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AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series B: Early Activities. 1945-1972

Box 10, Folder 7, Tanenbaum, Helga Weiss, 1954-1955.



**MISS HELGA WEISS
WILL BE MARRIED**

**Child Guidance Bureau Aide
and Marc Tanenbaum of
Synagogue Group Engaged**

Dr. and Mrs. Harry S. Weiss have made known the engagement of their daughter, Miss Helga Weiss, to Marc H. Tanenbaum, son of Mrs. Abraham Tanenbaum of Baltimore, and the late Mr. Tanenbaum. The wedding will take place July 10.

Miss Weiss, a school psychologist-in-training with the Bureau of Child Guidance of the New York City Board of Education, was graduated cum laude from Hunter College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She is doing graduate work for a Ph. D. in school psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University. She received her Master's degree from Columbia.

Her fiancé is executive director of the Synagogue Council of America and executive consultant for the public relations firm of Marc H. Tanenbaum & Associates. He was graduated from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where he was also ordained, and from Yeshiva University. He did graduate work in literature at the New School for Social Research and Johns Hopkins University.

Mr. Tanenbaum, who is an author and script writer, has served as public relations counselor and literary editor for Farrar, Straus & Young, Inc., Charles Scribner's Sons and Henry Schuman, Inc., publishers. He is a member of the board of directors of Religion in American Life and the United Seaman's Service.

Two Engaged



Miss Helga Weiss

Religious News

'The Fourth R,' New Type of TV Thriller

Religious Program Has Children Glued to Screen; Backed by 3 Faiths

By ALICE MOLDENHAWER.

Television may be giving children four times as many crime programs today as three years ago, as reported this week by the National Assn. for Better Radio and Television, but that isn't all the kids are interested in.

One proof of this is the response to the WNBC program, *The Fourth R*, at 8:30 Sunday mornings. Judging by comments of parents and the mail that has been received by the New York Board of Rabbis, which is sponsoring the program this month, children are not only tuning in on religious programs but staying with them.

Sponsored by Three Faiths.

The program is sponsored in turn by the Rabbis, the New York Roman Catholic Archdiocese, and the Protestant Council of the City of New York. It is being conducted this month by Miss Helga Weiss, who has taught second and third graders in the public schools. She also has worked with sevens, eights, nines, ten and elevens at the East End Temple and the Hebrew Tabernacle in Manhattan.

"We want to give the children some of the highlights of Jewish religious and cultural life," Miss Weiss says. "And we want to reach children who have been attending Sunday school as well

as those who haven't. Those who have not been going we hope to stimulate so that they will want to."

Miss Weiss, at 24, is a graduate of Hunter College, has an M. A. from Teachers College, Columbia, is starting work for a Ph. D., is a licensed teacher in the New York City public schools, and has just been qualified as a school psychologist (90 took the exam and Miss Weiss was one of 12 who passed it). Next fall she will start work with the Bureau of Child Guidance. And she'll be on *The Fourth R* again in October.

Tutoring This Summer.

This summer, in addition to the telecast, she's tutoring. "And I'm writing all the material myself for the program." She never expected to be on television, but has found the experience "a pleasant surprise." As for techniques, "I just try to be myself as I would be with the children in a classroom."

Miss Weiss is assisted on the program by Miss Alene Kazan, who is a pianist and kindergarten teacher.

"We use some of the traditional Hebrew melodies," Miss Kazan explains, "and some original songs that I have written. We work together and coordinate the music with the subject, using it where it fits in and



MISS HELGA WEISS.

enhances what Helga is trying to put across."

Children Absorbed.

Miss Weiss' first subject was Haym Salomon, Jewish Revolutionary War patriot. Last Sunday she talked about the Sabbath, and tomorrow it will be the High Holy Days.

Nothing here to chill the spine, and yet parents report that their children are "absorbed" or "fascinated," and what's more, appear to grasp what it's all about.

The children themselves use the word "thrilling," ask to be filled in on programs they had to miss, and half of them on postcards address Miss Weiss a "Dear Helga," as if she were some exceptionally nice big sister that they had just discovered.

Asked if the children are really as interested as if the program were a Western or a "crime" story, one father replied, "Just as interested. They stay glued to the television right through."

