



# Beth Am COMMENTATOR

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MIAMI, FLORIDA

APRIL 7, 1972

## **Your Grandchildren Will They Be Jewish?**

The "First Friday Forum" for this coming Friday night, at 8:30 p.m., will have as its theme, "Your Grandchildren--Will They Be Jewish?" Rabbi Baumgard will serve as the moderator and several leading members of the community will serve as experts on the panel.

The discussion will be held in the Social Hall following the Family Service which begins at 7:30 p.m. The subject is prompted by the fact that an increasing number of Jewish young people are marrying other than Jews without a commitment even to raise the children as part of the Jewish community. As a consequence, it is conceivable that within several generations, there will be no significant Jewish community in America.

What are the facts? What can we do to impress upon our children the importance of their remaining Jews? Is religious school enough? Are we strong enough in our own Judaism? These and other questions will be discussed.

## **SCHOOL VACATION CALENDAR**

There will be NO school for weekend students on:

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Students WILL RETURN to school on:

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

There will be NO school for Hebrew students on:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Students WILL RETURN to school on:

MONDAY, APRIL 10

Monday night school will resume on April 10.



### **RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

#### **YIZKOR MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Wednesday, April 5, 9:00 a. m.

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Friday, April 7, 7:30 p. m.

#### **Family Worship Service**

Rabbi Steinberg

#### **'Happy Birthday To Israel'**

First Grade Hebrew Class  
(Mrs. Reva Rosenblatt)

Beth Americans and Young Adult Choir  
will sing.

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Saturday, April 8, 11:15 a. m.

#### **TORAH SERVICE**

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#### **FIRST FRIDAY FORUM**

April 7, 8:30 p. m.

Social Hall

Rabbi Baumgard will moderate on

#### **'Will Your Grandchildren Be Jews?'**

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#### **NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 9

In honor of Passover





FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

## Is Your Home "Jewish?"

Christians frequently say to me, "We wish we had the family life you have in the Jewish home." When they say that, I think of two things, the warmth and festive activity of the traditional Jewish home, and the Jewish home that has surrendered to the style of life that is part of the American middle class. The two kinds of home are basically dissimilar. The traditional Jewish home was the Jew's castle in a churning world. It was the place where he found love and protection in a world which was alien and antagonistic. It was also the place where he discovered the meaning of life, the role for him to play in linking Sinai and Messiah (the past and the future). Also significant is the fact that home was where the netertainment was. The cycle of Jewish holidays was celebrated to the full. The exotic food was here. The anticipation was here. The fun was here.

The American-Jewish middle class home is something else again. Life is not celebrated in the home. Home is a base one touches in a frenzied agenda which carries one far and wide. Parents are shadows you see while you run in and out of the house. One looks forward, not to the special foods on Jewish holidays, but to the gourmet cooking of the finest restaurants. Our children increasingly claim the world as their home, while our talk of the Jewish group strikes them as something alien. They are pained by their experiences in the exploding society around them, but they don't come home for solace and for re-grouping. They turn to others who have other things to teach them. They think Sinai is a fiction and the Messianic day is either not relevant or something they thought of themselves. What has been lost is the idea of the Jewish home as the center of love and meaning.

Part of the problem lies in the mobility and openness of our society. Part of the problem lies within ourselves as parents. The fact that our society is increasingly more mobile (our children can go anywhere, see anything, be attracted to anything) is one we will have to learn to live with. It only makes our task as parents the more difficult. Our children have a much wider range of possible choices than you and I ever had. As a result, they are freer and more miserable than we ever were. Also, you and I, if we wish to be parent-teachers, have to work harder and more wisely than our parents ever had to work. Mothers no longer have to work long hours washing dishes and clothes. Now, they have to become teachers of psychology and situational ethics. Our oppressed fathers have to work harder at their jobs to maintain a higher standard of living, but they can not relinquish the responsibility of being teachers to their children. Indeed, that role, once so vital in the Jewish household, now becomes increasingly more significant.

Within the limits of this column today, I can make only one point. The least we have to do today is to give our children a foundation on which to stand. Children need traditions today more than ever before. They need a sense of purpose more than ever before. They need a basis of comparison more than ever. While they may resent our TALK about Jewish ideals, they do not resent our LIVING OUT these ideals. While they may resent our hypocrisy about things, they desperately need our example of living both Jewish traditions and the Jewish perspective of life.

The average American-Jewish middle class parent does a great deal of talking about being Jewish and about Jewish standards. He does very little living out of his Judaism. We teach better by what we DO, than by what we SAY. This is the first lesson we have to learn. Our children know instinctively that people act out what is really important to them. Start with this premise--your children are watching you. What are you showing them to be of importance to you? Is it fancy clothes, a bigger car, a football game, and liquor, or is it charity, concern for people, and concern for Jewish institutions? Please note, I am not suggesting that we eliminate all of these things. Surely, however, they are less significant than giving your child a way of life, such as Judaism.

What is the key place for the family celebration? The Ornage Bowl, The Steak House, or home--for Friday night dinner? What do your children see you caressing --a golf club, a liquor bottle, or the Bible? This is the kind of pragmatic question that will lead you to some understanding of what you are teaching your children through your actions.

## Joan's Gems



By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Dee Markowitz, Bobbie Emanuel, Bernadette Bersin, and Murray Brooks. . . . Congratulations to Roger, son of Dr. and Mrs. Norman Nash, who has been accepted to the University of Miami Medical School. . . . If you really wanted to see something beautiful, you should have seen our Nursery Kindergarten and Primary Bloc mock Seders on Friday, March 24. It would have brought great joy to see how our very young people participate in this most important holiday of the year. . . . Barry, son of Joan Schwartzman, was elected into the National Spanish Honor Society at Palmetto Senior High School.

It's that time of year again--spring vacation--and your reporter is so pleased to see so many of our young college students come into our Temple office just to say hello.

## B'nai Mitzvah

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1972  
9:30 a.m.



April Rose, daughter of  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Scherer

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1972  
11:15 a.m.



Keith, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Housman



Scott, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Julian Tannenbaum