



REFLECTIONS

TEMPLE RODEF SHALOM
NEWSLETTER

A REFORM CONGREGATION
SERVING NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Ever since the terrifying days of May when the fate and destiny of Israel was put to its severest test, our wholehearted attention was riveted on our brothers across the sea. For the time being the crisis has abated and we must now turn to the great needs which lie at our doorstep. These needs are very significant to our future and spiritual well-being. However, even as we turn inward it is not a turning away from others. It is rather a shifting of our attention and concern to our own community. I have the firm conviction that what we do here in our community and in every congregation is of utmost significance to the future of Judaism and Jewish life. We are engaged in the intellectual and spiritual task of building a viable Judaism in a changing world. A strong, free and enlightened Jewish community is a bulwark to Jewish life everywhere on the face of this troubled world.

Now that the end of summer is drawing near, the pace of congregational life begins to quicken anew. Soon the doors to our religious school will open to admit our children to our classes. We hope that all will return safely and continue to search and grow in knowledge and Jewish commitment. We hope that there will be many new faces to welcome into our midst and make them feel as one of us.

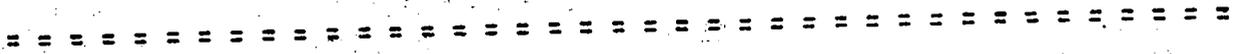
Learning does not cease with youth. We hope that many of you will join our adult seminar discussions and study groups which offer a tremendous opportunity for mature understanding of many aspects of Judaism. We found this to be a rewarding experience.

This will be a historic year for our congregation. There is a dramatic stirring in our midst, an air of excitement pervades our deliberations as we dare to bring the dream of a home for our congregation closer to reality. Surely, everyone of us must be the bearer of this aspiration. With your wholehearted participation in every facet of our congregational life, this will not only be a historic year but also a wonderfully joyous and beautiful one.

CALENDAR OF SABBATH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

- Fri., Sept. 1 SABBATH EVE SERVICE
8:15 P.M. Sermon: "The Religious Education of the Jewish
 Child"
- Fri., Sept. 8 SABBATH EVE SERVICE
8:15 P.M. Sermon: "What is a Jewish Home?"
 Membership Open House
- Fri., Sept. 15 SABBATH EVE SERVICE
8:15 P.M. Sermon: "You and the Jewish Community"
- Fri., Sept. 22 SABBATH EVE SERVICE
8:15 P.M. Sermon: "You and Your Congregation - Where are
 We Heading?"
- Fri., Sept. 29 SABBATH EVE SERVICE.* Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Rudin,
8:15 P.M. son of Dr. & Mrs. Berton Rudin
 Guest speaker Rabbi A. James Rudin
- Sat., Sept. 30 SABBATH MORNING SERVICE.* Bar Mitzvah of Lawrence
10:30 A.M. Schmukler, son of Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Schmukler

*The congregation is cordially invited to the Oneg Shabat following the Bar Mitzvah



VISITORS WELCOME

We are always so happy to have guests at our services, and at our other events. We hope that we can interest the newcomer and unaffiliated in Northern Virginia in what we are and what we offer. Our doors are always open to all who wish to enter and worship with us.

Our special Membership Open House Sabbath will be held on Friday evening, September 8th. We'll all be back from vacations then, summer will be over, and it will be a grand opportunity to greet one another. Please contact those you know who may be interested in Temple Rodef Shalom. Bring them with you to our services. Call Mrs. Bradford in the Temple Office (532-2217) with any names you may have, or call Dorothy Labson, our membership chairman.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

On 17 July we signed our formal contract with the architectural firm engaged to design our Temple, Nicholas Satterlee and Associates. The initial design phase of that effort is scheduled to be completed by October. We can only hope that the total membership will feel the same thrill and excitement in reading these words as was generated in putting them down on paper.

At our 8 August meeting of the Board of Directors approval was given to engage the firm of SKLAG and Company as Professional Fund Raisers to assist us in the conduct of the fund raising campaign in order to build our Temple. Personnel of that firm will be meeting with your lay leadership during September to accomplish the preliminary planning leading to formal initiation of our fund raising campaign in the not too distant future. The membership will be kept advised of the progress in this area as plans are developed. This too is a thrilling step down the road we have charted for Temple Rodef Shalom.

We are inviting the unaffiliated of Northern Virginia to join with us in the exciting and inspiring task of building a Temple for the worship of God within the precepts of Liberal Judaism.

We are committed to a challenging effort. With God's help we will move from Strength to Strength.

HARVEY L. LEVIN
President

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THEATER PARTY

Another gay evening is in store for members and friends of Temple Rodef Shalom --- "FUNNY GIRL" --- at Shady Grove, on Sunday evening, September 24 at 8:30. Tickets are \$4.00. Send your check and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Bea Rudin, 3412 Halcyon Drive, Alexandria, Va. 22305.

The Temple will benefit by each ticket sold! Just 100 seats are available so act now!

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IN APPRECIATION

We would like to express our appreciation to the people who have helped in the Temple office in the production and mailing of the weekly program, and "Reflections" each month. We're particularly grateful to the following members of the Youth Group: Ann Cohen, Emily Rudin, Isabel Zinman, Paul Brandwein, Peter Kwass, and Paul Teitell.

