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MSS 242, Gary Metzel Papers

Box 4, File 4

Spirituality Conference, 1995

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The Eleventh Annual Gary Metzel Memorial Spirituality Conference

The Whole Earth Is Full of God's Glory

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 1984 and which was subsequently 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.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

STEERING COMMITTEE


The Eleventh Annual Gary Metzel Memorial Spirituality Conference

PRESENTED BY

Atlanta Reform Synagogue Council, Temple Beth David, Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Children of Israel, Mizpah Congregation, Temple Kehillat Chaim, Temple Emanuel-EL, Temple Beth Israel, Temple Kol Emeth, Temple Shir Shalom, Temple Sinai, The Temple, UAHC Southeast Council

Sunday, February 19, 1995, 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Temple Emanuel-EL, 1580 Spalding Drive, Atlanta GA 30350
Program

8:30 - 9:30 AM
Registration, coffee ........................................ Social Hall I

9:00-9:30 AM
Shacharit Service .................................................. Sanctuary
Rabbi Stanley M. Davids, D.D., Cantor Scott E. Colbert, R.J.E.

9:30-10:30 AM
Opening Session ..................................................... Sanctuary
Welcome
Shelley A. Morton, Chairperson
Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Harold E. Ritz, President
Atlanta Reform Synagogue Council
Keynote Speaker ...................................................... Dr. Sherry Helene Blumberg, R.J.E.
Professor, Jewish Education, HUC-JIR, New York City

10:45 AM - 11:35 AM
TEACHERS' WORKSHOP (Concurrent with Workshop I) .................................... Sanctuary

WORKSHOP I
"The Whole Earth Is Full of God's Glory"

Speaker                           Topic For Discussion                        Room Number
Rabbi Richard Baroff, Temple Beth David, Snellville, GA  "Different Cognitive Concepts About God"  11
Student Rabbi Mark Bloom, Temple B'nai Israel, Riverdale, GA  "God And The People Israel - a Love-Hate Relationship"  14
Rabbi Fred V. Davids, Temple Shlom Shalom, Duluth, GA  "Stories That bring God Into The World"  8
Rabbi Stanley M. Davids, D.D., Temple Emann-El, Atlanta, GA  "The Rabbits Explore Suffering And Loss"  12
Rabbi Uri Green, Temple Beth Israel, Macon, GA  "Can You Be a Good Jew And Not Believe In God?"  23
Rabbi Brett Isernow, The Temple, Atlanta, GA  "In the Image of God ... Planting God In Image and Imagination"  10
Rabbi Joseph P. Klein, Mispah Congregation, Chattanooga, TN  "God's Image In Creation - Genesis 1 and 2"  13
Rabbi Philip Krausz, Temple Sinai, Atlanta, GA  "Music: It's Power to Comfort and Inspire"  22
Rabbi Scott B. Sadowson, Ph.D., Community Chaplain, Atlanta, GA  "Telling God's Glory During Trauma"  9

Rabbi Alvin Sugarman, Ph.D., The Temple, Atlanta, GA  "Talking to Children About God"  17
Rabbi Frank N. Sundheim, Regional Director, UARIC Congregations, Miami, FL  "Different Cognitive Concepts About God"  19
Rabbi Harvey J. Winokur, Temple Beth David, Roswell, GA  "Walking By a Burning Bush: Do You Acknowledge the Presence of God Every Day?"  7

1:45 AM - 2:35 PM
WORKSHOP II
"The Whole Earth Is Full of God's Glory"

Speaker                               Topic For Discussion                      Room Number
Joanne D. Lipton, R.J.E., The Temple, Atlanta, GA  "Images of God In the Prayer Book"  16
Rabbi Richard Baroff, Temple Beth David, Snellville, GA  "Different Cognitive Concepts About God"  11
Student Rabbi Mark Bloom, Temple B'nai Israel, Riverdale, GA  "God And The People Israel - a Love-Hate Relationship"  14
Cantor Scott E. Colbert, R.J.E., Temple Emann-El, Atlanta, GA  "Finding the Glory of God In Music"  18
Rabbi Fred V. Davids, Temple Shlom Shalom, Duluth, GA  "Stories That Bring God Into The World"  8
Rabbi Stanley M. Davids, D.D., Temple Emann-El, Atlanta, GA  "The Rabbits Explore Suffering And Loss"  12
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Rabbi Philip Krausz, Temple Sinai, Atlanta, GA  "Music: It's Power to Comfort and Inspire"  22
Rabbi Jeffrey Lazar, R.J.E., Temple Sinai, Atlanta, GA  "Talking to Children About God: Addressing Their Critical Issues, Are There reasonable Answers?"  20
Gary Metzel Spirituality Conference
Sunday, February 19, 1995

Committee Chairpersons

Honorary Chairperson:
Jackie Metzel
2979 Sequoyah Drive, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30327
H: 355-8514

Chairperson:
Shelley A. Morton
312 Blanton Road, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30342
H: 252-4452

Program:
Steve Lewis
215 Tawneywood Way
Alpharetta, Georgia 30202
H: 442-0454
O: 442-9805

Arrangements:
Louise K. Freedman
270 The South Chace
Atlanta, Georgia 30328
H: 255-7292

Moderators:
Milton Crane
2072 Renault Lane
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
H: 633-0961
O: 220-2802

Bud Subit
1961 N. Ridgeway Road, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
H: 636-9874

Publicity and Public Relations:
Addie Schneider
1411 Saratoga Court
Marietta, Georgia 30062
H: 565-4176
O: 256-5007

Registration:
Julie Teplis
3970 Sentry Crossing, N.E.
Marietta, Georgia 30068
H: 977-3151
O: 977-2575
Immediate Past Chairperson:
Paulette A. Lovitz
2917 Mountain Trace
Roswell, Georgia 30075

