr. Phil Rudin for building a cabinet to house the equipment used for our Oneg Shabat serving. Dr. Rudin obtained donations from several stores of materials used in the building of the cabinet. We thank Mr. Herman Fink for donating materials, also Kress and Baldwin Construction Company, and Belle View Hardware.

We welcome contributions of fresh flowers to decorate our pulpit. If there is an occasion for which you would like to donate flowers, please contact Mrs. Vera Kahn (325-8997).

\* \* \* HAPPENINGS OF OUR MEMBERS \* \* \*

The membership extends its deep condolences to Mr. Joe Abramson, who lost his father in November.

Our deep condolences go, too, to Mr. Samuel Zeitlin, whose mother passed away this week in Israel.

Congratulations to Mr. Henry Lowenstern, who was elected chairman of the Falls Church Democratic Party district committee, and to Mrs. Jean Pfeiffer, who was elected vice chairman of the Democratic Party committee in the Mount Vernon district.

We wish Mrs. Harriet Perry, who was hospitalized, a speedy recovery.

We are always anxious to report happenings of our members in the Newsletter. It is only possible when we learn of these events. That's why we rely on our members to be "sources of information" so that we may be as thoughtful as possible and not overlook anyone. Please contact Mrs. Louise Slonim (534-0031) with news that would be of general interest, and she will send a note on behalf of the Temple.

\* \* \* LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY \* \* \*

Rabbi to Speak to Church Group. Rabbi Berkowitz will address the Church Youth Group at the Chesterbrook Methodist Church in McLean on January 12th. The subject will be "Principles of Judaism". The Rabbi appeared on Channel 5 from December 28th to January 2nd on "Thought for Today", which opens and closes each broadcast day. He also spoke at the Men's Interfaith in Alexandria on December 18th. It is always gratifying to note the interest that our Rabbi takes in community activities and the desire of various groups to learn more about Judaism.

Men Invited. The men of the Temple have been invited by Mr. Sidney Levine, president of Temple Beth El Brotherhood, to attend their meeting on Sunday, January 19th, from 9:45 a.m. to noon. Colonel Sholom Pomrenze will speak on "Jews in the Civil War". Please call Mr. Ira Funston immediately (WE 1-0415) if you plan to attend.

Teas Planned: A series of Sunday afternoon teas have been arranged by hostesses of our Temple in order that the Rabbi and his wife may socialize with new members, as well as members of longer standing. In this way we will all become better acquainted with one another. All temple members will be contacted within the next few months, and we hope all will attend and will enjoy meeting one another in this way.

Women's Meeting. The next meeting of the Women's Group will be on Wednesday, January 8th, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Community Room in the Fink Building. Bring a sandwich. Cake and coffee will be served at 25¢ each. A gift grab-bag will be one of the features, and the program will be the film, "The Wilderness of Zin," with a discussion by Rabbi Berkowitz. A business meeting will be first, followed by lunch, and then the program.

Meetings in February and March will be on the first Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. in the Fink Building. An evening program is planned for April.

(Dates to Remember: Looking ahead. February 29th is the Temple Purim Party. Purim is February 27th. Details will follow in the next newsletter. Another date to remember is the first Seder - March 27th.)

Theater Party: The Projects Committee has planned a forthcoming Theatre Party on Thursday, 23 January at 8:00 p.m. We are delighted to announce the performance of one of IBSEN's classical tragedies, "Rosmarholm", at the Theatre Lobby, 17 St. Matthew's Court, N. W., Washington, D. C. (Directions: Find Connecticut Avenue and Rhode Island, N. W., then on Rhode Island find the St. Matthew's Cathedral, then drive up the alley by the church and find the intimate Theatre Lobby in the Court BEHIND the church. Some Parking available in the court or on N Street or Rhode Island Avenue.

The entire theatre has been reserved for Temple Rodef Shalom on this night. There are only 75 seats, so it's first come, first served. Coffee will be served by some of our ladies. Tickets are \$2.00 a seat, for which you may contact Jane Gonson, 354-3482. Reservations must be made in advance, so send in your checks now. If our Theatre Night is successful, we shall be happy to plan more of them for you. Half the proceeds will be going to your Temple Fund so give us your support.

