



Beth Am COMMENTATOR

Bar Mitzvah Notice Of Requirements

It has come to our attention that students near their Bar Mitzvah date have not fulfilled their Religious School requirements, and the date of their ceremony has had to be delayed for a considerable length of time. We have publicized these requirements many times and do so again.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR BAR/BAT MITZVAH, A CHILD MUST HAVE:

- A. Completed at least three years in the Religious School, immediately prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah. (Tenth through twelfth years in the weekend school).
- B. Completed at least three years in the Hebrew School. (The mid-week school).
- C. Completed the pre-Bar Mitzvah training program with the Rabbis to their satisfaction.

**UNTIL THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE FULFILLED
NO BAR MITZVAH DATE MAY BE CONSIDERED
DEFINITE.**

The vast majority of our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students go on to Confirmation, which is the graduation from our Religious School at the end of the tenth grade. This is the higher and more important graduation.

A Review Of 'The Night For Israel'

Have you heard the comments about "The Night For Israel" affair held last year at Temple Beth Am?

- "Most original Israel Bond affair ever."--B.G.
- "A must see to believe party. Don't miss."--H.M.B.
- "A gourmet meal, lots of wine, a bargain."--N.S.
- "Lots of wine, food, song, and it helps Israel."--D.S.
- "A sure fire Academy Award winner."--M.L.

Come to

A NIGHT FOR ISRAEL

Saturday, December 6, 1975 at 7 p.m., at Temple Beth Am--\$15.00 per person--R.S.V.P.

Under the auspices of the Greater Miami Israel Bond Organization.

Candlelight Service, Friday, Dec. 5 Bring Candles To Service

The Temple's annual Chanukah Service will be held on Friday evening, December 5, at 7:30 p.m. At this service, we always hold our original Candlelight Service, for which purpose you are asked to bring a Chanukah candle for each person attending. Make certain that your candle has a piece of tinfoil on the bottom, so arranged that the candle will not drip. If you have not attended our annual Candlelight Service, you will find this an exciting event.

CHANUKAH MENORAH CONTEST

Entries for the Chanukah Menorah Contest must be in by noon on December 5. Winners will be announced from the pulpit during the Candlelight Service that night.

Chanukah Concert December 12 Dedicated To American Bicentennial

Last year, the Temple Choir received a standing ovation after its Chanukah concert. You will want to be present (and bring your family) on Friday night, December 12, at 8:30 p.m. when the Choir once again descends from its loft, confronts the congregation from the podium, and sings its special program.

SONGS OF FREEDOM

The program this year is entitled "Songs of Freedom," and features songs from America and Israel. It will also feature a collection of Chanukah music, some of it seldom heard today.

Beth Amites ought to be aware that our Choir is one of the foremost musical organizations in the state. It is directed by Selma Baumgard (its originator and developer) and includes music professors from the University of Miami and outstanding soloists from local operatic and choral groups.

While the music program is on a high level, it will be appreciated by children fifth grade and up. Let's celebrate Chanukah in the Temple.

Rededication Of Sanctuary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 8:30 p.m.
SANCTUARY DONORS TO BE HONORED

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5
7:30 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICE
RELIGIOUS
SERVICES

Choir of the Month
2nd Grade of Religious School

RABBI BAUMGARD

"What The Menorah Said
To The Christmas Tree"



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE



Racism And "Chosenness"

I was surprised to discover recently that a few Christians give some credence to the "racism" charge against "Zionists" (read Jews) because the Jews consider themselves "The Chosen People." Some people equate the doctrine of chosenness with a doctrine of superiority.

They misunderstand the doctrine of chosenness as it is propounded in our scripture. Abraham was chosen to enter into a covenant (bris, brit) with God. This involved some rewards, true, (one of the rewards was the land of Israel), but it also involved tremendous responsibility. Abraham had to agree to do God's bidding (to follow His laws), and he had to promise to extend, to share, God's blessings with others. From the beginning, then, chosenness, as the Jews understood it, was a matter of noblesse oblige. The chosen one had to assume a great burden, he had to be God's servant, His agent in mediating His laws.

