



Beth Am Commentator

December 30, 1977

Miami, Florida

Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard

"WHAT EVERY COLLEGIAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT JUDAISM"

Friday, December 30, 8:30 p.m., RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Saturday, December 31, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

Dec. 30 Service Features Collegians And Special Oneg Shabbat

Our annual religious service presented by collegians will be on Friday, December 30, at 8:30 p.m. Young people home from college will read the service. There will be a special reception (for collegians only) to be held in the Youth Lounge immediately following services. There will be a juke box for dancing, ping pong tables and other recreational games. Refreshments will be served.

Collegians interested in appearing in the service, or in helping with the reception, are urged to contact Selma in the Rabbi's office. Rabbi Baumgard will speak on the theme, "What Every Collegian Should Know About Judaism, But Has Been Afraid To Ask."

Collegians are again reminded (or their parents) to send in their name, address, and phone number to Rabbi Baumgard in order to receive mailings and to set up possible visits from the Rabbi to their college.

— — SCHOOL NOTICE — —

1. Due to January 2 being a legal holiday celebrating the New Year, there will be no school on Monday evening, January 2 and no Hebrew school on January 2.
2. Nursery/Kindergarten and Day School classes will resume on Tuesday, January 3.
3. Weekend religious school will resume on Saturday and Sunday, January 7 and 8.
4. Hebrew School will resume on Wednesday, January 4.
5. Monday night school will resume on January 9.

College Credit Classes Start Jan. 3

COLLEGE CREDIT COURSE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY AT BETH AM JEWISH HISTORY NO. 342

A survey course, from Abraham to modern times.

Instructors: Dr. Howard Rock
Rabbi Herbert Baumgard, DHL

Youth Lounge, Beth Am, beginning Tuesday, January 3
7:30 to 10 p.m., 11 weeks for five-quarter college credits

Register through Marlene Price, 665-6228 (\$82.50)

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ADULT CONFIRMATION CREDIT SEX AND SORROW IN THE BIBLE

Discussions and readings based on "The Song of Songs,"
"Job," and other biblical books

Instructor: Rabbi Herbert Baumgard, DHL, DD

Four Wednesdays, beginning January 25
8 p.m. to 10 p.m., Youth Lounge

No previous knowledge of Bible necessary.
No fees. Bring your Bible

Combined Jewish Appeal Sabbath

The weekend of January 6-7 embraces Combined Jewish Appeal Sabbath. Every Jew should be a contributor to CJA through the local Federation office. Federation raises funds which are divided between Israel and local charities like Jewish Family Service, the Home for the Aged, the Greater Miami Jewish Community Centers, Jewish Vocational Service.

How much should one give? A gift to CJA should be one's largest charitable gift. This is not to be compared to a gift to a single agency. A gift to CJA is a gift to many agencies.

Let's have 100 percent giving from Beth Am members. Send your pledge and/or check to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, 4200 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida.

Physical Assaults On The Temple

Some of your children have zeroed in on the Temple as the object of their hostility. Books have been crammed down the toilet. Glass has been broken in the bath room. Plumbing has been systematically twisted. You will note that much of the damage is aimed at the bath room, where so many of us manifest our psychological problems. When we catch the performer of such an act, we usually discover that he is unhappy at home, and that the Temple is the place where he can act out his anger without upsetting father and mother.

Countless other less severe things are done at the Temple every weekend. A desk is knifed, a drink is spilled on the rug deliberately, crayon is drawn across the wall paper, etc. Some of these things are within the "normal" range of destructive activities by children going to school, but it does seem that we ought to be doing something to control the more extreme goings-on. How about talking to your children and saying something like, "You know the Temple is a special place. It's not just a school. It's a place we honor as Jews. It's ours. We have to take care of it and keep it pretty." Your children may not need such instruction, but we never know.

RABBI'S TRIP MAY INCLUDE ST. LOUIS

Rumor has it that Beth Am has many children attending college in the St. Louis area. Rabbi Baumgard is putting St. Louis on his agenda for this winter, but the trip is dependent on our getting full information from parents of students in that area. Parents will please fill out the form below and send it to Rabbi Baumgard now.

Parents of students in other areas are urged to fill in the form also. At the very least, we will send our college packet to your child, and it may be that we will discover that there are sufficient students for the Rabbi to visit your child also.

Dear Rabbi Baumgard:

% Beth Am, 5950 N. Kendall Dr., Miami 33156

Enclosed is the name and address of my collegian.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

(Please print)



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

The Cairo Peace Negotiations

It is not necessarily true that the Cairo peace negotiations are good for Israel. They will be good if Israel emerges with a peace treaty truly accepted by the Arabs which grants to Israel a sufficiently large buffer zone area on all fronts which will enable her to defend herself against attack. The buffer zones are necessary, among other reasons, because all of the Arab governments are unstable. It is not unusual for an Arab government to disappear suddenly and extreme enemies take hold. Sadat may want peace. His successor may have other ideas. Because of that very real possibility, Israel must have a buffer zone between it and Egypt which is sufficient for Israel to defend itself.

