



Beth Am Commentator

January 13, 1978

Miami, Florida

Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard

**"OH GOD"--WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE GOD
IN "OH GOD"?**

Friday, January 13, 8:30 p.m., RELIGIOUS SERVICE
ADULT CHOIR WILL SING

Saturday, January 14, 9:15, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

Adult Education Class

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS STARTS JAN. 25

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

Jan. 22 Breakfast Will Discuss The Hassidic Movement Today

The speaker at the next Brotherhood breakfast forum, January 22, at 9:30 a.m., in the Youth Lounge, will be the well-known Hassidic scholar, Rabbi Yitzhak Marcus of the Chabad House. His topic of discussion will be "THE HASSIDIC MOVEMENT TODAY--A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE." Many of our rituals and songs at Beth Am are steeped in Hassidic tradition. Rabbi Baumgard refers to Temple Beth Am as a Hassidic Reform Temple. Some of our best-attended adult education classes are those in the study of Jewish mysticism, which evolved with the Hassidic movement. Rabbi Marcus will discuss the movement of Hassidism today and how it relates to the problems of today. Such problems as abortion, women's lib and many others will be discussed in the context of today's Hassidic movement.

Admission to the breakfast forum is \$1.50 for Brotherhood members and \$2.00 for non-members. Your friends and neighbors will also enjoy the discussion as well as the food. Of course, all Brotherhood forums welcome the ladies.

*The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Am
requests the pleasure of your company
on the occasion of its*

*Brotherhood Medallion Award Dinner
honoring*

RABBI MITCHELL CHEFITZ

on Saturday, the eleventh of February, 1978

PROCEEDS TO THE NEW LEARNING CENTER

Donation \$15 per person

Checks payable to Temple Beth Am

Dinner, 7:30 p.m.

R.S.V.P.

Confirmation Retreat Weekend

The Confirmation Class had a wonderful retreat weekend at Camp Owaissa Bauer December 9-11. Learning and recreational activities alternated to form a good mixture. During learning time, students were involved in sharing their ideas and feelings about personal and Jewish experiences with the direction of all of Beth Am's rabbis, teachers from the Religious School, and parents who spent the weekend with the class. The Sabbath morning worship service started while there was still some chill in the air. As the sun warmed up the group physically, the worship added its spiritual warmth. On Saturday afternoon, Rabbis Baumgard, Chefitz and Davidow each had a following for a rap session, which was soon followed by a faculty-student volley ball game. Among the older set, some muscles long unused were re-discovered and ached for days afterward. The climax of the retreat weekend was the Saturday night camp fire. The cool air, the clear, starry sky and a blazing fire made a perfect setting for songs and stories enjoyed by the Confirmation Class. Some hoped-for results of the retreat were that the students would gel as a group and that personal relationships would be established and enhanced by a weekend together. Both of these resulted from the highly successful retreat.

Many thanks are due to Katy Kram, Miriam and Marshall Major, who planned and supervised the logistics and secured our chaperones. The latter were Myrna Cohen, Clara Kline, Patti and Bernie Sacks, Bunny Miller, Jack Winston, Barbara Willig, Janice and Jim Goodman, Barbara and Bill Cooper, Lee and Joe Redstone, and Abe Eisenman. Special thanks to Bruce Moyer for his command performance.

SOME SCENES FROM THE WEEKEND



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FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Warm Memories

Theodore Hertzl was an assimilated Jew when he first encountered anti-semitism as an adult. When the loyal Frenchman and Jew, Dreyfus, was falsely accused of being a traitor, because he was a Jew, Hertzl decided the Jew, who seemed to be so secure in Europe, would really not be safe until he had his own homeland.

When this sophisticated and well-educated man tried to find his way back to the Judaism he had left behind, he found the road back surprisingly easy-for he had a warm, Jewish childhood, and as he searched for them, the memories came flooding back.

