

From the Desk of Rabbi Gold



The time to think about mourning customs as they apply to Jewish Tradition, is not when a tragedy occurs. When our deepest moments of sorrow happen our minds are not clear - at times we are not even rational.

It is therefore important to evaluate the principals of our Jewish tradition which are designed to help us during such periods of crisis.

The column this week and next week, will contain a statement by the Cleveland Board of Rabbis composed of Conservative, Reform and Orthodox spiritual leaders who after discussing and discussing and studying this problem issued this statement to the Jewish community of Cleveland, Ohio.

"Bereavement and grief are universal experiences for which every religious faith has reverently developed a body of attitudes and practices, rituals and customs to enhance respect for the dignity of the dead and to bring comfort and solace for those who mourn them. Judaism, no less, brings its full measure of consolation to its sorrow-laden. The treasured cadences of the Tehillim, the exalted reaffirmation of faith in the hallowed recital of the Kaddish, the whole treasury of prayer, afford comfort when the loss of dear ones is immediate and sorrow overwhelms.

As universal as is the experience of death and mourning, so is the confusion that strangely abounds at such a time. Under the weight of tragedy, taste and sensitivity are often sacrificed to expediency and pressures where none should prevail. If Jews have lost the central meaning of mourning or are at a loss to know what behavior is expected of mourners, their families and friends, then this expression of religious rites and practices can be helpful to them. It is our hope too that in reviving the ritually acceptable patterns of Jewish mourning, we shall at the same time aid our community to eliminate excesses which unwittingly and inevitably impair its spiritual maturity.

When bereavement comes, whether sudden or long expected, the poignancy of love and devotion to dear ones and the beauty of human ties, fondly nurtured over the years, are more profoundly felt. No matter how one prepares for the inevitable time of death, the confrontation with it evokes traumatic reaction. More than ever at such a time the immediate family of the dead must find by and with themselves the release of pent-up feelings and of tears as well as the means of consoling one another in their shared bereavement. Arrangements for the funeral, the necessity to notify family and dear ones away from home of the death, even the disposition of personal problems, financial and otherwise, which death often makes emergent - these are but some of the demands mourners must face while the burden of immediate loss weighs upon them.

The intrusion of well-meaning friends at such a time is often more hindrance than help, more inhibiting than comforting. For this reason, the rabbis enjoined as the first principal of conduct in time of grief this admonition: "Do not comfort the mourner when his beloved dead lies before him."

Certainly among the first to be called should be the family's rabbi who knows the family and is indeed well acquainted with the experience of bereavement and who sympathetically wishes to give his comfort to his congregants. His advice and counsel often soften the grief, relieve the burdensome problems which beset the mourner, and provide the sustenance and support the beleaguered faith when death comes.

The funeral director, too, lends the experience of his



MAKING PLANS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS OPEN HOUSE ARE LEFT TO RIGHT, GLADYS TYNES, TOBI ARTMAN AND EILEEN BROOKMAN.

"I DECLARE" by Claire Dase



More than 500 people were at the Temple to see the film "Let My People Go," presented through the courtesy of Jack Entratter. This truly great epic of the history of the Jewish people over the past century, through the time of the Hitler persecution, brought vividly to mind the tragedies experienced by many, and so easily forgotten by just the same if not more people. Dr. Kaplan, "the man behind the film," answered many questions put to him by people of all denominations, and there were many ministers from the various churches, who were curious to know why this film had not been shown in Las Vegas until now.

So sorry Grace Triner was profession to ease the burdens. He is prepared to meet the financial limitations of all segments of the Jewish community, the funeral directors have established the precedent of willing cooperation with all rabbis to fulfill the demands of all Jews, orthodox, conservative or reform.

(Continued next week)

so very ill, and we were not informed. Hope you have a speedy recovery, and stay well.

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Shalom held a beautiful Donor brunch at the Desert Inn Country Club. The social side, my Partner in Crime will tell about, but I must add my congratulations to a wonderful job done by Ruth Speiser and Betty Spindel, and to their great committees. Everything was a delight from the first drink to the food, and the settings.

Happy Anniversary to the

Lutters, this is their 40th, may they have 40 more.

May 12th Sisterhood's installation at the Temple. If it is half as beautiful as the donor it will be a day to remember.

May 27th, B'nai Brith will hold their installation. Under the capable hands of Elsie Goldring and her committee a good time is promised to all.

Plans in the making for the over the television and radio held in Las Vegas during the month of July.

End of this month will see a group of the senior U.S.Y.-er's going to retreat at Camp Ramah.

The Archie Grant Senior Citizens Park, on Bruce, is having open house May 22nd from 2 p.m. It would be most educational for all to visit, and an encouragement for those who reside there. They are raffling a hand-made king-size quilt, made by some of the residents, as a prize, donation 25¢, and the work, done by the ladies averaging 70 years of age, is perfect. Chairman, Eileen Brookman, and others will be hosting for this occasion, and I strongly advise the community to take ad-

vantage of this afternoon.

Just a brief moment on the U.J.A. feed-a-child luncheon, as my buddy will have written on this subject. Kay Wallerstein, as always did an outstanding job, Myrtle Karp, is a most touching and impressive speaker, it is a pity that she is not sent as an Ambassador for the U.J.A., her appeal would do more than any other representative ever sent here to date. Congratulations to Laurie Adelson who earned an Award of Merit for her work with this group last year. And to Dottie Goffstein, you excelled yourself, as did the others on your committee.

In the Teen-scene when the confirmation was mentioned due to an oversight - not on the writer's part - but to circumstances, Sharon Walker's name was not mentioned. Yes, she is being confirmed.

Dr. Kaplan held the Oneg Shabbat's attention during his discourse on Israel, and the question period after was very enlightening.

Edyth Bravo's sister, Helen Rubel from Virginia, here on a visit. Also congrats: upon her daughter's recent marriage, may you enjoy simchas always.

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