

Beth Am COMMENTATOR

MIAMI, FLORIDA

JANUARY 25, 1974

Summer Program In Planning Stage



The Summer Program at Temple Beth Am is in the planning stage. Under the direction of Rabbi Baumgard and Michael Wexler, camp chairman, extensive improvements in the summer program are contemplated. The addition of several sports specialties and of additional facilities are being worked into the program for the coming year.

Summer Program will run for EIGHT weeks, starting Wednesday, June 12. There will be full day activities for 4 to 14 year olds. You can send your child for a four week session or for the full eight weeks. Temple members will receive first preference in registration and in fees.

Further details will be forthcoming in the summer program brochure which will be mailed to all members in the next few weeks. Call Rhoda Bernheimer in the Temple office, 667-5587, for more information.

Impact - Tuesday Night

Adult Education Seminars, Spring Term

"Keeping Today's Social Concerns In Perspective"

Eight separate topics will be presented Tuesday evenings beginning February 5 at 8:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

February 5 - ERA '74--"THE PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW."

Representative Elaine Gordon and a distinguished panel will present the facts from the Women's Coalition promoting the Equal Rights Amendment.

February 12 - AFTER THE CRIME--WHAT?

Police, judge, prison--learn their roles concerning your rights.

February 19 - TO THE PROMISED LAND--RUSSIA TO ISRAEL

Dr. Robert Wolf, Chairman of the South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry, will moderate. See the latest film of the Russian Jew as he emigrates from the Soviet Union and is welcomed into the land of Israel. Learn of the plight of our Beth Am family in Leningrad, the Israel Varnovitsky family.

February 26 - CAN CHICKEN SOUP AND MONEY MIX?

Hear five successful Jewish wives, mothers, and career women discuss the challenges that face them.

Natalie Baskin, Judge

Simma Lesser, Educator

Peggy Bealy, Economist

Dr. Judith Ratzan, Hematologist

Jackie Rose, Realtor

March 5 - YOUNG WOMEN ALONE

Dr. Edward Wallach and Dr. Michael Stokols, local psychologists, will discuss coping with loneliness and the responsibilities of women who must carry on without a mate. Panelists will include divorced young women and questions will be encouraged from the audience.

March 12 - MARRIAGE AMERICAN STYLE

Is marriage as we know it becoming outdated? How are the new mores affecting marriage? How can we help our marriages remain satisfying? Dr. Harry Graff and Dr. Theodore Wolff, psychiatrists, will present information and answer questions.

March 19 - HOW CAN WE ELIMINATE SCHOOL SHIFTS?

Representative Murray Dubbin and Mrs. Dorothy Serotta of the Miami Beach Senior High PTA will discuss this problem and legislation pending to stop it.

March 26 - HELP PLAN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE WITH EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE.

Bernard Yoffee and Gene Greenspan of the Jewish Vocational Service will offer information on career choice, testing programs, and school related problems. This service is available to youngsters from age 12 and is provided at Temple Beth Am.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25
8:30 p.m.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Stephen Dubov
Cantorial Soloist

RABBI BAUMGARD

'Have We Lost The Art Of Praying?'



SATURDAY, JANUARY 26
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

They're After Your Children!

Every parent of teenage children (or older) knows that this is not an easy world in which to bring up children. First, there has been a surge of super-individualism. Our children get infected by this bug when they are about 12. In sum, the message of this syndrome is "If your parents tell you some thing, it has to be wrong." Or, "You have no right to govern my life; I have the right to do whatever I want to do." Young people who have been slow in developing will first act in this way when they go away to college, and, frequently, their revolt will be extreme. Promiscuous sex and drugs may (or may not) be part of the scene.

All of this emphasis on individual freedom (without any of its responsibilities) leads ultimately to a great loneliness (as Phillip Slater of Brandeis points out in his book, "The Pursuit of Loneliness"). When the loneliness hits, it is overwhelming. Now the search begins, in desperation, for a group to which to belong, any group but the old group. Sometimes, a young person will flit from group to group, for example, from the college East Indian club (yoga, meditation, etc.) to sensitivity groups (not so popular, but only recently the rage), to evangelical Christian groups. The established Christian religions aren't doing so good (they are established, you see), but the fundamentalist groups have become a kind of haven for young people seeking atonement after promiscuous sex and drugs. After all, Jesus forgives. Believe in him and heaven is assured. Let's face it, this simple formula is appealing. It is appealing to some of our Jewish youngsters.