Program Editor:
Arnold Katinsky
265 Glencourtney Drive, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30328

ARSC President:
Harold E. Kirtz
8150 Insbruck Dr.
Dunwoody, Georgia 30350

Temple Emanuel Executive Director:
Adrienne Bisko
Temple Emanu-El
1580 Spalding Dr.
Atlanta, Georgia 30350

H: 640-9815
H: 393-0096
H: 368-9755
H: 395-1340

O: 231-1888
O: 347-7522

O: 395-1340
July 7, 1995

Dear Jackie:

I want to thank you for the efforts that you and your congregation [the Spirituality Conference Committee] have made over a number of years to make the Gary Metzel Memorial Spirituality Conference a success. As we are about to embark on the detailed planning of the next Conference, I believe that it is appropriate to review where we are with the Conference and consider ways in which to enhance its ability to make an impact on the Reform Jewish community. A number of issues need to be addressed, some of which have been brought to my attention by various individuals.

I would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss these issues. Among the issues to be addressed are the following:

(1) The availability and cost of keynote speakers appropriate to the topic of spirituality.

(2) The funding of the Spirituality Conference.

(3) How to create a Conference that appeals to a broader audience.

(4) How congregations should publicize and promote the Conference and encourage members to participate.

(5) Are there opportunities for follow-up after each Conference so that the Conference becomes a catalyst for further learning?

(6) The timing of the Conference and how the timing of various Scholar-in-Residence programs impact on the Conference.

(7) How does each of the host congregations handle its support of the Conference; how are funds expended; is there greater efficiency and consistency that should be achieved regarding logistical support and expenses?

Please come to a meeting at Temple Emanu-El on Thursday, August 31, 1995, at 7:30 P.M. I expect the meeting to last until 9:30 P.M.; please arrive promptly. Come with your suggestions and insights.

Sincerely,

Harold E. Kirtz
President, ARSC
March 20, 1995

Ms. Jackie Metzel
Honorary Chairperson
Gary Metzel Memorial
Spirituality Conference
2979 Sequoyah Drive, NW
Atlanta, GA 30327

Dear Jackie,

On behalf of the steering committee of the 1995 Spirituality Conference it is indeed my pleasure to thank you for inviting us to your home, the Saturday evening before the conference.

As always you are a gracious hostess. Dinner was delicious! The committee members did appreciate the opportunity to meet and socialize with Dr. Blumberg before "The Day."

Thank you so much for your support, guidance, as well as your thoughtfulness.

With best personal wishes..........
Mary Mac. Allin  - CT State Senate
5 min
Devotional

Thanks for invited you here
all 8 ch.

We believe that we are all God's children.
Care for interest  
Maintain a balance
Use of powers for good of all.

Bill's answer: Pray in whose name?
Know I am the "I".

Love mentioned in Bible

Love

1. Love one's neighbour as yourself
2. a stranger in your midst

2. Justice in moderation
The following books will be available for purchase in the Temple Emanu-el Library during conference registration and following the concluding remarks this afternoon. (No food in the library, please!) Raise your "spiritual consciousness" and take home a lasting memory from the Gary Metzel Memorial Spirituality Conference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Etan Boritzer</td>
<td>IPP Limited</td>
<td>&quot;What is God?&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marc Gillman</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>&quot;Does God Have a Big Toe?&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua Haberman</td>
<td>Free Press</td>
<td>&quot;The God I Believe In&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert D. Ingram</td>
<td>Ausberg Press</td>
<td>&quot;Who Taught Frogs to Hop?&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harold Kushner</td>
<td>Shochen Books/Random House</td>
<td>&quot;When Children Ask About God&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Sasso</td>
<td>Jewish Lights Press</td>
<td>&quot;God's Paintbrush&quot;</td>
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<td>Sonsino &amp; Syme</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>&quot;Finding God&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas Wood</td>
<td>Pfeiffer &amp; Hamilton</td>
<td>&quot;The Old Turtle&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Author: Unknown (compilation)  
Publisher: Jason Aronson Publications  
Title: "The Condition of Jewish Belief"
300. A man is required to bless God for evil, even as he is to bless Him for good, as is said, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God... with all thy might (meodekha)” (Deut. 6:5). Read rather: “For every measure (middah) that may be measured out to you, thank Him (modeh).”

238. R. Eleazar ha-Kappar used to say: They who are born [are destined] to die, and they that are dead to be brought to life, and the living to be brought to judgment. Therefore men who should know, make known, and be fully aware that He is God, He is the Fashiner, He is the Creator, He is the Discerner, He is the Judge, He is the Witness, He is the Plaintiff, and He, blessed be He, will pass judgment. In His presence there is no guile, no forgetting, no respect of persons, no taking of bribes. For everything is His. And know that all is according to reckoning. Do not let your impulse to evil assure you that Sheol is a place of refuge for you: despite yourself you are formed; despite yourself you are born; despite yourself you live; despite yourself you will die; and despite yourself you are destined to give an account and reckoning before the King of kings, the Holy One, blessed be He.

316. R. Akiva used to say: The punishment of the wicked in Gehenna lasts [no more than] twelve months.

317. We have been taught: For a full twelve months, the body remains in existence while the soul ascends and descends [to join the body]. After twelve months, the body ceases to exist, and the soul ascends [to the treasury of souls] and descends no more.

321. R. Huna said: Suffering is divided into three portions: the patriarchs and all the generations of men took one portion; the generation that lived in the time of Hadrian’s persecution took the second portion; and the generation of the king Messiah will take the third.

324. When R. Yohanan fell ill, R. Hanina, went to visit him and asked, “Are your sufferings welcome to you?” R. Yohanan replied, “Neither they nor their reward.” R. Hanina: “Give me your hand.” R. Yohanan gave him his hand, and R. Hanina raised him up from his sickbed [fully cured].

