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R E F L E C T I O N S

Monthly Newsletter of Temple Rodef Shalom

* * * CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY * * *

Wednesday, Feb. 5 11:30 a.m. Fink Building	MEETING OF THE TEMPLE WOMEN. Discussion of the book: "THE NEGRO IN REVOLT". Our guest will be Mr. Lawrence Hill. Rabbi Berkowits will moderate the discussion. Bring a sandwich and join us for the social hour at 11:30.
Friday, Feb. 7 8:15 p.m. Fink Building	WORSHIP SERVICE. Lecture and discussion following the Oneg Shabat on "Reform Judaism in America". Candles will be lit by Mrs. Laurel Gould.
Saturday, Feb. 8 8:00 p.m. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Davis	HAVDALAH SERVICE. Ceremony of farewell to the Sabbath, followed by a discussion led by Rabbi Berkowits on "The World of Sholom Alechim".
Monday, Feb. 10 7:30 p.m. Temple Office	TEMPLE BOARD MEETING. Once again we remind everyone that our Board meetings are open to all our members to "sit in".
Friday, Feb. 14 8:15 p.m. Fink Building	WORSHIP SERVICE. Rabbi Berkowits' sermon will be on Brotherhood. Our candles will be lit by Mrs. Naomi Beckenstein.
Sunday, February 16 8:00 p.m.	PLAY READING GROUP at the home of Dr. & Mrs. Bert Rudin, 316 Westmoreland Road, Alexandria. All those interested are welcome to attend.
Wednesday, Feb. 19 8:15 p.m. Fink Building	CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. Vote on proposal to acquire permanent facilities which all members were informed of by mail. Your ideas and your vote are essential in this vital matter.
Friday, Feb. 21 8:15 p.m. Fink Building	WORSHIP SERVICE. Lecture and discussion on "The Great Conferences." Candles will be lit by Mrs. Blanche Cohen.
Sunday, Feb. 23 10:30 a.m. Thos. Jefferson Elementary School	PURIM PROGRAM BY THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL. All the congregation (plus pre-schoolers) are urged to attend. Hamantaschen will be served following the program.
Wednesday, Feb. 26 7:30 p.m. Fink Building	PURIM BEGINS AT SUNDOWN. PURIM SERVICE -- All children 6 years old and older are welcome.
Friday, Feb. 28 8:15 p.m. Fink Building	WORSHIP SERVICE. Candles will be lit by Mrs. Sarah Ehrman.
Saturday, Feb. 29 7:30 p.m. Ravenwood Towers	PURIM PARTY. Buffet supper served promptly at 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Entertainment and fun all evening from 9:00 on.

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

ON BROTHERHOOD
By Rabbi Laszlo Berkowits

February is the month of the year when the general community bestirs itself, dusts off a seeming cliché, and exclaims in a great chorus, "Hooray for Brotherhood."

Now I do not know what exactly is meant by "Brotherhood Week", but I have some notions on it. I think we are naive in thinking that dedicating one week out of fifty-two will miraculously create a feeling of brotherhood that will carry over for fifty-one weeks.

At worst, "Brotherhood Week" is a vague expression of concern for our fellow human beings. Perhaps it is even an expression of guilt feelings of which we wish to be purged. But on a different plane, Brotherhood Week serves to remind us of the unfinished business of our society. The very need to proclaim such a week points to the deep chasm that prevails between our ideals and social reality.

At best, Brotherhood Week is an act of reaching out. It is an attempt to span the chasm of ignorance and suspicion, and establish new human relationships founded upon truth and compassion.

Still, the question remains: Will one week of the calendar suffice for this tremendous task? Obviously not. So Brotherhood Week must be only the first step in the right direction, bolstering the hope that this first step might ultimately lead to a life of Brotherhood. A life of Brotherhood is a life of practicing and believing:

"That which is hateful to thee, do not do unto thy neighbor."

* * * HAPPENINGS OF OUR MEMBERS * * *

Congratulations to Mrs. Dorothy Labson, who was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Centerville District Democratic Committee, and re-elected for a third time to the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

Best wishes to Mrs. Sarah Ehrman and Mr. Frank Meltzer, who have recovered from recent illnesses.

