



Beth Am Commentator

January 27, 1978

Miami, Florida

Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard
 "HOW TO HAVE A GOOD TENNIS SERVE--AND
 STILL HAVE TIME TO LEARN ABOUT JUDAISM"
 Friday, January 27, 8:30 p.m., RELIGIOUS SERVICE
 Saturday, January 28, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

Workshop On The Family Here Jan. 30

The Women's Committee of Jewish Family and Children's Service, in cooperation with Temple Beth Am, is sponsoring a workshop, Persons Are Families, on Monday morning, January 30, 1978, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, at Temple Beth Am.

The workshop will deal with the forces of change that are creating new forms of human relationships in a variety of familial constellations. JFCS professional counselors will lead the session which is open, free of charge, to the congregation and the general public.

THE ULTIMATE CAMP EXPERIENCE

Coleman is great, no doubt about it. But do you know about the Kutz Camp in Warwick, New York? This is another U.A.H.C. camp for kids 14 and up. Coleman is a regional camp for the southeast region of the U.A.H.C. Kutz is the national camp, drawing high school students from all over the country.

What's at Kutz during the summer? Two four week national academies. An opportunity for study in any of 12 major areas ranging from Jewish Studies to the visual arts, plus a full range of camp experiences. For serious students, there's an eight week Torah Corps, intensive Hebrew and Jewish studies and the camp experience as well.

If you want to know more about this ultimate camp experience for kids turned on to Jewish things, let us know.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE JEWISH FLORIDIAN

We in the Miami area are lucky to have one of the best Anglo-Jewish newspapers in the country, The Jewish Floridian. Fred Shochet, publisher of the Jewish Floridian, has a good ear for Jewish news and maintains close contacts with the local Jewish community. Leo Mindlin, who writes a weekly commentary on current events, is a profound interpreter of the news. In addition, many syndicated columnists appear regularly.

The Floridian also supplies abundant holiday information and guides. Even some of the best recipes for Jewish cooking are made available.

In an effort to stimulate subscribers in the Southwest section, we are in a position to have Brotherhood or Sisterhood receive a substantial commission for the subscription.

The price for the yearly subscription is \$15.00 for 52 weekly issues. This is about 30 cents per week. You can make your check out to Temple Beth Am Brotherhood or Temple Beth Am Sisterhood. Checks and subscription forms should be sent back to the Temple office.

Temple Beth Am, 5950 N. Kendall Drive, Miami, Fla. 33156:

I am enclosing check for \$15.00 to subscribe to The Jewish Floridian.

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Rabbi Chefitz Honored At Dinner, Saturday, February 11

Temple Beth Am Brotherhood President Michael Weisberg is happy to announce that Brotherhood will honor Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz as the recipient of its 1978 Medallion award.



Rabbi Chefitz, as Associate Rabbi of Temple Beth Am, has helped Brotherhood plan its worship services, has participated in its inter-faith dinner, and has spoken several times at the monthly Brotherhood breakfasts. For the Temple at large, he has encouraged active formation and participation in Havurot. Rabbi Chefitz exemplifies the modern Reform Jew by living Jewish ethical values and belief in the moral law.

Rabbi Chefitz came to Temple Beth Am in 1975 upon his graduation from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Prior to that, he had served in the U.S. Navy, and had taught at the University of California in Berkely. He is married to the lovely Walli who is the mother of his two children, Uri and Joshua.

RABBI BAUMGARD DELIVERS THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The keynote address for the medallion dinner will be given by Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard, the senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Am.

The medallion dinner will be held on Saturday, February 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the Social Hall. All proceeds of the dinner will be donated to Temple Beth Am's new Learning Center in the name of Rabbi Chefitz. This will be a catered sit-down dinner. Your contribution for the dinner will be \$15.00 per person. Please return the reservation card you receive with your formal invitation.

MEET GEULA GOMAN OUR ADOPTED SOVIET BABY



This adorable young lady is Geula Goman, the 14 month old daughter of Beth Am's adopted Soviet Jewish family, Grigori and Larissa Goman of Leningrad.

