THE CUBA FAMILY ARCHIVES FOR SOUTHERN JEWISH HISTORY AT THE BREMAN MUSEUM

MSS 242, Gary Metzel Papers

Box 4, File 1

Spirituality Conference, 1992

ANY REPRODUCTION OF THIS MATERIAL WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE CUBA FAMILY ARCHIVES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED
ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

WORKSHOP I
11:15-12:10 PM
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I DIE?
JEWISH VIEWS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH

RABBI

RICHARD M. BAROFF
FRED V. DAVIDOW
RONALD GERSON
PHILIP N. KRAZ
JEFFREY LAZAR
STEVEN LERNOW
JORDAN PARK
FRED RASKIND
WILLIAM ROTHENCHILD
LAURENCE A. SCHLESINGER
ALVIN M. SUGARMAN
FRANK N. SUNDHEIM
HARVEY J. WINOKUR

ROOM 17
ROOM 12
ROOM 18
ROOM 19
ROOM 14
ROOM 13
ROOM 20
ROOM 15
ROOM 21
ROOM 16
ROOM 22

WORKSHOP II
1:00-1:55 PM
PANELS OF RABBIS:
CONTINUING DIALOGUE

SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY
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SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL GARY METZEL MEMORIAL SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I DIE?
JEWISH VIEWS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH

THE GARY METZEL MEMORIAL SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

"In May of 1983 I attended a UAHC/CCAR Commission on Worship in New York City. The major presentation was made by Rabbi Eugene Borowitz on the subject of spirituality. It is Rabbi Borowitz's opinion that the aspect of spirituality in Judaism has been neglected so much in recent decades that it now needs to be given special emphasis. This presentation made such a strong impression on me that I started to think about how to structure an action program based on these principles, with which I fully agree."

The above are excerpts from comments by Gary Metzel who developed the first Spirituality Conference held in October, 1984, which has been recreated by many other groups throughout the country.

Gary died on September 19, 1989, following a lengthy illness. In October, 1989, the Atlanta Reform Synagogue Council unanimously voted to dedicate the annual event as the Gary Metzel Memorial Spirituality Conference.

THE GARY METZEL MEMORIAL SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY
ATLANTA REFORM SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL • ALBANY HEBREW CONGREGATION
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL • CONGREGATION CHILDREN OF ISRAEL • CONGREGATION KEHILLAT CHAIN
TEMPLE BETH DAVID • TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL • TEMPLE EMANUEL • TEMPLE ISRAEL • TEMPLE KOL EMETH
TEMPLE SINAI • THE TEMPLE • UAHC SOUTHEAST COUNCIL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1992 • 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
TEMPLE EMANUEL • 1560 SPALDING DRIVE • DUNWOODY, GA 30350
PROGRAM

9:00-9:30 AM
REGISTRATION

9:30-11:00 AM
OPENING SESSION

9:00-9:30 AM
REGISTRATION

9:30-11:00 AM
OPENING SESSION

9:30-11:00 AM
ENTERANCE HALL
SANCTUARY

WELCOME............................................................... MILTON CRANE, CHAIRPERSON
NIGUN............................................................... CANTOR SCOTT COLBERT,
TEMPLE EMANUEL

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER.......................... ARTHUR HEYMAN, PRESIDENT,
ATLANTA REFORM SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL
KEYNOTE SPEAKER................................................... RABBI DANIEL B. SYME, VICE PRESIDENT,
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

11:15-12:10 PM
WORKSHOP I
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I DIE?
JEWISH VIEWS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH
TEACHERS' WORKSHOP

12:15-12:55 PM
LUNCH

1:00-1:55 PM
WORKSHOP II
CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH PANELS OF RABBIS

2:00-2:30 PM
CLOSING SESSION
COMMENTARY AND SUMMATION

STEERING COMMITTEE
Jackie Metzel, Honorary Chairperson • Milton Crane, Chairperson • Ron Rosen, Program
Phyllis Levine & Minnette Meyer, Arrangements • Claire D'Agnello, Publicity & Public Relations
Paulette Lowitz, Moderators • Cantor Scott Colbert, Educators Liaison • Shyrle Weisz, Registration
Bud Subit, Immediate Past Chairperson • Arnold Katinsky, Ex-Officio

TEXT FOR DISCUSSION

WORKSHOP I
11:15-12:10 PM
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I DIE? JEWISH VIEWS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH
(SELECT ONE SESSION)

RICHARD M. BAROFF, TEMPLE BETH DAVID
EL MALAY RACHAMIM

FRED V. DAVIDOW, CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
'I WILL DWELL IN YOUR TENT FOREVER; I WILL BE SAFE UNDER THE SHELTER OF YOUR WINGS.'
PSALM 61:5

RONALD GERSO, CONGREGATION CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, ATHENS
'WHAT REALLY IS IMMORTALITY?' THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON, CHAPTER 3 (FROM THE APOCRYPHA)

PHILIP N. KRANZ, TEMPLE SINAI
'HE WILL DESTROY DEATH FOREVER.' THE JEWISH VIEW OF LIFE ETERNAL. ISAIAH 25:8

STEVEN LEBOW, TEMPLE KOL EMETH
'I'M NOT SURE THERE IS AN AFTERLIFE. BUT I'M TAKING A CHANGE OF UNDERWEAR. JUST IN CASE.'

