



Beth Am commentator

February 6, 1976

Miami, Florida

Adult Education Registration For Spring

The Fall Adult Minimester program worked so well and interest has been so great that we are now scheduling a Spring series of Adult Education minimesters with all new courses, plus a special eight week course in how to parent effectively.

A minimester is a four week high intensity learning experience that meets for two hours each session. We make use of the finest faculty available and teach at the highest possible level. This presents an opportunity to probe in depth into special areas of interest. For those enrolled in the Adult Confirmation Program, three credits are awarded for each course taken.

Two minimesters will be offered on Tuesday evenings, and you will have a choice of two courses each minimester. The first minimester begins Tuesday, March 23, the second Tuesday, April 20. All are welcome. There is no registration fee, but please use the coupon to register in advance so that we can make adequate preparations.

COURSE OFFERINGS:

ZIONISM, ISRAEL AND YOU! The important facts concerning the growth and nature of Zionism, the emergence of the State of Israel, and the present crisis situation, taught by Rabbi Julian Cook and Rabbi Jay Miller, F.I.U. Hillel director, and an expert in Israeli politics.

MYSTERIES OF THE PASSOVER HAGGADAH AND THE LITURGY. The Haggadah revealed just in time for Passover, and other mysteries of the liturgy unravelled. Taught by Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz.

The above courses will be offered the first minimester. The courses for the second term are:

JEWISH HISTORY AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. An essential history of the Jews that every American needs to know. A Bicentennial necessity! Taught by Dr. Howard Rock, Professor of History and Chairman of the Jewish Studies Program at F.I.U.

DEATH AND DYING FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF PSYCHOLOGY AND JEWISH TRADITION. The development of Jewish attitudes toward death and afterlife, with a modern psychological commentary. Taught by Rabbi Chefitz and members of the psychology community.

COURSE IN EFFECTIVE PARENTING ALSO OFFERED

In addition to the minimesters, a unique opportunity will be offered to 20 parents here at Beth Am. A course entitled **TOWARD MORE EFFECTIVE PARENTING** will be given through the agency of the Jewish Family and Children's Service. This will be an eight week training program which will meet on Tuesdays, beginning March 23, and will be concerned

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Friday

Sunday

February 20

February 22

8:30 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

The Temple celebrates the 20th Anniversary of its organization and the 25th Anniversary of Rabbi Baumgard in the Rabbinate.

Methodists Invite Beth Am To Gables Church On Sunday, Feb. 8

The largest and oldest Methodist church in Coral Gables has invited us to worship with them on Sunday, February 8, at 11:00 a.m., and we, in turn, will play host to their congregation on Friday, February 27, at 8:30 p.m.

On February 8, we will attend the church at 536 Coral Way (west end of Miracle Mile), and observe a typical Sunday morning service. The Reverend David Scoates, Sr. Minister, will give the sermon. Rabbi Baumgard has been invited to give a prayer.

On February 27, at our service, Rabbi Baumgard will give an "Ask the Rabbi" session, and Reverend Scoates will offer a prayer.

Beth Am is grateful for this extended hand of friendship by this liberal church, and urges as many members as possible to attend the church on the 8th.

Casino Gambling Topic For Brotherhood Breakfast Feb. 15

The next Sunday morning Brotherhood Breakfast Forum will feature a debate on the subject of whether Florida needs casino gambling. The debate will be held Sunday morning, February 15, at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge. Participants in the debate will be Mayor Paul School of North Bay Village, who is for gambling, and former Miami Beach Mayor Jay Dermer, who is against gambling. Circuit Court Judge Joe Durant will be the moderator. Admission to the forum breakfast is \$1.00 for Brotherhood members and \$1.50 for non-members. Ladies are always welcome to our all-you-can-eat breakfast.

This question will be one of the controversial issues before the next session of the legislature in April. If you would like to advise your state representatives how you feel on this matter, this debate will be highly informative and very interesting. Your representative will be highly appreciative of any guidance you can offer him.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
7:30 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICE

Mrs. Cook's Hebrew Class will participate in the service.
The Sixth Grade will serve as Choir of the Month under the direction of Harriet Potlock.

BASKETBALL AWARDS SERVICE
RABBI HERBERT BAUMGARD

"The Religious Nature of Basketball"



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE

TICKETS TO BE PRE-SOLD FOR PURIM CARNIVAL MARCH 14.
BUY TICKETS EARLY AND BE ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL GRAND PRIZE.



Converting The Rabbi

Recently, I have had several youngsters trying to convert me to Christianity. Since I happen to know one of the youngsters rather well, it is hard for me simply to slam the door in their faces. At first, I tried to be polite and say that after my years of study, I am satisfied that I am in the right religion for me. "I am not a candidate for conversion to your religion," I said firmly.

