



Beth Am commentator

December 3, 1976

Miami, Florida

FAMILY SERVICE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 7:30 p.m., RABBI BAUMGARD

"Talking To A Wall"

Choir of the Month: Third Grade

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

Rabbi Baumgard Returns To Pulpit Friday, December 3, At 7:30 P.M.

Rabbi Baumgard, fresh from his trip to Israel, will officiate at the Family Service on Friday, December 3, at 7:30 p.m. His sermon topic will be "Talking To A Wall."

Rabbi Baumgard and Selma will be returning from a six week sabbatical spent in Israel attending the World Union for Progressive Judaism convention. We are sure all will want to see the Baumgards at this time. Call in the name of your children who celebrate their birthdays during the month of December so that they can be called to the pulpit.

Welcome Back Baumgards At Israel Bond Dinner



Al Leibert, general chairman of our Temple's Israel Bond drive, reminds you to call or send your reservation in immediately. The Welcome Back Baumgard Dinner, a gift to all who purchased or will purchase bonds this year anticipates an overflow crowd. Generous members of the committee have underwritten the entire cost of the evening.

Who can pass up a free dinner at King's Bay and an opportunity to hear our Rabbi Baumgard speak from his recent experiences in Israel? Evelyn Goodman and Barbara Weiner are serving as associate chairmen. They remind those who made pledges at the High Holidays to join them for this most exciting evening by making their reservations now for the December 12 affair.

Brotherhood Breakfast Sunday, December 19, In Youth Lounge

The next Brotherhood Breakfast Forum, on Sunday morning, December 19, at 9:30 a.m., in the Youth Lounge, will have as its topic a subject with the intriguing title, "IF YOU WERE ARRESTED FOR BEING JEWISH, WOULD THEY HAVE ENOUGH ON YOU FOR A CONVICTION?" Put in another context, how Jewish do you have to be to be Jewish? This is a much-discussed problem presented in a very unusual manner by three well-learned individuals in the field of Judaism, Rabbi Mitchell Chefetz and Barton Udell, past president of Temple Beth Am and president of the South Florida Region of Reform Temples, and Judge Steven Robinson of Dade County, who was a student at Ner Israel Rabbinical School in Baltimore where he studied Talmudic law.

Admission to this most interesting breakfast forum is \$1.00 for Brotherhood members and \$1.50 for non-members.

Next month, on January 16, another interesting discussion on the juvenile justice system. Participants are Ms. Joanne Wragge, editorial writer and columnist of the Miami News, and Juvenile Court Judge Seymour Gelber of Dade County.

Menorah Sculpture Dedicated Friday, December 17, To Start Chanukah Festival

The left wall of the Teenage Building, with its menorah sculpture by Dorothy Bosco, will be dedicated Friday evening, December 17, as part of the Chanukah Service. The sculpture is electrified and has its own lights. A new light will be turned on for each night of the Chanukah festival, starting the first night of Chanukah, December 17.

The following "Guardian Families" will be honored at the dedication of the menorah sculpture:

Norman and Irma Braman	Gordon H. Jones
Neil and Nancy Braverman	Jay and Ellie Kaiser
Dr. Philip and Helen Gassman	Neal H. and Gail Levine
Robert and Barbara Gittleman	Herschel and Rosita Levy
J. Arthur and Linda Goldberg	Edward Sirkin
Bernard and Evelyn Goodman	Sam and Edith Stark
Drs. Melvin and Nancy Greenfield	

Shop With Sisterhood On Dizengoff Street Wednesday, December 8

Get your seat belts fastened as the El Al flight takes us to Israel for our stroll down Dizengoff Street, Wednesday, December 8, in the Temple Social Hall, at 9:30 a.m. Sisterhood is setting up a street of shops featuring Lee Martin, prints, Millicent Swerdlow, quilting, Monte Finn, painting, Joan Lowenthal, macrame, Laverne Cole, weaving, Frank Fierro, jewelry making, Elise, metal sculpture, Anita Hart at the potter's wheel, Linda Aptakin and Ina Block, free form ceramics, Gloria Hall, weaving, Flora Rutter, decorating with plants, Sam Vinikoff, painting, Jack Hoffman, with his beautiful hibiscus, Clayborn Nelson, carving wooden figures, and Monica Rawicz, painting shirts. A special table will be set up for those interested in making decorations for Chanukah, and the Day School will give us a special song and dance presentation. Ten percent Star Credit (donor credit) will be given for anything purchased at the meeting.

