

Temple

Shabbat Shalom

Volume 5, Issue 2

Summer 5765/2005

The “Global Village” Congregation

Shalom and Blessings

Following are excerpts from a book I recommend for your summer reading.

The Woman Who Laughed at God

The Untold History of the Jewish People

By Jonathan Kirsh

Viking 2001 BM 157.k55

Sarah laughed with God not at God. Other than this confusing title I highly recommend this book.

As explained in our previous newsletter we at Temple Shabbat Shalom do not consider Christians non-Israelites. We identify with Sarah and Abraham as our greatest grandparents and are therefore extended family. We serve the same God and Christianity proclaims that Deuteronomy 6 and Leviticus 19:18 “Love your neighbor as yourself” are the “Greatest Commandment”.

Mixed Marriages

Excerpts from pages 55-56

The Law of Moses condemns intermarriage with non-Israelites in general and Canaanites in particular: “Thou shalt make no covenant with them, neither shall thou make marriages with them,” God says. “Thy daughters thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.” And the ban in intermarriages touches one of the hot buttons of both biblical theology and Jewish tradition, then and now: “For he will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods,” God explains. “So will anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and he will destroy thee quickly” (Deut. 7:2-4)

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Other Congregational News

A Special Thank you to the Taksen Family for their generous donation in Loving Memory of Philip, a loving husband, son and brother. He will live forever in a special place in each of our hearts.

Thank you to Jim and Sandra Shuster:

On their generous donation in honor of the birth of their son Evan Hayes

Thank-you to David and Michelle Rosenhaus:

On their generous donation in honor of the birth of their son Andrew Brian

Thank you to Elissa and Gary Eichen:

On their generous donation in honor of the birth of Luke Maclean

Thank-you to Evelyn and Joel Good;

For their generous donation in honor of their one year anniversary

Thank-you to Bill and Amy Brender:

For their generous donation and continued support of Temple Shabbat Shalom

Thank-you to Roger and Laura Thompson:

For their generous donation in honor of the birth of their son Jacob

Mazel Tov to our Newest Newlyweds:

Jolie & Robert Smith, Chelsea & Nick Amato, Jennifer & Jason Lynch, Irv & Dorothy Goldman

Mazel Tov on our newest bundles of Joy:

Jim and Sandra Shuster on the birth of Evan Hayes on January 1

Adam and Megan Fass on the birth on Benjamin Scott on February 14

Bob and Anne Marcovich on the birth on Lily Eve on March 21st

Adam and Michelle Rosenhaus on the birth of Andrew Brian on March 31

Laura and Roger Thompson on the birth of Jacob Harland on May 4

Neil and Carrie Dieter on the birth of Emma Rose on May 22

Happy Anniversary

Karen & Jacob- MA- June 1

Mark & Pon-CA- June 6

Josh & Rona-CA-June 15

Kyle & Danielle-England-June 19

Lianne & Tony-Montreal-June 23

Joe & Wendy-MA-June 29

Kristin & Gary-Belgium-July 13

Jonathan & Monica-NY-July 18

Susan & Mark-NY-July 20

Matt & Marie-MA- July 28

Ari & Liz-NYC- Aug 3

Glenn & Marisa-TX Aug 10

Dan & Kimberly-MA- Aug 24

Lori & John-NY-Aug 30

Eva & David-MA-June 2

Sandi & Jonathan-NY-June 12

Fred & Sarah-TX-June 16

Matt & Alisa- MA- June 21

Jill & Sandy- FLA-June26

Brett & Arley-CT-June 29

Jennifer & Alec-NY-July 18

Allison & Mark-CA-July 19

Tracy & Tim-NY-July 27

Jeremy & Connie-July 28

Hal & Galia-Montreal-Aug 9

Mike & Kerri-NY- Aug 17

Felicia & Joel-NYC-Aug 28

Ellen & Mike-NY- Aug 31

Jamie & Matt-RI- June 2

Art & Liz-MA- June 14

Evelyn & Joel-Chicago-June 18

Lisa & Jim-CA- June 22

Yamini & Ben-MA- June 28

Hilary & Stuart-Montana-July 9

Jonathan & Emily- MN-July 18

Emile & Melissa-NY-July 19

Jessica & Paul-MA-July 27

Kevin & Jennifer-New Hamp-Aug 3

Mark & Kate-MA-Aug 9

Mike & Sarah -Mich- Aug 21

Ronna & Bill-DC-Aug 29

Newest Congregants

Chelsea Friedman and Nick Amato-Montreal

Amy Sokol and Chris Erickson- Minneapolis

Matt Heller and Sarah Burre-Massachusetts

Holly Womack and Eric Shipper- Montreal

Andrea Seltzer and Robert Okonak- Altoona, Pennsylvania

Irving Goldman and Dorothy Rookey- New York

David and Michele Rosenhaus- Glens Falls, New York

Benjamin Hirshfield and Leanne Miller- Colorado

Excerpt from page 56

But, according to yet another direct contradiction between Bible law and Bible history, the biblical saga is decorated with more than one successful intermarriage. Judah is not the only son of the patriarch Jacob who marries out; Joseph, who rises to the rulership of Egypt and shelters Jacob and his sons during a famine, takes the daughter of an Egyptian high priest as his wife (Gen. 46:20). Ruth, a Moabite woman who seduces and then weds an Israelite man called Boaz, is another non-Israelite whose blood runs in the veins of King David himself, and her tender words to her mother-in-law remind us that the Israelites are shown in the Bible to be a multiethnic people: "Thy people shall be my people," says Ruth, "and thy God, my God" (Ruth 1:16). And David is married to Bathsheba, whose first husband is a Hittite and who may have been a non-Israelite herself. If so, then King Solomon is the child of a mixed marriage, and the Temple that he builds in honor of the God of Israel is the handiwork of a *mishling*.