Please send the checks to Jane Gonson, 620 N. Ripley Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Your tickets will then be mailed to you promptly.

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Every year the Middle Atlantic Federation of Temple Youth has supported the programs of the Leo Baeck School in Haifa, Israel. MAFTY contributed \$2400 to this, the only liberal Jewish school in Israel, last year. This year, in addition to aiding the Baeck School in Haifa, we wish to sponsor a foreign exchange student in this country. We sincerely hope that you will be able to help us meet our obligation by contributing to our yearbook, which will be published in April, 1964. We would appreciate any donor ads, patron ads, or other financial contributions. For further information, contact Andy Pfeiffer (780-2668). You can understand how much this means to our goals as Jewish youth to increase international understanding and cooperation.

## \* \* \* IN CONCLUSION \* \* \*

Let us all work to make 1964 an exciting year for the growth of our Temple, not only by gaining new members, but also by rededicating ourselves, as individuals to "caring" about our Temple and to "acting" to make it an established part of the life of the community.

We thank again, and always, our many hard working members. When we are called upon to serve at the Oneg Shabats, let us sign up for one Friday night every other month. When we are called to participate in the worship service, let us gladly do so. And let us volunteer to help on committees, wherever we feel we might best serve. No institution can succeed without the interest and active participation of its members.

A special "thank you" is due to Mr. Jules Cohen; his secretary and office staff have typed and printed our Newsletter since the early days of our organization. My personal thanks, as well as that of the membership, goes to them for this generous gift of time, effort, and expense.

Benjamin Franklin said,

"Hide not your talents;  
They for use were made.  
What's a sundial  
In the shade?"

So here's to 1964, and all the years to come; here's to health and happiness and prosperity . . . and here's to the joys that come with doing.

Nan Rudin  
Newsletter Editor

TEMPLE RODEF SHALOM

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the next congregational meeting. IT WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR EACH OF US!

DATE: Wednesday, February 19, 1964 (NOT Jan. 22 as in the Bulletin)

PLACE: Community Room, Fink Building

TIME: 8:15 P.M.

A QUORUM MUST BE PRESENT AT ANY MEETING AT WHICH BUSINESS IS TRANS-  
ACTED OR A VOTE TAKEN COMMITTING THE CONGREGATION TO ANY PROPOSAL  
OR ACTION. Husband and Wife shall each have one vote. The consti-  
tution also requires that special assessments may be levied only upon  
the recommendation of the executive board and approved by two-thirds  
vote of the voting members of the congregation in good standing,  
present and voting. A similar two-thirds vote is necessary for amend-  
ing the constitution.

In addition to the regular business, three important matters will be  
presented to the congregation for consideration:

Permanent Facilities for the Temple: On instruction from the  
executive board of the Temple, the Ways and Means Committee has  
formulated a plan for the orderly acquisition and development of  
physical facilities for the Temple. After due consideration and  
some modification, the executive board unanimously endorsed the plan.  
The plan is attached; please read it carefully and be prepared to  
express your opinion and vote on the motions presented.

Nominations of Officers: According to Article XI, Section 1 of  
the constitution "Nominations of all officers and trustees shall be  
made by a nominating committee designated by the executive board and  
elected by the congregation at the January meeting. The nominating  
committee shall consist of five members who shall be ineligible for  
nomination by the committee and who shall elect a committee chairman  
from their membership. Not more than two members of the nominating  
committee may be members of the current executive board." At the  
December meeting of the executive board the following people were  
designated for the committee, subject to election by the congregation:

Blanche Cohen  
Esther Davis

Gerald Goldman    Harold Silverstein  
Emanuel Kintisch

Constitutional Amendment: It is recommended that Article VII,  
Section 1 be amended to read: The executive board shall consist of  
the officers, the trustees and the chairmen of all standing committees  
of the Temple, and the chairman of the Women's Group of Temple Rodef  
Shalom.

