

Beth Am COMMENTATOR

MIAMI, FLORIDA

DECEMBER 6, 1974

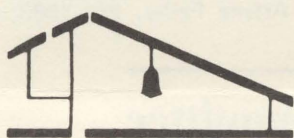
Guardians Of Our Youth

ROBERT AND BARBARA GITTLEMAN

The family listed above has joined the growing list of Guardians of Our Youth and in addition is dedicating a classroom in the new Teenage Building in memory of a loved one.

Don Wright Speaks Sunday, Dec. 15

The Brotherhood Breakfast Forum is honored to have as its speaker at the breakfast on Sunday morning, December 15, 9:30 a.m., in the Youth Lounge, two time Pulitzer Prize winner Mr. Don Wright, political cartoonist of the Miami News. His topic will be "The Trials and Tribulations of a Political Cartoonist." There are very few in the field of journalism that can claim the coveted Pulitzer Prize. To have merited two of them is indicative of a high excellence in his field, very rarely achieved. This is an excellent opportunity to acquaint ourselves in a field of journalism we do not always have a chance to encounter. This should be an interesting talk for all family members. Admission is \$1.00 for Brotherhood members and \$1.50 for non-members.



The Committee Of 100

A voluntary association of families dedicated to the survival and strengthening of Judaism and Temple Beth Am.

Alfred and Peggy Bieley
Raymond and Marjorie Pearlson

Chanukah Is Here!

Light First Candle Sunday Night, Dec. 8

Chanukah starts on Sunday night, December 8, at sundown. When you light the first candle with all the family around you, strive for a feeling of family togetherness and joy. Had there been no Chanukah, there would be no Jewish community today, for at this season, 2,200 years ago, the Jews refused to surrender their religion at the command of Antiochus, emperor of the eastern Greek empire. At this season, the Temple in Jerusalem, of which only one wall remains standing today, was re-dedicated to the service of the living God. This is then a season of re-dedication to Jewish ideals.

SHAMASH IS THE LEADER

Light the first candle with the shamash, or attendant, candle. The shamash may be permitted to burn or be put out. The second night, light two candles with the shamash, etc. The first two of the blessings are said on all nights. The third is said only on the first night. Sing the songs after the lighting each night. Have fun as a family.

It is recommended that gifts be distributed at this time. Rabbi Baumgard suggests that for younger children a different gift be given each of the eight nights with the significant gifts being given on the first and last nights.

Elsewhere in the COMMENTATOR (Page 3), the appropriate blessings, songs and history are described. The Judaica Shop at the Temple has supplies of candles, menorahs, and gifts.

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

The annual candle light service will be held on Friday night, December 13, at 8:30 p.m. Bring a Chanukah candle (preferably dripless) for each person in your family, wrapped in aluminum foil, at the service. These candles will be lit, so parents should be seated in such a way as to observe their children best. The Adult Choir, under the direction of Selma Baumgard, will sing.

Chanukah Music Festival

presented from the altar December 13

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6
7:30 p.m.

RABBI BAUMGARD

'The Candle That Burned Forever'

A Chanukah Story

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
11:15 a.m.

RELIGIOUS
SERVICES

FAMILY SERVICE

TORAH SERVICE





FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Let's Study Torah

Read "Va-yayshev," Genesis 37:1 — 40:23.

In this "parasha," we have the beginnings of the famous Joseph story. As we begin to read it, we must again remind ourselves that the Bible was more than holy scripture to our ancestors. It was also their literature and entertainment. Year after year, they read the Joseph story (or heard it read to them). They knew all of its nuances, but the story is so beautiful and so adeptly written that the retelling simply added deeper dimensions to it. Indeed, this is a story which can be read over and over again to the edification of the reader.

The scripture reads, "Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age . . ." (37:3). How natural a thing it is for an aged father to adore his youngest child, for the child is more like a grandchild to him, more a sign of the old man's eternity. Joseph's brothers were not happy about the favoritism their father showed to Joseph, so they let the boy know how unwanted he was in their councils. So it was that the boy most admired by his father and rejected by his brothers became a dreamer. The authors of the story knew enough about human psychology to know that it is the rejected ones who become the dreamers.

As so often happens, the dreamer only makes himself the more hated when he tells of his dreams, and Joseph's brothers resented the lad all the more when he explained his dreams of ruling over them (37:6-11). It was then that the brothers decided to do away with Joseph. Fortunately, this decision was tempered, and Joseph was sold into slavery to a passing caravan of Midianites on their way to Egypt (37:12-36).