WILLIAM L. KOTHCILD, THE TEMPLE
'MAY IT BE DIVINE WILL THAT THE IMMORTALS ABOVE OVERPOWER THE MORTALS BELOW' — PRAYING AND ACTING FOR THE DEATH OF THE SUFFERER. KETUBOT 104a

LAURENCE A. SCHLESSINGER, TEMPLE ISRAEL, COLUMBUS
LIFE BEYOND: SOME REVEALING RABBINIC INSIGHTS.

ALVIN M. SUGARMAN, THE TEMPLE
'THE MEANING OF DEATH IS THE 'ULTIMATE SELF DEDICATION TO THE DIVINE... FOR THE PIUS MAN, IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO DIE.' ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL

FRANK N. SUNDEHN, UAHC REGIONAL DIRECTOR
EZRAI 37:12-13; PSALM 16:8-11; DANIEL 12:1-2; THE TRADITIONAL GEVUROT PRAYER AND SELECTIONS FROM PIRKE AVOT.

HARVEY J. WINDOR, KEHILLAT CHAIM CONGREGATION
'HENCE AND NOW OR THERE AND AFTER: IS THERE A REFORM VIEW OF THE WORLD-TO-COME?'
Dear Ron:

I have purchased my tickets to Atlanta. The cost was $260 round trip on Continental. The Delta fare was the same.

Regarding topics for workshops for the theme which stresses covenant as a partnership between God and people, especially the Jewish people, I would suggest the following possibilities:

1. Are Covenantal Partners Equal?
2. Is Covenant for Jews Only?
3. The Role of the Land of Israel in the Covenant
4. Why do I/We Need a Partner?
5. The Role of Mitzvot in the Covenantal Relation
6. Where were You when I/We Needed You?: Catastrophe and Covenant
7. Why does God Need a Partner?

Texts:

**Important Pentateuchal Sources**

Gen. 9, 15, 17, 18; Lev. 26.

**Talmudic Sources**

Berakhot 7a; Menahot 29b; Sources in Sefer Aggadah (Bialik/Ravitzki), sec. 4, pp. 466-477 and 477-480. E. E. Urbach, The Sages, English edition, chapter on the election of Israel; in the Hebrew edition, pp. 466-477 especially.

**Sources in Contemporary Jewish Thought:**

Works by Eugene Borowitz, Emil Fackenheim, Neil Gillman, Irving Greenberg, David Hartman, Stephen Schwarzschild, and Michael Hyshograd all reflect "covenant theologies". These sources should help the rabbis leading workshops in their preparation.

If you need any further help, Ron, please feel free to be in touch.

Yours,

Michael
Rabbi Michael Chernick
1599 Sussex Rd.
Teaneck, NJ 07666
December 4, 1992

Dear Ron:

The following "biographical" information should be useful for publicity purposes:

Rabbi Michael Chernick is professor of rabbinic literature at HUC-JIR, New York School, the Reform rabbinical seminary. His field of specialization is the Talmud and Jewish Law on which he has written and lectured extensively. Rabbi Chernick is an Orthodox rabbi who received his rabbinic training from Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and his doctorate from Yeshiva's Bernard Revel Graduate School. These widely diverse associations have given Rabbi Chernick a unique vantage point from which to view Jewish religious life in America, and due to them he has come to view himself simply as "a Jew for Jews". He has also spent many summers teaching at the kibbutzim of the Reform movement in Israel, Yahel and Lotan, and more recently at the UAHC Kallah. He firmly believes that Torah belongs to all who study it, and he has actively brought the wealth and wisdom of the Jewish tradition to the great variety of Jews who make up the people of Israel here and abroad.

I hope this material is sufficient for your needs. If not, please feel free to call me or edit it down.

Regarding the airline ticket I purchased for the Atlanta trip, please send a $260 check made out to Adelman Travel indicating that it covers my expenses. A note should direct this to Vicki Hoffman's attention. Adelman's address is:

Adelman Travel
7040 N. Port Washington
Milwaukee, WI 53712

I hope all is well. Have a happy Hannukah, and thank you for your attention to the business matters mentioned in this letter.

Sincerely,

Michael
8:30 - 9:30  Registration
9:30 - 11:00  Keynote Program  
11:15 - 12:15  Workshop  
12:15 - 2:00  Lunch  
1:15 - 2:00  Workshop II  
2:15 - 2:30  Wrap up

CCUBA FAMILY ARCHIVES
Meeting 1-19-93
Temple  
3-1-93 next meeting - Temple
Rabbi Daniel Syme, standing, is joined by Atlanta educators Joanne Barrington, Mollie Aczel, Rabbi Jeffrey Lazar and Cantor Scott Colbert.

