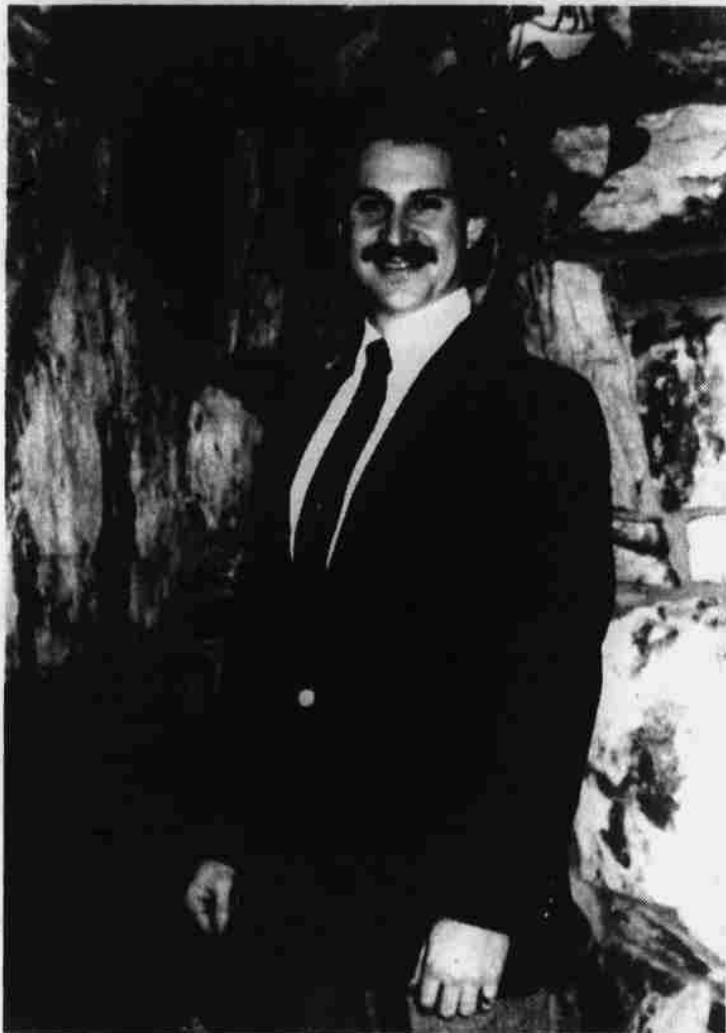


Temple Beth Am News



By Cantor Gary Golbart

This is the first opportunity I've had to personally introduce myself to you as Cantor of Temple Beth Am. I've been involved with congregations for most, if not all, my life. But I can honestly say that Beth Am is the busiest and most involved congregation I have seen. There are Family Nites and Sabbath Dinners every month, and Baby Namings (five this month, all girls!), guest Rabbis and special anniversary and birthday ceremonies galore. Our Religious School Children recently put on a program for the Unitarian Fellowship which meets in the University Center For Religion as we do. They will be going on a Sabbath Retreat in Brianhead, Utah, and will soon be preparing a Peace Seder which will be held outside the Test Site at Mercury, Nevada — to help show that values taught in Religious School must be translated into action and commitment. In this regard, they have and will continue to visit convalescent homes and the like. A Children's Choir is also in the formation stage, and I know that it will be nothing less than spectacular, judging from the caliber of children involved in our Religious School Program.

Our Rabbi and Rebbetzen, Mel and Micki D. Hecht, continue their own involvements and commitments to the general community. Rabbi was elected Co-Chair of the State-wide Religious Coalition Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Micki was named Media and Public Relations Chair. They both just completed the second one

week training conference held to enable clergy to become more effective contributors in the war against alcohol and other drug abuse.

In February, Rabbi and Micki will go to California to start their training so that "Jewish Marriage Encounter" can be reintroduced into the Las Vegas area. Marriage Encounter is a weekend retreat meant to enhance and deepen a couple's understanding and appreciation of their relationship. Rabbi was recently appointed to the Board of St. Jude's Ranch for Children as well as serving on the boards of the Pro-Choice Campaign, Friends of Channel 10, N.C.C.J., Charter Hospital Clergy Advisory Board, and Humana Sunrise Pastoral Committee.

Our Sabbath Soloist, Sara Green, was recently appointed local Gifted Children's Coordinator for MENSA, which is an organization of individuals whose IQ's are in the upper 2% of the nation. Her work with the children of our Religious School in song and special programs is something very warm and special.

