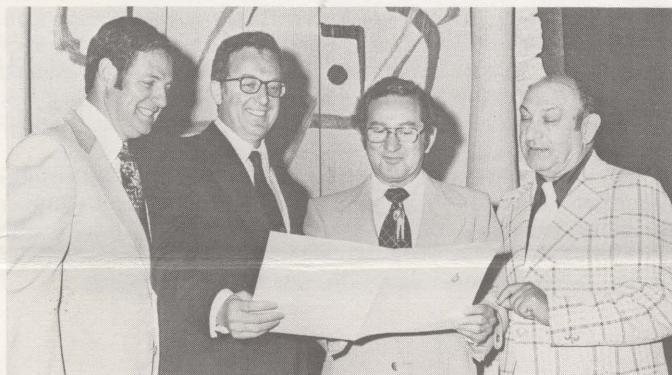


Beth Am COMMENTATOR

Dedication Of Teenage Building



Shown above at the dedication in the usual order are Marshall Rosenberg, who served as master of ceremonies, the Honorable Richard Stone, who gave the dedicatory address, President William Sanes, who welcomed all guests, and past president Dr. Maxwell Dauer, who gave a short address about the fund raising drive.



Rabbi Herbert Baumgard and Mayor Steve Clark studying the Teenage Building brochure at the dedication.

You And Jewish Education

The study of Judaism can be a life-long task. The Religious School takes as its primary objective the laying of the groundwork and instilling the motivation for this pursuit. We strive to give the student the basic tools with which to gain additional knowledge and a sense of Jewish identity which will meet the challenges of the future. A positive Jewish identity is the key to Jewish survival. To have a Jewish identity is to know who you are; that is, where your ancestors came from, what struggles they encountered, what developmental processes they went through so that you could become what you are. To have a Jewish identity is to be proud and comfortable with being a Jew and prepared to make commitments and sacrifices because of it.

Rabbis and educators today are quite concerned with the breakdown in long-standing Jewish values and the decay in strong Jewish identities. More than ever before, we have great numbers of people who don't know what it means to be Jewish and who don't care. To combat this trend, we must concentrate on the rebuilding of the fabric of Jewish family and community life. In this, the Temple School and the home are essential partners. If what we teach in school is not supported at home, it will be for naught. When, for instance, the school stresses the importance of charity and the parent doesn't give, there is no learning. When the school stresses the importance of worship services and the parent doesn't attend, there is no learning.

We encourage all parents to take an active interest in what their children are doing in school. Discussing topics of relevance in the home lets the child know that you care about their education and that the ideas are important. If you are unfamiliar with a particular subject, motivate yourself to learn along with your child. Our Temple has a particularly excellent library for you. Consult your child's teacher for guidance. Attend Services with your child. Try to incorporate some of the ceremonies they learn in school in your own home. Your support for the Religious School is necessary for the survival of Judaism.

Adult Education Meets On Tuesdays

ON TUESDAY, APRIL 1, AT 9:00 P.M., Dr. Harry Golden, local psychologist, will discuss sex and marriage. Inadvertently, in the last COMMENTATOR, we had indicated the wrong program for this date.

ON APRIL 8, AT 9:00 P.M., Dr. Harry Graff will discuss "Raising Children, Freedom and Responsibility."

This is part of our series on studies in family problems being coordinated by Dr. Morton Notarius.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
7:30 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICE

Mrs. Zadek's 1st Year Class and Miss Mannheimer's 3rd Year Class will participate in service

The Kiddush will be sung by Stewart Liebling, Donald Baker and George Markovich

RABBI ALTMAN

'We Are The Brothers Of Jerusalem'



SATURDAY, APRIL 5
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE

The Beth Americans will serve
as Choir of the Month

YISKOR (Memorial Service), Wednesday morning, April 2, 9:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary



Let's Study Torah

Sh'mini (Lev. 9:1 – 11:47)

In this parasha, we move from a description of required priestly actions to a description of what foods a good Israelite may or may not eat. The core of the laws concerning "Kashrut" are found here (11:1-46). Basic to these laws is the instruction that Israelites:

1) may eat only those animals that have true hoofs (with clefts through the hoofs).

2) and those animals that chew the cud (11:2). (Thus, an animal that chews the cud, like the camel, but does not also have true hoofs, may not be eaten).

3) may eat anything in the water that has fins and scales (11:9).

4) may not eat swarming things (11:9, 11:23) like the mole, the mouse (11:29), or anything that crawls on its belly (11:42), that walks on all fours (with paws), or has many legs (11:27, 11:42).

5) may not eat predatory birds, like the eagle, vulture, or sea gull (11:13).