SEE YOU ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19; 8:15 P.M.

## PLAN FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PERMANENT FACILITIES FOR TEMPLE RODEF SHALOM

This plan for the orderly acquisition and development of permanent facilities for Temple Rodef Shalom is based on the consideration of the needs of the congregation and the following factors:

1. While the present membership numbers less than 120 families, the growth of the Northern Virginia area and of the Jewish population indicates that the Temple has a potential membership of about 400 families.

2. Whether the Temple realizes its potential in numbers depends largely on the strength of its programs and the willingness of the congregation to work towards the establishment of the Temple as a vital force in the community.

3. The congregation can never hope to progress much beyond its present status unless it can offer new members a more adequate Temple facility for worship services and unless it can offer better facilities for school and cultural activities. Since we lack such facilities at present, it is important that we have a soundly developed program to acquire such facilities, both to keep the interest of our present membership as well as to interest new members.

4. A soundly planned and actively pursued program of this type will provide the Temple with a sense of direction and will be an added stimulus for members to work for the Temple.

5. The present size of our membership and the reasonable projection of growth for the next year or so indicate that it is unsound to expect to fund any acquisition plan out of current dues and income; that a program of donations and assessments is a necessary prerequisite to funding any acquisition plan.

6. While the acquisition of a facility should be accomplished at the earliest possible time, we feel that it is unrealistic to set a target for completion short of five years; that any longer period of time is undesirable.

With these considerations as background, it seems feasible that the long term objective should be the beneficial occupancy by the congregation of its own building by September 1, 1969. A plan for meeting such a target date has been developed and is divided into two phases.

Phase I: This phase embraces those actions which should be taken by the congregation within the next two years, including the acquisition of land and the appointment of a building committee.

Land Acquisition: With the spiralling cost of land and the rapid rate of development of available land, economic factors dictate the wisdom of the early acquisition of land. While this plan is not concerned with the location of the site, funding and timing

considerations have been predicated on the availability of the site recommended earlier last year by the Site Committee (Westmoreland Road near Kirby Road). It would be difficult to obtain a comparable site at any lower price than the \$42,000 at which this is available. Since this land may not be available after July 1, 1964, if this site is considered desirable, prompt action is indicated.

In order to acquire this site, it would be necessary to have in hand \$10,000 by July 1, 1964 and the remainder by January 1966. Three principal means of raising these funds are recommended: Assessment, donations, and fund raising activities. Obviously, the primary source of funds will have to be an assessment on the membership of about twice the annual dues over a two-year period. Such an assessment would also apply to all members joining hereafter. Any payments of this assessment will be credited towards any future building fund drives. Donations, including those from outside the Temple membership, will be actively pursued. Finally, worthwhile fund raising activities of a social and cultural nature will be undertaken.

Appointment of a Building Committee: A building Committee should be appointed at an early date after action to acquire land is initiated and should be in operation by July 1, 1965. This Committee would be responsible for preparing preliminary plans, obtaining architectural renderings and for developing plans for funding the construction.

Phase II: Obviously, specific details on the steps necessary to realize the objective of completing the Temple building by 1969 cannot be provided at present. However, it is clear that pledges of funds for constructing the building must be acquired by January 1967 and that actual construction must be started by the fall of that year.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The executive board unanimously recommends that the membership vote for the following motions which will permit the initiation of actions necessary for the implementation of this plan:

Motion Number 1: That this Plan serve as a general guide for the executive board in executing the membership's desire for the orderly acquisition of permanent facilities for the Temple.

Motion Number 2: That an assessment for land acquisition of \$300 (or twice the annual dues, whichever is the lesser) be levied on each family membership or individual membership and that no less than one-third of this assessment be payable by July 1, 1964, the balance payable by January 1, 1966.

MOTION NUMBER 3: That the executive board investigate and report at the next congregational meeting its recommendation as to the specific site to be acquired providing that, in accordance with Article XIV of the constitution, at least 15 days notice of the meeting will be given.