

# Beth Am COMMENTATOR

## Think About Your Fair Share Dues

You will soon receive information about the Fair Share structure for the season beginning July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976. Fair Share payments for the new year are due when the fiscal year begins on July 1. Especially if you wish your child to attend a particular day in the Religious School, you must make your choice of Fair Share immediately, and send in half of your contribution with school registrations.

Beth Am went on the Fair Share dues contribution schedule several years ago. This means that each member must choose his own level of dues based on his ability to pay.

The schedule that we are using this year starts with the minimum Fair Share dues set at \$400.00.

This year's budget, because of inflation and increased Religious School expenses, will exceed last year's by approximately 12 percent. We must average over \$500.00 per family to cover the cost of operating the Temple and school budgets.

The level of Fair Share you choose is voluntary. That is, you choose the level suitable to your income.

It should be a source of satisfaction for our more generous contributors to know that they are helping to fulfill the spiritual needs of our congregants, and helping in the survival of Judaism.

It is understood that not all families will be able to pay the same. Some families have illness and special problems with which to contend. Nonetheless, each family is asked to do the best it can for Beth Am.

Since families with a large number of children must pay school registration fees, families without children are in a relatively better position to pay a higher Fair Share dues. Members are asked to remember that the Temple is dependent upon the generosity and integrity of all.

## Rabbi Altman Honored Friday, May 16 At Creative Youth Group Shavuot Service Installation Dinner Prior To Services

Temple Beth Am will hold its Shavuot service on Friday night, May 16, at 8:30 p.m. The theme of the holiday, which commemorates the gift of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai, will be woven into a special service created by the Temple Youth Group, of which Rabbi Altman is the supervisor.

Since Rabbi Altman has been called to a new pulpit in Daytona Beach, commencing in the fall, the congregation will pay a special tribute to him at this service. Malka Altman has served as coordinator of the Primary Department of the Religious School during the past three years. Temple President Bernard Goodman announces that the tribute will be to both Malka and Barry.

### HERMAN FELDMAN TO MC INSTALLATION DINNER

Prior to the Shavuot service, Beth Am will hold an installation Shabbat dinner at 6:15 p.m., in our Social Hall. Herman Feldman, our first Temple president and more recently of "Man of La Matza" fame, will be serving as master of ceremonies.

This will be a catered dinner, with an unlimited amount of wine and song. This dinner gives all congregants a chance to honor our outgoing officers and bid welcome to our newly elected officers and board. The cost is a nominal \$4.50 per person. Contact Joan Schwartzman in the office, 667-5587, for reservations.

## Songs, Ballet At Sisterhood Meeting

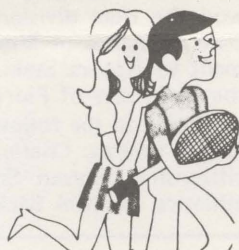
A morning of music and dance you'll long remember. Lisa Wall, co-director of the Georges Milanoff School of Ballet, Coral Gables, with two dance troupes performing both jazz modern and ballet. Iris Rosen and her lovely voice singing excerpts of Broadway hits. Wednesday, May 21, 9:30 a.m. Brunch meeting, Social Hall. Brunch at \$3 has been planned. Reserve now; be eligible for a special gift. Call Terry Freedman, 270-0088, Arlene Feller, 251-3863, the Temple office, 667-5587.

Lisa Wall and her husband were a professional dance team well known in both movies and television. At 15, Lisa appeared with the Detroit Civic Ballet. Lisa has endowed her young ladies with a grace and vitality you'll be thrilled to see.

## Summer Program

## Starts Next Month

MEMBERS PRIORITY  
THROUGH MAY 20



FRIDAY, MAY 16  
8:30 p.m.

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Henry Le Clair  
Cantorial Soloist

RABBI BARRY ALTMAN

## Creative Service



SATURDAY, MAY 17  
11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE

In celebration of the Shavuot Holiday, Friday, May 16, the Temple office and Day School/Pre School will be closed.





## Let's Study Torah

(Read the Torah along with me. Read "Ba-midbar," Numbers 1:1 – 4:20, and "Naso," Numbers 4:21 – 7:80.)

Numbers (Ba-midbar, literally "In the Wilderness") is the fourth book of the Torah. Essentially, it contains the "numbers," or census taking of the ancient Israelites. No government can function without a clear knowledge of its membership, so the Israelites had to discover the strength of their people. The book tells us that the people was divided and numbered into tribes, clans, and families. Their names, to the last detail, are recorded here for all posterity. In modern times, with such emphasis on the importance of the individual as separated from his family and group, the Biblical emphasis on the meaning of the individual, as tied to his family and group, is in sharp contrast.

