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"Prayer and Exaltation: Is Something Wrong?" 28 January 1955.

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The Temple Bulletin

OF
Congregation Emanu-El B'ne
Jeshurun

Milwaukee 11, Wisconsin

Vol. 22, No. 10

January 26, 1955

Shebat 3, 5715

Sabbath Services

Friday Evening, January 28, at 8 o'clock

RABBI HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN

will speak on:

"PRAYER AND EXALTATION"

Is Something Wrong?

Friday Evening, February 4, at 8 o'clock

RABBI HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN

will speak on:

"EDUCATION"

Just for the Child?

Sabbath Morning Services

11:15 a.m.

Saturday Morning, January 29, at 11:15 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah of Jeffrey Clark Kasch

son of

Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Kasch

THE TEMPLE BULLETIN

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Kaddish List

(Taken from Memorial Tablets)

January 28

Adelheid Hauser Nathan Pereles
Isaac L. Kripke Joseph Polacheck
Edward Mahler Solomon Sandels
Isaac M. Strauss

February 4

Charney Chier Henrienna Litt
Irma Rosenberg Glassner Sidney Pollak
Hannah Housman Jacob Rindskopf

SERMON NOTES

"PRAYER AND EXALTATION" Is Something Wrong?

January 28

Prayer was once a natural and vital part of the lives of our people. A blessing was recited over every important act; collective prayer evoked the deepest emotions; spontaneous thanksgiving sprang to the lips after moments of crisis or danger. Children were taught the language of prayer and adults expressed themselves un-self-consciously.

These facts and moods seem to be different today. It is really important to discover the reasons for the change. Some complain about the monotony of the Union Prayer Book and urge greater experimentation. Others suggest that there has been too much experimentation and urge a return to the traditional prayer book. Still others call for an analysis of the psychology of our times, which may be antagonistic to prayer altogether.

The Biennial Assembly of the Union will conduct discussions on this whole subject. Let us join in some preliminary thinking.

H.A.F.

"EDUCATION" Just for the Child?

February 4

Jewish education must lead to information and knowledge, but must also produce good character, ethical conscience and adjusted personality. There is no subject matter better designed to achieve these objectives than the Bible. Our religious education must focus around this basic textbook. A study of the history of our people will quickly reveal the lesson of Israel's solidarity. Knowledge of Hebrew is indispensable for appreciation of the Bible, the prayer book, and for contact with the world Jewish community.

These three items of our curriculum, Bible, history and Hebrew, constitute the rock upon which Jewish survival in America will be firmly based.

But are these to be taught to the children alone? Does Jewish education end at high school? Are not adults doubly obligated to learn? Is it not time to train a generation of parents as well as children?

H.A.F.

MEN'S CLUB MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Temple Vestry — Served by the Sisterhood

Monday Noon, February 7, 1955, at 12 o'clock

Reservations \$1.25 per plate

Call ED. 2-9850

Rabbi Friedman will lead the discussion

INSTITUTE OF ADULT STUDIES

Tuesday Evening, February 1,
at 8 o'clock

Fifth Session in the series

"IMMORTAL JEWISH PERSONALITIES"

The four instructors, Dr. Alfred Bader,
Rabbi Friedman, Rabbi David Shapiro and
Dr. Weil, will appear in a panel on

"THE DILEMMA"

A social hour will follow

Weekly sessions will recess until
March 1, 1955

THE MEN'S CLUB AND SISTERHOOD

will present

Arthur Honegger's great
lyrical Cantata

"KING DAVID"

SUN. AND MON. EVENINGS,

JAN. 30-31 at 8:15 o'clock

Produced by

Cantor Sol Altschuller

Mr. Milton Rusch, Director of
Music, Wisconsin State College
will direct the orchestra and
chorus

Admission by Card Only

Article on Israel in HOLIDAY Magazine

Dear Friends:

I have just read a most wonderful article on Israel in the February issue of *Holiday* magazine. It is a warm and friendly story, written from the human interest point of view. The author is Joan Comay, wife of Israel's present Ambassador to Canada. She describes the experiences of a wife and mother during the difficult days of Israel's War of Independence. Her account makes history come to life.

The illustrations in color are splendid. They give a beautiful view of the country and should do much to stimulate a desire to travel to Israel.

Very rarely do I bring to your attention articles in contemporary magazines, but *Holiday* has prepared such an outstanding presentation that I would not want you to miss it. I know you will thrill to it much as I did.

Rabbi Friedman

RABBINICAL SELECTION COMMITTEE

A committee to select our new Rabbi has been appointed by Mr. E. R. Prince, President of the Congregation. The committee consists of Mrs. Norman Abrahams, Mrs. Charles T. Cohen, Mr. Charles L. Goldberg, Mr. Herman A. Mosher, Dr. Maurice Ostrow, Mr. Allan Polacheck, Mr. Oscar A. Rozoff, Mr. B. F. Saltzstein and Mr. E. R. Prince.

The committee has already held several meetings of orientation and survey as well as several interviews. The committee welcomes suggestions from members of the Congregation, which it would appreciate in the form of letters to the committee, care of Miss Lillian Friedman at the Temple office.

FLOWERS FOR OUR ALTAR

The Sisterhood Floral Fund is in receipt of the following contributions:

IN HONOR OF:

25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Amdur
Birthday of Mrs. Lena Pasch
Birthday of Mrs. Ben Feld
Bar Mitzvah of Barry Parker
Bar Mitzvah of Thomas Blumberg
Bar Mitzvah of Jeffrey Kasch

IN MEMORY OF:

George Braunfeld
Sophie Blondy
Nathan Sondel
Bertha Auerhaim Cohn
Emmanuel Scheinfeld
Leo J. Kohn
Ida Edith Schwartz

A LITERARY TREAT!

