



BETH ADAM

JUDAISM WITH A HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVE

Rabbi's Message

by Rabbi Robert Barr

Once again I was reminded of how out of sync I am with our new technological age. Recently, I needed to do something simple — something I had done several times before. I was sending a flier to students at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion announcing Beth Adam's Rabbinic Internship opening for the coming year. I happened to mention this to a student who gently said, "Rabbi Barr, we don't get fliers anymore; announcements come to our e-mail. Just send a PDF to the administration and they will send it out on their list-serve." I just smiled and said, "Thanks." Immediately I went to Leah, Beth Adam's Administrative Assistant, tech-savvy, to translate what I had just heard. Needless to say she understood, asked me for the flier and took care of everything.

Rabbinic Interns have played an important role in the life and activities of our Congregation. Each intern has left

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his or her legacy with Beth Adam. It has been incredibly gratifying to me that all of our interns have participated in our 25th Anniversary Year. Their willingness to participate speaks to the relationship that was built between us and them. Each intern has spoken about how working at Beth Adam was an important and positive element of their rabbinic training. We can be proud that we are helping in the development of Jewish leaders.

Soon, Dr. Mark Rothschild will be completing his tenure at Beth Adam as our Rabbinic Intern. He has enriched Beth Adam with his insights, energy and scholarship. As most of you already know, Mark has been named the CEO of the new Jewish Community Center. We wish Mark well in his new endeavor and are very pleased that he and his family are remaining in Cincinnati.

This year I was delighted and challenged by the response to our "flier" announcing Beth Adam's internship.

Having made the decision to hire two Rabbinic Interns to address the growing needs of the Congregation, the process was made a bit easier, but not painless. We had more strong candidates than we could hire.

I am pleased to “introduce” our two new Rabbinic Interns to you. They will both begin on June 1. Our new interns will share responsibilities, but each will have her own specific educational focus. The interns will co-teach Bar/Bat Mitzvah classes, help conduct Shabbat Services, participate in High Holiday Services, and teach Adult Education. I know that having two interns will enrich and expand the Congregation.

Laura Baum graduated from Yale University with a major in psychology. She also attended the University of Judaism Summer Institute taking graduate level course work in Teaching Worship and Family Education. Before coming to HUC-JIR, she served for two years as the Rabbinic Intern at Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden, CT. Laura has also served as a teacher, a program director at summer camp, and as a Student Rabbi in Terre Haute, IN. Laura’s educational focus at Beth Adam will be our Religious School.

Ana Bonnheim graduated from Dartmouth College with a major in Religion. She also studied at the University of Edinburgh New College Divinity School, focusing on the history and religion of Britain and

Ireland. Currently Ana works as part of the team at HUC-JIR that coordinates study weekends for High School and College Students. She has served as a Rabbinic Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center in DC, taught at religious schools, worked in a variety of capacities at summer camps, and also served as a Student Rabbi in Grand Junction, CO. Ana’s educational focus at Beth Adam will be our Bar/Bat Mitzvah classes and programming for our post Bar/Bat Mitzvah students.

Ana and Laura bring a wide variety of experiences to Beth Adam. They are talented and energetic individuals who will bring new ideas to our Congregation. They are also experienced with computers — it was Ana who told me about PDFs and list-serves. Students at HUC-JIR today, unlike in my time, speak not only Hebrew but “computerese” as well.

From the Board

25 Going on 26

By Vicky Mary

It was the autumn of 1980 when a thoughtful student, Robert Barr, from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, agreed to help conduct High Holiday Services for a small group of individuals who were seeking a more meaningful religious experience. While Barr could only conduct the Rosh Hashanah Evening, Yom Kippur Services took place with the members conducting

the service. The services were held at Northern Hills Fellowship, a Unitarian Congregation in Wyoming, Ohio.

Amongst the founders of Congregation Beth Adam were Joel and Cynthia Sacks, David and Rennie Greenfield, Marilyn Wander, Ardy Wander, Robert and Myffy Smith — all of whom are still members. Terri Barr, wife of the young rabbinical student, Robert Barr, was also an integral factor in the growth of the Congregation.

With Rabbi Barr's ordination from HUC-JIR on June 6, 1981 and Joel Sacks as the first Congregational president, Beth Adam began a long journey as "wandering Jews", moving from homes, to churches, to office buildings, and schools. In September 2001 Beth Adam moved into our own facility in Loveland, Ohio.

