



RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, November 14, 1980, 8:30 p.m.
RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD
"THE RESURRECTION OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN FRANCE"
TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, November 15, 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

November 14, 1980

Miami, Florida

Soviet Jewelry - Its Problems and Promises Breakfast Topic on November 16th

The largest number of Jews unable to move freely, and to workshop as they please, is found in the Soviet Union. As a minority, they are harrassed and imprisoned merely for expressing a desire to emigrate.

We, in the United States care deeply for our co-religionists who are so mistreated. By letters and the use of funds badly needed elsewhere, we do what we can to assist them in making their life easier.

While there is solidarity of opinion on the need for removing these unfortunates from Soviet domination, what happens to those who are finally permitted to leave disturbs some of us.

When a Soviet Jewish family who promises to emigrate to Israel suddenly changes its mind and comes to the United States, some of us believe Israel - and us - have been short changed.

To discuss every aspect of this problem, we have asked Elaine Bloom to speak to us. A past President of the Greater Miami Section of National Council of Jewish Women; a member of the Community Relations Committee of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, and a legislator in the Florida House of Representatives, Elaine Bloom brings with her full knowledge of every phase of this problem.

Breakfast will begin at 9:30 a.m. Donations are \$2.00 for Brotherhood members and \$2.50 for guests. The date is November 16th, and the place is our Youth Lounge. Ladies of course, are always welcome.

Chanukah Workshop at Temple Nov. 19th Participate in the Joys of Judaism With Sisterhood

Remember the wonderful Art Auction Sisterhood had last month? Millie Infeld, who chaired it, is quite thrilled to report about the auction's huge success!

Remember the wonderful Opening Luncheon/Fashion Show Sisterhood had last month? Doreen Marx, Sydell Efronson, and Gail Calodney are all thrilled to report about that success!

Succeed with Sisterhood again! - Make your reservation now to attend THE CHANUKAH MIRACLE WORKSHOP on Wednesday, November 19th at 11 A.M. Master Host Catered Lunch - \$4.00. BABY SITTING AVAILABLE by request one week in advance. R.S.V.P. Temple Office - 667-6667.

Do plan to attend and participate in the Joys of Judaism with Sisterhood once again!

We Need You on November 23rd to Donate Blood

On Sunday morning, November 23rd between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., in our Social Hall; please come and donate a pint of blood. YOUR blood is urgently wanted to help those in need. A few minutes of your time can save a life. Please call Doreen Marx 667-6667 or Diana Elson 665-1958 to tell them that you will be there.

Brotherhood will serve a delicious breakfast. See you Sunday morning!

BEHIND THE STORY OF CHANUKAH

Greek Culture swept into the Middle East and beyond in the year 333 B.C.E. travelling in the vanguard of Alexander the Great's conquering armies. This Greek or Hellenistic Culture was a very attractive one. It gave the world great literature, art, architecture and mathematics. It was also a very sensuous culture, with an obsession with the human body and its development. It built gymnasiums and athletic arenas for its young men. A freer sexual morality grew out of this sensuality.

Not surprisingly, many Jews were drawn to this new way of life called Hellenism—primarily from the aristocratic classes of the people including not a small number of priests who, despite their exalted religious positions, were not above a little corruption. In fact, there developed in the years just prior to the Maccabean Revolt a sorrowful split within the people of Israel.

Hellenization Grows

If the process of Hellenization had proceeded very slowly and peacefully, the entire Jewish people might have succumbed. But the wealthy Jewish upper class shocked the poor with their flouting of Jewish tradition which took the most radical forms. This included giving a Greek name to God and instituting the sacrifice of the pig, an abomination to traditional Jews. In December of the year 167 B.C.E. the new ritual sacrifice was to be instituted.

The Hellenized Jewish priest, Menelaus (even his name was Greek) seeing the growing shock and resistance of the masses to the new developments, obtained a decree from the King, Antiochus IV, ordering the end of the old ritual as taught in the Torah and the start of the new pagan ritual. It is important to bear in mind, then, that it was not the Greeks, but the Hellenized Jews who pushed hardest for the changes which brought about this tragic rift.

The resistance to the rapid process of assimilation and to the decree of Antiochus gathered momentum with the farmers and with leaders of the people who came from small towns in the rural countryside. (Mattathias was of a priestly family, a "kohen" but he lived in Modi'in, a country village in the central plain not far from today's Lod airport). These simple folk were less educated than their Jerusalem countrymen—they were, in all honesty, boors. They could not articulate a philosophy, but they understood that an entire value system was at stake. They would not easily give up the old ways, the old ethical values, the old ritual commanded them by God through Abraham and through Moses. They were prepared to suffer martyrdom in order to preserve them.

We owe the simple folk of our people a huge debt of gratitude. Their early resistance to Hellenism was heroic. That the Maccabean kings who ruled for generations after the revolt in turn became corrupted is still another fascinating thread in the story of Chanukah which we shall follow in a succeeding installment.

Chanukah starts this year on the evening of Tuesday, December 2nd.

