

SINAI STAR

News from the Sinai Temple Sunday School

Issue I November 1986

SINAI TEMPLE MEMBER MOVED BY ISRAEL TRIP

By STEFANIE KUPERSMITH, 12

Four Sinai Temple members recently traveled to Israel.

Betty Fleck, Erma and Milt Maidenberg, and Bill Resnick traveled to Israel with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). The league is a branch of B'nai B'rith which combats racial and religious prejudice and discrimination. Fellow travelers were from all parts of the United States.

Betty said her favorite part of the trip was seeing her son, Allen, who lives in Israel. She and Resnick, who also has relatives there, stayed a week longer than the rest of the group.

While she was with Allen, a friend took them to three places Betty said she thought were very interesting.

The first was a children's orthopedic hospital, where they met a 17-year-old handicapped girl. Though paralyzed, Betty said the girl told her the hospital helped prepare her for her future, which includes law school.

The second place was a music school for underprivileged kids, where the director was a Holocaust survivor. Betty said she was impressed by a blind teacher who was so good at her job that the children often forgot she was blind and raised their hands to answer questions.

The third place they went was Yad Veshem. Betty said she thinks everyone who visits Israel should go there. Yad Veshem is the memorial for the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust.

Other points of interest during the trip included a visit to the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, where they saw then-Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and they also saw Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek.

RELIGION NOT "PRINCIPAL" FOCUS
ON MARION HIGH NEWCOMER

By SARAH MARSHAK, 10

Being Jewish has not affected how people view the new principal at Marion High School.

"People are now looking at what I do, not what I am," said John Marshak, who assumed his duties as principal during the summer.

"Most of the reactions I have gotten in Marion are positive ones," he said, adding many people knew he was Jewish before he came.

He said he would like to help the Jewish community here any way he can, bringing in new ideas from his family's experiences in other communities.

Marshak and his wife, Meg, have three children: Rob, 16; Jake, 14; and Sarah, 10.



John Marshak by Jake Marshak, 14

BEING A JEW MEANS...

..."learning and being a part of a religion." Marissa McKown, 6.

..."you can learn stuff, new things. You're religious." Matt Dodyk, 7.

..."that you are Jewish and somebody else is Christian. They go to a church and we go to a temple." Micah Maidenberg, 6.

..."we have apples and honey and challah bread and that stuff." Phillip Dodyk, 4.

..."getting to be in the Chanukah play." Nathan Wyman, 7.

..."going to services." Joey Fox, 6.

RELIGIOUS HOME DEVELOPS PRIDE IN HERITAGE

By JULIE GOLDBURG, 11

Growing up is not always easy. And it was even more difficult for Dr. Frank Goldberg, who grew up in a very religious home.

His mother, Julia Goldberg, was from Hungary, and his father, Bert Goldberg, was from Germany. His brothers, Norman and Ariel, both rabbis, were the reason the home became more strict, with certain rules to follow and obey.

"My brothers were so interested in Hebrew and Jewish history, that's how our family became very religious," Goldberg said.

"Our family was kosher, but sometimes we cheated," he continued. "But on Friday evening, it was Sabbath -- and you better not forget that it is!"

Goldberg said he learned to be proud of his Jewish heritage, not embarrassed by it. And to stand up to others -- who are not Jewish -- who tried to put him down.

"You say, 'I'm someone special. I am a Jew!' "

(Editor's note: Dr. Frank Goldberg is Julie's grandfather.)

REFLECTING ON THE HIGH HOLIDAYS...

..."They are special occasions to celebrate with your family. You sit down for a dinner with the rabbi and you get to do special stuff at the temple."

ON BEING JEWISH...

..."When you're a Jew, it makes you feel good when you're inside the temple. It makes you feel special from everybody else. When I've done something wrong, I think about being Jewish."

By NANCY GOLDBURG, 9

THE BEST PART OF A SERVICE IS

WHEN...

..."you get to sing and say prayers." Micah Maidenberg, 6.

..."we have the snacks... And it's fun to listen to what the rabbi says." Marissa McKown, 6.

..."I get to go downstairs to play." Phillip Dodyk, 4.

..."you have dessert." Matt Dodyk, 7.

..."we get to eat." Nathan Wyman, 7.

..."you get to try to blow the shofar." Joey Fox, 6.

JEWISH HOLIDAYS MEAN...

..."a good time and a good new year." Micah Maidenberg, 6.