Although we may have been wanderers, our philosophical and spiritual center has not wavered. Our Congregation has been blessed with one of the brightest Rabbis, a dedicated staff, and a succession of excellent Rabbinic Interns. Our members are self-aware and dedicated to social action and a healthy religious education which makes Beth Adam dynamic and keeps it growing within the Cincinnati Jewish community.

A variety of events have been held this year in honor of Beth Adam's 25th Anniversary. Our first was the family picnic last September. In February, Art 25 (drawing 175 attendees,) made for a very successful fund-raiser.

We have two more exciting events planned. On Sunday, May 7th we will hold our 25th Anniversary Tribute Dinner to honor Rabbi Barr's ordination and the founding of our Congregation. The finale of this year of celebration will be our Congregation's trip to Israel June 30 - July 9, (our "Beth Adam Goes to Israel"). Exactly 30 years ago, Rabbi Barr was on an archaeological dig at Tel Dan and will be there again this summer. So it's a wonderful way to end our 25th year - in the Land of Moses, Abraham and Sarah — looking forward to many more years together at Congregation Beth Adam.

I urge you to attend Beth Adam at 9:30 AM Sunday April 30th for our Annual Meeting to discuss the state of our Congregation, and participate in our future. I look forward to seeing you there.

Words of Thanks from the Ritual/ Life Cycle Committee Chair

By Harriet Edwards

As plans for the tribute dinner for Rabbi Barr go forward, I have been looking back, reviewing the many accomplishments of Congregation Beth Adam in the past 25 years. Not surprisingly, my thoughts turn to our liturgy which has been written and published by the Ritual/Life Cycle Committee since our founding. It includes many Shabbat Services; High Holiday Services; Services for the Home — including Shabbat, Hanukkah, Havdalah, and a Dedication for the Home; Bar/Bat

Mitzvah Services including Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah; two pamphlets dealing with Mourning and Crisis, *Benediction for Life* and *Beyond the Silence*; a Service of Affirmation used by those adopting Judaism; a Baby Naming Ceremony (to be used for the first time in May); and of course, our best-selling Haggadah.

From the very beginning of Beth Adam, the creation of contemporary liturgy has been part of our mission. Different members have served on the committee over the years and their creativity and dedication is unique. Several of the members; David Cooper, Phil Berne, Shelley Cowan, Rabbi Barr and I have worked together for more than twenty years. Currently the committee also includes Pat Rosenberg, Sequoia Powers, Jacqueline Goldman, Fred Rothzeit and Alan Brown. Alan is a graphic designer. Without his guidance and help, our publications would not have the visual artistry and quality that you see.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of Judy Avner, we are marketing our liturgy through Barnes and Noble and on Amazon.com, with more to come. At this time, we expect to sell out of Haggadahs and will need to reprint them for next year.

Finally, I offer thanks to the many contributors to the Publication Fund who make it possible for us to continue our work. We count on the generous support of our members and friends who enable us to publish our remarkable liturgy.

Community Connection

As part of Rabbi Barr's on-going commitment to build bridges of understanding, he conducted a model Seder at the Banker's Club in downtown Cincinnati. The Banker's Club sponsored the evening event, which included a full dinner, for any of its members who wanted to understand and experience the Seder.

Beth Adam is known for its rich and meaningful liturgy. While the Congregation is well known for our Haggadah, two other Beth Adam publications also receive much attention – *A Benediction for Life: Readings for Funerals and Memorials* and *Beyond the Silence Readings for Times of Crisis*. In our effort to help individuals who have yet to find a liturgy that gives voice to their feelings and concerns, Beth Adam has sent copies of these booklets to over 900 chaplains nationwide. The mailing introduced hospital, hospice, and military chaplains to our works. Within days of the mailing, the Congregation began receiving orders for those publications.

The Beth Adam Religious School raised almost \$1,500 for JNF to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. According to the JNF, this was the largest gift given by a local synagogue in many, many years. Good work and thank you to all those who participated.

Services

Friday, May 5, 2006

8:00 PM – Kiddush

8:15 PM – Shabbat Service

Reflection of 25 Years in the Rabbinat
Rabbi Barr will share his thoughts, feelings and memories about his 25 years as a Rabbi. Rabbi Barr has served as the Rabbi of Beth Adam for the entirety of his career.