Written by
Rabbi Morton Hoffman



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

ANTI-SEMITISM IN FRANCE

Repeatedly our Religious School children ask, when we are talking about the holocaust, "Could it happen again, here in America?" I answer, "I don't believe America has the background which makes a holocaust possible." I don't mean to say that there is no anti-semitism in America or that an increase in anti-semitism is not possible. History demonstrates too clearly that a nation vacillates between periods of liberality and reaction. What I mean to say is that holocausts do not pop up suddenly. They emerge in those countries where the seeds of prejudice have been long nourished.

Anti-semitism in Germany was not created by Adolph Hitler. He merely stirred it up and organized it. A holocaust is not possible unless the government organizes it and pursues it.

Anti-semitism is also firmly imbedded in French society. Last week I travelled to New York to meet with the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. At our meeting we heard an address by Rabbi Williams, the Rabbi of the Liberal Congregation in Paris which was the site of the bombing attack short weeks ago. Rabbi Williams, an Englishman married to a French Jewess, who speaks French almost as well as he speaks English, told us that American Jews would find it hard to understand the fear in which French Jews have always lived. Normally Rabbi Williams said, French Jews do not go around openly proclaiming their Jewishness. At best, he said, the French tolerate their Jews, but they do not quite consider them to be Frenchmen in the full sense.

The ruling regime of Giscard is arrogantly disdainful of Jews. When Giscard spoke about the bombing which killed many people as they were leaving the Synagogue, he said, "They tried to bomb the Jews, but they killed many innocent Frenchmen as well." The remark referred to by-standers, not Jews, who were also killed by the blast. The Jews of France were outraged by the remark, which seemed clearly to imply that Giscard was more concerned about "innocent Frenchmen" than about Jews (who were other than innocent Frenchmen).

While several of the political parties in France took advantage of the situation and rallied behind Jews (and against Giscard), it is nonetheless true that most Jews whose families have lived in France for generations have to work overtime trying to establish the fact that they also are Frenchmen. There are some new situations in the French Jewish community, however. Perhaps the majority of French Jews are recent immigrants, over several decades, from North Africa. The immigrants are less fearful of asserting their Jewishness aggressively and have established organizations that labor for the recognition of "Jewish Rights." They are frequently in the public eye, a fact that has disturbed many of the older French Jewish families.

France also contains a large Arab population, so, in a sense, France has become the battleground between Jews and Arabs from Arabic nations.

For the past 15 years or so, those in power in France have established the national policy of catering to the Arabs and poor-mouthing Israel. France's oil dealings are primarily with Iraq. It is believed by many that recent attacks against the Jews are a fall-out of the government's official policy.

We must also remember that the religious orientation of many Frenchmen is on the most shallow of levels. Over half of the population indulges in some kind of voo-doo or superstitious folk religion (in addition to various versions of Christianity on a higher level). This would indicate that a vast number of Frenchmen are moved by emotion and superstition rather than by rationality.

The summary picture is not a good one. The Jews of France may indeed have a difficult time ahead of them - difficult, but *not* a holocaust. The fact that the memory of the last one is still green will go a long way to prevent another, and there is no indication that the French people will support organized and official governmental anti-semitism.

Artis.
JP

Youth News

BAFTY PLANS ONEG SHABBAT; CHALLENGE OF THE SEXES!

Our Senior High Youth Group will have an Oneg Shabbat following services this coming Friday night, November 14th. Come to services and join us at Michael Snyder's home following services.

Reserve Thursday, November 27th for a super day of fun and frolicking. BAFTY is sponsoring a "Challenge of the Sexes," from 10:30-2 P.M. Bring your lunches and be sure to wear good running shoes. Don't miss out on all the fun!

9th GRADE YOUTH GROUP

The ninth grade youth group played a tough baseball game against the 8th grade Youth group. The 9th grade was victorious - 5 to 2!! We all had a great time!

In November, we've enjoyed services and a special Oneg Shabbat held at Jaime Odell's house!

We also had a fabulous time "horsing" around at Country Gentleman Stables - a surprise hayride was enjoyed by all.

Upcoming Events

Dinner meetings the first Monday evening of every month. Chanukah Program for South Beach Activity Center; and a Dynamite Shabbaton Experience December 12, 13 and 14!!!

8th GRADE YOUTH GROUP

What a great time we are having! We've already gone horseback riding, enjoyed a special Service and Oneg Shabbat, and ICE SKATING!

Upcoming Events

We are planning a Chanukah party and a trip to West Palm Beach for a Weekend Retreat with the 8th grade youth group of Temple Israel. Join us for a SUPER TIME!

BETH AM

MENORAH CONTEST

Open to all Families with Children
in Religious, Nursery or Day School

Prizes awarded at Grade Level

Certificates to all participants

Use your imagination - Join in the Fun

All Entries on Display in Sanctuary Lobby

Deadline - November 30th

Israeli Choreographer at Beth Am Nov. 28-30

Mashiko Halevy, known throughout the United States and Israel for his exquisite and authentic Israeli folk dances, will be coming to Miami Nov. 28-30 to give an intensive folkdance workshop to *all* interested dancers. The workshop will be housed by various Jewish synagogues and organizations, one of them being our very own Beth Am. This is an opportunity not to be missed, as to learn a dance from its creator is quite exciting and unique. For more information contact Shira Baumgard Eisenberg at 274-9002.

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, November 15
11:15 a.m.



Joi Beth, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gaffin



Lori, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Herskowitz