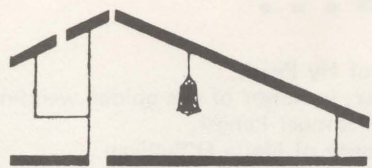


DECEMBER 19, 1975
MIAMI, FLORIDA



Beth Am COMMENTATOR

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner.

The Collegians Friday, Dec. 26

An informal dinner for our collegians will be held on Friday evening, December 26, at 6 p.m., in the Youth Lounge. The dinner will be buffet. There will be entertainment, a brief discussion period with Rabbi Baumgard, and dancing for those who wish it.

The session will last from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$2 per person. An application form is found below.

For Collegians Only

BUFFET DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT, DISCUSSION

Friday, December 26, 6 p. m. to 8 p. m.

Youth Lounge

Bring your guitar, dancing shoes, or a friend

Reserve now with coupon below Cost \$2

Dear Rabbi Baumgard:

Please reserve _____ places for your informal buffet dinner, Friday, Dec. 26, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Name _____ College _____

Name _____ College _____

Enclosed, please find \$2 per dinner. Make check payable to Temple Beth Am and mail to 5950 N. Kendall Drive, Miami 33156.

Rededication Of Sanctuary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 8:30 p.m.
SEE PAGE 3 FOR LIST OF HONOREES

Sylvan Lebow Speaks At Breakfast Sunday, December 28, At 9:30 A. M.

Sylvan Lebow of New York, executive director of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, will be the guest speaker at a breakfast meeting of Temple Beth Am Brotherhood on Sunday, December 28, at 9:30 a.m. His topic will be "Can the Truth Make Men Free?"

He will show a new quarter-hour motion picture, "Choose Life," featuring the world-renowned cellist, Gregor Piatigorsky, which he recently produced for the Jewish Chautauqua Society, the brotherhood's major educational project for interfaith understanding. The film was telecast in 70 major cities from coast to coast in September and won major awards this month in the New York International Film Festival and the Film Festival of the Americas.

Mr. Lebow has produced 36 motion pictures about Judaism which have had over 20,000 telecasts on 600 TV stations throughout the world. He is editor of Brotherhood Magazine and author of a book, "The Temple Brotherhood," an organizational manual setting forth brotherhood purposes and how to achieve them.

Operation Re-entry Discussion At Joint Meeting Dec. 17, 8 P. M.

Reservations are coming in fast for "An Evening of Dessert With Warren Klein." This is a joint program being sponsored by Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and BAFTY on Wednesday evening, December 17, at 8 p.m., in the Social Hall. Admission is free. Bring your teenagers, friends and relatives.

Warren Klein is supervisor for this program aimed at re-educating youngsters from all over Dade County who have dropped out of the mainstream. It is best known as a drug abuse program, but also deals with problem areas such as negative self-concept, vandalism, and academic failure.

After the discussion, there will be music and snacks. For reservations, call Florence Birchansky, 226-4299, Barbara Sacks, 238-9825, Debbie Liebling, 251-5209, or the Temple office, 667-5587.

Counsellor Interviews Tuesday, December 30

Interviews for senior counsellors, junior counsellors and specialists for Beth Am's summer program will be held at the Temple in the Youth Lounge from noon to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 30. Applications for openings are available in the Temple office from Rhoda Bernheimer and should be brought with you at the time of the interview.

Al Schlazer and Rose Ashbes, our directors, will be conducting the interviews on the 30th. If you have any questions, Al Schlazer can be reached at home after 6:00 p.m. at 264-3779.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19
8:30 p.m.

RABBI BAUMGARD

'Zen Buddhism And Chassidism'

A comparison of two kinds of mysticism

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20
11:15 a.m.

RELIGIOUS
SERVICES

Henry LeClair
Cantorial Soloist



TORAH SERVICE



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

A Jew At Christmas Time

I know some Jews who feel guilty about enjoying themselves at Christmas time. Even when I was a young lad, I was able to join in the warmth of this Christian season without feeling guilty about it or without losing my sense of difference. As a street vendor of newspapers, I had to ride about seven miles downtown on my bike in order to get my papers and to scramble around selling them on street corners and side alleys. Riding home on my bike at dark, I would note the decorated homes in their attractive lights and bask in the gaiety of the season. It was a good time of the year. I don't see anything wrong with a Jew sharing the secondary (non-Christological) aspects of this season

I know some Jews who feel guilty about being Jews at Christmas time. They really don't understand why they can't be like everyone else, and they long to have a Christmas tree, to give presents at this season, and to lose themselves in the mass demonstration of togetherness. I was fortunate in never having this feeling even when I was young. I didn't envy the people who had Christmas trees. This was their thing, not mine. I had the Menorah. They had the electric lights, but I had the gleaming candles. Later on, I learned that I could create beautiful Jewish symbols with electric lights too. In the public schools, we Jewish kids didn't worry too much about the fact that there were only a few of us and that Christmas carols were a regular part of the curriculum. We just left out those parts of the songs that said "Jesus" or "Christ" or "holy infant" or the like. We were part of the singing, but we were different. We enjoyed that difference. We felt pride in it.

