

Beth Am Commentator

May 7, 1976

Miami, Florida

FAMILY SERVICE

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 7:30 p.m., RABBI CHEFITZ

"The Day Of Independence: Israel And Us"

Choir of the Month: Kindergarten/First Grade

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE



A Tender Story From The AP Wire

MIAMI BEACH (AP)--The elderly woman hugged the young girl as they chanted a blessing over the traditional Passover wine. But the 80 year old woman and six year old girl had never met before this Seder, organized to span the generations.

"For some of these older people, this will be the only Seder they attend, and our children don't always have the benefit of an extended family," said Sim Lesser, director of the Beth Am School, where 140 students and 45 senior citizens shared the Jewish holiday meal.

"We give and we get in return," said Mrs. Lesser.

But Tuesday, the students, including six year old Lisa Pearl, were hosts to members of the South Beach Jewish Community Center, including 80 year old Rose Spector.

Allison Deutsch, seven, ran her finger under the Hebrew letters to help Minnie Krusiak, 75, follow the service. And two nine year old girls giggled with Jeanette Gardner, 70, as they removed ten drops of wine from their cup to remind them of the ten plagues visited on the Egyptians.

"Coming here is such a treat for them," Mrs. Ray Benyunes, a volunteer at the community center, said of the elderly participants. "They see their own children so rarely." And the children said it was a treat for them too.

"They are so kind and nice to talk to," said Suzy Baer, nine, "and they remind me of my grandparents."

Temple Beth Am Fiscal Policy

The fiscal year of the Temple begins July 1 and ends June 30. Fair Share dues for the forthcoming year become due on July 1.

- a. Not less than one-half of the dues is due on July 1. All balances are due by December 31.
- b. Registration forms for membership and Religious Schools will not be offered to members until all past due accounts are paid.

Capital fund pledges are due on July 1 of the year for which you are registering.

Registration fees for Religious and Hebrew Schools are due at the time of registration.

Registration for nursery-kindergarten, day school or summer camp will be honored for those members of the Temple who are current in their dues and fees.

Summer Program

Registration

At Record



Registration for the summer program at Beth Am is moving along very nicely in all age groups. We have more children registered at this time than we had at the same time last year.

Extensive improvements in the programming for the coming year are planned by Al Schlazer and Rose Ashbes, our camp directors. Al and Rose are both experienced teachers in the county school system with Al being involved with Dade Junior College and Rose with the Everglades School. Between them, they have more than 26 years of teaching and camping experience.

Summer program runs for eight weeks, starting on Monday, June 14. There will be full day activities for four to 14 year olds. You can send your child for a four week session or for the full eight weeks.

GROUPS FILLING RAPIDLY

The various groups in the program are filling up rapidly. Temple members receive first preference in registration and fees. In an effort to fight inflation, the fees for this year were kept virtually the same as in the past. Registration will be open to non-Temple members, on an unrestricted basis, starting May 15. If you want to reserve a space for your child, register now. Call Rhoda Bernheimer in the Temple office, 667-5587, for more information.

Teaching Positions Available

Temple Beth Am Religious and Hebrew Schools are now accepting applications for teaching positions beginning in the fall of 1976. Many excellent opportunities are available, both on the weekend and midweek, for classroom teachers from Kindergarten through tenth grade, as well as for specialists in many areas.

Interested parties are encouraged to come into our office to fill out applications, or to call 666-2536. We are particularly interested in individuals with a background in education and/or youth work, as well as areas of specialty in Jewish subjects, and with a love of children and a desire to make a creative contribution for the future of Judaism.

Calling All Insurance Brokers

The Group-Major Medical policy for Temple employees is up for renewal on July 1, 1976. The insurance committee is soliciting bids from all interested brokers on proposals for next year and beyond. Call the Temple office for a copy of our existing contract which is carried with Connecticut General Life Insurance Company.

All bids must be submitted to the insurance committee at the Temple office by June 1, 1976.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

The Pleasure Of Not Eating Bread

As an Orthodox lad, I found Passover a whole new world. The preparation for the great change in the household had a psychological affect on me and the other members of the family. Something big was coming! We could tell by the way my mother put away the old dishes and inserted the Pesach-dicki (Passover) dishes. We could tell by the way she put away the regular foods and by the varied Passover-prepared foods she bought. Everything was different. We concluded that Passover must be special and the happiness at the Seder confirmed that fact.

