



# Beth Am COMMENTATOR

## Nominations For Temple Officers And Board Of Directors For 1975-76

The nominating committee, under the chairmanship of Alan Kessler, has submitted its nominations for Temple officers and the Board of Directors for the coming year.

The following recommendations will be voted on by the general membership of the Temple at our congregational meeting which will be held on Monday night, April 28.

Bernard Goodman	President
Samuel Steen	Exec. Vice President
Dr. Samuel Berkowitz	Vice President
Stephen Carner	Vice President
Esther Kessler	Vice President
Peter Moser	Vice President
Dr. William Silver	Vice President
Barry Goldstein	Financial Secretary
Barbara Weiner	Treasurer
Mikki Futernick	Corresponding Secretary
Jackie Rose	Recording Secretary

The following members were nominated to serve a three year term on the Board of Directors, term to expire in 1978:

J. William Baros, Peggy Biele, Saul Genet, J. Arthur Goldberg, Melvin Greenfield, Harold Malin, Donald Sobol, Jeffrey Wershil.

### ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS

Additional nominations for any office or for membership on the Board of Directors may be made by filing a petition signed by at least ten (10) members with the nominating committee chairperson at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. No nomination may be submitted without the consent of the nominee.

## Community Relations Topic At Breakfast

The problems of community relations will be the topic of a very important talk at our next Brotherhood Breakfast Forum, Sunday morning, March 9, at 9:30 a.m., in the Youth Lounge. Admission is \$1.00 for Brotherhood members and \$1.50 for non-members.

To talk to us on this timely topic will be the chairman of the Dade County Community Relations Board, Mrs. Audrey Finkelstein. Her thoughts and ideas on the problems of relations between the many groups of people in our community should make this a most interesting discussion.



## Senator Richard Stone Leads Community In Dedication Of Teenage Building Sunday, March 9

U.S. Senator Richard Stone will be the dedicatory speaker for our new Teenage Building on Sunday, March 9, at 8:00 p.m. Community leaders throughout Dade County will join us for this celebration. Admission is by invitation only. All Beth Am members may use their invitation to bring their family and friends.

Following Senator Stone's address in the Sanctuary, all guests will adjourn to the new building. It is anticipated that the new Chapel will have its Ark and benches by March 9. All other rooms are completed, including the recreation-assembly hall. There will be conducted tours of the building and refreshments will be served.

The completion of this building is the culmination of our building program and establishes Beth Am as one of the foremost Jewish institutions of any kind in Dade County. The dedication of this building will be in recognition of this fact.

## Last Call For 'Purlie' March 12

Reservations are coming in rapidly for the most elegant benefit affair of the season--luncheon at the fabulous Peacock Room and then on to a benefit performance of "Purlie." Nationally renowned actress and entertainer, Patti Jo, will star. Miami's own Patti Jo will have the lead role after two years on Broadway and after touring with the national road company.

Donations for Sponsors are \$25, for Patrons, \$35, and for Benefactors, \$50. The time is 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 12, at the Coconut Grove Playhouse. Phone Mrs. Robert (Rita) Widom, 665-8694, or Mrs. David (Nan) Rich, 666-5397, for information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7  
7:30 p.m.

### FAMILY SERVICE

Mrs. Zadek's 2nd Year Class  
and Mr. Krassenstein's 1st Year Class  
will participate in the service

The Kiddush will be sung  
by Nancy Ellison  
Charles Kaiser and Jill Weinfeld

RABBI BAUMGARD

## 'Everybody Has His Own Golden Calf'



The 2nd Grade Religious School Class  
will serve as Choir of the Month

SATURDAY, MARCH 8  
11:15 a.m.

### TORAH SERVICE

## Reserve Now For Temple Seder, Thursday, March 27





FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

## Let's Study Torah

(Want to learn the Bible the easy way? Read these columns as we follow the reading in the Torah, as it is read in the Temple every Saturday morning. Read the indicated chapters as you go along. Read in the Book of Exodus the portion, "Va-yakhel-P'kuday," (Ex. 35:1 - 40:1-38), which will be read in the synagogue this week and "Va-yikrah" (Lev. 1:1 - 5:26) which will be read next week).

