

commentator

New Pledges Roll In For Teenage Building

Families making new pledges to the Teenage Building Fund include:

Dr. and Mrs. Morton Axler, Brotherhood, Dr. and Mrs. David Feigenbaum, Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Susman, Mr. and Mrs. David Berg, Mr. and Mrs. David Berman, Mr. and Mrs. Al Leibert, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lipton, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Housman, Dr. and Mrs. Harry Graff, Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Block, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert J. Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Marshal Rosenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Harris Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Lennie Greenstein, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wexler, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Davis, and Mr. and Mrs. Saul Genet.

Teenage Coffee House Held

The Beth Am Federation of Temple Youth (BAFTY) sponsored the annual Teen Coffee House on Wednesday evening, December 29. This outstanding program, which started at 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Lounge, was designed for all teenagers of the Temple, whether youth group members or not, as well as for all members of the different youth organizations which meet on Temple grounds.

First In A Series Of Youth Council Activities

This Coffee House evening was the first program of several to be presented throughout the year by the Beth Am Youth Council. Each of the youth groups meeting at the Temple are represented in a Youth Council, which is directed by Mrs. Karen Krawcheck. These groups will be sponsoring social events for all youth groups periodically throughout the year.

The Coffee House presented folk singers, dancers, and dramatists in addition to refreshments and good fun and fellowship for all.

Friday Forum Topic Is 'Classroom Crisis'

The topic of the "First Friday" forum on Friday, January 7, at 8:30 p.m., in the Social Hall, will be "Crisis in the Class Room."

Dr. Erwin Lesser, psychologist, will be the moderator of the panel, which will include one Public School principal from each school level. Participants will include Dr. Donald Smith of Florida International University, representing the college problem; Dr. Ed Arah, Principal of Killian Senior High, Mr. Charles Gray, Principal of Carver Junior High, and Erwin Marshall, Principal of Alcoa Lakes Elementary (and principal of Beth Am's Religious School).

Dr. Samuel Greenberg, co-chairman of the Temple's Adult Ed Committee, reports that future programs in the "First Friday" series will include topics like "Ecology--Is It Too Late?" on February 4; "Violence in America--Roots in Crime" on March 3; "Sex Education and Pornography" on April 7; and "The Modern American Jewish Family" on May 5.

Calendar Of Events

- January 7, Friday, 8:30 p.m. "CRISIS IN THE CLASSROOM"--Forum
- January 15, Saturday, 6:45 p.m. HAY RIDE--for Teenagers
- January 16, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. LEE RUWITCH, Brotherhood Breakfast

Lee Ruwitch Speaks Sunday, January 16

Michael Klein, president of Temple Beth Am Brotherhood, is proud to announce that Lee Ruwitch, publisher and owner of "Miami Review" and the "Broward Review," will be the guest speaker at the Temple's Congregational Breakfast on January 16, 1972. As usual, the breakfast will begin at 9:30 a.m., and will be held in the Social Hall.

Mr. Ruwitch's forte has been communications, and to list his many achievements in that field would be too time-consuming. However, certain undertakings are worthy of mention. He served as executive vice president and general manager of WTVJ, Channel 4, from 1948 to 1963. He was appointed by President Johnson to the Office of Economic Planning for a four year term in 1966. He served as president of Channel 2, educational TV in Miami, in 1968 and 1969.

Religious Services

Family Worship Service

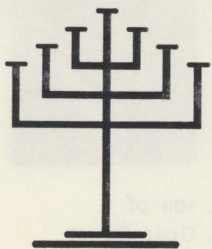
Friday, January 7, 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Baumgard will speak on the theme:

"The Champion Football Team"

8:30 p.m. --"First Friday Forum" in the Social Hall

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 11:15 a.m.
TORAH SERVICE





FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

The Mythic Material In The Bible

What do Reform Jews believe about the story of Adam and Eve? Was Adam, indeed, instantaneously created out of a lump of clay? Did Eve really develop from Adam's rib? Did Noah really have a ship large enough to contain all those animals? To these questions, Reform Judaism applies the evidence of scholarship and science. It also applies the evidence of archaeology.

