



April 11, 1986
Volume 12, Issue 14

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, April 11, 1986, 8:15 p.m.
Rabbi James L. Simon
"LEAPING INTO ADULTHOOD: FROM BAR MITZVAH TO MARRIAGE"

CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE
Saturday, April 12, 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.
Torah Portion: Tazriah, Lev. 12:1-13:59

Beth Am Commentator

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Rabbi James L. Simon

and

Rebecca Kanarish

Cordially Invite

The Members of Beth Am

To the Oneg Shabbat

Friday Evening, April 11th

Following the 8:15 p.m. Service

In Honor Of

Our Forthcoming Marriage

Passover Begins Wednesday Night, April 23rd Festival Services Thursday, April 24th, 9:00 a.m.

The Passover (Pesach) holiday will begin Wednesday night, April 23rd, at sundown. Appropriate home rituals should be observed at sundown, if possible. (See these rituals in this issue.) There will be a brief minyan service promptly at 6 p.m. in our Sanctuary.

Our regular Festival Service will be held on Thursday morning, April 24th, at 9 a.m. A large congregation is anticipated in observance of the holiday.

The Temple's annual Seder will be held on Thursday night, April 24th, at 6 p.m. Seder reservations are required. (See page 2.)

The service for the last day of Passover will be held on Wednesday morning, April 30th, at 9 a.m.

Our Rabbis remind us that the first and last days of Passover are considered "Holy Days" and therefore refraining from work and school is appropriate. Yizkor or Memorial Services will be held on Wednesday, April 30th, at the morning service. (Orthodox Jews will also observe Thursday, May 1st, as part of Passover.)

"No Bread on Passover"

Our tradition is "On Passover all Jews refrain from the eating of bread, except for unleavened bread. The custom applies for the entire holiday (7 days in Reform Judaism and in Israel, 8 days in Orthodox in the diaspora). Jews who eat in restaurants during this period are encouraged to use special care in not ordering bread." Our Rabbis have taught, "Every time we make the choice not to eat bread on Passover, we affirm our Judaism and the memory of the Exodus. Every time we deliberately choose to eat bread we sever ourselves from our traditions."

Passover Rituals for the Home

Candles are lit when the family is together on Passover eve (the 23rd) to usher in the holiday, preferably at sundown. The blessing follows:

Bah-ruch Ah-tah Ah-doh-nai Elo-hay-nu Meh-lech Ha-oh-lahm
Ah-sheh Kid'sha-nu B'mitz-voh-tahv V'tzi-vah-nu L'had'-lik Nare
Shel Yom Tov.

We give thanks to You, Creator of the universe, who calls us to kindle these lights in celebration of the Passover.

Family Blessing - Oh God of creation, bless these, our children, encourage them to be kind and good, even as we try to lead them in this direction. Help us to bind our family together and help us to share our blessings with those in need.

Bah-ruch Ah-tah Ah-doh-nai Elo-hay-nu Meh-lech Hah-oh-lahm
She-heh-cheh-yah-nu V'ki-mah-nu V'hi-gi-ah-nu Lah-z'man
Hah-zeh.

We give thanks, Oh Lord, that we have survived to this season and are able to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

Blessing over wine and the matzah are said during the Seder. The Temple has a modernized Seder manual (Haggadah) for you.

Sisterhood Needs Your Brains and Your Body!

We are anxious to get new members and new ideas for a new Sisterhood year. We will have a Sisterhood brainstorming meeting on Tuesday, May 13th, at 11 a.m. in Room 101 of the Learning Center. We urge you to attend and give us your input. Luncheon will be served. There is no charge.

Please reserve by May 1st by calling the Temple Office at 667-6667.

Judy Solomon, Sisterhood President-Elect

It's Time to Roll Up Your Sleeve



APRIL 13th IS BLOOD BANK SUNDAY AT BETH AM

The South Florida Blood Service Mobile unit will be at our Youth Lounge on Sunday, April 13th between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Please come and donate a pint of blood. You may also be the lucky winner of one of our fabulous door prizes. Please call Sydell Olitchick at 251-3183, and tell us you'll be there.

Brotherhood will serve a delicious breakfast to all donors (no lines) and we promise to get you in and out as soon as possible. See you Sunday, April 13th.

"Jewish Contribution to the Broadway Stage" at Beth Am, Friday, April 18th



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

What It Means To Be A Jew

Jewish identity

The Book of Exodus, tells us that God charged the Israelites "to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex. 19:5). The Hebrew word for "holy" is "kadosh", the root of which really means, "to be set apart, to be different". Our scripture tells us that God wanted us to set an example for others in that we would be exemplars of morality. This is what it means to be "holy", so far as Judaism is concerned.

