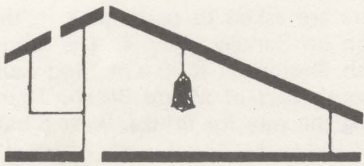


MAY 2, 1975
MIAMI, FLORIDA



Beth Am COMMENTATOR

Summer Program

Registration At Record

Registration for the summer program at Beth Am is moving along very nicely in all age groups. We have more children registered at this time than we had at the same time last year.

Extensive improvements in the programming for the coming year are planned by Al Schlazer and Rose Ashbes, our camp directors. Al and Rose are both experienced teachers in the county school system with Al being involved with Dade Junior College and Rose with the Everglades School. Between them, they have more than 25 years of teaching and camping experience.

Summer program runs for eight weeks, starting on 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.

GROUPS FILLING RAPIDLY

The various groups in the program are filling up rapidly. Temple members receive first preference in registration and fees. In an effort to fight inflation, the fees for this year were kept virtually the same as in the past. Registration will be open to non-Temple members, on an unrestricted basis, starting May 15. If you want to reserve a space for your child, register now. Call Rhoda Bernheimer in the Temple office, 667-5587, for more information.

Installation Of Sisterhood, Brotherhood And Temple Officers At Shabbat Dinner May 16

The installation of the Temple officers and Board who were elected at the recent Congregational meeting, and the officers and board members of Sisterhood and Brotherhood who will be serving for the coming year, will be installed at a Shabbat dinner on Friday, May 16, in the Temple Social Hall.

This is an opportunity for all Temple members to share in honoring the outgoing officers and Board, and in welcoming the incoming officers and Board. It also affords an opportunity to participate in a meaningful Shabbat dinner as part of the Temple family.

Barbara Weiner is in charge of arrangements for this dinner, and costs and the exact time will be announced in the next COMMENTATOR. The fee for the dinner will be nominal, and we would advise early reservations by calling into the Temple office.

Record Budget Forecast For 1975-76

At the last Board meeting, the Board wrestled with a budget for 1975-76 of almost \$700,000. This represents a 12 percent increase over our present budget. In the face of current economic conditions, it may seem strange to increase the budget for the coming year, but this increase is the result of mostly inflationary pressures.

It would be counterproductive to cut back on programming at a time when there is such a great moral and spiritual hunger. We offer so much to so many. We are talking about youth programming, education from nursery through adulthood, counselling on marriage, divorce, child rearing, and so many other family problems, singles groups, Brotherhood, Sisterhood, and, of course, we offer meaningful prayer services throughout the year.

This is a time for bold action by the Temple. It should be a source of satisfaction for you to know that by your contribution you are helping to fulfill the spiritual needs of your fellow congregants, furthering the needs of the local Jewish community and helping in the survival of Judaism.

Area Committee Organized, Jewish Families Asked To Contribute To Combined Jewish Appeal

Within the next week, you will be receiving a call from a member of the Southwest Area Committee for the Combined Jewish Appeal. Beth Am is one of many synagogues who are a part of this committee. It is the hope of this and all the other congregations that every Jewish family will make a significant gift to the CJA in accordance with its means. Beth Am hopes to get 100 percent response. Rabbi Baumgard feels that, irrespective of the amount given, every Jewish family ought to have a share in the survival of Israel and in the survival of the many Jewish institutions which the Greater Miami Jewish Federation sponsors. Amongst these agencies are the Jewish Family Service, the Home for the Aged, Central Agency for Jewish Education, the "Y," the Jewish Vocational Service, Mount Sinai Hospital, and others.

With the huge amounts of money flowing into Arab coffers from the sale of oil, it becomes increasingly more difficult for Israel to compete in the military market. Every Jew has to do what he can to support non-military programs in Israel for the immigrants from Russia and the Arab countries, as well as those who fled Hitler. Will you be one of those who turned a deaf ear to this appeal? Of course not!

FRIDAY, MAY 2
7:30 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICE

Mrs. Ringler's First Year Classes
Mrs. Davis' Second Year Classes
will participate in service
The Kiddush will be sung by
Lisa Tobin, Stefanie Block
and Gail Silverman

RABBI BAUMGARD

'The Donkey That Understood Hebrew'



SATURDAY, MAY 3
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE

Installation Shabbat Dinner Friday, May 16



Let's Study Torah

Read your Bible along with me, following the traditional cycle of reading.

B'har B'chukotai — Leviticus, Ch. 25:1 to the end of the Book.

The parasha known as "Ba-har" begins with a discussion of two customs relating to the land. The first of these relates to a "Sabbath" for the land. Every seventh year, the land was to remain fallow, uncultivated, so that it would have the opportunity to recover its chemicals and be enriched. It is interesting that the concept of the "Sabbath," previously developed for humans and animals, is now extended to the land. Everything in existence, our fathers taught, is entitled to its period of rest and reorganization. Neither human strength nor the strength of the land can be forever drained and depleted. (Ch. 25:1-7).

