

# Beth Am COMMENTATOR

MIAMI, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 20, 1972

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20  
8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Baumgard

### The Jewish Concept Of Chosenness

What Is Its Meaning  
For Modern Times?

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21  
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE

(Please note that the Torah Service  
is a congregational service to which  
all members are invited.)

## You Are Invited To Dinner

Reservations are close to capacity  
for Sisterhood's Family Sabbath Dinner,  
Friday, November 3. So, if you plan  
to attend, make your checks payable  
to Beth Am Sisterhood and mail them  
now to Arlene Root, 5825 S.W. 117th  
Street, Miami 33156.

Dinner is scheduled for 6:00 p.m.  
promptly as family night services begin  
at 7:30 p.m. The adult price is \$5;  
children under 10, \$3.50.

## Guardians Of Our Youth

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

**Joseph and Norma  
Reisman**

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 be-  
fore the final details of design are fi-  
nalized.

## Ground Consecration Exercises Friday November 10 For New Teenage Building

Members are urged to set aside Friday night, November 10, as the time for the "Ground Consecration" of the new Teenage Building. President Dr. Maxwell Dauer announces that the "Guardian" families will be invited to have a role in the symbolic "Ground-breaking."

The Beth Am Federation of Temple Youth (BAFTY) has asked for a role in the service that evening, to express the excitement and gratitude of our young people for the building about to be erected.

Irving Epstein, co-chairman of the Building Committee, with Joshua Segal, report that the excellent response to the fund raising appeal may enable the committee to include portions of the original plans which were cut out when earlier fund raising was less successful. At any rate, specific planning is rushing forward so that details may be submitted to sub-contractors for bids.

## Adults Enjoy Tuesday Night Programs Through November

How does one face the problems presented by modern children? Ask the professionals (psychiatrists and psychologists) on Tuesday night at 9:00 p.m. How can one develop a personal religion for this technological age? Ask the teachers of the class at 8:00 p.m. on Hasidism. How can an adult learn something about Israel (come at 9:00 p.m. for that class) or about Jews in the Soviet Union (8:00 p.m.)?

Suppose you're a young person and you want to learn conversational Hebrew? (8:00 p.m.). When is the conversational Hebrew for adults? (9:00 p.m.).

## Calendar Of Events

- ADULT EDUCATION . . . . . Tuesdays through November
- NINTH GRADE YOUTH GROUP . . . . . Tuesday, October 17, 7:30 p.m.
- SISTERHOOD BRUNCH . . . . . Wednesday, October 18, 9:30 a.m.
- IDEAS THROUGH BOOKS . . . . . Thursday, October 19
- COTILLION (Seventh and Eighth Grades) . . . . . Sunday, October 22, 7:30 p.m.
- SISTERHOOD NEWCOMERS COFFEE . . . . . Wednesday, October 25, 10:00 a.m.
- BROTHERHOOD MEETING . . . . . Wednesday, November 1, 7:30 p.m.
- FAMILY SABBATH DINNER . . . . . Friday, November 3, 6:00 p.m.
- GROUND SANCTIFICATION, Teenage Building . . . . . Friday, Nov. 10, 8:30 p.m.
- SISTERHOOD BOOK FAIR . . . . . November 16, 17, 19
- CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST . . . . . Sunday, November 19, 9:30 a.m.
- FATHER-CHILD DINNER . . . . . Wednesday, November 22, 6:30 p.m.





FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

### The Need To Turn Back Forcefully

An excerpt from the recent High Holiday sermon, "The Sun Is Setting." Copies available from the Rabbi's secretary

Now, most of us do not do things that contradict our prophetic background because we are deliberately mean or uncharitable. Most of us are not rebels; we are drifters. We float with the tide. It is fashionable today to give big parties, so we do it. This is part of the new life style, or, we might say, part of the new ritual. It is not fashionable today to work for the new Beth Am Teenage Building, so we don't want to be pioneers or to break with the pattern. It is the fad to go to London for the summer, so we go to London. It is not the fad to work for Sisterhood, or for the National Council of Jewish Women, or for the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, or for Reform Judaism, or for Haddasah, so we don't. We follow the new ritual of lighting the Bar Mitzvah cake with pious scrutiny, but we don't light Friday night candles as an act of identifying with our people. We are drifters most of us, and the drift is progressively away from the Jewish perspective of life as a sacred trust, and we may not be able to get back before sundown.

