



January 6, 1984
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FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE, Friday, January 6, 1984, 7:30 p.m.
RABBI JAMES L. SIMON
"THE WISDOM OF RABBI FREUD"
CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE, Sat. Jan. 7, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

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Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parents Invited to Learning Sessions

Why do children get all the attention? Why shouldn't the parents of our B'nai Mitzvah also get some exposure to our Rabbis? Why shouldn't the parents have the opportunity to learn about their participation in the service, about the deeper meaning of the ceremony, about the profound meaning of Judaism?

We know from experience that the role of the parents in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony is crucial, yet parents have been deprived of that very background material which would make it possible for them to be most helpful to their children in the context of the ceremony in particular and as Jews in general. Accordingly, Rabbi Simon and Rabbi Baumgard are inviting parents to share a series of four practical sessions beginning Sunday morning, January 8th, in the Chapel. Reservations are not necessary.

Parents' Pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Gatherings

Sunday, January 8th, 10:00 a.m., Chapel:
THE TORAH - Rabbi Baumgard.

Sunday, January 15th, 10:00 a.m., Chapel:
THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH CEREMONY AND JEWISH CONTINUITY. Rabbi Baumgard.

Sunday, January 22nd, 10:00 a.m., Chapel:
THE JEWISH LIFE CYCLE - Rabbi Simon.

Sunday, January 29th, 10:00 a.m., Chapel:
YOUR FORTHCOMING BAR/BAT MITZVAH CEREMONY AND THE SURVIVAL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE.
Rabbi Simon.

"Thoughts and Feelings on Being Human"

Wed. Jan. 18th at 10:30 AM in Room 101

The Sisterhood of Temple Beth Am has invited Dr. Stephen Mack, Mental Health Counselor, to speak on the topic "THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ON BEING HUMAN," Wednesday, January 18th at 10:30 AM.

Dr. Mack is a native of Miami and is currently in private practice on Psychotherapy in the Dadeland area. He pursued his academic career at the University of Miami, the University of Georgia, the University of Alabama, the National Institute of Mental Health, Sussex College of Technology, the National Institute of Drug Abuse and has also attended the International College for Hypnosis Studies and studied human sexuality and sex therapy under Masters and Johnson.

In his private practice, Dr. Mack deals with children, adolescents and adults in individual, group, marriage and family counseling and sexual therapy. Dr. Mack has served as a consultant to Cosmopolitan Magazine and is in the midst of authoring his first book. Guests are welcome!

Adult Education - Winter Session

"Introduction to Judaism"

Wednesdays, starting January 4th, for 12 weeks.
7:30 p.m., Room 28, Rabbis Baumgard and Simon.

"Wisdom of the Sages Through the Ages:"

Mondays, starting January 9th for 5 weeks. In the Chapel, 7:30 p.m. Prof. Sandler.

"Jewish Law & Contemporary Issues"

Tuesdays, starting January 17th for 5 weeks.
8:00 p.m. in Room 28. Rabbi Simon.

"Hebrew"

Wednesdays, starting January 18th for 5 weeks. In Room 24; Beginners at 7:30 p.m., Advanced 8:30 p.m. Taught by Lenore Kipper.

Professor Sandler's Class On Mondays Discusses "Three Levels of Solving Problems"

Prof. Robert Sandler's class on Monday evenings (7:30 - 9:30 p.m. in the Chapel) is called The Wisdom of the Sages Throughout the Ages. Discussions are based on the book, CHOOSE LIFE, edited by Bernard Mandelbaum. Beth Am members and their friends are welcome to come to the class at any time.

The unit that is currently being discussed deals with "Three Levels of Solving Problems": in ourselves, our families, our city, our nation, the world. The first level is "Curing the Ills of the present"; the second: "Preventing Known Ills from Recurring"; the third: "Positive Growth and Movement toward Perfection."

Short passages in the book (from one sentence to a brief paragraph) are taken from the entire sweep of Jewish history and literature from Biblical and Talmudic times to modern times. Quotations from such non-Jewish thinkers and writers as Thoreau, Jefferson, Franklin, Cervantes, Goethe, Emerson, and Gandhi, among others, are also included.

From the Talmud:

"Fix a time for the study of Judaism."

"He who does not increase his knowledge decreases it."

Birthday Blessings at Family Service Jan. 6

Parents are urged to call in the names of their children to the Temple Office if they celebrate their birthdays during the month of January. Bring your child to the Family Service Friday night, January 6th, at 7:30 p.m. for their special blessing.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Israel and Jesus

What does a Rabbi do in his "spare" time? Let's see this past week went as follows: on Sunday, Dec. 11, I met with an Adult Ed class at the Kendall Methodist Church. On Monday nite, Dec. 12th, I recorded two TV shows which are to appear on Channel 7's "Perspectives" program on Tuesday afternoon (Dec. 13th), I gave a short Torah interpretation before the Executive Board of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, on Wednesday, Dec. 14th, I was a co-speaker with Bishop Scofield of the Episcopal Diocese at a meeting of the Interfaith Dialogue sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Shall I go on?

