



# Beth Am Commentator

April 23, 1976

Miami, Florida

## RELIGIOUS SERVICE

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 8:30 p.m., RABBI CHEFITZ

"What To Do With A Beautiful Body"

Adult Choir directed by Selma Baumgard

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

## Of Budgets And Dollars

It is budget time again at Beth Am. We are in the midst of planning our budget for the fiscal year which starts June 30, 1976, and, as has been the case in the past, the budgets for the various components of the Temple, such as the Religious School, Hebrew School, House Committee, Religious Committee, Youth Committee, and the professional staff, show a need for an increase of funds for next year.

Just as you and your personal or business life find that costs are rising, so are they rising at Temple Beth Am. It looks like the wild inflation of the past two years has settled down to a more manageable basis.

It should be obvious to any thinking person that Temple costs will continue to go up each year, just as personal budgets continue to rise. A mere cost of living increase for our office staff, our teachers, our custodians, and our professionals becomes a staggering amount of dollars. Seventy percent of the cost of operating the Temple is represented by money that is paid to people for services rendered. In addition, we have the ever increasing costs of electricity, gardening, air conditioning, repairs, and supplies.

**WE WILL SHOW A SMALL DEFICIT THIS YEAR IF EVERYONE PAYS THEIR DUES AS PLEDGED.** We hope to balance our budget next year.

The various department heads are busy sharpening their pencils and cutting costs wherever possible. However, we are a growing congregation with bold programs. We must provide programs for the young and the old, and for those in between, for the married and unmarried, for the divorced and the widowed, and the community at large. And the synagogue must remain a House of Worship, opening its heart to all those who desire to belong.

### DAVID OF SESAME STREET AT TEMPLE APR. 25

Delight your children by giving them the never-to-be-forgotten thrill of seeing David of Sesame Street live on stage in an exciting show at the Temple, Sunday, April 25, 3:00 p.m.

The star of T.V.'s most popular children's series today, Northern J. Calloway, known to all youngsters as David of Sesame Street, will delight the children with songs from Sesame Street and stories especially prepared for the program. Of course, there will be a great deal of audience participation, and, for many lucky ones, the treat of personally meeting David. He is appearing exclusively in South Florida at Beth Am.

This fun and excitement is the third National Theater Company Show sponsored by the Day and Religious Schools. The next program, May 16, features Tony Saletan, folk singer, guitarist, in "Let's All Sing."

Tickets at \$2.50 are at the Temple office and at the door. If tickets are purchased now for the April and May shows, each ticket is \$2.25. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Buy your tickets now. Don't let your family miss this truly enchanting show!

## Annual Meeting And Elections, Monday April 26 In Youth Lounge At 7:30 P. M.

The annual meeting of Temple Beth Am is scheduled for Monday night, April 26, at 7:30 p.m., in our Youth Lounge. At this meeting, all the officers who have served this past year will submit short reports on the Temple activities for the past 12 months. In addition, short reports will be given by Rabbi Baumgard and our executive director, David Stuart.

At this meeting, we will elect our officers for next year. We will also elect eight board members to serve a three year term, to expire in 1979, and four additional board members to finish unexpired terms of board members who have resigned. The following have been nominated to serve as officers for next year:

Bernard Goodman . . . . .	President
Samuel Steen . . . . .	Exec. Vice President
Dr. Samuel Berkowitz . . . . .	Vice President
Stephen Carner . . . . .	Vice President
Iris Franco . . . . .	Vice President
Alfred Leibert . . . . .	Vice President
Barbara Weiner . . . . .	Vice President
Herb Neuman . . . . .	Financial Secretary
Barry Goldstein . . . . .	Treasurer
Esther Kessler . . . . .	Corresponding Secretary
Jackie Rose . . . . .	Recording Secretary

The following members have been nominated to serve a three year term on the Board of Directors, term to expire in 1979: Allen Abelson, Florence Birchansky, Leslie Freedman, Shepard King, Loretta Miller, Stanley Mintz, Peter Moser, Sheldon Weiss.

There being two openings on the Board of Directors for a two year term to expire in 1978, the following members were nominated: Stanley Gilbert, Jack Newmark.

There being two openings on the Board of Directors for a one year term to expire in 1977, the following members were nominated: Irving Bolotin, Marcia Reisman.

### "BIRTH WITHOUT VIOLENCE" AT APRIL SISTERHOOD MEETING

On Wednesday, April 28, at 9:30 a.m., in the Social Hall, Sisterhood will show Dr. Frederick Leboyer's film, "Birth Without Violence." Dr. Donald Hanft will be present to discuss this new attitude towards fruits of labor with you. A continental breakfast will be served. Admission is \$1.00 by reservation only. Call the Temple office, 667-5587, Gerri Legow, 235-0423, or Florence Birchansky, 226-4299.

