



# Beth Am COMMENTATOR

## Coffee House Set For October 10

The teenagers of Temple Beth Am (grades nine through 12) are invited to the first offering of "The Kendall Exchange" after services on Friday evening, October 10. Once each month, on the second Friday night, after services, we will sponsor social programs to bring Jewish youth together for fun and friendship. The format for the first program will be a coffee house with a variety of live professional entertainment, short movies, pizza, and other goodies.

Jeff Samek, who directs a similar venture at the U. of M., has been hired to direct our program, and a steering committee of Temple teenagers has been set up to work with him in planning and implementing the programs. Future offerings by "The Kendall Exchange" will include live band parties, feature movies, Israeli folk dancing, and anything else that turns into a good idea.

Remember October 10 and every second Friday night, and join us for an evening of exciting activities.

## Beth Am Covers The Singles Spectrum

It used to be that a single person was a Jewish anomaly. The occasional single of adult age was considered fair game for the matchmaker and, as a result, did not remain single for long. But today singlehood has become for many a valid way of life.

Traditionally, adult synagogue programming has been oriented toward couples and families, leaving singles to fend for themselves. But the number of unmarried, divorced, and widowed people has grown so markedly in recent years that it would be a gross injustice not to include these people as actively as possible in Temple affairs. We can broaden our existing programs and organizations to meet the needs of single people, but new programs and new organizations that relate directly to the single are necessary.

Beth Am has been working toward this end for some years now, developing and encouraging groups to reach the entire

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## Back To Coleman Night October 3

On Friday, October 3, at the 7:30 Family Service, favorite songs of Camp Coleman will be sung. All campers from Beth Am are invited. If you have a particular camp song you would like included, please contact Ms. Potlock. This service has become a tradition at Temple; it presents the opportunity for campers and counselors alike to renew the friendships made over the summer.

Call in the names of your children if they celebrate their birthdays in the month of October. They will be invited to the pulpit for a birthday blessing.

## Installation And New Members Consecration Service Oct. 10

At the Friday night Religious Service on October 10, Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz will be formally installed as Associate Rabbi of the congregation. In addition, there will be a special welcome and consecration service for new members of the congregation. Additional details next week.

## Holiday Sermons Available

High Holiday sermons are available on request. Please mail the form below to Rabbi Baumgard.

### ROSH HASHANAH

Evening — The Three Mystical Requirements of Being A Jew — Entering the Covenant of Abraham, Standing at Mt. Sinai, Believing in the Messiah. (Rabbi Baumgard) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime — The Differences Between "Being" and "Accomplishing." (Rabbi Baumgard) \_\_\_\_\_

### YOM KIPPUR

Evening — Lessons from Our Bible. (Rabbi Baumgard) \_\_\_\_\_

Morning — Stand Fast! (Rabbi Baumgard) \_\_\_\_\_

Afternoon — A Return to the Presence  
(Rabbi Chefitz) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3  
7:30 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICE  
**RELIGIOUS  
SERVICES**

RABBI BAUMGARD

**'Bring The Camp  
Spirit Back Home'**



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4  
9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

TORAH SERVICE





FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

## Do You Believe In Miracles?

Yesterday, I met with our eighth grade children, and they asked many thoughtful questions about the nature of God as you understand Him in a scientifically oriented age. For some reason, many of the children had developed the idea that if you believe in "science" or "evolution," you cannot believe in God or in religion. Central to the discussion was the question, "Do you believe in miracles?" My answer is, "Of course." But some of the children understood the word "miracle" entirely differently from myself.

The children still cling to the idea that a miracle was an event that seemed to be contrary to the normal process of nature. When they thought of miracles, they thought of the Biblical description of the time Joshua "made the sun stand still," or when "manna fell from heaven." They seemed not too much aware of the central theme in the Bible and in Judaism that the greater miracles are those very laws which operate regularly and which make the universe and human life possible. The emphasis in our Bible and in our tradition is on Torah. Torah means law, the law woven into the fabric of the universe. The miracle which points to God is the miracle of the order of the universe, not the deviations from that order.

