



Beth Am Commentator

VOL. 11, No. 30

MIAMI, FLORIDA

APRIL 21, 1972

RELIGIOUS SERVICES



FRIDAY, APRIL 21
8:30 p.m.

"FRIDAY NIGHT UNIVERSITY"
Rabbi Stanley Ringler

Hillel Director, University of Miami

**'The College Campus
And Your Child'**

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE

Leonard And Gloria Luria To Be Honored

Congratulations to Leonard and Gloria Luria! The Lurias have been selected to be the honorees for our annual Temple Beth Am Israel Dinner of State, according to Dr. Maxwell Dauer, Chairman.

In keeping with the great stature of this event, the Lurias will be the recipients of the highly coveted State of Israel Shalom Award on this occasion for their unceasing efforts on behalf of Israel.

Leonard Luria is not only a member of our Temple's Board of Directors, but he serves on the Board of Directors of Hillel at the University of Miami, for the Jewish Welfare Fund, Overseas Division, the Y.M.H.A., the Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federation, the Board of Governors of the United Jewish Appeal, and as President of the Junior Division of Federation.



Gloria Luria is head of the Women's Division of the Y.M.H.A., active in Hadassah, the National Council of Jewish Women, and ORT.

Art Show Opens

The third annual Temple Beth Am art show opened to a select Champagne Preview on Saturday, April 15. The show was judged by Karl Nickel of Emory University and, from over 250 items submitted, he selected the best for display. The Art Show was chaired by Sandy Goldman and Mickey Lipton with a big assist from the following: Ellen Alvin, Margot Berman, Florence Birchansky, Miriam Cherkas, Doris Cynamon, Iris Epstein, Annette Foosner, Garnette Friedman, Nancy Goldberg, Yiska Moser, Honey Pearson, Marcia Reisman, and Jewel Schainuck.

If you did not attend the preview, be sure you view the show during the following hours:

Monday, April 17
through Saturday, April 22
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 23
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting Tuesday, April 25, 8:00 P.M.

The annual membership meeting of Temple Beth Am will be held on Tuesday, April 25, at 8:00 p.m., in the Social Hall, to elect officers and the Board of Directors for the coming year.

The following slate of officers has been nominated by the Temple Beth Am nominating committee:

For president, Dr. Maxwell Dauer; Executive Vice President, William Sanes. Nominated for vice presidents are Bernard Goodman, Samuel Steen, Eleazer Greenstein, Dr. William Silver, and Dr. Samuel Berkowitz. For financial secretary, Harry Gunther; treasurer, Max Feld; secretary, Shirley Schultz; and corresponding secretary, Jackie Rose.

For the Board of Directors, for a three year term expiring in 1975, William Baros, Irving Epstein, Sol Genet, Dr. Evan Katz, Harold Malin, Al Rose, Ira Segal, and Dr. Ronald Tikofsky.

For a two year term expiring in 1974, Marshall Rosenberg, Gilbert Tendler, and Mickey Lipton, to fill vacancies.

For a one year term expiring in 1973, Raymond Grossman, Esther Kessler, Leonard Luria, and Selma Rappaport to fill vacancies.

Additional nominations for the Board have been received as follows:

For a three year term: Michael Cline.

For a two year term: Robert Gavrin and Arthur Conn.

For a one year term: Lewis Meyer and Donald Klein.

All members should attend this meeting and participate in selecting your officers and board members for the year 1972-73.



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Mysticism In Judaism - Part One

When Judaism is compared to other religions, it is usually observed to be much more rationalistic. Much more than other religious teachers, Jewish leaders from the time of Moses onward have tried to show that God's creation is based on law, and man's religiosity is to be measured in terms of his obedience to the moral law. Nonetheless, Judaism is second to no religion in its mystical content.

Abraham, according to the Bible, "walked with God," so intimate was their relationship. Isaac "meditated (with God) in the field at eventide." Jacob had a vision of "angels (messengers) climbing up and down a ladder which reached from earth to heaven," and it was he who wrestled with God (when he was conscience-stricken about his abuse of his brother Esau). Moses heard the voice of God emanating from the burning bush (what other sensitive souls have beheld the glory of God in a flaming bush or tree or sunset?).

The miracle-working prophets, Elijah and Elisha, (as contrasted with the so-called rhapsodic or literary prophets) were obvious mystics (around 900 BCE). Elijah retreated frequently to the wilderness, and we are told the ravens fed him. For him, God spoke not in the thunder and lightning, understood by the pagans to be the voice of God, but "in the still small voice"--the voice within! Elisha, Elijah's disciple in the mystic tradition, could see "the flaming chariots of God" invisible to those without faith, but evidence to the prophet of God's hidden strength and omnipresence. Around the concept of the "flaming chariot" developed an entire Jewish mystical system which went far beyond the teaching and the visions of Elijah-Elisha (more about this later).

The "Literary Prophets," Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc., were superb opponents of those who abused political and economic power, yet they had their mystic side. Their "call" to service was always a profound mystic experience. The "call" of Isaiah and Jeremiah are fully documented in the books that bear their names. Jeremiah describes how he struggles against the urge from within, commanding him to teach in God's name, and yet, the spirit triumphs over his objections. He proclaims what his mind would rather forget. The lips that would remain tight and silent open and speak the divine command.

Most so-called "mystics" shy away from Jewish mysticism because it differs in important respects from other kinds of mysticism. It is not escapist. It seeks contact with that kind of reality which leads us to contact with other human beings. Instead of leading us away from the struggles of society, it leads us with renewed zeal, back to society. Like other forms of mysticism, Jewish mysticism leads one to the inner silences and to the blinding light of true peace, but unlike other mysticism, Jewish mysticism is not content to settle for personal calm and detachment. Even this is only a means to a greater end, the service of mankind in its effort to find "Shalom"--the peace of fulfillment. Having seen the flame of God, the Jewish mystic, like Moses, hears the voice saying, "I have heard the cry of my children, . . . I know their pain; . . . now leave your solitude and return to help free them."

(to be continued)

JEWISH MUSIC MONTH Features Musical 'Show'

Friday, April 28th, After Services

Joan's Gems



By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Before we turn around, the summer will be here and the Summer Program will be in full swing. Have you registered your child yet? Call Rhoda Bernheimer at the Temple office for full details. . . . Hot off the press. Just got a note telling us that Lorna, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Brass, was initiated into the National Honor Society at Palmetto Senior High School. . . . Can't you just qvell about our kids! Come on, tell us your good news, we want to print it.

A speedy recovery to Sheldon Scott, Susan Nelson, Jean Pastor, and Etta Schuham, who have been hospitalized. . . . Stop in at the office and pick up the Barton's candy we have left over from Passover. Fresh as can be, a tasty delight and being sold for half price while it lasts.

Typists Needed

S.O.S. !!! Rabbi Baumgard is in immediate need of volunteer typists. Please come to his rescue all you typists. Call Gail Podell, the Rabbi's secretary, at 667-5587, and donate a few hours of your time.

B'nai Mitzvah

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
11:15 a.m.



Gloria, daughter of
Mr. Bertram Schild
Michael, son of
Mrs. Diane Lindner