



Beth Am Commentator

April 15, 1976

Miami, Florida

Rabbi H.M. Baumgard — Rev. Dr. C. Willard

"A BAPTIST-JEWISH DIALOGUE"

Friday, April 15, 8:30 p.m., RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Saturday, April 16, 9:15, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

Beth Am Cultural Series

presents

IN PIANO CONCERT

Michele Levin Katz



Michele Levin Katz

has played as soloist with
The Philadelphia Symphony
The Miami Philharmonic
The Boston Pops

Winner of the Bach International Piano Competition

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 8:30 p.m.

Beth Am Sanctuary, 5950 N. Kendall Drive, Miami, Fla.
Admission by Voluntary Contribution

Jewish Women In A Changing Society Wednesday, April 20, 1977 At Temple

Schedule: 9:30 a.m., Registration 11:00 a.m., Workshop II
9:50 a.m., Welcome 12:00 p.m., Luncheon
10:00 a.m., Workshop I 12:30 p.m., Workshop
Summary

REGISTRATION FEE: \$3.50 (includes luncheon)

WORKSHOP I - 10:00 a.m. Number 1st and 2nd Choice

- A. "Human Sexuality": The art of loving, the joy of sex.
- B. "You and Your Aging Parents": The other generation gap (film).
- C. "Career Retraining": Changing gears in midlife.
- D. "Relating to Teenagers": Adolescent ups and downs.
- E. "Marriage": How to have an even more successful one.

WORKSHOP II - 11:00 a.m. Number 1st and 2nd Choice

- A. "Human Sexuality": The art of loving, the joy of sex.
- B. "The Liberated Woman": At home or at work.
- C. "Middlscence": The best is yet to be.
- D. "The Snoopy Set": Children in a changing society.
- E. "Marriage": How to have an even more successful one.

Please complete and return with check by Friday, April 15.
Make check payable to Temple Beth Am Sisterhood, 5950
N. Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida.

Name _____ Phone _____

Amount of Check _____

Interfaith Service Friday, April 15 Baptist-Jewish Dialogue At Beth Am

The annual Dade County Baptist-Jewish Dialogue will take place at Temple Beth Am as part of our regular Friday evening service on April 15, at 8:30 p.m. The Dialogue, which is co-sponsored by the Miami Baptist Association and the Anti-Defamation League, has brought the two groups closer together over the years.

In addition to our regular service, Rev. Dr. Conrad Willard, of the Central Baptist Church in downtown Miami, and Rabbi Baumgard will each speak briefly in lieu of a sermon. Dr. Willard has national prominence as one of Christianity's foremost interpreters. The topic will be "How Are We to Re-inspire A Personal Faith."

Dr. Willard is one of the Trustees of Baptist Hospital. He is on the Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts of America and on the Board of Trustees of Stetson University. He is on the Executive Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and is involved in the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Downtown Action Committee.

Rabbi Baumgard has been a regional vice president of the Anti-Defamation League and is currently Chairman of the Region's Interfaith Committee. He has represented the Jewish faith in these annual dialogues for many years.

Brotherhood Breakfast Sunday, April 17

Mr. Shmuel Rabina of Herzlia Pitauch, Israel, will speak at the Brotherhood Breakfast Forum on Sunday morning, April 17, at 9:30 a.m., in the Youth Lounge on the topic "A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ISRAELI CITIZEN." He is presently the Israeli emissary to college campuses and youth groups planning programs in Israel. The day-to-day problems that an Israeli citizen encounters, but never make the newspapers in this country, are an area that many of us would like to explore.

Admission to this breakfast forum is \$1.50 for Brotherhood members and \$2.00 for non-members. Everyone is invited including non-Temple members.

Guided Tours Of New Torah Scroll Saturday, April 30

Beth Am recently commissioned a scribe to complete a Torah scroll. We were already in possession of major portions of the scroll, but several sections were either missing or damaged and had to be replated. Such work is costly, but not exorbitant. It would not have been difficult to find one or two families to sponsor the completion. But rather than search for a few such "angels," we chose to extend the opportunity of completing the Torah to those who have been actively involved in its study!

We had an enthusiastic, positive response from over a hundred individuals who have been active in our adult education programs during the last two years. The sum of these many small gifts has been more than adequate to meet the cost of completion, and now a celebration is in order!

On Saturday afternoon, April 30, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., the new Torah scroll will be on display in the Social Hall, open throughout its entire length, and guided tours will be conducted, all the way from Genesis to Deuteronomy.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

A Moment Of Reverence

I love Passover. I love the togetherness at the Seder, the food, the singing, the sharpening of Jewish purpose, but most of all, I love that twilight moment when Passover arrives. The two main services conducted by Beth Am are on the first and last days of Passover (these are the main days as prescribed by Scripture), but we also have a "Minyan" service at six p.m. on the evening on which Passover begins. We describe this as a "Minyan" service to let people know that it is not a "full dress" service. The Rabbi doesn't put on his robe. The organist and cantorial soloist are not there. This is a "one on one" service where the few people who are not too busy preparing for the first Seder come and share the conduct of the service together. It is brief. It is over in twenty minutes.