Recently, a young man, about 24 years old, came to see me and said, "Rabbi, I want to get back. I have been through it all," he said, "The drug culture, the sex culture, and the mystic culture, and, now, I'm turning back." This was a wise young man, so he knew that if he were to turn back successfully, he had to turn back with all his heart and soul. If he was going to make it at all, he had to turn back forcefully. So he said to me, "Rabbi, I am going to Israel to live and to study Torah." He went to Israel, enrolled at an Orthodox Yeshivah, and studied Torah in the most traditional manner. After six months of this, he has left the Yeshivah, convinced that he wants to be a committed Jew. He has found peace and he is staying in Israel. Now, I am not recommending that all of us go to Israel to study in an Orthodox Yeshivah, but I want you to recognize the healthy-mindedness of this young man's decision. He understood that he had to make a severe departure from his day-to-day living, if he were to be successful in stopping his drifting. You also have to make some kind of severe departure from your present style of living, if you are to survive as a Jew.

Whatever you think of this young man's action, you must agree with his decision that one cannot be a Jew without a profound knowledge of what it means to be Jewish. We have learned as the result of our conversion classes that after we have given the prospective converts merely a survey knowledge of Judaism, they are already much more informed than their partner born into the faith. The average American Jew cannot re-establish his identity with his faith by reading one book about Judaism. He must read many books. He must become as determined about his study as he is about improving his golf or tennis game or about making that next business deal. The average American Jew, caught up, as he is, in the mire of materialism, cannot begin the process of "T'Shuvah," or "Return," by giving a little to charity. What is needed is a violent turn-about. He must give a great deal to charity, for only in the forceful (if painful) thrust towards the goal will he be able to reverse his momentum.

We have prepared for you a list of suggested books which will help you return to the path of study. That list has been published in the COMMENTATOR. To help you in your return to Judaism, we are planning an unusual Adult Education Program on Tuesday evenings beginning in October and, of course, our Friday night and Saturday morning services all involve teaching and learning as a matter of course. Your involvement in these things, in your self-study program or in the Temple programming, or both, will be a measure of your desire to be a Jew. You will be the best witness for your own desire, but your children will be watching also.

In a way, we stand today in a position similar to that of Moses, who ran away from Egypt while his brothers continued to suffer there. The Bible records that one day, while enjoying the tranquil life of the shepherd, Moses saw a strange sight. He saw a bush burning, but, marvelously, the bush was not consumed. Then, he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Moses, you can't stay here living the protected life while your brothers suffer. Go back to Egypt and do what you have to do to help them." We all know that Moses made that return, even though he was threatened with death. We know that it was he who helped establish those Jewish institutions which have survived to this day, although they are now threatened by indifference and lack of support.

## Joan's Gems

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Mazel tov to Al and Jackie Rose. Daughter, Rhonda, was chosen as one of the ten top swimmers in the state for the 50 freestyle and 100 backstroke and Linda was elected to the ninth grade cabinet at West Miami Junior High School. . . . Get well wishes to Harold Cowan and Sylvia Farr who were hospitalized recently. . . . We're so happy to see our staff members, Sis Reuben and Garnette Friedman, back in our Temple office after their recent illnesses.

Adult Education is under way. There is still time for you to join one of the many interesting courses offered. Remember, Tuesday night is Adult Education night. . . . Get well wishes to Edith Zipp. . . . Jean and Lew Gillis just returned from a delightful trip to England in honor of their 37th wedding anniversary. Along with Jean and Lew were Bev and Bernie Weksler and Sophie and Louis Kirk. . . . Get well wishes are in order for Rachel Sigel, Dr. Frank Weinbaum, and Lollie Schainuck.

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

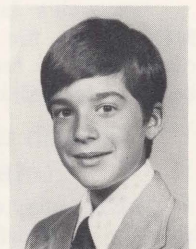
### HEBREW SCHOOL

### NO CLASSES ON

Saturday, October 21  
Sunday, October 22  
Monday, October 23

### *B'nai Mitzvah*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21  
11:15 a.m.



Jodi Beth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Adelson

Ronald Fried, son of Mrs. Roy Jacobs