Friday, May 12, 2006

**7:15 PM – Children’s Shabbat Service:
Conducted by Kitah Bet and followed
by the Kogan Baby Naming.**

Kitah Bet will conduct the service and present their Aleph Bet Journals. At the conclusion of the service, Rabbi Barr will officiate at the naming of Edward and Jillene Kogan’s daughter. Our new Baby Naming liturgy, written by Beth Adam’s Ritual/Life Cycle Committee, will be used for the first time. Join us for what is sure to be a very joyful and special occasion. A special Oneg will follow the service.

Saturday, May 13, 2006

**5:00 PM – Havdalah Service and
Bat Mitzvah of Chloe Williams and
Bar Mitzvah of Max Williams**

Saturday, May 27, 2006

**10:30 AM – Shabbat Service and
Bat Mitzvah of Ashleigh Feld**

Saturday, June 3, 2006

**10:30 AM – Shabbat Service and
Bar Mitzvah of Mick Abrahamson**

Friday, June 9, 2006

8:00 PM – Kiddush

8:15 PM – Shabbat Service

Beth Adam’s new interns Laura Baum and Ana Bonnheim will conduct the service

Friday, June 30, 2006

8:00 PM – Kiddush

8:15 PM – Shabbat Service

Beth Adam’s new interns Laura Baum and Ana Bonnheim will conduct the service

Friday, July 14, 2006

8:00 PM – Kiddush

8:15 PM – Shabbat Service

Beth Adam’s new interns Laura Baum and Ana Bonnheim will conduct the service

Friday, July 28, 2006

8:00 PM – Kiddush

8:15 PM – Shabbat Service

Beth Adam’s new interns Laura Baum and Ana Bonnheim will conduct the service

Membership Matters

Beth Adam wishes Mazel Tov to:

Cheryl Decker on her affirmation of Judaism.

Alex Stark and his family on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah.

Kelsey Malof and her family on the celebration of her Bat Mitzvah.

Suzanne Bonem and her family on the celebration of her Bat Mitzvah.

Beth Adam extends our sympathy to:
Sam Rodner on the death of his brother
Barry Marcus.

News & Events

25th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Join us on Sunday, May 7th for
Congregation Beth Adam's 25th
Anniversary Dinner. We are celebrating
the 25th Anniversary of the founding
of Congregation Beth Adam as well as
Rabbi Robert Barr's 25th Anniversary as
our Rabbi.

This festive event is being held at the
Marriott Kingsgate in Clifton, beginning
at 6:00 PM with cocktails. Jay Gilbert
will be the evening's emcee and music
will be provided by the Walnut Hills High
School Jazz Band. Following a delicious
buffet dinner we'll discuss burning
questions such as "How did the Torah
fit into the Barr's VW trunk so perfectly
for all those years?" and "What did the
Rabbi look like at his Bar Mitzvah?"

For additional information, please
contact the Congregational Office at
985-0400.

Beth Adam e-mail Updates

Need a reminder for special events
happening at Beth Adam each week?

Every two weeks the Beth Adam Office
sends an e-mail to all members
highlighting the upcoming weeks'
events and providing updates to the
monthly calendar. The brief e-mail

is a great way to stay up-to-date with
Beth Adam's full calendar of learning
programs, social events and services.
If you have not been receiving this e-
mail, please send your e-mail address to
admin@bethadam.org.

Remember to Use Your Kroger Card!

When you use Kroger cards purchased
through Beth Adam, Kroger donates 4% of
the amount you spend to the Beth Adam
account.

Since starting the Kroger fund raising
program in July 2005, we have raised
close to \$4,000. This January 52 members
used their Kroger Cards to purchase their
groceries. Thank you. If 50% of Beth
Adam households participated and spent
an average of \$100 each week, Beth Adam
could generate \$23,000 each year.

These funds will go a long way towards
supporting Religious School, Adult
Education, and other Beth Adam
programs.

Introducing Beth Adam's Book Swap Bookcase in the Seminar Room

See a book you want to read? For a \$2
donation, you can take it home. When
you are done you can keep it or bring it
back for someone else to enjoy. Have a
book you are done reading? Bring it to
Beth Adam's Book Swap shelf and share it
with some one else. The money collected
will help support recycling and tree
conservation efforts.

Adult Education

SPECIAL MID-WEEK Adult Education PROGRAMS

Monday May 15, 2006 at 7:00 PM

Understanding The Muslim World

Beth Adam's newly created Religion and Public Policy Committee presents a program addressing critical questions and concerns about contemporary Muslim culture in the Middle East and the rest of the world.

