



REFLECTIONS

August 1969

AV 5729

Edition #81

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK
by Rabbi Laszlo Berkowits

From time to time I will share with you on this page significant developments in the Reform Movement. For your summer reading and consideration, here is an excerpt from the Shabbat Manual which has been accepted by the Central Conference of American Rabbis. The Sabbath Committee of the CCAR, under the chairmanship of Rabbi Gunther Plaut, has written this manual as an attempt to give new meaning to the Shabbat.

It is presented to you for your comments and reactions.

PURPOSES OF SHABBAT OBSERVANCE

What we do or abstain from doing on Shabbat should be directed toward the fulfillment of five major purposes. These five purposes historically have been identified with Shabbat and represent the core of Jewish existence as expressed in "shemirat Shabbat" - Sabbath observance.

Laszlo Berkowits.....Rabbi

Dr. William Bekenstein..President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1-Fri. 8:15 PM - Sabbath Eve Service
- 8-Fri. 8:15 PM - Sabbath Eve Service
- 15-Fri. 8:15 PM - Sabbath Eve Service
- 22-Fri. 8:15 PM - Sabbath Eve Service
- 23-Sat. 8:00 PM - Barbecued Chicken Luau at home of Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Goldberg, 6600 25th St., Arlington, Va.
- 29 -Fri. 8:15 PM - Sabbath Eve Service

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK
(continued)

1. Awareness of the World:

In our weekday life we rarely pause to consider the nature of the universe around us or meditate on the meaning and purpose of our existence in it. The observance of Shabbat affords us a singular opportunity to reflect upon the marvel of the universe which God has created, to rejoice in the glory and beauty of creation and to consider our part in God's continuing process of creation. This is the core of the Fourth Commandment (in Exodus) and is emphasized in the Kiddush which reminds us that the Shabbat is instituted "in remembrance of the work of Creation (Zikaron Lem'aseh Bereshit).

2. Regard for Human Dignity:

In our tradition God is acknowledged not only as a creator and source of life, He is present also in human history, and especially in the history of the Jewish people. The Kiddush also speaks of Shabbat as "memorial of the exodus from Egypt" (Zecher Litzi'at Mitzrayim, reflecting the Fourth Commandment in Deuteronomy). This means that as God delivered us from slavery so must we strive to help all who suffer from every form of bondage and degradation in the world. Shabbat reminds us of our historic commitment to freedom, justice and peace. It shows us the world that can be if we will it.

3. Identity with the Jewish People

On Shabbat we have a weekly opportunity to remember God's covenant (berit) with Israel and to reaffirm our identity with and loyalty to the house of Israel. Shabbat is "a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever."

It summons us to a renewal of our responsibility to promote the welfare and dignity of the Jewish people. It calls upon each Jew to help further the high and noble purposes of the convenantal community and to use the precious hours of the Shabbat to deepen the unique historic fellowship of the Jewish people.

4. Enhancement of the Person:

The Shabbat tradition provides three modes for the enhancement of personal life: Kedushah (holiness), Menuchah (rest), and Oneg (joy).

Kedushah requires that Shabbat be singled out as being different and distinguished from the weekday, so that those who observe it become transformed by its holiness.

Menuchah as related to Shabbat is more than relaxation and abstention from work. It is a condition of the soul, a physical and spiritual release from weekday pressures which results in serenity. It is this quality of Menuchah which leads tradition to call Shabbat "a foretaste of the days of Messiah." Oneg as experienced on Shabbat is more than fun and pleasure. It is a kind of joy which enhances our personal life and leaves us truly enriched for the week ahead.

5. Dedication to Peace:

More than any other day Shabbat embodies our yearning for peace. Its traditional greeting "Shabbat Shalom" as well as the day's all-pervasive mood attunes us to the value of peace and teaches its centrality in the Jew's hope for the world today and for the future. Each week it calls us to renewed effort and dedication "to make peace between man and man".

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JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP ELECTS OFFICERS

The Junior Youth Group ended a very active and productive year with a gala swim and barbecue party at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Davidson. The hosts added to the group's delightful evening with tasty hot dogs and hamburgers, plus all the trimmings with plenty of seconds and thirds for all of the 29 participants.

