



REFLECTIONS

TEMPLE RODEF SHALOM
NEWSLETTER

A REFORM CONGREGATION
SERVING NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Rabbi: Laszlo Berkowits
President: Harvey L. Levin
AUGUST 1967

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

During the recent months we have witnessed the headlong rush of history in the making. We were made keenly aware of the bitter struggle which must be made in defense of Jewish life and dignity. We saw the raw nerves of international life exposed to harsh daylight, and the sight did not make a pretty picture. We who seek and pursue peace learned once again that the world is not at peace and that there are nations who are not yet willing to let others be at peace.

After the terrible holocaust of the Second World War, the Jewish people emerged out of the ruins and set about to bind up the wounds of its children the world over. We were each one helping one another. We are still one. Our brave brothers fought not for glory nor for conquest, but for sheer survival, and prevailed over powerful forces arrayed against them. We are thankful that a great catastrophe has been averted. Once again our brothers were not alone; never before have we been so united. Throughout the Western world we spoke and acted as one. Our solidarity with the people of Israel is unparalleled. As in the past, so once again now, we know that we have a common destiny, that we are bound to each other by indissoluble ties of brotherly love which run deeper than any of us has suspected.

Zionism and anti-Zionism are dated terms bereft of significant meaning when history confronts the Jewish people with hard choices. I am thrilled that our people have stood the test of time once again and prevailed. I am also proud to belong to a free and generous Jewish community such as ours which always responds selflessly to genuine need. With God's continual blessings and the dedication of our people, we shall live and continue to work for the fulfillment of our prophetic ideals of peace and dignity for our people and for all mankind.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We would like to comment this month on the subject of membership. We must grow in numerical strength, as well as in maturity, religious knowledge, spiritual values and the other intangibles which create a full and well-rounded congregational life.

The key to membership growth is exposure. We feel that the unaffiliated who are interested in the practice of Liberal Judaism will join as they become acquainted with us. It is the task of each of us to bring the unaffiliated to our services, to let them know of our school and programs, to provide names to the membership chairman.

Membership growth is the key to our building effort. Without the required membership to support our needs the building effort will face heavy odds.

When we wrote our message for the 1967-68 Calendar and Directory we had 168 members. Before publication we had fallen to 160. Today we have 152 members. This is the "normal" time for the loss of members, and not alarming. Seven of those resigned because of moving out of this area; three wanted a Conservative congregation; three were frankly disinterested in the practice of Judaism; one for "personal" reasons; and one was frankly "dissatisfied."

We have members who feel that we should "hide" our resignations. They consider it poor psychology to admit that members resign. This would not be healthy. We do lose members for various reasons, and we always will. All congregations do. As long as the reasons are valid, and are largely non-critical, resignations should not be a cause for embarrassment. They do, however, add to our challenge.

We must both replace our losses, and go on to even greater strength. Our goal by this October is 200 member families. This is a realistic goal and is attainable. But to obtain 50 new members we should expect to introduce Temple Rodef Shalom to 100 potentials. This will require the help of each and every member. If you will do your part by bringing the stranger to our doors, then your religious and lay leadership can accept the challenge of increasing our congregational strength. But it cannot be done without your help.

HARVEY L. LEVIN
President

THE CALENDAR-DIRECTORY

By now you have received your new Calendar-Directory, and no doubt you're finding it extremely handy. Extra copies are available from Barbara Levin at a dollar each.

Each month we will keep you advised as to changes of address, other corrections, and additions and deletions. (By the way, there will be a worship service on Friday, July 28, although it is not shown on the calendar.)

Changes of address - Very best wishes to you in your new homes:

Beym:	8407 Queen Elizabeth Blvd., Annandale, 22003	461-9087
Ferris:	3600 Barcroft View Terrace, F. C. 22041	481-6114
Sahr:	6210 Bardu Ave., Springfield, 22150	451-2123

We extend the following members our very warm wishes for good luck and happiness as they move from our area:

Marvin and Lorri Lavin	Mrs. Anne Robinson
Edward and Betty Greenstein	Charles and Kathryn Kram
Col. Sidney and Shirley Goldman	Milton and Ethel Meyers
Major Murray and Betty Goldstein	

We send good wishes to the following members who will also be leaving the Temple. Please delete all these names from the Membership List:

James and Virginia Veeder	Julian and Florence Levin
Hyman and Irma Glass	Mort and Janet Smith

We take this opportunity to welcome:

Myra and Joel Gerstle	The Gerstles have two
5803 Amelia St.	children: Brad, 9
Springfield, Va. 22150	and Lisa, 7.
451-3337	

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SUMMER SOCIAL TO BE AUGUST 5 !!!!

at 6 PM - SATURDAY - AUGUST 5TH - at LIL AND AL WYNER'S
6524 JAY MILLER DRIVE, FALLS CHURCH

Come comfortably dressed and join us for an evening of F U N,
delicious food, good fellowship, and entertainment.

BRING FOLDING CHAIRS AND
ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER PERSON

Lil Wyner and her committee have been working hard to make this party one of our best. In case of rain, the supper will be held on this same date (Aug. 5) at Anna and Ernest Bloch's home, 6508 Jay Miller Drive.

Call Shirley Cloth (JE 4-1465) to reserve.

THE WOMEN'S GROUP

BRIDGE, ANYONE?

