

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO SPECIAL TEMPLE FUNDS:

IN APPRECIATION OF:

High Holiday Services
Services of Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks
Services of Rabbi Barry L. Weinstein

IN HONOR OF:

50th Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Micky Krupinsky
50th Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Iz Weiner

FOR THE RECOVERY OF:

Morris Braslau, Bea Cotter, Al Fiedler,
Armand Gilinsky, Dr. Dan Miller, Noni Selner,
Leo Sherman, Sherman Sperling.

IN MEMORY OF:

Max Belgrade, Michelle Graham, Harry Krantz, Irma Schwarz.

Early Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 25

A special service of Thanksgiving will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve in the Temple Chapel.

The special liturgy prayer service will be led by Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks, and will provide an opportunity for our college youth visiting home for the holiday, and all members of our Congregation, to offer a prayerful thanksgiving together with their families.

After the short service wine will be served in the foyer.

TEMPLE TIDINGS

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DATED MATERIAL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

19-12/3-10	Hebrew Classes — Bet	4:00 and 5:00 p.m.
20	Sabbath Evening Services	8:15 p.m.
21	Religious School	9:00 a.m.
21	Sabbath Morning Services	11:00 a.m.
22	Religious School	10:00 a.m.
22	Where Are We Leading the Next Generation — Workshop	11:00 a.m.
22-12/6	When Jews and Christians Marry — Workshop	11:00 a.m.
22-12/6	Studies in Judaism — Conversion	10:00 a.m.
23-30-12/7	Hebrew Classes — Aleph	4:00 and 5:00 p.m.
23-30-12/7	Hebrew Classes — Gimmel	4:00 p.m.
24-12/1-8	Hebrew Classes — Daled	4:00 p.m.
25	Coffee with Rabbi Brooks No. 4	10:00 a.m.
25	Early Thanksgiving Eve Service	5:30 p.m.
26	Hebrew Classes — Bet	Recess
	Resume 12/3	
27	Sabbath Evening Services	8:15 p.m.
28	Religious School	Recess
	Resume 12/5	
28	Sabbath Morning Services	11:00 a.m.
29	Religious School	Recess
	Resume 12/6	

DECEMBER

2	Coffee with Rabbi Brooks No. 5	10:00 a.m.
2	Confirmation dinner	6:00 p.m.
4	Sabbath Evening Services Sabbath Sermon Series No. 2	8:15 p.m.
5	Religious School	9:00 a.m.
5	Sabbath Morning Services	11:00 a.m.
6	Religious School	10:00 a.m.
7	Red Cross Bloodmobile at Temple	12:30-5:30 p.m.
9	Board of Trustees Meeting	7:30 p.m.

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Temple Israel *Tidings*



VOL. XXXII

November 20, 1981

NO. 5

IT SEEMS TO ME . . .

*A Personal Message
from Rabbi Brooks*

HALACHA — DOGMA — RULES

This is the place to share thoughts with you. At the outset, I confess that my attitude toward authoritarianism in its many forms is incomplete. But I am quite certain of some things at the moment.



I believe, for instance, that rigid rules, by whatever name, are the refuge of the insecure. This is not to say society can be without its regulatory laws. But often I think that were it not for a "rule" some people would feel threatened, would be unable to maintain an intellectual position or would be exposed to permanent indecision.

How do I know? I don't. But rigidity in the application of rules and laws has always frightened me, even when I was very young and could not have defined the problem.

This feeling of mine was reinforced recently when a mother told me of her son, a former student, now grown to young manhood, who was "turned off" to Judaism by a decision of mine. Of course, other factors undoubtedly entered into his rebellion but nevertheless he believes it was my error in adhering to a "rule" and that is all that matters. The truth is that now I agree

continued next page

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, November 20 Sabbath Evening Services
8:15 p.m.

**THE RABBI AND THE PASTOR
SPEAK FOR GOD!
.... A Response to Fundamentalism.**

RABBI SIDNEY H. BROOKS
Sabbath Coffee Hour

Saturday, November 21 Sabbath Morning Services
11:00 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of
LAURIE ELLEN ZOOB,
daughter of Mrs. Wendy Hahn and Mr. Barry Zoob

Wednesday, November 25 Thanksgiving Eve Service
5:30 p.m.

A SPECIAL PRAYER SERVICE

by

RABBI SIDNEY H. BROOKS
Informal Social Following

Friday, November 27 Sabbath Evening Services
8:15 p.m.

