



Beth Am COMMENTATOR

VOL. 11, No. 20

MIAMI, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 11, 1972



RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Friday, February 11, 8:30 p.m.

'Ask The Rabbi'

Your questions solicited
by Rabbi Baumgard

Music by
THE ADULT CHOIR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE

Parents Get Help On Tuesday Nights

How liberal can we be with our children? Is there such a thing as being too easy or too firm? Should we insist that they get good grades? How closely should we supervise their friends? These and other questions may be discussed in the new Adult Ed program, called "Effective Parenting," to take place on Tuesdays, beginning February 15, at 9:00 p.m. Discussion leaders will include psychologist Dr. Bernard Eingold, psychiatrists Dr. Harry Graff, Dr. Samuel Greenberg, Dr. Evan Katz, and others.

Rabbi Steinberg will teach a class on the Biblical Book of Job at 8:00 p.m. At 8:00 p.m. also, there will be classes in Hebrew (for beginners and forgetters); Jewish Cooking, and Needlepoint. The last two classes are dependent on a minimum registration.

At 9:00 p.m., in addition to the meeting on parent-child problems, there will be a class in Israeli Tourist Hebrew.

How Should We Raise Our Children? Tuesday Classes Have The Answer

Beginning Tuesday, February 15, For Six Weeks

9:00 p.m. "EFFECTIVE PARENTING"

(Drs. Bernard Eingold, Harry Graff, Samuel Greenberg,
Evan Katz, and others)

8:00 p.m. "WHY DO THE RIGHTEOUS SUFFER?"

The Book of Job - Rabbi Arthur Steinberg

8:00 p.m. HEBREW READING - FOR BEGINNERS AND FORGETTERS

Mr. Krassenstein

9:00 p.m. ISRAELI TOURIST HEBREW

Key phrases for those who know little or no Hebrew.
(Lecturer to be announced.)

8:00 p.m. JEWISH COOKING - Mrs. Ziff

(Course dependent on registration--\$3.00 per person)

8:00 p.m. NEEDLEPOINT - Mrs. Swerdlow

A beautiful needlepoint tapestry has been designed for the Temple lobby. You can help make it. Learn how. (Course dependent on registration.)

Primary School And Pre-School Open For Registration Immediately

Beth Am members are being given priority in registration for our Primary School and our Pre-School (Nursery-Kindergarten) programs for 1972-3. Registration is open immediately to members only in both departments. This priority for members will cease March 14, when applicants will be taken strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

Plans for the Primary School this year include three blocs. One bloc will include grades one and two. The second bloc will include grades two, three, and four. The third bloc will include grades four, five, and six. Please note that the inclusion of the sixth grade is new for this coming year.

Since the pre-school has had waiting lists this entire past year, members should take advantage of this priority offering immediately. It is also anticipated that the classes in the Primary School will be completely filled.

The unique learning environment in the Primary School includes individualization of both secular subjects and Hebrew. Conversational Hebrew is taught beginning in the first grade.

For additional information and brochures, call the school office, 666-2536.



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Attitudes On Violence - In the Eighth Grade

Suppose there was a robber in your home, would you shoot him? A question similar to this was discussed by the Rabbis of old in the Talmud. (There, a knife was involved, not a gun). The Rabbis were not ready to concede that the victim had the moral right to take the life of the thief. On the other hand, the Rabbis felt strongly that the victim could not permit himself to be killed. They were not pacifists, in the sense that they did not believe in self-sacrifice, but they so valued human life that they did not belittle even the life of a thief. The Talmud suggests that a victim may not use force until every conceivable alternative has been used. When does that critical moment come when you can use force? The Rabbis seek to delay this moment indefinitely.

We presented this same question to the children of our eighth grade classes the last weekend in January. We were surprised to note that the weight of thinking was that we should shoot sooner rather than later. A considerable portion of the children would shoot at the thief even if he hadn't entered the house. It seems obvious that our children have been conditioned by some ethic other than the Jewish ethic.

What is this ethic that has gripped our children? It is the ethic of the Hollywood cowboy. The heroism of the good guy is measured by his readiness to shoot it out with the bad guy. This is not Judaism; it is good western, T. V. Americanism.

There was also evidence of fear amongst our children. The on-rushing crime wave has made them edgy. Everyone is taking to the gun, so, perhaps, they had better also.

Our discussion on violence points up the problem of teaching Judaism in 20th century America. How can one speak of the value of human life in a nation which has 70 million guns in private hands, which kills 50 thousand a year on the highways, which has the greatest murder rate in the world, and which has the highest crime rate? Inevitably, all of this affects our children and becomes part of their thinking and attitudes.

The Talmud teaches, "He who takes one human life is as if he has destroyed the world." We are trying to teach your children the sanctity of life. At times, it seems our job is insurmountable. However, our fathers did not despair of transforming the barbaric world of their time. We shall not despair either.

Las Vegas Highlights

What former Beth Am President (initials H.F.) made 12 straight "passes" at the Sisterhood Las Vegas Nite and missed on unlucky 13? A large crowd was on hand and thoroughly enjoyed itself. Pin a rose on the "Roses" for their splendid work (Jackie and Al). Ditto to the many hard workers on the affair, held at Kings Bay. What tall and bald figure won all the money at Bill Silver's black-Jack table? And what a "croupier" Ed Raduns is! Bill Baros really controlled that green "rug" with Al Kessler helping out. . . . Why did the players want Leonard Rappaport to keep dealing? . . . And where did Joan Ravitch get all those beautiful handbags?

Rabbi Baumgard will be on Channel 7

"Still Small Voice" Program

Sunday, February 13

10 to 10:30 a. m.

Ladies To Knit Lobby Tapestry

A group of ladies, led by Diana Elson, Millicent Swerdlow, and Selma Baumgard, are planning an original needlepoint tapestry for the wall in the Temple lobby. The theme will be the scene where the Prophet Nathan confronts King David and accuses him of immoral deeds at the risk of the prophet's life. Bath-Sheba will also be in the scene. Those who wish to help make the tapestry should leave their name at the Temple office.

Mrs. Swerdlow will be conducting a class in needlepoint on Tuesday nights, at 8:00 p.m., beginning February 15. The scene is being designed and should be ready shortly. The tapestry will make a beautiful addition to the Temple lobby.

Joan's Gems



By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Lewis and Jean Gillis announce the engagement of their daughter, Sherry, to Wayne King, son of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell King, of Spencer, Iowa. Sherry practices dental hygiene in San Jose, California, after having graduated from Northwestern University, in Chicago. Wayne is a graduate of Buena Vista College and attends San Jose College, where he is working on his Masters in clinical psychology.

B'nai Mitzvah

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

11:15 a. m.



Arthur, son of
Dr. and Mrs. Warren Lieberman

Steven Robert, son of
Mrs. Joan Schwartzman