



Beth Am COMMENTATOR

MIAMI, FLORIDA

DECEMBER 20, 1974

Nursery, Kindergarten, Day School

Temple Beth Am Pre-School and Day School is dedicated to the proposition that an educational environment must provide joy in learning for learning's sake. It is in this spirit that this branch of Beth Am's educational system is developmentally based, is concerned with cognitive growth, and is sprinkled liberally with an experiential approach:

"I hear . . . I forget. I see . . . I remember. I do . . . I understand."

In the pre-school area, the main thrust is preparing an environment in which a student can develop socially, emotionally and academically at his or her own pace and reach fullest potential.

In the Day School area, a new integrated and interdisciplinary curriculum has been developed which has an anthropological and archaeological base and into which has been woven Judaic and Hebraic studies, science, math labs, art and music culture, secular and Judaic literature--all centered around the study of man. Therefore, a study of the evolution of vertebrates is enhanced by a parallel unit on the biblical story about Noah and the ark with research done on personalities such as Dr. Leakey as well as Dr. H. Orlinsky.

Poetic philosophies, creative curricula, and multiplicities of materials are meaningless, however, without the most important ingredient in a school: the dedicated, sensitive teacher.

Our pre-school staff is well endowed with teachers aware of early childhood development. The 1974-75 pre-school teachers are Chi-Chi Berman,* Judie Brown, Gilda Ceppos, Shevi Herbstman,* Judy Kreutzer, Carol Pozen, Marlene Price, Eleanor Robbins, Michelle Sachs,* Judy Steinberg,* Betty Suid, Myrna Sumpter, and Myrna Terr.

The teaching assistants for pre-school are Judith Clein,* Symra Fader,* Lida Kaplan, Doris Trachtenberg, Nancy Weinfeld, and Helene Zimmerman.

The Day School master teachers, the forces behind the quality education, are: Judith Bittel, Harriet Blum, Ceil Coonin, Linda Glick, Fran Manekin, and Susan Moss.

Their teaching colleagues in the Day School classrooms are Gaye Gompers,* Debra Massave,* Michelle Turbiner,* Marjorie Weisman,* Cookie Williamson,* and Beverly Zucker.*

The excellent Hebrew program for the Day School is creatively carried out by Ann Mannheimer and Roberta Indgin.*

*Denotes teacher new to the staff this year.

College Homecoming

Collegians and young people over 18

WINE AND CHEESE with the Rabbis

Home of Rabbi Baumgard, Saturday, December 28,
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., 7290 S.W. 113 Street
(between 72 Court and 73 Court)

ISRAELI DANCING, two Thursday evenings, December
19 and 26, 8:00 p.m., in the Social Hall.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE, December 27, 8:30 p.m.

"Ask the Rabbi"--Bring your questions.

Collegians will read the service.

Art Auction, January 11

Mark your calendars for another fabulous art auction being planned for you Saturday evening, January 11, in the Teenage Building gymnasium. Preceding the auction, there will be a yummy for the tummy wine and cheese preview at 8 p.m. The auction will start promptly at 9 p.m.

A great assortment of sculptures, lithographs, oils, and watercolors--the works of famous and not so famous artists--will be auctioned off.

Admission is \$5 per couple and tickets are now available from Sisterhood co-chairladies Carol Clein, 238-0820, Fran Blumenfeld, 238-0841, and Betty Gold, 251-2752.

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Saturday, Sunday, Monday

December 21, 22, or 23

December 28, 29, or 30

Classes resume Jan. 4, 5, 6

NO HEBREW SCHOOL

Monday and Wednesday

December 23, 25, and 30

January 1

Classes resume Mon., Jan. 6

NURSERY/KINDERGARTEN/DAY SCHOOL WINTER RECESS

No classes from December 23 through January 5

Classes resume Monday, January 6

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:30 p.m.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Adult Choir will perform
Selma Baumgard, Choirmaster

RABBI BAUMGARD

'The Season Of Light
And A World In Darkness'



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE

Adult Sports Night Is Thursday



Let's Study Torah

Va-Yi-Gash (read Genesis, Chapter 44:18 – 47:28.