In the Torah portion known as Mishpatim, we learn that God commanded the Israelites, "Thou shalt not follow multitude to do evil". Over and over again throughout our sacred scripture we have the call to be different. "You shall be holy," God commands the people, "because I the Lord your God am holy". In other words, we Jews are asked to imitate God in His holiness (his morality).

In recent weeks our teachers in the Religious School have been holding discussions with our teen-agers on what it means to be a Jew. An alarming number of our teen-agers do not understand why it is important to be different from the multitude. What they want is to be like everyone else. If the road leads to alcohol and drugs, if it leads to promiscuous sex, if it leads to the pleasure oriented life style that pulls you away from the crying needs of society - so what? The important thing is to be popular, to dress like everyone else, to wear the same labels, to own the same flashy cars, to visit the same places. The important thing is to be one of the mob - not to be a part of a people dedicated to serving as God's exemplars.

Some of our teen-agers tell us that their parents do not act as if being a Jew is anything different. They see their parents getting drunk at parties. They hear their parents screaming at one another instead of discussing their problems in a friendly fashion. They do not see their parents as exemplars, indeed, they may hardly ever see one or both parents. They may see that one of their parents is unconcerned about raising Jewish children. They may never witness the healing act of forgiveness - as between their parents. They do not observe their parents' interest in the synagogue other than to send their children there. They do not witness the observance of the Sabbath ceremonies in the home. **They do not learn at home what it means to be Jewish.**

Living as Jews in the home requires several different approaches, each of which requires concentration and intensive effort. First, there must be a determination to treat others in the household with understanding and consideration. There must be a strong attempt to understand "what hurts" the others and to assist in the amelioration of those hurts. If we contributed just a small portion of the time and effort inside the home that we contribute to our vocation, we could improve the quality of our family life substantially. **To live as a Jew one must be a friend and helper to the members of one's family,** and we must remember that adults can hurt just like kids hurt.

Secondly, we must employ enough of the trappings of the Jewish tradition to establish the fact that this is, after all, a Jewish home! If you, like most modern Jews are ignorant of how to observe the Friday evening ceremonies, for example, we have abbreviated and transliterated directions which can make you into a "mavin" very quickly. If you feel awkward about conducting a Passover Seder, we have a special Temple Seder which can make you a hero overnight. To become a semi-scholar, all you have to do is read, "Gates of Mitzvah" for customs and ceremonies and "Gates of the Seasons" for holiday observances, both available at our Judaica Shop in soft cover. You shouldn't start out observing everything at one time. Just make a beginning-with the Sabbath ceremonies, for example. It's never too late to start, and you will provide an **example** to your children.

The two things go together. The Jewish people will not survive unless it observes recognizeably different ceremonies. Nor will it survive if our people do not understand their responsibility to set an example for others in their moral actions - and such morality begins with how we treat our spouse, our children, and our parents.

It's Time! - Reserve Now! Annual Congregational Seder

Thursday, April 24th, 6:00 p.m. Social Hall (on the second night of Passover)

SEDER DINNER: The traditional Seder dinner will be catered.

PARTICIPANTS: Our Rabbis will lead the narration.

RESERVATIONS: First come-first served basis. Please clip the coupon below and mail with check.

SEATING: The seating plan for the Social Hall will be as follows: long tables will be placed toward the front of the room and round tables that seat ten will be in the rear.

TO: BETH AM SEDER RESERVATIONS 5950 North Kendall Drive, Miami 33156

FROM: Name (please print) Address Phone

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING

MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION:

- Adults @ \$20 each
Children 4-12 yrs. @ \$11 each
Children 3 and under @ \$5 each

NON-MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION:

- Adults @ \$25 each
Children 4-12 yrs. @ \$12.50 each
Children 3 and under @ \$7.50 each

Please seat us with:

We will have a total of people.

Re-Union! All Members Who Joined Beth Am From the Very First Day Thru 1966

We are planning a reunion of all members who have been associated with Beth Am from the beginning through the year 1966. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, with the first event taking place on Sat. Nov. 15th, please fill out the coupon below and mail to: Temple Beth Am, attention Reunion Committee.

Name: Phone:

Address: Zip:

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, April 12

9:15 a.m.



Brian, son of Mrs. Caryn Feldman



Jeffrey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Segal

11:15 a.m.



Jeffrey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Averill Marcus