

Cantor and Mrs. Manfred F. Kuttner
will be honored at a dinner
on the occasion of their
10th anniversary
with Temple Israel
Sunday, January 9, 1972
Highland Country Club

Cocktails 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Adults \$3.50

Children under 12 \$2.00

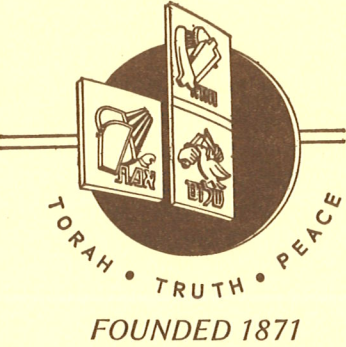
RSVP to Temple Israel
Check must accompany reservation

THOSE WISHING TO HONOR CANTOR AND MRS. KUTTNER MAY DO SO
BY SENDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ORGAN FUND

TEMPLE TIDINGS
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VOL. XXII December 17, 1971 No. 8

JUDAISM'S RELEVANCY
DISCUSSED AT FORUM

At the recent National Biennial of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Miss Ann Yaffe was a registered delegate representing Temple Israel.

She is the President of our Temple Youth Group. Miss Yaffe spoke at a forum on the subject "How Can Reform Judaism and the Synagogue Be More Relevant for Jewish Youth?"

Her remarks were so beautifully phrased and logically presented that I want to share the following excerpts of her presentation with you.

Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks

"The youth of today's troubled society is undergoing a much publicized change — a change which seems to direct itself towards a definite awareness of the need for self-realization and an attempt to find the real person within each emerging individual. Accompanying this revival of self-awareness and introspection is a trend towards an

(Continued on page 4)

SIDNEY H. BROOKS, M.H.L., D.D.
Rabbi

Barry L. Weinstein, M.A.H.L.
Assistant Rabbi

Manfred F. Kuttner,
Cantor

SCHEDULE OF SABBATH SERVICES

Friday Evening, December 17 8:15 p.m.

Tenth Annual Presentation
of Handel's
JUDAS MACCABEUS

Director: Cantor Manfred F. Kuttner
Narrator: Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks
Organist: Esther DuBoff
Soloists: Robert Dean, Fred Hole,
Dorothy Caskey, Pat Lee
Musicians: from the Omaha Symphony Orchestra
Choirs: Augmented Temple Israel Adult Choir,
Religious School Choir

Sabbath Coffee Hour
Guests are welcome

Saturday Morning, December 18 11:00 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah of
REX PERLMETER
son of
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley E. Perlmeter

Friday Evening, December 24 8:15 p.m.

AN INNOVATIVE
SERVICE OF
SHABBAT WORSHIP
Your comments and reactions welcome at the
Oneg Shabbat following services

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI BROOKS . . .

I do not know whether I need to remind you that this year Christmas Eve and New Years Eve fall on Shabbat, or vice-versa.

In any case I would hope most sincerely and remind you to consider very deeply where your primary identity lies.

I suggest this problem not only in reference to the example set for our young people, but for you yourselves.

Can we really maintain self respect if the usual “partying” customary on these evenings pre-empt the sanctity and the observance of our Sabbath with worship at our Temple.

To the contrary I would think that for many of us who have children at home on vacation to bring them to services on Shabbat Eve, December 24, and December 31, would be richly rewarding as a family experience. On both these occasions we will be using a form of worship which is innovative and experimental. It will speak the language of today within the idealistic context of our tradition.

It is my hope that the ideas voiced in these services will give you something to think about and provide a meaningful conversation between the younger and older generation.

I hope you will be at worship with your family on these and all Sabbaths. But above all I hope that you will remain true to what you know is authentically your own personal identity as Jews.

Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks, D.D.

TEMPLE ISRAEL FUNDS
NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Your contributions to the various Temple Funds aid immeasurably in helping us meet the many teaching and cultural needs of our congregation. Without your generosity many projects would be curtailed.

Gifts may be made to:

- Art Beautification Fund (Sisterhood)
- Cantor's Discretionary Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Educational Fund
- Temple Future Fund
- Harold Garber Memorial Fund
- Heritage-Museum Fund
- Library Fund
- Edna and Adolf Mayer Memorial Fund
- NFTY Fund Temple Youth Group Organ Fund
- Charles Rosenstock Memorial Fund
- Gifts of Inscribed Prayerbooks

THANK YOU

Sincere thanks from Cantor and Mrs. Manfred F. Kuttner for the Giant Uniongram they received in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary. They both want the Congregation to know that they greatly appreciate the many good wishes extended to them on this occasion.

OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS
IDEAS ON BOARD'S MOTION

At the Board of Trustees meeting on December 8, 1971, the following motion was presented for consideration: That we permit the serving of liquor as well as wine or champagne at Congregational functions and weddings exclusive of Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. (At present only wine and champagne may be served.)

The Board decided to delay the vote until their January meeting to give their members sufficient time to carefully weigh the pros and cons that were presented.

Members of the congregation are invited to express their thoughts on this issue by writing the Board of Trustees c/o Temple Israel.

ATTENTION
PARENTS OR
GRANDPARENTS

Do you have children of voting age?

If so, please remind them to register to vote with a deputy of the Board of Elections at the new main entrance of Westside High School on December 29, from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

“IF YOU WERE IN OUR
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL . . .”

By Rabbi Barry L. Weinstein

Who lights the Hanukah candles in your home?

If you are aware of an important Jewish tradition, the youngest member of your family will have blessed the Hanukah candles.

You might ask why.

Asking this question myself, I discover that the Hebrew word Hanukah coincidentally derives from the same root as does the word “education.”

Just as the youngest member of our families has the responsibility of lighting the Hanukah candles, so you and I are responsible for that child's Jewish education.

In transmitting this thought to our teachers I was prompted to also share it with each of you. As our Hanukah Celebration draws to a close, we are impelled by the beauty of the candles to search for creative ways of educating our children. With the same joy we may they bless our Hanukah candles, may they seek knowledge of Judaism in our school. Just as they anticipate each night of Hanukah, may they grow to anticipate each moment in our school.

In this way, Hanukah takes on even deeper meaning. Not only will it signify the re-dedication of the Temple, but also our own rededication of ourselves to a rewarding Jewish education for each of our children.

Everything You Want to Know
About Your Synagogue . . .

Your Rabbis Will Tell You!

The Men's Club of Temple Israel will present a special breakfast at 10:30 A.M., Sunday, December 19. Rabbi Brooks and Rabbi Weinstein will be present to describe significant but little known aspects of our Temple. Be sure to join with the Men's Club on December 19 to discover everything you wanted to know about your synagogue!

OUR SYMPATHY

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of

SADIE COHEN,
Nebraska City
mother of
Mrs. Harry B. Cohen

SAMUEL EISEN,
Chicago
father of Dr. James Eisen

ESTHER KLEIN JACOBS,
Waterloo, Iowa
mother of Mrs. James Lemson

and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

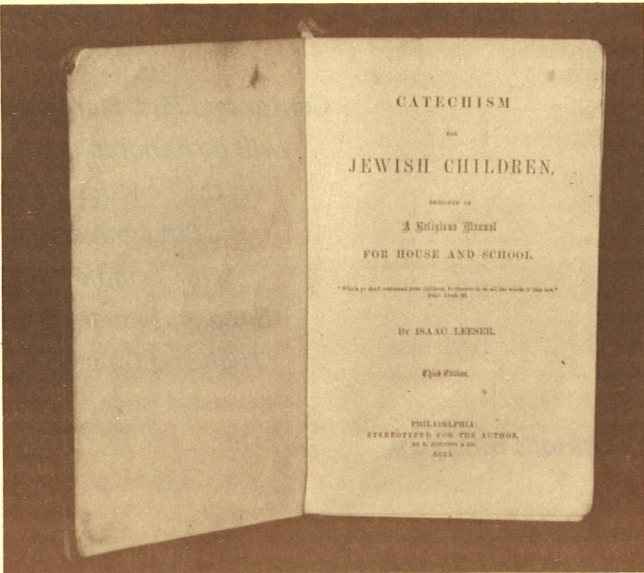
WHAT ARE WE EXPECTING?

What does a person expect to attain when entering a Synagogue? In the pursuit of learning one goes to a library; for aesthetic enrichment one goes to the art museum; for pure music, to the concert. What then is the purpose of going to the Synagogue?

Many are the facilities which help us to acquire the important wordly virtues, skills and techniques. But where should one learn about the insights of the spirit? Many are the opportunities for public speech; where are the occasions for inner silence? It is easy to find people to teach us how to be eloquent; but who shall teach us how to be still? It is surely important to develop a sense of humor; but is it also important to have a sense of reverence?

To attain a degree of spiritual security one cannot rely upon one's own resources. One needs an atmosphere where the concern for the spirit is shared by a community. We are in need of students and scholars, masters and specialists. But we need also the company of witnesses, of human beings who are engaged in worship, who for a moment senses the truth that life is meaningless without attachment to God.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel



RARE ITEMS IN TEMPLE ISRAEL'S MUSEUM — XXXVI

Since the ideal of learning is so characteristically Jewish, it is natural that the Jews were known as the AM HASEFER, the people of the book. Specific emphasis was always laid upon the instruction in the Bible, Talmud and Jewish history.