In addition to my teaching of the Hebrew and B'nai Mitzvah Programs and participating in Naming, Circumcision, Wedding and Funeral Ceremonies, I am also very involved with community affairs. I am a Board member of the Musical Arts Society and have been kept busy with a solo performance in Handel's "Messiah," the staging and direction of Gilbert and Sullivan at UNLV's Judy Bayley Theatre and a repeat performance as Major General in that production and preparing the acrobatic children in Nevada Dance Theatre's production of "Nutcracker." As you can see, the involve-

Kristallnacht May Become Holiday To Celebrate Berlin Wall Opening

BONN (JTA) — An official of the opposition Social Democratic Party has warned against allowing joy over the opening of the Berlin Wall to erase the memory of Jewish suffering during the Nazi era.

Heinz Putzrath, who chairs the SPD's committee of Nazi survivors, spoke out recently against proposals to make Nov. 9, the day the East German regime opened the wall, a national holiday in West Germany.

He pointed out that the day is the anniversary of the notorious Kristallnacht, the first government-sanctioned pogrom in Nazi Germany, which occurred

on the night of Nov. 9, 1938.

Hundreds of Jews were murdered and thousands were injured on that occasion, as Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues were destroyed all over the Reich while crowds of citizens applauded.

Since the wall was opened, public officials have been urging that the date be officially designated a holiday to mark an historic event in the modern history of Germany.

But Putzrath argued that it must not be stripped of its special character of remembrance. He pointed out that there are other suitable dates to celebrate the symbolic razing of the wall.

Most observers believe its occurrence on Nov. 9 was fortuitous, as the faltering Communist regime was already under intense popular pressure to open the borders. In fact, some passages through the wall remained closed on Nov. 9, while others were opened.

ments of Temple Beth Am's staff in our community-at-large are impressive, indeed, and they help to complete the image of a totally involved congregation.

That's not to mention the success of our fundraising party at the Riviera's "Splash" — many thanks to our Fundraising Chairman, Bob Rakita. And the many activities of our Sisterhood and Men's Club. All of this is permeated with a sense of "Hameshekite" that makes Temple Beth Am one of the warmest and most relevant congregations around.

In January we will be electing new members to our board. Shortly thereafter, we will be making some critical decisions on where to buy land. We've long since proved our viability as a "Congregation-without-walls"; that the essence of a congregation is in what it does, and why. But now we're ready to purchase land, and to build. We're interested in where you might want us to locate because commitment from a particular area will affect where we will relocate. So please call or write to us — about this or membership or anything we can help you with. The number is 456-7014.

Shalom,
Cantor Gary Golbart

Rebbetzen's Corner

(Continued from page 19)

some size 4 ladies who could be using the clothes that I've been hanging onto. I'll create more space in my closets for the things I can wear and I know I'll make a couple of ladies very happy. Now just because I'm getting rid of my size 4 clothes doesn't mean that I am giving myself free reign to gain weight. In fact, I know that I need to "lose a few pounds," so that's another personal area that needs attention. I have begun to watch what I eat and am just beginning a new exercise routine. I'm not waiting for the secular new year to begin consecrating my life to be better; I'm beginning with Chanukah so that I can greet the new year in style!

There are lots of other areas in my life that need my attention and I have made a commitment this Chanukah Season to address them one by one to see how I can better use my time to help bring about "Tikun Ha Olam" (The Perfection Of The World). We are, after all, partners with G-d in the project of creating a better world, and I for one am not going to let Him down.

I recently heard our Nevada Coordinator for Drug and Alcohol Programs speak, and he brought out an interesting point of view. He talked about breakfast, saying: "If you had steak and eggs for breakfast this morning—the chicken was involved (eggs) but the cow was committed..." Now, Mujahid Ramadan was talking about the war on drugs and he is trying to make a difference in this world of ours. We must know that each of us is capable of "making a difference" — some big, others small, BUT WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! I don't believe that we as human beings will have to pay the price for commitment that the cow paid; we are most fortunate that we can commit ourselves to any ideal that we wish to, without losing much of anything. Oh it will cost us time, effort and maybe even a little money; but it's not lost, not by a long shot...IT'S INVESTED! Invested in future survival of our children and our children's children...

Perhaps you might make a commitment this Chanukah Season to volunteer for an hour or two a week. Everyone can find an extra hour or two, especially when you know that you are making a difference. And there are lots of places that could use your time and energy, such as: Your Temple, Jewish Family Service Agency, Jewish Federation, Westcare, Salvation Army, Channel 10, Good Shepherd Home For Girls, AFAN, Hospice, any of the hospital or nursing homes, just to mention a few. It doesn't really matter what you do to make a difference, and you don't have to jump in with both feet at first, start slow and build up from there. You will draw energy from those that you are helping, I promise you...Remember: "THE JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH ONE STEP..." Take that step today, whatever it is. You'll feel better for having made the commitment...

Happy Chanukah &
Shalom,
Micki D. Hecht
Rebbetzen — Temple Beth Am

Happy Chanukah

Barry S. Markman, M.D.

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