**CREATING A SHABBAT MOMENT —
— The Real Thanksgiving!**

RABBI BARRY L. WEINSTEIN
Sabbath Coffee Hour

Saturday, November 28 Sabbath Morning Services
11:00 a.m.

Friday, December 4 Sabbath Evening Services
8:15 p.m.

**SABBATH SERMON SERIES
JUDAISM VIEWS ITS ALTERNATIVES
II. ATHEISM — AGNOSTICISM**

RABBI BARRY L. WEINSTEIN
Sabbath Coffee Hour

It Seems to Me - cont'd

with him. I have learned. I feel sad because of my inflexibility more than twenty years ago. The rule served as my refuge and was the basis for my decision. In the process I helped to distort the thinking of a youngster toward Judaism.

So I look with real fear upon any inflexible rulings even those which are loosely designated Halacha, Jewish law. Because I know that the Halacha has built-in flexibility, a bending and adaptation which depends upon the interpreter of the law and the circumstance.

Two incidents in our area now coalesce in my mind. One is the furor over the rights of the church in Louisville, Nebraska where the minister says flatly that the State cannot require him to certify his teachers because God tells him so.

The other was an evening when I listened to an internationally recognized rabbinic scholar pontificate in absolute terms about Jewish medical ethics again as if God Himself made him the sole interpreter. He gave no consideration to quality of life, circumstance, pain, anguish. These he said were "very complex" issues as if we were not able to understand should he attempt to explain.

My point: dogmatic thinking is the protection of the insecure. We need rules of life. We need the mitzvot, the halacha, the standards that are accepted to make life meaningful, creative, decent.

But in the process, beware. There are no final rules. There is no immutable truth for all circumstances.

There is still no exemption from learning to think.

That is why I am a liberal. That's why I am a Reform Jew.

Studies in Judaism

Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks and Rabbi Barry L. Weinstein will conduct "Studies in Judaism" Sunday mornings, November 22 and December 6, for prospective converts and interested students.

These will be the third and fourth sessions in a series planned to further understanding of Jewish thought and practice, and to discuss comparisons with Christianity.

Sessions are from 10:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 5
11:00 a.m.

Sabbath Morning Services

Bat Mitzvah of
PATRICE SCHMIDMAN,
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Schmidman

When Jews and Christians Marry

On Sundays, November 22 and December 6 at 11:00 a.m. Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks and Rabbi Barry L. Weinstein will conduct the last two sessions in the current series of "When Jews and Christians Marry," an in-depth discussion of inter-faith marriage.

Inter-faith couples and any interested congregants are invited to join in these sessions, which will cover topics of major concern to participants in inter-faith marriages. Sitter service is available.

Coffee with the Rabbi

Temple Israel Sisterhood will present the last two sessions of its current series of "Coffee with the Rabbi" at 10:00 a.m., Wednesdays, November 25 and December 2.

Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks will lead the informal discussions of local issues, current events and trends and issues in Jewish affairs, entitled "Keeping Current Jewishly."

RED CROSS
BLOODMOBILE
TEMPLE ISRAEL

December 7, 1981
12:30-5:30 p.m.

Where Are We Leading The Next Generation?

The concluding session of this series, "Where Are We Leading the Next Generation?" will be held at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, November 22 at Temple.

Parents are invited to attend this discussion, which will present the question: "How wide or narrow is our 'Jewishness'?" Interdating, intermarriage, loyalty to the State of Israel, and holiday observance will be discussed, and the rabbis will explain the religious principles covering these issues.

Sitter Service is available.

CONGRATULATIONS

ON THE WEDDING OF:

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis L. Kotrba. Mrs. Kotrba is the former Marsha Fox, daughter of Mrs. Philip Fox; Mr. Kotrba is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin J. Kotrba.

ON THE BIRTH OF:

Ryan David, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tichauer. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tichauer and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Maurer.

David Arthur, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Saylan. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Milton Saylan and Mrs. Edythe Friedman, St. Louis. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jack Saylan.

ON THE ENGAGEMENT OF:

Mary A. Robinson and Kirk H. Maser. Mary is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey A. Roffman; Kirk is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley J. Maser, Lincoln.

Rochelle Alloy and Richard Fox. Rochelle is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Alloy; Richard is the son of Mrs. Philip Fox.

Marguerite Jeany Pappenheimer and Robert M. Soshnik. Marguerite is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pappenheimer; Robert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Soshnik.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Temple Israel would like to send you TEMPLE TIDINGS, and if you would please give us your name and college address, we will do so.