A very unique book is *A Catechism for Jewish Children*, the first Jewish Sunday School Book. It was written by Isaac Leeser (1806-1868), rabbi, translator and leader of American Jewry. Together with Rebecca Graetz, he founded the first Jewish congregational Sunday School.

We are indebted to Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Weil who loaned this rare book to our Museum.

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO SPECIAL TEMPLE FUNDS:

IN HONOR OF:
Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity to Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks
Birthday of Harold Cherniack
Birthday of Philip Feldman
Birthday of Nathan E. Jacobs
25th Anniversary of Cantor and Mrs. Manfred F. Kuttner
50th Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Morris
Marriage of Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Pred

FOR RECOVERY OF:
Lawrence Kavich
IN MEMORY OF:
Sadie Cohen, Mel Evidon, Sadie

Gitlin, Jacob Goldware, Tibbie Harris, Louis C. Isaacson, Leon S. Kopald — Yahrzeit, Mary Rabiner, Etta Rosen, Morris Rosenstein — Yahrzeit, Mother of Mrs. Howard Ross, Father of Jules Stiffel, Rose Stogel.

GIFTS OF INSCRIBED
PRAYER BOOKS

IN MEMORY OF:
Mary Meyerson, Yahrzeit
Mel Evidon
Sara K. Zevin, Yahrzeit

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | | |
|------|----|---|------------|
| Dec. | 15 | Coffee with the Rabbi | 10:00 a.m. |
| | 15 | Social Concern Committee Meeting — Temple Social Hall | 8:00 p.m. |
| | 20 | The following will not meet during the winter recess: | |
| Jan. | 2 | Religious School
Confirmation Classes
Hebrew Classes
Nursery School
Coffee with the Rabbi | |
| Jan. | 3 | Classes resume as scheduled | |

ANN YAFFE DISCUSSES RELEVANCY, CHANGE, HOPE

(Continued from page 1)

almost “faddish” interest in the mystical Eastern religions; an obsession with the occult, and the astrological implication of the mysterious forces beyond.

“It seems that the youth of today are searching for new ideas; ideas which previous religious experience has been deficient in stimulating. Youth are seeking a ‘goal, a god, or a gimmick’ — and seem to be finding solutions for their individual identity problems in the Eastern religions — an infatuation which may not stand the test which life and its subsequent problems will undoubtedly administer.

“Most of the attractive concepts which surround this infatuation with Eastern religions may be found in Judaism — specifically Jewish mysticism. Many Jewish youths have rejected Judaism out of ignorance; having been exposed to a Jewish education which perhaps only included a brief knowledge of Bible stories and a realization of the existence of the Ten Commandments; and subsequently never provided them with the opportunity to intensely study the many fascinating concepts that Judaism has to offer. Perhaps the religious schools have not fully accepted their intrinsic responsibilities to give each student this opportunity for in-depth study.

“The possibilities for change in Reform Judaism can easily be seen through possible revisions in the synagogue structure, in the worship structure, and in the religious school structure, as well as in an examination of the immensely successful national youth groups.

“The synagogue traditionally has three basic functions — as a house of study, as a house of worship, and as a house of assembly . . . The synagogue as a house of study needs re-emphasizing, for study is perhaps one of the most intrinsic desires of every Jew . . .

“Worship also needs vast revision, for worship services should be loose enough to allow the individual to realize his own unique

worship experience potential, and structured enough to allow a sense of community within the public worship concept . . .

“There is also a need for change within the religious school structure . . . Possibly a more viable system would be to teach basic ethics and the cultural aspects of Judaism to the early grades, giving young children an instinctive Jewish identity, and making them proud to be a Jew. The later years of religious instruction should be reserved for deeper and more intense Judaic study . . .

“To me, the most important and relevant means of the synagogue’s attempt to solve the many problems which threaten its very existence, is the youth group . . . Youth group programming ideally, and usually realistically, makes Judaism relevant for its members. It provides the reasons why — the answers to many questions concerning our Jewish identity . . .

“We are deeply committed to social action, because as Jews, it is our duty to strive for the perfection of mankind. We emphasize study, because as Jews, we feel that through knowledge and learning we can become closer to God. We unite together, because as Jews, we feel an identification with our heritage.

“Within the youth group is provided a Jewish environment for all activities, giving the student a basis for further Jewish study.

“The youth group could be considered a meter of change and progress in Reform Judaism today. Within the youth group I feel a trend, ironically, towards traditionalism; for example, the Union Prayer Book is being used with more frequency, and with more relevancy than I was inclined to think it capable of. Judaism, as seen through youth group, is more, much, much more than just a religion . . . for many youth have discovered a sincere desire to live Judaism, as a full and rewarding life . . .