THE WOMEN'S GROUP

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Along with the growth in our membership comes the need for other areas of expansion. With this in mind, the Women's Group is proud to announce the BAR MITZVAH SERVICE. Under the capable direction of Edna Cohen, practically every detail for the happy occasion of a Bar Mitzvah will be taken care of -- leaving the parents of the Bar Mitzvah celebrant time to enjoy the wonderful event. We will provide hostesses, equipment, and maid service for the nominal contribution of twenty-five dollars. (The refreshments will be purchased by the parents.) It is our hope that those who will have need of this service will call Edna Cohen (534-0225).

HAPPINESS IS...A NIGHT OF BRIDGE

We're not certain if Linus and his friends are bridge players, but if they are they'd surely join the Temple's Round Robin Bridge Group. You should, too. You'll play once a month, on convenient nights, for five months. The ten dollars you'll donate goes toward your donor, and the Temple benefits thereby. So will you! Call Janet Kwass (532-8284).

FLOWER FUND FOR HIGH HOLY DAYS

By donating one dollar to our Flower Fund, you can extend personal greetings to the Congregation, and help to provide beautiful flowers for the altar during the High Holy Days. The list of contributors will appear in October "Reflections". Please send your dollar to:

Mrs. Barry Kernus
7117 Lanier St.
Annandale, Va. 22003

BOWLING BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER

Want to get in shape for fall? We think there's a fast and fun way -- BOWLING!!! Plans are being made for the bowling teams so call Sybil Lubin (356-8591) or Ellen Cantor (280-5310).

WELCOME COFFEE

Plan to attend the first "happening" of the season: the Women's Group Welcome Coffee. Our "be in" will be in Nan Rudin's home on Wed., September 13 at 10:30 AM. Watch for your invitation and RSVP. Be sure to bring a prospective member with you.

IF YOU NEED A RIDE, CALL ON US! THE FOLLOWING LADIES HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO BE AVAILABLE TO DRIVE TO THE WELCOME COFFEE AND MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- Barcroft-Sleepy Hollow
- Falls Church
- Vienna
- Annandale
- Fairfax
- N. Arlington
- Alexandria
- McLean
- Landmark
- S. Arlington

- Edna Cohen
- Esther Davis
- Harriet Epstein
- Shirley Galant
- Annette Hoptman
- Janet Kwass
- Bea Rudin
- Clarine Schmukler
- Eleanor Shapiro
- Belle Zeff

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we welcome the following new members:

Charles and Mari Borsuk,
4702 Rouge Court,
Alexandria (354-0658)
Lynn (6)

Cecil and Marilyn Farren,
1422 Ross Drive,
Vienna 22180 (560-1897)
Louis (16), Kenneth (12),
and Arthur (9)

Dr. Albert and Zara White,
44 Wildman St.,
Leesburg, Va. 22075 (703-777-1040)
Harry (14), Susan (12), Leslie Gail (10),
and Mark (6)

THE END OF SUMMER

This has been a busy summer for many of us as individuals and as families. There have been vacations to prepare for and unwind from, trips to and from the pool, summer jobs, out-of-town visitors to entertain, college students home, hello's and goodbye's, and so on. A truly wonderful outdoor dinner was planned by Lil Wyner and her committee, and it was the highlight of our summer. We say thank you to Lil and to all who worked with her, and to Steve Leshner for sharing his talents that night. It was an August of outdoor services, too, and we are grateful to those who made their homes available to us. And so we turn from our varied pursuits of the summer months to the coming months and the tasks ahead....

COMMENTARY

"A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS, REVISITED"
by Ruth Checknoff

There is a question being asked today concerning the conflict between honesty and practicality. Why must we make a choice? Can the individual afford to stand fast to his own ethical and moral standards or must he condone his government's actions when "necessity" is placed above principle?

A movie I saw recently dealt with these questions in a most artistic fashion. "A Man for All Seasons" explores the question of how far a man should go in supporting the truth. The story is not of a saint - but a real man who cannot, in all honesty, condone an action which has as its motive a selfish desire to achieve an end no matter what means are necessary. For him no amount of rationalization, no self-righteous "for the good of the State" oratory covered up the essential truth, which was that the "law of God" was twisted to allow the king to move out of what he considered an impossible situation.

The movie is skillfully written and beautifully executed. The action is believable and reasonable. Sir Thomas More does not set out to become a

martyr. In fact, he handled himself like the lawyer he was and tried to keep out of trouble while maintaining his principles. However, he was not permitted this luxury. The king's conscience had to be satisfied. Either More must agree with him - or by his silence - be guilty of High Treason. More does not actively set out to oppose the king. He doesn't crusade against his action. All he does is refuse to acquiesce. His silence eventually convicts him. What did he accomplish by his silence? He did not prevent the wrong deed from being done. He did not prevent the King from committing a serious sin. Was the salving of his own conscience worth the loss of his life and the ruin of his family? I leave you to answer this question. I believe it is a relevant one in today's world. We are always being faced with decisions where we must decide whether or not to support an action in which we do not believe. Shall we abstain from voting, thereby keeping our consciences clear, but at the same time not "fighting City Hall", or shall we move actively against a wrong and be aggressive in the direction of right?

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