

Beth Am COMMENTATOR

Three New Adult Education Programs For The New Year

Adult Education this year will be more intensive than ever featuring twin Mini-Mesters, a new Department of Continuing Education, and special Family Relations courses. All of these courses may be applied to adult Bar Mitzvah and Confirmation degrees.

The Mini-Mesters will consist of four two hour sessions. The first Mini-Mester will begin on Tuesday evening, September 23, at 8:00 p.m. and continue for four Tuesdays. The second will begin Tuesday evening, October 21, and will be a twin of the first, so it is possible to register for two courses. Four intensive courses will be offered:

1. Toward an Understanding of the Holocaust: A positive and meaningful approach to the most challenging questions raised in modern times. The instructor, Prof. Helen Fagin, lived through the experience.
2. An Introduction to Practical Mysticism: The realities of mystical experience in the distant past and the possibilities for mystical experience today. Rabbi Chefitz will be your guide.
3. Judaism, Christianity, Islam and the Eastern Religions: The great religious ideas of the world in flux. How they stand apart, how they work together. Karen Dubitsky, an instructor in religion at the University of Miami, will teach.
4. Hard-Core Judaism: What you really need to know to benefit from your Jewish tradition. A course to provide a foundation for those who are uncertain and looking for support.

The new Department of Continuing Education is intended for those who desire to acquire a working knowledge of the Jewish sources, and will meet every week for about 45 minutes. Rabbi Chefitz will offer two courses, one in Bible and Commentaries, the other on the Mishnah Torah of Maimonides, one of the great compendia of Jewish law. Early Saturday and Sunday mornings are being considered. Recommendations are welcome.

Two courses in Family Relations will be offered in cooperation with the Jewish Family and Children's Service. There will be a fee for each of these courses: \$16 per person, \$25 per couple.

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Yom Kippur Falls On Sunday Night Please Follow Rules At Services

Beth Am offers an unusual number of services on Yom Kippur for people of all age groups. Young children have a special service for them at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, September 15 (45 minutes; Rabbi Baumgard will speak). Adults only (tenth graders and up) have their services on Yom Kippur night (September 14) at 9 p.m. and on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. Please note that the morning service has the full Yizkor, or Memorial Service. The "Family" Services, for adults and for children who can sit through an adult service, are "adult" in all respects except that children capable of discipline may come. They occur on Yom Kippur night, September 14, at 6:30 p.m., and on Yom Kippur afternoon at 3:30 p.m. Please note that the afternoon service (3:30 p.m.) is NOT a repeat of the morning service and adults should come to it as well as to the morning service. Only a brief, silent Yizkor prayer will be said at this service.

Please follow the parking instructions. Come early to services. Travel with another family. Do as the policemen instruct. We are dependent upon your cheerful cooperation.

ADMISSION TO YOM KIPPUR SERVICE

Entry to Yom Kippur Services will be by admission card only. This is the one time during the year that entry to services is limited to Temple members. As in the past, you will be asked to present your High Holiday admission cards prior to entry to any of the services.

During Yom Kippur, parking is a problem. Plan to car pool.

SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR YOM KIPPUR

<u>Sunday Evening, Sept. 14</u>	<u>Monday, Sept. 15</u>
6:30 p.m. — Family Adult Service	9:30 a.m. — Adults only
9:00 p.m. — Adults only	1:30 p.m. — Children's Service
	3:30 p.m. — Family Adult Service

Family Adult Services are for adults and children, fifth grade and up. They are identical to Adult Services except for Yom Kippur day when the services are completely different.

Adult Services are for tenth graders and older.

Children's Services are for fourth graders and younger. They last for only 45 minutes.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
8:30 p.m.

**RELIGIOUS
SERVICES**

RABBI CHEFITZ

**'For The College Student:
A Prerequisite Course'**



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE



Rationalizing One's Self-hatred

Self-hatred is one of the most common psychological traits we human beings develop. The process begins when we are very young. When we get older, we are unaware of the events in your youth which first made us depreciate our own worth and we begin to rationalize an existing situation. We find reasons for our low estimation of ourselves.