Congratulations to Mr. Manny Kintisch, who was elected for a two-year term as member of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington.

* * * THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS * * *

General Fund: Mr. and Mrs. Harry Somers . . . in memory
of Mrs. Somers' mother, Sarah Jacobs.
Mr. and Mrs. Burton Thorman . . . in honor
of Elizabeth Anne Rudin.

General Fund (continued): Dr. and Mrs. Philip Rudin . . .
in memory of Mrs. Rudin's father, Louis Rosenbloom.
Dr. and Mrs. Irving Imburg . . . in honor
of Temple Rodef Shalom.

Torah Fund: Mr. and Mrs. Nat Margulies . . . in honor of
their grandson, David Levin.

Building Fund: Rabbi A. James Rudin . . . in memory of
his grandfather, Louis Rosenbloom.

Prayer Books: Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Zeitlin . . . in
memory of Ida Zeitlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Wiener, parents of Mrs. Nan Rudin,
have donated a lovely tablecloth to be used at our Oneg
Shabats and other social functions.

May we again thank all of you for your contributions.
Please call the Temple Office for information about our various funds.
We are always grateful for your support. Flowers on the pulpit are
a welcome sight. We thank Mrs. Miriam Twynam for her donation of
flowers in memory of her mother. Flowers enrich the Sabbath, and
therefore are a fitting way to honor an occasion, or to remember a
dear one. After the service, the flowers will be donated to some
ill person, or to a hospital, or some other choice of the donor.
Call Mrs. Vera Kahn (325-8997) to arrange for flowers.

* * * RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS * * *

On Sunday morning, February 23rd, the Religious School
will hold its annual Purim Celebration at 10:30 in the Cafetorium
of the Thomas Jefferson School. The fifth grade, under the direc-
tion of its teacher, Miss Nina Dash, will present a play. The
fourth grade, under its teacher, Mrs. Pearl Kamber, will perform
Israeli dances. Guests and school children will sing appropriate
holiday songs under the direction of Mrs. Charlotte Behrend.
Hamantaschen will be served by Mrs. Blanche Cohen and members of
her room mother's committee. We hope everyone will come and share
this holiday celebration.

With rare exceptions, Religious School classes end at
twelve noon. We urge that the children be picked up promptly at
noon in order to facilitate the closing of the classrooms so that
the staff and teachers can return to their homes without delay.
Thank you for your cooperation.

* * * CULTURAL ACTIVITIES * * *

PLAY READING

We would like to invite all of you to be part of a stimu-
lating group of play readers. Enjoy the fun of acting in an
informal way, and participating in the interesting discussions that
are generated by the reading. We meet the third Sunday evening of
each month at 8:00 p.m. On February 16th we will be reading and
discussing "The Autumn Garden", by Lillian Hellman. This play is

in the book "Famous American Plays of the 1950's", a Dell publication. Purchase of this book is advisable for all those interested in the group, since we hope to read most of the plays in the book in the coming months. On February 16th at 8:00 p.m. we will be at the Bert Rudins, 316 Westmoreland Road, Alexandria (SO 8-7840). Please call Ruth Checknoff (JE 2-4995) or Nan Rudin if you can come. You don't have to be a Katherine Cornell or a John Barrymore--you do have to have an interest in theater and a desire for a congenial and stimulating evening.

HAVDALAH SERVICE

On Saturday, February 8th at 8:00 p.m. a Havdalah service will take place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gil Davis. The program will be "The World of Sholom Alechim". This service is the first one of its kind for our congregation. It bids farewell to the Sabbath in a brief but lovely ceremony. Please call the Temple Office or Mrs. Ruth Checknoff if you are planning to attend. We would like to have the names of those who would volunteer their homes for this service in the coming months.

ADULT HEBREW CLASSES

Registration is open for those who would like to understand Hebrew and have a grasp of the beginning course of study of Hebrew letters. Call Rabbi Berkowits (532-2217) for information about this class, taught Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 at the Thomas Jefferson School.