287. He whose good deeds are more numerous than his wrongdoings is punished as severely as though he had burned a Torah scroll, leaving not even a single letter. And he whose wrongdoings are more numerous than his good deeds has as much good bestowed upon him as though he had kept the entire Torah, omitting not even a single letter.

294. R. Yannai said: We did not enter into the tranquility of the wicked, nor did we attain the suffering of the righteous. Hence, neither the tranquility of the wicked nor the suffering of the righteous is within our reach.
326. The man who stubbornly refuses to learn from his suffering must suffer doubly for his stubbornness.*

2. R. Yohanan said: What demonstrates the truth of the verse "Happy is the man that feareth alway, but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief" (Prov. 28:14)? The fact that the destruction of Jerusalem came about through a Kamtza and a Bar Kamtza, that the destruction of King's Mountain came about through a cock and a hen, that the destruction of Bethar came about through the shaft of a royal litter.

The destruction of Jerusalem came about through a Kamtza and a Bar Kamtza in this way. A certain man, who had a friend named Kamtza and an enemy named Bar Kamtza, once arranged a banquet and said to his servant, "Go and bring Kamtza." But the servant [mistakenly] went and brought Bar Kamtza. When the host found his enemy Bar Kamtza seated in his home, he said, "You hate me, so what are you doing here? Pick yourself up and get out!"

Bar Kamtza: "Now that I am here, let me stay, and I will pay you for whatever I eat and drink." The host: "No!" Bar Kamtza: "Then let me give you half the cost of your banquet." "No, sir!" "I will pay the full cost for your entire banquet." "Under no circumstances!" Then the host grabbed Bar Kamtza by his arm, pulled him up from his seat, and threw him out.

The ousted Bar Kamtza said to himself: Since the sages sitting there did not stop him, it would seem that what happened met with their approval. So I will go to the king and inform against them. He went and said to Caesar, "The Jews are about to rebel against you." Caesar: "How can one prove such an accusation?" Bar Kamtza: "Send them an offering [for their Temple] and see whether they will be willing to offer it." So Caesar sent a fine calf with Bar Kamtza. While on the way, Bar Kamtza inflicted a blemish on its upper lip, or, some say, injured its eye, in a place where we [Jews] count it a blemish but heathens do not. The sages were inclined to offer it in order to maintain peace with the government. But R. Zechariah ben Avkulas protested, "People will say that blemished animals may be offered on the altar." Then it was proposed to have Bar Kamtza assassinated, so that he would not continue to inform against them. Again R. Zechariah ben Avkulas demurred: "Is one who makes a blemish on consecrated animals to be put to death?" (R. Yohanan was to remark: The scrupulousness of R. Zechariah ben Avkulas, as well as his forebears, destroyed our [holy] house, burned our Temple Hall, and caused us to be exiled from our Land.)

"The testing is not random. Continually let our faith

293. "The Lord testeth the righteous" (Ps. 11:5). R. Jonathan said: Your potter does not test defective vessels, because if he gives them a single rap [to test them], they break. Which vessels does he test? The sound ones, which even if rapped many times will not break. So, too, the Holy One does not test the wicked—only the righteous.

R. Eliezer told the parable of a householder who had two heifers, one whose strength was ample and the other whose strength was limited. Upon which one will he put the yoke? Not on the one whose strength is ample? So, too, the Holy One tests the righteous."

162. R. Simeon ben Gamaliel said: I spent all my life among sages and found nothing better for a person than silence. He who talks too much brings on sin.*

307. R. Nathan son of Joseph said: Chastisements are precious. Because of them, the covenant was made with the children of Israel, as is said, "I will bring you into the crucible of the covenant" (Ezek. 20:37).

R. Nehemiah said: Chastisements are precious, for as offerings make atonement, so chastisements make atonement. Of an offering, it is written, "It shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him" (Lev. 1:4); and of suffering under chastisement, it is written, "The land shall lie forsaken without them . . . while they shall make atonement for their iniquity" (Lev. 26:43). Not only this, but even more! Suffering under chastisement is better than offerings for making atonement, for offerings come out of a man's property, but chastisements fall upon a man's very person."
From The Library Shelf...

BY SARA DEITCH

November is once again Jewish Book Month, and time to take note of and take advantage of the wonderful world of Judaic publishing. To celebrate Jewish Book Month, the library is planning two special events — a Shabbat book review by Rabbi Kranz and the 5th Annual Book Fair.

On Friday evening, November 11, Rabbi Kranz will review Roger Kamenetz’s “Jews in the Lotus: A Poet’s Rediscovery of Jewish Identity in Buddhist India.” Rabbi Kranz will not only share with us Mr. Kamenetz’s experiences, he will also tell of his own encounter with the Dalai Lama some years ago. This should be a fascinating discussion.

The 5th Annual Book Fair will be held on Sunday, November 20, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, in the temple foyer. This date, a week before Chanukah, and the simultaneous Sisterhood Chanukah Bazaar should afford all a chance to do some serious shopping. As in past years, there will be a selection of adults and children’s books — from paperbacks to coffee table books — covering a wide range of Judaic subjects, both old standards and the latest offerings from the publishing houses. Mark your calendar for a temple morning on November 20th.

Library Guild Selections

Gershon: Kol Nidre: Its Origin, Development and Significance. Explains the origins and halakhic basis of Kol Nidre, it’s powerful ritual and how it functions in modern times.

Ginzberg: The Fatal Embrace: Jews and the State. Examines the cycle of Jewish success and anti-Semitic attack throughout the history of the Diaspora with focus on the “special case” of America.