Beth Am came to the aid of the Gomans three years ago, when the Social Action Committee learned that both Grigori, a meteorologist, and Larissa, an economist, lost their jobs when they applied for exit visas from Russia. We adopted the Gomans and care for them by sending packages, financial aid, letters, and also writing to both Russian and U.S. officials urging their release. Several Temple members have actually been able to visit the Gomans in Leningrad.

Baby Geula is walking and talking now and joins her parents in sending best wishes to her friends in America. If you wish to help the Gomans and other Soviet Jews, call Dr. William Silver, 665-5124. Bill will be able to give you the specifics.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Learning The Art Of Prayer

This is an excerpt from the sermon, "Learning The Art Of Prayer," given by Rabbi Baumgard at the High Holidays, and since selected for publication by "Pastoral Services" of Los Angeles.

There are those who say to us, "My religion is following the golden rule." Such people work outside the framework which includes God and prayer. Their view is not without some merit, but it seems to me that a person who cuts himself off from the creative spirit of the universe misses a great excitement in life. To believe that what one does is important, not only for its own sake, but because it is important to God, has to lend a certain drama and depth to life.

Consider now this story in point. Once a reporter visited a new construction site in New York City. He discovered that a new synagogue was being erected. The reporter decided to ask each worker what he thought of his work and how he felt about it. He went up to the bricklayer and asked, "What are you doing?" The bricklayer answered, "I am placing these bricks according to the pattern of the architect, one next to the other." The reporter then went to the foreman and asked him, "What is your job?" The foreman answered, "I supervise all of these workmen and try to coordinate their efforts." The reporter went in turn to the plasterers and the paper hangers and all answered in the same way. They all described the details of their particular job. Finally, the reporter went up to an old man who was stirring cement in a big trough. "Tell me, old man, what are you doing?" The old man continued to stir the cement over and over, carefully and painstakingly; then, the old man smiled and said, "I'm building a house of God."

The secret of the religious way of life, as Judaism sees it, is that it can glorify the most simple task. One way to pray is to work in such a way that you understand yourself to be what you are doing not only for yourself and your family, but Leshem Shamayim, for the sake of heaven, for God.

The doctor who serves merely to make a living does not pray, but the doctor who understands that he is God's agent, that he is the hands, so to speak, of the healing God, this doctor prays as he works. The mother who rears her children without thought of their miraculous character and without thought of what she is contributing to society through her child, does not pray. But if the mother understands that she is charged with the holiest of all tasks, the shaping of a child's mind and character, and if she understands that she is the agent of God, then, her working and loving is her prayer.

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

TU-BI-SHEVAT IS JEWISH ARBOR DAY

The 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat, January 23, is Jewish Arbor Day. "Tu" is the Hebrew way of saying 15. School children in Israel use this day for the planting of trees. In the Diaspora (countries outside of Israel), it is used as an occasion for stressing the significance of the up-building of Israel.

It was in Israel that our great culture was developed. Our distinctive language, the great literature written in that language, our inspiring music, and, above all, our great moral heritage were developed through the social, economic, political and religious institutions which were peculiar to the land of Israel.

The Bible could not have been written in any other land. It reveals the simple, moral ethics of the semitic nomad. The Mishna, which is the base of the Talmud, was prepared in Israel. Except for the Babylonian Gemara (commentary on the Mishna), Jews have not produced any literature to match the Bible and Mishna. (Individual Jews in many other countries have produced quality literature, and Jews have created art and scientific discoveries which have been of the highest benefit to man). Israel remains unique as the land of special Jewish creativeness.

Today in Israel, the Hebrew language is once again spoken as the native tongue. Once again, Jews are creating institutions expressly for Jews. They are turning out more new books than any other country in the world. They are developing new social and economic systems. (They may prove to the world that there are other economic alternatives than communism and monopoly-capitalism). Jewish religious life throughout the world has been stimulated by the resurgence of Israel. Modern Israel customs are being absorbed into American Jewish life. The study of the Hebrew language has taken on a new significance in America. The revitalization of Israel has meant more than a haven of Jewish life everywhere. It has emphasized the future in Jewish life which has emphasized, perhaps, too much from the past.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1978

A SPECIAL SABBATH

PLAN TO ATTEND

Bnai

Mitzvah



Saturday January 28 11:15 a.m.

Kevin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald J. Shayne Eric, son of Mrs. Arlene Sheldon Mr. Arthur Sheldon