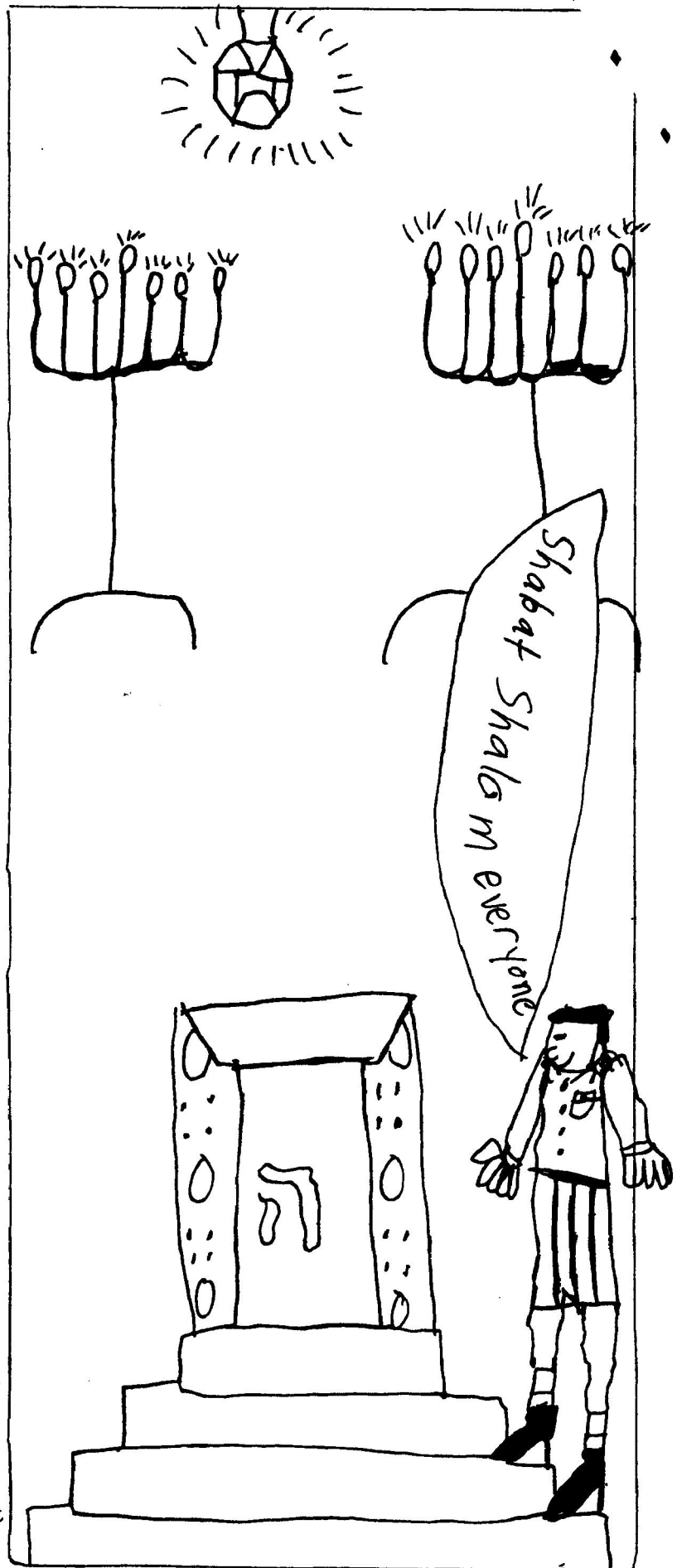
..."opening presents on Chanukah." Nathan Wyman, 7.

..."you think of God." Joey Fox, 6.

..."eating challah bread." Phillip Dodyk, 4.

..."on Rosh Hashanah it's a new year. Sukkot you build like a hut. Chanukah you get presents. Purim you think of Haman and the things Mordecai, King Ahasuerus and Queen Esther did to save the people." Matt Dodyk, 7.

..."a time of fun and special foods." Marissa McKown, 6.



Rabbi Laura

by Matthew Alan Dodyk

YES, VIRGINIA, SUNDAY SCHOOL CAN BE FUN

We are pleased with all the new things happening at Sinai Temple Sunday School.

The short sessions have added a new dimension to our Jewish education -- fun! And the teachers claim we can learn at the same time.

Our first meeting featured making games: alefbet twister, alefbet concentration, symbols memory, and symbols bingo.

There was also challah braiding and baking, and we each decorated honey jars for the high holidays.

Our October sessions centered around the theme of war and peace, with discussions of current events, a guest speaker, mural painting, music, and other related activities.

Visitors are encouraged to drop in any time to watch the activities.

WELCOME BACK

We are also pleased to welcome older students back to the Sunday School fold.

They set a strong leadership example for the younger children, and provide extra pairs of hands for the teachers.

We are always open to new ideas, and we think their opinions and points of view are very important.