Lappin, ed.: Jewish Voices. German Words: Growing Up Jewish in Postwar Germany and Austria. Stories, memoirs and essays by 14 German Jewish writers.

If you wish to use one of the above to fulfill your Library Guild commitment, or choose alternative selections, call Sara Deitch (252-3073). Remember, your $25 donation to the Library Guild allows you to dedicate a book of your choice to the Temple Sinai library in honor or memory of a loved one or event. For information, call Judy or Dick Marks (952-0491).

Keynoter Named for ’95 Spirituality Conference

The Gary Metzel Memorial Spirituality Conference Steering Committee has announced the selection of Dr. Sherry H. Blumberg as the keynote speaker during this year’s conference On Sunday, February 19th at Temple Emanu-El.

Dr. Blumberg will focus on this year’s theme: “The Whole Earth Is Full of God’s Glory.”

An assistant professor of Jewish education at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, Dr. Blumberg is a former director of religious education at several California congregations, a published author and a nationally-recognized consultant in Jewish education.

The Gary Metzel Memorial Spirituality Conference memorializes former Temple Sinai member and president Gary Metzel who initiated the conferences here in Atlanta in 1984 in an attempt to encourage Reform Jews to discuss God and spiritual matters and to examine their personal theologies.

Many communities throughout the country have modeled their own conferences after the Atlanta project.

What ever happened to...

If you have children, or know of children, who grew up at Temple Sinai, and currently live in the Atlanta area, the Young Membership would like to invite them to our activities and programs.

Please help us locate our former classmates by calling Stacy Wolff at 262-7576.
**Dateline: Jewish Education**

**BY RABBI JEFFREY LAZAR**

We had a wonderful religious school open house for parents in October. Moms, dads and even some **grandparents came** to demonstrate their support for the educational program. They sat and listened as teachers taught creative, yet purposeful, lessons in order to present a picture of what goes on in the classroom. The objectives were to let parents **know how they** can be supportive and what our expectations are. In anticipation of the day, parents received by mail a copy of a grade level syllabus as well as a list of student competencies (what we expect our boys and girls to accomplish by the end of the year). Our hope is to keep the home informed of what is happening.

Of interest were two assemblies we held for parents and students. The first was for grades 4, 5 and 7. We posed the following question: In five to eight years, when you will be going off to college, what do you hope Temple Sinai's religious school will have done for you so that you can function in the world comfortably as a Jew and a human being? Our kids told us they wanted to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah, confirmants, to become more active within the congregation, to strengthen their Hebrew skills, to see more religious respect by all peoples toward one another, to learn more Torah and to go to Israel.

Our parents overlapped some of these responses — especially the trip to Israel — and hoped their sons and daughters would become equipped with day-to-day Jewish living skills so that they can approach Judaism as a total way of life. They also said they wanted their children to be more literate with Jewish history, holidays and traditions, plus current events. And they said they would like us to continue to build a greater sense of community. This is quite a wish list. We will continue to work on fulfilling each part of it.

The second assembly was with 6th grade parents and students to talk about our Bar/Bat Mitzvah program. Responsibility was the area we stressed; that, and good communication.

Our annual religious school open house presents us with the opportunity to showcase the best we have to offer. To the parents who took advantage of the day, who got the chance to meet our faculty and show our kids that you care, we are deeply appreciative. This bodes well for the future.

**Youth Group News**

**LIZ FOX**

November and December are shaping up to be great months for the Sinai Youth group and AAFTY (Atlanta Area Federation of Temple Youth). AAFTY is planning a trip to an Atlanta Knights hockey game on November 5. The games are always fun.

Over the weekend of November 13, Temple Sinai will hold a leadership training session for the AAFTY board.

In December, the Sinai Youth group has planned the biggest event of the year — a Q-zar/Rocky Horror Lock in which will include BOB (the junior Youth group) for the Q-zar portion of the event. This promises to be exciting, and we're looking for a huge turnout.

Winter regionals will be held in late December for all SEFTYites in Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama and Florida. These conventions are lots of fun and a great way to make new friends.

Finally, the SYG will hold bagel sales on the third Sunday of every month. The bagels are always fresh and the proceeds benefit the youth group.

"Hot Monogamy" is Hot Topic For Young Members

The Young Members of Temple Sinai will sponsor licensed family therapist Maxine Rosen in a program called "Hot Monogamy," or "How to Make a Good Marriage Even Better," at 4:00 pm, Sunday, December 4, at the home of Leah and Ted Blum, 130 Nautica Way in Roswell.

Maxine is a licensed clinical social worker as well as a marriage counselor and family therapist. She has maintained a private counseling practice in Sandy Springs for more than 30 years and has spoken to numerous groups and organizations on the topic of family communications and relationships.

Chief among her credentials, however, is the fact that she has been happily married to the same person, Sinai past president Ron Rosen, for more than 31 years, is the proud mother of two children and is awaiting the arrival of her first grandchild.

Anyone interested in attending this program can make reservations by calling the temple office. Directions are also available from the office.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**CHANGES**

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Benbenisty
140 Stoney Ridge Drive
Alpharetta 30004  634-8238

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bogart
1288 Kittredge Court
Atlanta 30329  636-1056

Laura Cohen
909 N. Highland Avenue
Atlanta 30306  884-9625

**NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Alembik
1300 Crest Valley Drive
Atlanta 30327  255-3727

**Remember someone with a gift from the Book Fair.**

**Nov. 20th**

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**Nov. 20th**
Introduction and Theory

Men and Women's Psychology
Men and Women's life experience
Traditional's role

Questions for thought and discussion:

For you, are differences in men and women
a. primarily physical/biological
b. primarily socially taught
c. both

How do you think about things? Try to describe the way you make decisions? Do you go by feelings or thought more often? Are you intuitive or do you reason from step to step?