It doesn't matter that Isaiah said, in the name of God, "Though your sins have been as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." It doesn't matter that Judaism taught forgiveness for 2,000 years before Jesus lived. What matters is the FRIEND who takes you by your forsaken hand and says, "COME WITH US. WE WILL LOVE YOU. YOU WILL FIND FORGIVENESS." Usually, that friend, feverish in his cause, is a "Jesus Freak," or the like, and he is storing up points by getting converts. It doesn't matter to him that he is wresting this child from his family and his people. The proselytizer is ridding himself of his own guilt, wiping out his own sins, by bringing other lambs to the altar. Your child could be such a lamb.

It becomes difficult to talk to the Jewish youngsters caught in this game of "collecting lost souls." They want to be saved. They want desperately to be loved, to be forgiven, to find a TOTAL ANSWER for this meaningless world. They learn a few formulae; they repeat them with starry eyes. If you don't understand, it's because you aren't privileged, or blessed. Just keep trying, they say. Read this book (usually written by a Jewish convert to Christianity), they tell you, and it will change your way of life.

Most of the Jewish children who find their way to the Jesus freaks and to evangelical Christianity return to their families and cast off the cloak of Christianity. But we must ask ourselves, what is it we lack in our homes that makes it possible for even a small percentage of our children to turn their backs on the Jewish people. The answer to me is clear. We lack fervency. In our super-liberal, super-intellectual orientation towards life, our children can't see that we BELIEVE anything. Take stock of yourselves: Have your children ever seen you PRAY? (In Christianity, people pray.) Have your children ever heard you speak of the relationship of each individual to a loving and caring God?

(Continued next column)

outh News

Sorry we can't tell you where we are going, but we do assure you of a great time, January 20, at 12 noon, in front of the Youth Lounge. Bring your lunch and \$3.50 for admissions and the bus. Don't forget to invite your friends. Bus will return at 5:30 p.m.

The New School starts term II. Make sure you register for classes on Sunday, January 20. Dinner is \$1.00 and starts at 5:30. Classes are at 6:30. You need not have taken a class first semester to attend.

BAFTY, the Senior Youth Group, has a limited number of spots available on their retreat to Lake Wales (Circle F) on January 25-27. Don't miss this one. Call Mark Mintz at 279-4099.

A special "new members" meeting for all interested ninth graders will be held on January 23 at 7:15 in the Youth Lounge. The Chaverim Club welcomes all who are interested.

Congratulations to Bonnie Goldman, winner of the Regional Song Festival recently held at Tallahassee. Bonnie represented BAFTY with a beautiful, original, Sabbath song. Her competition consisted of youth groupers from the entire Southeast. Also, Marilyn Solomon was runner-up in the sermonette contest held at the same convention.

CAMP COLEMAN OPENINGS

For the first time in many years, there are openings at Camp Coleman for their first session from June 19 to July 16. These spaces will be held open until February 1, at which time they will be filled with campers who are attending the second session which starts on July 17. Remember the deadline is February 1.

BAFTY, the Temple youth group, is starting a new program. If any person, grades 1 - 12, is admitted to a hospital and wants a visitor, we will send a bright, cheery teenager to talk, laugh, and make him (her) feel better. If you want someone to visit your child, contact David Robbins, 665-6133.

(Their Christian friends speak about such a God). We're not talking now about nudging your children, because that, too, will turn them off. We're talking about homes devoid of spirituality, devoid of celebrations tied to Jewish holidays, which are Jewish "in name," but not in content.

Take note, beleaguered parents. They are after your children. If the anti-religionists don't get your child, the evangelical Christians might. Let the joy of being a Jew dominate your home and let love flow freely between you and yours. It's almost as good as chicken soup.

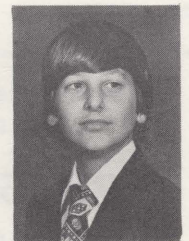
Bnai

Mitzuah

Saturday
January 26
11:15 a.m.



Larry, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Jerold Schwarz



Larry, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Suchman