



# Beth Am COMMENTATOR

VOL. 11, No. 25

MIAMI, FLORIDA

MARCH 17, 1972

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES



FRIDAY, MARCH 17  
8:30 p.m.

THE FRIDAY NIGHT UNIVERSITY  
presents

### Dr. Abraham Kaplan

Cited by Life Magazine as  
"ONE OF THE TEN BEST  
TEACHERS IN AMERICA"

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SATURDAY, MARCH 18  
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE

## Sunday Breakfast Features Kemper

On Sunday morning, March 19, at 9:30 a.m., Brotherhood will present the next Congregational Breakfast. At that time, Morton Kemper, of Baltimore, Maryland, and the newly elected first vice president of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, will be the guest speaker. Mr. Kemper is also the Chancellor of the Jewish Chautauqua Society. Donation for this event is \$1.50 for guests--free to members of Brotherhood.

Mr. Kemper is past president of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation Brotherhood and is a past member of the congregation Board of Electors. He is a member of the Suburban Club of Baltimore County and is past president of the Baltimore Furniture and Bedding Manufacturers Association. He is a member of the Maryland State Bar.

## One Of America's Great Teachers Speaks At Beth Am Friday Night

Dr. Abraham Kaplan, an honored professor from the University of Michigan, will be our guest speaker at Sabbath Services this Friday evening at 8:30 p.m. Dr. Kaplan has been cited by Life Magazine as "one of the ten best teachers in America" and richly deserves that distinction. Come and hear this great personality of our age.

This guest appearance is only one of a series of our Friday night University Program, which has already brought us an evening of humor and scholarly insights with Dr. Harry Orlinsky last month.

## Officers Nominated For Temple

The following slate of officers has been nominated by the Temple Beth Am Nominating Committee. The election will be held April 25, 1972.

For president, Dr. Maxwell Dauer; Executive Vice President, William Sanes. Nominated for vice presidents are Bernard Goodman, Samuel Steen, Eleazer Greenstein, Dr. William Silver, and Dr. Samuel Berkowitz. For financial secretary, Harry Gunther; treasurer, Max Feld; secretary, Shirley Schultz; and corresponding secretary, Jackie Rose.

For the Board of Directors, for a three year term expiring in 1975, William Baros, Irving Epstein, Sol Genet, Dr. Evan Katz, Harold Malin, Al Rose, Ira Segal, and Dr. Ronald Tikofsky.

For a two year term expiring in 1974, Marshall Rosenberg, Gilbert Tandler, and Mickey Lipton, to fill vacancies.

For a one year term expiring in 1973, Raymond Grossman, Esther Kessler, Leonard Luria, and Selma Rappaport to fill vacancies.

Still other members of the Board will remain to complete the terms to which they have been previously elected:

Two Year Term Expiring in 1974--Norman Lipoff, Elmer Marmorstein, Dr. Reuben Sorkin, Cliff Suchman, and David Welt.

One Year Term Expiring in 1973--Abe Eisenman, Leo Gelber, Marvin Markowitz, and Mike Wexler.

## Psychiatrist Talks On Children March 15

On Wednesday morning, March 15, at 10:30 a.m., Sisterhood will hold its monthly meeting luncheon. At that time, Dr. Herbert Bockian, psychiatrist, and Mrs. Roslyn Slater, chief social worker at the Children's Psychiatric Center, will discuss the subject, "Parents and Children--Harmony or Chaos." Luncheon is only \$1.75 per person. Be sure and bring your friends to this most provocative program.



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

## Passover For Home And Teacher

In spite of the importance western Jewry gives to the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Pesach is the most important Jewish festival down through history. Teachers should properly present it as THE Jewish Festival.

Pesach is the Jewish Spring festival. It begins on the eve of the fourteenth day of the month of Nisan. Originally, it was a seven day festival and is so observed today in Palestine. In Palestine, and among Reform Jews, the first and seventh days are days of rest. European Jewry and Orthodox Jewry observe the two days at the beginning and the end of the holiday as days of rest because it was difficult to determine when the holiday started and ended.

