



Beth Am Commentator

VOL. 11, No. 23

MIAMI, FLORIDA

MARCH 3, 1972



RELIGIOUS SERVICES

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
7:30 p.m.

Family Worship Service

Rabbi Baumgard

'Suppose The Sun Would Not Shine'

Choir: Kindergarten, First Grade

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SATURDAY, MARCH 4
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE

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"FIRST FRIDAY FORUM"
March 3, 8:30 p.m.

Social Hall

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NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
MARCH 4, 5

Bring Old Newspapers To Religious School

Parents of Religious School children are urged to have students bring old newspapers with them as they come to weekend school. Starting now, and continuing through the end of the year, Mr. Liebman's eighth grade Sunday class is sponsoring a newspaper recycling project with proceeds to go to the Teenage Building Fund. Paper pick-up facilities will be visible as cars enter our parking lot area. The only regula-

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Crime And Violence Subject Of Forum

Our outstanding forum, held on the first Friday of each month following services in the Social Hall at 8:30 p.m., will be on the theme of "Crime and Violence in America" on March 3. Dr. William Silver, co-chairman of our Adult Ed Committee, announces the following panel to lead the discussion: Richard Gerstein, District Attorney, Floyd Alsbury, Associate Director of Correction for Dade County, and Rev. Donald Olson, from the Center for Dialogue in the ghetto.

Please note that you don't have to attend the Family Service, which begins at 7:30 p.m., in order to attend the forum. Refreshments will be served for forum attenders in the Social Hall.

Interfaith Musicale, March 14, At Temple

Once again, Temple Beth Am is privileged to hold the Interfaith Musicale, sponsored by the Women's Combined Interfaith Committee, comprising representatives from the churches and our Temple, whose choirs will be presenting the program. As in the past five years, choirs from Epiphany and St. Louis Catholic, St. Thomas Episcopal, Kendall Methodist, South Miami Baptist, Mt. Zion Baptist, Riviera Presbyterian, and Beth Am will participate. The date is Tuesday, March 14, at 8 p.m., at the Temple.

Each choir will present several selections individually, and a final number of all the combined choirs will culminate the program, directed and coordinated by Mr. Warren Broome, the musical director from Riviera Presbyterian.

You are invited to come with family, friends, neighbors, for an outstanding evening of music. There is no charge. This is a truly exciting evening.

Notice To All Members

Since some of our members apparently do not understand the basic fiscal policy of billing of the Temple, the following information is presented. Please study it closely.

1. The fiscal year of the Temple begins July 1 and ends June 30.
2. "Dues" for the forthcoming year become due on July 1.
 - a. Those electing not to pay all of the dues on July 1 are required to pay the balance by December 31.
 - b. Not less than one-half of the dues is due on July 1.

3. Capital Fund pledges are past due on July 1 of the year for which you are registering. For example, a new member is given one year of grace on his pledge, if he wishes. When he registers for the second year, he must pay the capital pledge before he pays his dues or registration fees.

4. Registration fees for Religious and Hebrew schools are due at the time of registration, July 1. They must be paid before any payment may be applied to dues and are not considered part of dues. They include payments for books and supplies.

5. Registration for Nursery-Kindergarten or Primary School or Summer Camp will not be accepted unless all fees due to the Temple are current.

Please don't put the Temple last. Put it first. We need your help greatly! Contact David Stuart, Administrator, if you have a question, 667-5587.



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

The Frightening Political Scene

The last time I commented publicly on the American political scene was when a presidential candidate declared that he would drop an atomic bomb on North Viet Nam "if necessary." I do not believe that a Rabbi should use his position to influence votes except in an extreme case when to keep silent would be a violation of his position as an ethical leader of the Jewish community. It is because I think we live in a dangerous time here in America that I presume to speak out now.

A few days ago, I heard a youngster say that his school teacher was requiring him to attend a rally to hear a certain candidate speak. "She wants us to learn what a demagogue is," stated the young man. "A demagogue?" I thought to myself, "here in America?" It wasn't until I saw several film clips advertising this candidate that I understood what this clever teacher meant. I knew the line of this particular candidate who represents the right-wing political view, but I had never really heard him speak. He's smooth! He's dynamic! And he leans hard on the prejudices of Americans. What makes him a demagogue? Perhaps, it is the absence of a positive program that will help America to solve its real problems. America's real problems are how to disengage from warfare, how to free funds from a skyrocketing military budget, how to give poor people the mobility to move out of the poverty chasm, unemployment, an unfavorable balance of trade, racism. These are a few of our real problems. This particular presidential candidate does not even recognize that these are problems. He never mentions them. He appeals, instead, repeatedly to the few blind spots of many Americans. If he is elected, no policemen will be killed; no children will be bussed (which means that the county school programs for Alabama, for example, will have to be ended. He hardly means that). America will fight on to victory in Viet Nam, etc. He is a demagogue because he seeks to capitalize on the FEARS of Americans, but offers no positive programs for solving our real problems.

What frightens me about this man is that he does his demagoguery very well, indeed. He is a spell-binder. Those people who have seen their precious life-style evaporate see in him their last chance for white supremacy, for Protestant worship in the schools, for the control of governmental critics. If this man wins the plurality in the state of Florida (as it now seems he will), we in Florida will be presenting the rest of the nation with a monster born from our indifference and from our inability to organize behind a single appropriate candidate.

If this man wins the Florida primary, as it seems he will, his victory will be a testimony to our political immaturity and to our unwillingness to get out in the field to organize votes for less dangerous and more worthy candidates. In such a way do minority candidates seize power in democracies.

Rabbi Baumgard In Gainesville March 5 And 6

Rabbi Baumgard will be in Gainesville on Sunday, March 5, and Monday, March 6, to meet with young members of our Temple family at the University.

COLLEGIANS INVITED TO SUNDAY DINNER

All Beth Am collegians are invited to a dinner, March 5, Sunday evening, at 5:30 p.m., at the University Inn of Gainesville. Reservations are requested, but are not mandatory.

No Religious School March 4 And 5

Parents, please take note. Because of a rescheduling of teacher's meetings, there will be no Religious School class-

es on Saturday, March 4, and on Sunday, March 5. There will be classes on Monday, March 6.

Passover Seder Planned March 30

The Temple will hold its annual Seder this year on Thursday evening, March 30, at 6 p.m. Our Rabbis will lead the Seder, assisted by appropriate musical accompaniment.

Since this is not a money-making proposition for the Temple, charges will be at the lowest possible. Norman Wiener is chairman once again.

Bring Old Newspapers To Religious School

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tions are that 1) newspapers only will be accepted, and 2) they should be stacked neatly and tied with a string.

HOME PICK-UP TOO

If it is impossible to deliver your newspapers here, arrangements can be made to have them picked up at your home. This service will be provided on Thursday evenings between 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. For arrangements, please call Helene Hollub, 233-7501.

B'nai Mitzvah

SATURDAY, MARCH 4
11:15 a.m.



Dennis, son of
Dr. and Mrs. Sheldon Dobkin
Roy Daniel, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sekoff