In the recent past, we have lost many students around bar mitzvah age.

It is our hope the return will lead to the resumption of a confirmation class at Sinai Temple.

BEING BAR/BAT MITZVAH HAS ITS OWN REWARDS

By STEVE GOLDSTEIN, 16.

Why should a Jewish boy or girl on the verge of adulthood have a bar or bat mitzvah? Jewish kids throughout history have achieved this milestone. It is a tradition dating back to biblical days.

You may be saying to yourself, "I could never have a bar (bat) mitzvah. It's so complex and hard."

You, you can, for many reasons.

In the first place, once you have learned the Hebrew alphabet, you will be able to pronounce words, and maybe even translate them into English. This is a milestone itself; not many people speak Hebrew, and you can say that you have mastered it.

Also, you will learn to recite verses in Hebrew from the Torah, the most sacred writings in our religion.

After your bar (bat) mitzvah is over and all of the ceremonies are completed, the fun begins. The parties are held in your honor. Friends and relatives will be rejoicing with you.

The two most important reasons for having a bar or bat mitzvah, I think, are very special ones. You will be able to take your place in the Jewish community alongside your mom and dad. And, once completed, you can say you have reached this plateau and are ready to take on higher ones. No one can take that away from you.

If you missed being a bar or bat mitzvah, do not feel left out. You can always have one, no matter how old you are.

PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED

Sinai Temple Sisterhood will be mailing a biographical fact sheet to members of the congregation with this newspaper.

Please take time to fill out the questionnaire. The newspaper will use some of the information for a "Kibbitzers Korner." And the Sunday School would like to elicit help from volunteers to make the students' experience as wide as possible.

Loni McKown

MOVE MADE EASIER BY JEWISH COMMUNITY

By ROB MARSHAK, 16

As everyone who reads this publication knows, it's not easy being a Jew. The world is full of closed-minded people who discriminate a group of human beings because they don't understand them.

Although I am only 16 years old, I feel I can speak with some experience on how hard it is to be a Jew.

I am a relative "stranger" to this area because of my family's recent move here. Previously, I lived in Munster, Ind., which had a small Jewish community, and until age 11 I lived in a small town outside Ann Arbor, Mich., which had a large Jewish community.

The response I met with upon each move was the same; upon finding out I was Jewish, the majority of the people reacted first in disbelief and then in mild shock.

But once they got to know me, they found out Jews are essentially the same as everyone else. We just view things from a different perspective.

Not only have I changed communities and schools, but also temples.

Upon arriving in Marion, I heard it had a very small Jewish community. When I first saw the temple, it reminded me of temples I had seen in my Jewish history books.

The first service I attended was the observance of Rosh Hashanah. While at this first service, I had the opportunity to play the shofar for the congregation.

With greater attendance of services, I began to find this temple to be no different from any one I had previously attended. The people and building were new, but the feeling they evoke is familiar.

Being a Jew is difficult. Being a Jew in a strange new place is even more difficult. But when there is a strong Jewish community to welcome you, it makes it so much easier.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR and guest columns are welcome from all members of Sinai Temple. Please send letters or columns to: Loni McKown, 110 Wabash Ave., Marion, Ind. 46952. Please include your full name and phone number.

TRIVIA: GREAT JEWS IN SPORTS

By JEFF FRANK, 11

① His real first name is Arnold. He was the coach, general manager and president of the Boston Celtics. He led his team to nine NBA titles and 11 division titles. His father, Hyman, was a Russian immigrant, and his mother, Marie, American born. In 1937, he went to George Washington University and was a star basketball player. He was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1968. He is a member of the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in Israel.

② She was an American track and field star. In 1926, she was touted as one of the world's greatest woman athletes. She was a winner of a silver medal in the discus throw in the 1928 Olympics and of a gold medal in the same event in the 1932 Olympics. She won every woman's track event she entered while at the University of Southern California. She broke two world records by throwing the javelin 112 feet, 5½ inches, and the discus 101 feet, 1 inch.

③ His nickname was "The Horse." He was considered to be the best Jewish player to play for the New York Giants. For three years, he sat on the bench. On June 9, 1937, he hit a two-run homer to help the Giants defeat the St. Louis Cardinals; he began playing regularly. He was in the 1937 World Series against the New York Yankees. He was the batting star in the fourth game, going three for four to help beat the Yankees.

(Answers can be found on Page 9.)

JOKES AND RIDDLES

1. What holds up a train?
2. Why did the boy throw the clock out the window?
3. Why do birds fly south?
4. What is the best way to make a fire with two sticks?
5. What time is it when an elephant sits on a fence?

(Answers can be found on Page 9.)

By MOLLY MAIDENBERG, 9