



# Beth Am COMMENTATOR

MIAMI, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 15, 1974

**Sing Along With**

**Danny Tadmore At**

**A Night In Israel**

**Saturday, November 23**



Saturday night, November 23, promises to be a fun filled evening of entertainment and Israeli feasting at Temple Beth Am. The entertainment features Danny Tadmore, internationally renowned Israeli entertainer, and the Stu Granger orchestra. Danny Tadmore is one of Israel's most acclaimed and versatile entertainment personalities. Danny Tadmore is master of both the classical and popular guitars. His vocal repertoire includes songs in Hebrew, Yiddish, English, Spanish and Italian. Musician, arranger and actor, Danny Tadmore holds the rank of Lieutenant in the Israel Defense Forces Reserves, and was called to active duty during the Yom Kippur War.

A special Israeli buffet will be the culinary feature of the evening, with Israeli wine tasting and cocktails in the Temple quadrangle. There will be a spectacular Israeli slide show and we will help build Beth Am's own kibbutz through the purchase of State of Israel Bonds.

This fun filled evening is yours for only \$25.00 per couple. Contact Bernard or Evelyn Goodman at 661-8458 or the Temple office to RSVP.

## **Brotherhood Breakfast Sunday, Nov. 17**

The Brotherhood Breakfast Forum is honored to have as its speaker at its next breakfast forum on Sunday morning, November 17, at 9:30 a.m., in the Youth Lounge, Dr. Soia Mentschikoff, Dean of the law school of the University of Miami. Admission for Brotherhood members is \$1.00 and \$1.50 for non-members.

Dr. Mentschikoff will speak on the topic "Ethics and the Law Profession." Dr. Mentschikoff is one of the outstanding lawyers in the country and recently assumed the position of dean of the law school at the University of Miami. This should be an outstanding occasion for all those attending.

## **Excellence In Education**

By Rabbi JULIAN COOK, M.A.H.L.

Education has always been, and we hope will continue to be, one of the foundation blocks of Judaism. "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children" we recite from our prayer books. Bet Midrash (House of Learning) was one of the early Hebrew names for the synagogue. Without a firm commitment to education, Judaism would not have been able to survive all these thousands of years.

Beth Am is one of those rare institutions whose commitment to education is quite apparent from the number and variety of schools it maintains: Weekend Religious School, Hebrew School, Pre-School, Day School, New School (BAFTY) and the Institute of Jewish Studies (for adults). All our schools work in harmony to provide the families of Beth Am with the greatest possible opportunities for learning which a modern congregation can assemble.

Our Religious School, which meets Saturday and Sunday mornings and Monday evenings, has long been known for its excellence. It prepares students from Kindergarten through tenth grade for a full Jewish life by examining the history, literature, rituals, and culture which form our rich heritage. Completion of this program is marked by the Confirmation ceremony held each Spring.

We are pleased to welcome the following new teachers to our Religious School faculty: Fran Almon, Allan Bonilla, Debra Grodnick, Sue Kalinsky, Elaine Littman, Sharon Maybruck, Clara Mills, Danny Amihud, Bunny Miller, Wayne Silver, Allan Solomon, and Miriam Zadok. All have very fine qualifications and bring great talent and expertise to our school. Mr. Bonilla is a vice principal at a junior high. Mr. Amihud is an Israeli composer. Mr. Silver is the University of Miami debate coach, and Mr. Solomon is director of Camp Coleman.

We are, of course, pleased to have back many fine veterans of our school, many of whom have taught in our school for more than five years: Jon Baumgard, Ann Becker, Judy Clein, Caroline Cynamon, Barbara Dimond, Raisa Edleman (8 years), Sandy Goldman (6 years), David Halberg, Marilyn Harrison, Shirah Heilberg, Sam Hollander (10 years), Linda Kaplan, Mel Marcus (6 years), Lori Miller, Nahama Piolet, Harriet Potlock, Elaine Rackoff, Seena Rogers (6 years), Stephanie Ross, Jane Rosenberg, Robert Schneider (6 years), Joan Schwartz, Michelle Sobel, Helen Tall (8 years), Rita Trilling (8 years), Gail Wrubel, Sallye Goldman, Roberta Silbret, Barbara Sacks, and Barbara Weiner (9 years).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15  
8:30 p.m.

**RELIGIOUS  
SERVICES**

RABBI BAUMGARD

**'The Jewish Mind And  
The Jewish Heart'**



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16  
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE



## Let's Study Torah

Tol'doth--Genesis Ch. 25:19 – 28:9

Chronology is very important to the authors of the Bible. Who gave birth to whom is a critical matter, for the ancient Hebrews believed that God chose designated individuals for particular purposes, just as He chose the Hebrew people for their special role. The differences between individuals and peoples was a vital matter to our fathers, quite in contrast to the modern trend which teaches that everyone is the same.