Reservations made by Friday, December 3, will cost \$1 for the morning; otherwise the cost will be \$1.50. Felafel will be served with coffee and cake. Reserve early so there is sufficient food for all. Call now for reservations to Ann Fernandez, 274-9040, Betty Gold, 251-2752, Eva Rawicz, 233-2861, or the Temple office, 667-5587.

CAMEO REMINISCENCES PRESENTATION

December will feature Doreen Marx, who was born, raised and educated in London, England. Doreen, with her husband and two sons, has lived in the United States 13 years, and has travelled extensively in Europe.

One son is presently studying medicine at the University of Southern California, San Diego, and the other son is attending Oberlin College in Ohio. Doreen will speak on growing up Jewish in London.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Reflections On Jerusalem Shabbat At The Wall

Friday, March 22, 1974

Shabbat eve, we were at the Wall at sundown. Not so many Hasidim were present as on Thursday afternoon, but there were seven or eight hundred people there praying. Many of them were young men from nearby Yeshivot (traditional schools for the study of Torah). The right-hand side of the men's section was dominated by a large group of young men dancing in a circle with a hand on the shoulder of the person ahead. They moved in measured steps singing a prayer with a restrained melody. I thought to myself, this was hardly dancing; it certainly wasn't inspired singing. The prayer was from the Psalms, petitioning God for protection of His people. As something of a near Hasid, myself, I was disappointed with the restrained spirit of their procedure.

I switched to the left-hand corner of the Wall. I found there my kind of Hasidim. There was the same circle (smaller, only 50 people in this one), a simple dance, but more sprightly profound and a truly freiliche (happy) song. There were no words, only "la, las." Here was an expression of thanks to God for the goodness and joy of life! Like other on-lookers, I joined in the singing. It was cold, and I would have loved to have joined the circle, but it was understood that this was a somewhat private affair. Each participant was dressed in a "streimel" particular to this group. The streimel (hat) was somewhat flat and it was made of a brown fur of some kind. Some of the men had on a beige gown that reinforced the beautiful color motif.

Against the Wall, an older man leaned. He also had on a brown streimel, but a black robe. He did not dance, perhaps because he was too old. He did not sing (why, I cannot say), but he was obviously the leader, for when he held up his hand, they all stopped. He turned to the Wall, as did they, and the concluding prayers began.

Selma was not privileged to come so close to the Hasidim (as a woman), so she had remained in the rear with other friends (both men and women). I found her, recounted my experiences, and we began our walk home to the hotel.

The hotel was about 30 minutes away. It was now dark, the sky was star-lit. It was cold and getting colder. We went into the Jewish quarter of the Old City, a sharp climb from where we were. We walked past a point where we had a panoramic view of the valley and hill which were part of King David's Jerusalem. Lights glowed and twinkled in the darkness. Arab homes were spread out in this peaceful looking area.

One would think only that brotherhood and calm ruled the world (the afternoon paper spoke of Syrian shelling on the Golan). We went past the area of the four Sephardic synagogues (restored), and through the Zion gate. The young children of Rabbi and Mrs. Robinson, who were with us, said, "The Zion Gate is the darkest place in all Jerusalem." They were right. As we went through the gate, the children, who had positioned themselves before us in the darkness, jumped down behind us, screaming and hooting in feigned attack. We went past several Christian churches on Mt. Zion, through the small alleyway at that end of the walled city and out into the open.

Before us lay a valley, some hundreds of feet below. On the other side was "Y'min Moshe," the oldest section of Jewish Jerusalem outside the walls, now being restored. From Y'min Moshe to where our hotel lay was a sharp climb up a picturesque set of steps that numbered, perhaps, a few hundred. Could we make it? We did, and the lovely walk on the Shabbat, in the cool air of Jerusalem, made us think that this was indeed a different kind of Shabbat.

What Do Israel Bonds Do? They Change The Face Of An Ancient Land

1976 marks the 25th anniversary of the launching by David Ben-Gurion of the sale of Israel Bonds in the United States.

1975 witnessed the passing of the \$3 billion total in Israel Bond sales which have been the backbone of Israel's economic growth. The following projects are a few of those accomplished with the help of this money.