* * * AN INVITATION TO THE BROTHERHOOD PROGRAM AT ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION * * *

Our congregation is invited to Adas Israel on Thursday, February 13th at 8:15 p.m. The Most Reverend Philip M. Hannan, Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Washington will be the speaker. He is considered one of the most outstanding Catholic prelates in the United States. He has recently returned from Rome and the Ecumenical Council. His subject is of special interest to Jewish people, and we in Temple Rodef Shalom are cordially invited to attend.

* * * THE WOMEN'S GROUP * * *

MEETINGS ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH IN THE FINK BUILDING AT 11:30 AM

The Temple Women met on Wednesday, January 8th, and enjoyed a social hour, business meeting, and program. The film "Wilderness of Zin" was shown and discussed. Our chairman, Mrs. Ida Silverstein, outlined a fine program for the coming months.

This month, on February 5th, the Women's Group, exploring the theme of "Brotherhood", will have a panel discussion of the book by Louis Lomax, "The Negro in Revolt". Our panel guest will be Mr. Lawrence Hill, a Negro prominent in the area of furthering

understanding between the races. Those also on the panel will be Mrs. Laurel Gould, Mrs. Nan Rudin and Mrs. Pauline Proschan.

Rabbi Berkowits will moderate the discussion of the book, which, by the way, is available at Drug Fairs, and at Brentano's.

The social hour begins at 11:30, so bring a sandwich-- coffee and cake are provided. A business meeting will follow, and the panel discussion will be at 1:00 p.m.

The Women's Group is an activity sponsored by the Temple, of which all women in the congregation are automatically members. We hope that as many as possible will attend the functions--to get to know one another, and to find activities for self-enrichment, as well as to serve our Temple and the community at large.

At the March meeting we hope to amend Section #6 of our By-Laws to read that the election of officers will take place in May (not June) for the period June 1st through May 31st.

* * * SOCIAL EVENTS * * *

Our deep thanks go to Mrs. Debbie Somers, who has been our Social Chairman and has planned lovely events for us. Mrs. Jane Gonson is our new Social Chairman. She planned a theater party as our first social event of the year. This occasion, on January 23rd, was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. We saw Ibsen's "Rosmersholm" at the "Theater Lobby" in Washington. Thanks to Jane, the night was a "sell-out". Coffee was served, too, and a thoroughly entertaining evening was had by all. It is hoped that more theater parties will be arranged, and will be supported by members and friends. Tickets sell for \$2.00 each, and half the proceeds go to the Temple. More will be said about theater parties at the Congregational Meeting on February 19th.

ROUND ROBIN BRIDGE PARTIES

Soon bridge parties for the Temple women will begin as a way of having a social afternoon (or evening) and making a token contribution to the treasury of the Women's Group. Mrs. Belle Zeff will be the first hostess. Eight women will play bridge, and coffee and cake will be served. Call Mrs. Zeff (671-4675) if you are interested in playing. If you would like to be a hostess, Mrs. Zeff will help arrange for other dates and groups.

MEMBERSHIP TEAS

On January 5th the first membership tea was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Bert Rudin. On January 19th, a tea was given by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Silverstein, and on the 26th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Somers. Coming in February are teas at the home of Mrs. Erna Frankel, Dr. and Mrs. Donald Lubin, and several others. These social gatherings are planned so that small groups of members can meet with Rabbi and Mrs. Berkowits in order to become better acquainted. Invitations for future teas will be extended to all our members. We hope everyone will take advantage of this way to meet with one another in a relaxed and informal manner.

PURIM FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, February 29th. We hope to see you at the Clubroom at Ravenwood Towers at 7:30 p.m. sharp for our first annual PURIM PARTY. At 7:30 (until 9:00) a delicious buffet supper will be served, and setups will be provided. Skits and folk singing are on the program, prizes for all, and some special, secret plans are in the offing. \$3.00 per person--bring your friends and join the fun. Call Mrs. Harriet Epstein (532-3132) or Mrs. Jane Gonson (354-3482) for reservations. Tickets will be sold at the Congregational Meeting on February 19th.

CONGREGATIONAL SEDER

This is a reminder that the Congregational Seder will be held on the first night of Passover, March 27th. More details will follow in the March Newsletter.

