

Beth Am COMMENTATOR

MIAMI, FLORIDA

DECEMBER 21, 1973

Chanukah Starts!

*Light First Candle
Wed. Eve, Dec. 19*

Israeli Photography Exhibit In Lobby

"Israeli Portfolio," an impressive exhibition of still photographs by Miamian Mark Benjamin, will be shown in the lobby of Temple Beth Am from Friday, December 21, through Friday, January 4.

Currently on tour exhibit through the United States, the pictures in black and white and color are a documentary of an American Jew identifying with his heritage.

Mark Benjamin is a young man who grew up in Temple Beth Am. He was working with a Time-Life film team in Israel when he realized "Israel had gotten to me and I had begun to re-identify my religion in terms of its historical heritage--so I began to make shots that meant something to me personally."

He became a kibbutznik, studied in a yeshiva, changed his name to just Benjamin, as Israelis had Hebrew names in the Biblical spirit.

Benjamin's camera plays with the old and the new; the Arab, the Yemenite, the orthodox European Jew, the kibbutz people, chic new Tel Aviv, old Jerusalem. Together, the photographs present the reality that is Israel today.

The Miami Herald of April 8, 1973 reviewed Benjamin's photographs as "the plea of a freshly concerned camera for a return to Jewish consciousness."

Chanukah Music Festival

Featuring the Adult Choir

DIRECTED BY SELMA BAUMGARD

FRIDAY, 8:30 p.m. DECEMBER 21

ORIGINAL NARRATION: RABBI BAUMGARD

Collegian Sabbath Friday, Dec. 28 Features Talk On Campus Prejudice

Sylvan Lebow, National Director of the Jewish Chatauqua Society and the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, will speak at our annual Collegian Sabbath, Friday, December 28, at 8:30 p.m., on the theme, "Prejudice on the Campus and in the City." A number of collegians, home for the holidays, will read the service along with certain members of the Brotherhood.

Following the service, there will be a special Oneg Shabbat, or social gathering, for our collegians including refreshments in the Youth Lounge. The rest of the congregation will gather for refreshments in the Social Hall.

Mr. Lebow is a national authority on the subject, having worked in the field for 20 years. He is responsible for developing the program of the Jewish Chatauqua Society, which serves hundreds of college campuses with lecturers on Judaism. Rabbi Baumgard is a part of the JCS program at the University of Miami. Mr. Lebow will discuss the need on the college campus for information about Judaism on the part of both Jews and Christians.

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY

December 22, 23, or 24

December 29, 30, or 31

NO HEBREW SCHOOL

MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY

December 24, 27, and 31

Classes resume on Wednesday, Jan. 2

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21
8:30 p.m.

The Adult Choir
will present their
CHANUKAH CONCERT

Selma Baumgard
Choirmaster

Candle Light Service

BRING A CANDLE



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE



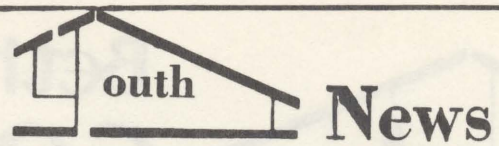
Musings From
The Vantage Point
Of A Rabbi

This is a "meshugana welt" (a crazy world). In times like these, one accomplishes a heroic feat just by holding on, by refusing to surrender one's convictions and values. I have just heard of a Jewish girl who married a Japanese boy (without thought of cultural, or religious, problems). When she told him she wanted a divorce, he killed her. In Japan, a woman does not leave her husband. In the crisis, his childhood training determined his emotional response. I don't know if there is a moral in this story. It's just crazy.