I have never envied the Christians the joy of their wonderful holiday of Christmas. I would hope that the friendliness that permeates this season would last a little longer. I participated in the seasonal happiness as much as I could, but I was able without any real difficulty to keep one foot well outside of the celebration. The season was thus a test trial for me and my fellow Jews in asserting our difference. We didn't assert it publicly. We affirmed it within ourselves and at home. Christmas time was, thus, a time for Jewish training.

I find that those Jews today who really celebrate Chanukah are not envious at Christmas time. I find that those Jews who understand their religion and take time out to enjoy it are not ill at ease at Christmas time. They go around with a sort of objective smile. If you are not one of those with this kind of ease, you need to learn more about Judaism. You need to work harder at celebrating your own holidays.

Jews have always been faced with the problem of resisting absorption into the majority culture. Observing non-Jewish customs and holidays is a subtle way of being drawn into non-Jewish beliefs and practices. In ancient Babylonia, the conquered Jews deliberately built up their "Yom T'ruah, The Day of Blowing the Ram's Horn" to compete with the dramatic Babylonian New Year festival. In ancient Rome, the Jews boycotted the celebration of the god Janus on the first day of January because it was a day for becoming drunk and for sexual license. The technique of survival for a minority group (a tiny one like ours) is to be so well informed about what you are so that you can assert your own traditions and values in the midst of whirling excitement. If you don't have a firm resolve and a strong identity, you will be caught in the whirlpool and lose your individuality.

Contributions . . .

RABBI'S FUND

Janice Delson, in memory of Hy Pearl.
Marshall and Barbara Langer, in honor of the golden wedding anniversary of Edna and Samuel Langer.
Ida and Irving Lax, in memory of Marie O'Sullivan.
Sam Levin, in appreciation of Rabbi Baumgard's prayer for the speedy recovery of his sister, Irene Levin.
Ruth and Milton Manshel, in honor of the golden wedding anniversary of Edna and Samuel Langer.
Berrie Shaw, in memory of Lillian Greenwald's mother, Rae Kosser.
Mary Simon.

TEENAGE BUILDING FUND

Minnie Berkowitz, in honor of her great grandson, Donald Aaron Stimler, and grandson of Jack and Doris Hoffman.
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Goodman, in honor of Alan Kessler's birthday.
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Goodman, in honor of Harriet Potlock's birthday.
Dr. and Mrs. Melvin J. Hellinger, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Michael David.
Janice and David Stuart, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Steven Suchman.
Janice and David Stuart, in honor of the birth of a great grandson, Donald Aaron Stimler, to Minnie Berkowitz, and grandson to Jack and Doris Hoffman.

ARNELLE SOLOMON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Rudnick, in memory of Arnelle Solomon.

COLLEGIAN FUND

Howard and Barbara Katzen, in honor of Lynn Katzen's appreciation for Rabbi Baumgard's visit to New Orleans.

GENERAL FUND

An anonymous donation has been made in honor of Phil Revitz's miracle in saving Cedars of Lebanon Hospital.
Stan and Barbara Mintz, in memory of Jennie Mintz.

LIBRARY FUND

Ruth Chaykin, in memory of Pearl Levine.
Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Ellins, in honor of the birth of a grandson to Doris and Jack Hoffman.
Samuel Hollander, in honor of Gretel Hollander for having been his wife for 35 years as of November 28.
Herman and Barbara Pomerantz, in memory of Cele Lehman.
Mr. and Mrs. Bert Saphier, in memory of Abraham Saphier.
Mr. and Mrs. Bert Saphier, in memory of Tillie Winer.
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Weinssoff, in honor of the birth of their baby, Staci Weinssoff.

YAHARZEIT FUND

Dora Ansel, in memory of David Gross.
Murray Birchansky, in memory of Betty Birchansky.
Philip J. Fruitstone, in memory of his father, Mitchell Fruitstone.
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Kantor, in memory of Mordecai Feigenbaum.
Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Karlinsky, in memory of Florence Karlinsky.
Herman Marks, in memory of Isadore Marks.
Gail and Mort Podell, in memory of her father, Robert Sklar.
Gail and Mort Podell, in memory of Otto Finkelstein.
Larry H. Schatz, in memory of Hyman Pearl.
Mrs. Edith Suchman, in memory of Sam Suchman.
Eli and Frankie Trainor, in memory of Essie Berman.
Frank Weinbaum, in memory of Bela Weinbaum.

End Of Year Judaica Sale

One day only - - Wednesday, December 17
20% off every item in stock! Donor credit given.