Comment by Rabbi Alpern:

We look to our past for role models. At every wedding bride and groom are invited to say "with this ring I thee wed- according to the Laws of Moses and Israel". Moses is taught by his wife, Zipporah, that their child is a member of the community. Israel-Jacob learns that his grandchildren Ephraim and Menasha are in fact – and literally- Israelites and legitimate offspring. Amazingly to this day at the Sabbath Table we bless our sons to be like Ephraim and Menasha.

Excerpts from page 56:

Perhaps the greatest irony of all is the fact that the man who promulgates the law against intermarriage is himself wed to a non-Israelite woman. And the marriage of Moses to Zipporah, daughter of the pagan high priest of Median, is just as crucial as the coupling of Judah and Tamar in biblical history. Indeed, the tale of how Zipporah saves the life of Moses is perhaps the single strangest passage in all of the Bible, a fly in amber that may preserve some of the oldest and oddest traditions of the Israelites. "We are peering into the deep recesses of a primordial, absolutely mythological religion," argues Bible scholar Elias Auerbach, "which is far older than the time of Moses." Some scholars, in fact, believe that the tale is a remnant of the strands of paganism that are so deeply woven into the biblical fabric that they have almost-but not quite- disappeared from sight.

Comment by Rabbi Alpern:

This is worth reading in the original (Exodus 4:24). Moses' wife was thought of as a pagan but she understood before Moses that marriage is a covenant of blood. Zipporah is the hero here and saves Moses and their family. This is explained in our time by Rabbi Edwin Friedman's "The Myth of the Shiksa". Modern Zipporah's often are the "Israelite" standard-bearers of their "mixed" families.

Please email me your comments.

Have a Wonderful Summer,

Rabbi Aryeh and Karen Alpern

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Why?

The little word “why” has been a very strong thing with me ever since I was a tiny little girl and couldn’t even speak properly. It is a well-known fact that little children ask questions about everything because they are unfamiliar with everything. This was very much the case with me, but even when I grew older I couldn’t wait to ask all kinds of questions, whether they could be answered or not. This is not so terrible in itself and I must say that my parents tried to answer every one of my questions very patiently, until ... I began even badgering strangers, and they generally can’t stand “children’s endless questions.” I must admit that can be very tiresome, but I console myself with the idea that there is a saying that “you must ask in order to know”, which couldn’t be completely true, otherwise I’d be a professor by now.

When I grew older, I realized that it is not possible to ask every kind of question to everyone and that there are many “why’s” that cannot be answered. I then followed from that that I tried to help myself by starting to think out these questions on my own. So I came to the important discovery that questions that one mustn’t ask can be solved by oneself. Therefore, the little word “why” taught me not only to ask but to think.

Now as to the second part of the word “why.” How would it be if everyone who did anything asked himself first, “why?” I think they would then become more honest and much, much better people. For the best way to become honest and good is to keep examining oneself without stopping. I can imagine that the last thing people like to do is to confess to themselves their faults and their bad side (which everybody has). This is the case with children as well as grownups – in that respect I don’t see any difference. Most people think parents should try to educate their children and see to it themselves that their characters develop as well as possible. This is certainly untrue. Children ought to educate themselves from their earliest youth and must try to show real character by themselves. Many will find this crazy, but it isn’t. Even a very small child is a little personality and has a conscience and should be brought up by being treated in this way, so that it will feel that its own conscience is punishing it in the harshest way possible. When children reach the age of fourteen or fifteen, every punishment is ridiculous. Such a child knows very well that no one, not even its own parents, can get anywhere with punishments and spankings. By arguing reasonably and by showing the child the mistakes it is making, one would get much better results than by strong punishments.

But here, I don’t want to sound pedantic, but only to say that in the life of every child and every man, the little word “why” plays a big part, and rightly so. The saying, “you must ask in order to know,” is true in so far as it leads to thinking about things, and by thinking nobody can ever get worse but will only get better.

Anne Frank (June 12,1929-March, 1945)

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Temple Shabbat Shalom

Summer Reading: The Prophet Isaiah!

Study Lead by Rabbi Aryeh Alpern

1. June 22 Prophecy has the final word.
2. July 6 The Great Prophet of Judaism and Christianity
3. July 20 Comforting the Forsaken and Forgotten
4. August 3 Surviving History: Who is the Suffering Servant?
5. August 10 From Mourning to Rejoicing: The Fulfillment of the Promise

Suggested texts (1) *The Bible*- any translation

(2) *The Prophets*-Abraham J Heschel (First Perennial Classics © 2001)

All classes will begin at 7:00PM on Wednesday evenings.

The Series will be free to Members of Temple Shabbat Shalom. For Non-members the fee for the Entire Series is \$60 or specific sessions may be attended for \$15 per session (subject to space availability)

Temple Shabbat Shalom is a non-sectarian, non-denominational House of Worship and Study. All are welcome as members.

Please call 893-0808 to register for this exciting and enlightening Summer Session.

**Temple Shabbat Shalom
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