May 10, 1955

Dear Rabbi Agus,

Many thanks for your May 2nd note. We regret that Mrs. Agus will not be able to be with us, but we can understand that her obligations at home have priority.

Re the Menorah Journal list: we have no available lists; all the names of the Orthodox and Reform rabbis are on filing cards in our office, or on stencils and plates at our mailing house. The best way to obtain these individual listings is to write to the executive directors of the Rabbinical Council and the CCAR (RCA: Rabbi Israel Klaven, CCAR: Rabbi Sidney Regner). The RCA has a booklet of the names, the CCAR includes them in their annual yearbook.

Otherwise, I would suggest that you send us a copy of your letter on the letterhead you wish to use, and we will have our mailing house offset it, and mail it to the entire list. This will probably prove cheaper than having a girl type out each name individually.

If you will let me know your decision re this, I will be glad to follow through.

Re our wedding ceremony: since you will not be coming to NYC before Sunday morning, May 22, and will not have occasion to discuss with Dr. Heschel and Wolfe Helga the role you would wish them to assume in the service, may I suggest that you let me know by return mail of the order of the ceremony you have in mind, whom you think should do what, etc., and then I will be able to discuss this with Dr. Heschel and Wolfe. I have taken the liberty of telling Cantor Henry Ehrenberg that we would want him to start the procession by singing Mah Tovu, and possibly Mi Adir, if you so wish it. Otherwise, I made clear the final decision is with you.

Helga and I want you to know again how completely happy we are that you will marry us, off.

Cordially and with best wishes to Mrs. Agus and the family,

Marc

110 W. 42 St., NYC 36

April 25, 1955

Dear Alexander,

My prospective in-laws brought to my attention your recent note. I asked them to let me answer in their behalf, firstly, because I wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to say hello to you and your family, and secondly, because Dr. and Mrs. Weiss are so involved with last minute preparations for our wedding that I thought I could ease their burden a mite.

Actually, I shuddered at the prospect of answering your thoughtful note, in the main because throughout all our preparations Helga and I realized it became utterly impossible to invite all the members of our respective families and their children.

We have been consistently following the practice of inviting to the wedding-and-dinner our close relatives and most regrettably, without their children.

We have given your letter considerable thought and we just don't see how we can extend, eager as we wish to, this invitation to your sons, without creating an embarrassing situation for other members of our respective families who will assuredly feel slighted in our not making equal exception for them.

I cannot begin to tell you how profoundly I regret having to reply in these awkward terms. I do hope this will not alter your decision to be with us, for both Helga and I as well as our respective families do look forward with real anticipation to your and Mrs. Goodman's presence at this simcha.

Our very best wishes to your family.

Cordially,

Marc H. Tanenbaum

April 20, 1955

Dr. and Mrs. Harry Weiss
900 Riverside Drive
New York 32, N. Y.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Weiss,

My wife and I were delighted to receive the invitation to attend the marriage of your daughter, Nelga, to my cousin, Marc Tenenbaum, to be held on May 22nd at the Hotel Riverside Plaza, New York City.

Before letting you know whether we shall be able to attend, I wish to ask you whether it will be agreeable to you for us to bring along with us our twenty year old son and our seven year old son. Unless we can bring them with us to the ceremony and to the dinner, I am afraid that we shall be unable to make this trip.

I shall appreciate it very much if you will send me the kindness of a reply at your early convenience.

With warmest personal regards,
I remain,

Sincerely yours,

MARC H. **T**ANENBAUM
AND *Associates*

SUITE 907
140 WEST 42ND STREET • NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

SPECIAL TO THE NATIONAL JEWISH POST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A pioneer effort aimed at stimulating interest on the part of Jewish children in Judaism and in motivating increased attendance in Jewish religious schools through the use of television will be launched this Sunday morning, at 8:30 a.m., July 4, when the lovely and youthful New York City school teacher, 24-year-old Helga Weiss, appears before the cameras of WNET (Channel 4) to introduce "The Fourth R".

Tied in with the nationwide observance of Independence Day, this telecast, which is the first in a series sponsored by the New York Board of Rabbis, will dramatize through story and music the life of the American Jewish patriot, "Hayim Solomon".

The series, which will be devoted to religious themes geared for Jewish children in 8-11 years age level, will appear during July and October 1954, and Jan., April, and July 1955. Programs in the alternate months will be sponsored by Catholic and Protestant groups.