Imagine my shock when I received a letter back saying, "Pardon me, but you ARE a candidate for conversion," and the letter went on quoting the usual statements from the New Testament well known to all. What both angered and impressed me was the persistence of the youngsters. It was both arrogant and admirable. While I believe the arrogance in this instance is excessive, it moved me to wonder why Jews seem to have lost all semblance of arrogance in asserting the rightfulness of their faith. Even those of us who believe that Judaism is the best of all possible religions are bashful, even reluctant, about disseminating its beliefs.

Part of the reason we are this way is that our ancestors lived so long in an environment where to push one's own religious views forcefully would have resulted in the increased extermination of Jews. For so many centuries, we were tolerated guests in a society to which we did not fully belong. A guest does not assert himself militantly against an unwilling host.

A second reason we have not been missionaries, or proselytizers, is that we don't have a salvation doctrine. We don't believe that you must be Jewish to be acceptable to God or "to go to Heaven when you die." Judaism has a built-in provision for non-Jews. They, too, we teach, can be loved by God, even if they aren't Jews.

Unfortunately, I see a third reason why Jews seem to be inordinately quiet about their religion today. They really don't know anything about it, and it doesn't mean a great deal to them. A silence born of ignorance is more frightening than an arrogantly vocal attempt to convert others. Arrogant advocacy is more a sign of life than ignorant silence.

Am I suggesting that Jews become enthusiastic proselytizers? Not quite. I am saying that if you learn more about your religion, you will become more aware of its significance for our particular time. I am saying that a more thorough knowledge of Judaism will not only help you face your personal problems, it will make you so proud of your faith that you will want to discuss it with your children, so that you can at least make certain that they will remain Jews. Chauffering your children to religious school is not mediating Judaism to them. Children note, almost instinctively, how much their parents know, or don't know, about Judaism. From this calculation, they can compute what the faith really means to their parents, and it helps the children determine how significant a part the faith should be in their future life. If you are not ignorant about Judaism, you will be prepared to stand up to the arrogance of others who try to convert you, and perhaps you will do a little more. You will do those things which enable a faith to survive. You will propagate through what you are! Its meaning will be evident to all who have dealings with you.

What can one do to gain a meaningful knowledge of Judaism? Begin with a good book or with one of our adult classes. Try "Judaism and Prayer," which is more than a book on prayer, in our library. Try "Hasidism and Modern Man," by Martin Buber. Try "Jews, God and History," by Max Dimont, or come to services! What have you got to lose but your ignorance?

Coaches And Players Honored Feb. 6

At Family Services on Friday, February 6, we will be recognizing all our basketball coaches and players. It has been an exciting season with close races in each of the three divisions. The three first place teams will be announced that evening. Particular recognition will be given to the four men who made the whole league possible. They are Barry Friedman, youth director at Beth Am, Bob Josefsberg, head of the Midget Division, David Kosman, head of the Junior Division, and Richard Rubinson, head of the Senior Division. They have worked well beyond the call of duty and we hope all our players and their families will join us on February 6 to help us to say thank you.

Girls-Boys Youth Program

Girls, you have not been forgotten. Temple Beth Am's youth program has you in mind! The youth program will continue to offer a varied program geared to your wants and needs. Girls 15 and under, who are interested in any of the following activities, please contact Jody at 264-2718, or Diane at 856-7682 for further information.

Tuesday: Practicing of volleyball, basketball, pillow polo.

Wednesday: Arts and crafts, slimnastics, tumbling, women's self-defense.

Saturday: Special events, tournaments of girls volleyball, basketball, pillow polo, ping pong, etc.

Boys, you also will be happy to hear the youth program will be expanding our program for young men of sixth, seventh and eighth grade age groups.

Tuesday: Judo, self-defense and wrestling.

Wednesday: At night, we will be having basketball and volleyball practices.

Saturday: Will be special events and volleyball and basketball tournaments.

Sunday: We will be offering to ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade boys their opportunity to participate in volleyball and basketball, and special events. For further information, contact Barry Friedman at 446-7180.

Basketball All Stars Win On January 17

Congratulations to the Temple Beth Am Junior All Star Basketball Team. The Junior team won its second straight game, defeating the City of Miami's Shenandoah Park 37-30. The outstanding offensive player was Andy Glick, scoring 20 points. The defensive players were Michael Keyes and Frank Futernick.

Athletic Activities For Your Children? Summer Program Is The Answer

Bnai

Mitzvah



Saturday
February 7
11:15 a.m.

Clifford, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ackerman
Eric, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Dorfman