



Beth Am COMMENTATOR

Summer Program

Registration Underway



The planning stage for summer program at Temple Beth Am is well along. The brochures for the program have been mailed to all members and special preference in registration and fees will be given to Temple members. Many Temple members have already registered their children for our summer program.

We have extensive plans underway for the summer which include all indoor and outdoor sports with special emphasis on Red Cross Swimming instruction, tennis, baton twirling, bowling, baseball, football, archery, cookouts, and field trips as just a few of the many activities planned for the summer.

The summer program will run for eight weeks, starting Wednesday, June 18. There will be full day activities for four to 14 year olds. You can send your child for a four week session or for the full eight weeks. Call Rhoda Bernheimer in the Temple office, 667-5587, for more information.

Purim Service At Temple Mon., Feb. 24, 7:30 P.M.

Members of the congregation are invited to bring their children to the Purim Service which will be held at the Temple Monday night, February 24, at 7:30 p.m. The Book of Esther will be read in part, and the young people will be encouraged to greet the name of "Haman" with appropriately negative reactions. This is a fun service for adults too, and many special songs will be sung.

There are many unhappy things that Jews have to experience. Here is a chance to teach your family that Judaism can be fun too.

'Man Of La Matza' Featured At Cabaret Night, May 3

On Saturday evening, May 3, at 8:00 p.m., in our Social Hall, members of our congregation and their friends will be invited to attend a cabaret night. The evening will feature the following: dancing to a live band (Fred Zuker and his band), presentation of the original musical comedy "Man of La Matza," and wine, cheese and cake for refreshments.

The evening, chaired by Millie Infeld (Mrs. Robert) will be in honor of old time members of Beth Am, and will give our new members a chance to meet and mingle with long time members of the Temple. Small intimate tables will be set up for your pleasure and dancing before and after the show will be available. Tickets are only \$2.50 per person, and will go on sale shortly. Please note that this evening is not a fund raising affair; rather a get together for all members of our Temple.

The original musical comedy features a cast of 32 talented people. You will be delighted by the singing, acting, and dancing of these dedicated cast members. The play was written and directed by Joan Schwartzman. Chairman of our fine arts committee is Lennie Greenstein. Tickets will go on sale at the Purim Carnival, and they will be available from our Sisterhood, cast members, and our Temple office.

Sisterhood's annual . . .

Religious School Benefit March 12 'Purlie'

- Coconut Grove Theatre party.
- Luncheon in the Peacock Room at 11:30 a.m.
- Donations: \$25 (sponsor); \$35 (Patron); \$50 (Benefactor)
- Return your donation and seating card

FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR CHILDREN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21
8:30 p.m.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Adult Choir will perform
Selma Baumgard, Choirmaster

RABBI BAUMGARD

'Loyalty To The Jewish People
What Does It Require?'



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE

Dedication Of TEENAGE BUILDING Sunday Evening, March 9, 1975



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Let's Study Torah

(We are combining this week's parasha and next week's parasha, as they will be read in the synagogue in order to leave space next week for a discussion of important questions concerning current problems. Read, therefore, "T'tzaveh," Exodus 27-30:10, and "Ki Tisah," Exodus 30:11-34:35.)

"T'tzaveh"--In this section, we learn that the "Nare Tamid, The Eternal Light," was in the original Tabernacle of Moses. There, it was not electrified, of course, but burned with olive oil as its fuel. This parasha is generally dedicated to the establishing of the role of Aaron and the priesthood of ancient Israel. Moses gave the people the moral laws. While the ritualistic laws are usually ascribed to him also, they seem to have been the special province of the priesthood. Moses is essentially a prophet, not a priest. His concern is not the cult, the elaborate system of sacrificial worship which was substantially like that of other nations in the Near East (with important differences). The Torah tells us that Aaron and the priests wore special garments (Ch. 28) like the ephod and breastplate of judgment. On this breastplate were the names of the tribes, and when Aaron wore this breastplate, all Israel was represented by him (28:15-22 and 28:30). Sacrificial worship involved the cooking of an animal, brought by the worshipper, and the eating of a meal, together with the "community of Israel" which included the priestly representative and, theoretically, God Himself. This meal was covenantal. It united all concerned in a pact (Ch. 29). For us in modern times, some of the incidents of this worship, blood sprinkling, etc. seem curious if not odious, but we must remember that their meaning goes back far beyond the time of the Hebrews, and it is to the credit of the Hebrews that, as time went on, they outgrew this whole system with the help of the later prophets, like Amos and Isaiah.