This parasha tells us that Rebekah, the wife of Isaac, gave birth to twins. Of the two, Esau was the first to emerge from the womb by a few minutes. Therefore, he inherited the right of the first-born, which is to receive the larger part of his father's estate, and, normally, the leadership of the tribe. The story tells us that God favored the younger son, Jacob, and through a number of events we learn how Jacob became the leader of the tribe when Isaac died. The first thing that the Bible is telling us is that God may go against prevailing custom. This is the theme when Isaac is chosen over Ishmael, and it is the theme when Joseph is chosen over all of his older brothers. There seems to be a bias, on God's side, in favor of the disinherited or the weaker person.

Who amongst us does not know the story of Esau selling his birthright (the right of the first-born) for a "mess of pottage" (perhaps chicken soup?), see Ch. 25:29-34. This part of the larger story is told not only to show how Jacob earned the privilege of succeeding his father. It also teaches a more general moral, i.e., don't give up an important future right for the sake of present enjoyment.

Later on (Ch. 27:1-40), we have a second story of how Jacob obtained Esau's right of the first-born. This is the famous tale whereby Rebekah conceives a plan to deceive the blind and dying Isaac so that he will bless Jacob with the right of being the tribal leader. Since Esau was a rough, hairy man, a hunter by avocation, Jacob is dressed in goat skin clothes so that he will smell and feel like Esau. Only later does Isaac discover what has happened, but once a blessing is given, it cannot be withdrawn. The story is beautifully told, for at one point, we seem to feel that the blind Isaac really knows that Esau does not stand before him, yet he continues with the blessing (Ch. 27:20-22). The words, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau" have become a commonplace to designate suspicion of deception.

It is interesting that the text tells us that Esau, the outdoor type, was his father's favorite, but Jacob was Rebekah's favorite (Ch. 25:28). This seemed to be true also in the case of Abraham's sons, Ishmael and Isaac. The former was the father's favorite. In each case, however, it is the mother who maneuvers her favorite to be the new tribal leader. Certainly, this shows that women had an important role in the ancient Hebrew society. One thinks of Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof." He was the boss, or was he?

When Isaac learns of what has happened, he nonetheless calls Jacob back to him and reaffirms his original blessing (Ch. 28:1-4). This would seem to suggest that Jacob wasn't seriously unhappy about the turn of events. But Esau, we are told, hated his brother because he had been so deprived (27:41-45). Thus, Rebekah advises Jacob to leave the area until Esau's anger abates, and the tension begins to build up: what will Esau do to Jacob when next they meet? The Torah makes us wait until next week's parasha to find the dramatic and emotion-packed answer.

## Thursday Is Adult Sport Night

Starting at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 14, the second floor sports area of the Teenage Building will be open for adults (over 18 years of age) to partake of basketball and/or volleyball. Come on Thursday nights with sneakers and shorts (and pep pills if you need them) ready to play. No organization as yet, but we will work out the details when we see the turnout. Any doctor who wants to serve as medical advisor and can administer oxygen to our older participants will be most welcome.

## Joan's Gems

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Kudos to Bernard Braverman who has just been admitted to the Florida Bar Association. He should be commended because it took four years of night school to reach this marvelous goal! . . . Congrats to Steven, son of Joan Schwartzman, who has been elected to National Spanish Honor Society at South Miami Senior High. . . . Get well wishes to George Rosenberg, Ruby Josephson, Ethel Tumarkin, Morton Schoen, Yetta Rubenstein, Patti Clein, Beth Kaiser, Hollis Beck, Susan Rubin, Jack Newmark, Lee Efronson, Merrily Karter, Esther Winick, Barbara Arman, Frank Tryson, Mark Katzen, Paula Klein, Michelle Packar, and Susan Yankow.

Want to get involved? Why not volunteer your services with our new youth activities? For more information, contact Fran Schreiber, 661-0004, Elaine Newmark, 235-8101, or Irene Masel, 279-0400. . . . We love to print good news. Why not send yours in and share it with our congregants? . . . Latest with the Asher Marks family--son, Barry, graduated from Emory last June magna cum laude and recently received the news that he has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Emory. Presently, he's attending the University of Florida Law School while his wife, Shelly, attends undergraduate school. By the way, Barry has just had a poem published in the latest edition of a magazine called "Directions." Daughter, Sharyn, had a 4.0 this past semester and made the President's Honor Roll. Asher and Dorothy have much to be proud of. Their kids are quite something. By the way, Dorothy has attained an honor in her own right. After teaching ten years in the Dade County schools, she received word that her name was selected to appear in the 1974 edition of "Outstanding Elementary Teachers of America." She was also listed as such in the 1972 edition. That's quite a family.

Gerry and Felice Schwartz tell me that their son, Gregg, is playing on the University of North Carolina baseball team while son, Gary, is getting his Master's Degree at the University of Florida. Gary's wife, Lori, is graduating this year at the University of Florida in the field of broadcasting.

*Bnai*

*Mitzvah*

Saturday  
November 16  
11:15 a.m.



Michael, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kohner  
David, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Birenbaum  
(No photo available)