To begin with, let us make it clear that we look upon the Bible not as the "Word of God," dictated by Him to Moses, and, therefore, infallible. For us, the Bible is the inspired work of the Jewish people trying to find the deeper meaning of life and living out these values in their own group experience. There is the evidence of the moral law in our Bible. We say that this emanates from the Divine. Man comes to this law through his experience, through his searching, through prayer, study, thought. If the Bible were lost, we would rediscover this basic law because it is the necessary kernel for human survival. It is universal law divine, but not every people has been capable of discovering this law. Only one people "heard the voice."

Secondly, we have the records of the Egyptians, the Assyrians, and the Babylonians, which help us to confirm the historic aspects of the stories that are recorded in the Bible. There is no doubt that the Hebrews were enslaved in Egypt, that they built two specific cities with their labor, that they developed a new nation in Canaan, that this was a unique constitutional monarchy, that the Prophets stood as ethical giants in their own time, castigating king and priest alike, and projecting goals for all mankind, yet unrealized. We have the moral contribution of ancient Israel--there is no doubt of its uniqueness. We have the history of this courageous people--there is no doubt that they stood alone amongst their contemporaries in their search for a meaningful world, emphasizing the notion of the sacred individual and the consecrated nation, and looking towards the messianic day of universal brotherhood.

None of this can be contradicted, even if all of the early pages of Genesis referring to the early history of mankind were completely negated. The truth or falsehood of the Adam and Eve story has nothing to do with the history and the ethical character of the Jewish people. The accuracy of the Creation Story has nothing to do with the power and efficacy of the Bible, which continues to be the most widely read and most influential book in the history of mankind, a Jewish book, OUR BOOK.

Having said all this, we look now at what I call the mythic section of the Bible. We must understand that a myth is something that is universally true, although it may never have happened in a specific instance, as described. I do not believe, for example, that there ever was a man named Adam. Our fathers were trying to teach through this story that all men and women are part of one large family. The implication of the myth of a primeval set of parents is that the Russians and the Americans are brothers. This is a truth that I believe will be demonstrated in time.

The deeper meaning of the operation performed on Adam, that Eve might be created, is found in the moral drawn by the authors of the Bible after the story is told. The text reads, "Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife, for she is bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh." This is a deep psychological insight. Many a marriage in modern times is ruined because the husband and wife do not understand the meaning of this story. Many a wife clings more to her father than to her husband. Many a husband clings more to the image of his mother than to his wife. "Cut the umbilical cord" is what this story teaches, for the relationship of man to woman must be more intimate than the relationship of child to parent. I don't think our fathers who were capable of this psychological insight really thought Eve was made from Adam's rib, but the story is an excellent vehicle to make a profound point. It is in this light and in this manner that we must examine the mythic material in the early pages of Genesis. If one is prepared to look for the meaning behind these stories, he will emerge with a greater reverence for the Bible than if he considered it in the traditional light.

(To be continued)

Joan's Gems



By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Shirley and Gus Karger just returned from a delightful trip to Portugal, where they celebrated their seventeenth wedding anniversary. . . . Melissa, daughter of Dr. Irwin and Margot Berman, a junior at Miami Killian High School, is a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist. . . . Jay, son of Joe and Bobbi Emanuel, wrote an original Chanukah poem, and will present his work at a school program at Frank C. Martin Elementary School. Jay is only 11 years old. How about that?

Congratulations to Martha, daughter of Joe and Virginia Altschuller, elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Emory University and engaged to Howard Zaritsky from Tampa. . . . Get well wishes to Jane Rosenthal, Monroe Zipp, Raymond Roth, Rita Trilling, Louise Rosenblatt, and Norman Elson. . . . Did you know that David, son of Lee and Abe Eisenman, played organ for over 700 people at the National Real Estate Convention at the Fountainbleau Hotel? David is only nine years old! Lee Eisenman has been elected for the second time as President of the Women's Council of the Southern Division of the Dade Chapter of the National Association of Real Estate Boards. Congratulations to all!

Sandy Susman has been elected President of the Dade County Air Conditioning Association, and has just returned from a trip to Rome with his lovely wife, Betty. Fellow Beth Amites Myrne and Saul Cohen joined them on their sojourn.

B'nai Mitzvah

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8
11:15 a.m.



Richard, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Essner

Matthew, son of
Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Fishman