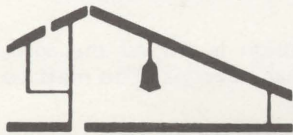


# Beth Am COMMENTATOR

MIAMI, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 1, 1974

## 61 Down--39 To Go



### The Committee Of 100

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

Dr. Sidney and Florence Fox  
Dr. Albert and Pat Gilson  
Sheldon and Rosalie Weiss



**November 3rd  
Is The Date**

At 9:00 a.m., on Sunday, November 3, Temple Beth Am will hold its annual blood bank drive. The place is the Social Hall. As is customary, Brotherhood will provide the manpower, and provide the hearty breakfasts to those who donate this precious fluid.

In our previous announcement, we indicated those who cannot donate blood: Those with colds, allergies, who are taking medication, have had hepatitis during the past six months, or who have visited Central and South America within the same time frame. Ladies who are under 110 pounds also fall within these categories.

We urge you, try to impress upon you, that this is a congregational blood bank. You are eligible if you never contributed a drop of blood or a dollar to our fund. It costs you nothing, whereas if you purchased the blood from a hospital, it would cost \$50.00 a unit, plus processing costs. So, if you can give blood, it will be a mitzvah for you and your family.

To those of you who cannot give blood, we solicit donations of from \$10.00 up to go to the American Branch of the Israeli Red Mogen David (their Red Cross equivalent).

## Beth Am Institute Of Jewish Studies

**Fall, 1974**

**MONDAY MORNINGS** — begins November 4, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

**HOW TO BE A JEWISH MOTHER.** How to observe the rituals, teach Jewish ideas, cook the food.

**MONDAY EVENINGS** — 7:15 to 8:15 p.m.

**UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE,** Chapel, Teenage Building Limited number of adults may join Confirmants. One hour course for 32 weeks. Taught by our Rabbis.

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS** — begins November 6, 8:20 to 9:15 p.m.

**MAIN JEWISH IDEAS** (about God, ethics, society; how do they differ from Christian, Moslem, and other ideas. What defines a Jew? What does a Jew have to believe?)

**ELEMENTARY HEBREW** — begins November 6, 7:30 to 8:20 p.m.

Adults who take our General Courses may receive credit towards Bar Mitzvah (Bat Mitzvah) or Confirmation. A group exercise will be held for those qualifying.

### For College Credit (Fee Courses)

Sponsored by the Central Agency for Jewish Education

**MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY MORNINGS** — 9:45 a.m.-noon.

**HEBREW ULPAN** - Course in session. 3 college credits, \$42.50.

#### TUESDAY EVENINGS

**CONCEPTS IN JUDAISM,** 3 quarter credits, F.I.U., Religion 323. \$13 for teachers; \$39 for others. Rabbi David Lehrfield. 22 weeks, beginning October 29, 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

**METHODS OF TEACHING IN THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL,** Dorothy Herman, \$13. 22 weeks beginning October 29, 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1  
7:30 p.m.

**RELIGIOUS  
SERVICES**

**FAMILY SERVICE**

RABBI ALTMAN  
will conduct a special

### Consecration Service



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2  
11:15 a.m.

**TORAH SERVICE**



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

## Let's Study Torah

Va-yay-rah (Genesis 18:1 - 22:24).

What does it mean "to see God?" This "parasha" or segment of the Torah gives us an idea in this regard. The Torah tells us that "The Lord appeared" unto Abraham, "and...he... saw...three men..." These men, we discover, were hungry and thirsty and in need of help. "To see God," the text suggests, is to see human beings in need.

This week's portion also gives us the great story of the impending destruction of Sodom. Our fathers who wrote the Torah knew that there had been an ancient city which had suffered severe destruction. When you travel to modern Sodom, 1,300 feet below sea level, you cannot help but think, as you gradually descend from the hills to the lowest spot on earth, that there must have been an earthquake which uprooted this area long ago. The thought that occurs to modern travelers in Israel also occurred to the ancient Hebrews, and a legend of such a great upheaval was most common then. The old legend was re-worked by the authors of our Torah and the story of Abraham's intervention with God emerged.

In this story (Gen. 18:20-23), God despairs of the evil of the people of Sodom and determines to eliminate the city (an echo of the flood city). Abraham, who cannot accept the contemporary notion that the gods are angry and punishing, intervenes. He dares to remind God that as the Judge of all the earth, He cannot destroy the righteous with the wicked. Were the story not so eventful for all mankind, we would have to say that it is quaint and almost ludicrous that a human being should have to remind God not to slaughter all the people in a city just because some of the people were evil.