Here again (3:40-46), we have reference to the significance of the first-born son in ancient times. Amongst the pagans, the first-born was actually given to the "gods," either sacrificed or given for service in the temples. Here we are told the God of the Israelites merely asks that as a substitute for the gift of the first-born to Him, He be given the tribe of Levi for service in His Sanctuary. This theme of substitution for the first-born is woven throughout our Bible. It is also at the heart of Christianity, as we have indicated before.

Naso (Numbers 4:21 – 7:80).

What is one to do when he has wronged his brother? The ancient Israelites had a specific system whereby restitution might be made and forgiveness acquired (5:5 and following). There was no harboring of guilt amongst them, and there was no toleration of failure to correct a wrong. In our day, when deception is a part of the game and covering up is an incidental part of our activity, we have lost almost entirely the need to set things right with our friends, our co-participants, our family members and business associates. This is a measure of how far we have come from the simple and "straight" life of our ancestors.

There is no doubt that our forebearers had a double standard with respect to sex. We have described in Ch. 5:11-35 the manner in which a wife suspected of infidelity was tried in court. It is noteworthy that the man with whom she was suspected of having extra-marital relations was not similarly tried. It was the woman who had to be above suspicion. It is wrong to say that women in ancient Israel did not have a worthy and high role, but in the matter of sexual attitudes, she definitely did not have the freedom women have today. The story here places emphasis on the question of the father of the child the woman was carrying. The basic problem is, "who is the father of the child?" If the woman were unfaithful, how could parentage be established and all the rights and privileges attached thereto?

Samson was a Nazarite. A Nazarite was one who made a special pledge to God to partake of no alcohol, not to shave, and to have no contact with the dead (6:1 and following). This was a special sect of "holy" men. Apparently, people took this vow for certain reasons, perhaps, to atone for a misdeed. The Nazarite was greatly respected for his abstinence. Note, sexual abstinence is not among the requirements. The Israelites did not develop monks.

## Youth Program Finishing Good Season

Our youth directors, Barry and Gail Friedman, under the chairmanship of Iris Franco, announces that the first annual foul shooting basketball tournaments were held on May 4 and 11. High scores among the 12 and under division was Ross Seidler. Fourteen and under outstanding shooter was Honor Rapaport, and 16 and under high scorer was Bill Pearson.

The next youth program special is scheduled to be a basketball one-on-one tournament and finals will be held on Sunday, May 18, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in our gym.

## Joan's Gems

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Kudos to Ken, son of Gunther and Shirley Karger, who was recently installed as a member of National Honor Science Society at Palmetto Senior High, and to Steven, son of Joan Schwartzman, who was elected to National Spanish Honor Society at South Miami Senior High. . . . Congrats are in order to Randi, son of Dr. Mel and Joan Schwartz, who has been elected vice president of the Miami Council of the B'nai Brith. . . . Fane, son of Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Lozman, was a winner at the regional South Florida Science and Engineering Fair held in Jacksonville. He received second place award from the Florida State Audubon Society.

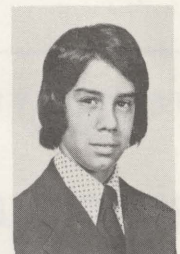
Shayna, the one month old daughter of Charlie and Sandi Simon, has been made honorary member of the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary Post at Beth Am. . . . Congrats to Eric, son of Leonard and Selma Rappaport, who has been elected to Dean's List at Emory University. . . . Were you among the many that saw and heard Dr. Ross Davis, a neurosurgeon, on local T.V. recently? We are happy to share his great progress with victims of cerebral palsy by the means of a new pace-maker for very young patients. . . . Our retiring president, Bill Sanes, was nominated as Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the Shalom Lodge of B'nai Brith. Bill and Beth Am are so proud to be honored in this way. Here's hoping he wins this well deserved award.

Get well to Alan Kessler, Celia Winkleman, Nathan Cynamon, Rose Goldstein, Bernice Saval, and Suzanne Peltz. . . . Mazel tov to Virginia and Joe Altschuller who became grandparents for the first time. Born to their children, Mr. and Mrs. Gilner, is a son, Joshua Michael. . . . How about this! Beth, the 11 year old daughter of Aaron and Elaine Perlman, was the 1975 State of Florida piano solo winner in the elementary category competition held in Winter Park and won the duet division with Shelley Baer. . . . Mazel tov to Dale, daughter of Mickey and Phil Kaplan, upon her engagement to Robert Stein. Dale has also made the Dean's List at the University of Florida three times in a row!

Kudos to the following young people nominated for Silver Knight awards: Charles Liebling for science, Leslie Brooks for citizenship, Steven Snyder for scholarship, Jeff Cutler for athletics, Michael Sacks for speech.

*B'nai*

*Mitzvah*



Saturday  
May 17  
11:15 a.m.

Jane, daughter of  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Glick  
Philip, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hecker