Va-yakhel-P'kuday--These are two parashote joined together. They are separated when calendar needs require. They deal with the preparation of the Tabernacle in the time of Moses and primarily with the priestly service. We are here told precisely how the Tabernacle was made, what the holy equipment was, and where each piece was placed. The Tabernacle was made from offerings brought by the people, both money and materials themselves (Ex. 35:4, 21, and 36:5). Each family brought what it could afford, as the spirit moved them. So much was brought that the people had to be restrained from giving (36:5). To us, the content of the Tabernacle may seem strange, but let us remember that the priestly service of the Hebrews was patterned in form after that of the other semitic peoples (the Canaanites, in particular). The Hebrews worshipped a different God, but the form of their worship was that of the ancient Near East. Later, of course, the prophets and Pharisees changed the form of worship. The chief architect of the Tabernacle was Bezalel (35:30, 37:1-25). In the 37th chapter, we get some idea of the artistry of the builders. The candle sticks, for example, the fore-runner of our Menorah, was made with almond blossoms and other flowers (37:17 ff.). The altar (37:25-29) was a place where animals were killed and cooked for the communion kind of meal. All of those who ate together (this could include the entire congregation) were considered to be bound in a covenantal relationship. A religious service was thus a binding together of the worshippers to specific tasks. The garments worn by the priests, the ephod, and breastplate of judgment (among others), had symbolic meanings. On the breastplate (hoshen mishpat) were stones representative of each tribe. The high priest was thus the living representative of all of the tribes when he wore this breastplate (39:2-21). It was a common belief in the ancient Near East that such a priest had enormous powers. Upon him depended the fact that the people would be forgiven for their sins or not. Whether or not the people stood in favor with their god depended in many ways on the prayers and offerings of the priest. Gradually, the prophets and others weaned the Hebrew people from these beliefs held by all the other nations of that time.

Va-yikrah--With this reading, we begin the third book of the Bible, known in the Hebrew as Va-Yikrah, in the Greek as Leviticus. This book especially contains priestly material. Perhaps, it began as a private book of the priesthood and was later included in the broader Bible. In spite of the ritualistic nature of the book, there are also some of the more significant ethical passages of the Bible interwoven into its narrative. They are worth waiting for. Jews have not applied any of the laws or rituals discussed in this passage since the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Their value to us is that they tell us how ancient man, the Hebrews amongst them, attempted to deal with the unknown. No records of any priesthood are as well preserved as these, but since the Hebrews developed their priesthood following the

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## Calling All Boston Area Collegians

Rabbi Baumgard will be in Boston to meet with Beth Am collegians and their friends the weekend of March 14-16 at the Sheraton-Prudential.

**SEND IN YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS IMMEDIATELY!**

We are available for appointments. Join us at dinner March 16.

## Pre-School-Day School Registration

REGISTRATION NOW FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Pre-school half day (ages 3-5), kindergarten full day (age 5) day school (grades 1-6). Call school office, 665-6228, for information and application. Priority for members ends April 1.

## Brotherhood Meeting Wed., March 5

The Brotherhood meeting on Wednesday, March 5, will concern Jewish Chataqua Society, its program and purpose. We will be showing several commercial spots to be shown on national TV and the award winning film, "Beyond the Mirage." Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Lounge.

## An Evening In Israel

Sponsored by the Israel Government Tourist Office and El Al Airlines. There will be live entertainment and a film. There will be no admission fee and no solicitations. The date is Thursday, March 6, at 8:00 p.m., in the Youth Lounge.

*Bnai*

*Mitzvah*

Saturday  
March 8  
11:15 a.m.



Glenn, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Freed



Michael, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. I. Jay Steinhardt

patterns of the Egyptians, Babylonians, and Canaanites, we must assume that they all had much in common. There are, of course, certain important differences. The Hebrew priestly laws do not include most of the magical superstitious elements of the others, but often there are some fascinating remnants of the older ideas. Sometimes, the way an older idea was outgrown was this. The older ritual is retained, but the newer procedure is placed alongside it. We shall be discussing some of these interesting developments. For now, let us note that there were different kinds of offerings for different purposes. There were burnt offerings, meal offerings (Ch. 2), peace offerings (Ch. 3), and special atonement offerings. The details of what a priest did after killing an animal may seem gruesome to us, but let us remember that these practices were observed by priests for thousands of years, and they attributed to them important meanings. Especially was the blood important in the matter of substitutionary atonement. Christianity, to this day, teaches that sinful mankind was redeemed by the blood that Jesus shed. Jews gave up the idea of blood-forgiveness two thousand years ago, along with the entire sacrificial way of worshipping.