The Second Annual Temple Rodef Shalom Bridge Tournament is scheduled to begin again in the Fall, hopefully with many more than the twenty couples who actively participated last year. This is a great fund-raising event, plus an excellent way to get together and to make new friends. Within the next few weeks a letter about the tournament will be in the mail. Be sure you respond to the affirmative and help round out our "ROUND ROBIN BRIDGE." For information call Janet Kwass, chairman.

ORDER PRAYER BOOKS

As the High Holy Days approach, you may find you would like to order Prayer Books for yourself, or for the Congregation. For information concerning the purchase of books, please call Clarine Schmukler. A book plate is inserted in the book with the name of the person you wish to honor or memorialize. It is a wonderful way to remember.

WELCOME COFFEE

There is no better way to start the Fall season than an old-fashioned Coffee-Klatch -- "How was your summer... what a beautiful tan...how nice to see you, or meet you, again..." Come to Nan Rudin's home, ladies, and bring prospective members as your guests. Remember that membership in our Women's Group is open to non-Temple members, too. We have planned a pleasant morning of coffee and cake, chitchat, and a surprise or two. Anna Bloch will join Nan in being hostess. (Expect some delicious goodies!)

Mark the date, Wednesday, September 13 at 10:30 AM. You'll soon receive a special mailing.

HELP NEEDED IN THE OFFICE

Volunteers are needed to help Esther Davis. We need one or two women on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays. If you have time available on any of these days, please contact Esther Davis (JE 4-5674).

SABBATH SERVICES IN AUGUST

During the month of August we plan to hold our Sabbath Eve Services out in the open, under the stars, at the homes of some of our members. Please consult your weekly program to keep posted on the locations. On Friday, August 4th, at 8:15 PM, we will worship at the home of Nan and Bert Rudin, 3424 Blair Road, Lake Barcroft. A discussion will follow the Oneg Shabat. We invite you to attend this, as well as all our Services, and to bring friends.

WE HAVE A NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

It is with pleasure that we report to you that Dorothy Labson is our new Membership Chairman. Dorothy is very well qualified to handle this vital part of Congregational life. Her warmth and friendliness are known to many of us, and will be a great aid in interesting prospective members. We all share with her the responsibilities that membership activities involve. You'll want to call Dorothy with the names of those you know who may wish to join the Temple or learn of its programs.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

Judy and I want to express our profound appreciation for the many kindnesses which have been shown to us during Judy's stay in the hospital. It was very helpful to know that all of you were so anxious for our well-being. Many, many thanks.

Rabbi and Judy

We note with deep sorrow the passing of one of our members, Doris Gelfond. The Congregation extends to her husband, Harold, its sympathy and condolences. May her memory be for blessing.

COMMENTARY ON OUR TIMES
by David Kwass

Some time ago I read a little article which was like a lightening flash, in that it made vivid and startling the reasons for the violence and turmoil in today's world. May I pass it on.

The article visualized the entire population of the world boiled down to a town of 1,000. In this imaginary town of 1,000 there would be 60 Americans and 940 other persons. Half the income would go to the 60 while the 940 would share the other half. There would be 303 white people as against 697 non-whites. Most of the 60 lucky Americans in our village would have a life expectancy of 70 years because of their superior food, housing, and medical care. The other 940 citizens might feel a little jealous on realizing that their life expectancy was only 40 years.

The Americans would have 15 times as many material possessions as all the other people. They would eat 72% more food than necessary, storing the rest away for later use.

Most of the 940 citizens and some of the 60 would be hungry all the time, with little chance of bettering their condition. The great majority in the town would be ignorant, poor, hungry, and sick. The Americans would be spending about \$1,000.00 a piece each year for defense, but much less to raise the living standards of their neighbors.

In this perspective, it isn't hard to see, is it, how violence and turmoil are inevitable in our little town?

And what about the role of Judaism in our little town? Our religion has always been characterized by a vigorous social idealism and by an optimistic faith in the future. We have preached for ages that all men are brothers and must help each other. And no matter how dark the present has looked, we have always had faith in the future, the eventual fulfillment, the Messianic Age.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

In TIME Magazine an article tells us that U.S. Churches are firmly committed to economic and social equality for the underprivileged, and they are also one of the largest consumers of goods and service. An ecumenical campaign, PROJECT EQUALITY, is under way, aimed at persuading churches from withholding their business from firms practicing racial discrimination in employment. In the two years since its formation the campaign has spread to ten states and includes more than 7,500 Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, and Jewish congregations, with a purchasing power of more than 2 billion dollars a year. To date, more than 15,000 firms have pledged their cooperation.

Soon Temple Rodef Shalom will be in a position to be an employer. Should we not look into PROJECT EQUALITY, so that when our building project is under way, we will practice what we preach about non-discrimination?

===== (EDITORIAL) =====

PLANS FOR DAY CARE CENTER UNDER WAY

Committees have been and are being formed for the Day Care Center at the Chesterbrook Presbyterian Church. At least fifteen area churches are combining efforts to sponsor the Center, which will care for small children of low income families in the area. Research has been under way, and the preliminary inspection of the facilities by the Fairfax County Health Department has been made. Doris and Larry Straus are co-chairmen of the Facilities Committee. Perhaps YOU would be interested in being a part of the organization of the Day Care Center. Please call Doris Straus or Nan Rudin.

Editor: Nan Rudin

Typist: Bess Swerdloff

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All contributions to the newsletter are welcome by the 14th of the month.

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