List the primary things that you cherish most. Try for 10

What images (as found in the names of God) are most meaningful to you?

What is your relationship to time and cycles?

What is your relationship to your body?

Describe your ideal prayer setting?
When thou goest forth in camp against thine enemies, then thou shalt keep thee from every evil thing. If there be among you any man, that is not clean by reason of that which changeth him by night, then shall he go abroad out of the camp; he shall not come within the camp. But it shall be, when evening cometh on, he shall bathe himself in water; and when the sun is down, he may come within the camp. Thou shalt have a place also without the camp, whither thou shalt go forth abroad. And thou shalt have a paddle among thy weapons; and it shall be, when thou sittest down abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee. For the Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy; that He see no unseemly thing in thee, and turn away from thee.

On the verse “that ye may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy unto your God” (Num. 15:40), the rabbis offered the following parable: A man fell into the sea. The captain of the boat threw him a rope and said, “Cling to this rope and do not let go of it; if you loosen your hold upon it you will drown!” Similarly said the Holy One, blessed be He: “So long as ye cleave to the commandments, ‘ye cleave unto the Lord your God and are alive every one of you this day’” (Deut. 4:4), and it is also said, “Take fast hold of instruction, let her not go; keep her, for she is thy life” (Prov. 4:13). “And be holy”—so long as you fulfill the commandments you are rendered holy.

The Midrash

*The mark of a man’s foot*

“And the Lord said unto Moses . . . Behold I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb” (Exod. 17:5-6).

The Holy One, blessed be He, said to him: Wherever you find the mark of a man’s foot, there I am before you.
THE LORD WATCHES OVER FOOLS

(Psalm 116:6)

Because they are so dear to Him

Because they are at times

the only ones

(Besides

the

children)

who smooth

a rough hedged world

God soloves

God soloves

the fools

He blesses them

with His touch

He places His blessinghands

upon their mouths

and whispers mysteries

for them

to understand

and orchestrate upon His stage

in colorful display

He comforts them

with checkered handkerchiefs

and jokes

in those mostsecret moments

when

the clownface

streaks with tears

and the jester's shoulders

sag and bend

beneath the weight

of otherpeople's sadnesses

God Allgentle in His humored majesty

God soloves

the fools

the one times thirty-six

who wander

with their prophetsmiles

and battered overcoats

imaging Himself

in vaudeville-slapstick dignity

God Allwise

sitting

making fools

from dust and ashes.
Denise Levertov

The Thread

Something is very gently, invisibly, silently, pulling at me—a thread or net of threads finer than cobweb and as elastic. I haven’t tried the strength of it. No barbed hook pierced and tore me. Was it not long ago this thread began to draw me? Or way back? Was I born with its knot about my neck, a bridle? Not fear but a stirring of wonder makes me catch my breath when I feel the tug of it when I thought it had loosened itself and gone.

Miriam Kessler

Eli, Eli

My God, My God, he cried, if he is quoted right... somehow that moan is comforting to us, alone at night, who tremble, daring dawn, that He, so wise and strong, should weep and ask for aid. Somehow, my lovely distant god, it makes me less afraid.

Marge Piercy

A just anger

Anger shines through me. Anger shines through me. I am a burning bush. My rage is a cloud of flame. My rage is a cloud of flame in which I walk seeking justice like a precipice. How the streets of the iron city flicker, flicker, and the dirty air fumes. Anger storms between me and things, transfiguring, transfiguring. A good anger acted upon is beautiful as lightning and swift with power. A good anger swallowed, a good anger swallowed clots the blood to slime.
The Jewish Journey of Men and Women: Does the Spirituality for Men and Women Differ?

Dr. Sherry H. Blumberg
Scholar in Residence

Introduction and Theory
Men and Women’s Psychology
Men and Women’s life experience
Tradition’s role

Questions for thought and discussion:

For you, are differences in men and women
a. primarily physical/biological
b. primarily socially taught
c. both

How do you think about things? Try to describe the way you make decisions? Do you go by feelings or thought more often? Are you intuitive or do you reason from step to step?

List the primary things that you cherish most. Try for 10

What images (as found in the names of God) are most meaningful to you?

What is your relationship to time and cycles?

What is your relationship to your body?

Describe your ideal prayer setting?
On the verse "that ye may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy unto your God" (Num. 15:40), the rabbis offered the following parable: A man fell into the sea. The captain of the boat threw him a rope and said, "Cling to this rope and do not let go of it; if you loosen your hold upon it you will drown!" Similarly said the Holy One, blessed be He: "So long as ye cleave to the commandments, ye cleave unto the Lord your God and are alive every one of you this day" (Deut. 4:4); and it is also said, "Take fast hold of instruction, let her not go; keep her, for she is thy life" (Prov. 4:13). "And be holy"—so long as you fulfill the commandments you are rendered holy.

The Midrash

*The mark of a man's foot*

"And the Lord said unto Moses . . . Behold I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb" (Exod. 17:5-6).

The Holy One, blessed be he, said to him:
Wherever you find the mark of a man's foot, there I am before you.
THE LORD WATCHES OVER FOOLS

(Psalm 116:6)

Because they are so dear to Him

Because they are at times

the only ones

(Besides

the

children)

who smooth

a roughedged world

God soloves

the fools

He blesses them

with His touch

He places His blessinghands

upon their mouths

and whispers mysteries

for them
to understand

and orchestrate upon His stage

in colorful display

He comforts them

with checkered handkerchiefs

and jokes

in those mostsecret moments

when

the clownface

streaks with tears

and the jester's shoulders

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beneath the weight

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70
The Thread
Denise Levertov

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Anger storms between me and things, transfiguring, transfiguring.
A good anger acted upon is beautiful as lightning and swift with power.
A good anger swallowed, a good anger swallowed clots the blood to slime.
August 11, 1994

Dear Jackie,

The Endowment Committee has budgeted $394.00 from the Metzel Endowment Fund for 1994-95. Plans and a budget for the use of the money should be presented to the Endowment Committee for approval, four months prior to the event or anticipated expenditure.