### YISKOR SERVICE

Wednesday morning, April 21, 9:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary  
(Temple office closed)



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

### In The Heart Of Life

A Rabbi lives in the heart of life. Birth, death, marriage, divorce, happiness, heartbreak occur around him constantly. Here are some of the things I see, hear, experience.

A woman had just lost her husband of forty years. She was telling me that when they got married, they had known each other only two months. Her parents told her, "You don't know him well enough to marry him." She replied, "If I don't marry him, I'll never really know him." Their marriage held together all these years and was going well when death robbed her of him. This incident is critical to me because it is to be sharply contrasted with what some of the young people are saying today. In this woman's case, her attitude (influenced by her Jewish tradition) was that marriage was a commitment. The commitment came first, the knowledge of her man came afterwards. Many of today's young people (influenced by the tradition of their peers in this "liberated" society) feel that you don't get married until after you know the other person, that is, until after you have lived together for a while. The new attitude is first experiment, the commitment comes later. Does it work? Recent sociological studies show that the rate of divorce amongst couples that live together before they get married is higher than the rate of divorce amongst couples that get married before they live together. In other words, in terms of the percentages, experimentation or prior knowing does not make for a more lasting marriage. The ingredient that seems to be missing from so many marriages today, whether or not the couple has lived together before marriage, is commitment. It is not prior knowledge that makes a marriage succeed. It is prior commitment.

There has been a recent wave of parents coming to my office whose children have been captured by Jesus Freaks or the like. Most of the captured children are lonely children who know little of Judaism (not necessarily less than other children who manage to stay Jews). As I see it, the missionary zeal of some fundamentalist Christian sects has reached a new zenith. They are out to capture anyone they can for their cause and lonely Jews are especially attractive to them. These young Christians know a few lines of the scripture and they have been trained to interpret it in their way. They read Jesus into every line of our Bible, where scholars scoff at such an interpretation, yet our youngsters are not able to answer them back with knowledge. Our office has a series prepared by myself entitled "Know How To Answer." This is the beginning of a counter-attack, but nothing we can give your child on paper can erase his loneliness. I am convinced that young Jews today need to know much more than their parents about the Bible or they will continue to be conversion prey for an aroused fundamentalist Christian community. If your child isn't well grounded in Judaism to begin with, and these ardent missionaries get to him and offer him "belonging" and "love" and "fulfillment as a Jew," it becomes exceedingly difficult to counter with reason and scholarship. Prior emotional commitment to Judaism in the home is the best defense against possible future conversion attempts, but most of our homes are empty of Jewish emotional experiences. It is not too late to begin with your children! Talk to them about your deep commitment. Celebrate the holidays and the Sabbath with them. We'll help you with information and know-how. Show them that Judaism is important to you, or it won't be important to them. Show it now, weekly, daily--and you will have a chance to offset some of the pressures of our modern Philistine society.

## Getting It On! Where It's At! What Beth Am Youth Are Doing!

### A LETTER FROM A GRATEFUL PARENT

Dear Bernie:

This past weekend, I had the opportunity to share in my son Douglas' retreat in association with his confirmation class, as a chaperone.

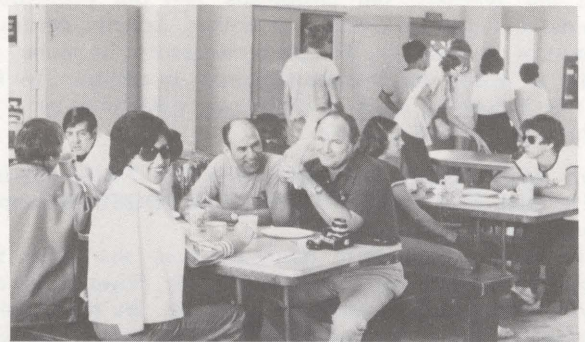
The experience was so personally rewarding to me and it appears that the benefit that I derived was shared with my son, my wife and daughter, who accompanied me, and the other young men and women who attended.

More importantly, I wish to call to your attention and to that of the Board, my observation regarding the exceptional devotion manifested by Rabbi Cook and Rabbi Chefitz.

Only a few congregants, myself included, have an opportunity to see the superior work and devotion of their Rabbis in exchange for their contributions. My experience impels an additional demonstration of my appreciation and I am delighted to enclose my check to the Temple to be applied however and wherever they wish.

--(name withheld)

### SOME MORE RETREAT PHOTOS



*Bnai*

*Mitzvah*

Saturday  
April 24  
11:15 a.m.



Ronald, Jr., son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Albert  
Randall, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Benjamin