



Beth Am COMMENTATOR

MIAMI, FLORIDA

MARCH 9, 1973

Psychodrama Planned

Classes Start In March

Beginning Tuesday, March 27, 1973, our Adult Education Spring Session will start. At that time, Jackie Rose, chair-lady of the Adult Education Committee, informs us that an exciting program has been planned for your participation. To start off our programming, we are offering "Jewish Family In Psychodrama," beginning March 27, Tuesday, from 7:45 to 9:45 p.m. Other sessions in this area will be held on March 27, April 3, 10, 24, and May 1. Moderators participating are Dr. Charles Kram, Dr. Stanley Garner, Dr. Samuel Greenberg, Dr. Morton Notarius, Dr. Harry Graff, all psychiatrists, and Dr. Florence Wechsberg, clinical psychologist.

During the month of April on four Sunday evenings, we have scheduled a film festival under the guidance of Dr. William Silver with Joe Adler, a local film producer, as moderator. These films are emotional, artistic films ordinarily not shown in this area, with some being related to Jewish life.

We are also in negotiations with Florida International University to give two credit courses in Jewish History and Jewish Literature. Watch for more news concerning this most exciting program.

New Member Supper

There will be a champagne covered dish supper co-hosted by Brotherhood and Sisterhood on Saturday night, March 31, at the Temple. Reserve now with Sandi Simon, 665-5995, Lori Miller, 665-3581, or Beverly Marks, 233-8960.

Purim Carnival Sunday, March 18

Sunday, March 18, will mark the celebration of Purim at Temple Beth Am. All members of the congregation and all children should plan to attend the Carnival on Temple grounds that day from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For the kids, we will have all sorts of games, prizes, pony rides, clowns, puppet shows, balloons, etc.

For the adults, we have a fabulous arts and crafts sale and a used book sale. And, for all, we have FOOD, FOOD, FOOD!

Let's Celebrate Purim

By Rabbi HERBERT M. BAUMGARD, D.H.L.

The Hebrew word "Purim" means "lots." This festival is called by that name because on Purim the Persians had cast "lots" to destroy the Jews. Purim occurs this year on the evening of Saturday, March 17, and continues to sundown, Sunday, March 18. The Megillah (the scroll of the Book of Esther) will be read in the Temple on Sunday, March 18, at 10:00 a.m.

The story of Purim, which is told in the book of Esther, is supposedly laid in Persia in the fifth century B.C.E. (The Judeans were carried captive into Persia in the sixth century). There is good reason to believe, however, that the entire story is a parable with certain moral lessons.

Purim commemorates the day when the Jews of Persia were saved from death by the intervention of Mordecai and Queen Esther. The viceroy of King Ahasuerus, Haman by name, talked the king into passing a law which required the destruction of the Jews. Haman was angry because Mordecai, the Jew, would not bow down to him. Haman plotted that Mordecai should be hanged, but Queen Esther exposed Haman at a banquet she had prepared for the king and Haman. Haman was hanged on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai, and the law against the Jews was repealed.

The story illustrates, for one thing, that the fate of all Jews is bound together. Mordecai tells the reluctant Esther, "Think not that you shall escape the edict against the Jews because you are in the king's house." This is a message to all privileged Jews who drift away from their group or deliberately seek to sever their relationship with the Jewish community.

The story also tells us that while those with evil intentions (like Haman) may seem to triumph over short periods of time, in the long run, it is the good (Mordecai) who triumph.

The "Book of Esther" is really a novel in the grand sense. It is great literature. Its characters are expertly formed, and its story simply and beautifully told.

In the synagogue, when the story of Esther is read, it is permitted to "beat down Haman" with groggers and stamping when his name is mentioned. Haman

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9
8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Herbert Baumgard

**'Is Anti-Semitism
Dead?'**

RELIGIOUS SERVICES



The Adult Choir will sing.
Selma Baumgard
Choirmaster

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SATURDAY, MARCH 10
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Parents, - Face Reality!

Part Two

In last week's column, we made the point that parents who really want their children to be Jewish cannot escape the responsibility of trying to develop their own spirituality. This is not easy in a technological age. We are cut off from the basic creative rhythm of the earth by technical marvels and by efficient packaging. We are no longer privileged to experience the miracle of seed and growth. In Judaism, one of the purposes of the major festivals, Sukkot, Shavuot, and Passover, all agricultural festivals, is to restore to us this sense of nearness and oneness with the creative process. Our traditional brethren build a Sukkah in their backyard, garnish it with fruit of many kinds, and spend the night under the stars. The return to nature is not only an idea of today's younger generation, it is the essence of traditional Judaism. He who can feel the pulse of Mother Earth in its creative cycle comes closer to God.