Pesach marks the beginning of the major grain harvest. It is one of the three major harvest holidays. To it, however, has been added a historical significance which makes it supreme among Jewish holidays. Spring is the time of redemption. It is the time when the earth stirs from its Winter slumbers, arises from its frozen death, and evidences fertility and life. The pagan peoples interpreted the cycle of agriculture in terms of a god who died in the Winter and arose (was redeemed) in the Spring. The Christians associated Spring with the resurrection of Jesus. The Jews alone give the advent of Spring an association with an historic event involving not only God, but an entire people. The "resurrection" is the emergence of a people from bondage; the re-birth is the dedication of a people to the moral code of life.

The Exodus from Egypt is the historic background of Pesach. Teachers should emphasize the courage of the Jewish people. The Exodus is the great symbol of man down through the ages whereby he gains courage to revolt against tyranny. Teachers should point out that the American Revolutionists used the slogans of the Jews in Egypt, "Rebellion against tyranny is obedience to God." The Negroes today consider themselves the "new Israelites" awaiting the great liberation.

The Seder ("order" of the meal) is a classic example of progressive education. Food, drink, song, questions, and answers are all woven together into a vivid sense-thought experience for the entire family. It is a home holiday, not only a Synagogue holiday. The symbols of the meal include Matzot--unleavened bread baked by the Hebrews on the run from Egypt; Charoset--mixed fruit salad, symbol of the mortar mixed for bricks by the Jews; Chomets--regular food not to be eaten on Pesach; Afikomen--matzah saved until the end of the meal, usually "stolen" by the youngest child; Haggadah--the story of the Pesach in book form used at the Seder; Elijah's Cup--the prophet Elijah is a sort of patron for children. His coming in legendary sources supposedly would indicate the coming of the Messianic day of peace and good will. Consequently, we pour a glass of wine for Elijah on Pesach and invite him to participate. Bitter Herbs (moror) are the symbol of suffering of the people at this time; Parsley--symbol of Spring harvest; Egg--substitute for sacrifice of lamb at this time; Shankbone--reminder of paschal lamb; Wine--symbol of the goodness of life, a reminder of God's creative powers--a symbol of hope for all the oppressed.

In traditional homes, all Chomets, foods ordinarily used and utensils normally used, are replaced by Passover dishes and foods. The practice has educational value in giving the home an air of festivity. Reform Jews should strive in every way to give their homes a "new look" at this season. The Sabbath before Passover is called Shabbat Ha-godol, "The Great Sabbath," because it preceded the deliverance of the Jews. Parents should review the story of Moses and the Exodus at this time. They should draw pictures of the symbolic foods used, perhaps on white paper plates.

## Ideas Through Books

"Antagonists," by Ernest K. Gann, will be discussed by Fran Sanes on Thursday, March 23, at 9:30 a.m., at the home of Blanche Manners, 7220 Southwest 129th Street, 233-5671.

This interesting, historical novel about the Masada, which was a best seller, is in soft back edition. You will enjoy the discussion more if you have read the book, but it is not necessary to do so in order to attend.

Everyone is welcome. This is a most stimulating group.

## Youth Group Dance Saturday, March 18

The Beth Am Federation of Temple Youth (BAFTY) will hold its next meeting on Saturday, March 18, at 7:15 p.m., in the Youth Lounge. A unique checker game, with human players, will be a feature of the evening. A live band will provide the background for this program of fun and dance.

### ELECTIONS TO BE HELD APRIL 16

One of the important matters to be discussed at the March 18 get together will be the procedures and rules for our annual election of officers meeting next month. All offices and committee chairmen posts will be open to each dues paying member.

Come to the meeting this Saturday to participate in an enjoyable checker game, to dance to live music, and to learn about all future events.

## Joan's Gems



By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Paula, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Solomon, became engaged to Randy Rieger of North Miami Beach. Paula graduates from the University of Florida in June. A July wedding is planned. . . . Congratulations to Bernard and Judy Hirsch on the engagement of their son, Neal, to Martha Waxman, daughter of Rabbi and Mrs. Alfred Waxman. . . . Each class of the Nursery-Kindergarten planted hibiscus shrubs along the nursery fence in honor of Tu B'shvat.

## B'nai Mitzvah

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

11:15 a.m.



Brad, son of  
Mrs. Beatrice Engel  
Mark Slatko, son of  
Mrs. Marshall Langer  
and Mr. Robert Slatko