Two professors of Middle East studies from Miami University and Xavier University will address topics including: the degree of cohesiveness within these communities, the rise of radical Islamic thought and political action, the prospects for secular government in this region, the election of Hamas leadership in the Palestinian territories, and what policies the U.S. and Israel should pursue in response to these developments. This is an ambitious set of objectives. Hopefully we will all gain a better understanding of the reality and scope of the "clash of cultures" and what, if anything, we can do about it.

Members are encouraged to bring friends, family and guests.

Wednesday May 24, 2006 at 7:00 PM
Israel Trip Preparation Meeting

This will be an informal meeting for those going on the Israel trip. Vicky Mary will cover logistical details and

Rabbi Barr will teach a few necessary Hebrew phrases as well as give a general overview of the country.

Sunday, May 7, 2006 at 9:30 AM

Last Day of Adult Education

Rabbi Barr will introduce our two new Rabbinic interns.

Monday, June 5 & 19, 2006 at 7:30 PM
Introduction to Buddhism – taught by Ana Bonnheim – Rabbinic intern

This 2 session Adult Education class will focus on the basic tenets of Indian Buddhism. We will learn about the early development of this 2,500 year old religion, focusing on learning about the life of the Buddha as a model of enlightenment and general Buddhist doctrines.

Religious School

By Marcie Rosenston

It's hard to believe our Religious School year is coming to a close once again. I never cease to be amazed at how fast it goes by. This year we seem to have twice as many people to thank for their efforts to make the classes run smoothly and be productive. Most important, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our wonderful teaching staff and our many classroom volunteers. Thank you so much for working with our children and teaching them important lessons and values. You are all an essential part of the Beth Adam community.

A special thank you to the assistant principals who took on some new duties this year, as our substitute teachers. Also thanks to Rabbi Tom Heyn for keeping the kids singing. To Leah Fleischer, thanks for watching the little ones so their parents could participate in Adult Ed or help in the classrooms. To Charles Klayman we say, "Shalom, Bagelman!" And all of us involved with the Religious School would like to extend a personal thank you to Merle Coyle for keeping us all organized and giving so much of herself to the school.

By now you've probably heard about the curriculum project which is in progress. Dr. Mark Rothschild, Sandy Griffin and several other volunteers are organizing and re-vamping the entire Religious School curriculum. Making sure we have value-oriented, user-friendly lesson plans on paper will be a tremendous help to anyone who teaches the classes, and may possibly lead to the opportunity for us to publish our curriculum once this project is completed.

We are already in the planning stages for next fall and we need your help with two very important items. The first is early registration for the 2006 - 2007 school year. Forms have been distributed on Sundays over the last few weeks and we would appreciate your completing a form for your family. This paperwork is a huge help in planning our Religious School's needs for the fall, so please bring in or send forms to the

office as soon as possible. Payment does not need to be submitted at this time.

The second item is classroom help. If you have ever considered the idea of teaching one of our classes, we want you! Can you teach the full year or only one semester? Would you like to team teach with a friend? Whatever the case, we will work with you to create an arrangement with which we can all be comfortable. Classroom assistants are also welcome, so no matter what your level of interest, please be sure to let us know either by completing the appropriate space on the 2006 - 2007 Religious School registration form, or contact Pam Van Hart at 941-2467 or pj_vanhart@yahoo.com.

Have a wonderful, relaxing summer and we'll see you in the fall!

Donations & Tributes

The Congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

General Fund

Donations help to offset the costs of operating the Congregation and help to supplement funds for members unable to meet their financial commitment

From: Howard and Jake Gourwitz
To: Gladys Barr
In honor of your 80th Birthday

From: Sam and Sara Fleischer
To: Beth Adam

From: Gail and Mark Andreae
To: Donna Rothman and Family
In memory of Elaine Graff

Library Fund

Donations go to purchase books and other materials for our library

From: Rabbi Bill Leffler
To: Beth Adam
A signed copy of his book *The Structure of Religion: Judaism and Christianity*

From: The Cooker Family
To: The Rodner Family
In memory of Barry Marcus

May Life Cycle

If one of your life cycle dates has been omitted, please contact the Congregational office at 985-0400. We apologize for any mistakes.