1. The draining of the lake and marshes of the Huleh Valley in northern Galilee, which reclaimed 15,000 acres of land.
2. The construction of the National Water Carrier, which has brought 450,000 acres under irrigation.
3. The expansion of the Dead Sea Works at S'dom, which now produces almost 1,000,000 tons of potash, bromine and their compounds annually.
4. The construction of oil pipelines to carry oil from tankers berthed at Eilat to the Haifa and Ashdod refineries as well as to Ashkelon on the Mediterranean for transshipment to other countries.
5. The construction of the new deepwater harbor at Ashdod, the four-fold increase of Haifa Harbor's cargo capacity and the extension of port facilities at Eilat.
6. The extension of the country's system of highways and railroads, the building of the Israel Shipyards, the expansion of the merchant marine and the development of El Al Israel Airlines.
7. The building of close to 800,000 permanent housing units and the creation of jobs for most of the 1,500,000 immigrants.
8. The construction of a new chemical manufacturing complex at Arad, which will utilize phosphates from Oron and other minerals.
9. The construction of a new satellite communications center.
10. The construction of schools, hospitals, and other public buildings.
11. The drilling and exploration for oil and the construction of ground level and underground oil storage facilities at Eilat and other locations.
12. The construction of new electric power plants, increasing Israel's electric power capacity to over 2,000,000 kilowatts for industrial, commercial, agricultural and home consumption.
13. The creation of thirty development towns and new economic enterprises as part of the program to settle and populate the Negev and Galilee regions.
14. The founding of more than 500 new agricultural settlements.
15. The desalination of sea and brackish water, including a pilot plant which provides fresh drinking water for the 20,000 residents of Eilat.

Bnai

Mitzvah

Saturday
December 4
11:15 a.m.



Lawrence, son of
Mrs. June Friedman
Karen, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Lewis



Contributions . . .

RABBI'S FUND

Clara Brick, in memory of Archie Brick.
Pearl and Sy Gordon, in memory of the mother of Mrs. Joseph Harmelin.
Shirley Gotter and Freda Lasher, in gratitude of Rabbi Chefitz's kind understanding at the death of brother and son, Harold Sidney Lasher.
Bernice and Sol Meyerson, in memory of Mollye Rosenberg.
Ruth Nager, in memory of her mother, Ethel Goldman.
Doris and Mort Notarius, in memory of Milton Russinof.

ARNELLE SOLOMON CAMP COLEMAN FUND

The Bernard Goodman family, in memory of Isidore Lieboher, father of Evelyn Goodman.
The Bernard Goodman family, in memory of Milton Russinof.
Eleñor and Robert Miller, in honor of the installation of Joseph Solomon as president of the South Florida Region of the Associated General Contractors.
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Zucker, in honor of the birth of Eric Nunberg.

GENERAL FUND

Dr. Jack and Doris Hoffman, in honor of the marriage of their niece, Francine, daughter of David and Janice Stuart, to Dan Martinelli.

LIBRARY FUND

Iris and A. Budd Cutler, in memory of Milton Russinof.
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Gelsey, in memory of Michael Pintzow.
Dr. and Mrs. David Rubin, in memory of Edwin Rubin.
Morton and Shirley Schultz, in memory of Thomas Schultz.

PRAYER BOOK FUND

Mrs. J. Arthur Goldberg, in memory of Herbert Mothner.

TEENAGE BUILDING FUND

Arlene and Lee Root, for the speedy recovery of Dr. Fred Schild.

YAHREZEIT FUND

Paul Barker, in memory of his mother, Anna Barker.
Victor H. Eskenas, in memory of Leon Yudah Eskenas.
Mrs. Donald Klein, in memory of Henry Rabin.

FLAGPOLE DONATED BY CONFIRMATION CLASS FLIES OLD GLORY IN PLAYGROUND

Have you seen the beautiful flagpole in the playground? It is a gift to the Temple from the Confirmation Class of 1976. The Nursery-Kindergarten School has a flag-raising ceremony every morning at the start of school.

The Temple has received other gifts that are being put to good use from confirmation classes. The Class of 1974 purchased the two directories showing the location of the various buildings in front of the main office and the Social Hall. The Class of 1975 purchased the juke box in the Youth Lounge for the use of all members of the congregation. We can be proud that our confirmands want to help the Temple as they have.

TAY-SACHS TESTING AT TEMPLE JUDEA

Tay-Sachs is a genetic disease which strikes infants causing gradual destruction of the nervous system and death by five years of age. There is no cure, but Tay-Sachs can be prevented! All couples of child-bearing age (18-45) are urged to participate in this important test. A \$10.00 voluntary contribution is requested.