The tremendous value of the story is that it describes the transition in the belief of, at least, one group of people (the Hebrews) that God is not punitive, but merciful. In this sense, the story is not quaint, but grand and revolutionary.

Abraham establishes the point through this story that the committed Hebrew must stand between man and impending catastrophe, even if this means arguing with God.

This parasha also tells us of the birth of Isaac, and Sarah's rejection of Hagar, her hand-maid, and her son, Ishmael (Ch. 21:1-20). It is touching to follow the story as it tells us that even though God wishes Isaac to be Abraham's heir, He befriends Hagar in her loneliness and takes care of her.

Most students of the Bible call the account of the "Sacrifice" of Isaac (Ch. 22) the highest part of this parasha. The scholars tell us that this event shows Abraham as a man of exemplary faith who was even willing to kill his "only son," Isaac ("only son" of Sarah), because God commanded it. The story says this, but I see its greater meaning as a transition story from human to animal sacrifice and means of worship (Ch. 22:13). Until Abraham, people thought that there was special piety in the sacrifice of the "only son" or "first-born son" to the gods. Abraham taught that God really doesn't want this and will accept animals as a substitute. Later on, the Prophets taught that God does not desire animal sacrifice either.

If you enjoy playing bridge, join the Sisterhood bridge group at its kickoff session on Wednesday, October 30, at 7:30 p.m., in the Youth Lounge.

The last Wednesday evening of each month will be bridge night at the Temple. During the intervening weeks, teams will play opposing teams at their convenience at home.

## Soviet Jewry BAFTY Concern

Did you know that over 120 young people turned out for the sock hop and that BAFTY rented a song-filled bus to the Soviet Jewry rally. Thanks to David Schwartz who strummed his fingers to the bone leading the bus in non-stop song.

If you missed the Shul-In and Creative Service, you missed a lot. A great amount of preparation went into the planning. Thanks to Beth Trilling and Ann Lesser. Watch for the next one coming soon.

Remember, it's not too late to join the New School, an exciting experiment in high school classes, run exclusively by teens every other Sunday. Call Patti Milberg at 233-3255 for details.

Don't forget Regional Convention is around the corner. It begins December 26 in Savannah, Georgia. You must be a paid-up member to be considered.

Mark October 27 and November 10 on your calendar. Dinner is at 5:30 followed by classes and an exciting program. Also, on December 1, we will show the "Dybbuk," a great film based upon ancient Jewish legend.

The following BAFTY Board Members are in need of your help: Project Committee, Barry Rosenberg, 233-0187; Program Committee, Debbie Kaiser, 233-1382; Religious Committee, Beth Trilling, 251-3579.

SEFTY applications for the ten day institute at Camp Coleman at the end of the summer are available from Rabbi Altman.

## Joan's Gems

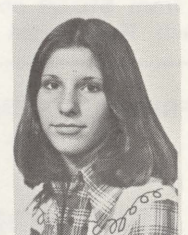
By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Dr. Raymond and Miriam Cohen recently returned from a trip to Israel with their family. At that time, their son, Barry, was Bar Mitzvah at the Western Wall. . . . Kudos to Ben, son of Sheldon and Rosalie Weiss, who was awarded the Top Cadet Award for the Ranger Battalion at the University of Alabama. . . . Did you know that Chanukah is only a few weeks away? December 8 is the first night. Our Judaica Shop is so well stocked for this occasion. Buy early and don't be left out. Menorahs, fine jewelry, gift items for the youngsters, and decorations are now plentiful. The ladies of our Sisterhood, chaired by Florence Birchansky and Nancy Hirsh, inform us that the Judaica Shop is open during Religious and Hebrew School hours, Friday evenings after services, and until Chanukah will be open especially for you on Monday mornings from 9 to 12 noon.

Mazel tov to Sherri, daughter of Murray and Florence Birchansky, who has been elected treasurer at Rockway Junior High and to Janie, daughter of Dr. Stuart and Clara Jean Clein, who has been chosen president of the seventh grade at South Miami Junior High,

*Bnai*

*Mitzvah*



Saturday  
November 2  
11:15 a.m.

William, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Herbstman  
Lisa, daughter of  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lang