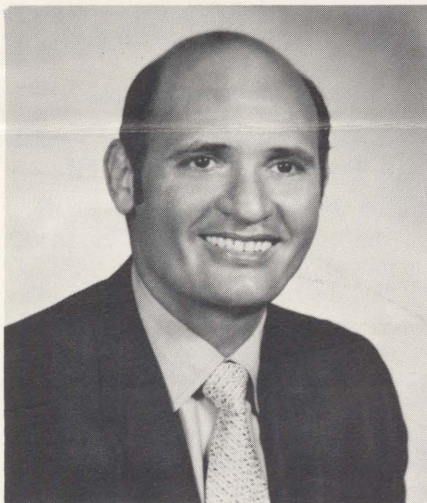


Beth Am COMMENTATOR

MIAMI, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 10, 1972

Allan Kessler Elected President Of S. E. Council



Allan Kessler, past president of Beth Am, immediate past president of the South Florida Federation of Reform Synagogues and member of the National Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, has been elected to the presidency of the Southeast Council of Reform Congregations. The election and installation was part of the biennial convention of the Council, held last week in Orlando. This is the first time in the history of the Council that a member of Beth Am, one of the newer congregations in the Council, has been elected to its highest office.

Guardians Of Our Youth

Since the last issue of the COMMENTATOR, the following family has come forth to request the privilege of being a "Guardian."

Donald and Rose Sobol

This category of giving to the youth building is drawing to a close. If you contemplate becoming a Guardian, now is the time to make that decision before the final details of design are finalized.

Teenage Building Plans Will Be Unveiled At Friday Ground Consecration

Members of the congregation will be able to see the detailed plans of the Teenage Building, now in their final stage, Friday evening, November 10. The plans will be revealed and a special ceremony consecrating the ground on which the building will be built will be held immediately following the 8:30 p.m. service. An Oneg Shabbat in honor of the occasion will follow.

The plans, prepared under the direction of Irving Epstein and Joe Siegel, building co-chairmen, with strong assistance from our executive director, David Stuart, are now in the hands of engineers.

The young people who will benefit most from the new building will present a brief, original narration at this special service.

Brunch With Rabbis And Sisterhood

Plan to attend the November Sisterhood Brunch for a delightful program, Morning with the Rabbis. Our own Rabbi Herbert Baumgard and Rabbi Barry Altman will join us for an informal rap session and brunch Wednesday, November 15, 10:00 a.m., in the Temple Social Hall. You will hear the Rabbis discuss many topics including the forthcoming Chanukah season. So, bring your questions on whatever.

The brunch also marks the opening of the Chanukah Book and Game Festival. Booths will be set up in the Social Hall and you may make your purchases at this time.

Call the Temple office, 666-2536, or Adrienne Darlow, 667-3325, for reservations. Program vice presidents are Carole Clein and Adrienne Darlow. Ways and means vice presidents Arlene Root and Rita Widom are in charge of the Book Fair.

Brunch is priced at \$1.50. Toddler sitting is available.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10
8:30 p.m.

Ground Consecration
Ceremony For
Teenage Building

Original Narration by Beth Am
Federation of Temple Youth
(BAFTY)

Remarks by Rabbi Baumgard

The Adult Choir will sing.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Terrorism In Munich (Are Jews Different?)

(An excerpt from a sermon given on Rosh Hashanah eve.
Copies available in the Rabbi's office.)

When I heard on television of the killing of the Israeli Olympic Team, for some reason, I thought of those young collegians who have been saying to me repeatedly of late, "We Jews are just like everybody else." It seems to me there is, at least one difference between Jews and other people, and that is that we have been so often singled out for suffering. For example, no other Olympic team was slaughtered but the Israeli team, the team representing a group of Jews. It almost seemed as though all the nations of the world assembled their best young men in Munich for the purpose of watching the grand tragedy which involved one group, the Jewish people. Consequently, if I were a young collegian following the new line, "Everybody is alike," I think I would have some second thoughts after what happened in Munich.