These reasons may or may not be grounded in fact. For example, I know slightly overweight girls who insist that they are huge and fat when, in fact, they are very attractive. A single failing may become reinforcement for the feeling that one is "always" a failure.

Jewish children are especially subject to this phenomenon. In addition to the normal problems which the average American carries around with him, the Jew is aware that he is a member of a minority, and he begins to feel guilty for daring to buck the majority. He imagines he is less loved because he is different, and in the case of an insecure Jew, he may take active steps to rend himself from his Jewishness.

Once a Jewish collegian, for example, has decided that one of the reasons for his real or imagined unpopularity is that he is Jewish, he may well begin the process of finding "reasons" that he should not continue to be Jewish. He begins to read Jewish history for the purpose of finding out the things that Jews did that were wrong, and he jumps on these things to emphasize in arguing with his parents. He overlooks the grand contribution of Jews to human history and to modern society, because this is not what he is looking for. He is looking for a way to be something other than what he is, because he is unhappy.

In their desire to melt into the majority, some of our young people employ the cliches, "Jews were racist and allotted to women second class citizenship." It matters not that these assertions deviate from the facts. What matters is that the young person is looking for ways to separate himself from his past (from what he is) and discovers reasons wherever he can find them to support his preconceived view. The process works the same as prejudice.

At some other time, I will discuss the rights of women in the ancient Jewish community; for the present, let me say just this about the charge of "racism." It was the Jewish community that gave the world the idea that all human beings are descended from one set of parents (Adam and Eve) and that all are created "in the image of God." Nowhere does our Bible say that just the Jews are created in the image of God. Although our fathers taught that the Jews were chosen to be the bearers of Torah (the moral law), they were also taught that they were not to receive special rewards (Amos), and that God related to other peoples with a sense of their equal worth ("Are ye not as the Ethiopians unto Me, Oh children of Israel?", Amos). To teach a doctrine of special responsibility is not to teach a doctrine of essential superiority. To teach a doctrine of a dedicated group which should take steps to see that its fervor is not diluted and which strives to keep itself intact is not racist. The urge to survive in one's distinctive form is the first essential of a healthy group, as it is the first essential of an individual. Without this urge to survive in its intense particularity, a group will soon dissolve. Conviction and the will to live do not add up to racism. But the person who wants to be critical of the Jewish community will find some weakness somewhere and use it for his purpose. We can't possibly meet all arguments at every moment, especially

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1. How to Have an Even More Successful Marriage: A course in communication skills, beginning October 7 and continuing for six Tuesdays thereafter, 8 to 9:30 p.m.

2. Relating to Your Teenager: Beginning October 9 and continuing for six Thursdays thereafter, 8 to 9:30 p.m.

MINI-MESTERS: Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Mini-Mester No. 1, Course No. _____

Mini-Mester No. 2, Course No. _____

CONTINUING ED.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Bible and Commentaries _____

Maimonides' Mishnah Torah _____

Saturday A.M. _____ Sunday A.M. _____ Other time _____

Please return this form to the Temple as soon as possible

Please register me (us) for your course:

I above _____ II above _____

Enclosed, please find: \$16 for myself _____

\$25 for two _____

\$32 for myself for two courses _____

\$50 for two for two courses _____

Name _____ Name _____


Address _____ Phone _____

Make checks payable to "Jewish Family and Children's Service."

Bnai

Mitzvah

Saturday
September 13
11:15 a.m.

Frank, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Morris Futernick

Steven, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kaplan

when the critic is not really interested in the answers, and especially when he will hear only what he wants to hear and needs to hear. The self-hating Jew is in somewhat the same position as the anti-semitic. He wants to believe that the Jew is inferior. When the person has problems relating to his parent(s), the situation is frequently reinforced to this extent. Add this to the great thrust in our time for young people to sever themselves from their past, and it all adds up to trouble for the Jews.