Jewish intellectuals are in the vanguard of the birth-control movement. But if Jews don't try to add to their numbers in this natural way, Jewish survival is the more imperilled. I find an increasing number of couples who say, "We don't know if we'll ever have children." Is it possible that human beings no longer have the great longing to be part of the miracle of birth and re-creation? What greater joy in life is there than creating and teaching children? It seems to be that this retreat inward (into themselves) for such couples is a narcissism which makes for greater problems in a marriage (or is it only different problems?). Is the conflict between parents and children so great in today's changing world, that one way to solve the problem of possible conflict is not to have children? Isn't this a kind of suicide? ("The problem ends with me."). I know of a few Jews who have made this same kind of decision in this way. "I am a Jew, but my children aren't. I am not going to raise Jews for the goyim to persecute," they say. Does this really solve the problem? Won't the haters find new minorities to persecute? Isn't taking this road a kind of suicide?

Many young people think it more important to be a citizen of the world than to be a Jew. They haven't yet learned that one can be both and that before one can be a true part of the universal, one must be able to find the universal in the particular. Translation: You can't truly love many people until you have learned to love one, one near to you. The Bible teaches, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." As thyself, he who does not respect himself cannot truly love his neighbor. He who thinks he loves his neighbor while he denies his own self is a self-hater who is not really capable of love.

Many young people today are turning to Orthodoxy, especially to Lubavicher Hasidism. They have decided that if they are going to be Jewish, they want to go all the way. It is also true that an increasing number of young people at Beth Am are strongly involved in Reform Judaism. Never have I seen so many young people emotionally involved in Judaism. It cannot be said that young people are not interested in religion. They are very idealistic and will respond to movements and ideas that demand a great deal from them. What they don't respond to are the pallid demonstrations of religion that they so frequently find in their own home. Where parents are obviously committed and observant, where parents set an example in an enlightened fashion, children frequently respond on their own. They know the difference between parental lip-service and parental participation. Are you one of those who says, "Do as I preach, not as I do."?



New School Begins Second Term

After a successful theatre party, BAFTY (the senior youth group) is all set for Winter Regional Convention in Tallahassee.

Another term will be starting soon for New School students. The school is open to all tenth to twelfth graders. It is run by and for students. Watch for details. Students need not have taken a course the first term.

Ellen Mintz, president of the ninth grade youth group, announces that membership is open for the second term. Contact her at 271-4099. This youth group is the most active it has ever been. Outings, programs, and affairs are planned for the coming months.

Apply For Scholarships Now

Temple Beth Am provides part scholarships for:

NFTY Torah Corps, Warwick, New York. This is open to tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders who are actively involved in academic Jewish studies. There are special interest groups for song, dance, and arts and crafts.

CAMP COLEMAN! A summer camp experience with a Jewish background of four weeks duration. Limited to those between nine and 15 years of age.

SEFTY at Camp Coleman. A comprehensive leadership and academic session of ten days held at Camp Coleman in Cleveland, Georgia, following the close of the regular camp schedule in August.

Applications for the above scholarships are available in the Temple office and must be returned to the Executive Director by January 15.

Joan's Gems

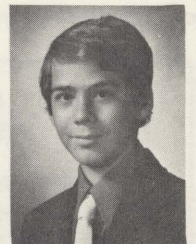
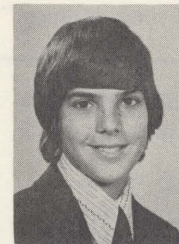
By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Congratulations to Kermit and Rhoda Bernheimer, who have become grandparents for the second time. Their son, Martin, and his wife, Linda, are the proud parents of a son. . . . Mazel tov to Marilyn and Ted Azriel upon the birth of their eight pound six ounce son, Joshua. . . . Get well wishes are in order for Elizabeth Matza, Scott Pestcoe, Mark Hochberg, David Belin, Joseph Shane, Brad Oren, Abraham Turoff, Glenn Widom, Milly Draizar, Ross Goodman, and Marvin Rosen, who have been hospitalized recently.

Bnai

Mitzvah

Saturday
December 22
11:15 a.m.



Bruce, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Behren
Michael, son of
Mrs. Gerald Gach
and the late Gerald Gach