There were memories of lighting the Chanukah candles with his family all about him, laughing and singing. There were memories of Purim parties with delicious hamantaschen and costumes. There were memories of fasting on Yom Kippur and the great joy of eating after the long day was over. Because he had been blessed with a rich childhood experience in Judaism, Hertzl could reach across the years and relearn that it was good to be a Jew.

We should never underestimate the importance of warm memories, and we must make certain that there are warm memories for our children. Years ago, a mother sent her daughter to see me because the daughter was marrying a non-Jew in a church. The daughter told me that one of the main reasons she wanted to marry a non-Jew was so that she could celebrate Christmas. "What about Chanukah?", I asked. "Didn't you have happy times at Chanukah?" "We never celebrated Chanukah," the girl replied. She had no warm memories, this young lady. She was a deprived Jewish child.

Recently, a 45 year old man went to Israel. He discovered that in spite of his age, he could be Bar Mitzvah at the Western Wall. Without telling anyone, he went through the brief ceremony. You see, he had not applied himself as a youngster and had not mastered the Hebrew in order to become a Bar Mitzvah, but there was a gap in his life. He needed the warmth of the memory that was not. At least, he knew there was a gap in his memory. Some of us don't even know that we have a gap. We are not even aware of the warmth that is obtainable from observing certain Jewish ceremonies.

The less we know of warm memories in our Jewish past, the more assimilated we are. The deeper our Jewish past, the easier it is to call these memories to the fore. Like the man who went to the Wall to be Bar Mitzvah, we can re-create in our adulthood the experiences we might have had as a child, but didn't. It is possible to go about deliberately to make oneself a Jew, even if the childhood motivations were not there.

Try lighting sabbath candles as we suggest in our pamphlet, "Taking On A New Soul" (available free at the office). Try fasting on Yom Kippur. Try eating matzah exclusively on Passover. Try reading a Jewish book (from our lovely library. Try my book on "Judaism And Prayer," for example). Try coming to religious services-especially on Saturday morning when the Torah is read and explained. Try coming to our adult courses (like my course on the Bible which begins January 25, or any of Rabbi Chefitz's courses which begin shortly thereafter). Fan the flames, and watch the pride burst into a great fire!

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.

SUMMER PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL

The Hebrew Union College Archeological Excavations at Tel Dan is in need of volunteers to assist with the dig this summer. The five week program, June 17 through July 21, will involve not only work at the dig, but also a series of courses and training in archeological procedure, and will provide three hours of academic credit.

Total cost, including group air fare, is \$1,365 (\$200 less for youth fare). A week is available at the conclusion of the session for touring the country. If you are interested, speak with Rabbi Chefitz.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Also, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem has just published its 1978-79 program offerings for American students. These range from summer courses to graduate studies. If you are interested in any of these programs, speak to Rabbi Chefitz.

Marriage Congratulations To:

Marilyn, daughter of Joseph and Anne Teitelbaum, to Richard Comitor.

Leah, daughter of Dr. Melvin and Louise Klein, to Dane Graziano.

Laurel, daughter of Samuel and Shirley Steen, to David L. David.

Arthur and Rita Rauchwerger, upon the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary.

WOMEN AT THE CROSSROADS

Where do I go from here with my life?

Many women are at the crossroads. If you are one of them, this group will help you identify the path that is right for you.

The group will be conducted by Marjorie Willensky, a former assistant dean at Brandeis University. She has extensive experience in career workshops, individual career counseling and test interpretation. She has lectured nation-wide on the topic of career development. Enrollment in this workshop will be limited to ten. There is no fee other than \$5 for materials. Six Thursday evenings, beginning January 12, 8 to 10 p.m., in Room 27. To enroll, call the Temple office. For more information, speak to Marjorie, 858-2872.

B'nai Mitzvah

Saturday, January 14

9:15 a.m.

11:15 a.m.



Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boresow



Michael, son of Mr. Vicki Druckman
Mr. Ira Druckman



Mark, son of Dr. and Mrs. Henry Gelband



Paula, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Donald Klein