Reform Conference Here Explores The Afterlife

DAVID HOLZEL  Staff Writer

Suppose a man is eaten by a lion, the 10th-century rabbi Sa’adia Gaon was asked. “The lion falls into a river and is eaten by a fish. The fish is caught and eaten by a man, who then perishes in a fire. Who gets resurrected?”

Sa’adia, the preeminent authority of his time, responded in a treatise on the afterlife, “God will keep track of the details and everyone will be resurrected whole.” Only one question shook Sa’adia’s absolute certainty about the afterlife, Rabbi Daniel Syme noted with amusement last weekend at a gathering of Reform Jews here.

“After death, will each man be reunited with his wife?”

“That remains to be seen,” Sa’adia judged. “At the time of resurrection there will be prophets and prophetic inspiration to guide us.”

Interest in the afterlife, as strong now as a millennium ago, stems from unhappiness with “the notion that this life is all there is,” Rabbi Syme, vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said. He added that Jewish ideas about the afterlife are varied enough to include the beliefs of every Jew. Eternal paradise, resurrection and reincarnation are all part of Jewish tradition, he said.

Rabbi Syme, 46, author of several books on Jewish belief and practice, was keynote speaker at the 8th annual Gary Metzel Memorial Spirituality Conference, held Sunday at Temple Emanu-El. Sponsored by the Atlanta Reform Synagogue Council and area congregations, the conference also featured workshops on Jewish views of life after death conducted by area rabbis, and discussions of issues of concern to the conference’s 330 participants.

The Bible speaks of Sheol, a place of darkness and solitude where everyone went after dying, Rabbi Syme said. The Bible also includes a prohibition of necromancy, or consulting with the dead, “which indicates the practice must have been widespread.”

Two centuries before Jesus, the biblical book of Daniel declared: “Many of those who sleep in the dust will awake.”

“We didn’t borrow the notion of resurrection from the Christians,” the rabbi said. “It was the other way around.”

Later, in the rabbinic period, resurrection became dogma. The rabbis believed a Jew who denies resurrection has no place in the world to come, Rabbi Syme said.

With the belief in resurrection came belief in a final judgment and in the messiah, or “anointed one.” Originally “a physical being who was king over Israel,” the messiah later became “the one who would usher in the great age.”

The great age was called Ha’adam Habah, the World to Come, or Gan Eden, the Garden of Eden. Its opposite was Gehenna or Qai Hin-noan, where a soul went for a finite time to be purified.

A belief in reincarnation developed during the Middle Ages, although Jewish authorities restricted the spread of the idea so Jews would concentrate on this world, Rabbi Syme said.

Modern thinkers have defined life after death as a legacy: We live on through our children; our work makes us immortal; we live on through the deeds of goodness we leave behind.

In a workshop for teachers of Reform supplementary schools, Rabbi Syme and a panel of local educators discussed how to respond when Jewish children say they were told by Christian schoolmates that if they don’t believe in Jesus they will go to hell.

“Belief in an afterlife is a leap of faith. You can’t prove it,” said Rabbi Jeffrey Lazar, education director for Temple Sinai. “In truth, no one knows what happens. In Judaism we believe the righteous of all nations have a share in the world to come.”

“Jews don’t believe in eternal damnation,” Rabbi Syme added. “For those who believe in a kind of purgatory (Gehenna), it is 12 months at most. It’s a shame anyone should have to use God to scare people.”
THE GARY METZEL MEMORIAL
SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

PROPOSED BUDGET - 1992 CONFERENCE

INCOME
Attendance (230 @ $12.50 each) $2875.
Southeast Council of UHAC 200.
Atlanta Reform Synagogue Council 1600.
Gary Metzel Fund 400.
Book Sales 800.

$5875.

EXPENSES
Honorarium $1200.
Travel and Hotel 750.
Printing 225.
Food (lunch, beverages) 1700.
Reception 200.
Advertising (Atlanta Jewish Times) 300.
Security 150.
Maintenance Staff 250.
Chair Rental 200.
Secretarial, postage, copying, telephone 350.
Miscellaneous supplies (tablecloths, tags) 50.
Books for sale 500.

$5875.

458 food chicken salad
Pot.
Prelimmis
Hall Brownie
FUNCTIONAL SCHEDULE FOR SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

2/2/92

1992

- Establish date for 1992 Conference
- Confirm Conference site
- Contact keynoter- confirm date and honorarium
- Reserve date on community calendar
- Submit proposed budget to ARSC

1st Steering Committee Meeting

2nd Steering Committee Meeting
- Final determination of theme and workshop topics
- Letters to Rabbis re. topics
- Recruit moderators
- Negotiate and determine menu and price with caterer

3rd Steering Committee Meeting
- Follow-up to Rabbis
- Initial press releases to Synagogues

4th Steering Committee Meeting
- Distribute flyers, registration forms and posters to Synagogues
- Follow-up press releases to Synagogues
- Ad in Atlanta Jewish Times
- Follow-up press releases and posters to Synagogues