Of special interest to our readers might be the meeting in Houston, Texas, in November. This included national representatives of the evangelical Christians and a small group of Reform Rabbis. I was there representing the Synagogue Council of America. We met at a Baptist Church which is building an auditorium to seat eight thousand people. The existing facilities are already larger than those of Beth Am.

The evangelicals are those Christians who look expectantly for the second coming of Jesus (their Messiah), and they are eager to bring into their movement all of those who might share the belief that the promised kingdom will not only come, but soon. These Christians look for signs that point to this second coming. The most significant of these signs for them is the rebirth of the State of Israel. As they interpret their scripture, Jesus will return soon after the restoration of Israel. Therefore, the restoration of Israel is central to their belief, and they side with the Israelis against all their opponents! They believe with certain Orthodox Jews that the rebirth of Israel is none other than God's work, and it must therefore be supported.

The general Jewish response to the evangelicals, who constitute a large percentage of American Christians, has been one of indifference. The feeling has been that the evangelicals are befriending us only because they look for us to convert as a prelude to the second coming. Prime Minister Begin, however, was quick to accept the proffered hand of friendship from this group. The meeting with the Reform Rabbis in Houston is an indication that some of the leading Reform Rabbis are anxious to explore the possibilities of this friendship.

First of all, you ought to know that the meeting was very much open and above board. All the critical questions were put on the table. How much of this group's interest in Jews involves an attempt to convert us? What will happen to their friendship when they discover that, second coming or not, we are not going to convert? Papers were presented by both parties at the meeting on what we mean by "covenant" or partnership with God. The scholarship represented on the Christian side was good. The President of the Dallas Theological Seminary was there and gave a learned exposition. A professor from a Christian Seminary in San Francisco was there, along with delegates from Chicago and the mid-west. We learned that a large number of Seminaries and a great deal of money is behind this movement. This is not the Jerry Falwell movement (which is also evangelical). Apparently this is a more sophisticated seminary oriented group.

A number of friendships were cemented in Houston. We agreed to meet again in Chicago next year. Meanwhile we are writing to one another. The Rabbis learned something at this meeting, a "first" of its kind. We think the ministers learned something too. They discovered that we could quote scripture at least as well as they, and that the texts we selected had a different purpose. They also learned of our interpretations of their proof texts. They seemed to be impressed with our academic background.

No one is going to change anyone else's theology at these meetings, but it is good to expand contacts and to develop new friends.

Temple Beth Am's Young Family League Presents a Family Picnic, Sun., Jan. 29th

On Sunday, January 29th, at 12:00 Noon on the Temple grounds the Young Family League will hold a family picnic. Bring your own lunch. We will provide the punch, desserts, sports and games.

In addition, there will be special entertainment for children and the entire family - a production of "A Chorus Line" and "Cats". Space is limited, so please reserve immediately by returning the completed form to the Temple Office. Cost will be \$7.50 per family for the entire day.

Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
No. Adults _____ No. Children _____

Contemporaries Meet Sun., Jan. 8th at 2:00 PM

The monthly meeting of the Contemporaries will take place on Sunday, January 8th, at 2:00 PM, in the Youth Lounge. Dr. Bernard Saper, professor at F.I.U., will present a program on "Laughing and Loving Your Way Through Life", and will, at the same time, discuss the results of the survey which many of the members filled out in November.

Anyone, 55 and over, is welcome to come.

A special thanks to Selma Rappaport, Bernie and Mike Goodman, who literally "slaved over a hot stove" to make latkas for December's latka party. (No one went away hungry!) — and also to Rea Taylor, Rose Halesz, Rose Sherbal, and their hard working committee. The Homestead 'Kitchen Swingers' rounded out the Chanukah party for a most enjoyable afternoon.

Single Parent And Children Outing This Spring!

All those interested in this Spring activity are requested to attend a planning meeting following the 7:30 p.m. Family Service on Friday, January 6th. Your desires can best be met if we know what they are. Look for our designated table at the Oneg Shabbat in the Social Hall.

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, January 7

9:15 a.m.



Jennifer, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Neil Goodman



Noah, son of Dr. and Mrs. Monroe Scheiner

11:15 a.m.



Robert, son of Dr. & Mrs. Mark Hauser



Joely, daughter of Mrs. Barbara Kaufman and Mr. James Kaufman