Please help prevent Tay-Sachs disease. Be tested on Sunday, December 12, 1976 at Temple Judea, 5500 Granada Blvd., Coral Gables, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For information, contact Nancy Green, program coordinator, 547-6446.

BASIC JUDAISM COURSE BEST KEPT SECRET

Did you know that every Friday night throughout the year, a basic Judaism course is offered here? Rabbi Baumgard and Rabbi Chefitz are the instructors. The class is open to the entire community.

Sometimes, it is mistakenly referred to as the "conversion course" since attendance for 12 weeks is required for those studying for conversion, but candidates for conversion constitute only half the class. The other half consists of Jews anxious to know more of their religion.

There is no set curriculum. The Rabbis teach according to the desires of the class. Discussion is lively and frank. The experience is often exciting. And, strangely enough, even though the class has been continuing for years, its existence seems to be one of the best kept secrets of Temple Beth Am. The community knows about it, but not our membership.

The class meets every Friday in Room 28, from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m., except when there is a family service. Then, it meets in Room 28 after the service. If you would like to share the experience, you can join the class at any time. There is no fee for anyone, and for Temple members, no registration is necessary.

SEX ETHICS COURSE REPEATED IN JANUARY

Rabbi Chefitz will be offering a "Snowbird Special" this January. He will repeat Sex Ethics and the Jewish Framework on the four Wednesday evenings of January. This is the same course that was so popular this fall.

The course covers such topics as the Jewish view of sex for pleasure, non-parenthood, homosexuality, sexual behavior in marriage and before marriage, birth control and abortion. All of these subjects will be discussed in the light of the Jewish framework, and the experience has been that this light helps to clarify problems of our own day.

The first class will meet Wednesday evening, January 5, 8:00 to 10:00 p.m., in Room 28. There is no fee for this course, but please register by calling the office. Registration will be limited. Some space will be reserved for snowbirds with whom you might like to share the experience of one of the classes.

ART AUCTION COMMITTEE EXTENDS THANKS

The Sisterhood Art Auction Committee, chaired by Evelyn Goodman, would like to thank all those who helped in the planning and just plain hard work that made the Art Auction such a great success.

Special thanks are extended to Irving Spiegel of Mirror Poster, Ted Azriel who designed the invitations, Peggy Bielej and Norma Lieberman, president and executive vice president of Sisterhood, who worked so diligently.

COLLEGE CREDIT COURSE IN JEWISH HISTORY

The Department of History of Miami-Dade Community College, South Campus, is pleased to announce that Jewish History and Culture (History 245) will be offered in this Winter semester, beginning in January, 1977. The course will be taught by Dr. Donald Michelson, who is well known in the Jewish community as a lecturer on Judaic topics.

History 245 (Jewish History and Culture) will be offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings, from 6:20 p.m. to 7:35 p.m. The first class convenes on Wednesday, January 5, 1977. Inquiries concerning the course may be made by calling the Department of History, 596-1215.

JUDAICA SHOP HOURS IN SOCIAL HALL

Hours: Wednesday, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., Friday, after the Oneg Shabbat, and Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Beautiful items for Chanukah, as well as gifts for Bar Mitzvahs, Bas Mitzvahs, birthdays and weddings are available.

The Judaica Shop needs people to help.

In Memoriam

Harold Lasher
Brother of Shirley Gotterer

"May his memory
be for a blessing."

Yahrzeit

DECEMBER 3, 1976

Richard Barrow, Lew Birnbach, Victor Bluestein, Anna Lea Carlin, Nathan Cook, Samuel Cutler, Morris Eisenman, Murray M. Fallek, Arthur Feigenbaum, Harry Fox, Sandra Balaban Frank, Morris Freedman, Max Garston, Jessie Geller, Bessie Herman, Janet Katz, Lillie Kimler, Pearl Levine, Bernard Lowenthal, Oscar Magazis, Morris Orlin, Sidney Pozen, Sidney Reich, Isidore Saper, Alex Scott, Alexander Stone, Bertie Tauber, Martin Young.

FRIENDS UNLIMITED

December 3, 1976

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SISTERHOOD CALENDAR

Dec. 1, 9:30 a.m. Board and
Committee Meeting, Room 28

Dec. 8, 9:30 a.m. General
Meeting, Social Hall

Sisterhood and Brotherhood Snow
Festival, Feb. 26 to Mar. 5
Call 271-1233 for information

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Associate Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz, M.A.H.L.
N/K Day School Director Sima Lesser
President Bernard Goodman
Executive Director David Stuart

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