Sisterhood's Second Book Review and Coffee Hour
MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 7, 1955, at 8:30 O'CLOCK
in the Community Hall

RABBI HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN

will review

"THE WORCESTER ACCOUNT" by S. N. BEHRMAN

Mr. Behrman is co-author of the current Broadway smash-hit
"FANNY"

Seventy-five cents per person includes refreshments

The Sisterhood Library Circle is sponsoring this series, proceeds of which
will be used to purchase books for the Temple Library.

ATTENTION — SISTERHOOD MEMBERS!

ANNUAL JOINT INTRA-FAITH MEETING

Sisterhoods of all Temples and Council of Jewish Women
Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 8, 1955 at 12:30 o'clock

Temple Beth El Ner Tamid
3725 North Sherman Boulevard

DESSERT LUNCHEON

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1. Self-satisfied man does not pray - does not need to.
 Healthy, wealthy, wise - has everything - ^{not} humble.

2. People in self-satisfied era do not pray -
 19th century confidence in science, progress, etc.

3. World today is insecure - There is a new
 concern with finding a source of inner strength.

4. Yet a revival of interest in religion does not make
 easier the matter of prayer, which is faced with
 intellectual problems:

is prayer efficacious - in restoring health, altering nature ?
 doesn't an Omnipotent God understand our needs, our fears ?
 Can we hope to petition Him or gain anything by praising Him ?

5. "Pure olive oil beaten" - olives beaten and produce best oil. Jews were beaten + lifted their voices to God through tragedy and bruising of the soul.

6. They did not become cynical. Their sorrows, luckily, came mainly after they had fashioned their religious outlook. As a people with a great devotional literature (psalms, etc.) and as a people delivered from overly confident self-satisfaction and smugness by many misfortunes, they became the world's pious in prayer.

7. Today we have lost:

The posture of prayer (we sit motionless and over-fed)
The language of prayer
The mood of prayer

8. These matters must be restudied - to see if we can reclaim the art of prayer.

Some of the items which will be presented to the Biennial for study and action are the following:

In this spirit the following recommendations are offered for
the consideration of our congregations and of our Biennial
Assembly:

1. Clearly we do not know enough about the causes, historical and contemporary, of our basic problem. A full-scale study should be undertaken at once by the Union of the extent to which our people pray, of their concept of prayer, and of their own ideas concerning their religious needs.

2. Our Union and our congregations should undertake seriously to re-emphasize the Jewish belief in the sanctity of the Sabbath as a day of rest, meditation, prayer, and refreshment of soul, not only by means of temple worship, but most particularly in our homes.

3. We should intensify our efforts to experiment creatively in the field of public and home worship, following the example of NFTY, and with equal emphasis on the needs of children, youth, and adults.

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4. In our religious schools we must intensify the training of our children in worship, both public and individual.

5. We must guide our homes in the establishment and extension of a pattern of regular worship daily, on the Sabbath, and on all holy days and festivals.

6. We should encourage the extension of the successful Family Worship Services which have been the practice of many congregations. The Union should provide materials and ideas for the conduct of these services.

7. The meaning and function of prayer, an understanding of the prayerbook and of ceremonial forms, an insight into the Jewish heritage of worship must be made available to all our members. The Union should undertake at once to expand its program of publications and study courses for children, youth, and adults in this vital field.

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9. Following are some of ^{Leo Baeck's} ~~any~~ observations about prayer:

- a.) Prayer is based on tension - cannot exist in complacency. Tension exists between the fear of God and the love of Him, between the near and the far, between close sense of possession of God and distant aloofness toward Him.
- b.) Prayer is based on submission & trust - for good or for evil. "Be not like one of the idolaters: when all goes well with him, he honors his gods, but if misfortune overcomes him, he curses them. Not so with the Israelites. If God sends them happiness, they bless Him; and if God afflicts them with sorrow, they bless Him."
- Job (2:10) - "Shall we receive good at the hand of God and shall we not receive evil?"

⑦
c) Prayer is able to provide seclusion and loneliness, even in a crowded world (synagogue). We must be able to get away from other men. Plunging oneself into prayer, allows us to be alone.

d) Prayer provides an opportunity for atonement and purification.

e) Prayer provides an opportunity for gratitude.

f) Prayer is ~~an~~ a vehicle for expressing brotherhood, for most prayers include all men in their embrace. When we seek peace, under God, we are united with our brothers of the human race. Love means not to hate. "Rejoice not when thine enemy falls and let not thine heart be glad when he is overthrown." (Prov. 24:17)

10. Most important of all, prayer is inadequate (8)
if it remains mere verbalizing. It must lead to
a way of life. A mood of religious emotion
is not religion itself - as prayer is not religion
itself. Judaism teaches that religion is the fulfillment
of life, the practice of life. The religious mood
is able to raise one to the religious life.

Thus, the purpose of prayer is not to beg, propitiate,
thank, or even commune - but rather to uplift
and enable and inspire toward religious conduct.

To that end, I would suggest daily minyan service.
Let the Biennial study - let everyone experiment -
let us get back into the mood - let us try
to make prayer meaningful, knowing that even prayer
is just a stepping-stone to the good life.