We look forward to another contribution for our congregants and the community in the area of spirituality.

Sincerely,

Linda

[Handwritten note: Add cl Shelley Morton 10-24-24. Shelley and she was nifted.]
August 11, 1994

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We look forward to another contribution for our congregants and the community in the area of spirituality.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

By Benevolence, Man Reaches a Height Where He Meets God 
Hai Gaon
FUNCTIONAL SCHEDULE FOR SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1995

ALL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN ROOM 13 AT TEMPLE EMANU-EL AT 7:30 P.M.

11/10/94  FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
11/10/94  LETTERS TO RABBIS REGARDING TOPICS
11/30/94  RECRUIT MODERATORS
          NEGOTIATE AND DETERMINE MENU AND PRICES WITH CATERER
12/15/94  FOLLOW UP TO RABBIS
          SECOND PRESS RELEASE TO SYNAGOGUES
12/21/94  SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
1/2/95    DISTRIBUT FLYERS, REGISTRATION FORMS AND POSTERS TO SYNAGOGUES
          *SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING*
1/8/95    FOLLOW UP PRESS RELEASES AND POSTERS TO SYNAGOGUES
          MODERATOR TRAINING SESSION
1/10/95   PROGRAM TO PRINTER
2/1/95    THIRD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
2/12/95   FINAL COUNT TO CATERER
2/19/95   *THE DAY*
2/20/95   POST CONFERENCE NEWS RELEASE
2/22/95   THANK YOUS TO PARTICIPANTS AND VOLUNTEERS
3/1/95    STEERING COMMITTEE EVALUATION AND CRITIQUE MEETING
December 9, 1994

Dear

I am pleased to announce that plans have been finalized for the Eleventh Annual "Gary Metzel Memorial Spirituality Conference". The Conference will take place at Temple Emanu-El from 9:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M., with Dr. Sherry Helene Blumberg as the keynote speaker.

This year's theme will be "The Whole World is Full of God's Glory", with the use of Midrash to develop our spirituality and acceptance of diversity. Dr. Blumberg has suggested the following for workshop topics:

1. Finding God's glory during trauma
2. Different cognitive concepts of God
3. Talking to children about God
4. God and humor
5. Music that speaks about God
6. Finding the glory of God in music
7. Can you be a great Jew and not believe in God?
8. Images of God in the prayerbook
9. Finding God through stories
10. Metaphors we use in speaking about God

The format will include the keynote presentations followed by workshops led by Rabbis and Educators from Atlanta and surrounding communities. These sessions will involve a presentation by each Rabbi and/or Educator, followed by a group discussion. You are cordially invited to participate as a workshop leader and we hope you will accept.

The Reform Teacher's Workshop will again be part of the Conference, with some concurrent and separate sessions. Your congregation and Religious School leaders are invited to attend. Please mark the date on your temple calendar.

We hope you can be with us on February 19th. We are looking forward to another successful and meaningful Spirituality Conference which will be greatly enhanced by your presence.
Please reply by January 5th, advising us of the text source you plan to use, so that we can conclude all arrangements. We would appreciate your mailing this information in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Shelley A. Morton, Chairperson
1995 Gary Metzel Spirituality Conference
(404) 252-4452 (Home)
(404) 252-3073 (Temple Sinai)

enclosure
Norman Cohen - Calendar of Date
Laura Hoffman
Feb 10 - 11 - 12
Jeffrey Salkin
Peter Noble
Sheldon Zimmerman
Harold Stole

Books
GUIDELINES FOR SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

I. Pre-Event (Beginning 30 days before conference)

A. Interface with host temple Administrator

1. Secure layout of physical plant, know exactly where the registration area, sanctuary, and classrooms are in relation to entrances and each other.

2. Arrange for availability of long tables, chairs for registration area. Obtain easel(s) for signs directing attendees to registration area, classroom areas.

3. During last 2 weeks, stay in close contact with Administrator, Teacher coordinator, for updated attendee totals (you will need these to determine the number of badges you'll need, as well as the number of sign-up tables for each category of attendee.

4. On the Friday before the conference, get final attendee lists from host temple office and educator coordinator.

B. Organize Support Group

1. Each group of attendees (Teachers, Pre-Registrants, and Walk-Ins) will need at least two people to sign them in (one for A-K, one for L-Z) and give them their conference packets. Ideally, there should also be an additional volunteer available to collect registration fees for those who aren't prepaid. You will also need one volunteer to greet the speakers and hand them their conference packets.
C. Create Signage

1. You'll need one sign inside each door that says "Registration," with an arrow pointing to the registration area. You may also need smaller signs along corridors, both for registration and to designate classroom areas. You'll also need several signs for inside the registration area. These include large signs for the walls above the tables, saying "Pre-Registered Attendees," "New Registrants," "Teachers," and "Speakers," as well as smaller signs for each table saying "A-K" and "L-Z."

D. Prepare Supplies

1. Obtain name tags. These should be color-coded for each separate group -- speakers, volunteers, attendees, and teachers. Also, make sure you have extra registrant badges to accommodate walk-ins.

2. Markers and pens. Have markers on hand for name tags, or signs that need to be replaced. Also, have pens on hand to mark off people when they've paid, or to indicate last-minute additions to lists.

3. Money box. Make sure you have a shoe-box or some container to collect registration monies.

II. Event Day

A. Volunteer Assembly

1. Make sure volunteers report one hour before the start of registration. You'll need plenty of time to coordinate setting up of tables and chairs, to go over assignments with each volunteer, to set up signs both inside and outside the registration area, and to arrange the materials appropriately on each table.