When we use a phrase like "sufficient to defend itself," we must think of all the modern weaponry now available to the Arabs who are backed by endless streams of oil money. The Arabs have weapons that can destroy Israeli planes electronically. Such weapons brought into the West Bank can prevent planes taking off at Israel's major airport, Lod.

When well-intentioned people (like Carter) talk about requiring Israel to return all the "conquered lands" (i.e., the buffer zones established after three Arab attacks), they clearly don't understand the military problem or don't care about Israel. A young man from our Temple told me how his high school teacher had the class draw up a suitable map for the Arabs and Israel taking into account "all the variables." The well-meaning class divided everything up evenly, giving the Arabs back most of the buffer zones, but limiting the number of Arabs which could live there. Ingenious, but naive. On the other hand, the solution of this high school class was no more naive than some of the things Carter has been talking about.

THE U.S. BACK IN THE MIDDLE

I am not exactly happy that the U.S. is now back in the middle of the Cairo negotiations. Sadat and Begin may have worked out a settlement suitable to these two countries, for they really have little to quarrel about. Israel is no threat to Egypt and is not very interested in the sand of Sinai except as a buffer zone. Now that the U.S. is in Cairo (Vance is there as I write this), we hear talk of a broader and total settlement (including all of the Arab nations at odds with Israel). Does this mean we are to go back to giving the West Bank to the PLO? Does this mean the elevation of the extremists to the center of the discussion once again? The U.S. succeeded in doing that before. Is it interested in doing that again, or has Sadat and Begin taught it something? (We have said before that the U.S. position is a projection of the Saudi Arabian position--for the sake of oil.)

Hear what George F. Will said in his editorial in Newsweek of November 28: "Anyway, most Palestinians are not stateless. They are citizens of Jordan and other nations. The remaining refugees in Arab nations could be admitted to citizenship (in those nations). That is one reason why the 'Palestinian issue,' properly handled (that is, handled last), could fade away. It is wrong to say the PLO represents anything but itself. It is preposterous to say it represents all Palestinians. It is folly to say Arafat has a role in negotiations between nations. . . ." Mr. Will goes on to say that if the Geneva conference had been arranged the way things were going before the Sadat-Begin meeting, "the shrillest voice probably would set the tone of a Geneva Conference. . . ." His position is that if Egypt and Israel can come to an accommodation, there can be no more major wars in the near east.

There is hope in Cairo, if Sadat really means it, and if his visit to Israel was not merely another maneuver to make

CAMP COLEMAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for camp scholarships are now available at the Religious School office. If you are interested in applying, come by the office as soon as possible. Deadline for filing the application with Rabbi Davidow is February 1, 1978.

THE ULTIMATE JEWISH CAMP EXPERIENCE

Just a field trip away from New York City is the UAHC Kutz Camp at Warwick, N.Y. Here, each summer, a series of programs are conducted for 300 high school youth from around the country and the world.

It is here that the National Federation of Temple Youth conducts its national academies, two four week sessions in which the participant chooses a major area of study, ranging from youth group leadership to modern dance, and combines this with the broad range of other camp experiences to make for a summer of excitement and achievement. One can attend either or both of the sessions.

For those geared to a summer long program of intense study and involvement, there is an eight week National Torah Corps. The 50 participants form their own community, become intimately involved with the Hebrew language, and also participate in the regular camp activities.

A limited number of work-scholarship programs are available for those who cannot readily pay the full fee, which, for the eight week program, is \$950.

If you are interested in learning more, speak with Rabbi Chefitz.

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING

The Russians are coming! A total of 150 Russian refugees will be arriving in Miami within the next three months. Finding jobs is an important phase of their resettlement; learning enough English to communicate effectively is their major obstacle.

National Council of Jewish Women has begun a tutoring program and is offering free English instruction to any Russian who requests help. More teachers are needed to participate in this interesting and worthwhile service. If you can spare at least three hours once a week and would like to know more, please call Sue Horowitz, 661-8409, or Sherri Poliakov, 666-6445.

Bnai

Mitzvah



Saturday
December 31
11:15 a.m.

David, son of
Dr. and Mrs. Lee Bricker
Stephen, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Schorr

Israel give back all of its buffer zones. In recent weeks, Major General George Kegan, Chief of the Air Force Intelligence in the Mid-East (U.S.), retired, and because he retired, he was able to contradict the projection of the Carter administration. Major General Kegan said, "If Israel made the territorial concessions urged by Carter, it would encourage another war."

Israel is not being stubborn and ungrateful (as it is being made to seem). It simply doesn't want to be naive.