* * * SOCIAL ACTION NEWS * * *

By Laurel Gould

Saturday evening, January 18th, the Berkowitses, Mrs. Erna Frankel, the Bert Rudins and the Alan Goulds were guests in the home of a Negro family, Mr. and Mrs. David Felder, in Washington, D. C.

This event is part of a program of Educational Home Visits sponsored by the Interreligious Committee on Race Relations. It was the second visit made by members of our Temple.

We all participated in a frank and enlightening discussion. Mrs. Felder, an elementary school principal; Mr. Felder, a police officer in the District, and another Negro couple, as well as the moderator, Mr. Lawrence Hill, a teacher in the District, spoke with us. We discussed various problems relating to employment and action on the part of government and the individual in matters affecting race relations. For all the white guests present, it was the first visit to the home of a Negro family, and we found it educational, and emotionally rewarding. All of us were relaxed and therefore we could communicate our feelings. Some expressions by Negroes were, "Why should I have to wait for rights, which are inherently mine, to come up for a vote on the Hill?" Or, on the other end of the scale-- "I've lived in Washington all my life and have seen the progress made. I'm sure with patience and hard work, civil rights will be a reality".

The object of the Educational Home Visit Program is to offer an opportunity for Negroes and Whites of the same general level of education to communicate with each other, and to visit in Negro homes in a relaxed way for a common purpose. In this manner we can derive new insights into current racial problems and identify with them on a personal basis. Only by participating can one appreciate to the fullest extent how satisfying this experience can be. All those interested in participating in the Home Visit Program can call Mrs. Dena Leep (560-2272), Mr. Henry Lowenstern (JE 4-5529), or Mrs. Laurel Gould (533-2283).

* * * BRIEF NOTES * * *

The Jewish Women's Study Group of Falls Church will hold a "Game Night" on March 10th at 7:45 p.m. in the Buffalo Room at Woodward and Lothrop at 7 Corners. The \$1.00 admission fee goes to the Community Service Fund of the Study Group. Dessert and coffee

will be served. Bridge, Canasta, Scrabble, Mah-Jhong, Checkers, or Conversation will be provided for our members and friends. For information call Mrs. Lawrence Roman (281-3508). Mrs. Ann Elbau, publicity chairman of the Study Group, is a member of our Congregation, and urges all who are interested to attend.

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On January 15th Rabbi Berkowits spoke to the Men's Group at the Clarendon Presbyterian Church. The talk was originally scheduled for one hour, but was extended for another hour because of the interest of the group in the Rabbi's message. The Rabbi is preparing a TV program for Brotherhood Week.

* * * IN CLOSING * * *

SINCERELY YOURS, NAN RUDIN, EDITOR

A very important congregational meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, February 19th, at 8:15 p.m. in the Fink Building.

We are asked to vote on issues that will greatly affect the future of our Congregation. All of us received in the mail the program of our Ways and Means Committee to acquire a site for a building, and a long-range plan to erect a structure within the next six years. It is this program, as well as several other matters, that will be voted on at the meeting on February 19th.

We have been given an adequate opportunity of several weeks to examine and re-examine the proposal. We have had time to evaluate our own desires and needs regarding Temple affiliation and how this proposal affects us.

While we all recognize that Temple stands for Brotherhood, Love, Jewish Tradition, Education of the Young, Cultural programs, and a host of other tangible evidences to validate the existence of the institution, as such, we also need to examine, individually, our feelings about ourselves in relation to the Temple as a whole.

Until now, we have been asked to contribute our energies and our time and our talents to make the dreams we had of a vital, energetic Temple a reality. We have paid our yearly dues, and we have contributed to various funds when we felt so moved. Now the time has come for each of us to examine our Temple affiliation in yet another light--that of making a firm financial commitment, or pledge, over and above our dues, to make possible the acquisition of a site and eventual building upon the site.

This possibility is a major step for us, and one that requires each member to ask himself many questions; and it requires, too, that each member come to the meeting and express himself if desired, and listen to the views of others. It seems to me that to move ahead with this plan, nearly one hundred per cent approval by our membership is necessary to "carry the ball". That's why it is so urgent to give thought to the pros and cons of this plan.

Please attend the meeting, where the opinions and ideas expressed may decide the future course of this aspect, and other aspects, of Congregational life in Temple Rodef Shalom.

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