

February 14, 1986
Volume 12, Issue 6

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, February 14, 1986, 8:15 p.m.

Rabbi James L. Simon
"LOVE AND DEATH - LEARNING HOW TO GRIEVE"
Adult Choir Sings Under Direction of Selma Baumgard

CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE

Saturday, February 15th, 11:15 a.m.
Torah Portion: Terumah, Ex. 25:1-27:19

Beth Am Commentator

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Jews in South Africa Topic of Discussion at Brotherhood Breakfast Forum February 16th

"THE DILEMMA OF THE JEWS - AND OTHERS - IN SOUTH AFRICA" will be the topic of discussion at the next Brotherhood Breakfast Forum on Sunday morning, February 16th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge. Speaker will be Rabbi Samuel Rudy, spiritual leader of Temple Or Olom in Miami. Rabbi Rudy was a Principal of the Judaica Schools of Johannesburg for over forty years and is an outstanding educator.

The South Africa dilemma involves many areas of that country. First is the repressive actions of the government against its black majority. Secondly, if the struggle for greater political reality is accomplished by the blacks, how will the white population fare? Historically, the Jewish people have always been sympathetic to those forces that were attempting to overthrow oppressive regimes. Despite that, many Jewish families see only a big question mark ahead and are leaving the country for fear of the possible confiscation of their rights and properties. This dilemma is not only a Jewish one but is reflected throughout the entire white population.

Rabbi Rudy has spent many years in South Africa both as an observer and as an active participant in his community's activities. His thoughts and insights are born of a great understanding of the people involved. He will express his views of today's events in South Africa and will relate to us from his wide experiences what he predicts might be the outcome of the present crisis.

Admission to this all-you-can-eat Brotherhood Breakfast Forum is \$3 for Brotherhood members and \$3.50 for all non-members. Everybody is invited.

Office Closed Monday, February 17th

Monday, February 17th, **Presidents Day**, is a national holiday. The Temple office will be closed. There are no Pre-School/Day School Classes. There will be no Hebrew School or Monday Night School Classes.

**Remember
The Happy Days
Of Summer
at**



8 Weeks Starting June 23rd

Rabbinic Perspectives Course To Be Taught in Room 101 Starting Wednesday, February 19th

The Temple Beth Am Adult Education Committee is pleased to announce an exciting new class taught by four of the most prominent Rabbis in the South Florida area. The course, entitled "Varieties of Rabbinic Perspectives" will be taught on four consecutive Wednesday nights, beginning February 19th, 1986 and continuing on February 26th, March 5th and March 12th.

These classes will begin at 8 p.m. and will be taught in Room 101. The four instructors for the course are Rabbi Edwin Farber (Conservative) of Temple Samu-El, Rabbi Pinchas Weberman (Hasidic) of Ohev Shalom in Miami Beach, Rabbi Warren Kasztl (Modern Orthodox) of The Yeshiva University, and our own Rabbi Herbert Baumgard, who will represent the Reform viewpoint.

Each week for four weeks, one Rabbi will be with this class to explain his own perspective about Judaism as well as his own Rabbinate, and on the last evening, March 12th, Rabbi Baumgard will present a Reform perspective and sum up the course.

Students are invited to attend any and all of these classes. There is no fee for the course. If you are interested please contact Cheryl in the Rabbis Office. This plans to be an exciting and fascinating course, and we look forward to seeing you.

**Registration Now Open
For Beth Am Pre-School and Day School
2½ Years thru 6th Grade
For fall of 1986
Call School Office: 665-6228**

**Sunday
March 23rd**

PURIM CARNIVAL

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Costume Contest, Games,
Rides, Prizes, Food**



Prophets

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



Part Five of a Series

"The Greatest Ethical Teachers"

HOSEA

(Use your Bible to look up the references to chapter and verse in the Book of Hosea.)

Israel had divided into two kingdoms at the death of Solomon. The northern kingdom retained the name Israel and had its capital in Samaria. At first the strongest in the military sense, the northern kingdom was also the most volatile. Living in the shadow of the mighty Assyria to the north and east, Israel suffered from political intrigue and short-reigned monarchies.

In spite of the constant threat to its independence, Israel thrived economically. The relative prosperity kept its people from concerning itself too much about the ancient democratic religious law or the brit-covenant with God. The prophet Hosea (middle of the 8th century BCE) complained that the people had forgotten God. "They boast, I have become rich, I have obtained wealth" (12:8). Therefore, said the prophet, "Samaria shall bear her guilt, for she has rebelled against her God..." (14:1). Hosea was disturbed by the Israelites who made contracts, sealed them with an oath in God's name, and then violated them (10:4).