To be sure, Hitler killed millions of people other than the Jews in the late 1930's and early 1940's, but he singled out the Jews for systematic destruction. In this sense, at least, we are different from other people. In 1492, when Columbus sailed the ocean blue, as the textbooks tell us, it was the Jews who were singled out by the Catholic Church in Spain and offered one of two choices, conversion or the guillotine. That is why so many Jews financed Columbus' voyage to the new world and why it is suspected (along with other reasons) that he himself was of Jewish ancestry. If you saw "Fiddler on the Roof," you know it tells, among other things of the persecution of Jewish villagers in Russia. We used to call this kind of persecution a "pogrom." Now, the Russians did not single out any other people for these pogroms; they singled out the Jews who refused to give up their faith for the majority faith, just as Hitler singled out the people which insisted upon fighting for democracy when all others buckled under. The evidence of history indicates that the Jews were singled out for persecution because they were a stubborn people, a stiff-necked people, who refused to give up their perspective of life, when it would have been to their advantage to do just that. If I were a young Jewish collegian today, I would not think that I was just like anyone else, if for no other reason than that my people had been singled out for special suffering down through history. If I were a young collegian, I would not be able to walk away from those who were murdered in Munich or in Auschwitz without feeling that I had betrayed those who had every right to depend on my loyalty. Surely, such extreme suffering can not be permitted to be in vain; yet, if I, as a Jew, walk away from their suffering, it is reduced to meaninglessness. We Jews owe this awesome suffering some kind of response, or the whole world has no meaning.

Converting The Suffering

There are other ways, of course, in which the Jews might be considered a "different" people. For example, no people has such a genius for converting suffering into a meaningful experience. When the Hebrews were in exile in Babylonia in the sixth century B.C., which is only about 2,600 years ago, it was the prophet, Isaiah, who said to the people, "You are not suffering without reason, the whole world will learn from your experience." It was he who developed the idea of "the suffering servant," the idea that someone must be willing to suffer while striving for justice, so that God's purposes might be accomplished. Isaiah taught that through the heroic experiences of the Jewish people, the other nations (the goyim) were to be "healed" of their diseases. It was Isaiah's message that the world might learn something about man's inhumanity to man, if we Jews would only persevere and try to convert our suffering into something positive and meaningful. Isn't this what the Jews are trying to do in the State of Israel today? It was a non-Jew who said, "If the Jews can make it in Israel, after thousands of years of suffering, maybe there is hope for the rest of us."

We are looking for a weekend job for a 15 year old boy who could earn some money at the job. We are also hopeful that the boy could establish some sort of personal relationship with his boss or the owner. Call the Rabbi at 666-6756.

Joan's Gems

Rabbi Baumgard On T. V.

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

How about this! Beth Amites young people are volunteers too. Kudos to David Lesser and Robert Trilling for the donation of their time to the club run by Beth Am's Primary School. Congratulations to these two dedicated 13 year old workers of Beth Am. . . . Mazel tov to Stephen and Barbara Zohlman upon the birth of a baby boy. . . . Rabbi Baumgard will review "A Beggar In Jerusalem," by Elie Weisel, in observance of Jewish Book Month, on Sunday, November 12, at 10 a.m., on Channel 7.

Rabbi Baumgard's Prayer At The Installation Of The Metro Commission

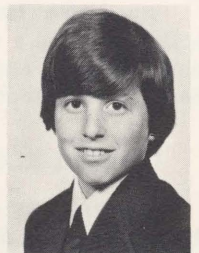
Lord of all worlds, we think in this moment of the ancient teaching, "Every day He renews the deeds of creation." Oh Lord, let us see this day as a real opportunity to create anew. Let us come to believe in the possibility of new beginnings and in the potential for change. Let us take advantage of the new chance we have been given to see a greater vision and to fashion our country in its image.

We pray, oh Lord, that those who take office this day will see themselves not as trouble shooters plugging the leaks in a worn out machinery, but as architects and planners, creating something bold and dynamic.

Let them see themselves not as narrow politicians, but as shepherds of people, leading them to pastures that truly satisfy human hunger, and leading them to pure water which truly quenches the deeper human thirsts. Amen.

B'nai Mitzvah

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11
11:15 a.m.



Andrew, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Saul Cohen

Harold, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Lewis