

Beth Am COMMENTATOR

MIAMI, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 8, 1974

Irene And William Baros

Honored By

State Of Israel Bonds

On November 23



At an exciting "Night In Israel" on Saturday, November 23, at 7:30 p.m., at Temple Beth Am, the State of Israel Masada Award will be presented to Bill and Irene Baros "for notable achievement in fortifying the economic foundations of Israel and strengthening its hopes for peace and freedom so that its people may never again be faced with the martyrdom of Masada." Bill and Irene are tireless workers on behalf of Temple Beth Am, the Jewish community, and the State of Israel Bonds. Their dedication for the survival of our way of life has been a strength and inspiration for countless others.

The "Night In Israel" will feature Danny Tadmor, internationally renowned Israeli entertainer. A special gala Israeli buffet with Israeli wine tasting, cocktails and a spectacular Israeli slide show will be among the highlights of the evening. Those attending will help build Beth Am's own kibbutz in Israel through Israel Bonds.

Adult Education Starts

Monday Mornings — How To Be A Jewish Mother
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Monday Evenings — Understanding the Bible, 7:15.

Wednesday Evenings — Elementary Hebrew, 7:30 to 8:20.
Main Jewish Ideas, 8:20 to 9:15.

Jewish Book Month Begins Library Has Many New Books

Beth Am will set off National Jewish Book Month with a review of the book, "The Arab Mind," by Raphael Patai, to be presented by Rabbi Baumgard on Friday, November 8, at the 8:30 p.m. service.

A second album of medals, sculpted by Karen Worth and issued by The Judaic Heritage Society, is now on display. The title of the series is "The Medallic History of the Jews of America." These beautiful medals, in solid bronze, are a continuing gift to the library from an anonymous and generous donor.

Jewish Book Month extends from November 8 to December 8. Our library reports that the following exciting books have been received recently:

"Uri," by Andrija Puharich, the story of Uri Geller, the extraordinary Israeli psychic.

"Voyage of the Damned," by Gordon Thomas and Max Witts. A history of the refugee ship, St. Louis, refused entry in America and forced to return to Nazi Germany.

"Kissinger," by Marvin and Bernard Kalb. A biography by two well known news analysts.

"Monuments to the Victims of Tyranny," by Adolf Rieth. Pictures of sculpture.

"The House of David," by Jerry Landay. The period of Israel's first kings in history and archaeology.

"The Sephardic Tradition," edited by Moshe Lazar. Ladino and Spanish-Jewish literature.

"Minding The Store," by Stanley Marcus. The story of Neiman Marcus and Stanley Marcus.

Rabbi's Holiday Sermons Available

Rosh Hashanah morning: "No Man Is Above the Law--
The Jewish Contribution to America."

Rosh Hashanah evening: "On Finding God--The Philo-
sophic or Mystic Way?"

Yom Kippur morning: "What Lies Ahead For the Jewish
People?"

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8
8:30 p.m.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Adult Choir will perform
Selma Baumgard, Choirmaster

RABBI BAUMGARD
A Book Review for Jewish Book Month

'The Arab Mind'

By Raphael Patai



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE



Let's Study Torah

(Note: Please use as additional commentary, "Pentateuch and Haftorahs," edited by Hertz, Soncino Press.)

Chayah Sarah, Genesis 23:1 – 25-18. Read these chapters and verses.

This "parasha," or segment, tells of the death of Sarah. What is especially interesting to us is that if one goes to Israel today and visits Hebron, one can find the plot of land, and, presumably, the very sepulchre where Sarah was buried. The site has been preserved in recent centuries by the Arabs as a holy site and as a Mosque.

The portion also tells of the death of Abraham. Just before his death, Abraham tells the manager of his enterprises, Eliezer, I want you to promise me that you will return to the land of my birth and obtain there a wife for my son, Isaac, since I don't want him to marry one of these Canaanite pagans (Ch. 24:1-9). It is interesting that even the very first Jew, Abraham, himself not born of Jewish parents, was concerned with the problem of inter-marriage. We are to understand here that the problem was one of conflicting cultures, not of blood. The Canaanites had no ethical religious orientation whatsoever. They practiced a fertility cult which encouraged all sorts of fornication as a kind of sympathetic magic. Such sexual intercourse involved not only people of the same sex, but men and animals, and man and the earth (impregnation of the earth so that it would produce good crops).