5th Steering Committee Meeting
- Moderator training session
- Program to printer

6th Steering Committee Meeting
- Final count to caterer

THE DAY
- Post-conference news release
- Thank yous to participants and volunteers
- Steering Committee critique meeting
THE GARY METZEL MEMORIAL SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

1992

STEERING COMMITTEE #1
Sept. 26, 1991
TEMPLE EMANU-EL

AGENDA:
1. Introduction of chairmen
2. Review folders
   a. Background information
   b. Responsibilities of chairmen
   c. Budget
   d. Keynoter
3. Review of past conference and recommendations
4. Review projected dates.
5. Input
STEERING COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

PROGRAM

With full committee, determine format/schedule/content for day, including items such as:
- number and types of sessions
- topics of sessions/workshops
- actual times
- allocation of space

Design and printing of program and meeting area diagram

Communicate with workshop leaders/Rabbi
- inform of topics; where relevant stress desire that Rabbis present their own personal feelings/views

Design and print evaluation forms - participants and Rabbis

ARRANGEMENTS

Coffee - during A.M. registration and breaks
Lunch
- caterer - negotiate menu and price
- set-up and serving - recruit volunteer help

Guides/ushers
Mark meeting areas
Arrange custodial/maintenance help
- may need additional volunteers for set-up/break down

PUBLICITY/P.R.

Press releases to newspapers & synagogues
Flyer/registration form for congregations to reprint in bulletin and reproduce to mail as separate stuffer
Photo person for conference day coverage - Charles Rafshoon
Post-conference press releases
Paid ad in Atlanta Jewish Times - format, size, price
Make and distribute posters
Contact ritual and adult education committees
Contact Torah study groups and Chavurat
Contact Rabbis about bema announcements

MODERATORS

Enlist
Train
Schedule
Post-conference thank yous
EDUCATOR LIASON

Design and implement program
Inform educators
Registration
  accept mail-in and conference day registrations
  set up registration table with volunteer help
Leader for Hamotzei, Birkat (have copies)
Tables and chairs throughout building - rental if necessary
Security/parking
Coordinate PA system
Taping (video-audio)
Bell to change sessions
DEAR FRIEND,

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THIS YEAR'S SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, 1992, AT TEMPLE EMANU-EL, FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M., WITH RABBI DANIEL SYME AS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER. THE RABBI'S THEME THIS YEAR WILL BE "WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I DIE - JEWISH VIEWS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH."

LAST YEAR YOU GRACIOUSLY VOLUNTEERED TO BE A SESSION MODERATOR. THE MODERATORS FULFILLED AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION IN INTRODUCING THE RABBIS, MONITORING DISCUSSIONS AND ADHERING TO THE TIME SCHEDULES.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM REGARDING YOUR PARTICIPATING AS A MODERATOR AND RETURN TO THE UNDERSIGNED AT THE ADDRESS INDICATED.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ONCE AGAIN BE ABLE TO BE A PART OF THIS MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE.

SINCERELY,

PAULETTE LOVITZ
MODERATOR COORDINATOR
2917 MOUNTAIN TRACE
ROSWELL, GA. 30075
PHONE - 640-9815
THE GARY METZEL MEMORIAL SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

REFORM JEWS IN SEARCH OF SPIRITUALITY
EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I DIE?
JEWISH VIEWS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH

PRESENTED BY
ATLANTA REFORM SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL • ALBANY HEBREW CONGREGATION
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL • CONGREGATION CHILDREN OF ISRAEL • CONGREGATION KEHILLAT CHAIM
TEMPLE BETH DAVID • TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL • TEMPLE EMANU-EL • TEMPLE ISRAEL • TEMPLE KOL EMETH
TEMPLE SINAI • THE TEMPLE • UAHC SOUTHEAST COUNCIL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1992 • 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
TEMPLE EMANU-EL • 1580 SPALDING DRIVE • DUNWOODY, GA 30350

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
RABBI DANIEL B. SYME, VICE PRESIDENT
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

WORKSHOPS LED BY AREA REFORM RABBIS

MORNING SESSION
SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS OF JEWISH VIEWS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH
DEALING WITH A TERMINALLY ILL LOVED ONE OR FRIEND
JEWISH TEACHINGS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPRESSING LOVE WHILE OUR LOVED ONES ARE STILL ALIVE
QUILT AFTER DEATH OF LOVED ONES

AFTERNOON SESSION
CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH PANELS OF RABBIS

SPECIAL SESSIONS FOR REFORM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TEACHERS
$12.50 PER PERSON, INCLUDING LUNCH • DIETARY LAWS OBSERVED

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME ___________________________ CONGREGATION ___________________________

ADDRESS ________________________________________________________________

CITY/STATE/ZIP ___________________________ PHONE ___________________________

CHECK IF YOU ARE ATTENDING REFORM TEACHERS CONFERENCE

RETURN WITH CHECK FOR $12.50 PER PERSON, PAYABLE TO TEMPLE EMANU-EL.
MAIL TO TEMPLE EMANU-EL, 1580 SPALDING DRIVE, DUNWOODY, GA 30350 BY JANUARY 24, 1992
FOR INFORMATION: 395-1340
THE GARY METZEL MEMORIAL SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

"In May of 1983 I attended a UAHC/CCAR Commission on Worship in New York City. The major presentation was made by Rabbi Eugene Borowitz on the subject of spirituality. It is Rabbi Borowitz's opinion that the aspect of spirituality in Judaism has been neglected so much in recent decades that it now needs to be given special emphasis. This presentation made such a strong impression on me that I started to think about how to structure an action program based on these principles, with which I fully agree."

