

# Beth Am COMMENTATOR

VOL. 11, No. 27

MIAMI, FLORIDA

MARCH 31, 1972

## PASSOVER SCHEDULE

HOME SEDERS - Wednesday night, March 29.

Passover begins. Light candles.

TEMPLE SERVICE - Thursday, March 30, 10 a. m.

All members expected.

TEMPLE SEDER - Thursday, March 30, 6 p. m.

Reservations only (MO 7-5587)

YIZKOR (Memorial) SERVICE - Wednesday, April 5, 9 a. m.

(Note early time.)

### *Passover Is The Most Important Holiday Of All*

Rabbi Baumgard has always taught that after the Sabbath, the most important holiday is Passover. In ancient times, this was the most significant festival of the Jews. It remains so today because it reminds us of our beginnings, of our poverty, of our slavery, of our courage to search for freedom, of our discovery of a moral emphasis on life.

Most Jews in America today are a part of the middle class. Having more than enough to eat, we find it difficult to share the pain of the poor. Being comfortable in our homes, we find thinking about the world's problems depressing, and we don't want to be disturbed. A Jew who is too comfortable is no Jew at all.

The Haggadah reads, "Don't say, 'Our fathers were slaves in Egypt.' Say, instead, 'I was a slave in Egypt.'" When Jews lose their identification with the underprivileged, Judaism loses its impact and dynamism.

On Passover, a Jew ought to think of the teaching of Isaiah, "Woe unto you who lie upon your couches of luxury, but are not grieved for the affliction of the people." He ought to think of the teaching of Amos, "Woe unto you who sell the needy for a pair of shoes."

Eat the "Bread of Affliction" on Passover! (Rabbi Baumgard urges us to exclude bread from our houses on Passover.) Eat the Matzah and think of those who haven't got the bread. Eat the "chrane," the "moror," "the bitter herbs," and think of your people's problems in Egypt of old, in Russia today.



#### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 8:30 p. m.

TORAH SERVICE

Rabbi Baumgard's Sermon:

#### 'The Modern Enslavement'

- o - o - o -  
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 11:15 a. m.

TORAH SERVICE

Think of men struggling throughout the world. Resolve to do something about all of this.

Be sure to have a Seder in your home on Wednesday night (or go to one in somebody else's home). The Temple Seder is a second seder (not required in Reform Judaism), an extra, not a substitute for the home seder.

Passover is the most important festival--if you think about it, and if you observe it.





FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

## Passover Thoughts

When I think of Passover, I think of my father singing the Seder in our home. He frequently seemed to be a harsh man, but he sang beautifully and joyously. I thought, as a boy, that all Jewish fathers had the responsibility of being able to sing, especially at seders. I sing at my family's seder. Do you sing at yours? If you don't, we can give you lessons in how to lead a seder, but every Jewish father should be able to lead a seder, shouldn't he? If he doesn't do so, what will his son do?

When I think of Passover, I think of the great tumult in our house. It was Spring-cleaning time. The whole house was rebuilt, it seemed, almost from the bottom. When I asked my mother why she was working so hard, she would answer, "It's Passover time, my son. We must be ready for it." That's how I knew Passover was very important. One had to prepare for its coming. It was hard work, but it was worth it. Today, so many of our mothers are able to rely on the maid to help clean the house. Mother may be away most of the day. How will the child become convinced that Passover is important, if mother is not busy doing something for Passover? It doesn't have to be cleaning, certainly, under modern circumstances, but what can be the substitute? Clearly, the mother has to be busy PREPARING. If she isn't, what will her daughter do?

When I think of Passover, I think of a great warmth in our house. There were special hugs and kisses at this season. Father, who worked from dawn until after dusk, came home early. Friends were invited over for the seder. Sisters helped set up the table. There were tasks for me to do. We were all engaged in a family uniting experience. We were doing something together for what was obviously a pleasurable experience, and a Jewish experience. As such, the experience united us together AS JEWS, even as family preparations for a weekend of camping, unites the family AS CAMPERS, and even as family preparations to attend the football game unites the family AS FOOTBALL FANS. Clearly, a family must prepare for some JEWISH ORIENTED things, if it is to have an identification as a Jewish family as well as a camping family or as a football family.

When I think of Passover, I think of exotic foods, foods the family couldn't afford to have on other occasions (we were rather poor). There were the usual traditional dishes, but there were extra cakes, identifiable with Passover, and extra candies, which were even called "Passover candies." Today's children eat well all the time, and cake and candy are no special treat. What happens to the joy of Passover, if it is not a time that kids can remember as a "special" time, which brought joys to the palate not available at other times? What can we substitute for these pleasures, if Passover is to survive as a major Jewish festival, and if the Jews are to survive as a people?

When I see Jewish children rushing off to be Jesus freaks or Zen Buddhists, I can't help but ask, "What happened to the joy children used to feel at being Jewish?" I wonder, "Have our Jewish parents ceased to be inventive in the observance of our holidays? Are we too lazy and indifferent to work at giving our children a Jewish experience?"

## Passover Procedures In The Home

### 1. LIGHT CANDLES - Sundown, Wednesday, March 29.

(Usually by mother)

BAH-RUCH AH-TAH AH-DO-NAI ELO-HAY-NU MEH-LECH HA-OH-LAM AH-SHER KID-SHAH-NU BA-MITZ-VO-TAV VAH-TZI-VAH-NU LEH-HAD-LIK NARE SHEL PESACH.

THANKS BE TO THEE, CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE, AUTHOR OF FREEDOM, WHO ASKS US TO GLORIFY OURSELVES BY OBSERVING THE FESTIVAL OF FREEDOM.

AS WE THINK OF THE TIME WHEN WE WERE SLAVES IN EGYPT, MAY WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO RID OURSELVES OF OUR PRESENT SLAVERY TO MATERIALISM: SO MAY WE RESOLVE TO HELP OTHERS BECOME FREE.

### 2. FAMILY BLESSING - (Usually by father)

"Oh Lord, bless these, our children. Give them your love, even as we seek to give them our love. Encourage them to be kind and good, even as we seek to lead them in this direction. Help us to bind our family together and help us to share our blessings with those about us."

(Hugs and kisses are appropriate at this time.)

The blessing over the wine and the matzah is said during the seder.

### 3. See the Beth Am Haggadah for additional blessings and procedures for conducting a seder. See the beautiful, full (but abbreviated) Haggadah by Rabbi Baumgard and the super-abbreviated mimeographed sheet.

## Youth Council To Visit Aged

The Temple Beth Am Youth Council will be visiting the Jewish Home for the Aged on April 1. Echod BBG is sponsoring the Passover presentation. The story of Passover and how it is celebrated throughout the world, including Russia, Israel, and America, will be told through dances, songs, and skits by the youth. A bus will leave from the Temple at 5:00 p.m., April 1 to take all those that are in the presentation.

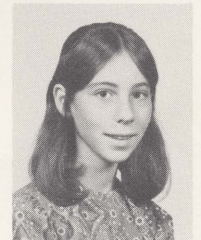
### B'nai Mitzvah

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

8:30 p.m.



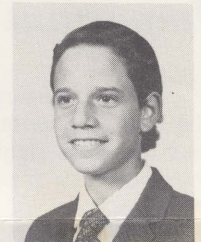
Cheryl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Berg



Megan, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ross Davis

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

11:15 a.m.



Clark E. and Craig E., twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Friedman