Our Prayer Book emphasizes the miracle of the order of nature. God is praised as the Creator of the processes of the universe which cause the sun to shine regularly and night to come consistently with its blessings of rest. The laws of nature are, to the Jew, evidence of a Planner. The physical universe is the result of law, just as the moral universe is guided by law. This is the continuing miracle.

### MIRACLE INTERPRETATIONS CHANGE WITH THE TIMES

Judaism has evolved progressively into a most sophisticated religion. Some of our ancient fathers thought a miracle was something that seemed to violate the laws of nature, an exception. Later Biblical teachers, like the prophets, interpreted a "miracle" differently. They understood God differently. As man grows in understanding and knowledge, he looks at the universe with broader eyes. If he is sensitive, he does not see less of God, but more of God. God is He who planned the atom and the galaxies, the Author of the small and large, the pervading Presence of the universe. The poet says, "a presence and a spirit that rolls through all things."

Reform Judaism looks at God as the "more" beyond our best nature. He is that stuff from within ourselves that moves us to just and loving deeds, and He is a "more of the same" beyond ourselves. He is not detached from us, but not merely contained within ourselves. We add to His power, but we are not the limit of His power.

Is the theory of evolution (unproved) consistent with the notion of God? Why not? Certainly, man was not made with a lump of clay in one moment. Man is a complicated being, the nexus of the universe. Maybe we took six billion years to evolve. Does this make our creation any less marvelous? God is the author of law, the law of the continuing creation. Our task is to learn that law, if possible, and to make ourselves a conscious part of that creation. This is what religion means.

## Contemporaries To Meet Sunday, Oct. 12

The Contemporaries, a social group for satisfied seniors, will hold their first meeting of the year on Sunday, October 12, at 2:00 p.m., in the Chapel of the Teenage Building.

Rabbi Mitchell Chefetz will be the featured speaker for this group of seniors who are interested in Jewish association and sociability. All seniors are welcome.

## Terra Cotta Sculpture Donated

"The Teachers," a high fired terra cotta sculpture with a bronze metallized finish, executed by one of our many talented Temple members, Lois Goldstein, now hangs in the lobby of the Teenage Building.

The Teachers was donated by the Ted and Lois Goldstein family in memory of their father, Edward L. Goldstein, and expresses their commitment to their faith and to Temple Beth Am.

The subject honors teachers of our children best exemplified by those at Beth Am with the theme of morality, wisdom, and education.

## Career Planning, College Selection, Counseling

The Jewish Vocational Service is pleased to announce that Rachel Eichelman, Vocational Counseling Supervisor, will be back again at Temple Beth Am every Tuesday.

Anyone interested in career planning, college selection, or vocational counseling can call Rachel at J.V.S., 576-3220 for an appointment.

## Joan's Gems

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Mazel tov to Miriam and Abe Katzen who have become grandparents again. Born to their daughter, Joan, and son-in-law, David Rosenbaum, was a boy, Jeffrey Michael. . . . Get well wishes to Marcell Aizenshadt, Robert Marcus, Frieda Rosenthal, Annette Cohen, Rhoda Braunstein. . . . Allison Rosenberg, daughter of Mort and Gail Podell, was promoted to the professional legislative staff of Senator Charles Percy of Illinois. How about that! . . . Hear tell that Jordan and Judy Bittel have just returned from a delightful trip to the Orient . . . the Bernard Silversteins from England. . . . Monroe and Edith Zipp have good news. Their son, Bob, and daughter-in-law, Cheryl, have become parents, for the first time, of a son, Jonathan Daniel.

## B'nai Mitzvah

Saturday, October 4

9:15 a.m.

11:15 a.m.



Rod, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Eisenberg



Jeffrey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Smith



Kenneth, son of Dr. and Mrs. James Miller Steig