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PROGRAM

9:00-9:30AM
REGISTRATION

9:30-11:00AM
OPENING SESSION

WELCOME............................................................. MILTON CRANE, CHAIRPERSON
NIGUN...............................................................................
CANTOR SCOTT COLEBART, TEMPLE EMANUEL
INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER.......................... ARTHUR HEYMAN, PRESIDENT, ATLANTA REFORM SYNAGOUE COUNCIL
KEYNOTE SPEAKER.................................................. RABBI DANIEL B. SYME, VICE PRESIDENT, UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

11:15-12:10 PM
WORKSHOP I
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I DIE?
JEWISH VIEWS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH
TEACHERS' WORKSHOP

12:15-12:55 PM
LUNCH
HAMOTZI
........................................................... CANTOR BARBARA G. MARGULIS, CONGREGATION KEHILLAT CHAIM
BIRKAT HAMAZON.................................................... CANTOR SCOTT COLEBART, TEMPLE EMANUEL

1:00-1:55 PM
WORKSHOP II
CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH PANELS OF RABBIS

2:00-2:30 PM
CLOSING SESSION
COMMENTARY AND SUMMATION.................................. RABBI DANIEL B. SYME
NIGUN...............................................................................
CANTOR BARBARA G. MARGULIS, CONGREGATION KEHILLAT CHAIM

TEXT FOR DISCUSSION

WORKSHOP I
11:15-12:10 PM
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I DIE
JEWISH VIEWS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH
(SELECT ONE SESSION)

RICHARD M. BAROFF, TEMPLE BETH DAVID
EL MALEY KACHAM

FRED V. DAVIDOW, CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
"I WILL DWELL IN YOUR TEMPLE FOREVER; I WILL BE SAFE UNDER THE SHELTER OF YOUR WINGS."
PSALM 61:5

RONALD GERSON, CONGREGATION CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, ATHENS
"WHAT REALLY IS IMMORTALITY? THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON, CHAPTER 3 (FROM THE APOCRYPHIA)

PHILIP N. KRANZ, TEMPLE SAPI
"THE WILL DESTROY DEATH FOREVER." THE JEWISH VIEW OF LIFE ETERNAL. ISAAC 25:8

STEVEN LEBOW, TEMPLE KOL EMETH
"I'M NOT SURE THERE IS AN AFTERLIFE, BUT I'M TAKING A CHANGE OF UNDERWEAR, JUST IN CASE.
WOODY ALLEN: GETTING EVEN

JORDAN PARK, CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AUGUSTA
KETUBOT 104a

FRED RASKIND, RODEPH SHOLOM, ROME
"IMPLANTED WITHIN US LIFE ETERNAL" FROM THE TORAH BENEDICTION

WILLIAM L. ROTHSCCHILD, THE TEMPLE
"MAY IT BE DIVINE WILL THAT THE IMMORTALS ABOVE OVERPOWER THE MORTALS BELOW" PRAYING AND ACTING FOR THE DEATH OF THE SUFFERER. KETUBOT 104a

LAURENCE A. SCHLESINGER, TEMPLE ISRAEL, COLUMBUS
LIFE BEYOND: SOME REVEALING RABBINIC INSIGHTS.

ALVIN M. SUGAR, MAN, THE TEMPLE
THE MEANING OF DEATH IS THE 'ULTIMATE SELF DEDICATION TO THE DIVINE... FOR THE PIUS MAN, IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO DIE.' ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL

FRANK N. SUNDEMP, UAHC REGIONAL DIRECTOR
EZEBIEL 37:12-13; PSALM 16:8-11; DANIEL 12:1-2; THE TRADITIONAL GEVUROT PRAYER AND SELECTIONS FROM PIRKE AVOT

HARVEY J. WINKUR, KEHILLAT CHAIM CONGREGATION
"HERE AND NOW OR THERE AND AFTER: IS THERE A REFORM VIEW OF THE WORLD-TO-COME?"
1. How did you learn about this conference?

___Atlanta Jewish Times
___Jewish Georgian
___Temple bulletin or mailing
___Rabbi at Services
___Other____________________

2. Circle past Spirituality Conferences you have attended—
   1992

3. What attracted you to this year's conference?

4. Has this conference been of value to you?
   ___yes ___no Please describe:

5. What do you feel would be the ideal length of the session
   with the Rabbis?
   ___45 ___60 ___75 ___90

6. Did you attend the Teachers' Workshops?
   ___yes ___no

7. Please share your thoughts and suggestions for improving future
   Spirituality Conferences, e.g., topics, format, speakers, etc...