Miss Weiss, a school psychologist with the Bureau of Child Guidance of the N. Y. City Board of Education, will devote the other three July telecasts to dramatizing the Sabbath, the High Holidays, and the Ten Commandments. Original music for "The Fourth R" is composed and will be played by Miss Alene Kazan of New York City. Rabbi Philip Eilat is program director.

MARC H. **T**ANENBAUM
AND *Associates*

SUITE 907
140 WEST 42ND STREET • NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

CAPTION FOR PHOTO OF HELGA WEISS

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

The Fourth of July celebration of Independence Day will be interpreted in a dramatization of the life story of the American Jewish Revolutionary War patriot, Haym Salomon, this Sunday morning, July 4, 8:30 a.m., over WNBC's (Channel 4) new series of religious programs for school children, "The Fourth R" (Religion).

Conducted by Miss Helga Weiss, 24-year-old New York City school teacher and school psychologist-in-training, "Haym Salomon" will dramatize through story and music the role the Jewish immigrant played in helping finance George Washington's armies in their battle for American independence.

This telecast is the first in a series, sponsored by the New York Board of Rabbis, which will interpret the highlights of 3,000 years of Jewish religious experience for children in the 8-11 year age level. The New York Board of Rabbis, which represents the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbinate of New York and vicinity, is sponsor of "The Fourth R" during July and October 1954, and January, April and July 1955. During the alternate months, the series is under the sponsorship of the Protestant Council of the City of New York and the New York Archdiocese.

Helga Weiss, who makes her television debut with this Sunday's telecast, will devote the other three July programs to dramatizations of the Sabbath, the High Holy Days (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur), and the Ten Commandments. Miss Weiss, a school psychologist-in-training with the Child Guidance Bureau of the New York City Board of Education, authors the scripts for the series.

Original music for "The Fourth R" is composed and will be played by Miss Alene Kazan, specialist in kindergarten music education.

Rabbis Philip Hiat and Henry Barneis are program coordinators for the New York Board of Rabbis.

oOo

April 27, 1956

Mr. Leonard Fuchs
John Muir and Co.
39 Broadway
New York City

Dear Lenny,

Enclosed please find the check of Miss Babette Hertz and myself covering our purchase of one hundred shares of National Petroleum Oil stock.

As I indicated in our phone conversation, this sum of \$637.50 represents our 50-50 investment.

I should very much appreciate your sending me and Babette each a note recording the fact of our dual purchase, in order to avoid confusion on our income tax returns. It will be probably be a good idea to have the note written on your company stationery.

Many thanks for your help and cooperation.

Cordially,

Marc H. Tanenbaum

MHT:ed

HELGA WEISS

Feb. 6, 1930 ; Cologne, Germany

Left Germany in 1938; 1939 in Holland; came to U. S. Nov. 10, 1939

-Attended George Wash. H. S. (N.Y.C.) for three and a half years

-Graduated Hunter College, Cum Laude, June 1951

Honors: Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges & Univ.

Phi Beta Kappa (lower senior ^{year})

Alpha ^{Chi} ~~Ki~~ Alpha (Social Sciences honor assoc)

Masonic Award for Service & Leadership (Junior)

Departmental honors in sociology

Kelly Gold Medal for teaching

-M.A. Columbia Univ. June 1953

Member two education honor societies (Pi Lambda Theta ~~and~~

Kappa Delta Pi

-now working towards professional diploma in school psychology ~~project~~
in Teachers College Columbia Univ

-school psychologist ^{in-training} with the Bureau of Child Guidance of the New York
City Board of Education

-worked with children in various capacities: Sunday school, camp counselor,
privatetutor, classroom teacher, school psychologist.

JIR courses ^{provisional} (diploma)

Beginning Sept. 1953 - granted assistantship as
clinical psychologist, Queens Coll. Ed. Science!



Dr. and Mrs. Harry S. Weiss

*are happy to announce
the engagement of their daughter*

Helga


to

*Marc Herman Lanenbaum
son of Mrs. Abraham Lanenbaum*

Thursday, the third of February

Nineteen hundred and fifty-five

New York City



Reception
AMERICAN WISH
Sunday, March sixth
two to five p. m.

900 Riverside Drive = Apt. 2 C
(corner 161st Street)
New York City