We modern Jews have lost a great deal of this. Our children hardly know when Pesach is coming. We make very little changes in the house. We don't give our children the joy of anticipating the coming holiday. But if we are interested in Jewish survival, we must understand that the emotional aspect of our holidays is as important as their ethical themes. It is not enough for our children to know that Passover marks the first time a group of humans said, "We will be free." They must also experience Passover as an exciting and warm experience.

How can we do this without reverting back to the Orthodox procedure with changing all the dishes and all the foods? The answer is that we have to be most affirmative and creative about what we do. The quality of the little that we do must be first rate. This means that we have to spend some time thinking about how we can make the Seder attractive. Mothers (if they are doing the cooking) must take the time to see that the matzah balls are good and that the rest of the meal is memorable. Fathers (if they are leading the Seder) should bone up on the tunes and make sure there is much happy singing. It goes without saying that you should have a modern Haggadah which includes the best of the tradition and which includes references to the present situation. (The Temple Haggadah is excellent in this regard and is inexpensive. The U.A.H.C. has a lovely more expensive new edition). Your Seder will not achieve maximum results unless you put effort into it (like anything else). You are cheating your children if you don't really go all out for the Seder (we give info on conducting a Seder in our bulletin and will gladly answer all questions, including those that seem to reflect your ignorance. Ask! Make a beginning).

In Beth Am, we recommend that the first day of Passover is a holiday in which the parents should refrain from work and the children should stay home from school. Our service on the morning of the first day is well attended. You should bring your children to that service. Orthodox Jews observe the first two and last two days as "yomim tovim," as no-work holidays. If we observe only the first day in this fashion, we should observe it meaningfully. (As you know, we hold a service on the seventh day with the Memorial prayers).

The Biblical holiday of Passover lasts seven days (Orthodox Jews observe eight days). When we say that Reform Jews follow the Biblical teaching, we mean that we observe the spirit of Passover for seven days. If this is to mean anything at all, it must mean that what customs we choose to follow, we will follow meaningfully. Not eating bread is the key custom for Passover. Every time you eat matzah instead of bread during Passover, you are affirming your Judaism. If you are eating out and make a mistake of taking a bit of bread, don't be afraid to admit your error; ask the waiter to take the bread away. By this request, you affirm your Judaism. In this era,

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DAY SCHOOL BICENTENNIAL PROJECT

As a bicentennial project with students of Beth Am Day School, intermediate and senior bloc, the Temple Beth Am library has a bulletin board project based on a time line study. It is biographical in that it deals with the history of the families of the students: Where they came from, what their point of entry was, and the world-wide events that led to emigration and immigration. There is also a display of maps, copies of documents, illustrations, and books dealing with this time period. The result is a mini history of the arrival of the Jews in the United States between 1850 and 1933. The display will be on-going from May 2, 1976 until the end of the school year.

Joan's Gems

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Our own member, Marjorie Pearlson, is being honored by Coral Gables Congregational Church at a luncheon, held in May, for "valiant women of 1976." How about that! Her work in the community is well known to many. . . . Did you know that the recent article on our Passover Seder, published in the Miami News, was reported by our own Barbara Lefcourt Haiman? . . . Want to burst with pride? Our Day School students earned (doing work outside of school) \$150.00 for the Passover Gold Coast Fund, which enables senior citizens to have ample Passover foods.

Last Chance For Sisterhood Directory


Last chance to place ads in Sisterhood's bicentennial calendar/directory: Jewel, \$2; Business, \$20 and up; Professional Page, \$5. Call Elaine Newmark, 274-5824.

WATCH FOR MAY 19th SPECIAL EVENT DETAILS

Bnai

Mitzvah

Saturday
May 8
11:15 a.m.



Ronnie, son of
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Sitrin

when American Jews are fast assimilating into the environment, every time you make a choice of this kind, you are fighting assimilation; you are helping to preserve your Jewish identity. Your children will inescapably notice your conviction. If not eating bread is the one thing Reform Jews observe from the ancient lengthy list of traditional Passover restrictions, let us at least do it right. The quality of this observance has to be high, strict, positive. What a pleasure it is for me to deny myself bread over this short expanse of time. It is so easy to do, if you really try. Are you a serious Jew or a make-believe one? It is one thing to be Reform. It is another thing to be seriously Reform. To be seriously Reform means to be affirmative in the standards that you set. These standards must lead you to Judaism, to differentiation from the mass. Do you really observe Passover, or is it one more of Judaism's wonderful things that you ignore in your drift towards assimilation?