



REFLECTIONS

TEMPLE RODEF SHALOM
NEWSLETTER

A REFORM CONGREGATION
SERVING NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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

THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER IN SUBURBIA

The Thanksgiving holiday season is over and it has become part of our pleasant memories of the year. The community's wholehearted attention now turns to its preparation for the great Holy Day of our Christian neighbors. Between now and December 25, the social and cultural fabric of our entire nation will be caught up in the preparation for and the celebration of this day. At school and in the market place, on radio and on television, in newspapers and magazines, in the theaters and in concert halls, will be reflected some aspect of this holiday. I know that the pervasiveness of this holiday causes deep anxiety to many of you who are raising children. After all, the mood of the entire community is so intoxicating. May I nevertheless suggest that we would do ourselves, as well as our Christian neighbors, a favor if we realized that Christmas is a very profound Christian holiday. Recognize it as such, and leave its celebration to those to whom it is most meaningful on its highest level. I know of no better way to show real understanding of our neighbors, and at the same time avoid confusing our children and ourselves, than by doing just what I suggest.

It is only a coincidence that Chanukah comes at this time of the year, and it is not meant to be matched, so to speak, with any other holiday. It has its own beauty, its own joyous quality, which can be very meaningful and exciting to our children. May I also suggest that if you have a home where Judaism is alive, where your children receive a positive example of what it means to be a Jew in a free society, then you need not experience the annual cycle of anxiety that comes with each December in suburbia.

During this month the Christian community will be celebrating a major religious holiday with a theme dedicated to Peace On Earth and Good Will To Men. This is a time for us to reflect upon the spirit of Brotherhood shown to our Congregation by our Christian neighbors and friends.

The beauty, solemnity and sanctity of our High Holy Day services would not be possible without generosity of Reverent Bridwell and the congregation of the First Christian Church in permitting us the use of their Sanctuary. Not only should we be appreciative of the use of that Sanctuary, but the spirit of friendship and brotherhood in which we are repeatedly allowed its use on each occasion when we have requested its use.

The availability of a Sanctuary for our regular Sabbath services near where we will be building our own Home in the near future is a major contribution to our Congregational life. The generosity of Reverend LeForge and the congregation of the Chesterbrook Presbyterian Church has made this possible. Again it is not so much the act, as the spirit in which it was given that is important. Our friends at Chesterbrook have turned over their Sanctuary and facilities in the fullest possible manner, allowing, even telling us, to use it as though it were our own. With the return to Chesterbrook after a month's absence, Reverend LeForge sent us the message, "Welcome Home." What a beautiful spirit of Brotherhood. What a wonderful atmosphere in which to be building our permanent home.

Through the years I pray that we will, each of us, always remember the beauty of such friendship, and look with our Christian friends towards that time of Peace on Earth and a fulfillment of Good Will Toward All Mankind.

HARVEY L. LEVIN
President

DECEMBER

Dec. 1,	7:45 P.M.	Family Service
Dec. 8,	8:15 P.M.	Sabbath Eve Service Bar Mitzvah of Kenneth David Farren, son of Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Farren
Dec. 15,	8:15 P.M.	Sabbath Eve Service Guest Rabbi - Eugene Lipman, Rabbi, Temple Sinai, Washington, D. C.
Dec. 22,	8:15 P.M.	Sabbath Eve Service Bar Mitzvah of Robert Ira Davidson, son of Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Davidson
Dec. 29,	8:15 P.M.	Sabbath Eve Service In absence of Rabbi Berkowits, Sabbath Services will be conducted by Harvey L. Levin, President

THE CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Robert and Judith Rosenbaum,
1301 S. Scott St., Apt. 405,
Arlington, Va. 22204 528-1151

Mr. & Mrs. Sanford R. Silverberg,
6311 Frenchmen's Drive,
Alexandria, Va. 22312 354-9511

**Eleanor and Abe Shapiro's phone number: 354-2763

**Congratulations to Jonathan Olom -- he appeared on "It's Academic" on television recently.

**Leonard Ackerman recently received a Doctor of Education Degree from George Washington University !

**Joan Schwartz won the Challenge-Cup Professional 1st Prize 1967-68 at Craftsman Branch, Inc. of the Embroiderer's Guild at Pittsburgh, Pa. This was the first such award made for a work of Jewish art. The award was for a Torah Breastplate worked in needlepoint.