Student _____

College _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Temple Office
7023 Cass St., Omaha, Ne. 68132

We will also furnish a complimentary subscription to SH'MA.

REFLECTIONS . . .

Rabbi Barry L. Weinstein

IF THERE WERE DREAMS TO SELL

Would you dream with me about . . .

A new conception of the Sabbath, Festivals and Jewish life solidly based on the Jewish past we inherit, but looking forward to a future marked by a richer, more fulfilling life for us as Reform Jews?

The creation of a more enlightened understanding of the Bible, its stories and legends, as a Book written by humans in search of the Divine, a source of continued wonder and inspiration?

A time when the word "religion" will help us find even greater meaning and hope in life, rather than be associated solely with ritual?

The day when parents and children will learn as one, both at religious school and at home, in a shared journey through the beauty and wisdom of Jewish teachings?

An understanding of the fact that freedom ought to prompt us to deepen our knowledge of who we are as Jews, so that our future and that of our children as Jews will be secure?

A time when the prayers we speak will help each of us look deeper within, embracing life and its limitations, yet seeking energetically the Eternal and holy in life?

The conquest of war, racism, hunger, bigotry, and superstition as the result of our collective mitzvot, the fulfillment of the Messianic dream?

The quiet evening at home, sheltered from the stresses that surround, the chance to listen to those closest to us, sharing life at its best?

The time when anxiety will be lessened, restlessness be diminished, so that moment by moment we may welcome Shabbat, and with it triumph over anguish and despair?

Dare to dream with me. Then together we will have abundant dreams to sell. We can make them come true as we create that kind of authentically religious life for us and our children that will preserve Judaism for days to come.



The New

Torah Commentary!

A milestone in the development of Reform Judaism has occurred with the publication by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations of THE TORAH: A MODERN COMMENTARY. This magnificent volume is the first Reform commentary on the Five Books of Moses.

This publication marks the culmination of more than one hundred years of Reform Judaism in America, with its many contributions to scholarship and religious thought. It is truly a liberal religious Torah commentary.

Orthodoxy believes that the Torah was literally given to Moses on Sinai, as was the oral law, the interpretation of Torah. Reform Judaism views the Torah not unlike the other books of Scripture, as written by men striving to know God and in this process touched by God's spirit. Everything that Reform Judaism has done, all the changes it has made to keep Judaism alive and vibrant, flows from this fundamental divergence.

THE TORAH — A MODERN COMMENTARY, includes commentaries on the books of Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy by Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, rabbi emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto. The late Rabbi Bernard J. Bamberger authored the Leviticus commentary.

Incorporating the Jewish Publication Society translation of the Bible, the Torah commentary includes the Haftarat, the Hebrew text, explanatory footnotes, bibliography, maps, and introductory essays on the ancient Near East by Prof. William Hallo of Yale. Though the commentary follows the traditional order, it also features certain innovative subdivisions that give recognition to the content of Scripture, dividing it according to certain narratives and themes more appealing to the modern reader.

The NEW TORAH COMMENTARY is a work of great value to adult education and will find a place in every Reform Jewish home as well as the classroom. We believe you will want to make this splendid work part of your home library as soon as possible. It will be available in our Temple Sisterhood Gift shop. Please call the Temple to secure your personal copy.

Handwork in Gift Shop

We now have beautiful needlepoint canvases in the Gift Shop. Also there are wonderful cross stitch and embroidery items for sale. Just ask in the Temple Office and they will take you into our new Gift Shop. Joyce Schmidman and Bev Gilinsky have beautiful new things for Chanukah Gifts or gifts for any occasion.

We need

MEN

to pick-up
books in
NOVEMBER

for

Temple Israel

Sisterhood

Book Sale

Call

Dodie Redler

393-6665

!!! ATTENTION !!! New Temple Members

We are so sorry, but because we have been working on a new roster and the office is setting up a new computer, we may have slipped up and not contacted you about Temple Sisterhood.

We would very much like to have the women at Temple belong to Sisterhood so they can enjoy the many benefits we have to offer. If you have not been contacted and would like to join, please call Terri Zacharia at 333-0739. We hope to contact all of you, but if we don't, please let us know!

GIFTS OF PRAYER BOOKS

IN MEMORY OF:
Irma B. Schwarz

IN HONOR OF:
50th Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Micky Krupinsky

**NEWS DEADLINE FOR
TIDINGS ISSUE NO. 6
WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 25, 1981
This issue will cover
December 11, 18, 25**