Usually, we have about ten people at this "Minyan" twilight service. This year, we had three, counting myself. I didn't care. I had a mystical experience. I came early to the service, as I always do. I sat there in the congregation (not on the Altar) enjoying that view of the Sanctuary which is denied me when I sit on the Altar. I was moved by the beauty of our Sanctuary. I don't take it for granted. It is simple, yet warm. I felt comfortable, relaxed.

Sitting there alone, I began to study the inscriptions on the windows. Jeremiah, the Prophet, is represented there: "Behold, the time will come, saith the Lord, when noone will teach anyone else about God and His law, because I will write my law on the heart of each person, and the least of them will know Me." Just thinking about this great soul, Jeremiah, is enough to transport me into the realm of noble ideas.

My eyes turned to the window with Rabbi Hillel's teaching, found in the Talmud: "If I am not for myself, who is for me; if I am for myself alone, what am I; and if not now, when?" How fortunate I am, I thought to myself, to be the heir to a people and to a religious tradition with such a pragmatic approach to the meaningful life. My eyes slowly turned around the room, to the coral rock on the Altar wall composed of fossilized living things, to the Eternal Light which comes from Iraq (ancient Babylon, birthplace of Abraham), to the windows with the teachings of Isaiah, Amos, and Moses. They were all there with me, these great souls, and together we sat hushed waiting for the great event, the liberation from slavery. Was there ever a more dramatic event revealing the God who cares about what happens to the poor and the weak?

My silent meditation was interrupted by the arrival of a young couple. They weren't sure why they had come, but they HAD come. They couldn't believe that I would conduct a service just for them. "I am not conducting this for you," I said to them. "I would have conducted this service just for me. I am fascinated by this moment," I told them. In the twilight before the arrival of Passover, the festival of freedom, I feel more moved emotionally than I do before Rosh Hashanah. Rosh Hashanah is almost too busy, but in the Passover twilight when I am alone in the Sanctuary with the saints of Judaism and with God, I know a joy and a peace that only quietness can give.

After the brief service, I went home to enjoy a marvelous Seder with my extended family. The Seder was the more joyous because of the spiritual momentum I achieved at the "Minyan" service.

SUMMER PROGRAM ASSEMBLING EXCEPTIONAL STAFF

Beth Am summer program takes pride in its outstanding staff. We will periodically report on our staff in the COMMENTATOR.

JACKIE KOBLENZ BERNEY has many years experience in our camp. At present, she is a teacher in our day school, where she has gained even more insight working with children. She not only brings creativity to the program, but a sensitivity to the feelings and problems that she encounters working with the youngsters. Her musical talents extend in all directions. She has a rich background in Israeli songs and dances which she teaches most capably. She uses these talents, not only for her own class, but schedules instruction for the other groups in the camp.

WARREN LAWLER is a new addition to our summer program staff, but certainly not new to camping. At college, he is preparing to teach in elementary school and has had exposure to many age groups. He is skilled in guitar (which he also teaches), tennis, gymnastics, arts and crafts. He has a keen enthusiasm for camp activities and likes working with all age groups.

Call the Temple office at 667-5587 for details of our summer program which runs for eight weeks starting June 20.

GUEST ARTIST FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

Artist Leslie Klein will exhibit her work on Friday, April 29, 1977, after services, in the Social Hall of Temple Beth Am.

Leslie J. Klein is a graduate of the University of Miami, and has studied at the Miami Art Center and the Art Institute of Miami.

Ms. Klein is most interested in drawing and printmaking, illustrating the human condition through line and feeling. The exhibit will feature a collection of drawings and prints done after her visits to Dachau and to the lower East Side of New York City.

JOAN'S GEMS

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Kudos to Debbie, daughter of Jay and Ellie Kaiser, who has made Dean's List at Tufts University. . . . Mazel tov to Ellen and Ralph Leidner upon the engagement of their daughter, Terri, to Donald Goodman. The young couple plan an August wedding at the Temple. . . . We are so very happy and proud to report that Melissa Berman is a Fulbright Scholar. Melissa, daughter of Margot Berman and Irwin Berman, is a senior at Harvard and will do her graduate work in medieval studies. . . . Kudos to Nina, daughter of Herb and Fay Brite, who has been elected to National Honor Society at Killian High School. Nina will attend the University of Florida in the fall.

B'nai Mitzvah

Saturday, April 16

9:15 a.m.

11:15 a.m.



Marcy, daughter of Mrs. Sue Wellman and Mr. Ronald Wellman



Anne, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Morris Beck



Reina, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Bloomenfeld