**Farewell to Harry and Debbie Somers, bound for Florida for a six month's stay.

**Barry and Hinda Mirsky are the proud parents of a new son, James Evan.

CALENDAR NOTES FOR DECEMBER

***The Chanukah Party has been changed from the date shown on the Temple Calendar (Dec. 26) to Sunday night, December 17. Big plans are underway for this gala evening.

***The Adult Seminar scheduled for Sunday, December 17, will be held on Sunday, December 10, at 8 P.M. at the Auerbach's.

***The Adult Discussion Series will take place at 10:00 A.M. on December 10 at the Haycock School.

CONGREGATION MOVES AHEAD ON BUILDING PROGRAM

BUILDING FUND CAMPAIGN
COMMENCES JANUARY FOURTEENTH

At its Fall meeting held on October 29, the Congregation authorized our Building Fund Campaign to be conducted during the period 14 January through 22 February. During that time we will be applying all of our energies to the raising of funds which will permit initiation of construction during mid-1968. Each member will be asked to cooperate fully with our building committee to assure success. Further information will be forthcoming.

CONGREGATION ELIMINATES
LAND ASSESSMENT

With the decision reached at the 29 October Congregational meeting to move forward with a coordinated Building Campaign starting on 14 January, the congregation voted unanimously to cancel the existing land assessment immediately. The cost of completing the purchase of our land will be incorporated as an item of expense in the overall building effort supported by the one building drive.

PRAYERBOOK DONATIONS

We are happy to include this list in Reflections this month. Over the past few months we have enlarged our supply of prayerbooks and we express our gratitude to the following contributors:

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Auerbach	In memory of Shiffre Shachtman
Mr. & Mrs. George Agris	In memory of Esther Rothenberg
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cloth	In memory of Harry Markowich and Eva Rosenblum Brelow
Mr. & Mrs. Adolph Bennett	In honor of Jonathan Rudin's Bar Mitzvah, Mannie Kintisch's recovery and Harry Somers' birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Dembo	In memory of Abraham and Yetta Dembo
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Davis	In memory of their parents
Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Fleischmann	In honor of Harry Somers' birthday
Mrs. Erna Frankel	In memory of Eric D. Frankel
Mr. Harold Gelfond	In memory of Doris Gelfond
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Good	In honor of Harry Somers
Mrs. Sibyl Levin	
Mr. & Mrs. David Landen	In honor of Harry Somers
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Loeb	In memory of Henry Taussig
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Odoroff	In honor of Hannah Bloom, Mark Isaac Odoroff, and Rachel Lisetta Odoroff
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Raskin	In memory of Eva Rosenblum Brelow
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Somers	In memory of Esther Rothenberg
Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Somers	In honor of Harry Somers
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Searles	In memory of Rose Morrison, Abe Morrison, and Rose Bernstein
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Slavitt	In memory of Fanny Ginsberg
Mrs. Miriam Twynham	In memory of Joseph Hirsch
Mrs. Goldie Weck	In memory of Rose Winner
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Weinstein	In honor of Harry Somers
Mr. Sam Zeitlin	In memory of Ben Zeitlin
Mr. P. L. Eisenberg	In memory of Phil Angel, Ester Eisenberg, and Michael Eisenberg
Miss Bernice Halfon	In memory of Jack B. Halfon and Minnie Halfon
Mrs. Pearl Kamber	In honor of Todd J. Kamber and in memory of J. L. Kamber, Eva Gendler and Louis J. Gendler

TEMPLE RODEF SHALOM BOARD SUPPORTS FOLLOWING RESOLUTION
AT UAHC CONVENTION IN MONTREAL:

Whereas the security of the United States of America depends on its ability to defend the cause of freedom; Be it resolved, that it is the duty of every American citizen to serve in the Armed Forces of the U.S.A. in whatever capacity so determined by the properly constituted authorities, that the only reason for conscientious objection be based on religious and/or moral principles applicable to all wars and not selective in character.

Joan and Ben Schwartz attended the Biennial of the UAHC in Montreal and have information available concerning the deliberations and activities of the convention.

CHANUKAH PARTY

We hope for a wonderful turnout at our PAID-UP MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL CHANUKAH PARTY on Wednesday, December 13, at 10:30 at Lucille Zinman's home.

The highlight of the affair will be a panel discussion of books for the Jewish home library by Harriet Epstein, Ruth Checknoff and Naomi Bekenstein.

The Gift Shop will have items available for Chanukah giving, and refreshments typical of Chanukah -- potato latkes -- will be featured. Dorothy Labson has planned this meeting -- we won't want to miss it.

FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON WAS
A LOVELY EVENT

The food was delicious and the Fashion Show was entertaining, thanks to the efforts of Renee Goldman and her committee.

It was another happy occasion for the Women's Group of the Temple.

Are YOU saving Green Stamps, Yellow Stamps, Betty Crocker Coupons, etc. For Shirley Cloth? Put some in an envelope and mail them -- she redeems them for many needed items for gracious serving.

A WORD ABOUT HOME ONEG SHABATS

We would like to thank the following women who were hostesses for the November Home Oneg Shabats: Joan Fishman, Lucille Zinman, Deborah Somers, Clarine Schmukler, Shirley Galant, Arlene Kernus, Ruth Fink, Sylvia Leshner, Elizabeth Aronson, Anna Bloch, Lil Wyner, Ruth Checknoff, Myrna Liebson and Lois Proctor.

These Oneg Shabats were planned with a great deal of care by Barbara Levin and Judy Berkowits. The hostesses certainly go to much effort to make certain that everyone will be comfortable and enjoy themselves. Therefore we all want to help them in every way: respond positively when invited to attend. Your courtesy is always appreciated.

PARENT DISCUSSION OF JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP GOALS

Every one of the large group of mothers and fathers of 8th and 9th Grade children was enthused and encouraged by the meeting on Nov. 16th. It was an example of what Temple Rodef Shalom is all about -- an opportunity to explore, to examine and question what it is we hope involvement in the Youth Group will mean for our young people. Out of this forum ideas were generated to help guide the advisors, the Rabbi, and the board of the Youth Group. The energy and excitement were contagious: a committee of eight parents, with Bert Udovin as chairman, volunteered to act in a steering capacity. As long as meetings of this type are encouraged at all levels, by congregants themselves as well as by our leadership, constructive ideas and proper development of our programs will inevitably result. Communication is the keynote and this meeting exemplified its value.

THE JUNIOR CONGREGATION

THE FALLS CHURCH-MC LEAN DAY CARE CENTER
WILL RECEIVE OUR AID THROUGH
CHILDREN-TO-CHILDREN GIVING

The following letter was sent to the Center and signed by Joel Novak, Religious School Committee; Suzanne Proctor, President of the Senior Youth Group, and Peter Kwass, President of the Junior Youth Group:

McLean-Falls Church Day Care Center
c/o Chesterbrook Presbyterian Church
Westmoreland Street
McLean, Virginia

Att: Mrs. Mary Brumfield

On Sunday, November 5, 1967, the children of Temple Rodef Shalom had an assembly in which they decided that their charity contributions each week would go to help the McLean-Falls Church Day Care Center.

In addition, we of the Junior and Senior Youth voted that our Fund raising efforts would also go to the Day Care Center this year, and we all hope as our goal to raise in excess of \$500.00.

WHAT IT IS AND WHY IT IS

Much has been printed in Reflections in past issues about the progress of the Day Care Center, which was inspired by concern for the needy families of our community by the minister and congregation of the Chesterbrook Presbyterian Church. White and Negro, Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish groups are represented in this effort to help children of 3, 4 and 5 years of age whose families are at the poverty level and whose mothers must work to support the family.

It costs at least \$1,000 a child -- we hope to help at least 40 children. We have been asked to respond to this need and our children have responded. They have had meetings, discussions, and with zeal have determined to raise money by Karen Ami charity -- sharing -- each Sunday, and by a Junior Youth Group Raffle and other activities. On the first Sunday \$20.80 was collected in Religious School, and the Junior Youth Group raised \$5.00. The sale of coffee and donuts is a Junior Youth Group project for the Center.

Our adults have also made a good start. Phil Rudin is making stepstools for the children. A lawyer is needed to incorporate the Center, and an accountant. Additional volunteer help is needed as plans move along. If you can give legal or accounting aid please call Larry Straus (536-7082). The next meeting is Wednesday, November 29, at 8 PM at the Chesterbrook Church. Come -- you will be most welcome.

HOLIDAY BYLINES

by CATHY NOVAK

Hannukah, the Festival of Lights, although major to all of us (especially children) is the only important Jewish festival not mentioned in the Bible. Celebrated for eight days, beginning the twenty-fifth day of Kislev (this year December 26th) it commemorates the victory of Judah the Macabee over the army of the Syrian king, Antiochus, and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem.