B. Troubleshooting

1. During registration, make the rounds regularly from table to table. Make sure all procedures are flowing smoothly, and that every table has an adequate supply of conference materials for attendees. In addition, offer to "spell" volunteers from time to time if they need to get refreshments, or visit the rest room.
Gary Metzel Spirituality Conference
Page Two

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Sincerely,

Shelley A. Morton, Chairperson
1995 Gary Metzel Spirituality Conference
(404) 252-4452 (Home)
(404) 252-3073 (Temple Sinai)

enclosure
VOLUNTEERS FOR 1995

Mr. Jack Adelman
2431 Cennandale Dr.
Marietta, GA 30066
(H) 977-2082; (O) 961-8472

Ms. Toni Adler
2677 Ridge Valley Rd. NW
Atlanta, GA 30327
351-7159
Sinai

Ms. Vicky Alembik
580 Edgewater Trail
Atlanta, GA 30328
252-7866
Sinai

Mr. Jeff Ashe
666 Virginia Ave. NE
Atlanta, GA 30306
876-0582

Ms. Sandra Ashe
666 Virginia Ave. NE
Atlanta, GA 30306
876-0582

Ms. Carole Babush
1274 Ragley Hall Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30319
231-1965
Sinai

Mr. Barry Berkowitz
705 Edgewater Trail
Atlanta, GA 30328
(H) 951-9209; (O) 347-4169

Ms. Elaine Blumenthal
3840 Brandy Station Ct.
Atlanta, GA 30339
Sinai

Ms. Rosalyn Bush
6215 Blackwater Trail
Atlanta, GA 30328

Dr. Jane Rosenberg Coombs
235 Twinspur Ct.
Roswell GA, 30076
641-9535

Ms. Evelyn Crane
2072 Renault Ln. NE
Atlanta, GA 30345
633-0961
Sinai

Mr. Milton Crane
2072 Renault Ln. NE
Atlanta, GA 30345
633-0961
Sinai

Ms. Susie Davidow
2479 Old Orchard Ct. NE
Atlanta, GA 30338
(H) 457-5219; (O) 231-2142

Ms. Sara Deitch
4549 Harris Trail
Atlanta, GA 30327
231-3665
Sinai

Ms. Wendy Dubin
1112 Aurora Ct.
Dunwoody, GA 30338
(O) 395-6496

Ms. Vera Ellmann
1501 High Haven Ct. NE
Atlanta, GA 30329
325-7146
Temple

Ms. Jan Epstein
1743 Reindeer Dr. NE
Atlanta, GA 30329
636-4044
Sinai

Mr. Warren Epstein
1743 Reindeer Dr. NE
Atlanta, GA 30329
636-4044
Sinai
VOLUNTEERS FOR 1995

Ms. Sandra Faye
2081 B Powers Ferry Rd.
Marietta, GA 30067
933-8756
Sinai

Ms. Andrea Feinstein
2883 Chelsey Trail
Jonesboro, GA 30326

Ms. Sandy Ferko
2652 Wood Hollow Dr.
Doraville, GA 30360

Ms. Susan Flax
1392 Mountain Overlook Ct.
Marietta, GA 30066
591-7688
Kol Emeth

Ms. Beth Fleet
2630 Mill Pond Ct.
Duluth, GA 30136
(H) 446-6051; (O)* 897-1462

Ms. Louise K. Freedman
270 The S. Chace
Atlanta, GA 30328
255-7292
Temple

Mr. Mort Giniger
2526 Coralwood Dr.
Decatur, GA 30033
(H) 636-0036; (O)396-7788
Temple

Mr. Jay Givarz
1155 S. Milledge Ave.
Athens, GA 30605
404) 543-6393
B'nai B'rith Hillel

Ms. Lou Glenn
1615 Peachtree Battle Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30327
399-1968

Dr. Michael Gordon
1121 Cedar Branch Ct. SW
Marietta, GA 30064
426-0934

Mr. Jack Greene
145 Belmont Trace
Atlanta, GA 30328
255-0330
Sinai

Mr. Arthur Heyman
28 Willow Glen
Atlanta, GA 30342
252-8909
Sinai

Ms. Elsy Heyman
28 Willow Glen
Atlanta, GA 30342
252-8909
Sinai

Ms. Anna Hirsch
3655 Haberham Rd. #319
Atlanta, GA 30305
816-2929
Temple

Ms. Gladys Hirsch
4978 Rebel Trail NW
Atlanta, GA 30327
255-2000
Sinai and Beth Jacob

Ms. Connie Giniger
2526 Coralwood Dr.
Decatur, GA 30033
636-0036
Temple
VOLUNTEERS FOR 1995

Ms. Lynnor Holder  
1842 Blackwater Dr.  
Marietta, GA 30066  
924-9074  
Kol Emeth

Ms. Pamela Howell  
1438 N. Morningside Dr. NE  
Atlanta, GA 30306  
876-1427  
Temple

Ms. Cathy Jacobson  
5085 Winding Branch Dr.  
Dunwoody, GA 30338

Ms. Barbara Klineman  
1075 Riverside Dr.  
Atlanta, GA 30328  
252-7633  
Sinai

Ms. Faye Landey  
495 Tahoma Dr.  
Atlanta, GA 30350  
396-0423  
Sinai

Mr. David Lerman  
2227D Plaster Rd.  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
(H) 321-3890; (O) 455-2594; 2078; 2180

Ms. Phyllis Levine  
5491 Trowbridge Dr.  
Dunwoody, GA 30338  
(H) 393-9813; (O) 873-2277  
Emanu-El

Ms. Charlotte Marcus  
845 Canterbury Rd. NE  
Atlanta, GA 30324  
(H) 237-7701; (O) 656-0124  
Sinai

