



beth am commentator

APRIL 7, 1978

MIAMI, FLORIDA

RABBI MITCHELL CHEFITZ

"THE ISRAEL CONNECTION"

An unconcerned Jew goes on a mission to Israel.

Friday, April 7, 7:30 p.m., FAMILY SERVICE

Saturday, April 8, 9:15, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

It's time to roll up your sleeve...



GIVE BLOOD NOW

**April 9
Is Blood Bank
Sunday**

Just a reminder to those of you who planned to donate a unit of blood to our blood bank. The date is Sunday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Youth Lounge. This is a congregational blood bank; so be sure and come and give this precious unit of life-sustaining fluid.

We need your help to maintain the integrity of our blood bank. If we cannot replace the blood requested by our congregants, we cease to exist. So, please come, and make your needed donation and enjoy a hearty breakfast as only our Brotherhood's famous kitchen crew can provide. See you April 9.

Annual Congregational Seder

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 6:00 P.M. SOCIAL HALL
(on the second night of Passover)

THE SEDER DINNER: The traditional Seder dinner will be catered.

PARTICIPANTS: The Rabbis will lead the narration of the Haggadah together with families from the congregation.

RESERVATIONS: To secure your reservation, please clip the coupon below and mail with your check to Beth Am. Reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis. We were sold out last year! Make your reservation today!

To: Beth Am Seder Reservations, 5950 N. Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida 33156.

From _____
Name (please print)

Address _____ Phone _____

Please reserve the following:

MEMBERS

_____ Adults @ \$10.00 ea. \$ _____
_____ Children 5 years to 12 @ \$7.50 ea. \$ _____
_____ Children 4 years and under @ \$4.00 ea. \$ _____

NON-MEMBERS

_____ Adults @ \$13.50 ea. \$ _____
_____ Children 5 years to 12 @ \$9.00 ea. \$ _____
_____ Children 4 years and under @ \$5.00 ea. \$ _____

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$ _____

Please seat us at a table with the following families who will also be attending: _____

Cooking For And Conducting A Seder

This Thursday evening, April 6, 8 p.m., in Room 25, Rabbi Chefitz will conduct a workshop on various ways to conduct a Passover Seder, and Frances Sanes, a much-respected teacher of gourmet cooking, will present the culinary side to the Passover meal.

PASSOVER BEGINS FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 21

There are only a few weeks left to prepare for Passover. Thursday evening is the time to begin. It's best, of course, if the cook and the conductor can both come since the workshops will be presented simultaneously, but either one is welcome.

Congregational Meeting Mon., Apr. 24 Change In By-Laws To Be Approved

The annual congregational meeting of Temple Beth Am will be held on Monday, April 24, at 8 p.m., on the second floor of the Teenage Building. At this meeting, we will vote for the election of officers for the 1978-79 fiscal year and for the various openings on the board of directors. The slate of officers and the nominations for the board as submitted by the nominating committee are listed below.

President	Sam Steen
Executive Vice President	Dr. William Silver
Vice Presidents	Iris Franco
(in alphabetical order)	Marshall Langer
	Gerri Legow
	Al Leibert
	Stan Mintz
Financial Secretary	Les Freedman
Treasurer	Herb Neuman
Corresponding Secretary	Barry Goldstein
Recording Secretary	Florence Birchansky

The following members were nominated to serve a three year term on the board of directors, term to expire in 1981: Irene Baros, Peggy Biele, Alan Brooks, Evelyn Goodman, Charles Simon, Betty Suchman, Michael Weisberg, Jeffrey Wershil.

There is one opening on the board of directors for a two year term to expire in 1980. Nominated was Elliot Berman. Remaining on the board for a term to expire in 1980 are: Dr. Samuel Berkowitz, Steve Carner, Dr. Melvin Hellinger, Marcia Reisman, Elaine Silverstein, Dr. Gilbert Snyder, Gilbert Tendler.

There are three openings on the board of directors for a one year term to expire in 1979. The following were nominated: Don Klein, Norma Leiberman, Jerold Schwarz. Remaining on the board for a term to expire in 1979 are: Allen Abelson, Shepard King, Ruth Leshaw, Ira Pozen, Dr. Arvey Rogers.

AMENDMENT TO THE TEMPLE BY-LAWS

Also, at this annual meeting, we will vote on an amendment to the Temple by-laws, as voted upon by the board at its March meeting. Any change in the Temple by-laws has to be approved by the general meeting of the congregation. The change is as follows:

ARTICLE XI - COMMITTEES, Section 3 - Nominating Committee. Eliminate subsection a, which reads as follows: "No member of the nominating committee may participate in the nomination, discussion, or voting for any office for which such member, his or her spouse, or child, is a candidate for nomination." The balance of the section shall remain.

**NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLASSES ON SATURDAY, SUNDAY OR MONDAY, APRIL 8, 9 OR 10
NO HEBREW SCHOOL CLASSES ON MONDAY, APRIL 10**

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

A God Who Cares

In last week's column, we made the point that parents who really want their children to be Jewish cannot escape the responsibility of trying to develop their own spirituality. This is not easy in a technological age. We are cut off from the basic creative rhythm of the earth by technical marvels and by efficient packaging. We are no longer privileged to experience the miracle of seed and growth. In Judaism, one of the purposes of the major festivals, Sukkot, Shavuot, and Passover, all agricultural festivals, is to restore to us this sense of nearness and oneness with the creative process. Our traditional brethren build a Sukkah in their backyard, garnish it with fruit of many kinds, and spend the night under the stars. The return to nature is not only an idea of today's younger generation, it is the essence of traditional Judaism. He who can feel the pulse of Mother Earth in its creative cycle comes closer to God.

We are speaking now of the need to become more aware of the reality that exists beyond the masks of modern technology. When one goes to the hospital today, for example, it is easy to think that one has been cured by the new medicines, the elaborate surgical techniques, and the costly machinery. These things are important and helpful, to be sure, but they are all trappings for the basic show. None of these would be effective, were we not so created that the body is capable of healing itself, given appropriate assistance. Built into us, without our even asking, are the continuing miracles of healing and growth.

No modern invention is responsible for the miracle of the human heart pumping away without an external power source, and no human is responsible for our intricate blood system, and no machine is responsible for our ability to think, or to feel, or to love. Anyone who studies the complexities of the human body comes closer to sensing the reality of God.

What a curse it is that modern man is blocked off by his preoccupation with things from an inter-relation with the creative source from which he springs and which flows through him! How impoverished we are alongside the Prophet and the Hasid who could feel God within him.

WHAT DOES THIS GOD TEACH AND DO?

Many of our Jewish collegians today, having not found God at home, have gone off to India in search of a god. They have found a god who can save them from the mad drive of Americans towards financial success. This is a god who leads them away from life as we know it. He is a god without desire, and he asks them to imitate him, that is, to become without desire, without feeling. Nirvana, the great goal, is the state of non-being, non-feeling, beyond ambition, beyond anger, beyond love and sacrifice, as we know these terms. In Nirvana, not even sex has a place.

Classic Judaism has a completely different view of God. His very name is "Being" ("I am What I Shall Be"). This is a God, the Bible tells us, who is angry at injustice, who feels the anguish of the afflicted, who rallies to the aid of the oppressed, who wants man to procreate sexually, who wants man to imitate Him in His holiness (His active goodness). The basic difference between the Jewish and the Indian idea of God is that ours is a feeling God who wants us to feel. God says to Moses from the midst of the burning bush, "I hear the cry of the people, I know their pain . . ." The story does not conclude until Moses is commanded to go help free the slaves. God, as we understand Him, commands all of us to the ethical act. Judaism is best expressed in the act, not in the mental state, as in Indian religion.

What does all this mean for you? It means that if you don't want to become an extension of the technology of our age, you, too, must hear the call of the feeling God. You must HEAR it! You must not merely act out the just deed. The command must be PERSONAL. God speaks to you (as to all others). Not

God

BROTHERHOOD ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT DINNER, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Am will hold its election for officers for the year 1978-79 on Wednesday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m., in the Youth Lounge.

The nominating committee, appointed by our president, Michael Weisberg, will offer for nomination the following slate:

- President Bob Fried
Executive Vice President Dr. Mel Hellinger
Vice President Barry Blecker
Vice President Abe Eisenman
Vice President Mike Wexler
Treasurer Al Pobby
Secretary Ben Friedman
Parliamentarian Michael P. Weisberg

Board of Directors: Dr. Fred Blumenfeld, Arthur Conn, Max Feld, Les Freedman, Leo Gelber, Donald Klein, George Malin, Harold Malin, Jack Orkin, Ira Pozen, Judge Richard Schwartz and Lou Ziff.

All Brotherhood members should plan to attend this annual election and support our incoming officers. Contact the Temple office, 667-5587, for reservations.

JOAN'S GEMS

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Kudos to Bonnie, daughter of Ed and Sylvia Blumenthal. Bonnie was honored at the annual President's Scholarship Dinner at Ohio State University. She was selected as the top senior in the School of Dental Hygiene. . . . Dr. Charles and Katie Kram are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Nancy, to Edward Greenberg. The young couple plan a fall wedding. . . . Did you read about Steven, son of Judy and Jordan Bittel, in the Miami Herald recently? Steve is now studying economics at Bowdoin College, Maine, and has been awarded \$7,000 by the Thomas J. Watson Foundation of Providence, R.I., to travel to Europe and ask European businessmen why they invest in the United States.

Bnai Mitzvah

Saturday, April 8

9:15 a.m.

11:15 a.m.



Sharry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Adler
Jeffrey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Weinstock

Ross Corey, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Firtell
Neil, son of Dr. and Mrs. Irwin Potash

just to you, but to you ALSO. And to you uniquely, for each of us has his own sensitivity and spiritual capacity.

To believe in God, as Jews understand believing, is to be able to hear the personal command from a God who cares about what happens to human beings. Belief, for us, is not an abstract concept; it is a matter of being able to identify in feeling and in action with the caring Spirit of the Universe that flows through all of us.