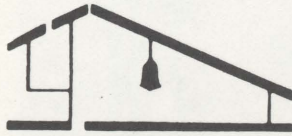


# Beth Am COMMENTATOR

MIAMI, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 11, 1974



## The Committee Of 100

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

Dr. Melvin and Nancy Greenfield  
Dr. Mark and Barbara Yaffey

## Guardians' Response Heartening

As this issue of the COMMENTATOR goes to press on the day after Yom Kippur, we are happy to announce that two additional families have come forward to become Guardians of the Teenage Building. These new Guardian families bring the total for this appeal to five.

The families listed below have responded to the call for

## Guardians Of Our Youth

Norman and Irma Braman  
Neil and Nancy Braverman  
J. Arthur and Linda Goldberg  
Jay and Ellie Kaiser  
Sam and Edith Stark

## Calendar For October

SIMHAT TORAH PROCESSIONAL SERVICE  
Mon., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary  
NO SCHOOLS, OFFICE CLOSED . . . . . Tues., Oct. 8  
SIMHAT TORAH MEMORIAL SERVICE  
Tues., Oct. 8, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary  
YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wed., Oct. 9, 8:00 p.m., Room 19  
SERVICES . . . . . Fri., Oct. 11, 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary  
BAFTY AND NEW SCHOOL  
Sun., Oct. 13, 5:30 p.m., Youth Lounge  
ISRAEL BOND MEETING  
Tues., Oct. 15, Room 19, 8:00 p.m.  
COTILLION . . . . . Tues., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m., Social Hall  
SISTERHOOD LUNCHEON  
Wed., Oct. 16, 10:00 a.m., Social Hall  
BAFTY SHUL-IN . . Fri., Oct. 18, 8:30 p.m., Youth Lounge  
SERVICES . . . . . Fri., Oct. 18, 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary  
BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST  
Sun., Oct. 20, 9:30 a.m., Youth Lounge  
TEMPLE BOARD MEETING  
Mon., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m., Chapel  
COTILLION . . . . . Tues., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m., Social Hall  
SERVICES . . . . . Fri., Oct. 25, 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary  
COUPLES CLUB . . Sat., Oct. 26, 8:00 p.m., Youth Lounge  
BAFTY AND NEW SCHOOL  
Sun., Oct. 27, 5:30 p.m., Youth Lounge  
COTILLION . . . . . Tues., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m., Social Hall  
SISTERHOOD TEA . . Wed., Oct. 30, 10:00 a.m., Social Hall  
BRIDGE CLUB . . . Wed., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m., Youth Lounge

## Couples Club Meets Saturday, October 26, At 8:00 P. M.

The Beth Am Couples Club anxiously invites all married members of our Temple family to join our efforts to spread warmth, familiarity, and to develop friendships within our large congregation.

Keep the date of October 26 open for our first get-together of the new year. An original playlet, humorous, yet thought-provoking, will be presented, entitled "The I-Should'a-Gone to Sunday School Jewish Encounter Group."

Afterwards, participate in our own Jewish Encounter Group. Donation is \$2.00 per couple on Saturday, October 26, in the Youth Lounge, at 8:00 p.m. R.S.V.P. to Carol Hankin, 235-7180, or Carol Weiss, 251-3197.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11  
8:30 p.m.

RABBI ALTMAN

## '5735--A Year Of Decisions'

RELIGIOUS  
SERVICES



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12  
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE



## Let's Study Torah

Note: Beginning this week, we begin a new series discussing the content of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible). We will follow the traditional cycle of reading as it is read in the Synagogue. A discussion is held every Saturday morning at our Torah Service at 11:15 a.m. All are invited.

Read Genesis (B'rashit), Chapter 1:1 - 6:8

At the Simchat Torah service, the last day of the festival of Sukkot, which occurs at this season, we read from the Torahs. It is a part of the "fun" of this service that we end the reading of one Torah with the last words in Deuteronomy, and we read the first words in the second Torah. In the former, we read of the death of Moses, and, then, the reader of the Torah (the Ba'al Koreh) reads about the creation of the world (traditionally, without taking a breath). The implication, of course, is that because of the power of God, there is really no death. Similarly, if Israel continues to live by and through the Torah, it will never die.

We living Jews make the Torah our own by constantly reliving its events. To study it is to become thereby an historian, a student of morality, a philosopher. Millions of people have come to God through the Torah and through it they have developed a new respect for man and for the people of Israel.

How are we to regard these first chapters of Genesis? Was the world really created in just this fashion? For centuries, people have argued over these words in relation to the theory of evolution. For many years, the view was that if you believed in evolution, you were invalidating the Torah, and vice-versa. Some traditional Jews (Orthodox) contend that the "days" described in Genesis are really millenia, long ages of time; so that even if we accept the idea that our fathers knew precisely how God created the world, and that He created it just as Genesis depicts, it is possible to square out the description with the theory that creation proceeded in evolutionary stages. As a Reform Rabbi, and as one who looks at the Torah with a critical view, as one who believes that it was written by inspired men and not by God, I would not be disturbed if there were a difference between the view of those who wrote the Torah and those who propose the theory of evolution. The truth is that noone knows how the world came into being, and all of us operate with theories!

The beauty of the Torah story, however, is its hypothesis. Our fathers hypothesized that **HOWEVER THE WORLD CAME INTO BEING**, it was created, it didn't just happen. Had our fathers really known how the world was created, surely they would have spent more than a few words on this tantalizing subject. Instead, they hastened to their conclusion which is that **THE WORLD IS THE PRODUCT OF A CREATOR-GOD**. The second point our fathers emphasize in this story is that God's creation has a **PLAN FOR MAN**. God says to Adam and Eve, in effect, "Here is the world . . . subdue it . . . and govern it . . . **AS I WISH YOU TO GOVERN IT.**" This is the meaning of the creation story. It is one vehicle whereby our Jewish fathers attempted to link God and man together in a continuing relationship with moral meaning.

For Jews, the key question is not-did the creation happen in just this way? The question is-do we accept the fundamental proposition that there is indeed a relationship between the Creator and man and that mankind has a profound responsibility to further the plan of creation in God's way.

## An Original Play By BAFTY



Left to right: Richard Sacks, Debbie Katz, Ross Goodman presenting an original play to first BAFTY meeting crowd.

## Cotillion Begins For 8th Graders

Cotillion will begin for all interested eighth graders on Tuesday evening, October 15, in our Social Hall. For only \$25.00 per child, a ten week course of the latest dances will be taught from 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. each Tuesday evening in our Social Hall. Refreshments will be served. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Seventh graders will have an opportunity to join a cotillion class in January.

If your child is interested in cotillion now for eighth graders, please fill out the coupon below and mail to the Temple office. For further information, please call Mrs. Richard Litt (Bobbi), 235-2504, or Mrs. Howard Katzen (Barbara), 665-7693, co-chairmen.

NAME OF CHILD \_\_\_\_\_


PARENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

*Bnai*

*Mitzvah*

Saturday  
October 12  
11:15 a.m.




Stewart, son of  
Dr. and Mrs. Martin Liebling

Donald, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Baker

This is the perspective which we shall apply to the Torah and to the history which our fathers attempted to write.

Other important stories in this week's "parasha" (or portion) which you should read are: The Story of the Garden of Eden, Ch. 3; Cain and Abel, Ch. 4; Noah and the Flood, Ch. 6. These stories will be analyzed in this column in the future.