The JYG did not however, forget their obligations to continue to function as a group and took a bit of time out for serious undertakings, that of voting for their new officers for the coming year. The elected officers are as follows:

PRESIDENT - Howard Shapiro
V. PRESIDENT - Vicki Murad
REC. SECRETARY - Debbie Galant
Corres. SECRETARY - Laura Cohen
TREASURER - Tom Scarr

The JYG also added one more bit of enjoyment to their evening. Mr. Ray Galant who is not able to continue this coming year as their counselor was presented with a pair of monogrammed book ends by the group. Mr. Galant will be sorely missed and we wish him well in his new undertakings.

--Howard Shapiro

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THANKS TO RAY GALANT, OUR OUTGOING JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP ADVISOR

Ray Galant has worked so devotedly this past season with the Junior Youth Group. He did a tremendous job keeping these boys and girls busy with one exciting activity or another. We feel sure each and every one of these young people enjoyed the good times and the friendly and guiding hand of their most enthusiastic advisor. Thanks Ray for a job well done.

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SUMMER LUAU SET FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 23.

Temple Rodef Shalom's summer Social Committee invites everyone to a barbecued chicken Luau at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Daniel J. Goldberg, 6600 25th St., Arlington, Va. The cost is \$4.00 per couple. For reservations, please call Mrs. Goldberg at 533-3435 or Mrs. Blum at 534-3415. Further details will be sent out in a special mailing.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note change of address for our members Duane & Linda Searles to 7307 Leesville Blvd., N. Springfield 22151. Telephone No. 256-8410.

TEMPLE WOMEN'S GROUP BECOMES
A SISTERHOOD!

President's Message

Our Women's Group has voted to become a member of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. In their letter welcoming us, the National Executive Director, Jane Evans, and the National President, Mrs. David M. Levitt, extend their good wishes to us. They state the goals of the organization in these words...

"In today's critical world, religiously motivated work which strengthens the individual and the group in all relationships, and perpetuates the social teachings of our prophets in both personal and communal affairs, is of the utmost significance. It is toward these ends that the educational efforts and programs of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods are directed."

The gavel which we shall receive is inscribed in memory of Mrs. Abram Simon of Washington, D. C., founding president of NFTS. It is a gift from the Sisterhood of the Washington Hebrew Congregation. A gavel is presented to all new Sisterhoods affiliating with NFTS.

I hope that the happiness and excitement that I felt upon reading this news will be shared by all, and that together we will continue to serve Temple Rodef Shalom as we expand our horizons in support of the program of NFTS.

--Harriet Epstein

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PAST PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Harold Silverstein
Mrs. William Bekenstein
Mrs. Bernard Zinman

1969-1970 Officers

PRESIDENT - Mrs. Harriet Epstein
560-4137
1st V. PRES. - Mrs. Joel Novak
356-0980
2nd V. PRES. - Mrs. Stuart Liss
560-5342
SECRETARY - Mrs. Richard Parnas
560-6146
TREASURER - Mrs. Adolph Bennett
560-6069

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Adult Education - Mrs. Gilbert Davis
Baby Sitters - Mrs. Richard Ruffine
Bake Sales - Mrs. Marvin Cantor
Bar Mitzvah - Mrs. Herman Fink
Bridge - Mrs. Lazard Seiff
Budget - Mrs. Adolph Bennett
Community Service - Mrs. Carl Checknoff
Cook Book - Mrs. Richard Cloth
Donor - Mrs. Robert Levine
Flower Fund - Mrs. William Bekenstein
Hospitality - Mrs. Barry Kernus
Judaica Shop - Mrs. Erna Frankel
Kitchen - Mrs. Harold Silverstein
Membership - Mrs. Arthur Brown
Oneg Shabbat - Mrs. Charles Stein
Program - (duties to be assumed by 2nd V.P. until replacement found)
Publicity - Mrs. Berton Rudin
Social - Mrs. Stanley Herman
Stationery - Mrs. Herman Fink
Sunshine - Mrs. Philip Rudin
Telephone - Mrs. Edgar Teitell
Uniongram - Mrs. Herbert Twynham
Ways & Means - Mrs. Paul Levine
Welcome - Mrs. Julian Hoptman
Parliamentarian - Mrs. Harvey Levin
Historian - Mrs. Armand Weiss
Board Member, Ex. Office - Mrs. Bernard Zinman
Representative to the Ecumenical Council of McLean - Mrs. Sidney Schmukler