Joseph pleased his master, Potiphar, the captain of the guard for Pharaoh. In time, he became the manager of Potiphar's estate. Unluckily, Potiphar's wife had an eye for Joseph and urged him to sleep with her. Joseph refused; the spurned lady accused him of trying to seize her, and Joseph was thrown into prison (39:1-20). While in prison, Joseph correctly interpreted the dream of a fellow prisoner, Pharaoh's butler, who was extremely grateful to learn that he was to be restored to favor with the ruler. Joseph asked only one payment for his deed. He asked that the butler remember him when he was restored to power; but the butler, like so many people who make it to the top, forgot the man who helped him in his less fortunate days (40:1-15). Another prisoner, Pharaoh's baker, asked Joseph to interpret his dream, but this dream was bad news for the baker (40:16-22). Joseph's correct interpretation here also served to enhance his reputation.

We learn from this part of the Joseph story that the ancient peoples believed that the future was revealed in dreams. Anyone who could properly interpret these dreams had to be a person who was especially favored by the gods (or God). Joseph, in fact, insists that whatever power he has to interpret dreams comes from God (40:8). Today, we have learned from Freud and others that it is the past, not the future, which is revealed in dreams. This time orientation aside, it is still true today that the person who has insight into the meaning of dreams is considered to have special powers. We can then imagine the aura that Joseph reflected in his day.

In next week's parasha, it is Pharaoh himself who dreams a confusing dream, and the search begins for a man who is able to interpret it.

ART DISPLAY BY TENTH GRADERS

The tenth grade art class will have a display of their work in the foyer of the Sanctuary starting December 6.

Brotherhood Dinner Meeting December 4

A scrumptious Italian feast of pizza, spaghetti, lasagna, and the trimmings will be served beginning at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 4, in the Youth Lounge. A very brief meeting will follow, and then 1974 Dolphin highlight films. Please join us for a fun evening. Brotherhood members are admitted free; guests are \$2.00 each.

How Have The Jews Survived?

Temple Beth Am will participate in an educational experiment on Wednesday, December 11, at 8:00 p.m., in the Youth Lounge. At that time, two professors from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Professors Barry Mesch and Sheldon Isenberg, will present a program on Jewish history. The program revolves around the question, "How Have the Jews Survived as a Minority Culture?"

At the same time, those who attend will discuss the tensions of group survival in the United States today.

The program, which is funded by the Florida Endowment for the Humanities, focuses on audience participation, who are present to consider current problems related to survival, intermarriage, quota systems, anti-semitism, etc.

To stimulate discussion, the professors will present dramatic readings depicting events from earlier periods of Jewish history. Those in attendance will be asked to analyze the facts and forces which fashioned that period of Jewish history and apply them to a modern situation.

Members of the congregation will take part in the discussion. The leaders of these discussions will include Barton Udell, Joseph Altschuller, and Margot Berman.

Sisterhood Brunch December 18

Sisterhood presents Joan Schwartzman, our administrative assistant, on Wednesday, December 18, at 10:00 a.m., in the Social Hall. Joan will offer, live and in color, true and hilarious stories from her forthcoming novel, "Rabbi, You Never Promised Me A Swimming Pool."

If you've never heard Joan spin her tales of Temple antics and frantics, please come and enjoy. Trained tot sitting is available for \$1.25. The delicious brunch will cost \$3. Phone Terry Freedman, 270-0088, or Arlene Feller, 251-3863, to make your reservation.

Minyan Committee

The Minyan Committee, which has been under the direction of Dr. Jack Hoffman, will be taken over by Brotherhood. Dr. Hoffman has handled this job with great efficiency and devotion, but the needs of the congregation have gone beyond his ability to handle all the requests for this type of service. Accordingly, Brotherhood will now be in charge of the Minyan Committee. All those who care to help in this worthwhile endeavor should contact Ira Pozen, Brotherhood president, or contact the Temple office to volunteer their services.

Judaica Shop Features

Get ready to light the first Chanukah candle on December 8. Visit Sisterhood's Judaica Shop for your special Chanukah needs: menorahs, candles, decorations, dreidles, puzzles, games, records, candy gelt, children's books, wrapping paper, ribbon, etc. See meaningful gifts for the whole family: Jewish Art books, Israeli costume and fine jewelry, ceremonial objects, and a variety of attractive items perfect for any occasion (25 cents and up). Open Sundays 9:30 to noon, Mondays 9:00 to noon and 3:30 to 5:00, Wednesdays 3:30 to 5:00, and Fridays after services.