I cannot read this parasha without shedding tears, for in this section of the Joseph story, the brothers are reconciled. How was this reconciliation to take place? The brothers had committed a heinous crime. They had sold their youngest brother into slavery, an unforgiveable cruelty. Joseph, for his part, is one of the great men of the world, second in command only to Pharaoh in mighty Egypt. He had toyed with his brothers, since he found irresistible the urge to punish them somewhat for their intent to harm him. How could he terminate this urge to pay them back in kind; yet, on the other hand, how much longer could he control his desire to reveal himself and to embrace them?

Judah provides the catalyst for release and brings the whole matter to a climax. It was Judah who had bargained with the brothers to sell Joseph into slavery rather than kill him. Now it is Judah again who steps forward to say to the Egyptian overlord (Joseph), "My lord, . . . we have lost one brother, and our father will die if you keep Benjamin for your servant, as you request . . . therefore, I plead with you, take me as your slave instead of Benjamin" (Ch. 44:18-34). This sacrificial expression on the part of Judah was more than Joseph could bear. He commanded his Egyptian servants to leave him alone (45:1-3). He revealed himself to his brothers, and he wept, saying, "I am Joseph, doth my father yet live?"

How would you expect the brothers to respond? In great rejoicing for his obvious affection for them? They were incapable of joy in this moment. Guilt and fear crowded their mind (45:3). In fact, they were more afraid of this leader as Joseph, whom they had wronged, than as a neutral Egyptian. Joseph tried to soften their fears by telling them that their actions were just part of God's plan (45:4-8), and Joseph grasped his younger brother, Benjamin (the only other son of Jacob and Rachel), and wept once again (v. 13). Only after Joseph had kissed all the rest of his brothers were they capable of talking with him at all (v. 15).

How did the Hebrews get to Egypt? One of them, according to this story, had risen to great power in that country and invited his father and family to come to reside in the land while the family lasted (45:9-11). Archaeologists tell us from unearthed Egyptian records that a group of Semites ruled over Egypt during this period and later they were overthrown and enslaved. Our Bible describes the good Semitic experience in Egypt in terms of this gentle and touching family story. Pharaoh, we are told, welcomed Jacob and his tribe (47:1-12). But, alas, a later Pharaoh was not so kind.

Friendship Circle Forming

Are you interested in reactivating our former Friendship Circle group for people age 50 years and over? Please fill out the form below and return to Temple office at 5950 N. Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida 33156, or call Hattie Cott after 6:00 p.m.

Mr. and/or Mrs _____

Address _____

Phone _____

BAFTY Baubles

By MARK MINTZ

This week's article will deal entirely with an integral part of The Jewish educational system, "New School." The New School is in its third year of operation: The principle of the New School is to bring continuing educational and artistic courses to teenagers.

The New School classes (tenth through twelfth graders) meet every other week. College credit courses which meet every week.

The New School courses are listed below. Please fill out the attached enrollment form.

JEWISH UNIVERSITY

- A 1. Hebrew - Suggested for those going to Israel.
- A 2. Survey of Jewish Literature - The highlights of contemporary Jewish literature.

Both of the above courses meet for an hour and one-half every week and are for credit through Miami-Dade Community College.

SCHOOL OF JUDAIC LIBERAL ARTS

- B 1. Singing - Modern Hebrew songs.
- B 2. Israeli Dance - For those with some experience.
- B 3. Jewish Art - Metal sculpture and jewelry making.
- B 4. Drama - The group will present a play on a Jewish theme.

SCHOOL OF CONTINUING JEWISH EDUCATION

- C 1. Israel - A Survival Plan Through Military Brilliance - A course in military strategics taught by an Israeli officer.
- C 2. Book of Genesis: Fact or Fiction - Rabbi Altman will again teach his course on the Book of Genesis.
- C 3. Holocaust - The true dissemination of European Jewry, and psychological insight into Nazi anti-semitism.
- C 4. Who Is The Liberated Jewish Woman? - Open only to women; men may apply only with special permission of the instructor.

NEW SCHOOL CLASS SELECTION FORM

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____ Zip _____

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

3rd Choice _____

Mail to BAFTY New School, % Temple Beth Am, 5950 North Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida 33156.

Bnai

Mitzvah



Saturday
December 21
11:15 a.m.

Michael, son of
Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Jacobson
Craig, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Millard Suid