When Alexander the Great died in 323 B.C.E., his empire was divided among his generals and as a result, Palestine became a center of conflict between Syria and

7. HOLIDAY BYLINES (contd.)

Egypt. For generations it passed from one to the other until Antiochus the Great conquered it in 198 B.C.E. Upon succeeding to the throne, Antiochus IV almost immediately launched a military campaign against Egypt to prevent retaliation for the seizure of Palestine. However he was robbed of victory by Roman intervention. Seething with anger, Antiochus looked for something upon which to revenge himself, and that something was Palestine.

When the news of what had occurred reached Palestine it was interpreted to mean that Antiochus was dead, where upon, the Syrian garrison was disarmed. At this point, on Shabbat, Antiochus entered Jerusalem, when the pious Jews could not defend themselves. Thousands of Jews were slaughtered, the Temple looted. He banned the practise of Judaism on pain of death. Altars to Zeus were erected and the Jews were ordered to worship them.

The first to make a move against the Syrians were Mattathias, an aged priest, and his five sons. Mattathias slew a Jewish merchant about to make a sacrifice to Zeus and his sons fell upon the Syrian soldiers at which time the town rallied behind them. Judah, one of his sons, led the revolt.

At Emmaus, Judah defeated 40,000 Syrians to clear the way to Jerusalem to cleanse and rededicate the defiled Temple. It was here that the miracle of oil took place - forever after to be remembered by Jews as the Festival of Lights. When the priests made ready for the rededication service, they discovered that the holy oil had been made impure by the pagan rites which had been carried on there. After an intense search, the priest found one pure vial of holy oil but only enough for one day. It was proclaimed a miracle that it lasted for eight days, until the priests could prepare new holy oil.

This, then, is the story of Hannukah, and when you gather in your homes to light the first candle of Hannukah, remember its heroic history and that it was a fight of survival for the Jews.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS
by Karen Kagall, Secretary

On November 17-19 the annual MAFTY Fall Conclave took place in Wilmington, Delaware. Our host congregation was Congregation Beth Emeth. Many activities took place and representatives of Rodef Shalom had a wonderful time.

The Senior Youth Group of the Chesterbrook Presbyterian Church invited us to a Pot-Luck Supper on November 19 at the Church.

There will be a Havdallah Night Service at the home of Mrs. Joan Schwartz, our advisor, on December 16. After the service she will show us her art work.

Our Youth Group is seriously considering a tradition of donating a piece of art work to the Temple each year.

As our Community Service Project this year we are contributing to the Falls Church-McLean Day Care Center. We plan to raise money for the Center through projects of our own as well as through the Karen Ami Fund collected each Sunday in Religious School.

Finally, I would like to remind all 9th through 12th Graders about the TEEN CANTFEN. The next one is Sunday, November 26 from 7 to 10 at Agudas Achim Synagogue in Alexandria.

NOTICE: SENIOR NIFTY SESTEMPLE DANCE AT TEMPLE, BETH EL SATURDAY, DEC.9 at 8 PM

Next month we will feature some original essays by 10th Graders.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

A social get-together is being planned for Jewish College students living in the area and attending schools in greater Washington such as George Mason, Northern Virginia Community College, George Washington U., Georgetown, and American U. If you are interested in participating, please call or write to Mrs. Blanche Davidson, 6340 Waterway Dr., F.C. (CL 6-4479) or Mrs. Hortense Rothman, 1107 Cameron Road, Alexandria (SO 5-5624).

LIFE AROUND US.

**A letter was received thanking Temple Rodef Shalom for the flowers we sent in honor of the dedication of the new Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute.

**Our Congregation expressed its concern about excused school absences for religious holidays in a letter to School Board member Carl V. Lyon. Mr. Lyon, in turn, sent a letter to the School Board of Superintendent of Fairfax County Schools Earl Funderburk requesting that formal action be taken to give excused absences of religious holidays, and scheduling no major tests or examinations on these days. A letter was written by Mr. Funderburk's office to all school principals on the subject of excuses for religious holidays. It states that the regulation exists that teachers excuse children with written requests from their parents. It also states that no major examinations are to be scheduled on these holidays. The student is to be given the opportunity to make up work that is missed. The students must be marked absent, of course.

**FIDDLER ON THE ROOF presented at the Annual No. Va. Israel Bond Affair, Saturday, December 16, at Agudas Achim in Alexandria.

**A NIGHT WITH GEORGE KIRBY AND FNZO STUARTI, Sunday, December 10, sponsored by Greater Washington B'nai B'rith Women at Constitution Hall. Call Mrs. Henry Compart (JU 7-8985 or 244-4900) for information about tickets.

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