PLEASE USE BACK OF THIS FORM FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: DEPOSIT
IN BOX AT REGISTRATION TABLE.

We would appreciate your continued involvement in the Spirituality
Conferences. Please detach and return this section for future
participation.

NAME________________________________________________________
CONGREGATION________________________________________________
ADDRESS______________________________________________________
CITY, STATE, ZIP_______________________________________________
PHONES(____)__________________________________________________

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BEING ON THE COMMITTEE FOR NEXT
YEAR'S CONFERENCE? ___yes ___no

Mail to: Spirituality Conference, c/o Temple Emanu-el,
1580 Spalding Drive, Atlanta, Ga. 30350
HONORARY CHAIRMAN:
Jackie Metzel  
2979 Sequoyah Dr. NW  
Atlanta, Ga. 30327
h. 355-8514

CHAIRMAN:
Milton Crane  
2072 Renault Lane NE  
Atlanta, Ga. 30345
h. 633-0961
C. 220-2802

PROGRAM:
Ronald Rosen  
455 Ferry Landing  
Atlanta, Ga. 30328
h. 955-1888

ARRANGEMENTS: co-chairmen
Phyllis Levine  
5491 Trowbridge Dr.  
Dunwoody, Ga. 30338
h. 393-9813

Minnette Meyer  
2201 Brooke Farm Trail  
Dunwoody, Ga. 30338
h. 698-9722

MODERATORS:
Paulette Lovitz  
2917 Mountain Trace  
Roswell, Ga. 30075
h. 640-9815

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS:
Claire D'Agostino  
515 Rivercrest Ct.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30328
h. 952-6907

EDUCATORS LIAISON:
Scott Colbert  
Temple Emanu-El  
1580 Spalding Dr.  
Dunwoody, Ga. 30350
C. 395-1340
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, continued

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN:
Bud Subit
1961 N. Ridgeway Rd. NE
Atlanta, Ga. 30345
h. 636-9874
o. 457-2934

EX-OFFICIO PROGRAM:
Arnold Katinsky
265 Glencourtney Dr. NE
Atlanta, Ga. 30328
h. 3930096
o. 231-1888
STEERING COMMITTEE

Honorary Chairperson
Jackie Metzel
2979 Sequoyah Drive
Atlanta, Ga. 30327

Chairman
Bud Subit
1961 N. Ridgeway Rd.
Atlanta, Ga. 30345

Program
Milton Crane
2072 Renault Lane
Atlanta, Ga. 30345

Arrangements
Barbara Klineman
1075 Riverside Trace
Atlanta, Ga. 30328

Publicity & Public Relations
Cary Rosenthal
120 River North Court N.W.
Sandy Springs, Ga.

Moderators
Paulette Lovitz
2917 Mountain Trace
Roswell, Ga. 30075

Educators Liaison
Jeff Lazar
Temple Sinai
5645 Dupree Dr. N.W.
Atlanta, Ga. 30327

Immediate Past Chairpersons
Brenda & Mark Turetsky
2319 Lago Drive
Jonesboro, Ga. 30236

Ex-Officio - Program
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Mrs. Beverly Bruce

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<td>Rabbi Fred Raskind</td>
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February 4, 1992

Mrs. Jackie Metzel
2979 Sequoyah Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30327

Dear Jackie,

Thank you for a wonderful return visit to the Metzel Conference. I know that Gary would have been pleased with the large turnout and the superb spirit that pervaded the day of serious study.

It has been an honor and privilege to be part of this tribute to Gary for the last two years. I know the conference will continue to grow in numbers and strength.

I'm grateful for your friendship.

All the best.

Fondly,

Rabbi Daniel B. Syme
Senior Vice-President.
<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Rabbi Richard Baroff</td>
<td>3340 D Fairway Oaks Dr.</td>
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<td>Mr. Stephen Fink</td>
<td>Albany Hebrew Congregation P.O. Box 3288</td>
<td>Albany</td>
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<td>31705</td>
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<td>Mr. Ted Frankel</td>
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In May of 1983, I (Gary Metzel) attended a UAHC/CCAR Commission on Worship meeting in New York City. The major presentation at that time was made by Rabbi Eugene Borowitz on the subject of spirituality. ("Beyond Immanence": Religious Education, vol. 75, no. 4, July-August 1980). It is Rabbi Borowitz's opinion that the aspect of spirituality in Judaism has been neglected so much in recent decades that it now needs to be given special emphasis. It is his opinion that we need to address the balance between the human aspect of our Judaism and that part of it which knows an Other to which we human beings respond, thus creating the Jewish religion. He pointed out that a significant number of Americans are concerned with their spiritual roots and one of the important reasons for this unexpected religious turn is the widespread perception of the collapse of our society's accepted sense of personal and social values.