What is obvious here is that our ancestors clearly understood the inter-relationship between man and nature. In other sections of the Bible, we are told that when a Hebrew army invaded a land, it was not to destroy trees and plants; when a hungry person came upon a mother bird sitting on eggs, the eggs might be taken, but the mother must be left alone (for reproductive purposes?).

The second custom involving the land also relates directly to human beings. Every 50 years, in the Jubilee Year, land, originally distributed to a family and sold by it because of a debt or hardship, must be returned to the original owner or to his family. In this way, the sharp division between classes, so dominant in other nations, was to be avoided. The economic structure of ancient Israel was based on the concept that approximately equal wealth makes for the maintenance of equal rights. Where land is concentrated in a few hands, power shifts to the wealthy, and the poor soon are oppressed. Indeed, this is what eventually happened in Israel; and it is to this evil that the Prophets constantly address themselves.

The related custom is that in the Jubilee Year, a person who had sold himself to another person as an indentured slave, i.e. bound for a certain number of years to work out a debt, would be freed. The Biblical statement is (v. 10), "And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim Liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof . . ." This statement, "Proclaim liberty, etc." is found on the United States Liberty Bell in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, where the Continental Congress met to consider revolting against England. This is one of many teachings in our Bible which gave strength to the founders of America.

This reading contains many compassionate statements concerning the poor. It was not considered charity to uphold the poor; it was a matter of legal responsibility (v. 35). Further, if you lent money to an Israelite, it had to be without interest (v. 36). Christianity took over this provision and taught that just as no Jew could lend to another Jew on interest, so no Christian could lend to another Christian on interest. Christian kings, however, hired Jews to be their representatives in lending to Christians, and this is how the Jews got into the money lending business. Their own highly compassionate law ultimately led them to be Christian representatives (the Shabbas goy in reverse) as money lenders, and, in time, the Jews got into the business for themselves.

(Continued at bottom of adjacent column)

Youth For Israel Walkathon On Sunday, May 4

All youth group members are asked to participate in the Youth For Israel Walkathon on Sunday, May 4. The group will leave from Temple Beth Shalom at 8:30 a.m., and walk for ten miles around the south part of Miami Beach. There will be three rest stops along the way for drinks. Wear a hat, your group T-shirt, sneakers and socks. The severity of Israel's explosive situation makes your efforts an absolute necessity. Take a solid step toward strengthening Israel. Contact 264-8000 for details.

Joan's Gems

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Mazel tov to Jackie and Barry Cohen upon the birth of their son, Jeremiah Moshe. . . . Congratulations to Dr. Sidney and Florence Fox upon the engagement of their daughter, Sherry, to Harry Speizer. . . . And to Arthur and Natalie Lyons upon the recent marriage of their daughter, Sara, to Kenny Burns. . . . Lyn, daughter of Mrs. Pauli Levine, has been inducted into National Honor Society at Killian Senior High School. . . . David, son of Gene and Rita Essner, has been chosen salutatorian at South Miami Senior High School.

Betty and Millard Suid have become grandparents for the first time. Born to their son, Steven, and his wife, Julie, is a boy, Richard Elliott. . . . Congratulations to David, son of Dr. Mel and Joan Schwartz, who is president of the Key Club at Killian Senior High and vice president of the South East Federation of Temple Youth. . . . Rose Potlock graduated from Southwest Senior High and plans to enter Dade South. Rose is a young 69 years of age. . . . Harriet Potlock has been nominated for the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, the honor society for women educators. . . . Congratulations to Minnie and Hy Gorsetman upon the birth of their grandson, Seth Jason, born to Sheryl and Errol Eisinger.

We are proud to share the news that Michael Clein has been appointed regional associate for the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods. . . . Mazel to Rhoda and Kermit Bernheimer upon the birth of their granddaughter, born to their son and daughter-in-law, Linda and Martin Bernheimer. . . . And to Paul and Millie Draizier, grandparents for the first time. Born to their daughter, Rochelle, and her husband, Eric Doepke, was a son, Benjamin.

*Bnai
Mitzvah*



Saturday
May 3
11:15 a.m.

Richard, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Alman
Steven, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Goldin

There are some beautiful passages opposing slavery which ought to be read and known by every Jew (v. 39 and following). The pattern of developing idealistic and merciful laws in ancient Israel was as follows. First, a law was established making it illegal to enslave an Israelite. Later, this law was extended to the non-Israelite. Modern Jews (and non-Jews) are not always mindful that most of the western world's concern for human beings came out of the experience and genius of the Jewish people.