We are speaking now of the need to become more aware of the reality that exists beyond the masks of modern technology. When one goes to the hospital today, for example, it is easy to think that one has been cured by the new medicines, the elaborate surgical techniques, and the costly machinery. These things are important and helpful, to be sure, but they are all trappings for the basic show. None of these would be effective, were we not so created that the body is capable of healing itself, given appropriate assistance. Built into us, without our even asking, are the continuing miracles of healing and growth.

No modern invention is responsible for the miracle of the human heart pumping away without an external power source, and no human is responsible for our intricate blood system, and no machine is responsible for our ability to think, or to feel, or to love. Anyone who studies the complexities of the human body comes closer to sensing the reality of God.

What a curse it is that modern man is blocked off by his preoccupation with things from an inter-relation with the creative source from which he springs and which flows through him! How impoverished we are alongside the Prophet and the Hasid who could feel God within him.

What Does This God Teach and Do?

Many of our Jewish colleagues today, having not found God at home, have gone off to India in search of a god. They have found a god who can save them from the mad drive of Americans towards financial success. This is a god who leads them away from life as we know it. He is a god without desire, and he asks them to imitate him, that is, to become without desire, without feeling, Nirvana, the great goal, is the state of non-being, non-feeling, beyond ambition, beyond anger, beyond love and sacrifice, as we know these terms. In Nirvana, not even sex has a place.

Classic Judaism has a completely different view of God. His very name is "Being" ("I am What I Shall Be"). This is a God, the Bible tells us, who is angry at injustice, who feels the anguish of the afflicted, who rallies to the aid of the oppressed, who wants man to procreate sexually, who wants man to imitate Him in His holiness (His active goodness). The basic difference between the Jewish and the Indian idea of God is that ours is a feeling God who wants us to feel. God says to Moses from the midst of the burning bush, "I hear the cry of the people, I know their pain. . ." The story does not conclude until Moses is commanded to go help free the slaves. God, as we understand Him, commands all of us to the ethical act. Judaism is best expressed in the act, not in the mental state, as in Indian religion.

What does all this mean for you? It means that if you don't want to become an extension of the technology of our age, you, too, must hear the call of the feeling God. You must HEAR it! You must not merely act out the just deed. The command must be PERSONAL. God speaks to you (as to all others). Not just to you, but to you ALSO. And to you uniquely, for each of us has his own sensitivity and spiritual capacity.

To believe in God, as Jews understand believing, is to be able to hear the personal command from a God who cares about what happens to human beings. Belief, for us, is not an abstract concept; it is a matter of being able to identify in feeling and in action with the caring Spirit of the Universe that flows through all of us.

Psychiatrist, Auction At Sisterhood Meeting

How you can find out if you are neurotic and, most important, what you can do about it is the subject Dr. Samuel I. Greenberg, noted psychiatrist and Clinical Associate Professor in the University of Miami Department of Psychiatry, will discuss at Sisterhood's Wednesday, March 21, meeting in the Social Hall.

Author of the well-known book, "Neurosis Is A Painful Style of Living," Dr. Greenberg states that he wrote his book as simply as possible to help people develop a healthier style of living by understanding their inner fears and the neurotic processes that develop with attempts to cope.

Dr. Greenberg will speak at 12:00 noon. At 10:00 a.m., there will be a mini-auction with more than 100 goodies of all types available. Lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m. for \$1.50. Plan to arrive early for this double-barrel program. Please make your reservation now as a capacity crowd is expected. RSVP to Carole Clein, 238-0820, Adrienne Darlow, 667-3325, or the Temple office, 667-5587.

Hebrew Honor Roll

The following are the honor roll students for the month of January. Congratulations to our excellent Hebrew students. They are Paul Adler, Beth Berkowitz, Michael Blumenfeld, Barry Bockian, Mark Brooks, Lori Cohen, Sherri Cohen, Jennifer Davis, Brian Grant, John Kaufman, Jodi Katz, Scott Landy, Lisa Lang, Andrew Quartin, Michael Mandell, Lou Rich, Andrew Rubinson, Jonathan Serbin, Keith Sharkey, Jeffrey Schwartz, Jan Weingarten, Reese Weingarte, Paul Weissman, Scott Wolf.

B'nai Mitzvah

SATURDAY, MARCH 10
11:15 a.m.



Marc, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Grad