The prophets make it clear that bearing such a responsibility may lead to suffering rather than to rewards. God says to Israel through the prophet Amos, "You only have I known amongst the nations, therefore, I shall hold you doubly responsible!"

He who reads the Bible objectively concludes that Israel is presented not as a nation superior in racial characteristics, but as a people called to service.

God is described as loving all peoples, but Israel is to Him as a "first-born son," equal to the other children, but held in a special relationship of intimacy; Israel is "a special treasure."

The New Testament states that salvation is only for those who believe in Jesus as the Christ. This is an exclusive belief. Judaism says all men are acceptable to God who follow the "Noahic Laws," six of the Ten Commandments given to Noah. The Koran teaches that only those who believe as Mohammed says will be "saved." The Jews are singled out for damnation for rejecting Mohammed as a prophet. The Gospel of John specifically condemns the Jews in the New Testament. Such condemnation of Mohammedans and Christians is not a part of Jewish scripture or of later Jewish tradition.

The tragedy is not that Jews think of themselves as superior to others, but that they forget that they have been called to bring the message of a higher morality to the world. They frequently forget to translate their suffering into a deeper meaning. The truth is that most Jews act just like everyone else and are not superior in any sense. They aren't even "chosen," because they don't choose to be called by God or to serve Him. To suffer without a mission is the saddest thing of all.

SHABBAT DINNER FOR NINTH GRADERS, DEC. 12

Beth Am's ninth grade youth group will have a Friday night Shabbat dinner on December 12, from 6:30 to about 9:30 p.m., at Gary Sharps' house. The address is 6340 S.W. 120th Street.

The Shabbat dinner will include a short service, full dinner prepared by the food committee, and music and socializing. **THIS DINNER IS FOR PAID MEMBERS ONLY.**

EIGHTH GRADE GOOZING PARTY, FRIDAY, DEC. 5

The eighth grade youth group will meet on Friday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m., for the Family Worship Service. Bring a candle. From there, we will be going to the home of Ondine Schulemson at 9041 S.W. 66 Terrace for a Chanukah "Goozing" Party. Transportation to the party will be provided. This is open to all eighth graders.

Joan's Gems

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Did you know that our own Susie Cook (Mrs. Julian) was one of the 13 delegates from greater Miami at the Joint Program Institute of the National Council of Jewish Women in Washington, D.C.? The institute brings together leaders from all over the country to meet with members of Congress, governmental leaders and activists in various human affairs. Susie had a chance to meet with several Florida congressmen and to participate in special sessions dealing with juvenile delinquency, gun control, and privacy. Rabbi Cook performed meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty; he stayed home with the boys! Hear tell that our own Judy Gilbert, President, attended the above conference.

Our youth groups are really in high gear. We have groups for all ages. The answer is to get involved. . . . Oops, we made a boo boo. It's Linda Goldberg (Mrs. J. Arthur) who is executive vice president of the Council for International Visitors. Sorry we gave the kudos to Arthur. . . . Mazel tov to Susan and Herbert Weinsoff who have become parents of a baby girl, Stacey Heather. She weighed in at a hefty 8 lbs., 4 ounces. . . . Congrats to Andrea, daughter of Eva and Fred Rawicz, who has been accepted into National Junior Honor Society at Palmetto Junior High. . . . We are proud to announce the arrival of a bouncing 18 year old Vietnamese girl, named Le Hoa, who will be sponsored by Millie and Bob Infeld. Welcome to our land and to our Temple family.

Congrats to Jodi, daughter of Robert and Bud Levy, who was chosen a homecoming princess at Palmetto Senior High School. . . . Eric, son of Marvin and Norma Lieberman, has been chosen a member of National Junior Honor Society at Glades Junior High School. . . . We are so proud of our young people and their accomplishments. More to report. . . . Ross, son of Bern and Evelyn Goodman, is a semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholarships.

Bnai

Mitzvah

Saturday
December 6
11:15 a.m.



Jeffrey and Franklin
sons of
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Karr