Ms Sandra Menes  
666 Virginia Ave. NE  
Atlanta, GA 30306

Ms. Shirley Michalove  
2634 Cove Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30319  
636-0590  
Sinai

Ms. Joyce Natbony  
2020 River N. Pkwy NW  
Atlanta, GA 30328  
394-6562  
Sinai

Ms. Charlotte Rafshoon  
1322 Briarwood Rd. #E-4  
Atlanta, GA 30319  
Temple

Ms. Shelley Rose  
506 Montgomery Ferry Dr.  
Atlanta, GA 30324  
Temple

Dr. Ron Rosen  
455 Ferry Landing  
Atlanta, GA 30328  
(H) 955-1888; (O) 948-7228  
Sinai

Dr. Martin Rosenman  
1176 Converse Dr.  
Atlanta, GA 30324  
237-7797 or 231-3777  
Temple

Mr. Cary Rosenthal  
120 River North Ct.  
Atlanta, GA 30328  
(H) 393-2497; (O) 457-1301  
Emanu-El

Ms. Ruth Rubin  
221 Camden Rd.  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
351-5280  
Temple

Mrs. W. H. Sachs (Lotte)  
5850 Garber Dr. NE  
Atlanta, GA 30328  
926-1358  
Kehillat Chaim
VOLUNTEERS FOR 1995

Ms. Addie Schneider
1411 Saratoga Ct.
Marietta, GA 30062
565-4176
Kol Emeth

Mr. John Schneider
3966 Viewpoint Ct. NE
Marietta, GA 30066

Ms. Tasia Schneider
5005 Hidden Branches Dr.
Dunwoody, GA 30338
Temple

Mr. Bud Sublit
1961 N. Ridgeway Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30345
Temple

Ms. Beth Sugarman
760 Old Creek Trail
Atlanta, GA 30328
255-8240
Sinai

Dr. Ed Sugarman
760 Old Creek Trail
Atlanta, GA 30328
255-8240
Sinai

Ms. Brenda Turetsky
2319 Lago Dr.
Jonesboro, GA 30236
477-1482
B'nai Israel

Mr. Mark Turetsky
2319 Lago Dr.
Jonesboro, GA 30236
477-1482
B'nai Israel

Mr. Beryl H. Weiner
3266 Rilman Dr. NW
Atlanta, GA 30327
(H) 237-3568; (O)* 956-9004
Temple

Ms. Phyllis Weiss
4289B N Shallowford Rd. NE
Chamblee, GA 30341
458-6070

Mr. Dick Wise
3649 Buford Hwy #I-8
Atlanta, GA 30329
(H) 634-6713; (O) 397-1000
Temple

Ms. Harriet Zoller
525 Tahoma Dr.
Dunwoody, GA 30330
(H) 396-2428; (O) 329-7941
Emanu-El
8:30 - 9:30 Registration
9 - 9:30 Conduct Services
9:30 - 10:30 Keynote Speaker

10:45 - 11:30 1st Workshop
11:45 - 12:30 2nd Workshop
12:45 - 2 p.m. Lunch & Study

Welcome Remarks
Keynote
Shelley
Remarks, Rabbi
Keynote
THE GARY METZEL MEMORIAL SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

REFORM JEWS IN SEARCH OF SPIRITUALITY
ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE WHOLE EARTH IS FULL OF GOD'S GLORY

PRESENTED BY
ATLANTA REFORM SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL
Albany Hebrew Congregation · Congregation B'nai Israel · Congregation Children of Israel
Mizpah Congregation · Temple Beth David · Temple Beth Israel · Temple Emanu-El · Temple Israel
Temple Kehillat Chaim · Temple Kol Emeth · Temple Shir Shalom · Temple Sinai · The Temple
UAHC SOUTHEAST COUNCIL · GARY METZEL SPIRITUALITY FUND

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1995
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

TEMPLE EMANU-EL · 1580 SPALDING DRIVE · DUNWOODY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. SHERRY HELENE BLUMBERG, R.J.E.
Professor · Author · Jewish Education Consultant

WORKSHOPS LED BY AREA RABBIS
Special session for Reform educators and interested others

$12.50 per person including lunch · Dietary laws observed
Babysitting will be provided if demand is great enough*

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REGISTRATION

NAME ______________________________________ CONGREGATION __________________________
ADDRESS __________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP __________________________ PHONE __________________________

_ I will attend Reform educators session
_ I would use babysitting if available*

RETURN THIS FORM WITH CHECK FOR $12.50 PER PERSON PAYABLE TO TEMPLE EMANU-EL
MAIL TO EDUCATION OFFICE, TEMPLE EMANU-EL, 1580 SPALDING DR., DUNWOODY, GA 30350
BY FEBRUARY 10, 1995
FOR INFORMATION CALL: 395-1340
THE GARY METZEL MEMORIAL SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

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MAIL TO EDUCATION OFFICE, TEMPLE EMANU-EL, 1580 SPALDING DR., DUNWOODY, GA 30350
BY FEBRUARY 10, 1995
FOR INFORMATION CALL: 395-1340
Here is a short biographical statement that is general -- I have included a short CV for you to add any of the details that you think might interest your particular readers.

Dr. Sherry H. Blumberg is assistant professor of Jewish education on the Rabbinic faculty of Hebrew Union College--Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. She earned her M.A. and PH. D. in Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles where she wrote about God and religious experience.

Sherry's background as a teacher and as a director of religious education at several congregations in California spans 25 years. She is a published author of several mini-courses, chapters in books, and journal articles. In addition to teaching at the college, Sherry serves as a teacher in the Bergen Academy of Reform Judaism (a community Hebrew High School in Northern New Jersey) and as a consultant in Jewish education.