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Marce and Mike Epstein
- 2 Susan and Herb Meis
- 2 Marie and Mark Davis
- 6 Cindy and Isaac Zelazny
- 7 Marjorie and Don Mendohlson
- 11 Karen Clumpner and Stewart Bonem
- 12 Mervelyn Wyllie-Brause and Alan Brause
- 17 Denise and Steve Weinstein
- 18 Andrea Kay and Greg Newberry
- 20 Karen and Rudy Donath

- 20 Judy Ribak and William Dirr
- 22 Nina and David Meranus
- 24 Marcie and Jerald Rosenston
- 27 Madelon and Scott Clark
- 30 Kathy and Joshua Sands
- 30 Denise Heyman-Hales and Tom Hales
- 30 Rachel Smith and Mike Babcock
- 30 Bobbie and Chris Georgetown

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Terri Barr
Sandi Amoils
- 2 Zachary Ullman
- 3 Cathy Rodner
Lena Bloom
- 5 Rachel Greene
- 7 David Greenfield
Peter Gafvert
Kelsey Malof
Sara Sexton
- 8 Rich Rosenberg
Brian Susskind
- 9 Jacob Levin
- 10 Aline Simon
- 11 Joyce Salinger
Lois Jolson
David Malof
Eliot Bonem
Megan Rosen
- 12 Morag Levin
Leah Robertson
- 13 James Cummins
Lois Stern
Devra Romick
Samuel Weinberg
- 14 Michael Raphael
Rebecca Parrott
Mackenzie Brown
Bradley Rosenston
- 15 Kaela Santos-Heiman

- 17 Ruth Westheimer
Alycia Rozen
Ian Rubenstein
- 18 Gail Nelson
Steve Rosen
- 19 Adam Van Hart
Maggie Ellis
- 20 Adam Matthews
- 21 Charles Margolis
Mary Gilbert
Zachary Susskind
- 22 Grant Meranus
Madeleine Turner Entine
- 24 Al Sassler
Eric Hammer
Phillip Gildenblatt
Mim Larkin
Erica Burton
Gillian Applegate
- 25 Susan Hart
Liam Larkin
Mick Abrahamson
Kalman Heyn
- 26 Marjorie Mendoholson
- 28 Benjamin Goldman
Michael Heyn
- 29 Daniel Bloomfield
- 30 Kylee Ellis
- 31 Carye Hutchison

MEMORIALS

- 1 Leo Kaufman
Father of Roy Kaufman
- 1 Morris Stein
Father of Selma Cooper
- 1 Paul Marks
Father of Allan D. Marks
- 2 Mary Tobias
Mother of Tom Tobias

- 3 Julia Simon Frieder
Mother of Jane Ellis
Mother of Peggy Selonick
Grandmother of Barbie Stern
Grandmother of Jim Ellis
Grandmother of David W. Ellis
- 5 Sidney Gollobin
Father of Glenn Gollobin
- 6 Henry Carter
Father of Jack Carter
- 6 Pauline Wander Schwartz
Mother of Arden Wander
- 9 Ross Feld
Brother of Adam Feld
- 10 Max Frank Stern
Husband of Lois Stern
Father of B J Carter
- 10 Minnie Miller
Mother of Raymond Miller
- 12 David Avner
Father of Jay Avner
- 13 Milton Cohen
Father of Sheryl Cohen
- 15 Regina Gilbert
Mother of Jay Gilbert
- 15 Ruth Bell
Mother of Victoria Fleischer
- 19 Mitty Gertzog
Mother of Shelley Cowan
- 20 Oscar Swartz
Father of Geri Rothwell
- 22 Jacob W. Brown
Father-In-Law of James Cummins
- 23 David Osborne
Brother of Allan Brause
- 23 Ester Ribak
Mother of Judy Ribak
- 24 Jerome Warren
Father of Wendy Zangrando

- 24 Judith Weinberg
Wife of Neil Weinberg
Mother of Sam Weinberg
- 24 Max Shendzer
Father of Amy Gerowitz
- 25 Eve Nachamson Stewart
Mother of Jill Schreiber
- 27 Isadore Switt
Father of Nancy Switt Blatman
- 30 Joseph Sassler
Father of Al Sassler
- 31 Abraham Smith
Father of Robert Smith
Grandfather of Jennifer Margolis
- 31 Claire Holzer
Mother of Susan Mueller
Mother of Nancy Greene

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