

NEW RABBI — Dr. Eugene Kirshbaum, right, this week introduced Rabbi Stephen E. Weisberg, who will take over the pulpit of the newly formed Reform Jewish Congregation of Las Vegas. Rabbi Weisberg will conduct High Holy Day Services in the Gold Room of the Convention Center Monday and Tuesday, and Yom Kippur Services Sept. 25 and 26. Dr. Kirshbaum is acting chairman of the Board of Directors of the Congregation. (SUNfoto)

Jewish Congregation Introduces Rabbi

The newly-formed Reform Jewish Congregation of Las Vegas introduced its new rabbi Thursday in a press conference at the home of Dr. Eugene Krishbaum, 2601 Pinto Lane, Las Vegas.

In introducing 38-year-old Rabbi Stephen E. Weisberg, Dr. Kirshbaum, acting chairman of the Board of Directors of the Congregation, said approximately 150 Jewish families would worship in the reform congregation.

Dr. Weisberg explained that the reform movement was one of three major movements in Judaism and is "to appeal to those Jews who have a more liberal interpretation of Judaism."

Weisberg pointed out that although the reform movement is new to Las vegas. It is a century old in America and over two centuries old in Europe, having its origin in Germany.

He added they do not try to recruit from the other two major movements — Orthodox and Conservative congregations — but merely open the doors and give the approximately 3,500 Jewish families in Las Vegas a choice of where and how to worship.

"The interaction between the three major movements of Judaism in America is a very dynamic interaction," he added.

Calling the reform movement "interpretive Judaism," he said it was "less structured, less conservative and less obliged to traditional Judaism."

Remarking on his impressions of Las Vegas, he said, "I find this visually a fantastic city."

He added he would not be crusading against Las Vegas' liberalized atmosphere, saying "A person could do anything on Santa Monica Boulevard in Santa Monica, Calif., that he could do in Las Vegas.

"What happens here, happens there — just with fewer lightbulbs," he quipped.

Rabbi Weisberg will conduct High Holy Day services in the Gold Room of the Convention Center Sept. 16 and 17 and Yom Kippur Services Sept. 25 and 26.

Prior to coming to Las Vegas, Rabbi Weisberg served in the pulpit of Temple Israel, Lafayette, Ind., Temple Beth-El, San Pedro, Calif., and Temple Beth Israel, Fresno, Calif.

A writer and lecturer, he has published articles for many Jewish publications and has recently rewritten a Saturday morning service for the newly revised Reform Prayer book which will be used by congregations throughout the country.

He is a graduate of Brandeis University and Hebrew College Institute of Religion.

He and his wife, Devorah, 35, have four children.

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I Give You My Word

Rabbi Philip Shnairson

"From Lonely Crowd to Sacred Congregation"

We view the world through individual I's. None of us can be sure that what we see is as others see it. Our own perception is always limited by our senses and experiences. This adds up to the "Self" — "My Self" and "Your Self". The Self, the I, struggles daily to cross the storm tossed sea of life, swimming valiantly toward the shore of survival, achievement, and success, hardly aware of the uncountable other I's thrashing in the same ocean.

On the High Holy Days, in the shelter of the Sanctuary, the dark waters around us are illumined by the light of common prayer, making clear to every Self that it is part of a greater "We", the "We" of our family, of our People, and of all humanity.

Here, in the Sanctuary, we know that we are involved in a common destiny as expressed in our prayers which are written in the first person plural, "We". Together, we pray for more life and happiness for all of us and for the salvation and redemption of ALL our People and ALL the world from the ravages of selfishness, greed, tyranny and immorality.

Here. We cease to be loners, fighting against the obstacle-filled tide and take comfort in the knowledge that we are not alone:

"No man is an island. Entire to itself. Every man is a

piece of the continent, A part of the Main."

Here, We give up our isolation as a Jew IN the world lade (a.e., a.c.), the baseless stigms which the unknowing attach to the word, Jew; and we join the Jews OI the world united in the fraternity of a historic people. sharing a rich and lasting heritage.

Here. We join in the company of our great ones of the ages: our sages and saints, our prophets and kings, our martyrs and heroes, from whose lives we draw renewed determination that to be Jewish is a priviledge, a distinction, not a burden.

Here. We bring ourselves under the canopy of a loving God who has prepared for our benefit a universe filled with opportunity for Al.L. who will be His partners in the creation of a better world. Here, this year especially. We see testimony that the world is not a "Tale twice told by an idiot,

signifying nothing", without rhyme or reason, lacking order or law, where evil goes unnoticed and unpunished. Rather, do we see in the conclusion of the long national nightmare of Watergate that, "Though the mills of God grind slowly,

Yet they grind exceedingly fine.".

bringing low the mighty and vindicating the rule that no man is a law unto himself.

On this New Year 5735, gathered in sacred assembly.
WE, THE PEOPLE, must therefore
"Give thanks onto the Lord for He hath done mighty things".

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