There must be an effort now to restore a sense of the transcendent Other in liberal Judaism. He is personally inclined to speak of it as re-dedicating our personal relationship with Adonai or God. Rabbi Borowitz further stated that he takes it for granted that a sense of immanence is well established among us and that almost all people know that there is something in us that responds to the transcendental Other. We have stressed immanence, the human side of religion, to the point where its transcendental side is almost lost.

He then went on to describe eight ways in which non-Orthodox Jews have reached for some measure of transcendence, and made certain suggestions by which liberal Jews can reach more spirituality and break what he calls the "conspiracy of silence" about God that has existed between Reform Jews and their rabbis. He called for our professional leaders to set our standards by their demeanor -- to be role models, and that exemplification needs to be verbalized. Moreover, the people need to see that the search for the sacred is a genuine concern of their leaders; only then will they feel free to acknowledge their own religious feelings.

The presentation made such a strong impression on me that I started to think about how to structure an action program based on both principles, with which I fully agree.

I made a report on this paper at the UAHC Southeast Council Executive Committee in Atlanta and proposed that the Council think about an action program along these lines.

Contemporaneous with these events, Rabbi Lewis Littmann, the Regional Director of the Southeast Region, helped form the Atlanta Reform Synagogue Council, composed of seven Reform congregations. After some organizational meetings, the Council held a discussion as to what the synagogues in Atlanta could cooperatively do that would have a meaningful impact on the Reform community in Atlanta.

I proposed a conference based on Rabbi Borowitz's paper. This was unanimously adopted. I secured a commitment at that meeting from every Reform rabbi in Atlanta to participate in making this conference a success. Each rabbi was asked to give his/her own personal view of God and His place in their lives.

Five or six planning meetings were held during the next twelve months and the result in October of 1984 was the first conference under the title "REFORM JEWS IN SEARCH OF GOD: THE SEARCH FOR SPIRITUALITY". Rabbi Harvey Fields gave the keynote address and Rabbi Sanford Selitzer the wrap-up.

This conference was a catharsis. It was a revelation in that congregants, for the first time, heard their rabbis talk about God from a personal perspective. They were hearing that their rabbis had doubts, questions, and understandings about God. This allowed the congregants to open up and begin discussing their own views.

This conference will stand as unique among all subsequent conferences because it broke the conspiracy of silence on the subject of God.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. We expected forty to fifty attendees and were gratified when we had close to two hundred.
Following up on this measure of interest a year later, the second conference was held on the general topic of "REFORM JEWS IN SEARCH OF GOD: SINAI AND BEYOND". Each rabbi discussed his personal view of what happened at Sinai and what it means to Reform Jews today. The keynote was given by Rabbi Karl Richter and the wrap-up address by Rabbi Lewis Littmann.

This conference attracted two hundred participants. It confirmed that the desire for dialoguing with the rabbis on various aspects of Reform theology was prevalent. The conference drew returns from the first conference, unaffiliated Jews, as well as Reform Jews from all the congregations in the Atlanta area. People commented that they liked both the exposure to so many rabbis and their varying perspectives. They also remarked that they valued the program because it brought the Reform Jewish community together.

The third annual conference was just completed on September 21, 1986. This year it was held in conjunction with the Reform Teachers meeting and gave the teachers an opportunity to hear the keynote speaker and attend a number of sessions with the local rabbis. In 1986 invitations were sent to communities within comfortable driving distance of Atlanta. Fourteen rabbis participated, including rabbis from Athens and Columbus, Georgia, and Birmingham, Alabama. A number of out-of-towners registered for the conference. The theme for the 1986 conference was "REFORM JEWS IN SEARCH OF GOD: THE MITZVOT -- LAW OR LORE?" Rabbi Samuel Karff was the keynoter and Rabbi Phil Kranz gave the wrap-up address.

This conference had two structural changes. One, a number of rabbis and congregations from outside Atlanta participated. Two, the annual Atlanta Reform Jewish Teachers' Conference became an integrated program within the Spirituality Conference. This came about because the local Reform educators saw the Spirituality Conference as an opportunity for several reasons, in that: it got the teachers to talk about God; it gave the teachers exposure to the rabbis of the community; and it enhanced their understanding of Reform Judaism.

Two sessions on finding God in the classroom were devised solely for the teachers. Even with an additional hundred teachers, the number of participants swelled beyond the previous year. This again validated the desire of searching for God. Rabbi Paul Tuchman, with the support of the Atlanta Reform Synagogue Council, presented the idea of having a retreat on the topic. He received over fifty positive responses.

Attendance at this conference broke all records. There were 324 registrants plus at least a couple dozen that dropped in during the morning and the afternoon. A summary of the attendee evaluations and the staff evaluations is included in this case study.

ARE WE ACHIEVING OUR GOALS?

The original motivation for these conferences was to provide a vehicle under which the entire Atlanta Reform community can get together in an event that would be Jewishly meaningful and educational, and build a strong Reform community in the Atlanta area.

I believe the success of these conferences is proof positive that this has been accomplished. In addition, we have addressed the "conspiracy of silence" about God that had existed in Atlanta and elsewhere between Reform Jews and their rabbis, as well as demonstrating dramatically that the search for the sacred is a genuine concern among us.