“The youth of today are constantly searching for new concepts . . . Youth must be given the chance through the synagogue and its related organizations to see Judaism as the beautiful and responsive religion I firmly believe it to be . . .

“Hopefully, Judaism will be able to grow, develop and change to fit the needs of those who love and care for it. Reform Judaism has become one of the most important guiding forces of the direction of my life. I was lucky enough to have my blindfold removed so I could see the light which Judaism can be.

“The responsibility of the synagogue today and its youth tomorrow is to remove the blindfold of ignorance from the minds of generations to come, so that they too can say with pride — I AM A JEW!!!”

Ann Yaffe
November 3, 1971

ADULT EDUCATION SEMINAR TO BE HELD JANUARY 11

A special invitation has been extended by the Beth El Sisterhood to members of the Temple Sisterhood to attend their Adult Education Seminar on Tuesday, January 11, 1972.

Subject of the all day program is “Focus on the Family” with Emphasis on Childhood to Teenage (Dilemmas, Seductions and Overwhelming Pressures.) After morning study groups led by experts and a luncheon, Rabbi Stanley Schachter of Chicago will discuss “The Jewish Approach.”

For additional information contact Mrs. Rosalie Grad, 397-1951.

HONORED AT SABBATH SERVICES	
November 26, 1971	
Candle Blessing . . .	Mrs. Ajon Farber
Kiddush	Herbert Weil
Torah Blessing . . .	Walter Gottlieb
Torah Blessing . .	Richard Gummers
December 3, 1971	
Candle Blessing .	Mrs. Joseph Lincoln
Kiddush	Joseph D. Lincoln
Torah Blessing	Irving Lincoln
Torah Blessing	Sol Friedman

COLLEGE STUDENTS: ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Eighteen year olds! College Students! Here is your opportunity to register for the 1972 elections. As you know, Rabbi and Mrs. Brooks have invited you to their home for their annual homecoming reception, Wednesday evening, December 29.

On your way to their home, stop by Westside High School. A deputy of the Board of Elections will be awaiting you in the new main entrance from 5:00-8:00 p.m., December 29. He will then register you to vote.

This registration will enable you to vote by mail or in person.

Now that you have been given the privilege of voting, be sure to take this opportunity to register.

The arrangements for your registration have been made by the special Voter Registration Sub-Committee of our Social Concern Committee. Mrs. Milton Waldbaum is chairman of this Sub-Committee.

THANKS FROM —

Martin Vann and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Vann, for Uniongrams received in honor of his recent Bar Mitzvah.

Yahrzeits

Kaddish will be recited for the following departed loved ones whose names are inscribed for perpetual tribute on the Memorial Tablets of our Congregation:

December 17, 1971

Florence Slosburg
Rose Sommer
Rosa Beber
Samuel Livingston
Carolina Cahn
Emma Steinberg
Fannie Block Kuh

December 24, 1971

Moritz Sachs
Grace Rosenthal Lapidus
Julius Newman
Sue Bleicher
Lena G. Wolowitz
Edward Gilbert
Martin A. Gluckman
Charles Schimmel
Libbie Moskovitz

Temple Youth Group's Mystical Weekend Judged A Great Success



Youth Groupers enjoy a song fest at the Fall Conclavette.

Our Temple Youth Group's Fall Conclavette excited and enlightened 130 delegates from MOVFTY's Western sub-region. The theme of Jewish mysticism created an extraordinary feeling of unity, spirit, and cooperation among the participants.

Formal presentations dealt with different aspects of Jewish mysticism. Informal discussion groups delved beneath the surface of Jewish mysticism, helping the youth groupers discover the significance of Jewish mystical thought for themselves in today's world.

Individual "chagigot," or workshops, on music, yoga, candlemaking, and further mystical studies made the youth groupers aware of related aspects of mysticism. Interspersed throughout the weekend, which extended from November 25 to 28, was exciting

songleading and the compilation of a newspaper on the Conclavette's theme.

Included in the Conclavette, held at Kellog Center in Lincoln, were creative Thanksgiving and Sabbath services, written and presented by the youth groupers themselves. Even the Faculty presented their own special mystic experience, setting the mood for joyous singing and dancing.

The final banquet Saturday evening brought the conference to a warm and moving conclusion.

Our congregation can be justifiably proud of the excellent manner in which our own Youth Group hosted other youth groupers from throughout our sub-region. Memories of the success of this function will long be with everyone who was fortunate enough to attend.

Congratulations . . .

On the Birth of —

Allison Elizabeth Kohll, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jarold L. Kohll. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Tretiak and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald P. Cohn.

PULPIT FLOWERS

November 26, 1971
In honor of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Goodman by Susan and Dale Garber.

December 3, 1971
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Robert Stephen Lincoln, by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Lincoln.