"Ki Tisah"--The priestly description continues in this segment, but one of our most dramatic stories breaks into the narrative suddenly. The editors choose to retell the story of Mount Sinai with Moses descending with the Ten Commandments (31:18). Below, at the foot of the mountain, the people are impatient and they press Aaron to make them a visual representation of their God. Aaron, being a priest and not a prophet, yields to the wishes of the people, and helps them make the golden calf. The people danced around the calf and prayed, "This is thy god, O Israel, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt" (32:1-8). As Moses descended the mount, Joshua being with him, they heard the clamor arising from the celebrating below. Joshua thought it was the sound of war, but Moses said, "It is the sound of a people broken loose" (32:15-18). The thing that Moses cherished most, moral discipline, had been abandoned by the people. They became no different from their neighbors in their reckless abandon.

The anger of Moses caused him to drop the tablets. He destroyed the calf and punished those who had led the people astray (but not Aaron) (32:19-35). One wonders why Aaron was let off so easily, but we have here a lesson about those religious leaders who do not have their own convictions, but simply do what the people want them to do. It was necessary now to restore the people to God's grace (33:10-16), and Moses climbs Sinai again to obtain the Commandments anew

(Continued at bottom of adjacent column)

BAFTY Sponsors Shabbat Dinner February 28

Use the coupon below to make your reservations. Call Bruce Katzen, 665-4318, or Debbie Kaiser, 238-6188, if you have any questions.

BAFTY DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Mail to Temple office, 5950 N. Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

I would like to make a reservation for BAFTY's Shabbat Dinner.

_____ Adults _____ Children

Check enclosed for \$ _____ Adults, \$5.50; Children (under 12), \$3.50

Joan's Gems

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Oops, we made a boo-boo. Congrats to Elaine and Arthur Friesner upon the birth of their daughter, Courtney Ann. We listed Elaine as being under the weather. Everyone should have such a blessing. . . . Guess what. Another boo-boo. David, not Randy, was made vice president of SEFTY. He is the son of Dr. Mel and Joan Schwartz. We like to keep our information correct. . . . We are indeed proud of Jay and Ronald, sons of Joe and Bobbie Emanuel. Jay won an Eagle Scout award and Ronald won a Life award. . . . Congratulations to Harold and Joy Goldstein upon the engagement of their son, Jack, to Miss Jenny Blank. The young couple plan a fall wedding.

Ah, Beth Amites have started a new "club." It's called the "tennis elbow surgery club." Participants include the following klutzes--Byron Cherkas, Woody Weiser, Neil Schiff, and Harry Weinberg.

Saturday, February 22

9:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m.



Adam, son of
Mr. and Mrs.
Jeffrey Wershil



Matthew, son of
Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Silverstein



David, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Singer

Bnai Mitzvah

(34:1-4). The Torah reminds us over and over again that such strides as Moses made in behalf of the Hebrews and of mankind were not easy. Failure marked his early efforts and he had to fight against the urge of the masses to be just like other peoples. This is why the Torah lists such stringent laws against entering into covenant with the pagans and showing tolerance for their laws and activities (34:10-17). If a new kind of religion and people was to be developed, it could be done only if this people held itself aloof from others and recognized that it had to be different and much more disciplined. Is there a lesson here for us in today's churning world?