In my opinion, several byproducts have come out of these conferences. The most notable one is that the Reform constituency in Atlanta, now having heard all of the Reform rabbis at various times on various subjects, is beginning to understand that there is tremendous strength in the Reform community, while there is tremendous diversity in our unity. In other words, our rabbi does not feel as every other one about the great issues in Judaism, and each rabbi (indeed, each individual) addresses Jewish problems from a different point of view. This autonomy in diversity has always been the strength of Reform Judaism, which has the widest possible umbrella embracing the entire spectrum of observance and belief.

If these conferences have accomplished nothing else, "dayenu".
RSVP = Feb. 1, 1992
2 Epstein 2 Kerland
2 Crane 2 Vern & Nancy
1 Phyllis Lerner 2 Bill & Sallie Fein
1 Schwartz 2 Frances Little
2 Ron & Marilyn Rosen 2 Fabuck
1 Dan Simon 1 Rita & Bill Laventhal
1 Mollie Keigel 1 Janis & Harold Kirk
No Demson Sharon Westman
2 Neumann
1 Jay
1 Bob Dryfas
2 Trubitsky
2 Bill Rothschild
22 Hindheim, Adrienne Frank & Sara
2 Minnette & Mac Meger
3 Souit & Yoris
1 Janice
X (dinner - stop by, 5 min)
2 D'Agata
NOT COMING

Davidow
S. Schlesinger
Babette Rothschild
Chuck Recht — Col. 52
Lazar
Sugarman writing
Sam & David Goldstein
Steno's
Asserov's
Laskins
New Grumby
Joanne Bassinger

Franz
Katinsky

Mike Gordon

Larry Pikes

Circlev

Hayman
Star & Lenny Miller
Mt Vernon & Dunwoody

Phew! To Phew Industrial chamber.Dunwoody

to 285 W - turn left. Exit 27 (R after)
to 285 W - turn left. Exit 27 (G after)

Phew to Phew Industrial chamber. Dunwoody

N at 38 St - 3 Half Step right to Tilly Mill

R at 38 St - 3 Half Step left to Tilly Mill

Pass Brook Bend. L on Tilly Mill

L on Tilly Mill D

Pass Brook Bend. R on Brook Farm Drw

2nd left (3.5mi) Brook Farm Sect. R

Brook Farm Drw

Morning exercises.

January has 2 - Need 1 or 2 more volunteers.

Mt Vernon to Ashford Dunwoody

2nd St on RT

Brook Farm Trail

I live left -

2201 BF Trail
Envelopes
for Endowment Fund

395
8:00 clock
9 - 9:30 registration

Reservation
Jay
Susan
Nancy
Vera
6250

Shirley Pickel
Marvin Epstein
Arthur & Elaine
# The Perfect Image

1150 East Beechwood Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30327  
(404) 237-6627  
351-681

Sold to:  
Stacy Metzger Spirit Fund  
Jackie Metzger

Invoice Number: 3350  
Date: 4/8/92

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Steinberg Speaks At Shearith Israel

The Social Action Committee of Congregational Shearith Israel will sponsor a talk by Sen. Carole Steinberg of the Ga. 4th District. The topic of her address will be, "Why is it My Responsibility as a Jew?" Sen. Steinberg will address the congregation on January 10th during a short service starting at 7:45 p.m.

Sen. Steinberg served six terms as a Ga. State Representative. She is considering a run for U.S. Congress as a candidate for the Ga. 4th district, the seat currently held by Rep. Ben Jones.

There will also be an Open Shabbat following the address during which there will be a Q&A period. The talk is free of charge and the public is invited. Shearith Israel is located at 1890 University Dr. N.E. in Memphis. For further information, contact Michael Gdizi at 454-9999 or the synagogue office at 873-1754.

Campaign Workers Learn Techniques

"Miracle of Miracles," the Atlanta Jewish Federation's campaign workers opening event, will be held 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 12 at the Wachovia Operations Center, 2400 Piedmont Road.

Participants will learn solicitation techniques and receive resource materials and their prospects' pledge cards. They will also have the opportunity to hear guest speaker Steven Schwartz, facilitator and motivator. Past president of the Jewish Federation of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Mr. Schwartz is a board member of the Council of Jewish Federations, and a vice-chairman of the National Community Relations Advisory Committee.

Barry Blumberg and Wendy Suzman will co-host this event. Steve Selig is chairman of the 1992 Federation Campaign. For information, call Sharon Rosenfeld, 870-1603.

Israel in 1991 Is Topic of Forum

"Israel 1991: A Look Back," a forum sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and Ahavath Achim Synagogue, will be held 7 p.m. Jan. 12 at the synagogue.

Speakers include Dr. David Singer, who is responsible for AJC's Middle East survey and polls, Rabbi Arnon Goodman of Ahavath Achim and Sherry Frankel, assistant director of the American Jewish Committee. The program is free for members. Call the AJC, 254-5930.