The touching story whereby Eliezer finds Rebekah is a lovely novelette (24:10-67). She is immediately revealed as a kind and generous lady (24:17-18). She does not hesitate to give him, as a stranger, water for his camel and for himself. The loyalty (hesed) Eliezer shows his deceased master is also a dominant feature of this story. In spite of the difficulties of the journey and the obvious chances for coming back empty-handed, he fulfills his "brit," covenant or agreement, with Abraham. Laban, Rebekah's brother, who had assumed the responsibilities left by her deceased father, permits Rebekah to go back with Eliezer because he is shown Abraham's ring as a mark of identification (Ch. 24:29:30). Nonetheless, Laban, like a true older brother, has doubts about the whole thing and is reluctant to let his ward go with this stranger. He says to Eliezer, "Let her stay with us a few more days, at least ten, and then we will let her go with you." The servant is impatient, however, to return to Isaac, and finally the parting is arranged.

Rebekah obviously was taking a big chance, yet she knew that she would like Isaac. Why was that? The story tells us that when she first saw Isaac, he was walking in the fields, "meditating at eventide" (24:63-67). Isaac is consistently presented in the Biblical story as a thoughtful type, considerate and tender, and unlike the more aggressive older brother, Ishmael, who was a hunter and wanderer. Rebekah liked the fact that meditating in the field was one of his pastimes.

There is an interesting psychological insight revealed to us at the end of this particular incident (24:67). We are told that in marrying Rebekah, Isaac was "comforted for the loss of his mother." Without Freud, our fathers understood a few things about human relationships. As the son of Sarah's old age, Isaac was inevitably close to her. Her death must have been a great blow to him. Now, there was another woman in his house. True, she was his wife, but she also fulfilled some of the functions of mother. Doesn't every wife?

New Telephone Numbers

The phone system at the Temple has been revamped. Among other things, we have installed a new number for the Nursery School and Primary School. In calling the Temple, please dial the numbers indicated below when trying to reach various departments. (Save for future reference).

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| TEMPLE OFFICE | 667-5587 |
| Rabbi Baumgard, Rabbi Altman, David Stuart, Administrator, Joan Schwartzman, Administrative Assistant, Yahrzeit Information, Bookkeeping, etc. | |
| RELIGIOUS SCHOOL | 666-2536 |
| Rabbi Cook, Educator, Jean Gillis, Sec., Callie Loss, Hebrew School Principal. | |
| DAY SCHOOL/NURSERY SCHOOL | 665-6228 |
| Sim Lesser, Director Lee Rogel, Secretary | |

Temple Tupperware Party

On Wednesday, November 6, 7:30 p.m., in the Temple Youth Lounge, Sisterhood will sponsor a Tupperware Party.

Buy your top quality Tupperware goodies through Sisterhood and receive 15 percent donor credit on your purchase. Bring friends who are not Sisterhood members and earn donor credit on their purchases! Bring your mother-in-law; treat her to a night out.

Of course, we'll have coffee and cake and a fun time for all.

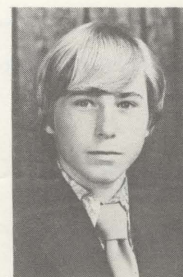
Judaica Shop Features Artisans

Artisans Enid Rosen and Binnie Rosen will exhibit a selection of their Jewish Theme etched-on-metal pictures during the Oneg Shabbot following the service on November 8. In addition, their unique process can provide you, upon request, with a metal etching of any personal photograph of your choice. Your favorite Bas or Bar Mitzvah, wedding, or family photos, thus converted, would make unusually attractive and meaningful Chanukah gifts for family or friends.

Bnai

Mitzvah

Saturday
November 9
11:15 a.m.



Michael, son of
Dr. and Mrs. Fred Wasserman