A sign of the falling away from God and His moral law was the increasing number of pillars indicative of the worship of foreign gods (10:1), "As his prosperity increased, his pillars increased." Since the worship of these foreign gods did not involve obedience to a Torah, this kind of idolatry weakened the moral fabric of the society. The prophet castigated the priests who introduced animal totems to their worship (10:5). He prophesied an end to the northern monarchy because the king was a party to the violations of the covenant (10:7).

The prophet symbolized the waywardness of his people through significant events of his life. He deems himself to have been commanded to marry a prostitute just as Israel prostituted itself from her husband, God, and she worshipped other gods (1:2,3 and 3:1). The names of the prophets' children are symbols of God's actions to be (The son is Jezreel, "God will sow punishment, and the daughter's name is Lo-ruchamah, God will not show compassion." 1:3-6).

The relationship of God to Israel is spoken of in terms of the marriage relationship (or the parent-child relationship). What God and His prophet want is that Israel will turn aside from its alien gods and return to the ancient covenantal law (2:18-20). As a sign of the renewed covenant, God will betroth Himself anew to Israel forever (2:21,22). The magnificent poetry of this betrothal is said when a traditional Jew binds himself to God through the tephillin in the morning prayer:

"And I will betroth thee unto Me for ever;
Yes, I will betroth thee unto Me in righteousness and in justice
And in loving kindness and in compassion
...And thou shalt know the Lord."

Like the prophet Amos, Hosea tells the people that God doesn't desire the pompous hypocrisy of elaborate ceremonials. What He wants is loyalty to the whole range of the democratic law:

"For I desire covenant loyalty and not sacrifice,
And the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offering (6:6)". This phrase was later to be repeated by Jesus, according to the New Testament.

Hosea knows full well that Israel is about to be conquered by mighty Assyria and while he advises the people that repentance (return to the law) will save them, he knows that the die is cast. He wants the people to understand that their suffering is due to their violation of the covenant, and he assures them that God will ultimately forgive them and cause them to return to the land. As Amos emphasizes God's concern for justice, so Hosea emphasizes God's forgiving nature. The prophet proclaims in God's name:

7th/8th Grade Disney Trip March 8th and 9th: On Saturday and Sunday, March 8th and 9th, the 7th/8th Grade Youth Group will be going to Disney World and Sea World. The trip will leave early Saturday, March 8th and return March 9th. The cost of the trip is \$80 for members of the group and \$90 for non-members. You must make your reservation before Feb. 14th. No reservations will be held without a check. Please mail checks to the Temple c/o 7th/8th Grade Youth Group.

Anyone interested in attending must get their money in and a permission slip as soon as possible to the Temple office. If you have any questions, **please call Adrienne at the Temple, 667-6667.**

Youth Trip to New York March 28-31st

The annual B.A.F.T.Y. New York trip will be held during spring break, from March 28th-31st. The trip is open to all 10th-12th graders. We will be visiting various points of Jewish interest in New York City. We will also be seeing the Broadway show, "Cats."

The amount of people who can take the trip is limited, so get your reservation in EARLY. If you are interested in going, please contact Adrienne Borisman at 667-6667 or 279-1862.



(You need not be a member of B.A.F.T.Y. to attend.)

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah Dates for 1987-88
Must Be Confirmed by June 30th**

Due to the enormous demand for Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates during 1987 and 1988, we must reconfirm the dates reserved for that period. It is important that parents understand that their child must comply with the requirements outlined at the time the date was set.

Reconfirmation forms are being mailed shortly. This form **MUST BE RETURNED TO JOAN SCHWARTZMAN NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 1986.**

Please note, for those who desire it we have an official video-tape recorder who is the **ONLY** authorized person to tape your ceremony in the **SANCTUARY** only. The fee for this service is listed on your house rental rules.

<i>B'Nai Mitzvah</i>	11:15 a.m.	<i>Saturday, February 15</i>
		
Stefany, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kachman		Caren, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Aaron Perlman

Marvis Martin, Soprano
"An Afternoon of Music"
Sunday, February 16th, at 4 p.m.
in the Temple Sanctuary

"How shall I surrender thee, Israel,
My heart is turned within Me
My compassions are kindled together.
I will not execute the fierceness of My anger...
For I am God and not man...
And I will not come in fury" (11:7-10)

Hosea makes it clear that God is determined to maintain the covenant relationship and He will do whatever is necessary to keep the partnership going.