The prohibitions about eating are found elsewhere. They apply primarily to mixing milk and meat and to eating the wild boar (pig).

The five prohibitions described in "Sh'mini" have a number of different sources of origin, which cannot be completely separated yet by scholars. Fundamental to the reasons, however, is the goal of holiness (11:44). The group which tries to imitate God in His Holiness must have a table ethic that points to this holiness.

Predatory animals should, therefore, not be present on one's table; nor should animals that have a tendency to filth and disease, such as swarming things.

Some of the eating prohibitions were designed for health reasons and some were designed to steer the Israelites away from pagan practices. The Phoenicians in the coastal cities had certain fish-oriented rituals, but we do not know exactly what they were or which of the Israelite prohibitions regarding prohibited residents of the sea were involved (perhaps the crustaceans?).

We do know that the god Tammuz (Adonis) was often pictured as a wild boar (hazir) and eaten in pagan worship ceremonies while the nomads mixed meat and milk as a fertility rite dedicated to their god. We shall discuss these at length later.

The point we ought to underscore here is that one of the main reasons Jews have survived as a distinct religious culture is that they had a table ethic that sharply distinguished them from other peoples. The table ethic was a constant reminder that the Jew ought to carry his life perspective into every detail of his daily routine. "Ye shall be holy, because I, the Lord your God, am Holy" (11:44). This was the call to greatness. It was a call the ancient Jew heard when he ate and worked, when he rose up and slept, when he saw the sun rise or set. One could not be a Jew and escape God, because God's laws covered every aspect of Jewish living.

In modern times, with the "pagans" no longer a threat, and with new sanitation codes, many Jews no longer maintain the old table ethic. What have they got to replace it as a forceful reminder that a Jew must carry the moral view into every detail of his life experience? Do we need a new table ethic? (In my opinion, any religion which hopes to survive must have such a detailed over-view. Can we develop one as valid for our time as our fathers developed for theirs?)

Beth Am Collegians Have Boston Tea Party

Nineteen collegians from the Boston area met with Rabbi Baumgard for dinner at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston in the first collegian meeting ever held for Beth Amites in that area on Sunday, March 16. The collegians dined with Rabbi Baumgard and then went to his room for a discussion that lasted for several hours.

Among those present were Gary Blick, from Clark University, and Steven Goodman, from Rensselaer Polytech Institute. From Wellesley, there were Karen Rosen and Lisa Esserman. From Brandeis University was Daniel Goodman; from Harvard, Jeff Potash, Laura Esserman, Samuel Dubbin, and Melissa Berman; and from Boston University, Mindy Milberg and Lynn Welt. Students visited in a separate meeting at Brandeis included Karen Lindau, David Udell, and Margery Kates.

All in all, those attending the various meetings with Rabbi Baumgard included 95 percent of those young people known to us as attending colleges in the Boston area. Those unable to attend, but who were contacted by phone, included Ken Sanes, Lorie Newman of Smith, and Sara Beth Harris.

Joan's Gems

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Congratulations to Ruth and Phil Fruitstone upon the birth of their granddaughter, Cheryl Elaine, born to Helen and Mark Hauser. Helen is Phil and Ruth's daughter. . . . Ah, another mazel to Charlie and Sandi Simon upon the birth of their daughter, Shannya. . . . Get well wishes to Marian Katzin, Helene Zimmerman, Howard Shapiro, Edythe Freeman, Estelle Kfare, Carl Spero, Jacqueline Edelson, Daniel Leeds, Patti Layton, Bernard Lash. . . . Mazel to Lois and Leonard Waldman who have become grandparents. Born to their daughter, Kathy, and her husband, Kerri DuPree, is a boy, Scott Joseph.

Congratulations to David and Janice Stuart upon the marriage of their son, Scott, to Laura Tatum. David is our executive director. . . . Did you notice the new directories on the Temple property? We would like to tell you that they are the gift of the 1974 Confirmation Class. . . . Congratulations to Sam and Phyllis Rosen upon the engagement of their son, Gary, to Helene Bekoff. The couple plan a summer wedding. . . . Our good wishes to Scott, son of Morton and Mickie Orbach, who is a Silver Knight nominee in the field of speech at South Miami Senior High. . . . Mazel tov to Ruth and Steven Shere upon the birth of their daughter.

Stuart, son of Dolly and Ernest Harris, is really something. Through his scholastic achievements, he will be accepted into the M.D. Ph.D. program at Duke University, which means that he has received full scholarship for the next six years, at which time he will graduate as a M.D. and a Ph. D. in research. He has also been named a Phi Beta Kappa at Duke.

Bnai

Mitzvah



Saturday
April 5
11:15 a.m.

Jeffrey, son of
Dr. and Mrs. Melvin Schwartz